

## Success Story of Miss Ruqia Bibi

Name	Madrasa	Village	UC	Town	District
Ruqia Bibi	Khadija-tul-Kubra	Qabool Wala	83	Bosan Town	Multan

### Background:

Miss Ruqia Bibi has been living in Qabool Wala, a village of union council 83 Bosan Town Multan. She is the head teacher of Madrasa Khadija-tul-Kubra and this madrasa is not the part of Sanjh Pakistan. Three sects' people have been living in it as Ahle-Hadees, Deoband and Barailvi. The major issues of the area are intolerance and typecasts among different sects' people. Miss Ruqia belongs to Deoband sect. She did not even like to talk the people who belong to other sects. Due to sectarian hatred, she did not bear to teach other sect children as well as when Sanjh Pakistan team went in her madrasa in the very start of the project, to somehow she was agreed to work initially with the organization but she refused to sit with other sect madaris' females due to the influence of sectarianism. She was even so rigid about her sect that she strictly forbidden team to come again in her madrasa.

### Behavior Changing:

Miss Suraya, the head teacher of Madrasa Sarwar-e-Fatima has been living in her neighborhood. After becoming the part of the project "Women as Peace Emissary" Miss Suraya invited Miss Ruqia in the different activities which were conducted in her madrasa with the collaboration of Sanjh Pakistan. Though due to sectarian influence, Miss Ruqia did not want to attend the activities but Miss Suraya continued to invite her again and again in activities, she went there due to the neighborhood. When she attended the SAP of Aman Baithak conducted in Madrasa Sarwar-e-Fatima Lil-banaat, she listened about awareness session of tolerance and give respect to others considering them as human beings and equal. After attending one SAP, she had become conscious to know more about the objectives of the project and for more clarity, Miss Ruqia attended some SAPs as Exposure visit, Food melas and Craft exhibition in which it was told that all sects have equal importance therefore; all people must respect each other without any segregation of sects, linguistic difference and domestic customs. Being the continuous part of activities, Miss Ruqia started to felt a change in her behavior, she liked SAPs especially food meal in which females of diverse background cooked plao, when she was seeing the procedure of cooking

she remembered that her parents told her in childhood that she might not eat anything with other sect children and when all participants ate it without any difference of sectarianism, she was amazed to see gathering of females but there was no sign of any sect or language, they all were busy to enjoy eating food, it looked like they all were the member of one family. Miss Ruqia said, “From my childhood, it was told me that other sect people are not good and they are inferior to us, when I enter in my adulthood instead to explore the reality and teaching of humanity which teaches us that all people are equal, I had been busy in my daily activities of life. Being the head teacher, I consider myself as lucky woman who has been doing a good deed as to teach my sect children. But it was my fault that being the educated lady I never try to eradicate the sectarian hatred which had rooted in my heart and mind.” Miss Ruqia along with Miss Suraya participated in one Learning exchange program in which she requested to Sanjh Pakistan for working with her madrasa, so that she would be able to learn much more from this platform as well as her students would be able to know about to give space and respect others as human beings. Some days ago, she felt that any activity should be conducted in her madrasa therefore she took a self-initiative and invited to Miss Suraya with her teachers for exchange visit in her madrasa in which she told to participants that before attending the activities of peace and tolerance conducted by Sanjh Pakistan, she never sit with other sect people and was victim of superiority complex about her sect and language. Miss Ruqia further said, “You people who are the members of this platform, I consider you as lucky guys because I attended only some activities which changed my notion but you people attended all activities and I believe the SAPs might have developed much more positivity in you, by today I promise to myself that I will try to spread the message of tolerance and peace in my family which I have learnt on this platform.” The activities of Sanjh Pakistan make her to realize that all people are human beings and no one is superior or inferior to anyone; all people are equal. She announced in this self-initiative that she will work for the promotion of tolerance and peace in her surroundings and will have no objection if any other sect children want to join her madrasa, she will teach all students without any segregation of cast or creed.

## **Way Forward:**

This story has left us with a lesson that

**“Peace is not absence of conflict;**

**It is the ability to handle conflict by peaceful means.”**