



HCMC Open University
Sociology Department

DISABILITY RESOURCE AND DEVELOPMENT (DRD)

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PROJECT:
LEADERSHIP
FOR WOMEN WITH
DISABILITIES
(Grant Number 10751191)

NARRATIVE REPORT

September 1st, 2007 – August 31, 2008

□ **Activities/Issues Addressed**

Facing difficulty finding meeting rooms and a person in charge of the planned activities, DRD could not start the project until January of 2008. Since then, we have organized regular activities for more than 40 women with disabilities.

LEARN TO LOVE (March 15, 2008):

Loneliness and lack of confidence often drove many women with disabilities into hands of bad men who took advantage of both their love and money. DRD invited a guest speaker, Dr. Tran Thi Giong, to come and talk to more than 35 women with disabilities about a person's values and a true love. Participants were encouraged to set questions and share experience. After the talk, participants express their interest in learning skills to handle love's problems.



EVERYDAY CHALLENGES (April 20, 2008):

45 participants come, learned to talk in groups about their everyday challenges, how they solve them, and what they wanted for future activities.



PUBLIC SPEAKING (May 18, 2008 & June 15, 2008):

Participants learned how to present personal ideas and group ideas.



DISABILITY CONCEPTS (July 20, 2008):

Participants shared their experiences of being discriminated by others and learned what cause their handicap.



CHARITY OR DEVELOPMENT?

(August 10, 2008):

Participants learned the differences between charity and developmental programs, and what they need for their social integration.



Expected Outcomes

Expected Outcomes for the first year (based on the proposal)

- 15 potential women leaders have good knowledge and understanding of disability movement philosophy and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- 15 potential women leaders have skills to identify and mobilize individual and community assets
- A collection of stories (with challenges and solutions) is edited, printed (with expectation of 200 copies); and disseminated
- Plans of actions are developed by participants to form groups of similar interests or challenges

Actual Results to Date

- A group of about 45 women formed and regularly meet to share experiences and learn skills
- 6 skill trainings conducted
- 15 potential leaders selected for future leadership trainings
- 4 potential writers selected and trained for the planned collection of stories

Reflections

This project is the application of the asset-based approach with the aim to encourage the participants to find and use their own assets before trying to seek outside assistance. This helps them to recognize their values and gradually build confidence in their capacity to change their own life and the groups which they belong to.

Diversity

One interesting thing of this project is that the activities planned for women with disabilities also catch the attention of men with disabilities and students without disabilities. They express their need for similar trainings.

In addition, this project creates opportunities for professional volunteers to contribute their knowledge and skills for the women capacity building and for DRD staffs to learn and develop their training skills.

Website and Publications

We are willing to have our narrative report quoted on a Foundation website or in a publication, please tick the box.

DRD would like to thank Ford Foundation for the confidence in and generous support which help to build the capacity for women with disabilities in Vietnam so that they can overcome challenges that lie ahead them.

Respectfully submitted by:

Certified by:



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