



# **Umeed Partnership Pakistan (UPP)**

(Developing communities through education and training)

Registered # 764



## **Annual Report 2014-15**

**Umeed Partnership Pakistan (UPP)**

House # 198/199, Block J-3, M.A. JOHAR TOWN, LAHORE, PAKISTAN

TELE: 0092 35957302, CELL 0092 300 944482

E-MAIL: [umeedpartnershipakistan@gmail.com](mailto:umeedpartnershipakistan@gmail.com)

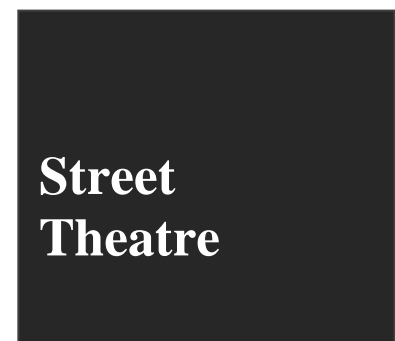
[Yousufjalalgill@yahoo.com](mailto:Yousufjalalgill@yahoo.com)

# UMEED ADMINISTRATION AND

## PROJECTS



**Education**





# INTRODUCTION

The Umeed Partnership Pakistan (UPP) has a non-political, non-profit ethos, registered under the Societies Act 1860 in 2001 and is entitled to work throughout Pakistan. The Umeed Partnership is also registered as a charity in the UK. It is a humanitarian

development organization committed to education and the promotion of women's rights. In 2000 Umeed initially started working in Baluchistan tribal areas and then spread its activities among the desert communities of District of Bahawalpur/Yazman, rural areas of Mian Channue/Khanewal and slum areas of Lahore because of the local contacts who were trusted by the people in these regions.

UPP established women's skills training centers and adult education and provided at the same time basic education (schooling) and awareness among women and children for their rights. The work of UPP has always been focussed on empowering women and children through education, skills training and programs of awareness of their own rights. Umeed wants to see women and children having power to direct their own lives. Umeed has experience in running training centers and educating women and children through community schools, conducting training on human rights for women and children and providing legal aid and running adult literacy centers. Umeed empowers women by:



1).empowering girls/women by teaching them about their rights. Women who are unaware of their rights are more vulnerable to abuse and will be unable to fight for their rights. In cases of crimes committed against women, Umeed teaches them how to register the crimes and stand up to those in authority (e.g. the police & judiciary).

2).empowering disadvantaged girls/women by providing them with employable skills, income generating projects and programs of self awareness. Also to teach them how to communicate with law enforcement agencies and the policy makers.

3).preparing women how to behave in public. Girls, who never leave the house, need to acquire social skills to communicate effectively to ensure that their rights are upheld.

**Vision:** The vision of UPP is to achieve an educated & skilled generation of young people and improved equality between men and women, Also to liberate vulnerable people from oppression.

**Mission** To reach out to those who lack basic human needs with the aim of restoring dignity and respect irrespective of caste, creed or gender..

**Goals :**  
To promote basic Human Rights and democratic processes within oppressed communities.  
To promote and facilitate integral development education at all levels.  
To provide opportunities to youth to identify talent and leadership qualities.

## Umeed's Focal Sectors include:

### Human Rights

- Human Rights and democratic education
- Empowerment of women and elimination of gender disparities
- Capacity enhancement of women's' groups and civil society organizations
- Research and documentation

### Development

- Promotion of entrepreneurship and development of small business skills
- Formal and non-formal education
- Socio-economic empowerment of the poor
- Assisting women in distress through legal assistance.

## MESSAGE FROM THE UMEED PAKISTAN CHAIRPERSON - SHAMIN GULZAR



Umeed Partnership Pakistan (UPP) works mainly for the empowerment of women and children in the districts of Quetta/Loralai, Bahawalpur Cholistan desert, Mian Chanue and Lahore slums. To address the deplorable conditions of women and children Umeed was formed in Balochistan in July 2000. Balochistan tops in ranking with regard to maternal mortality, illiteracy, unemployment and gender disparity. The female literacy rate is 2% in rural Balochistan compared to 26% on provincial level.

For several years the element of militancy in FATA and in the Province of Khyber Phaktoon Khawa was increasing, and it succeeded in getting women trapped in their four walls by destroying their educational institutions. The shooting of Malala Yousaf Zai in the Swat Valley caused international outrage. After a successful military operation in the area the militancy element moved into Balochistan where privately-funded co-educational schools were attacked. The result was that enrolment by girls fell by 70%. For the safety of their daughters, parents stopped sending them to school. Due to the strict patriarchal system women face crimes quite unjustly (honour killing, acid burning, forced marriages, buying and selling girls, gender disparity, illiteracy, unemployment and maternal deaths. These crimes are increasing year on year and are unchallenged by the state authorities.

