



Understanding, Building, and Taking Action

**TEAM MUHAFIZ
PROJECT IMPACT
REPORT**

AUG 2019

A row of seven diverse digital avatars representing various ethnicities and religions. From left to right: a man with dark hair in a purple shirt; a woman with long red hair and a purple headband; a woman with long black hair wearing a blue dress with a white cross necklace; a woman with long black hair wearing a green vest with a white crescent moon and star; a man with short dark hair wearing a purple shirt and a yellow and red scarf; a woman with short black hair wearing a yellow and orange plaid shirt; and a woman with brown hair wearing a blue headscarf and a purple shirt with the number '41' on it.

PREFACE: ABOUT THE STUDY

BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVES



WHAT IS TEAM MUHAFIZ?

- Team Muhafiz is a comic book series with multi-ethnic & interfaith heroes who fight social ills & raise awareness to key social, economic and development challenges. The stories revolve around a group of teenagers who strive as a team to make their city a peaceful, harmonious space through sports, music, creativity and justice.
- The background stories of these multi-ethnic and religious heroes/characters of the comic series come together in a tittle called 'Origins of Team Muhafiz'. The heroes/ characters come from Christian, Hindu, Shia, Sunni, Hazara and other religious and ethnic backgrounds and together they combat villains that embody present-day local-level injustices, radicalism, and other key developmental and social challenges.
- The key objective of this project was promoting tolerance, freedom of religion & belief through trainings based on Team Muhafiz comic books, audios/videos.
- 2 comic issues and audio stories of Team Muhafiz (English and Urdu both) and a number of year long interventions using the key themes of this comic book were rolled out at different youth centres in Karachi and Hyderabad.



WHAT WAS AZCORP'S AIM

- Through the roll out of these interventions Azcorp aimed to bring a change over time, in the mindsets of the targeted audiences i.e. 15 to 25 years old youth segment.
- A baseline assessment was conducted in October/November 2018 to understand the audiences' perception, attitude, and behavior towards freedom of speech, religion, and belief – based on the findings from this survey, the program and content was upgraded and rolled out. The objective of the Endline research was to understand the level of impact our activities have had on the beneficiaries of the program.

SAMPLE DESIGN

Since the Team Muhafiz on ground interventions aimed at reaching to youth aged between 15 to 25 years from all socio economic categories from Hyderabad and Karachi cities – the sample was also designed in a way which reflected the program design



METHODOLOGY

- Face-to-face interviewing on the questionnaire which was administered via pen and paper method
- Length of interview approx. 10-15 minutes
- Tool was used in Urdu language to cater to all audiences



TARGET RESPONDENTS

- Male & Female
- Aged 15-25 years
- Belonging to SEC A, B, C and D
- Pre assessment: Students from various centres across Karachi and Hyderabad (those who were expected to be part of the interventions as well as proxy sample that fits the sampling frame defined above)



DATA COLLECTION

- Geographic Coverage: Karachi, and Hyderabad
- Sample Size: 400
- Fieldwork Period: October

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- **Post assessment:** Only those students were interviewed who attended any of the Team Muhafiz activities at the respective centres



