

**2014-
15**

Bedari

[ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15]

This is annual report of Bedari. It covers the period from 1st July 2014 to 30th June 2015. It gives a brief narrative of the challenges, successes and achievements of Bedari in the reporting period.

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Message from Executive Director

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to present Annual Report of Bedari for the Year 2014-15. This report provides a summary of activities carried out during the reporting period, key achievements and some success stories to provide the reader an insight of the efforts Bedari has been putting in promotion and protection of human rights of girls and women.

This year, Bedari expanded its operations in geographically and thematically. The southern districts of Punjab including Lodhran and Bahawalpur were added in to its initiatives. While thematically, the themes of women's economic empowerment and Peace through Art, were added in to its regular programs. Bedari's core programs including self-growth, crises intervention for women and girls, and Bedari's theatre remained as the backbone for these themes. The core programs performed a support role in making all these thematic expansions to be unique and successful.

While putting all these efforts together, Bedari came across several challenges while striving for its goal. We witnessed an intense stream of terrorism claiming thousands of lives including women and children. We watched incidents of suppression of people from minority and incidents of child abuse. We also experienced our space to talk and work being shrunk by the law enforcing agencies. On the other side, we were able to support some legislative moves towards protection of women and girls. We achieved a law on early marriages passed and law on domestic violence tabled in the Punjab assembly. We witnessed amendments in honor killing laws by Senate. We witnessed a move towards establishment of National Commission on Child Rights. All these achievements encouraged Bedari and other civil society organizations to put more efforts toward a peaceful Pakistan based on principles of equality despite of a continuous security challenge caused by extremists.

This all would not have been possible without Bedari's small, highly professional and committed staff, and highly motivated volunteers. On the other hand, Bedari received unprecedented support from its partner organizations and various government departments especially the law enforcement agencies. We are grateful to all of them for their backing and patronage.

Last but not least, I would like to take this opportunity to express our deep gratitude to the partner communities who share the same cause with us for their support and uncomplicated cooperation. I know that this is not something that can be taken for granted. Bedari team shall do its utmost this year also to justify the trust invested in us by our partners for the cause of a society where women and girls live as equal human beings without any fear of violence and discrimination.

Saleem Malik

Executive Director; Bedari

Introduction

About Bedari

Bedari is a national level nongovernment voluntary development organization in Pakistan working with women and girls for the promotion and protection of their human rights in society. It started its activities around awareness raising and self-growth in 1992 with setting up of Pakistan's first crisis center for women and girls. It has developed expertise on issues of women empowerment, addressing gender based discrimination, violence and abuse against women and girls and the processes of attitudinal change.

Bedari started with the provision of immediate rehabilitation support to women facing violence. The activities included psychological counseling, free legal aid and referral to other required services such as medical and temporary shelter. It was a very rewarding work but proving insufficient because of the rampant prevalence of violence against women and girls and its acceptance in the society. The natural expansion of work was to address the root causes and to raise awareness and sensitize masses about this menace and the importance of rights of women particularly the right of protection from all forms of violence. Therefore Bedari developed a three pronged strategy to address the issues related to gender based discrimination, violence and abuse against women and girls. It included;

- a. (Continuation of) immediate support to survivors of violence: It, not only, helps the rehabilitation of the survivors but also supports the long term purpose of reducing the violence. A successful case where a female victim is rehabilitated and the justice is dispensed would encourage other women to take a stand against violence and assert their right to protection. It also discourages the perpetrators to restrain as the women may not take it silently and the justice may take its rout.
- b. Awareness Raising and Capacity building of Right-holders and Duty-bearers: it is about raising awareness among masses about the impact of violence against women and girls and about the importance of their right to protection from all forms of discrimination, violence and abuse. It is about capacity building of key government and non government institutions so that they can perform their role for protection of women and girls from violence.
- c. Lobbying and Advocacy for Policy and Legislative Reforms: Advocacy and lobbying is conducted to reform discriminatory policies and laws and to fill out the gaps in the legislation.

This three pronged strategy contributes to serve the immediate needs of survivors of gender based discrimination, violence and abuse and to bring long term sustainable change in the society in general and in the lives of women in particular.

Initiating its interventions as a small organization, entirely relied on the volunteerism, Bedari now has a formal, paid full-time working staff supported by a wide network of volunteers. It has established partnerships with donors to execute various projects with prime objectives, as the elimination of discrimination and violence against women. Bedari has expanded its wings to other areas which affects women's condition in the society. These include peace building, education,

health and, economic empowerment of women to address discrimination and violence against women. It has also expanded its geographic coverage from Islamabad/ Rawalpindi to Chakwal, Attock, Jhelum, Muzaffargarh, Vehari, Lodhran, Sheikhpura and Multan.

Bedari believes that raising awareness of women or working in the community to reduce violence is not enough. Strong, comprehensive and accessible laws are needed to reduce violence against women. Hence, during the last 15 years, Bedari has been in close contact with parliamentarians for making women friendly laws and has played instrumental role in getting the laws related to sexual harassment (under the platform of AASHA) passed. Using this experience, Bedari co-founded another network of the like-minded organizations called AACM (Alliance against Child Marriages) and played a vital role in getting the law of Child marriages revised in the best interest of girls.

