

History of the Global Disability Movement

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1. Globalization of the disability movement

- a. The establishment of Disabled Peoples' International (DPI) in 1981 was a turning point for the globalization of the disability movement.

2. The disability movement flourished during the UN Decade of Disabled Persons (1983-1992)

3. The Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (1993-2002) was declared on the initiative of the disability movement in the Asia-Pacific region.

- a. Disability in developing countries was taken up as a main issue.
- b. Strengthening of self-help groups of persons with disabilities was included in the Agenda for Action.
- c. A cooperative system was established among government, NGOs and organizations of persons with disabilities.
- d. The second Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons was adopted at the request of NGOs and organizations of persons with disabilities.

4. Following the Asia-Pacific region, the African Decade of Disabled Persons (2000-2009), the Arab Decade of Disabled Persons (2003-2012), and this year the Latin American Decade of Disabled Persons (2006-2015), were declared.

- a. Declarations of the decade in the respective regions were urged by organizations of persons with disabilities.

5. A Draft Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was agreed upon at the Ad Hoc Committee on August 26, 2006 and will be submitted to the next UN General Assembly.

- a. Opinions from organizations of persons with disabilities were fully reflected in preparing the Draft Convention.

October 23, 2006

6. Future issues

- a. Inclusion of support for persons with disabilities in the Millennium Development Goals (Development and Disability).
- b. Need for support measures for persons with disabilities in developing countries.
- c. Organization of self-help groups of persons with disabilities in rural areas.

7. Conclusions



History of the Global Disability Movement

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Outline

- Globalization of the disability movement
- Disability movement gained momentum during UN Decade of PWDs (1983-1992)
- Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002
- Other regional decades follow
- Draft convention on the rights of PWDs
- Emerging issues



Globalization of disability movement

- Declaration on the Rights of the Mentally Retarded, 1971
- Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons, 1975
- International Year **OF** Disabled Persons, 1981

Globalization of disability movement

- Establishment, in 1981, of Disabled Peoples' International was turning point.
 - Departure from Rehabilitation International
 - International cross-disability organization
 - “Voice of our own”
 - “Nothing about us without us”

United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, 1983-1992

- World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, adopted in 1982
 - Prevention, Rehabilitation and **Equalization of opportunities**
 - **Consultation with DPO** becomes important
- Disability movement gained a momentum

United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, 1983-1992

- UNESCAP (UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) established the Disability Programme, 1987
- ESCAP issued guidelines on “self-help organizations of persons with disabilities”

Definition of SHOs

- A self-help organization of disabled persons is an **organization run by self-motivated disabled persons** to enable disabled peers in their community to become similarly self-motivated, and self-reliant. The organization may engage in efforts to provide **community-based support services** through **mutual support mechanisms** and **advocacy for disabled persons to achieve their maximum potential**, and assume **responsibility for their own lives**.

Definition of SHOs

- A self-help organization of disabled persons may be characterized by self-determination and control by disabled persons, self-advocacy and mutual support mechanisms, aimed at strengthening the participation of people with disabilities in community life.



Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002

- The Decade was declared by the initiative of SHOs and civil society organizations
- Disability issues in developing countries were main focus.
- Self-help organizations of PWDs was one of 12 policy areas of [Agenda for Action](#)

