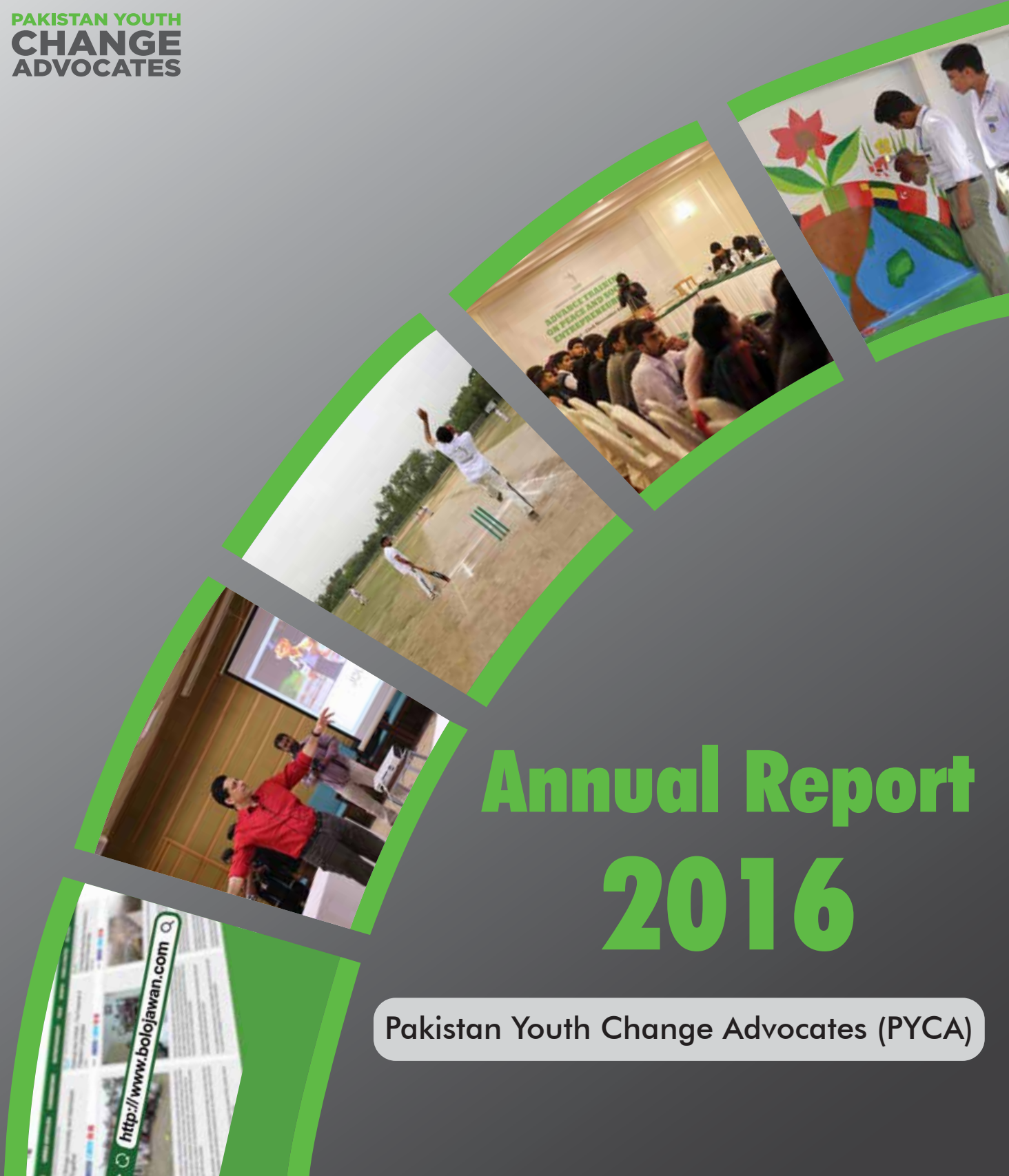




PAKISTAN YOUTH
CHANGE
ADVOCATES



Annual Report 2016

Pakistan Youth Change Advocates (PYCA)

Copyright © Pakistan Youth Change Advocates
Drafted by: Areebah Shahid and Ezaz Ahmed Khan
Reviewed by: Ammar Zafarullah
Edited by: Afshar Iqbal
Designed and Printed by: Dot Advertising



