

International Students House, London

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Youth Targeted Digital Workshops on Legal Awareness and Community Building

Lahore, Pakistan

Detailed Description of Project:

The project aims to create non-traditional and engaging digital content and resources on using fundamental rights to grow into better citizens, that are accessible and understandable to average young people who are not members of the legal fraternity. The project will take place over the span of 9 weeks with the help of a local legal NGO, *Insaaf Camp*. The content will be posted on their pages, with a reach of 5 million, ensuring a wide audience for the workshops. They will also provide legal support in the form of ensuring that the materials are factual, and provide the use of existing resources where possible.

By creating a strong online database of workshops, the project will have a continued presence and be easily accessible to members of any community. The resources will be posted online and available to anyone who wishes to use them, including teachers and independent learners. Each digital workshop will address a separate section of the law. The workshops will include: an informative poster on this week's relevant legal topic and what it means, an animated short episode either in the form of a video or comic centered around the message, and an engaging activity to ensure that viewers have understood it.

The materials will be short and digestible. To ensure that viewers stay engaged and the episodes tie together, they will follow one character: *Bulbul*, a songbird who lives in a human like-animal colony. The episodes follow Bulbul as they become a better citizen by learning about and applying the law. The episodes will explore themes such as standing up for those less privileged, using our voice for good, the right over our own body and being kind those who belong to different communities and belief systems. With the use of imagery and replacing real life states, institutions and communities with imaginary counterparts, the episodes will be easily digestible and relatable to the youth, without hurting sentimentalities.

The workshop contents are as followed:

Workshop:	One
Topic:	Freedom of speech and standing up for the benefit of others
Concept:	Bulbul is introduced to the concept of freedom of speech, on their way home they see instances of people using their voice for harm, when interacting with the victim Bulbul realizes how upset they are. They learn the importance of using their voice to speak up for those that are denied theirs, instead of inciting hate speech, and tell their neighborhood, who begin to use their voice for good
Activity:	Our viewers are asked to think of three ways in which they can exercise their freedom of speech to help their community, and which members of their community they think need to be stood up for the most
Workshop:	Two
Topic:	The right to vote, the importance of voting and making an informed decision
Concept:	Bulbul's classmates are having an election for student council, their classmates can be seen voting for their friends and exchanging sweets for votes. Disillusioned, Bulbul decides not to vote. After sharing this with their classmates, they realize that they do not know why each candidate is running. They learn the importance of using their vote, making an informed decision, and conducting a fair election. The episode ends with the children conducting a fair election
Activity:	Our viewers are asked to choose between two candidates from the video, one who is corrupt and one who is following the fair process, they are asked to think about which character is in the right, and why

Workshop:	Three
Topic:	The right over one's body, the concept of consent and the understanding of good touch and bad touch
Concept:	Bulbul sees their friend with chubby cheeks upset because everyone keeps pulling them without asking. Bulbul and their friends learn the importance of consensual touch, and the power of saying no. At the end of the episode Bulbul's friend is happy as one of their classmates is asking for permission before pulling their cheeks
Activity:	Viewers are asked to identify the difference between good touch and bad touch
Workshop:	Four
Topic:	Freedom of religion, promoting inclusiveness and acceptance of members of different religious communities
Concept:	Bulbul goes to school before a big holiday that only other birds celebrate, when they get to school, they see everyone excluding their friend, a duck, from the celebrations, as they celebrate the duck holiday. After talking to the duck, Bulbul realizes they and their holidays are more similar than they are different and encourages their classmates to include the duck. The children are seen celebrating together and taking an interest in each other's customs
Activity:	Viewers will be asked why they think it is important to make those who are different from us feel included, and how they plan on being more inclusive

Timeline

Date	Objective
June 15 – July 1:	Recruit team of students, illustrators, actors and writers
July 1 – July 15:	Begin creating materials and resources for workshops
July 15 – Aug 15	Begin conducting and posting weekly workshops and continue working on resources
August 22:	Recap workshop
August 23:	Internal Debrief

Indicators of Success: Through this project I hope to encourage viewers to make a positive impact on society. At the end of the four workshops the viewers will be asked to fill in a reflective log on the lessons they have learnt, and how they plan to use these lessons to make a positive impact on their communities. These responses will be used to measure progress and see the impact the workshops have had on viewers' outlooks and attitudes.

Continuous Process: Through the creation of an online database of the conducted workshops, all the materials and resources alongside an in-depth manual will be available so that individuals and teachers may continue to benefit from these resources independently. If the workshops are a success, I hope to create a second installment of these workshops.

Impact and Relevance to Peace: Through these workshops I hope to encourage young people to become better, more aware citizens. Not only so they are more aware of their own rights, but of the rights of others and how to exercise their rights to bring forth a positive change in society to be better citizens and build more peaceful, inclusive, and stronger communities. I hope to play a part in breaking the cycle of human rights abuses in Pakistan, which are sadly widespread and well known. My goal is that these workshops equip viewers with the life-long knowledge, skills and empathy to play a part in breaking this cycle.