



# Umeed Partnership Pakistan (UPP)

(Developing communities through education and training)



# Annual Report 2015-16

**Umeed Partnership Pakistan (UPP)**  
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# **UMEED ADMINISTRATION AND PROJECTS**



**Education**



**Legal Aid**



**Democracy**



**Human Rights**



**Peace Building**



**Street Theatre**



**Skills Training**

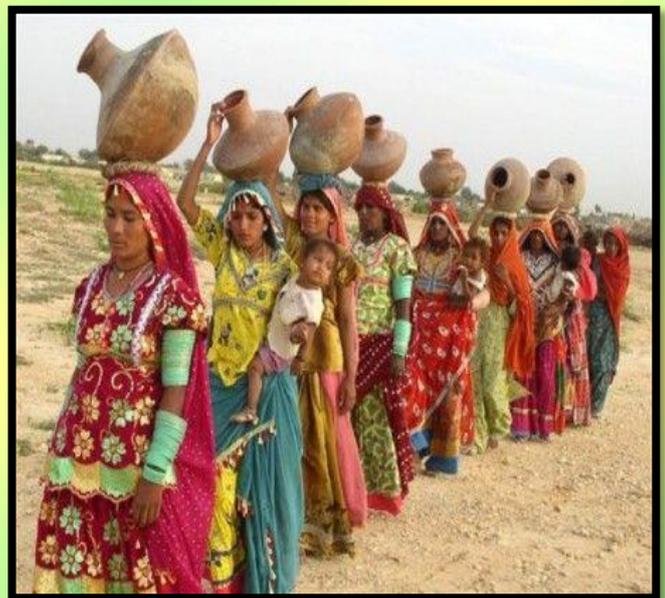


# INTRODUCTION

Umeed Partnership Pakistan (UPP) has a non-political, non-profit ethos, registered under Societies Act 1860 and is entitled to work nationwide. Umeed is also registered as a charity in the UK. Umeed is a humanitarian organization committed to work for Development and Human Rights promotion. The Organization has its Head office in Lahore along with 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, rural areas of Khenewal and Mian Chanue and in the marginalized low-caste dalit communities of Cholistan Desert in southern Punjab. The organization has been evolved into a women's support body to support victims of widowhood, 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. Also to empower women and street children human rights training are 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 the socio-economic rights and promotion of human rights and democracy amongst the masses irrespective of caste, creed or gender. Umeed works to break the 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 for this worthy cause.



## Vision

The vision of UPP 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 cast, creed or gender.

## Goals

- To promote and facilitate Human Rights and domestic processes within oppressed communities.
- To promote and facilitate integral development education at all levels.
- To provide opportunities to youth to identify talent and leadership qualities.

### 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

## Umeed's Focal Sectors

### 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



For me the year 2015-16 had been a year of my personal renewal, updating and setting priorities in life. During this year I had the chance to work for Umeed as coordinator of two inspiring projects. These projects were implemented among the most distressed, suppressed and disadvantaged girls/women of minority communities of Southern Punjab, Pakistan. For the last fifteen years I had been working for Umeed in different capacities for women irrespective of cast, creed or region. I had been working for Umeed schools as school principal and administrator, project coordinator for women's skills training in embroidery, sewing and other employable skills, women adult literacy centres, resource person for women human rights and women empowerment projects. I had been providing psychological, moral and medical support to women in distress.

But during this year I got the chance to come to know the real pathetic, vulnerable and deplorable situation and conditions of minority girls/women of Cholistan desert District Bahawalpur. This chance I got while implementing two projects, the first titled "Legal Aid and Justice for Minority Women victim of forced conversions in Bahawalpur region" and the second project titled "To increase women's rights awareness in communities in Bahawalpur District and to facilitate access to justice for women".

While implementing these projects I came to know that the main villages of land owners enjoy every facility and developments with electricity, water, roads, schools, health centres, community halls etc. But minority Bastis have none of these facilities. For years the main villages and minority Bastis are established side by side but a huge gap is maintained by the oppressive powers. These Bastis are not only kept underdeveloped but their dwellers are being used as bought slaves by the land owners. Their girls/women are picked up, raped, forced to convert and forced to marry by the powerful land lords. The law enforcement agencies also side the powerful culprits and never help these suffering minority communities.

In Southern Punjab not only minority women becomes the prey of the powerful forces but the women from the majority community too are treated in the same way. In this part of the world the girl child marriage, exchange marriage (Watta Satta) and marriage to the Holy Quran, Vani (to resolve feuds) are very common. Women are abducted, raped, sold, tortured and harras daily. Domestic violence is very common and gender disparity is very high in the male dominated socieity. Girls/women are kept without education and vocational trainings.

