



Umeed Partnership Pakistan (UPP)

(Developing communities through education and training)

Registered Charity # 764

Annual Report 2013-14

Umeed Partnership Pakistan (UPP)

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UMEED ADMINISTRATION AND PROJECTS



Education



Legal Aid



Democracy



Human Rights



Sports Club



**Street
Theatre**



Skills Training



INTRODUCTION

Umeed Partnership Pakistan (UPP) has a non-political, non-profit ethos, registered under Societies Act 1860 and is entitled to work throughout Pakistan. Umeed is also registered as a charity in the UK. It is a humanitarian development organization committed to the promotion of human rights. The Head Office is in Lahore and there are three regional offices in Loralai (Balochistan), Bahawalpur and Lahore. The Umeed Project is managed by an Executive Board.

The Umeed Partnership exists to provide opportunities through education and training to vulnerable and disadvantaged girls & women, and boys & young men, in diverse parts of Pakistan. The organization is multi-faith and is operational in the tribal communities of Baluchistan, in slum districts of Lahore and in the marginalized low-caste *dalit* communities of Cholistan Desert in southern Punjab. The organization has evolved into a women's support body to empower widows and victims of disease and domestic violence.



Basic education is offered together with embroidery and tailoring for girls and women, carpentry and woodturning skills training for street boys and adult education for women in the districts of Loralai, Bahawalpur and Lahore. Human rights training is provided training empower women

provided. Seminars and workshops are conducted during the year in different regions. For children, two mixed faith Middle Schools have been opened in marginalized '*dalit*' communities near Bahawalpur and Yazman in the Cholistan Desert.

Umeed is committed to work for socio-economic rights and the promotion of human rights and democracy irrespective of caste, creed or gender. Umeed works to break unjust structures prevailing in Pakistani society. It works at grass-roots level with all those who believe in human liberation and who have committed themselves to this worthy cause.

Vision

The vision of the Umeed Partnership is to achieve an educated & skilled generation of young people and improved equality between men and women, Also to liberate vulnerable people from oppression.

Mission

- To reach out to those who lack basic human needs with the aim of restoring dignity and respect irrespective of caste, creed or gender;
- To promote basic Human Rights and democratic processes in oppressed communities;
- To provide opportunities for youth to improve their talents, abilities and leadership qualities.

Goal: To promote and facilitate universal formal and informal education.

Umeed's Focal Sectors include:

Human Rights

- Human Rights and democratic education
- Empowerment of women and elimination of gender disparities
- Capacity enhancement of women's' groups and civil society organizations
- Research and documentation

Development

- Promotion of entrepreneurship and development of small business skills
- Formal and non-formal education
- Socio-economic empowerment of the poor
- Assisting women in distress through free legal aid

MESSAGE FROM THE UMEED PAKISTAN CHAIRPERSON – SHAMIN GULZAR

It is evident that in human history the patriarchal system has harmed the role of women in the family and society.

Umeed Partnership Pakistan (UPP) started in 2000 in the Province of Balochistan. It works principally for the empowerment of women through skills training and education. The organization has evolved into a women's organization to support victims of widowhood, disease and domestic violence. Umeed helps women to play an increasingly substantial role in their families and society through education, skills training and programs of awareness raising.



Society in Balochistan in which Umeed works is rigidly patriarchal and intermingled with tribalism, feudalism and capitalism. This system provides the basis to its socio-economic, religious and cultural values in which women have no role to play except to bear & rear children and entertain men. In Balochistan women are traded in a manner similar to commodities, with similar legal social and cultural practices. Once the price is paid a woman becomes the sole property of the male buyer.

In Balochistan educating a woman is against the moral codes, therefore as a result only 2 to 3 percent of women are educated. The influx of Afghan immigrants has contributed to this since they wish retain the discredited conservative traditions of their tribal system, restricting to their homes. Therefore in this society women are the least visible and remain voiceless.

Umeed also works in the Province of Punjab where women are at their best and their worst. It's true that in urban areas women have opportunities for education and employment. To certain extent they are allowed to enjoy socializing in the company of men. However, in this Province the vast majority of women belong to the silent and unmentioned peasantry in the rural areas, in the industrial centres and in the agricultural sector. Most of these women bear a double burden of housework and outside work. They are first to rise and last to sleep.