Soon after its inception in Balochistan, Umeed moved to the Cholistan Desert district, Bahawalpur, rural areas of Mian Chanue and Lahore city slums where women's conditions are no better than the women of Balochistan. In these areas women are effectively slaves to the landlords, brick kiln and factory owners. The women of the minority communities in these areas are sexually abused, abducted, forced to change their religion and forced to marry the abductor. Without doubt these women face psychological, social, cultural, economic and moral problems in relationships within their families and communities.

As a social worker, year after year I continue to help these women by counselling them and by training them in transferable skills. As a result, Umeed has trained hundreds of girls & women in various skills and they now own their small business giving more economic benefits for themselves and their families. Increasingly, girls earn enough to cover the costs of their own dowry, thus relieving their families of the responsibility. Umeed has brought success, hope and happiness to many lives. Many are now successful entrepreneurs who can stand on their own two feet. I am so grateful to Umeed donors, benefactors, friends and above all to the Umeed Partnership (UK) partners whose financial support continues to help many girls/women in Pakistan enjoy their human rights which would otherwise have been compromised.

# MESSAGE FROM THE UMEED COORDINATOR PAKISTAN

## YOUSUF JALAL GILL



The year 2014-15 brought sadness and fear throughout Pakistan. Along with so many other issues, two terrible events shocked the world, viz the massacre of students at the Army Public School in Peshawar in December 2014 and the bombing of two churches in Yahunnabad, Lahore in March 2015. These events tarnished the name of Pakistan nationally and internationally. However, during the year the Umeed Partnership continued with its core activities with the result that hundreds of girls/women of Balochistan tribal areas, Cholistan desert Bahawalpur/Yazman, Mian Channue rural areas and Lahore slums have received education, training in employable skills and an awareness of women's human rights. Hundreds of children have been educated and boys have been trained in carpentry.

Alongside education and training, Umeed has helped these women in cases of domestic violence, torture and harassment. These women trainees in skills are mostly brick kiln workers and seasonal crop weavers whose lives are fully controlled by the landlords and brick kiln owners. These women are the cheapest source of labour for the employers. As soon as we begin providing employable skills training for these women, the powerful owners of businesses are alerted, fearing that they might lose their workers if they get trained in some employable skills. However many women have acquired skills and have improved their social & financial status by ceasing employment in menial work such as crop weaving and brick making. They are now living independent lives, having their own houses and their men are able to work on a freelance basis. These women run their own small businesses from home. They have moved from slavery to freedom.

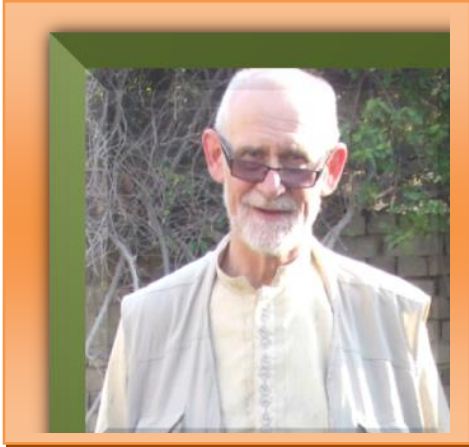
Umeed also provides Legal assistance in the cases of abduction, forced conversion and forced marriages of minority women in Southern Punjab. The women in the minority communities are abducted and converted to Islam. The police register the abduction cases but as soon as a girl converts to Islam, the investigation stops because they are unwilling to recognise forced faith conversion as a crime. Men have difficulty in protecting their women because they are out to work on the landlord's fields and also they are threatened or harassed by the police when trying to file an FIR. Generally abductees are under the age of 18 years but they cannot prove it in courts or at the police station since most do not have birth certificates. Once a girl is converted a false birth certificate is produced to prove that she is not a minor. Hindus don't have a system of registration of their marriages and therefore a Hindu married woman who is abducted cannot prove her marital status, and so is in a helpless position.

UPP runs two middle schools for the children of dalit (low caste) communities of Cholistan desert district Bahawalpur providing quality education to more than 300 girls and boys. Umeed also runs adult education centres for the illiterate women of all the four regions and addresses on women's health by running free Yoga clubs across Lahore. During the year, women are invited to attend sessions on psychological, social and cultural issues. Umeed regularly conducts sessions on women's human rights. Through interactive public debates and the formation and training of women's committees, human rights for women are promoted in the target regions. Due to these interventions, people's lives are changing dramatically. Many individuals and families are improving their social status. A miraculous change is taking place among people and communities where Umeed is working. This is all due to the dedicated teams of people and the donors who support Umeed. I am so grateful to them all.



# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF UMEED UK

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**DR. JOHN PERKINS**

The mission of The Umeed Partnership is to provide education and vocational training at grass roots level, leading to employment opportunities, for disadvantaged girls and women (and increasingly boys and young men) of all faiths and cultures in Pakistan. Operating at grass-roots level, UPP has no bureaucratic administrative infrastructure which means that funds raised in the UK are applied directly to the Project, running the education & training centres and the two Emma Marchant Umeed Middle Schools.

Demand for participation by both girls & women and boys & young men has continued to increase and expansion is constrained only by funding limitations. UPP activities continue to be concentrated in four diverse areas of Pakistan, viz Mian Channu area of Punjab; the tribal area centred on Loralai City; the Yohannabad slum communities of Lahore; and low-caste Hindu communities in southern Punjab, centred in Yazman and in Bahawalpur District on the margins of the Cholistan Desert.

The Umeed Partnership really does make a difference to people's lives, and I get quite a thrill out of being part of it. Time and time again I have come across young women of all faiths who have received training in the Umeed embroidery and sewing Centres over the past ten years, and who are now making a living for themselves and their families. Some have become trainers themselves, and so this is an example of the Project becoming self-sustaining. Without these training facilities, the young people would face empty lives, and therefore be more likely to be attracted to fundamentalism. The Umeed Schools also have provided a lifeline for uneducated communities in southern Punjab; they are a credit to the dogged determination of the UPP Co-ordinator and Supervisors to improve opportunities in these impoverished communities. So, the Umeed Partnership is demonstrably improving the quality of life for women, children, families and communities.

In addition to skills training and education, Umeed is evolving into a support network for vulnerable women who may be victims of domestic violence, illness and bereavement. As can be noted in the message from Yousuf Jalal Gill above, there is increasing awareness by women that their human rights are being breeched systematically, and that Umeed is at the forefront of a growing movement to ensure that women's rights are upheld throughout Pakistan society. Due to its multi-faith ethos, Umeed also encourages dialogue, and hence reconciliation, between the major faith communities. In our world of fragile international relationships, Umeed is surely a cause to celebrate and to support.

My thanks are due to all who have supported the Umeed Partnership Project over the past year and in particular the Committee members. Individual donors, who must remain anonymous, have exceeded expectations in their generosity this year. Of course, we are always pleased to receive donations – the Umeed Project would fail without them – but we also need support in other forms (fund-raising skills, financial management, presentation skills, legal expertise, graphic design, and so on). So, if you have any spare time or spare money, please consider continuing to support the Project in whatever way you can.

# Skills Training for Women

The Umeed Partnership works in a number of regions i.e. Bahawalpur/Yazman, Lahore slums, rural areas of Mian Chanue and Loralai/Quetta in communities with low economic and social status and where women are mostly illiterate and confined to their homesteads. Typically they have little confidence and they work in hard manual jobs, with little security and no rights. Once past puberty, illiterate girls in these communities have nowhere to go except to entertain their men and do the household chores. Umeed provides these girls with employable skills, income generating projects and programs of self-awareness. Umeed is convinced that women in Pakistan cannot be liberated or have equal rights unless they secure financial freedom which can only be gained if they acquire skills and engage in income-generating activities. Umeed provides skills training for women in embroidery and sewing/tailoring at a professional level. Once finished they sell their products in local markets. So far, Umeed has trained more than four thousand women who are now earning good money for their families. To provide these skills training Umeed adopts the following method:

- We set up centers for girls/women in family homes. We usually get applications from people already in the area and these applications are scrutinized. The supervisors visit the training centers every week. The reason for running the centers in the homes is to provide training in the safest environment, avoiding unnecessarily exposure of women to the public and reducing the amount of travel. It is culturally beneficial and is appreciated by families. The other reason for using family homes is to avoid extra costs in renting, maintaining and securing premises.
- We select teachers who have the capability to organize the lessons and classrooms. Usually this person also delivers training to the girls on behavior, health and hygiene.
- We appoint professional trainers in embroidery and sewing, three hours per day, six days per week. Products are sold across Pakistan and abroad.
- We provide business skill training so that those girls not only learn a transferable skill, but also manage their budget. Umeed does this, because any marketable skill can be transformed in a microfinance business.





