

Society for International Education

Together for a better world

Newsletter
January - March 2014

O3: Our Family, Our Neighborhood, Our World Media and Art Festival



Thursday, 30th January 2014, O3 (Our Family, Our Neighborhood, Our World) students and educators participated in end of year event 'AIF-O3 Media and Art Festival'. The event was organized by iEARN Pakistan in a local hotel in Islamabad to showcase the student work and to celebrate their successes.

The event was attended by 150 participants including staff, coordinators, students and educators that gathered from different participating schools in Rawalpindi, Islamabad and nearby villages in Punjab. The day long program started with welcome note, followed by sharing of experiences by teachers and students. The participants shared their experiences, learning and the impact of O3 program.

Alexis Sullivan, Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer, US Embassy Islamabad joined the participants on Skype. Ms. Sullivan talked to participants and appreciated the work done by them during the two years of O3 program. The screening of media work was done to showcase students' efforts. The videos were highly appreciated by the audience. Students presented beautiful skits, cultural dances and songs on the stage that showed the real impact that O3 program has brought in students. The confidence building and leadership skills was evident from live perform-

ances done by students whereas their media and art work was a proof of increased learning and cultural understanding meeting the goals of the project.

Later, the equipment distribution was done among schools. A set of digital Camera and video camera was handed over to each school to continue their project activities.

The program ended with a thank you note to all the participants with some plans to stay connected and continue cultural activities in future.

High School Photojournalism Training

As part of iEARN Professional Development Training program, iEARN Pakistan conducted a 2-day workshop titled 'High School Photojournalism Training' which focused on the basic concepts and principles of journalism and photojournalism. It also focused on the need of citizen journalism that makes them responsible and informed citizens by enhancing their competencies, how to seek out information, interpret and communicate.

The session included discussions and newspaper activities that kept participants engaged throughout, along with working on iconic photos and cre-

Message from Farooq Baloch

I have been associated with the profession of journalism for over seven years now. However, I have no hesitation to say working with iEARN has been one of the best experiences I had during all this time.

I started working with them as a journalism trainer little over a year ago and conducted some hands-on workshops followed by a couple of online courses in photojournalism that I co-facilitated.

The best part of the program is the way it is organized. The program brings together students and teachers from different institutes on one platform – providing them with the opportunity for exchanging ideas and experiences through collaboration.

Through workshops, you train the trainers, mostly school teachers, who then train their students in a given subject – photojournalism in my case. These trainers also take part in an online (distance-learning) course, which connects them to an international network of teachers from across the world – giving them an ultimate exposure to the benefits of international collaboration. They learn about each other's cultures and education systems and exchange ideas on a broader scale.

Supervising and training these teachers and those from other countries was an ultimate learning experience for me – an exposure I can't gain in my day-to-day job as a practicing journalist.

Farooq Baloch

Express Tribune



ating stories behind those photos. During the second day of training, the participants did a photo walk to Empress Market, which helped them practice their photojournalism and photography skills. Later, they learnt how to create digital stories based on the concepts of photojournalism. The photo stories were posted in the iEARN Photojournalism forum in collaboration centre.

"This training would be very beneficial for the student, they would be more aware of what's happening around the world. Now i have more knowledge and ill transfer it to the students",

Access Enhancement Event, Hyderabad

As the Access Program in Hyderabad approached its end, a 'Grand Event' was organized on March 14 bringing together all the Access students. Aisha, the Coordinator of English Programs at the US Consulate Karachi, along with the SIE Access management was among the audience in the nearly 4 hour program. Parents were also invited to observe and enjoy the performances of their children.



The program provided a wonderful opportunity to students to showcase their English language skills, confidence and talent. The program menu consisted of a variety of individual and group presentations: skits, songs, news casting, panel discussion, debates, stage depiction of Shakespeare's



famous "The Seven Ages of Man," and so on. The confidence and the range of talent displayed by students in front of a large audience was truly commendable.