In Punjab the buying and selling of women is replaced with a dowry. A decade ago whatever parents gave in the dowry was acceptable to the groom's party but now a list of articles and sometimes cash in the dowry is demanded by the groom's family. Many parents go into debt in order to marry off their daughters. Many parents remain under financial burden and pressure due to the demand of dowry from grooms. Very often they are unable to make arrangements for a dowry thus many girls remain unmarried. The practice of dowry degrades women's position in society and many are subjected to domestic violence if the dowry is insufficient.

Marriage of teenage girls has become increasingly popular in Pakistan. In spite of a legal minimum age of marriage for girls of 16, many parents marry them off at the age of 12 to 13 years to relieve the financial pressures on the family.

In this scenario Umeed works for women in distress. Since its inception in 2000, Umeed has trained hundreds of girls & women in different skills who now own their small business looking after themselves and their families. Increasingly, girls cover the cost of their own dowry, thus relieving their families & husbands of the responsibility.

Year after year I meet Umeed girls/women who are disadvantaged by traditional practices. I have counselled them with words of comfort & hope and with practical guidelines to help them find light in their darkest moments. Umeed has brought success, hope and happiness to many lives. Many are now successful entrepreneurs who can stand on their own two feet. I am so grateful to Umeed donors, benefactors, friends and above all to the Umeed Partnership (UK) partners whose financial support continues to help many girls/women in Pakistan enjoy their human rights which would otherwise have been compromised.

MESSAGE FROM THE UMEED COORDINATOR PAKISTAN

YOUSUF JALAL GILL



Umeed Partnership Pakistan works among the most disadvantaged communities of the Cholistan Desert in southern Punjab, the tribal areas of Balochistan, rural areas of Mian Channue in Punjab province and in Lahore city slums. Due to, *inter alia*, poverty, unemployment, poor health, illiteracy and social and economic inequities, these communities remain in constant despair. Basic human needs are beyond the reach of many of these people. They have no voice and are therefore unable to protect themselves, They are no more than tools in the hands of the landlords, feudal, politicians and the local *punchayat* (committee of local leaders). Crime is rife in these communities.

In this climate of despair Umeed is providing education for boys and girls, adult literacy for women and skills training for girls/women and street children. Umeed also offers free legal aid to women in distress, programs of awareness and advocacy & human rights training. Umeed cannot solve all problems immediately but gradually it is helping people to better themselves.

2013-14 has been a difficult year for the common masses in Pakistan. In this country high levels of corruption make life more & more difficult, and this is compounded by a frequent price increase of essentials. This situation feeds religious fundamentalism and promotes social evils such as poverty, illiteracy, lawlessness, crime against women, terrorism, theft and kidnapping for ransom.

Attacks on minorities in Pakistan are increasing. A suicide attack on All Saints Church in Peshawar on September 22, 2013, killed 85 Christian worshippers and left more than 100 injured. During this year there has been a wave of religious and sectarian terrorism in Pakistan. In order to take revenge many blasphemy cases were registered against minorities and many members of religious minorities have been killed, their houses and properties destroyed. Across Pakistan hundreds of minority women were abducted, raped, forced to convert to Islam and many were killed. In this situation thousands of minority families migrate to other countries where they claim refugee asylum status.

There have been acid attacks against women shoppers in Quetta market. This has discouraged women from appearing in public in Baluchistan. Women and girls suffer serious abuse. This takes the form of rape, abduction, forced conversion, acid burning, domestic torture, honor killing & stoning to death.

We must be positive. In spite of all these happenings in Pakistan, life goes on but the Government has failed to meet the needs of the ordinary people and therefore they look towards NGOs for help. With the help of donors, benefactors, friends and well wishers Umeed is doing all it can to support the disadvantaged masses.

My thanks are due to all those who, in spite of the negative image of Pakistan, have supported the Umeed Project during the year. Thanks to all the members of Umeed Partnership UK for their dedication in empowering girls and women in Pakistan. Very special thanks to MM Partners of the Netherlands who are providing continuous financial support to promote the cause of the most disadvantaged communities of Pakistan. Thanks (*inter alia*) to Just Trust (Network for Social Change), the Gilchrist Trust UK, St Andrew's Church in Bedford, UK, the Menai Bridge Tysilio Ministry Area (UK) and the Crosfield Family Trust for providing financial support to re-develop the Emma Marchant Umeed Middle Schools at Bahawalpur and Yazman.

