

# Defence Against AIDS

The United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS, and the world Health Organisation, WHO, have stated that both Indonesia and Pakistan are on the brink of a major epidemic of the deadly disease, AIDS.

According to the UNAIDS/WHO AIDS Epidemic Update: December 2005' report, both these Muslim nations must speed up "their responses If they are to avoid serious HIV epidemics."

The report says that due to the extent of high-risk practices, increasingly serious HIV epidemics are highly likely in Pakistan. "Focused preventive programmes are urgently needed to limit HIV transmissions within and beyond the intersecting networks of high-risk behaviors," the report states.

According to the report "A major epidemic has already been detected among the intravenous drug users in Karachi."

"One in five sex workers cannot recognise a condom and three quarters did not know that condom prevented AIDS," the report notes.

In Pakistan, prudery is a big problem. Nothing pertaining to sexual matters can be mentioned. Add to that is the stance that being Muslims, we do not have sexual relations outside marriage.

There are two routes where by AIDS is transmitted. The first one through unprotected sexual contact with an HIV/AIDS carrier. The second mode of transmission is the use of syringes that have not been sterilized.

This last mode is the one that I shall take up first because it is far too prevalent. Our medical practitioners have so conditioned the people that they believe that a teeka (injection) is the be all and end all. It is a magical cure and without it, the doctor is a nincompoop.

The moment a patient enters a clinic the doctor cries out, "Teeka lagao." The attendant leaps forward and

jabbs the incoming patient. You may think that I am exaggerating. It has however happened to me. I went to see a physician a former colonel of the Army Medical Corp. Before I could tell him what was wrong he had ordered this assault on me I of course refused to subject myself to this and walked out. A typical example is our cleaning woman. She is a hypochondriac and almost daily goes off to a doctor demanding to be administered the supposedly miraculous Teeka. The result is that she is suffering from acute symptoms of Hepatitis C. it is this indiscriminate use of unsterilized syringes from one person to another that AIDS is transmitted. I want to add that I can not remember the last injection I had but should I require one I take a new syringe with me.

The primary route for HIV transmission is unprotected sexual activity. The last time I wrote on this subject and talked about the use of a 'condom' the word was deleted. And yet people have to be educated. To pretend that we all are such devout Muslims with none amongst us who bypass the holy injunctions and have a sexual activity outside wedlock is to make sure that the epidemic spreads more and more.

All that is required is that in the event of an emergent need of a sexual encounter a condom must be used. The infection is thus prevented from being transmitted.

It is true as the UN report says that quite a few persons do not know what a condom is and what it looks like a instead of deleting the word "condom," it is best to publicise it in order to avoid the impending epidemic.

When the Japanese conquered Singapore and those of us fighting then surrendered, we were lodged in a camp near a forest. The next day some sepoy's were seen strolling out of the woods and each of them had a condom in hand blown up as a balloon. Apparently they had found a packet of condoms in the woods and near knowing what it was, they were playing with it like children.

It is most essential that a teaching programme be started by all means of communication in order to avoid the disaster. And in doing so, everything must be explained, accepting that we are Muslims and yet human and so there are moments when we can succumb must be used. It saves lives.

The writer is a former broadcaster and foreign correspondent.

# Pakistan Sign Language Recognition Using Statistical Template Matching

Aleem khalid Alvi, M.Yousuf Bin Azhar, Mehmood Usman,  
Suleman Mumtaz, Sameer Rafiq, Razi Ur Rehman, Israr Ahmed

**Abstract**----- Sign recognition has been the topic of research since the first data glove was developed. Many researches have attempted to recognize sign language through various techniques. However none of them have ventured into the area of Pakistan Sign Language (PSL). The Boltay Haath (Boltay Haath is an urdu phrase meaning ‘talking hands’) projects aim at recognizing PSL gestures using statistical Template Matching. The primary input device is the DataGlove5 developed by 5DT. Alternative approaches use camera-based recognition, which being sensitive to environmental changes are not always a good choice. This paper explains the use of Statistical Template Matching for gesture recognition in Boltay Haath. The system recognizes one handed alphabet signs from PSL.

**Keywords**--- Gestures Recognition, Pakistan Sign Language, data glove, human computer interaction, template matching Boltay Haath

## I. INTRODUCTION

This system is a computerized sign language recognition system for the vocally disabled who use sign language for communication. The basic concepts involves the use of 5DT DataGlove5 [18] connected to a computer while a disabled person (wearing the gloves) makes the signs. The computer analyzes these gestures and synthesizes the sound for the corresponding word or letter for normal people to understand.

Boltay haath is an urdu phrase meaning ‘Talking Hands’. This project is an attempt to recognize Pakistan Sign Language (PSL) gestures, which has not been done in any other system. Furthermore the boltay haath projects aims to produce sound matching the accent and pronunciation of the people of the region in which PSL is used. This paper explains the use of statistical template matching for recognizing gestures in Boltay Haath.

Since only single-handed gestures have been considered in this project it is obviously necessary to

select a subset of PSL to be considered for implementation of Boltay Haath as it would take cast amounts of time to sample most or all of e signs in PSL [4].

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Aleem Khalid Alvi is an Assistant Professor in the sir syed university of engineering & technology, Karachi, Pakistan (phone: 92-021-4982106; fax: 92-021-4982393;email: akalvi@ssuet.edu.pk).

M.Yousuf Bin Azhar, Mehmood Usman, Suleman Mumtaz, Sameer Rafiq, Razi Ur Rehman, Israr Ahmed are undergraduate students at the Sir Syed University of Engineering & Technology. Karachi. Pakistan.

Data gloves were conceived to allow a more natural interface to computers. Extension of their usage to recognizing sign language is possible [15]. However, progress in the recognition of sign language, as a whole has been limited [15].

The benefits of sign language understanding systems are often debated. A functioning system would provide an opportunity for the deaf to communicate with non-signing people without the need for an interpreter [16].

Section II of this paper lists the components of the system and their description. Section III details the model used in the system for template matching and section IV explains the training process. Section V describes the basic principles of the Gesture Recognition Engine. Section VI contains the method used for deciding between ambiguous gestures. Section VII provides information about the implementation of the system whereas section VIII analyzes the performance of the final system.

