



**AZIZ JEHAN BEGUM TRUST AND INSTITUTE
FOR THE BLIND
LAHORE PAKISTAN**

Bring Light Through Education

**A BRIEF HISTORY
1989-2024**



**Ursula N. Jeddy
Honorary Chief Executive Officer**



Azim Premji Foundation

Myth

People who are blind cannot live independently.

Fact

People who are blind can do almost anything.



DEDICATION

This history is dedicated to all the founders, benefactors, trustees, staff, friends, and students of the Aziz Jehan Begum Trust and Institute. Their partnership and commitment has changed lives through exemplary service, tireless effort, and ongoing vision that pushes the boundaries of “possible”, “bringing light through education” and building a future that would not exist without them.



Ateeq Ibrahim Begum Trust for the Blind



Muhammad Din Jan Library

is Pakistan's only library housing the largest collection of **Braille Talking Books** and **Large Print books**. There are **9,875** in total, in English, Urdu and Arabic.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

by
Dr. Sophia Siddiqui
Trustee AJBT



“With faith, discipline and a selfless devotion to duty there is nothing you cannot achieve”
M.A.Jinnah

Mrs. Ursula Nighat Jeddy is currently the Honorary Chief Executive Officer of the Aziz Jehan Begum Trust. She is the daughter of Aziz Jehan Begum, who is the inspiration behind the Trust and Institute, and sister of Ms. Salma Kishwar Jan who initiated this effort.

Mrs. Jeddy, a Fulbright Scholar, is Pakistan’s first U.S. trained Clinical Psychologist with graduate degrees from the Government College, Lahore, and the University of Minnesota, U.S.A.

She was appointed at the Mayo Hospital, Lahore as the first Clinical Psychologist bringing a much-needed discipline to the public. She rose to the rank of Chief Clinical Psychologist before retiring after more than 30 years of public service in 1996.

That same year she joined the Aziz Jehan Begum Trust for the Blind (AJBT) as the Founding Director of the Aziz Jehan Begum Trust Institute (AJBTI), to develop the initial plans for the educational center, a position she held from 1996 – 2017. Under her visionary leadership the Institute became an innovative center of learning and success for students.

The Trust and Institute have been a labor of love for her and she continues to support the Institute and its continued success.

Mrs. Jeddy has written this history to ensure that the strength, courage and spirit of service that was instrumental to the creation of this organization is documented, and inspires all who engage with this remarkable Organization, to continue this life-changing work.

FOREWORD

In many countries those with loss of sight are marginalized by society and their families. They are often denied formal education and many end up in religious institutions, or panhandling.

Aziz Jehan Begum Trust believes in **Education, Equality and Opportunity** and is changing this landscape in Pakistan through utilizing both tried and tested methods such as Braille, and innovative use of assistive technology, with English as the medium of instruction. The Trust, through an Institute that provides pre-school to Matric education, and life skills training brings these special students at par with their sighted peers.

The Trust and subsequently the Institute were started under the leadership of Miss Salma Kishwar Jan and has been revolutionary in changing the lives of the students who attend.

Through the efforts of many, the Trust and Institute are honored to be recognized as a standard for education and training of the blind in Pakistan. Our Alumni are successful, accomplished and productive members of society.

Quality education and removing inequalities are part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2030. These become even more important when an inequality, such as loss of sight, creates barriers for individuals to fulfill their potential. Early visual impairment has negative and far-reaching impact on the development, education, future opportunities and personality of individuals.

The Trust and Institute are life changing for those who cannot see, and a beacon of light for those who can. This document records the development of the Trust and Institute to date and acknowledges the many who contributed to this effort to change the lives of the blind in Pakistan.

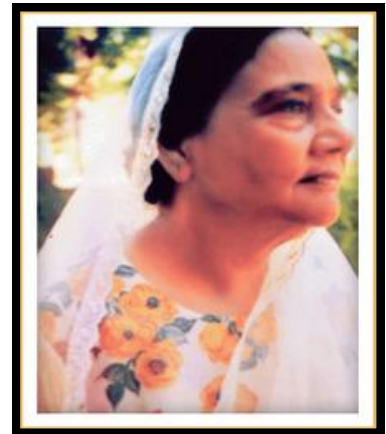
“Eye sight is one of the greatest blessings of God but for those of us deprived of it education is sight, light and life. AJBT Institute has given us the confidence, courage, strength and above all a desire to explore our own potential.”

AJBT Alumnus

AZIZ JEHAN BEGUM – THE INSPIRATION FOR AJBTI

Aziz Jehan Begum a kind soft spoken person with an iron will, relied on her faith to carry her through hardships. Her formal education was limited to the primary level but she strongly believed in the transformative power of education and supported her children to achieve the highest levels of study possible.

She was an activist and engaged community member. She participated in the Pakistan movement, and regularly attended meetings and processions. When the need arose, she trained in first aid and joined a knitting group to supply sweaters and bandages for Pakistani soldiers.



*Aziz Jehan Begum, the
quiet strength that
stands behind AJBT*

In her early forties she developed an eye disease which went undiagnosed. Simultaneously her husband, who was her strength and supporter, was diagnosed with advanced cancer requiring her to devote herself to his care. His passing in 1950 brought hardship and trial, with the care of seven children who were still completing their education.

She became a recluse, avoiding all social gatherings and rarely left her house devoting herself fully to maintaining a healthy atmosphere at home and supporting her children. Her eye disease which had insidiously advanced by that time was diagnosed as “Retinitis Pigmentosa” and was incurable. To her dismay she eventually had only peripheral vision left.

Despite her loss of vision she remained resolute. At one point in her life all her children except two, a son and a daughter, were at home with her. Her daughter, a doctor, had an opportunity to go to England to specialize. Relatives and friends discouraged Aziz Jehan from letting her daughter go given her own eye condition but her reply was “I will never let myself stand in the way of my children’s progress”.

Despite her visual impairment Aziz Jehan Begum was very independent and confident and took care of herself. In the last days of her life, she lost all vision but she still continued to go for regular walks with her assistant, taking care of her own self as much as possible.

The plight of blind people in Pakistan made her very unhappy and she often said “there is no life here without sight”. She felt that something had to be done to enable such individuals to have a productive and enjoyable life. She passed away in 1983 leaving her dreams and hopes for the blind with her children.

THE TRUST

Ambassador Salma Kishwar Jan

A Woman of Substance



**Ambassador
Salma Kishwar Jan**

Miss Salma Kishwar Jan or Ms. S.K. Jan, was the eldest daughter of Aziz Jehan Begum. She was also an active participant in the Pakistan Movement. She was one of the first women in Pakistan to qualify in the Central Superior Service Exam (CSS) and for the Foreign Service. After serving in Pakistan's civil service and as a diplomat for many years she eventually became Pakistan's first female career Ambassador.

After retirement she took on the mission of realizing her mother's vision for the blind in Pakistan. She traveled to several countries to understand and learn how services were being provided. Based on these learnings she decided to establish a Trust that would serve this community in Pakistan and be an enduring tribute to her mother, Aziz Jehan Begum.



***A photograph from the Lahore Museum: March 1947
Muslim League women leaders freed from Jail including Begum
Shahnawaz, Begum Kamardad, Begum Nasira Kiani and Begum Salma
Tassadaq among others. Ms. Jan who was also arrested with them is seen
after their release.***

In Memorium Mr. Mohammad Salahuddin Jeddy



Mr. Jeddy was the first Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Trust. His dedication was instrumental in the resolution of land issues and completion of the construction of the Institute, Administrative block and Kids Campus. He led many of the advocacy and innovation initiatives including the first pipe band for blind students in Pakistan. Students loved him. One of them wrote on his passing in 2017, “I have lost a father today”.



