



Rabtt Summer Camps 2013

This year, Rabtt conducted two of its 3-week Summer Camps at:

-Govt. Pilot Boys High School, Wahdat Road, for 35 boys

-City District Govt. Girls High School, Paise Akhbar, Urdu Bazar, for 41 girls, in collaboration with an established local NGO Idara-e-Taleem-o-Agahi (ITA)

Furthermore, five Harvard University students joined the Rabtt team for several weeks at a time to work on various aspects of sustainability and expansion.

Imran Sarwar (HKS 2013) continued to work on formalizing the organizational structures and expanding the Rabtt network, as well as securing future funding. Asad Husain (HBS 2013) worked on the financial projections for the organization and created a budget allocation and tracking tool, while Saniya Ansar (HKS 2013) expanded our outreach with possible collaborators and assisted in securing funding sources. Nora Elsheikh (HGSE 2013) handled curriculum reform for the camps and worked on curriculum development for year-long weekend workshops. Haider Raza (HKS 2014) worked on streamlining the volunteer and school recruitment process.



Curriculum:



At each of these camps, courses on English, Mathematics, Public Speaking, World History, Art, and Dramatics were taught. Computers was taught at Pilot Boys, but had to be removed from the schedule at the girls' school due to the administration's preference for shorter camp duration.

One educational trip was arranged per camp. The boys visited the Lahore Museum and Planetarium, while the girls visited the Science Museum. It was a very fruitful experience for all students. They got to explore historical artefacts from many cultures they had discussed during World History classes. At the science museum, Mathematics and Arts instructors came together to give the students a tour that focused on how things worked and how they were designed. Students, with their curiosity aroused, found recurrent design patterns in science and technology.

Closing Ceremonies:

Closing Ceremonies were conducted for both camps, where the volunteers, parents, school administration and guests were in the audience. Students shared their experiences about camp, and also gave speeches, theatrical and musical performances. An art exhibition was also set up to display what they had learned at camp. The chief guests at the end of each ceremony distributed certificates among students.

Response:

Feedback from the students and parents was positive and encouraging. The students expressed that they had learned many new things and skills at camp. The Closing Ceremonies were, for many of them, the first time performing on stage. Both students and volunteers felt that they had gained more confidence in themselves. Camp was also



an excellent opportunity for students to explore new interests, ask questions, and find hidden talents. Some students had a flair for art, and created impressive artwork. Others were very interested in theatre, and have gotten involved with their dramatics teachers in upcoming plays for opportunities to learn acting. Still others were curious about history, and would often take the time out to sit with their teachers after class and bombard them with questions about events they had covered, and those they hadn't.

Students:

For previous RSCs, it had been easier to recruit male participants as compared to females, given the reservations parents had. This year, ITA's contribution in helping conduct an RSC at a girls' school has been extremely valuable. We hope to be able to include more female students in future RSCs, and collaborating with other more established



NGOs will certainly be a great help.

Next steps:

For the academic years 2013-15, Rabtt envisions to train and strengthen its volunteer base along with intensifying school recruitment. Rabtt will scale its operations to 15 summer camps and 6 workshops per each summer camp centre. A step towards this has been the collaboration for year-round workshops with The Knowledge Schools, a low-cost private school network in Pakistan. Additionally, we feel it is important to explore public-private partnerships, and involve concerned government departments for easier access to schools. Rabtt also envisions developing and conducting an evaluation to test impact against the organization's three defined measures of success: critical thinking, tolerance and creativity.

Overall, RSC'13 was a very valuable learning experience. The feedback generated from the volunteers will help standardize and improve future activities. Rabtt has also attracted many talented volunteers who are interested in staying in touch and continuing to work with Rabtt in its year-round activities. The collaboration with ITA was also very fruitful, and we look forward to working together with them in the future to create more critical thinkers and better learners.

