



*Disability Audit
of
Political Parties' Manifestos
(General Elections 2013 & 2018)*



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(General Elections 2013 & 2018)*

**Conducted By
POTOHAR MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION (PMHA)**

**Funded By
HASHOO FOUNDATION**

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



Zulqurnain Asghar
Chief Executive PMHA

I would like to convey my deepest gratitude to PMHA team to complete this report under my supervision and guidance.

My heartfelt gratitude to Ms. Ayesha Khan Country Director VP CSR Hashoo Group who plays a key role in providing guidance throughout the entire process. The report was made possible by the generous financial support of HASHOO FOUNDATION.

My deepest appreciation to Farah Zulqurnain for her tireless support and valuable contribution to complete this report, without her remarkable commitment, support, and proficiency this report would not have been possible.

I am especially grateful to Mr. Nawaf Khan, Research Assistant PMHA for his commitment, continuous input and careful attention to detail at all levels of the report's cycle.

Acknowledgement is also due to Mr. Muhammad Ismail Khan who contributed by providing valuable comments and feedback on the draft report, Mr. Jalal-ud-Din, Director Strategic Support Unit, Hashoo Foundation, Mr. Ghaffar Ali Khan, Environment, Climate Change and DRR Programme Officer Hashoo Foundation for their time, energy and enthusiasm and HI-RES Printers for creative designing and printing of the report.

Last but not the least; I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to all the major national political parties for their commitment to work for the well being of persons living with disabilities in their parties' manifestos.

*This study is dedicated to
all Persons Living with Disabilities (PWDs) of Pakistan*

Message



Mr Murtaza Hashwani
Deputy Chairman
Hashoo Group and Chairman Hashoo Foundation

"We are focusing on the inclusion of persons living with disabilities and therefore, will be travelling cross-country to look for and hire people who are differently abled.

The nature (of disabilities) vary in magnitude but we believe - given the opportunity - many individuals can work and earn a living for themselves. Job placement can be in any department of the company; we are assigning a fixed quota (system) for recruiting persons living with disabilities as employees with Hashoo Group. We hope to empower them and to inspire other corporations to take a step in the right direction.

It is our duty to include everyone and (especially) to take care of our brothers and sisters living with disabilities and provide them with the opportunity to sustain themselves in the job market."

Executive Summary

In the history of seventy-years no democratic force pledged to develop and pass comprehensive legislation at national level about persons living with disabilities. Four mainstream political parties of Pakistan including Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP), Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Awami National Party (ANP) have remained the subject of analysis during the length of this report. Political manifestos' published by the above mentioned political parties before general elections in year 2013 and in year 2018 were reviewed.

The purpose of scrutiny of manifestos was to determine how much political will / commitment they had shown previously and in present scenarios in this fragile environment with respect to persons living with disabilities. How much weightage they had attributed to the needs of this segment of the society to mainstream them and to know whether they have any strategy to encompass the target population in the development of an inclusive society?

Persons living with disabilities (PWDs) comprise of those who suffers from long-term physical, intellectual or sensory impairments. These impairments in turn may hinder these people's full and effective participation in society on an equal basis without being discriminated and judged with others. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol (CRPD) was adopted on 13th December 2006 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, and was opened for signature on 30 March 2007.

Pakistan being a signatory to this convention, it is the duty and obligation upon every political party that comes into power to enact laws and policies for PWDs in consonance with this convention. It has so far unfortunate for a country like Pakistan where every political party who roused to form government neglected issues of persons living with disabilities. Till so far they didn't have observed/mentioned their rights in their election manifestos let aside their determination to elevate their social position. Parties like PML-N, who took the reign of federal government for three times failed to address the major issues of persons living with disabilities, rather have used politically incorrect terminologies to identify them. The party neither has mentioned something about the health of such people in either of their manifestos nor the ways to improve their access to better educational facilities or provisions for women living with disabilities. Hardly the party has to say about necessary resources allocation to persons living with disabilities, their participation in politics with reserved seats at national and provincial assemblies.

They have attached zero participation to PWDs in decision making within the party affairs and other important decision making platforms.

Pakistan's People Party that has been regarded as a party with more political maturity who cares more of marginalized segment of our society, has certainly something to say with this target population. Their previous election manifestos even have some say about this segment but that was beyond satisfactory inputs and end results. PPP manifesto for upcoming general elections 2018 is in more details and includes the required strategies of creating a harmonious society with equal rights for all of its inhabitants. The party has detailed inclusive society chapter thereby encompassing subject matters of PWDs but remained vague about women and children living with disabilities. They have pledged to create in-school and after-school programs for those students that are affected by certain natural or human made disasters or violence but no mention for children living with disabilities.

Awami National Party that has been playing in the Pakistan's politics since the independence of this country, has also very few to say about the needs and issues of persons living with disabilities are facing in the country. In election manifesto unveiled for general elections 2013, the party referred to "People with disabilities" in the chapter of "Human Rights" initially in the table of contents but inside the chapter they committed serious mistake by giving no mention of such topic even. This demonstrates that such mistakes didn't happen in coincidence rather shows the level of seriousness the party leadership attaches to the topic. Ironically they repeated the same very mistake in 2018 manifesto too thereby skipping the topic in chapter "Human Rights". 2018 manifesto attributes certain importance to the previously neglected segment of society (PWDs) as certain policies have been unveiled to address their needs. Importantly they have vowed to create awareness about rights of the persons living with disabilities and their social inclusion among the masses. ANP has shown their resolution of keeping up access of persons living with disabilities to all levels of education other than ensuring their security, protection of rights, development and welfare. Initiating mass transportation system in all districts with special attention to be paid to the dedicated, safe and secure spaces for women and persons living with disabilities. They have shown special care by ensuring all public and private offices, markets and shopping malls to be equipped with separate functional and clean toilets for women with provision for women living with disabilities. Since the party attaches much importance to women participation in all spheres of life, but have neglected the women living with disabilities (or PWDs) in any of such spheres of life. Other gross negligence is the health issues of women, children and men living with disabilities in the manifesto as they don't have any such provision.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, that emerged as a rising political force in the political arena of country since 2013 general elections, have certainly a few policies for the PWDs. Although they focused on them in previous elections' manifesto 2013 rather made it clear in 2018 manifesto to salute those who are living with challenges but still manages to live a normal life. They stressed upon those who are the facilitators of PWDs in providing them support to live a productive life thereby hailing their efforts on national days like 14 August by holding them national heroes which leads to positive discrimination. They also have provisions of duty and tax free options for those supportive instruments that facilitate PWDs.