This year I had the chance to attend the international conference held at Kathmandu, Nepal organised by South Asia Women's Fund (SAWF) in which I came to know how much work is being done to prmote the rights of women in South Asia. Along with women issues in general SAWF also deals with rights of women in Stigmatised Labour: Sex work, domestic work and other informal labour sector, safe mobility: young feminists voices and leadership, sexuality and free choices. There is an urgent need to work on these issues in Pakistan and in particularly in Southern Punjab. Umeed is comitted to work for the promotion of women's rights and I am so grateful to the donor agencies who strengthen the struggle of Umeed to take the cause of women forward.

I am so grateful to Umeed donors, benefactors and 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 Gill



Pakistan is facing serious economic and political instability in the country. Human rights violations and corruption are increasing and in this scenario the most affected are, as always, women and children. I believe that women's and children's rights are fundamental for a nation which aspires to promote equality, justice and peace for all citizens. The economic growth and a stable democracy could only be sustained by enforcement of rights for women and children.

The Constitution of Pakistan provides all its citizens 'equal opportunity'. Yet the poor in Pakistan do not have access to the resources that help them escape from the cycle of poverty. To equip women with skills to help them build a meaningful life for themselves and become productive contributing members of the nation, we must intervene with quality education and skills training programs.

Umeed is working to support women and children through the following different avenues:

1. Human Rights Trainings for women and street children in order to establish Just Society.
2. Vocational training and adult literacy for economic freedom for women and street children
3. Running Schools, educating girls' & boys of desert communities of Southern Punjab.
4. Providing justice and rehabilitation of women in distress through Umeed Legal Aid Forum.
5. Through Peace Building an atmosphere of coexistence, peaceful pluralism, respect for diversity and human rights between minority and majority communities is created.
6. Talent Development programs for youth through sports and street theatre.

For the last 15 years Umeed has trained more than 5000 illiterate girls/women and boys/men in different skills and educated them through Umeed adult literacy centres who are now self employed earning reasonable sum every month for their sustenance. Umeed provided trainings on professional basis helping the trainees to get self employed. Umeed through its schools has educated hundreds of children of dalit communities who are now continuing their further studies in different higher institutions. Umeed continuously conducts programs of awareness about women human rights and implement various project to provide justice and empower women in distress. Through peace building programs the dialogues of life are promoted in the society. Umeed works on youth talent development through sports and street theatre activities during the year.

My special thanks to all who have supported the Umeed Partnership Project over the past year. Especially the donor organisations, benefactors, friends, Umeed supporters and lovers without whose support the Umeed Project would have failed. Very special thanks to Umeed Partners in UK for their tireless efforts to raise funds to support the most neglected, suppressed and disadvantaged masses in Pakistan. I know very well that the fundraising is not easy, especially in the present economic downturn. Also, Pakistan has been demonised by the western media and this has inevitably caused a certain amount of donor resistance. This is, of course, more of a reason to support these vulnerable communities. I'd also like to thank all my colleagues in Pakistan especially Executive board members, different project committees, office staff, teachers, trainers supervisors, beneficiaries, community leaders and many volunteers for their dedication and helping Umeed to promote the cause of the most disadvantaged masses of Pakistan.

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF UMEED (UK) -

The mission of The Umeed Partnership is to provide 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 not a big 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 Emma Marchant 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 Mian Channu area of Punjab; the tribal area centred on Quetta and Loralai districts in Balochistan; the 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 12 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. 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 Director 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. As can be noted in the message from Yousuf Jalal Gill above, there is increasing awareness by women that their human rights are being breached systematically, and that Umeed is at the forefront of a growing movement to ensure that women's rights are upheld throughout Pakistan society. 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.

Here is a resume of the Umeed activities carried out during 2015-16. As you know Umeed, for the last 16 years, has been working to support the most disadvantaged women and children of dalit, rural and slum communities of Pakistan through the following interventions:

1. Human Rights Training for women and street children in order to establish a Just Society.
2. Vocational training and adult literacy for economic freedom.
3. Running Schools, educating girls & boys of desert communities of Southern Punjab.
4. Providing justice and rehabilitation of women in distress through Umeed Legal Aid.
5. Talent Development programs for youth through sports and street theatre.

For the last 16 years Umeed has trained more than 5000 illiterate girls/women and boys/men in skills and education through Umeed adult literacy centres who are now self employed and who earn a reasonable wage for their sustenance. Umeed provides training on a professional basis helping the trainees to become self employed. Umeed, through its schools, has educated hundreds of children of dalit communities who are now continuing their further studies in higher institutions. Umeed continually conducts programs of awareness about women's human rights and implements various projects to provide justice and thus

empower women in distress. Umeed has conducted a number of sports and street theatre events, and other activities to develop youth talent.

