



MUSLIM TARAQQYATI WA FALAH ADARA CC

Action Areas

-  Computer education
-  School education promotion mainly focusing on drop out children.
-  Environmental campaign.
-  Health Care dispensary for all needy ones within the local community.

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Faiths/Traditions Represented

Hindu, Christian, Muslim

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**MUSLIM
TARAQQYATI WA
FALAH ADARA CC**

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Summary

With the help of the Ektaan CC and URI Eastern India team, the Muslim Taraqqyati Wa Falahi Adara opened a computer center inside a local mosque and provides computer skills training to children of various faiths. This was the first time in the region (Burnpur, West Bengal), that this type of training has taken place. Interfaith education is becoming very visible. We have also conducted environmental programs at sacred sites of various faith traditions. In addition, we are promoting health care within the local community by providing free medicine and promoting indigenous local treatments.

REFLECTION & LEARNING

- *Can you please help me understand the current religious/cultural/political contexts in the area where your CC is working?*

In our society, education is a large challenge and computer training is not readily available. Increasingly, computer education has become a must for success in all levels of society. It has been decided jointly by the members of our CC to run this project via voluntary service by computer professionals.

- *Can you please briefly describe the main activities or programs your CC is doing this year?*

We opened a computer training centre inside a local mosque with the help of our partner CC, Ektaan. We started the centre with 4 Desktop PCs and started providing training to the local students. It was difficult to convince the local mosque to run this type of centre within a mosque where children of various faiths would come to join. Thanks to our CC member, we convinced the mosque authority and obtained the permission to run this type of centre. We provide basic training to the children as per their school syllabus. We also provide special courses to students to help them strengthen their scope for employment.

- *What are some indicators / observations you see that relations are improving between people of different faiths/cultures in the area where your CC works?*

Upon the start of the project, students of different faith communities came together, played together and shared each other's books, tools etc., and creating bonds between them. This bonding is simultaneously reflected among the parents. Many times we get parents as captive audiences, and we use this opportunity to exchange ideas of interfaith bridge building through the distribution of publications and teaching the values of URI charter. Many times, question & answer sessions are also entertained if needed. We often invite speakers and coordinators to provide trainings. The children who take our computer classes are from economically disadvantaged families, who for a long time haven't had the capacity or means to get their education because of the price factor. The children and families used to believe that this is not possible for them. Through our efforts they now believe that if we come together anything is possible. People of different faiths are also now getting the charter of URI. Many of our



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activities are featured in the local newspaper and people coming to ask about URI and about our CC work.

- *How do you see your CC's work improving cooperation among people of different traditions?*

Since the children from various faith communities are coming to learn at the computer centre, their parents often accompany them, and get a chance to interact with each other. Similarly in our medical dispensaries, there are people from different faith communities that come to receive treatment, and these services are provided to all castes and religions.

Another project we do is the Environment campaign, involving tree plantings. We plant trees at various sacred sites from different faith traditions. When we go, the members from the different faith communities: Muslim, Christian and Hindu visit the different sites together. We have seen that this has increased / strengthened the relationship between different religious institutions. This is increasing cooperation. People are interested to know about URI and we are distributing the URI charter to them. In 2 years we have distributed nearly 500 URI charters.

- *How is your CC's work helping to achieve the mission of URI?*

Since we are expanding in various places, people from different faiths and traditions come to us and request that we visit different places, and provide computer training and organize medical camps in their localities. We are expanding on this work little by little. In the beginning we had 10 students, and now we have nearly 50 students. This is how the mission of URI is spreading, because we are spreading the message of URI among the community.

- *Within your CC, you have members from different faiths/cultural traditions. How would you describe cooperation between these members? What are the challenges?*

The challenge is none of our members are paid. The work is complete voluntary and a charitable service. We lack resources to grow the program. If we can reach out to people from different professions that can come with the URI banner, this will help us to grow with the URI prospects. We would like to track local resources as well as get little financial support from URI to update our systems. Our computers are very old; and we would like to give each person a dedicated computer for learning. We want to hire a dedicated staff / management person to look and take care after the centre. If one or two of the members could make their earning through this project then we would be able to give more attention to the centre.

- *How is being part of URI helping your CC to achieve its goals?*

Once we became a part of URI, we were able to spread the news towards a more diverse network. We gained a lot of support from affiliated URI members as well as from other CCs. We have been attending

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URI conferences, which provide us with a lot of information and knowledge. This information helps us run the Centre more smoothly and effectively at the local level.

- *How can URI better support your CC in reaching its goals?*

As an organization, to increase impact we need to join together with many CCs to work for common issues and a common goal to bring more impact to the region. CC's can have their own issues but there must be some common issues to work with. We feel that a common shared issue can unite all the CCs together and there should be some initiatives to foster this from the global level. URI global hub will have to nurture and support this common shared issue both financially and organizationally.

URI can also expand our network, so we can connect with more like minded people to support our efforts locally, nationally and globally. Our work is not a job for a single person; we need to create a community with various people, not only various faith traditions but people from different professions as well to come to support this cause. If URI can expand our effort to a national & global level, it will also create a new road for the future.