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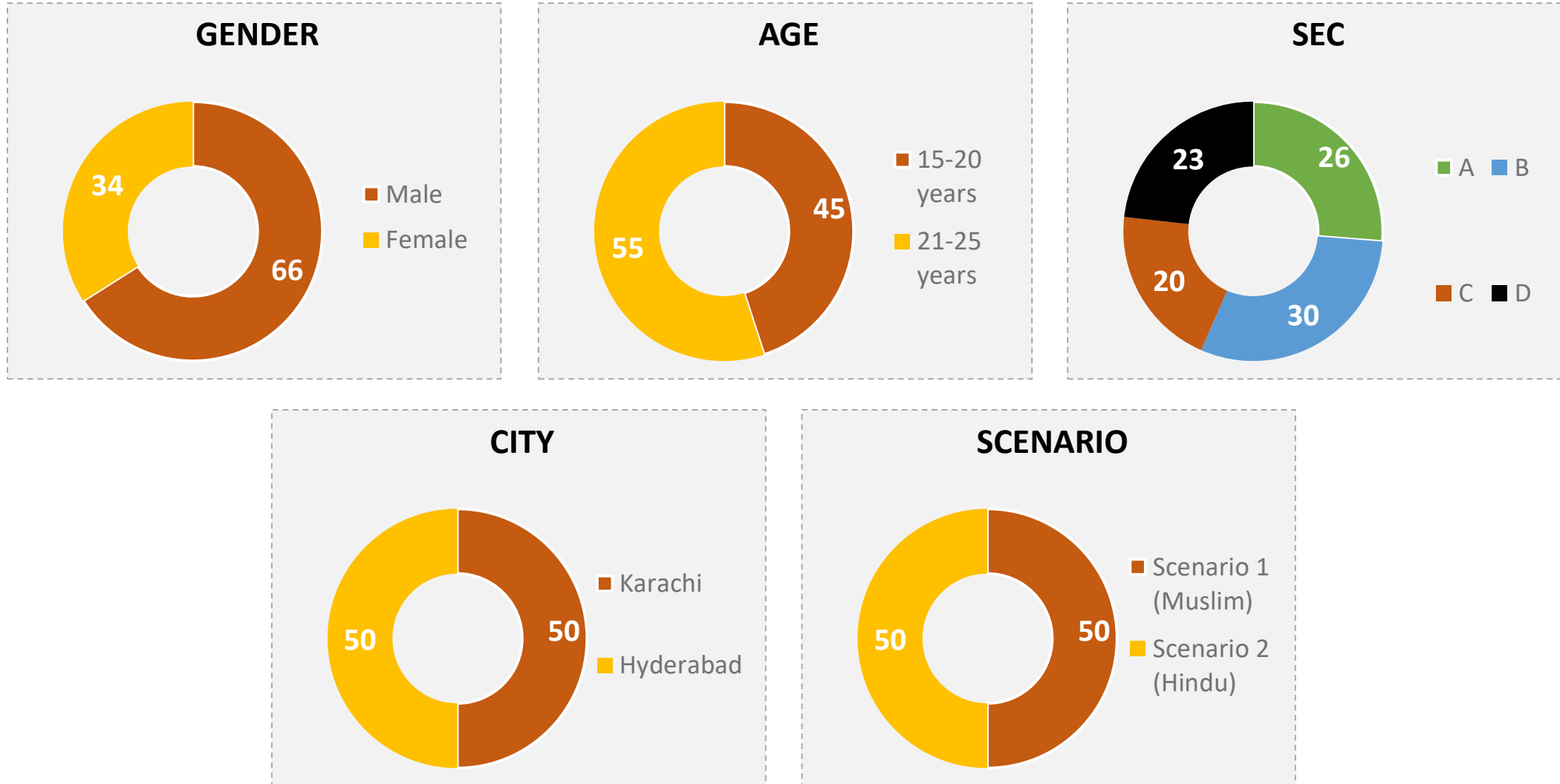
Post Assessment

- Geographic Coverage: Karachi and Hyderabad
- Sample Size: 340
- Fieldwork Period: July 2019

SAMPLE ACHIEVED (For Pre-assessment)

Figures in %
Base: 401

Following splits were achieved upon the survey completion in line with the sampling frame



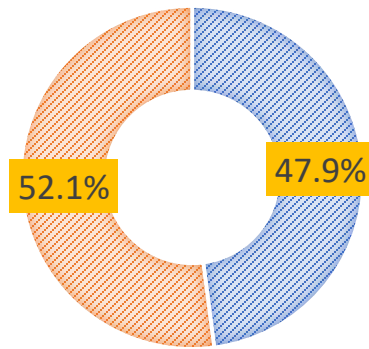
*Two questionnaires were used, where only one situation varied between both the forms – Quota for the sample was based on achieving SEC and City splits so as to analyze the data to that granularity. Quota was not based on religious associations

