

**AMAN PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST
NEW DELHI**

**Annual Report
April 2017 to March 2018**

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INTRODUCTION-

We gladly present to you the Annual Report of Aman Public Charitable Trust, New Delhi, for the financial year 2017-18. The year remarked successful conclusion of existing projects as per the proposed plan. Community development projects in the field of skill training, livelihood generation and knowledge building to support socio-economic transformation were the key highlights of the interventions. At AMAN Trust we also conducted a capacity building training workshop along with participating in an international dialogue session engaging productively on the contemporary youth issues. AMAN Trust was able to serve a large population primarily belonging to the women and youth's group.

NASSCOM Foundation supported project Indian Public Library Movement (IPLM) introduced towards in 2016 with around 12 project locations across the state of Jammu & Kashmir was concluded in year 2017. With an aim to explore the possibilities of collaborating with the Assam state Directorate of Employment and Craftsman Training (DECT) to begin a job oriented skill training program a quick field visit was made to the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC). Useful networks and connections could be established with relevant civil society organizations, state and local government offices who agreed to support skill training program that shall be proposed to be conducted at the Industrial Training Institute (ITI) located in BTC region of the Assam state. AMAN Trust had also taken steps towards enhancing organizational marketing and communication strategy. Thereby, initiatives to revamp organizational website were taken to upgrade the web content in order to make it user friendly and inforamatory.

AMAN Trust remains committed to the building of a just and compassionate society through its projects in the field of social and economic development along with campaigns and advocacy programmes in the states of Jammu & Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh.

DETAILS OF PROJECT

1. The Indian Public Library Movement (IPLM), J&K

Project Period: 1st December 2016 to 30th November 2017

The public library development in India remains an untouched affair. Most of the public libraries in India are either under-utilised or lack adequate resources to cater to the demand of its users. Considering that the public libraries are easy to access knowledge centres, it demands urgent attention for reinvention and transformation. IPLM is a movement that began in 2016 to restore the worth that public libraries deserve in the present context. It began to accomplish restoration of public libraries as inclusive knowledge and information centres that serve the needs of the communities in present time. Libraries enable community members to meet, interact, share, learn and grow. Considering the violence that the state of J&K has been witnessing, the public libraries act as spaces where children, adolescents and youths are able to engage themselves positively amidst civil disorder which otherwise leaves lasting traumatic impressions on their tender mind.

AMAN Trust in collaboration with NASSCOM Foundation launched project IPLM in Jammu & Kashmir (J&K), India with a vision to support and train library administration staffs to enhance and develop their skills that is needed in process of repositioning public libraries. The regions of intervention for the project were the following districts in the state of J&K- Srinagar, Pulwama, Anantnag, Kupwara, Budgam, Doda, Jammu, Kathua, Rajauri, Udhampur, Kargil & Leh. For making the library services useful to its users, AMAN's field team engaged rigorously in mobilising the community across the 12 districts in the J&K state public libraries to generate awareness and promote the use of public libraries. Some new services were added to these libraries to enhance library user's experience. The project understands the importance of networking and developing sustained partnership to harness resources from the community for effective functioning of libraries. Several rounds of training for the librarians and other staffs were conducted by the capacity building expert team.

The below mentioned activities were the key highlights of IPLM in J&K-

1/Launch of NEET JEE preparatory e-learning resources and study materials-The project IPLM, J&K was officially inaugurated in February 2017 with the launch of NEET JEE

preparatory learning materials in 12 district public libraries (DPL) spread across Kashmir (5 libraries), Jammu (5 libraries) and Ladakh (2 libraries) divisions in the J&K state. Most of the libraries in Kashmir and Jammu divisions witnessed an increase in number of youth's enrollments to access these study materials. The library administration is also maintaining a separate register to record information of the NEET JEE resource users. On an average there is an increase of 200-250 users post the launch of IPLM in these libraries. As per the library staffs, while good number of youths are benefited by the study materials, some 4 -5 youths have even cleared the preliminary entrance in the region of Jammu and Kashmir.