AJBTI Pipe Band which has performed at many public events

Chair Board of Trustees

Mian Kamran Afzal

Special gratitude to Mian Kamran Afzal, current Chair of the Board of Trustees, for his unwavering commitment to AJBT and AJBTI from its conception. He was the first person Ms. Jan called to discuss the idea of AJBT. Since that time, he has been one of the most ardent supporters of this organization, its mission and its students.



Mian Kamran Afzal



Annual Results Day 2025
Mian Kamran Afzal and Mrs. Ursula Jeddy with students

THE JOURNEY OF A THOUSAND MILES

In 1988 Miss Jan contacted close alliances and prominent members of society to voluntarily assist in the formation of the Trust. Under the guidance of these Founding Members (7 trustees, 7 members, 11 advisors and 2 auditors (**Annex 1**) an organizational structure and Trust deed were created to define the role, administrative and legal aspects of the Trust.

In 1989 “Aziz Jehan Begum Trust for the Blind” was officially registered as a charitable, non-government organization under the Societies Registration Act XX1 1860, Trust Act 1882, and the voluntary social welfare agencies ordinance 1961. The first Trust office was established and operated from Miss Jan’s residence.

The Trust, a non-denominational and not for profit public charitable organization is dedicated to empowering the blind. It strives to enhance the lives of the visually impaired in Pakistan by educating, training, rehabilitating and enabling them to live with dignity and financial independence (**Annex 2**).

I. SETTING THE COURSE

The Founding Members and advisors reviewed the existing research, data and the landscape of facilities in Pakistan. Based on the Pakistan Census of 1981 it was clear that blindness was increasing between the ages of 9 yrs to 60 yrs. However facilities for the blind were insufficient or non existent. The Trust was faced with a gigantic task.

Based on this some key areas and actions were identified:

- 1. Focused outreach:**
 - a) Active engagement with the population of visually impaired, especially youth in school aged groups, who were outside the purview of existing facilities.
- 2. Enhanced employability and opportunity.**
 - a) Providing educational, vocational training and job placement support and increased employment opportunities.
 - b) Identifying jobs which the blind could be trained in to increase opportunity for them to engage in vocations considered nontraditional.
 - c) Devising human resource development programs to bring the visually impaired into the mainstream of social and economic life of the community.
- 3. Holistic Approach:**
 - a) Developing recreational and positive leisure time experiences for all age groups to enable holistic personality development.
 - b) Creating awareness and motivating to organize community based vocational and recreational programs for the visually challenged.
- 4. Advocacy:**
 - a) Breaking down rigid social attitudes and prejudices towards all visually impaired persons whether they are children, adults or senior citizens.
 - b) Advancing educational opportunities at all levels.

II. BUILDING BRIDGES

Learning from National and Overseas Organizations

The Trust aimed to establish a state-of-the-art educational center for blind children. The magnitude of this project required significant financial, personnel and other resources. Miss Jan began fund raising and developing a plan for a school. Information from local and international organizations engaged in education of the blind was used to inform the process of development. Valuable advice and guidance was obtained from the Punjab Special Education Directorate, the American Foundation for the Blind N.Y, Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) UK, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) Toronto, and the International Federation Libraries Association (IFLA), as well as officials of libraries and individual experts working with this community.

III. AZIZ JEHAN BEGUM TRUST INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND (AJBTI)

In 1996 the flagship project of the Trust was launched as an English medium Institute to provide blind students a state-of-the-art learning environment. A residential building was acquired in Muslim Town Lahore to accommodate the Institute and teachers were hired. Trust Voluntary Organization (TVO), the INFAQ Foundation and Bait-ul-Mal assisted in furnishing and procuring educational materials.

Mrs. Ursula Jeddy was appointed as the Director in 1997 to organize and develop the Institute. Miss Desiree Gallimore a volunteer was deputed by the Australian Overseas Bureau as an advisor.

Mr. Mohammad Akhter, a retired Pakistan Air Force officer, who was trained as a teacher at the Trust, took on the administrative work. Five teachers were sponsored by the Trust to complete training in Braille, Orientation and Mobility. They received rigorous training in English, Urdu and Mathematics Braille. They also attended English language, grammar and spoken English classes conducted by Mr. Haroon Bukhari former Director General of Pakistan Broad Casting. Miss Gallimore, instructed in orientation and mobility, use of white canes, awareness of the environment, and olfactory and auditory tactile skills. Braille was taught by Miss Humaira Rana and Miss Nighat.

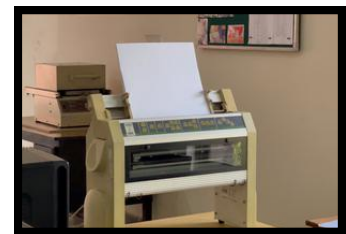
In 1997 admissions commenced. A key policy was not to deny admission to anyone. The Institute began with 16 students between the ages of 6 to 18 yrs. Some of these students had rudimentary knowledge of Braille but had not studied English or Mathematics. Based on initial assessments they were assigned to age-appropriate classes. No student was placed above Class 8 to ensure that there were at least 2 years to prepare them for the 1999, Lahore Board of Secondary school examination.



AJBTI became the only institution in Pakistan where all teachers and students had to master the English, Urdu and Mathematics Braille and learn orientation and mobility.



Teachers learning Braille

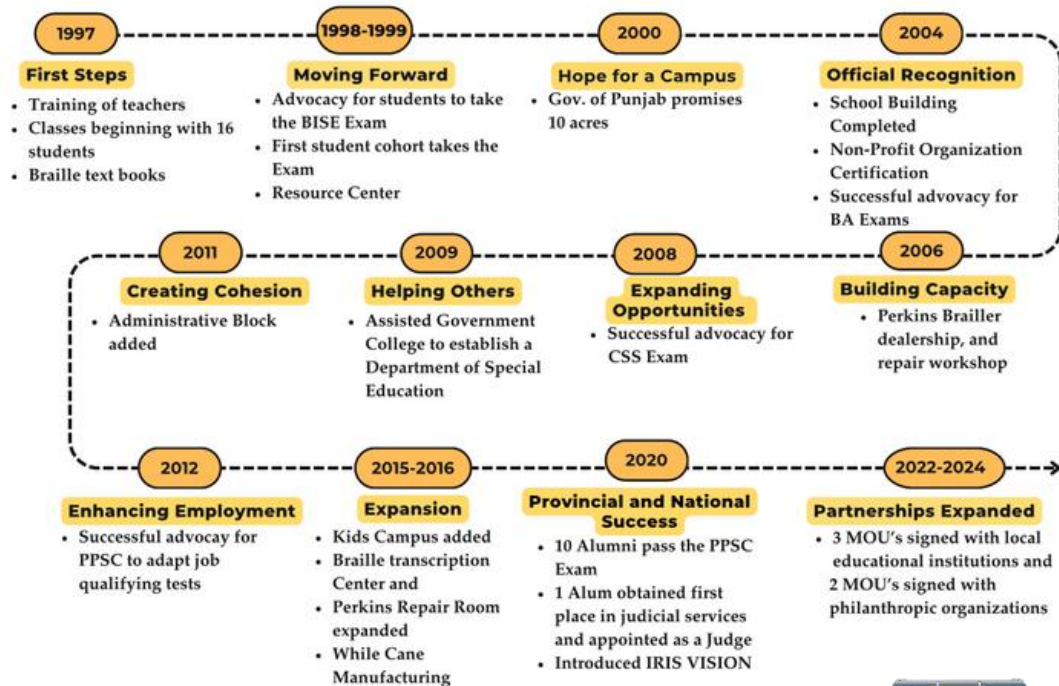


Transcribing Braille books at the Trust

The Institute, committed itself to the values of “Equality, Knowledge, and Opportunity” and was registered with the Special Education Department of Pakistan in 1997.

