

Success of the Project (Celebration of Holi Festival)

Toleration was a matter of the previous centuries but now through the idea of interfaith harmony, humans took the early steps towards a society free from religious and sectarianism. The time has been changing with peaceful reflections and so has its needs. The need of this century is acceptance, we all must take steps in this regard.”



Plot of the Story:

The matter of this story is going to explain the interfaith harmony which has been developing in the hearts of two different religions' people who hated each other since before the creation of Pakistan (Hindu & Muslims). Though both religions people had been living for many centuries in the same area but they never try to eradicate the communication distance among them and religious hatred has deep rooted in their hearts. Due to religious hatred both religions' females never sit with each other as well as it never happen to take part in the happiness and sorrows of each other. In short, instead to live in the one area it seemed as they lived far away from each and the basic reason of this gap was only religion. Muslim community did not consider the Hindu people as human beings and they both never celebrate the happiness with each other. But after becoming the part of the project now the females of both religion celebrated the Holi festival together and it was the sign of interfaith harmony in the hearts of Muslim females who took part in the celebration of Hindu community' festival. On the day of 1st puppet show, there was Holi festival of Hindu community and the Muslim members of women peace groups enjoyed the festival with Hindu community in the very first time in their entire lives.



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“A true and caring relation doesn't have to speak loud, a soft message is just enough to express the heartiest feelings while standing with other in their happy moments.”

Achievement of Project:

In the project “Women as Peace Leader” Sanjh Pakistan Team visited the area of Mehrab Wala and briefed the females of the area about peace, tolerance and interfaith harmony which were the basic needs of the region. After conducting mobilizations and coordination meetings and introductory meetings in which females were briefed about the objectives of project as to promote peace, tolerance and interfaith harmony, Sanjh Pakistan team formed the women peace groups for the peace vocational centers. In those groups diversity was priority of team so that diverse religion females could interact with each other and they could be friends of each other as human beings as well as they would be able to respect each other without any segregation of religion, sect, language and domestic customs. After the formation of women peace groups, Sanjh Pakistan team invited the females of both religions to attend CVE training. In the training all partakers got the message that all people are human beings and should not isolated from their surroundings’ people due to religions and sects, all people must be lived happily without any segregation of religion and societal norms. When the peace vocational classes were started, it was tried to mix both religion females so that they could get the chance to interact with each other, work together and their interaction could be increased. By attending the continuous vocational classes, the interaction among the members of women peace groups started to increase due to which Muslim females started to recognize unconsciously that Hindu females also are human beings as they are and being the human beings they should respect others.

Regarding to develop interfaith harmony among the people of diverse religion, the social action projects which Sanjh Pakistan conducted in their peace vocational centers played their vital roles in the developing inter-religion harmony. In those SAPs (food melas, peace sports galas, interactive theaters, craft exhibitions) along with peace group’ members the females of community also participated and the females of women peace groups spread the messages of peace, tolerance and interfaith harmony to all participants of SAPs. Expressing feelings of happiness while celebrating Holi with Muslim females **Miss Shardha said**, “After becoming the part of this project I saw positives changes had took place in the very first time as in my entire life never a Muslim females ate food with me but in the SAP food mela all participants ate food together without any segregation of religion and sectarianism and today I was surprised as my members of peace groups are celebrating our Holi festival. The interaction among the females of peace groups has increased and now it seemed as we all



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are the members of one family, the main lesson of this platform is that; the importance should be given to humanity which teaches us to live peacefully with others without any religious hatred and segregation.” On the occasion of celebrating Holi with Hindu community **Miss Maheen said**, “In the very first day of training we hesitated to sit with Hindu females and did not like to eat with the same plat or glass but due to this platform this negative thinking wipe out from our minds. Islam teaches us to give space to others, to respect others without any segregation of sect, religion cast or creed; the societal norms have been letting us away from the lesson of affection, respect and love. We as a Muslim community should play our role by following to the teaching of humanity which teaches us that all people are equal and treat others especially diverse religion people with kindness and must take part in their happiness and sorrows so that they would feel happy while living in our country. We all must live with the people of our surroundings without any difference of sect or religion, as we all are human beings and equal; no one is superior or inferior. We all females must enjoy the company of each other celebrating each other’ festivals, we must celebrate the happiness of each other; when we sit in diverse gathering, we come to know about different ideas; we learn so many things as well as our friendship increased with our surrounding’ females. In my entire life, it happens in very first time that I celebrate Holi with Hindu community and I am happy to see their cheerfulness on this occasion, when we take part in the happiness of others, just our presence on their special occasions made their happy moments very special for them.”

While celebrating Holi, all females throw colors on each other’s faces and clothes without any segregation of religion and enjoyed it.

Conclusion:

To conclude it can be said that while struggling in the promotion of peace, tolerance and interfaith harmony among the people of diverse religion in our society, we will achieve our goals and we must spread the message of humanity in entire society:

Humanity first, nationality later

compassion first, religion later

acceptance first, formalities later.”