

Portage Activities in Pakistan

*Report on
Home Based Programme for
Special Need Children*

*Reported By
Dr. Shagufta Shahzadi
Department of Special Education
University of Karachi*

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Portage is well known home based programme for special need children in Pakistan. It was introduced in 1988, keeping in view the need of services for special need children in the country. With the support of UNICEF, then the programme started in two cities of Pakistan, Karachi and Lahore, Later, it was promoted and others also attracted towards its usability.

The main institutions using portage programme are as under:

1. Portage Parent Association of Pakistan (PPAP)

Contact: Ms. Munavver Fatima
Consultant NTSD,
Islamabad.

2. The Pakistan Society for the Welfare of Mentally Retarded children; Amin Maktab

Contact: Dr. S. Yasmin Shah
Director, Amin Maktab,
54-A, Block J, Gulberg-3,
Lahore.

3. National Portage Association of Pakistan (NPAP)

Contact: Dr. Shagufta Shahzadi
Department of Special Education,
Sheikh Zayed Islamic Centre,
University of Karachi.

4. Association for Special Children

Contact: Mr. Nadeem Ahmed
President, District Central,
Karachi, Pakistan.

5. Speed Education Foundation

Contact: Ms. Farhana
Director, P.E.C.H.S., Karachi.

6. National Trust for Disabled Children.

Contact: Mr. Shahid
Auranghi Town, District South, Karachi.

7. National Institute of Special Education

Contact: Ms. Tahira Mazher
Ministry of Social Welfare and Women Development
Special Education Division, Sector G-7/2, Islamabad.

8. Quaideen Special Education Centre,

Contact: Ms. Naureen
Gulistan-e-Jouhar, Karachi

Portage Parent Association of Pakistan

Convener, Ms. Munavver Fatima

Ms. Munavver Fatima, is the first lady to use portage model in Pakistan. She did use portage model as early as in 1989. The project worked for 2 to 5 years during which the test was translated in Urdu and adapted by using it in 5000 children.

Now, the Urdu version of Portage is being used by many NGO's in the country. Ms. Munavver Fatima, has run many training programme for training the trainers in use of portage programme.

Simultaneously, the test was used by an NGO in Lahore namely Ameen Maktab. The project was funded by UNESCO from 1989 to 1997 during the period, many children with disabilities were assessed, educational plan developed and parents were guided to work on it.

The Pakistan Society for the Welfare of Mentally Retarded Children: Amin Maktab

The information related to Portage Activities at the institute are given below:

- The names of Professionals engaged in the above work:

Ten members of our staff, who are all Psychologists are directly involved in above activities.

Their Names:

- Ms. Amatul Jamil
- Mrs. Zahida Tariq
- Mrs. Sofia Qureshi
- Mrs. Nuzhat Rubab
- Mrs. Farzana Razi
- Mrs. Zahra Kulsoom
- Mrs. Khawar Sultana
- Ms. Tanveer Anjum
- Ms. Huma Shafiq
- Ms. Shazia Naureen

Their Contacts, Address, E-mails

Amin Maktab, 54-A, Block J, Gulberg-3, Lahore.

Tel: 042-585091-5860365

E-mail: aminmaktab20@hotmail.com

No. of families served (if details available)

A total of 1577 children and their families were served since 1989.

- Picture of community work using potage.
- Assessment of all the children is carried out through Portage Checklist
- It is used to make an Individualized Educational Program (IEP) for each child. After one month, Reassessment is done and keeping in view his / her progress, the psychologist includes new items in the program.
- Parents are counseled and trained about how to work with their children regarding IEP of the child by demonstrating different strategies and using material available at their homes.
- Other family members are also involved in the training of the child.
- Group therapy is carried out to modify children's behavior.
- Groups are divided regarding children's age and problem i.e. Down's Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Mentally Retarded and Adolescent.

National Portage Association of Pakistan

Department of Special Education, University of Karachi

The Department of Special Education, started a project on providing home based programme to special need under the umbrella of “National Portage Association of Pakistan”. The field members of the Association included Dr. Shagufta Shahzadi (coordinator) and others as field investigators (Ms. Aisha Hamdani, Ms. Shaista Anjum, Mr. Nadeem Ahemd, Ms. Rahat Hussain, Ms. Shama Naz, Ms. Sadia Saeed). The aim of the programme to provide home based programme to special need children not attending special schools. The children identified as special in the community were approached through post, telephone and personal contact and were invite to come to the University for the assessment of the child and take to come to the University get the child assessed and take the home based programme.

The result was that in response to 100 contact, only 3 to 5 parents turned up. Then, the research team started mobile clinic and moved from community to community. The project team sat in the community, satin the social welfare office, or community centre and carried out assessment. Later, the educational programme of children with disabilities ws developed and parents were guided about he strategies involved in intervention.

A team of multi professionals worked jointly to produce the report and develop the IEP. Parents trainings, seminars, discussions and free meetings were arranged. The team included, Dr. Shagufta Shahzadi, Dr. Farooq Anwer, Ms. Bushra Nisar, Dr. Nasir Sulman and Prof. Adlin, Ms. Amina Sheikh, Ms. Seema Ameen and Ms. Shaista Anjum.

Association for Special Children :Search & Serve

The organization is working since 1991 serving families with special need children. The target is to serve children who are not attending special schools.

The association has a team of multi professionals working on the special need child. The team works by moving in the community, providing guidance on the clinic and arranging discussions and interactive sessions for parents.

INTRODUCTION

Association for Special Children has been establish in Karachi. It is one of few organizations which plans to cater the special needs of children with all types of disabilities i.e. physical, hearing, visual, learners and mental handicaps.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The organization has the following aims and objectives:

- To provide assessment and guidance facilities to families with special children.
- To rehabilitate disabled persons.
- To develop community awareness.
- To provide day care and residential provisions for disabled persons.
- To conduct research to discover methods for helping disabled persons to reach optimum level of functioning.
- To organize vocational training and job placement for the disabled in a sheltered workshop.
- To provide guidance and counseling facilities for the families with the disabled persons.
- to provide simple as well as technical translated material about disability to the general public.

FUNCTIONS OF THE ASSOCIATIONS

Assessment & Guidance for children with the disabilities:

Association provides assessment and guidance facilities to the children with disabilities free of cost.

Training of the Trainees:

Throughout the year the Association acts as a training centre providing training to the teachers, parents and professionals associated with the education of disabled children.

Resource Center:

The association also acts as a resource centre for other organizations. It has a good library and books are available for everybody. The association has also prepared various books in Braille and is cooping forward for the training of the blind people.

Computer Literacy:

The association is also interested in promoting computer literacy programme for both sighted and visually impaired people.

Publication & Research:

The Association has its magazine and research journals published annually. The publication bring forward the original research work being carried out by professional around.

Support to the Families:

The Association has also started a helpline where by all the parents can contact the office and ask for any kind of the association provides help to families without any charge.

APPEAL FOR HELP

We therefore, appeal to all citizens to come forward and extend their full cooperation in developing the projects of this newly established association. Be a member and donate generously for these unfortunate children of our society to be a part of us.

For further details and information, please contact at:

Mr. Nadeem A. Siddiqui
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Karachi, Pakistan. E-mail: afsc786@yahoo.com