Students received education in English language, Mathematics, Urdu and orientation and mobility. Their Braille competence was perfected. Once this basic training was completed the Lahore Textbook Board syllabus was instituted. In addition to Braille advanced learning technology was initiated in a positive and welcoming environment. With the help of well-trained teachers, began the work of bringing these students, marginalized from routine school and normal life activities, at par with their sighted peers.

Milestones 1997-2024



A. ACADEMICS AND BRAILLE COMPETENCE

A major challenge was that none of the required text books were available in Braille. This gap was important to fill to enable blind students to read and write independently and to take the Board examinations, which were all administered in Braille. The Trust undertook three important and innovative steps.

1. The Transcription Section was established to overcome this problem. Availability of Braille books made education easier and opened new avenues for education for blind students for the first time.
2. The Institute introduced the Perkins Brailier, to all students starting from Class 5 and taught mastery in its use. The Brailier is a type writer used by the blind to write Braille. Due to its expense the machine was not being provided to students across Pakistan.

BRAILLE TEXT BOOKS - A FIRST

Braille books were not made in Pakistan and were absent in our educational system. The Trust, for the first time, started the transcription of Braille text books. English fiction, Poetry and some classic novels were also transcribed. An embosser was purchased for this purpose. The Trust also started Braille graphics to make maps.

3.Implementation of the English language as the main medium of instruction enhanced opportunities for higher education and facilitated access to additional knowledge resources and other intellectual pursuits.

B. LIFE SKILLS TRAINING

Independence in movement gives children self-confidence. Training in orientation and mobility was introduced as a compulsory subject from the early stages. This enabled students to familiarize themselves with their surroundings and walk without assistance using protection techniques and later using white canes to avoid injury.

Daily living skills were also taught as part of the curriculum. This included general cleanliness, washing hands, brushing teeth and keeping themselves and their environment clean.

By 1999 the number of students had increased and the premises were too small to deliver the necessary educational experience. A house was rented in the Township area of Lahore and the Institute was moved. With more space available a Braille library was established where students could sit and read. Mr. Kazim, was the first librarian.



Clockwise: Students receiving training in mobility, organizing and cooking



ENGLISH/URDU BRAILLE DICTIONARY

A dictionary is a basic tool for learning a language. For blind students who can only read Braille a dictionary they could use was not available. The Trust commenced a project to prepare a version which students could easily use. The typing was done using a Perkins Brailier and the National Zakat and Infaq Foundations respectively provided a thermoform machine to type and emboss copies on plastic sheets. This task took 6 years. It was the 1st Urdu to English Dictionary for the visually impaired in Pakistan.

Today the number of students at the institute from pre-Class 1 to Class 10 is 150. Based on international standards each class is limited to 8 students to provide personalized attention.

To date 132 students have passed their secondary school exam with exceptional grades and have joined prestigious institutes for higher education i.e. Masters, PhD, MPhil and Law etc. Many are holding coveted jobs. All are living independent productive lives (Annex – 3).

FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

A. TALKING BOOKS RECORDING STUDIO

To provide an exceptional educational environment the Trust established its own recording studio. In 1990 began the production of talking books and some master audio copies for elective and compulsory subjects.

The Embassy of Japan provided a generous grant to purchase state of the art equipment with a high-speed duplicator. Australia Overseas Bureau's Mr. Michael Saran was deputed for a year to train local staff to use the equipment and the production of audio books commenced.



Recording Studio

B. BRAILLE & TALKING BOOKS LIBRARY

Lahore is the center of education but there was no library which catered to blind students or had braille books. The Trust engaged in building a collection of Braille books and audio books. An arrangement of inter library loans was made with The Royal National Institute for the blind in UK.

Today the Institute has the largest Braille and Talking Books library in Pakistan. Books were generously donated by the Canada Fund (CIDA), the Punjab Library Foundation, North Rock School, Australia, Australian high commission, National Book Foundation and the Alavi Braille Library, Karachi. Many were purchased by the Trust, or made at the recording studio. An Audio Lab was also set up for students to listen to the books. This helped students improve their pronunciation, do recreational reading and become familiar with classic English literature.



Mohammad Din Jan Library is the largest Braille books library in Pakistan

C. THE MODEL ROOM

A model room was developed where stuffed animals, birds, the human skeleton and models of the biological parts of the body and other objects provided students with tactile learning opportunities. Students use this room to touch and learn shapes and textures, and use models for academic purposes.



Students in the Model room

D. AMATEUR RADIO STATION

Amateur radio is a medium of education, instruction, information, communication and recreation for the visually impaired. A club was set up and training and assistance was provided to use this facility. The Amateur radio club was an associate member of the Courage Handitam System USA. The plan was to organize a radio network in Pakistan. Once the Institute became functional this activity evolved into art and performance activities to enhance the student experience.

E. EXPANDING OUTREACH AND SUPPORT

Several training courses were arranged for visually impaired individuals of all ages who were not students at the school. They could come to the Trust office as part-time students and take advantage of several course offerings such as:

- a. Guidance & counseling services for career planning, job training, employment search, and job placement.
- b. Training in independent walking, orientation and mobility.
- c. Braille classes for adults and children.
- d. Use of talking books and cassettes.
- e. Life skills such as grooming and personal care.
- f. Technical advancement in computer skills.

F. TEACHER TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

With the expansion of educational facilities there was a need for more teaching staff. Teachers had to be exceptionally qualified not just to teach students but also to train new staff members. The Institute developed a 3-month Teacher Training program to meet this need. To enter the program the minimum educational requirement was a Master's degree in any subject. Teachers received training in English, Urdu and Mathematics Braille. and orientation and mobility. At the end of the training candidates took subject examinations. A minimum passing requirement was set at 85% in each individual subject. This training was conducted by senior staff members and is ongoing.

G. RESOURCE CENTER

A center was established to provide information to the visually impaired community on global advancements that could enhance quality of life. The Center also assisted in providing access to innovation. Mr. Jeddy was recruited to lead the Resource Center and later served as the CEO of the Trust until his passing in 2017. Over time this facility was accommodated in other ways through outreach and community engagement.

H. VOCATIONAL WORKSHOP

A small workshop was also started to familiarize students with mechanical and electrical tools. The Australian High Commission provided funds for this workshop. The work of Perkins Braille repair also started here.



Teachers receiving mobility training (above) and Braille training (below)

I. COMPUTER LAB

It was recognized that to succeed in a technologically advanced world students would need computer skills. Screen reading and required software was introduced at the Institute.

The Institute made Computer Science (CS) a compulsory subject for students studying for the matriculation examination. A Computer Lab was established. Beginner classes were introduced as early as Class 4. The students gained familiarity with the keyboard and the parts of a computer. Through supervised training by Class 6 they were adept at using computers. This enabled students to take CS as an elective subject in their Matriculation Board Examination in 2001. Currently this is the only institution for such students where CS is compulsory.



