

International Day for Persons with Disabilities 2010 – Parents Workshops

Parents of children with disabilities, noted speakers, and participant schools gathered at the Pool Marquee, Marriott Karachi to celebrate the International Day for People with Disabilities, 2010 – an initiative of NOWPDP and Inclusive Society Pakistan (ISP).

The main objectives of the event were:

- Educate parents of children with disabilities, from all major special education schools in the city, about their children's rights and capabilities
- Publish a booklet with relevant information and contact details for parents.
- Create a network of parent support groups across Karachi.

The event marked the celebration of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Pakistan. The event included diverse events in line with the theme 'Celebrating Disability' – ISP employing NOWPDP's platform to introduce their behavioral management booklet to parents, and signing up parents for Parent Support Groups across Karachi.

The event consisted of key notes, panel discussions, and children's participation. The list of activities is as follows:

- Ms. Aysha Jamall spoke on "Celebrating Compassion not Sympathy"
- "Circle of Care" – a circle of children – that integrate children with disabilities in their school narrating their experience and view on disabilities.
- QnA Session – between parents and panelists
- Mr. Tahir Iqbal spoke on PWDs and their support through NOWPDP
- Mr. Intizar Hussain spoke about growing up with partial visual impairment as a child and the support of his peers and parents.
- Amna Khan (from ISP) introduced her organisation and launched the Parent Support Groups.

To achieve the aim of making the event inclusive for all the audience, the entire event was interpreted by Naila Aijaz from JS Academy for the Deaf.

As a result of the workshop, over 300 parents of children with disabilities who attended the event benefited in the following ways:

- Increased awareness, especially pertaining to education and raising children with disabilities
- Resolved questions and concerns by panelist
- Launch of Parents support groups
- Dissipated information about legal rights of PWDs
- The platform for all parents to come together and interact with each other and with experts, etc.