# Skills Training for Street Children

The root causes of poverty in backward areas are lack of work and opportunities for economic advancement, as well as a dearth of educational outlets. The community as a whole desperately wants to see its children educated and trained, but the Government does not provide for this, nor can the communities afford to provide it for themselves. Umeed has been successful in addressing both issues by offering training in skills for which there is a demand both within and beyond the community and as well, provides basic literacy and numeracy training.

In Pakistan, the street children (mostly boys) do have families thus they are not living and sleeping on the streets. But they're on the streets daily to support their families by any means available - prostitution, begging, and hazardous work.

Umeed provides training for disadvantaged children in a safe environment which is free of exploitation to generate regular income for the children and their families. We measure this by the number of children who complete the course and by tracking income. We train boys in skills, giving them self-esteem and self-confidence, measured by observing and interviewing trainees. These aims are attainable; we have been successful in similar projects.

Umeed provides intensive one year skills training on professional level therefore the trained children after the training start their own wood workshops and tailoring shops in their homes getting orders from their own and neighbouring communities. Some of them are doing good business by running their own wood workshops and tailoring shops. Umeed has, in the past, helped them by purchasing tools and materials.

Some of the Umeed-trained street children get employment with furniture workshops and tailoring shops in nearby towns and cities. They are skilled workers who reap the financial rewards. All these young men are standing on their own two feet. Most of them are self-employed and self-supporting. They are no longer a burden to their families.





# Women's Human Rights Trainings

Umeed Partnership Pakistan promotes human rights for women through capacity building programs. This program has three main parts. In Part 1 Umeed conducts programs on a higher level with policy makers, journalists, religious leaders and youth leaders to sensitize them so that they may take the cause of women's rights to a higher level. They also promote women's rights in their own organizations and join hands with Umeed to promote the issue.

In Part 2 Umeed implements the project at the grass roots level where mass awareness occurs through interactive public debates following stage performances.

In Part 3, regional women's human rights committees are formed to present the practical side of the project assuring its sustainability. Umeed also conducts research on attitudes, mindset, cultural barriers, religious biases and taboos with regards to women's rights. Women are given exposure through training, debating and performing to achieve better results of the project.

## 1. Seminars, Consultations and Forums

UPP engages policy makers (politicians, judiciary, police), journalists (from the print and electronic media), religious and youth leaders to take the cause of the most disadvantaged women of Pakistan to a higher level. They commit themselves to work for the promotion of women's rights in their own environment as well as joining hands with the Umeed Partnership in its endeavours to promote these rights. The target group was 30 policy makers, 25 journalists and 30 religious and youth leaders with the ratio of 35% women and 65% men. All three activities were organized in Lahore region.

## 2. Interactive Public Debates and Interactive Theatre

To create mass awareness and mobilize communities into having a greater and more sustainable impact, more than 600 women were involved through interactive public debates. The participants took part in open discussion with interaction generated by the facilitator. The current issues and challenges concerning women's rights were critically discussed and recommendations were made. These activities were held during April, May and June 2015. Three interactive public debates were held in Bahawalpur/Yazman region and three were held in the Lahore city slums. The topics for the first three debates were women's access to justice, resources and jobs. The topics for the other three held at the Lahore slum area were the status of women's human rights globally and locally.



These topics covered International Human Rights Charter, the Constitution of Pakistan, gender discrimination, women workers, women farmers and women of religious minorities.

We organised 6 interactive public debates through theatre performances. These ensured that hundreds of women involved in the project received professional training in human rights issues. For the theatre performances we trained our own women who are talented artists. These local women artists are more effective. Due to their personal involvement in these plays many more women attended the public debates.

Each interactive public debate was attended by 100-125 women/girls. Since these debates were organized through stage dramas they acquired a reputation and

they are now popular activities for women in the community. After each stage program we held discussion/sharing and question & answer sessions under the facilitator's guidance regarding the issue of women's human rights. Most of the participants in these debates were women but we also invited some men from the communities. The outcome on more than 600 women/girls as the target group has been the establishment of Women's Human Rights Committees.

### 3. Women's Human Rights Committees

Four women's human rights committees (10 members each) have been convened in the first phase of the project. Members of each committee have been given training on their role and function at Lahore slums, Loralai, Yazman and Bahawalpur. In the second phase of the project one-day training was conducted on the topic: "How to promote women's human rights" for the Women's Human Rights Committee of Lahore at the Umeed Head Office on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2015. Ten committee members and supervisor attended the training. Main speakers were Mr. Kashif Aslam of the National Commission for Justice and Peace Lahore, Yousuf Gill Umeed Project Coordinator and Shamin Gulzar, the UPP Chairperson. Training for the Committees was also conducted for the Women's Human Rights Committees Mian Chanue, Bahawalpur/Yazman and Loralai and the main speakers were Yousuf Gill and the regional supervisor of each venue.