2/ Infrastructural facilities and re-building library spaces – After observing the infrastructural facilities at the DPLs across J&K it was proposed to revamp them so as to provide a conducive environment to its users. While some of the district libraries witnessed a decent response from their users, a few district libraries could not attract many users due to lack of efficient infrastructural facility. Most of the libraries did not have enough fixtures and furniture as the library staffs expressed their need to get some aid through IPLM project. They expressed their concern for library users, mentioning that the footfall might get affected due to absence of adequate resources in long term.

AMAN Trust's field team in collaboration with the Directorate of Library & Research (J&K) planned and executed renovation of these libraries for an enhanced look. The DPL staffs are hopeful of seeing an increase in the footfall of users after the library is equipped with required infrastructure facilities. Under the 'look and feel' activity a section was dedicated for children library users where a range of child friendly educational resources were provided. The reading room was re-decorated to enhance its appeal to its users. Estimates & layouts for look and feel activity for the DPLs were submitted by the AMAN Trust's team to IPLM Secretariat, New Delhi. The DPLs that were located in compacted and inaccessible regions were also considered for relocation within the districts. Such regions of relocation were identified and proposed by the AMAN Trust's team identified to the directorate's office for their necessary approval. The Ladkah division was mostly inaccessible because of extreme weather conditions however the AMAN Trust's team J&K maintained required communication and monitoring efforts to support and guide the respective librarians in the region.

3. ICT preparedness – IPLM focused on digital preparedness of the libraries in order to bring the best experience to its users. The library administration well agreed to the fact that the

public libraries are important easy to access knowledge centers of a society and need to be well equipped with contemporary amenities. With a vision to equip the computer centers at libraries, all twelve DPLs across J&K were provided with five desktop sets and a printer each. The library users can easily access these computers for e-learning classes, browsing educational or job portal. These desktops are also equipped with LAN facility which was installed under IPLM project in collaboration with the directorate of library and research. Each of the library was also provided with a 4G hotspot internet device in order to ensure smooth internet connectivity. Various e-resources like e-magazines, e-papers, e-books, e-journals etc. were also provided at the respective project locations.

Overall, the computer center at these libraries is informed to be the most used facility, specifically by the youth community. AMAN Trust's team had also suggested the extension of digital facilities for working women, artisans and elderly community members.

3. Community Mobilization– In order to enhance the utility of DPLs it is important for the citizens to be aware of the facilities that they can access at these knowledge centers. However as per planned project activity AMAN's J&K team could largely mobilize youth and prospective NEET JEE aspirants in the Kashmir and Jammu divisions. Around 3500 youth were informed about the availability and use of e-learning resources in the IT centers of their nearest DPL.

Although the mobilization process was invariably interrupted due to unforeseen circumstances, the AMAN Trust's team did manage to encourage a large number of children and youth populations to use services at the DPLs.

4. Children's Corner–A child's mobility is highly restricted due to conflict situations across the Kashmir valley. When there are disruptions in civil life, DPLs could serve as a safe community space. Considering that libraries are common community spaces, IPLM focused on providing alternate learning experience to children in nearby communities. As per proposed plan of action, AMAN Trust initiated construction of children's corner at each DPL. With a supporting set of staffs, almost all the DPLs had dedicated a space for executing the plan of building children's corner. In September 2017 around 25 librarians including 12 librarians from DPLs of IPLM intervention were trained in three day workshop regarding establishment and management of Children's Corner at the libraries. This in-house training was organized by IPLM in collaboration with 'Bookworm' an organization working on

promoting community libraries.

The librarians of the project locations had agreed to mobilize children's community and promote the use of children's corner in each library. This was achieved by conducting various awareness generation activities with children in nearby schools. It is expected that the librarians will responsibly reach out to schools thrice every month.

While many librarians admit that project IPLM J&K had resulted in increased number of users of library services especially the youth population, it has also led to rewarding collaboration between AMAN Trust and the state department of library and research, J&K.