In 2015-16 UPP received funds for new projects establishing working relationships with new donor agencies and renewed or sustained working relationships with existing ones, viz:

1. Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) granted funds to Umeed under the project title *“Legal Aid and Justice for Minority Women victim of forced conversions in Bahawalpur region..”*
2. The South Asia Women’s Fund (SAWF) funded a Umeed Project titled *“To increase women’s rights awareness in communities in Bahawalpur region and to facilitate access to justice for women”*
3. Mensen met een Missie (MM Partners) Netherlands supports Umeed to implement the project under the title of *“Empowering women through empowering Civil Society Organizations”*.
4. The Pakistan Bible Society through Australian Bible Society funds Umeed to run 50 Centres (each 20 to 25 women/girls) under the Adult Literacy Program for illiterate women of Pakistan.
5. Umeed Partnership UK, during 2015-16 provided support to UPP to run the two Emma Marchant Umeed Middle Schools to educate about 300 boys and girls of dalit communities in the Cholistan Desert Bahawalpur: 2 sewing/tailoring and 8 embroidery centres training more than 200 women/girls in employable skills.

As can be seen from this, in the 2015/16 year Umeed offered various education and training opportunities, thus raising the profile of Umeed within depressed communities of Pakistan. With the partnership of UPP and UP(UK) the seed was sown at the turn of the millennium and this has now become a tree whose fruit is now being harvested for the benefit of the many weary travellers on their harsh journey through life.. This is all due to your unconditional support and sacrifices for the poor through the Umeed Partnership.

My thanks are due to all who have supported the Umeed Partnership Project over the past year and in particular the Committee members. 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.

**“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”**

*Nelson Mandela*

# SKILLS TRAINING FOR WOMEN



Skills development is key in stimulating a sustainable development process and can make a contribution to facilitating the transition from the informal to the formal economy. Umeed partnership works in a number of regions i.e. Bahawalpur/Yazman, Lahore slums, Rural areas of Mian Channu and Loralai Quetta in communities with low economic and social status and where women are mostly illiterate and confined to their home steads. The women of the most disadvantaged and suppressed communities of Pakistan are doubly affected. Mostly they work as seasonal crop weavers and even though they work much harder than man but they are paid lower wages. For the last several years Umeed is empowering women/girls by providing skills training so that they may be liberated from the clutches of the male oppressors and in particular from the cultural barriers in Pakistan. Umeed is fully convinced that women in Pakistan cannot be liberated or have their rights unless and until they receive financial freedom. This financial freedom they could only gain if they become skilled workers.

Umeed provides skills training to women in embroidery and sewing/tailoring at a professional level. Once finished they sell their products in local markets. In the Umeed skills training centres girls/women are also taught English, Urdu, and Aritmetics and they are helped to revise the moral values like how to keep themselves and their homes clean, how to look after their children and some medical tips are also imparted to them. So far, Umeed has trained more than Five thousand women who are now earning good money for their families.

Continuing the mission of empowering girls/women by giving them skills training Umeed Partnership Pakistan started new sewing embroidery training centers in Lahore slums Bahawalpur region in April 2016. It is a strong demand of the community of these regions to open up more skills training centers for them.

**“A state that does not educate and train women is like a man who only trains his right arm.”** – Jostein Gaarder, Sophie's World

# SKILLS TRAINING FOR STREET CHILDREN



In Pakistan the street children (mostly boys) do have families thus they are not living and sleeping on the streets. But they are on the streets daily to support their families by any means available – prostitution, begging, and hazardous work.

Umeed provide training for disadvantaged children in a safe environment free of exploitation to generate regular income for the children and their families. We measure this by the number of children who complete the course and tracking income. We train boys in skills, giving them self-esteem and self-confidence, measured by observing and interviewing trainees. These aims are attainable; we have been successful in similar projects.

Protecting children from abuse, (e.g. economic and sexual exploitation, violence, neglect, doing and being drawn to hazardous work and stigma and discrimination) and addressing root causes by mobilizing all duty-bearers. Supporting families of children to have increased stable, secure income and enabling them to better care for their children. Supporting an integrated approach through effective collaboration to meet children's priority needs (protection, education, health and well-being, employable skills, family reunification and reintegration within communities). 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, improving policies and practices at the national, regional, district and community levels. Ensuring children's rights to participate in decision-making processes that affect their lives.

## Promoting Women's Human Rights by empowering Civil Society Organizations

Umeed partnership Pakistan (UPP) promotes women human rights by empowering civil Society Organisations in the areas of Lahore slums, desert communities of Bahawalpur district and tribal areas of Quetta/Loralai. This program has three main parts.