Each member of the committee visits at least one female victim monthly, listen to her story, give guidance to solve the problem and report to the committee and to the Umeed administration. Thus about 10 cases are dealt with every month by each committee. The function of the committees extended the scope of the project. Through these committees, outreach to victims has been increased. Each committee meets monthly and each member gives a progress report on the cases she has handled. Women in each area are aware of these committees and on occasions members themselves approach the committee members for help and guidance. It is clearly a most effective network whereby women are mutually solving each other's problems. Through these committees the project has become popular, effective and sustainable.

***"It took me quite a long time to develop a voice, and now that I have it, I am not going to be silent." —Madeleine Albright***



# ACTS OF TERRORISM

## A CONDOLENCE SERVICE AT LAHORE

A condolence service was organized in memory of innocent martyrs of the Army Public School at Peshawar. Candles were lit and silence of one minute was observed along with special prayers said in memory of those massacred on 16th December 2014. This ceremony was held just before the certificate awarding program organised for the Umeed women trainees of Lahore region who completed sewing/tailoring training during the year. The ceremony was held at the Renewal Centre, Yuhannabad in Lahore on 17 December 2014. The occasion was graced by Dr. Mansur ul Haq, Rotary District Governor along with many Rotarians and other distinguished guests.



## A CONDOLENCE SERVICES AT EM UMEED MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Immediately after the brutal incident at the Army Public School Peshawar the Umeed Partnership Pakistan organized services of condolence at the two Emma Marchant Umeed Middle Schools in the Bahawalpur region. In both the schools the students, teachers and Umeed administration condemned the terrorist activities in the country and demanded that the government provide security for educational institutions.



## A REACTION OF UMEED TO THE MASSACRE IN YOHNABAD LAHORE

At least 15 people were killed and more than 70 injured when two suicide bombers attacked churches in Yohannabad, Lahore on Sunday March 15, 2015, sparking mob violence in which two other suspected militants died. The bombings occurred during Sunday prayers at two churches of Youhanabad, a Christian neighborhood where more than 100,000 Christians live. Umeed condemned this brutal act.



“No nation can rise to the height of glory unless your women are side by side with you. We are victims of evil customs. It is a crime against humanity that our women are shut up within the four walls of the houses as prisoners. There is no sanction anywhere for the deplorable condition in which our women have to live.” — [Muhammad Ali Jinnah](#)



# **E D U C A T I O N**

Umeed Partnership provides education at all levels irrespective of cast, creed or gender. The rate of education among the communities served by Umeed is the lowest in the world. In urban areas people live on the margins of the cities forming miserable slums and in rural areas they live outside of the main villages and towns where there is no access to any type of development. They have no schooling, no health care, no sanitation facilities, no roads and no facilities for socialization.

A few years ago Umeed was requested by two communities in the Cholistan desert where there was 100% illiteracy rate to help their children in education. Umeed opened two middle schools - one for the community called Garibabad colony (Poor's dwelling place) in village 18/BC, Bahawalpur in 2007 and Garibabad colony of village 52 D.B Yazman in 2009. The School at 18/BC was upgraded with the help of Rotary International Matching Grant Project but the school at village 52/DB still needs funds to renovate the buildings. However both Schools continue providing quality education to about 300 students both girls and boys.



Apart from other activities before closing the schools for the summer vacation this year the students were taken on a study tour to Bahawalpur. It was a life changing experience for them since it was first time that they experienced a big city like Bahawalpur.

The summer camps were held from 25 July to 24 August 2015 in both the EMUM Schools. The timing for summer camps were from 7 to 10 am. The extra coaching in Mathematics, English and Urdu and extra curriculum activities were carried out during these camps.

**"I believe that the rights of women and girls is the unfinished business of the 21st century." —Hillary Clinton**

# ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM FOR WOMEN



Umeed has signed a contract with the Pakistan Bible Society (through the Australian Bible Society) to run an Adult Literacy Program for women providing basic literacy and numeracy skills over a period of three years. During this period there are 6 batches, each of 6 month duration. The first batch with 70 centres was completed at the end of August 2014 and the certificate awarding ceremonies were held. The second batch of adult literacy centres started on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014 and ended in March 2015. The certificate awarding ceremonies were held in July. The detail of the certificate awarding ceremonies for both the batches are as follows:

