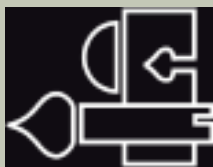


INTERACTION

A NEWSLETTER OF THE HENRY MARTYN INSTITUTE:

International Centre for Research, Interfaith Relations and Reconciliation



Volume 33, No.2
July-December 2012

Index

Editorial

Page 3

Academic Activities

Page... 4-5

Post Graduate Diploma Courses

Language Programme

Annual Summer Course

Interns

Seminars/Lectures

Library

Publications

Praxis Activities

Pages...6-13

Community Development

Aman Shanti Community Activities

Interfaith Building Initiatives

Young Men's Initiatives

HIV/AIDS Project

Partnering for Peace Project

Conflict Transformation

CT Workshops

Support for Peace Initiatives

Networking & Collaborations

Internships

Publication and Dissemination

Management

Pages 14-16

Administration

Hostel, Personnel

Community Events

Board & other meetings

HMI Newsletter
Volume 33, no. 2
July - December 2012

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Interaction, the newsletter of the Henry Martyn Institute, is published twice yearly.

The Henry Martyn Institute (HMI) established in 1930, is a study and praxis oriented centre specialising in the study of Islam and working for reconciliation between people of all faiths. HMI's efforts are in response to the contemporary context of inter-religious misunderstanding and violence, and it promotes activities that remove prejudice, resolve conflict and increase trust and cooperation between individuals and groups.

Academic programmes at HMI include a nine-month Post-Graduate Diploma in Islam and Interfaith Relations, one year Post-Graduate Diploma in Conflict Transformation, Peace-Building and Interfaith Relations, and a Master of Theology Degree Programme in Islam offered through the Senate of Serampore and Luther Seminary in USA. Each May, the Institute also organises a two-week intensive Summer Course on Islam and Interfaith Relations. HMI also offers daily language classes in Arabic, Urdu, and Persian, a ten-week Intensive Summer Language Programme and a two-week Peace Building Programme.

HMI's commitment to the work of reconciliation translates into ongoing Praxis programmes for building bridges of understanding between Muslims, Hindus and others at grass-root levels. This includes practical work in three community development centres in slum neighbourhoods of Hyderabad, an HIV-AIDS awareness programme, and short and long-term training programmes in conflict transformation and peace building.

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Editorial



World is passing through various forms of revolution, and communication revolution is one such. It is true electronic media has overtaken other medias, but still the printed word holds a place of importance in our world. It becomes an enduring means of communication, and is helpful to build up relationship. It is with this motive that we continue to communicate with you through our newsletter – **Interaction**. You get a glimpse into the activities of the institute during the last six months of 2012. Much water has flown under the bridge and many are the activities that we entered into trying to uphold the high ideals of the institute. A good many NGOs took advantage of our facilities and conducted workshops over here, thus cementing our friendship, and making our relationship more meaningful. We are aware that perfection is not possible as we need the help of many hands to run such programmes. But still with all limitations we could achieve much, and we can be justly proud of our achievements. What we look forward is your constant encouragement and suggestions to improve our performance.

As we know mankind is passing through difficult times, and we need concerted effort to bring about changes in the concrete situations that we are facing. This being a herculean task it is not easy to achieve single handedly; we need the support of one another for strengthening and revamping our energies for facing up to the challenges that come our way. In fact our strength has been the support of our partners and well-wishers, who have offered their unflinching and generous help. If not for this ready availability of various groups of people all our efforts would have been fruitless. We acknowledge our debt of gratitude to all those who have made our hands strong through their generosity and constant encouragement. Also we want to let you know that we are aware of our limitations, but still we want to strive as best as we can and achieve all that we can by taking into account the vicissitudes and givenness of the situation. We are urged on by hope, the greatest asset of the human being, that the good Lord will not let us down and will walk with us giving us the assurance of a better future. We seek your continued support and good will for bringing into effect the goals we have set before us. May the God of peace and joy accompany your life's journey guiding every step of yours so that you can march ahead without faltering.

Varghese Manimala
Chief Editor



Academic Activities

Study Programmes

Post-Graduate Diploma Program in Islamic Studies

Mr. Allen P. Joseph (Kerala), Mr. A. Sathia Rabbin Das (Tamilnadu) and Ms. Hniang Cin Thluai (Myanmar) have joined for the nine months' Post-Graduate Diploma Course in Islamic and Interreligious Studies from July 2012 to end of March 2013.

Language Course

Rev. Yatala Jeyaraj (Hyderabad) and Rev. Sudhakar Mondithoka (Hyderabad) had enrolled for Urdu Language Course in the month of June and July respectively. Mr. K. Lalrinzuala (Mizoram), Mr. B. Jacob (Hyderabad) and Ms. Hniang Cin Thluai (Myanmar) had joined for Arabic Language Course in the month of September. Sr. Marie Anne (Kerala), Sr. Shobha D'Sami (Tamilnadu) and Sr. Silvia Francis (Kerala) had enrolled for Arabic Language Course in the month of October.

Interns

Ms. Christina von Eye (Hamburg, Germany) completed her five months internship in the month of September 2012. Ms. J. Jesus Sola Gratia (Tamilnadu) is currently interning at HMI since July 2012.

