

# HAYAT-E-NAU

## SOCIETY FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

### PROJECT REPORT

*July, 2008 – June, 2009*

### DISABILITY RIGHTS AWARENESS CAMPAIGN AMONG YOUTH AND GENERAL PUBLIC



### ADDRESS

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## Project Profile

Project Title:	A Rights Based Approach to raising Community Awareness regarding the Child with Disabilities as a member of a family, their wider community and society.
Implementing Organization:	Hayat-e-Nau Society for Human Development
Sponsored By:	Missionary Sisters of St. Columban, Ireland C/o Sr. Roberta Ryan, SSC Hyderabad, Diocese, Pakistan
Report for the Period:	July 2008 – June, 2009
Target Beneficiaries:	General Public (men & women including youth), Parents & families of children with disabilities, community volunteers and street theatre group members
Target Area:	Jurisdiction of District Hyderabad
Country/Region:	Hyderabad, Sindh – Pakistan
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<b>Project Duration:</b> <b>Date of Report:</b>	<b>One year</b> <b>June 30, 2009</b>

## A. NARRATIVE REPORTING

### 1. INTRODUCTION/OVERVIEW

#### THE ORGANIZATION

Hayat-e-Nau [Urdu for New Life] Society for Human Development is a local, officially registered NGO with a strong grassroots base within the local communities of Hyderabad city and the rural areas of the district.

It commits itself to work for integral and sustainable human development based on the principles of social justice. Hayat-e-Nau seeks to be in solidarity with the poor, marginalized and oppressed in their efforts for empowerment, development and the promotion of their dignity and human rights.

It practices an open-door policy that welcomes everyone, crossing boundaries of race, creed, color and gender in its efforts to work for interfaith social harmony.

#### Brief History:

Hayat-e-Nau was started in February 1997 with a Program of Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) for Children with Disabilities under the supervision & management of Caritas Pakistan Hyderabad.

**According to plan, Hayat-e-Nau** became an independent organization in November 2001 and was registered in February 2004, under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860.

Hayat-e-Nau believes that ***God's love extends to all humankind.***

**Vision:** To work towards the building of a just and human society; where people and structures reflect God's reign of truth, justice, compassion, human dignity, freedom, peace and love for humankind.

**Mission:** Hayat-e-Nau practices an open-door policy that welcomes everyone into its mission to eliminate poverty. In its faith commitment (***love your neighbor as yourself***) it strives to work for integral and sustainable human development and seeks to be in solidarity with the poor, marginalized, and oppressed in Pakistan. It joins in the people's personal & community efforts for empowerment, development and the promotion of their dignity and basic rights. The members of Hayat-e-Nau are committed to sharing, learning and capacity building in the context of the Pakistani realities of poverty, exploitation, exclusion, discrimination and the unfolding challenges of globalization.

Our main focus is on the rehabilitation and development of basic life skills in **Children with Disabilities**, but we are also working on cross cutting themes such as **Gender Equality, HIV/AIDS, T.B, Environmental issues, Disaster**

**Response** and a **Rights Based Disability Awareness Campaign** among youth and the general public through the medium of Street Theatre and Interactive Community Dialogue Sessions.

## **INTRODUCTION OF THE PROJECT:**

The “**Disability Rights Awareness Campaign among Youth and General Public Project**” was started in August 2008 with the financial assistance of Missionary Sisters of St. Columban, Ireland and concluded in June 2009. This project was a initiative of Columban Sisters in Hyderabad Diocese, Sindh - Pakistan.

The project was intended to provide a platform to create awareness of the ways society, and the local community both as a group and individual, stigmatize, marginalized and discriminate against those with disability. And also to address fears, prejudices, misconceptions and myths surrounding disability in a way that brings about both an attitudinal and behavioral change that enhances the well being of the whole community.

The project focused on the General Public, especially Youth, disabled children’s families and addressed cultural taboos around disability, specifically the ignorance and/ or misconceptions and myths surrounding disabilities in our society.

The prevention of disabilities through Awareness by offering both street theatre performance and interactive dialogue sessions to youth and the general public that give accurate knowledge and correct information about disabilities – causes, prevention, rehabilitation, and dispel related myths and misconceptions while at the same time addressing issues such as secrecy, stigma & discrimination of disabled was the main goal of the project. Along with Disability Rights Awareness Hayat-e-Nau also did a random survey to collect data on the number with disabilities in each location visited.