AGENDA FOR ACTION FOR THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC DECADE OF DISABLED PERSONS



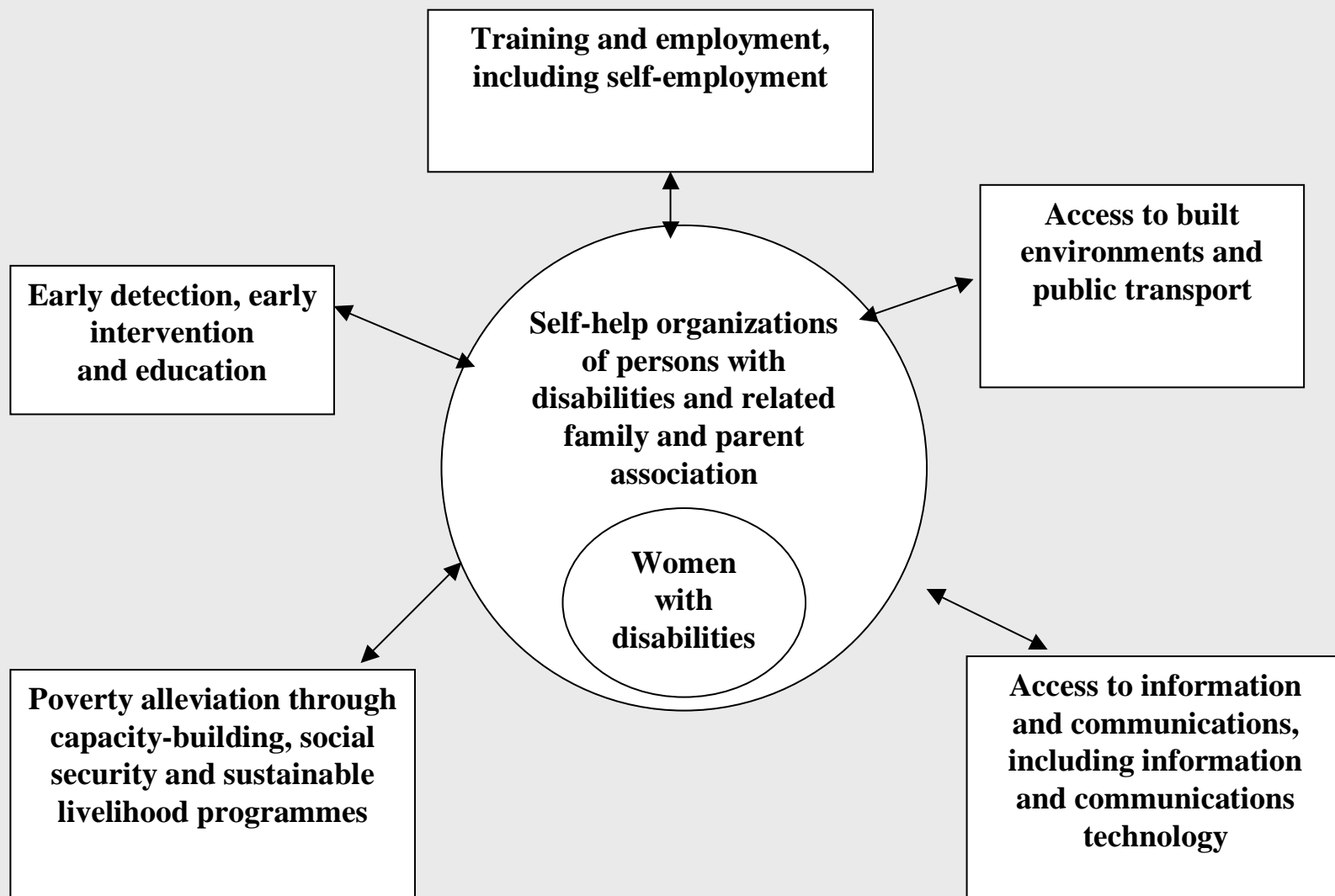
- ✓ National coordination
- ✓ Legislation
- ✓ Information
- ✓ Public awareness
- ✓ Accessibility & communication
- ✓ Education
- ✓ Training & employment
- ✓ Prevention of causes of disability
- ✓ Rehabilitation
- ✓ Assistive devices
- ✓ Self-help organizations
- ✓ Regional cooperation



Second Decade, 2003-2012

- Decade was extended to 2003-2012 by the initiative of Civil Society Organizations
- Self-help organizations of PWDs and related family and parent associations

Seven priority areas for action





Other regional Decades

- **African** Decade of Disabled Persons, 2000-2009
- **Arab** Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012
- **Americas** for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, 2006 to 2016
- DPOs played active role for these Decades.

Draft Convention on the rights of PWDs

- The draft Convention was agreed by the **Ad Hoc Commission** in August 2006
- SHOs actively participated in the drafting process
- Has been sent to General Assembly for formal adoption
- SHOs should play active role to advocate for the **Ratification** of the Convention.

