

R E P O R T
ON IMPLEMENTATION OF
AGENDA FOR ACTION
ASIAN PACIFIC DECADE OF
DISABLED PERSONS
1993-2002



GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT
SOCIAL WELFARE & SPECIAL EDUCATION PAKISTAN

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PREFACE

Like other countries of the world especially those of the ESCAP region, Pakistan is actively engaged in the cause of the disabled persons. The Constitution of the country guarantees adopting all possible measures for the welfare of the needy and the deserving, including the disabled.

Although in Pakistan programmes were initiated for the welfare, education, training and rehabilitation of this segment of society, both at the public and private sector since 1947, yet implementation of these programmes received a momentum by celebrating the International Year of the Disabled Persons, 1981. The UN Decade of Disabled Persons, 1983-1992 followed by the ESCAP Decade of Disabled Persons 1993-2002 and other UN instruments further boosted the activities for the welfare of persons with disabilities.

The Government of Pakistan through its meager resources, made all efforts to implement programmes in all the 12 Areas of activities listed in the Plan of Action of the ESCAP Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002 and progress has been satisfactory. More is however required so that persons with disabilities are mainstreamed and are able to perform like persons without disabilities.

This report covers all the activities coduted in Pakistan during the decade 1993-2002. This was a requirement of the UN ESCAP Secretariat for further action.

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Secretary

Ministry of Women's Development,
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Islamabad

17-10-2002

PAKISTAN

NATIONAL OVERVIEW

From its very inception Pakistan has professed to espouse the cause of Socio-Economic uplift of the country. The basic idea underlying this concept is the importance of human relationship in the life of individual and society. Social Development is concerned with the multidimensional and multipurpose activities which help all segments of society including the vulnerable groups i.e. the poor, destitute and the persons with disabilities. During the last one decade social development has been the main focus in all programmes. It has been experienced that only a well directed planning with a comprehensive approach to social services can alleviate the misery of vulnerable groups.

In order to organize and develop special programmes for such vulnerable groups of the population a social welfare wing in the Ministry of Health was created in 1978. Later, the subject of Special Education was transferred from Ministry of Education to Social Welfare Wing of the Ministry of Health and an independent Division for Special Education & Social Welfare was created. This Division of the Federal Government was assigned the task of policy formulation, planning and execution of Special Education Projects. It was also responsible for coordination of Special Education and Social Welfare activities at federal, provincial and NGOs level. Initially it focused on two main areas:

- (a) Provision of early assessment and diagnoses, treatment education, training and rehabilitation facilities for persons with disabilities and guidance and counseling services for the families as well as for the community at large.
- (b) Strengthening the CSOs/CBOs by helping them to develop their capacities, initiations and mobilizing community resources to meet their special needs and requirements.

DEVELOPMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION IN PAKISTAN

In order to spearhead pioneering work in the challenging area of Special Education and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, it was considered necessary to create a new organization to take up this task. Directorate General of Special Education was therefore, established in 1985 as a part of Special Education and Social Welfare Division in the then Ministry of Health, Special Education and Social Welfare now Ministry of Women Development, Social Welfare and Special Education to carry out the following functions:-

- Formulate and coordinate National Policy for Persons with disabilities.
- Organize census of persons with disabilities.
- Establish Special Education Centres all over the country.
- Manpower training.
- Provide medical and Para-medical support to persons with disabilities.
- Provide special aids and equipment for the use of persons with disabilities.
- Create and provide job opportunities.
- To provide vocational training.
- To provide legislative support for persons with disabilities.

As an initial step the Directorate General of Special Education formulated a draft National Policy for Special Education in 1985 and revised it in 1988 to bring it in line with the emerging needs of target population in the era of Decade of Disabled (1983-92).

During this period, the Directorate General of Special Education established Special Education Programmes and services in the following areas:-

- Early detection and intervention.
- School based services.
- Training and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.
- Legislative support to persons with disabilities.
- Manpower development to deal with education and training of persons with disabilities.

Currently a draft Policy is in hand. The consultation process with relevant Provincial Ministries and CSOs is in progress.

