



PAKISTAN YOUTH
CHANGE
ADVOCATES

Annual Report 2015



Pakistan Youth Change Advocates (PYCA)



**PAKISTAN YOUTH
CHANGE
ADVOCATES**

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Table of Contents

01 The Year that Was



02 About Us

03 Theory of Change

04 Geographical Outreach



05 Programs

05 Capacity Building

07 Youth Empowerment



10 Culture & Heritage



11 Advocacy and Learning

11 Learning and Advocacy Forum



Table of Contents

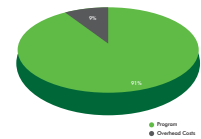
13 Testimonials



15 The Road Ahead



16 Financial Overview



17 Annexure

The Year that Was

2015 proved to be an exciting year with PYCA's programs and geographical outreach experiencing an expansion.

I am very pleased to share that during 2015, Pakistan Youth Change Advocates successfully scaled up its flagship Youth Social Entrepreneurship Program to reach semi-urban areas in South Punjab alongside Azad Jammu & Kashmir. This year along with university students, we also took our peace advocacy workshops to a younger audience in colleges and high schools. Subsequently, by the end of the year we had capacitated 647 (433 male students and 214 female students) through 21 peace advocacy workshops.



In line with our Theory of Change, during 2015, PYCA ensured that its programs did not merely train youth but provided them with a platform to showcase their newly acquired skills to promote peace and development in Pakistan. Accordingly, during the first leg of the year 17 student led seed grants (shortlisted in 2014) were implemented in 15 districts reaching out to 9,167 people in all the four provinces of the country. In the same realm towards the end of 2015, 21 concept notes submitted by PYCA training alumni were further shortlisted. This fresh batch of students was invited to Islamabad for a 3-day Advanced Training on Leadership and Project Planning. They were given extensive presentations and were taken through different group exercises so that they were able to develop their leadership abilities and project management skills. All groups have now been engaged in the implementation of their respective community projects, which will conclude in the first leg of 2016.

Moreover, in 2015, upon receiving a request from the Department of Conservation at Hazara University, Mansehra, PYCA supported the renovation and revival of a badly damaged sculpture at Chapel N-18 on southern wall of Dharma Rajika Site, Taxila. The renovated stucco dated back to 3rd Century BC and we are proud to have played a small role in preserving the country's treasured heritage.

For all these achievements Team PYCA deserves heartfelt gratitude for working tirelessly to promote the principles of peace and development through our various initiatives.

I would also like to thank our partners (both civil society and academic) and donors for showing their confidence in PYCA. It is because of their assistance that the organization was able to take its message of peace and development to young people across the country successfully.

During 2016, with the generous support of Open Society Foundations (OSF), PYCA will launch an initiative aimed at enhancing plurality and diversity in Pakistani media. Under this intervention, 800 university students will be capacitated on citizen and investigative journalism. Moreover, the target audience will also be provided with an effective platform (in the form of Pakistan's first ever youth-led citizen portal) to share information with a wider range of audience.

We hope that 2016 will prove to be a year of immense positive change for Pakistan and its dynamic youth!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ammar Zafarullah'.

Ammar Zafarullah
Executive Director

About Us

We are a non-profit civil society organization working to promote peace and development through youth participation.

Pakistan Youth Change Advocates was established with the long term vision for a Pakistan “where the value of education, good governance and ultimately human life and well-being reigns supreme.”

Our Mission

To inform and inspire the youth to improve their quality of life by promoting the principles of peace, good governance and respect for human rights.

Goals

- To help the general masses to appreciate, respect and come closer to the rich cultural heritage of Pakistan including literature, arts and craft.
- To educate the masses on the importance of violence-free education, democracy and human rights.
- To advocate for reforms that ensure good governance and strengthen democracy and democratic institutions in Pakistan.

