

Journey of Hope Report

On 8 May 2008, Aga Khan Council for Pakistan in consultation with the National Commission for Social Welfare of the Government of Pakistan filled a void regarding availability of realistic data on disabilities in Pakistan – and ‘Journey of Hope: A Report on the Status of Persons with Disabilities and the Way Forward’ was published.

The main aims of the publication were:

- Promotion of human rights
- Recognition of differently-abled people
- Support the organizations working towards the emancipation of people with special abilities

‘Journey of Hope’ is a conglomeration of input from institutions working with all types of disabilities. It is a result of an extensive hard work that recognized a lack of a cohesive platform for organizations (working for people with special abilities) to interact, exchange information and mutual assistance. Hence, the groundwork for development of a Network was set – announced a day after the ceremonial announcement of the report – the launch of NOWPDP on 9 May 2008.

Aga Khan Council of Pakistan formed NOWPDP to apply the findings of the report, and to facilitate the growth of such organizations in reaching the objectives that define the ‘Journey of Hope’.

The report includes:

- Classification and causes of disabilities
- Provincial breakdown of disabilities statistics to highlight the magnitude of the problem
- Development of Special Education programs in Pakistan: evolution of disability program, institutional arrangements, institutions according to disabilities, regional distribution of institution, student enrolment, accessibility, teachers and their qualifications, available vocational training institutes, rehabilitation centers, etc.
- Legislation and policy reforms
- Major challenges and constraints