WEBINARS ORGANIZED BY KONPAL

Konpal like previous year Konpal continued its series of informative and awareness raising webinars in 2021 amid Covid pandemic. These webinars were organized in collaboration with organizations like Autism withoutBorder (AWB) and PPA, Child Rights Group (CRG). These included

* Webinars on **“Teaching life skills to children with Disability”**held in Jan**uary**Dr. Laila Ladak (Asst Professor and Academic Lead Master Program, AKUHSchool of midwifery and nursing), gave talk on the “Impact of disability on the quality of life of children’s family and Ms. Nadia Riaz (Senior Educator, ABA Therapist,AWB), discussed the teaching skills to individual with special needs. The webinar was followed by panel discussion by Dr Tufail Mohammad, Prof. Saleem Ilyas, Dr. Azra Rafique and Dr. Shazia Mohsin.
* **First Virtual Conference on Autism collaboration with konpal, PPA and Autism without border (AWB)**, was held.On 3rd April, 2021the theme for the conference was “The Transition to Adulthood” Dr. Aisha Mehnaz give the expert opinion on safeguarding the rights of differently able children. A number of renowned speakers from home and abroad delivered state of art lectures. Dr Azra Rafiq of AWB and her team’s efforts was specially appreciated by Konpal.
* **Webinar on International Girl Child Day:** on the occasion of International Girl Child Day a webinar was arranged on 10th October, 2021on theimportance of empowering girls. The theme was digital generation. Dr. Gaffar Billoo chaired the occasion and the speakers were Prof. D. S Akram and Prof. Qudsia Tariq (HOD AKU). Both highlighted the issue of girl child. Prof Rajendra Srivastava (Pediatrician, New Delhi), Prof Billoo, Dr Kishwer Inam (AKUH) and Ms Sania Irfan (youth and Media coordinator Konpal) an also spoke on the occasion and raised issues and gave suggestions on empowering girls. Dr. Aisha Mehnaz indicated a very low literacy rate found among the girls (70% girls have not received formal education in Pakistan). She also the mentioned early girl child marriage as a deterring factor.
* **Webinar on street children was held** on 28th November, 2021. Dr Naeem Zafar (President Paahchan) and Dr Farah Iqbal (Former HOD Psychiatry, Karachi University) shared their experience of working with street children, Prof A G Billoo,Prof DS Akram, Dr Mustafa Hussain and Prof Aisha Mehnaz discussed the various issues related to Street children in Pakistan and USA.
* **Webinar on “Issues and Challenges in Children with Disabilities” organized on Dec 23. 2021.** Dr Azra Rafiq, Ms Nadia Riaz highlighted the various issues and challenges being faced by children with disabilities and the role of well-baby clinic in early detection. Ms Aliya Batool ( CEO,PCA) highlighted internal and external challenges faced by the differently abled children. Prof Aisha Mehnaz shared her concern on increasing incidence of abuse and neglect affecting children with disability. Dr Syed Naushad Shaukat and Dr Nadia Shafique were the other panelist participated in the discussion.