Intervention Strategies



RESEARCH



ADVOCACY



CAPACITY
BUILDING



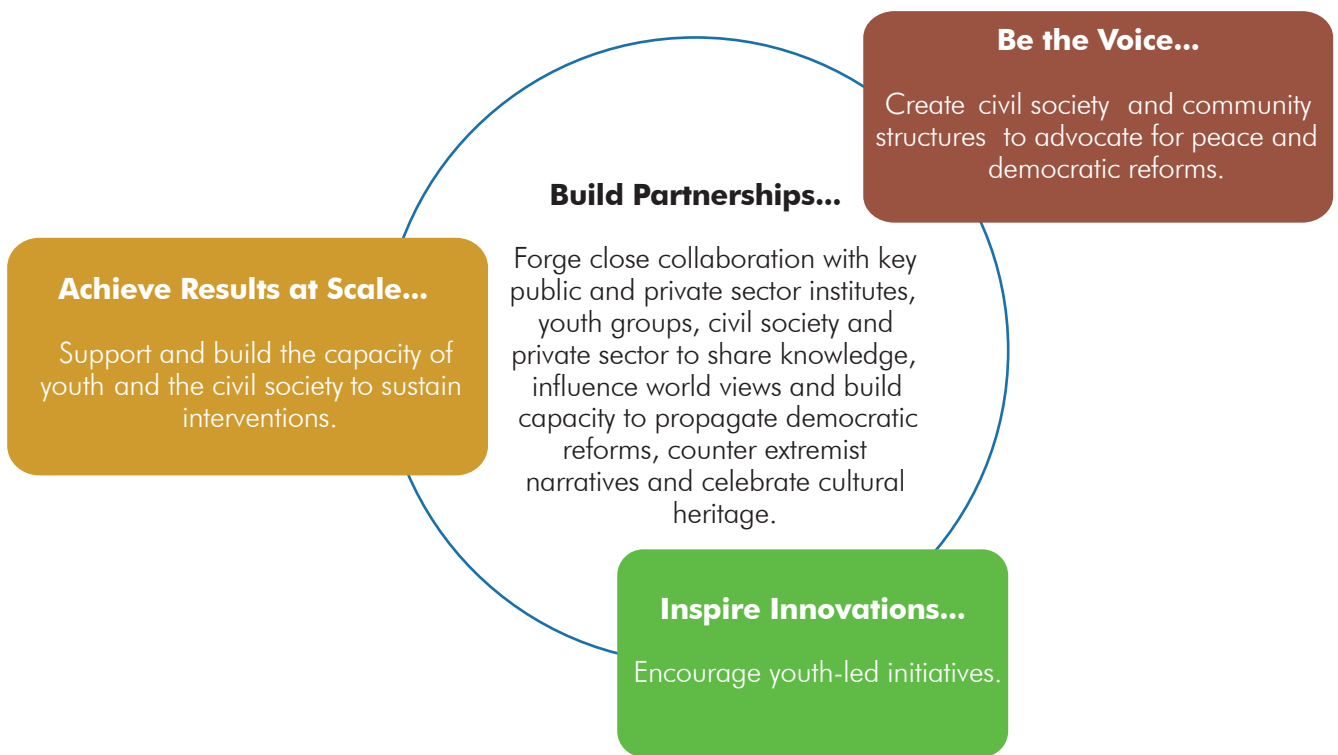
POPULAR
MOBILIZATION



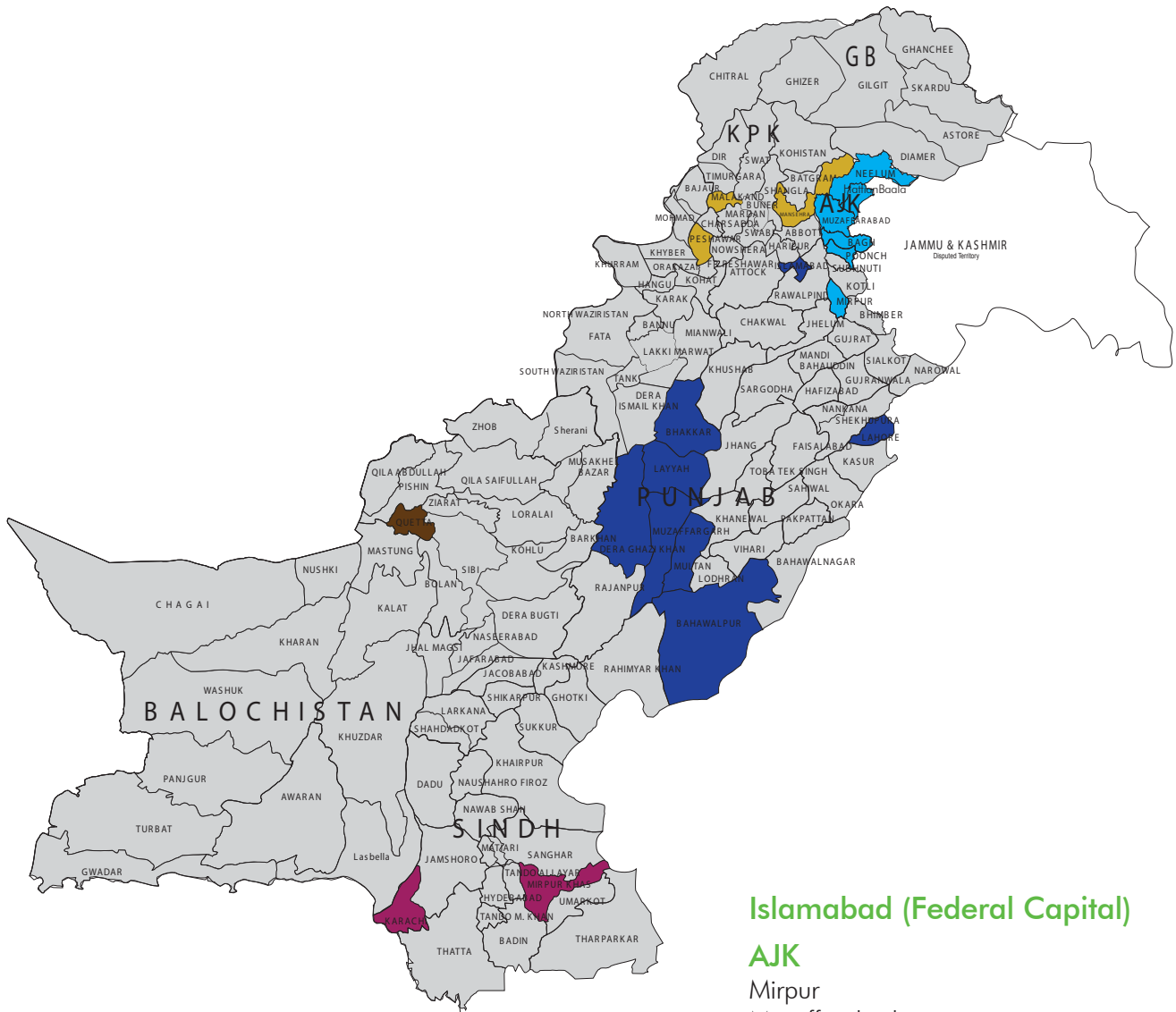
RESOURCE
MOBILIZATION

PYCA makes use of Research, Advocacy, Capacity Building, Popular Mobilization and Resource Mobilization as its core intervention strategies.

