NATIONAL DOWN SYNDROME DAY
20 OCTOBER 2012

National Down Syndrome Day is commemorated to create awareness about Down syndrome and to communicate facts about the condition.

Facts about Down syndrome:

• It is also known as Trisamy 21 referring to genetic defect of chromosome 21.
• People with Down syndrome have mild to moderate intellectual disability and a particular set of facial and hand characteristics damage.
• The cause of Down syndrome is not related to age, race, religion or socio-economic situations, but can be discovered during pre-natal screening such as amniocentesis in the period 15-20 weeks of pregnancy.
• One in 1 000 babies born in developed countries and 1 in 650 babies born in developed countries is affected by Down syndrome.
• 80 percent of children affected by Down syndrome are born from mothers under the age of 35, although women over the age of 35 are at a higher risk of having a child with Down syndrome.
• Although Down syndrome cannot be cured, there is a variety of medical care to treat problems associated with the disease.
• Children with Down syndrome can be included in normal schools with regular academic procedures and are able to do paid work.
• People with Down syndrome can live up to the age of 50 to 55.

Approved by: D MED (SAMHS)