



Ismaili District Scout Network

The Results

The achievements by Ismaili District Scout Network can be divided into short-term and long-term perspectives. The list of achievements is long, but this paper contains brief hints on few of the most recent outcomes. The District comprises 21 Scout Groups (176 Units) from different areas of Karachi, 5764 members including Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Rover Scouts



Cub-Scouts preparing greeting cards for the purpose of income generation

Short-Term Results

The short-term results are those which are achieved immediately after the execution of activity, designed specifically for any particular task.

1. The Government of Pakistan has recently initiated the system of computerization of National Identity Cards for which citizens of Pakistan are required to file new registration forms by 31 March 2002. In view of just 38.9% literacy rate in Pakistan, the Ismaili District Boy Scouts Association executed a facilitation campaign through its Scout Groups located in different parts of Karachi in the period from August to December 2001. The campaign was a collaborative volunteer effort with local communities and the objective was to extend general guidance and facilitation to the public. It helped approximately 12,000 families in fulfilling national obligation at the right time. The dedicated service of our Scout Groups was very much appreciated by local communities.

2. For quite some years, the District has participated in campaigns for collection of clothes, household cooking stuff, blankets and medicines for Afghan refugees who are based in Peshawar, Quetta and adjacent refugee camps. Depending on the influx of refugees and need of the time, the District has actively contributed towards the welfare and rehabilitation efforts. Most recently, the 'War against Terrorism' in Afghanistan led to mass movement of Afghan people towards refugee camps in Pakistan. The District conducted a successful campaign in the month of November-December 2001 through Scout Groups in Karachi for collection of warm clothes and blankets, which were then dispatched to respective authorities in Peshawar and Quetta.

Long-Term Results

Most of the activities and projects conducted by the District have far-reaching results or, in other words, are designed mostly for long-term perspectives.

1. The District is providing a free service of emergency blood arrangements through a network of blood donors, most of which are Rover Scouts and volunteers. It maintains a database including blood donor contact details and blood group information. Following emergency calls, the need for blood is timely met through an effective communication system.



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2. The District is also running SCOUT BANK, a saving scheme being operated through two Scout Groups at present. The purpose of this project is to motivate fellow Shaheen Scouts (Cub Scouts), Boy Scouts and Rover Scouts to save money out of their pocket expenses, which may help



Scouts leaders in form Scouts of the saving scheme through the Scout Bank

them in financing their participation in Scouting activities. The scheme works on the basis of providing saving opportunities to the members, no matter how little they save. The account holders are not entitled to any profit from this scheme, but are awarded prizes and gifts on half yearly basis. Mostly their saving efforts are recognized in Group or District functions. The other and most important aspect of this project is that it also helps Scout Groups in funding their activities. The District plan to implement the same pattern in other Scout Groups as well.

3. The narrow financial resource base is a major roadblock in execution of Scouting activities and training. The District's strategy of reliance on self-finance mechanism turned out to be most significant approach. The fund raising techniques which the District adopts are:

- Collection and re-selling of newspapers: Boy Scouts and Rovers visit house to house in their respective areas for collection of used newspapers, which are then sold to

glass manufacturing and ceramics industries for utilization as packaging material. The time span of this activity depends on respective Scout Group schedule and planning.

- Greeting card selling campaigns: Most of the Scout Groups conduct Greeting Card Selling Campaigns in respect of Eid-ul-Fitre and yearly occasions. This is also achieved through house-to-house approach and normally Shaheen Scouts (Cub Scouts) and Boy Scouts participate in such activities. The greeting cards being offered to public are generally prepared by Scouts themselves and receive good appreciation in return.
- Organization of entertainment programmes for general public – mostly picnics or outing programmes.



Hand made greetings cards are offered to public

A contingent of 8 Boy Scouts and one leader from Ismaili District Boy Scouts Association represented Pakistan in the National Jamboree of Boy Scouts of America, from 24-31 July 2001 at Fort A. P. Hill, Virginia. The District has the honour of representing Pakistan in the past several international events also. Sound planning and effective mechanism of fund raising enables the District in providing chances of participation in international events to deserving Scouts who cannot afford expenses at their own. The above trip to USA was much more expensive but the District managed in co-financing the entire trip.

The Reasons

The primary objectives behind activities of Ismaili District Boy Scouts Association are:

- to project Scouting as an effective force for development of young people;
- to bring more and more young people under this umbrella through this policy of maximum outreach;
- to build linkage with outside factors for effective partnerships so that the role of Scouting can be highlighted to wider audience;
- to provide qualitative training to young people so that they could become responsible and effective members of society;
- to provide guidance and support to Scout Groups to achieve the mission of Scouting.

The Methods

The achievements are based on dedication and devotion of members of the Network who have a sincere commitment to their responsibilities. Since the network operates entirely on volunteer basis, each and every member extends his utmost personal effort towards accomplishment of assignments. The operations of Network are being supervised by the Executive Committee of the District, which comprises of District Officials, Group Scout Leaders, District Scouters and District Scout Commissioner being the Chairman.

Activities are either proposed by the Executive Committee or by Scout Groups. Those activities and projects which are planned by the Executive Committee are executed collectively throughout the network. On the other side Scout Groups do also organize activities and undertake projects at their respective level of planning and area of jurisdiction. At the Scout Group level, programmes and activities are discussed and adopted for

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execution in Group Council Meetings. The Executive Committee of the District ensures the overall co-ordination among Scout Groups and other institutions and organizations.

The information emerging from the District is transmitted to Scout Groups in the form of District circulars, which are either hand delivered to Group Scout Leaders or to their representatives who live or work nearby the District Headquarters and even through telephone messages.



Parents do take active part in motivating their children for saving scheme

In order to ensure definite delivery of information, an effective email communication system is also being managed by the District which serves the purpose of timely delivery of messages to and from the District. The circulars are also transmitted through this system along with important information downloaded from the Internet, especially from the WOSM website. At present 210 members are subscribed to this mailing list including all Group Scout Leaders, District Officials, Group Scouters and other adult leaders who play important roles in their respective Scout Groups. Only a few Scout Groups are equipped with computer facility at their Scout Dens but none of them has Internet access, therefore members of the mailing list access emails from their private computers.

After completion of an activity a report is submitted to the Executive Committee for assessment of procedures followed and

the same is circulated to all Scout Groups for their information and guidance. On the similar pattern, reports are also submitted to Group Councils for their information and evaluation.

Our Learning

The sincerity and dedication of leaders plays a vital role in achievement of any task and likewise, Group Scout Leaders and Unit Leaders have many tasks to perform, as they are also in direct contact with Scouts. There is mutual consensus which is half-way to success, which the Network enjoys at present. The confinement to a local area or one community doesn't provide exposure to different conditions which may prevail in other sectors of society.

Our Future Plans

The Network intends to implement the following plans in future:

- to implement computer literacy programmes throughout the District;
- to organize series of awareness raising seminars about the Scout Movement in collaboration with local authorities at different places;
- to initiate financial assistance scheme for deserving Scouts for their academic studies;
- to expand the operations of Scout Bank to more Scouts Groups;
- to increase effectiveness in the existing blood donation system;
- to synchronize training programmes in perspective of current international renewed approach of the Movement and in view of instructions of Pakistan Boy Scouts Association.

For further information please contact Karim Ashraf: karimmashraf@yahoo.com



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World Scout Bureau
P.O. Box 241
1211 Geneva 4, Switzerland

www.scout.org
worldbureau@world.scout.org