In part 1 Umeed conducts programs with policy makers, journalists, religious leaders and youth leaders to sensitize them so that they may take the cause of women's rights to a higher level. They also promote women's rights in their own organizations and join hands with Umeed to promote the issue.

In part 2 Umeed implements the project at the grass root level where mass awareness occurs among women through interactive public debates following stage performances.

In part 3, regional women's human rights committees are formed to present the practical side of the project assuring its sustainability. Umeed also conducts research on attitudes, mindset, cultural barriers, religious biases and taboos with regards to women's rights. Women are given exposure through training, debating and performing to achieve better results of the project.

Umeed carried out the following activities under the title of “Empowering women through empowering Civil Society Organizations” from October 2015 to September 2016 in three regions - Lahore slums, Bahawalpur and Quetta/Loralai.

- 3 Seminars, consultation and forums: Umeed conducted programs with policy makers, journalists, religious leaders and youth leaders to sensitize them so that they may take the cause of women’s rights to a higher level.
- 4 Interactive Public Debates and Interactive Theatre: Umeed implemented the project at the grass root level where mass awareness occurs among women through interactive public debates following stage performances.
- 4 Women’s Human Rights Committees: 4 regional women’s human rights committees have been formed to present the practical side of the project, assuring its sustainability.
- Umeed also conducts research on attitudes, mindset, cultural barriers, religious biases and taboos with regards to women’s rights. Women are given exposure through training, debating and performing to achieve better results of the project.

# Women Human Rights Trainings

Minority girls/women in Pakistan are the weakest most vulnerable, defenseless and marginalized. They are easily exposed to harassment and threats. 75% of girls abducted and forced to convert are under the age of 18 but cannot prove it in courts or at the police station because they do not have National Identity Cards or birth certificates. Also at the time of conversion the other party produces false birth certificates to prove that the girl is not a minor. In many cases Hindu married women abducted and converted, cannot prove in the court that they are already married because Hindus don’t have marriage certificates in Pakistan. These minority communities work in the agriculture fields, brick kilns or are laborers.

Under various projects during 2015-16 Umeed Partnership Pakistan provided free legal aid to 4 victims of abduction/forced conversion/rape/forced marriage. These cases are documented to share with other human rights organizations in order to build pressure to protect these communities. Through seminars, human rights trainings and advocacy - women are empowered to voice their rights as a collective group. Through awareness and information communities are convinced to acquire National Identity Cards and register new born babies. Communities are also strengthened to approach the police, judiciary and the medical staff in hospitals who could assist them in registering their cases. Advocacy campaign were launched with law enforcement agencies to promote and protect women’s human rights. Most of these activities were carried out among the minority women of Tehsils Bahawalpur, Yazman and Ahmadpur East.

The following activities were carried with the support of “Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI)” under the project title “Legal Aid and Justice for Minority Women victim of forced conversions in Bahawalpur region” from November 2015 to February 2016.

- Orientation and Project Briefing Meeting with the Management Board and Project Staff.
- Training for staff on facilitation and PRA tools.
- 3 community appraisals in 3 communities.
- 3 training sessions with committee members on planning monitoring /fact finding and evaluation in 3 communities.
- 3 FIR lodged and court cases of forced faith conversion filed:
- 3 training sessions conducted on women’s human rights in 3 communities:
- 3 lobby seminar, one in each community, inviting local politicians, police personnel, medical staff and local leaders:
- 3 Exposure visits to police station by women of 3 communities:
- Monthly Community Meetings and reports - 3 meeting per month.

The following activities were carried with the support of “The South Asia Women’s Fund (SAWF) under the project title “To increase women’s rights awareness in communities in Bahawalpur region and to facilitate access to justice for women” from October 2015 to September 2016.

- 2 FIRs (First Information Reports) registered and court cases of forced faith conversion and forced marriages filed in the courts.

- 3 training sessions on women’s rights for community women and leaders
- 3 lobby seminars organized in each targeted community to familiarize women with their local authorities and show them the procedure for registering complaints.

**Training of Project staff and Committee Members**



**Community Appraisals**



**Training sessions with committee members on planning monitoring /Fact finding and evaluation:**



## Training Sessions on Women Human Rights:



## Lobby seminars



## Exposure visits to police station by women:





# EDUCATION



Umeed works for the promotion of education in the areas of Cholistan, tribal areas of Balochistan and slum areas of Lahore district. In these areas most of the parents are not convinced of the value of education. Umeed Partnership provides education at all levels irrespective of cast, creed or gender. The rate of education among the communities served by Umeed is lowest in the world. In urban areas people live on the margins of the cities forming miserable slums and in rural areas they live outside of the main villages and towns where there is no access to any type of development. They have no schooling, no health care, no sanitation facilities, no roads and no facilities for socialization.