Seminars

On 23rd August, a joint one day Symposium was organized by the Department of Philosophy, Central University of Hyderabad, and Henry Martyn Institute at the University. Fifty students and faculty members from both the institutions participated in this Seminar. The programme was



Dr. Varghese Manimala delivering lecture at HCU

conducted under the title "The Concept of Religious Plurality". Fr. Dr. Varghese Manimala, the Director and Rev. Dr. M. M. Abraham, the Associate Director-Academic department of Henry Martyn Institute presented their papers on pluralism.

A three day seminar of HMI in Collaboration with SCEPTRE, under the Senate of Serampore University, Kolkata on the theme of "Religions Pluralism & Dialogue" was held in Kolkata.



Dr. M. M. Abraham from HMI, Hyderabad and Dr. Aswathy from Serampore College

Around fifty five participants from various institutions from West Bengal and North East participated. It was held from 29th to 31st August. Fr. Dr. Varghese Manimala, and Rev. Dr. M. M. Abraham, the presented their papers on various subjects like "Pluralism and Dialogue", "Basic teachings of Islam", Muslim, personal Law, etc. Sincere thanks to Dr. M. T. Cherian for the wonderful cooperation.

A three day seminar of HMI was held at Clark Theological College (CTC), Nagaland for B.D 3rd year students from 13th to 15th November. Fr. Dr. Varghese Manimala, and Rev. Dr. M. M. Abraham took classes on "Islam and Interfaith Relations". Sixty one students participated in the Seminar. Dr. M. M. Abraham took one class for M.Th theology students. Dr. Varghese Manimala conducted a faculty seminar on "Challenges of



Dr. MM Abraham and Dr. Varghese Manimana at CTC



Dr. Abraham with St. Thomas Apostolic Seminary students

the Modern World that Confront the Church and Society: Search for Viable Alternatives and solutions to the Groans of the World.”

A course on Islam was conducted at the St. Thomas Apostolic Seminary, Vadavathoor, Kottayam, Kerala from 10th to 14th December. The course was offered to the first year theology students at the seminary. Forty one students attended the course. Dr. M. M. Abraham took the classes. The students actively participated in the discussions. On the final day afternoon (14th Dec), an exposure visit was arranged to the town mosque in Kottayam. The Maulavi explained the rituals and practices of Muslims to the students.

A three day seminar of HMI in collaboration with Vishwa Jyoti, Gurukul, Christ Nagar, Varanasi, and Maitri Bhavan, Varanasi, was held at Christ Nagar, Varanasi, from 29th to 31st December. The theme of the seminar was “Religions for Human Welfare & World Peace”. The Seminar was inaugurated by Rt. Rev. Dr. Raphy Manjali, the Catholic Bishop of Varanasi. In his speech he highlighted the



Resource persons with Rt. Rev. Dr. Raphy Manjali

role of Indian philosophy and culture in the enrichment of religious harmony and peace. Resource persons from Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism and Bahai Religion, presented papers. Dr. Varghese Manimala and Dr. M. M. Abraham from Henry Martyn Institute gave input sessions on Religious Pluralism and Dialogue, Buddhist Nirvana & Compassion, Islamic Mysticism and Christian Muslim Relations. Students and faculty members of Christ Nagar philosophate, sisters from different congregations attended the seminar. All the participants emphasized the need for promoting interfaith initiatives.

Group Visits to HMI

Rev. Stephen Astrid led a youth delegation of the Evangelical Church of Wiesbaden, Germany (www.stajupfa.de) on a visit to HMI and their partner churches of C.S.I Krishna Godavari Diocese as part of their “Visit India” programme. The purpose of their visit was to know more about how the Indian Christians live as a minority in India, and the way Indian Church functions in the very plural Indian cultural setting.

Library

HMI has a well-stocked library of over 24000 volumes. Acquisition is based on the requirement of students, faculty, research scholars and workshop participants covering the topics on religion and Islamic Studies, Gender Studies, Conflict Transformation, Peace-building and Interfaith issues, Philosophy and Sociology. During the Financial the library added 243 titles on these subjects. HMI 's library receives periodicals 82 in exchange with HMI's Journal, 24 journals by subscription and 24 journals and newsletters in gratis. The periodicals section has been changed into an eco-friendly by installing air-coditioner.

Publications

JHMI: Journal of Henry Martyn Institute, Vol 31, no. 1&2, 2012 publishing as combined issue which will be published in February 2013. HMI's Newsletter Interaction vol. 33, no. 1 issue, January – June 2012 was published in August. Director's Annual Report for the year 2011-2012 was published in September. Our two forth coming books are papers on Mysticism and Sufi Movement East and & West.



Praxis Activities

Community Development

The present report highlights the Community Development program which includes Aman Shanti Community Centres, Young Men's Initiative, HIV/AIDS Project and Partnering for Peace Project. Through these programmes we observe that interfaith dialogue and peace building processes are strengthened among the Hindu and Muslim communities.

Aman Shanti Community Centres

Education



School children at sultan shahi centre

Interfaith Primary-level school offers education to 99 students from Hindu, Muslim and Dalit communities.

