

Brief Curriculum Vitae
Dr. Sunil Deepak



Address: Schio (VI), Italy

Languages: Fluent in English, Italian and Hindi; has a working knowledge of Portuguese and a limited knowledge of French, Spanish and Bengali.

Website:
<http://www.deepaksunil.com/about.htm>

OVERVIEW

Sunil is a graduate in Medicine with a post-graduate diploma in Anaesthesia and a post-graduate degree in Disability Studies, with additional training in Epidemiology & Biostatistics and in Leprosy. He has more than 35 years of experience at international level in the areas of health care, leprosy control, disability & rehabilitation, development and human rights, specifically in training and community-based research. Over the past decade, he has been engaged in 2 main areas in different low and middle-income countries – emancipatory disability research and assistive technology services. In recent years, he has collaborated with WHO, AIFO/Italy, Univ. of Bologna/Italy, Univ. of Naples/Italy, Pax Christi/Italy, GDI/UK, SIDA/Sweden, ADB/Philippines, MLSP/Mongolia, MI/India and CDSK/Kenya.

He was a member of ILEP's Medical Commission (later, Technical Commission) between 1988 to 2002 and President of ILEP from 2003-06. He has been closely associated with International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) and IDEA International. He has collaborated extensively with different U.N. organisations, especially the World Health Organisation. He is a peer reviewer for different international journals and board member of some international organisations.

Sunil is available for short-term consultancies. Email: sunil.deepak@gmail.com

EDUCATION

- Undergraduate degree in Medicine and Surgery (MBBS) from Delhi university (India, 1978), permanent registration n. Punjab Medical Council 18737; Re-registration: Delhi Medical Council 69105)
- Post-graduate diploma in anaesthesia (Delhi university, India 1979)
- Post-graduate training in leprosy (medical officers' course, SLRTC, India, 1988)
- Post-graduate training in epidemiology (summer training course, John Hopkins university USA, 1989)
- Post-graduate degree in Sociology (disability Studies) at Leeds university (UK, 2001).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

(a) At Present: Since 2017, Dr. Deepak collaborates regularly with AIFO/Italy and works as a freelance consultant in research, training, monitoring and evaluation related activities in programmes dealing with disability prevention & rehabilitation, primary health care and community-based disability & rehabilitation including mental health conditions and leprosy control. He also collaborates regularly as a volunteer with Mondo Nella Città, a local NGO supporting international refugees, based in Schio (Italy).

During 2020-2022, Dr Deepak has been engaged in the following specific activities and collaborations:

- Mozambique: Expert advisor on the organisation of impact assessment of community health workers programme on strengthening of Primary Health Care services (2022).
- Tunisia: Expert advisor for organisation of an emancipatory study involving Tunisian emigrants who have been sent back from Europe (2020-21).
- India: Expert advisor for organisation of an impact assessment study for a 5 years' programme of early intervention and education for children with disabilities by APD and local NGOs in northern Karnataka (2021).
- Italy: Lecture on "Emancipatory Disability Research" at Master in "Cooperazione internazionale e inclusione educativa: nuove sfide professionali", University of Bologna (2020, 2021); lessons on Progettazione Inclusiva for Online Learning Course (MOOC) for Federico II university of Naples (2021); a day workshop on Ricerca Emancipatoria Comunitaria for Pax Christi (2022).
- Sweden: Expert advisor on health programmes targeted at persons with disabilities in the international development cooperation programmes of SIDA (2020).
- Mongolia: Consultant for Asian Development Bank (ADB) on national AT services in Mongolia (2020-22). Global coordination of an emancipatory research project on challenges faced by young persons with moderate-to-severe disabilities in Ulaanbataar (2018-19); Preparation of a report on best practices from 20 years of CBR in Mongolia (2018-19); Assessment of National Assistive Technology Services in Mongolia for Global Disability Innovation Hub and World Health Organisation; president of the jury for the selection of papers at the International Inclusive Development Congress held in Ulaanbataar in July 2019.
- Liberia: An emancipatory research on barriers faced by persons with disabilities living in rural areas of Bong, Grand Gedeh and Nimba counties (2018-2021); A diagnostic study on the training needs of Disabled Peoples Organisations (DPOs), 2018; Feasibility study for a mobile app on mental health for community workers and users of mental health services, 2018-2019.
- Brazil: Lectures for students of physiotherapy and nursing on community-based rehabilitation and emancipatory research at Campo Grande university; Training of community-health workers on Emancipatory Health Research in the municipality of