Pakistan stands at No 144 among the world nations in the field of literacy. Its actual literacy percentage is not more than 44 per cent against the government claims of 62 per cent. In Southern Punjab the literacy rate is 12 per cent only

A few years ago Umeed was requested by two communities in the Cholistan desert where there was 100% illiteracy rate to help their children in education. Umeed opened two middle schools – one for the community called Garibabad colony (poor's dwelling place) in village 18/BC, Bahawalpur in 2007 and Garibabad colony of village 52/DB Yazman in 2009. These schools are known as Emma Marchant Umeed Schools.

These Schools are the only institutions in the area which are opening up the windows of hope and opportunity for those who have the potential but lack the resources to realize that potential. These institutions are more than just schools; rather they are like a window to enable these communities to see beyond the narrow confines of their daily lives. The aim of the Emma Marchant Umeed Schools is to provide quality education to the children of the poorer communities to give them the opportunity to move from the margins of their communities to mainstream society and so allow them to contribute to the development of their nation. These schools are providing free education, books, stationary, uniforms etc. The people living in these areas are very poor and disadvantaged having no resource to pay for the education of their children since they are seasonal crop labourers.



# Hate/biased material in the schools curriculum

The communities of Cholistan desert Southern Punjab among whom Umeed works are kept illiterate, ignorant and backward purposely. The rate of education among these communities is the lowest in the world. One of the main reasons for this is that their children do not survive in the schools since the students from majority community illtreat them and consider them as their enemies and unclean people. The students from the majority community study in the curriculum that Hindus are their enemies and the Christian are allied with Western powers. The students from religious minorities become more vulnerable to intolerance and violence, while marginalization of minority groups is socio-political fallout of religiously biased education. Umeed through its schools has already created an atmosphere of respect for diversity, peaceful pluralism, coexistence and human rights.

Umeed works for the main root cause of the problem of removal of hate material from the national curriculum due to which the society is being torn apart with sectarian and religious violence and the atmosphere of hatred against one and other's religion is being created. Umeed want to see that all students in educational institutions of Pakistan and in particular in district Bahawalpur have respect and dignity, equal rights and opportunities through collective and non discriminatory education.

Umeed presents overall direction or guidelines for the curriculum and quality of education by introducing a better well researched curriculum. A thorough baseline research on the biased curriculum of Punjab has been already done by Awaz-e-Haq Itehad of which Umeed is a partner. Awaz-e-Haq Itehad Rights based coalition of 12 Pakistani CSOs and NGOs in partnership with MM Partners Netherlands. It is working to make strategic planning for the implementation of education/syllabi reforms and parliamentary pledge campaigns for Human Rights in Pakistan.



# Adult Literacy Program

The Adult Literacy Program for the illiterate women of Pakistan contributes to the social and economic development of the community, by ensuring that more adult women become able to read and write and have necessary knowledge and credentials to succeed at home, in the community and in the work force.

The Pakistan Bible Society through Australian Bible Society funded Umeed to run 50 Centres (each 20 to 25 women/girls) under the Adult Literacy Program for illiterate women of Pakistan. More than 2000 illiterate women/girls were educated and 50 teachers and 5 supervisors benefited from the project. The project continued for another year.

Umeed Partnership Pakistan (UPP) completed third batch (April-September 2015) of Adult Education. In this batch Umeed was running fifty centres of Adult Education. Detail of these fifty centres is given below:

<u>Circle</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Supervisors</u>	<u>Total Centres</u>	<u>Successful Students</u>
1	Lahore Slums	Zarina Agnes	10	211
2	Lahore Slums	Aslam Zahid	10	198
3	Bahawalpur	Salma Allah Dita	10	165
4	Head Raj Kaan	Marqas Wazir	10	199
5	Mian Channun	Jamila Victor	10	236
Total				1009



# Umeed Legal Aid Forum

## **Forced Faith Conversion**

Umeed Legal Aid Forum works mainly in Cholistan desert for the marginalized communities. Umeed is providing legal aid in the cases of abduction/rape, forced conversion and forced marriages of minority girls/women. During 2015-2016 Umeed Legal Aid Forum provided

legal aid in following four court cases of forced conversion and rape which took place in district Bahawalpur.

1. Rape of a Christian minor girl age 12/13 years by two men of Tehsil Yazman district Bahawalpur. FIR was lodged and the accused were arrested and the case was filed in the Additional Session Court on 26-10-2015. After a few months proceedings, the case was dismissed since the rapists were so powerful and influential that witnesses of the case were prevented not to appear in the court.