Bedari Vision

“A society where Women and Girls enjoy Equal Status as Human Beings”

Bedari Mission

“Promoting equal rights of all (including women, men, boys and girls) in society through capacity building, education and advocacy”

Bedari Objectives

1. Advocacy and lobbying for appropriate legislation to address gender based discrimination and violence
2. Raising awareness and building capacities (across duty bearers and right holders) around women’s human rights
3. Combating gender inequalities through girls’ education beyond primary level
4. Providing direct support to women survivors of gender based violence (GBV)
5. Promoting peace and tolerance through revival of cultural activities and by engaging young people both male and female

Bedari’s Alliances

1. Child Rights Movement (CRM)
2. Alliance against Child Marriages (AACM)
3. Ending Violence against Women/Girls (EVAW)
4. Insani Huqooq Ittehad (IHI) Bedari held the secretariat during reporting period
5. Mumkin Alliance
6. Pakistan Reproductive Health Network (PRHN)

BEDARI’S PARTNERS

1. 'Citizens' Voice Project – USAID
2. Creative Associates Under Umeed Jawan - USAID
3. Free and Fair Elections Network (FAFEN)
4. Gender Equity Project - USAID

5. Girls Education International, USA
6. International Child Development Initiatives, (ICDI) The Netherlands
7. Plan International Pakistan
8. The Asia Foundation
9. Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability (TDEA)
10. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
11. United States Institute for Peace (USIP)
12. Individual Sponsors
13. Bedari Volunteers
14. Partner Communities

List of Projects during the Year

S.#	Project Title	Donor	Location	Project Duration
1	Girls Power Program	ICDI	Multan, Chakwal & Vehari	Feb 2011 to Dec 2015
2	Peace Through Art	USIP	Muzafargargh	Oct 2013 to 31 st October 2014
3	Ilm Possible	Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability (TDEA)	Sheikhupura & Nanakana Sahib and Qasoor	June 2014 to February 2015
4	Ilm Possible	TDEA	Sheikhupura & Nanakana Sahib and Qasoor	March 2015 to January 2016
5	Youth Friendly Loan Product Youth Economic Empowerment Project	Plan Pakistan	Chakwal	NOV 2014-October 2015
6	Girls Power Program	Plan Pakistan	Vehari	Feb 2011 to Dec 2014
7	Citizen Voice for Accountability for youth development	TDEA	Multan	Oct 2014 to March 2015
8	Child Marriages	ICDI	Lahore, Vehari and Lodhran	August 2014-July 2015
9	Minorities day celebration	Creative Associates	Muzafargargh	August 2014-October 2014
10	Enhancing women workers through awareness of their rights and labor laws	Gender Equity Project USAID through Aurat Foundation	Multan	July 2014-September 2015
11	Promoting Peace through Cultural and Sports activities	Creative Associates	Multan, Bahawalpur, Lodhran and Muzafargargh	July 2014 - June 2015

Program Update

To realize its objectives, Bedari has been running following programs:

1. Crisis Intervention Program
2. Combating Child Marriages in Punjab
3. Girls Education beyond Primary Level
4. Bedari Theatre Program

All the projects developed and implemented by Bedari through the support from different donors complement any of above mentioned programs. However, based on emerging needs of the society in terms of empowerment and protection of women and girls from discrimination, violence, and abuse some special projects are also designed and implemented which may not directly contribute to these programs however they are very much relevant to Bedari's core objectives. The section below presents the progress of the programs with a detailed report on the projects carried out under each program. The projects not falling under any of above mentioned program are explained under the umbrella of special projects.

CRISIS INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Bedari is running a Crisis Intervention Program for women and children who faced any kind of violence. It provides psychological counseling, free legal aid and referral to other services such as hospitals and shelters. Any case of violence against women can be reported to Bedari on its toll-free helpline 0800-13536 (Free from land line phones only, and services available in Pakistan only). On average, Bedari has extended support to around 1000 women per year. Thus, Bedari has served around 23,000 women till June 2014. During expansion of its wings to other districts, Bedari carried this program to other districts as well. It has replicated this program in its sub-offices in Chakwal, Attock, Multan, Vehari, Muzaffargarh, Sheikhpura and Nankana Sahab. Number of women and girls supported through this program increased and hence moved far above 1000 this year.

Following projects were carried out to support the objectives of this program

Girl Power Program (GPP)

The Girl Power Program (GPP) is a five-year international program funded by the Dutch Government. It was developed by six civil society organizations in the Netherlands including ICDI, Women Win, Free Press Unlimited, Child Helpline International, DCI-Ecpat, and Plan Netherlands under the umbrella of Child Rights Alliance (CRA), led by Plan International Netherlands. The program aims at building the capacity of the civil society in 10 developing countries including Pakistan to support the empowerment of girls and young women for gender equality.

The GPP focuses on four components related to empowerment of girls including; 1) Protection (Violence against girls and young women) 2) Post-primary education 3) Economic participation, and 4) Socio-political Participation. First two components of GPP including Protection and Post

Primary Education are being implemented in Pakistan. Bedari is implementing the Protection Component in Multan, Vehari and Chakwal under the partnership with ICDI and Plan International Pakistan.

Major Interventions by Bedari include, establishing community surveillance system for protection of women and girls from violence, providing immediate support to violence survivors through helpline and its crises intervention program and to highlight the policy level issues with the policy makers through effective advocacy and lobbying with them.

During the previous years of the project life, Bedari established the community surveillance systems in selected communities of the above mentioned districts, established the helplines and identified the issues for policy level advocacy. This year, more focus remained in strengthening of these systems, responding to complaints received on helplines and, advocacy with policy makers on prioritized issues. Following are the achievements of this project during this year.

