

Midpoint Recap
Jan – Jun. Newsletter 2018

COLLECTIVE COMMONS



Kaarvan Crafts Foundation
Crafting Livelihoods

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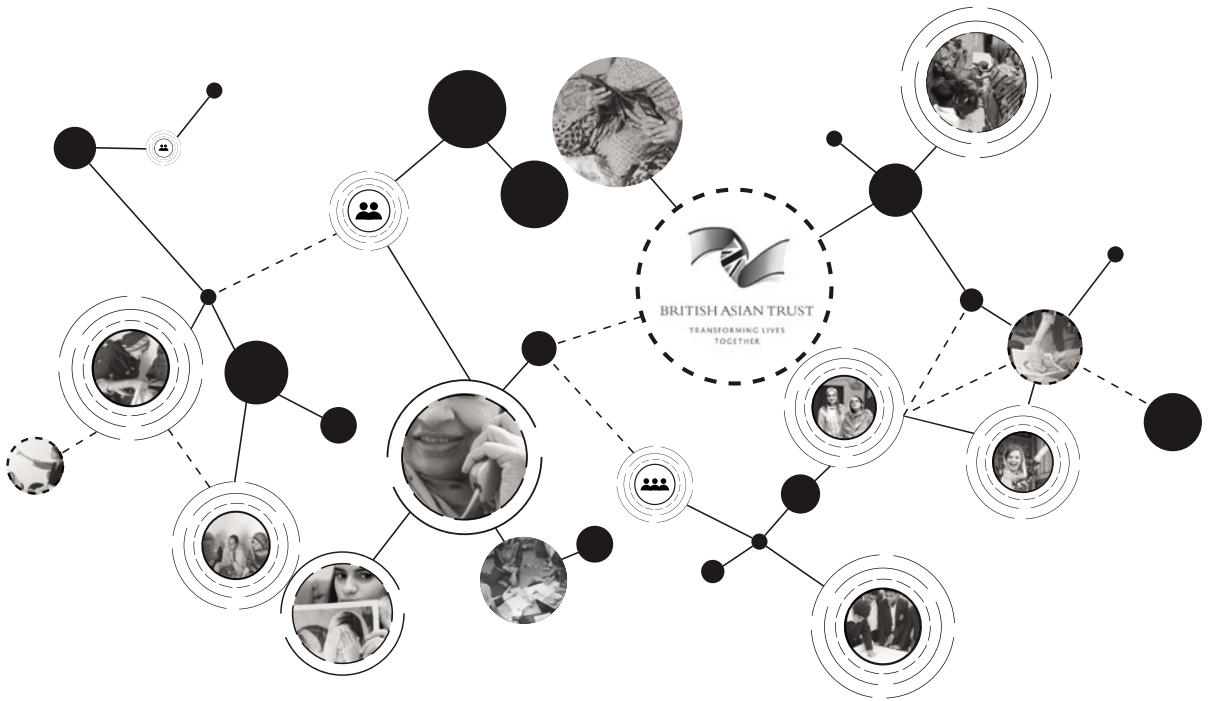
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A hand holds a smartphone, displaying a photo of a white garment, possibly a shirt or jacket, against a dark background. The phone's interface shows various icons like a camera, gallery, and settings. A semi-transparent white rectangular box is overlaid on the right side of the phone, containing bold black text. The background of the entire image is a blurred, light-colored fabric.

**COLLECTIVE
MOVEMENT
TOWARDS A
CULTURE OF
PEACE AND
INCLUSIVITY**



WHAT A YEAR THIS HAS BEEN?!

Meaningful collaborations all around from digital literacy training, app and web portal development with, by and for female artisans in Pakistan with Samsung – British Asian Trust, CERP, Kaarvan collaboration on Randomized Control Experiment to work out a sustainable Market Linkage model – Skills for Market Linkages, 25 incubation centers, unlocking the potential of 500 females stitchers in partnership with Punjab Skills Development Fund – female artisans work and stories on display at the London Design Biennale.