PYCA's Theory of Change



Geographical Outreach



Islamabad (Federal Capital)

AJK

Mirpur
Muzaffarabad
Hattian Baala
Bagh

Neelum
Poonch

Punjab

Lahore
Multan
Layyah
Bahawalpur
Bhakkar
Muzaffargarh
Dera Ghazi Khan

KPK

Mansehra
Peshawar
Malakand

Sindh

Karachi
Mirpur Khas

Baluchistan

Quetta

Capacity Building

At the heart of PYCA's work lies the Youth Social Entrepreneurship Program. This innovative initiative on one hand capacitates young people across the country on peace, advocacy and social entrepreneurship and on the other hand provides them with an opportunity to design and implement their own community focused peace projects through provision of technical and financial support from PYCA.

During 2015 PYCA team capacitated 647 students (433 males and 214 females) on Peace, Advocacy and Social Entrepreneurship curriculum through 21 campus based workshops.

This year the focus remained on reaching out to students in remote and semi-urban settings so that the message of peace and tolerance could reach areas that are typically neglected by such interventions. Moreover, efforts were also made to reach a younger demographic, i.e. college students (between 15 – 17 years of age) so that young people are able to internalize the principles of peace and tolerance during their most formative years.



Picture taken during PYCA training in October 2015, at Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad

CASE STUDY: Yes I Can!

"I grew up in a community ripe with racial, lingual, ethnic and religious conflicts," shares Farwa Batool a 22 year old training alumni from Superior University, Lahore. "As I grew up previous conflicts remained just as alive as they were when I was a child but what was most alarming was the addition of religious conflicts. The worst part is that today these issues are not merely a cause of social differences but they have become a source of periodic violence in my community," Farwa adds speaking about the environment in which she has grown up.

"This project helped me and many of my friends to understand the true cost that we were paying by allowing small differences to prevail and grow into violent conflicts in our society." Farwa Batool



Farwa Batool, PYCA Seed Grant Finalist

Thus, in her own words Farwa grew up in an environment that taught each new generation to develop immunity to conflict and violence, "We (me and others my age) did not believe that we could change the mindset of adults in our social setting because it had been shaped over centuries. Therefore, the best way to survive in our situation was to make peace with a constant state of social rift and later even violence."

It was in 2014 that Farwa Batool participated in the workshop on "Peace, Advocacy and Social Entrepreneurship" organized by PYCA in Superior University, Lahore. It was after her participation in the workshop that Farwa began to believe in her own abilities to make a difference. "As I mentioned earlier there are a lot of ethnic, racial and religious issues in my community and unfortunately universities are major hubs where these issues are institutionalized into community conflicts. This project helped me and many of my friends to understand the true cost that we were paying by allowing small differences to prevail and grow into violent conflicts in our society," shares Farwa. "The most important aspect of the workshop was the knowledge that I gained regarding ways, means and mediums to promote peace and tolerance in the society," she adds.

In 2015, with the support of PYCA, Farwa along with her fellow students successfully organized a "Peace Exhibition" in her university. Elaborating on her project, Farwa explains, "By engaging students in developing models, posters and paintings that emphasized the importance of peace in our society, students not only got a chance to artistically reflect their thoughts but it also made them identify the growing surge of extremism as the leading cause of discontent in Pakistan. I think this in itself is an important achievement."

"The most important aspect of the workshop was the knowledge that I gained regarding ways, means and mediums to promote peace and tolerance in the society." Farwa Batool

Summing up her experience with PYCA's Youth Social Entrepreneurship Program, Farwa states, "Our country's condition in terms of peace is going from bad to worse but after attending the training and executing a project myself, my thoughts have changed. I feel so much more empowered and have a number of ideas in the pipeline for engaging a greater number of young people in peace-building efforts."



A Model Developed for Peace Exhibition depicting the Attack by Taliban on Army Public School in Peshawar

Youth Empowerment

PYCA strongly believes that it is not enough to capacitate young people and merely impart skills but it is equally important to also provide them with a platform where they can showcase their newly acquired knowledge.

Accordingly, during the first half of 2015, 17 seed grants, that were selected in 2014 were implemented. Together, the 150 students who led these 17 projects in 15 districts of the country reached out to 9,167 people (5,570 males and 3,594 females). This not only reflects the overall success of PYCA's initiative but more importantly it reiterates the fact that provided support and guidance, the Pakistani youth is a formidable force capable of leading the process of positive societal changes.

Towards the end of 2015, after the conclusion of 21 workshops, PYCA once again received an overwhelming response to its call for youth led community focused proposals. More than 100 concept notes from the interested students were received out of which 21 concept notes were shortlisted. Two members from each winning group were invited to Islamabad for a 3-day Advanced Training on Leadership and Project Planning. They were given extensive presentations and taken through different group exercises to develop their leadership abilities and project management skills. A brief synopsis of each of the selected projects is available as Annex A.

The projects that were implemented during 2015 and those that were shortlisted are both a testimony of the behavior change exhibited by PYCA's training alumni and the urgent need to harness the energy of Pakistani youth through such initiatives.



PYCA Advanced Training

CASE STUDY: Be the Change You Want to See in the World

Arsalan Rizvi, a 26 year old Shia Muslim grew up in a society plagued with religious discrimination and hatred. In his own words, Rizvi shares, "From my childhood years I had become accustomed to religious discrimination." Commenting on the current situation, he said, "While the environment I grew up in was not ideal, I feel the situation with regard to religious discrimination and hatred has worsened overtime."

