



Activity Report

Winter Camp, Kasur

&

Study Tour, Islamabad

2019

Al Hijrah Schools Trust Islamabad

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Background

Al Hijrah Residential School and College Ziarat Campus is located in Ziarat Valley of Balochistan, a highland town with pleasant summers but extreme winters with frigid climate. The temperature normally goes below -10 degree Celsius during winter months and educational activities at campus are ceased. Hence Al Hijrah observes winter vacation from December till March each year. Keeping in view the external board examinations normally held at the end of first quarter and during the second quarter of the year, it is very much important to organize winter camp for these classes to prepare students for upcoming exams through a vigorous and concentrated effort. Al-Hijrah tries to arrange winter camp in other cities with suitable climate to achieve a dual purpose of coaching for examinations and exposure of new learning environment and faculty.

For the purpose, this year Al Hijrah's leadership approached KIPS Academy and Akhuwat Foundation to build partnership for supporting winter camp and exposure visit of Al Hijrah's Students in Punjab province during winter vacation. Akhuwat Foundation agreed to provide residence at Akhuwat College Kasur while KIPS Academy accepted to provide teaching faculty for revision and completion of FSc syllabus/courses. 56 students of Intermediate level classes along with two faculty members and two administrative staff members had a stay of three months at Akhuwat College Kasur. During the trip the participants from Baluchistan travelled to Lahore, Kasur, Islamabad and Murree. In addition to the academic activities, they interacted with various dignitaries, motivational speakers and visited famous historic & recreational places



Figure 1: Ziarat Campus during winters

Partnership with KIPS



Figure 2: Chairman Al Hijrah and CEO Al Hijrah meeting with Mr. Abid Khan Wazir, CEO KIPS

A meeting was held with CEO Knowledge Inn Preparatory School (KIPS) to discuss possibilities of partnership for coaching services for intermediate level classes of Al Hijrah during the winter vacations. KIPS is a private educational system of pre-school, school, college, evening coaching, entry tests preparation, foreign tests preparation and prestigious CSS – PMS exam preparation. During the meeting possibility for arranging winter camp was discussed and CEO KIPS agreed to provide teaching faculty for the camp.

Partnership with AKHUWAT Foundation.

Earlier, Mr. Nazir Ahmad Vaid, a development enthusiast and seasoned professional who is on boards of several national and international welfare and development-oriented organizations Including AKHUWAT, Mercy Mission, Charity Rights, PISA, Baitussalam and PDX had visited Al Hijrah in November 2017. Inspired by the work of Al Hijrah and learning environment at the campus, he committed to support Al Hijrah in networking with other actors for synergy and scale up mission of Al Hijrah.



Figure 3: Mr Nazir Ahmad Vaid Receiving Shield from Principal AHRST during his visit to Ziarat

For the purpose, he arranged a meeting with Chairman Akhuwat Foundation, Dr. Amjad Saqib at Akhuwat head office in May 2018. Akhuwat is a leading organization in Pakistan for poverty alleviation through interest free financial services and education. Akhuwat is now the largest interest free microfinance organization in the world. Mr. Muhammad Saleem Ranjha, brother Abdul Karim Saqib, M Naimat Ali Kaukab (ex-principal Al Hijrah) and CEO Al Hijrah Abdul Rehman Usmani participated in the meeting. During the meeting Chairman Akhuwat Committed to work in partnership with Al Hijrah Schools Trust.

On August 17, 2018, second meeting was held with Chairman Akhuwat Foundation, Dr Muhammad Amjad Saqib, where Akhuwat agreed to work in partnership with Al Hijrah Schools Trust. Akhuwat committed to provide technical assistance in the following areas.

