REPORT ON EMPOWERMENT OF DISABLED YOUTH THROUGH DISTRIBUTION OF TRICYCLES BY PAKISTAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL WELFARE & HUMAN RIGHTS TO CREATE INTERFAITH HARMONY

We hardly ever realize that disabled persons squeeze the affliction that could have come our way. Yet, they are derided and through social, physical and attitudinal barriers they are denied accessibility and an environment in which to sustain as productive members of our society. By all this, we often harm their self-esteem making them believe that they are nothing but a burden on earth.

The rehabilitation department of Pakistan Council for Social Welfare & Human Rights organized a ceremony to distribute the tricycles among the 25 disabled youth (men & women) followers of multi religions in which Muslims, Christian, Hindus etc at Sialkot identified and recommended by the youth groups established by PCSW&HR under the project Community Empowerment on Peace Education, Interfaith & Intercultural Harmony and Religious Tolerance. The purpose of that distribution of tricycles among the disabled youth was to empower the disabled youth and draw their inspiration to integrate themselves in to the mainstream of social life as well as create interfaith harmony. PCSWHR's effort to empower the disabled youth through provision of tricycles provided an opportunity to focus the attention of Government and the society towards the problems of the disabled persons. In the ceremony about 80 people from different religions and creeds belonging from all walks of life participated. ceremony also gave an opportunity to the participants express its solidarity with the disabled people as well as intercultural & interfaith harmony.



Mr. Muhammad Ijaz Noori Chairman PCSW&HR, Mushtaq Ahmed Qadri, Muhammad Ramzan Mustafie and others addressing during the Tricycles distribution ceremony

Mr. Muhammad Ijaz Noori Chairman Pakistan Council for Social Welfare & Human Rights was the chief of ceremony, whereas Mr. Mushtaq Ahmed Qadri presided over the ceremony.

While addressing during the ceremony as chief guest Mr. Noori said that Disability is an unrecognized problem. Disabled people are highly discriminated against when it comes to access to education, employment, health etc. The groups most affected are disabled women & children and especially intellectually disabled people. He said that in my opinion disabled persons could

take anything as a challenge, for the disabled people their disability is not an inability, but through self-confidence and un-tiring efforts, the disabled people prove that they can do anything equally well as the able-bodied. Mr. Noori further said that usually in many developing countries including Pakistan it is the belief and practice that disability is an NGO matter is dominant and therefore usually does not get financed through government.

Although there is an urgent need for civil society organizations (CSOs) to work more and more on the empowerment of people with disabilities, as disability is a human rights issue but Government should help the CSOs to build capacity and to better advocate access to human rights for disabled people throughout the country. In this way, disabled people can make a real difference and contribute equally to the development of their society. He urged that only a unified voice on key issues among people with disabilities could achieve significant change. He also emphasized the 'win/win' situation, by ensuring that people with disabilities can really contribute instead of (being seen as) only draining family resources.

Mr. Noori also informed the participants of ceremony that his organization Pakistan Council for Social Welfare & Human Rights is joining efforts in raising awareness about the international (UN) convention on the protection and promotion of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities. He also said that it is moral obligation of civil society organizations, Government quarters, media etc to perform their duties for the rights of disabled people especially disabled youth.

Mr. Noori also urged the all disabled youth that they should create self-confidence in themselves as they can take anything as a challenge, and their disability is not an inability. Through self-confidence and determined efforts, you can prove that you can do anything equally well as the normal people.

While addressing the other speakers during the ceremony lauded the efforts of Pakistan Council for Social Welfare & Human Rights and said that PCSW&HR efforts to empower the disabled youth from Muslim and Christian community is unique example of interfaith and intercultural harmony. Later on Mr. Noori and others distributed the tricycles among the 25 disabled youth persons



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One of Disabled after the receiving of his tricycles during the ceremony



One of Disabled women after the receiving of her tricycles during the ceremony



One of Disabled person after the receiving of his tricycles during the ceremony



One of Disabled women after the receiving of her tricycles during the ceremony







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