Rizvi feels that the most important cause of growing religious extremism is ignorance, "Owing to illiteracy and lack of awareness people often believe what they are told. Even the most educated people do not have the habit of investigating information gained from hearsay. The result is an ever-increasing spate of mistrust due to which we see religious violence based entirely on false propaganda promoted by extremist elements."

"The most important take-away for me is the change in my overall attitude. I now feel much more confident and empowered to be the change that I want to see in the world – well at least in my own community and Pakistan!" Arsalan Rizvi

Growing up one of the major frustrations that Rizvi encountered was the stringent and often "misguided worldviews" of the adults. "Most people who are between the ages of 45 – 60 aren't ready to budge from their conventional understanding of religion and norms. This is true across all religious sects and ethnicities. To me it seemed impossible to even convince adults in my own family to listen to my views on different things, let alone bring any tangible change in their worldview."



Picture taken during award distribution ceremony of Arsalan Rizvi's seed project

CASE STUDY: Be the Change You Want to See in the World



In 2014 Arsalan Rizvi was among the first batch of students who attended PYCA's "Peace, Advocacy and Social Entrepreneurship" workshop at Karachi University. "It was after attending the workshop that I observed a marked change in my attitude. Where I had previously felt dejected and unable to make a difference, after the workshop I felt responsible for playing a more active role to challenge and change rigid world views that had strengthened societal differences and fueled religious conflicts in Pakistan." Rizvi further adds, "Basically PYCA's training taught me how to peacefully address pressing issues in my community without offending anyone and at the same time ensuring that my message got through effectively. The key was to know which medium to use for which particular type of message and with which audience. The formula was rather simple really, all I needed was a little guidance and that's precisely what the workshop offered!"

Adding further on his learning from PYCA's workshop, Rizvi adds, "The interactive activities during the workshop also helped me to think out of the box and most importantly helped me to empathize with people belonging to other religions and ethnicities. I've learnt to be more objective before developing an opinion about any subject and I've also developed the habit of investigating everything before believing or rejecting it."

Inspired by his participation in the first-level workshop, Rizvi submitted a proposal as part of PYCA's nationwide Seed Grants' Competition and his project was among those that were selected for funding. "After the workshop, I felt the need to transfer the knowledge that I had gained to younger people, especially teenagers from marginalized areas of Karachi who were at a high risk of being brain washed by extremist elements owing to illiteracy in their communities and abject poverty."

Accordingly, Rizvi launched a "Life Skills" program in 4 schools of the slum areas of Karachi reaching out to over 100 children. Through this initiative, marginalized children were imparted essential skills such as decision-making, assertiveness, communication, dealing with peer pressure and avoiding risky behaviors.

When asked to summarize his experience with PYCA's Youth Social Entrepreneurship Program, Rizvi said, "The most important take-away for me is the change in my overall attitude. I now feel much more confident and empowered to be the change I want to see in the world – well at least in my own community and Pakistan!"

We at PYCA strongly believe that promoting indigenous culture and heritage can play a key role in creating harmony and peace in the society. Thus, during 2015, PYCA supported two important initiatives to preserve and promote the country's age old heritage.

Revival of Ashoka Rock Edicts



PYCA and the Faculty of Archaeology, Hazara University, Mansehra collaborated to provide support to the institute's students for the completion of a seed project that focused on preserving historical remnants from the era of King Ashoka.

Ashoka Rock Edicts were inscribed between 256 and 257 BC by King Ashoka. All the inscriptions are in the ancient Kharoshti language and convey messages of peace and harmony. The site of Ashoka Rock Edicts had been left neglected for decades owing to the influence of extremist elements that were against the preservation of Buddhist artifacts. Thus, the preservation of this site was imperative to ensure that years of neglect did not completely destroy these precious historical relics.

To meet this end, the inscribed rocks as well as the heritage park where they were located was cleaned and sign boards providing translation of the Kharoshti inscriptions were placed in the area for the visitors.

This exercise helped to revive the cultural heritage of Pakistan, endeavored to develop a sense of ownership in the community and allowed students belonging to various castes, religions and ethnicities to work together as a team. The much neglected site of Ashoka Rock Edicts is now once again open for general public. Through this activity local people have been sensitized to minimize their encroachments and develop a sense of respect for the worship places of the local Buddhist community.

Conservation Intervention on Stucco Sculpture of Gautama Buddha, Dharma Rajika Site, Taxila

In 2015, upon receiving a request from the Department of Conservation at Hazara University, Mansehra, PYCA supported the renovation and revival of a badly damaged sculpture at Chapel N-18 on the southern wall of Dharma Rajika Site, Taxila. Most of the surface material of the 3rd century BC stucco had been detached from the core and only 10% of the sculpture remained intact.



The exercise was carried out in collaboration with the Department of Conservation at University of Hazara and Department of Archaeology & Museums, Government of Punjab. Mr. Tariq Kakar, an internationally renowned sculpture artist and Mr. Muhammad Safdar Khan, Chief Archaeological Chemist/Chairman, (Department of Conservation Studies) led the process of conserving the damaged stucco to its original shape.