| Session One ( March to Aug 2014)    | Date         | Successful Students |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Circle 1 & 2 Lahore 20 Centres      | 16-Sep-2014  | 350                 |
| Circle 3, Bahawalpur 10 centres     | 18-Sep-2014  | 191                 |
| Circle 4 & 5 Yazman 20 Centres      | 18-Sep-2014  | 370                 |
| Circle 6 & 7 Mian Chanue 20 centres | 19-Sep-2014  | 396                 |
| <b>Total</b>                        |              | <b>1307</b>         |
| Session two (Oct 2014 to Mar 2015)  |              |                     |
| Circle 1 & 2 Lahore 20 Centres      | 6-July-2015  | 381                 |
| Circle 3 Yazman 10 Centres          | 28-July-2015 | 195                 |
| Circle 4 Head Rajkan 10 Centres     | 28-July-2015 | 107                 |
| Circle 5 Mian Chanue 10 centres     | 30-July-2015 | 199                 |
| <b>Total</b>                        |              | <b>882</b>          |



The adult literacy classes of the Third Session (April – September 2015) started on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 at Lahore slums 20 centres, Mian Chanue rural area 10 centres, Bahawalpur outskirts 10 Centres and Head Raj Khan Yazman rural areas 10 centres. Each centre having 20 to 25 illiterate women/girls students guided by a teacher and a supervisor looking after a circle of 10 centres. Before each batch of Adult Literacy Centres begins training sessions for teachers & supervisors are held at each region and text books, stationery and study aids produced by Pakistan Bible Society are made available in each centre.

The training of teachers and supervisors of women adult literacy centres of Lahore slum circle was held on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at Dullu Kalan, Lahore. All the 20 teachers and two supervisors participated in the training

The training was provided by Shamim Gulzar, chairperson UPP and Yousuf Gill, Executive Director UPP. Yousuf Gill explained the purpose and goal of the adult literacy program by saying that this program would help women first of all to read and write, and that they would be able to make daily financial accounts using their knowledge in numeracy. Above all, they would become educated mothers who would educate their children and give them a head-start in life.

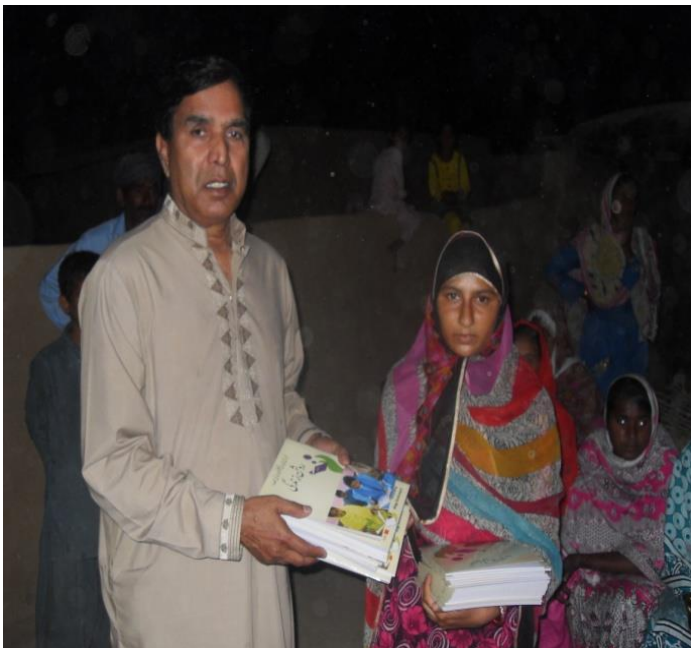


Shamin explained the methodology how to go about teaching illiterate women. By using the book by Vincent A. David (*A guide for Teachers, Supervisors, Program Managers and Community Leaders based on Adult and Non-Formal Education*) she explained that Urdu alphabets should be taught with their correct sounds. She said the big and small shapes of the alphabets should be taught through various methods, styles and aids. Once the students can identify the correct sounds & big and small shapes of the alphabets then the students will learn how to join them together to make words and sentences. In the same way she said that the numeracy should be taught to the students with the help of graphs, charts and tables so that they may have competence in the mathematical skill needed to cope with financial accounting in everyday living.

The training at Bahawalpur took place on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at Salma Kenwal, Umeed Supervisor's House Islami Colony Yazman Road Bahawalpur. 10 teachers and a supervisor participated in the training which was provided by Ms. Salma Kenwal, Umeed Supervisor and Yousuf Gill. Yousuf Gill explained the purpose and goal of the adult literacy program and Salma explained the methodology how to go about to teach the illiterate women by using the book by Vincent A. David (title above).