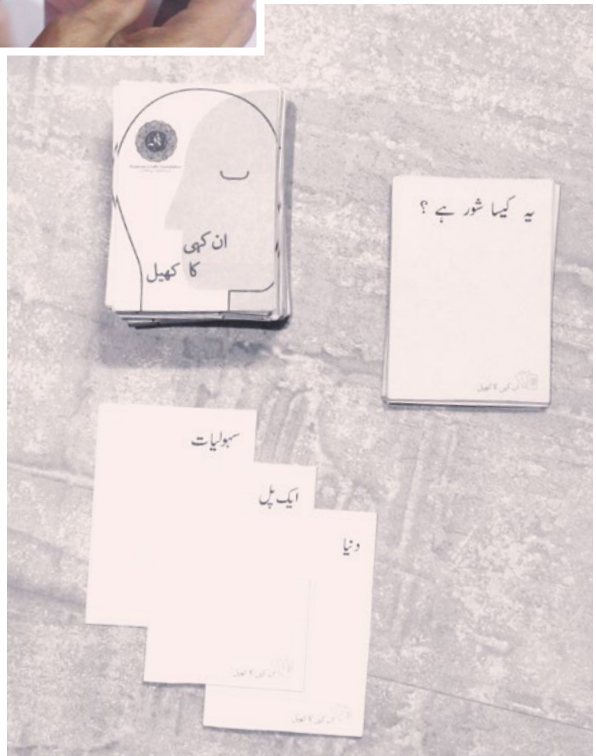
Bridging understandings and challenging the status quo with RJ Sophie from FM 91 and Tamara Robeer, Founder of Play, Create and Celebrate joining Kaarvan as Goodwill Ambassadors - engaging and inspiring the world for what we stand for. Along the way, we have held a series of critical literacy workshops on the topics of social justice, gender equality, empathy, public space and human rights.

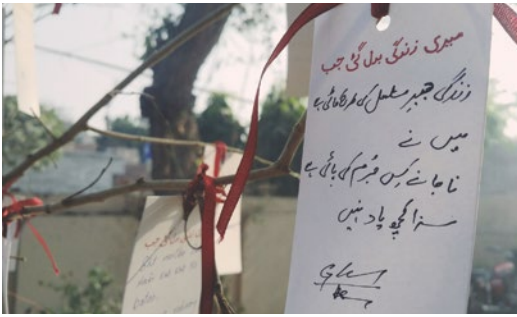
With such ongoing initiatives, social projects, digital literacy trainings, incubation centers, workshops and collaborations — Kaarvan has begun its collective movement towards a culture of peace and inclusivity.



EMPATHY CARD GAME

A deck of playing cards was developed in response to youth's reservations about gender topic being over rung with notions of abuse and domestic violence. The youth sought a fresh perspective on things. Kaarvan took this opportunity to unpack the concept of gender and gender roles through "play." Through interactive discussion bring forward invisible cultural barriers that gender concept imposes on individuals.





WELCOME NEW YEAR WITH LIVESTOCK PROGRAM TRAINERS

Celebrating the accomplishments of Livestock Training Program with certificate distribution, BBQ and interactive activities hallmarking the trainers' journeys and learning about the inspiring lives of over 3000 females in villages of Okara, Kasur and Nankana Sahib. Empathy Card Game was piloted. Play created a space of embodied experiential learning allowing creativity, empathy and collaboration to flow. A sense of connection and acknowledgement of varied perspectives was fostered. The sense of joy and wonder was palpable as one trainee related that action is always "reactionary" and in the guise of getting things done we often forget to address the root cause of the matter."





KICKING OFF GRASSROOTS MOBILIZATION AND CENTERS IDENTIFICATION DRIVE FOR SKILLS FOR MARKET LINKAGE PROGRAM

Skills for Market Linkages are being undertaken in remote village areas of Punjab. In partnership with Punjab Skills Development Fund 25 incubation centers, are unlocking the potential of 500 females stitchers, has been kicked-off by Kaarvan in the far flung villages of Sheikhpura, Kasur and Nankana.

Providing economic opportunities to rural women through life skills that enable family to live in health and with dignity. Special attention is paid to market skills training in order to link female trainees to industry.