The audience, particularly parents, continuously applauded the students' performances. Some of them were actually in tears as they spoke to the Access team about how proud they felt on the way their children had transformed in the two years of the Access program.

Students were excited to be a part of this fabulous event. Noor said: "I am so happy that my mom saw me performing on stage. She couldn't believe her eyes when he saw me confidently speaking English as the MC." And, Faraz observed: "It was a fantastic event. I greatly enjoyed my role as the co-announcer."

Workshop on Blogging for Access Students

A one-day workshop on blogging was organized for Access Karachi students on 21 February. 25 students from various Access centers attended the workshop held in the SIE office building. The team of resource persons included Muhammad Abdullah, a YES alumnus and currently working as Program Officer for SIE, and Syed Usman Hashmi, an Access Lead Teacher. The students were given a brief introductory session on writing. They then went through training and hands-on sessions on blogging, setting up their own spaces on the web and writing out test posts. Students worked in groups to create texts for blogs. They then uploaded the blogs on web. Kumail Wazir from Ghulaman-e-Abbas school went to his old notebook and typed up old essays that he had written, which are now blogposts on his blog.



Over the next few weeks the participants will be writing impact stories, sharing the difference the Access program has made in their lives. These stories will later be published on various USG sponsored websites which highlight similar stories - including pakusalumninet-work.com

Haani, one of the participants, said: "It was really a good day. We learned new interesting things. I want to attend this type of workshop again." Kumail expressed his feelings in the following words: "I will call today the blog day because I learnt something new and exciting."

I am Majid & how I look at SIE...

I am a business grad (MBA) with major concentrations in marketing, whereas within my career in social sector, I rendered my ser-



services in last three years for different projects in diversified thematic areas. Apart from that I served as Consultant, Monitoring & Evaluation for the British Council's Active Citizenship and DOSTI projects. 18th December 2012, was the day I earned about the opportunity of being part of the SIE family as Monitoring & Evaluation Officer. Since then, I worked as M&E Officer for Youth Empowerment & Leadership (YELP) program, Project Coordinator for Youth Kay Saath (FM100 radio program highlighting youth's initiatives in uplifting and bringing positive changes in their communities). Presently I am working as Program Manager for SIE's 'Education and Community Cohesion Program' that is in collaboration with Karachi Youth Initiative.

Being a part of these assignments, I felt the organizational behavior always remains focused at community -development and empowering youth with a commitment to excellence. The pertinent attribute of the management here that I like most is the wonderful balance between youthfulness and sound professional attitude in organization and at various platforms. They welcome ideas even for reshaping structures and framing the procedures. I enjoyed working with the SIE family, not only because I've consistently been given chance to share my experiences but I learnt a lot from very creative professional approaches of fellow team members as well. I look at SIE as more than a typical NGO, with a vision to stand out with exceptional identity, not only providing social and educational reforms in community but building capacity of youth to expand the roots for innovative approaches to make this world a better place for all.

International Women's Day by YES Alumni



YES Alumni Pakistan conducted one-day workshops in Karachi, Gwadar and Peshawar with around 200 students to celebrate the occasion of International Women's Day and be a part of the larger celebration. The alumni had a chance to share the importance of the occasion along with significant knowledge regarding the scholarship opportunities after college. The students were also educated and briefed about making suitable career choices which will lead to a reasonable life. In addition, the alumni shared stories from the successful women in Pakistan who have done a tremendous work over the years and motivate the students to continue working in the similar direction.

YES Alumni Cultural Heritage Workshops

In order to celebrate the cultural diversity in Pakistan, groups of YES Alumni from Rawalpindi, Peshawar and Gwadar conducted different workshops for nearly 80 students to educate them regarding the importance of cultural diversity and tolerance nationwide. The students learned about various cultures in Pakistan including their traditions, festivals and values along with the history of Pakistan through interactive activities, drawing landscapes, cultural dresses and visiting to cultural places. Also, the YES alumni shared the importance of appreciating other existing cultures around the globe in light of their exchange year.