PAKISTAN YOUTH
CHANGE
ADVOCATES

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Contents

Foreword	01
Who We Are	02
PYCA's Theory of Change	02
Geographical Outreach (Map)	03
Programs	04
Peace-building Program	05
Civic Participation Program	07
Culture and Heritage Program	09
The Road Ahead	10
Financial Overview	11
Stories of Change	13
Students of Karachi University Redefine Harmony Through Theater	14
Students Paint Sargodha with Peace	15
We are All Light!	16
Annexure I	17

Foreword

The year 2016 proved to be an exciting year with PYCA's programs and geographical outreach experiencing an expansion. I am very pleased to share that during 2016, Pakistan Youth Change Advocates successfully implemented 21 community based, diverse peace projects that aimed at promoting harmony in different areas of Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Puktunkhawa (KP) and the state of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK).



During 2016, with the generous support of Open Society Foundations (OSF), PYCA also launched Pakistan's first youth-led citizen portal, www.BoloJawan.com, providing young people with a platform to highlight issues of importance and to promote citizen journalism. Since October 2016 Bolo Jawan has published over 200 posts from capacitated students and members of the civil society touching upon issues such as violent extremism, democratic governance, gender discrimination, minority rights and international relations.

In a short span of three years, PYCA through partnerships with over 30 educational institutes has established a network of over 2500 youth volunteers in 20 districts of Pakistan across all the four provinces (i.e. Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan and KP), Islamabad Capital Territory and the state of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK). To date PYCA has directly reached over 50,000 people across the country with initiatives focusing on countering violent extremism, peace activism, good governance and promotion of greater pluralism in Pakistani media. In 2016 specifically, PYCA through its various programs and the dedication of its team and volunteers reached out to 34,000 people across the country.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the whole team of Pakistan Youth Change Advocates for the success that it has achieved in 2016 and for the magnitude of its outreach.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our donors, whether institutional or individual for supporting the causes that we, at PYCA hold close to our heart.

Finally, my heartfelt gratitude is due to the young volunteers across every province and region of Pakistan whose remarkable sense of volunteerism has been instrumental for our work and its success. You know who you are and you should be rightfully proud of yourself!

The year 2017 brings interesting prospects for PYCA to diversify its programs. With the support of Malala Fund, Pakistan Youth Change Advocates will engage in a three-year advocacy intervention aimed at creating demand at the community level for girls' secondary education and at the same time engage in policy advocacy to ensure public sector's commitment to providing the necessary infrastructure to meet the newly created demand.

We hope that 2017 will prove to be a year of immense positive change for Pakistan and its dynamic young people!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aakif' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Aakif Nazeer
Chairperson
Board of Trustees

Who We Are

Pakistan Youth Change Advocates is a non-profit civil society organization working to promote peace and development through youth participation.

We envision a Pakistan, “Where the value of education, good governance and ultimately human life and wellbeing reigns supreme.”

Our Mission

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

Our Strategic Goals

- To help general masses to appreciate, respect and come closer to the rich cultural heritage of Pakistan including literature, arts and craft.
- To educate 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

Our Theory of Change

Partnerships

With youth focused entities (universities, colleges, youth networks etc.)

Capacity Building

To raise awareness, inspire behavior change and impart skills.

Empower Youth

Through seed grants and/or alternate platforms to exercise newly acquired skills.

Results at Scale

Through young change agents directly reaching out to a wider audience.



PROGRAMS

Peace-building Program

Pakistan Youth Change Advocates initiated the project, "Creating Peace Building Networks and Alternate Advocacy Strategies for Pakistani Youth" in 2014 to support the objective of curbing the roots of extremist violence in universities and colleges, through the establishment of peace-building networks in districts most affected by militancy, particularly in **Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Punjab, Khyber Puktunkhawa and Sindh.**

The project was designed to encourage Pakistani youth to lead the peace building process by empowering existing and emerging young change agents to identify alternate spaces, create innovative approaches to combat extremism and be able to take initiatives to tackle extremist messages on grass root level.



The project expanded the breadth of PYCA's university-level program that had already been successfully implemented in Khyber Puktunkhawa, parts of Punjab, Islamabad, Balochistan and Sindh and increased PYCA's outreach by including pre-university students through colleges in Azad Jammu & Kashmir and southern Punjab.

During the project life-cycle, 647 young people in both universities and colleges were imparted skills-based trainings to empower them as change-makers for peace in their own communities and to amplify their voices against extremism and sectarian violence.