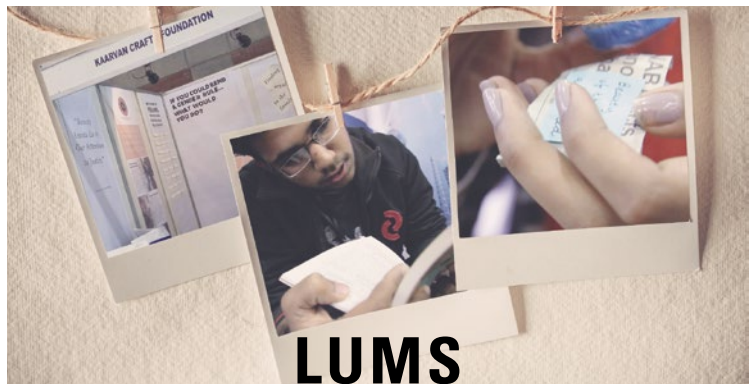
RADIO PANEL DISCUSSION ON JUSTICE, CIVILIAN PROTECTION & HUMAN RIGHTS

The tragic incident of violence that took place in Kasur where an 8-year-old Zainab's life was whisked away by a troubled soul was a rude awakening to society of the threats looming within hidden in streets. How to face such fears and dangers? In conversation with RJ Sophie from FM 91 on topic of civil rights and use of media, art, writing, sounds, rallies and vigils to voice out our concerns and create pressure points that compel law enforcement to take critical action.



KAARVAN'S VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

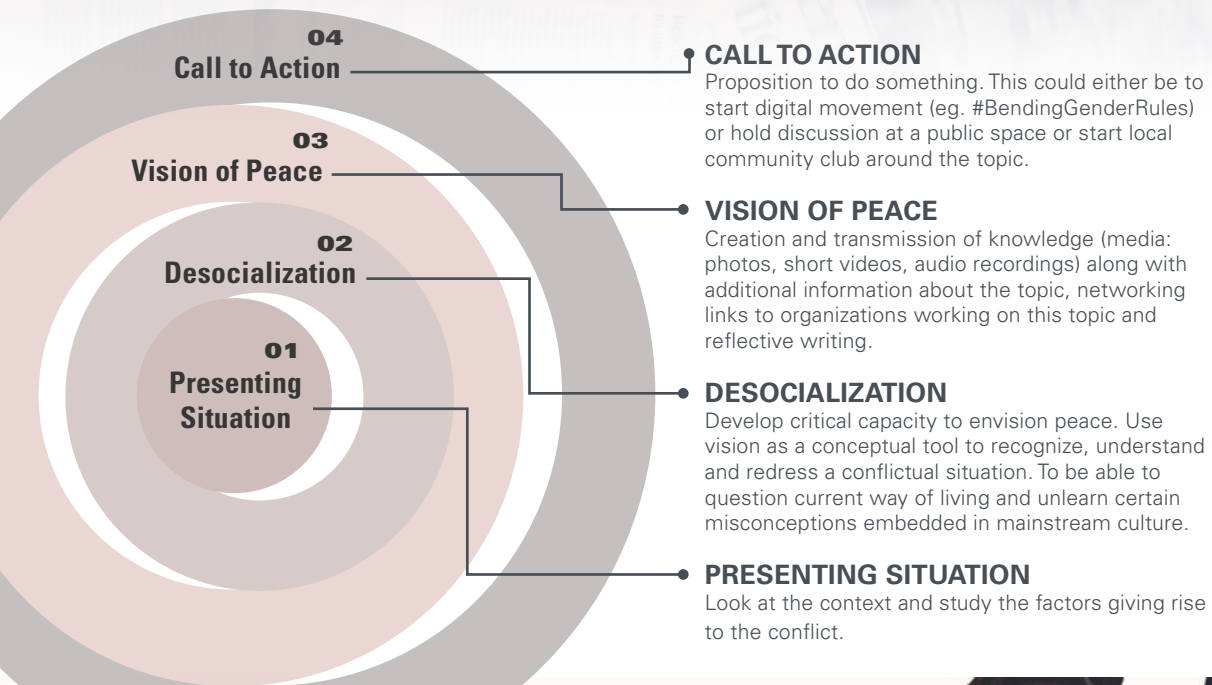
Initiation of writing platform to share diverse viewpoints on the topics of gender equality, culture, human rights, skills and peace building. Acknowledging that multiple truths exist and in order to better understand the complexity of reality is to honor partial truths. Stories are partial truths. They are expressions of the speaker's experience and views at particular moment in time. Listening and reading varied perspectives expands the limits of what we know making us much more empathic towards each individual's lived experience.