## II. COMPONENTS OF THE SYSTEM

The basic components of the Boltay Haath system are given below:

- A. Modules for Gesture Input – Capture state of hand (position of finger, orientation of hand) from glove and convey to the main software.
- B. Gesture Preparing Module – Convert raw input into a processable format for use in pattern matching. Scaled integer values ranging from 0 to 255 are obtained for each of the 7 sensors in the glove [13].
- C. Gesture Recognition Engine – Examine the input gestures and match with a known in the gesture database.
- D. Gesture Database – The necessary information required for pattern matching as well as a gesture – to – text dictionary is stored in the Gesture Database.
- E. Speech Synthesis Module – Convert words / letters obtained after gesture analysis into corresponding sound.

The following diagram best describes the top-level components and benefits of Boltay Haath.

### III. THE MODEL

The statistical model used in Boltay Haath is the simplest approach to recognize postures (static gestures) [2][6]. The model is used is known as “Template Matching” or “prototype Matching” [1]. The idea is to demarcate different gestures by calculating the mean ( ) and standard deviations ( ) of all the sensors for a gesture and then those input samples that are within limits bounded by an integral multiple of standard deviation are recognized to be correct. Gesture boundary [8] for each sensor is defined as,

Here  $x$  is the  $i$ th sample,  $k$  is the integral multiple of  $n$  id the number of samples,  $\bar{x}_i$  is the mean of the  $i$ th sensor of the  $m$ th gesture and  $\sigma_i$  is the standard deviation of the  $i$ th sensor of the  $m$ th gesture.

### IV. TRAINING

The system was trained by using data obtained from six different singer’s [16][17]. Initially, training data was collected for the non-moving alphabet as in [11] of English as well as Urdu since PSL contains both types of sign [4]. This was done due to the limitations of the input device i.e. the data glove about the location of the glove in space. Hence a training set of more than 2500 samples was collected.

A training sample consists of five values ranging from 0 to 255 each representing the state of the sensor on all five fingers of the glove. The sensors for roll and pitch have been ignored since their values do not uniquely identify an alphabet sign [10].

### V. RESTURE RECOGNITION ENGINE

After training, test samples were provided to the gesture recognition engine. Which analyzed them using the statistical model described previously [14]. The upper and lower limits for the value of a sensor for a particular gesture we define using the standard deviation for that sensor previously calculated. For enhancing the accuracy of gesture recognition, various integral multiples of are used, denoted by  $k$  in (1). The limits for any given gesture are defined as:

Given the above-mentioned criteria, any given input can be classified as a particular gesture if all the sensor values of test sample lie within these limits. These values are retrieved from the gesture database.

The values of  $k$  used for gesture recognition in Boltay (1). Haath range from 1 to 3 providing tolerance ranging from 2 to 6. The performance achieved by varying the values of  $k$  is discussed later in this paper.

Sometimes due to ambiguity between two gestures the system may produce multiple outputs [12]. To cater to this problem the method of Least Mean Squares (LMS) is used.

### VI. LMS FOR REMOVING AMBIGUITY

There are cases where more than one gestures are candidates for output. To overcome this type of situation the system calculates for output. To overcome this type of situation the system calculates Least Mean Squares (LMS) [3] of all the candidate gestures and then selects the one with minimum LMS value. The use of LMS is justified by the results. Analyzing the performance of the system it has been observed that the use of LMS provides 60 % accurate results.

LMS value is calculated as,

LMS =

Here  $x$  denotes the sensor value of the  $i$ th sensor from test sample denote mean value for the  $i$ th sensor. LMS for each candidate gesture is calculated and the gesture with lowest LMS value is selected as the output.

## VII. IMPLEMENTATION

Boltay Haath system has been developed in C# using Visual Studio .Net 2002. The gesture database was maintained on a MS Access database file. All the processing in the data was done using SQL queries [3]. The results were verified in real time. Windows being the platform for the project all the user interface and input components were standard windows objects [9]. Microsoft speech SDK 5.1 was used for speech output, however the phonemes had to be modified in order to reduce sound and matching the accent and pronunciation of the people of the region.

The complete working of the project involves the use of a DataGlove5 connected to a computer and software modules for preprocessing [13]. It performs analysis of gestures, extraction of words / letters from database and generation of the corresponding sounds [15].

## VIII. PERFORMANCE

The performance of Boltay Haath was evaluated by providing various test cases for both English and Urdu gestures [17]. Using various values of  $k$  in (1)

the gesture recognition accuracy if the system was determined. Gesture recognition accuracy is referred to as 'accuracy' in the following sections. The system was also evaluated with and without the use of LMS to handle ambiguities among similar gestures. The results obtained are presented in Tables I and II. Tolerance values range from 2 to 6 depending on the value of  $k$ .

PSL contains some signs, which are either, too similar to either signs making them difficult to distinguish to contain features that cannot be read by the dataglove without additional sensors. By labeling these signs as 'ambiguous' and excluding them from the results it has been observed accuracy. So if appropriate sensors are added to the system, performance will increase considerably.

In table I, it can be observed that the best overall performance achieved is 71.3 % when 6 is used. However, when ambiguous gestures are ignored, the accuracy increases to 78.2 %. In both cases, the results turn out to be poor if LMS is not used.

In Table II, it can be observed that the best overall performance achieved is 69.1 % when 6 is used. However, when ambiguous gestures are ignored, the accuracy increases to 85 %. In both cases, the results turn out to be poor if LMS is not used. *Chart I* shows the trend accuracy when  $k$  of (1) is increased. The accuracy if the system increases drastically when the limit is changed from 2 to 4. After that the performance improves but not very rapidly and stabilizes somewhat at 6.

*Chart II* shows the test results for Urdu signs. The test cases did not include dynamic or moving gestures.

*Chart III* shows the number of correctly recognized gestures against all test cases of the particular English alphabet. As can be observed in Figure II the letters 'I' and 'R' give poor accuracies. This is because the letter 'R' and 'H' are very similar as can be seen in the hand-shapes in Figure II. Since the Boltay Haath system does not understand the abduction [7] between fingers, it is very difficult to distinguish such gestures.

## IX. CONCLUSION

Deaf and dumb people rely on sign language interpreters for communication. However, they cannot depend on interpreters in every day life mainly due to the high costs involved and the difficulty in finding qualified interpreters. This system will help disabled persons in improving their quality of life significantly.