The party has claimed in 2018 manifesto to have achieved the objective of establishing rehabilitation centers for children living with disabilities in only one province KPK during their tenure (2013-2018), *“5 new institutions for rehabilitation of special children have been established”*¹.

The party has added a good sign, in 2018 manifesto, about the already implemented Benazir Income Support Program and claimed to *“retain and improve BISP as the primary social safety net for the poor, and will launch special assistance programmes for differently-abled persons under BISP”*². Although PTI claimed to adopt *“Rights-based Approach”* towards PWDs which can be say an important step for an inclusive and better social inclusion but the use of terminologies in their manifesto reflects that they adopted medical approach. Also, PTI has less to say about women living with disabilities; their health issues, political participation in party affairs and in national affairs with appropriate seats at national and provincial assemblies, and no clear-cut role in decision making.

It is pertinent to mention here that the major national political / democratic forces of Pakistan has now pledged to mainstreaming of persons living with disabilities in their parties' manifestos 2018 by passing a comprehensive legislation for the well being of this marginalized segment of the population at national level.

¹ Abstracted from PTI 2018 manifesto, KP 2013 -2018, Page 10

² Abstracted from PTI 2018 manifesto, page 47

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SECTION-I

ANP

Awami National Party (ANP)

Description of Persons Living with Disabilities

It was imperative to know how Awami National Party describes this segment of population in their manifestos to make them social and political reality of Pakistan. Besides it was also important to know whether these terms are politically correct or incorrect.

Year 2013	Year 2018
Under the banner of Human Rights special persons were referred as “People with disabilities” ³ . Though the party has included the section “Old age and people with disabilities” ⁴ in the second chapter titled “Human Rights” ; in the table of contents but unfortunately it has been altogether overlooked in the mentioned chapter.	Have included section of “Old Age and people with disabilities” ⁵ in the chapter “Human Rights” in the table of contents. More details have been included compared to previous 2018 manifesto.
Politically right, as reference has been made to the welfareI protection of rights and participation of “people with disabilities” in the decision making at all levels.	Politically more precise and correct than previous as they had highlight more details as of how to protect persons living living with disabilities, awareness about their rights and their social inclusion.
Again, ANP has laid more emphasis on the person living with disabilities than on the nature and types of disabilities.	More emphasis on persons living with disabilities than disabilities itself.

How the manifestos address rights, needs of children and issues of women living with disabilities.

2013	2018
“Human Rights” ⁶ (including women, children, persons living with disabilities)	Human Rights have been mentioned in the manifesto with detailed emphasis on

³ ANP Election manifesto 2013, The Preamble

⁴ ANP election manifesto 2013, The Preamble

⁵ ANP Election manifesto 2018, The Preamble

⁶ ANP election manifesto 2013, mentioned in the Preamble

and minorities), labor rights, social, political and economic and financial rights, provinces water rights have been mentioned.	children, women, minorities and persons living with disabilities, though repeating the same mistake as of 2013 thereby eliminating the detailed description of topic “people with disabilities” in chapter 3 “Human Rights”.
Child rights have been mentioned in details under the chapter “Human Rights”.	Detailed emphasis has been placed on Child Rights in the chapter of “Human Rights”. Special attention to “ Juvenile Justice System ⁷ ” has been paid.
Did not mention about women living with disabilities in the manifesto.	Special provision for women living with disabilities have been mentioned in the manifesto thereby providing them separate and “ clean toilets ” ⁸ in all public and private offices, markets and shopping malls.

Since the persons living with disabilities are an integral part of the society, it is imperative to know how Awami National Party is considering them in their manifestos.

2013	2018
ANP ensured protection of rights, development and welfare of persons living with disabilities. They vowed to strive for their “ meaningful participation in decision making at all levels ” ⁹ . Serious efforts were promised to improve their safety and their accessibility in all public and work places. They had to ensure the implementation of their existing quotas in letter and spirit.	The party manifesto clearly promises of ensuring security to women, elderly and persons living with disabilities, transgender, religious and ethnic minorities. More precisely they have promised to work for the rights, development and welfare of persons living with disabilities. Party shall to initiate mass transportation system in all districts with meaningful safe and secure spaces for women and persons living with disabilities. Introduction of more hygienic toilets systems in all public and private places including workplaces and shopping malls. Persons living with disabilities would

⁷ INP election manifesto 2018, page 9, section ‘d’.

⁸ INP election manifesto 2018, page 8, section ‘u’.

⁹ ANP 2013 election manifesto, chapter Internal Affairs, page 06.

	be having equal access to all level educational systems.
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No nation can excel in the comity of nations without healthy population and this is the duty of every government to come-up with certain strategy as how they will address the health related issues. The parties contesting elections must highlight the important aspect as how they have planned to proceed with the issue. At the same time it was important to observe as how this major political party contesting elections in Pakistan are looking towards the issue of health and well being of persons living with disabilities.

2013	2018
Specifically did not mention of health rights for persons living with disabilities but have focused on health rights to all citizens.	Health rights have been mentioned but for all citizens with no specific provisions for persons living with disabilities.

Though it was unfortunate in Pakistan’s political context that no specific legislative measures have been adopted to address the issues of persons living with disabilities. It was felt imperative to know the policies intentions of the main political force contesting general elections in Pakistan. The following table shows the subtle details related to such legislation.

