

AWARENESS NEIGHBOURHOOD WALK ON WORLD DOWN'S SYNDROME DAY - MENTAID



21st March is WORLD DOWN'S SYNDROME DAY. To celebrate the occasion, MENTAID organized an Awareness Neighbourhood Walk when people were on the road to work, between 9- 10 am. Twenty five children and young adults with Down's Syndrome walked with their parents, bearing placards that said, for example, "You are 'able', so are we", "Let's become buddies, it's fun", "My child with Down's is a blessing, not a burden", "I am a proud father of a child with Down's". Others carried colourful balloons which everyone had happily blown together.

On the way, a one page flyer was distributed to people as they drove or walked past, explaining what Down's Syndrome was, their positives, penchants and how they are being integrated in the community.

The establishments the group stopped at on the way included a bank, a sweet shop, a beauty parlour, a photo shop and a car showroom. The Manager and employees were told briefly about the importance of our visit and were encouraged to talk with the group members. One young woman in the group said simply "read my banner" and another gave a warm smile. The twenty five were our biggest advocates in their simple, unique style.

In the end, one young lad with Down's, confidently played the synthesizer and had even the police mesmerized with his skill. The police gave excellent support and ensured that the group did not face any problems or the traffic inconvenienced.

A refreshing drink and a piece of cake brought to end a good beginning of a very special day.