Advocacy and Learning

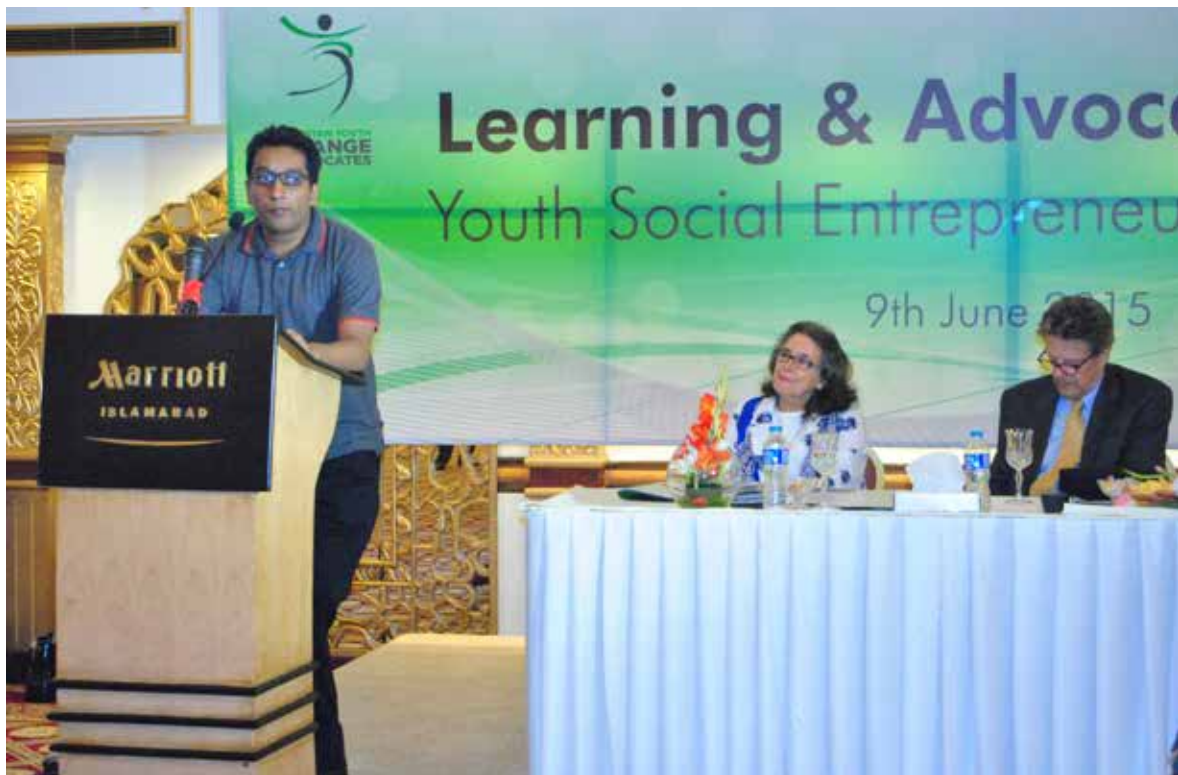
No social change vehicle can be successful without widespread awareness raising, popular mobilization and liaison building with various state and non-state actors. Similarly, for advocacy to be effective it is equally important to have empirical evidence to justify the need for social change. Thus, advocacy and research remain important cross-cutting strategies for all PYCA programs and interventions.

During 2015, PYCA engaged in a number of activities to strengthen its advocacy endeavors across the country. Simultaneously, efforts were made to document facts and figures and learning derived from PYCA's work with the youth.

Learning and Advocacy Forum

To showcase the learning derived from the successful completion of the first cycle of PYCA's Youth Social Entrepreneurship Program, a "Learning & Advocacy Forum" was held on 9th June 2015 in Islamabad. The event was attended by over 100 participants belonging to the civil society, academia, youth groups and media. His Excellency the Ambassador of Sweden, Mr. Tomas Rosander graced the event as the Guest of Honour.

A documentary developed by PYCA titled, "A Dream Called Peace" was also screened at the event. Aamnah Kareem (student, University of Karachi) and Tehmash Khan (student, Hazara University) who were among PYCA's seed project finalists also shared the insights of their community initiatives aimed at spreading peace and inter-faith harmony with the participants.



Picture taken during the Learning and Advocacy Forum

Third Party Evaluation

To gauge the impact of the first cycle of “Youth Social Entrepreneurship Program” a third party evaluation was sanctioned in 2015. The results of the evaluation showed that the trained youth were better equipped to identify and deal with hate based narratives after having undergone the training program. Youth who had undergone PYCA training were found to be 33% higher in Knowledge, 20% better-off in their Attitude to deal with extremist narratives and 20% ahead in their expected Behavior to challenge and negate extremist narratives.

Moreover, pre and post-test analysis showed that the students who rarely encountered hate narratives prior to the training went down by 42%. On the other hand, the group which frequently encountered hate and extremist narratives almost doubled in number after the training going up by 88%. This went to show the enhanced understanding of young people vis-à-vis “hate narratives” and youth’s ability to separate facts from extremist propaganda.

Networks and Partnerships

In 2015 PYCA became a member of two advocacy networks, i.e. Community for Practice (CoP) and Child Rights Movement (CRM). A brief introduction of both these groups is given below.

Community of Practice

The underlying idea behind setting up a Community of Practice with the membership of actors, organizations and groups engaged with prevention and reduction of armed violence, radicalization and in peace-building came up in August 2014. The objective of the CoP is to create a forum for sharing of experiences, and contribute in building a shared knowledge reservoir for stakeholders involved in peace-building, conflict management and violence reduction in Pakistan.

Child Rights Movement

CRM is a group of civil society organizations which was established with a mission to create an enabling environment for the children through collective advocacy on child rights issues.