Nietroi in collaboration with University of Rio de Janeiro; lecture on emancipatory research for physiotherapy students at the University of Rio de Janeiro (2019).

(b) From December 2014 till April 2016: As the Head of the North-East regional office of an Indian NGO, Mobility India, based in Guwahati (Assam) active in the areas of disability & rehabilitation programmes, community-based rehabilitation (CBR) programmes and community-based inclusive development programmes (CBID).

His main roles were in carrying out training courses, multidisciplinary research, capacity building and networking of organisations of persons with disabilities (DPOs), implementation of CBR and CBID programmes and setting of a regional centre for assistive technology for the north-east of India.

(c) From 1988 till 2016: At the head-office of AIFO (Amici di Raoul Follereau, Bologna, Italy) an international NGO, active in the areas of leprosy control, primary health care and disability & rehabilitation programmes with the following roles:

- 1988-90 as Technical officer
- 1990-2000 as International Project Director
- 2001-2014 as head of Medical and Scientific Support Department.
- 2015-2016: scientific and research advisor, and collaborator for relations with international organisations, especially the World Health Organisation (WHO)

Over the last 35 years he has been involved in conducting feasibility studies, health programme planning, training courses, research, monitoring and evaluation activities national and sub-national levels in a large number of countries of Africa, central and south America and Asia in four major areas:

- Leprosy and other infectious disease control programmes
- Health Care, especially Community and Primary Health Care
- Disability and rehabilitation programmes, especially community-based rehabilitation (CBR) programmes dealing with different disabilities, both physical and psychosocial
- Community development programmes including participatory development, organisations of persons with disability (DPOs), gender issues, education, income generation, livelihood promotion, human rights issues, advocacy and lobbying issues.

(d) During 1988-2011 associated with ILEP (International Anti-Leprosy Federation) with head-office in London, UK:

- 1989 to 1993 as secretary of rehabilitation expert discipline of the ILEP medical commission.
- 1994 to 1996 as member of ILEP medical commission.
- 2003-2006 as President of ILEP;
- 2008-2011, a member of ILEP Technical Commission.

(e) During 1996 - 2014 collaborating with Disability & Rehabilitation unit of World Health Organization (WHO/DAR), including consultancies for organising and facilitating multi-country meetings, coordinating international training workshops, preparation of reports and papers, contributing to books and guidelines.

The collaboration with WHO/DAR included work as technical officer at Disability and Rehabilitation department of WHO head-quarters in Geneva (Switzerland, January to May 2001).

More details about specific work done with WHO/DAR are provided below under workshops, conferences, research and publications.

(f) Links with international networks (1988 - till now): Other significant long-term collaborations and links include setting up of IDDC (International Disability & Development Consortium, 1995), managing of International Leprosy Mailing List (since 2001), People's Health Movement (PHM). He was the vice-president of IDEA, the international federation of persons affected with leprosy (2018-20).

Is a member of Global Disability Watch (since 2015); is a member of jury for the International Gandhi Award for Leprosy (since 1998).

These links include collaboration with large number of international and national non-governmental organisations, organisations of persons with disabilities, researchers and academic persons in different countries in Asia, Africa and South America.

(g) Medical Officer (1977 to 1987): Different experiences as doctor in India including junior residencies in general surgery and orthopaedics, senior resident in anaesthesia and medical officer in community health programme.