SAMPLE ACHIEVED (For Post-assessment) Base: 340



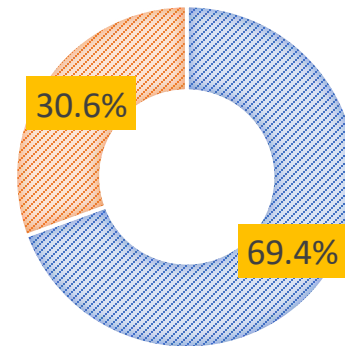
GENDER

Male Female



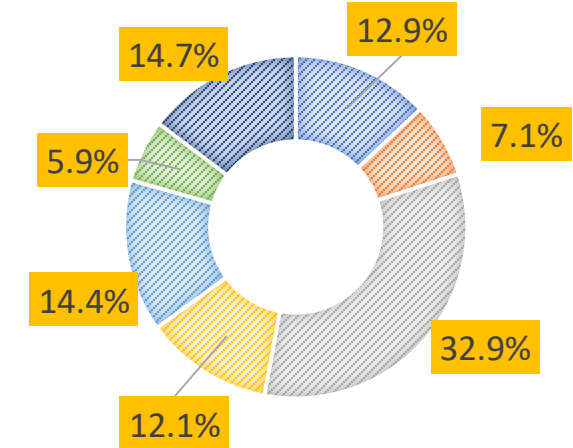
AGE

15-20 21-25



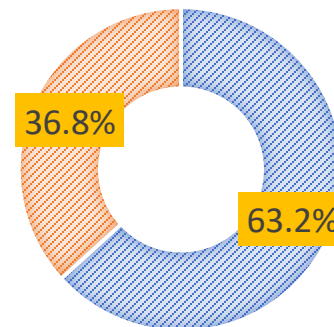
SEC

A1 A2 B C D E1 E2



CITY

Hyderabad Karachi



**One questionnaire was used – Quota for the sample was based on City splits and only beneficiaries of the program were interviewed*

An illustration of a diverse group of people, including men and women of various ethnicities, marching or protesting. They are wearing backpacks and holding signs or banners. The scene is set outdoors with utility poles in the background. The overall tone is one of active participation and social movement.

SECTION 1: GAUGING ATTITUDES, PERPCETIONS, & BELIEFS

KEY AREAS IDENTIFIED IN THIS SECTION



KEY AREAS IDENTIFIED FROM THE STUDY



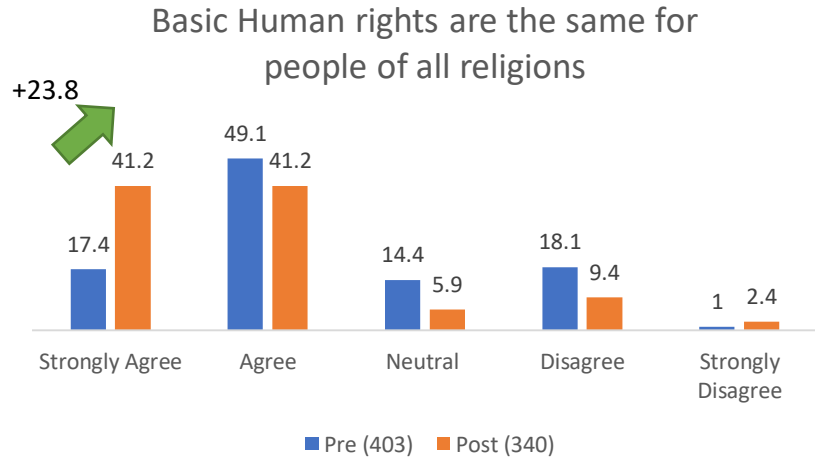
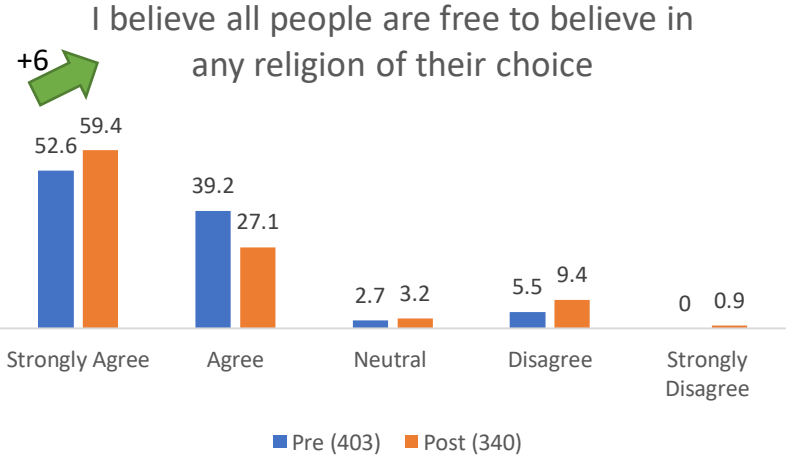