I offer my special thanks to the local and foreign benefactors (John Perkins, Stuart Elliot and Clive Southerton) for supporting the Umeed Project with dedication and commitment. I thank God for giving me a friend in Dr. John Perkins, a visionary who has unconditional love for the poor and who is committed to the cause of women's empowerment in Pakistan. He is a kind-hearted man. A prayer always comes from the bottom of my heart and all the Umeed beneficiaries that God may bless and protect him every moment in his life. Of course, I also thank members of my dedicated UPP team - colleagues, teachers, supervisors, trainers and legal advisors. Without the support of these people the Umeed Project would fall.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF UMEED UK

DR. JOHN PERKINS



The mission of The Umeed Partnership is unchanged. That is, it provides education and vocational training at grass roots level, leading to employment opportunities, **for disadvantaged girls and women (and increasingly boys and young men) of all faiths and cultures in Pakistan.** Operating at grass-roots level, UPP has no bureaucratic administrative infrastructure which means that funds raised in the UK are applied directly to the Project, running the education & training centres and the two Umeed Middle Schools.

Demand for participation by both girls & women and boys & young men has continued to increase and expansion is constrained only by funding limitations. UPP activities continue to be concentrated in four diverse areas of Pakistan, viz Quetta City in Baluchistan; the tribal area centred on Loralai City; the Yohannabad slum communities of Lahore; and low-caste Hindu communities in southern Punjab, centred in Yazman and in Bahawalpur District on the margins of the Cholistan Desert.

The Umeed Partnership really does make a difference to people's lives, and I get quite a thrill out of being part of it. Time and time again I have come across young women of all faiths who have received training in the Umeed embroidery Centres over the past ten years, and who are now making a living for themselves and their families. Some have become trainers themselves, and so this is an example of the Project becoming self-sustaining. Hopefully the Umeed woodwork Centres will be restarted and develop in a similar way, and the young men currently in training will, in two or three years time, be trainers themselves, and also earning to support their families. Without these training facilities, the young people would face empty lives, and therefore be more likely to be attracted to fundamentalism.

The Umeed Schools also have provided a lifeline for uneducated communities in southern Punjab; they are a credit to the dogged determination of the UPP Co-ordinator and Supervisors to improve opportunities in these impoverished communities.

So, the Umeed Partnership is demonstrably improving the quality of life for women, children, families and communities. In addition to skills training and education, Umeed is evolving into a support network for vulnerable women who may be victims of domestic violence, illness and bereavement. Due to its multi-faith ethos, Umeed also encourages dialogue, and hence reconciliation, between the major faith communities. In our world of fragile international relationships, Umeed is surely a cause to celebrate and to support.

My thanks are due to all who have supported the Umeed Partnership Project over the past year and in particular the Committee members. I should like to thank especially Clive Southerton and Ged Sanders for their work as Vice-Chair and Treasurer respectively. Individual donors, who must remain anonymous, have exceeded expectations in their generosity this year. Of course, we are always pleased to receive donations – the Umeed Project would fail without them – but we also need support in other forms (fund-raising skills, financial management, presentation skills, legal expertise, graphic design, and so on). So, if you have any spare time or spare money, please consider continuing to support the Project in whatever way you can.

As in previous years I made a privately-funded visit to the Umeed Project in February. I was the guest of Yousuf Jalal Gill and his family, and apart from the three day visit to Umeed activities in the Cholistan Desert region, I had excellent accommodation in Yousuf's home in Johor Town, Lahore. The hospitality has been second to none. Yousuf and Shamin are excellent, thoughtful hosts, as are the families I stayed with in Bahawalpur.

All costs of this visit (flights, train fares, fuel in Pakistan for UP car, Pakistan entry visa) have been met from a private source. No charges have been made against Umeed Partnership funds raised in the UK.

