

## EMPOWERING DISABLED WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Ayesha,a physically handicapped student sponsored by APWA. Her disability had made it difficult for her to do everyday chores. Since childhood she has been fighting discrimination. She was discouraged from everyday movements because there was no facility for her to travel in public transport.

Believing in gender equality she appeared in her 10<sup>th</sup> grade and successfully finished her high school. On being introduced to APWA she was facilitated with computer diploma from APWA Youth Degree College and was awarded scholarship by APWA Punjab Headquarter scholarships program and also logistic support, free health and medical

treatment. APWA which was continuously raising its voice on different forums on empowerment of disabled women and children, passed a resolution for a quota for disabled in job placement market. The government has now announced 3% quota for disabled children and women in the job market. Ayesha has been successful in procuring a job as marketing officer in a four star hotel in Lahore.

Ayesha in her own words quoted:

"My father is a rickshaw driver and we are facing economical instability. We are 3 sisters and 1 brother. My 2 sisters are facing serious physical disability challenges. I wish I would be able to support my family financially and provide proper medical treatments to my special sisters. I thank APWA that it created encouragement and confidence in myself and thus saved my future.