The automatic recognition of sign language is an attractive prospect; the technology exists to make it possible, while the potential applications are exciting and worthwhile. To date the research emphasis has been on the capture and classification of the gestures of sign language. This project will be a valuable addition to the ongoing research in the field of Human Computer Interface (HCI).

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# Editorial

People with disabilities (PWD) are among the most vulnerable groups in Pakistani society. They suffer even more than the general population from limited access to basic social services, education, skills and vocational training, job placement, and income generation opportunities. As a result, many PWD are extremely poor.

Un-employment is a big problem in the context of any developing country and we are not out of it. But un-employment for PWD's and its scenario is quite different. Because at the national level a person with a disability will not be able to get a job due to his disability; this limitation prevails in other sectors also. This policy also reflects in the private sector. Not only that they have a very limited scope of education. Even after with tiring effort if they finish the education they have to encounter economic and other barriers to find an income opportunity. In the private sector employer is not taking them into the job.

Lack of experience and vocational or modern skills are also obstructing their access to the job. To access the self-employment to micro-credit or small entrepreneurship is really challenging for them. Exploitation and discrimination is also widely experienced in these areas. In most of the cases who are employed are not getting equal rights and opportunities like others.

Income generation for PWD thus not only contributes to establish a sense of dignity and self-confidence among PWD, but it is also directly linked to poverty reduction and development. There is much potential for expansion of activity in this field. It is the right of every person with a disability to be educated, skilled and economically viable, so that they can enjoy the fundamental rights and bear national responsibility. They deserve equal rights to available services of all ranges.

Skills training, income generation and job placement are important means of rehabilitating PWD. In

Pakistan, PWD typically come from the poor and poorest segments of society. It is a high priority for these people to gain an income for themselves and their families. Existing training and employment programmes can be as follows:

- . Provision of vocational training (which can include literacy, numeracy, and small business management).

- . Referral services to training providers and employers.
- . Production of crafts for the local market and export through production workshops or independent producer groups.

Follow-up after graduates have left centres has received increasing emphasis in most programmes. This takes the shape of regular visits to the graduates' workplace, the provision of start-up equipment, and -in some cases- the provision of loans or grants. PWD face some specific constraints when trying to develop an income:

- . self-employment usually requires access to credit facilities. Poor PWD's find it particularly difficult to access credit.

- . PWD's often face discrimination when job-seeking. Non-disabled people have very low belief in their abilities.

All this can be solved only if government takes the issue of PWD's seriously and gives them a fixed quota for employment in all sectors. We from the platform of Estanara urge the government to keep a quota for employment of the PWD's in our country. Lack of expertise and capital along with education of PWD's has lessened their access to the economic empowerment, and this situation enrolls them in the line of poverty.

# Asia's Disabled Lag In Jobs, Education-survey

(Reuters)

[Http://Today Reuters.Com/News/Crisisarticle Aspx?StoryId=N1049871](http://Today Reuters.Com/News/Crisisarticle Aspx?StoryId=N1049871)

(Source Dfi)

UNITED NATIONS, Aug 10 (Reuters) -Asia's disabled enjoy widespread legal protections but generally lack educational and job opportunities. according to a survey released on wednesday by a network of disability rights groups.

The survey, covering China, India, Japan, Cambodia, Thailand, the Philippines and vietnam, was the third monitoring report to be published by the International Disability Network.

It was released as U.N. diplomats drafting a global treaty on rights of the disabled held their sixth working meeting.

While all seven of the Asian countries surveyed guaranteed universal access to education. "throughout the region there is an overall lack of educational opportunities and rights for people with disabilities" the survey found.

At the high end of the scale, in China, 77 percent of the deaf, blind or intellectually impaired are enrolled in school, compared to over 90 percent of children without disabilities.

A figure for Japan was not available, the report said. At the lower end of the scale, just 46 percent of the disabled in India and 48 percent of disabled vietnamese are enrolled in school according to the report.

While all but Cambodia had laws promoting disabled people's right to employment "economic inactivity among people with disabilities remains high," it said. In China, 84 percent of the disabled had jobs, but compared to an overall employment rate of 90 percent, the survey found. again, no figure was available for Japan.

In India, 74 percent of people with disabilities and 94 percent of those with mental retardation had no

job in Thailand. 80 percent were unemployed. while in vietnam the figure was 70 percent and in the philippines it was 40 percent, according to the survey. While at least some legal protections for the disabled were widely available in all of the countries covered by the survey, none provided adequate basic protections across the board, the survey said. A convention on the rights of people with disabilities was therefore a vital and necessary measure for ensuring that people with disabilities become equal citizens and enjoy the same rights as all people" the report concluded.

The convention which drafters predict will come into effect in 2009, would require nations ratifying it to adopt laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of any form of disability, from blindness to mental illness.

# Mouth Ulcers

RECURRENT mouth ulcers or canker sores are characterised by pain, are round or ovoid and have inflammatory halos, states a recent issue of the New England Journal of Medicine. The ulcers appear first in childhood and recur in the third decade. They are more common in women, in whites, in nonsmokers, and in people of high socio-economic status. The cause is not known. Deficiency of iron, vitamin B or folate have been suggested. Infection with various micro-organisms has not been proven. Various factors have been proposed to precipitate outbreaks of recurrent mouth ulcers in predisposed persons, as oral trauma, cessation of smoking for reasons unclear, anxiety or stress, sensitivities to food (preservatives and agents as benzoic acid or cin namaldehyde), and hormonal changes related to the menstrual cycle. Systemic diseases should be ruled out and medications should be reviewed. A study has shown that mouth ulceration is associated with non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents and various beta-blockers. Other drugs are those that damage neutrophils as anti-cancer drugs. sodium lauryl sulfate, a component of many toothpastes and other products, may also occasionally predispose people to aphthous ulceration. The treatment should relieve pain and reduce inflammation. In minor aphthous ulcers, trauma should be avoided as from hard toothbrushes or foods as tost, and acidic foods or drinks. Topical analgesics (benzydamine or lidocaine) and protective bioadhesives (carmellose or cyanoacrylate) can relieve pain. Topical corticosteroids may speed the healing of ulcers and reduce pain. One per cent triamcinolone dental paste has been approved for the relief of symptoms of any inflammatory condition in the mouth. Treatment with a mouth rinse such as chlorhexidine gluconate is also very helpful and may speed healing. - Dr Fatema Jawad

# Dangerous Diarrhoea

DIARRHOEA can be a symptom manifested as a decrease in consistency, an increase in the number or volume of bowel movements, or a combination of two. This was stated in a recent issue of the New England Journal of Medicine. As a sign, diarrhoea is an increase in stool weight (or volume) of more than 200g (or ml) per 24 hours in a person on a normal diet.

