

Editorial

Almost 20 years ago, the late Professor Sheila Wirz of Centre for International Child Health, Institute of Child Health, London, writing about information exchange, commented that “The explosion of the availability of new information technologies over the next few years should make such sharing a much more realistic option than when sharing depends upon data in hard copy being transmitted by post or even fax” (Wirz S. “Where should research into community based rehabilitation (CBR) be directed in the next 10 years?” ACTIONAID Disability News 1996, 7(1); 2-5).

Dr. Wirz, an advocate of information exchange and of ‘North-South sharing’ was also a great supporter of this journal in its early and formative years, as an editorial board member. What she wrote in 1996 was almost prophetic, as online publications are gradually phasing out printed ones, a trend that this journal has followed as well.

Three years after the Asia Pacific Disability Rehabilitation Journal became Disability, CBR and Inclusive Development, we made an attempt to collect feedback from our readers through an online survey. The response rate was approximately 20%, and although this is low, we did get some good insights.

More than 80% of the respondents access the journal on-line. The relevance of the articles in terms of usefulness is rated as good by 56% and excellent by 39%. About 60% have rated the quality of the publication as good while about 30% have rated it as excellent. The current sections of the journal are rated as sufficient and appropriate by about 90%. The journal design and presentation has been appreciated by a majority of the respondents. Articles from the journal are being translated into other languages. A number of suggestions have come in about content expected in future issues, and about getting the journal indexed.

Dr. Wirz, in the same article cited above, wrote: “If we as a network of readers working in very diverse settings but with a common interest in improving the quality of life of disabled people, are able to address some of these issues working in collaboration with each other and with disabled people, we will have moved community disability services forward for the start of the next millennium.”

This journal has attempted to develop such a network as envisaged by Dr. Wirz, on disability and development issues. Our information dissemination efforts are

being supported well by our network of readers, authors, reviewers, editorial board members and donors.

The editorial team would like to thank all those who took the time and effort to send their feedback and to assure all of them and our other readers that we will continue to try and improve on what we do, based on the feedback received.

We wish all our readers a happy new year!

Maya Thomas

Editor-in-Chief

Disability, CBR and Inclusive Development