



Pakistan Association
For Inclusive Education

THEME

ACHIEVERS:

The child's perspective.

Newsletter

Issue 3, April 2005

Dear folks,
Assalam-alaikum,

We at PAIE have come a long way in creating awareness about special needs and inclusive education. A notable sign being the three fold increase in our membership and the feedback from our members on the role played by PAIE in their classroom teaching. The journey is long and the road treacherous but it is comforting to know that we are on the way.

This issue brings forth real life cases penned by students with disabilities themselves. Their own perspectives on how and when they were included, the problems they face their own achievements and how they are perceived by their peers.

Editor Talat Azad

The Support and input by PAIE committee members, students, PTAN office, parents and schools is greatly appreciated.

"Naqi in the Eyes of His Best Friend"

By Mirza Shahmeen Agha (IX-B)

My friendship with Naqi goes all the way back to Nursery school. Since then, Naqi has been one of my closest friends. Naqi has a very good sense of humor; no one can ever be bored in his company. He is a very friendly person and he has many friends in school. You hardly ever see Naqi without a smile on his face.

Despite his visual disability, Naqi always manages to take part in regular school activities. In our P.T period and evening sports Naqi, when helped by the P.T coach, manages to make at least one homerun (In baseball).



As for the studies, Naqi does all the written tests on his computer, with the help of 'Jaws'- a computer program for the blind. In maths, Naqi quickly manages to solve problems in his mind, while we need to use a calculator proving that he has a very sharp mind and memory.

I help Naqi some times with his computer when any thing goes wrong during a test. Also sometimes I help him in going down stairs, as most of the time our mischievous Naqi does not like using his walking stick.

In conclusion, I would like to say that Naqi is just like a regular teenager except for his problem. He is a wonderful person.

"Where There Is A Will There Is A Way"

By, Farhat Rasheed.

Life is full of challenges. The road of life is not always very smooth. Many times there are disappointments and frustrations, which slow down our life. Strong determination is the key to success.

My own life is an inspiration for me. My physical limitations have indeed created impediments for me. However, I have never allowed my physical disabilities to overshadow my abilities. Sometimes I feel dejected, nonetheless I always try to motivate myself to look forward and continue my efforts to achieve the desired goals. One should concentrate on what one has rather than on what one does not. It is very difficult to develop will power but there is no other short cut. I am a firm believer of the slogan that:

"Where There Is A Will There Is A Way"

I have done my O'Levels from the C.A.S School and A'Levels from Foundation Public school. At present I am doing BBA (Hons) from C.B.M. My aim is to do MBA and be an entrepreneur. In spite of my physical limitation, my daily routine is and was just like a normal student.. My parents play a pivotal role in my life. They are my torchbearers and always motivated me to go forward in life.

Being a wheel chair user, the main problem I face is the lack of accessibility. Unfortunately, in our country, we do not have the proper mindset to take into consideration the requirements of people using wheel chairs. I have traveled overseas extensively and did not face any difficulty. In most countries there are construction laws which require barrier-free access for people with disability. It is disappointing that due to lack of facilities in our country many a times people with disabilities are unable to mix with all the segments of society.

Being a teenager the problems I face in Pakistan are numerous. Special people are often looked upon with disrespect and majority of them live isolated lives. Due to lack of facilities, people with special needs find it difficult to go to a good school or apply for a good job... This gives way to feeling of

abandonment and isolation. You never know that a special child has hidden talents and divine qualities. There should be a level playing field for all.

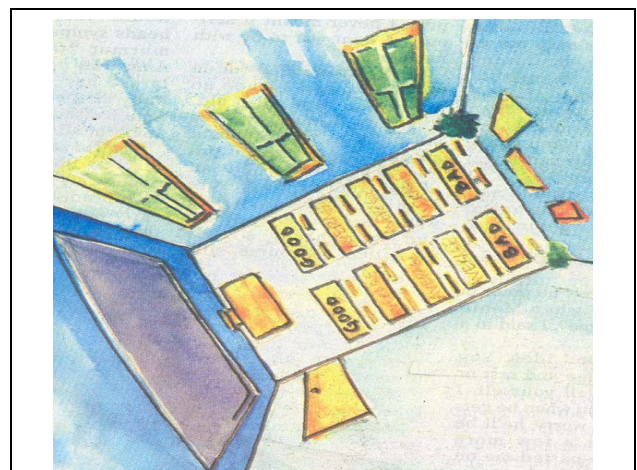
To deal with these issues I have initiated a Project called **"SHOW YOU CARE"**. The purpose of this Project is to create public awareness and to ensure that people change their attitude towards people with disabilities.