Disability and Development

Millennium Development Goals

adopted by Millennium Summit in 2000

Target 1: Poverty reduction

To halve, between 1990 and 2015, the **proportion of people** whose income/ consumption is **less than one dollar a day** and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger, and by the same date, to halve the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water.



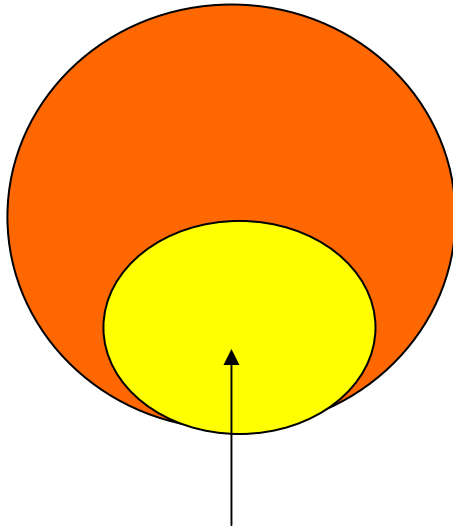
Emerging Issue

Disability and Poverty

- **World Bank**, in 1998, recognized that disability is an important development issue
- It appointed the **Advisor on Disability and Development** in 2003.

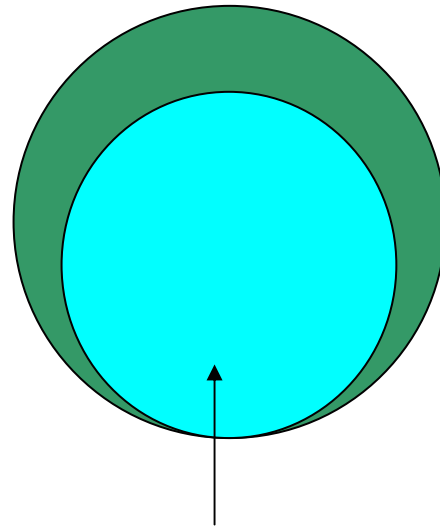
Disability and Poverty

Poor people



PWDs (20-30%)

PWDs in rural areas



Disabled poor (80-90%)

Poverty and disability:

“Unless disabled people are brought into the development mainstream, it will be impossible to cut poverty in half by 2015 or to give every girl and boy the chance to achieve a primary education by the same date -- goals agreed to by more than 180 world leaders at the United Nations Millennium Summit in September 2000.”

(James D. Wolfensohn, Tuesday, 3 December 2002)

PWDs in Asia-Pacific region

- Estimated **400 million** PWDs in the region
- **80% are in rural areas** of developing countries.
- Disability issues have been dealt with over 20 years:
 - UN Decade of Disabled Persons, 1983-1992
 - Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002

PWDs in Asia-Pacific region

- But their lives have not been improved. Why?
- Lack of support for rural PWDs
 - Lack of services
 - **Social exclusion**
 - Large number in the rural areas (requires substantial intervention)
- Disability movements are urban elite based—lack of understanding of the needs of rural PWDs
- PWDs' involvement in CBR is minimum

PWDs in Asia-Pacific region)

- Lack of development approach
 - Charity and welfare approach is common
 - Relationship between Disability and Poverty are not recognized well.
- Extension of AP Decade, 2003-2012
- Adoption of Biwako Millennium Framework for Action
 - Disability issues were linked with the UN Millennium Development Goals