Twenty five young women benefit from the Literacy classes organized in Sultan Shahi and Shankernagar centres. During the Newspaper reading sessions students discuss about the local situation and community issues. These interactive sessions help the students to develop friendship with one another and also gain self confidence.

Coaching classes at Chandrayangutta centre have been offered as a bridge class for twenty eight girls and boys to complete their regular education.

School students' Parents meetings are conducted regularly to discuss about the children's education and also to discuss about the community issues.



Young women at Tailoring and Embroidery training

Vocational Training

One hundred and forty young women attended the Tailoring, Hand Embroidery, Literacy, Mehndi and Typing courses during this period from the three projects.

Indoor games like chess, ludo and caroms etc have been organized for young women. Young women enjoy these games a lot and are also able to develop better relationship with each other through games.

Students meetings are organized every month in which issues related to health, hygiene, religious festival celebrations, etc, are discussed. Young women acknowledge that through these meetings they are able to gain new experience and also strengthen their leadership skills. One of the outcomes of the meeting we see is that 30 Young women from Shanker Nagar and Chandrayangutta have registered for the Andhra Pradesh Open School Society education offered by the government to pursue higher education.

Health

697 patients from both Hindu and Muslim communities benefited from the health services in the clinic.

With the assistance from the Local Urban Health Post (UHP) free health camps have been organized in the community to screen the health problems among the community members at the earliest stages in all the three centres. Awareness was

also generated about the different ArogyaShri (Health benefits offered by the government) schemes.

Polio Vaccinations, D.P.T and Tetanus injections/ vaccinations through the local UHP are given to the children in all the three centres.

More than One fifty women attended the monthly health talks on Malaria, Tuberculosis, Leprosy, Breast Cancer and HIV/AIDS organized by local UHP and Lepira Society in all the three centres on different occasions.

Thirty eight community members visited Public Health Museum as a part of exposure to understand the different health and hygiene concepts. For most of the women it is experience they cherish for a long time as they are able to understand the different health concepts through the practical display observations.

In collaboration with Safa Baithulmal Health Camp was organized in Chandrayangutta in December. Thirty one members benefitted from the camp.

Forty community members were screened for the eye problems in Chandrayangutta centre, among them five had problems related to cataract and eye sight. They were taken to the Kishore Chandra Hospital, Old City and treatment was given to them.

Community Development

Local women are undertaking tailoring job from the different local marketing outlets and making an earning from it. Women continue to make Surf for domestic supplies, and take up bag stitching order in Shanker nagar centre. Agarbathi (Incense sticks) training and Papad making are the new training programmes taken up in this centre.

Twenty community members from Chandrayangutta have received a job order of stitching school uniforms.

One of our Tailoring students from Sultan Shahi centre got employment as Tailoring teacher in Shaheen Centre.

More than five hundred members have availed different government schemes from the three centres. The project staff members assisted them to get the Voter ID, Ration Card, Aadhar Card, Widow and Old Age Pension.

Interfaith Building Initiatives

The different programs organized at the three centres as a part of building interfaith relations and encouraging dialogue among the members are as follows:

Iftaar Party, Rakhi and Ramzan festival were jointly celebrated as Hindu and Muslim festivals in the centres. School students, tailoring students and community members from both Hindu and Muslim communities jointly participated in the interfaith religious celebration occasions.

Teachers' Day, Children's' Day and Friendship Day were celebrated in Sultan Shahi, Shanker Nagar and Chandrayangutta. On these occasions students from different faiths participated in the cultural events, and thus helped to foster peaceful relations with one another.

General

South Asia Peace Workshop - Ms. Shabana Sultana, Ms. Fatima Begum and Ms. Amreen Fatima attended Workshop on Facilitation and peace building skills and Ms. K. Babitha attended Writing workshop to produce essays, articles and monographs for Peace and Justice Work in September 2012.

Ms. Vani, Ms. Amreen Fatima and Ms. Noorie Begum attended the Regional meeting on Child Marriages and Role of Civil society was organized by Shaheen Women's Resource and Welfare Association from 17th to 18th October 2012 in the Old City, Hyderabad.

Ms. Madhavi Latha, Ms. Shahnaz Fatima and Ms. Noorie Begum have joined the six months Pre Primary Teachers Training Course at SETWIN, Charminar in November 2012.

Ms. Jahan Ara, Ms. Sribala and Ms. Fatima Begum attended the International Human Rights Day organized by Asmita Resource Centre for Women on 10th December 2012.

Praxis and Academic team members attended the felicitation meeting of Sri S. Umapathi (former IG, CID) on 12th December organized by Forum for civil society organizations of Andhra Pradesh.

Ms. Jahan Ara and Ms. Asma Nuzath gave an Adolescent Girls health awareness and sensitization talk to the Government School students in the Old city on 29th December 2012 organized by Centre for Women's Studies.



Mentoring

Mrs. Christina von Eye an intern at HMI and Ms. Heike Kluge a scholar from Germany were mentored during this term. They were able to understand the practical aspects of interfaith dialogue among the Hindu and Muslim communities.

Visitors

Honorable Member of the Legislative Assembly Mrs. Christine Lazarus visited HMI's Community Development – Aman Shanti Community Centre, Sultan Shahi on 20th November and interacted with all the project staff members.