Testimonials



"I represent a country, Sweden that is very much based on the activities of the non-governmental organizations and their contributions to the welfare system that we have developed. So, it was very interesting for me to be part of the Learning and Advocacy Forum that helped in highlighting PYCA's work."

His Excellency, The Ambassador of Sweden in Pakistan, Mr. Tomas Rosander



"Through PYCA's workshops I have learnt different strategies that can prove productive in countering extremism at an individual level. This experience has opened my eyes to the fact that every individual can play an important role in spreading peace and tolerance in the society simply by spreading awareness through the right channels."

Abdullah Abbasi, Mirpur University of Science and Technology (MUST), AJK



"Before attending PYCA's workshop we (my friends and I) had little understanding of social media and considered it a waste of time. However, we've now come to realize that social media is an outstanding platform through which we can express our perspectives peacefully."

Maham Shafique, Superior College, Bhakkar



"Participation in the Peace Advocacy Workshop has been most beneficial for me. It has helped me to understand the significance of social media and from here onwards I would like to utilize the available platforms to help reduce extremism in the society."

Zohaib Irfan, Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan

“Through my association with PYCA, I have learnt about important concepts related to crisis management and how with just a little clarity of vision we can change a crisis into an opportunity. I will be playing my role by passing on the knowledge that I have gained to those in my community.”

Zarmeena Sahar, Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan



“For the first time an NGO held a workshop in our campus. They introduced us to new concepts and explained how things functioned worldwide and how we could catch up with the modern world. Our world views have enhanced following our participation in the workshop and we are now equipped with various techniques related to peace-building and conflict management.”

Hafiz Muhammad Abdullah, Superior University, Bahawalpur



“There is no way a society can move forward and develop unless the youth are empowered, active and have information, knowledge and up to date skills. So I believe that this initiative (Youth Social Entrepreneurship Program) is incredibly important because it will do exactly that – it will empower trainers who in turn will give the tools to the young people that will really help them to make changes in the society going forward.”

Rabia Chaudhary, Master Trainer and a Fellow at New America



“In March 2015 I visited the site (Dharma Rajika, Taxila) and found the sculpture damaged by 90 percent. I remain grateful to PYCA for accepting my request as soon as they realized the cultural significance of the 3rd century BC sculpture. After receiving PYCA’s support I arranged for the necessary materials from different areas of the country that were required for the preservation of the stucco. We are custodians of this ancient culture and it is our responsibility to take good care of it.”

Muhammad Safdar Khan, Chairman Department of Conservation Sciences, Hazara University Mansehra



The Road Ahead

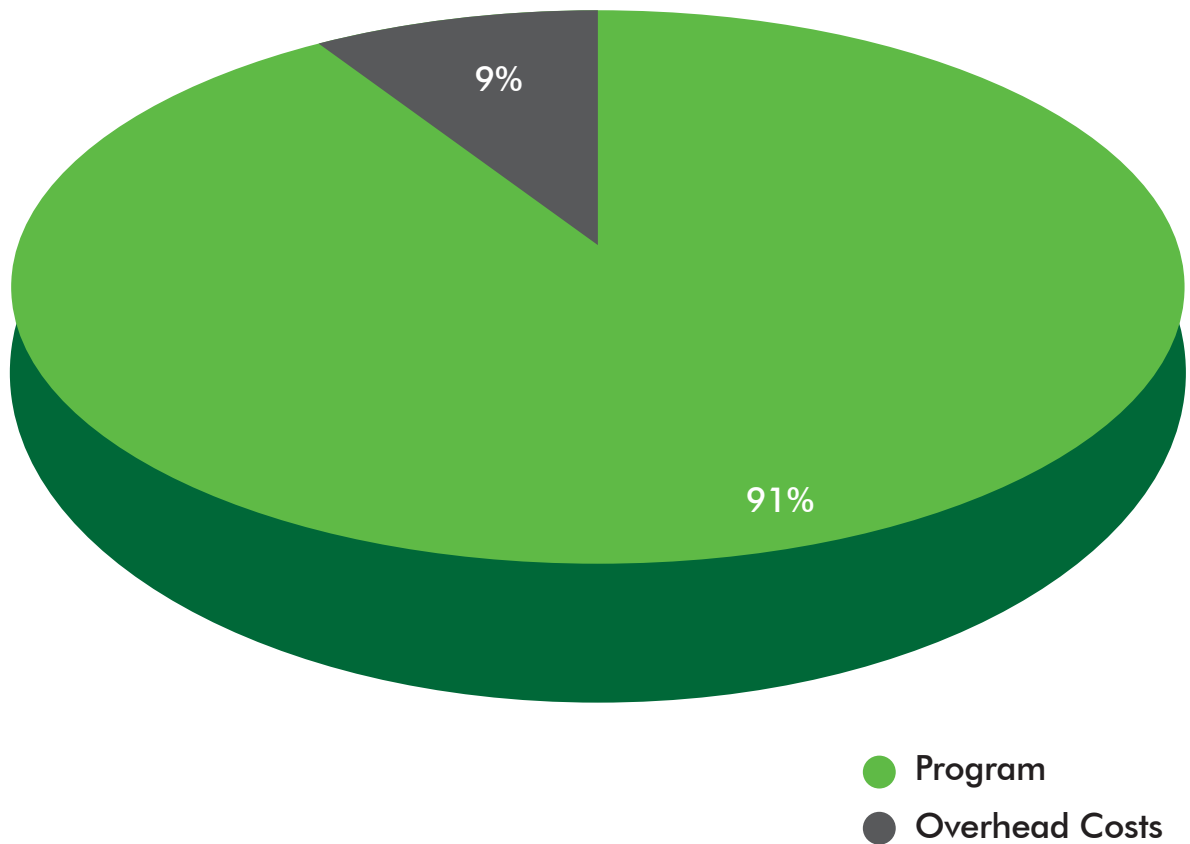
In 2016 with generous support from the Open Society Foundations, PYCA will initiate a new program, "Fostering Citizen Journalism among Youth."

