

**Final Report of URI ZERO LIMITS CC`s activities in solidarity with
the global celebrations of UN WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY
WEEK**

It was an awesome experience to be the part of UN World Interfaith Harmony week celebration. We had conducted many events in different parts of the community like Schools, Colleges, Orphanage and Public Places from 1st Feb 2017 to 7th Feb 2017. Our Project title was **FAITH IN FAITH WEEK**.

Why we selected this title, it is because everybody lives in this society with a set of certain faiths. But in the current world, these faiths make them to argue that my faith is more powerful. Here it is our aim to make awareness on students about the positive power of their faiths to create an everlasting world peace. As this is our motto, we decided to implement the same among youth. UN Interfaith Harmony week is the best days to spread the message of oneness through faith. These 7 days of celebration, imparted the importance of faiths and how interfaith activities and your belief in you and your religion can create a world of Peace and Compassion.

We had conducted the event FAITH IN FAITH WEEK .The event consists of 7 days of sub events, each had different themes. That means a grand celebration with a series of 25 events .it had been reached to morethan 50,000 people directly .

For the entire project, we have a common theme and daily sub-themes.

Day 1. Theme : Youth for Peace

Day 2. Theme : Youth for Change

Day 3. Theme : Faith for Peace

Day 4 : Theme : Faith for Change

Day 5 : Theme : Religions for Peace

Day 6 : Theme : Culture for Peace

Day 7 : Theme: The great wall of LOVE



Our partners

1. Amritha Viswa Vidya Peetham
2. Matha Amrithanandamayi math
3. Board of Higher Secondary Education, Govt of Kerala
4. Quilon Institute of Management, Bharathiyar University, India
5. Sree Budha Central School
6. Karickom International School
7. URI South Africa
8. URI India-Srilanka Region

Day: 1 : YOUTH FOR PEACE

Activity: Training Ride

Conducted 5 training programs in 5 different schools of Kollam district, Kerala, India.

Objective: To make awareness on youth about the importance of interfaith harmony for a peaceful and a better tomorrow.

Target group: Students from 10th STD to 12th STD

Timing: 10 am to 4 pm (Each training duration is one hour)

Outcome:



Through the 5 training programs, each training duration is for one hour, the concept of interfaith harmony has been reached to more than 866 young mind. The students enjoyed the session and showed their enthusiasm by proclaiming their solidarity to all the future initiatives for peace through the concept of interfaith harmony .We are so happy to experience the enthusiasm of the future generations. Because the current students are the ruling hands of tomorrow`s world.

Our findings:

If we are thinking about the group of students, or during the period of education, they will not even think about religion or caste. When they are growing up all the barriers of religion are entering in their life in the form of social discriminations. So educating the students is the best way to avoid or reduce the future religious chaos.

Training 1 @Vivekananda HSS , Poredom, Kollam: Participants : 183



Training 2@Govt HSS, Kulakkada,Kollam - Participants :92



Training 3@Govt HSS, Kilimanoor, Kollam - Participants :198



Training 4@Sree Budha Central school, Kollam - Participants :147



Training 5 @Govt HSS, Karunagappally, Kollam - Participants :246



DAY 2: YOUTH FOR CHANGE

Activity: Conducted 5 DIFFERENT campaigns in 5 different places of Kollam district, Kerala, India.

Objective: To make awareness on youth about the importance of social work and interfaith, to build the concept that the earth's great treasure lies in human personality and service to humanity is the best work of life.

Target group: Students from 10th STD to 12th STD

Timing: 10 am to 4 pm

Outcome: The students showed the way to be the change. Students actively participated in the campaigns and the got appreciations from the crowd and the crowd also participated in the campaign as per the instructions of the students.

Campaign 1 Awareness on Traffic Rules

The students painted zebra lines in the road as a part of the safe traffic campaign. Whatever may be the religion; all people need zebra lines to cross the road safely. This was the proclamation by the students. There assembled the students from 4 religions. Even If there is separate caste or religion, the safety measure is always



common in everywhere. The public admired the students. Here they showed our theme YOUTH FOR CHANGE.

Participants: 25 students and public



Campaign: 2 Protection of wet lands and natural Resources

The pond, which is cleaned and protected by the students, was once the only source of water for the drinking purpose in the Poovachal village of Trivandrum district. Now days the pond was totally polluted and filled with plastic and food wastes. Our committed students cleaned and picked up all plastic wastes from the pond and put some guppy fishes in it to reduce the mosquito reproduction. Students those who participated in the activity realized the importance of protecting natural resources especially water, above all religions or faiths all are using water when they feel thirsty.

The reach of this program was entire village.



Campaign 3: Go Green

The campaign is meant for spreading the message that **Save trees, Save nature. Go back to Green.**

The students planted the saplings of many trees in public places and donated saplings to the public with a small thought that, whatever may be your religion you need air to inhale. There is no preference of air as per your religion. The students' performance and sincerity were exemplary.

The reach of the program was more than 5000 people.



Campaign 4 : Anti-Drug Campaign

The students conducted an open canvas campaign. It was a canvas with 4 meter length and the students expressed their views on the dangerous aftermath of drug addiction. Then there was an exhibition on drug addiction .Students presented it very well and the public became the part of those campaigns. The message was drug addiction is beyond the concept of religion

The reach of the campaign was nearly 600 people



Campaign 5

The Mehndi Fest

In India, the culture of applying Mehndi in the palm is very important in Muslim Community and it is a part of Islam Culture. But we make an initiative that the people from all religions participate in Mehndi Fest. It makes an interfaith harmony on students. Here the specialty was the girls from one religion made Mehndi for girls from another religion.