YES Recycling and Cleanliness Workshop

YES Alumni Karachi conducted a 2-day workshop for the students of Paragon Grammar School which focused on methods and awareness regarding recycling, organizing and improper garbage disposal which is the leading cause of various life threatening diseases. The project included interactive team activities highlighting the importance and need of the cause. In the final phase of the workshop, the students conducted a community service activity engaging in the field work to learn practically.



YES Parents Orientation and Students' Workshop

K-L YES Moments

Asad Ali, a Pakistani YES Exchange Student currently in California, USA celebrated a Multicultural Festival in Central Valley High School, CA.

Asad says about the festival, "An amazing event to celebrate diversity and disparity. A joy for being unique and different."



With so many cultures and so many ethnic groups to see. Over 50+ participating to be a part of this great celebration. I also represent my beloved country Pakistan and made a booth which said "See your name in the language of Pakistan" (URDU) and told people about the diverse beauty of Pakistan and the people.

Carrying the flag of my country with great pride I walked among the flag holders, telling them where I am from. I performed a song in front of people and they highly appreciated it. Dressed proudly in my native clothes I was making an impression in the hearts of the people. My exchange friends and My local Coordinator were proud of them and I had a amazing time with them.

Seeing all the appreciation I was proud of my diverse country being a Youth Ambassador for it."

Youth ke Saath

Society for International Education in partnership with Karachi Youth Initiative has launched a new project called Youth Kay Saath. In this project, various youth leaders, organizations and groups who are doing good work with youth in Karachi are being invited and interviewed on a weekly radio show on FM 100. Youth Kay Saath first aired in March 2014 and has been getting phenomenal feedback from young people across the city.

The program aims to not only raise awareness among local youth, it also highlights highlight the successes achieved by young people who have made an effort to engage themselves and others into positive activities. The program has been very inspiring general youth, through the example of positive peer role models.

Youth Kay Saath airs every Wednesday on FM 100 Karachi from 8 to 9pm. The program will continue until September 2014. The program runs very active social media pages as well, and teasers, pictures, recordings and discussion points are updated regularly.



YouthCaN - Environmental Training Workshop



iEARN Pakistan conducted 'YouthCaN (Youth Communicating and Networking) -Environmental Training' workshop at iEARN Centre, Karachi. The workshop was attended by 13 educators from different schools in Karachi and Sindh. The workshop aimed to increase teachers' knowledge and understanding about environmental improvement activities and the need of environmental education necessary for a sustainable environment. The session included lots of activities and inspiring videos that focused to change people's perceptions and attitude towards a better environment. During the

session, educators were asked to identify their special skills and passion and think how to utilize these skills to bring change. Another environmental awareness exercise was to differentiate between needs and wants and discuss how the consequences of our choices affect the environment.

"It was really a great session for me and the way it was conducted was also impressive. Moreover, it gave us understanding to safeguard and protect the environment in a sustainable manner that benefits us and our young generations. I will definitely plan this session for my educators so that the message will be spread out on a big scale INSHALLAH." said Rashida Ishtiaq, Assistant Manager Training, The Citizens Foundation.

The educators brainstormed local environmental issues and made plans for engaging students in iEARN YouthCaN project. Various recourses were shared to give them innovative ideas for environment improvement activities. The presenter also discussed how to prepare classes for online collaboration and become part of YouthCaN Network.



'Enhance your Creativity with Adobe Photoshop' Teachers Training



iEARN Pakistan conducted 'Enhance your Creativity with Adobe Photoshop' with 14 teachers from different schools in Karachi. This day long training focused on improving basic Photoshop skills of the participants and provided tips and tricks for image editing and producing other creative material.

The workshop sessions included introduction to software, technical understanding of tools and options, skill enhancement/hands-on practice and learning educational uses of these tools for classroom implementation. Interesting interactive activities kept teachers engaged and helped them practice their skills. The participants were given certificates of participation at the end of the training.



International Education and Resource Network
Pakistan

(A Project of Society for International Education)



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