In line with PYCA's Theory of Change about 10% of the training alumni belonging to 21 groups were also provided with seed funding to implement their own peace-focused projects in their communities and spheres of influence. Consequently, 6,290 people (3,924 males and 2,366 females) were reached out through these seed grants across all the target areas.

Success Story: Creating a Level Playing Field for Madrassah and University Students through Cricket



For decades madaaris (i.e. religious seminaries) have played an important philanthropic role vis-à-vis providing free shelter and education to mainly underprivileged children. However, in recent years these institutions have been widely criticized on national as well as international level for their outdated educational curriculum and alleged linkages with radical outfits.

However, the case of radicalization is not only confined to madaaris or to their education system. The wave of intolerance has also affected modern education systems and higher education institutions. Additionally, the friction and distrust

between the students belonging to these two streams of education has also powered dichotomy in an already divided Pakistani society.

Wanting to address this unnecessary vibe of suspicion between university and madrassah students and to provide them with a platform to collaborate, PYCA's seed grant finalists from AJK and South Punjab came up with the idea of bringing the two groups together through the most loved sport in Pakistan – cricket.



“We held a series of qualifying matches in Muzaffarabad between university and madrassah students. From these matches we picked the best players to form the regional team representing Azad Kashmir,” explained Mumtaz, PYCA's seed grant finalist from AJK. “Our friends from South Punjab also adopted the same practice in Multan to select the best players representing their region.”

Sharing his experience of implementing this seed project, Hassan Aziz, PYCA's seed grant finalist from South Punjab shared, “It was for the first time in our country's history that students from universities and madaris got an opportunity to work together so closely. This experience has given a huge boost to their confidence and helped develop team spirit and leadership skills in these diverse groups of young people.”



Playing and traveling with each other, provided university and madrassah students with a rare opportunity to operate as one unit, thereby helping them to develop a sense of camaraderie and let go of long-held stereotypes.



“I can't think of a better way to promote peace,” shared Shiraz Kalim, a university student representing the team from Multan. “Travelling and lodging with madrassah students allowed us to share our stories with each other. We told them about university life while they told us about life in a madrassah. I must admit that I used to think that madrassah students had lower intellect than university students but having interacted with them so closely, I now know for a fact that madrassah students are extremely creative and talented.”

Reflecting on his experience, Qazi Siyaab Ahmed, a student belonging to a madrassah in AJK shared, “I always thought that the university students considered us inferior but it doesn't feel that way at all anymore. They treated us with a lot of respect and were true role models.”

The final match between the two regional teams was organized in Islamabad and South Punjab was able to clinch victory by one wicket. However, it was never about winning or losing but about replacing stereotypes with compassion and empathy. And surely at the end, peace prevailed.



Civic Participation Program

Fostering Citizen Journalism among Youth

In 2016 with the support of Open Society Foundations, PYCA initiated a new program titled, "Fostering Citizen Journalism among Youth." The project aimed to contribute towards bringing plurality and diversity in Pakistani media. This was achieved by strengthening the capacity of 845 students from prominent universities of the country, especially those enrolled in the departments of Media and Mass Communications in investigative and citizen journalism and by launching a student-led web portal, www.BoloJawan.com to provide these young people with a platform to exercise their newly acquired skills.



Through a detailed desk research and interaction with students it came to light that with the rapid penetration of internet and the advent of 3G/4G technology, young Pakistanis no longer view the use of World Wide Web and their cell phones merely as tools to stay connected with friends and family or for entertainment. Internet and cell phones have in fact become important means to exchange information and coordinate, mobilize, educate and even fundraise.

What makes social media particularly popular among young citizens is its ability to provide them with various platforms to express themselves and possibly be heard by hundreds of thousands of people across the world.

Finally, among the leading causes for making social media so popular among Pakistanis is ironically the growing disillusionment of general citizens with conventional media. During a Focus Group Discussion conducted by PYCA with youth in Islamabad, most participants felt that newspapers and television channels in Pakistan offered biased reporting and covered issues that could possibly create controversy and boost their ratings rather than focusing on issues that dealt with social welfare and were more relevant to the citizens.



Taking heed of these findings, through a series of workshops and seminars, PYCA not merely capacitated 845 students in the Federal Capital and the 3 provinces (i.e. Sindh, Khyber Pukhtunkhawa and Punjab) on investigative and citizen journalism but also provided them with their very own web-portal, i.e. www.BoloJawan.com to highlight the subjects that they felt needed greater state and public attention.