Students in the Computer Lab

J. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

In 2001 the Institute started a Pipe Band modeled after Scottish Bands. Mr. Raja Ashraf was employed to train 16 students and 2 teachers. Though the members keep changing, it remains the first and best Band of its kind in any teaching organization. Students are regularly invited to perform at public events. Speech competitions and reading competitions are also held. Students take part in theater and vocal musical activities. Physical training and sports are a regular part of school life. Students enjoy cricket, basketball and other sports using specialized equipment. On days when the weather does not permit out-door activities they engage in indoor activities and board games.



Students playing Cricket

K. MANDATORY SUMMER CAMP

Given the intense academic curriculum and added dimensions of personal life skills these students must be taught, the normal school calendar year could not accommodate the expanded schedule.

A mandatory summer camp was instituted to ensure that students continued to be engaged and productive during the summer. During this training is further expanded and they learn cooking, taking public transport, shopping and gardening. Recreational and educational trips are organized to places of interest to expand their experiences. Every year an effort is made to provide different opportunities to learn about their environment and include visits to factories, gardens and museums. Younger students love to visit the Lahore Zoo.



***Students at a Museum (above)
and the Zoo (below)***



L. PERKINS DEALERSHIP AND REPAIR WORKSHOP

In 2006 during a visit to the United States, Mr. Jeddy visited Howe Perkins Brailier, which is the main supplier of Perkins Brailiers, in Massachusetts. After much deliberation Aziz Jehan Begum Trust for the Blind was given the status of a service provider for sale, service and repair for Perkins Brailiers in Pakistan. Under this contract three Trust staff members were sent to Kattapatti, India and trained under the expert guidance of the Howe press staff. The Trust has established the only workshop in Pakistan where these machines from all over the country are repaired.



Mr. Jeddy (center) with the team at the Howe Press



Perkins repair workshop

M. IRIS VISION

In 2020 the Trust introduced a new device to assist those with low vision. This innovation is life changing for many individuals with partial vision. It has been tested and tried successfully on many students and members of society. The Trust relies on private purchase and donor contributions to make this possible for those students who benefit from it and wish to use it. Comprehensive testing is done to determine eligibility. This has enhanced and extended vision for several students at the Institute and beyond.



An AJBT student who received a donation of an IRIS VISION device



A student being tested for suitability for the IRIS VISION device

ADVOCACY: A CRITICAL COMPONENT OF EMPOWERMENT

I. NATIONAL ENGAGEMENT TO ENHANCE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

In 1998 the Government of Pakistan organized a meeting in collaboration with Sight Saver International on "Services for Visually Impaired". Mrs. Ursula Jeddy represented Aziz Jehan Begum Trust Institute for the Blind. This led to further engagement with local examining bodies and expanded facilities for students.

A. Board of Secondary and Higher Education

The help of a writer to take examinations is a method which the Trust and Institute discourages as it is not a true reflection of a candidate's ability. In 1998 the Trust pursued and obtained permission from the Lahore Board of Secondary Education to permit Blind students to take their examinations in Braille instead of having writers record their answers. This was a major breakthrough for student empowerment and independence.

In 1999 permission was obtained for Blind students to take CS as an elective subject in the matriculation exam.

In 2004 successful negotiations led to permission from the University of the Punjab to allow blind students to take their Bachelor of Arts (BA) examinations in Braille.

B. Punjab Public Service Commission

In 2012 with the efforts of the Trust permission was obtained for blind students to take the Punjab Public Service Examinations using Braille, computers, audio recording, or writers. Since then, more than 20 of the Institute's alumni have joined Government and are engaged in public service. Unfortunately, this facility was withdrawn in 2021.

In 2023 Director General Punjab Public Service Commission Mr. Rao Afzal Mohsin and Director Examinations Mr. Muhammad Shabir were invited to visit the Institute. They saw the standards of students using Braille and computers and renewed this facility.

C. Central Superior Services Exam

In 2008 with the efforts of the Trust, Blind students were allowed to appear in the Central Superior Services (CSS) examination and complete their exams using a computer. Ms. Saima Saleem from the Institute appeared in this exam and obtained over all 6th position in Pakistan. She opted for the Foreign Service and was the 1st blind person to join this prestigious service. Presently she is representing Pakistan as a Consular at Pakistan's UN Mission in New York.

II. INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION

A. Vision 1999 - U.S.A.

Miss Salma Kishwar Jan, and Mr. and Mrs. Jeddy represented the Trust at a conference in New York (U.S.A) on visual rehabilitation. They represented the Trust and Institute and delivered oral presentations on the "Visually Handicapped in Pakistan" and "Educating the visually impaired segregation vs Integration or Inclusion". These contributions were included in the conference report "Vision Rehabilitation".

B. Smiling Child Festival 2004-Turkey

In 2004 on their international day Turkey organized the “smiling child festival” for disadvantaged children. They invited the students of the Institute to participate. Five students and 2 teachers traveled to represent the Trust and Institute alongside students from 17 other countries. The performances of our students were greatly appreciated.

C. ICEVI Conference 2006 - Malaysia

In 2006 International Council for the Education of the Visually Impaired (ICEVI) held a conference in Malaysia which was attended by Mr. & Mrs. Jeddy. Mrs. Jeddy delivered an oral presentation on “Equality of Access to Education”.

III. DIGITAL ACCESSIBLE INFORMATION SYSTEM (DAISY)

DAISY is an international standard for making multimedia available to the blind and permitting them to share information and knowledge worldwide. The 1st meeting of DAISY was held in 2006. Mr. Dipendra Monocha presided and five organizations from Pakistan Participated. The system was formally launched in Pakistan. Mr. Jeddy was elected the President and Mr. Mian Kamran Afzal as the Treasurer. It was launched as “DAISY Forum of Pakistan” (DFOP) with five centers in four cities. A training course was also organized. Miss Miki Azuma from Japan, Mr. Monocha and Mr. Prashant from India conducted the program. Many representatives of provincial and federal government attended. Mr. Asim Butt prepared the first disc using this program.

This method of recording books has an advantage over the monologue method of making books or cassettes. In 2007 DAISY Foundation, arranged courses in Bangkok for international trainees. Mr. Asim Butt from the Trust attended this course.

IV. PARTICIPATION IN FOCUS GROUPS

In 2008 the Ministry of Social Welfare and special education organized a focus group in collaboration with the Aga Khan Foundation. Mr. Jeddy CEO and Mrs. Ursula Jeddy Institute Director attended and provided experience-based inputs on facilitating and improving the status of the blind.

V. ROTARY INTERNATIONAL AMBASSADORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

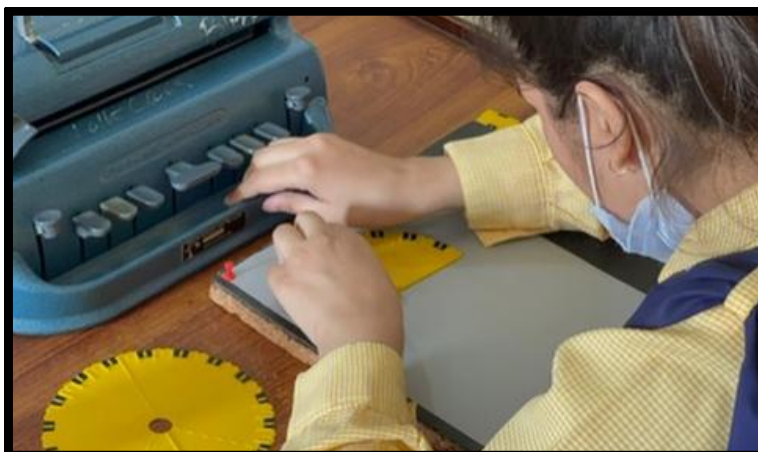
Rotary International sponsors individuals with unique work to further their education. The Trust supported one of the teachers to apply. As a result, Ms. Fozia Mushtaq, went to California (USA) for a year to enhance her training in the techniques and management of blind students. She obtained a master’s degree.