The training at Head Raj Khan Yazman took place on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at village 33/DNB. 10 teachers and a supervisor participated in the training. The training was provided by Mr. Marcus Wazir, Umeed Supervisor and Yousuf Gill.

The training at Mian Channu rural areas circle took place on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at the Assembly of God Church, Stunzabad, Mian Channu. 10 teachers and a supervisor participated in the training which was provided by Aneel Zaffar in charge of ALP and Yousuf Gill.



***“You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough.” — Mae West***

## VISITS & TRAININGS

Umeed staff participated in the training session organized by National Commission for Justice and Peace (NCJP) at Nishat Hotel Lahore on the theme of “*UN HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS*” on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2014. Staff also attended the Report Launching Ceremony: Risk & Capacity Assessment of Human Rights Defenders Organizations in Pakistan organized by Democratic Commission for Human Development (DCHD) held at the Holiday Inn, Lahore on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

Umeed staff were invited by the Nur Center for Research and Policy who arranged a National Dissemination Seminar on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2015 (Thursday) in the PC Hotel, Lahore. The topic was the School Health Programme (SHP) Institutionalisation in Education System in Punjab.

The staff of Umeed Partnership Pakistan (UPP) participated in a one day seminar entitled “*Uprooting Religious Intolerance Through Formal Education in Pakistan*” organized by the National Commission for Justice and Peace (NCJP), Lahore, on May 19, 2015 at Faletti’s Hotel.

Umeed staff participated in a session on “UN Mechanisms and the role of Human Rights Defenders” organised by the NCJP in April 2015 at the Nishat Hotel, Lahore.

From 20 to 21 March 2015 the Umeed staff were given a training session on Project Writing Skills by Corien Waheed from Bunyad Consultancy and coordinator of MM Partners in Pakistan at Umeed Head Office, Lahore. The training was very informative and style of imparting skills and knowledge to the participants was effective. Many thanks to Corien for her professionalism and enthusiasm.

Eight days of two trainings in Rawalpindi and Lahore were organized by Mensen met een Missie (MM) joining with NCJP in October 2014. All MM partners from Punjab Pakistan participated and were equipped with the necessary tools. The first four days were spent on ‘Result-based Management’. It was organized in the Christian Study Center, Rawalpindi and presented by Mr. Thilakan Sathasivam from Sri Lanka. The other four days were spent in Dar-UI-Musret, Lahore and Ms. Annemarie Gehrels from the Netherlands trained the participants on *Lobby and Advocacy*.

The training was highly professional and post-session feedback showed that participants were now well equipped with the necessary tools to prepare bids for funding and sponsorship. The training was based on mutual aid and teamwork which was recognised by the participants.





From 13 to 16 March 2015 training on Project Writing Skills was organised by Corien Waheed from Bunyad Consultancy and coordinator of MM Partners in Pakistan at the Head Office of Human Friends Organisation in Yuhannabad Lahore. The main theme was the Theory of Change (TOC). In this training session twenty members from following organizations participated:

- National Commission for Justice and Peace (NCJP)
- Umeed Partnership Pakistan (UPP)
- Catholic Women Organization (CWO)
- Ezaz –e-Naswan (EZN)
- Human Friends Organization (HFO)

Umeed staff participated in the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of a Church-based organisation - Maktaba-e-Anaveem Pakistan (MAP) which promotes contextual theologies among Pakistan's Christian community. The celebration was held on 28 February, 2014 at Bait-ul-Momineen Sadhuke, district Gujranwala. Yousuf Jalal Gill (Executive Director, UPP) was one of the speakers.

*"A lot of people are afraid to say what they want. That's why they don't get what they want." — Madonna*

***"I raise up my voice—not so I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard... we cannot succeed when half of us are held back." —Malala Yousafzai***

## WORLD POLIO DAY CELEBRATED

On behalf of the Lahore Liberty Rotary Club, the UPP Executive Director, Yousuf Jalal Gill (who is also Secretary of Lahore Rotary club Liberty for 2015-16 and President Nominee for 2016-17) organised a World Polio Day Program in collaboration with Umeed Partnership Pakistan on 24 October 2014 at the Emma Marchant Umeed Middle School in Village 18/BC Bahawalpur. The occasion was graced by PP Rtn. Tehsin Gardezi of Rotary Club of Lahore Liberty. The staff, students, Umeed administration and mothers participated in the program. Rtn Tehsin Gardezi stressed the importance of polio vaccination for every child.



