



Outcome of Food Mela (SAPs) from Community

Name	Amna Ali	Village	Mardan Pur	Madrisa	Madrisa Islamia Taleem-al-Quran
UC	84-Ailam Pur	Town	Bosan Town	District	Multan

Background of the Story:

Various sects' people have been living in the village Mardan Pur, union council 84-Ailam Pur. The major issues of the area are sectarian hatred, society's stereotypes and communication gap among all sects' people living there. One of the beneficiaries, Miss Amna has been living in the village Mardan Pur. She belongs to Deoband sect. She is the teacher of Madrisa Islamia Taleem-ul-Quran. Though Miss Amna is an educated lady but due to domestic customs she was also the victim of sectarian hatred and domestic stereotypes of not eating anything with other sect' people. She considered it's a sin to eat with diverse background people as from her childhood she had learnt these perceptions from her parents.

Transformation of Conflict (Resolution):

The representative of Sanjh Pakistan team visited her village and told the females about the objective of its working as to promote peace, tolerance and interfaith harmony as well as invited her and females of her village in Three-day CVE Training Session. Miss Amna attended the training session in which the trainer had taught the participants various topics as conflict resolution, tolerance, peace, harmony and criticism. Miss Amna liked the topic of giving space to others. Miss Amna said, "In training all sect' females sat without any difference of sects, linguistics and domestic customs; for the first time in my life, I ate food with other sect females because in the very start of the training the facilitator briefed us about the objective of the whole training as we all people are equal and human beings therefore we must not focus on sectarianism. I liked the environment of the training and the balloon activity in which left us with a lesson that if we did not like other sect people; they will also dislike our sect in return, I learnt so many positive things from the training."

Then team mobilized me to become the part of this noble cause of promoting peace, tolerance and interfaith harmony among the people of diverse background. Miss Amna said, "In the SAP of food mela which was first time conducted in our Madrisa it was told that we all people



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are equal as well as we all females ate the food together without any segregation of sect, society's stereotypes, domestic customs and linguistic difference, I realized my mistake of not eating food with other sect people. Before the SAP of food mela, I never go and invite other sect' people in my home on meal because of stereotypes of not eating food with diverse background people. After attending different SAPs, I decided to invite my colleagues of college who belong to all diverse background on lunch in my home; they all were amazed to see the change in my behavior and one of my colleagues asked about this change in me. I told them about training and SAPs in which I have learnt so many positive concepts as all people are equal we must respect each other without any difference of sect and language, we all must live with each other without any difference of sect 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 the food with other sect females. All my colleagues were happy about this positive change.

“To survive in peace and harmony,

United and strong,

We must have one people and one nation.”

Miss Amna said, “The first step of me for the promotion of giving space to others gave me the positive output as some days ago, one of my colleagues invited me as well as other staff members in her home; there also we all ate food without any difference, it was seemed as we all are the members of one family, now the interaction has been increasing between all my staff members.”

Way Forward:

This story has left us with an object lesson that when we start to do work in positive way; slowly it has left its impact on some people's mind and if one person changed its way of living; with the passage of time this positive change will be on broader level in society.

“Like the bee collecting honey from different flowers,

The wise person accepts the essence of the different scriptures,

And see only the good in all sects.”