Acute diarrhoea lasts less than two or three weeks and is frequently caused by an infectious agent, is usually self-limiting, and often resolves without treatment. Chronic diarrhoea has multiple causes. Disturbance of ion-transport mechanisms have been identified and five specific congenital diarrheal disorders have confirmed the importance of this phenomena. A new cause of congenital diarrheal disorders has been attributed to the absence of gut hormones. If diarrhoea is due to a dietary nutrient it will cease with fasting. Malabsorption of carbohydrates, fats (or both) is probably to blame. The most common cause of carbohydrate malabsorption is lactose intolerance, secondary to primary lactase deficiency. Too much fat excretion also leads to diarrhoea, which is due to deficiency of pancreatic enzymes. Successful therapy will depend on identification of the defect, The administration of pancreatic enzymes will reduce fat in stools.

Patients with congenital diarrhoea have abnormal neurogenin-3, a transcription factor that is important for the development of the intestinal endocrine cell. The fact that diarrhoea ceased when the patients fasted and was induced when anything other than water was ingested was suggestive of this cause. also there was no sign of inflammation.

The role of intestinal hormones is now being looked into as absorptive and secretory processes are regulated by both the intestinal nervous system and intestinal hormones.

- Dr Fatema Jawad

# A Serious Illness

DEPRESSION is a serious illness. It makes one lonely and everything looks hopeless with daily life and work becoming impossible. There can be aches and pains and other physical symptoms which involve nerve pathways to the brain and spinal cord. The two brain chemicals, serotonin and norepinephrine, called neurotransmitters, regulate mood, sleep and keep the body running smoothly, do not function optimally. The altered function increases pain awareness leading to physical and emotional symptoms. There is a feeling of sadness, emptiness and hopelessness. Interest in activities previously enjoyed is lost and the affected person becomes irritable and anxious and difficulty is experienced in making decisions. Feeling of guilt or worthlessness predominates and in severe cases there may be thoughts of death and suicide.

Physical symptoms present as headache, pain in the back, muscles, joints and chest. There can be nausea, diarrhoea or constipation, exhaustion, fatigue and sleep disorders. The understanding of depression has come a long way in the last few decades. There can be many causes for depression with a mixture of biology, psychology, and stressful or traumatic events. Besides an imbalance in the brain chemicals, there can be a genetic influence. Other health problems such as heart attack, cancer and thyroid diseases can lead to depression. Women suffer more and many people become depressed after a tragic event as losing a family member. Certain medicines and alcohol can cause depression.

Some people can identify the cause of depression whereas others cannot. Depression is a disease that can affect anyone and can be treated. It is not a weakness of character. Certain types of focused therapy, like cognitive and behavioural along with drugs bring the person back to a normal life. - Dr Fatema Jawad

# E-Accessibility To Be Theme For International Day Of Disabled Persons 2006

NEW YORK, 26 July (Department of Economic and Social Affairs) -- Improving access to new information technology, such as the Internet and cell phones, for persons with disabilities will be the focus of this year's International Day of Disabled Persons, which is marked on 3 December.

Although access to information and communication technology has created opportunities for everyone, these advances have been particularly meaningful for persons with disabilities, allowing them to overcome the societal barriers of prejudice, infrastructure and inaccessible formats that stand in the way of participation.

But, many persons with disabilities remain unable to take full advantage of the Internet, because most websites are inaccessible to the blind and visually impaired, heavily dependent on using the mouse, and because training is often conducted in inaccessible formats and venues. Most persons with disabilities do not have access to new information technology at all.

"The new computer-based information technologies have the potential for opening up a world of new opportunities for persons with disabilities," said Sarbuland Khan, Executive Coordinator of the Secretariat of the Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technology and Development. "The problem is that new obstacles are preventing many of these people from reaching their potential. We want to promote good website design that allows all people to benefit from the new technology, and we want product developers to consider the needs of the disabled in their new designs."

Governments, at the first World Summit on the Information Society in 2003 in Geneva, committed themselves to building a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society, where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge. By focusing on e-

accessibility, this year's Day of Disabled Persons is intended to mobilize action to allow persons with disabilities to participate in that global vision.

Persons with disabilities are at a considerable disadvantage by not being able to access information technology. For instance, as education becomes increasingly dependent on information technology, not being able to access the Internet limits the learning potential of persons with disabilities.

Several places already have legislation and regulations requiring websites to be fully accessible. Global standards and guidelines on website accessibility are being developed. Once adopted and ratified, the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will require that persons with disabilities can access information technology. It specifies that certain measures should be introduced to eliminate obstacles and barriers to information and communication, and to promote access for persons with disabilities to information and communication technology, including the Internet.

"Making information technology available to persons with disabilities is not only a matter of human rights -- it also makes good business sense," Mr. Khan said. "Studies suggest that accessible websites appear higher up the page rankings of search engines and can save costs on web maintenance."

But many websites remain inaccessible for the visually impaired and the blind. A recent study of the FTSE 100 companies in the United Kingdom showed that around three quarters of company websites did not achieve basic levels of accessibility. By not making their websites accessible, British companies are forfeiting £80 million a year (\$147 million) in lost revenue.

For further information, please contact Edoardo Bellando at the Department of Public Information, 212-963-8275,

# War and Peace: Disability Issues

As world leaders work toward restoring peace in Lebanon, the Council of Canadians reminds everyone that armed conflict always leaves a legacy of disablement. “We now have new brothers and sisters with disability who will have on-going needs related to their disabilities and the world community must not forget about these people,” states Steve Estey, Chairperson of the International Committee of the Council of Canadians with Disabilities (CCD).