Some of the key initiatives in each of the 1985 and 1988 National Policies have been implemented. New Initiatives have been proposed in the current Draft National Policy. Following chart indicates some of key areas of the National Policies:-

S.NO.	POLICY STATEMENT IN PLAN 1985-88	STATUS	PRESENT DRAFT PLAN
1.	Census of Disabled Persons	Only a limited survey carried out by the DGSE and NGOs.	In plan
2.	Setting up Special Education Centres.	48 Federal Special Education Centres established.	To extend the facility in the small cities/towns.
3.	Encourage Community Involvement.	Carried out only by one project and some CSOs.	-do-
4.	Increase training facilities for teachers and Para-medics	Substantially implemented.	-do-
5.	Strengthen links with CSOs.	Implemented partially.	-do-
6.	Fiscal concessions	Implemented partially.	-do-
7.	Training and Employment.	Implemented partially. Amendment to Legislation pending.	-do-

There are no reliable data on incidence and prevalence rates of disability in Pakistan. Applying the WHO estimates of 10% in the Pakistan context, it is estimated that there are likely to be between 14 and 15 million persons with disabilities of whom 7 to 7.5 million are of school age. In Pakistan it is essential to have reliable data absence of which have been stumbling block in the process of planning during the Asian Pacific Decade. There were however specific instances where individual surveys had been conducted in localized areas. Such attempts did not help the Government and CSOs in formulation of strategy to address this issue.

A National Census has been conducted in March 1998. Amongst other information, this census sought out data on the presence or otherwise in a

household of persons with disabilities. The data informally compiled on the basis of national census conducted in March 1998 is given at annexure "A".

Pakistan has made concerted efforts towards implementation of agenda for action on Asian Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons. At the end point of decade some new projects have been planned and launched aiming at providing facilities for disabled persons which include infrastructural and service oriented programmes.

NATIONAL COORDINATION

National Coordination in Pakistan is carried out through a dual system. At Government level the Directorate General of Special Education being an executing agency of Ministry of Women Development, Social Welfare & Special Education is responsible for coordination with all relevant national and international organizations in the areas of education, care, training and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. It communicates policy decisions to all governmental & non-governmental organizations for implementation. In the process of formulation of national plans and policies, it consults the relevant agencies in both private and public sectors. Recently, in the context of Draft National Policy document, the views and comments were obtained from relevant agencies and were incorporated in the final draft of the document. At national level it also compiles reports on the subject for presentation in the national and international conferences.

Apart from this a national coordinating committee consisting of representatives of prominent NGOs and the relevant agencies of the government was constituted in 1994 to coordinate at national level. Meeting of the National Coordinating Committee was also held in the year 1994 and took certain decisions for the cause of handicapped. In the light of the minutes of the meeting, some measures were taken for involvement of community and the Department of Health & Education for launching integrated programmes for education, training, treatment and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

LEGISLATION

Pakistan has legislation named, "Disabled Persons Employment & Rehabilitation Ordinance 1981". This law was an outcome of conferences and seminars held in connection with the observance of IYDP, 1981. Its main features include reservation of 1% quota of employment for persons with disabilities in all public and private sector establishments employing more than 100 persons. In case any establishment does not employ persons with disabilities under section 10 of the Ordinance, the establishment concerned make remittances of Rs.2000/- per month in cash to "Disabled Persons Rehabilitation Fund" (DPR Fund) established under the section 17 of the Ordinance.

National Council for Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons (NCRDP) has established its counterparts in each province to ensure the implementation of relevant clauses of the law and undertake all policy decisions aiming at the welfare, employment and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities in their respective jurisdiction. During this decade a Task Force was established to review and suggest the amendments in the existing legislation. After a series of meetings the Task Force has finalized amendments which will be placed in the Parliament for approval.

In addition to Disabled Persons Employment and Rehabilitation Ordinance, 1981 there are few other laws which are indirectly concerned with the welfare, training and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. These are (i) Voluntary Social Welfare Agencies (Registration & Control) Ordinance 1961, (ii) Trust Act 1882, (iii) Charitable Endowment Act 1890 and Joint Stock Companies Act 1860. Under these Legislations the CSOs/Associations working for the welfare of persons with disabilities are registered and regulated through out Pakistan.

INFORMATION

The Governmental and non-governmental organizations are engaged in working for providing useful information to stakeholders through print and electronic media. During the decade directory of Special Education Programmes operating in both private and public sector was prepared for information of persons with disabilities and general masses. A telephone helpline has been established under the auspices of DGSE to furnish information about obtaining

required services for the people with disabilities and other information to community people.

Special Education Programme is being projected through Radio/TV and Press. Few Special Magazines and "Journals" containing useful information for stakeholders are taken out by the relevant Governmental agencies and CSOs.

Information regarding EPI on TV has played a vital role in prevention of disability. Masses have been convinced with the utility of EPI and are aware of causes of disability particularly in urban areas. This programme has now been taken up to rural areas through outlets of the Health Department.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

In 21st Century the concept of meeting the requirement of persons with disabilities has been changed. Now the focus is on utilization of the abilities of disabled persons to make them economically viable and productive citizens by arranging functional training, backed up by meeting their needs in the areas of health, education and employment.