MULTI-COUNTRY RESEARCH INITIATIVES

Has been involved in a large number of field research projects. Among these, his significant research activities included coordination and management of some complex multi-country research initiatives that involved different countries, academic institutions and international organisations including the World Health Organisation (WHO):

2009-2012: International coordinator of multi-disciplinary research on impact of CBR in a district in India covering 2 million population. The initiative included (a) a quantitative research involving university of Florence (Italy) and university of London (UK); and (b) an emancipatory research involving university of Delhi (India), university of Leeds (UK) and Disabled Peoples International (DPI). This research looked at impact of CBR on different disabilities including mental health conditions.

2005 – 2008: Project coordinator on multi-country action-learning research initiative “A new paradigm for medical care for disabled persons” in collaboration with WHO in Indonesia, India, Ethiopia, Bolivia and Brazil.

1996-2001 Project Manager for “Promoting community-based rehabilitation (CBR) among vulnerable population groups” related to slum communities, refugee camps, nomadic communities and ethnic minority groups in Philippines, Indonesia, India, Kenya and Brazil, in collaboration with WHO.

EMANCIPATORY DISABILITY RESEARCH (EDR) PROJECTS

Has done pioneering work in experimenting with different strategies for implementing participatory and emancipatory research (ER) methodologies in low resource settings, especially in the areas of disability and rehabilitation. Some of the significant EDR projects include:

Challenges faced by persons with disabilities living in rural areas of Bong, Grand Gedeh and Nimba counties of Liberia (2018-2021): The emancipatory research is part of efforts for strengthening the leadership of DPOs networks and implementation of CRPD in areas that were affected first by a brutal civil war and then by the deadly Ebola Virus epidemic. (With AIFO/Italy and NUOD/Liberia)

Challenges faced by young persons with moderate-to-severe disabilities living in Ulaanbataar, Mongolia (2018-2019): As trainer and global coordinator for an emancipatory research project in collaboration with AIFO/Italy, Tegsh Niigem/Mongolia and Independent Living Movement Mongolia.

Promoting Inclusion: Quality of Life of elderly persons in Ponte San Niccolò, Padova, Italy (2015-2017): as scientific advisor to an emancipatory research initiative involving elderly persons regarding their quality of life and access to assistive technology. The research is in collaboration with the World Health Organisation.

Emancipatory research on life conditions of persons with disabilities in Brahmaputra river islands in Assam, India (2016): A group of women with disabilities were trained to conduct research to identify persons with disabilities in the riverine communities and the barriers faced by them.

Emancipatory research on barriers faced by women with disabilities in Gaza, Palestine (2014): A group of women with different disabilities were trained to conduct research on the different barriers faced by women with disabilities in Gaza.

Emancipatory research on violence and abuse faced by persons with disabilities in Bidar district of India (2012): A group of persons with different disabilities were trained to conduct research on violence, abuse and sexual abuse experienced by different groups of men, women and minors with disabilities.

Emancipatory research on impact of CBR in Mandya district of India (2010-12): A group of persons with different disabilities were trained to conduct research on the impact of 10 years of CBR.

Man, woman or disabled – Barriers to sexuality among persons with disabilities in Italy (2001-02): EDR through online forums and email among 20 persons with different disabilities in Italy, as part of the Masters course on Disability Studies at Leeds university.

CONDUCTING TRAINING COURSES, INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

Involved in a large number of international workshops and conferences in different roles including key-note speaker, moderator, coordinator, rapporteur and facilitator. The more recent ones include:

May 2022 (planned): Online workshop on Community Emancipatory Research, for Liliane Fond, Netherlands

March 2022: A one-day online workshop on Community Emancipatory research, for Pax Christi Italy

February 2020 & 2021: Teaching session on Emancipatory Disability Research (EDR), Master in International Cooperation & Inclusive Education, University of Bologna, Italy

July 2019: Coordination of international workshop on Best Practices in CBR, and coordination of plenary session on Livelihood initiatives for persons with disabilities, Asia-Pacific CBID Congress, Ulaanbataar, Mongolia

July 2018: A diagnostic study on the training needs of DPOs and the national DPO-federations, Liberia.

