



SANJH PAKISTAN

Success of the Project (Hindu and Muslim ate food together)

“We have different religions, different languages,
Different colored skin but we all belong to one human race.”

Plot of the Story:

This is going to narrate the story of people belong to two different religions. In Ahmed Pur East, two religion people have been living in union council of Mehrab Wala. Hindu community has been living there even before the creation of Pakistan but they have been facing many problems due to their minority in the area. The major issues of the area are Extremism, intolerance and religious hatred among Muslim and Hindu people in Union Council Mehrab Wala. Muslim community is in majority and did not consider the Hindu as human beings. In the project “Women as Peace Leader” the Muslim females somehow become agree to sit and eat with other sect people but it seemed as more difficult to make them agree to sit with Hindu community. Due to religious hatred and domestic stereotypes, Muslims females of the area never eat anything with Hindu females just because of having different religion. They considered it's a sin even to sit with Hindu females; there was no concept to eat anything with other religion people. The same chain has been going on for many decades and there was a religious hatred among the people of both religions.



SANJH PAKISTAN

Success:

After starting of the project “Women as Peace Leader” Sanjh Pakistan Team visited into the Union Council Mehrab Wala and briefed the females of the area about peace, tolerance and interfaith harmony which were the basic objectives of the project. Team conducted 10 mobilization sessions and coordination meetings, 10 introductory meetings in which briefed about the project and to give respect others considering them as human beings. It is the greatest success of Sanjh Pakistan team that those Muslim females who were not ready to sit with Hindu females due to domestic stereotypes and religious hatred at the first day of Two-days CVE training Session. In training facilitator taught them about peace, tolerance and interfaith harmony and also told about the objective of the project. In CVE training all participants got the lesson that all people are human beings and should not separate from the people living in their surroundings and must be lived happily without any segregation of religion, sects, cast or creed because these are the secondary parts of life, all people are human beings before belonging to any religion or sect. After joining the peace vocational center of Mehrab Wala, Muslim and Hindu females sat together without any segregation and they were treated equal by the vocational trainer. When the groups were formed in peace center, it was tried to mix both religion females so that they could get the chance to interact with each other and their interaction could be increased. Muslim females started to realize that others are also human beings and having different religion or sect does not matter, being the Human they should respect others so that they could also be respected by them. It was quite difficult to make Muslim females to sit as and eat food with Hindu females but Sanjh Pakistan team briefed them about the objectives of conducting SAPs in project’ phase line. Sanjh Pakistan team invited both religion females of Mehrab Wala in Food Mela so that it could be break the stereotype of not eating food cooked by other religion females. In the SAP of food Mela; it was observed that the females of diverse background interacted and groups of females in which Hindu females were also included; cooked food and all participants ate it without any segregation of religion, sects and linguistic difference. Miss Sana Khadim appreciated the purpose of food mela and she said, “We all must live with each other without any difference of sect or religion, as we all are human beings and equal; no one is superior or inferior from us as well as its need to break the stereotypes of not eating food with different religion females. We all females must enjoy the company of each other; when we sit in gathering, we come to know about different ideas, we learn so many things as well as our friendship improve with our surroundings’



SANJH PAKISTAN

females.” Miss Khalida said, “Since my childhood, my parents had taught to me that it is a sin to speak by a Hindu, never it could be happen to eat anything with them; but today I have learnt that those were just stereotypes which our society’ people had made. The main lesson is that neither religion must be important nor any sect; the main importance should be given to humanity which teaches us to live peacefully with others without any hatred and segregation. We as a Muslim community should play our role by following to our Prophets as they were appreciated by the people of the world due to their kindness, we also must do something good and treat others with kindness so that they would feel happy while living in our country. We considered ourselves as superior to other religion community but it is only a negative thinking, we are just as they are human being and all are equal.”

Conclusion

This story has left us with a lesson that nothing is impossible only a struggle is necessary to achieve the goal; if we want to promote peace, tolerance and interfaith harmony among the people of our society, we must keep our struggles going on.

“It is the hope that inter-religious cooperation will prove that men and women do not have to forsake their identity, whether ethnic or religious, in order to live in harmony with their brothers and sisters. If we are honest in presenting our convictions, we will be able to see more clearly what we hold in common.”