Public awareness campaigns are launched on special occasions such as "Celebration of Disabled Day" and White Cane Safety Day" etc. On such occasions conferences, seminars and meetings are held under the auspices of relevant Government organizations and CSOs. Special events are also held to create awareness about the problems/needs of persons with disabilities. In these events main focus has been the promotion of a broad range of positive images of people with disabilities participating in various aspects of life.

The President of Pakistan and Governors of the Provinces meet special delegations of persons with disabilities on "International Day of Disabled Persons" and issue special messages to special supplements of "Newspapers".

National Library & Resource Centre (NL&RC) established under the auspices of Directorate General of Special Education (DGSE) in the M/o Women Development, Social Welfare and Special Education has made great efforts in



Art and craft skills



Healthy Sports activities



Art and craft skills



Pick and drop facility

creating and enhancing professional insight of stakeholders by establishing a special library which contain professional books, overseas journals, Audio & Video Cassettes, Content page services (CPs), journals, reports and bulletins.

A Task Force under the Chairmanship of a prominent social worker representing a CSO has been constituted to suggest measures for creating awareness among masses. It has held several meetings to formulate recommendations for achieving the goal of public awareness.

ACCESSABILITY AND COMMUNICATION

During the decade a Legislation named "Disability Design Board" was prepared and tabled as a private Bill at the behest of relevant CSOs but could not be discussed in the Parliament due to sudden political crisis in the country.

At the behest of Directorate General of Special Education, the agencies responsible for regulating the construction of buildings such as District Development Authorities at Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Faisalabad, and Sargodha etc. and others have been providing barrier free environment in new buildings. Changes in the existing building codes are in process to bring them to the standard required for ensuring accessibility and communication to persons with disabilities. Special provisions in public parks and places are underway for making them assessable to the stakeholders. At the national level facilities of duty free import of equipment/ assistive devices and specially designed vehicles exist to ease accessibility for persons with disabilities.

In this decade a plan has been prepared to make Islamabad a "Disabled Friendly City". In order to ensure accessibility to persons with disabilities specific measures have been proposed, which include the following:-

- Ramps
- Passages and doorways
- Lifts
- Parking lots
- Special provisions for Visually Impaired Persons
- Special provisions for physically handicapped persons
- Special provisions for hearing impaired persons

Modifications in building by-laws have been proposed to ensure that all existing buildings having any significance for persons with disabilities are

structurally modified and new buildings are constructed with all necessary and specific provisions for this segment of society. These changes in by-laws are aimed at improving functionality and ensuring autonomy and safety to persons with disabilities. The plan also focus on specific requirement of transport, parking space, signs, traffic signals and access to all public buildings by providing ramps, elevators, stairs, Braille bars. A Telephone Helpline for guidance and assistance to persons with disabilities has been established in DGSE, Islamabad.

EDUCATION

The Government of Pakistan is committed to a policy of Universal Primary Education (UPE) which means the Education for all including the education of individuals with disabilities. Education sector in Pakistan could hardly fetch 2.5% of GNP during the last decade. Due to low rate of investment, attainment of UPE is still a distant goal. In such conditions special provision for Special Educational needs to be determined with well laid out goals to be achieved. It has been experienced that provision of special educational needs is complicated due to dual nature of educational system in Pakistan. This dual system – one regular or normal with Ministry of Education and the other Special Educational needs is currently with the Ministry of Women Development, Social Welfare and Special Education. Under this Ministry 46 model schools have been established throughout the country as examples of good practice for Provincial Governments and CSOs to follow. Province-wise break of the centres is given as under:-

1.	Punjab	19
2.	Sindh	08
3.	NWFP	08
4.	Balochistan	03
5.	ICT	06
5.	AJK	01
6.	Northern Areas	01

Special Education being a new developing field in Pakistan, non-availability of trained manpower was the main hurdle in the way of speedy expansion of educational services for the disabled children inspite of the earmarking of the necessary funds. For this purpose the Federal Government initiated programme of study at different levels.

National Institute of Special Education (NISE) - National Institute of Special Education was established in 1986 with the six major aims and objectives:-

- Develop programmes for manpower training in Special Education, whether they are employed in Federal or Provincial Centres or in Non-Governmental Organizations.
- Organize short-term as well as long-term courses leading to certificate, diploma and degree in special education.
- Collaborate with universities, other institutions and international agencies for the development of manpower in special education.
- Develop and publish material for the guidance of special education teachers and parents.
- Disseminate information about the issues and problems of disabled people among general public through publications, seminars, conferences and mass-media.
- Promote research activities in the field of special education.