Key findings

THE INTERVENTION IMPACTED PERCEPTIONS POSITIVELY WHERE +6% AND +23% INCREASE IN STRONG AGREEMENT WAS SEEN IN PEOPLE'S ACCEPTANCE FOR FREEDOM TO PRACTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS FOR EVERY INDIVIDUAL



- An increase from 52.6% to 59.4% i.e. 6% change in belief that people are free to have conviction in any religion they associate with
- A 23% increase in belief that human rights and freedom are equal regardless of religious association

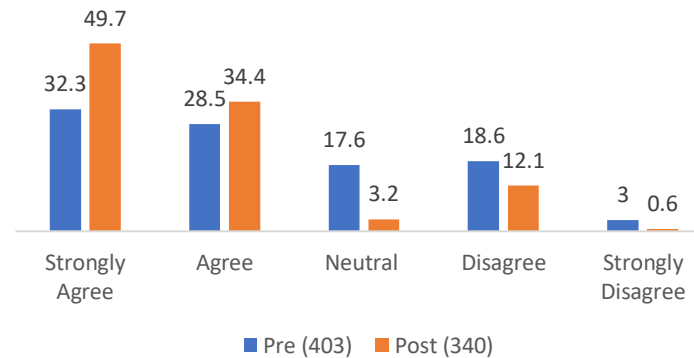




ONE'S OWN RELIGION IS FELT TO BE SUPERIOR TO THAT OF OTHERS' BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER THE INTERVENTION

Although people acknowledge that others have the right to believe in and choose their own religion, they still believe that their religion is superior to that of others in fact this sentiment increases further post the activities.

Even while I may respect all religions, I believe my religious beliefs are better than those of others



Analysis limitation: The quota for sample was not based on religious association rather in city wise and socio economic segments, and the sample consists of majority people belonging to a single religion (reflection of the reality), therefore we couldn't study what people of different religious associations felt regarding the same question in relation to their beliefs.