1. Akhuwat will provide technical assistance for capacity building of teaching and non-teaching staff at Al Hijrah Residential School and College, Ziarat, Baluchistan.
2. Akhuwat Foundation will provide opportunities for study tour, study camps and exposure visits



Figure 4: Meeting with Chairman Akhuwat Foundation

Main Objectives of Winter Camp

Following were the broader objectives of the winter camp

1. Providing opportunity to the students to make preparations for upcoming board exams through close supervision and coaching during winter vacation.
2. Providing exposure to the students and faculty of Al Hijrah about contemporary tips and techniques to perform well in external as well as competitive examinations. teaching methodology and content mastery that may help students in clearing medical and engineering tests and secure good marks in Board exams
3. To have a firsthand experience of variety of possible learning activities and learning environments in big cities in provinces other than Balochistan.
4. Provision of recreational and exposure opportunities to students in big cities including Lahore and Islamabad.

Activity Proceedings of Winter Camp at Kasur

Al Hijrah selected two senior classes consisting of 56 students of Intermediate part 1 and part 2 for the winter camp. In morning of January 24, 2019, the students along with two faculty members and two administrative staff members travelled via train from Quetta to Lahore. Majority of the student were travelling for the first time to another province and especially to the historic city of Lahore. After travel of a full day and night the participants reached Lahore. The participants were received by Al Hijrah Alumni members pursuing higher education in Lahore city. After a short break in Lahore, the Finance and Logistic Manager arranged transport to facilitate travelling to Akhuwat College Kasur that is situated in Mustafa Abad between Lahore and Kasur. Mr Akram and Mr Dogar from Akhuwat College, Kasur received the participants.



Figure 5: Participants at Quetta Railway Station before leaving for Lahore

Facilities and Logistics Provided at Akhuwat College Kasur

A hall was provided by Akhuwat Foundation for students to stay during the camp while faculty and staff members stayed in a separate room at the college. AHST staff in collaboration with chefs and other auxiliary staff of Akhuwat, arranged 3-time meals, and periodic daily refreshments including fruits, cookies etc. for the winter camp member. AHST officials also arranged all required stationery, uniform, clothing, general supplies, sports related items medical facilities etc. during the entire camp. Al Hijrah also arranged mattresses and blankets for students during their stay at Kasur. All other arrangements including restaurant meals, within city and intercity travels and transportation of goods were also done by AHST.

Akhuwat Foundation provided three class rooms at the fifth floor of the college building at Kasur. Students during the day time used to be engaged in self-study while in the evening they attended classes with qualified instructors from KIPS Academy. Akhuwat College also facilitated participation of Al Hijrah students in their college events and social gatherings.



Figure 6: Student at Akhuwat College Kasur



Figure 7: Student Wearing Baloch Cultural Dress at Cultural day during Camp at Kasur



Figure 8: Students at the tomb of Baba Bhulay Shah and Sufi Saint and Poet at Kasur District



Figure 9: Students at Akhuwat College

Profile of Teachers

KIPs provided four teachers for science subjects i.e. Mr. Zeeshan for chemistry, Mr Kamran for Biology, Mr Hassan for physics and Mr Sohail for mathematics while AHST provided the services of Mr. Abdullah for Urdu & Islamiat and Mr. Rahim Jan for English subject.

Travel Arrangements for Teachers

Three teachers from KIPs used to travel from Lahore on their personal vehicles. While one teacher living in Kasur utilized pick and drop facility provided by Al Hijrah Schools Trust.

Compensation of Teachers of KIPs

KIPs supported compensation of teachers for science subject for the entire camp while revision of Urdu, English and Islamic Studies syllabus was done by Al Hijrah faculty at the camp.

Inside Classroom Activities

Classes of science subject were held in the evening while during the morning time students were engaged in classes of Islamic Studies, Urdu and English taught by Al Hijrah's faculty. During the day time students were engaged in self-study. Almost entire syllabus was revised under the instructions of teachers provided by KIPs. The learning process was facilitated through quizzes, assignments, group discussion/activities and sample board papers with special focus on developing capabilities of student to achieve high marks in board exams and attempt entry test for engineering and medical.