Since, the portal was made live in October 2016, PYCA has received over 200 posts (written and audio/video) from capacitated students as well as members of the civil society. These diverse posts, among other things have touched upon issues such as the violent extremism, democratic governance, gender discrimination, minority rights and Pakistan-India relations. Young Pakistanis have also come forward with investigative content on medical malpractices, environmental conservation and changing cultural practices in Pakistan.

As per data gathered from Google Analytics, between October and December 2016, BoloJawan.com had 4,782 sessions created by 2,762 unique users. During this period, a total of 12,411 page views were recorded.



Faisal Qureshi Shares His Experience

“Since long I had stopped going to universities and delivering lectures to students. I had grown pessimistic. However, PYCA did a fine job of convincing me and getting me out of retirement. The entire experience was brilliant and gave me hope. Since students now already have access to mobile phones and other gadgets all I needed to do was to fine tune their ability so that they were able to contribute effectively as citizen journalists.”

Culture and Heritage Program

Preserving Shiv's Temple: An Emblem of Hindus' Survival Stretching Back Three Millennia

In 1830 Raja of Jammu constructed a Shiv Temple as an act of devotion in a region that is today known as Chitti Gatti, Mansehra, Khyber Pukhtunkhawa. Little did he know back then that a new state called Pakistan would come into being and the site would have the distinction of being one of the oldest temples in that country. Back then perhaps it would also have been difficult to imagine that one day a group of Muslim students would work together to restore the site as a gesture of goodwill towards the local Hindu community.



In 2016 students of Hazara University launched a highly sustainable project titled, "Preserving Shiv's Temple: An Emblem of Hindus' Survival Stretching Back Three Millennia". After receiving financial support from Pakistan Youth Change Advocates the students collaborated with the Ministry of Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony, Govt. of Pakistan and the Directorate of Archaeology & Museums to complete the restoration work.

Activities such as cleaning, dis-tempering, painting, installation of dustbins, lighting etc. were led by Tehmash Khan and Aweel Nawaz, students of Hazara University so that the Hindu devotees coming from within the country and abroad were able to pay homage and celebrate the Annual Shivarastri Festival on a regular basis.

"We didn't just focus on renovating the temple," shares Tehmash Khan, who led the project with PYCA's support, "But we also got in touch with the local Hindu community to explain that the teachings of Islam urged the Muslims to protect religious minorities and treat them with utmost respect. This has allowed us to remove negative stereotypes between the two religious communities in our area and provide them with common ground."

The inauguration of the temple after renovation and restoration was attended by people belonging to all walks of life including local politicians, media, academicians, students and representatives of the Hindu community.

The project successfully achieved its objectives of not merely developing a sense of solidarity between the Muslims and Hindus in the area but also helped to promote a rarely projected softer image of the country.

The Road Ahead



Empowerment of the Girl-Child through Sustained Education

In 2017, PYCA will initiate a three-year campaign in Khyber Pukhtunkhawa province aimed at creating demand at the community level for girls' secondary education and at the same time engage in policy advocacy to ensure public sector's commitment to provide the necessary infrastructure to meet the newly created demand.