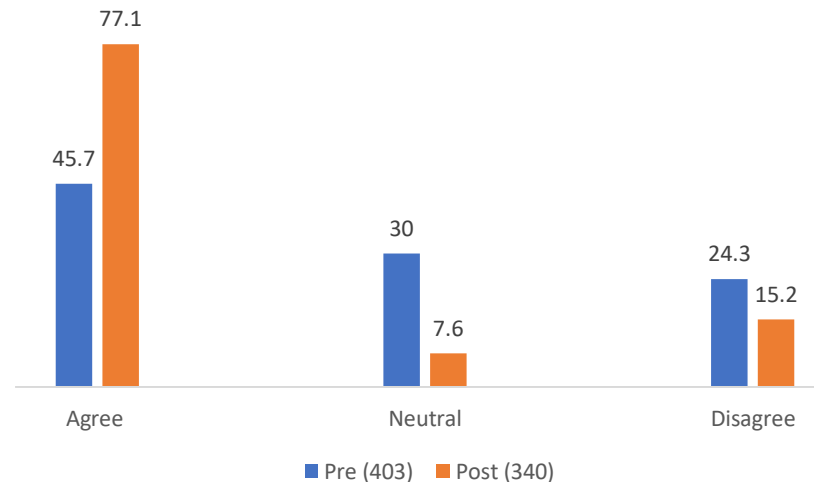


INCREASED WILLINGNESS IN BEFRIENDING PEOPLE WITH CONFLICTING COMMONALITIES



Our impact data shows that people are more willing to be friends with others from different religious backgrounds and/or ethnic groups – the willingness to accept has increased by 31.4% after the intervention.

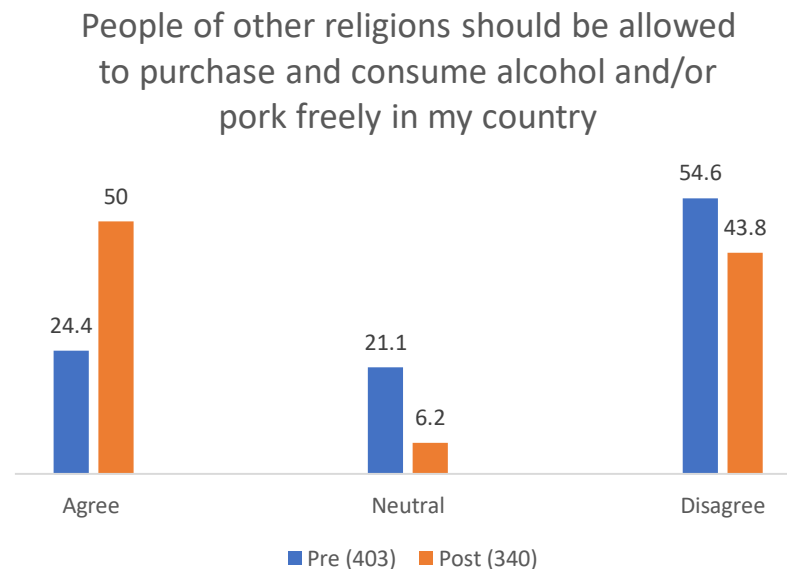
I would like to become friends with someone from a different religious background and/or ethnic group



