

Giving back to the society – Core Value of IBA



Community Service - Some do it because they have to, some do it because they want to, but they are all doing their part to make this a better place.

Universities have always played a pivotal role in developing solutions to the community's pressing challenges. Today, more and more students are giving up their time to help out their societies.

There are many reasons why students volunteer. Some students accumulate community-service hours because it's a requirement for graduation or scholarships. Other students volunteer their time because they like helping people. But actually community service not only helps others, but it also helps them in many ways. Doing community service gives students an edge among the college-bound competition. It helps students find their passions and interests that may lead to a career choice they may have not considered. It also helps develop lifelong interpersonal and communication skills. Similarly, by engaging in social work, they get an opportunity to learn experientially. They discover where their passions lie while undertaking "feel good" projects that truly make a difference. These experiences allow them to make more informed choices about career options as well as instilling a lifelong interest in giving back.

Students of IBA are highly privileged that they have got an opportunity to prepare themselves for professional careers in various sector of Pakistan. A survey shows that only 5 out of 100 persons in Pakistan are availing and enjoying the privilege of higher education. Despite their perception that the tuition fees finance their education at IBA, the fact is that the government and the community at large bear more than half of the expenses incurred on them. It is therefore, obligatory upon all IBA students to pay back their debt to the community by serving the less well-to-do and less privileged segments of our society. Empathy and compassion are the values which we strive to imbibe among all our IBA students. Leaders of tomorrow must practice these values in their daily lives!

To achieve this purpose, IBA had introduced 'Responsible Citizen Initiative' (*which is now commonly known as 'Social Internship Program'*) in 2011 with an overall aim to provide an opportunity to each IBA student to gain practical hands-on experience in community service. It is our conviction that this exposure builds a sense of deep responsibility, commitment, and greater self-awareness among our students about the conditions and needs of the various segments of our society and community in which they will spend their entire adult life.

As a condition for successful graduation, each student enrolled at IBA has to conduct six to eight weeks' internship at an organization/project designated by IBA as deemed suitable for community service. During this period, students work outside of their comfort zone, either individually or in groups, on various social welfare projects with recognized and registered NGO's. During the past five years, our students are socially engaged with more than 100 NGOs and civil society organizations for their various social projects and operational activities. These organizations include, The Citizens Foundation (TCF), Teach for Pakistan, The Garage School, All Pakistan Women Association (APWA), Academic Achievement Plus (AAP), SOS Children's Villages of Pakistan, Behbud Association, Alamgir Welfare Trust, JDC Welfare Organization, The Indus Hospital, Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), and many more. We are proud with the fact that each year, our more than 300 students associate themselves with such social organizations and assist them in their on-going operational works, special assignments and other social projects. Acknowledging IBA's efforts and social initiative, Mr. Shakeel Dehelvi – Director, Public Relations Alamghir Welfare Trust International stated:

'It's really a pleasure for Alamghir Welfare Trust to receive and induct students from the renowned educational institutions for its social internship program. We are also proud of the fact that among these students 90% are from IBA...These interns are like a gentle breeze of fresh air which not only brings a refreshing new approach to deal with the atrocities of life but it also encourages the students, the well of class of the society to feel the infliction suffered by their fellow human beings'



IBA student body also recognize and appreciate this initiative and consider it as a life changing experience. Here are some of the students' views about the social internship initiative:

'Social Internship at the Indus Hospital taught me some of the most valuable lessons of life. It made me re-think and taught me not to take things for granted which we are blessed with'
(Khubaib Younus - BBA Class of 2015)



'I enjoyed working with TCF children and was surprised yet happy to find that there are students who have the potential to make it to institutions like IBA if given proper guidance and encouragement not only from teachers and interns but also from their families.'

(Kainat khowaja - BSEM Class of 2017)



'Many people label Social Internships as six weeks of complete waste and no learning. However, now that it is complete, I look back and I genuinely think that, it is one of the most important time of my life. In extreme heat, during long and tough fasts, it took great commitment and perseverance for me to attend school regularly. Moreover, it made me a great listener, as I realized many things can just be solved by listening to them and pointing out misconceptions. It also made me realize the efforts and hard work my teachers put in to teach me. While it was a grilling period, I think the time I spent with kids was memorable and one that I will cherish in years to come.'

(Ali Feroz – BBA class of 2017)



'My experience in Akhuwat has shown to me that if corporations develop a good philosophy to work on, something that suggests contribution to the greater good, profits can be maximized beyond expectations, as the motivation to work is enhanced beyond measurable human capacity.... Even though I was only expected to work for 6 weeks minimum at the institution, I did not leave. I couldn't, as I felt indebted to Akhuwat. I stayed few more weeks by choice, because I wanted to give back to the organization. That is the power of Akhuwat. '

(Muhammad Akbar Lashari – BBA Class of 2018)