Under the National Institute of Special Education about 134 short-term & long-term courses for more than 5000 teachers were arranged during the decade.

Special Education Sequence at Universities

- a) ***Allama Iqbal Open University*** – A degree course leading to M.Ed in Special Education has been started initially for teachers in the field of visual impairment. It is now being followed by a course for the hearing impaired children & mentally retarded children also.
- b) ***Karachi University*** – Department of Special Education started its degree course leading to M.A. in Special Education in 1989.

- c) **Punjab University** – Department of Special Education started its degree course leading to M.A. in Special Education in the Punjab University in 1990.

National Institute of Special Education undertook some specific measures for improving the quality of teachers and taught:-

Development of Special Education Material & Publication – Besides training programme, material for education and public awareness were produced and distributed among teachers, parents and other professionals which included periodic reports, training manuals, brochures and Special Education Bulletins.

Development of Reading Material – A project for the production of reading material for handicapped children was undertaken in collaboration with UNESCO. In this project four reading books with pictures were produced for special children.

Translation of Special Education Book in Urdu – To fulfill the needs of parents and other persons involved with special education, one useful book "Disabled Village Children" by David Werner was printed in Urdu, with the sponsorship of UNICEF. This book covers assessment, prevention, management techniques and education training of a handicapped child in different disability areas.

Development of Techniques & Material at the National Levels:-

- i. Pakistan Sign Language with Regional Variation.
- ii. Pakistan Sign Language based on primary school syllabus.
- iii. Pakistan Sign Language based on general vocabulary.

There was a dire need for conducting research on regional variation in Pakistan sign Language and produce common books to be used by all regions of Pakistan. These variations were explored and recorded with the consent of all in a National Meeting cum-Workshop of the representatives of Deaf Associations in Pakistan.

Directory of Special Education – The Federal Government, Provincial Governments and Private Sectors have established large number of Special Education Institutions and rehabilitation centres throughout the country. In order to improve the existing functioning of these special centres, some authentic information about the services and number of beneficiaries catered by these institutions were necessary to be collected. The information from 293 centres was collected and a directory has been prepared, which is now being revised. Some other steps in the following directions have also been taken:-

- i. Curriculum for Special Education (Primary level)
- ii. Curriculum guidelines for teachers of primary classes in special education centres have been prepared and distributed.
- iii. Syllabus for preparatory classes of HIC has been prepared & distributed.
- iv. Modifications in Primary School syllabus (Primary level) have been made & modified syllabus is being implemented in the centers.

The prescribed text books of primary school syllabus of respective boards were examined by provincial curriculum committees and necessary modifications/amendments were made to suit the capabilities of hearing impaired children. The curriculum committee included senior teachers of hearing impaired children from all four provinces and NISE staff at Islamabad.

Curriculum for post-graduate level courses – Curriculum for post-graduate level courses in all four disabilities were developed in collaboration with AIOU. Study Units for three courses were also written for the guidance of teachers.

Curriculum for Mentally Retarded Children – A uniform curriculum for management, education & rehabilitation of mentally retarded children has been prepared in consultation with the experts working in the field of mental retardation throughout the country and now is being implemented in the centres run by Federal Government as well as CSOs.

- a. Unified syllabus on mobility (Class I-V)

- b. Unified syllabus on Music for Blind Children I-V (ready to be printed).
- c. Syllabus on Vocational skill for Blind children (Class I-V) (ready to be printed).
- d. Training manual on mobility and orientation for the visually impaired persons.
- e. Development of curriculum on low vision for Master level classes at various Universities in Pakistan (being implemented).
- f. Test for verbal comprehension of children with Mentally Retarded is ready for standardization.
- g. Test "age related behavioral assessment of mental retardation" (introduced in centres & ready for standardization).
- h. Book on parents' professional partnership (Urdu) is ready to be printed.

Other Developments at National Institute of Special Education –

Preparation of Co-Trainers in Specific Areas – The co-trainers were prepared through basic and advance training courses in Sign Language Communication to take up the role of trainer in centre based training programmes throughout the country in the supervision of master trainers from Deaf Association and NISE experts. In the same way, trainers in the Education of Visually Handicapped Children and communications skills for Mentally Retarded were prepared with the cooperation of Egyptian Expert Mr. Farooq Ibrahim Khali and Miss. Joanna M. Gill from U.K.