Members from the Community Development Forum, Nepal visited Sultan Shahi Centre on 10th December.

International Conference

International Festival (Vårdlens Fest) of the Church of Sweden organized at Malmö, from 7th to 9th September. Dr. Varghese Manimala, Director of HMI and Ms. Jahan Ara Begum, Coordinator, CD Programmes, participated in the festival and shared about the HMI's Interfaith & Peacebuilding Community Development Model and the different peacebuilding strategies that we have been implementing among the religiously divided communities in the Old city of Hyderabad.

Dr. Varghese Manimala, Director, Ms. Jahan Ara Begum, Coordinator, CD Programmes and Ms. Arshia Ahmed Ayub, Associate Facilitator, CT programmes attended the inauguration ceremony of the King Abdullah Bin AbdulAziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID) Centre in Vienna on 26th November. In the Symposium Jahan Ara and Arshia Ahmed Ayub shared HMI's 'Best Practices in Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue' from Community Development and Conflict Transformation work.



Arshia, Manimala and Jahan Ara at symposium

Young Men's Initiative Project

Vocational/technical training

'Computer Hardware/Networking' and 'Air-condition & Refrigeration' courses are continued to be offered for the young men. Fifteen young Hindu and Muslim men are undergoing computer hardware training, and ten of them have taken up A/C and Refrigeration course.

'Typing classes' are carried out with ten students participating in it.

Peace Meetings

Peace meeting in view of '*Ganesh Festival*' was conducted in September. Forty young men from both the Hindu and Muslim backgrounds participated in the programme.

Peace meeting in view of '*6th December*' (Babri Masjid demolition anniversary) was conducted in December. Forty five young men from Hindu and Muslim backgrounds took part in the above meeting. Both Hindus and Muslims openly shared their individual perspectives in the meetings. A few guidelines and preventive steps for the youth were also discussed on these occasions.

Interfaith Festivals

'*Iftaar party*' was celebrated in August with sixty young men from both Hindu and Muslim backgrounds. The young men from the community organized the celebration by contributing fruits for the Iftaar.

'*Dusserah*' was celebrated with forty Hindu and Muslim young men in October. The celebration was marked by distribution of sweets sharing information about the background of the festival.

'*Independence Day*' was celebrated on 15th August with forty Hindu and Muslim young men. On this occasion the national flag was hoisted and sweets distributed to promote patriotism among the Hindu and Muslim young men.

Other Activities

Reading room continues with newspapers, employment related magazines and sports magazines. Newspapers in English and local languages (Urdu and Telugu) were provided at the reading room. Twenty five young men availed this facility.

We observed 'World AIDS Day' on 1st December. Apart from organizing an awareness session on HIV/AIDS, we also conducted painting and slogan writing competitions. Fifty young men from Hindu and Muslim backgrounds participated in the programme.

HIV/AIDS Project

Fifteen HIV/AIDS awareness programmes were organized for 150 Hindu and Muslim women at Sultan Shahi, Shanker Nagar and Chandrayangutta project areas.

On 1st December, World AIDS Day event was organized at the project areas with 130 Hindu and Muslim women. Competitions like slogan writing, painting and quiz were conducted and gifts distributed to all the participants.

8 people living with HIV and AIDS (PLHA) from three community centres of HMI are being facilitated to avail ART medicines from Government hospitals. They are being counseled regularly and also motivated to participate in the monthly HIV/AIDS awareness programmes organized in the communities.

A three day training programme on HIV/AIDS and its related concepts was organized for twenty one peer educators from 18th to 20th of December. A half day session was organized for eight people living with HIV and AIDS on 20th December.

The peer educators continue creating awareness among the community women on HIV/AIDS by going door to door in the project areas.

Regular monthly review meetings were organized for peer educators. This helped them in learning from each other's experiences and challenges.



Young men during World AIDS Day programme



Participants and Resource persons at Peer educators training

Partnering for Peace Project

Mahila Sahyog Society:

MSS is working in six neighborhoods of Old City of Hyderabad. It conducts literacy program in local Urdu and Telugu languages for Hindu and Muslim needy women and school dropouts. MSS meets the health needs of the community through health camps and monthly health checkups in coordination with the local Government hospitals. It also organizes HIV/AIDS and TB awareness programmes on a monthly basis. MSS continued to offer trainings in various arts and crafts like tailoring, candle making, ladi making, seashell items, etc, for Hindu and Muslim community women. Inter-faith festival celebrations like Raksha Bandhan and Iftaar were conducted involving Hindu and Muslim men, women and children.

Spandana:

Spandana is working in five highly communally sensitive areas in the Old City of Hyderabad namely Moosaram Bagh, Asmangadh, Edibazar, Riyasathnagar, and Yakutpura. It organized monthly community level meetings with women in these areas and held discussions on topics related to savings, health and hygiene, Income generation, sustainable livelihood programmes and skill development activities. Skill development training programmes like Basic Computer Training, MS Office, BPO Training, Life Skills and Spoken English were organized for 50 under privileged Hindu and Muslim young men. Spandana also organized different festival celebrations like Iftaar and Dusserah involving the Hindu and Muslim community people.



