

**Winner – APDSF Excellence Award for the Cause of Down syndrome  
Dr. Pornswan Wasant**



“Prof. Emeritus Pornswan Wasant, M.D., Senior Pediatrician and Advisor, Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University founded the Down Syndrome Parents’ Support Group - Siriraj Hospital”

Dr. Wasant is a highly recognized figure in the field of support and advocacy for people with Down syndrome across disciplines, i.e., medical, educational and social in the last three decades.

As chairperson of the support group she does not shy from travelling extensively to hold workshops for a better understanding about and the rights of people with Down syndrome all over the country. She is the central figure among health professionals and teaching facilitators having launched the integrative approach in schools. She has opposed policy measures that were and are counterproductive and, even possibly, detrimental to the overall social standing of people with Down syndrome. She is constantly giving advice to people/officials/volunteers working for the betterment of people with Down syndrome. Her involvement in activities for people with Down syndrome at all levels, whether at the grassroots, advocacy groups, or the state policy formulation. All these are on top of being teacher and health care givers to children with Down syndrome and her role as a pediatrician at the biggest hospital in Thailand, and highly esteemed professor at the medical school. In Short, she is one of a very few prominent people who has dedicated their professional and social lives for people with Down syndrome.

**Winner – APDSF Excellence Award for Self Advocacy**  
**Mr. Ashish Joshi**



Ashish is the second son of parents who are medical practitioners. He is 25yrs old and is fully independent .He went to a regular school from kindergarten to grade 10, attempted SLC exam clearing 2 subjects . Then since last 4yrs he has been attending keyboard and dance classes. He has done 3months basic computer course too and uses laptop, tablet and PC.

He is a role model at Down Syndrome Association of Nepal, Early Intervention center teaching small children, motivating parents to bring their children and give required support and training for early milestone development and learning. He was involved in the making of a DS awareness video for general population, supported by U S Embassy, Nepal. He has been speaking for rights to education and health for people with DS at various gatherings. He is an active participant at the activities of Rotary club of Mount Everest, Lalitpur. For the first time in 2014 attended the APDSE meeting in Bali and gave closing remarks charging the committee to continue their work for betterment of people with DS.

Many parents who were ashamed of having such children with special needs or found it difficult to take care of a child with special needs, approach us to make their children like Nominee, who was a loving and caring young person who identified his talents and pursued it. Not only did he provide hope for children with special needs and their parents, he also brought in a key aspect to everyday life of so called normal people.

Due to the total dedication of all the teachers who work with him, Ashish now performs and acts almost as a normal child and responds to every song with meaningful expressions.

We encourage him to appear in SEE and he performed well. Parents and relatives also encouraged him in school education and appeared in SEE. The school is also supportive.

We noticed his interest to dance to songs. He had such beautiful rhythm in him which led us to enroll him in dance classes to pursue his talents and keep him engaged in a meaningful activity. He participates and performs well in all the programs organized by school.

Management: Ashish can manage money, time and travel by public transport . He manages his books and copies, dress and sitting place. HE manages his relation with family, relatives and friends very well. He responds well with them happily.

Competency: He can read, write English / Nepali and has good orientation of places. He can communicate well with others.

Social Skills: He likes to attend parties and loves parties, loves dance "His Passion". He does not likes to talk with the peoples with DS as he feels himself normal. He selects friends and shares his emotion as normal peoples do. He respects teachers and knows the importance of education. He works with full dedication. He always speaks truth.

Future plans : He wants to do business in future and says " I AM NORMAL AND CAN DO ANYTHING WHICH OTHERS CAN DO ".