

Autism Society of Pakistan (ASP)

Autism Society of Pakistan (ASP) was the bright idea of Late Mr. Nadeem Anwar. It is registered as a “not for profit” organization that is working since Aug 2010. The first Autism Resource Centre (ARC) started functioning under the umbrella of ASP at Rawalpindi. Mrs. Bushra Suhaib and Mrs. Ghazal Nadeem, two brave mothers having children with autism, along with Mrs. Farida Kingravi and Mr. Qaisar Nadeem, joined forces and succeeded in establishing a small set up at 552 Aibak Road Westridge Rawalpindi. ARC formally started working from 1st Sep 2010. It was an uphill task especially with bare minimum resources.

The ASP is run by a Board of Governors comprising eminent professionals and affected parents. ASP practices highest standards of governance and its accounts since inception have been audited by renowned auditors. For transparency all related information including audited accounts is placed at ASP website www.autismpak.com. The fee subsidies and other development work at ASP is provided through donations from philanthropists. Nearly 75% of the donations come from individuals while the remaining 25% are provided by the corporate sector.

The objective of ARC Rawalpindi is to provide under one roof complete solution for diagnosis and therapy of autism spectrum disorders. Since the treatment is demanding as well as expensive, ARC aims to provide maximum facilities at minimal cost especially for those who are unable to afford it. Finding trained therapists and fund raising have been our biggest challenge.

The past several years of ASP and ARC are a relentless story of team work by a core group of dedicated, hardworking and fully committed individuals. The exceptional talent, hard work and innovative ideas of Mrs. Ghazal Nadeem developed ARC as a centre of excellence of international standard. At present ARC Rawalpindi provides treatment facilities to over 100 children and a fairly large number of children are on the waiting list. A core group of over forty qualified therapists including special educationists, ABA therapists, speech therapists, clinical psychologists, occupational therapists, and physiotherapists have been trained at ARC to look after the teaching activities at the centre. Each child is also provided a teacher aid. ARC provides wide range of services including initial assessment, intervention comprising behavior modification therapy and applied behavior analysis, speech therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy etc. The affected parents are also provided counseling facilities. Majority of the children at ARC Rawalpindi get a fee subsidy.

ARC Rawalpindi was started on 1st Sep 2010. With the increasing number of children and the experience gained the importance of early intervention was realized. Consequently ARC Rawalpindi was divided into three separate branches including an early intervention centre for

the very young children, a remedial school for the slow learners and a rehabilitation centre for the older children. Each of the three centres was named after the first children enrolled at ARC and its founding President.

The early intervention centre was named as **Ali Rafay Early Intervention Centre (AREIC)** on 16 Oct 2016. It is the largest branch of ARC. It is for the very young children who are given an intensive “one to one” therapy. So far more than 80 children from AREIC have made it to the mainstream schools. AREIC provides the following facilities:

- Diagnosis and evaluation
- Development of Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
- Sensory therapy
- Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) sessions
- Speech therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Physiotherapy
- Counseling and training sessions for the parents
- Swimming and sports activities
- Training of staff

Amin Remedial School (ARS), established on 1 Jan 2015, is the second branch of ARC Rawalpindi. In the past few years several children from AREIC, who could not make to the mainstream schools, have progressed to ARS where they are taught a curriculum specially developed for them. The main activities of ARS include:

- Academic evaluation/planning
- Curriculum modifications
- Pre-vocational skills
- Sensory modalities
- Music therapy
- Gym
- Speech therapy

Nadeem Rehab Centre (NRC), established on 1 October 2016, is for the older children who have gone past the age of intensive therapy. At NRC these children are mostly taught about the activities of daily living.

How can you help?

Majority of the children admitted at ARC belong to the families who are eligible to receive Zakat. We are providing fee subsidy to almost 75% of the children admitted at ARC. You may help us

through donations, Sadaqat or Zakat. You may also join us through our “sponsor a child” scheme. The current estimated “no profit” monthly cost per child is Rs. 32,000. ASP is declared tax exempt, non-profit organization by the federal board of revenue.

For Donations:

You may send your donations through online transfer or cheque in favor of:

Autism Society of Pakistan
Bank Alfalah Ltd.
F-10 Markaz Branch Islamabad (Pakistan)
A/C No. 0131-1003204395
IBAN: PK13ALFH0131001003204395

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