The project aims to enhance plurality and diversity of Pakistani media through strengthened capacity of university youth and establishment of an effective platform that the country's young people can employ for reliable information sharing.

Under the project 800 university going students belonging to a mix of media-related disciplines (e.g. Mass Communication, Media Studies etc.) and other departments pertaining to the social sciences (e.g. Sociology, Development Studies, International Relations etc.) will be capacitated on citizen and investigative journalism.

To ensure that the skills imparted to the students are put to practical use, Pakistan's first youth-led citizens' news portal will also be launched under this unique initiative.





2015 saw the completion of two years of PYCA's operations. During this short span of time the organization has successfully been able to reduce its overhead costs significantly. From 33% in 2014, the administrative costs were reduced by 24% in the reporting year and now stand at 9% of PYCA's overall expenditure.

Annex I

1) Peace Day at Women University in Bagh

Synopsis:

The students of the Women University will organize a one day theme based event to sensitize fellow university students about the significance of peace in our society. Students from different local schools and colleges will also be invited to participate in the event. The event will provide an opportunity to the students to exhibit their talent and creativity by participating in activities such as skits, speech and painting competitions, each conveying the message of harmony and goodwill.

2) Peace Point at University of AJK Muzaffarabad (city campus)

Synopsis:

The students will organize a peace corner for a day in the campus where banners conveying the messages of tolerance and peace will be displayed. The students participating in the event will also be given a session regarding the significance of conflict resolution in the society. This project aims to teach students how to settle their disputes using non-violent ways and co-exist peacefully. The slogans painted on the wall of the peace corner will serve as a daily reminder for the students and visitors to maintain harmony and tolerance much after the project itself has concluded.

3) Cultural Event in University of Azad Jammu & Kashmir

Synopsis:

This project intends to promote the culture of the area by organizing an event which will comprise of arts, literature, music and theatre performances. This creative activity will induce positive energy amongst the students of the university and will help in reducing the impact of popular hate narratives that have stifled both fine and performing arts. This social event will also give the students a better understanding of peace and harmony by highlighting their non-violent cultural values.

4) Spirit of Peace (SOP)

Synopsis:

Students of AJK University plan to conduct a seminar in which they will present various peace focused videos and will also conduct arts and debate competitions. The students will also make a peace wall by painting their peace messages on it. The project will be held on the campus of the university where the students will perform all these activities to put through a message of goodwill to play their part in spreading positive energy in the society.

5) Preserving Shiv's Temple: An emblem of Hindus' survival stretching back three millennia

Synopsis:

This highly sustainable project seeks to create awareness about a religious place of the Hindu minority and also to preserve it as it is one of the oldest temples in Pakistan. The students of Hazara University in partnership with Ministry of Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony, Govt. of Pakistan and Directorate of Archaeology & Museums will renovate and perform developmental ventures on a Shiva temple in Mansehra which will be launched as both a religious place and a tourist site for the locals and tourists to visit. This will promote the heritage of Pakistan and will help in manifesting Muslim empathy towards local religious minority, eventually promoting peace.

6) Peace Promotion Through Internet by Youth and Community Involvement

Synopsis:

Under this project, students intend to use blogging and other internet tools to present a peaceful

image of Pakistan to the world. The students will use social media to publish their blogs and posts and will also post videos containing the views of different rural and urban youth leaders and students regarding peace. All of these tasks will be performed by a trained group of individuals who will make sure that all the content floated via their source is not offensive to any other culture or religion. This project will use social media platforms and tools to maximize the outreach.

7) Peace Advocacy Street Art

Synopsis:

This project aims to promote peace through street art in Lahore city. In partnership with ICI and Masters paints the students with the permission of the local government will organize an event in which students will paint the walls of Ferozpur road, Hussain Chowk Liberty and Allah ho Chowk, Johar Town, Lahore. These paintings will illustrate the messages of peace and will make the chalked walls look appealing. This activity will reach out to hundreds of thousands of people who frequently visit these busy avenues every day.

8) Smile for Peace

Synopsis:

This project is directed towards countering hate based wall chalking and posters. The students will make posters of different university officials and fellow university students smiling and supporting peace with their views on peace and countering extremism written on it. These posters will be displayed at different places on the campus of Bahauddin Zakaria University, Multan. The students will also make a team of peacemakers and will take all the stakeholders (different student federations) on board in order to avoid any resistance produced by such groups. The project mainly emphasizes on the elimination of the negative messages portrayed via different posters, banners and slogans on the walls around us and tends to stimulate positive energy in students by installing constructive messages in the form of posters on the campus. Awareness sessions will also be held in order to educate the university students in this regard.

9) Documentary (Peace promoting message by portrayal of sacred places)

Synopsis:

The students of Bahauddin Zakaria University aim to make a documentary in partnership with Department of Communication Studies, BZU Multan. This documentary will cover sacred holy places and Sufi shrines in Multan to convey the message of tolerance peace and harmony. The documentary will feature both Shia and Sunni scholars and will be widely disseminated via various social media platforms.