May 2018: Training of young persons with disabilities as researchers for the Emancipatory Disability Research (EDR), Ulaanbataar, Mongolia.

August 2017: International meeting on Promoting access to Assistive Technology, World Health Organisation, Geneva, Switzerland

April 2017: Meeting on old leprosy colonies as sites of significant cultural histories, in Okoyama county, Japan.

March 2016: Training of CBR workers and DPO members on Rapid Disability Survey, in Kamrup Urban district, Assam, India

February 2016: Training of community health workers on conducting a disability survey in an island of Brahmaputra river, in Moregaon, Assam, India

January 2016: Training of parents and community workers on Strengthening communication in children with developmental disabilities, in Guwahati, Assam, India

October 2015: Meeting of the network of international organisations and official collaborating centres of the Disability & Rehabilitation team of World Health Organisation (WHO/DAR) together with International Conference of Family of International Classifications (FIC), Manchester, UK

October 2014, WHO's Rehabilitation Guidelines: as an expert in the Strategic Meeting on WHO Health-related rehabilitation guidelines, San Paulo, Brazil

April-May 2014, Training of women with disabilities in emancipatory research in Palestine: Consultant-coordinator for training of women with disabilities in "Emancipatory Disability Research", Gaza, Palestine

September 2013: Coordinator for the symposium on CBR in the International leprosy Conference, held in Brussels, Belgium.

November 2012, Coordination of training workshops: At the first world CBR congress in Agra, India - coordinator of international workshop on CBR and intellectual disabilities; co-moderator of session on CBR in developed countries; coordinator of international workshop on sexuality, reproductive rights, violence and abuse.

September 2012, Training on CBR: Coordination of an introductory course on CBR for grassroots organisations, Nairobi, Kenya, 20-22 September 2012.

July 2012, Coordination of training workshops: At Peoples' Health Assembly, Cape Town South Africa, coordinator of an international workshop on "Right to health for persons with disabilities".

November 2011, Coordination of Training Workshops: At the second Asia-Pacific CBR congress in Manila, Philippines - coordinator of pre-congress workshop on emancipatory research; co-moderator of session on research; presentation on emancipatory research.

October 2010, Launching of CBR Guidelines: At the African congress on CBR in Abuja, Nigeria - presentation on monitoring and evaluation of CBR at pre-congress workshop by WHO; keynote presentation on supplementary module of CBR guidelines.

February 2009, Coordinator for Training Workshops at the first Asia Pacific CBR congress in Bangkok, Thailand: coordinator of international workshop on CBR and mental health conditions; coordinator of international workshop on CBR and UN Convention on rights of persons with disabilities; coordinator of international workshop on CBR and leprosy; and, presentation on health component of CBR guidelines.

2003 – 2006 WHO consultant for organising regional meetings in Asia, Africa and south America on the implementation of UN Standard rules for equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities: 4 regional meetings involving a total of 37 countries were held in India (2003), Congo Brazzaville (2004), Argentina (2005) and Egypt (2006).

2001-2002 WHO Consultant for organising regional inter-country meetings for strengthening of rehabilitation services in Asia, Africa and Latin America: 6 regional meetings 43 countries were held in Cambodia (2001), Eritrea (2001), Lebanon (2001), Benin (2002), Nepal (2002) and Nicaragua (2002).

MONITORING AND EVALUATION RELATED WORK

Has been involved in a large number of monitoring and evaluation initiatives of health care and disability related projects. This includes setting up and coordinating yearly monitoring of disability, health care and community-development projects' data of all the projects supported by AIFO/Italy in the period 1992-2014.