2. Collectivizing and Capacity Building of Women Weavers in Uttar Pradesh

Project Period: 1st May 2017 to 30th April 2018

Barabanki district in Uttar Pradesh state, India has a thriving craft of hand woven fabrics. However, with increasing mechanization of production, power looms, dominance of middle men and other such factors, many weavers are forced to leave their traditional profession and migrate to towns in search of alternate employments. A few families continue to weave and are bearing the responsibility of preserving the age old practice. Interestingly, most of the weaving units are led by women weavers in these households. With a view to support and ensure wellbeing of the women weavers, AMAN Trust in collaboration with Baragaon Weaves LLP, a handloom weavers enterprise and with support from American Jewish World Service (AJWS) has begun this modest initiative with weaver families in Baragaon village of Barabanki district. The project aims at building the capacities of the women weavers on-promoting them draw fair wages, create a sustainable livelihood, skill up-gradation and sensitize them on basic health and hygiene issues.

The project engaged with and established meaningful rapport with young Muslim women belonging to extremely conservative background and deprived sections of the community. Through this project we have been able to inspire not only women, but we have also convinced their parents to allow their girls to come out of their household and participate in discussions and engage with each other on issues related to gender and discrimination.

The activities carried out are as follows:

1/ Regular meetings and interactions were conducted with a group of around 20-30 young

Muslim girls. These meetings were held both at individual level and with their families.

2/ Workshops were conducted for these girls for income generation activities and soft skills like IT related trainings.

3/ Around 10 women were given income related job for stitching bags. They made and sold around 200 bags. This activity was very inspiring for them.

4/ 10-15 women participated in gender related training and workshops related to how to access government schemes conducted by civil society groups.

We were able to reach out to young Muslim women in rural and semi-urban areas and we were successful in motivating them to participate in the project activities mentioned above. AMAN Trust could also establish required collaborations in order to give exposure to these women on activities of other civil society groups which in turn gave them self-confidence. An important observation made during the course of project is that there is increasing polarization and the minority community is getting insecure and also ghettoized. We need to adopt programmes and strategies that gives confidence to the minority community, build alliances with progressive sections of civil society groups, and conduct more activities among women in such a manner that they get opportunity and confidence to engage with the mainstream of society.

This project intervention had largely encouraged many young women weavers to take charge of their weaving unit while engaging in regular production of good quality hand woven cotton products. Some women are also assisting their spouse in various forms of embroidery craft works like zardozi and chikankar. Leading online stores like JAYPORE, ITOKRI, AMAZON.IN are promoting sale of their hand woven produce. Many other brand studios like – EitherOr, JiCuration, Anoothi, are also stocking up with these hand woven products.

3. Countering Online Fanatic Indoctrination: TECH CAMP, New Delhi

Project Period: 5th – 6th August, 2017

AMAN Trust in collaboration with Confederation of Voluntary Associations (COVA), Hyderabad and World Sufi Forum organised a two day capacity building training workshop

at New Delhi, India. Delhi TechCamp was organised in New Delhi where about 35 participants were oriented by expert trainers from Mumbai and Delhi to gain expertise in using Social Media to counter hate campaigns that are dominating the internet and to secure cyberspace for promoting understanding and peace. TechCamp Delhi was an interactive and fun experience to bring together civil organizations, religious scholars, academics, social media experts and journalists with leading technology experts to master the usage of some popular social media platforms and also co-create social media solutions and strategies to cope with the most pressing challenges faced by the participants in their work.

A few interactive sessions were conducted to provide hands on experience to the participants in creating APPs, websites, blogs, and other social media tools that would prepare them to develop technological solutions to the issues and problems they encounter in their professional work or ideological interactions by framing appropriate ‘Challenge Statements’ at the end of the training. Below is the list of sessions conducted –

Interactive Sessions - 1

Building Mobile Apps with Zero Coding Knowledge
Creating Compelling Content on Social Media
Developing Tech based Community Media Strategies

Interactive Sessions - 2

Online Community Building
Outreach to Rural Audiences
Digital Security

Mr. Kamal Faruqui, Former Chairmen Delhi Minority Commission and Mr. Rahul Jalali, Former President of the Press Club of India were the guest of honour at the event. Mr. Kamal Faruqui, while delivering the valedictory address congratulated the organisers on taking up the issue that is most crucial in present time. He emphasised that social media is fast becoming the defining vehicle to form perspectives and for setting social and political norms and correct use of social media is critical for healthy growth of society as a whole and to ensure amity and positive relations among the communities. He offered to provide all possible assistance to take forward the initiative and to ensure many eminent personalities with positive social perspective to become part of this process. After the valedictory address Mr. Kamal Faruqui and Mr. Rahul Jalali distributed the certificates to all participants.