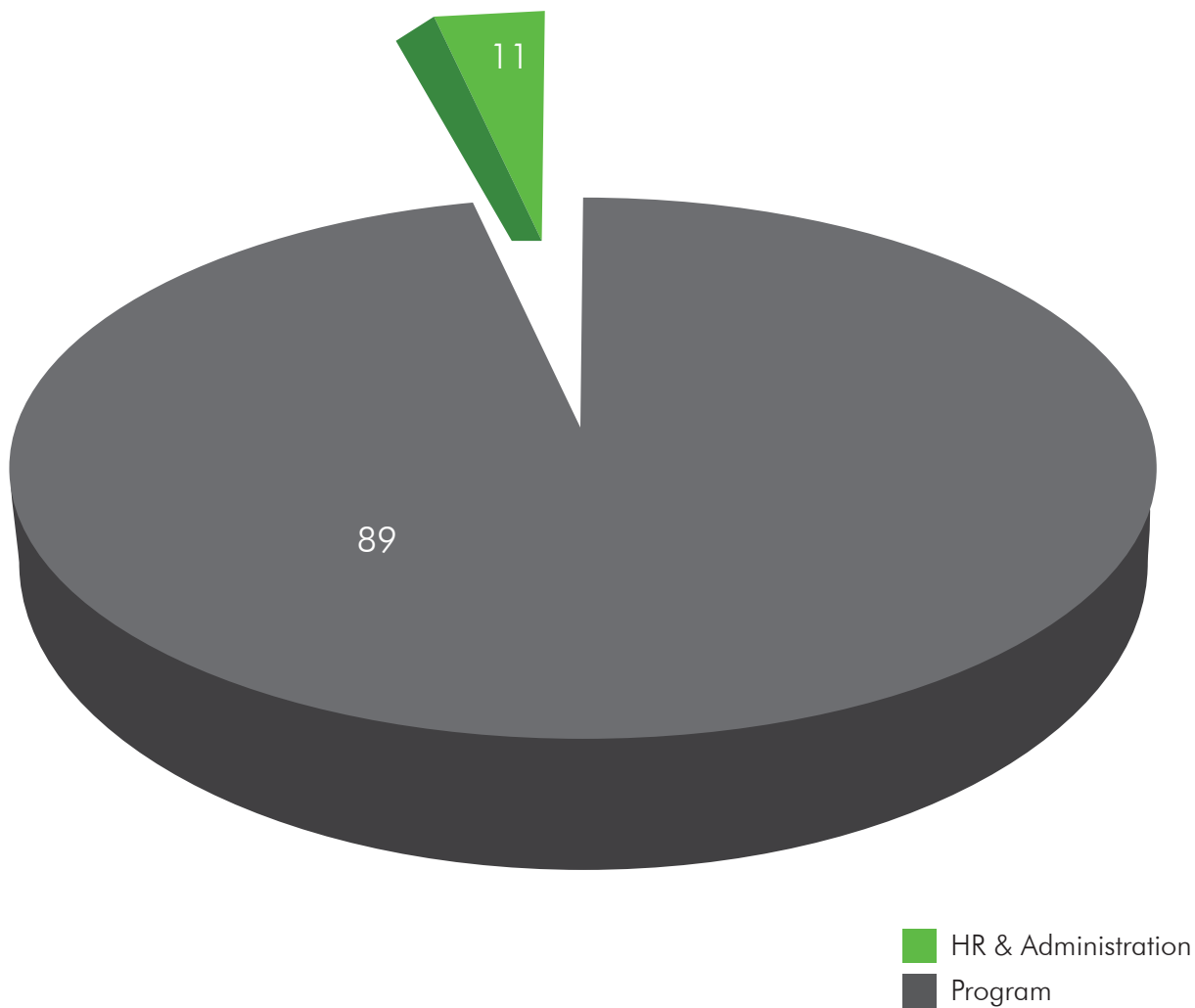
With the inception of this project, PYCA will diversify its programming in the education sector.

Active youth engagement will remain cross-cutting through the entire project with university students being capacitated on the subject matter and given lead to take the advocacy campaigns in the target communities.



Financial Overview

Financial Overview



The financial standing of Pakistan Youth Change Advocates remained sound during the reporting period. This allowed PYCA to not merely continue on-going initiatives but also sustain past work. The addition of new development partners during this period further ossified the organization's financial viability.

In 2016, PYCA directed 89 percent of its overall expenses to programs, indicating efficient management of financial resources and commitment to limit operational and overhead costs.

Having forged new development partnerships, PYCA has entered 2017 financially well positioned to empower Pakistan's vibrant youth.



STORIES OF CHANGE

Students of Karachi University Redefine Harmony through Theater

Performing arts is known to be an effective tool for the promotion of social messages and inspiring behavioral change.

With the technical and financial assistance of PYCA, in 2016 students of University of Karachi emphasized the importance of peaceful resolution of societal conflicts through performing arts and organized street theatres in three violence-hit slum areas of Karachi's Bengali-para, Gulberg and Gulshan-e-Iqbal localities.



Fatima Kareem, a student and the Director of the university's theater society, Team Khwab, shared, "Our aim was to educate the masses and promote the message of peace and harmony in a light-hearted way through theater."

A total of 350 community members including men, women and children attended these performances. "Our performances were very well received, and the crowd's response was overwhelmingly positive," shared Haris Hasan Khan, a student of University of

Karachi and the lead for this initiative.