	2013	2018
Inconsistent data	No statements/promises about the inconsistency with respect to disabilities had been made	No such statements or promises have been made in 2018 manifesto
Discrimination	Did not mention about the discrimination that persons living with disabilities faced	ANP has vowed to repeal all discriminatory laws. However, have vowed for the security of persons living with disabilities
Employment Quota	ANP had promised to ensure protection of rights, development and welfare of persons living with disabilities. According to manifesto, ANP will strive for	ANP has vowed to make serious efforts thereby improving safety and accessibility of persons living with disabilities in public and work places and will ensure

	their meaningful participation in decision making at all levels. It will make serious effort to improve safety and accessibility for them in public and work places and will ensure “implementation of existing quotas in letter and spirit” ¹⁰ .	implementation of existing “quotas in letter and spirit” ¹¹ .
Allocation of Resources	Did not mention categorically but insisted upon their participation in decision making at all levels	ANP shall strive for the meaningful participation of “people with disabilities in decision making” ¹² at all levels
Education	Did not mention about education to persons living with disabilities.	ANP has declared to remove the discrimination in education against persons living with disabilities and will ensure access of them to all level of education.
Seats Allocation at National & Provincial Assembly	Did not mention.	Did not mention.

Barriers are the natural and manmade obstacles that create hindrances in the smooth functioning of any activity/process. In a society like Pakistan, elimination of such obstacles or minimizing the impacts of these obstacles are the need of the hour. However, those who are contesting elections in country are to deal with such issues and to know how they are integrating such strategies in particular the issues of persons living with disabilities in our society.

Year 2013	Year 2018
ANP had mentioned ensuring protection of rights, development and	ANP manifesto clearly promises of ensuring security to persons living with

¹⁰ ANP election manifesto 2013, under chapter Internal Affairs, page 07

¹¹ ANP election manifesto 2018, Overall goals, page 2, clause 4.

¹² Ibid

<p>welfare of persons living with disabilities during 2013 manifesto. They had pointed, though indirectly, towards the elimination of all barriers to such people, both infrastructural and attitudinal, by providing them full opportunities in “decision making at all levels”¹³ besides to work for their improved safety and their accessibility in all public and work places.</p>	<p>disabilities. More precisely they have promised to work for the rights, development and welfare of persons living with disabilities. Party shall to initiate mass transportation system in all districts with meaningful safe and secure spaces for women and people with disabilities. Introduction of more hygienic toilets systems in all public and private places including workplaces and shopping malls. People with disabilities would be having equal access to equal and all level educational systems.</p>
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The inclusion of persons living with disabilities in the decision making forums within the party will shows the level of their seriousness towards the issues of PWDs.

Year 2013	Year 2018
<p>They had mentioned the inclusion of such people in decision making at all levels. This may also include the party positions if examined notwithstanding they had any such mention categorically.</p>	<p>They have promised inclusion of such people in decision making at all levels of society. This may also include the party positions if examined subtly notwithstanding they had any such mention categorically.</p>

Besides other basic human rights, the right of persons living with disabilities to politics also bears equal importance. It was imperative to know how Awami National Party considers this right of PWDs. Whether they are intended of their inclusion in the decision making forums including national, provincial, district and UC level??

Year 2013	Year 2018
<p>The manifesto had mentioned of inclusion of persons living with disabilities at decision making at all level. But again had short of further</p>	<p>ANP has urged to strive for their meaningful participation in decision making at all levels besides but no further clarifications being made.</p>

¹³ INP 2013 election manifesto Chapter Internal Affairs, Subject “ Political, Legal and Administrative”, page 07

identification like which spheres of lives including the political.

Manifesto in-line with UNCRPD

According to charter of the United Nations that recognize the inherent dignity, worth and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family as the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. Besides as per the universal declaration of human rights and in the International Covenants on Human Rights, it has been also proclaimed and agreed that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms without distinction of any kind. The purpose of the present Convention CRPD is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity.

It was imperative to know whether the manifestos of under consideration political party aligned to the UNCRPD or not?

After examining the two elections manifestos, it can be safe to say that the party acknowledges the rights of persons living with disabilities to life and other associated basic human rights but they do not have detailed strategies of as how to protect, secure and promote these rights which make them to deviate from this very basic convention. In short they do not have adherence to this convention in letter and spirit.

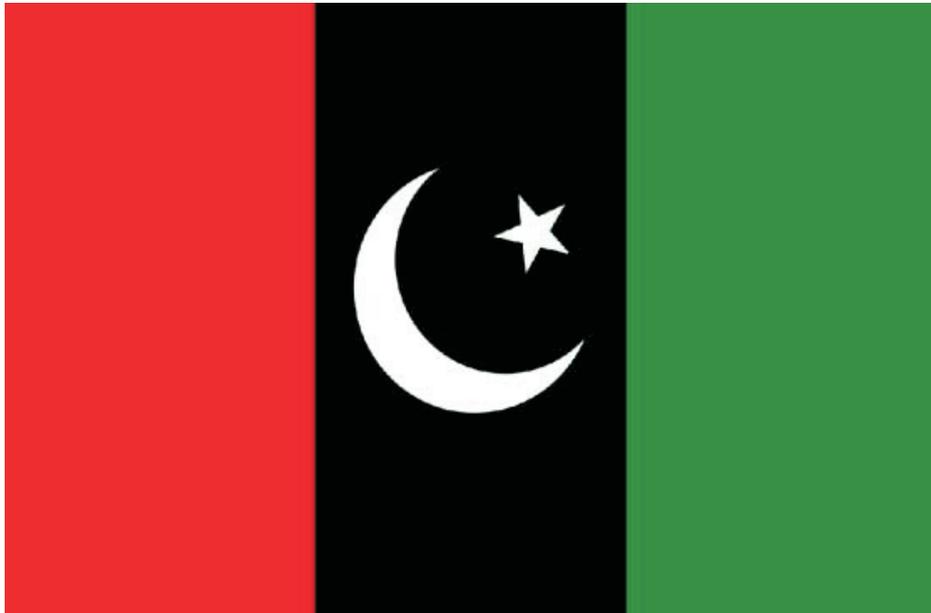
Impact of the manifestos

Year 2013	Year 2018
Overall, the manifesto had but few provisions for the persons living with disabilities. This may be less attractive for this very target segment of population.	Compared to previous election manifesto, this year ANP has elaborated in detail as how to accommodate this segment of society. They have included the persons living with disabilities in the overall goals and guiding principles of the party. They seem clearer in achieving these goals too like introduction of mass transportation system and better hygienic facilities for them.