LUMS KAARVAN INTERACTION SERIES

Interacted with the youth on a platform full of future dreams — space ripe to discuss a culture of peace from gendered perspective. Whether we realize it or not gender trickles into every aspect of our lives — social, economic, political and cultural affairs. Subconsciously it affects how we view the world around us. We asked curious students to reflect about humanity, gender bias, justice and beauty. With internationally acclaimed Social Justice Day around the corner, we asked youth to think about how the city deals with justice or the lack of justice: IN ABSENCE OF JUSTICE — HOW DO PEOPLE FILL IN THE MISSING GAP? Notions of continuous mobilization and pressurizing the government to take affirmative action by voicing out concerns were mentioned repeatedly. Along with lingering doubt of imperfections in policy and legal structures... the role of beauty in disturbing equality.

PACKAGE MEDIA FOR TRANSFORMATION





SOCIAL JUSTICE CAMPAIGN

Engaged in a month long critical literacy campaign on the topic of social justice, beauty and empathy. The workshops spanned a week of looking at our locality with a sense of humility, wonder and respect utilizing varied means of expression ranging from photography, writing and drawing.

What exactly is this quest for justice? The need for justice arises when something goes array, when something ceases to exist. Justice stands opposed to injury: "injustice." A series of workshops were held at Head Office in Lahore, with Beaconhouse National University and Kaarvan Gujranwala Training Institute with the aim to seek out what is absent from human community, become aware of daily unmindfulness of the aliveness of others, seek beauty in the ordinary things and thereby bring into being new beauty, new hope, new way of living.

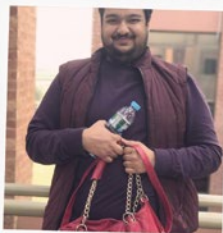
Through envisioning exercises & collectively writing on one photograph the topics: importance of caring teachers in unpacking the student's potential; normalization of discussion of sexual education; growing use and power of social media for awareness; expansion of one's mind through travel, education, interaction with diverse groups; and notions of acceptance and tolerance. Not to mention the blurring line between liberal and conservative mindset.



PHOTOGRAPHING EACH OTHER AND UNDERSTANDING EACH OTHER'S PERCEPTIONS...



thinking...



cute and helpful



GUA



Comfort freak



Look at those wavy locks



FU





I AM TOMORROW

I Am Tomorrow is an international festival that brings forward local and international female role-models in all walks of life from business, arts, education, tech, sports, science, politics and beyond. Danish Jabbar Khan, CEO Kaarvan Crafts Foundation, shared his experience on the Change Makers Panel of expanding the boundaries of gender roles by building human capacities of marginalized rural women and bridging the gap between urban and rural populations.

catch
DANISH JABBAR KHAN
CEO, Kaarvan Crafts Foundation

On the Change Makers Panel
Tomorrow, Friday 3rd March

I am Tomorrow
INTERACTIVE FESTIVAL FOR WOMEN IN TECH & BEYOND

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

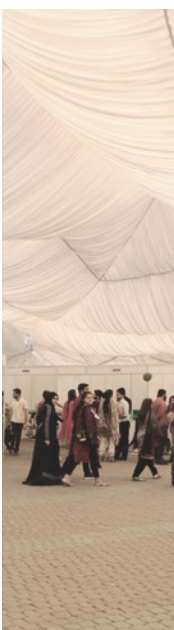
Kaarvan honored and celebrated the resilience of its Trainees in overcoming personal/ structural/ cultural barriers in their life. Celebrated the day with interactive learning sharing activities at Kaarvan's Gujranwala Training Center with 110 trainees. Trainees through interactive activities of empathy card game, renaming objects and measuring silence — highlight the paradoxical nature of gender and how it presents opportunities and limitations to personal growth at the same time.





UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL PUNJAB KAARVAN INTERACTION SERIES

Through interactive activities on bending gender rules there was a discussion on gender roles discrepancy, community mindset and culture. In one conversation the question, how can one possibly change entrenched community beliefs was posed to Kaarvan. The honest answer is we don't know exactly how but that should not stop us from envisioning a gender just future, from taking a leap of faith and from asking questions. Culture is cultivated by us! Community walas will continue to put pressure on us — saying this is the way things are done. If we aren't happy with the way things are then we in turn should put pressure back by simply questioning the narrative. Culture shouldn't define us. We should define culture.



