Rabtt – 2013 At A Glance

2013 has been an eventful year for Rabtt. Our Co-Founder and Managing Director, Imran Sarwar, has recently completed his post-graduate studies from Harvard. Upon his return he has fully dedicated himself to working for Rabtt; formalizing organizational structure, expanding networks, securing funding, and driving us forward.

We're now aiming to conduct at least six summer camps in the Summer of 2014. Rabtt also announced the Young Professionals Program to begin in January 2014. We conducted two summer camps and a number of workshops at both public and low-cost private schools. We have been working hard during the year on an end-to-end review of our progress and this report underlines many of the key events and highlights of the year.
Innovation in Education: Lessons for Entrepreneurship in Pakistan – Video Conference

Prof. Fernando Reimers, Ford Foundation Professor of International Education at Harvard Graduate School of Education, and Imran Sarwar, led the discussion with academic sites across Pakistan. Prof. Reimers talked about how much education has changed over the last 25 years, with the realization that we need to move from teaching low-level cognitive skills to higher level leadership and adaptive skills to prepare students for the 21st century. Imran spoke about his experience with Rabtt, and exhorted would-be entrepreneurs to not wait for the conditions to be perfect and just take the first step. Details of the event can be seen here.
Peace building Workshop

Rabtt organized a Peace-Building Workshop at National Institute of Education, Hamza Town, Opposite Yohannabad, Lahore. The workshop focused on the issues of Non Violence and Tolerance in the society, leading to a better peaceful community.

Workshops sponsored by Seeds of Peace

A grant of $1,880 was awarded to Rabtt to be utilized for operational and marketing purposes. The amount was spent in conducting three Rabtt Workshops, procuring two second-hand laptops which are being used as a/v aids for students in Rabtt Summer Camps and Workshops, building a basketball court for the students of Govt. Pilot Boys High School, Wahdat Road; and printing T-shirts which are being sold for marketing and fundraising purposes.
Basketball Court at Pilot School

Rabtt has been working with the Pilot Boys High School, Wahdat Road since 2011, with strong connections now not only with the students, but also with the school administration. In April 2012 Rabtt took up the responsibility of repairing and painting the basketball court at the school since we believe that physical strength is vital to children’s mental and intellectual growth. This task was completed on 1st May 2012, adding to the school’s sports activities.

Kuch Karo: Pakistani Students for Change Mushaira

Kuch Karo: Pakistani Students for Change, an official student organization of Mount Holyoke College, organized a Mushaira and Pakistani Dinner at the Mount Holyoke College! More than $1,000 were raised and the proceeds from the events went to fund the two RSCs of 2013.
Rabtt Summer Camps 2013

This year Rabtt conducted two of its three week Summer Camps at: Govt Pilot Boys High School, Wahdat Road, Lahore and City District Govt. Girls High School, Paisa Akhbar, Urdu Bazar, in collaboration with Idara-e-Taleem o Agahi. At each of these camps, courses on English, Mathematics, Public Speaking, World History, Art, and Dramatics were taught. Educational trips were also arranged for each camp, to Lahore Museum, Lahore Fort, and UET Science Museum. Closing ceremonies of both camps were attended by parents and civil society members, who were enthralled to see the students’ perform on stage and showcase their talents.
Rabtt joined hands with Tabeer for a fun-filled afternoon at the Sulaimaniya Public High School and Orphan Center, Lahore. The team joined the students for lunch. Introductions were followed by ice-breaking activities, and it wasn’t long before the student's enthusiasm filled over and smiles sprang up all around. The accompanying monsoon rain only made the day more fun! Later on, everybody got busy filling up sketchpads with their preferred medium.

Rabtt had the honor to be selected as one of the two teams granted the Omidyar Grant by SAI for summer 2013. As part of the grant, five Harvard University students joined the Rabtt team for several weeks to work on various aspects of sustainability and expansion of the organization. The work ranged from formalizing the organizational structure and expanding the Rabtt network, to financial modeling for the coming years, and curriculum development for summer and year-round operations. We greatly appreciate the ongoing support provided by the South Asia Institute.
Rabtt Workshops for The Knowledge School students

Rabtt held a workshop on Reading Skills with 9th grade students from different branches of The Knowledge School System. The students remained excited throughout the 5 hour intensive workshop, which involved reading exercises, small-group activities, and a lot of imagination. This was first in a series of workshops to be held with The Knowledge School System, an ILM/UMT project. We are thankful to UMT for providing the venue and resources for the workshop.