1. At individual level, Bedari managed to reach out to thousands of girls and women to rescue them from violence through its helplines
2. Hundreds of civil society members including those from media, and law enforcing agencies including those from police and judiciary were engaged with the cause through trainings and workshops.
3. Information related to rights of girls was reached to thousands of people through radio programs, seminars and IEC materials.
4. Child Protection Committees (CPCs) highlighted early marriages of girls as one of the major reason behind violation of girls' rights including their health and education. As a result a campaign was designed to bring amendments in the law of child marriage. The agenda was taken up at two levels. 1) Advocacy to get the law amended. This level was then taken care of under another project described later, however, GPP contributed in highlighting intensity of the issue through identifying the cases in the project communities. 2) Raising awareness among communities against child marriages through CPCs. This was done through rigorous campaigns on the issue, using different mediums of communication including printing of IEC materials, radio programs in local languages and community sessions.
5. Child Protection Committees were able to identify the cases of early marriages and were able to stop this practice through negotiation with the families.

The table below presents the achievements of the project during this year vis-à-vis total targets of the project.

Progress of GPP project Vis-à-Vis Targets during the entire project life

Activity	Activity Description	Per Year	Planned 2011-2015 (in all districts)	Achieved during project life
A3. Strengthen and promotion of grassroots organizations	# of new grassroots organizations targeted in 2014 for (capacity) development support by Dutch alliance organizations	40	200	163
B.1 Services delivered by partners to young girls and women (individual level)	# of girls and young women reached by services delivered by partner organizations	600	3000	3845
	Services to individual girls/young women and boys, including media messages, trainings and workshops on gender equality and/or overall empowerment, sport events/activities	6000	30000	59350
B.2 Sensitization of communities (men and women) by partners (socio-cultural level)	# of communities reached by partners with activities aimed at promotion of gender equality & girls' rights			179
	# of households reached by partners with activities aimed at promotion of gender equality & girls' rights	10000	50,000	41400
	# of traditional leaders reached by partners with activities aimed at promotion of gender equality	400	2000	1282
B.3 Influencing national/district/local governments by partners (institutional level)	# of frontline professional staff of (local, district, province, regional or national) government institutions reached by partners for training – including police, justice, health, education	200	1000	900
	# of staff of government institutions reached by partners for lobby and advocacy to influence laws and policies related to girls empowerment, child rights and women's rights	700	3500	2103
B.4 Strengthening of civil society (orgs) by partners (civil society level)	# of CSO's and media professional reached with capacity strengthening support by partners – including girls' clubs, women cooperatives, youth organizations, community based organizations and other grassroots organizations	CSOs (60 per year)	300	169
		CBOs (45 per year)	225	119
	# of CSO networks supported or strengthened in relation to gender equality and women's rights by partner organizations	Formed	4	4
		Strengthened	3	5

The project is in its completion phase and some quality impacts can also be seen in the project at this stage. It seems that efforts done through the project will stay there for long time as the main focus of the project was bringing attitudinal change among society towards protecting girls from violence.

1. The project has generated a list of issues to be taken care of by the organizations like Bedari to improve the status of girls in the society. For example identification of Girl Child Marriages, girls' education, working with Dar-ul-Amans etc. Bedari took up these issues building upon learning from the project and started campaigning for restraining girl child marriage through legal reforms and through working with social welfare department to improve the situation of Dar-ul-amans (shelters) for girls and women survivors of violence. At the moment, Bedari is working with four Dar-ul-Amans including those in Vehari, Multan, Chakwal and Rawalpindi to provide technical assistance to the staff, free psychological counselling and free legal aid to the survivors. Bedari plans to strengthen the linkages with social welfare departments at provincial level through a formal agreement in coming year.
2. Community surveillance system through child protection committees got involved in highlighting any violation cases in their areas and started raising voices against them. This shows their journey towards sustainability of the efforts done under this project.
3. The project contributed in sensitizing hundreds of policemen, lawyers and journalists to provide gender sensitive services and to highlight the issues related to violence against girls. The district level networks in all the three project districts are actively involved in district level initiatives related to protection of girls from violence.

COMBATING CHILD MARRIAGES IN PUNJAB

While working with communities under Girls' Power project, Bedari observed that one of the serious protection issues for girls was their early marriage. The teams came across with several cases where women were married before the age of 18, some of them even at the age of 13 or 14. As a result, they were going through serious reproductive health issues in addition to series of gender based violence. They were deprived of their right to education and to enjoy their childhood. The practice of child marriage of girls is quite prevalent in these communities even today. On the other hand, law related to restraining the early marriages¹ was too weak to stop this practice. Bedari, decided to address this issue in collaboration with different donors using two pronged strategy.

- Creating awareness among masses especially high-prevalence communities about the consequences of child marriages
- Lobbying with other stakeholders especially policy makers and legislators for introducing new legislation banning child marriages in all its forms and manifestations

Bedari started this campaign in 2013 with a national conference on early marriages of girls in Islamabad and later started working on the law reform through establishing a provincial level network called AACM (Alliance Against Child Marriages) in Punjab. During the reporting period the focus remained on raising awareness among communities about the issue and lobbying with the provincial government of Punjab for the law reform. In collaboration with International Child Development Initiative (ICDI), Bedari organized community sessions on the sexual and reproductive health of girls, advocacy for the law reform and strengthening of child protection committees in its program districts.