Figure 10: Participant in Residential Hall provided by Akhuwat College Kasur

Closing Ceremony

On the last day of the camp, the closing ceremony was held at Akhuwat College Kasur. Chief Executive Officer, Abdur Rahman Usmani, Chairman Akhuwat, Dr Muhammad Ajmad Saqib, Ex principal Al Hijrah Residential School and College, Col Arshad Javed Khokhar, teaching faculty members of KIPS, Al Hijrah and Akhuwat College Kasur participated in the event. CEO Al Hijrah shared his excitement of not being alone in this mission of empowering talented students living in poverty at Balochistan, as Akhuwat and KIPS joined hands with Al Hijrah. Chairman Akhuwat and Ex principal AHRSC also delivered speeches at the occasion. Finally, lunch was offered to participant by Al Hijrah Schools Trust Islamabad. CEO Al Hijrah also presented shield to chairman Akhuwat as a gesture of appreciation.



Figure 11: CEO Al Hijrah Presenting Shield to chairman Akhuwat Foundation Muhammad Amjad Saqib at Akhuwat College Kasur

Recreational and Exposure Visits

As the students belong to the marginalized communities, they had a limited exposure to historic and famous places of Pakistan. Al Hijrah took this opportunity to facilitate tour of participants to famous historical and recreational points of Pakistan. Two buses were arranged by logistic team to facilitate the tour. Participants visited following places during their trip.

Kasur	Mazar of Baba Bhulay Shah and Kamal Chishti
Lahore	Minar e Pakistan, Shahi Qila, Badshahi Masjid
Murree	Pindi Point, Kashmir Point, Mall Road, Chattar Park.
Islamabad	Pakistan Monument, Shakarparian Park, Faisal Mosque and Daman e Koh, Al Hijrah Schools Trust Head office Islamabad.

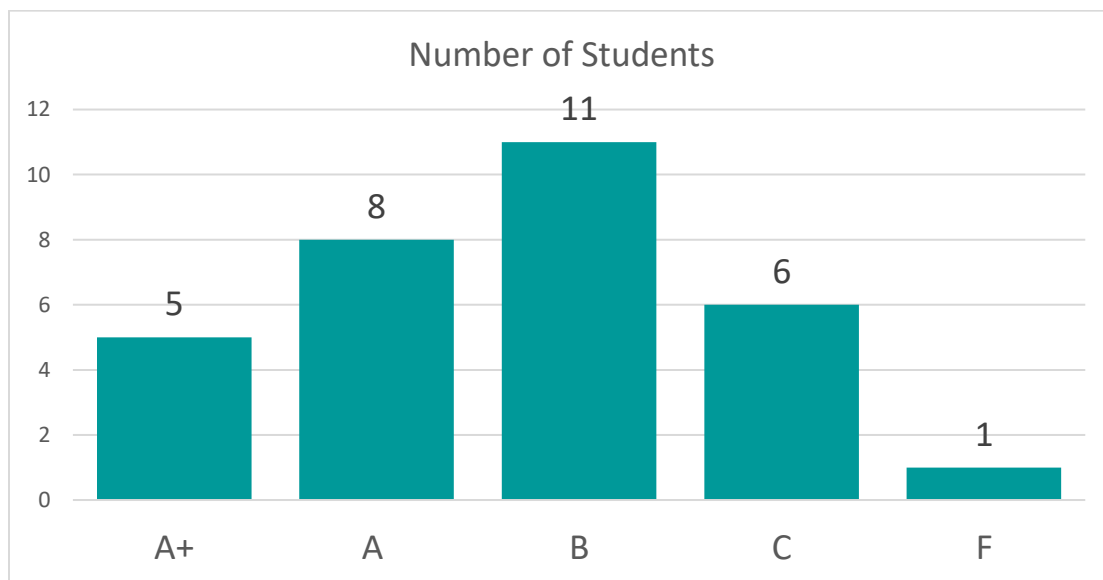


Figure 12: Students at Various Historic and Picnic Places

Results/Impact

1. Students were better able to understand course/syllabus
2. Students had a hands-on experience in attempting and handling board papers and entry test for engineering and medical admissions.
3. Students developed a positive impression about people of Punjab, as they experienced the spirit of volunteerism and cooperation for people of Balochistan in Punjab.
4. Five participants secured admissions in MBBS from the graduating class.
5. Teaching faculty had a practical exposure to modern teaching methodology.
6. Participants secured good marks in annual board exams.

