



Profiles in Rehabilitation Leadership:

Zahida Hameed Qureshi

Strengthening rehabilitation and assistive technology

As a woman with disability, the GRLI was very useful and impactful for me. The GRLI provided me with confidence, knowledge, and team-building skills. As a leader of a rehabilitation organization, I have trained my organization members, persons with disabilities, and youth on the importance of effective teamwork, as reflected in the GRLI.

Since participating in the GRLI, we have been able to run our programs at the Society for Special Persons more effectively and successfully; we have been providing wheelchairs to local health departments and conducting accessibility audits at primary care facilities.

Growing careers and networks

Since the GRLI, I have become a member of the Punjab Council on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities constituted by the Social Welfare and Bait-ul-Maal Department of Punjab. Additionally, I have expanded my networks with UN agencies, local and international nongovernmental organizations (especially the United Nations Development Programme), the World Health Organization, and the British High Commission to strengthen local rehabilitation efforts. I also worked with Punjab Social Welfare and Bait-ul-Maal Department to support the launch of the online portal, “#Enabled,” which facilitates the delivery of assistive devices to those who need them.

Cultivating leaders

Growing up I had a dream; I always wanted to do something extraordinary. I’m the first and only woman to introduce a customized wheelchair manufacturing process and training in Pakistan, and the GRLI further enhanced my ability to advocate for and empower differently abled people through the provision of assistive products and rehabilitation services. It broadened my concept of and vision for rehabilitation.

Zahida Hameed Qureshi

Pakistan

*Society for Special Persons,
Founder & President*

NGO



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