

Report on third INEDIS workshop in Adama, Ethiopia

April 16-19/2019



“Now as we are running, nothing is gonna stop us.” (Dr. Yirgashewa)

This quote has been taken from the first day of our third international workshop in Adama, organized by Addis Ababa University. As we felt that way throughout the workshop, we wanted to take it as an opening statement for this report.

The workshop started with an Introduction by Dr. Yirgashewa and a welcome speech by Dr. Hussein, Dean of the College for Education and Behavioral Sciences (CEBS). After that Dr. Alemayehu gave an overall introduction to the INEDIS project and highlighted the already achieved goals.



Dr. Hussein (Dean of CEBS) and Prof. Biewer



Dr. Alemayehu (project coordinator)

We then started into the workshop with a **report on the accomplishments of year two** and an **overview on the planned activities** for the third year from Addis Ababa University. One of the most successful goals was the publication of a guideline: “Inclusion in Education for Students with Disabilities at Higher Education Institutions.” Furthermore the Addis Ababa team completed different workshops: one on employability of university graduates with disabilities, one on job searching skills for graduating students with disabilities and a national workshop on curriculum and instructional adaptation in higher education institutions. The discussion that followed the presentation included questions on possibilities to continue the positive experience after the trainings. E.g. it became evident that there is an increasing need for job oriented training for graduating students with disabilities. Another aspect referred to the guideline that was published by the team of Addis Ababa University and included the issue of publishing in Braille and further online accessibility. Another important aspect that was raised was the point of giving awareness to the employers.



Dr. Yirgashewa (team leader AAU)

The third year plan of Addis Ababa University includes:

- Training for new students including job hunting skills
- Developing computer-based examination delivery for students with visual impairments
- Survey research on the situation and prevalence of mental health issues

After lunch break **Gondar University** took over to report on **second year accomplishments**. These included the organization of our second international workshop for the four INEDIS Universities, a workshop on challenges for students with disabilities and other activities. Mrs. Meseret also informed us that the Gondar team faced various challenges because of unrests and internal instability at the University. Another challenge was the change of the finance officer at the University of Gondar.

Mr. Wondewosen then presented the **progress of their research** on “Educational, Social and Environmental Challenges of Students with Disability in Secondary Schools and Higher Learning Institutions”.



Mrs. Meseret (team leader UoG)



Mr. Wondewosen (presenting research from UoG)

The third year plan of University of Gondar includes:

- Awareness training for University staff and community
- Building University ramps and making the environment more accessible
- Working on publications
- Including mass media in working on the topic of disability
- Continue to organize the “Disability-Talent-Week”

The final presentation of the first day was given by Dr. Berhanu from **Dilla University**. He presented the **accomplishments of the second year** which were:

- Development of the CBID (community based inclusive development) curriculum
- Working on resource centers
- Capacity building
- Curriculum and needs assessment
- Production of training material for summer students
- International and national curriculum review
- Reviewing CBID curriculum based on the before mentioned reviews
- Call for selection and recruitment of CBID trainees
- Call for trainers
- Placing a course coordinator for maintaining and follow up
- Support center
- Repairing of broken ditches, ramps, building dormitories etc.
- Consultation services
- Printing and photocopying services for students with disabilities
- Computer skill training
- Developing new research
- Gedeo zone baseline research (see below for results)
- Academic forums
- Dissemination of CBID curriculum

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On the second day Dilla University reported on their **baseline research** on “Practice, Challenges and Future Prospects of Community Based Rehabilitation Services in Gedeo Zone, SNNPR, Ethiopia”. They accomplished this study by including parents and caregivers of children with disabilities. Results showed that CBR service was not appropriately given to most persons with disabilities. The study also revealed that there was a strong demand for assistive devices such as shoe raise, braces, crutches, wheel chairs etc. As a further result of the study, Balaya (NGO engaged in humanitarian activity in Gedeo zone) launched a charity program. Hence, pocket money for students with visual impairments, trainings, educational material and transport to the Arba Minch rehabilitation center etc. was provided. However, not all people in need could be reached. Roles and responsibilities were not shared among all concerned bodies.

Access to CBR service is very limited and resulted in limited access to education, high drop-out rates, or not attending school at all. Parents often reported that they had no awareness and skills of how to support their family members with disabilities. They also had no access to materials etc.

The challenges of implementing CBR were on the one hand a failure to understand the basic concept of CBR amongst concerned bodies. Coordination was not working well. On the other hand the prevailing charity model does not bring a holistic change in the life of persons with disabilities. A third problem was the lack of trained workers in the zone. The last problem mentioned was the absence of rehabilitation centers.

Action has to be taken to enhance accessibility of persons with disability to rehabilitation services, information, material etc. Social and labor affair department should train social workers with the modern concept of CBR services and assign them to the community. The Dilla team emphasized that the study is used as a source to conduct large scale studies in the region and in the country as well.



Dr. Berhanu



Participants

After the presentation of the study the whole INEDIS team gave **feedback** and discussed results and the significance of the study. Suggestions were given to cooperate with the University of Gondar as they have a long experience on CBR training. Another point was referring to the pocket money and questioning the sustainability effect of that.

Dr. Dejene then moved on to present the **third year action plan of Dilla University**.