Skills Training for Women



Economic independence is important for the empowerment of vulnerable women. Therefore UPP empowers women socially and economically through vocational training. The vocational training sessions are used simultaneously for the social empowerment of the women. During the first hour of training, women are motivated to enter the public domain, to learn about women's rights and learn how to present themselves outside the family. An important element of the training is marketing. The women are taught how to write a modest business plan and how to approach the market.

The women are supported throughout and learn how to market their products. While mentoring the women, the trainers monitor to what extent the women put their skills into practice and earn an income with

their products. UPP has successfully implemented training courses in embroidery and tailoring/sewing in the past, and it relies on previously trained women to be trainers themselves. Through embroidery and tailoring skills and market access these women are made aware of their rights and acquire the knowledge, skills and mind-set to become economically active. As a result, women improve their social standing and dignity within their families, their communities and society.

During the year 2013-14 Umeed ran 6 embroidery centres in Bahawalpur/Yazman, 2 embroidery centres in Loralai, and in Lahore slums 2 embroidery and 2 tailoring/sewing centres, training 186 girls/women in the skill. Umeed awarded all the trained women a certificate and most of them are now becoming entrepreneurs in their own right.



Umeed makes

Women realise

Their potential

To fight poverty

Skills Training for Street Children



Umeed trains vulnerable street children in a skill which provides them with a means of earning money for themselves and their families. Umeed has responded to a demand for training provision for street children. Woodworking and carpentry training, tailoring and embroidery centres have been established.

Umeed saves these children from a life of drudgery and the money earned supports their families and their communities. It is known as the **Umeed Premium!** Our goal is to enable children to move into adulthood with a basic education and with life-skills whilst protecting the rights of those living on the streets, imbuing them with a sense of self-worth.

Following a period of training, the young men are able to produce furniture and fashionable clothes. Demand for staple products such as these is high. Umeed believes that long-term, sustainable change in individual children's lives and wider structural change can promote and protect children's rights. This can be achieved by meeting the immediate needs of children and opening access to mainstream services that can contribute towards their long-term retention in formal and non-formal education & healthcare.



Umeed aims to protect vulnerable children from abuse, for example economic and sexual exploitation; violence; neglect & hazardous work, and addresses root causes of abuse by engaging with all duty-bearers such as families, employers, communities and government, including law-enforcing agencies to take responsibility for children's overall well-being,

LIVE -LEARN -LEAD

Women's Human Rights Trainings

Umeed Partnership Pakistan promotes human rights for women through capacity building programs. Umeed empowers personnel from civil society groups through training. Trained personnel become focal partners of UPP who promote human rights for women in mainstream society as well as in their own organisations.

Umeed promotes this worthy cause by lobbying personnel from the major political parties, the judiciary and the police department. Firstly these personnel are made aware of the importance of promoting women's human rights at departmental level and secondly they take the issue to a higher level to their respective parliaments for legislation.

Being aware of the importance of the electronic media in Pakistan society, from time to time Umeed conducts seminars for journalists to encourage them to focus on the issue of women's rights in the printed media & on TV & radio.

In order to mitigate against religious and cultural bias against women, Umeed organizes seminars for religious and youth leaders. These provide a platform to discuss religious and cultural perspectives towards the role of women in society. It is therefore important to encourage religious and youth leaders to speak on the issue in their own environment.

UPP organizes interactive public debates and interactive theatres for the general public to promote women's rights, Through interactive theatre performed by Umeed members all members of society are being made aware of the exploitation of women in Pakistani society. After the theatrical performances at each venue an enthusiastic public debate takes place.

Umeed forms women's human rights committees to operate at grass roots level to identify particular issues.

Training of Trainers' Sessions

Three *Training of Trainers'* Sessions for capacity building of 52 Master Trainers of 21 NGOs were held in Lahore, Bahawalpur and Loralai earlier in the year to make them our focal partners to promote women's human rights in their own organizations as well as to join hands with the Umeed Partnership for this worthy cause.

Full reports of each of the three seminars may be obtained from the Umeed Office in Lahore.

Consultation

Umeed organised a one-day consultation at the Panda restaurant in Bahawalpur on 12 October 2013 with 30 personnel from major political parties plus the judiciary and the Police Department of Bahawalpur District. The purpose of the consultation was to involve individuals in the process of promoting women's human rights in their respective districts. There were 15 individuals from political parties plus 8 from the Judiciary and 7 from the Police Department.

