

Stakeholders Workshop 2011

NOWPDP organized a 'Stakeholders Workshop: Needs of the Disability Community' on Thursday July 21, 2011 in collaboration with Gallup Pakistan. The workshop aimed to increase collaboration between organizations working for special abilities in Pakistan and discuss persistent issues related to the targeted community.

70 participants attended from all over Pakistan from which 45 were members of NOWPDP. Moreover, British Council, Unilever Pakistan, Telenor Pakistan, Habib Bank Ltd, P@SHA, Aman Foundation, Handicap International, French commercial and economic counsellor, Social Welfare Department Government of Sindh's Deputy Director PCRDP and Assistant Deputy Director PCRDP partook in the Workshop as well.

The workshop consisted of an open-forum for discussion so that unrestricted flow of ideas could come forth regarding People with Disabilities (PWD) that not only highlighted the problems, but its causes and solutions as well. The workshop output that was released soon after indicates the success of the Workshop's objectives.

The discussion proved fruitful as practical output from the group discussions came forth:

- Special CNICs to be made all over Pakistan (Publication of a public brochure by NOWPDP with details of the procedure to obtain the Special CNIC), increased quota in employment and National Assemblies
- Increased public awareness through practical means – street theatres to increase awareness and break disability stereotypes because lack of awareness leads to incorrect reporting of disabilities and, hence, incorrect data.
- Establishing accessibility helpline comprised from different stakeholders where they submit concerns about physical and environmental accessibility.
- Promoting inclusive education
- Training for transition from academics to professional environment
- Training of teachers and parents to increase awareness on disability
- Designing a standardized curriculum by coordination of experts on different disabilities
- Capabilities and vocational skills should be market competitive that companies want to employ PWDs.
- One central directory with information about organizations working for PWDs

This event also launched the NOWPDP Disability Services Directory, which provides centralized information and can be edited by users. Following the discussion procedures; a panel of representatives of the companies, moderated by Shadab Fariduddin of Four Corners Group, donor agencies and government department put forward possible collaboration opportunities and answered various questions from the organizations working with PWDs.