Some of his programme-evaluation experiences include – Community health and leprosy control programme in Jalgaon and Dhule districts of Maharashtra, in India (2016); Inclusive education programme, Goias Velho, Brazil (2013); Primary health care programme in Tochantins, Brazil (2012); CBR Programme in 3 districts of Vietnam (2010); leprosy and rehabilitation programme in Yunnan province of China (2010).

MEMBERSHIP COMMISSIONS/JOURNAL EDITORIAL BOARDS

Member of jury for International Gandhi Award since 2003; member of editorial board of Journal "Disability, CBR and Inclusive Development" (DCID); peer reviewer for Leprosy Review; peer reviewer for PLOS Tropical Diseases journal; and collaborator for Global Disability Watch.

PUBLICATIONS

Significant publications from the past few years are as follows:

(**Note:** Many of the below mentioned publications can be downloaded from: http://www.deepaksunil.com/sunil_publications.htm)

Chapters on Leprosy Control, Leprosy Rehabilitation and Leprosy Mailing List in the Handbook of Leprosy and Buruli Ulcer (second edition), editors E. Nunzi, C. Massone and F. Portales, Springer Publication (expected 2022)

Challenging power structures in knowledge production processes: the role and the potentialities of emancipatory disability research, M. Biggeri, F. Ciani, G. Griffo & S. Deepak, Elgar Handbook on Disability Policy, edited by S. Robinson & K. Fisher (expected 2022)

Barriers faced by Persons with disabilities in 3 Counties (Bong, Nimba and Grand Gedeh) of Liberia – Full Report and Summary Report of an Emancipatory Disability Research, Dr Sunil Deepak, Dec. 2021

Barriers faced by Young Adults with Disabilities in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, Summary Report of an Emancipatory Disability Research project, Dr. Sunil Deepak, Dec. 2021

Training of Mid-Level Rehabilitation Workers for Community-Based Rehabilitation Programmes, R. Ghosh, V. Palanivelu, E. Tebbutt & S. Deepak, Disability, CBR & Inclusive Development journal (DCID), Vol. 31, No.4, 2020; doi 10.47985/dcidj.431

Final Report of Community-Based Emancipatory Disability Research (CB-EDR) in Mongolia, S. Deepak (Feb. 2020).

Report of a national survey in Mongolia on Assistive Technology Capacity Assessment (ATA-C Survey) carried out in September-October 2019 as a consultant for AIFO, in collaboration with Tegsh Niigem Mongolia, with technical support from AT2030 team of the World Health Organisation and funding from Global Disability Innovation Hub, UK (December 2019)

Report of a Diagnostic Study on the DPOs in Liberia - A comprehensive report about the National Union of Organisations of Disabled (NUOD) and Disabled Peoples Organisations (DPOs) in Bong, Grand Gedeh and Nimba counties of Liberia, with background information about state and non-state organisations and institutions active in the disability sector (Full report updated on 14 December 2018)

Disability data collection in community-based rehabilitation, Deepak S., Ortali F., Mason Halls G., Damdinsuren T., et al, in CBR, Disability and Inclusive Development journal (DCID), Volume 27, December 2016

The effectiveness of CBR Programmes: an impact evaluation of a quasi-randomized trial, Mauro V, Biggeri M., Deepak S., Trani J.F., in Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health, 5 September 2014, doi: 10.1136/JECH 2013-203728

Violence against persons with disabilities in Bidar district (Karnataka, India), by S. Deepak, J. Kumar, S. Babu et al, in CBR, Disability and Inclusive Development journal (DCID), July 2014

Barriers perceived by women with disabilities in Gaza, Palestine, by S. Deepak, Isra'a Juma'a Ahmed Abu Lehya, Walaa Nemer Mdoukh, and Adriano Lostia, in *Behinderung und internationale Entwicklung - Disability and International Development*, Essen, Germany, Issue 03/2014

