

WORKSHOP ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT



Participants of Disaster Management Workshop at Mirpur

The workshop was held on 21st October 2015 at Pearl continental Hotel Muzaffarabad. More than 25 individuals participated, representatives of the governmental and non-governmental institutions that work in the field of disaster risk reduction such as governorates, ministries, civil defense, University of AJK, Islamic Relief, SDMA, as well as representative of several international organizations participated in the workshop. The work-shop was divided into 5 sessions. The 1st session was dedicated to underline the disaster risk reduction approaches in Pakistan. The 2nd session

discussed the health focused DRR in AJK, 3rd session highlighted disaster risk reduction with Gender lens, 4th session discussed the road map towards disaster resilient and safer AJK and to evaluate the effectiveness of the workshop in achieving its objectives the 5th session was devoted to final discussion and suggestions.



Group Presentation

LUNCH MEETING ISLAMABAD

Kashmir Institute of International Relations organized a lunch meeting on 16th of Nov, 15 at Islamabad Club, Islamabad. This meeting, followed by lunch, was attended by 2nd cadre leadership, members of Kashmiri



Participants of the workshop

ABOUT NEWSLETTER

Kashmir Institute of International Relations has started Quarterly Newsletter to highlight the activities that KIIR and its partner organizations and other civil society groups carry out for the promotion of peace building initiatives so that space for dialogue and reconciliation is created in the conflict ridden region. The main purpose of launching the KIIR Newsletter is to create awareness and sense of hope in civil society activists that their voice counts and does reflect in the future policy planning of the governments and policymaking institutions. In this regard KIIR is thankful to Conciliation Resources London (CR) for their support and Centre for Peace, Development and Reforms, Kashmir Initiative Group for their contributions. KIIR will welcome other civil society groups who are involved in Kashmir, to send their activities for circulation and sharing.

ABOUT KIIR

Kashmir Institute of International Relations is a non-profit, non-partisan, non-governmental organization established in 1993 in Muzaffarabad, Azad Kashmir. With the motto of "Peace through Dialogue" KIIR is working for a peaceful South Asia. KIIR believes that peace can only be achieved by the resolution of the Kashmir dispute through substantive dialogue between India, Pakistan and Kashmiris.

To achieve this goal, KIIR has engaged policymakers and policy implementers: Members of Parliament, Political Activists, Lawyers, Journalists, Academics and Social Activists. KIIR is working to enhance the capacity of Kashmiri civil society actors in the areas of reconciliation, negotiation skills and conflict resolution. The objective of these initiatives is to facilitate dialogue that is conducive to reconciliation and peace in the region.



Sardar Amjad Yousaf Khan & Mr. Altaf Hussain Wani during the workshop

Youth Alliance, members of Youth Forum for Kashmir, members of Kashmir Youth Assembly, Lady Councilor from Britain and two lady members from British Kashmiri Diaspora.

Participants exchanged their ideas and strategies to empower youth in AJK and to implement local actions that can achieve greater and better recognized representation on local, national and international level.



UK Lady Counselor speaking to participants

WOMEN MEETINGS ON LINE OF CONTROL- AZAD JAMMU KASHMIR

(POONCH DIVISION)

Through a series of meetings, KIIR decided to reach out to women living along LOC in order to document their experiences and to develop first hand understanding of their issues and challenges. For this KIIR organized meetings at Battal, Taroti & Nakkarkot on 16th, 17th & 18th Nov, 15 respectively:

16th Nov, 2015- women meeting Battal

17th Nov, 2015-women meeting Taroti

18th Nov, 2015-Women meeting Nakkarkot



Participants of the Workshop



All these three sectors are just few meters from LOC, due to close proximity these areas become almost inaccessible during cross LOC firing and shelling. The discussion in the meeting highlighted the role and challenges particularly faced by women living along LOC.