Seminar

In order to involve the print and electronic media in the campaign to promote women's rights, Umeed conducted a one- day seminar on 16 November 2013 at the Oriental Hotel, Bahawalpur. There were 28 participants. In this seminar journalists were motivated to work as catalysts to promote a democratic society where women would have equal human rights as men. This was especially relevant to the situation in southern Punjab.

Workshop

Umeed arranged a workshop for 33 religious and youth leaders at the Community Hall in Yazman on 7 December 2013 under the theme of "*Mitigating religious and cultural bias against women*". There were 11 Muslim, Christian and Hindu religious leaders, Also 19 youth representatives from all three religions.

Interactive Public Debates and Interactive Theatre



UPP organizes interactive public debating forums. These are open sessions in which participants are encouraged to engage in critical dialogue of current issues and challenges related to violence against women in particular. The forums start with interactive theatrical performances based on stories of women victims, They serve as case studies for deeper understanding and reflection.

UPP organized six interactive public debates in six venues across Punjab Province with more than 1200 participants (mainly women) at each venue. Topics covered in discussion included, *inter alia*: discriminatory laws, intolerance, feudalism, & racism ; "Terrorism, Religious Extremism & women: Poverty, Unemployment, Intolerance, illiteracy"; "Access to Justice, Resources and jobs: Judiciary, legislation, police, local Panchayat systems"

Empower a Woman
Transform a Community
Create Lasting Change

Women's Human Rights Committees



UPP now creates regional networks of women representatives. For these networks the more outspoken and confident women are selected from target communities to serve as role models for less confident women. UPP organizes start-up meetings for women from which representative and motivated women are selected for each network. The women are instructed on the function and role of the network. Further, they develop their own communication and leadership skills. For this they receive in-depth training on relevant provincial, national and international legislation and relevant government institutions that can be

safely approached. The knowledge & skills acquired are evaluated in interactive evaluation sessions. These networks are the voice of women and promote the empowerment of women within their constituencies. In addition, they engage in continuous advocacy at the local government levels to promote the protection of women's rights. Each committee consists of ten women with a leader who meet every month to report back to UPP about human rights issues in their areas.

Celebrating International Women's Day

International Women's Day was celebrated on 8 March at Dallu Kalan, Lahore with more than 100 Umeed women beneficiaries. After the introductory talks by the speakers on how to promote women's rights, a colourful rally took place in the streets by women participants carrying banners.

In the same week International Women's Day was celebrated at Yazman in a similar manner with more than 200 Umeed members.



Umeed Legal Aid Forum

Umeed Legal Aid Forum works mainly in the Cholistan Desert region for the marginalized communities. The Forum provides free legal aid in cases where women are abducted, raped or forced to change their religion and get into unlawful wedlock. The Forum also provides legal aid in cases of honor killing, the right to property, acid burning, forced marriages and marriage of minors.

During 2013-2014 the Umeed Legal Aid Forum provided aid in 5 court cases of forced conversion which took place mainly in the Yazman and Ahmad Pur Sherkia areas district Bahawalpur.

**RAISE THE VOICE – DON'T LET
THE VOICES DIE**



Umeed works for the promotion of education in the district of Bahawalpur by establishing schools for the children of the poor. In this region most of the communities are not convinced of the value of education due to the degrading system of state education and unavailability of desirable outcomes. The only hope in these regions is the promotion of education by the private sector and the NGOs which are promoting quality education among the masses. UPP is contributing its share by establishing schools for children of the most disadvantaged communities of the District.

In 2007 an Emma Marchant Umeed Middle School was opened in village 18/BC Bahawalpur in a single derelict room previously used as a fodder store by a landlord. This single room faced threats from all sides. However, at the continued requests from the most disadvantaged, desert Muslim and Hindu (dalit) communities of Village 18/BC Bahawalpur, the Umeed School provided quality education among the children. With the help of Umeed Partnership UK a second classroom was erected and UPP secured a grant from the Rotary Organisation to develop the infrastructure of the school. Grateful thanks are due to Bangor Rotary Club, UK.