PILOTING DIGITAL LITERACY TRAINING WITH FEMALE MICRO ENTREPRENEURS KAARVAN-BAT-CERP MARKET LINKAGE INTERVENTION

In partnership with Center for Economic Research in Pakistan (CERP) and The British Asian Trust and Kaarvan together are unpacking DFID – UK Department for International Development's Women Economic Empowerment Program in Pakistan, unlocking market linkage potential for the skilled female stitchers at the grass root level.

Bilal, our Digital Systems Manager introduced CERP-Kaarvan digital module on Google Sheets and Survey CTO to Micro-Entrepreneurs of distant villages of Bahawalpur and Bahawalnagar. Lesson revolved on how they can digitally manage their supply chains and represent themselves. Here's to the first steps towards a digital market linkage and equipping Rural Micro-Entrepreneurs with technology, expanding their possibilities to reduce the cost of business and opportunities to access the market.



SEWING THE GAPS KAARVAN AND PSDF SKILLS FOR MARKET LINKAGE PROGRAM

Our vision to localize Business Incubation Services for women in rural areas has borne fruits. This dream has become a reality with the support of Punjab Skills Development Fund (PSDF)'s "Skills for Market Linkage" Program. In March, 25 incubation centers, unlocking the potential of 500 females stitchers, has been kicked-off by Kaarvan in the distant villages of Sheikhpura, Kasur and Nankana. Hands-on training of utilizing industrial sewing machines and order processing from the industry — bringing into action the year long business/ entrepreneurship mentoring of the incubation program.

It has been exhilaratingly speedy journey from center setup, to multiple community awareness sessions and to training of trainers.



PARTNERING TO EMPOWER RURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

CERP, KAARVAN, BAT AND LUMS

Center for Economic Research in Pakistan (CERP), Kaarvan and LUMS brought together by The British Asian Trust to work out the training modules for Business and Entrepreneurship for micro-entrepreneurs at the grassroots level. Nawazish Ali and Sumeera Gul from Kaarvan and Wafa from CERP led the Training of the Trainers (TOT) sessions at Kaarvan's Head Office. Which then disseminated further in training sessions in Bahawalpur and Bahawalnagar to the female micro-entrepreneurs.

These sessions are of critical importance for CERP and Kaarvan's Randomized Control Experiment to work out a sustainable Market Linkage model for the skills of women from marginalized communities in rural areas.



GENDER RESPONSIVE WORKSHOP WITH AYSHA SAIFUDDIN HUMAN RIGHTS SERIES

Founding Director Aysha Saifuddin held gender responsive workshop at Kaarvan Head Office with aim to disseminate learning to take democratic responsibility for personal development. Talking about the difference between socially constructed definition of gender and our biological difference of being a man or woman. Gender is much more nuanced than one's sexual orientation or physical differences. The need to understand that gender is a dynamic and changeable concept. Through role-play activities of how males and females would respond or act in certain situations we discussed how gender roles and stereotypes become culturally conditioned ideas. For a preferred future, for peace, we must first and foremost become aware of our own personal biographies and biases. It is only when we look inward and understand self — self identify the social roles we have adopted that are restricting our possibilities that we can break away and step into our true selves. It is when we connect with the other that we can make both our lives ethically better.



RJ SOPHIE FROM FM 91 JOINS IN AS KAARVAN'S GOODWILL AMBASSADOR #STEPPINGOUT CAMPAIGN

Sophiya Anjam – RJ Sophie from FM91 Pakistan has joined Kaarvan as our Goodwill Ambassador. With Sophiya on board, Kaarvan hopes to further bridge the urban and rural understanding, bring the resilient village micro-entrepreneurs to the forefront, emotionally connect and empathize with one another. The partnership kicked off with Sophiya stepping out of the city into Gujranwala to meet energetic and ever resilient rural women, sharing and inspiring millions of her fans with her experience of meeting the courageous trainees through electronic and digital media.





IMAGE OF PUBLIC SPACES AND HUMAN RIGHTS WORKSHOP AT LUMS HUMAN RIGHTS SERIES

Kaarvan and LUMS's society Hum-Aahang collaborate to discuss the interaction between public spaces and human rights. How do we, THE CITIZENS, utilize, transform and reclaim spaces in our daily lives? What are the commonalities and differences of "claiming" space in urban & rural areas?