The following are the project highlights during the reporting period.

1. 3000 young women and married girls were trained on family planning methods, safe sexual practices & access to family planning services, 300 female teachers were educated and sensitized on SRHR to cascade knowledge among their adult students.
2. In order to raise awareness at various level regarding effects of Child Marriages on girls, 36 theater performances, 15 radio programs, policy dialogues, 6 walks, dialogues with traditional and religious leaders were the main activities.
3. Under this Project 120 Youth Club/ Child protection committees' were formed and strengthened. These community based self-help groups are aimed to identify child marriages in their communities and take a collective action to end this menace.
4. Bedari staff faced a severe challenge in convincing community about the effects of early marriages of girls. The deep rooted cultural belief to marry of girls at early age to secure honor was highly visible in the beginning. However through continuous meetings, engaging with men and youth in the communities, and relating it with the real cases of reproductive health issues among those married at early age were the strategies to mobilize the communities.

¹ Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929

5. Teachers participated even more seriously and were eager to know the details. They emphasized on girls education and declared girls education as the sole solution to end child marriages in province.
6. A remarkable milestone was also achieved Punjab Marriage Restraint Act 2015 which is to end child marriage in Punjab was passed during March 2015. It was the result of constant efforts containing a lot of advocacy and lobbying meetings, seminars and consultations

Samina aims to make her village 'Child Marriage Free'.

I am Samina, and I am 26 now, and married for last 13 years. We were 9 sisters, and no brother. My parents wanted to have a son, so they kept trying, and continued to add unwanted daughters to the family. My father worked on daily wages, and of course, not sufficient to meet our basic needs. Still I was going to the village school. I had a passion for studies, and wanted to join army – a rare dream for a girl.

In poor households, daughters' dreams do not matter rather they are a burden. The easiest way to get rid of this burden is to marry them off – an old man's burden is shifted to a young man's shoulders. Girl remains a burden nevertheless. Same happened in my case. My dreams were shattered, I left my books and shattered dreams behind, and moved to my husband's house. My husband, 20 years old then, was not ready to take up the burden of married life. So I had to step in and shoulder his responsibilities. I started working in the fields of village landlord and started getting a small amount of money for 10 to 12 hours of work. After feeding my husband in the evening, I had to gratify his sexual needs at night. This never-ending cycle would go on and on. The sexual relation was unbearably painful, but I had no way to escape it. Time flies. I did not know how 5 years passed, and I became mother of 4 children at the age of 19. Recalling those days is a nightmare. Then somehow my husband realized that I was working too hard, and he was not helping, rather he was a burden on me. He started looking for work, and would find some work every other day. Life became a little bearable. As things improved, I started thinking of improving it further. I took a bold decision to avoid the mistake my parents had made. After 4th kid, I decided to go to a local family planning center, and learnt about ways to avoid pregnancy.

As my husband learnt some skills and his earnings increased, I decided to stop working in the fields anymore. Suddenly, I had loads of free time, and did not know what to do with it. I wanted to make good use of my free time, yet I did not know what good use it could be. This was the time when I got in touch with Bedari and learnt about their work to end early marriages. While discussing this with them I could count around 15 child brides in my neighborhood in just five minutes. No other activity could be better to make good use of my time than working on this issue. I offered them my full support. Now I have established a children club for out of school children. We have hired an educated lady to teach the kids. I make sure that people send their children to the children club. We organize community awareness sessions on women's and children's issues. Child marriage is one of the most important issues we are working on. I have made friends – men and women – who are against child marriages, and violence. We are working together to make our village a 'Child Marriage Free Village'.

GIRLS' POST PRIMARY LEVEL EDUCATION

Recognizing the importance of education of girls beyond primary level as an escape for them from many forms of violence against them, Bedari initiated this program back in 2006 through a small support from Athens Network for Collaborating Experts ANCE in one village of district Chakwal. Later on the project expanded this initiative to other villages of district Chakwal through the support from Girls' Education International (GEI), USA. Under this project, Bedari mobilizes families and communities and supports them with scholarships for their girls to complete secondary education. The support continues for 5 years or up to higher secondary level (12 years of education).

Bedari and GEI started the 2nd phase of the project in April 2014. In this phase, 101 girls from 4 remote villages – Thirchak, Natto Wala, Maira Aemah, and Hattar – of district Chakwal have been awarded with scholarships. The scholarship covers the cost of their travel from home to school and back home. The quantitative achievements during this year were the following.

The number of girls studying under this project has been increased from 71 to 101.

All the 32 girls, whose results have been announced, have passed their exams, and have been promoted to the next classes.

Three girls have been promoted from 6th to 8th grade. These three girls were in grade 8th when they dropped out from the schools. After motivational meetings with Bedari staff and receiving the scholarship they joined the school again. However, the school management took them in grade 6 with the promise that they will be promoted directly to grade 8 if they perform well in the studies. As a result, these girls performed well in their exams and were directly promoted to grade 8

20 self-growth training sessions held with these girls. The self-growth sessions help girls develop their leadership and negotiation skills which result in to better

Maryam belongs to village Dharyala Kahoon. She is studying in class 13. Her story in her own words:

I am studying in 3rd year, yet I had not got any chance to get involved in any activity other than my studies. Bedari organized a self-growth sessions for us in our village. We were all very excited about it. It was for the first time that we got a chance to discuss things which were disturbing us, but we did not know that others were facing similar issues, and did not know what we could do about it.