National Institute of Special Education as a Board of Examination for Class-V - Class-V Examination in Federal Government Special Education Centres in the country has been centralized by NISE in 1990. Since then class-V examinations are conducted by NISE and students performance is assessed and suggestions for improvements are conveyed.

Research & Presentation of Papers in International Conferences: Research provides a spring board for future development. NISE has not neglected this field. The priority in research was given to the preventive measures and parents counseling programme. As such a heated topic in European countries regarding cousin marriages and disability in children of Asian Countries was chosen to find the situation in Pakistan. It is a comparative study of four disabilities. A part of this study (cousin marriages and mental retardation

in children of Pakistan) was presented in the 10th Asian Conference on Mental Retardation held at Karachi and International Conference held in Kenya. A research study of "Rehabilitation of Visually Impaired in Pakistan (1996) was also carried out & being used as a reference document on the subject in various National International forums.

TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT

Vocational training institutions for persons with disabilities are very limited in Pakistan. Ministry of Women Development, Social Welfare and Special Education established a Vocational Training Centre at national level in late 80s. On the basis of experience gained through national training centre, four more Vocational Training Centres one each at provincial headquarters i.e. Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar and Quetta has been established. These VTCDs cater to the needs of all the four categories of persons with disabilities (both boys & girls).

Efforts are also being made to get some percentage of seats reserved for persons with disabilities in VTCDs/Technical Training Centres established under the Ministry of Education and Labour for meeting their demand. The graduates from these centres are mostly engaged in self-employment.

A community based project (VREDP) has been established for training and employment of persons with disabilities. This project arranged community based training for disabled persons with the active involvement of local NGOs which enabled them to start some small scale business in the community.

Under Disabled Persons Employment & Rehabilitation Ordinance 1981, 1% quota of employment is reserved in all governmental and non-Governmental commercial organizations employing more than 100 persons. It covers disabled persons of all categories for the purpose of employment.

Apart from this a considerable number of disabled persons are making use of financial help through social security net such as Pakistan Baitul Mal and Zakat & Ushr system through which they start their own small scale business.

PREVENTION OF THE CAUSES OF DISABILITY

In the context of Pakistan an aggressive campaign of immunization has been launched during the second half of the decade. All hospitals and clinics in private and public sectors are providing services of immunization to infants in both urban and rural areas. Ministry of Health in cooperation and collaboration with relevant agencies is also creating awareness among masses about the immunization programme through extensive publicity. Due to immunization programme the incidence of disabilities has been significantly reduced.

Community participation in prevention of the causes of disability is being encouraged by involving community-based organizations. It is expected that by the year 2004 the Pakistani Society will be a polio free society.

In urban population the tendency of sanguine marriages is loosing its grip in Pakistani Society. This tendency is also playing its role in reduction of incidence of disability.

REHABILITATION SERVICES

In broader context Pakistan is lagging behind in providing rehabilitation services for the persons with disabilities both in private and public sector. Some modest efforts have however been made by relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations for socio-economic rehabilitation of persons having physical, hearing and visual impairment. In this direction some institutional rehabilitation services have been established during the last two decades. The Directorate General of Special Education established a National Training Centre for Disabled Persons (NTCDP) at Islamabad. It caters for the needs of disabled persons of all categories. It performs the following functions:-

- Provide vocational training and rehabilitation services to disabled persons of all categories to different grades.
- Facilitate provision of placement services for the successful trainees with a view to assist them in getting jobs suitable to their training and disability.
- Demonstrate to the community the ability of handicapped to become contributory members of the society.



Physiotherapy session



Trade technology



Art and craft skills



Use of wheel chair



Healthy Sports activities

- Convert the handicapped from burden to productive members of the society.

In this centre, the disabled youths are trained in various skills according to their physical and mental capabilities. During the year 2000 a full-fledged Computer Lab has been added in the centre for imparting computer training to persons with disabilities to enable them to meet the challenge of 21st century. The graduates from this centres number of which ranges from 1400 to 1500 have either got employment or engaged in self-employment.

On the basis of experience gained form this centre the Directorate General of Special Education in the second half of the decade planned and established Vocational Training and Rehabilitation Centres at Provincial Headquarters (i.e. at Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar and Quetta) to cater to the needs of disabled persons of all categories.

A Community Based Rehabilitation Project was launched in 1993 with the technical and financial assistance of the ILO to perform the following functions:-

- Establish a cost effective non-institutional community based rehabilitation programme to reach larger number of disabled persons.
- Create awareness and motivate local communities, disabled persons and their families to participate in the rehabilitation process.
- Networking of the existing resources.

