

INTERNET ACCESSABILITY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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PRELUDE

- The internet offers opportunities for Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) to be more independent and to contribute productively in the socio-economic development processes
- Web is an increasingly useful resource and the interface through which users interact with the internet

Disability and Impairment

The Difference

- **Impairments:** hearing, learning, mental, physical, speech, visual, etc.
- **According to UNCRPD:** “persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.”
- **Approaches towards the PWDs:** medical, charity, social, business, selfish, etc.

What is Web Accessibility?

- The term 'Web Accessibility' refers to a set of guidelines and tools, that when implemented by either the users or the designers of a website, would remove the obstacles that prevent PWDs from accessing it
- Working to standards and responsive design are both important criteria for accessibility
- A website should be accessible both in terms of design and content

General Accessibility Barriers

- **Availability of technology**
- **Its affordability**
- **Awareness about the technology**
- **Willingness of industry/Developers to adopt accessibility guidelines**

Accessibility and Global Organizations

- ▶ ICANN: Cross Community Committee on Accessibility
- ▶ ISOC: “Access” as one of ISOC’s 4 Campaigns. Dedicated Chapter on Accessibility and Disability.
- ▶ Join the ISOC Accessibility Special Interest Group (Accessibility-SIG) in formation as founder member:
<http://accessibilitysig.org>
- ▶ ITU: Dynamic Coalition on Accessibility and Disability (DCAD)
- ▶ UN: Committee on Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- ▶ W3C: Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI)

Accessibility and Pakistan

- ▶ **Guidelines for Accessible Banking for Person with visually impaired / Blind Persons in Pakistan by State Bank of Pakistan 2014**
- ▶ **Input by PWDs for National IT Policy titled: “digital Pakistan” with a dedicated part addressing the needs of PWDs**
- ▶ **Superior Services Exams and PWDs**
- ▶ **Accessible websites: MOITT and PTA**
- ▶ **PTA Mobile App Competition 2016: “Embracing Mobile Accessibility for Persons With Disabilities in Pakistan”**

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THANK YOU

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