Message from iEARN-USA

As I approach my one year mark of having worked with iEARN Pakistan on the YES program, my awe of the skill, effort, and passion of the iEARN Pakistan team has only continued to grow. Early on, I was impressed with the standard for excellence the team set for themselves since the inception of the YES program in 2002. Year after year, Pakistan sends the largest number of YES students to the U.S. to serve as cultural ambassadors and the iEARN Pakistan team excels in the recruitment, selection, and training of these finalists. YES students in the U.S. acquire leadership skills, educate Americans about their culture and country, and give back immensely to the local community. Once the students return home, iEARN Pakistan also provides the support to foster an active, driven, and impactful YES alumni community. YES Pakistan alumni are inspirational role models who lead innovative service projects wherever they go and they have contributed to making the world a more interconnected, peaceful place. Most importantly, it’s an honor to work with a team who values genuine relationships and cares deeply about the communities they serve. They are a family with open arms for those who share their vision for positive change and it has been a true pleasure to walk with them on this endeavor. I have already learned so much in my collaboration with iEARN Pakistan but am excited to see how they will further expand their impact. Congratulations on another incredible year of changing lives and thank you again for all that you do!

Gloria Kang
Program Manager
iEARN-USA

Azme- Naujawan Orientation

Society for International Education as a consortium partner of ‘Azme-Naujawan’ organized orientation for community youth leaders in four different sessions from 1st November, 2017 to 3rd November, 2017 in which approximately 150 youth from Sultanabad and Sheerin Jinnah participated.

The introductory session at the orientation was commenced by trainers of Azme-Naujwan offering training to youth to develop their professional and entrepreneurial skills. The trainers includes Tehmina Maknojia, Izeen Naz, Andeel Ali, Jahanzaib Khan, Aiman Khan and Farasat Ali. SIE under the banner of ‘Azme-naujawan’ would train 100 youth from two different communities from Karachi.

SIE Team welcomed the youth and the stakeholder from community and institutions. They shared the overall framework of Azme Naujawan project. Team members briefed the youth about the logistical arrangements, pick and drop and the merchandise would be given to youth.

A comprehensive curriculum, covering modules including leadership development, personal development, enterprise development, critical thinking skills, cultural understanding, Social Action Projects and Social Campaigns etc. will be a part of this program. Participants will receive up to 85 hours of direct contact training from a team of specialized and experienced trainers providing the youth with continuous mentorship.

Throughout the program, the participating youth will identify problems/ issues within their communities, and develop solutions to those problems in the form of social action projects and social campaigns with the insight and support from trainers and SIE Team members.

Azme Naujawan (AeN) is a program spearheaded by a consortium of ten civil society organizations that came together as a consequence of realizing the potential of collaborative efforts and mutual support, aims to work with like-minded civil society partners passionate about efforts targeting youth.
Society for International Education organized two rounds of 2-day training of trainers (ToT) focusing on Media Production. This training was organized for 40 Azm e Naujawan trainers, divided in two groups of 20 each. First round was carried on December 5th and 6th, 2017 and second round was held on December 13th and 14th, 2017 at Ali Bhai Centre from 9:00 am – 1:30 pm.

The first day of training focused on improving desktop publishing skills. The participants learned these skills to engage youth from underserved areas like Sultanabad and Shireen Jinnah Colony who are part of this program. The skills learned were creating posters, flyers, logos, icons, sketches, typography and other vector art using Adobe Illustrator. Trainers were divided into groups and given hands-on time to practice the tools introduced during session. The participants made posters that can be used during awareness campaigns when they work on social mobilizers. After the activity, feedback was given on posters for further improvement and the efforts were appreciated.

The second day of training focused on the art of video composition using professional software like Adobe Premiere Pro and other online tools. The training included the concepts of making videos with smart phone and camera, the fundamentals of filmmaking like stabilization, lights and motion shots. For hands on activity, trainers were divided into pairs and their task was to make a short video. After the activity, videos of each group was screened and feedback was given by fellow trainers.

Citizen Journalism Program students at CEJ for an exposure trip on December 8, 2017.

Society for International Education (SIE) brought a group of young citizen journalism students at CEJ for an exposure trip on Dec 8, 2017. It was a fun day. We thank SIE for supporting these future professionals.

Access Intensive Program 2017

Society for International Educational (SIE) organized 5-days Access Intensive classes of 20 hours from December 22nd, 2017 to December 26th, 2017 for the participants from Nasra School Malir and from December 25th, 2017 to December 30th, 2017 for the participants from DIL Amina School (Orangi) in which hundreds of students participated.