Later this project was taken over exclusively by the Directorate General of Special Education in 1996. Under the Project CSOs were involved in mobilizing community resources. Volunteers were trained to help in training and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities in the community. This project in collaboration with CSOs trained and rehabilitated more than 600 persons with disabilities. In order to create community awareness, seminars and workshop are arranged under the auspices of this project. Networking workshops in 09 big cities and training of CBR managers have been held. Besides community has been mobilized in Lahore & Karachi.

National Council for Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons is also providing some of the rehabilitative services to these persons. It tries to ensure that each public/private sector establishment employing more than 100 persons must provide 1% jobs for persons with disabilities. It helps the disabled persons in getting vocational training in Vocational Training Centres established in public and private sectors. It also provides assistive devices for facilitating persons with disabilities.

A specialized institution named National Institute for handicapped aiming at prevention, care and rehabilitation of disabled persons was conceived and planned in mid 80s but due to lack of technical & financial resources it could not take off efficiently till early 90s. During 1993-94 this institute was revitalized and equipped with the required technical manpower and highly sophisticated equipment such as MRI & C.T. Scan. During the Asian Pacific Decade it was commissioned and started preventive and rehabilitative services for persons with disabilities. The Institute performs the following functions:-

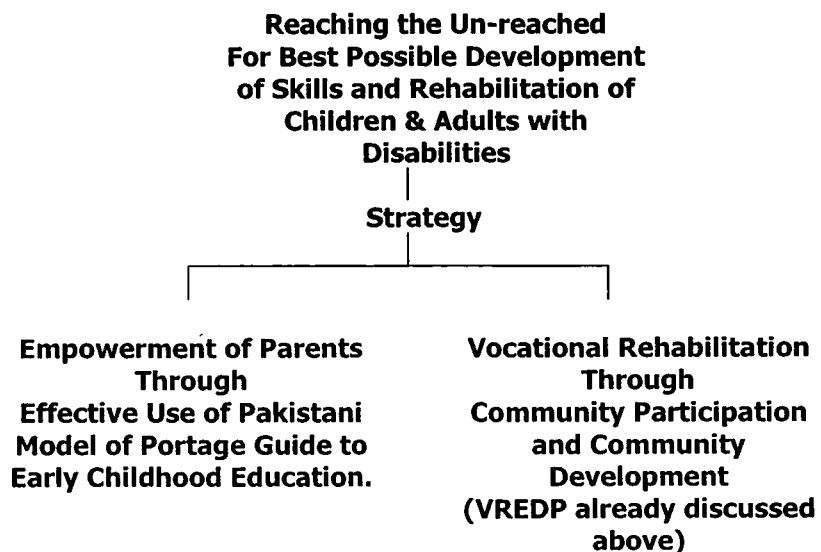
- Coordinate national efforts for prevention of disabilities, plan and develop an integrated referral system throughout the country by establishing links with health outlets functioning at village, city, district and divisional level
- Plan and develop a system of early detection and disseminate information and provide guidelines for the persons involved and also serve as center for training.
- Plan and develop a multi-professional assessment and diagnosis system at all levels for prevention, training and rehabilitation of disabled persons.
- Plan and develop a health surveillance system by establishing links between the existing institutions and parents of disabled persons.
- Coordinate and support treatment of disabled by various institutions.
- Provide treatment for the disabilities by effective co-ordination with major hospitals, postgraduate medical centres in the country for cases of severe disabilities.
- Provide medical rehabilitation services for cases of severe disabilities.

- Carry out research in the field of artificial limbs and in the second phase establish a centre for artificial limbs to supplement the existing facilities.
- In the second phase assemble progressively/ manufacture hearing aids.
- Carry out research in various disabilities.
- Provide a detention bay and convalescent facilities initially for 50 disabled persons to be extended upto 120 disabled persons in second phase.

This Institute has been transferred from Ministry of Women Development, Social Welfare and Special Education to Ministry of Health in the year 2001 for technical reasons.

To accelerate the pace of development of special education in Pakistan, an Organization namely National Trust for the Disabled was created under the Charitable Endowment Act 1890. It has established three Special Education Complexes at Karachi, Mianwali and Naushero Feroze. It also tries to provide assistive devices to the most deserving persons with disabilities for their socio-economic rehabilitation.

Reaching the Un-Reached



Under the auspices of the Directorate General of Special Education, a Pakistani Model of Portage Guide to Early Childhood Education has been developed through two years Research Project undertaken in collaboration with UNICEF. After applying this model it has been experienced that if the parents are properly guided they can become very effective teachers of their children particularly in case of children with developmental deficits and gaps. Under this project 129 portage programme managers were trained in seven workshops held during 1993 to 2002. Participants of the training came from prominent NGOs and Governmental Institutions from all over Pakistan.