Padmapani:

Padmapani is working in the vulnerable areas of Kama Reddy town in Nizamabad District. As part of creating self employment to women, Padmapani started a tailoring and embroidery centre at Indra Nagar colony in Kamareddy town. Forty six Hindu and Muslim women took part in the training and got the certificates of completion. These women are illiterate and poor and in order to support their families they used to involve in beedi rolling,

which is a very hazardous occupation. This often made them fall sick with various diseases. Hence the women wanted to learn and engage in alternate skills which would help them generate income and also protect their health. Padmapani organized a peace meeting in view of Ganesh festival by involving peace committee members, Ganesh pandal organizers, political leaders and local Police officials. All the participants were appealed to cooperate during the immersion programme and make the event a peaceful one.

Conflict Transformation Programme

This period July-December 2012 was a time in which HMI took up a number of important capacity building activities for peace, and supported dialogue & reconciliation initiatives.

Workshops were done with different stakeholder groups to strengthen organizational and individual capacities for effecting changes in terms of attitudes, process skills and consciousness. It was also a time for putting together a digital library by categorizing existing digital materials available with the CT team and preparing for the monographs writing project.

During the period altogether 157 (122 male & 35 female) people took part in various activities/ programs organized and initiated by the CT team.

Workshops

Reunion Workshop of Peace-builders Ukhrul, 20-23 August 2012

The main objective of the workshop was to bring together people HMI had trained in Ukhrul district of Manipur over the years for a reunion and enable sharing of experiences related to the initiatives each is involved in, positions they have taken, helping others understand the context of their work, positions taken on issues, decisions and initiatives. This was done based on felt need of for overcoming gaps and misunderstandings caused due to positions taken on social, economic and political issues. The workshop was attended by 22 participants (21 men and 1 woman) and facilitated by Robinson and M. Somi. The workshop helped in bridging some of the gaps, overcoming some hurdles related to joint work for peace, justice and reconciliation.

South Asia Peace Workshop 2012

Hyderabad, 17th – 24th & 25th – 29th Sept

Module 1: Writing workshop was held in order to build/strengthen capacities of individuals to write essays, articles and monographs on topics that are related to the Northeastern states. This was a follow-up workshop on Critical Analysis of History that was held in March 2012.

The workshop was facilitated by G. Aloysius, Resident Scholar, Department of Social Exclusion, Osmania University, Hyderabad. Altogether 3 from Manipur, 4 from Nagaland and 2 HMI staff participated (7 men and 2 women).

Module 2: Workshop on Development and Peace Journalism was held to build/strengthen skills & perspectives which could enable people who are interested in working for peace, justice and reconciliation to articulate more effectively issues, concerns, perspectives as well as relationships between development, conflict & peace.



Participants at SAPW

The workshop was facilitated by Satya Srinivas a writer, researcher, trainer, consultant for Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Documentation. Altogether 3 from Nagaland, 2 from Manipur, 1 from Mumbai, 2 from Tamilnadu, 1 from Kerala 1 from Hyderabad and 1 from Germany (8 men and 3 women) participated and benefited.

Module 3 of the Workshop on Music and Peacebuilding had to be cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances.

Module 4: Workshop on Facilitation and peace building skills was held to strengthen peoples capacities in terms of facilitating peace workshops, dialogue events, group decision-making, and mediation efforts.

The workshop was facilitated by the Conflict Transformation team comprising; Ramesh, Robinson and Najma. Altogether there were 13 participants (1 from Manipur, 1 from Nagaland, 3 from Hyderabad, 3 from Tamilnadu, 1 from Kerala, 1 from Mumbai, 1 from Gujarat, 1 from Nepal and 1 from Germany) of these(six were male and seven female).

Peace Core Team Manipur - Reunion workshop Imphal, 29-31 Oct. 2012

Altogether 11 PCTM members (7 men and 4 women) participated in the PCTM reunion workshop. The gathering basically focused on discussing and updating the members about the PCTM activities, identifying issues that is challenging for PCTM members, their priorities, and deliberate on how to move forward. The members also discussed strategies that could help PCTM to be more efficient & effective.

At the end of the workshop as an immediate step PCTM members decided to work on producing a document that will contain major information of the PCTM in the last one decade and also carry stories of PCTM members.

Interfaith Journey and Inter-connected Peace Workshop, Gujarat

Mt. Abu, Rajasthan, 29 Nov – 2 Dec 2012

This journey and workshop initiative was taken up with Social Movement for Educational Thinking (SMET) a small group of social workers who are working on transforming relationships between youth belonging to Muslim, Hindu and Dalit communities.

The group travelled to Mt. Abu in Rajasthan and engaged in activities such as workshop, one-on-one dialogue, group exercises on dialogue, trekking, street theatre, singing and journeying together.

For many of them it was the first time to be in mixed group setting, to share and listen stories of how violence unleashed in 2002 had affected them, efforts taken to rebuild lives, livelihood, challenges faced by different people and an opportunity to know and relate with one another. The journey-workshop ended with participants deciding on a few key values and insights that they would put into practice in the next three months.

Initiatives: Peace Resource Centres **Peace Resource Centre, Ahmedabad, Gujarat**

HMI's support for Peace Resource Centre initiated by SMET continued in this period. The resource centre in Ahmedabad, Gujarat functions as a space for youngsters to come in the evening for 2-3 hours and make use of the library materials related to peace building, conflict transformation and interfaith dialogue. People who visit also have access to education and documentary movies. Discussions on local issues are also held.

