

Press Release

Experts highlight government and private sector initiatives in UAE

Knowledge Centre draws huge participation at AccessAbilities Expo

November 9, 2017, Dubai (UAE): Experts in the field of disabilities highlighted initiatives being taken in the government and private organisations across the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which are enhancing lives of people of determination, during the Knowledge Centre, organised by AccessAbilities Expo, which concluded today.

The expo witnessed successful hosting of its knowledge-sharing platforms – Knowledge Centre and Inclusion in the Workplace conference, which drew participation from students and professionals in large numbers.

Highlighting the initiatives by the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs (GDRFA) in Dubai, Manar Al Hammadi, HR Specialist, said the GDRFA is a disability friendly organisation which is offering innovative services to make people of determination happy.

“There are numerous facilities like easy access, designated parking lots, Braille staircase, wheelchair ramps and others which make it a disabled friendly environment,” said Manar, who hosts ‘Manar Forum’ for people with visual impairment.

“Recently, the Directorate also held an emergency preparedness and evacuation workshop for people of determination and was attended by staff,” she said.

Dr Ayesha Saeed Husaini, Founder and Director of Manzil, said over 35 people with disabilities across the UAE have been placed in different job sectors during 2016-17 through Manzil’s PRIDE (People Receiving Independence & Dignity through Empowerment) employment programme.

She emphasised on the inclusion of people of determination into job market and said that people having disabilities represent a talented untapped labor market as they improve the corporate culture and give the benefits of lower attrition rates.

She said that it is time to shed the myths and adopt and spread awareness about people with disabilities that they are self-sufficient, can work and be financially independent, and most importantly are valued employees.

Disability experts and supporters of people of determination also shared their views on highly relevant issues and challenges in the lives of people of determination.

Annie Abi Hanna, Executive Director of Al Hussein Society, Jordan, while talking about “Innovative Approach in Integrating Children's with disabilities into the Mainstream Schools including Accessibility” stressed on the inclusion of people of determination in the society through the holistic approach.

She said Al Hussein Society is committed to creating an inclusive society by raising community awareness in cooperation with public and civil societies as well as promoting laws and safeguarding the rights of persons with disabilities, while offering internationally accredited comprehensive rehabilitation programs and training.

An expert from Integreat Centre for Special Needs while speaking on ‘Transition to Adulthood’ said parents must pay attention on their young adult’s transition from adolescence to adulthood to lead a successful future. “Parents are more worried for their children with special needs future especially concerning happiness, independence and productivity. It can be addressed through a holistic approach by parents and siblings, community, teachers and consellers. Financial education is an important part of transition and gaining responsibility parents can begin by giving their child weekly or monthly pocket money to spend and keep track of.”

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