

Situation Analysis Regarding Rehabilitation Services in Peshawar

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The rehabilitation of physically and mentally challenged people in the Province Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and specifically in Peshawar have been a subject of prime importance because the province have faced Afghan war twice, once in 1980 with Russian invasion in Afghanistan. Secondly by American and Allied forces attack against Taliban after 9/11 and then the start of prolong war against terror in Pakistan from 2011 till date, which have increased the number of disabled and manifold, more than other provinces in Pakistan. As such this province leads in rehab services from other provinces of Pakistan as well, because it compelled the government authorities and international and national NGO's to come forward and help the disabled to be rehabilitated and empowered. Though the government have not been successful in proper planning for these people as unluckily this has been the least considered or prioritized area. The WHO included Rehabilitation as forth component of primary health care but in the third world countries the authorities are finding difficulties even in provision of basic health care to their community so the rehabilitation is always left behind. But as mentioned above the need of rehabilitation due to war zone and war against terror, Peshawar was the hub of all special people seeking rehabilitation, assistive devices, and surgical interventions and there is always need felt to provide them facilitation. The special children in need have also been an issue where there is not specific mechanism for their rehabilitation, education, Vocational Rehabilitation, assistive devices provision and social inclusion. There are special children institutions through out of country 36 in number, though they are few in the number but in these institutions challenge is segregation of these children not adopting normal behaviors rather than social inclusion, in my opinion there inclusive education and social inclusion will be the better solution. As mention above there are 12 special education institutions in the province under the social welfare department at present. The health department have also established physiotherapy departments in 25 District Head Quarter hospitals. Where 50 physiotherapists are busy in preventive and rehabilitative process of special people. This was my Initiative (the author of the article) as Provincial Coordinator Rehab services, Health department, KP, Province. We inducted 50 Physiotherapists and state of the art Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation equipment, in Merged FATA this system was replicated, where all AHQ, Hospitals got these facilities, furthermore there are six rehabilitation centers in Peshawar e.g. 1. Paraplegic center Peshawar, 2. Habib Physiotherapy complex Hayatabad Peshawar and 3. Rafsan Rehabilitation center gulbarg Peshawar and ARCPD centre at Swati Patak Peshawar, Special education complex Hayatabad, Serhad school of Special children, social welfare Special school Pajagi Road Peshawar, Helping hand Institute Abbottabad, Akbar Kare institute AKI Hayatabad. These centers provides indoor and outdoor facilities to paraplegic, hemiplegic, cerebral palsy and other special people in need. There are two Institutes/Centers of provision of assistive devices and Prosthetic and orthotics services and Trainings. They are 1. PIPOS Hayatabad and Mahboob Medical Institute Hayatabad, MMI is also providing assistive devices up to electric wheelchairs. There is the first, one inclusive education school for special children that is Khushal Bagh Inclusive School. Warsak road Peshawar, Where the special children are rehabilitated and educated along with normal children. The Physiotherapy, speech therapy, audiology, psychotherapy and behavioral therapy services are available at this school and it is claim to be first inclusive school in the region. It is also under the umbrella Habib Foundation. Mahboob Medical Institute, a set up where it offers degree programs as Doctor of Physiotherapy, BS Prosthetic and Orthotics and BS Psychology BS MLT and its rehab center Habib Physiotherapy Complex provides physiotherapy and rehab facilities as indoor and outdoor facilitation. It also provides assistive devices, speech therapy and audiology services. Since 1997, in brief there are rehabilitation facilities in Peshawar but it could not meet the needs

of special people, because of heavy work load and sometime such people are waiting for months to get assistive devices and rehabilitation as indoor patients. These rehabilitation centers need capacity building, enhancement in their facilities to cope with the situation and increased demand of assistive devices, and rehabilitation, in inclusive education of special children the provision of assistive devices, accessibility and social inclusion is dire need.

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