Self-care groups of leprosy affected persons in Mozambique, S. Deepak, P. Hansine, C. Braccini, *Leprosy Review*, December 2013, issue 84, pp 283-291

Organizations of persons with disabilities and community-based rehabilitation – case studies from Brazil and India, by S. Deepak, L. Santos, G. Griffo, et al, DCID, December 2013

CBR, health and rehabilitation, by S. Deepak & E. Pupulin, p. 4-11, *Behinderung und internationale Entwicklung - Disability and International Development*, Essen, Germany, Issue 02/2013

Self-care groups for prevention of disabilities in Mozambique, S. Deepak, P. Hansine, C. Braccini, Poster presentation, International Leprosy Congress, Brussels, Belgium, 16-19 September 2013

Intellectual disabilities and life-stories approach in emancipatory research, S. Deepak, E. Pupulin & G. Griffo, in *Life Stories Approach and Intellectual disabilities*, edited by C. Ruggerini and S. Yamaguchi, Erickson editors, Milan, Italy, 2013 (in Italian)

Do CBR programmes promote the participation of persons with disabilities? A case control study from Mandya district in India, M. Biggeri, S. Deepak, J. Kumar, V. Mauro, et al, *Disability and Rehabilitation journal*, UK, 2013

Emancipatory research on CBR and the barriers faced by persons with disabilities, S. Deepak, J. Kumar et al, *Disability and Rehabilitation journal*, UK, 2013

Editorial "Leprosy mailing list", S. Deepak, B. Naafs, et al, p. 331-334, *Leprosy Review*, vol. 83, Number 4, December 2012

A multi-centre study on quality of routine data collection on relapses in leprosy, S. Deepak & G. Gazzoli, p. 340-343, *Leprosy Review*, vol. 83, Number 4, December 2012

Contributed to the publication "**Promoting ear and hearing care through CBR**", WHO, Geneva, Switzerland, 2012

Chapter on "**Surgical and social rehabilitation**", J. Wim Brandsma & Sunil Deepak, in *Leprosy a practical guide*, edited by E. Nunzi & C. Massone, pp 321-330, Springer Verlag Italy, 2012

Chapter on "**Leprosy control**", Sunil Deepak & Giovanni Gazzoli, in *Leprosy a practical guide*, edited by E. Nunzi & C. Massone, pp 361-370, Springer Verlag Italy, 2012

Promoting empowerment - a guide for CBR programme managers, Sunil Deepak, AIFO, Bologna, Italy 2012

Impact of CBR - community-based rehabilitation programme in Mandya district, (Karnataka, India), M. Biggeri, S. Deepak, et al, AIFO, Bologna, Italy 2012

Contributed to General health care, chapter 3 of **World Report on Disability**, WHO and World Bank, Geneva, Switzerland, 2011

Emancipatory research on impact of CBR: voices of children with disabilities, S. Deepak, J. Kumar et al, pp 14-19, Behinderung und internationale Entwicklung - Disability and International Development Journal, Essen, Germany, 2/2011

CBR matrix and perceived training needs of CBR workers - A multi-country study, S. Deepak, J. Kumar, F. Ortali & E. Pupulin, in Disability, CBR and Inclusive Development journal, vol. 22, no. 1, 2011

Contributed to module on health and the chapter on leprosy in **Community-based Rehabilitation - CBR Guidelines**, WHO, UNESCO, ILO and IDDC, Geneva Switzerland, 2010.

Review of leprosy research evidence 2002-09 and implications for current policy and practice - ILEP Technical commission, Leprosy Review (2010), vol. 81, pp 228-275 (specifically the part related to rehabilitation)

A community assessment of poverty and disability among specific rural population groups in Nepal, S. Shrestha, N. Kaji and S. Deepak, Asia Pacific Disability and Rehabilitation journal, Vol. 20, no. 1, 2009

(April, 2022)
