

## COUNTRY REPORT 2018

### MYANMAR

#### Education

Special need teachers' training courses are conducted by University of Wolverhampton in coordination with Myanmar Special Education Association and The Charity with love all things are possible . The training course includes 8 levels of teaching, where the special need teachers from private schools in Myanmar have been trained up to course level 2. The special need teachers from government schools fail to join the level 1 and level 2 courses.

Therefore, Myanmar Special Education Association launched pre level1 training to teachers from the Basic Education department, and Social Welfare Department, Civil Society Organization and parents in 13 different regions of Myanmar on management of children with special needs since 2017.

A sharing workshop on UNCRPD conducted to the members of MDSA on 30 September 2017 for continuous learning.

Schools for children with special needs and our association are providing care giver trainings to the parents and families.

Social Welfare Department in coordination with The Leprosy Mission in Myanmar conducts Early Childhood Care and Development- a 10 months Diploma course in 2018.

Executive members from MDSA and teachers from schools for Special need children had a chance to attend five- week- training

course of social education and leadership in Flinder University, Adelaide, Australia during February and March 2018.

On invitation of MDSA and three other special needs schools, the professor and students from Flinder University visited Yangon in July 2018 and conducted workshop to other members covering the topics of Positive Behavior Support, Sex Education for Children with Special needs, Home base Training with Persons with Down Syndrome, leisure play and Trust building, management of teenagers etc.

Myanmar Special Education Association has created a calendar including intervention program for all kinds of special needs to promote inclusive education.

One EC member from MDSA is regularly participating in the training program on Assessment Evaluation Programming System (AEPS) for infant and children by using Ages and Stages questionnaire (ASQ) as part of Early Childhood Program Intervention (ECI) in Myanmar, organized by Leprosy Mission Myanmar and UNICEF under the leadership of the Department of Social Welfare.

## **Health**

Myanmar Down Syndrome Association has been providing healthcare programs for Persons with Down syndrome.

Down syndrome awareness month in October 2018, MDSA collaborated with Yangon Eye Hospital to conduct eye screening test for persons with intellectual disability. (176) Numbers of persons with Down syndrome were tested, referred to put on eyeglasses and received treatments as required.

## **Raising Awareness**

MDSA, New Hope Association and Ear Hospital in Mandalay organized an education talk on Down syndrome and health; a session on how to conduct a hearing assessment for persons with Down Syndrome for the families in October 2017.

MDSA members visited Bago on 9.6.2018 and Taungyi on 3.11.2018 to conduct health education session on Down syndrome for the family members and shared how to associate a branch association of Down syndrome.

World Down Syndrome Day celebration event conducted in Yangon on 31.3.2018. Program includes buddy walk, Question and Answer session, learning to make a paper bag to be used for the replacement of plastic bag and picking up of trashes at the end of program. MDSA awareness session on Down syndrome to the public has included at every event.

Through the local TV channels and public social media, awareness programme on Down syndrome are broadcast and disseminates often in the form of round table discussions, interviews and performances.

## **Advocacy**

MDSA participates with MFPD in advocating National committee for the persons with disabilities claimed to include Special education curriculum as a compulsory unit in all teacher's training and education.

MDSA advocates Human Rights Commission on the status of persons with disabilities against the provisions of UNCRPD on 4 June 2018.

MDSA achieved to advocate stop putting up a cash donation box in the name of MDSA at the one of famous restaurants on the highway road to Nay Pyi Taw in order to maintain self dignity, value and self respect for persons with Down syndrome. Instead, this restaurant said that they will give 20% discount to every family with Down syndrome who come to eat at this restaurant.

MDSA committed to involve in a “Reality Group” for advocacy to different Government Transportation Departments on problems faced by persons with disabilities in accessing public transportation services. MDSA presents suggestions to local authorities and public transportation representatives belong to Railways, waterways, buses, roadways for installation/building/creating appropriate transportation facilities adaptable for persons with disabilities in Yangon region.

MDSA conducted a workshop on children’s rights to the caregivers and encouraged them to nurture their children to become self advocates.

## **Social Inclusion**

To be inclusive in social environment, we have drawn a 5- year strategic plan for people with Down syndrome that will be implemented in 2019.

Job creation and job opportunities are explored for the persons with Down syndrome. Through corporate partnership with a group called “Doh Ahtu” (Together for better life), the art works of children with Down syndrome will be printed on the gift products like shirts, mugs in order to have them a vocational and recreational social activity.

## Networking

MDSA developed a Partner profile, submitted to LEV for proposal development in August 2017.

MDSA networked with other three ID Associations namely FUTURE Stars, Myanmar Autism Association and Eden Centre for Disabled Children: altogether achieved to develop a project proposal to draw funding support from the Danish NGO namely LEV. The project initiation commenced in 2017 and follow through till mid of 2019. The project title is “The First Seed – ID family network”. Myanmar Down Syndrome Association and its partners are currently collaborating to conduct workshops and trainings for organizational development under this project. It includes Kick-off workshop for “the First Seed – ID family network” (8-9 January 2018), the Financial Management and control (23-24 June 2018), Introduction to Advocacy Training (19 July 2018), Training on staff management & human resource (26-27 August 2018), Training on Internal and External Organizational Communication (31 October 2018). Then there will be a series of ongoing capacity building sharing workshops for the members of each partner associations under this project. (Example: Sharing of Introduction to Advocacy, Financial Management and control on 5 August 2018 at MDSA )

MDSA takes every opportunity to attend workshops, trainings and meetings after networking with Myanmar Federation of Persons with Disabilities for sharing, exchanging and updating the issues of people with disabilities. Training on “How to draw a strategic plan for an organization” was conducted for MDSA on 17.3.2018.

MDSA has a network with Myanmar Disabled Sport Federation to take part in the sport events (Special Olympic Myanmar) open for the

persons with disabilities. Some persons with Down syndrome from MDSA received medals in the event.

## **Regional networking**

MDSA EC members attended the Asia Pacific Regional Down Syndrome Federation in September 2017 in New Dehli for continuous information sharing, communication and regional linking.

On 20<sup>th</sup> February 2018, MDSA contributes information in response to the questionnaire related to the presentation for Asia Pacific Region Down Syndrome Federation at the UN on the occasion of the World Down Syndrome Day.

## **Issues:**

Myanmar Disability Rights law 2015 mentioned “Every person with disabilities can attend any mainstream government schools in their accessible area”.

Currently, the children with special needs can not readily attend the mainstream government schools because there is no readiness of the government school teachers who have been trained appropriately to nurture them in the classes.

There are limited number of Government special need schools and private schools for persons with disabilities in Myanmar.

At the present situation, persons with Down syndrome are being invited just to entertain audience at some events for their performances as a tokenism with appreciation.

Vocational training and job creation are still limited for persons with Down syndrome in Myanmar.

There is a plan to develop national registry for persons with Down syndrome but still in the primitive stage and no special clinic for persons with Down syndrome.