VI. CENTER FOR DISABLED AT GOVERNMENT COLLEGE UNIVERSITY LAHORE

In 2009 The Trust helped the Government College University Lahore to develop a Department of Special Education to facilitate blind students. They were assisted with the development of a Center for students through the purchase of computers, an embosser and software installation on computers to align the facilities to meet the needs of students. One of the Institute's alumni who had completed his Masters in English was recommended and was employed to help blind students at the Center. Lahore College for Women University and Kinnaird College University for women were also offered this support.



Students learning about shapes through tactile activities



A student studying geometry using special instruments and a Perkins Braille

COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Today many organizations which work with blind individuals seek the Trust and Institutes support and facilitate the work of the Trust.

In 2022, the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) signed an MOU with AJBT to collaborate on all educational activities.

In 2023 Zaman Foundation branch “Sub Sath” which collects donations from various charitable organizations signed an MOU to support the Trust in its efforts.

In 2024 an MOU was signed with the Lahore College for Women University to foster advancement in teaching and research through collaboration in research projects, joint conference workshops, internship opportunities, and publications among other areas.

The same year another MOU was completed with Khudii Organization which assists philanthropic organizations to raise funds through their social media platform.



High School students taking an examination

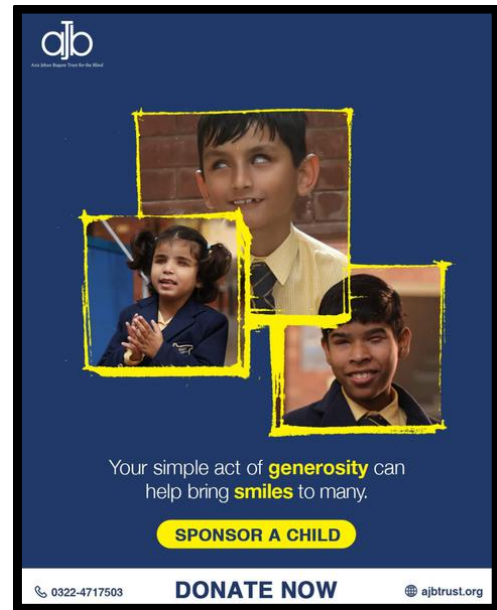
FINANCES

Educating the visually impaired is a challenging and expensive enterprise unlike any other. All the equipment for assistive technology is imported and the number of students in each class has to be limited as they need individual attention. We also need specially trained teachers. With these considerations, the Trust decided to charge tuition on the basis of family income. Soon it was clear that most of the parents could not afford to pay. To ensure equity and access tuition fees were terminated and educational equipment, books and most other needs were made free for all. Some deserving students are also provided uniforms. To support these facilities a student sponsorship program was launched. The Trust also receives funding from some philanthropic organizations, private individuals and limited funds from the Government.

Transportation is an area which is particularly challenging. As all students require transport services a bus service with subsidized transport fee was instituted.

The number of students to date who have passed their matriculation is 132 and this number continues to grow annually. All students have obtained higher education at prestigious institutions accomplishing Masters, PhD, M.Phil., and law degrees among other areas of study. Many are holding coveted jobs and all are financially independent (**Annex 3**)

The Trust is grateful to all individual members and organizations, who have been providing financial aid to the Trust for the education of blind students. Some of our partners and friends who have supported us for the last 30 years.



Campaign for student sponsorship

Partners since 1996

- **Infaq Foundation**
- **Children Of Islamic Nations “COIN”**
- **Punjab Welfare Trust for the Disabled**
- **Special Education Department, Government of the Punjab**



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Over the years AJBT has received awards from Government and private entities. The Punjab Welfare Trust for the Disabled recognized AJBT for “empowering and fostering inclusiveness and equality” and “best contributions for the disabled” in 2008, 2018 and 2024.

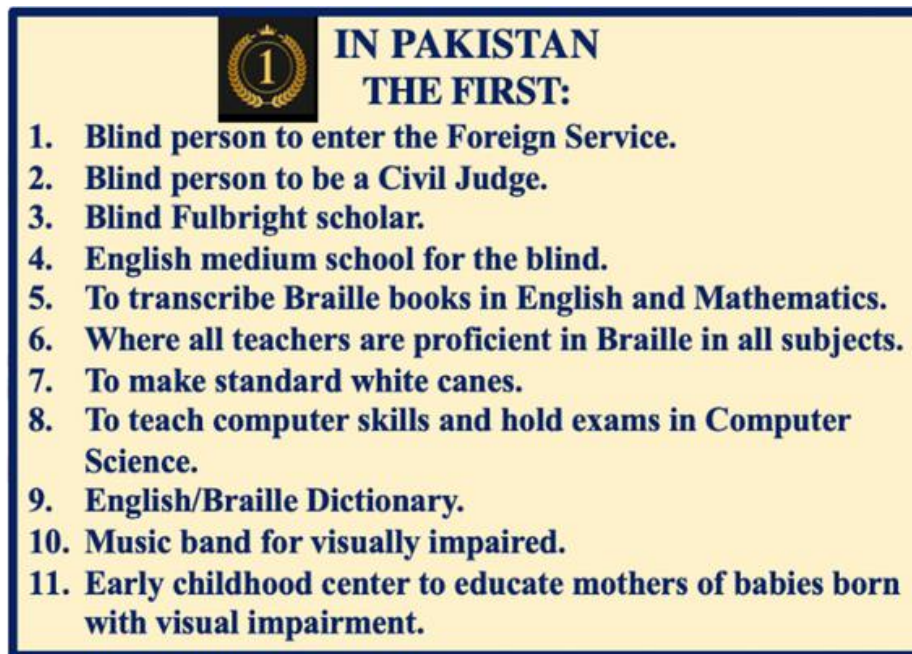
The Special Education Department of the Punjab presented an award for the “Rehabilitation and Betterment of Special Children” and the Rotary Club awarded the Trust and Institute recognition for “Service before Self” and the “Vocational Service Award”.

Pakistan Center of Philanthropy

Since 2004 the Trust has voluntarily opted to subject itself to very detailed independent audit in line with international best practices with emphasis on:

- a. Internal Governance
- b. Financial Management
- c. Program Delivery

The Trust received an NPO award in 2005 from Government of Pakistan recognizing the Trust as an NGO which can be trusted with donations and contributions from corporate and independent philanthropists. Based on this The Trust is eligible for tax benefits from the Central Board of revenue. This assessment is repeated every 3 years and the Trust has qualified since



AZIZ JEHAN BEGUM TRUST AND INSTITUTE COMPLEX

It was the strong desire of the founding Members that the Trust and Institute have their own premises to function and a continuous effort was underway to obtain land from the government for this purpose.

In 2000, Governor Punjab Lt. General Safder was the Chief Guest at “White Cane Safety Day” event. He also visited the Institute. He praised the unique work to educate blind children and highly lauded the efforts of Miss Salma Kishwar Jan. In recognition of the work, he promised the Trust 10 acres of land for the complex.

Miss Jan was very pleased and had great vision for the future of the Institute but unfortunately, she passed away a month later and this was not realized.

In 2001 Mr. Jeddy was appointed as the CEO of The Trust and began efforts to revive the pledge. In 2006 Mr. Parveez Illahi, Chief Minister Punjab attended the White Cane Safety Day and with his assistance and significant efforts, the Trust was able to acquire 5.5 acres. The Chief Minister also provided Rs 10 million to start construction.