In these intensive classes students were engaged in various productive activities including Youth Leadership Development, Public Speaking Contests, Performing Arts activities (songs, skits, short plays etc.) Guest Speakers presentations on Personal Development and Career Guidance, Sports, Team Building activities, and Community Service projects. The Access Winter Intensive (20 hours) were both indoors and outdoors, that included four days activities of consecutive 4 hours each day including indoor sports and one day Beach cleaning & visit to wetland activity of 4 hours.

During the classes participants were engaged in innovative learning experiences including, authentic language learning activities and networking with fellow Access students. Students were also given guidance on developing Access alumni chapters and networking after the completion of Access program. Feedbacks were taken from the participants each day after the classes. Participants were asked to note down some basic facts and information on any two items that they observed on the field visit and also they shared their learning experiences.

By the end of Access Intensive Classes 2017, participants took part in a range and variety of youth leadership activities, planned and implemented few community service projects, experienced context-based interactions to accomplish language tasks in both formal and informal situations, learned and polished their public speaking skills, participated in sports activities and engaged in activities enhancing their talents including performing arts like singing and dramas.

‘Overall it was amazing, knowledgeable and interesting experience and we enjoyed a lot’ – Access participant.

‘So, the experience was good. I enjoyed a lot. I saw many different types of planes and got to know about history.’ – Access participant.
Empowering Young Leaders—Social Action Projects Training Phase II

Society for International Education organized a day-long training on social action projects phase-II for Empowering Young Leaders (EYL) Program on October 8th, 2017.

The main focus of this training was to engage the youth in refining their social action projects and finalizing the implementation plans. The training started with the recap of previous 3 days training on social actions, leadership and team building concepts. Participants from under privilege areas were registered to participate in the training.

Youth worked in groups of 5, the presented their SAPs in the form of power point presentation and received constructive feedback. The project themes included the topics of safeguarding the children, dental and health awareness, health cleanliness, plantation, traffic awareness, cultural games for females, neighborhood beautification, health and hygiene awareness camp and talent hunt competition.

Mr. Edward Misawa from iEARN, Nairobi, Kenia visited the young leaders and encouraged them to share their social action with the youth at Africa. He said, “One day you would visit other parts of the world and also visit Africa to share your social actions.”

Mr. Muhammad Owais, the head of special projects at Pakistan Institute of Management (PIMs), from Ministry of Industries & Production also joined youth at training. He encouraged the young leaders and motivated them to be future leaders.

The youth was very excited and shared their learning and change in their attitudes towards life and society. “Training was very knowledgeable and useful for us. We always wanted to do some social work but there were no proper guidance to implement them. After this training I actually got to know how SAPs are developed and how can I implement my idea for social action.” Zeenat Ghulam Shabbir, Gulza-e-Hijri

Young leaders finalized their projects and would do their ground work to collect data to implement. They would also share dates, days and venue of their SAP implementation for their social action projects.

SIE Launches website for Citizen Journalism Program

The Citizen Journalism Program (CJP), an initiative of Society for International Education, trained 200 participants from Karachi in citizen journalism. The participants belonged to nine different areas of Karachi.

CJP launched its’ website www.siecitizenjournalism.org where the e-newsletters are published for the wider audience. As part of the program, the participants submit news stories in the form of videos, photographs, and features, which are then published in the e-newsletters. The content is about Karachi, focusing on its culture, history, people, and the problems the city faces. The program is in its final phase and SIE will be organizing the program completion ceremony for the successful participants in the first week of January.

Visit: www.siecitizenjournalism.org for updates!
Badal Do Alumni Event
Society for international education as a part of consortium participated in Badal Do Alumni Event held on Saturday December 8th, 2018 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Badal Do completed its journey with its 2nd Alumni event to mark the graduation of trainees who’ve been a part of the movement for the past half a year and successfully imbibed the values of tolerance, inclusion, peace and plurality.

Society for International Education carried out a self-reflection activity named “That’s Me – A Badal Do! Teacher” in which teachers who have been through this program, draw elongated ‘self-portraits’ as Badal Do teacher, imagining the change this program has brought in them.

Participants used crayons/oil pastels to draw and write anything they feel worthwhile besides their portraits to make it more valuable. At the end of activity participants explained the idea of those portraits and displayed then to celebrate and exhibit the spirit of Badal Do.