4. Representative at the 17th Melaka International Youth Dialogue (MIYD)

Project Period: 9th – 13th July, 2017

The 17th Melaka International Youth Dialogue (MIYD) organised by the World Assembly of Youth in collaboration with the Melaka State Government, Malaysian Youth Council, Asian Youth Council and the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Malaysia was held at the Melaka city in Malaysia. After a thorough process of application and shortlisting held at WAY, AMAN Trust's staff (programs manager) was selected as a representative at the dialogue session. The 17th MIYD was themed as – 'Our Roles in Solving Juvenile Delinquency'.

The theme was selected to fulfil the principal opinions and roles of young people towards combating both juvenile violence and solving delinquent behaviours. Moreover, the outcomes guided by this selected theme were expected to contribute favourably in youth development as well as betterment of societies as a whole. An interactive dialogue on this topic was a significant part of the event. It lead to form, educate, increase awareness on the challenges and entitlements of youth towards non-violence, peaceful and secure environment that assures and supports their development fully at the different levels of society that they represent. As an active participant, AMAN Trust's representative presented the identified problems and there solutions that were later incorporated in the draft of policy framed to respond to juvenile delinquency. During the visit AMAN Trust was able to successfully network with the members of civil society organizations spread across the region of South Asia.

CONCLUSION

The year 2017-18 witnessed progress in terms of successfully concluding previous projects. The grant application for some new projects proposed by AMAN Trust is under scrutiny at the donor's end. Contribution in the field of peace keeping and allied capacity building as well as advocacy efforts continued to exist. All this was possible because of our generous donors, beneficiaries, other stakeholders of program and our sincere AMAN team from program fields who stood by us through financial and moral support. We place on record our immense gratitude to all of them.

Jamal Kidwai
Director – Aman Public Charitable Trust, New Delhi

PHOTO GALLERY



*Meeting with Youth Group Leaders
(Nehru Yuva Kendra) under Ministry of
Youth Affairs & Sports at DPL Anantnag, J&K
state, India on 9th Jan., 2017 (Pic. 1 to 5)*



(1)



(2)



Mass awareness on National Youth Day 12th Jan, 2017 at Government Higher Secondary School Narkara Budgam, J&K state, India (Pic 1 to 4)

(3)



(4)



Look & feel activity at DPL Kuthwa, J&K state, India from 10th Jan to 28th Jan.,2017 (Pic 1 to 6 below)



(2)





Awareness program at Kuthwa, J&K state, India on 20-01-2017 (Pic 1 & 2 below)



ICT readiness inspection at DPL Pulwama, J&K state, India 02-01-2017 & 27-01-2017 (below)



ICT readiness in progress at DPL Jammu city, J&K state, India on 28-12-2016 (below)



Youth group leaders meeting at DPL Pulwama, J&K state, India on 02-01-2017



*NEET & JEE mobilization at super-50 Pulwama
02-03-2017*



*A woman weaver with her sister-in-law and
son at the Baragaon village in Barabanki
district of Uttar Pradesh state, India.*

*An artisan couple working on a garment
creating the famous 'zardozi embroidery',
Faizabad district, Uttar Pradesh state, India*





An old woman supporting her family livelihood 'handloom weaving' by spinning the yarns required for the weaving process at Baragaon village, Barabanki district, Uttar Pradesh state, India

A woman weaver at the pit-loom weaving a cotton saree in Baragaon village, Barabanki district, Uttar Pradesh, India



Participants during a session at TechCamp Delhi, New Delhi, India



The guest(s) of honor during the certificate distribution ceremony at TechCamp Delhi, New Delhi, India



The delegates at the 17th MIYD, Melaka state, Malaysia

The AMAN Trust's staff member presenting during a session along with participants from other nations at the 17th MIYD, Melaka state, Malaysia



THE END