Mr. Nayyar Ali Dada one of the trustees and a famous Architect planned and designed eleven buildings which were to be the part of Complex with an estimated cost of Rs 300 million. The construction began with a ceremony on 19th Nov, 2009 which was done by the two youngest students of the Institute Nabeera Andleeb and Fahad Ali. It was attended by all the staff of the Trust and Institute. All trustees made generous donations and by 2011 the first building was completed and educational activities were relocated there.

In 2015 The World Bank assisted in constructing a concrete road which comes all the way to the Trust complex. With the increase of distance between the Trust which was located in the city and new Institute operations were affected. It was therefore decided to build the Administrative Block [1] of the Trust and shift all offices to the same premises. During the opening ceremony of the Institute in 2011 then Chief Minister announced a grant of Rs. 2 crores for this new building.

[1] The construction projects were overseen by Major Mohammad Salahudin Jeddy the CEO of the Trust and Mr. Mohammad Akhter Associate Director of the Institute, who had valuable experience in construction after working with China Water and Power Construction Company.



Artistic rendering of completed Campus



Completed Institute Campus for Classes 1 to 10



The Administration Block

The construction was completed in 2015 with the help of generous donors. Presently besides the Trust offices this building includes a recording studio to make talking books, an adult education center and a room for Iris Vision a device, introduced in Pakistan in 2020 by the Trust, which can help some individuals with partial vision to see.

Next project on the construction agenda was the "Kids Complex"[2] This multipurpose building was designed to not only accommodate preschool and nursery students but also has a counseling center for mothers of visually impaired students, a health unit, a cafeteria and a number of workshops. Construction of this block started in 2015 and completed in 2017. Major funding for this project was from Habib Bank Foundation.



The Kids Campus

The Perkins Braille repair workshop is situated here, where not only the machines of the Institute but machines from all over Pakistan are cleaned and repaired. The Braille transcription center of the trust is also in this building. All text books and exam papers are printed here.

White Canes are the most useful tool for the visually impaired and are the “eyes of blind”. Visually impaired persons use the canes for orientation and mobility. There is a workshop for making durable and lasting canes here.

Punjab Welfare Trust for the Disabled provided 50% of the cost for installing solar panels. This was a major help in running computers and other machines.

The construction of the “Salma Kishwar Jan Auditorium” was made possible by the donation of two Trustees [3]. On 17th October 2017, on the death anniversary of Miss Jan the earth breaking ceremony was performed by two young students. It was initially estimated that this project would be completed in a year but due to massive inflation, the cost of construction materials, and poor weather conditions the work was slowed down and at times halted. With new vigor the work restarted in 2023 when the Government of the Punjab sanctioned Rs 3 million for this purpose. Thanks to the efforts of Dr. Mahrukh Asif Bashir, Vice Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, it is expected that the work will be completed in 2025.

The completed Campus is envisioned to have a gymnasium, residential facilities for staff and separate boarding facilities for girls and boys.

[2] Gratitude to Mr. Farrukh Milan and Mrs. Faiza Ather and Naeem Kamran who used their artistic skills to decorate the walls.

[3] Mr. Aly Sheezar Jeddy and Dr. Sophia Siddiqui, grandchildren of Aziz Jehan Begum.

RECREATION ROOM

Activity

Pre-Professional Skills
**Screwing, twisting and
shaping wooden blocks**
to improve fine motor
skills.



Aziz Jehan Begum Trust for the Blind

ANNEXTURES

ANNEXTURE 1 - Pg. 28

1A: FOUNDING MEMBERS AND ADVISORS

1B: ORGANIZATIONAL AND FUNCTIONAL CHART

ANNEXTURE 2 - Pg. 30

FROM OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

ANNEXTURE 3 - Pg. 34

INSTITUTE AND HIGH SCHOOL PROFILE 1999-2024



ANNEXTURE 1 A. FOUNDING MEMBERS AND ADVISORS

Chairman

Mr. Riyaz Hussain Bokari, Former Auditor General of Pakistan.

1st Vice-Chairman

Mrs. Miriam Habib, Journalist and Social Worker. Chairman, A.P.W.A. Punjab,

2nd Vice Chairman

Mr. Hayat Ahmad Khan, President, Pak-Japan Cultural Association. Secretary General, All Pakistan Music Conference.

Honorary Secretary

Miss Salma Kishwar Jan, Former Ambassador of Pakistan.

Honorary Joint Secretary

Mian Kamran Afzal Director, Evershine Paints (Pvt.) Ltd.

Honorary Treasurer

Mr. Taha Mahmood, Manager, Finance & Credit Control,
Atlas BOT Leasing Co. Ltd.

Honorary Legal Advisor

Mr. Anwar Kamal, Advocate, Supreme Court of Pakistan.

Members, Board of Trustees

Miss Gulzar Bano, Former Federal Secretary, Government of Pakistan.

Prof. Dr. Saeedur Rehman. Social Work Department. Punjab University.

Mrs. Rubina Shakil, Social Worker

Brig. Mujahid Alam, Pakistan Army.

Mrs. Mira Phailbus, Principal. Kinnaird College for Women, Lahore.

Mr. Khalid Rafique, Deputy Auditor General of Pakistan.

Mr. Ali Hassan Habib, Instruments and Electrical Manager. 1.C.1. Polyester.

Advisors:

- Dr. Mrs. Rafia Hassan, Former Head of Applied Psychology Department. Punjab University.
- Dr. Hamid Sheikh, Professor, Applied Psychology Department, Punjab University.
- Mrs. Tahira Saleem. Head of Computer Department, Lahore American School.
- Dr. A.H. Awan, Eye Specialist
- Begum Ismat Bashir Nawaz, Braille Expert, President Blind Welfare Association.
- Mrs. Humaira Alam. Beautician. Social Worker.
- Dr. Mrs. Fehmida Jalil, Former Professor of Paediatrics, K.E. Medical College, Lahore.
- Sh. Nusrat Ali, Additional Secretary, Government of the Punjab.
- Brig. (Rtd.) Idrees Mohsin, Secretary, Pakistan Amateur Radio Society.
- Mr. A.R. Shaji, Controller, Central Production Unit, Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation.
- Mr. Javed Hassan, Senior Broadcasting Engineer, Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation.