ITA-Rabtt collaboration

During the summer of 2013, Rabtt collaborated with Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aghahi, for a Summer Camp which was held in Govt. Girls High School (English Medium) Paisa Akhbar. This was the first summer camp held in collaboration with another civil society organization and the first complete camp in a girls only school.
Rabtt volunteers at The Garlic School, Karachi

This year also marked the first step out of Lahore for Rabtt! We joined hands with The Garlic School, Karachi, and engaged volunteers to assist the school administration in areas where they needed help. This included regular medical check-ups for the students, along with health education and awareness, and arts and crafts sessions for students so that they may learn valuable skills that can be transformed into livelihoods. We are thankful to Sarah Munir and Zia Hussain for their on-ground support in Karachi.

Collaboration with LCSS

Rabtt became a partner with the LUMS Community Service Society (LCSS) in their project 'Bridging Barriers' that aims to train and prepare students for an Olympiad featuring inter-school competitions. The training is spread over a span of 12 weeks in the fields of public speaking, general knowledge and dramatics. The volunteers engaged with Rabtt have been going to the Sanjanagar Public School in Glaxo town every Saturday to deliver two hour lessons to the students.
Independent Theater Company, in collaboration with Rabtt, held an Urdu play titled ‘Naql-e-Makani’ on the 4th, 5th, and 6th of October 2013 at Ali Auditorium, Lahore. The play was very well received and provided a platform for revival of Urdu Literature and Urdu language theatre in Pakistan.

Team Rabtt moved into their new office in Gulberg, Lahore and the occasion was marked by a small gathering of friends, family, volunteers and supporters. The Managing Director briefed the attendees on the future plan and programs of the organization. Dr Amjad Saqib led the "dua" for a successful future for Rabtt.
Rabtt Young Professionals Program

Rabtt announced the Young Professionals Program (YPP) to begin in 2014. Designed for high school students in private schools, the YPP modules will provide students with a unique flavor of professional trainings that will enhance their skill set and prepare them for college and professional life. Tailored for students’ needs and conducted by expert trainers, a total of 10-12 YPP modules will be developed and offered to schools. The students will be charged directly for these services and revenues from this segment will be used to cross-subsidize the organization’s operations in public schools and low-cost private schools.

Our Growing Team

Salma Chaudhry joined Rabtt as Director Operations and HR. Salma holds a BSc Honors degree from Lahore University of Management Sciences, with a concentration in Political Science. Prior to joining Rabtt, Salma was a Research Associate with the Senate’s Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production. Her primary appointment was with the Committee, with affiliated appointments with UNDP-SDPD.
A New Look for the Website

The Rabtt website got an overhaul! Some major improvements were made to the design and navigation to make it easier for viewers to find relevant information. New content and information was added on all our programs, philosophy, future projects, and avenues of support, allowing visitors to get a comprehensive overview of the organization. We are thankful to Talha Chaudhry of Ibjects for the great design.

Workshops at Saint John’s School for Boys, Yohannabad

As part of the Rabtt Workshop Series at St. John’s High School, we have held workshops on Reading Skills and Dramatics with 9th and 10th grade students, with remaining workshops to be conducted in 2014. The children thoroughly enjoyed both days and learnt a great amount from the session. The highlight of the Reading Workshop was seeing some of the shyer children, who were at first reluctant to join in, beaming away and reading as well as interpreting text from the story books. With hands-on activities designed for students, the Dramatics Workshop allowed them to explore feelings and emotions through creative movement, art and imagination.
Online Crowd-funding Campaign

To assist our path to self-sustainability, Rabtt launched an online crowd-funding campaign on Indiegogo. The goal for the campaign is $10,000 and the money raised will be spent on six Rabtt Summer Camps to be held in public schools in Lahore in the Summer of 2014.