Games and Sports for the Persons with Disabilities in Rehabilitation Process

Sports and athletics are essential for social and physical rehabilitation of disabled persons as the same assist in the development of the person as a whole.

The Government of Pakistan ratified ILO Convention 159 in 1994. The main thrust of this convention is to create an atmosphere aiming at equalization of opportunities for the persons with disabilities through the provision of services, which are more appropriate to their needs and not different from able-bodied. In pursuance of this Convention, the United Nation duly ratified by its member nations framed standard rules on the equalization of opportunities. Rule 11 of these rules inter-alia describes that the "States will take measures to ensure that persons with disabilities have equal opportunities for recreation and sports. In this context the Ministry of Women Development Social Welfare and Special Education took number of steps to fulfill its commitment.

There was no national institution in Pakistan to cater to the sports and physical needs of disabled population. Individuals, NGOs and educational institutions were undertaking sports activities at very low scale. In order to promote sports & athletic activities at national level, the subject "Sports for the disabled" was entrusted by the Directorate General of Special Education to National Training Centre for Disabled Persons, Islamabad in 1988. The Centre obtained the membership of International Sports Organization for the disabled and International Paralympics Committee. For the first time a sports Rally was organized in Islamabad, which was attended by the relevant Government and

Non-Governmental Organizations. National Paralympics Committee (NPC) was formed under the adept leadership of a representative of CSO.

During the short period of its inception the NPC-Pakistan has succeeded in sending contingents in three International events at South Africa, Hungary and Australia. The disabled players of Pakistan showed very good performance in these events and earned some positions.

The sports activities under the auspices of the National Paralympics Committee of Pakistan have been developed both at national & international levels during the Asian Pacific Decade of Disabled in Pakistan.

Apart from this Special Olympic Pakistan was established in 1989 and started working from Karachi. It is a fully accredited body of Special Olympics Inc – Washington D.C. USA. Special Olympics Pakistan has five chapters, Sindh, Punjab, Balochistan, NWFP & Islamabad over four million individuals suffered from mental retardation in Pakistan. It has touched the lives of over 10000 individuals and plans to double this figure by the end of 2005. In the September 2002 over 450 athletes from all the four provinces of Pakistan will participate in different sports events in Islamabad. Its performance can be measured on year to year basis as under:-

1. 1991 Special Olympics World Summer Games– Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA - 16 Medals, 16 Athletes
2. 1995 Special Olympics World Summer Games–New Haven, Connecticut, USA - 23 Medals, 28 Athletes
3. 1996 Special Olympics 1st Asia/Pacific Summer–China - 32 Games Medals, 14 Athletes
4. 1999 Special Olympics World Summer Games-Raleigh, North Carolina, USA - 63 Medals, 40 Athletes

National Cricket Team of visually handicapped persons participated in World Blind Cricket Tournament held in 1998 in South Africa and won 2nd position.

ASSISTIVE DEVICES

Use of assistive devices imported as well as locally fabricated are being encouraged in all special education institutions in private and public sectors. In these institutions the assistive devices such as wheel chairs, crutches, low vision aids & hearing aids are provided for facilitation of students with disabilities.

In the private sector quite a few CSOs/NGOs are manufacturing assistive devices like wheel chairs, artificial limbs, hearing aids and low vision aids for local consumption. National Council for Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons (NCRDP) and National Trust for the Disabled (NTD) and other philanthropic organizations either provide assistive devices free or give them financial assistance to procure devices from the local market. Use of assistive devices has made great contribution in socio-economic rehabilitation of persons with disabilities in Pakistan.

SELF-HELP ORGANISATIONS

In a developing country like Pakistan, self-help organizations play an important role in supplementing the governmental efforts aimed at mitigating the sufferings of vulnerable groups. More than 200 self-help organizations are actively involved in providing services to persons with disabilities in the areas of welfare, care, education, training and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. It is an established practice that the CSOs/ SHOs are consulted in formulating chapters on welfare, training and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities in the five year plan. Representatives of prominent CSOs/ SHOs are placed in the working groups constituted by the P&D Division to formulate recommendations for inclusions in the five year plan in each disability.

Self-help organizations are encouraged to develop in the area of Special Education training and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities by extending them financial and technical assistance.

There are certain legislation to register and regulate their services and operation in Pakistan.

