



Report on
Awareness Campaign in Catholic Schools
under Archdiocese of Lahore
February-May 2018

Punjab Commission on the Status of Women

Introduction

The Punjab Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) is a statutory body of the Government of Punjab working for the promotion of women's rights to eliminate all forms of violence against women. Recently PCSW initiated an Awareness Session Campaign in Catholic Secondary Schools in District Lahore to promote gender equality and women's rights. The objective of the campaign was to disseminate information on gender sensitization, gender based violence, women's rights and implementation mechanism in Punjab to endorse gender equality and to safeguard women.

Campaigning is an important strategy for achieving various outcomes related to ending violence against women and promoting gender equality, since it can support changes at the individual, interpersonal, community as well as within the broader society. It serves as a vehicle to inform and educate individuals about their rights to receive support and redress, and how they can claim these rights. It also develops leadership skills among campaign organizers and supporters, and empowers all participants to become individual agents of change, and advocates of gender relations that are free of violence and based on equality.

In recent times, the Government of Punjab incorporated a chapter on gender equality and protection of women's rights into secondary schools' curriculum. Underscoring the respect for human dignity and human rights are the core values, PCSW established a prioritized program of gender equality and women's rights education in schools through raising public awareness of the issue and promoting zero tolerance for violence.

The module provided practical guidance to individuals; principals, teachers and students involved in campaigning to end violence against women and girls. The module was divided into 4 major sections which described the different, multi-faceted aspects of the campaign. The sections offered gender sensitivity approaches, knowledge on women's rights, pro-women's legislation and redress mechanisms available in Punjab and further related information.

The campaign was organized from February 9th-May 15th, 2018 in 30 secondary schools under Archdiocese of Lahore. This whole program was divided into three phases.

1. Pre Campaign Phase (Planning)
2. Campaign Phase (Execution)
3. Post Campaign Phase (Follow Up)

1. Pre Campaign Planning Phase

Before organizing the campaign, PCSW team held several discussions and meetings about the preparation which resulted into recognizing the need of communication and meetings with members of Catholic Board of Education for getting information about schools. As a result two meetings were organized with Diocesan Board Members.

Later, an orientation session was conducted where relevant teachers from various schools were invited to have a session on the topic. The orientation session enabled teachers to understand the concepts of Gender, Sex, Gender Equality, Women's rights and Legislation to protect such rights. Teachers were made responsible for using inclusive instructional practices and fair disciplinary approaches to promote active discussions in class rooms on gender issues and human rights as long as the curriculum, textbooks and their preparation through the session allow them to do so. During the session participants emphasized the importance of the campaign in schools for educating the community at the district level, and raising awareness. With the mutual understanding content for the students and campaign date was finalized. During the session focal persons were also nominated.

2. Campaign Phase (Execution)

Following planning chart was prepared to cover almost 2000 students in 30 Catholic schools. Prior to conducting session, a detail agenda was prepared and shared with the school principals and focal persons to organize the event in different schools. The core objective of the event was to gather more number of students to educate on gender equality and women's human rights, to develop their understanding on pro-women laws and available redress mechanisms in Punjab.

Sr.No	Name of School	Date	No of Students
1.	St. Paul's Girls School, Township	February 9th	50
2.	St. Peter's High School, Township	February 9th	45
3.	St. Henry's High School,	April 27th	17
4.	St. Thomas High School, Gulberg II	April 17th	47
5.	Franciscan Boys school, Kotlakpat	April 13th	72
6.	Franciscan Girls School, Kotlakpat	27th April	126
7.	St. Joseph's High School, Lhr. Cantt	April 18th	48
8.	St. Mary's High School, Mariam Colony	February 15th	50
9.	St. Mary's High School, Kotlakpat	April 27th	54
10.	Don Bosco School , Empress Road	April 25th	56
11.	Sacred Heart Cathedral School	April 19th	73
12.	St. Paul's Parish Girls School, Shadbagh	April 20th	50
13.	St. John's Boys School, Youhanabad	April 13th	42
14.	St. John's Girls School, Youhanabad	April 13th	71
15.	Dar-ul-Baseerat High School, Township	February 9th	22
16.	St. Joseph's Girls High School, Thorton Rd.	May 14th	62
17.	St. Mary's Boys High School, Samanabad	April 27th	25
18.	St. Mary's Girls High School, Bund Road	April 27th	60
19.	St. Paul's Urdu High School	April 13th	-----
20.	St. Anthony's College, Lawrence Road	May 3rd	186
21.	St. Anthony's High School, Faisal Town	April 24th	62
22.	St. Anthony's High School, LhrCantt.	May 3 rd (2 sessions)	75
23.	Sacred Heart Convent High School	May 14th	90
24.	St. Mary's High School, Gulberg (Boys)	May 7 th	54
25.	St. Mary's High School, Gulberg (Girls)	May 7 th	50
26.	Don Bosco High School	April 11 th	68
27.	Jesus & Mary Convent School	No response from school management	
28.	Jesus & Mary Convent School (Matric Section)		
29.	St. Dominic Convent		
30.	Mariam Sadeeqa School	Principal was not available	

Outcomes

The undertaken campaign aimed at raising adolescent students' awareness on issues of gender disparity, violence against women; domestic violence, public violence, harassment and cyber crimes etc. Due to proper planning and timely execution of the event, campaign became more successful. During the campaign, students learnt about societal and cultural factors involved in gender-based exclusion and discrimination in the most diverse spheres of public and private life. They seemed confident about their own social roles and responsibilities as they became aware about their rights, legislation for protection of rights through the campaign.

One of students remarked after the session.

'I have never received such a wonderful experience and knowledge on gender and women's human rights. After knowing all that, I have become a changed person; tolerant and compassionate. This is indeed a useful program which could bring about change in our society.'

Another student commented:

'I being the male member at my house always noticed that how I was given more importance than my sister, this is how I have been raised. But after this session I have realized that both men and women are equal and this is all about the mind set in the society. I will make sure to make changes in my house as much as possible.'

One female student from a school gave her remarks:

'I am a very ambitious girl and would like to work and become a successful person but keeping in mind the patriarchal society I was extremely reluctant that how will I achieve my goal? Your session on women's rights has given me the encouragement to pursue my dream and make a positive difference in the society'.

One of the teachers provided her comments:

'I think this kind of session is extremely required for the parents of these students. The school will invite all the parents and we would like to request PCSW to conduct a more comprehensive session with parents and all teachers. This kind of session is very beneficial for the entire family'. On questioning the boys if they help their mothers in the house, one of them replied: Of course, when I see my mother doing all the housework on her own, I always ask her if she needs any kind of help. I often help her with cleaning the house, cooking and dish-washing.' The campaign's participatory approach was very successful in building students' confidence as many of them were able to deliver their speeches through training program. Students and Teachers' participation during the whole campaign was very appreciable. Students were made involved in every activity starting from the posters display to the execution of the whole event.

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3. Post Campaign Phase (Follow Up)

PCSW conducted a meeting with Chairman and Secretary of Catholic Board of Education to report and apprise of the achieved outcomes of the campaign. Positive and constructive feedback from schools' management was also shared in the meeting. PCSW anticipates visiting these schools in the month of October to celebrate Peace Day and later engage them for several activities for 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence.

Pictorial Presentation