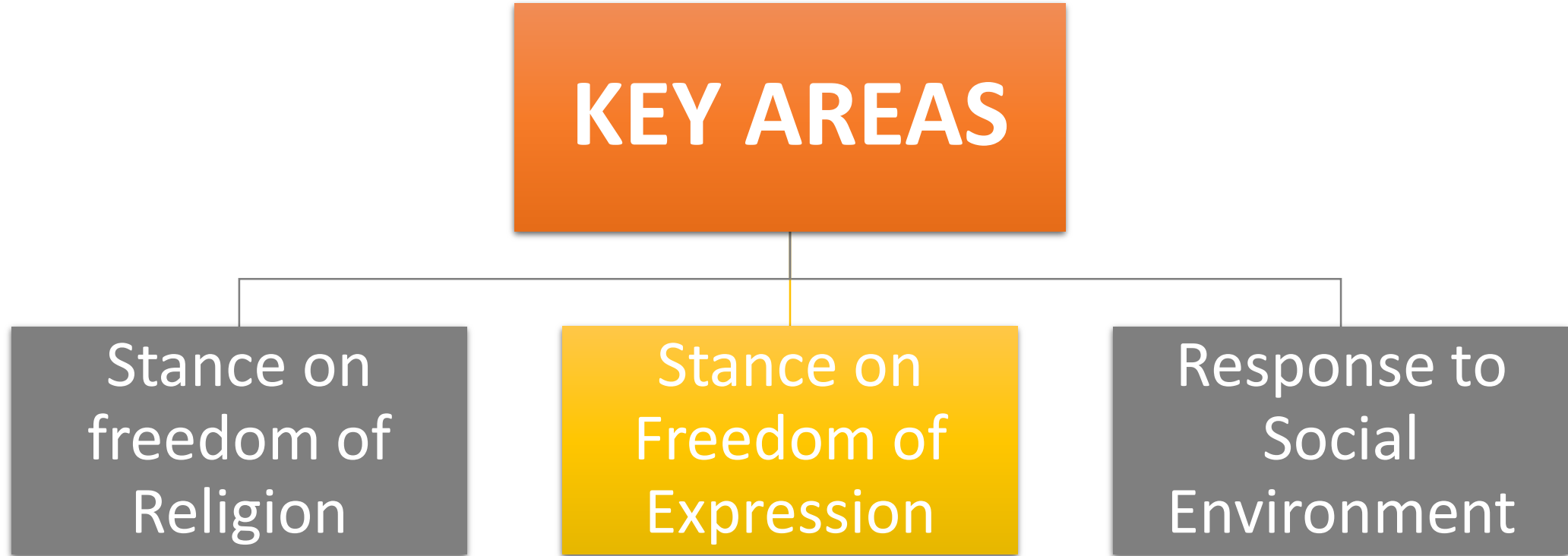
Despite the willingness though, we did see confusion amongst people when we questioned them regarding acceptance of foreign values and interfaith conflicts in friendship. The positive side however, is that the willingness to engage and become friends has increased post the activities and could be a stepping stone in creating stronger communities in the longer run

BEFORE ROLLING OUT TEAM MUHAFIZ WE SAW RIGID OPINIONS ON HOW PEOPLE FROM OTHER CULTURES AND RELIGIONS SHOULD LIVE LIFE WITHIN OUR SHARED SPACE HOWEVER IN THE POST PHASE WE SAW INCREASE IN TOLERANCE TO FOREIGN TRADITIONS

Note: The question is metaphoric in terms of allowing space to people from diverse backgrounds to co-exist within the same space as them, despite of their own religion’s permissibility or non permissibility of certain issues. We see a high impact on tolerance level – from 24.4 to 50% people agreed that people from other religions can practice their own culture and norms in our country.



KEY AREAS IDENTIFIED FROM THE STUDY



CONSISTENCY IN BELIEF IN OPEN AND PEACEFUL DIALOGUE AMONGST EACH OTHER




A large majority of the respondents feel that the best way to convince others of their view point is by taking the approach of a peaceful dialogue and be willing to discuss to convey one's own view points. This remains consistent before and after the activities

Best way to convince someone of my view point is with the use of peaceful dialogue (Figures in %)	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
Before Intervention	88	4	8
After Intervention	87	5	8

EQUALITY FOR ALL RECOGNIZED BY THE MASSES



The team Muhafiz activities aimed at increasing the sentiment of equality seem to have had a positive impact by 7% in the opinion that despite of religious association and belonging, all humans have equal value and share the same rights as humans.

People may believe in different religions but regardless of religious values we all have the same basic human values like loyalty, truth, honesty, peace and goodness (Figures in %)		Agree	Neutral	Disagree
Before Intervention		77	12	11
After Intervention		84	5	11

INCREASED ACCEPTANCE, RESPECT AND RECEPTIVENESS TOWARDS OTHERS



Massive shift in opinions and views were seen on acceptance and respect to others whose opinions contradict ours

Statement (Figures In %)	Before Intervention			After Intervention			
	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	
When I disagree with someone, I should still respect their right to disagree with me	62	22	17	88	2	10	+ 27
I don't mind listening to ideas and opinions of people who are not from my culture	59	14	27	77	6	17	+ 18
I respect what others think without ever judging them	56	24	20	77	7	16	+ 21