Private sector during the decade was encouraged to involve itself in all areas of social development. The growth of self-help organizations in Pakistan over the last 15 years can be visualized as significant development. There has been a tremendous increase in self-help organizations specially in the second half of the Asian Pacific Decade of the Disabled. Initially they emerge and develop on self-help basis but to expand and consolidate their social services on sustainable basis they get them registered under the relevant legislation. Hopefully these Organizations are expected to make valuable contribution to policy formulation, support, social services delivery and safeguard the interest of persons with disabilities. There are some self-help organizations creating an outstanding

impact on short-term as well as long-term social development programmes in Pakistan.

More than 100 self-help organizations are actively working in the fields of education, welfare, training & rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

Following are the legislation registering and regulating the self-help organizations in Pakistan:-

- a) The Voluntary Social Welfare Agencies (Registration & Control Ordinance) 1961.
- b) The Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- c) The Trust Act, 1882.
- d) The Charitable Endowment Act, 1890.
- e) The Companies Ordinance, 1984.

Number of registered self-help organizations under these Laws can be seen as under:-

<u>Province</u>	<u>%</u>
Punjab	50%
Sindh	39%
NWFP	6%
Balouchistan	3%
AJK,NA & ICT	2%

REGIONAL COOPERATION

Pakistan is a signatory to the proclamation on the Full Participation and Equality of people with Disabilities in the Asian and Pacific Region. In 1993, the Pakistan hosted the SAARC Ministerial Conference in Islamabad.

After three days of deliberations, the Conference recommended the following:-

- a) The community should be made aware of the rights of people with disabilities to participate in the mainstream life and to meet their medical, educational, social and employment needs. Awareness creation should begin in school through the

introduction of a suitable module in the secondary school curriculum. Both the electronic and the print media should also be mobilized to contribute in the campaign.

- b) There should be opportunities for people with disabilities to show their capabilities and to reduce the stigma of disability attached to them. Disabled persons should be encouraged to participate in exhibitions, concerts and competitions to demonstrate their abilities. The electronic and the print media can play very important role in this regard by presenting these events in their publications and programmes.
- c) Focal points should be established for research and the dissemination of information from the platform of SAARC and at country levels. Research should also be conducted on community-based rehabilitation, special education needs, and other relevant aspects. Information on national CBR programmes and special education programmes, new methods of rehabilitation and therapy and low-cost assistive device needs to be disseminated.
- d) Primary health care staff should be trained in the early diagnosis and referral of disabilities.
- e) Disabled persons should be integrated into mainstream life as much as possible. They should be educated in regular schools and universities. Special events should be held during regular sport meets, Public utility services such as transport, buildings, airports, post offices, banks and railway stations, should be modified so that they are also accessible by people with disabilities. Sign language facilities should be made available at the reception desks of public facilities such as railway stations and airports.
- f) Demonstration centres should be set up to show how activities of daily living can be taught such as use of toilets, bathing, grooming etc.
- g) Representatives of people with disabilities should be included in national and provincial or District inter-sectoral committees of the CBR programme.
- h) Legislation should be enacted to promote and protect the rights of people with disabilities in areas such as education, employment, social welfare and rehabilitation.
- i) Day care Centre should be established.
- j) Specially earmarked resources should be allocated in the budgets of sectors such as health and education.

- k) People with disabilities should be encouraged to organize themselves into associations to voice their opinions, needs and rights.
- l) There should be networking and interaction among related programmes such as primary eye care programmes, the primary health care programme and programmes for older persons.

Pakistan has been actively participating in all regional conferences, seminars and meeting's held from time to time in the member countries for evolving new trends and strategies to meet the needs aiming at the over all development of persons with disabilities. In the light of recommendations formulated in the SAARC Ministerial Conferences a number of new initiatives were taken to meet the emerging needs of disabled persons. Mainstreaming and integration of persons with disabilities has been the main focus in the field of education and employment.

During the period of the Decade, nine purpose built buildings for education of persons with disabilities have been completed at Islamabad, Karachi, Peshawar, Lahore, Nawabshah & Khuzadar.

At the end of the Asian Pacific Decade some new programmes have been launched by the Federal Government. These are listed below:-

- Construction of purpose built premises at the Headquarter of Azad Kashmir (Muzaffarabad).
- Pilot Project for Integrated Education for Children with Disabilities.
- Establishment of Residential Centres for Care and Rehabilitation of profoundly handicapped children.
- Provision of Transport for facilitating the transportation of special children to and from the residence.
- Construction of purpose built buildings for National Institute of Special Education, National Training Centre for Disabled Persons and National Library & Resource Centre at Islamabad.
- Development of a Park with special provisions for persons with disabilities in Islamabad.

GENDER EQUALITY
HUMAN PROTECTION
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



**GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT
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