



# UNIVERSAL CHILDREN'S DAY



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## **SUMMARY**

Children are God's gift! And childhood is all about innocence and liveliness. It is about happiness and freedom. Hence, the universal Children's Day is celebrated on 20th November, the day on which Convention on Child Rights was approved in the UN General Assembly.

On Universal Children's Day, all the Nations of the world come together and celebrate this event for the rights of children. GPP organized this event with the children of marginalized community in Basic Education and Community development School Pind Paracha Tarnol Islamabad. Teacher and Parents were also present in this event. The event was observed with a great delight. The motive of celebration of Children's Day is because of teacher's and parent's love, affection and craze for children and their rights.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Universal Children's Day is celebrated on 20th November, every year. This date was chosen as a day to celebrate childhood. Prior to 1959 Children's Day was universally celebrated in the month of October. This was first celebrated in the year 1954, as decided by the UN General Assembly.

Basically this day was instituted with the only aim of promoting communal exchange and understanding among children, as well as to bring about beneficiary action to promote the welfare of children, all over the world. The date 20<sup>th</sup> November was chosen as it marks the anniversary of the day in 1959, when the Declaration of the Rights of the Child was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. In 1989 the Convention on the Rights of the Child was signed on the same date, which has been sanctioned by 191 states including Pakistan.

Children's Day is all about celebrating the wonderful, pure and innocent childhood. To honor this day Global Peace Pioneers- GPP presented a tribute and dedicated to all children of the society. GPP highlighted the importance of protection of child rights and emphasized about the necessity of rights awareness among children. To mark this day GPP organized a creative art event in Basic Education and Community Development School Ternol with the children from public and private schools, Students from Madrassas, teachers and parents were also invited in the program. Children presented skits and tableaus highlighting children issues, right to quality education, expressed their feelings and emotions through art.

## **GPP PARTICIPATION IN UNIVERSAL CHILDREN'S DAY**

GPP observed Universal Children day on 20 November 2009. On this occasion, different types of activities were arranged for children at the Basic Education and Community Development School Pind Paracha Tarnol district Islamabad. The main motive to celebrate this event is to create awareness of culture of peace among the masses in a

peaceful way and make them conscious about children rights through the following different activities.

### **Lectures and Discussions**

GPP representatives and Principal of the Basic Education and Community Development School delivered the lectures to students; teachers and parents on the basic rights of children. They all put force on getting education is necessary for both male and female. Teachers & parents also raised questions related to CRC and GPP representative gave answer to them.

On the occasion Ms. Hina Iqbal, Chairperson GPP, said that situation of children is depressing in Pakistan. She stated that In Pakistan more than 50% of the total population is child and out of which 70 percent of the children are not registered at the time of birth, especially girls, children belonging to a religious or minority group, refugee children, and children living in rural areas. She said almost 25-million child population are not going to school, 10 million children are in child labor where they are exposed to all types of discrimination ranging from verbal to sexual abuse. Talking to the parents, teachers and community members, she said that Pakistan is signatory of the CRC and obliged to fulfill its provisions. These are the only segments of society that can play active role in socializing children according to the convention.

Ms. Iqbal emphasized to the children to launch a Child Rights Club at grass root level where children can lead themselves to ensure action to promote and protect their rights. Children pledged to form a citywide child rights club as one mechanism where–by they could work together towards creation of a child safe and friendly city. This Club enabled children to meet together to find ways to increase awareness and action about children’s rights.

### **Awareness through Skit**

The students of the Basic Education and Community Development School wrote & performed the skit on the children rights and Peace. Skit was performed by the nine students. Through the skit, they conveyed their message to parents, teachers, community members and the World that children are the future of the any country and they will bring peace in the world.



### **Awareness through painting**

GPP also arranged painting exhibition in the School in which students of the different schools were participated. In the paintings, students depicted their ideas about child rights and peace in the society. After that judges, based on four members, selected three

paintings for the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes. GPP representative distributed prizes to winners of the paintings.

### **Awareness through Visual media**

GPP representative create awareness of child right's through visual media by showing cartoons on projector. In which different kind of rights like Education, Health, Foods & protection etc were exposed to the parents, teachers, & students as well.



### **Participants**

People belongs to different walks of life participated in the event. More than 200 participants participated in the event. They took interest in the event as it was about their children. They also asked different questions about children's basic rights from the GPP representatives. The principal of school thanked the participants & GPP for creating sense of awareness in parents & other community members. The overall response was positive and productive.

### **IMPACT**

The event, GPP observed, was full of knowledge about child rights. People got influence & learned children rights. GPP team achieved their goal, in spreading peace & creating awareness among parents, teachers and community members. They all were sensitized about the Convention on child rights and other related issues which children are facing at home, schools and communities.

### **PARTICIPANT'S COMMENTS**

Participants including teachers and parents commented briefly on Universal Children's Day. Some are given below:

Miss Saima, school teacher, commented that I think it's important that we all recognize that it is the children who will inherit this world, and it is the children who deserve the investment today so that they can inherit a better world tomorrow and be better prepared to deal with it.

Mr. Malik Tahir Paracha, Prinicpal of Basic Education and Community Development School, said that children of Pakistan, definitely like all children around the world, are the future of the world.

Miss Ambreen, parent, shared her comments that getting education is the basic right of every child.

### **CONCLUSION**

Celebration of Universal Children's Day is basically all about giving the child the right kind of knowledge and freedom to enjoy, so that they can grow as healthy and educated citizens of the country. Along with this, if you can teach your child the important values of sharing and caring of what you are lucky to have, respecting others for what they are and learning from others what they do know; then your child will become a responsible human being. All these values are of great importance for the well-being of your child as he is the future of our country.

## PHOTOGRAPHS







**NEWS CLIPPINGS**