

Residential Youth Course for Boys aged 13 to 16
“Learn to Lead a Successful Life”

Venue:
Saif Enclave, Panvel
9th to 12th May 2013

Number of Participants:
35 Students

Organised by:
The World Federation of KSIMC: India Office

The World Federation's India Office held a Residential Youth Course for 3 days and 3 nights between 9-12 May 2013.

The course was open for boys aged 13 to 16 years. The fees were subsidised by The World Federation to INR 750 (\$14 USD) per student which included lodging, boarding, travelling, meals and refreshments.

Course Aim:

This course aimed to promote Islamic guidance and support, address social topics, work on personality development and participate in physical activities such as swimming, trekking and cricket.

Location and Facilities:

The course was held at Saif Enclave in Panvel. Saif Enclave is a complex of bungalows, houses and apartments owned by members of the Khoja community in Mumbai. The course used 2 bungalows and 1 apartment to house the students and admin staff.



Facilities at the site included swimming, trekking, an open area for sports, and a garden.

The Students:

The course was attended by 35 boys. There was a mentor for every 7 students that were grouped as planets. The administrative team consisted of Murabbi Muhsinbhai Dharamsi, Komail bhai Merchant, Naushad bhai Matiwala and Asad bhai Virani (Manager of The World Federation's India Office).

Mentors:

Mentors were carefully chosen and a very strong and highly motivated team was formed consisting of a doctor, MBA holder, a software engineer, and an aeronautic engineer. Apart from the mentors there were 2 Alims on board who provided Islamic guidance and support. The mentors consisted of Dr. Razaali Meghani, Asad Khatau, Mohammed Baquer Merchant, Mohammed Raza Lokhandwala and Mohammed Jawad Rajani.

Activities:

Apart from meals and sleep, the course was divided into 5 major activities: Namaz, lectures, assessments, personal development and sports.



Namaz:

All the prayers were recited in Jamaat. After each Namaz, an Alim gave short and effective talks in English.

Lectures:

The lectures were held by the mentors in the mornings. The topics covered were:

Friendship and social groups to reach closer to Allah (swt); Importance of Namaz; Time Management; Teen issues and peer pressure; Learning from Janabe Bahlool; Respect of Parents; Maintaining Discipline in life.



The lectures were made such that they were more of an interactive way rather than a one way communication.



“Maulana’s lectures on discipline created a lot of changes in me” says a student.

Assessments:

Namaz Assessment was carried out for a few students and those who were found to be weak were given special attention by one of the scholars.

Zain says: “I got my doubts of Namaz clarified. I can now recite my Namaz without any mistakes.”

Personal Development:

Lots of time was spent in developing games and puzzles for the students during the course preparation. The games and puzzles were aimed towards team building.



Sports:

Swimming was the main highlight of the course. A cricket tournament was organised and supervised by the mentors which was stretched over a period of 2 days. A trekking session was also planned and executed which helped the students to make quick decisions in certain conditions and also to help friends in difficult situations.



Husain Ali says: "I learnt what true friendship is. My friends helped me a lot during trekking."

Closing Session:

On the last day a debate program as well as a presentation by the students was organised. The debate was between the Management and Mentors on one side as the Promoters and the Students on the other side as the Opposers. The topic was "This course was a waste of time and energy". Many important points such as the below were pointed out by the students while opposing the topic:

1. We learnt to be more disciplined
2. Namaz assessment helped us to realise our mistakes in Namaz and rectify them
3. We learnt how to serve food to others in a well-planned manner
4. We learnt how to choose good friends



A quiz show was held with questions from what had been taught in the last 3 days. The response to this was phenomenal. The session ended with Dr. Razaali and Muhsinbhai giving short speeches on how to keep the course morale high even after the course ends as it was not the end of the course but was actually the start of a course for the rest of life.



Sample Feedback:

Parents' Quotes:

Naushad Lalani: *"Everything was good, infact I'm more than happy as he has learnt many new things. I'm happy to see him do lots of helping at home like cleaning."*

Sajid Rizvi: *"The change in Jasim I noticed the moment I saw him when I came to pick him back from the course was that when parting from his friends, he shook hands with all his teachers and friends. Before, I had to tell him every time to shake hands, say Salam to elders etc. etc..."*