Youth also come to seek guidance related to work related problems, family problems, and career guidance. Most of the youth who come to the centre are Muslims and there are also a few Hindu, Christian and Dalit youth who come to the centre. This helps a small group of activists to learn good practices from other established NGOs and CBOs. It has led to discussions on faith, harmony, peace, respecting diversity, gender justice and creative non-violent action for bringing desired changes.



Youth programme at Peace Resource Centre



Peace Resource Centre, imphal, Manipur

HMI's support for Peace Resource Centre initiated by PCTM continued in this period. The Peace Resource Center (PRC) in Imphal, Manipur is mostly used by members of PCTM to meet, discuss & plan dialogue initiatives as response to the tensions and conflicts affecting Manipur.

It functions as a contact place for other CSOs who are interested in taking joint initiatives for dialogue. Resources related to negotiation, mediation, dialogue, bio-diversity, culture and history are available for peace practitioners. PCTM members have taken initiatives to identify books and other educational resources that they need at the center.

Support for Peace Initiatives

World Indigenous Peoples Day

Karbi Human Rights Watch (KHRW) observed World Indigenous People's Day on 9 August 2012, which included film screenings and talks. Altogether 60 people (12 female and 48 male) participated in the event. It was a good opportunity for reflection on the status of Indigenous/Adivasi/Tribal people in different parts of the world, their worldviews, best practices in terms of ecological stewardship, managing forests, water bodies etc.

Challenges faced by indigenous people over the centuries and decades and efforts taken up to address them were also presented by the speakers followed by discussions.

Workshop for Mediators & Dialogue facilitators

Guwahati, Assam, 2-4 August 2012.

The workshop was organized by People's Dialogue Initiative (PDI), Manipur in association with ANT/IDeA, Assam. It was co-facilitated by Ramesh from HMI and Deben Sharma from PDI. Altogether 22 (3 female and 19 male) senior citizens, peace activists/practitioners from Manipur, Nagaland and Assam participated.

Experience sharing from Joint Peace Mission Team (JPMT) Assam, on peace processes related to Assam; stories of personal transformation, reconciliation among political activists from Nagaland; stories of senior citizens from Manipur who have taken various initiatives for peaceful

coexistence; stories of Church led peace and reconciliation initiatives formed an important part of the process.

The participants also discussed issues such as cultural chauvinism, development alternatives, the need for a platform for active senior citizens to play their role in peace building, reconciliation processes.

Networking & Collaborations

Peacebuilding and Development Institute, Sri Lanka

Meeting with Frances Bulathsinghala - Director, Peacebuilding & Development Institute, Sri Lanka (PDI-SL) took place on 9th – 11th August 2012. The main objective of the visit was to explore possibilities of collaboration between HMI and PDI-SL and jointly organizing a workshop on Religion and Peace building.

In line with this objective she had meeting with the Director, CT and CD team members. PDI-SL is organizing this workshop between March-July 2013 and has sought HMI's collaboration.

Odisha Social Forum

Association for Stimulating Knowhow (ASK), Delhi invited HMI to collaborate in helping build the capacity of Odisha Social Forum in developing strategies, institutionalized programmes and activities as a response to the growing communal tensions, disturbances and violence faced by Dalit, Adivasi and Christian communities in and around Kandhamal.

Ramesh visited Kandhamal twice (5th-8th Sept. 2012 & 22nd -29th Oct. 2012) and engaged with Forum members and ASK representatives and took part in developing strategy paper and a three year work plan.

Sanjaal Network, Nepal

Nine members from the Sanjaal Network representing three organizations namely (United NGO Mission, Community Development Forum, Moirang and the Network Secretariat) visited HMI from 8th- 11th Dec2012. The main purpose of the visit was to learn some good practices related to Interfaith and peacebuilding work as well as to gain new ideas on how to mainstream



peacebuilding agenda through community engagement.

The 9 members (6 male & 3 female) were from Hindu, Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, and Kirat communities. They visited community development and empowerment centers run by Shaheen and HMI in the Old city and learnt many valuable lessons by interacting with women activists, social workers, counselors, teachers and health workers. This was followed by workshop facilitated by Ramesh and Robinson on how to practically and creatively work for peace, justice and reconciliation. The network members also worked on follow-up work plans, which include some collaborative work with HMI in Nepal for the year 2013 and beyond.

Internship

Mustaq from Gujarat is interning with SMET, Ahmedabad for a period of 9 months. He is involved in running short term courses that help youth to build their communication, presentation and social media skills. He is also part of a street theatre group and works with a small group of theatre activists in creating new plays.

Publication and Dissemination

Videos

Two videos that capture and communicate voices, aspirations, challenges, hopes, testimonies of transformation and efforts taken to bring change, feedback to HMI on CT work were completed in this period. The videos help communicate various stakeholders with whom we work, their identity, context, initiatives and help better understand

the gradual changes and transformation that we see. The videos also help communicate the engagements of women and these will serve as motivating examples for others. This video most importantly helps in breaking the myth that women talk about only women's issues and gives a wide variety of issues and struggles that they are engaged in.