Possible challenges to fulfill the commitments

Since the party has clearer version than before as of to accommodate persons living with disabilities but overall it will yield partial results. For instance they can allocate fair quotas system for them in the province, better employment opportunities and perhaps will better perform in fulfilling the educational promises because the party lays more stress and energies on educational sector. Yet on the other hand, initiating mass transit system and providing hygienic toilet system in the public and private offices and shopping malls will somehow demand more energies and intensive research work for its feasibility and implementation owing to the ongoing and completed projects in the province.

SECTION-II



Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP)

Description of Persons Living with Disabilities

It was imperative to know how Pakistan Peoples Party describes this segment of population in their manifestos. Besides it was also important to know whether these terms are politically correct or incorrect.

Year 2013	Year 2018
<p>“People with disabilities¹⁴” and “children with disabilities”¹⁵.</p>	<p>PPP has specifically addressed persons living with disabilities as “Differently-Abled People”¹⁶.</p>
<p>Politically correct as it shows their political maturity and a clear vision about inclusion for all without being discriminated and judged</p>	<p>Politically more mature as it embraces different kinds of disabilities into its folds whether visible or invisible.</p>

How the manifestos address rights, needs of children and issues of women living with disabilities

Year 2013	Year 2018
<p>PPP has ensured in manifesto that the “Equality Commission”¹⁷ monitors the implementation of job quotas for minorities, persons living with disabilities and other communities facing discrimination.</p>	<p>PPP in its manifesto pledges an inclusive society encompassing all individuals irrespective of variations in physical, intellectual, or sensory abilities”¹⁸, whether visible or invisible. An individual’s different ability is no excuse to deny them their rights.</p>
<p>The party had claimed in manifesto to have extended the payment of “survivor’s pensions; covering a disabled child for life”¹⁹ and an unmarried daughter until marriage. The party had said to encourage the deserving segments of society had to</p>	<p>Though PPP has detailed inclusive society chapter thereby encompassing all but specifically no mention has been made with respect to children living with disabilities. At the same time they have pledged to create in-school and after-school programs for those students that are affected by certain natural or</p>

¹⁴ PPP election manifesto 2013, page 29

¹⁵ PPP election manifesto 2013, page 17

¹⁶ PPP election manifesto 2018, page 15

¹⁷ PPP election manifesto 2013, page 29

¹⁸ Ibid

¹⁹ PPP election manifesto 2013, page 16

<p>promote the creation of institutions for children living with disabilities. They also had vowed to provide funds for existing schools and facilities for those with special needs.</p>	<p>human made disasters or violence but did not specify children living with disabilities.</p>
<p>The manifesto also encourages all social welfare programmes to take special measures and offer “social protection to single women not under the care of parents and families, as well as widows and women with special needs”²⁰.</p>	<p>Women empowerment has been mentioned through programs like Benazir Income Support programs but did not specify of those living with disabilities. However, it has also been explained in the beginning of the manifesto that women refer to all female of Pakistan irrespective of age, creed, religion or caste which indicate that women living with disabilities are included in the women empowerment programmes.</p>

Since the persons living with disabilities are an integral part of the society, it is imperative to know how Pakistan Peoples Party considering them in their manifestos. Whether they have elaborated certain strategy of these people inclusion in the folds of society or not.

Year 2013	Year 2018
<p>The manifesto has ensured that the Equality Commission monitors the implementation of job quotas for minorities, people with disabilities and other communities facing discrimination.</p>	<p>The manifesto promotes an impressive policy of inclusive society where special policies and programs to be initiated for the integration of differently-abled persons into its folds.</p>

No nation can excel in the comity of nations without healthy population and this is the duty of every government to come-up with certain strategy as how they will address the health related issues. The parties contesting elections must highlight the important aspect as how they have planned to proceed with the issue. At the same time it was important to observe as how this major political party contesting elections in Pakistan are looking towards the issue of health and well being of persons living with disabilities.

²⁰ PPP election manifesto 2013, page 29

Year 2013	Year 2018
<p>Didn't focus on this aspect. They had mentioned to extend the sphere of BISP programs for the empowerment of deserving segment of society.</p>	<p>PPP has pledged the following two health policies for persons living with disabilities: one is the introduction of “Differently-abled Cards”²¹ in line with Benazir Income Support Programme so as to make sure free and speedy health care facilities to all differently-abled people, and the second is the introduction of “Differently-abled counters”²² in all public sector hospitals so as to speed-up services to them.</p>

Though it was unfortunate in Pakistan’s political context that no specific legislative measures have been adopted to address the issues of persons living with disabilities. It was felt imperative to know the policies intentions of Pakistan Peoples Party contesting general elections in Pakistan. The following table shows the subtle details related to such legislation.

	2013	2018
<p>Inconsistent data</p>	<p>Nothing tangible about such data was unveiled.</p>	<p>The manifesto is aligned with the UNCRPD and entails a detailed mechanism of legislative measures to be undertaken in connection with the welfare of the persons living with disabilities. The Party has pledged to form a committee at national level to carry out a comprehensive review of all existing legislation concerning differently-abled people and will also formulate a report in this regard. Secondly all “legislation concerning differently-abled people”²³ will be compiled in one comprehensive act of</p>

²¹ PPP election manifesto 2018, page 16

²² Ibid

²³ PPP 2018 manifesto, Legislative measures, page 15

		the parliament to ensure effective implementation of relevant laws and regulations.
Discrimination	They vowed to eliminate discrimination in the manifesto	PPP has vowed to eliminate all type of discrimination against persons living with disabilities as PPP considers all individuals, including differently-abled individuals, having equal rights to access to all services such as education, healthcare, and employment opportunities.
Employment Quota	The manifesto said to ensure the Equality Commission monitors the implementation of job quotas for minorities, persons living with disabilities and other communities facing discrimination.	They will introduce a legislation to protect and enforce the rights of differently-abled people in work environments and during employment pursuit. They will also review the “quota allocation for differently-abled people” ²⁴ to be determined through proper legislation.
Allocation of Resources	Unclear	They will involve these people in decision making at all levels.
Education	Unclear	Quota would be reviewed for such people for ensuring quality education in different public sector colleges and universities, to “provide full fee exemption to differently-abled people in public sector institutions” ²⁵ and to introduce legislation to ensure fee discounts for differently-abled people studying in private sector educational institutions.
Seats Allocation at National & Provincial Assembly	Did not mention	The manifesto ensures to introduce reserves seats in the national as well as in provincial assemblies for persons living with disabilities.