The World Bank

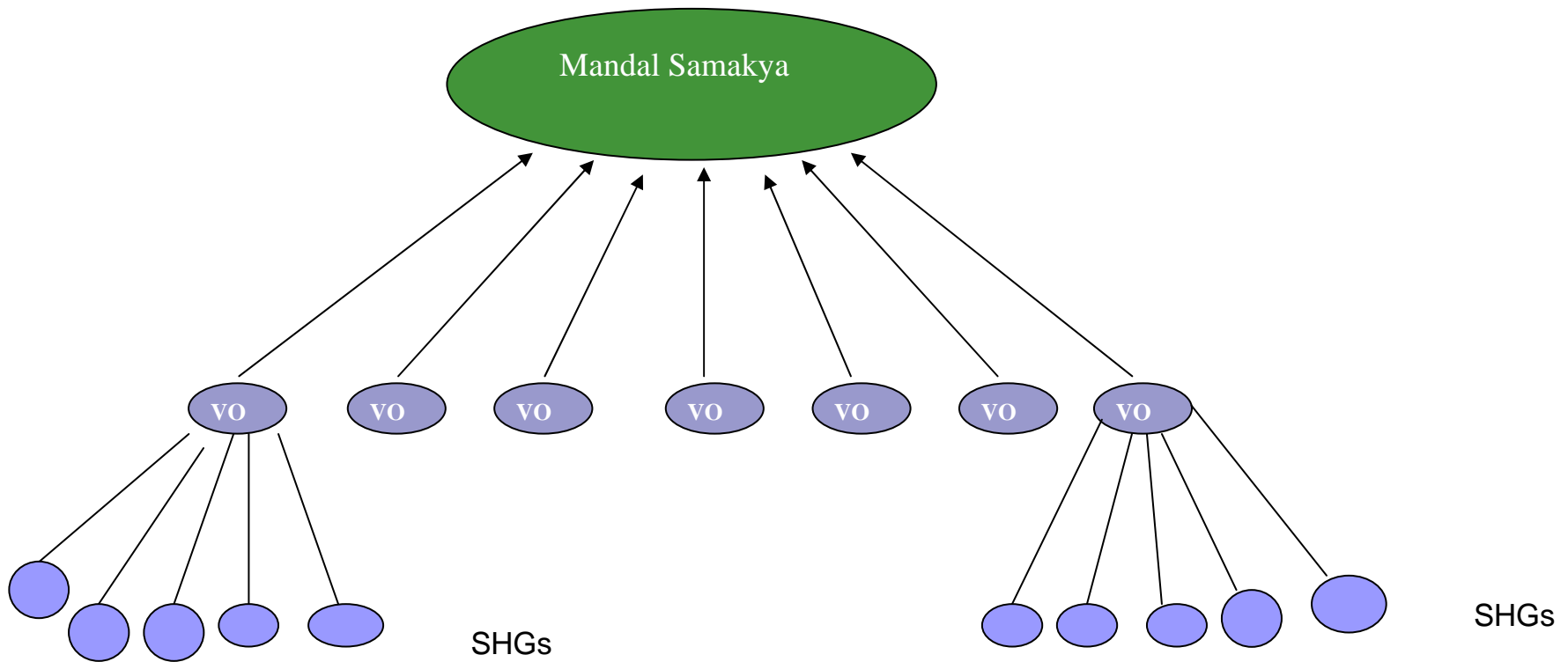
(Velugu project)

- Velugu (Poverty reduction project) in Andhra Pradesh, India (one of poorest states, 75 million)
- Phase II includes formation of self-help groups of PWDs (2003-2008)

Shelf-help groups (SHGs) of PWDs

- A SHG consists of **10 to 15** persons with diverse disabilities.
- Members **meet regularly** to discuss their issues and solve them collectively.
- **Savings** and obtaining loans
- **Income generation** schemes (shops)
- Benefits
 - Provision of prostheses, tricycles, hearing-aids, etc.
 - Collective surgeries, eye-surgeries, etc.
 - Provision of houses

SHG, VO & MS (federation)



Outcome of Velugu project

- **107,000 PWDs** organized into **12,000 SHGs**. Among them 9,000 groups have saving accounts at banks,
- **5,700 SHGs** received training on SHG concept & operation, income generation activities, capacity building, leadership, saving, rights of persons with disabilities.

Outcome of Velugu project

- SHGs formed **170 district level federations**
- SHGs have used US\$2.2 million to improved their livelihood.
- 475 SHGs have bank loans totaling US\$271,000
- US\$390,000 have been provided to over 2,000 SHGs as revolving funds or matching funds.



Importance of SHGs

- SHG scheme is a good method to empower PWDs.
- Requires time and resources but is a sure process.
- SHG scheme has been introduced to other countries (e.g., Cambodia, Bangladesh)



Thank you