



**MARWAR MUSLIM EDUCATIONAL AND WELFARE SOCIETY**

**TARRAQI FOUNDATION**



**Report:**

**Teacher Training and E-learning networks for  
Madrassa English Teachers 2013-14 Phase-1**

# Report on the Phase 1 (Week 1 & 2) of the RELO workshop “Teacher Training and E-learning networks for Madrassa English Teachers”

## Introduction

Teacher Training and E-learning networks for Madrassa English Teachers supported by the RELO, American Centre was conducted from 25<sup>th</sup> Nov to 6<sup>th</sup> Dec 2013 at the Muslim School Campus, Jodhpur, Rajasthan. Marwar Muslim Education & Welfare Society (MMEWS) has organized the workshop which has been facilitated by the Tarraqi I Foundation (TiF).

The workshop was inaugurated on 25<sup>th</sup> Nov 2013. Attached is the inaugural schedule ([Annexure 1](#)).

The English sessions were facilitated by Mr. Mark Robinson, Senior RELO Fellow and supported by Mr. Usama Zakir (ex-trainee RELO W’shop 2011). Attached is the workshop plan. ([Annexure 2](#))

There were 35 trainees from across 12 cities from 7 North Indian states representing 25 institutions. Attached is the list of trainees. ([Annexure 3](#))

Overall the workshop was highly appreciated by the trainees. There are some useful suggestions and observations for further planning and improvements. Below is the report based on the feedbacks received from the trainees at the closure of the workshop. Attached is the feedback form ([Annexure 4](#))

## English Sessions

In the English sessions, the practice teaching sessions were found to be most useful where trainees especially found the games and activities very useful in terms of actually implementing the ‘learning by doing’ approach. Trainees cited ‘Group and Pair’ activities useful to developing ‘team work’ and strengthening ‘presence of mind’ in students. The ‘Total physical response (TPR)’ they said fosters ‘engagement while learning’, ‘involving all students’ especially ‘little kids’. They appreciated the value of ‘understanding student capabilities and collaborative work’ and mentioned the ‘divide and mix’ techniques as helpful in this regard. Some of them expressed an understanding of ‘LSRW’ approach as being fundamental for comprehensive language learning. ‘Role play’, ‘team competitions’, ‘story writing’ and ‘drawing’ were also cited as sessions most appreciated by the trainees.

Session on ‘Poetry’ while mentioned as an ‘important part of English syllabuses was not interesting to some as few cited it ‘difficult to understand’ and/or ‘not relevant’ to them. ‘Lecture’ sessions were also cited as difficult to understand and some trainees found it to be less useful/effective as compared to the ‘learning by doing’ approach.

Among the topics that have been suggested for inclusion in the next phase, ‘Grammar’ has been cited by many. The English communication and comprehension skills of many teachers need improvement and many have expressed the desire for this workshop to help them improve their own English while they

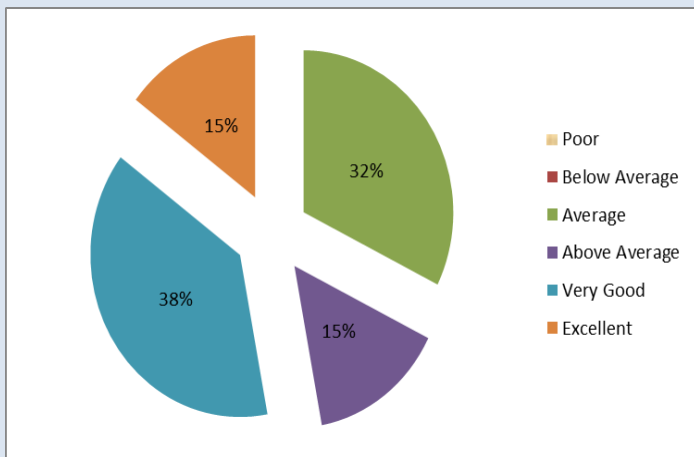
are taught about techniques to improve the English teaching. As the group is diverse in terms of the level of their own English language skills and also the level of English that is taught in their Madarasas/schools, some had difficulty in grasping the instructions and couldn’t get deeper understanding of the concepts/techniques. They have requested for summarization and reinforcement by the Indian trainer who must also explain them in Urdu.

Topics suggested for inclusion or greater focus in the follow up workshop are ‘Syllables’, ‘Reading (strategies)’, ‘Phonetics’, ‘LSRW’, ‘Lesson Planning’, ‘Drama’, ‘Dictation’, ‘Paragraph Writing’, ‘Handwriting’, ‘Spellings’ and ‘Vocabulary’. Some suggested/requested for ‘Pictionary’, ‘Project Based Learning’ and more activities/session for classes 1 to 7 as they felt that the sessions in this workshop were more for senior classes.