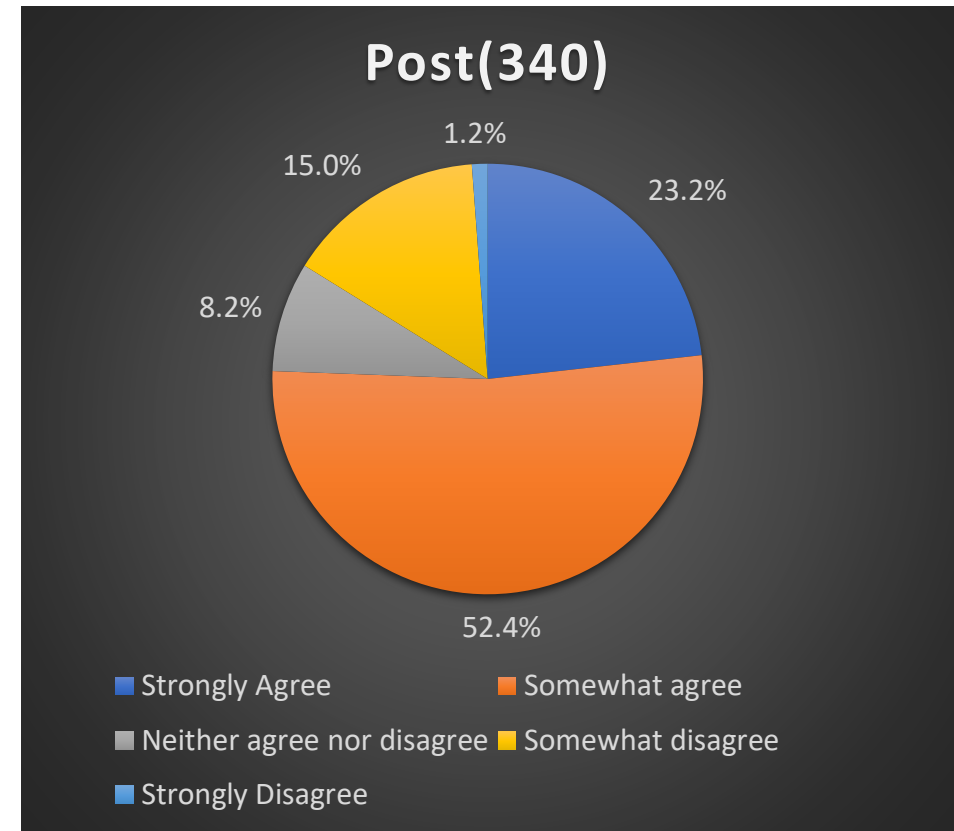
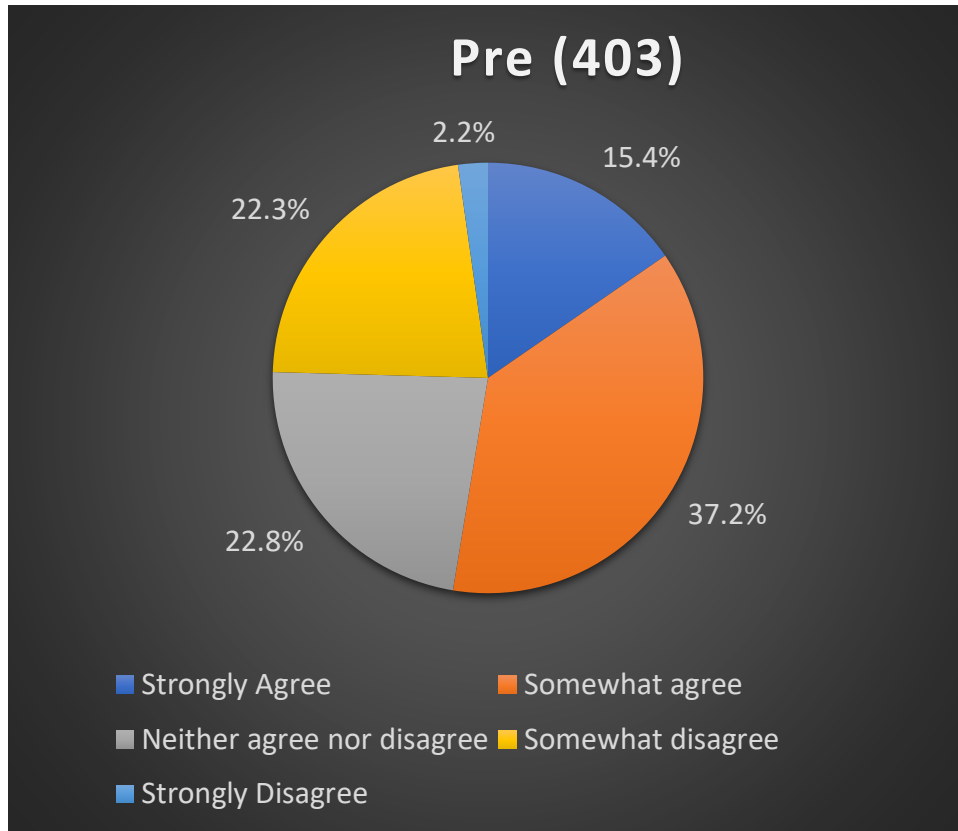
KEY AREAS IDENTIFIED FROM THE STUDY