CCD urges world leaders to make a commitment to assisting those people who acquire disabilities during the current conflict. There are people on both sides of this conflict who are now facing life with a disability. Like all people with disabilities, people disabled through warfare require disability-related supports. A disability-related support is any good or service that a person with disability uses to live independently in the community. In addition, people disabled through armed conflict require access to medical and rehabilitation services. “As people with disabilities we empathize with the challenges that those with new disabilities caused by warfare are facing and we challenge the international community to assist the Middle East self-help organizations of people with disabilities respond to the support needs of those disabled in this conflict,” states Marie White Chairperson of CCD.

“As people with disabilities are among the most marginalized in society, resources to meet our needs tend to be in short supply. In an area where there is armed conflict, there needs to be a redoubling of effort on disability issues. Governments, development agencies, and nongovernmental organizations need to increase their support to people with disabilities in the Middle East,” states Estey. “People with disabilities in the Middle East are integral members of society and they and their organizations should be included in local, regional and international peace and reconstruction planning processes.”

CCD works in solidarity with people from around the world through Disabled Peoples’ International, a

global disability rights organization. The affects of warfare have been a long-term concern for both organizations. In 1986, CCD adopted DPI’s Peace Statement, which was crafted in Hiroshima, Japan. The Peace Statement, which was first released 24 June 1982 at the Peace Memorial Park, Hiroshima, Japan, declares:

*Let all of us join together in a worldwide movement for peace. Let us call for all nations’ economies to be transformed from war economies to peace economies. Let us insist that the \$600 billion now spent on armaments is diverted to socially useful projects. Let us demand that the world leaders... begin the enormous task of redirecting our resources, our productions, our talents and our abilities from the creation of the weapons of war to the creation of the instruments of life.*

For more information contact:

Marie White, CCD Chairperson 709-739-8233

Steve Estey, Chairperson CCD International

Development Committee [sbestey@eastlink.ca](mailto:sbestey@eastlink.ca)

# More Disabled Kids Live With Single Women

By MARGARET LILLARD, Associated Press Writer  
Fri Jul 14, 6:11 AM ET

Children with disabilities are more likely to live with a single woman — whether she is a mother, grandmother or a female foster parent — than other children, according to a new study.

The findings by researchers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill indicate that organizations aimed at helping disabled children must also consider the particular problems faced by the single women who often care for them, said Philip Cohen, an associate professor of sociology at the university.

"In the patchwork of arrangements to care for children with disabilities, we have to realize that the system is also dealing with issues of gender equity," Cohen said.

The study, conducted by Cohen and his former student Miruna Petrescu-Prahova, now a doctoral student at the University of California, Irvine, was published Friday in the quarterly *Journal of Marriage and Family*.

The study examined 2000 Census data on 2.3 million children ages 5 to 15. More than 130,000 were reported to have mental disabilities, physical disabilities, or both.

It found that while 62 percent of children without disabilities live with a married, biological parent in a two-parent home, only 46 percent of disabled children do.

Single mothers care for 17 percent of children without disabilities, but for 24.5 percent of those who are disabled. Fewer than 5 percent of disabled children live with a single father, about the same percentage of non-disabled children living with fathers.

In homes where no biological parent is present, Cohen said disabled children were more than twice as likely to be cared for by a single woman than were children

without a disability.

The findings are not particularly surprising, but offer a different perspective the challenges faced by single, female caregivers, said Avis Jones-DeWeever, director of poverty, education, and social justice programs at the Institute for Women's Policy Research in Washington, D.C.

The institute's own research has shown an inordinate number of women getting government aid are either themselves disabled or taking care of a disabled child, Jones-DeWeever said.

Single mothers often have multiple challenges causing them to fall through the cracks of existing assistance programs, she said. She agreed with Cohen that his data show "perhaps we need to think more concretely about what kinds of policy supports these families need."

Both said the largest unanswered question in all the research is why women end up dominating such caretaker roles. Most probably, it's simply "the cultural norms and a combination of what we as women tend to do," Jones-DeWeever said.

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On the Net:

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill:

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# A Copy of Dubai Constitution

Article 27 of the constitution of Dubai Says that we should have special conditions for those people who have special needs . The main Points of the constitution are as under :

(a) In Public buildings the following stipulations, as minimum should be Provided :

1) Slopes with obliquity of not more than (1) to (12) at the Pavements.

2) Car Parking for those with Special needs with 1.3% average out of the total number of the Parking areas.

3) These parking areas shall be as Possible very near to the lifts or the main entrances .

4) These areas should Provide Proper Places for loading and unloading according to the layout .

5) These areas should provide direct Paths till lifts or main entrances of buildings.

6) These areas should provide Special (WC toilets) to those of Special needs .

7) One of the lifts shall have the Capacity, Specifications dimensions and fittings for those with Special needs.

8) Paths and tracks shall bear enough dimensions for those with Special needs . Entry and exit accessibility should be Provided from all doors .

9) In shopping Centers with more than one level, a minimum of one lift must be Provided for those with Special needs.

B) In investment buildings having total area exceeding than (50000) Square foot the following shall be Provided :

1) Slopes of tilts not more than (1to12) at the side walks and external. stairs.

2) The number of car Parking assigned to those of Special needs shall not be less than (1%) of total car Parking number.

3) Parking assigned to those of Special needs must be Provided with Special Signboards and instructions wherever necessary .

C) Hotels which are categorized as 3 star and more shall Provide these Services to those with Special needs :

1) One room must be Provided in the first floor of number of rooms and suites is less than 100. Two rooms must be Provided if number increases above 100 .

2) This room should be Completely fitted for those with Special needs in regards of room dimensions, the door, bed Surrounding area , automatic window opening, Special designed table and Cupboard, and alarm bell etc .

3) The room must be Provided with a toilet designed according to the needs of those with Special needs in regards of toilet seat, bathing basin, the sink , the mirror floor type, door movement and measurement and Support handles.

4) The room should have an emergency exit .

5) To Provide car Parking areas on average of one Parking Per each 75 Spaces of total number of Spaces and maximum of 5 vehicles Spaces .

D) Slopes and special Paths assigned for those of special needs must have the following terms and conditions.

1) Side walks must be with the side walk itself.

2) A Plance area must be established between two slopes.