Through sessions on gender discrimination, and sexual and reproductive health, we discussed issues which were not discussed ever before in our life. We learnt a lot of new things. We gained confidence, and authentic information about ourselves, about our bodies, and the changes our bodies go through in teen years.

Now I am mentoring my younger sisters, and cousins. We love this new situation. We feel so empowered. We have attended only two sessions so far. We are eagerly looking forward to the remaining sessions.

performance at schools and at homes. They get skilled to assert their rights at home as well as at schools. These sessions help them negotiate better for their rights.

This project has brought many other results in addition to ensuring girls' access to education. Bedari through its self-growth workshops worked with these girls to assert their rights. Some girls from previous phases were able to continue their education even after completion of the scholarships through distant learning. They were able to negotiate with their parents for their right to education. This has indirectly provided them an escape from getting married at early age along with improved negotiation skills which they could use for deciding about their future. This is where the project gets connected with the core program of Bedari; ending violence against women and girls.

BEDARI THEATRE PROGRAM

Bedari's Theatre program remained in support role this year to provide technical assistance to different projects. The major role of theatre program remained in the project of Peace through Art (explained later under special projects section). Under this project, the theatre program conducted theatre trainings with four youth groups of 20-24 members in four districts of South Punjab. Each group included around 50% girls. The trainings included conceptual clarity on the linkage between peace building and promotion of art, script writing through improvisation on the theme of peace building, basic concepts of theatre performance, and team building, gender equality, challenging social norms in a peaceful manner. As a result of these trainings the theatre groups did around twenty performances in each district on the issue of peace building.

Other than this project, the program provided trainings to theatre groups for theatre performances on early marriages and corporal punishment. In addition to trainings, the program developed the script for theatre performances on these issues which were performed in South Punjab. Ten performances were done on corporal punishment in district Vehari while the performances on early marriages were done in Vehari, Multan, Bahawalpur and Lodhran.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Peace through Arts and Sports

"Peace through Arts" is a unique project that aims at creating a forum for youth where they can interact with one another, discuss various issues pertaining to their everyday lives and express their desire for peace and prosperity through different art forms. It is a youth led project. Bedari staff is there to facilitate them. It has ensured participation of young girls, youth from religious and ethnic minorities as well as from different social/economic classes. It is a diverse group coming together to raise awareness about peace and its significance for prosperity and well-being of the communities. Bedari piloted this project in Muzafargarh with the support from United States Institute for Peace. Later with the support from Creative Associates under Umeed Jawan Project it expanded this program to three other districts of South Punjab including Bahawalpur, Lodhran and Multan in addition to Muzafargarh.

The project mobilized scores of youth from schools, colleges and universities to promote peace across the region under six broader categories including, Theater, Art/Photography, Music, Poetry Sports and Social Media.

The five groups create art work focusing on the importance of diversity, peace and tolerance. Theater group creates plays, Artists make drawings/paintings, Musicians compose songs, and Poets and Writers write poems and prose on peace and tolerance while cricket clubs were engaged to organize cricket tournaments for peace and tolerance. The social media group is there to disseminate this information on the social media especially Facebook. The project was special in two aspects. 1) It enhanced the peaceful ways of appreciating diversity and created acceptance for people with different backgrounds, 2) It engaged youth in activities like poetry, sports, theatre and painting which are not very encouraged traits to be adopted especially for young women. Young women members of the youth groups shared that it was a life time experience for them to be part of this activity. Following were the key achievements of this project of nine months duration.

- a) 1,367 (686 male and 681 female) youth was given an opportunity to engage and be mentored in activities that promoted peace and tolerance through arts, sports and cultural forums
- b) 1,367 youth was trained in peace and tolerance and/or life skills related to self-growth
- c) Managed to break the social barriers for women and girls, as hundreds of girls came out of their homes, participated in cultural and sports activities, and attended training sessions on self-growth, peace and tolerance.
- d) 1367 young men and women went through an attitudinal change regarding gender roles, peaceful co-existence, and tolerance for diversity.

Key Impacts of Peace through Arts Project

- This project has generated the idea of engaging youth in positive activities. As a result of successful activities done during the project several schools and private sector organizations came forward to sponsor sports events for youth.
- Radio Pakistan offered young artists to present their talent to public through radio programs.
- The project has presented a base or a beginning to influence policy and practice level change and lays foundation to effectively engage with government for innovative solutions to curb extremism. The constant engagement with the standing committee chairperson of the provincial assembly on youth has been really significant to bring the government on board and involve youth innovatively for its future initiatives on promoting peace and tolerance.
- The provincial level network of the Umeed Jawan grantees provides an upward stream for advocacy for promotion of peace and tolerance.
- Consciousness amongst youth regarding the issues of gender, patriarchy and how these structures contribute to the extremism was raised across the four districts through self-growth and sessions on peace & tolerance