²⁴ PPP 2018 manifesto, “Ensuring equal opportunities in the workplace”, page 15

²⁵ PPP 2018 manifesto, page 16

Barriers are the natural and manmade obstacles that create hindrances in the smooth functioning of any activity/process. In a society like Pakistan, elimination of such obstacles or minimizing the impacts of these obstacles are the need of the hour. However, those who are contesting elections in country are to deal with such issues and to know how they are integrating such strategies in particular the issues of persons living with disabilities in our society.

Year 2013	Year 2018
Lacks of clarity regarding strategies	<p>PPP has proposed to come up with different new strategies so as to secure the rights of persons living with disabilities. They will focus on “strengthening existing policies”²⁶ and may undertake new legislation in securing their rights. Also they have advised to appoint a minister of state for ensuring proper attention towards allocation of resources for the welfare of differently-abled people.</p> <p>Besides, PPP will initiate a certification program "Positive about Being Differently-Abled" whereby participating public as well as private organizations will be offered certification as well as other tax and non-tax reliefs for providing equal opportunity of work and employment to differently-abled individuals.</p>

The inclusion of persons living with disabilities in the decision making forums within the party will shows the level of their seriousness towards the issues of PWDs.

Year 2013	Year 2018
Did not mention	It has been clearly mentioned in the manifesto that persons living with disabilities would be

²⁶ PPP 2018 election manifesto, page 15

	appointed to “ important positions within the party ” ²⁷ Persons living with disabilities will be included in the organizational structure to ensure their voices being heard with dignity and respect in the party decision making process
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Besides other basic human rights, the right of persons living with disabilities to politics also bears equal importance. It was imperative to know how Pakistan Peoples Party considers these rights of PWDs. Whether they are intended of their inclusion in the decision making forums including national, provincial, district and UC level??

Year 2013	Year 2018
Did not mention	The party has urged to ensure the participation of persons living with disabilities in all spheres of life at social, cultural, political, national, provincial, district and UC level

Manifesto in-line with UNCRPD

According to charter of the United Nations that recognize the inherent dignity, worth and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family as the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. Besides as per the universal declaration of human rights and in the International Covenants on Human Rights, it has been also proclaimed and agreed that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms without distinction of any kind. The purpose of the present Convention CRPD is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity.

It was imperative to know whether the manifestos of under consideration political party aligned to the UNCRPD or not?

<p>PPP has pledged to fully implement the provisions of United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), ratified by Pakistan in 2011, in its full letter and spirit. They have further urged to incorporate the UNCRPD into Pakistan laws to ensure the rights and dignity of differently-abled people. In 2013 the party had resolved, since Pakistan has ratified the International Covenant</p>

²⁷ Ibid, page 15

on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and with these ratifications, Pakistan has become a party to all core human rights instruments. They urged **“to focus our efforts on implementing these conventions and treaties”**²⁸.

Impact of the manifestos

Year 2013	Year 2018
The manifesto did not have comprehensive and thorough details about issues of persons living with disabilities	This manifesto has clear and detailed provisions for persons living with disabilities. Not only legislation but also certification programs aimed with tax exemptions to private and public organizations which shows they have used overarching right based approach which will not only help to pass comprehensive legislation but also will definitely have positive impacts to ensure the fundamental rights of persons living with disabilities

Possible challenges to fulfill the commitments

The only possible challenge will be how many other political and democratic parties support PPP to pass a comprehensive legislation for persons living with disabilities at national level.

²⁸ PPP 2013 manifesto, page 32

SECTION-III



**Pakistan Muslim League
(PML-N)**

Description of Persons Living with Disabilities

It was imperative to know how Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz describes this segment of population in their manifestos. Besides it was also important to know whether these are terms politically correct or incorrect.

Year 2013	Year 2018
“Disabled Persons” ²⁹	‘People with special needs’ ³⁰
Politically incorrect as it focuses on disability more than human.	To some extent correct

How the manifestos address rights, needs of children and issues of women living with disabilities.

Year 2013	Year 2018
PML-N vowed to ensure the special needs and “ right of disabled to normal life as his basic right and as equal citizen ” ³¹ .	PML-N will enhance opportunities for persons living with disabilities for better inclusive society. They will do so through legislation.
Children with special needs would be provided with incentives and special skills trainings in their centers including those of orphanages.	PML-N has pledged to “ provide and extend access quality education to children with special needs ” ³² .
Did not mention about women living with disabilities	The party has pledged to establish Anti-Harassment cells. It will ensure the mental as well as physical health of women.

Since the persons living with disabilities are an integral part of the society, it is imperative to know how Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz is considering them in their manifestos.

Year 2013	Year 2018
The party pledged that they will work for the betterment of disabled by	According to the manifesto, other than special legislation for inclusive society having persons

²⁹ PML-N election manifesto 2013, page 27

³⁰ PML-N election manifesto 2018, page 55

³¹ PML-N 2013 election manifesto page 27

³² PML-N election manifesto 2018, Promise 2018-2023, page 41.

<p>making “wheel chairs access, special toilets and parking facilities compulsory in all present and future construction of buildings”³³. which shows that emphasis is only focused on persons living with physical impairment</p>	<p>living with disabilities, they will strive for introducing of special toilets and wheels chairs in all buildings through legislation too. Here again focused only on persons living with physical impairment</p>
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No nation can excel in the comity of nations without healthy population and this is the duty of every government to come-up with certain strategy as how they will address the health related issues. The parties contesting elections must highlight the important aspect as how they have planned to proceed with the issue. At the same time it was important to observe as how this major political party contesting elections in Pakistan are looking towards the issue of health and well being of persons living with disabilities.