Board HSSC Exam Results of Participants (2019)



**Proportion of Students
securing A+, A and B
Grades:**

77%

Annexure

Picture and Details

Arrival- 25 March, 2019

The students arrived about 3 am from kasoor to Islamabad and were given a stay at “Al Waqas” Hotel Faizabad Rawalpindi.



Pakistan Monument visit- 25 March, 2019

After the breakfast at 9 am students visited Pakistan Monument. Pakistan Monument located in Islamabad is conceived as the National Monument of Pakistan. The monument was constructed as a tribute to the people who sacrificed their lives for the independence of Pakistan. It represents the history, civilization and culture of Pakistan and mainly focuses on historical events of Pakistan Movement.





Shakarparian visit- 25 March, 2019

Soon after visiting Pakistan monument Shakarparian was visited. it is the urban wilderness south of Islamabad with trees planted by dozens of foreign heads of state, as well as sculpted gardens, and panoramas of Islamabad and Rawalpindi from the east lookout. Shakarparian also has a Parade ground which host the Pakistan Day Parade every year on 23 March.



Faisal Masjid visit- 25 March, 2019

Faisal Masjid was set the 3rd point of visit for students. Faisal Mosque in Islamabad, Pakistan is the biggest mosque of South Asia and the sixth largest mosque in the world with covered area of 5000 square meter (54,000 square feet), and room for containing as many as 300,000 worshipers in its main prayer hall, porticoes, courtyard and adjoining grounds. It is considered as the National Mosque of Pakistan. Zohar prayer was offered over there and students also visited the tomb of General Zia ul Haq near Faisal Masjid who served as the 6th President of Pakistan.



Damane-e-koh visit- 25 March, 2019

After having a lunch, the same day students also visited Damane-e-koh. It is located among the lush green hills of Margalla around 3000 feet above the sea level and 1000 feet from the federal capital, a salubrious spot called Daman-e-Koh (in the lap of the mountain). A place where natural and man-made beauty intrigues the heart and mind of every visiting individual. This place has panoramic views over Islamabad.



Visit of Murree - 26 March, 2019

The next day students were taken to a tour of Murree which is 60 Kilometers from Islamabad. Murree is a famous hill station and tourist attraction. The mountain area is towered by high foothills of Himalaya mountains. In Murree students visited Pindi point, Kashmir point and Mall Road. While returning from Murree, Chatar Park was also visited.



Visit of lake view park - 26 March, 2019

The next point of visit was lake view point so students continued and visited lake view park. Lake View Park is one of the favorite recreational spots of people of Islamabad. The park has been beautifully built alongside magnificent Rawal Lake. The park offers a wonderful boating, fishing, and playing opportunities and also great campground, picnic areas for the visitors.





Visit to Al Hijrah Head office - 26 March, 2019

The same day in the evening the students visited Al Hijrah Head office at Islamabad where they were received by Mr. Abdul Rehman Usmani The CEO of Al Hijrah Schools Trust.





Dinner at “Habibi Restaurant - 26 March, 2019

After this visit students had a dinner at “Habibi Restaurant” in Rawalpindi which was hosted by brother Zafar Iqbal the head of the NGO world.



Breakfast at refreshment center - 27 March, 2019

The last day of the trip begin with the breakfast at refreshment center commercial market Rawalpindi. After the breakfast students shared their views regarding their stay at Akhuwat University and trip of Islamabad.



Meet up with Dr. Zafar Iqbal Qadir - 27 March, 2019

The lunch of the last day was hosted by the founder of the Taleem Foundation a great Mohsin-e-Balochistan Dr. Zafar Iqbal Qadir ex secretary Ministry of IT. He has the vision and mission to transform the society with education and enlighten the strongest tribal culture in which educating both girls and boys were almost impossible to think rather successfully execute it. He shared his views with students.



Activity Report- Winter Camp | Exposure Visits to Kasur - 2019