In 2009 another Emma Marchant Umeed Middle School was started at village 52/DB Yazman, again in a single room and a shed owned by a landlord. The School had no latrines, no potable water and no security wall or fence. The School is managed by the local Committee made up of 7 members representing both faith groups (Hindu & Muslim), plus representatives of the Umeed Partnership. With the help of Rotary clubs of Bangor and Prestatyn UK two more class rooms were built and a latrine was constructed. Recently with the help of The Network for Social Change, UK two toilets along with a water turbine and overhead tank were erected. Text books, stationery, uniforms, furniture for students/staff and computers and printer were made available.

Emma Marchant Umeed Middle Schools - EMUMS) are the only institutions in the area which are opening up windows opportunity for those who have the potential but lack the resources to realise that potential. These institutions are more than just schools; rather they are like a window enabling these communities to see beyond the narrow confines of their lives. We give below some of the problems this region is facing in the field of education and Umeed took a challenge to provide quality education to the children of poor people, regardless of faith.



The situation of education in Southern Punjab is bleak. Even though some schools have been set up by the state, no staff have been appointed to run them. These schools suffer due to lack of books, maintenance and a regular flow of funds. According to official government records there are many schools in the region, but the rate of illiteracy remains high. Parents are disillusioned by the failure of state education.

Both Umeed Middle Schools are free of charge. No fee is levied. Text books, stationery, study aids, uniforms and other necessary material and tools are provided free of charge. Financially there is no burden on the families of the students. The whole curriculum is adapted according to students' learning needs. With regard to the standard of education parents are satisfied. With regular parents' meetings it is made clear to them that the future of the next generation depends on education.

ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM FOR WOMEN



At the beginning of 2014 UPP drew up a contract with the Pakistan Bible Society to run Adult Education Centres for women providing basic literacy and numeracy skills over a period of three years. By August 2014 70 adult literacy centres are functioning in Lahore (20), Mian Chanu (20), Bahawalpur (10) and Yazman (20) catering for 1760 women/girls students taught by 70 female teachers and 7 supervisors. During this period there will be 6 batches, each of 6 month duration. The first batch with 70 centres was completed at the end of August 2014 and the certificate awarding ceremonies were held in the first week of September 2014. The second batch of adult literacy centres started on 1st September 2014.

Before starting Adult Literacy Centres. Training sessions for teachers & supervisors were held in Lahore, Mian Chanu Bahawalpur and Yazman. Adult Literacy, text books, stationery and study aids produced by Pakistan Bible Society were made available in each centre.

While in Pakistan Dr. John Perkins, Chair of Umeed Partnership UK, inaugurated some of the Umeed adult literacy centres in Lahore, Mian Chanu, Bahawalpur and Yazman.

The project addresses the following issues:

1. Educating illiterate Christian women/girls at grass roots level in the remotest areas of Pakistan through the establishment of literacy centres.



2. Providing literacy skills to illiterate women/girls enabling them to read and write to achieve social standing and dignity within their families and society.
3. Providing opportunities to Christian women/girls through literacy centres to have faith- filled experience by interaction with colleagues.
4. Providing opportunities to illiterate Christian women/girls to read the Holy Scripture themselves and be closer to the Lord so that they may raise Christian families in the future.
5. Promoting literacy among Christian illiterate women/girls to make them able to face the daily challenges of living in an Islamic environment.

