

Sanayee Development Organization (SDO)



Report

Of

Annual Assembly of Peace Trainers (08 – 12) August, 2009



ASSEMBLY DETAILS:

- a. Goal:** to work together to strengthen SDO's Community Based Peace Building Program
- b. Objectives:**
- to provide the opportunity for Peace Building (PB) Trainers to share their experience with one another, strengthening the peace building process
 - to accumulate new learning from the PB Trainers
 - to introduce peace builders from different provinces to each other and to the main office staff
 - to evaluate SDO's work by discussing achievements and problems
 - to discover problems in the PB workshop curriculum and correct them accordingly
 - to develop a new format for case studies and reporting.
- c. Facilitators:**
- Mohammad Kabir Rahimyar (Capacity Building Manager)
 - Ali Ahmad Shirzai (Capacity Building Master Trainer)
 - Dr. Abdul Ghafar (Capacity Building Master Trainer)
- d. Date and Place:**
- 08 – 12 August, 2009
 - Sitara Restaurant, Shahr-e-Naw, Kabul, Afghanistan
- e. Participants:** Thirty four PB Trainers from Kabul, Herat, Balkh, Ghazni, Faryab and Badghis provinces

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

SDO held its annual assembly in August 2009, with the purpose of providing an opportunity for all of SDO's peace building trainers to share their experiences with one another. The main issues discussed were the role of Peace Shuras (Peace Councils) in the community, the drafting of a single reporting and case study format for peace activities, recent achievements, issues of gender and human rights within peace building workshops, arbitration or mediation, methods of facilitating Peace Building workshops, and the major constraints facing SDO's peace building programs. The floor was also opened for new suggestions and recommendations.

ASSEMBLY CONTENTS:

The following were the main issues discussed in the assembly:

- Introduction to the activities of the Capacity Building Department of SDO
- Introduction to the publications of SDO in the sector of peace building
- Introduction to peace activities in Kabul, Herat, Ghazni, Balkh and Faryab provinces
- Introduction to Peace Education in Madrasahs in Kabul
- Topics to be eliminated from SDO's peace workshops
- Collecting new topics for inclusion in SDO's peace workshops
- Problems that have arisen and possible solutions
- The role and responsibilities of peace Shuras
- Development of a new format for case studies
- Development of a new format for reporting
- Gender and its importance in peace building
- importance of work group in workshops
- Importance of building team in peace building process
- Human rights and its role in peace building
- Effective methods for facilitating peace building workshops
- Mediation
- Conflict tree
- Conflict analysis through use of graphs
- Identification of the roots, concepts and methods of resolving conflicts)
- Evaluation of the annual assembly

METHODS:

- Discussion
- Picture show
- Work groups
- Practice
- Mental mobilization
- Questions and answers
- Role plays, etc



ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Introduced SDO staff to peace building trainers
- Reports presented by each provincial peace building team concerning their main activities, achievements, problems, etc.
- Developed a new format for case studies and reporting

- Sharing of experience and strengthening of capacity of PB trainers in human rights, gender, team building, problem analysis and finding ways
- Reviewed Peace Curriculum and made appropriate edits

Topics which were newly added to the Curriculum:

- Effective relations
- Nonviolent Communication
- Suitable decisiveness
- Community based cooperation
- Human Rights
- Gender
- Team Building
- More Concentration on jealousy, reconciliation, mediation phases, rights and responsibilities and problem analysis

Topics which were omitted from the Curriculum:

- Aimed conflicts and accidental conflicts
- Conflict analysis through square triangle tools

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It is very necessary to specify the activities and role of Peace Shura in the community. During the monitoring visit from Faryab Province, the team found out that a Peace Shura had intervened in murder case to resolve it due to people's request. Peace Shura, as a civil society local entity, cannot intervene in murder, theft and other criminal cases. It is the responsibility of local judicial system to deal with such cases; therefore, SDO decided to raise this issue in the assembly so that the role and responsibilities of Peace Shura are specified. In the assembly, after some series of discussions, the trainers specified the following activities and responsibilities for the Peace Shura:

1. Peace Shura can intervene to resolve conflicts which are over the following issues:

- Ownership (land, house, farm, mountain, etc)
- Nongovernmental rangeland
- Water resources (pool, watercourse, river, rivulet, etc)
- Family (wedding, dowry, divorce, inheritance, etc)

2. Peace Shura cannot intervene to resolve conflicts over the following issues, but can struggle to avoid them from happening:

- Drinking wine
- Drug use
- Smuggling
- Bribery
- Corruption

3. Peace Shura can not intervene to resolve conflicts over the following issues, but can work to build relations between conflicting parties and avoid further violence.

- Rape
- Beating and injuring
- All kinds of murders (intentional, accidental)

- Burglary

Other Responsibilities:

1. Preach and promote culture of peace, taking into account the Islamic values and positive cultures of people
2. Avoid violent conflicts and work for a peaceful environment.
3. Mobilize people to take part in activities and decisions related to public interest.
4. Help people develop their society in sectors of education, health, etc
5. Actively take part in assisting the people to solve their conflicts and problems peacefully.
6. Promote and fortify useful methods for resolving conflicts and replacing them with the methods not very practical.
7. Be a link among people, central shura, district administration and other organizations for better communication among them and facilitate a ground for holding meetings among them.
8. Hold meetings on need basis.

As a civil society body, we train Peace Shuras to help bring peace in their communities. Each Peace Shura is responsible for transforming conflicts and avoiding violence. In Afghan society, it is usually the elders who make decisions between conflicting parties and this culture of arbitration exists from centuries in Afghanistan. However, we do not train arbitrators, but mediators who should only facilitate the environment for conflicting parties to solve their conflict themselves. In specifying the role of Peace Shura, this point was focused a lot so that the trend of arbitration leaves its place to mediation.

Another main issue was focusing on importance of human rights and gender in Peace Building workshops. Different methods and possibilities were discussed to be used in delivering these issues more practically and easily for the workshop participants, especially those illiterate. It was decided that these issues be facilitated by videos, pictures, real stories, role plays, discussions, etc.