Wheelchair Distribution Program 2073

On April 14, 2016, Karuna Foundation Nepal organized a Wheelchair Distribution Program for 3 professional people who use wheelchairs for mobility. The program was organized at Hotel Hardik, Bagbazaar, with the Honorable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Women, Children and Social Welfare, C.P. Mainali as the chief guest. The Chairperson for this event was Mr. Govinda Adhikari, President of Karuna Foundation Nepal, Narayan Kafle . The program was supported by FODAC (Friends of Disabled Adult and Children) and Stone Mountain Rotary Club.

The main objective of this event was to provide power wheelchairs to three professional people with disability so that they can move around independently and so that they can aware other people about the necessity of power wheelchairs for people who use wheelchairs. The three receivers of the power wheelchairs were Mr. Gajendra Budhathoki, who is a journalist at Karobar Daily, Mr. Bhoj Raj Shrestha, a disability mobility activist and Ms. Indira Gurung, a former CA member and activist.

Narayan Kafle said, “There has been a start towards a more equal society as the power wheelchairs have made them able to move easily and it has helped them in their daily lives. I hope that other such initiations are taken so that it creates an inclusive society.” Mr. Gajendra Budhathoki, the first journalist who uses a wheelchair, talked about how people who use wheelchairs have a somewhat harder life than other persons with disability as they have a huge mobility issue and there are a lot of barriers they have to face even though they have access to a wheelchair.

Mr. Bhoj Raj Shrestha thanked Karuna Foundation Nepal and talked about how he was glad to have gotten a power wheelchair as he could now be a role model to other wheelchair users and how he is willing to help them with their initiation. “The nation should work on providing wheelchairs to people but we are using wheelchairs provided to us by other countries. Though the government has allocated budget since the last three wheelchairs, they should provide wheelchairs to all five development regions. The government should work on producing manual and power wheelchairs. The government and Karuna Foundation should work on bringing the people with physical disability out of their homes by providing them with either power wheelchairs or manual wheelchairs so that they can see the world and be able to work,” he said.

Ms. Indira Gurung talked about how the government should work on providing the necessary goods for the people with disability in Nepal itself and not depend on other nations. She talked about how the roads and footpaths are difficult for wheelchairs to use as they are uneven and don’t have enough space for wheelchairs. She said, “There should be provision of wheelchairs for everyone in need and mobility should be made easier because what is the use of wheelchairs if we can’t use them outside?”

C.P. Mainali said, “I thank Karuna Foundation for bringing such a great initiative in Nepal. The government is working on bringing all the different kinds of disabilities into perspective and work on improving the quality of life of all the different persons with disability. We should work on improving the life of persons with disability by not only giving them kindness and love but by thinking of it as our duty to help them get equality. We should work on fulfilling the needs of not only the few people with disability that we have been able to reach, but we should work in a systematic and proper way to fulfill the needs of all the people with disability in Nepal. The Nepalese disability act has also been registered and the government is working towards fulfilling the needs of people with disability.”

Mr. Govinda Adhikari talked about how the disability movement in Nepal is a great initiative as it is the people with disability who started this movement for themselves. He also talked about how the state does not have much knowledge about disability or the problems people with disability face.

This program was organized to create awareness and start a way for there to be a way that people can see how power wheelchairs are useful for mobility and a great option for wheelchair users as they don’t have to be dependent on others for mobility. The wheelchair was also provided to them so it helps them with their daily life. The program also bought up many other issues about how people who use wheelchairs face a lot of difficulties in terms of mobility in Nepal as there is no proper planning and construction of buildings, roads or footpaths that are suitable for wheelchair users.