2. A Hindu girl age 13/14 years of Tehsil Liaquatpur was abducted from her house when she was at home alone and her parents were out in the fields by a land lord's man on 21-09-2015. Her father immediately reported the police, the land lord, the politicians and village head (Numberdar) about her abduction but no one helped him to get his daughter back. For about four months with the help of Umeed on 22-01-2016 a Rit Petition was filed in the Additional Session Court who ordered the police to register the FIR against the abductor. But before that the girl was converted and married to the abductor which weaken the case and the girl never returned to her parents.

3. A Hindu girl age 13/14 years of Tehsil Ahmadpur East was abducted by her own land lord on 15-02-2016. Her father rushed to the police station and registered FIR. In spite of registered FIR Police did not arrest the abductor. The abductor managed to have a pre-arrest bail from the Additional Sessions Court and also managed to record the consent of the girl under 164/CRPC, with the Magistrate without her parents and their counsel. The girl was sent with the abductor since she got converted and married to him.

4. Harassment petition in view of forced conversion was filed by a young Hind couple of Tehsil Yazman, Bahawalpur, through Umeed Legal Advisor in the District Session Court on 27-11-2015 against three men of Tehsil Yazman Bahawalpur. The accused persons were continuously threatening the applicants to change their religion. The reason for this was that the accused persons had eye on the girl as she grew up but she remained faithful to her religion and parents and got married to a boy of her own clan who was also warned by the culprits not to Marry her. When the accused persons saw that nothing could work, they begin attaching religion to the issue. The applicants had no other option except to approach the court for protection.

## **Child Marriages in Pakistan**

In Pakistan child marriage is deeply rooted in traditional practices which arise from gender disparity such as the patriarchal system, feudalism, traditional and religious practices & customs and religious traditions which might include violence. They are used to facilitate financial transactions or to compensate for a crime perpetrated by a male family member. Also to strengthen family ties, to reduce the risk of pre-marital affairs and to settle debts and feuds. Child marriage in Pakistan is rooted in a number of practices such as poverty, illiteracy and family honour. Sometimes the girl-child is regarded as *'another's property'* and a *'burden'* on parents. It is considered a disgrace to the family if an adult maiden remains in her family home after achieving adulthood. To avoid the dowry, financial burden or other traditional commitment the parents sometimes demand a price for the young girl or marry her off to a much older man. Exchange marriage (Watta Satta) and marriage to the Holy Quran, Vani (to resolve feuds) is also common in Pakistan. In Pakistan one in four girls is married before the age of 18.

Umeed Partnership Pakistan (UPP) works among women and children in the most suppressed communities in the tribal areas of Balochistan and rural/slum areas of Punjab. Through awareness programs, skills training, adult education and by running schools, Umeed prepares parents and their daughters to avoid child marriage since the long term effects of an early marriage can be devastating for the girl.



## Peace Building

Umeed works for the empowerment of women of all faiths in Punjab and Balochistan. Umeed works among women through skills trainings, adult education, running schools, women human rights trainings, interactive public debates through stage performance, forming women human rights committees and women peace committees. Through these activities Umeed initiates peace building process and dialogue of life among these women of all faiths.

Through different projects Umeed forms various peace committees with minority women who hold combined sessions with the local councilors, politicians, personnel from concerned police station, medical staff, village head, Imam Musjad (head of the Mosque) and women leaders from majority community. The purpose of lobbying with these personnel is to explain to them that the minority communities in Pakistan are suppressed, downtrodden, having low self esteem, with lot of fears, reservations, living in awful conditions without basic human facilities and rights and they remain aloof from the majority community. These personnel from majority community recognize the injustices done to the minority communities and promise to defuse such situation if comes up in the future. These combined peace committee meetings promote atmosphere of coexistence, peaceful pluralism, respect for diversity and human rights between minority and majority communities.

Umeed believes that women are the best carriers of peace and dialogue of life. If minority and majority women have good understanding among them then they could change the whole atmosphere of their homes



# Vists and Trainings

## Capacity Building Training

A capacity building training was arranged on October 3, 2015 at Umeed Partnership Pakistan' Head Office Lahore for the Umeed staff. The resource person of the training was Corien Waheed consultant from Bunyad Consultancy Lahore. In the training she guided the participants how to write need assessment, feasibility reports and success stories for their organisation. She conducted this training in a very practical way through group work and group discussion. There were 8 Umeed staff members who attended this training.



