



JRS South Asia

Newsletter - October 2018



“I am an angel not an
Afghan girl”





JRS Peace day celebrations in Kabul

The International Day of Peace, 21st September, dedicated to world peace, was first celebrated in 1982. In 2013, the UN Secretary-General dedicated the day to peace education, as the key, long-term preventive means to reduce war and conflict. JRS Kabul celebrated Peace day with the education program students in various schools and centers. In preparation for celebrating 70 years of the universal declaration of human rights, the JRS staff and teachers learned about the 30 articles of human rights (right to peace). They discussed and analyzed the articles in the context of Afghanistan. Teacher Palwasha shared her experience about the training:

“What I feel is most important is not to discriminate between persons - We are all equal before the law.”

-Palwasha, JRS Teacher

She pledged to practice the articles in her daily life, and to encourage her students, their parents, the teachers and her colleagues also to do the same.

On 22nd September and the week following, the JRS teachers celebrated Peace day with their students and teachers of government schools in Kabul. As part of an awareness campaign, the 30 UN articles were printed on banners and displayed in the schools/centers. The teachers began the celebrations with presentations on the UN articles. The students then discussed the articles and prepared speeches, poems, skits, songs, charts, and drawings to share about the articles they liked the most. As part of the Peace day celebrations in Kabul, the JRS teachers and staff, the students, school teachers and Principals of schools painted symbols of peace on designated school walls. In one school, besides the wall peace paintings, the students also organized a handicrafts exhibition.



 JRS student celebrating day of peace

“I loved the atmosphere of the peace celebrations and activities, which made me imagine that I am an angel not an Afghan girl, born and brought up in civil war. The experience of working in the group and painting symbols of peace on the wall was very special.”

- Fatema, JRS Student



“Though we did not know each other and are from different linguistic backgrounds, our young teacher gave us of her best. Today, we are friends and have learnt to work together and assist each other - Thanks to our teacher, Duhtinpari”

-Ms Len Za Nuam

Beautician Course Graduation

Thirteen Chin refugee women graduated from the Advanced Beauticians' Course at the JRS Training Centre, Delhi, on 1st October, 2018; and were awarded Loyola Vocational Institute certificates. The well- designed course helped the trainees develop the expertise to provide beauty treatments from home. Those keen on strengthening their communication skills, like Ms. Hrin Nei Kim, also attended JRS English language classes. She describes her training experience thus:

“The Beauticians' Course and English classes gave us the opportunity to enhance our skills. On completing our training, I feel very confident and happy to share my skills with my friends and community.”

-Hrin Nei Kim

To ensure that the graduates start home-based beauty parlours for self-employment, they were provided kits with the basic equipment for hair styling and beauty treatments.

“I believe they have gained confidence by the skills they have learnt. I urge them to keep the promise to share what they have learnt with their community as well. I spent a lot of money to learn the beautician's skills; but they are lucky to be given this opportunity for free. I thank JRS for helping me improve my own skills and grow in confidence.”

-Duhtinpari, Teacher



 Beautician students in Chin life skill training centre

Advanced-level training for Life Skills graduates

JRS organized advanced-level training for the six-month residential Life Skills graduates, at Shakthi Folk Arts Centre, Dindigul, from 18 September to 10 October. The purpose was to empower refugee women to become more self-reliant and live with dignity by skill upgradation. Keerthika, from Kullursandai refugee camp with a diploma in garment technology, trained ten women in machine embroidery, ornamental fabric designing, and beautician skills. Together with JRS staff- Lily and Sheeba – they celebrated International Peace Day on 21 September, and learned about human rights enshrined in the UN Declaration.



 Trainees engaged in learning embroidery

Just a week after the training, Amutha proudly claimed that 10 clients had already come to her for beauty treatment; while Tharani, Karolin and Sulomia, from another camp, excitedly shared their plans to start an embroidery shop together.

“The training help me improve my earning capacity.”

- Participants

Promoting Peace Education among Students of Host Community

JRS Tamil nadu launched a new initiative to promote peace education among the students of the host community: to build awareness about the life and angst of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees, and to encourage them to welcome and be friend refugee students in their school. The program was launched in two government schools in two districts of Tamilnadu on 16 and 17 October, 2018. The students were given information about refugees, especially the Sri Lankan Tamil refugees in Tamilnadu, their life in the camps and about JRS services to them. The students discussed the meaning and fruits of education such as competence, commitment, compassion, and conscientiousness – and were motivated to make the most of their life in the school so as to be empowered to transform their own lives and society at large for the better.

“The session has helped me to make up my mind to lead a meaningful and successful life.”

-Ms Geetha, student



Students participating in peace workshop.

“I found the program meaningful and relevant to our present-day context, and I request the JRS staff to conduct similar sessions for the higher class students in future.”

-Ms. Punitha Malar, Teacher

They were introduced to ORACLE – Observation, Restraint, Acceptance, Celebration, Love of Labor and Evolution – and encouraged to live with a clear vision for the future, by making appropriate choices and taking suitable follow up actions. The ice breakers and group discussions ensured active participation of the students. The facilitators helped the students understand the need for peace in every sphere of life. The students were enthused by “Santhan” a peace-making character in the book “Gandhian Way to Peace” and they committed to make Santhan their role model.

Thank you....



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