

Inclusive Education in Pakistan: A Resource Guide for Teachers and Occupational Therapists

Why this Resource Guide?

- The majority of Pakistani children with disabilities and other special needs do not attend school
- Mainstream schools are either unwilling to admit children with identified special needs, or feel unable to cater for their needs.
- Provincial Law (2013) in Sindh guarantees Free and Compulsory Education for ALL Children, including those with special needs.
- International Guidelines propose that Inclusive Education is the most effective approach to ensuring high quality education for all children.

Why Occupational Therapy?

- Occupational Therapy promotes people's Health and Wellbeing through meaningful Occupation
- Going to school is a key occupation for children.
- The World Federation of Occupational Therapists (2016) promotes School Based Occupational Therapy to support the inclusion of children with special needs.

What is Inclusive Education?

In Inclusive Schools, children of all abilities learn and play together, participating in the same educational and social activities. This ensures high quality education for all children. It also reduces discriminatory attitudes, creates welcoming communities and builds an inclusive society (UNESCO, 1993).



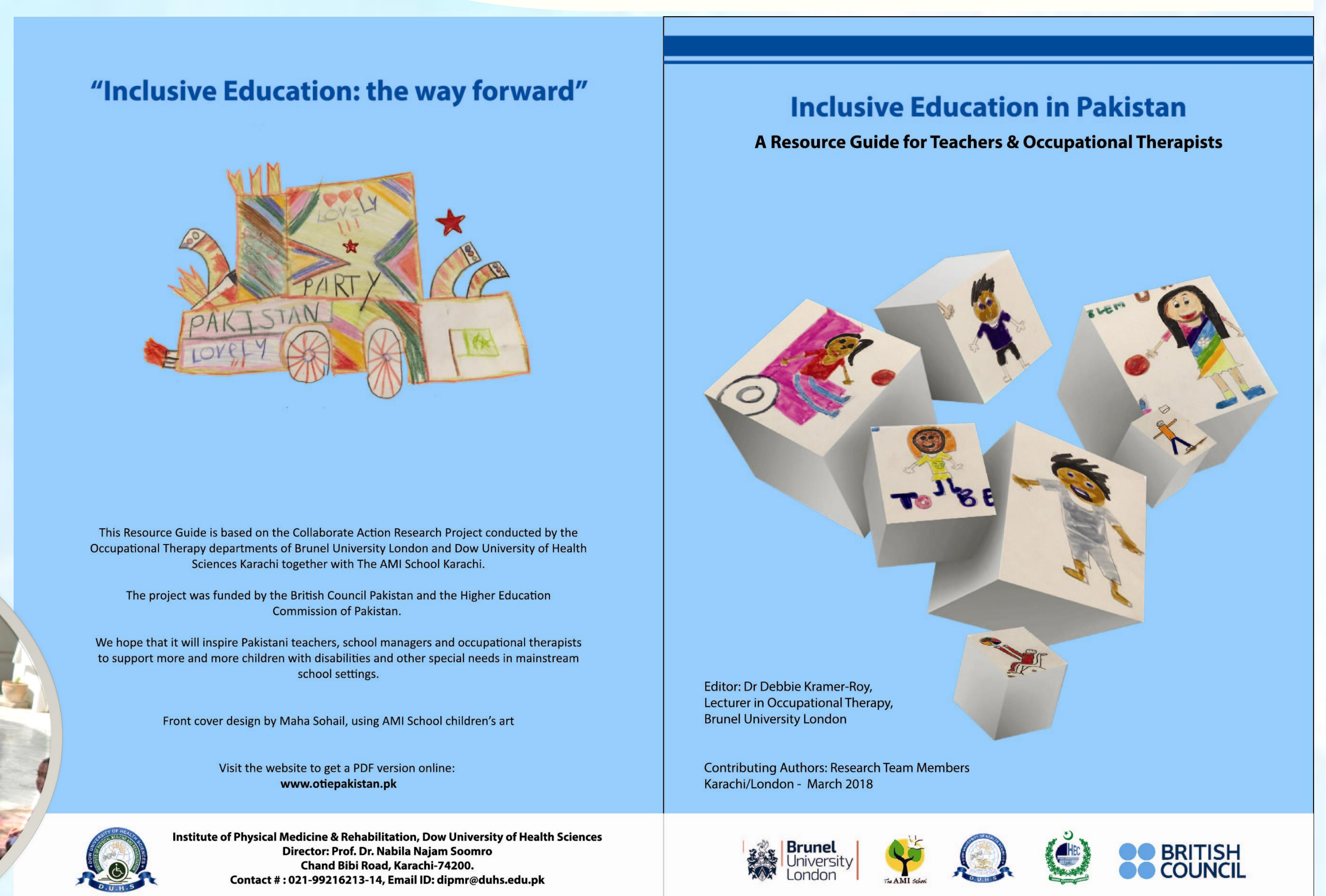
The Project:

The project was funded by the British Council and the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, through the Knowledge Economy Partnership. It allowed the Occupational Therapy Departments of Dow University of Health Sciences Karachi and Brunel University London to collaborate with a non-university partner, the AMI School Karachi, which is an inclusive mainstream school.

Together we shared knowledge and conducted

Collaborative Action Research in which the occupational therapists and teachers worked together in the AMI School and four other local schools, to develop strategies, materials and approaches to create an inclusive learning environment.

The Resource Guide shows both how and what strategies, materials and activities were developed during the project. It is available on www.otiepakistan.pk



References:

- UNESCO (1994). The Salamanca Statement and Framework for Action on Special Needs Education. Available: www.unesco.org/education/pdf/SALAMA_E.PDF
- Sindh Provincial Government (2013). Bill on the Right to Free and Compulsory Education. <http://www.pas.gov.pk/index.php/acts/details/en/19/192>
- World Federation of Occupational Therapists (2016). *Position Statement on Occupational Therapy Services in School-Based Practice for Children and Youth*. Available: <http://www.wfot.org/ResourceCentre.aspx>

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