- e) Cultural activities were revived in the target districts, as youth organized exhibitions, poetry recitation sessions, music concerns, and theater performances.
- f) Local poets, artists, singers and actors from all the four districts were engaged in various activities and encouraged to promote messages of peace and tolerance.
- g) Effective linkages with policy makers at the local and provincial level forged. Executive District Officer (Community Development) and Executive District Officer (Social Welfare) have become friends of Bedari, and are being helpful in other projects Bedari is implementing in South Punjab.
- h) Outreach and visibility of innovative approaches such as involving youth in sports, culture and art activities to promote peace and tolerance through extensive usage of social media and continuous post project engagement of youth through these pages is an important outcome.
- i) A close engagement with government was maintained throughout the project. Right from the very beginning District government had to be taken on board in order to get permissions to work in Government schools in Lodhran, Bahawalpur and Muzaffargarh.
- j) In Lodhran, Bedari signed MoU with local Sanat Saaz (a government entity for technical training). All the girls from painting group were given space in the area for mentoring classes and later the local government utilized the girl to paint various walls in the city to promote messages of peace and tolerance.
- k) The political entities from all the districts were kept on board and various parliamentarians were engaged in the project at various occasions. Mr. Maqbool Bhutta (MPA from Multan), who is also chairperson of the standing committee on Youth in Punjab Assembly remained a staunch supporter of Bedari throughout the project and helped at various occasions with permissions from the local governments.
- l) Finally, Bedari very positively engaged with the government officials from Multan Arts Council to hold Mega Mela (an even which was attended by more than 600 youth from across the four project districts).

Women Workers Leaders Project (WWL) June, 14 - June, 15

In order to make women workers aware of their labor rights and promote women friendly work places, Bedari took initiative of project entitled “Enhancing women workers awareness on their rights and labor laws” in Multan with collaboration of Aurat Foundation and USAID under gender Equity Program (GEP). Following are the salient features and achievements of the project.

The situational analysis done in the project area revealed serious violations of labour laws in terms of work environment, minimum wages of women, social security or job security, safety measurements, gender disparity, functioning of trade union, and lack of awareness about labour rights among women workers. There was a serious need to raise awareness about the labour laws, and empower women workers by building their capacity and giving them exposure to reach out to the labor department, labor courts, and the senior management at their workplace to get their problems resolved instead of continuing to work at an unfriendly work place.

Right after situational analysis, women worker’s convention was organized. The audience comprised of 185 women workers and above 40 attendees from all walks of life. The event provided an eye-opening charter of demands generated from situational analysis and motivated MPAs to highlight all issues in Punjab assembly floor. Signing on charter of demand by all participants was used as evidence in raising the voice of women workers in future activities.

Bedari held two sessions with them on anti-sexual harassment act with the employers of selected beneficiaries. The objectives of sensitizing and institutionalizing employers on sexual harassment act, met well. They became motivated to establish women friendly spaces at their workplaces. Total 54(females = 13 and males = 41) employers participated in the sessions and committed to form anti sexual harassment committee.

Overall Impact of the WWL Project

The project is in line with Bedari’s core objective of empowering women to end violence against them. In this project the target group was women workers who gained confidence during the project course to talk about their rights. They in addition to improving their work environment were able to address any violation of their rights during their routine life. Many women shared that they are now better able to communicate with men in any set up and could assert their rights.

The communication gap between stakeholders and workers was filled during the project. The fear or hesitation of workers was overcome and they started approaching labor department for their legal issues such as social security card, dowry fund, disability forms etc. Similarly complex cases were referred to lawyers who provided services free of cost to workers.

Registration of home based workers with Punjab Labour department will open new windows of financial and social security to these women who have been contributing to country’s economy but have never been recognized.

The project activities encouraged WWL to join District Level Network. Bedari team identified the dedicated WWL and stakeholders in order to regulate the district level networking and enhance its impact at provincial and national level. This will not only enable these women to fight for their rights as HBW, rather it will initiate a political process among their thinking and they will be able to contribute to the country’s political processes more effectively.

The series of five trainings in different target areas on women rights and labor laws was conducted by Bedari trainers. 184 women workers were trained. Through training, the workers not only gained knowledge, but also became more self-confident, especially the uneducated ones. The trainings created awareness on labor laws and sensitized them about anti sexual harassment act at grass root level.

Five women worker leaders (WWL) were selected from each group of trainees on basis of their active participation and clarity of concepts. In order to develop leadership skills, and advocacy in women workers, 25 women workers (5 leaders from each target area) were further trained by Bedari trainers. The leaders got confidence how to deliver roll out activities in their communities.

In mid of June 2015, second women worker's convention was held where 155 women workers and attendees including guest speakers, lawyers, panelists, NGO representatives, media persons, civil society, theater team and Bedari staff participated. Active participation of women workers as compare to the previous one was observed.

The frequent field visits, meetings and communication brought fruit because women workers came forward to share their stories, ask questions or give answers of quiz with full enthusiasm. The stakeholders got inspired by the awarded workers and appreciated Bedari efforts in bringing the uninformed laborers into proactive state. All stakeholders offered themselves as volunteer for this noble cause.

Registration of four thousands (4000) home based workers is completed in Multan and HBW will get recognition as worker and all benefits (social security card, fixed wages, BISP card etc.) under labor laws from December, 2015.

Economic Empowerment of Youth Project

The project started in November 2014 in collaboration with Plan International Pakistan. This one year project is designed to support 40 youth in starting or enhancing business or self-employment activities. Another 100 youth are planned to be facilitated with the microfinance opportunities as well as institutions. The other part of the project is to mobilize youth and build their leadership skills and boost their self-confidence so that they may engage in economic activity. Female youth is an important segment of the project.

The project is being implemented in district Chakwal and has engaged youth particularly young women from rural areas of Chakwal. The project focuses on financing the trained young people particularly women to start their businesses. It would mobilize them, help them in building linkages with the market and support them with microfinance.

