

Kashmir Charitable Trust-AJK
Lower Plate near Four fields Mosque Muzaffarabad AK
Hum Awaz Forum: A dynamic creation



Introduction

Kashmir Charitable Trust-UK is a community based charity organization & is registered in UK with registration# 105317 in 1996. It is working for the backing of vulnerable and marginalized Kashmiri people at both sides of LOC. After the devastated earthquake of 2005, KCT started its work in Azad Kashmir to support their people in the time of distress & started various projects concerned with relief and rehabilitation. KCT-UK wanted to start sustainable projects so it promoted the strength of youth and developed the capacity of the local team up to the level that within one & half year, the local volunteer force of KCT was able to carry different projects by self-help. So in January 2007 the management of KCT-UK decided to register a new organization under the supervision of KCT-UK & gave it the name as KCT-AJK. It is registered in AJK with registered# 6230 under the society act of 1982.

Background

Human Rights are inherent, God-given rights to all mankind irrespective of sex, age, color religion and nationality. The promotion and protection of human rights are essential for freedom, justice, development and peace. Gender Violence is directed specifically towards women and girls in the community. It results in physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women and girls. It includes violence in the family, community and the society. Gender equality demands the concept that all human beings, both men and women, are free to develop their personal abilities and make choices without the limitations set by labeled & inflexible gender roles and prejudices.

Kashmir Charitable Trust, a non profit organization, working in earthquake affected area of Kashmir, created Hum Awaz Forum (HAF) for the empowerment of women of Kashmir. The members of this forum are all volunteers aging 18 to 22.

Need Assessment

The time is past when a women's movement had to exclude by the men in the fight against "Patriarchy". The time has come rather for women's visions to restructure and redefine work in order to form a new society for women, based on women's experience and skills as care-givers and reproducers. It is not a question of adding gender to the world's major cosmologies, but rather of rewriting the latter at their very roots.

Education, as a part of empowerment, enhances the capability of human beings to comprehend and acquire the knowledge that is necessary to perk up the life's quality. All human beings has an inherited right to get education at equal bases, without any sort of gender discrimination. KCT has endeavored to overcome this problem and construct gender equality by establishing computer literacy centre and English language course where all students are getting benefits at equal level whether they are males or females, poor or well-to-do, to eradicate the roots of gender as well as status discrimination.



Objectives

- To save the asset of this women power from destruction by arranging their thoughts and providing them a plate form.
- To enable these women of this devastated region to use their abilities for the benevolences of their community.

- To enable them to work as an activist for child protection and women empowerment.
- To awake awareness among them for their rights of secure and sustainable life.

Activity



Volunteers are always the most important and valuable asset of any organization and for any humanitarian organization, promoting volunteerism is the most necessary objective. By promoting volunteerism, any non profit organization can be momentous even in the deficiency of funds.

HAF is a significant creation of KCT and also provides a description about the values and strategies of this forum. This is criteria of CLC is that during course it always holds workshops on social work for the students, as it is an organizational based institute. In these workshops, it is tried to create awareness among the students about their society problems, they are convinced to analyze

these problems scattered around in the society or in their vicinities, explore these problems and try to find the solution of these troubles without any external support. CLC arranges these workshops under the supervision of KCT and provides a plate form to these talented and brilliant students in the form of HAF who loved their people and wanted to become beneficial for them.

Objectives set by HAF are to work as an activist against child abuse and women empowerment.

Methodology



KCT organizes capacity building workshops for this volunteers' forum, regularly as well as it arranges its monthly meetings in KCT regional office, too. The coordinator of this forum was being selected by all the members in their second meeting. Her responsibilities are to contact with all the members to inform them about the updates of KCT. In the meetings they discuss different problems relating with their community, they work for widows and orphans. Sometimes they find a widow who must be helped or often they find the case of orphan child, the cases are brought in front of all the members of forum

and discussed. In this way, data about the vulnerable families, widows and orphans is gathered from all the vicinities of Muzaffarabad for all the members of forum are from all different areas as Lower Plate, Centre Plate, Upper Plate, Khawaja Mohallah, and Sathibagh and so on.

The team of KCT along with project officer visits the family to whom forum wants to help. When the vulnerability of family is verified by the visiting team, then KCT finds the best way make the family self sufficient.

In this way, KCT has helped many widows identified by the volunteers of forum. Mostly widows have the same customary problem of traditions and values of society for that they can not leave home for jobs. So KCT provides them fair means of livelihood in the shape of sewing centers etc. Now these women are earning a reasonable amount to support their families and bear the expenses of their orphans.

Policy

According to the policy of HAF, Couples of meetings are held in a month and every month as a minimum, one case is discussed and solved which is a great achievement of this forum.



End Result

KCT has saved, not only the asset of its community from destruction but has made them self-reliance and self-sufficient for their community too. Now these members of forum search problems from their vicinities; discussed them with the other members of forum and then try to solve them by their self irrespectively. The members of forum are not only students but also professional people who are the plus points and volunteers of KCT.