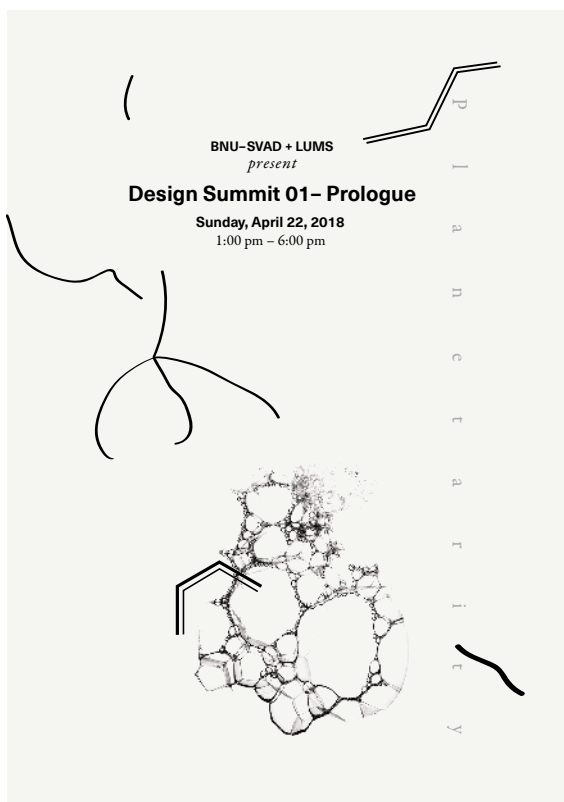


During the workshop the rural women surprised the LUMS students with their candid speech. Despite traveling from Gujranwala and not to mention the late hour 7 pm workshop all five ladies enthusiastically expressed themselves, challenged stated perceptions and sang with joy.



One of the unspoken insights that materialized is that it is not the place itself that is welcoming or unwelcoming — it is the familiarity — it is the people. It is about intimacy that is the exclusionary factor. Being part of the community.

Whether we exist inside or outside the storyteller's circle. Through interactive activities of photo studies and reweaving the Article 37 of the Pakistani Constitution the notion of overcoming the savior mentality — being overly dependent on the state was refuted. Discussion ensued on our role to amplify community driven solutions and resource the ability of people to gather together around a collective vision of preferred future.



Room 202

Segment B2



Daanish Jabbar Khan

Danish Khan | CEO | Kaarvan Crafts Foundation

Embracing Uncertainty - The beauty of knowing that it's perfectly OK not to know



Anil Anjum

Associate Creative Director at IAL Saatchi & Saatchi

The Sweet Spot: where design meets business



Ayesha Ahmed

Assistant Professor/ Academic Advisor SVAD- BNU & Independent Designer

Design Education: Life skills beyond disciplines and products



Hassan Habib

A designer thinker and founder of an experience design agency at Designist

How are we designing spaces for creative collaboration and problem solving?

KAARVAN TALKS ABOUT EMBRACING UNCERTAINTY AT DESIGN SUMMIT 01 | PROLOGUE ORGANIZED BY BNU & LUMS

CEO Danish Jabbar Khan was invited to speak at Design Summit 01 – Prologue, organized by BNU & LUMS. At seminar leading professionals and stakeholders of the region gather together and shared their varied perspectives on design academia and the industry at large — how to create a cross-disciplinary collaboration among the various practices and different professions.

Danish shared his experience of fieldwork and adapting quickly to challenges that arose within the village communities. The crux of the message being that we need to step into uncertainty — uncertainty is choosing courage over comfort — no matter how much you plan or take cautionary measures, you cannot account for everything. The best thing to do is to know the main objective — the purpose, the way i.e. methodology to achieve the purpose — simply do it. Take action! Do not loose time going around in circles trying to strategize for human nature. We are not omnipresent or “all-knowing.” We are human. Let us just simply take an affirmative action and then be responsive to challenges that arise.



“IN KIND” WOMEN ARTISANS VISIT KAARVAN HEAD OFFICE PROJECT “IN KIND” WITH THE BRITISH ASIAN TRUST

In early May, a series of visits from Female Micro-Entrepreneurs — representing artisans from distant villages from Bahawalpur, Lodhran, Multan and Vehari — participants of Kaarvan’s Project “In Kind” with The British Asian Trust — travelled to Kaarvan Head Office in Lahore.