Young men and women were identified and registered through community meetings and were asked to develop their business proposals based on the skills they have. As a result 40 young members were identified with different business proposals and loans were provided to them after a thorough assessment. Moreover, the linkages meeting between youth group and different organizations providing microfinance activity were arranged. Exposure visits and market surveys were done to facilitate the youth groups establish a marketable business. Although the project has passed only 7 months however, it has started showing results. Youth who established business after receiving loans are now contributing in family income in addition to paying back the loan, they are participating in family decision making and feel

Afzala is a socially and economically empowered young woman now.

Afzala Kausar live in Dheri Saeedan of Tehsil Choa Saiden Shah of district Chakwal. She is 22 years old and is third among sisters with two younger school going brothers. She received a training of beautician through another program of Plan International Pakistan. She thought to open a beauty parlour in her home however, the chances of income were very low because there are two other parlours in the village. She wanted to contribute in her family income to support her father who is the only bread winner of the family. But she did not have resources to do so. Like other girls in the village, she was not encouraged to go to even her relatives living in the same village because of the social barriers, however when there was a chance to enhance the family income, the parents not only allowed to do this work but also supported her through selling their cow yet the money was not enough to establish a new business. She got in touch with Bedari and submitted her business proposal to open a beauty parlour in a relatively larger village called Vahula which is 10 kilometres away from her village. She received a loan of 20000/- Rupees from Bedari's project and established a parlour in this village in a small market. She now travels every day to this village and works as a beautician.

Opening a beauty parlour in a commercial area brought multiple effects to Afzala. Afzala, now contributes in family income, has increased her space in family decision making and she has developed confidence to interact with men in public. She now plans to expand her work through renting another adjacent shop and improving her services. She has improved her communication skills and developed contact with bigger companies like Kune for advanced courses and to seek support for this expansion.

Afzala's story is a reflection of Bedari's struggle for women's empowerment as a whole package. This was the reason that she was facilitated to create a space in public sphere rather than establishing a parlour at home. This effort has transformed Afzala into an empowered woman who makes her own decision, travels independently and knows how to deal with gender issues faced by women in public sphere.

empowered for being an earning person. This is more effective for women who normally have secondary status in the family. Following are the key achievements.

- Small loans have been provided to 30 young women and 10 young men
- They have established their small business, earning money and are managing their monthly instalment to Bedari
- Trainings for youth to improve their leadership skills and to enhance their self-confidence are completed successfully
- Youth Awareness Sessions with Micro Finance Providers have been conducted successfully

The commitment of Luqa Indrias makes a difference in his community!

Luqa Indrias is young man of 20 years. He belongs to Christian Community and lives in Chakwal city. From the very young age he had the aptitude towards art and craft. As he grew up, the family started communicating him about his responsibility to earn for the family. Art and crafts are not acknowledged enough as an earning trade in Pakistan especially in the poor districts where families are struggling for bread and butter. Luqa wanted to grow in this trade because of his interest. He received continuous discouragement from his community and family for choosing this feminine interest (as they call it here in Pakistan). He received the training on craft making from another organization where he was the only male student. He completed the training course but did not have a single clue about how to adopt it as business.

Bedari management suggested him to use this skill by opening academy for children to train them for art and craft making. On the other hand he was facilitated to develop contacts with local private schools and offices for doing interior decorations. As a result he started winning small contracts with these institutions and started earning an income. He developed a proposal for establishing an academy for children to train them on craft making and art. After receiving a loan of 15000 rupees he has established academy and 35 children are learning these skills. He is also receiving contracts for interior decoration and paid back the first loan. He received another loan of 15000 rupees to enhance his academy and contractual services. Based on his quality of work a private school in district Chakwal has hired him to teach art and craft making to children as part time employee. He is now earning enough to support his family and his family is very happy for his efforts and work.

Luqa's story is successful in two ways. 1) Art and craft making is perceived as feminine trade with low market value. Men who do this are criticised. Luqa's work in this trade has broken this myth. 2) Christian community is a deprived community in the district and most of the men in this community work as low level labourers. Luqa has proved that commitment and passion towards improving the status of life and for creating space can ultimately make a difference.

Citizen's Voice Project

Youth has a very little or no role at all in the national politics, decision making or policy development in Pakistan. This leads to disempowerment and marginalization of youth resulting in to their involvement in violent activities. The Citizen's Voice Project with support from USAID, aimed at creating space for youth in national politics and decision making. The project planned to organize urban and rural youth forums in Multan District. Youth was engaged to prioritize, advocate and take up their issues proactively; and oversee the implementation of the Punjab Youth Policy 2012 in Multan. Under this project, Bedari built and strengthened linkages between youth and concerned district-level public departments (i.e. Health, Education, Information Technology and Community Development). It also facilitated youth to engage with the Secretariat of Punjab Chief Minister and the Departments of Finance, Youth Development, Education and Health at provincial level for advocacy initiatives. Youth from age 15 to 29 (including boys and girls) was engaged as the target beneficiary for this project.

One year project strived for following interventions.