## Digital/Electronic security Training

One day training session was arranged by National Commission for Justice and Peace on February 18, 2016 at Maisonate Hotel Lahore on "Digital/Electronic security of Human Rights Defenders (HRDs). Mr. Haroon Baloch (Research and Advocacy coordinator from Bytes for all Pakistan) explained that being a HRD our data on social media can be used against us, to stay safe from such kind of miss usage we must use the social media with proper privacy settings. On social media there are almost 98000 plus tweets in every sixty seconds from all over the world. This shows that how much people are indulged with social media. We are compromising our privacy online every day and these are the components of big data (telephones, social media, E-mails, on line banking, mobile phone applications, biometric data, and CCTV cameras). So by using HTTPS and proper privacy setting we can secure our communication. Two staff members from Umeed participated in the training.



## International Conference at Kathmandu, Nepal

Shamin Gulzar Chairperson Umeed Partnership Pakistan (UPP) was invited as one of the discussants for a Feminist Regional Convergence for Collective Reflection and Strategizing held at Kathmandu, Nepal from March 25-27, 2016 organised by South Asia Women's Fund (SAWF). After supporting women's rights in 10 years SAWF for the first time brought together all of its partners from different thematic portfolios. They invited approximately 75 Women's Rights Activists' from five countries.

Shamin gave her presentation on "Young Women's Rights – Trapped in a Child Marriage" in the perspective of Pakistan. She said in Pakistan child marriage is deeply rooted in traditional practices which arise from gender disparity such as the patriarchal system, feudalism, traditional and religious practices & customs and religious traditions which might include violence. They are used to facilitate financial transactions or to compensate for a crime perpetrated by a male family member. Also to strengthen family ties, to reduce the risk of pre-marital affairs and to settle debts and feuds. Child marriage in Pakistan is rooted in a number of practices such as poverty, illiteracy and family honour. Sometimes the girl-child is regarded as '*another's property*' and a '*burden*' on parents. It is considered a disgrace to the family if an adult maiden remains in her family home after achieving adulthood. To avoid the dowry, financial burden or other traditional commitment the parents sometimes demand a price for the young girl or marry her off to a much older man. Exchange marriage (Watta Satta) and marriage to the Holy Quran, Vani (to resolve feuds) is also common in Pakistan.

Her presentation was well received and many of the participants appreciated and said that it is a good sign that feminist voices are coming up from Pakistan and this type of initiatives should be encouraged in the future too.



## **Orientation and planning workshop to end Polio**

Rotary's Pakistan National Polio plus Committee organized an orientation and planning workshop to end polio from Pakistan at Avari Hotel, Mall Road, Lahore on April 30, 2016. Many Rotarians from Rotary District 3272 and the representatives of WHO, UNICEF and Minister for Health Mr. Khawaja Salman Rafique were gathered to plan how to achieve the goal of ZERO MISSED CHILDREN from Pakistan. Mr. Aziz Meomon the National Chair gave the opening remarks and shared the agenda of the program. He also recognised all Rotarians for their meaningful participation in the program.

Along with Rtn. Yousuf Jalal Gill two staff members of Umeed Partnership Pakistan participated in the program. Various responsible Rotarians to end polio in Pakistan gave

their progressive reports and called for further actions. Mr. Aden from Ireland, representative of UNICEF and a representative of WHO presented their comprehensive reports on How to end Polio from Pakistan or how to make Pakistan a Polio free country? Their findings and suggestions were very good. All participants appreciated their work. The Punjab Provincial Minister for Health Mr. Khawaja Salman Rafique gave a comprehensive report about the government of Punjab engaged in eradicating Polio from his province.

# Ceremonies and Functions

## Celebrations with Women Human Rights' Committee

Umeed Partnership Pakistan organized Christmas 2015 and New Year 2016 celebrations with Women Human Rights' Committee members Lahore. The Committee members welcomed guests of honor Mr. Yousaf Jalal Gill Executive Director and Shamin Gulzar Chairperson for the celebration. Faisal Ilyas Program Manager and Aneel Zafar Accountant from Umeed office also participated in the celebration. Women and Children sang carols and performed various tableaux on the occasion.



Shamin Gulzar shared that being human it's our habit that we do not thank God enough inspite of getting countless blessings from him and also we do not transfer these gifts to others. We should work for the betterment of the humanity as Jesus did for us. So, on this Christmas stay happy and blessed. May our lord fulfill our desires. Yousaf Jalal Gill appreciated the members of Women Human Rights Committee of Lahore working for the betterment of Women in their own area. He added that God has sent us on this planet with a purpose. We have to find that purpose to proceed adequately. I wish on this Christmas, you may all come to know the purpose that God has given you. Make a resolution for upcoming year 2016. Always try to be beneficial for others.