10) Peace Poetry (Aman Mushaira)

Synopsis:

The students of Institute of Policy Studies, Punjab plan to organize a poetry recitation competition for the college and school students in Muzaffargarh, South Punjab. These poems will depict and promote constructive, peaceful and harmonious messages composed by the competing students. Social media will be used to advertise the event. The students will also invite some famous regional poets to present their poetry. The event will be concluded with a prize distribution ceremony.

11) Peace Message at Line of Control (LoC)

Synopsis:

Students of IPS and AJK will conduct a peace campaign at the LOC that connects Azad Kashmir and Indian Kashmir. The arriving and departing buses and their routes will be decorated and a camp will be set-up to welcome the families arriving from the other side of the LOC. Placards, banners and other

tools will be used to decorate the areas. The warm departure and welcome given to the leaving and arriving families will bring the communities together. It will also encourage the local community to welcome and respect their guests belonging to the Indian side of the Line of Control.

12) Paint Competition between Madrassah and School Students

Synopsis:

A huge gap lies between the students who receive mainstream, modern education and those who go to religious seminaries or madaris. In a bid to eradicate the air of mistrust among these young people, a painting competition will be organized among the students of madaris and schools in which they will depict their ideologies of peace via their art work. The project intends to bring the students of madaris and modern schools at a single platform so they can interact with each other and can eliminate the communication gap between them. They will also compete with each other and via their paintings their diverse ideologies regarding peace will be displayed at a single place, highlighting what they share (common) and what they don't (distinct) with each other. The participants from different madaris and schools of Muzaffarabad, Azad Kashmir will be given a two days training prior to the competition. Prominent personalities from both religious and secular schools will be invited as speakers who will present their ideas of peace and harmony after the competition. Top three students will be given prizes.

13) De-radicalization Academy

Synopsis:

The project aims to set up a center for the Madrassah students where they will be given training sessions regarding peace building and conflict resolution and their radical viewpoints will be de-radicalized via these trainings so that they can develop rational and moderate beliefs. A curriculum will be developed for the crash courses which will be mostly based on activities and experts will be taken on board to train the students. 20 to 40 students from the madaris of the union council of DG Khan will be selected to get these trainings. A productive and constructive environment will be given to the students so that they may learn better.

14) Give Peace a Chance

Synopsis:

A two day workshop will be conducted for the Madrassah students to train them on how to be a peaceful and constructive citizen. Different activities will also be included in the workshop so that they may learn better. Professional trainers will construct and conduct these sessions. The idea is to educate them to be moderate and rational.

15) Peace through Paints

Synopsis:

This project plans to get teachers and students involved in constructive and symbolically peaceful activities such as paintings and group discussions. All of these activities will take place on the event day. 200 students and 20 teachers from Dera Ghazi Khan will be selected for this event. While the students will be divided into groups for the painting activity, the teachers will also be divided into groups for panel discussions on promotion of peace in the society. The paintings will also portray messages of goodwill and harmony.

16) Peace: A Way to Sustainable Development of Youth

Synopsis:

The students of IPS aim to train the school children of Village Mithay Wali, D. G Khan about interfaith harmony, tolerance and how to sustain peace at grass root level. The students will deliver lectures,

show presentations and videos, discuss different case studies and employ different group exercises to keep the audience involved.

17) Teach Peace

Synopsis:

Under this project a series of peace focused videos spanning over 45 minutes will be screened at 2 rural locations in the district reaching out to over 100 people. Upon the completion of screening, a Focused Group Discussion (FGD) will be held with the audience to document their understanding of peace and tolerance and their take-aways from the activity. Thus, by combining elements of education and entertainment the message of peace and tolerance will be taken to the rural communities where people have little to no exposure to such content.

18) Every Step with Peace

Synopsis:

Students in this project will spend a day with a Christian NGO in Lahore where they will interact and perform different activities with the children belonging to the Christian faith. These children will later be involved in a joint activity with Muslim students. The interaction of Christian and Muslim children and their joint day-long involvement with each other through various learning-based and recreational activities will go a long way in helping these young minds to respect interfaith differences and shun discriminatory practices as they grow. Through fun activities, children will also be taught ways to counter religious extremism and promote interfaith harmony and unity.

19) Student Wing

Synopsis:

In this project students will organize a seminar in the university where they will raise awareness about the fruits of supporting and trusting the police department. The project aims to reduce the gap and resistance between police and students these days by addressing the various negative stereotypes that are often associated with the Police. In the event higher officials from the police department will address the issue and interact with the students. The students in this project intend to rebuild the damaged trust between the two entities so that both can cooperate with each other for a better and a more peaceful environment.

20) Promotion of Peace and Tolerance in the Society

Synopsis:

The ratio of people living with disabilities is considerably higher in areas near the Line of Control owing to frequent cross border skirmishes between Pakistani and Indian forces. These people who generally suffer owing to collateral damage are subjected to a life of discrimination once disabled. To help address the prevalent issue of discrimination against people living with disabilities, under this project, students will organize awareness seminars, group discussions and present different short films on the topic. This week-long planned event will be held in a village near LOC. At the conclusion of the project, an association will also be formed of local people living with disabilities so that they can further their issues via a proper body.

21) Street Theater for Peace and Tolerance

Theater is known to be an effective tool for the promotion of social messages and inspiring behavior change. Students of University of Karachi will thus, script a play that emphasizes the importance of peaceful resolution of societal conflicts. The play will then be performed in 4 target communities in Karachi that have a history of violence and intolerance.



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