1. CBID Training:

- summer training program 2019;
- preparing CBID training manuals on sign language, Braille, project design and life skill courses;
- conducting monitoring and evaluation of the progress of the CBID training program;
- recruiting 80 CBID trainees for the year 2019 in the summer program;
- orientation and follow up for the second summer training in 2020;
- providing counseling services for students with special needs and others;
- organizing the status of CBID prospective graduates for graduation
- prepare a job description of CBID graduates and communicate to the Ministry of Public and Civil Services
- Sign Language training for three months for academic staff (already started with 25 trainees, of which 5 are female)

2. Conducting research and developing a structure of counseling and a support center:

- Regional conference for disseminating research findings
- Publishing in journals

- Conducting research on selected secondary schools in the Gedeo zone (inclusive education)



Dr. Dejene and Dr. Ababu (team leader DU)

After the presentation **comments** were given including a surprised comment on the big number of trainees (80 persons). Dr. Ababu informed us that the University of Dilla promised to support the continuation of the CBID curriculum. That is why the plan exceeds the project duration (February 2020).

The time before the tea break was used to **reflect on strengths and weaknesses** that could be detected so far in the whole project time.

After the brake we came back to discuss the **final workshop in August 2019** in Vienna. Prof. Biewer presented the program that was planned by the Vienna team and all the organizational issues that have to be considered regarding visa and travelling.

After lunch Prof. Biewer continued by addressing the topic of **academic writing and publication in international collaboration**. He presented the APPEAR guidelines on publications to the whole INEDIS team. Additionally he showed and discussed the Berlin declaration on access in the Sciences and Humanities (2003) referring to open access to publications. Additionally, the different forms of open access publications were explained. There is a directory of open access journals: <https://doaj.org/>. Prof. Biewer also introduced the idea of repositories. He introduced the Viennese repository and the ongoing work on an academic repository for Ethiopia called NADRE which is supported by the GIZ (<https://nadreweb.ethernet.edu.et/>). All these publication possibilities are “green open access”.

High-level open access (with an CC BY-NC-ND license) are for example provided by Frontiers in Education. They also have a section for special educational needs. Frontiers was organized by the scientific community and has no commercial interests. Prof. Biewer also addressed the point of predatory journals and warned from publishing there (list of PJs: <https://predatoryjournals.com/journals/>).

The rest of the day was used to discuss third year perspectives in the individual teams of each University.



(group discussions)

April 18, 2019

The morning was dedicated to conferences and publications. First Simon and Michelle presented all what has to be known and done to go to a conference and made suggestions on which conferences would be interesting for the INEDIS team (WERA, ECER, ISSUED, NOCIES, TEP, IFO, NERA). As a next step, relevant calls for papers were presented (Scandinavian Journal of Disability Research: Research Methods and Practices of Doing Disability Studies in the Global South; Disability and the Global South; Frontiers in Education; International Journal of Gender Studies in Developing Societies; Gender Issues; Disability, CBR and Inclusive Development). Following the presentation, the different teams started to discuss about possible topics for publication.



Simon and Michelle

After the tea break the whole INEDIS team came together to present the articles they planned to publish. These included articles on research that has already been completed as well as ongoing and new research. The team also distributed the responsibilities related to the planned articles (who is responsible for working on which article).

The afternoon was spent on **discussions on a follow-up project** between the participating Universities and further activities that could be planned for the time after INEDIS. Important topics brought up by the Ethiopian team members were sustainability, empowering University systems (counseling services etc.), establishing

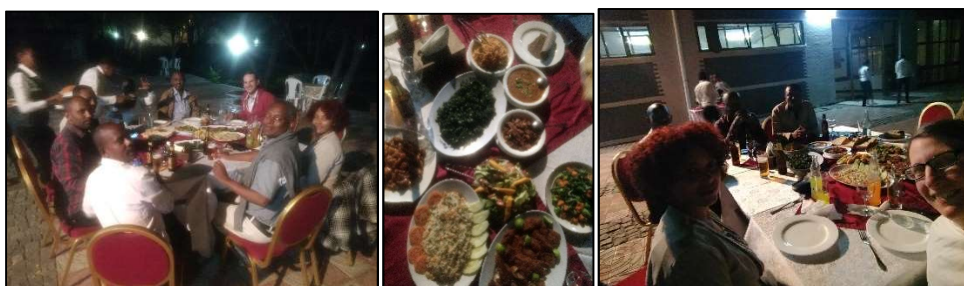
resource Universities, deepen established relations between Universities and putting a focus on actions and interventions in the future. The University of Vienna suggested further possibilities of cooperating in areas related to disability, education and migration.

The Ethiopian team members further discussed to strengthen cooperation between the Ethiopian Universities by staff exchange and a kind of forum to exchange information and activities. A basic aspect in this process was discussing a memorandum of understanding. Another point of discussion amongst the Ethiopian members was the development of a Handbook on inclusive education.

The workshop was closed by Dr. Yirgashewa, Dr. Alemayehu and Prof. Biewer.

April 19, 2019

The last day of the workshop was spent to visit the natural hot springs of Sodare and a school in Adama. This was perfect timing after this very intense workshop as everybody felt very relaxed after having enjoyed the warm water. In the evening the remaining participants were invited to a special dinner with music and dance.



Goodbye Dinner

We want to thank all participants for this wonderful very productive and intense workshop, especially for the excellent organization of the whole week!