The social mobilizers and core team of Hayat-e-Nau, together with other competent professionals conducted Interactive dialogue sessions and training workshops to train community volunteer youth leaders (peer to peer approach) enabling them to provide regular updates regarding Disability.

**PROJECT THEME: A Rights Based Approach to raising Community Awareness regarding the Child with Disabilities as a member of a family, the wider community and society.**

**‘Overcoming and counteracting stigma’.**

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT:**

1. Build the capacity of our staff and improve the skills of social mobilizer, theatre group members through conducting training workshops.
2. Organize street theatre performances and interactive dialogue sessions to sensitize local communities to the issue of stigma & discrimination in relation to children with disabilities.

## 2. ACTIVITIES/ACHIEVEMENTS

### 2.1 Capacity Building

To build the capacity of our theatre group members with new techniques to make their theatre performance more effective and fruitful Hayat-e-Nau organized a 3 day advance training from 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2008. This was held at Danishkada Hall, premises of Caritas Pakistan Hyderabad.

Mr. Francis Ruffi Sardar, Executive Director of RASTI – Islamabad a well known Street Theatre Trainer was the facilitator. The eighteen members (12 Male & 6 Female) of our theatre group got the training. The training has played a vital role in enhancing the capacity of our theatre group members with the latest techniques and effectively improved their performance. At the end of this training they developed a new drama on Disability Rights Awareness. Having been energised by this training they presented 34 performances in urban and rural communities in district Hyderabad.



Pictorial view of the theatre training workshop's sessions



Different exercises during theatre workshop



1. Sr. Roberta SSC and 2. Sr. Rebecca giving Certificate to the participants of Theatre Training Workshop

## 2.2 Street theatre and Interactive Community Dialogue Sessions

During the reporting period **34** Interactive Community Dialogues Sessions along with theatre performances on the theme Disability related issues and Rights (Street theatre is a very effective and powerful medium/tool to sensitize people on any issue) were conducted in rural villages and urban areas of District Hyderabad to create awareness among youth regarding the prevention of Disability as well as addressing myths, stigma and discrimination. Issues around disability were discussed. To make the sessions valuable and productive, competent resource persons were invited to facilitate the sessions.

Through these sessions and theatre performance **1,933 (direct) and 12,759 (Indirect)** target beneficiaries were given awareness about the said issues. And **88** children/adults with disabilities were identified in our catchment areas of District Hyderabad as a result of random survey and people coming for check-up of their children following our theatre performances during this reporting period.

Total No. of theatre performances and Interactive Community Dialogue Sessions	Participants		Total Participants	Total No. of Volunteers Identified	Total Number of Children/Adults with Disabilities Identified
	Male	Female			
<b>34</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>1,220</b>	<b>1,933</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>88</b>

## Street Theatre Performances in target areas/communities



## Interactive Dialogue Sessions in target areas/communities



## 2.3 Other Activities

### 2.3.1 Interviews and Assessment of Children/Adults with disabilities after Theatre performances & Interactive Dialogue Sessions



Mr. Javed Sadiq (Project Manager) doing check-up of identified children in target areas/communities

### 2.3.2 Celebration of International Day of Persons with Disabilities

On 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2008 we jointly organized with IIRE a program to mark commitment to the cause of promoting the rights and solidarity with Persons with Disabilities, at Press Club, Hyderabad. The Day established by the United Nations and in keeping with the UN theme for 2008 – ***‘Dignity and Justice for All of Us’***.

***Master John Siddique*** (Physically Disabled Child age 11 yrs) our student was the Chief Guest of this event and ***Dr. Ilahi Bux*** (General Secretary – Anti T.B Association Taluka City, Hyderabad and President Stop T.B Partnership Committee, District Hyderabad) was the Guest Speaker. Over 200 participants – 50 of them disabled along with Parents of disabled children, able children and civil society able-bodied people were participated as a symbol of Social Inclusion of the Challenged People in our society.

Indus Institute of Research and Education (IIRE) – sponsored this event. It is a network of Ten (10) NGOs actively involved in community development and work for peace building in Sindh. Hayat-e-Nau is also a member of this network.