3) All Slopes, Paths and stairs must be fitted with necessary warnings , guidelines at start and end Points.

4) Car Parking areas are restricted in front of the slopes,

5) Slopes must be directed toward : Pedestrian movement on sidewalks.

6) The opper roof of the slope must be plane and free of cavities that hinder movement.

7) Avoid setting wells, watering places and drainage in Slopes and Paths assigned for PWD's

8) The slopes width must not be less than 4 feet.

# Welfare Association For The Deaf (Regd) Hasilpur Distt Bahawalpur

## Brief Introduction and services

Date of Establishment : 14 August 1997  
Area : Hasilpur  
Registration No and date: 03-01-2001 DDSW  
(BD)2001-387  
Registration Authority: Deputy Director Social Welfare  
(BWP)

## The Purpose:

1. To establish the institute for the education of deaf children .
2. To support the poor ,old and helpless people.
3. To make the living (earning ) possible for jobless people.
4. To organized the programs for deaf children ,young and women.
5. Trainging for Social Welfare.
6. Recreational activities.
7. communication among the Social Welfare institutes.

## Chief patron:

Sir Ahmed Ali Mehmoodi

No of members ;Total 50: (deaf 45,normal,05)  
No of organizing committee: Total 15(Works 07,deaf  
03,normal 04)

Total No of active members :08(deaf 08)  
Communication with other organizations:  
1. Pakistan Association of deaf (Regd) Karachi.  
2. Deaf Welfare Society (Reg.) Sargodha.  
3. Larkana Deaf Association (Reg.):Larkana.  
4. Bahawalpur Deaf Welfare Society (Regd)  
Bahawalpur.  
5. Lahore Association for the Deaf (Regd) Lahore.  
6. Rawalpindi Deaf Association (Regd)Rawalpindi.

7. Anjuman Flah-e-Mareezan Swaat(Regd) Quatta.
8. Sarsyed Deaf Association (Regd) Islamabad.
9. Deaf Welfare association (Regd) Pinddadankhan.
10. Frountior Deaf Association (Regd) Peshawar.

## Economical Sporting Institutes:

1. Distric Bait-ul-Mall Committee Bahawalpur.
2. Punjab Welfare Trust for Disable Lahore.
3. Pakistan Association of The Deaf (Regd) Karachi.

## Welfare Association Office:

The office of (Welfare Association for The Deaf) has been established in a rented building situated on the Baldia Road. It's monthly rent is Rs:1500/= .Regularly the office still Opens since 8A.M.to 6P.M.with the total record of office. The record has been arrange Properly by all ways.

## Social Services for The Deaf:

Welfare Association for the Deaf is organizing the following programs.

1. Special Middle School for The Deaf (both girls and boys).

Establishing date 01-01-1999

**Address:** Baldia Road near Tehsil Council Hasilpur,  
Present total strength of Students : 26 (Girls 04 and  
Boys 22).

## Syllabus:

Total syllabus of sign language is present and move then that Government syllabus and Computer programs are also present for help.

Special Tailoring Center for The Deaf :

Established date :01-03-1997

Address: Baldia Road near old water tank Hasilpur.

No of teachers: One Tailor Master .

No of present Trainers :10

Types of training : (Complete training of cutting and stitching )

**No of machines:** 08

**Duration of training:** 01 year



**Center of Religious education:**

The primary Religious education is provided to all the students of school and tailoring training center. It is made possible for them that how they can offer the prayer in sign Language.

Pakistan.

Ph:092-0333-6347572

**Publishing of Salat in sign Language:**

Welfare Association has printed the way of offering the Salat in sign language and has sent to the other deaf organizations of the country. 50,000 copies have been distributed till now.

**Record and survey of The Deaf people:**

Welfare Association for The Deaf has surveyed the whole deaf of ten Hasilpur and round about areas and their record has been secured. Total record of 140 deaf has been collected.

**Issue of Disable Certificate:**

Association has got 20 Certificates for the disabled from (District Easement Board for disabled). All the disabled are made know of the importance of these Certificates.

**Functions:**

Welfare Association conducts the religious, national and international informative functions accordingly. They invite the deaf who give information in sign language.

**Give loan without profit:**

Welfare Association also provides the loan without profit to much poor deaf for stabling and treatment according to Association's economical position. 80,000 rupees has been given as loan to disabled without profit.

Ahmed Ali Mehmoodi

Muhammad Farooq

Chief Patron

President

Qamar Husain

G. Secretary

Welfare Association for The Deaf (Regd) ,  
Baldia Road, Hasilpur, Distt Bahawalpur, Punjab,

# ORDINANCE NO. XL OF 1981

**ISLAMABAD, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1981**

## **PART 1**

Aets, Ordinances, president's Orders and Regulations including Mortial Law Orders and Regulations  
GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN

MINISTRY OF LAW AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(Law Division)

Islamabad, the 29th December, 1981

No. F. 17 (I) 81-pub.-The following Ordinances made by the president on the 24th December, 1981, are hereby published for general information:-

## **ORDINANCE NO. XL OF 1981**

An Ordinance to provide for the employment, rehabilitation and welfare of disabled persons. WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the employment, rehabilitation and welfare of disabled persons and for matters connected therewith. AND WHEREAS the president is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary to make immediate action:

NOW, THEREFORE, in pursuance of the proclamation of the fifth day of July. 1997, read with the provisional Consitution Order, 1981 (C.M.L.A. Order No. 1 of 1981). and in exercise of all powers enabling him in that behalf, the president is pleased to make and promulgate the following Ordinance :-

1. Short title, exten: and commencement.-(1) This Ordinance may be called the Disabled persons (Employment and Rehabilitation.) Ordinance, 1981.
- (2) It extends to the whole of pakistan.
- (3) It shall come into force on such day as the Federal

Government may. notification in the official Gazette, appoint,

2. Definitions,- In this Ordinance, unless there is anything repugnant in the object or contex:-

(a) "chairman" means the Chairman of the National Councilor.as the case may be, the provincial council;

(b) "conunercial establishment" and "industrial establishment" shall have the same meaning as in the West Pakistan industrial and Commercial Employment (Standing Orders) Ordinance, 1968 (W.P. Ordinance No. VI of 1968).

