



A TCI Webinar Series

Strengthening the movement of young people with psychosocial disabilities and their inclusion in decision making and development processes

Schedule of Webinars:

Webinar 1 – Capacity Strengthening of Youth with Psychosocial Disabilities | Observance of the International Day of People with Disabilities, | **Completed**

Webinar 2 – Creating Enabling Environments for Youth with Psychosocial Disabilities – | **Completed**

Webinar 3 – Observance of International Human Rights Day - Mobilizing with Young People with Psychosocial Disabilities and Developing Recommendations for Inclusion | **13th December, 2023**

Transforming Communities for Inclusion (TCI) is the representative global voice of persons with psychosocial disabilities. TCI aims to mark the International Day of Persons with disabilities 2022, in partnership with the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and Indonesian Mental Health Association, by focusing on the inclusion of Youth with Psychosocial Disabilities and their capacity strengthening.

Emerging Platform on Youth with Psychosocial Disabilities

TCI, in partnership with Indonesian Mental Health Association (IMHA) and supported by IDA embarked on an initiative to form a youth platform for young people with psychosocial disabilities during a post GDS workshop organized in Jakarta in October, 2022. The workshop was attended by youth with psychosocial disabilities and also by experienced leaders from our membership. Young persons attending the meeting called for a platform on Youth with psychosocial disabilities.

Such a platform will provide leverage to young people with psychosocial disabilities to call out their issues to the governments, and other stakeholders such as technical support organizations, cross disability organizations, and UN agencies for recognition of the issues of youth with psychosocial disabilities and their full and effective participation in the development process. TCI inaugurated this platform to mobilize young people with psychosocial disabilities at the national level to cultivate possible advocacy opportunities to raise their voices at the national, regional and global platforms.

Problems of exclusion expressed by youth with psychosocial disabilities

Young people with psychosocial disabilities are totally left behind in majority of the aspects of their life spans and denied equal access to health, education, social, economic, political and cultural opportunities. In friends and family circles their opinions are not respected. They have little or no decision-making power. They are bullied inside educational institutions. The exclusion from quality education systems makes the



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younger generation more dependent on others, remain unemployed without access to quality or equal standard of living.

There is a huge issue around our identity, in society we are still tagged as persons with mental illnesses mental patients, persons of unsound mind, mad persons, etc. This confines us to the mental health legal systems and takes away our legal capacity to explore opportunities, take risks, make our own decisions, and enjoy all fundamental human rights on an equal basis to others. Institutionalization is growing massively in low and middle-income countries. There are massive investments being carried out in establishing new institutions or improving the existing institutions. There are countries where youth with psychosocial disabilities are commonly found in mental asylums, rehab centers, visiting psychiatric clinics, nursing homes and a variety of care institutions, facing long term confinement and isolation. Our families see us as a burden on them and we are forced to take psychiatric treatments which make us numb and weaker not only mentally but also physically. Psychiatric diagnosis and treatment is forced upon us for being 'slow learners', 'autistic', 'attention deficit', and such and many of us have lost our childhood to these treatments. Often, such treatments make our lives worse, and we drop out of the education system, losing hope in life. Another rise has been witnessed in the promotion and establishment of deaddiction centers. Families forcefully push their children into such centers for so called rehabilitation treatments and they remain confined there for many years or becoming a 'revolving door patient'. Young people with psychosocial disabilities living in those institutions have no access to community support systems or services.

Young women and girls with psychosocial disabilities face a number of challenges and are doubly discriminated in our societies. Young girls with psychosocial disabilities are confined inside homes due to cultural barriers and are not encouraged to excel more in their lives on equal basis with others. They are not allowed to be educated, hangout with friends, to work etc. Gender based violence is also one of the issues which is rising rapidly and young girls with psychosocial disabilities have no access to justice. Many young girls with psychosocial disabilities face physical abuse and sexual violence in mental asylums, and other custodial care facilities. When they make a move for reporting the abuse, they are not listened as they are labelled as "mentally ill" and "incapable". Therefore, such cases go unreported. Moreover, the LGBTQI and young people with non-binary identities remain highly ignored in all aspects of their lives and are multiply discriminated while being part of the community. They face invasive medical and psychiatric treatments and are not given the opportunity to express themselves or explore their identities.