Stepping out of one’s home, one’s community and one’s village is always a little nerve racking. Cheers to these women and their families for stepping out of their comfort zones towards their prospective futures. They showcased their specialized skills ranging from Applique, Gota, Makes, R-work, Shadow work, Tarkashi, Block prints and Chunri. Discussion ensued on how to work with humility and respect with fellow community groups — creation of a moral society where each individual’s dignity and integrity is kept in view.

The Female Entrepreneurs from Multan and Vehri had taken part in the Expo Center’s Exhibition where they competed with the urban brands sold their hand crafted merchandise to the Lahori public. These women shared their buyer-seller experience and insights with us, showcased their craft samples for feedback, received raw materials of cloth, techniques and pattern ideas for future work.

Through Project “In Kind” Kaarvan & The British Asian Trust will be unlocking potential of 1320 female artisans in far flung villages of Punjab.



LEGAL RIGHTS WORKSHOPS AT KAARVAN TRAINING INSTITUTES

HUMAN RIGHTS SERIES

For a culture of peace, developing capacities for informed responsible citizens is key. Kaarvan is familiarizing the Female Trainees with their Constitutional Rights and Responsibilities. Human Rights Lawyers Razia Monnoo, Shahbano Masud and Mahnoor Anwar conducted Awareness Workshops at Kaarvan's Gujranwala and Bahawalpur Training Institutes on Women's Legal Rights in Pakistan — how they function, what they expect of its citizens and what the citizens can expect from them.

Thoughtful conversations unfolded as the rural women questioned what can be done when their supposed lawyer is not being fully honest and providing all the information to them. Razia, Shahbano and Mahnoor shared case studies at how to best confront deceit and injustices with awareness of policies and taking a firm stand for one's rights.

Kaarvan is playing its humble role in disseminating education regarding citizen's Constitutional Rights and Responsibilities, thereby building one's political capacity to take democratic responsibility for one's own life.





TRAINING OF TRAINERS FOR RURAL INCUBATORS SKILLS FOR MARKET LINKAGE PROGRAM

Three months into the Skills for Market Linkages Program Kaarvan Team checks in with the female trainers in a Training of Trainers session. Program Team gathers all the Training Instructors and enquires about any project difficulties that may be arising, material stock quantity and respect of time-management. In a group circle discussion, challenges and potential solutions were shared — substantially reducing the stress through clear communication and setting of action protocols.

KITS DISSEMINATION, STITCHING & QUALITY ASSURANCE CERP-KAARVAN-BAT MARKET LINKAGES PROJECT

CERP-Kaarvan Market Linkages project with The British Asian Trust is well under its way in Bahawalnagar and Bahawalpur where the team is working side by side with the Master Tailors and Rural Facilitators on quality assurance and distribution of new toolkits to the female rural micro-entrepreneurs for stitching.



DIGITALLY DECENTRALIZED RURAL ECONOMY

SAMSUNG - KAARVAN PARTNERSHIP

Samsung is partnering with Kaarvan to disseminate digital literacy training with 240 Micro-Entrepreneurs in Lahore, Kasur, Lodhran, Multan, Vehari, and Bahawalpur. Kaarvan with Samsung's support in the process of developing an information sharing app, a multivendor ecommerce portal for Female Micro-Entrepreneurs, and connect through helpline. The idea is to minimize the information asymmetry between the Demand and Supply by creating a direct connection between the Market and the Female Micro-Entrepreneurs through the online portal — where the Micro-Entrepreneurs could upload the crafts of the community they represent, take orders, sell, and receive payments from national and international customers through Android Mobile Devices. Utilize Internet to access wider demand-side and improve supply-side efficiency.