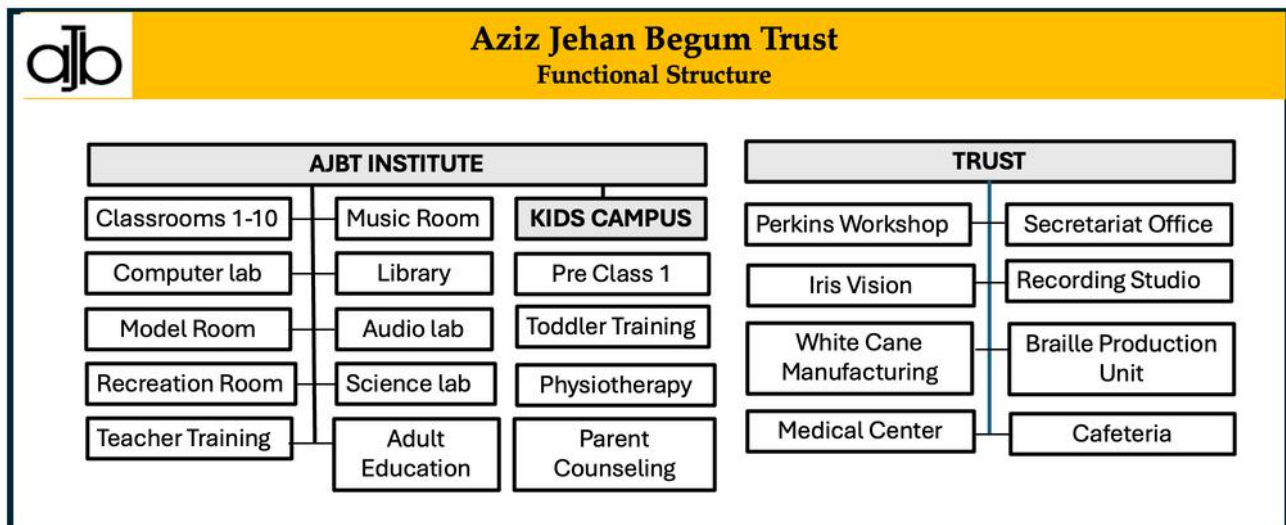
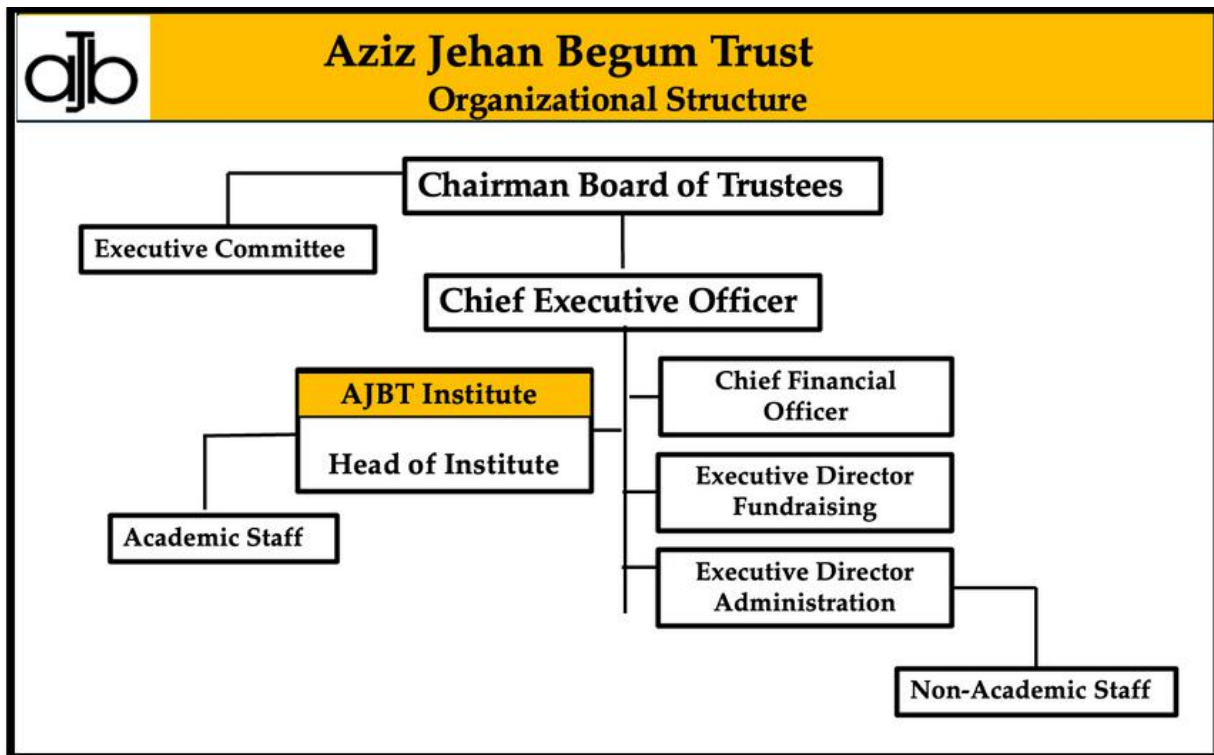
Auditors:

M. Almas & Co.

Chartered Accountants,

Mian Chambers, 3 Temple Road, Lahore

B. ORGANIZATIONAL AND FUNCTIONAL CHART



ANNEXTURE 2

I. FROM THE STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2025 KNOWLEDGE OPPORTUNITY EQUALITY

OUR VISION

To be the premier institution in Pakistan, and the region, creating a world of no limits, for those living with visual impairment.



OUR MISSION

Aziz Jehan Begum Trust and Institute is committed to state-of-the-art education and life skills training, aligned to the individuality of each student.

We empower individuals with visual impairment to thrive as highly productive and successful citizens, living with physical and financial independence.

OUR VALUES

EXCELLENCE: We recognize our role in transforming lives of those with visual impairment and believe that we must provide them the best learning and academic opportunities possible.

TEAMWORK: It takes a village to support our special community. Our staff and students are a team. We support and inspire one another with respect and kindness.

PERSEVERANCE: Continuous commitment and dedication are critical to our success. We work every day to break barriers with courage and resilience.

INDIVIDUALITY: Lack of sight is not lack of ability. Our community is unique. We embrace that uniqueness and difference as opportunity.

ACCOUNTABILITY: We know that we must deliver on the promise of tomorrow. We are careful custodians of our students and our resources.



OUR GOALS

Our motto “Knowledge, Opportunity and Equality” drives our goals.

Goal 1: Differentiated learning: Provide an excellent multifaceted education and training at state-of-the-art facilities that enables success.

We are committed to ensuring that our students have the skills to thrive in a sighted world and live independent, productive lives. This requires exceptional educational instruction. Access to specialized materials and equipment, braille books, dedicated and trained teachers, strategically designed spaces and classrooms, life skills training and access to specialized equipment are critical elements.

Goal 2: Evolution: Provide and advocate for innovative opportunities for advancement of those living with visual impairment.

It is our aim to provide access to the most appropriate ways of enhancing and leveraging the innate talents of each individual and to advocate for their advancement and equity in public and private sectors. This includes enhancing our own facilities as well as constantly leveraging innovation and research to improve programming and explore new opportunities.

Goal 3: Operations and Infrastructure: Implement robust management, operations, and financial structures to ensure continued and sustainable support of an innovative environment.

We must create and maintain organizational excellence to build on the extraordinary accomplishments. Our staff and teachers are critical to this endeavor. To ensure continuity we must maintain and enhance the excellent education, build on our resources, and create the fiscal space to implement new initiatives that will allow for sustainability and continued growth and opportunities for our community.

CURRENT FACILITIES



1. AJBTI KIDS CAMPUS - PRE SCHOOL:

AJBTI's Kids Campus is fully equipped and highly specialized in training visually impaired children under 5 years to learn, play and socialize.

Our curriculum for our young learners includes:

- Early Braille education – counting, alphabet, early mathematics.
- Touch and feel recognition of objects using toys, stuffed animals, and everyday items.
- Life Skills – safety, posture correction, ascending and descending stairs, play and games.
- Development Physiotherapy.
- Enhancing motor skills.
- Posture correction.
- Overcoming hesitation and fear.

We give personal attention to each child. We counsel and guide parents on how to care for their child and provide emotional support to mother. We have a Medical Aid center on campus to assist with minor ailments and injuries.

2. AJBTI HIGH SCHOOL AND LIFE SKILLS TRAINING CENTER

The High School, which is the only fully English medium school in Pakistan for the blind provides education from Class 1 to Matric following the curriculum of the Lahore Board of Secondary Education, Punjab.

