

1. What is the title of the project?

Developing the Role of Occupational Therapy in Inclusive Education in Pakistan

2. What is Occupational Therapy?

Occupational therapy is a health profession that focuses on meaningful activities that OCCUPY a person's day. For example, waking up, preparing breakfast, driving to work or study, working with colleagues and engaging in social activities. If a person was unable to complete these various occupations independently (whether due to an illness, disease, stressful event, etc.), they need the care of an occupational therapist who would treat them so that they may participate more fully in their everyday activities and in life.

3. What is Inclusive Education?

Inclusive Education means to include and educate all children from the community. To be served by a mainstream school together, regardless of their learning and/or physical abilities.



4. What are the objectives of the project?

This project brings together teachers and occupational therapists so that their skills and knowledge can be brought together to deliver inclusive education in mainstream schools. The research is taking place in several local schools at the moment. This is done by strengthening the knowledge, skills and attitudes of school staff and others involved in the children's education, to develop the curriculum, teaching

strategies and school culture in a way that enables all children to achieve their full potential.

5. Who is doing this project? Who are the key partners?

This is a collaborative project between British and Pakistani Occupational Therapists and Teachers from three partner organisations:

- Brunel University London (UK)
- Dow University of Health Sciences (DUHS) Karachi and
- The AMI School, Karachi

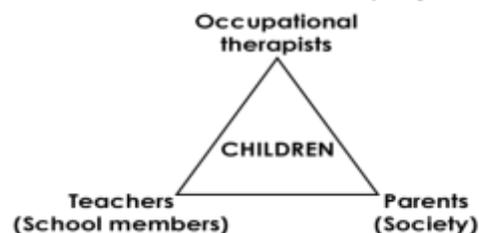
6. Who is funding the project?

The project is funded by the British Council Pakistan and the Higher Education Commission Pakistan.

7. How is the research being carried out?

Occupational therapists and teachers are working together in schools to develop teaching materials, activities and strategies that will support the inclusion of children with special needs as effectively as possible. This will be for the benefit of ALL children in the school as inclusive education is an approach to improving the educational experience and outcomes for all students through the use of sound teaching principles and approaches.

Who is involved in the project?



8. What are the activities?

As this is a school-wide project all children participate in activities and lessons developed as part of the project. The teacher will work with an occupational therapist in one or more of the following ways during the normal school day:

- supporting individual children with special needs, through developing teaching materials and strategies
- classroom activities that help all children in the class to learn together in ways that engages all to their fullest potential, and that encourage collaboration
- awareness raising activities developed by the children themselves about issues related to special needs and inclusion (classroom based and/or school-wide activities)

9. How long is the project for?

The project started in 2015 and is a three year long project. However, since it is going to train teachers and occupational therapists, hence the benefits are ongoing.

10. I am a teacher – how can the project help me?

This project helps teachers to develop effective lessons plans and teaching strategies which they can use in their classrooms to ensure inclusive education. For example, developing a plan for a child who has difficulty in handwriting is going to benefit the whole classroom.

11. I am a parent – how can the project help me?

The project aims to benefit all children in a classroom, regardless of their physical or mental abilities. As a parent, you shall see a tailored lesson plan developed for your child which will boost their learning and will help them perform better, both academically and socially. The project will also help develop the social skills of your child/ren.

12. I am a school – how can the project help me?

As a school, you can become more inclusive by using the Resource Guide that will be developed towards the end of the project. It will contain simple, easy and effective strategies for your classrooms to make them more inclusive. The resource guide will be made available widely in print and PDF format and have the potential to inspire and guide further schools as they seek to become more inclusive. Workshops to introduce the guide books will also be offered.

In addition to becoming inclusive, the school also benefits from the improvement in learning environments, teaching practices and collaboration with the required professionals for supporting the special educational needs. The case studies demonstrate this more clearly.

13. Where can I find further information?

If you'd like to find out further information about the project, feel free to contact the project leader, Dr Debbie Kramer Roy

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Facebook page: Soon to come.