Visits & Meetings

1. On 1st November 2013 the administration of UPP met the administration of the International School of Chouifat Lahore to discuss the possibility of opening a Umeed School in the slum areas of Lahore. The administration of the School agreed to open the Umeed School at the beginning of 2015. This will be the third Umeed Middle School in Pakistan. For this initiative a slum (Rasoolpura, near Johar Town) was selected. UPP undertook a survey of 250 households to identify the issues relating to education in the district. The outcome of the survey was passed to the administration of the International School of Chouifat..
2. On 26th November 2013 the administration of UPP visited Akhuwat Head Office in Lahore to see the possibility of getting some local funding. Akhuwat is a non-profit organization dealing with small projects. Akhuwat is funded solely by *Lend with Care*, a UK- based donor organisation.
3. On 19th February 2014 Umeed office staff visited the Head office of Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) which strengthens communities as well as public institutions to achieve & protect human rights. SPO works in 77 districts across four provinces in Pakistan. The purpose of the visit was to secure local funding.
4. Umeed is a partner of Awaz-e-Haq Ittehad (Voice for Rights Coalition) a coalition of 12 organizations and NGOs which work on serious Human Rights issues under the umbrella of MM Partners Netherlands.
5. Umeed staff participated in one day training workshop held on “United Nations Charter for Human Rights” on February 18, 2014 at the Ambassador Hotel Lahore organised by National Commission for Justice and Peace. The trainer for this workshop was Ms.Noumana Suleman, program coordinator NCJP.
6. Umeed staff also participated in one day training workshop held on “Security and Protection of Human Rights Defenders” on April 30, 2014 at the Ambassador Hotel Lahore organised by National Commission for Justice and Peace. The trainer for this workshop was Ms. Noumana Suleman, Program Coordinator for NCJP. The main objectives of the training workshop were:
 - to equip participants with an increased understanding of the skills and strategies necessary for their security;
 - to understand the use of tools for analysing security and protection;
 - to share skills and experiences on security and protection;
 - to produce personal security plans and develop a strategy for developing (or enhancing already existing) organisational security plans.
7. Umeed staff participated in the celebration of Silver Jubilee of Church-based organisation called Maktaba-e-Anaveem Pakistan (MAP) promoting contextual theologies among the Christian community of the country. The celebration was held on 28 February, 2014 at Bait-ul-Momineen Sadhuke, district Gujranwala. Yousuf Jalal Gill the Umeed Executive Director was a speaker.



Visitors and Guests



On 2nd December 2013 MM Partners from Netherlands visited the UPP head office in Lahore. MM Partners is a donor agency providing funds to about 12 organisations including Umeed partnership Pakistan in the sector of development and human rights. This was their official visit to the recipient organisations mainly working in Punjab. The purpose of the visit was to meet the administrative staff of each organisation and to understand their requirements to become more effective. The guests were pleased to note that the Umeed office is well equipped and systematically organised. However the Umeed administration put forward the need to have professional staff training, to include security issues.

On the same day MM Partners from Netherlands visited the Umeed skills training centre in Lahore. They were impressed with the Umeed project and showed a special interest in women's education and vocational training programmes offered by Umeed. which runs embroidery and sewing/tailoring training centres for women, carpentry workshops for street children and Adult Literacy Centres for women. Umeed also conducts Human Rights Training Sessions for women and street children at different slum areas of Lahore.



Dr. John Perkins, Chairperson of Umeed UK, visited the Umeed Project in Pakistan at the beginning of 2014. During his visit Dr.Perkins attended two ceremonies of naming and dedicating Umeed Middle Schools to the memory of his daughter, Emma Marchant. During the ceremony at EMUMS 18/BC John enjoyed a play on Emma's life history performed by the students. On this occasion he provided financial help for both Schools for much needed electrification, sound systems, reading material & uniforms. He also inspected the development which had taken place at the Schools. During the ceremonies he distributed *The Emma Marchant Award 2014* to those who have served or are serving Umeed Partnership Pakistan.



Dr. Perkins also inaugurated some of the embroidery, sewing/tailoring and adult literacy centres in the Lahore slums, the Mian Channue rural area, outskirts of Bahawalpur and Cholistan desert communities centred on Yazman.

On January 27, 2014 Mrs. Corien van de Velde (the Director and Founder of Bunyad Consultancy Lahore), along with Dr. Perkins, visited the Adult Literacy Centres in the rural areas of Mian Channue. She was thrilled to meet so many women registered for literacy classes in the Umeed Centres.

She appreciated the quality work of Umeed and promised to extend her support to the rural women and to enter the campaign for assisting these women in the future.



Come and join Umeed:

**Become partners of Hope
Hope for a better and just world;
Hope for men and women's equality;
Hope to strengthen the hopeless and those in despair.**

Join to support our program of

Human Rights Training for women and street children (Just Society)
Economic freedom for women and street children (vocational)
Girls' & boys education (schools)
Rehabilitation of women in distress (legal aid)
Youth Talent Development (Street Theatre, Sports Club)

Help Umeed in providing:

Administrative and skills-based support
Tools and materials (in-kind)
Financial support
Support as volunteers

Visit or write to us:

Yousuf Jalal Gill

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