WORKSHOP WITH REFUGEE STUDENTS AT MUZAFFARABAD

MUZAFFARABAD

On 21st of November 2015, Kashmir Institute of International Relations organized a one day workshop in Muzaffarabad Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The main objective was to evaluate the



Mr. Altaf Hussain Wani, Director Programs, introducing the objectives of workshop

understanding of migrant youth about the ongoing movement in occupied Kashmir, analyze their capacity and capability, their knowledge of conflict, how do they feel they are affected by the conflict and what role they find themselves in its resolution and the role of government of Azad Kashmir and Pakistan.

The discussion was structured on the basis of some questions to test the knowledge of participants about Kashmir issue, its historical background and the



Participants of the Workshop



Participant's group photo with Ms. Atia Anwer Zoon

ongoing movement in Indian Occupied Kashmir. Students were very pleased with the exercises carried out during the day and said such workshops would definitely be helpful in capacity building.

WOMEN WORKSHOP MUZAFFARABAD

MUZAFFARABAD

On 22 November 2015, a day-long women workshop was held in Muzaffarabad-AJK. It was attended by a diverse group of twenty six women including lawyers, media person, lecturers and students from AJK University, teachers from



Group Activity



Group Activity

private sector schools. The agenda of the workshop was divided in three main sessions. In order to ensure active participation, the women were divided in smaller groups during each session and they were engaged in group discussions followed by presentations. This strategy proved very helpful in eliciting very rich and productive response from the participants.

The workshop concluded on a very positive note with all the participants feeling very motivated and inspired. We received very appreciative and encouraging feedback from the participants.



Sardar Amjad Yousaf Khan, Executive Director KIIR, with other participants of workshop

LUNCH MEETING WITH JOURNALISTS

Lunch meeting, with editors was organized by Kashmir Institute of International Relations on 13th Dec, 2015 at Islamabad Club, Islamabad. Workshop was attended by editors/journalists, Sardar Amjad Yousaf Khan, Raja Kafeel, Basharat Abbasi, Khawaja Mateen, Zahid Tabbasum, Azadar



Sardar Amjad Yousaf Khan, Executive Director KIIR, discussing workshop objectives

Hussain Shah, Eijaz Abbasi, Shehzad Rathor, Adnan Abbasi, Sajjad Shah and Ch Riaz took part in the discussion. The meeting participants discussed the Nawaz-Modi meeting which was held on 3rd of Dec, 2015 in Nepal. Participants discussed the Indo-Pak relations in the context of Kashmir Issue. The meeting



Sardar Amjad Yousaf Khan, Executive Director KIIR, discussing workshop objectives

participants also converse about the role of media in election coverage and further they discussed the various issues & challenges faced by journalist during the election coverage. A rewarding and fulfilling workshop no doubt as the theme was designed to enhance the capacity of journalists to report the imminent AJK 2016 elections.

CIVIL SOCIETY WORKSHOP ON FREE & FAIR ELECTIONS IN AJK/ KASHMIR

On 25th of December, 2015, Kashmir Institute of International Relations organized a workshop titled "Civil Society Workshop on Free & Fair Elections in AJK/ Kashmir" at Regency Hotel Mirpur-Azad Kashmir.

The participants included Ch Saeed, Dr Amin Chaudhry and Raja Naveed Akhter Goga of PML-N AJK, Ch Munir Hussain Advocate of PPP (Shaheed Bhutto) AJK, retired bureaucrat Shoukat Majeed Chaudhry, Research scholar

and broadcaster Muhammad Shakeel, academicians Prof Qazi Zubair and Prof Sagheer Aasi, Altaf Hamid, Sohrab Ahmed Khan and Khawaja Shahid Mehmood and economist Rao Hassan Ejaz.

Participants at workshop called for electoral reforms, computerized pictorial lists of voters, display of CNICs for casting ballots & also suggested various measures before the announcement of the schedule of the forthcoming general elections in Azad Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly in mid of 2016. They also proposed measures to build the capacity of electoral staff.

JOURNALIST ROLE IN CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION

Kashmir Institute of International Relations organized a workshop with journalists in Mirpur on 26th of December 2015. Participants included Altaf Hamid Rao, Adnan Jabbar Mughal, Sajjad Jarral, Sohrab Khan, Asif Arbab, KH. Shahid, Ch. Saqib Tariq, Muhammad Shakeel, Zafar Mughal, M. Zafeer Baber, Shuja Jarral, Kamran Abid Bukhari and Rana Shabbir attended the workshop.

