**EMPOWERING PERSON WITH DISABILITIES**

**THROUGH**

**INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES**

**IN CENTRAL DIVISION,**

**REPUBLIC OF FIJI ISLANDS**

Poverty creates disability and disability creates poverty. People with disabilities are often among the poorest of the poor. The World Bank estimates that disabled people make up to 15-20% of the poor in developing countries. In Fiji, most people with disabilities live in the rural areas. The most vulnerable of these are women and children. People living with disabilities encounter many disadvantages in society and are often subject to stigma and discrimination. Marginalized and disproportionately poorer, people living with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to crisis. Further, they remain largely excluded from political and civil processes and voiceless on crucial issues that affect them and their society.

Livelihood is critical to combating poverty as spelt out in the Millennium Development Goals and is closely linked to the basic human rights. It is essential for everyone - not only because it gives degrees of freedom to take control of life but also because it helps improve self esteem -so very essential for leading life of dignity and respect. The global disability report demonstrates that disadvantages in disability are not limited to one culture, society or region. Majority of persons with disabilities globally live in extreme poverty and are often stigmatized by the society. They have to struggle for opportunity equalization on one side and another one for their rights.

Person with disabilities in Fiji face the similar problem as the society tends to control; them through marginalized and denial of their rights. The area also has significantly higher rates of illiteracy and low house hold income which further increase cases of poverty. Owing to higher incidences of poverty in the area there is a need to develop a program to help these people with disabilities get rid of such problems and are made aware of their rights and get empowered.

The proposed project seeks to assist 50 families of person with disabilities from extreme poverty through income generating activities in central division. It also envisages an outreach of other community members awareness and opportunities for providing a helping hand to persons with disabilities. The project will be implemented during a period of 12 months (1 year).

**Background**

The 2010 National report estimates the total number of persons with disabilities globally to be 11,402. Of these its estimated that 41% females with disabilities live in extreme poverty where basic needs go unmet and are fully dependent on family members. A part from financial, cultural and social neglect, persons with disabilities also undergo severe psychological trauma

Their problems are further aggravated by their inaccessibility to proper education legal and social reforms. Their problems faced by person with disabilities have far reaching consequences in developing countries.

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The proposed project seeks to assist 50 families of person with disabilities through income generating activities in central division by empowering them towards economic development will only facilitate in improving the social economic conditions of person with disabilities. It will naturally help in the betterment of their families.

Financial independence gained through income generating activities project will be implemented during a period of 12 months

The project aims of tapping the potential of persons with disabilities through any form of business activity on awareness generation, capacity building and setting up enterprises in the area.

Considering the socia-cultural and financial needs of villages, the proposed project is socially feasible, economically viable and environmentally sound.

AWQAF Fiji has been working in the area for the last 10 years under the Economic development program for the rural poor and disadvantaged. The mission of the program is to utilize develop and manage the locally available resources through awareness generations and skills development

**Project goal**

To empower 50 families living with disabilities in central division through income generating activities.

**Objective 1**

To provide guidance and counseling to 50 identified families with disabilities to increase their participants in public life as informed citizens with constitutionally, mandated rights.

**Objective 2**

To support 50 families with disabilities with income generating activities

**Project strategy**

The following will be methods that will be used in achieving project goal and objectives

* Awareness generations
* Capacity building (Skill & Business Trainings)
* Market linkages and networking
* Income generating activities development implementation

**Project Activities**

* Identification of persons with disabilities in target areas
* Conducting gatherings
* Meeting with person with disabilities
* Conducting guidance and counseling
* Awareness sessions on income generating activities developments and their rights
* Skill & Business Trainings
* Purchase of project materials
* Implementation
* Mentoring visits for follow ups

**Project Manager**

This one will be responsible for the overall administration and management of the project. She will develop proposals for further funding and will manage other staff.

**Social Worker**

These will be responsible for the mobilization and conducting initial level conducting gatherings and orientation sessions.

**Trainers**

Trainers will conduct training on simple, easy to manage business activities that the disabled person can operate and enterprise development and management and other skills

**Volunteers**

These will give more extra help needed for any activity implementations during the project

**Implementations**

Similarly the project management staff will aid in implementing the project in various activities for instances, social workers will go about community mobilization and sensitization at times to cover up activities of conducting gathering and volunteers will help in awareness generation and arrangements of the purchased project materials and the related activities.

**Monitoring and evaluation**

* Having a system of weekly, monthly, quarterly and final program reports
* Multi-level review system
* Participatory appraisal methods especially to the staff
* Questionnaire survey mostly to the project beneficiaries

**Project Results**

Within this project we expect outputs, outcomes and impacts that is overall results that the project is expected to accomplish:

Awareness of 50 families of person with disabilities on issues of legal issues, their rights and mental health issues will be enhanced.

About 500 persons with disabilities and their families will be imparted with life skills training for house-hold income development

Sustainable micro -business enterprises established that will help in easy access to market and considerably enhance the family income.

Increased income and confidence will have multi-generational impact as it will help in security a better future for the entire families of 50 families of persons with disabilities

**Project indictor**

We have quantitative indicators that are realistic, simple, meaningful analytical and successful. They include:

* At least 50 families of person with disabilities want to start income generating activity.
* 20 families with persons with disabilities wish to start up their own micro projects for self-sustenance
* 30 families with persons with disabilities families have initiated various agricultural (as land resource is in abundance).
* 5 training session will be held on development of income generating activities and their management and this help evaluate sustainability
* There is a hope of house hold income changes after the project has witnessed its major activities

**Sustainability**

These are ways through which sustainability of this project to be ensured:

* Community participation. We ensure that the community members/local people actively participate in the entire project so that they own the project rather than considering it as charity.
* Multi stake holders engagement/partnership. We include stake holders which include LCs/CBO’s, NGO’s and govt line departments and develop collaborations with them. This helps in enhancing the visibility of the project and also reduces on duplications of the project activities/roles. Our previous intervention was funded by the Commissioner Central office with a market facility for the disabled persons in the rural community.
* Expanding resources and donors base. We always engage new donors and stakeholders in our programs and we have other funding sources that include contributions, lobbying and some funds from individuals.