Year 2013	Year 2018
Did not mention	Did not mention

Though it was unfortunate in Pakistan’s political context that no specific legislative measures have been adopted to address the issues of persons living with disabilities. It was felt imperative to know the policies intentions of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz contesting general elections in Pakistan. The following table shows the subtle details relate to such legislation.

	Year 2013	Year 2018
Inconsistent Data	Did not mention	Did not mention
Discrimination	Did not mention	Did not mention
Employment Quota	Did not mention	PML N in their manifesto has vowed to ensure implementation of job quotas for persons living with disabilities.
Allocation of Resources	Did not mention	Did not mention
Education	PML-N had pledged to provide the “disabled with equal opportunities	Besides, safeguarding the proper implementation of quotas in education for persons living with

³³ PML-N 2013 election manifesto, page 27

	of studying at home and abroad too”³⁴.	disabilities will also be hold.
Seats Allocation at National & Provincial Assembly	Did not mention	Did not mention

Barriers are the natural and manmade obstacles that create hindrances in the smooth functioning of any activity/process. In a society like Pakistan, elimination of such obstacles or minimizing the impacts of these obstacles are the need of the hour. However, those who are contesting elections in country are to deal with such issues and to know how they are integrating such strategies in particular the issues of persons living with disabilities in our society.

Year 2013	Year 2018
Parking facilities and special toilets to be introduced at present and future construction of buildings. Again, focused on one type of disability.	Through legislation the party vows to establish special facilities like toilets and wheel chairs access in buildings for persons living with disabilities. Same as year 2013, focused on physical impairment

The inclusion of persons living with disabilities in the decision making forums within the party will shows the level of their seriousness towards the issues of PWDs.

Year 2013	Year 2018
Did not mention.	Did not mention

Besides other basic human rights, the right of persons living with disabilities to politics also bears equal importance. It was imperative to know how Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz considers these rights of PWDs. Whether they are intended of their inclusion in the decision making forums including national, provincial, district and UC level?

Year 2013	Year 2018
Did not mention	Did not mention

³⁴ PML-N election manifesto 2013, page 27

Manifesto in-line with CRPD

According to charter of the United Nations that recognize the inherent dignity, worth and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family as the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. Besides as per the universal declaration of human rights and in the International Covenants on Human Rights, it has been also proclaimed and agreed that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms without distinction of any kind. The purpose of the present Convention CRPD is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity.

It was imperative to know whether the manifestos of under consideration political party aligned to the UNCRPD or not?

PML-N has ruled over the country for three times but their manifesto falls short of including provisions for persons living with disabilities. Upon subtle examination of their previous and current manifesto, the party has used partially politically correct words for the persons living with disabilities. Their focus remained more on disability than on humanity that precedes the disease.

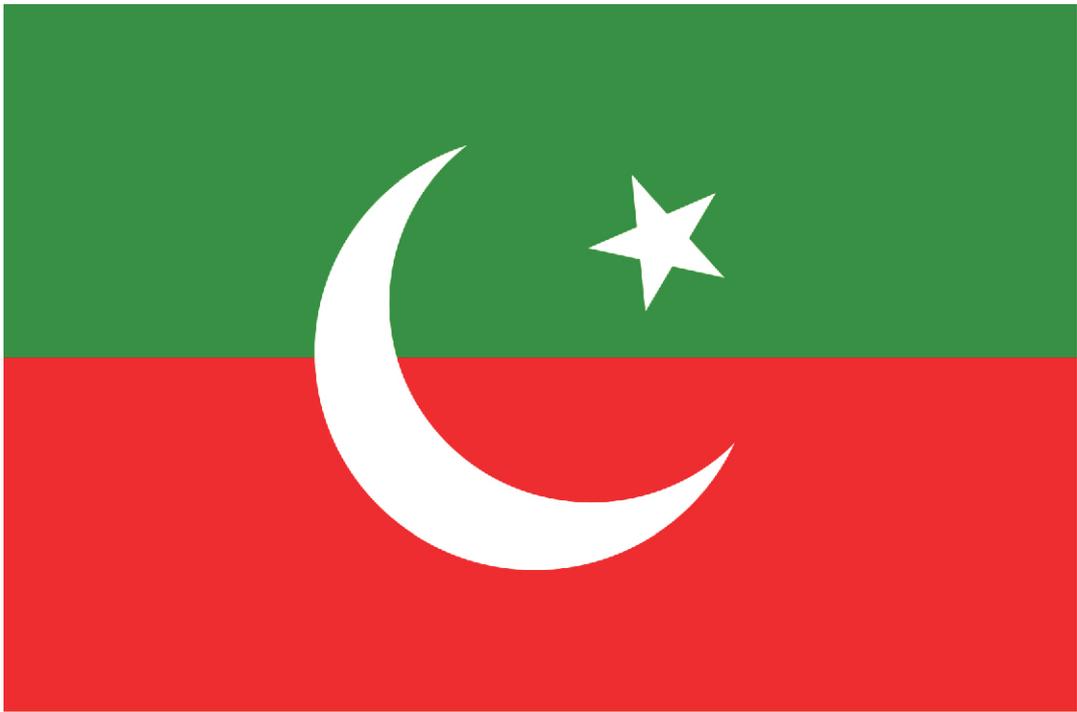
Impact of the manifestos

Year 2013	Year 2018
<p>The impact was of lack of awareness about the gravity and diversity of issue. Overall they remained focused on only physical impairment</p>	<p>The current year manifesto has somehow a better option for persons living with disabilities compared to 2013 manifesto. They have included the concept of inclusive society implying the importance of persons living with disabilities an important segment of our society. Similarly the concept of legislation for these people will further brought forward the challenges of this cluster of society into limelight even in national mainstream media too.</p>

Possible challenges in implementation

The party strength in national assembly will determine their resolution of working for persons living with disabilities. Besides, they have placed less importance on almost all matters of persons living with disabilities, during their manifestos, shows the party's indifference towards this marginalized segment of society.