Children of Hayat-e-Nau Rehabilitation Centre have performed in comedy skit and tabloos. Children have shown that they have so many abilities and talents.

Hayat-e-Nau Theatre Group has also performed a drama on the *Theme – Dignity and Justice for All of Us*. All present were in tears to see the stigma & discrimination experienced by children with disabilities at family and society level, which was shown in theatre performance.



Children are performing in 1. Dance on song and 2. Skit



Theatre Group is in action

Participants are appreciating children's and Theatre group performances

### 3. CHALLENGES/SOLUTIONS/LESSONS LEARNED

- In some families, children with disabilities are hidden away, ignored and mistreated, while in others they are well integrated into every aspect of family life.
- Often the community was slow to gather at the time arranged. When this happened then one of the team would play the drum through the streets and alleys thus stirring up interest, while other team members were knocking on people's doors inviting them to come and see the drama.
- Occasionally they met a community elder who wanted money to allow the program to happen in his area. When this happened the social mobilizer sought out other members of the community who facilitated the performances without charge.
- The Sindhi community in rural Hyderabad district practice strict segregation of the sexes; to facilitate this we offered separate programs for both male and female participants.

- The value of having a few extra trained theatre members meant they were able to stand in when another member was sick or away attending wedding/funeral/family functions.
- An individual member within the team can cause problems among the whole team. In some cases the underlying problem was identified and rectified while in others the person has been let go.
- It is a constant challenge to keep the members of the Theatre Group motivated and energized so that they present the drama with passion and conviction rather than in a routine way.
- There is a great need to reach out to other people in marginalized communities to create awareness about Disability and Rights.

#### **4. IMPACTS**

- 18 members of Hayat-e-Nau theatre team got training in the newest and latest theatre techniques which made their performances more effective.
- The awareness seminars on Causes of Disability and Rights have not only given awareness, but also gave the people practical ways to prevent themselves from getting Disability.
- 34 theater performances along with interactive dialogue sessions were conducted in areas of District Hyderabad through which **1,933** individuals (direct beneficiaries) were sensitized regarding Causes of Disability and Rights issues and how to respond to them.
- The attitude of the general public towards Disability and Rights became more understanding, sympathetic and positive.
- The general public was sensitized about disability and gender equality although we realize this is only an important first step.
- 88 children/adults with disabilities were identified in different areas of District Hyderabad as a result of random survey and people coming for check-up of their children following our theatre performances.
- Our theatre group has grown in knowledge, practical experience, confidence and maturity.
- Our linkages and relationship with other stakeholders, networks at local and national level have strengthened. In addition to Columban sisters funded performances our theatre group has been invited to put their skills at the service of other NGOs.

#### **5. OUR DREAM FOR THE FUTURE**

Thanks to our disability awareness campaign we have identified 88 children/adults with disabilities within the vicinity of Hyderabad City/district which is our catchment area.

This presents Hayat-e-Nau with many challenges as to how we can reach-out and respond to their needs.

Our current Rehabilitation Centre is limited in its capacity to accept more than 25 children and we already have 22 children. We need to explore ways that we can respond to the needs of the newly identified children in their own homes by providing physiotherapy and basic life skills. Yet, at the same time, our budget constraints limit the number of staff we can employ to meet this need.

We need to secure core funding if we are to expand both the Rehabilitation Centre and our Community Based Rehabilitation services.

If we secure funds to purchase land to establish our own CBR Resource Centre (currently we are working in rented accommodation) then we believe Stichting Liliane Fonds, The Netherlands, our core funding agency, will provide the additional funds to put up the CBR Resource Centre.

The Columban Sisters have been working in partnership with Hayat-e-Nau through voluntary service since 2003 in the area of project development, and strengthening our vision and mission to be of service to our local communities through our Disability Awareness Campaign and other Health & Environment related activities.

We hope that you will continue to support our efforts and help us to make our dream a reality so that we can reach-out to as many special children as possible.

**Prepared by:**

*Javed Sadiq*

**Javed Sadiq**  
Executive Director/  
Project Manager

**Co-signed by:**

*Roberta Ryan*

**Sr. Roberta Ryan SSC**  
Project Applicant