Case Studies

Aman-o-Merman (Women and Peace):
Moderating Extremism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) & Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA)
The booklet comprises case studies gathered during the project implementation phase. These success stories are in response to effectiveness and relevance of the project objectives.
The concept of the project Aman-o-Merman which primarily focuses on the impact of violent extremism on women speaks volumes of itself.

Through this project PAIMAN has aimed to create awareness at the community level regarding the impact of extremism particularly on women and youth in FATA and the province of Khyber Pukhtunkhwa and its own effort to mitigate the issue to address it. During the course of the project the need to gather data on the role of mothers in the process of radicalization and de-radicalization and to help mothers to realize their potential and power within this process was felt so as to showcase how PAIMANs interventions have played an important role in helping people find ways to resolve their day to day conflicts, which otherwise might have magnified and taken on a more complex and bigger form.

These case studies display the conflict resolution and peacebuilding skills that PAIMAN has endeavoured to pass on to youth and mothers of communities through its trainings and sensitization sessions using different tools of communication. The compilation shows how after passing through PAIMAN's training programmes, participants themselves at the primary level experience a temperamental change within themselves. Their interaction in their communities is more toned down yet effective. Secondly the will to have a more peaceful and conflict free community becomes their utmost goal and thus they don't shirk from taking initiatives to help others resolve their differences.
**Background**

Atta Ullah is a young resident of SWAT who has 3 brothers and 4 sisters. His mother passed away when he was merely a child. Since then he has been under the supervision of his father. With a love and passion for religion and education he studied in a Madarassah.

“My simple life kept me confused about what I should do that would benefit other people.”

Attaullah got to know through one of the participants who came to PAIMAN house to attend training on peace building, skills training and conflict resolution. His friend also told him how the training program helped him define his goal in life. Seeing an opportunity which would make him a useful individual of society, Attaullah approached PAIMAN and showed interest in being part of a similar training program. He gathered a team of 5 friends in his area who were also interested in working for the betterment of the community and joined one of PAIMANs peacebuilding training programmes. Initially, Attaullah was apprehensive about the stereotypes he might be coming across from other people during the training program. He was under the impression that due to his background no one would like to be his friend or treat him normally. He thought that everyone would be scared of him because he had spent a large part of his life in a Madarasa.

**PAIMAN’s Initiative**

When Attaullah reached PAIMAN all of his misconceptions and misunderstandings became a concern of the past. He was pleasantly surprised to see so much love and care from not only his fellow participants but the trainers themselves. He claims that there was so much love around him that he made lifetime friendships with the
trainer to the cook and gatekeeper of PAIMAN house. He claims that starting from the 1st day of the training to the last day he was never made uncomfortable. He claims that the entire duration of the training was the best time of his life. According to Attaullah reminisces that every day they freely discussed and voiced their views and opinions without any fear. The best part was that there were people who actually listened to to what each of the participant had to say seriously and with interest. Attaullah learned about 3 key things during the training sessions of PAIMAN: which are the concepts of conflict resolution, peace keeping and cleanliness. Attaullah realized that whatever he was learning from these trainings were the same things that are the basic teachings of our religion too. He later commented that being nice to other people, greeting them with a smile, resolving disputes through discussions, avoiding fights and keeping our surrounding clean are the things that our religion tells us to do so too, and if every human being practices these values Pakistan can be a better place to live in. Belonging to a backward area, Attaullah says that he also did not have access to a lot of technology around him. During one the training sessions, PAIMAN also gave computer classes to Attaullah so that he can learn about the basics. By learning these basics, he is now eager to use his computer skills by maintaining a database for his Madrasah.

Conclusion

Attaullah is now working on forming a group in his community which would include those youth who will help him to disseminate his learning's to others for a wider impact. He believes that after attending the PAIMAN training a lot of his positive hidden capacities have come to light. He has already started sharing his experiences with others starting from his close social circle (family and friends). He gladly articulates that he is getting very encouraging feedback from the community.
for his efforts. In future he plans on taking bigger initiatives at a higher level to benefit the entire community. AttaUllah says,

“I have never understood the importance of peace and cleanliness in such an effective way before and it’s high time that others understand its importance too”.
PAIMAN Alumni Trust
Gulab Nagar off Kashmir Highway Near Darbar Sain Mircho
H-13 Islamabad, Pakistan. Ph: +92-51-2506521
E-mail: paiman_reports@yahoo.com
Website: www.paimantrust.org