(c) "disabled person" means a person who, on account of injury, disease or congenitaldeformity, is handicapped for undertaking any gainful profession or employment in order to earn his livelihood, and inculdes a person who is blind, deaf, physically handicapped or mentally refarded;

(d) "disease" includes the physical or mental condition arising form the imperfect deelopment of any organ;

(e) "employec" means a regular or whole-time employec whether employed on daily, weekly or monthly basis, and includes an apprentice:

( f) "establishment" maans a Government establishment, a commercial esblishment or an industrial establishment, in which the number of workers employed at any time during a year is not less that less than one hundred;

(g) "Fund" means the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Fund established under section 17;

(h) "Government establishment" includes any autonomous or semiautonomous bods. university, college, professional school and any organization controlled or managed by the Federal Government or a provncinal Government:

(i) "National Coupeil" means the National Council established under section 3 ;

(j) "prescribed" means preseridbed by rules made by the Federal Government or as the case may be. the provincial Government:

(k) "provincial Councel" means a Provincial Council established under section 5 : and

(l) "secretary" means the Secretary if the National Council or. as the case may be the Provincial Council.

3. National Council.- The Federal Government shall. by nolitication in the official Gezene, establish a

Council to be called the National Council for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons consisting of the following members, namely :

- (a) the Secretary, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, who shall also be its Chairman
- (b) One representative each of the three armed Forces
- (c) One representative of the Manpower Division
- (d) One representative of the Labour Division
- (e) One representative of the Health Division
- (f) One representative of the Education Division
- (g) One representative of the Communications Division
- (h) One representative of the Ministry of water and power :
- (i) One representative of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources:
- (j) One representative of the industries Division :
- (k) One representative of the Planning Division :
- (l) a nominee of the Administrator-General, Zakat
- (m) four persons to be nominated by the Federal Government from amongst the Persons engaged in the welfare of disabled persons :
- (n) One representative of the National Council of Social Welfare
- (o) One representative of the registered trade unions, to be nominated by the Labour Division :and
- (p) the Deputy Secretary, Health and Social Welfare Division, dealing with social welfare, who shall be Secretary of the National Council.

4. Functions of the National Council.- (1) Subject to any directions given by the Federal Government, the National Council shall-

- (a) formulate policy for the employment, rehabilitation and welfare of the disabled persons :
  - (b) evaluate, assess and co-ordinate the execution of its policy by the Provincial Council ; and
  - (c) have overall responsibility for the achievement of the purposes of this Ordinance.
- (a) the survey of the disabled persons in the country who are desirous of being rehabilitated :
  - (b) the medical examination and treatment of the disabled persons.
  - (c) the providing of training to the disabled persons
  - (d) the taking of such other measures as are necessary for carrying out the purposes of this Ordinance.

5. Provincial Councils.- Each Provincial Government shall, by notification in the official Gazette, establish a Council to be called the provincial Council for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Consisting of the following members, namely :-

- (a) the Secretary, Social Welfare Department, who shall also be its Chairman ;
- (b) the representative of the, Labour Department
- (c) One representative of the Planning and Development Department
- (d) One representative of the Manpower Department
- (e) One representative of the Health Department
- (f) One representative of the Education Department
- (g) One representative of the Communications Department
- (h) One representative of the water and power Department
- (i) One representative of the Chamber of Commerce
- (j) Chief Administrator of Zakat
- (k) One representative of the Social Welfare Council
- (l) One representative of the Social Services Board
- (m) One representative of the registered Trade Unions to be nominated by the Labour Department
- (n) four persons nominated by the provincial Government from amongst the persons engaged in the Welfare work of disabled persons ;and
- (o) Director, Social Welfare Department, who shall also be the Secretary of the provincial Council.

6. The National Council the Provincial Council shall-

- (a) execute the policy made by the National Council for the employment, rehabilitation and Welfare of the of the disabled Persons ;

- (b) undertake appropriate projects for those purposes
- (c) issue directions to the Employment Exchanges and other bodies for the implementation of the projects ; and
- (d) from time to time take stock of the extent of functional disabilities of disabled persons.

7. Meetings of the Councils, (1) The meetings of the National Council or a provincial Council shall be held at such times and at such places as the Chairman thereof may direct and shall be presided as may over by such Chairman.

(2) The meetings of the National Council or a provincial Council shall be conducted in accordance with such procedure as may be prescribed, and until such procedure is prescribed, in such manner as the Chairman thereof may direct.

(3) The power and functions of the Chairman shall, in This absence, be exercised and performed by such member of the National Council or the Provincial Council as the chairman thereof may appoint.

(4) The quorum to constitute a meeting of the National Council or a Provincial Council shall be four.

(5) All orders and decisions of the National Council or a Provincial Council shall be authenticated by the signature of the Chairman thereof or the Persons authorised by him.

**8. Duties of Secretary.** The Secretary shall exercise such Power and Perform such functions as may be assigned to him by the Chairman.

**9. Appointment of Committee.** The National Council or a provincial Council may appoint such Committee consisting of such of its members as it thinks fit, and may refer to them any matter for consideration and report provided that the Council may, if it considers necessary, co-opt any person to a Committee.

10. Establishments to employ disabled persons,  
(1) Not less than one percent of the total number of persons employed by an establishment at any time shall be disabled persons whose names have been registered with the Employment Exchange of the area in which such establishment is located and against whose names in the register maintained under section 12 an endorsement exists to the effect that they are fit to work.

(2) The disabled persons employed against any post in pursuance of subsection (1) shall be entitled to the terms and conditions which are not less favourable than those of the other persons employed by the establishment against similar. posts.

(3) When calculating the percentage of the posts in an establishment for the purposes of employment of disabled persons, the fraction of 0.5 and above shall count as a whole number.

**11. Establishment to pay to the Fund.** An establishment which does not employ a disabled person as required by section 10 shall pay in to the fund each month the sum of money it would have paid as salary or wages to a disabled person had he been employed.

**12. Registration of disabled persons.**

(1) Any disabled persons desirous of being employed or otherwise rehabilitated may have his name registered in the register maintained by an Employment Exchange in such form and in such manner as may be prescribed by the Federal Government; and the Employment Exchange shall refer all names so registered to the provincial Council.