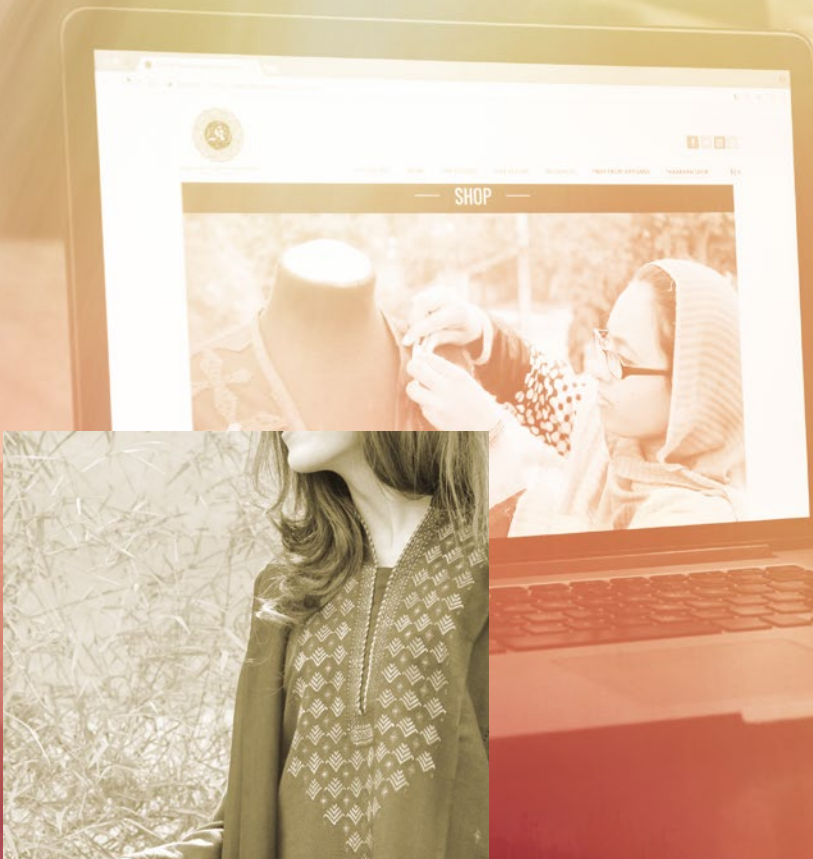



LAUNCH OF ETHNIC CENTRICITY KAARVAN'S ONLINE-SHOP

Translating Craft into High Street Fashion, Kaarvan has launched its Online Selling Platform where the Fashion Practitioner & Educator, Pakeeza Khan provides inspirational high-end fashion clothing designs created with, by and for the rural women to emulate and build off from.

The female artisans are very much a part of creating the inspiration directory of fusing ethnic embroidery with modern cuts by working side by side with Pakeeza.

Ethnic Centricity is more than clothing. It is about fragments of self. It is about our values stitched within each clothing. It is about being part of the community. It is about being part of humanitarian giveback. A gift that keeps on giving.





TAMARA ROBEER JOINS IN AS KAARVAN'S GOODWILL AMBASSADOR PLAY, CREATE AND CELEBRATE PLATFORM

Kaarvan first got acquainted with Tamara Robeer during the “I Am Tomorrow” Festival in Lahore, Pakistan. Although Tamara is based in Netherlands she has joined Kaarvan as our International Goodwill Ambassador.

Tamara is a speaker, writer, photographer, artist, marcomm ninja, leadership & consciousness coach dedicated to helping you design your life by choice. Founder and CEO of Play Create Celebrate, a company specializing in legacy creation empowering humans by creating bridges between balanced leadership, authentic creativity and consciousness entrepreneurship.

Through exchange of global video letters and interactive learning sharing activities — together we are reclaiming our legacy, stepping outside of the constrained patriarchal vision — revisiting the way we define our lives, our homes, our relationships according to what our soul says — redesigning our worldviews and being more aware of ourselves.

By looking within ourselves, the transformation begins from self and expands into our outward reality. Through play, create and celebratory nature — we will look at how we are participating in this world, see ourselves in world, challenge the status quo, experience the fullness of our spirit and make a change and impact.

KAARVAN AND WAGGING TONGUES PRODUCTIONS, UK COLLABORATES TO PRODUCE ART INSTALLATIONS FOR LONDON DESIGN BIENNALE



Kaarvan is collaborating with Wagging Tongues Productions Ltd for their exhibition installation at London Biennale this September showcasing the resilience, courage and tenacity of female artisans. Hand stitched cotton garments by Kaarvan's female artisans from Pakistan, suspended layer upon layer will build a canvas spread across the length of the 55 square metre room at Somerset House. The viewers will be invited to immerse themselves in the installation as they walk along these layers. Strategically placed sensors, sensitive to movement will trigger the film projections and computational art inspired by the lives of the artisans.





Kaarvan Crafts Foundation
Crafting Livelihoods

COLLECTIVE COMMONS



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