Digital Library

CT team began the work of consolidating and categorizing digital resource materials on various topics and issues related to peace, justice and reconciliation have been able to categorize most of the materials available for easy reference by peace practitioners, scholars and activists. We have rather a good collection of digital books, manuals and articles to be shared with other peace builders. We have consolidated digital resource materials on 15 different topics to help with the monograph-writing project. We have a good collection of digital materials on critical study of histories and have been able to share it with interested people in the region.

Staff Training and Development

Ramesh took up online course on Methods of Analysis & Research for Peace-TRANSCEND Peace University, Austria, March-May 2012. It has helped to enhance research and analysis skill making it also possible for helping other people take interest in cultural, religious, literary resources for peace building work.

Robinson participated in the PeaceCounts Training of Trainers, Fort Kochi, Kerala, 26-30 June 2012- It has helped to gain skills on the use of pictures and posters for peace building work.





Management

Administration

For any organization administration is its backbone; admin. department is working hard to improve facilities available at the Institute. The team is supporting Praxis, Academics and general programmes continuously. The issues are solved on a day to day basis to run the institute smoothly without any serious problems. As part of the infrastructure development, we purchased two lap-tops, one each for Conflict transformation and Administration departments to do the work in a more efficient way. New MS chairs were placed in the dining hall of the Hostel which are found to be quite comfortable. A new two wheeler was donated by M/s.TVS & Co. to enable the Hostel to do the regular material purchases. A few fabrication works were carried out in the hostel and programme building with a couple of MS sheets.

Most of the major equipments are now under comprehensive annual maintenance contracts, which include computers & printers, water purifiers, UPS systems, EPABX, the lift and photocopier. The generator and transformer are regularly serviced to ensure that all electrical fittings and fixtures function optimally.

Regarding property at Kottur, as Govt. of AP announced the Land Regularization Scheme in 2008, and 31st December being the last date for filing the application for regulation of unapproved layout/plot, we applied for the same by registering and making the 50% payment.

We have filed a writ petition in the High Court of Andhra Pradesh for exemption of the property tax for our Sivarampally property, and the matter is under judiciary review.

Additional Landscaping of a lawn near the electrical transformer is being carried out and a new small transportable fountain in the existing water tank was done in the garden which is a new attraction. A large volume of variety of plants were brought during the period and placed in different areas of the campus to make it look more beautiful and attractive.

City office premises are being made use of for various workshops, prayer meetings, seminars, etc., by various groups who have likeminded programmes to those of HMI.

Construction of the New Library Building - Phase IV

To update on construction of our new library building, a land survey was done by the appointed surveyor, and the survey report was sent to our Architect to finalize the building drawings. The final drawings were presented to the board meeting held in August 2012 which was approved and it was resolved to approach the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) to get the permission for construction. Meanwhile ground excavation work was done with *morram* (sand mud) filling and keeping in mind the usage of water for construction a bore well survey was done, and fortunately it was found that the spot was near the site of the new building; and we were advised to dig a bore well at the depth of 500 feet; and accordingly the new bore well is dug and also a 5HP motor pump is installed.

We submitted an application to the fire department to get a No Objection Certificate (NOC) on 3rd October 2012 for the new construction. We had to face lots of challenges in the process as there were lots of changes in their rules for obtaining such permission. The fire department has issued NOC on 28th November. We have applied for the permission to do new construction to Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation on 1st December 2012 with the approved plan and the necessary documents required by them.

Hostel

Those who aim at promoting peace and justice find comforting energies by temporarily staying at abodes fit for their dynamic activities in favor of harmonious living. The Complex net-work that caters to the wellbeing of the multitude of socially discriminated persons in India, needs lot of search for serene and welcoming set-ups in order to benefit from positively refreshing spaces that may provide energizing powers to the emerging plans in favor of the human upliftment.

As such Aman Shanti Nilayam is one of such abodes of peace and serenity where many groups that pursue deep training programmes and clear discernment in the field of social justice and upliftment, come in search of lodging and training facilities and relaxing inter-action as they

undertake research and analysis in different fields of human progress.

We are to happy to record that the Hostel has generated substantial income during July-December period by availing the facilities. During this period approximately 6200 persons from 80 groups (15 groups per month) have profited from a welcoming and select accommodation at Aman Shanti Nilayam: hardly there is any time or free space left between a group completing the training and leaving the hostel, and the next one coming to fulfill their purposes. The participants are from range of socially motivated organizations, and they find solace in the silent, serene and peaceful premises of Henry Martyn Institute.

The government organizations that count themselves as regular customers of Aman Shanti Nilayam for promoting the state government schemes were, AMR-Andhra Pradesh Academy of Rural Development (APARD), Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP), National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad, Centre for Environment Education (Supported by Ministry of Environment and forest, Govt. of India), Ahmadabad, Human and Institutional Development Forum, Bangalore.