Participants discussed that free and fair election requires a transparent electoral process and for this there is a need to



Participants at Journalist Role in Conflict Transformation

ensure transparency in elections that no candidate or political party engage in violence and political party competing should respect the rights and freedom of others and accept the election results. Government has a major role in conducting and ensuring free and fair elections.



Sardar Amjad Yousaf Khan, Executive Director KIIR & Mr. Altaf Hussain Wani, Director Programs during the Muzaffarabad Workshop

WOMEN WORKSHOP

MIRPUR-AJK

KIIR organized women workshop in Mirpur Azad Kashmir on 26th of December 2015. The workshop was attended by all female participants who came from diverse professions including: political activists,



Participants engaged in the discussion



Participants engaged in the discussion

women entrepreneurs, women from radio, women police officers, university professors, students, and social activists. The interesting thing about this meeting was that we had three women police officers as participants which was the first time that we were able to interact with these women who had an experience of working and surviving in typically male dominated professional domain. Listening to their professional journey of chance and challenge was quite an inspiration and role model for all of us as women. Participants appreciated the idea of advocacy campaign for reservation of female quote in local bodies of AJK.

MUZAFFARABAD WORKSHOP

On 6th of January, 2016, Kashmir Institute of International Relations organized a workshop at Muzaffarabad Azad Kashmir. This workshop was part of the series of workshops to integrate refugees of 1990 with the local mass and to find out their understanding about conflict and to find out how can they act as an agent of change in conflict transformation. Almost 60 participants took part in the workshop, most of the participants were University level students from refugee camps in Muzaffarabad and local students of Azad Kashmir University.

It was noted that if there is an exchange of cultural and local musical groups or if such structures are created, this will on one hand promote a unified culture of the disputed state and on other hand will help in conflict transformation. Such exchanges will end the frustration, division and create a harmonious atmosphere.

WORKSHOP ON FREE & FAIR ELECTIONS IN AJK/ KASHMIR

Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR) organized a workshop on 7th January 2016 to seek suggestions how to make upcoming general elections in Azad Kashmir free, fair and transparent, which was largely appreciated by journalists and other opinion makers.



The participants were of the view that impartial Election Commission was necessary to hold the election in free and fair manner while in Azad Kashmir, biased election commission cannot attain the desired results. The participants also suggested that necessary legislation should be made to fix responsibility of bogus voting against presiding officer if proved and specific bags could be reopened during the official counting. Election petitions should be disposed off within three months and for this purpose, number of election tribunals be increased.

About Kashmir Initiative Group (KIG)

KIG mission statement: "An intra-Kashmir peace building platform, building bridges between community perspectives and policy-makers."

Aims of KIG

- To influence policy strategy
- To engage in advocacy
- To promote peace and reconciliation
- To empower local narratives through advocacy, research, and capacity-building.
- To network/provide a platform for peace.
- To provide Kashmiris more agency
- To bridge local level civil society with policy makers

MEMBERS:

1. Dr. Shujaat Bukhari, Convener, Senior Journalist, Srinagar
2. Ershad Mahmud, Co-Convener
3. Asma Khan Lone, Analyst, Islamabad/New Dehli.
4. Dr. Shaheen Akhtar, Ass. Prof, National Defence University (NDU)
5. Fayaz Ahmed Dar, Researcher and Social Activist
6. Javaid Hayat Khan, Researcher and Political Analyst, Berlin.
7. M. Ismail Khan, Public Policy & Regional Cooperation Specialist, Islamabad
8. Dr. Parikshat Singh Manhas, Prof, University of Jammu
9. Sardar Amjad Yousaf Khan, Executive Director, Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR) AJK
10. Shafat N. Ahmad, Lawyer and Co-founder of Centre of Law & Development Policy, Srinagar
11. Zafar Choudhary, Journalist, Jammu

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