Way ahead for young persons with psychosocial disabilities

As youth, we are mentioned as agents of change but unfortunately there is a huge issue of power imbalance. Youth leaders are not identified, their capacities are not strengthened, they lack mentorship and capacity building opportunities. They are not encouraged to step forward, take leadership and build their youth movement for raising their voice in the society for their full inclusion. Due to this young people with psychosocial disabilities continue to be marginalized, ignored and unheard in national regional or any high-level policy circles.



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Over the last decade, TCI has been rigorously mobilizing with its members and has been advocating for de-institutionalization and community inclusion of persons with psychosocial disabilities. The recently launched “Guidelines on De-Institutionalization, including during Emergencies”, by the CRPD committee is a tool which governments must adapt immediately. It clearly emphasizes that communities must play a vital role in the full inclusion on persons, including youth with psychosocial disabilities. The governmental and non-governmental investments should be directed towards inclusive community supports and community services such as peer support networks, friend circles, community awareness programs, social protection schemes, housing programs, etc.

Moreover, to support members in Asia Pacific and in the East Africa region, TCI with its members developed a Bali declaration and Addis Declaration for working with cross disability sectors and taking the advocacy actions forward for inclusion of people with psychosocial disabilities. The declarations clearly emphasize that the state parties and disability inclusion stakeholders must recognize our identity as “Persons with Disabilities” and eliminate all forms of discrimination for youth with psychosocial disabilities to live equally and independently in the community.

[Link to the Bali Declaration which was developed in 2018 by TCI members from 21 countries of Asia and Pacific](#)

[Link to the Addis Declaration which was developed in 2021 by TCI members from 6 countries of East Africa](#)

TCI having its presence in 50+ countries and being a global voice of people with psychosocial disabilities we envision to build a momentum for effective participation of youth with psychosocial disabilities. Through this platform, young people with psychosocial disabilities will get the opportunity to be part of the TCI family and will be supported with technical assistance and mentorship from the TCI leadership as well as national nodal members to build on a common vision for our inclusion. TCI will ensure to make its programs participatory of youth with psychosocial disabilities to advocate for inclusion within disability and development through our program instruments including fellowships, country missions and multi-stakeholder platforms.

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International Disability Alliance, a close and strategic partner of TCI established a youth committee in March 2021 and also co-hosted a full Global Disability Summit (GDS) for the youth representatives in GDS 2022. TCI and IDA, together have been hosting number of consultations around the GDS 2022 including national consultations, pre and post GDS. The youth of TCI will be included in the discussions related to the Youth Call for Action.

Visit here for more information <https://www.globaldisabilitysummit.org/pages/youth-summit>



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About Webinar Series

Followed by the high interest of young people with psychosocial disabilities which was learnt during the GDS workshop in Jakarta, of having a TCI youth platform and strengthening the youth movement for bringing stakeholders together for the inclusion of young people with psychosocial disabilities. **TCI** in partnership with **Indonesian Mental health Association, KOSHISH and International Disability Alliance** will be offering **3 webinars** to build a momentum of inclusion and de-institutionalization of young people with psychosocial disabilities.

Objectives of the webinar series,

1. Highlighting the issue of “Our Identity”, under the light of CRPD and what opportunities CRPD brings for us as persons with psychosocial disabilities
2. To bring together a voice of young people with psychosocial disabilities at a global level from different cultures and backgrounds
3. To hear, learn and bring in front the issues of young people with psychosocial disabilities at global platforms to be addressed by the government
4. To create and build on a way forward for the inclusion of young people with psychosocial disabilities in the development processes at the national, regional and global levels