

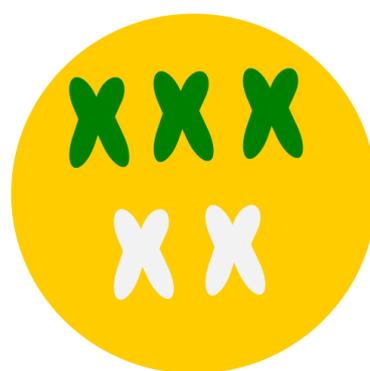
DOWN SYNDROME

Down Syndrome is caused by more than the usual amount of material of chromosome 21 in the cells of the body.

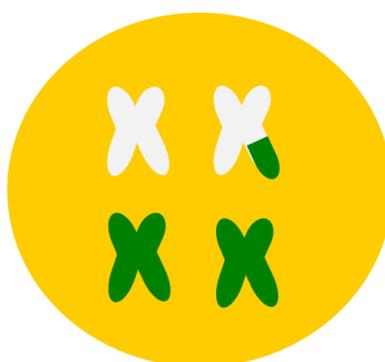
Down Syndrome is not curable. However, if children with Down's are provided the right physical, social and intellectual management, they can lead self-reliant and robust, successful lives.

Persons with Down Syndrome are often not appreciated for their individual abilities, but are pigeon-holed because of the characteristic physical features. These labels unnecessarily limit the opportunities they could have.

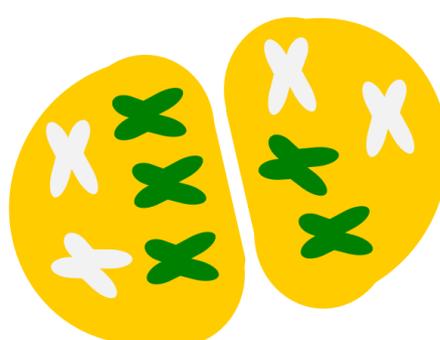
Persons with Down Syndrome may have low IQ, but they often excel in other fields. Persons with Down Syndrome have received awards for rap, acting, swimming, painting, singing, sculpting, and cooking.



**Trisomy 21:** All cells have 3 copies instead of the usual 2 copies of chromosome 21.



**Translocation :** All cells have extra chromosomal material from chromosome 21



**Mosaic :** Some cells have an extra copy of chromosome 21.



What is the Issue?



Education



Housing



Employment

Are you aware that persons with Down Syndrome do not have the same opportunities as others?



Most mainstream schools have no experience in supporting a child with Down Syndrome. Even the staff of special schools lack training on dealing with the challenges that Down Syndrome poses. Those with Down Syndrome often face prejudice in the workplace and have difficulty in finding employment. Lacking education and job security, they have no voice on their living conditions including housing and personal finances.



**There is a lack of understanding of the abilities and needs of persons with Down Syndrome.**

What needs to be done ?



Prejudicial treatment of persons with Down Syndrome must stop as this prevents them from participating fully in the life of the community.



Teaching and support staff in schools should be sensitised to the special needs of persons with Down Syndrome.



Focus should be placed on each child's ability to contribute as a productive individual in his or her family and community.



Information on employment and independent living of persons with Down Syndrome would greatly assist parents and caregivers.

To further understand the reasons behind these statistics and their possible solutions, look out for our upcoming issues of Fast Facts by visiting the following links:

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