“Great activity carried out by SIE to express our idea of change. Badal Do Behterri Kay Liye” – Participant of Self-Reflection Activity.

SIE concludes Badal Do Talks in Schools
Society for International Education has successfully conducted twelve Badal Do Talks under the banner of ‘Badal Do’ Program since April, 2017. The Badal Do Talks aimed to address the change and its impact on the lives of the students, teachers and their communities.

The speakers including teaching and non-teaching staff from different schools in Karachi were selected and trained to participate in these Talks. The speakers were selected on the basis of Focused Group Discussions conducted at their respective schools. The number of beneficiaries in these Badal Do Talks was 541 including both males and females.

Badal Do Talks is a part of Badal Do project which aimed at inculcating reflective practice as an essential skill in teachers to help them transform themselves into advocates of peace, social inclusion, diversity and tolerance in classrooms and beyond.

Badal Do Talks is a really good effort. It gives people motivation to put more efforts for betterment of society and provides them a platform to have their voice heard. Such activities give inspiration to other people to step forward and work for a good cause.” – (Teacher from Practical Schooling System)
Workshop on “Amazing Presentations for Classrooms”

Society for International Education conducted a workshop titled “Create Amazing Presentations for Classrooms” on December 09th, 2017.

This four-hour workshop was held at Globe-the SIE Training Centre for school teachers, students and interested participants. Around 15 participants registered for this training from different schools of Karachi. Participants were given knowledge about creating powerful presentations, tips and techniques of making presentations interactive and attractive. During the course of this workshop, the participants were also taught about online collaboration through creating media (presentations and animations) according to their audience. This workshop helped teachers to learn about creating stunning presentations through different websites and apps which have made it even easier.

Enhance your Images with Adobe Photoshop

November 18th, 2017 – Society for International Education organized a one-day workshop on “Enhance your Images with Adobe Photoshop” for teachers and interested participants. In this workshop, 9 participants from different schools of Karachi participated to learn basic Photoshop skills for photo editing and other creative purposes. The participants were engaged in various hands on activities to learn basic software tools. Since the participants belonged to schools, the workshop focused at developing skills that would help them engage students in their classrooms to develop 21st century skills. The activities were designed to enhance their creativity as well as critical thinking skills. The participants learned about image enhancement and learnt basic tools like crop tool, selection tools, color correction, stamp tool etc. They also learned about basic color modes and settings used in basic graphics professional tasks like developing flyers and brochures. This workshop provided an opportunity to use these skills to create school print and promotional materials, like newspapers, school magazines, event flyers, brochures, reports, portfolios etc. with more creativity and professional touch.

School Leadership for 21st Century

Society for International Education conducted a workshop titled “Leadership for 21st Century” on November 25th, 2017. This four-hour workshop was held at Globe-the SIE Training Centre for school principals, administrators, management team members and teachers. Around 20 participants registered for this training from different schools citywide. The purpose of the workshop was to nurture the leadership skills and provide an understanding for the teachers and management relationship in order to support better teaching and learning process. The workshop was conducted by educationist Abbas Husain who focused on strategies to enhance leadership skills and finding solutions to challenges faced in running schools. He talked about improving academic learning and factors leadership team should analyze to solve education issues and bring transformation in school systems. The workshop highlighted some of the successful leadership styles and strategies to reflect the paradigm shift to focus on problem solving; improving instruction; being honest and noncompetitive; including time to observe instruction; and stimulate mutual professional growth. The activities and brainstorming sessions helped participants to discuss the situations they are facing and felt motivated to find solutions to the challenges faced at their schools.

iEARN VR360 Cultural Exchange Project

Society for International Education conducted a 2-day training for iEARN Online Collaborative project “IEARN Virtual Reality VR360 Cultural Exchange Project” on November 11 and November 17, 2017.

VR360 is an iEARN online cultural exchange project in which students from around the world exchange immersive 360 Virtual reality imagery of their communities as a way to exchange culture and celebrate diversity. iEARN Pakistan piloted this project with 18 students from grade 8 and 9 from three different schools in Karachi. Students were trained to use VR apps, camera and headgear to capture virtual 360 photos based on themes including documenting a day in their life at home or school, important places in the community, customs, traditions, life on the streets, or life in general. Students used Theta and other cell phone apps to capture images and then upload them to iEARN forums to share with other students. They described what they have captured in a short written.