## **Certificate Awarding Ceremony (ALP)**

Umeed Partnership Pakistan has well thought-out a certificate awarding ceremony for illiterate women students of Lahore district at Renewal Center, Youhanabad Lahore on 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2015. These students were getting adult tutoring in 20 different centers under the supervision of 20 teachers and two supervisors. In the program 409 women students along with two supervisors, 20 teachers came to receive their six month's training course certificates. UPP invited guests of honor Tariq Javaid Tariq (former Nazim), Mr. Nasir, Project Manager of Adult Literacy Program from The Pakistan Bible Society and Shamin Gulzar ( Chairperson- UPP) for the certificate awarding ceremony.

Mr. Yousaf Jalal Gill (Executive Director-UPP) gave detail introduction of Umeed Partnership Pakistan by saying that UPP has completed the session of six months in three different regions i.e. Mian Channu, Head Raj Ka, Bahawalpur and Lahore. From all three areas UPP has distributed 1,009 certificates among women students who completed their adult Literacy training session. Ms. Ann a representative of Australian Bible Society from Austrelia and Mr. Lamuel Anthony Executive Director of The Pakistan Bible Socieity Lahore were the guests of honor for certificate awarding ceremonies held at Mian Channu, Head Raj Kan and Bahawalpur. Yousuf Gill at each program gave comprehensive introduction of the program "Adult Literacy Program for illiterate Women in Pakistan". He elaborated the work of The Bible Society of Pakistan that is doing their best to literate the Nation through invigorating the illiterate women in Pakistan.



## **Certificate Awarding Ceremony for Skills Trainees**

During his official visit to the club Rtn. Sajid Pervaiz Bhatti District Governor 2015-16 RI District 3272 graced the occasion of distribution of certificate awarding ceremony organized for the successful women students of one year training in sewing/tailoring training on 18 December 2015 at Renewal Centre Yahonnabad Lahore. The project was initiated by Rotary and continues through Umeed Partnership Pakistan (UPP). Rtn. Tehseen Nawaz Gurdaizi president and other Rotarians of Rotary Club of Lahore Liberty facilitated DG's visit and participated in the occasion.

Mr. Sajid Pervaiz Bhatti said "I am very delighted to see you and it's my honor to be with you. I am really pleased about the work done by Umeed Partnership Pakistan (UPP) and women who have worked to train the unskilled women. I pass on good wishes to Mr. Yousaf

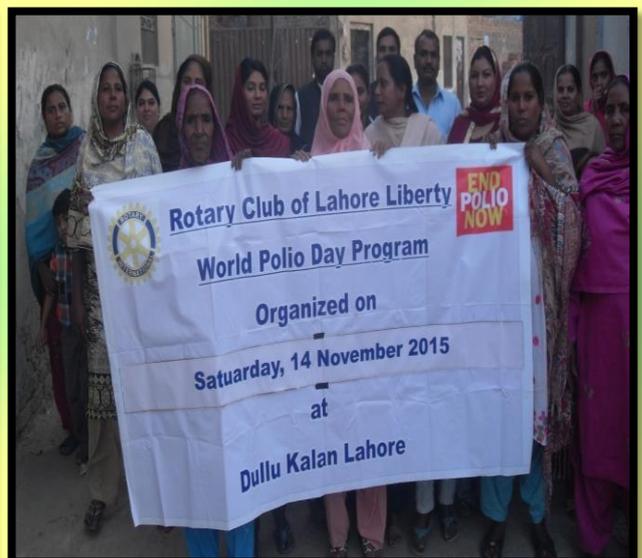
Gill (Director UPP) for the impressive work done by him. Chief Guest also distributed certificates among all skill trainees, who have completed their course.



## World Polio Day Program

Rotary Club of Lahore Liberty organized World Polio Day Program with collaboration of Umeed Partnership Pakistan (UPP) on Saturday 14 November 2015 at Paris Primary School Dullu Kallan Ferozpur Road Lahore. The occasion was graced by PP Rt. Yousaf Gill the project coordinator UPP and Rtn. Sadiq Abaas of Rotary Club of Lahore Liberty. The staff, students, Umeed Administration and mothers participated in the program. Rtn. Yousaf gave the statistics about the present situation of polio in the world and Rtn. Sadiq Abaas explained to the participants the importance of polio vaccine drop for every child.

Rotary Club of Lahore Liberty also organized World Polio Day Program with collaboration of Umeed Partnership Pakistan (UPP) on Saturday 14 November 2015 at Emma Marchant Umeed Middle School 18/BC Bahawalpur and Emma Marchant Umeed Middle School 52/DB Yazman. Both the occasions were graced by Mr. Saleem Gill Advocate High Court and Umeed regional supervisor Marcus Vazeer. The schools staff, 300 students, Umeed administration and big number of mothers participated in the program. Mr. Saleem Gill spoke about the importance of Polio Vaccine drops for every child.





### 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 us 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)  
Talent Development (Youth)

### Help Umeed in providing:

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

### Visit or write to us:

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