INCREASED LEVEL OF AWARENESS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INJUSTICE AND DISCRIMINATION THAT PREVAILS



Through the Team Muhafiz activities, AzCorp was able to instill a realization amongst different audiences about injustice issues in various communities/minorities and this is seen in the audiences' acknowledgment level which shows an increase of 23% (from 52.6 % in Pre to 75.6 % in Post)





SECTION 2: ACTIONS

SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN ACTION IS CLAIMED TOWARDS RAVI – A STUDENT WHO IS FACING TROUBLE AT EXPRESSING HIS RELIGIOUS VIEWS, BETWEEN PRE AND POST LEG OF THE STUDY INDICATING EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES



During the pre phase most respondents had taken a passive action in terms of telling their friends to not harm Ravi and there was also a large group of people towards inaction, the absence of bold step towards offensive and disrespectful treatment towards others was worrisome. In the post leg however the percentage of people reported as being indifferent has declined significantly, and from 47% we now have 62% people claiming they'd stand up against such actions. Significant improvement from 30% to 53% is also seen in Hyderabad which mainly was a concern in pre phase

Q4: There's a student in my college whom I know only as an acquaintance. His name is Ravi Kumar and I see him being taunted by my friends who are claiming that he said some disrespectful things about our religion. I also know that two of my friends will use violence against him to teach him a lesson. In this situation I will do the following:

(Figures in %)	Overall	CITY		AGE	
Pre Phase	Base: 403	Karachi (Base: 203)	Hyderabad (200)	15-20 Years (179)	21-25 Years (222)
Tell my friends to stop	47%	64%	30%	55%	41%
Help Ravi run away before the plan is executed	16%	15%	18%	15%	17%
Let my friends carry out their plans and go with the flow	6%	3%	8%	6%	5%
I do nothing but later on I report this to the concerned authorities	15%	14%	16%	8%	21%
I am indifferent	16%	4%	28%	16%	15%

(Figures in %)	Overall	CITY		AGE	
Post Phase	Base: 340	Karachi (Base: 125)	Hyderabad (215)	15-20 Years (236)	21-25 Years (104)
Tell my friends to stop	62%	78%	53%	65%	56%
Help Ravi run away before the plan is executed	13%	6%	17%	15%	9%
Let my friends carry out their plans and go with the flow	11%	2%	16%	8%	17%
I do nothing but later on I report this to the concerned authorities	8%	8%	8%	7%	11%
I am indifferent	6%	6%	6%	5%	8%

APPENDIX

CONTACT FOR QUERIES ON THIS REPORT:

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