For this purpose a photo-walk was arranged for students. They went to Sea View, Teen Talwar, Bin Qasim Park and Burns Road to collect images for their project. After Photo-Walk students reviewed their images and added captions and uploaded them to iEARN forums. They also posted their introduction on VR360 forum. Students were given assignments for next week and will be followed up for their work in forums. The workshop allowed students to explore virtual reality world and share their experiences, leading to cultural appreciation through virtual exposure to different places and cultures for better understanding and appreciation of diversity and people-to-people ties.
International Day of the Girl Child

YES Alumni conducted a one-day workshop with the students and community members in Faisalabad, Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar and Rawalpindi to celebrate the occasion of International Day of the Girl Child 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 led to a reasonable life. The students also discussed certain rights and responsibilities that women must claim during her different roles in the society. In addition, the alumni shared stories from the successful women in Pakistan who have done a tremendous work over the years. The students also discussed various challenges faced by women and brainstorm possible solutions towards them. Overall, the project was a great success nationwide with a total of 300 beneficiaries. The participants appreciated the efforts invested by YES alumni in this project and stressed upon the importance of such activities with the women in order to bring out the best in them and keeping them on the right track. The alumni also felt encouraged in this process and said that such activities are helpful overall in ensuring success of an important part of the society.

Career Counseling Workshop

YES alumni from Mardan carried out eight Career Counseling sessions for public and private school students on career counseling. The alumni team visited various schools in Mardan (public + private) and carried out awareness and counseling sessions in each school, specially focusing on 10th grade (X) students who will be going to college next year. It included interaction of students with volunteers from various universities who provided information about universities as well. Schools in Mardan don’t do counseling which results into disaster later when the students are doing intermediate. It can help them to find a good university according to their desired field. At the end of this productive workshop, it was widely appreciated by the students and the respective staff. It was quoted that it helped a lot of students for their future decisions and careers. Nearly 600 students participated from 8 schools and got benefitted from the activities.

Mental Health Awareness

YES alumni Islamabad carried out two day-long projects in Islamabad in which the participants were educated about mental health issues, how to tackle them and how to raise awareness about them so they can be incorporated in the daily lives. The participants had a chance to watch videos about various issues that prevail and how they can be taken forward. The alumni carried out certain activities and skits with the students to ensure that they understand the issues well and addressed them accordingly. A total of 100 children were benefitted in the project. The project was a great chance for the participants to do something out of routine, enjoy their day and learn new activities. In addition, the alumni were also extremely happy to participate in activities with the special students as they felt rewarded. Overall, the project was a great success.

YES Alumni Medical and Dengue Awareness Camps

YES Alumni Pakistan carried out eight Medical Camps and four Dengue Awareness Camps which served approximately 4,000 patients located in villages Charsadda, Faisalabad, Karachi, Mardan and Peshawar. In Pakistan, there is dire need of quality public health awareness as the mothers are not aware of prevention for small diseases that result in severe issue for families, which are not well-off and cannot afford medical tests and medicines. In order to address the issue, YES Alumni geared up to organize a series of medical awareness camps that not only provided medical tests but also the medicines to the targeted beneficiaries. Recently, Peshawar has been a victim of Dengue virus resulting in sudden deaths. Therefore, the alumni team members got together to educate the masses regarding ways in which they can stay away from the virus as well as various preventive measures. Overall, the project was a great success and provided the beneficiaries with guidance and medicines. The check-ups were done by a team of doctors and experts along with alumni volunteers that facilitated the patients. The beneficiaries appreciated the efforts of YES alumni and said that such activities are impact-full and provide direct benefit to the masses. They said that similar projects must be carried out in the future as well so the people can be educated regarding how to stay away from illnesses and adopt preventive measures. The alumni also found the project extremely impact-full and said that it is important to engage with the community in this manner. Overall, the series of camps was a great success.
Share a Bear - YES Christmas Projects

YES alumni Islamabad and Quetta reached out to the community and celebrated Christmas with the Christian population located in Islamabad and carried out two projects. The alumni celebrated the occasion with focus on spreading joy and happiness among the children as well as presented them with gifts. The children presented songs, skits and dramas in accordance with Christmas as well as showed their happiness through a couple of dances. The children also participated in some coloring activities by drawing Christmas related drawings. Towards the end of the day, a proper Christmas day prayer was conducted by the Pastor of the Church. The alumni presented children with gifts and presents which brightened up their day. Overall, the project was a great success and widely appreciated by the Church staff, Christian community and the alumni group members. A total of 150 children participated in the projects.