In the words of one of the community members, "Such an event has happened for the first time here. No one really cares about this area or its people. Thank you very much for coming here and emphasizing the importance of living peacefully."

The fourth and final performance was held in the Department of Public Administration (DPA), University of Karachi in the presence of academicians, students and media.

"Such activities are extremely important for the community. We all believe that youth is the next big thing and without their ownership of social change initiatives, bringing any positive change would not be possible," stated Tehmina Faisal, a lecturer at University of Karachi.



Students Paint Sargodha with Peace



Wall chalking, stains of spittle and time worn paints all play a major role in spoiling the charm of a city. The beauty of the city is further disturbed when its walls bear loud messages of hate and intolerance.



Wanting their home town, Sargodha to reflect beauty and peace, students from Superior University, Lahore with the help of PYCA decided to paint their city with colorful graffiti that urged the citizens to exercise tolerance and live peacefully.

“We employed street art as a tool to make the city look appealing again and painted symbolic messages to promote the message of peace,” said Nirmal Aman, one of the team members leading this initiative.

In addition to young amateur artists, school children were also engaged in the activity. “We felt that engaging children would have a positive impact on their world view and it would help them to internalize the concepts of religious tolerance from an early age,” explained Noor Aman, also a member of the team leading this project.

This PYCA sponsored initiative continues to reach hundreds of thousands of people each day via the delightful art work even though the project itself has long concluded.



We are All Light!

Multan has had the privilege of hosting a number of Sufi mystics. The mystics therefore, have played a significant role in the social development of this historic city and the region around it. Without a shadow of doubt, it was their mentoring that allowed Hindus and the Muslims to co-exist peacefully for a substantial period of time. However, during the past few decades the people seem to have forgotten the true essence of what was taught to their ancestors and South Punjab finds itself plagued by sectarianism.



To help the locals to return to the roots of the teachings that make Multan such a revered city, students of Bahauddin Zakariya University (BZU) produced a documentary titled, Tu Bhi Shams, Mein Bhi Shams (i.e. We are all Light). PYCA financially and technically supported the students in every phase of production and the organization's Communications team provided on field support during its shoot.



The video highlights the role of Sufi mystics in promotion of peace and tolerance in the region, featuring the viewpoints of both Shia and Sunni scholars on the importance of religious harmony.

"Our country is suffering because of extremism and I and my teammates truly hope that our little effort will play a role in motivating people to spread peace and tolerance in their families and communities," shared Mohammad Adil while discussing the vision behind Tu Bhi Shams, Mein Bhi Shams.

"We wanted the locals to relate to our message of sectarian harmony and so throughout the documentary we make references to the most revered personalities in South Punjab including Bahauddin Zakariya (R.A), Shah Rukan-e-Alam (R.A) and Sakhi Sultan (R.A)," explained Mohammad Wasil, another member of the team leading this seed project.

The documentary had a series of three screenings across different educational institutes in Multan and was promoted on social media (including Facebook, Twitter and YouTube) collectively reaching out to more than one thousand people.



Annexure I

List of Partner Universities in 2016

S. No	Institute	Location	Sector
1.	International Islamic University Islamabad	Islamabad	Public
2.	Iqra University	Islamabad	Private
3.	Institute of Policy Studies	Islamabad	Private
4.	University of Karachi	Karachi	Public
5.	Hazara University	Mansehra	Public
6.	Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS)	Lahore	Private
7.	University of Gujrat	Gujrat	Public
8.	Bahauddin Zakariya University Multan	Multan and Layyah	Public
9.	Superior University	Lahore and Bahawalpur	Private
10.	Superior College	Multan and Bhakkar	Private
11.	Air University	Multan	Public
12.	Mirpur University of Science and Technology	Mirpur	Public
13.	Boys Degree College Chinnari	Chinnari	Public
14.	Model Science College Muzaffarabad	Muzaffarabad	Public
15.	Women University Bagh AJK	Bagh	Public



PYCA Team and Stakeholders



www.pyca.org.pk



[/pakistanyouthchangeadvocates](https://www.facebook.com/pakistanyouthchangeadvocates)



[@PYCAPk](https://twitter.com/PYCAPk)



[PYCA PK](https://www.youtube.com/PYCA_PK)



www.bolojawan.com



[/bolojawan](https://www.facebook.com/bolojawan)



[@bolojawan](https://twitter.com/bolojawan)



[bolojawan](https://www.youtube.com/bolojawan)