

COUNTRY REPORT

MYANMAR

According to the 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census, there is about 2.3 million with disabilities (4.6%) among over 51 million of total population in Myanmar. Out of 2.3 million with disabilities, it is found that 36.2 % is persons with sensory or intellectual disabilities.

Myanmar Down Syndrome Association (MDSA)

- Myanmar Down syndrome Association got a registration certificate from Ministry of Home Affairs as a recognized local organization in Myanmar on 5th July, 2016.
- The vision is to be a society in which every person with Down syndrome has inherent right to be accepted for their development towards better quality of life.

Education

- The Education Talk was presented about Dental Hygiene and Oral Health with the support of the University of Dental Medicine (Yangon).
- The presentation topic “The Importance of testing the hearing” was presented before the hearing test with the cooperation of Neuro-Oto Audiology Special Interest Group from Otorhinolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery Specialist Hospital.
- The research paper on the title “The study of dental caries status among Down Syndrome people in Yangon Region, Myanmar” has developed by a dental surgeon.
- A Ph.D Thesis Research Paper on “Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms at C677T and A1298C of Methylenetetrahydrofolate Reductase (MTHFR) gene in mothers of children with Down syndrome in Myanmar” was written by an Associate Professor, Anatomy Department, University of Medicine.
- One study on the “Relationship between Maternal MTHFR Polymorphisms and the Prevalence of Congenital Malformation among Down Syndrome individuals especially Congenital Heart Disease” was observed for the Degree of M.Med.Science (Pediatrics) in Myanmar.

Health

- Persons with Down syndrome were conducted dental and oral health screening in group on October 25, 2016.
- Mothers and families of persons with Down syndrome were introduced to a dental clinic situated in the University of Dental Medicine compound in order to give them a chance to take oral care at low cost.
- With the cooperation of Neuro-Oto Audiology Special Interest Group from Otorhinolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery Specialist Hospital, the hearing test was conducted for the people with Down syndrome at hospital at every Sunday of October, 2016.

Social Inclusion

- The persons with Down syndrome give voluntary services like distributing water bottles and snacks in our association events.
- MDSA took part in the Food Fair at the National Kandawgyi Park on December 19, 2015. In coordination with the Excellent Myanmar Private School (EMPS) of normal children,
- MDSA exercised a Quiz competition on knowledge about Down Syndrome and the prizes awarded to the winners during Food Fair.
- Government officials from the Department of Social Welfare, singers, actors, models, celebrities, media persons, and invited guests joined the event.
- Our association is giving awareness to the government school, private school and Down syndrome family concerning with the Down syndrome and also with the cooperation of Future Star Self Advocacy group.
- The people with Down syndrome participate in National Election.
- By cooperating with Skynet Channel, we are recoding Documentary about the people with Down syndrome and family.
- Talk show about “Pressure of down syndrome family and Councelling”.

Self-Advocacy

- Children with Down syndrome are encouraged to represent themselves.

Awareness about Down syndrome

- MDSA working committee organized an event in commemoration of World Down Syndrome Day on March 21, 2015.
- A theme song of persons with Down syndrome “Helping Hand” was broadcasted in the public media
- Parents and the public have improved their knowledge in dental hygiene and oral health education after this awareness raising event.
- Welcoming the World Down Syndrome Day, on 20 March 2016, the MDSA organized a celebration event at the Stage of Sangyaungthar. About 200 persons with intellectual disabilities enjoyed the celebration.
- Our association is giving awareness to the government school, private school and Down syndrome family concerning with the Down syndrome.
- MDSA can also celebrate the Word Down Syndrome Day in 2017, altogether three times until the present time.
- Our association conducted Speech Therapy presentation by cooperating with Parami General Hospital, Ms. Piyali Mitra (Speech & Language Pathologist) for the parents of children with Down syndrome.
- The award of “Clean and happy smile” person selection event conducted to honor good oral hygiene practitioners where total of 11 prizes were granted to the winners during the celebration.