The other organizations which are in nature of NGOs and corporates who are regularly availing the facilities are Andhra Pradesh Mahila Abivridhi Sangam (APMAS), Prajwala group, Human and Institutional Development Forum (HIDF), Bangalore, UAE Exchange and Financial Services, Hyderabad, Bharatiya Samruddhi Finance Limited (BASIX), National Council of Churches in India (NCCI), Nagpur, Canadian Baptist Ministries (CBM), South Central India Network for Development Alternatives (SCINDEA), Tamilnadu, Brooke Hospital for Animals, Delhi, Chindu Group, World Buddhist Cultural Trust, Delhi, Bharat Integrated Rural Development Society (BIRDS), Hyderabad. Besides, these groups from local and national churches, seminaries, university students (both national and international), and international research scholars are also availing our facilities.

The in-house workshops included the Conflict Transformation department's "South Asia Peace Workshop" held in September, one/ two day events for the Community Development and HIV/AIDS awareness projects.

This unassuming service is silent but effective contribution towards building up human harmony and acquiring deep awareness of equanimity at

all levels. The participants of the above groups show great appreciation for the quality of service rendered to them.

Personnel

Ms. Poonam Lakra was appointed in August as a part-time employee in Praxis Department to help in the preparation of monographs for publication, Mr. Suban was appointed as the Security Guard for the HMI Campus in September.

Mr. Ramesh, Mr. Raman and Mr. Philips on behalf of HMI attended a meeting on new FCRA Rules-2010 conducted by FMSF, Delhi, at Hyderabad.

Community Events

As an esteemed custom, HMI celebrates the different religious festivals and national events every year. HMI celebrated the Independence Day on 15th August in the campus, and at community centers located in the old city by hoisting the national flag and distribution of sweets.

The celebration of Ramadan festival is done with a good *Iftar* party, and HMI community was blessed with the presence of well known personalities from different universities, government officials, a group from the US Consulate, Hyderabad, Religious Scholars, and Members of the Board of Management of HMI on 17th August. The Muslim brothers and sisters broke the *Roza* (fasting) followed by "maghrib prayer". Everybody enjoyed the dinner in the garden with a variety of fruits and Hyderabad Dish "Haleem".

We also celebrated the festival of lights called "Diwali" on 22nd November, the campus was decorated with colorful flowers and *diyas*/lamps which made the ambience very inviting. Most of the people from different back-grounds and HMI's standing committee members enjoyed the day with lighting of lamps and fire crackers. Special *Diwali* sweets and dinner were served to make the occasion joyful.

Christmas was the highlight of all the celebrations, which is at the fag end of the year, and took place on 14th December, to which HMI families and friends were invited. The message of Peace was given by Prof. Ramakrishna Ramaswamy, Vice-Chancellor, Hyderabad Central University and Shri. M.G. Gopal, IAS, Principal Secretary, Higher Education, AP. On this occasion, our Board Member Dr. Daphne Rebello, Retd. IAS official was honored



for receiving the honor by the French Ministry of National Education in recognition of her significant contribution towards promoting French cultural stamp in Hyderabad. Apart from the above, HMI's senior staff – Mr. Jaweed Khan, Mrs. Anita, Mr. Iqbal Quadri, Mr. Abdul Kareem Shahid and Mr. Motilal Verma who have completed more than 15 years of service were honored by the Director.

The event was very colourful with carol singing, acting out the message of Christmas by children of staff and others. A dance programme was performed by the students and community of HMI which was appreciated by all. The Programme concluded with a moon light yummy dinner in the cool weather and the ambience of the beautiful garden with a campfire.

Board and Official Committee Meetings

The Finance & Property Committee meeting took place on 16th August. The Board of Management and Annual General Body meeting were held on 17th August, which discussed the various concerns of the Institute.

On 22nd November the Praxis Committee met and discussed issues related to the Community Development and Conflict Transformation Programmes. On the following day, 23rd November, Board of Management held its meeting to discuss and decide important issues pertaining to the institute.

Summer Course

5 - 18 May 2013

Kodaikanal

The Summer Course in Islam and Interfaith Relations — a long-standing annual programme of HMI — is an intensive two week residential course. The course gives the participants an understanding of Islam, its practices, history, philosophy and theology. It also provides a time to examine and deepen the knowledge of one's own faith and the meaning of encounter relationship between people of different faiths. A deeper analysis of Pluralism, Interfaith and Dialogue is envisaged. The Summer Course is a wonderful opportunity to get to know about various study programmes, activities and projects at HMI.

Who May Attend:

The course is open to approximately 40 participants. People of all faiths; Religious and secular college students; Religious and community leaders.

Course Work:

The participants will follow an intensive two-week programme consisting of:

- Lectures, presentations, Group discussions, role plays and practical dialogue sessions,
- Library work, videos, and visits to local religious places. Medium of instruction is English
- Upon successful completion of the course each participant will receive an HMI certificate

Highlights:

- Spacious and eco-friendly campus. Interfaith Devotion. Teaching by an experienced faculty
- Sharing of experiences by the participants . Exposure visits and cultural evenings

Venue:

CSI Retreat Centre
Lake Road/Tapps Road, Ferry Point,
Kodaikanal—624 101, Tamilnadu, India
Telephone: 099456 78548

**For more information contact: Coordinator, Summer Course,
Henry Martyn Institute: International Centre for Research, Interfaith Relations and Reconciliation
6-3-128/1, National Police Academy Road Shivrampally, Hyderabad – 500 052, AP, India
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