- Six Town and one District youth council formed and trained to coordinate with departments
- 48 members got the exposure visit and gained knowledge, confidence and experience
- 2500 youth population were reached out through different campaigns, street theater, radio program and IEC material,
- Letter writing seminars were organized successfully by youth council members in all six towns of district Multan.
- Comprehensive report produced on the performance of the District Health, Education and Community Development departments and it was realized that the project had been successful to engage youth members in such a way that they could carry out youth councils themselves.
- The Capacity building workshops were conducted, in which 180 youth members were engaged and now actively taking responsibility for being a watch committee in reference to implementation of Punjab Youth Policy 2012.
- The exposure visit of 48 youth council members, after workshops, proved itself to be a milestone as a catalyst to enhance the improved implementation to the region and to bring the concerns of youth of Multan to the notice of Youth Affairs Department at provincial level.
- To ensure the strength of youth council at local level, the meeting with MPA ensured that the voice of youth council members must reach to the floor of Provincial Assembly.
- In reference to the advocacy campaign, the Radio shows, street theaters and town seminars engaged the massive audience of Multan to pay attention towards the need of implementation of Punjab Youth Policy. All these tools at the same time also educated and made people aware of the meaningfulness and importance of PYP2012.
- Govt. Departments now have a strong liaison with youth councils and youth can share any issue without any hesitation

- The awareness of youth Policy has lifted as citizens' voice up to the extent that the forgotten draft of Youth Policy is being widely demanded by youth aging 15-29 years. The attention of Government Department of Youth affairs brought up to the Region through this project.

As an overall impact of the project, engagement of youth with district department was mutually beneficial. The organized youth groups worked closely with the district departments in their campaigns related to dengue fever, polio vaccination, elimination of corporal punishment, enhancing enrollment etc. through organizing seminars and distributing information materials.

Some group members were inducted into the government departments of IT and community development. They conducted enlightening seminars on character building, social welfare and cultural values. The project helped youth groups understand their role in promoting peace, appreciating culture and art and channels of promoting these values. They promoted the appreciation for culture through different workshops, seminars and exhibitions. Although the project is already closed but the spirit among youth to do something special for their community is still alive and is expected to remain with them forever.

ILM Possible – Take a Child to School Project

This project is being implemented in Qasur district with the support from TDEA. ILM Possible project of TDEA includes activities like provision of school facilities, teachers' training, community mobilization for school enrolment and monitoring of schools' performance. Bedari's role is in the monitoring components. The project involves monitoring of 20 schools for their performance, attendance of teachers and students, physical validation of facilities in the school and their appropriate utilization. The report is generated in a given format and the second tier monitoring of the same schools is done by TDEA itself. This year, Bedari continued monitoring of 20 schools in Qasur district and submitted the reports to TDEA on timely basis.

Networking and Partnership Activities

Civil Society Networks

Bedari remained very active in the networks of civil society at national level and provincial level in Punjab Province. Following are the networks, Bedari remained active at.

1. Insani Haqooq Ittehad (IHI): Bedari hosted the secretariat of this national level network during the reporting period. Several human rights issues like attack on Army Public School and observing National Action Plan, Marginalization of Civil Society Organizations by different state departments, and attacks on minority groups were the key issues taken forward during the year.
2. Alliance against Child Marriages (AACM) Punjab: Bedari remained active in this network and lobbied for the law of early marriages. Punjab Government passed this law in March 2015.

3. Child Rights Movement (CRM): This is a national network struggling for promotion and protection of child rights. Bedari remained active in this network, attended the meetings and provided technical inputs in all the actions planned and taken by the network.
4. Ending Violence against Women and Girls (EVAWG) Alliance: This national network strives for promotion and protection of women's rights. Bedari remained an active member and collaborated in organizing national and international days related to women's rights, including international women's day on 8th March, National women's day on 12th February and sixteen days of activism campaign in November and December 2014. While being part of this network at national level, Bedari also remained active in its provincial chapter of Punjab Province named as Mumkin Alliance.
5. Pakistan Reproductive Health Network (PRHN): is a national level network to promote women's rights related to reproductive health and family planning. Bedari is part of this network and represents itself in Islamabad Chapter of this network.

Donors & International Organization

Based on its effective implementation of different projects and its commitment with the cause it is working for, Bedari was able to develop and strengthen linkages with varied international organizations and donors. The donors from the previous years continued supporting Bedari's cause for promoting a peaceful society for women and girls in addition the new donors coming in.

Government

All the districts Bedari is working in, relationships with the district government were strengthened. Specific departments engaged with included, social welfare department, education department and health department. These linkages were further taken up to provincial level especially with social welfare department in order to improve the services in darul amans.

Other Collaborations

Bedari collaborates with other organizations to boost the agenda of women's rights. This year Bedari did two collaborations in the regard.

1. Rural Women's Conference

Bedari collaborated with Potohar Organization for Development Advocacy (PODA) in rural women's conference through participating in different sessions, hosting session of women, peace and security, establishing a stall in the conference and facilitating participation of 30 women from Chakwal to the conference.

2. National day of Working Women

Bedari collaborated with Mehrgarh to commemorate the day and celebrate the effective implementation of anti-harassment law. Bedari facilitated 25 women from different working class from Chakwal and Rawalpindi to participate in the event and share their experiences.

Staff Capacity Building

All these efforts mentioned in the report could not be successful if Bedari did not have the committed and capacitated staff. Bedari believes to invest in its human resources in order to get quality of work and to achieve the goals. In this regard, it organizes several in house trainings related to the personal growth of its staff and to enhance the technical skills. In addition, it nominates and encourages its staff to join in other trainings relevant to their nature of work.