



Deaf education in Palestine



disability statistics in Palestine

- The percentage of disability in Palestine ranges between 2.7% and 7% of the total population
- This means that of the estimated 4.2 million people in Palestine, between 114, 000 and 300,000 lived with some kind of disability.
- 37.6 of the PWDs never go to school
- 33.8 of the PWDs went to school and then withdrew
- 53% of the PWDs are illiterate
- 83% of the PWDs are unemployed



Hearing disability statistics

- The percentage of hearing disability is 14.2 % amongst other disabilities, which means that the estimated number of persons with hearing loss(mild to profound)is between 17,000 and 42,000(PCBS)
- In the scholastic year 2015/2016, the No. of children with hearing loss in the public schools is741 mild HL and 77 moderate to profound HL(MOE files)
- The No. of deaf children attending the special education school for deaf is about 1800 students at the age 3-18 years
- Which means that the total number of deaf and hard of hearing who have access to education is 2618



Deaf education in Palestine

Public education

- The deaf children have the right to education based on equal opportunities(law no.4,1999)
- The MOE adopted the policy of inclusive education
- However, the no. of deaf children attending the mainstream schools are limited 77 children in the scholastic year 2015/2016(MOE)



Deaf education in Palestine

Challenges for full inclusion

- limited financial resources of the MOE(no. of teachers, no. of children within the same class,teachers assistants, sign language teachers, equipments and tools, audiovisual aids, FM system)
- lack of awareness amongst (teachers, headmasters, families,students)
- teachers qualifications
- Difficulties in the curriculum
- Some deaf children and their families are reluctant to try the mainstream schools



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Special education for the deaf

- Started before the 80s by charitable societies-work of charity
- At the beginning of the 90s, it developed towards the right based approach
- The special education developed in terms of opening new schools, adopting new programs, exchange of experience, teachers' trainings,
- Nowadays there are 17 schools for deaf in Palestine all of them using all communication options except one school which uses only the oral communication



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Challenges for the Schools for deaf

- Limited financial resources
- Lack of human resources specially ST
- The absence of specialized staff in deaf education, so teachers get on job training
- High transportation cost for the children –the schools are located in the cities
- Limitation of movement in regards to the political situation (checkpoints, separation wall, affects negatively the regular access of the deaf students to their schools(ex. Many of the children were not able to reach their schools 2001-2002)



Deaf education in PRCS

Overall goal

Contribute to the inclusion of deaf persons in their local communities through providing them with appropriate educational opportunities , raising their families and communities awareness towards their rights and needs



Deaf education in PRCS

Specific objectives

- Improve the communication skills, educational and academic level of the deaf children at the age of 3-18 years old
- enhance the early detection and intervention
- Develop the creative skills for the deaf students
- Increase family and community awareness
- Develop the sign language and disseminate it in the Palestinian community
- Facilitate the inclusion of deaf in higher education (university education)



Main activities

Schools for deaf

- PRCS run 4 schools for deaf(Ramallah,Nablus, Bani Naim,khanyounis(300 deaf students)
- The schools provide education and other supported services to the children at the age of school and preschool(3-18 years)
- Implement the MOE curriculum
- Adopt the total communication program
- Work closely with the families as partners in the program
- Coordinates with the MOE, schools and other organizations in the field of deaf education



Main activities

Speech and hearing units

- Provide speech and auditory training
- Provide hearing tests and hearing aids
- Organize screening days in villages and rural areas
- 2 units provide early intervention (1 month to 3 years)
- Provide family counseling
- Coordinate with the clinics, delivery hospitals and mother and child centers
- Train rehabilitation and CBR workers to be able to observe and detect the children with hearing problems



Main activities

Creative and extra curricular activities

- Folklore dancing groups
- Animation
- drawing
- face drawing and ballons shaping
- Sports(football teams, tenns, volley ball)
- Embroidery
- Deaf club for the graduates of the schools



Main activities

Family program

- Provide Family training in sign language and other subjects
- Family participation in the school's activities
- regular meetings between families and staff
- Family members attend some classes and sessions with their children



Main activities

Sign language program

- Organize sign language trainings for members of the local community(volunteers, university students, police men,....)
- Provide sign language interpreting in conferences, meetings and workshops
- Provide sign language interpreting for deaf children at 2 universities
- Publish sign language dictionaries



Main activities

Awareness program

To contribute to the positive change in the attitudes towards the deaf , the deaf schools :

- organize awareness and integration activities in the mainstream schools for deaf children and their hearing peers
- Organize activities in the local community
- Organize visits to the local institutions



Successes and achievements

- A group of deaf graduates from secondary education every year since 2008
- 90% of the graduates attend universities and colleges and followed by PRCS staff
- In 2001, PRCS published the first educational sign language dictionary and later 3 other dictionaries
- Hundreds of participants attended the sign language trainings
- TCC school is considered as a resource center in deaf education
- PRCS is the first provider for sign language interpreting



success and achievements

- PRCS is the main provider for hearing aids 300-500 beneficiaries yearly
- PRCS has a big network with national and international organizations working in the field of deaf education or related fields like: MOE, MOSA, British council, Signo foundation, Heart to Heart, teachers creative center, DPOs,
- The deaf adults enrolled in the Deaf Graduates Club are well known by other organizations and are invited to do folklore dances, train other children in animation and other creative activities and they are very confident .



challenges

- PRCS face the same challenges mentioned before BUT as a member of the International movement of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent has partnerships that support its services