EMUMS Village 52/DB Yazman



EMUMS Village 18/BC Bahawalpur

A similar event was held at the EMUMS in Village 52, Yazman at which the occasion was graced by Saleem Gill, Advocate in Yazman. The staff, students, Umeed administration and mothers participated in the program. Mr. Salim Gill explained to the participants the importance of Polio Vaccine drops for every child.

Likewise, a World Polio Day Program was organised in collaboration with UPP with collaboration of Umeed Partnership Pakistan (UPP) on 24 October 2014 at Paris Primary School, Dullu Killan Lahore. The occasion was graced by Rtn Noor ul Hasan, the president of Rotary Club of Lahore Liberty. Also Rtn Baqar Khan and Rtn Yousuf Gill of Rotary club of Lahore liberty. The staff, students, Umeed administration and mothers participated in the program. President Noor ul Hasan and Rtn Yousuf Gill explained to the participants the importance of polio Vaccination for each child. After the program a rally was taken out in the streets of Dulla Kilan chanting slogans for a polio-free society and that every child should have the right to be vaccinated





# Visitors and Guests

The Regional Manager South Asia of International Christian Concern from USA visited the Umeed Head Office in Lahore on 1 April 2015 to explore the possibility of helping minority women victims of forced faith conversion in Sothern Punjab and also to help the illiterate minority women by introducing an adult literacy program. The visit was simply to explore the possibilities of establishing a working relationship with UPP and at this point there is no commitment on either side.

Mr. David Smith, Head of International Programs of the Bible Society USA (which funds the Adult Literacy Program for women in Pakistan) was on a tour to verify the outcome of the Project. He chaired a meeting at The Pakistan Bible Society, Lahore office on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2015 during which Yousuf Gill explained the project conducted by Umeed. He appreciated the significant work that Umeed is doing for the illiterate women in Pakistan and promised to continue his support in future.

On 26<sup>th</sup> February 2015 MM Partners from the Netherlands visited the UPP Head Office in Lahore. MM Partners is a donor agency providing funds to about 12 organisations including Umeed Partnership Pakistan in the sector of development and human rights. The purpose of the visit was to introduce the new chair of Asia desk Mr. Kees who replaced Marjolijn. The guests were pleased to note that the Umeed Head Office is well equipped and have been systematically re-organised. However, the Umeed administration put forward the case for professional staff training, to include security issues.

On the same day the MM Partners visited the Umeed skills training centre in Lahore. They were impressed with the Umeed project and showed a particular interest in women's education and vocational training programmes offered by Umeed. In addition to embroidery and sewing/tailoring training centres for women, carpentry workshops for street children and Adult Literacy Centres for women, Umeed also conducts Human Rights training sessions for women and street children in slum areas of Lahore.



Mr. William of Christian Concern and Yousaf Benjimin of Dignity First with Umeed Director and Chairperson



MM Partners of Netherlands with Umeed Director and Chairperson

# Publications

## Changing Lives; Changing Futures

For the last 15 years Umeed Partnership has been running the project titled *Empowering women through self awareness and conscience raising by means of conducting skills training and seminars*. Umeed also had been providing free legal assistance to the women victim of abduction, forced conversion and forced marriages. In order to gauge success of the project the beneficiaries success stories were collected, compiled and published. Over the years many of the successful beneficiaries have been sharing their experiences with UPP. These experiences are compiled and published with the name *Changing Lives, Changing Futures*. These experiences are mostly remarkable success stories and in some cases where the outcome has been less than successful, then they are extraordinary tales of real life experiences. Whatever the outcome, these stories demonstrate the scope, the impact and the success of the Umeed Partnership in its work with underprivileged communities.

### **Come and join Umeed:**

Become partners of Hope

Hope for a better and just world;

Hope for men and women's equality;

Hope to strengthen the hopeless and those in despair.

### **Join to support our program of**

Human Rights Training for women and street children (Just Society)

Economic freedom for women and street children (vocational)

Education for girls & boys (schools)

Rehabilitation of women in distress (legal assistance)

Youth Talent Development (Street Theatre, Sports Club)

### **Help Umeed in providing:**

Administrative and skills-based support

Tools and materials (in-kind)

Financial support

Support as volunteers

### **Visit or write to us:**

#### **Yousuf Jalal Gill**

Executive Director & Coordinator – UPP

House no. 198/199 block J-3, M.A. Johar Town, Lahore  
Pakistan.

Tel: 0092 42 35957302,

Cell 0092 300 9444482

[umeedpartnershipakistan@gmail.com](mailto:umeedpartnershipakistan@gmail.com)

[yousufjalalgill@yahoo.com](mailto:yousufjalalgill@yahoo.com)

[www.uppakistan.org](http://www.uppakistan.org)