(2) The Provincial Council shall, if it thinks necessary, cause each disabled person registered under subsection (1) to be assessed as to the nature of his functional disability and also as to his aptitude and the nature of work he is to do by a medical officer authorised by it in his behalf or by such assessing board consisting of not less than one medical officer as it may appoint, and the medical officer or, as the case may be, the assessing board shall submit its report to the Provincial Council in such form as may be prescribed by the Provincial Government.

(3) If the disabled person is considered by the provincial Council fit to work, it shall so inform the Employment Exchange, indicating the nature of work for which he may be employed or the trade or vocation in which he may be trained, and an endorsement to that effect shall be made against his name in the register.

(4) If the disabled person is not considered by the provincial Council fit to work, the Provincial Council shall inform the Employment Exchange according to that effect being made against his name in the register and the Provincial Council shall take such measures for

his rehabilitation as it thinks fit.

(5) If a Person is declared by the Provincial Council not to be a disabled Person, his name shall be struck off the register.

**13. Establishment of training centres.**

The Provincial shall arrange for the training of disabled persons in such trades or vocations as it thinks and shall establish training centres in such trades or vocations and in such manner as may be prescribed by the provincial Government.

**14. Establishment to furnish information.**

Every Establishment shall furnish to such person or authority such information required for the implementation of the provisions of this Ordinance in such form and in such manner as National Council may, by notification in the official Gazette, specify.

**15. Power to debar further employment.**

(1) The provincial council debar from further employment or training for such period as may be specified by it any disabled person who without valid reason, refuses to accept

(1) any work which is likely to be detrimental to the interests of the trade or profession in which he is employed or undergoing training.

(2) No disabled person shall be debarred under sub-section (1) unless he has been given an opportunity of being heard.

**16. Appeal.**

(1) Any person shall aggrieved by an order under section 15 may refer an appeal to the National Council within thirty days of the date of the order.

(2) The National Council may call for the record of the case and may, after giving the Person an opportunity of being heard, or after making such other enquiry as it thinks fit, stay or suspend the operation of the order or may pass such order as it thinks fit.

**17. Fund.**

There shall be established by the Federal Government a Fund to be known as the Disabled Persons Rehabilitation fund which shall comprise \_\_\_

(a) all sums paid by the establishment under section 11;

(b) all grants if any made by the Federal Government,

Provincial Governments or local bodies; and (c) donations, if any, made by Private individuals.

(2) The Fund shall be administered by the National Council which shall, in consultation with the Federal Government, make such allocations to the Provincial Councils as it thinks necessary.

(3) The Fund shall be utilized for \_\_\_

(a) the establishment of training centres for disabled persons;

(b) financial assistance to disabled persons, who are not fit to undertake any employment.

(c) disbursement of stipends or scholarships to disabled persons receiving training.

(d) the welfare of disabled persons; and

(e) providing artificial limbs, surgical therapy and medical treatment to disabled persons.

**18. Power to exempt.**

The federal Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, exempt any establishment or class of establishments from the operation of all or any of the provisions of this Ordinance.

**19. Delegation of power,**

(1) The National Council may delegate all or any of its power under this Ordinance to any of its members or to a Committee, including any of the powers delegated to it under sub-section to any of its members, subject to such conditions as it may specify.

**20. Penalty,**

Any establishment which fails to pay in to the Fund any sum it is required to pay under section shall be punishable with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, and in the case of non-payment of fine, with an additional fine if it is not made.

**21. Cognizance of offences, etc**

(1) No court inferior to that of a Magistrate of the first class shall try an offence punishable under this Ordinance.

(2) No court shall take cognizance of an offence under this Ordinance except upon a complaint in writing made by, or under the authority of, the National Council.

22. Power to make rules, \_\_\_ (1) The Federal Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of

this Ordinance.

(2) The Provincial Government may, by noification in the official Gazette, make rules rules not inconsistent with the rules under made/sub-section (1) for carrying out the purposes of this Ordinance.

**GENERAL,**

**M. ZIA-UL-HAQ,**

**President. S. A. NUSRAT,**

**Principal Secreatry.**

**PCPPI\_\_\_D\_\_\_1317/SC&SW\_\_\_3-12-85\_\_\_1,000.**

# I am abled

By Nadeem Hayat

My name is Nadeem Hayat I am a 46 year old survivor from a cerebral haemorrhage I had it when I was 30. I wrote this poem because I am in a wheelchair and it reflects the way I feel people see me. I'm sure other people with a disability will understand where I'm coming from :

People say you are disabled  
What an awful label  
But I am abled  
Disabled what a terrible fable.  
I travel on wheels  
That's the only difference  
Why do people make such a big deal?  
Even on wheels I can still feel.  
I'm the same person I was  
My soul is the same  
To this chair I am not fused  
Disabled, why say that awful name?  
The almighty made me  
So why do you point your finger?  
Disabled? I am abled as you see  
You point and my heart feels as if hit by a cleaver.  
People stop, point and stare  
but really I don't care  
Because I am abled no matter how much you glare  
I try to stay fair no matter how much they dare to stare.

# Google Makes Search Accessible For The Blind

**Jason Lee Miller**

Staff Writer

Published: 2006-07-21

**Sometimes a person can't see the forest for the trees. If you're a sight-impaired Web surfer using a text reader, sometimes you can't hear the content for the code. Google research Scientist T.V. Raman has developed a solution, and has put it into search.**

Raman, who himself is blind, is working out the bugs to , a project born of Google labs and Google's technology, which tailors search results to special interests.

Google Accessible Search limits search results to pages that have simple layouts with few visual distractions. This is important, Raman tells us, because devices that convert Web text to speech for the visually impaired become bogged down on "visually busy" pages. Sifting through those pages to find the desired content, then, can be difficult and time-consuming.

"In its current version," Raman, "Google Accessible Search looks at a number of signals by examining the HTML markup found on a web page. It tends to favor pages that degrade gracefully--that is, pages with few visual distractions, and pages that are likely to render well with images turned off." is an accomplished Google employee...well, if you'd call writing 3 books, filing 25 patents, and authoring and defining several widely used interfaces and scripting languages "accomplished." I have my sight and still screwed up making my coffee this morning. | document.write("Email WebProNews .") Drag this to your Bookmarks.

## **About the Author:**

Jason L. Miller is a staff writer for WebProNews covering technology and business.

