Resolving issues through dialogue

Farmanullah, a committed young man, resolves community issues through dialogue in Lakki Marwat.

“This training has proved to be a multi-qualitative forum, where one can not only learn new means but enhance his capability to solve any issue and act as a mediator.”

Farmanullah is bright young man from the Lakki Marwart district of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province. This district is one of the few in Pakistan that have not been a target of the on-going terrorism by militants in recent years. Yet the people of Lakki Marwat have many legitimate grievances, with each other and the State, about the socio-economic development and infrastructure of the district. This inevitably leads to conflicts. Farmanullah, being a conscientious citizen, realized that it was his duty to resolve the challenges being faced by the citizenry.

Farmanullah was invited by PAIMAN Alumni Trust and Search for Common Ground Pakistan (SFCG) to a training program on “Youth Capacity Building on Mediation and Dialogue” held under SFCG’s flagship project, “Promoting Peace in KPK and FATA - Connecting Youth and Policymakers through Mediation and Dialogue.” He successfully completed the primary and advance level trainings on mediation, dialogue and community mobilization.

Talking about his experience with SFCG and AIMAN, Farmanullah said: “This training has proved to be a multi-qualitative forum, where one can not only learn new means but enhance his capability to solve any issue and act as a mediator.”

He shared an example about how the training brought about a change in his life:

“After completing my training, I went back to my native town and initiated efforts to resolve a conflict in the food marker over the pricelist. The pricelist was not being issued on a daily basis and it was not updated regularly to reflect the changes coming in the market. This created discomfort between consumers and the traders. I convinced the elders of the market committee to form a group and initiate a dialogue while mobilizing the community and organizing detailed meetings with the members of the trader community. I also met with the District Food Controller and requested him to issue the pricelist on a regular basis. Furthermore, a meeting was also arranged with the Assistant Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner and after tireless efforts and numerous meetings, the Deputy Commissioner issued orders for regularly updating the pricelist and since then, the pricelist is being issued on daily basis.”

After resolving this conflict, Farmanullah, along with his friends, also organized an inter-district Volleyball tournament on the theme of peace promotion. Currently, Farmanullah, along with his community support group, is making efforts for establishing a private educational institute and an Islamic university with the name of Marwat Islamic and vocational management sciences university.

“I could not have come this far without the guidance and techniques provided by the SFCG and PAIMAN Trust trainings. They have directed me towards my life’s goal,” says Farmanullah.