Personal Development Workshop

YES alumni Karachi conducted a one-day "Personal Development Workshop" where students got to learn about Importance of education and many countries including USA, Chile, Jordan, Spain and Costa Rica. Students also got to learn about the countries via short videos of foreign students talking about their culture and lifestyle. The alumni had a chance to share their expertise with the students and stressed the importance of cultural cohesion and diversity. Later, students put their outputs creatively by painting and presenting charts on countries mentioned above. A total of 30 students participated in the workshop. Overall, the project was a great success.

Special Education Project

YES alumni Islamabad carried out two day-long projects in Islamabad in which the participants were educated about mental health issues, how to tackle them and how to raise awareness about them so they can be incorporated in the daily lives. The participants had a chance to watch videos about various issues that prevail and how they can be taken forward. The alumni carried out certain activities and skits with the students to ensure that they understand the issues well and addressed them accordingly. A total of 100 children were benefited in the project. The project was a great chance for the participants to do something out of routine, enjoy their day and learn new activities. In addition, the alumni were also extremely happy to participate in activities with the special students as they felt rewarded. Overall, the project was a great success.

Health and Hygiene Awareness Project

YES Alumni conducted a presentation at children activity section (Punjab Institute of Cardiology) regarding the methods and ways in which diseases can be avoided during winters. The activities included drawing, coloring, skits and charts which explained the importance of cleanliness to avoid elements of diseases at hospital and home. They also learned about ways in which hand-washing is done successfully. Overall, the day focused on highlighting healthy patterns for the better. A total of 50 children participated in the project. The alumni distribute hygiene kits to the patients. The project was widely appreciated by the staff and encouraged the alumni to carry out similar activities in future as well.

Sports Gala Projects

YES alumni Charsadda, Faisalabad, Karachi and Rawalpindi organized a day-long Inter-School Competitions in their respective cities including four sports i.e. cricket, soccer, badminton, volleyball and table tennis. The students were divided in various teams and later participated in healthy competitions with an opportunity to showcase their talents. The students had an opportunity to learn about other sports in United States and how they can continue to improve their health through sports. Overall, the students had a chance to enjoy the day out of their usual routines and spend time with their peers. Nearly 300 students and teachers participated in the activity. The activities were widely appreciated by the school administrations and said that this was a fantastic chance for their students to learn regarding the importance of sports and extracurricular activities. The students also said that they feel very fresh and relaxed after the activities and hoped to continue engaging in similar activities in future as well. Overall, the projects were a success.
Teaching Math through Activities and Games

Nov 4 2017- Society for International Education organized a one-day workshop that focused on Teaching Math through Activities and Games for 14 public and private school teachers from five different schools citywide.

The purpose of the workshop was to develop ways that allow students explore fundamental number concepts, such as the counting sequence, one-to-one correspondence, and computation strategies. Such activities afford opportunities for students to deepen their mathematical understanding and reasoning. This professional development workshop provided teachers an opportunity to learn ways for students to play games and do interactive activities, then let the mathematical ideas emerge as students learn new strategies.

The workshop turned out to be greatly successful as it met the objects of the professional development for teachers’ criteria that allowed teachers to develop strategic mathematical thinking for their students and help find different strategies for solving problems and deepen their understanding of numbers. During the workshop, teachers were encouraged to engage students in activities that involved games and real-world applications, allowing them to explore mathematical concepts in a practical and meaningful way.

Video Discussions (وڈیو مذاکرے)

Society for International Education conducted a workshop for Urdu teachers titled "Video Discussions", an innovative teaching approach for Urdu language teachers. 12 teachers from different schools in Karachi attended this exciting workshop at SIE training Centre.

The workshop was conducted by Khurram Ali Shafique, a research consultant with Iqbal Academy Pakistan and recipient of the Presidential Iqbal Award, which he received for his unique work on Iqbal. The facilitator shared interesting video clips, which can be shown in classrooms, to increase the interest level of students and love for Urdu language. The discussions on videos helps inculcate the positive set of values in students like patriotism, cultural ownership and the respect for elderly.

The workshop introduced this concept to teachers so that they learn skills to develop custom activities for classroom teaching on any video of their choice and incorporate it in their Urdu language classrooms. One of the participants said, "اس ورکشاپ کے نتیجے میں میںے ذہن میں بہت سے نئی خیالات رونما ہویں اور مجھے پیت میں میں اپنے میڈیا کے ذرائع کا استعمال میں لانے کی اپنی اپنی میں کا انتباہ کیا ہے۔ بہت زیادہ معلومات بنی تھیں اور وکشاپ نیا ".