

Success Story

Three-day Training Session
for MAle Support Group
(Ahmadpur)

Success Story

Name	Madrisa	Sect	Contact No.	UC No.	UC Name	District
Qari Khalil Ahmad	Jamia Saeediyah Faizan-e-Rasool	Barelvi	0301-2571550	41	Mubarik Pur	Bahawalpur

Plot of the Story:

Qari Khalil Ahmad is Mohtamim of Madrisa “Jamia Saeediyah Faizan-e-Rasool” who is working from 10-years in union council-Mubarik Pur (41) of Ahmadpur East, Bahawalpur. He made this madrisa by his own help. Mosque is also part the madrisa so; he leads the prayer as well. He belongs to Brailvi sect. The major issues of the area are sectarian violence and communication gap among people from diverse sects’. He was very rigid and did not like to sit with people of other sects due to sectarian hatred and society’s stereotypes.

Qari Khalil Ahmad told that, nine months ago, the representative of Sanjh Pakistan Team came into his Madrisa and told him about their work on peace, tolerance and interfaith harmony and requested him to be part of their project in their union council and also shared that they are going to start a project with female madaris. But due to the pandemic situation of Covid-19, Sanjh Pakistan team could not come back again. But now after nine months, when representatives of Sanjh Pakistan came to me, I was having so many concerns and reservations in my mind and I was concerned about the organization as well. Moreover, about its work in our community. As a mohtamim of a madrasa, we teach peace and tolerance to our kids, so what could be the purpose of working with maulana/mohtamims of madrasa on peace and tolerance?

Transformation of Conflict (Resolution):

Then Qari Khalil Ahmad shared that; the representative of Sanjh Pakistan, “Miss Rahat” came to my madrisa and shared objectives and activities of the project in madrisa and also invited me in Three-day CVE Training Session. She also requested me to attend the training on peace, tolerance and interfaith harmony, as it was for mohtamims of madrasas from different

sects' to get the knowledge about peace & intersect harmony. She further shared that these types of trainings make us able to learn positive things to make society peaceful. I was curious to know the objectives of Sanjh Pakistan and what it would be, so I decided to attend the CVE-training. At the very first day of the training Sanjh Pakistan team picked me up from my madrisa for CVE training and I was the first person who was picked by Sanjh Pakistan in the vehicle. I was like there is no one else in the vehicle and I thought that is, the team going to kidnap me? As it was very first time when I was joining any activity of an organization. The team observed my condition, representative of Sanjh Pakistan tried her best to relax me by saying that let us connected you with another mohtamim from madrisa of your UC. So that you can know that there are many other mohtamim will also the part of today training. Then, she dialed the contact number of Qari Adul Qayyum mohtamim of Madrisa al-Rehman to whom team was going to pick next for the training, and he was also from my area. I heard his name but did not meet him personally. This action of team gave me satisfaction. We were six members from different sects in the vehicle on way to venue of training. And I know some of them by their names but due to our diverse sects we did not talked each other during the travelling while going to the training.

Qari Khalil Ahmad said, "In three-day CVE training session, I learnt so many positive things (for instance; attributes & responsibilities of an influential women, qualities of a leader, conflict resolution as well as about social action planning for religious harmony) in which I particularly liked the session on harmony as we had communication gap with other sect's. In the three-day CVE training, mohtamims from different sects sat together without any segregation of sect, language and social norms.

Qari Khalil Ahmad also added that, in these three-days of training, the message of peace was delivered by the trainer through male support group members participation via group work presentation on the stage which was a good way to deliver the message of peace and to give space to others living in our society as well as he also described about regional influential women and a good leader. Trainer also defined the role of a mohtamim in detail and in a beautiful way. After becoming the part of training, I understand that in general we were teaching about peace and tolerance to our students but the message was only for our sect. As, we teach our students to tolerate our sects. We did not teach them about intersect & interfaith harmony. I got the message that being a teacher/mohtamim its' my responsibility to spread the message of peace & intersects to my students and to the community as well. And now I am an ambassador of peace and spreading the message of peace that I have learnt from training.

He said that, I am thankful to the Sanjh Pakistan that they gave us a platform where we all can sit with different sects and learn about harmony together.

Way Forward:

This story has left us with a lesson that in order to change the stereotypical minds, it is important to bring them together on one platform with an enabling environment where they can listen to each other's point of views and opinions to break the barriers of differences that would bring them closer and would increase their knowledge as well.