It is very important to set certain goals in life.. Once goals are identified, we should endeavor to achieve those goals. Nothing is impossible .If I get the support of the readers of this article; we can all unite and change our country's attitude.

No one should have pity for people with disabilities but motivate them to go forward in life.

I hope that we manage to convince our legislators to pass a law that every new building constructed from now on should have accessibility for wheel chair users. We all know that ***"Road to success is always under construction"*** and for the continuous construction, we need determination.

We should not feel sorry for people with disabilities but help them realize the fact that this is how God has made them and this is not the end of life. Parents, teachers and friends are the actual torchbearers in the development of a special child and removing all their fears.



How does this support or hinder inclusion?

Source: Dawn April 16 2005

View Bank

Questions and answers put forth to teachers of special as well as mainstream schools

Q No 1: Why do we need inclusive education?

Ans) Education is the right of every child. Inclusive education helps in development of inclusive society where every one is accepted and supported and says no to segregation.

Q No 3: Don't disabled children learn more in special schools?

Ans) No, Children with special needs learn much more in a mainstream school setting as they are exposed to a wider range of experiences. Special schools can teach the pre-requisites for the mainstream schools; they can support and guide the regular schools regarding how to deal with students with special needs.

Q No 4: Don't disabled children require special teachers and teaching techniques?

Ans) At times they do. The presence of children with special needs in a mainstream setting bring about a gradual development of certain facilities and training required to deal with them. This, in the long run, is equally beneficial for all.

Q No 2: Will disabled children be accepted by their non-disabled peers?

Ans) Yes, Children accept the special needs naturally and without any hesitation and fear, especially when the exposure to children with special needs begin from a very early age.

Ali Ehsan's Story



Ehsan is a young boy with Down syndrome. He was a very shy child and had limited communication skills with very little speech when he was placed in a special school. It was in year 2002 when he had the opportunity to get admission in an inclusive school. Since then he has made tremendous progress in all areas of development especially communication and socialization. He has now been transformed into a very bright and friendly child who likes to make new friends, read books and play on the computer.

I am

(Inspired by 8-year-old Samad learning to live with cerebral palsy)

I'm not the only person
That runs the mile or the person that travels the globe
Nor am I the one
That does great things like running and jumping
or walking along
I instead am the one that fights through each day
Little things to some, are monumental to me
My joy comes from doing a chore
Or even sitting up longer than I did yesterday
It will cost me,
I know to do more today Will mean I will Do less
tomorrow
But I am the one that fights
And in each day I win more than a race
More than a mountain climb
More than gold
because each day,
I am the one that fights.

Author-Noshaba Naureen



Sara a hearing impaired child reciting from the Holy Quran at the annual Sports Day. Amazing for a child whose voice could rarely be heard a couple of years back.

About Sara

Sara was born a healthy baby but developed severe jaundice* when she was 3 days old. She was given photo therapy, but this did not prevent Sara from becoming deaf.

At the age of two years Sara's parents noticed that her speech wasn't developed according to her age and took her to an audiologist to get her hearing tested. She has two other older siblings who have normal hearing. This is Sara's fourth year in the mainstream school. She faced great problems the first year.

Due to limited vocabulary and hearing problem, she was not able to communicate easily with her teachers and other students. She is now more comfortable and settled in class and has made new friends.

She takes willing part in all activities and handles different situations with confidence

* All babies should be screened between the 2nd and 5th day of life and parents should take them to the doctor if they think they look yellow anyway. The doctor will do the test and prescribe the treatment.



PAIE Activities for 2005

Month	TOPICS
January	Facing differences: overcoming fears " Recognizing our feelings as we start to include children with special needs in our classrooms
March	Speech Problems
April/May	PAIE/HEALTH
June	3 Day Summer sessions APT/PAIE
July	Music /Story telling (Anne Nagy)
August	Science in the classroom- joint session with SAP
October	Topic to be confirmed
December	Chronic health problems - joint session with HEALTH

PAIE also plans to conduct its first Olympiad in 2005

All PAIE members will be sent invitations for the workshops. If you do not receive an invitation, please phone to check for dates and confirmation for topics. If you are interested in co-facilitating a workshop, please contact us.

PAIE newsletter needs your contribution and support to make an impact on the inclusion scenario in our schools and society

The Editor

Pakistan Association for Inclusive Education (PAIE).

PTAN c/o AKU-IED PDC, 1-5/B-VII, F.B. Area Karimabad, P.O. Box 13688 Karachi-75950 Pakistan.

Tel: (92 21) 6347611 EXT 173/174/177, Fax: (92 21) 6347616

Email: paie@ptan.org