The reach was among nearly 500 students of the school.



DAY 3:

FAITH FOR PEACE

Activity: What Grandma Says



Youth



Women



Interfaith



Environment



Anti-Nuclear



Peace

There was an awesome event headed by some grandmothers of Balajanasakhyam Residential Associations. More than 70 people attended the program. Here many children and their parents gathered. The grandmas shared their experiences from childhood to till age. They advised the next generation parents and kids that every holy texts' like Bhagavat Gita, Holy Bible and Holy Quran, teaches us to love, so religion means love. If you love your religion follow the principle of love all, serve all.

Duration: 4pm to 7 pm.

Target: Residents Association members.



Youth



Women



Interfaith



Environment



Anti-Nuclear



Peace

DAY 4:

FAITH FOR CHANGE

Activity: competitions to express the students views on interfaith harmony

Conducted four kinds of competitions in Kaickom International Public School, Kollam on the topic Faith for Change in association with URI South India- Srilanka Region. Students from the age group 5 to 21 participated in the competition. More than 800 students participated.

The competitions are:

1. Coloring competition
2. Drawing competition
3. Elocution competition
4. Quiz Competition
5. Essay writing Competition

Objective: To realize the views and ideas of youth about the importance of interfaith harmony and the current social scenarios due to religious chaos.

Target group: Students from 5 years to 21 years

Timing: 10 am to 4 pm

Outcome:

Colouring and drawing competitions were very amazing, because the kids from age 5, enjoyed it very well and drawn many pictures, which shows the importance of love instead of violence. It shows that these kids are trained by the parents to draw the pictures to show the value of peace and love. It is the success of our indirect aim to make aware the young parents to think more about peace and love.



Colouring competition



Drawing competition



Elocution competition



Quiz Competition



Essay writing competition



Leaders of URI South India with Dr Abraham Karickom, Exe. Sec, Asia Pacific, URI.

DAY 5

Religions for Peace

Activity : Indian students from many religions interacted with Japanese Students from many religions

Objective: To understand the cultural ,social, and economical aspects of religions to build a peaceful nation both in India and Japan.

Target group: Students from 12 years to 28 years

Timing: 3 pm to 7 pm

Outcome:

The Indian students of Kerala Higher Secondary ,who are the inmates of Amrita Sanskrit School ,from the religions, Hindu, Christian ,Islam and indigenous communities had an interaction with students from Japan, who belongs to Shintoism and Buddhism. Students from both nations shared their experiences from their countries. During this time one girl from an indigenous community wept and make others eyes wet by saying an excited statement. “Thank You dear Japan friends...for touching me, hugging me and kissing me...Yet I didn’t have the dare to touch the white skinned people like you. All people are saying, we are the people with fowl smell and god created us without beauty. Even though, you give me a space in your mind. Thanks forever”. Finally Indian students performed the dance forms of India as an art feast to their guest.



DAY 6

CULTURE FOR PEACE

Activity

There was a culture exchange program conducted in three places in association with United Religions Initiative South Africa. The South African Youth Coordinator Ms.Sarah Oliver and Dr. Farah visited these three places and gave an introduction of Uri and World Interfaith Harmony week. They conducted an activity oriented leadership training .The events held in

1. Govt HSS Poovachal, Kerala
2. Quilon Institute of Management Studies, Bharathiar University, India
3. Amrita Orphanage, run by Matha Amritanandamayi math

Objective: To introduce both URI and World Interfaith Harmony week to the youth. Also understand the cultural differences between India and South Africa, the countries commonly linked with the man of peace Mahatma Gandhi

Target group: The inmates of the orphanage, the students of the school and colleges

Timing: 10 am to 7 pm

Outcome:

The URI coordinators briefed about URI and World interfaith Harmony Week. The memory of Mahatma Gandhi was a nice experience. Dr. Farah shared her experiences from her childhood regarding racial discrimination. She said that in South Africa, there is separate park benches for white and Black. There is some restrictions for Black people to swim in the sea with white. These kind of experiences accelerated the students curiosity to know the black episode of racial inequalities. Really it was an amazing culture exchange program

In the interaction with the inmates of Amrita Orphanage, the inmates welcomed the URI officials with the traditional musical instruments and performed a wonderful Bhajan ,with different religions devotional songs.





Cultural Exchange Program @ Govt HSS Poovachal.



Cultural Exchange program 3 QIMS- Bharathiyar University.



Youth



Women



Interfaith



Environment



Anti-Nuclear



Peace

Day 7 :

The Great Wall of Love

The great wall of love is the concept that making a big wall by connecting the hands of people and proclaiming the powerful statement 3 times. “We believe in the Great Wall of love”. 1100 students, teachers and other personalities participated in the formation great wall of love, it is associated with URI Srilanka South India region.



Seminar for Youth at KIPS.



Youth



Women



Interfaith



Environment



Anti-Nuclear



Peace

Inter CC Visit

Meeting with another Cooperation circle of URI Sagara Nature CC in a GOvt School. There was an interaction with CC Members. The CC coordinators shared their experiences on world interfaith harmony week. 200 students participated in this program.



Meditation In a Hindu Rock Temple

Volunteers of Zero Limits CC from different religions visited a Hindu Temple on the top of the rock, and spent time for meditation.



Inter cultural House Visit

To experience the living style of Keralite tradition Hindu family, the delegates visited one of the houses in our area.