SECTION-IV



**Pakistan Tahreek-e-Insaf
(PTI)**

Description of Persons Living with Disabilities

It was imperative to know how Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf describes this segment of population in their manifestos to make them social and political reality of Pakistan. Besides it was also important to know whether these terms are politically correct or incorrect.

Year 2013	Year 2018
“Persons with disabilities” ³⁵	Differently-abled persons ³⁶ , Persons with disabilities ³⁷ (PWD), persons with special needs ³⁸ .
Politically correct	Politically correct but inconsistency of using the terms which shows their level of understanding about the issue

How the manifestos address rights, needs of children and issues of women living with disabilities.

Year 2013	Year 2018
Considers the “negligence of persons with disabilities as problem and considers his duty to work for their rights” ³⁹ .	Although PTI in its manifesto has claimed to adopt rights-based approach ⁴⁰ towards persons living with disabilities and they also have claimed to integrate them in the society being regarded as their right but unfortunately there is no concerted efforts were made in this regard since 2013 in KPK
Allocation of at least one staff member or teacher, who would be trained to teach PWD ⁴¹ , at every school having 250 strength.	PTI has urged to work for the promotion of “early screening and interaction for children with disabilities by training related medical staff and health

³⁵ PTI election manifesto 2013, page 2

³⁶ PTI election manifesto 2018, page 50

³⁷ PTI election manifesto 2018, page 50

³⁸ Ibid, page 50

³⁹ PTI election manifesto 2013, page 41

⁴⁰ PTI election manifesto 2018, page 50

⁴¹ PTI election manifesto 2013, page 42

	<p>workers⁴²” which shows that they adopt medical approach towards disability.</p> <p>PTI has claimed in 2018 manifesto to have achieved the objective of establishing rehabilitation centers for children in KPK during their tenure (2013-2018), “<i>5 new institutions for rehabilitation of special children have been established</i>”⁴³”.</p>
<p>PTI claimed that they will issue one ticket of contesting elections to women⁴⁴ living with disability. It did not fulfill in general elections 2013</p>	<p>Did not mention</p>

Since the persons living with disabilities are an integral part of the society, it is imperative to know how Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf is considering them in their manifestos.

Year 2013	Year 2018
<p>They claimed about persons living with disabilities quite in detail with necessary measures to be adopted for achieving the set goals.</p>	<p>PTI claimed to include persons living with disabilities into the society through special programs. According to PTI “We will offer assistive devices / technologies such as hearing aids, wheelchair, etc., through federal and provincial programs”.</p>

No nation can excel in the comity of nations without healthy population and this is the duty of every government to come-up with certain strategy as how they will address the health related issues. The parties contesting elections must highlight the important aspect as how they have planned to proceed with the issue. At the same time it was important to observe as how this newly emerged political party contesting elections in Pakistan are looking towards the issue of health and well being of persons living with disabilities.

Year 2013	Year 2018
<p>Special certificates to be issued to</p>	<p>PTI has added a good signal about the already</p>

⁴² PTI election manifesto 2018, page 51

⁴³ PTI election manifesto 2018, page 10

⁴⁴ PTI 2013 election manifesto, page 41

<p>PWDs by competent government authorities⁴⁵ that will enable them to get free medical treatments and medicines. This provision would be same for intellectually challenged and PWDs at the same time.</p> <p>It is important to mention here that intellectual impairment is also a disability and one cannot separate this from other disabilities.</p>	<p>implemented Benazir Income Support Program and claimed to “<i>retain and improve BISP as the primary social safety net for the poor, and launch special assistance programmes for differently-abled persons</i>”.⁴⁶</p>
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Though it was unfortunate in Pakistan’s political context that no specific legislative measures have been adopted to address the issues of persons living with disabilities. It was felt imperative to know the policies intentions of Pakistan Tehreek -e-Insaf contesting general elections in Pakistan. The following table shows the subtle details related to such legislation

	Year 2013	Year 2018
Inconsistent data	PTI has mentioned the data about these people making 10% of Pakistan population. ⁴⁷	Since the country does not have exact data regarding persons living with disabilities, the PTI has claimed to conduct regular nationwide surveys ⁴⁸ . This will help in gathering data about prevalence of disability and to generate other actionable information about persons living with disabilities in the country. Again, this shows that PTI adopted medical approach towards disability

⁴⁵ PTI election manifesto 2013, page 41

⁴⁶ PTI election manifesto 2018, page 47

⁴⁷ PTI election manifesto 2013, Policy for PWD, page 41

⁴⁸ PTI election manifesto 2018, page 50

<p>Discrimination</p>	<p>In the manifesto PTI has termed the failure of the nation to recognize PWDs who are living a normal life despite all challenges/odds in their lives.</p> <p>The word “normal life” is politically incorrect. It would be better if they used the word “routine life”.</p>	<p>They claimed to generate specialised CNIC⁴⁹ so as to make sure that they are getting all the required privileges and facilities without any discrimination.</p>
<p>Employment Quota</p>	<p>They had claimed to employ 2% OF PWD⁵⁰ at each level of government service conditioned to their minimum criterion qualification.</p> <p>They further added as will ask the private sector to apply this rule voluntarily for the welfare of the country.</p>	<p>PTI has claimed in the manifesto 2% job quota fulfillment for differently-abled persons at all government establishments.</p>
<p>Allocation of Resources</p>	<p>All equipment made for the aid of special persons would be free of all duties. In addition “10% of all the welfare expenditure”⁵¹ would be for the welfare of PWDs.</p> <p>Vocational Training Centers for PWDs would be introduced in every district.</p>	<p>PTI claimed that they will develop Disability Resource Centers at each district⁵², equipped with necessary equipment for screening and therapy of differently-abled persons, as mentioned in manifesto. They have further added, “We will provide training, skills and finance through public-private partnerships for differently-abled persons, and income support to differently-abled</p>

⁴⁹ PTI election manifesto 2018, page 50

⁵⁰ PTI election manifesto 2013, page 42

⁵¹ PTI election manifesto 2013, page 42

⁵² PTI election manifesto 2018, page 51

		persons with severe disabilities”.
Education	All educational facilities meant for PWD would be tax free , ⁵³ and equipment meant for the aid of PWDs would be duty free.	PTI claimed that they will invest in the provincial Special Education Departments and institutions to uplift the infrastructure, human resource and assistive technologies.
Seats Allocation at National & Provincial Assembly	PTI will make sure the representation of PWDs in assemblies of the country. They will also reserve three seats or 1% for PWDs at each level of public representation. ⁵⁴ PTI will allocate at least 5 tickets for PWDs to contest elections. Out of this five, one will be women and two would be youth.	Did not mention

Barriers are the natural and manmade obstacles that create hindrances in the smooth functioning of any activity/process. In a society like Pakistan, elimination of such obstacles or minimizing the impacts of these obstacles are the need of the hour. However, those who are contesting elections in country are to deal with such issues and to know how they are integrating such strategies in particular the issues of persons living with disabilities in our society.