All faculty members have master's degrees and complete intensive training in English, Urdu, mathematics, braille, orientation, and mobility before starting. Our students are the only visually impaired students in Pakistan who have been taking the Computer Science Exam in Matric since 2001 and have always secured First Division results. Some key elements of the school are:

- (a) English is the medium of instruction to enable access to global knowledge geared for visually impaired people (software, books, hobby craft, entertainment, and more)
- (b) General Science and Mathematics (arithmetic, algebra, and geometry) are compulsory.



- (c) Computer Science is taught as compulsory subject to Matric students.
- (d) Braille instruction begins from day one, moving from Sixer to Frame and Metal Slate.
- (e) Perkins Braille machines are issued to each student in Class 5 for written work.
- (f) Computer Training begins from Class 4 to enable use of special software starting in Class 5.
- (g) All tests and examination papers from Class 4 and up are in braille, including the Matriculation Board Exam. In Pakistan it is only our students who can write their own examination papers in braille or on computer.
- (h) Orientation and mobility training starts from Class 1 with trailing and White Cane usage.
- (i) The Institute is open year-round. During the summer students learn cooking, gardening, and do science experiments.
- (j) The language lab students listen to talking books to improve English language skills.
- (k) Music is a part of the curriculum. The Institute has an 18-Member Pipe Band.
- (l) Students participate in games and sports, learn music, go for excursions, participate in shows and competitions and celebrate special occasions.
- (m) The Model Room has science nature and geography models to teach students.
- (n) Students are Provided transport from residence to the Institute at a nominal charge.





AZIZ JEHAN BEGUM TRUST INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND, LAHORE, PAKISTAN INSTITUTE AND HIGH SCHOOL PROFILE 1999-2024

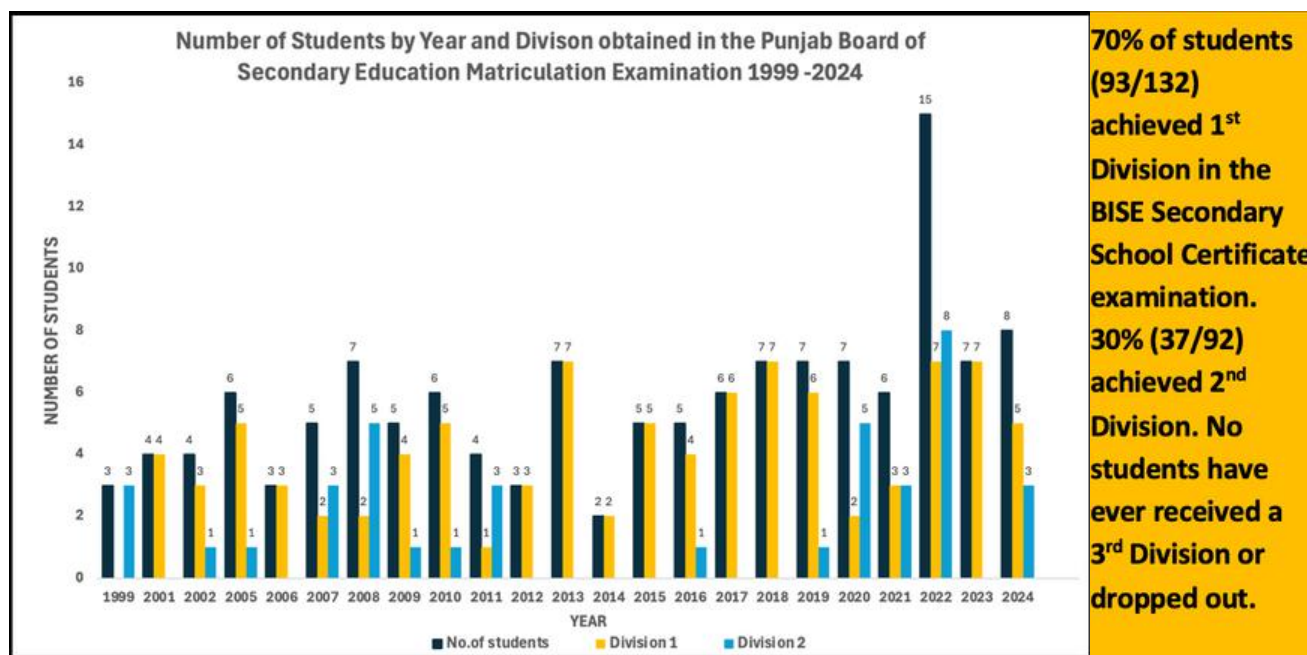
OVERVIEW: Aziz Jehan Begum Trust Institute (AJBTI) is a nondenominational co-educational Pre-Class 1 to Class 10 college-prep school for blind and visually impaired students, founded in 1997. The School offers highly specialized academic education aligned with the Lahore Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) and prepares students for the Secondary School Certificate (Matric) Examination. The school offers a student-centered holistic and personalized approach to education through innovative teaching techniques, state of the art computer lab and expansive athletic and extracurricular activities. Students also receive mobility, orientation, and life skills training.

STUDENTS: AJBTI students come from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds. All students receive tuition free education and access based on the School's values of education, equality & opportunity. At the High School level all students are proficient in English, Urdu and Mathematics Braille. Mobility and orientation are also taught through 8th Grade.

CURRICULUM AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS: All students follow the BISE curriculum. Academic subjects are: English, General Mathematics-Arts Group, General Science, Computer Science, Civics, Urdu, Islamiyat, Pakistan Studies, Tarjamat-ul-Quran.

SCHEDULE: The AJBTI academic year is from March to March. Students also attend a summer program to accommodate the additional dimensions of life skills needed to live and function independently and thrive as productive engaged citizens.

STUDENT ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE 1999-2024



COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ATTENDED 1999 – 2024

100% of AJBT Students (132 graduating students to date) obtained a higher degree. Colleges attended are:

- Government College University Lahore, Pakistan
- Lahore College for Women University, Pakistan
- Kinnaird College for Women, Lahore, Pakistan
- Degree College Township, Lahore, Pakistan
- Punjab College, Lahore
- NUML University Islamabad.
- Federal Govt. Degree College

ALUMNI SUCCESS

All AJBTI Alumni have completed at a minimum a Bachelor's degree. Several have accomplished higher level academic education. Some are presently enrolled in a bachelor's degree program or in the process of applying to higher education.

Highest Degrees Obtained	
Ph. D.	1
M. Phil	23
M.A.	56
Law	2

STUDENT AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

1 Student received the Tamgha-e-Imtiaz from the President of Pakistan
1 Student obtained a Fulbright Scholarship to study in the U.S.A.
Several students have received laptops through the Chief Ministers Merit award scheme.
2 students obtained 2nd and 3rd positions respectively in the BISE Matriculation examination.
7 students have received medals from the Governor of Punjab as high achievers in the BISE Matriculation Examination.

HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ALUMNI ATTENDED •

Govt. College University, Lahore.	"FAST" University, Lahore
Carroll College, Wisconsin, USA.	Punjab University Law College
The University of York, UK	National Defense, University, Islamabad.
Allama Iqbal, Open, University	University of Management & Technology, Lahore
Punjab University, Lahore.	University of Education, Lahore

• Bachelor's, Master's and above

PROFESSIONS ALUMNI ARE PURSUING

Foreign Service · Civil Service · Senior Academic Appointments · Teaching · Banking · Consulting · Police Service · Software Engineering · Computer Science · Communication · Judicial Service · Television and Social media · Customer Relations · Human Resource Manager · Management · Data Science · Business



Aziz Jehan Begum Trust for the Blind



Armish Ama'an
12 years, Class 6

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