Year 2013	Year 2018
<p>All public building laws would be amended in light of making them PWDs friendly and accessible.</p> <p>Through legislation following proper mechanisms, the definition of PWD will be published/enacted.</p> <p>They also claimed that those who works for the betterment/welfare of PWDs</p>	<p>PTI has come up with the notion of “Create a more caring Pakistan for people with special needs”.</p> <p>In the manifesto the party’s vision reveals, <i>“A just order is the foundation for creating a nation where equal opportunity exists for all citizens in all fields – from health to education to security of life and property.</i></p>

⁵³ PTI election manifesto 2013, key measures, page 41

⁵⁴ PTI election manifesto 2013, key measures, page 41

would be acknowledged/recognized as heroes of Pakistan on 14th August ⁵⁵ every year so as to promote the notion of volunteerism for them.	<i>Justice ensures women, minorities, the poor, the differently-abled, the dispossessed and disadvantaged are not exploited by the powerful or discriminated against”.</i> ⁵⁶
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The inclusion of persons living with disabilities in the decision making forums within the party will shows the level of their seriousness towards the issues of PWDs.

Year 2013	Year 2018
PTI had announced to allocate 5 tickets to PWD to contest general elections but remained short of stating their (PWDs) role in party’s decision making.	Did not mention

Besides other basic human rights, the right of persons living with disabilities to politics also bears equal importance. It was imperative to know how Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf considers these rights of PWDs. Whether they are intended of their inclusion in the decision making forums including national, provincial, district and UC level??

Year 2013	Year 2018
Though political rights and their inclusion have been mentioned but not specifically have been targeted with decision making process in different forums.	Did not mention

Manifesto in_line with CRPD

According to charter of the United Nations that recognize the inherent dignity, worth and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family as the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. Besides as per the universal declaration of human rights and in the International Covenants on Human Rights, it has been also proclaimed and agreed that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms without distinction of any kind. The purpose of the present Convention CRPD is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental

⁵⁵ PTI election manifesto 2013, page 42

⁵⁶ PTI election manifesto 2018, PTI’s Vision, Page 6

freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity.

It was imperative to know whether the manifestos of under consideration political party aligned to the UNCRPD or not?

Partially PTI lies in the line to adherence to this convention as they have claimed to enforce and enact laws that comply with the UNCRPD. To some extent, they have a way to mainstream the persons living with disabilities to compose an inclusive society encompassing all segments of society if they adopt right based approach instead of medical approach.

Impact of the manifesto

Year 2013	Year 2018
Although the manifesto gave detailed description of PWDs but in context of medical approach when it comes to implantation there was no remarkable change was noted	Comparatively with more details and objectives, PTI will probably catch the attention of influencers instead of masses.

Possible challenges of the manifesto in implementation

Though the manifesto has some good point about the main issues of persons living with disabilities, but still falls shorts of adopting certain concrete measures for their incorporation in society. However, time will prove their determination and political will to further pave way for the achievement of the goals they have claimed.

Conclusion

As the report was aimed to examine the commitments of all the major political and democratic forces to make the political and social reality of Pakistan inclusive for persons living with disabilities and what they have promised to develop and pass comprehensive legislation for the mainstreaming of persons living with disabilities in their parties' manifestos general election 2013 & 2018.

Though Pakistan has a signatory of UNCRPD and Government of Pakistan has ratified the covenant, it was obligatory for the Government of Pakistan and all political and democratic forces to pass necessary comprehensive legislation to safeguard the rights of persons living with disabilities but so far there is no concerted efforts have been made in this regard.

During the Report's cycle it was found that the content of political parties' manifestos general election 2018 was more precise and clear about the issues of persons living with disabilities as compared to the manifestos of general election 2013 which show that the level of understanding has become increased within these political forces of Pakistan. In 2018 manifestos, they came up with concrete strategies to address the issues of this marginalized segment of the society which will definitely paved way for practical implementation when they will come into power.

It is suggested that all the major political and democratic forces of Pakistan whether they are part of the Government or opposition should join hands together and show their political will / commitment to pass comprehensive legislation at national level for persons living with disabilities to mainstream them, involve persons living with disabilities in decision making processes, address the issue of inconsistent data about persons living with disabilities, allocate seats and resources, take some necessary action to ensure the inclusive education system, priority basis health facilities, ensure their employment needs, address the needs of women and children living with disabilities and bring all type of attitudinal / infrastructural barriers at zero level to make society inclusive where everyone can enjoy his / her life without being judged and discriminated.

Annexure 4

Introduction of PMHA

Potohar Mental Health Association (PMHA) is a registered non government organization, working on mental health of persons living with disabilities including children, youth, adults (men and women).

PMHA is registered under the Voluntary Social Welfare Agencies; Ordinance 1961 on September 12th 2002, registration number is VSWA328 ICT.

Our aim is to striving for a society that is well informed, educated, mentally healthy and progressive, in a way that it lives beyond differences and has acceptance for those who are differently able without any distinction of class, sex, color or creed and disability.

We endeavour to attain these goals through research projects and by playing an advisory role to motivate government to introduce better legislation for the betterment of the mental health and disability scenario in Pakistan specifically and over all society in general.

"Nothing About Us Without Us"