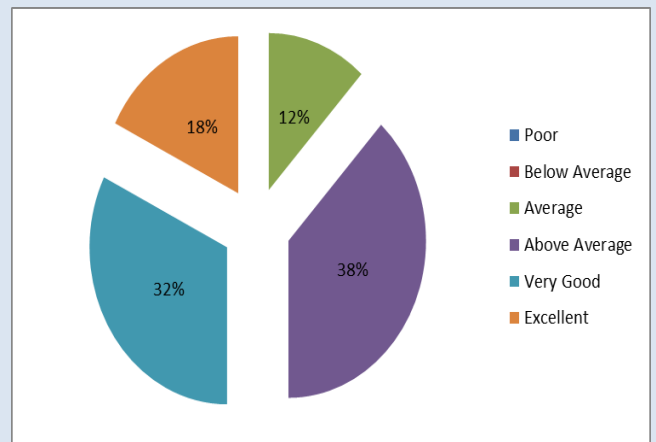
It was also suggested that that all sessions must be video graphed and shared with the trainees so that they can revisit it later and also share it with their peers who couldn’t come for the training. There was also request for Urdu translations of some of the theoretical readings given.

Below are some graphics reflecting the feedback of the teachers.

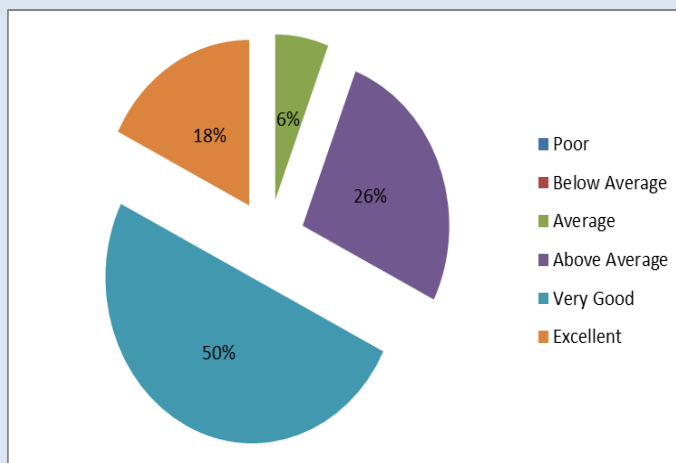
**Course Content addressing the interests and needs of the trainees:**



**Course materials:**



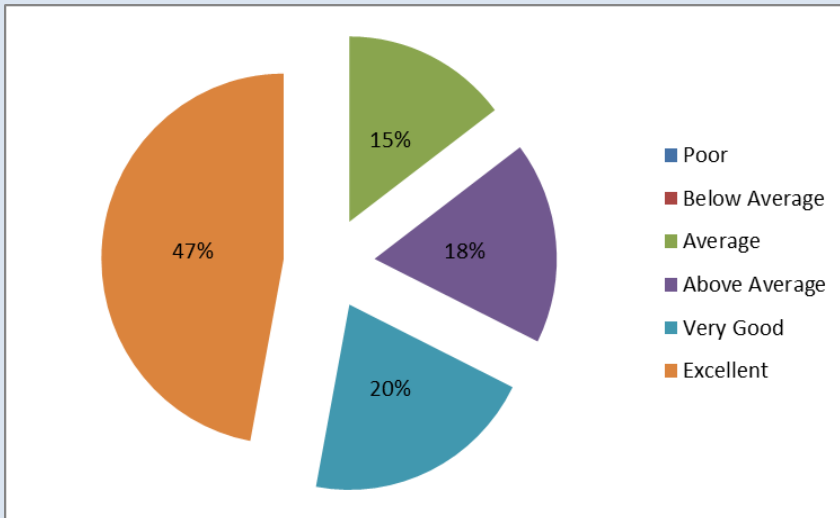
**Usefulness of the practice teaching sessions**



## Life Skills (Enhancement Activities) Session

The life skills sessions were conducted as a part of enhancement activities for two days by Ms. Archana Thakar and Mr. Abuzar Kamal (& his team). Attached is the training plan ([Annexure 5](#)). These interactive and experiential sessions were highly appreciated, almost half the trainees finding it 'excellent'.

### Life Skill sessions:



The reasons cited for liking these sessions were that they helped in 'realizing the inner talent', 'reaching out', 'knowing self and others' and strengthened them to 'face problems' in a positive and confident manner. The 'Rock climbing' activity was a surprise and initially while many of them felt that they couldn't do it but later after doing it and through the intense de-brief they realized how beneficial it was to them and now with these learnings how they would be better teachers and human beings. It is through these and other activities that many realized and have requested for more and more such activities in future that will 'take out of the fear which lies inside' and give them the abilities/attitude to have 'more interaction between teachers and students'. It reflects the learning made that further sessions on 'Child Psychology' and 'Self Help programmes' have been requested.

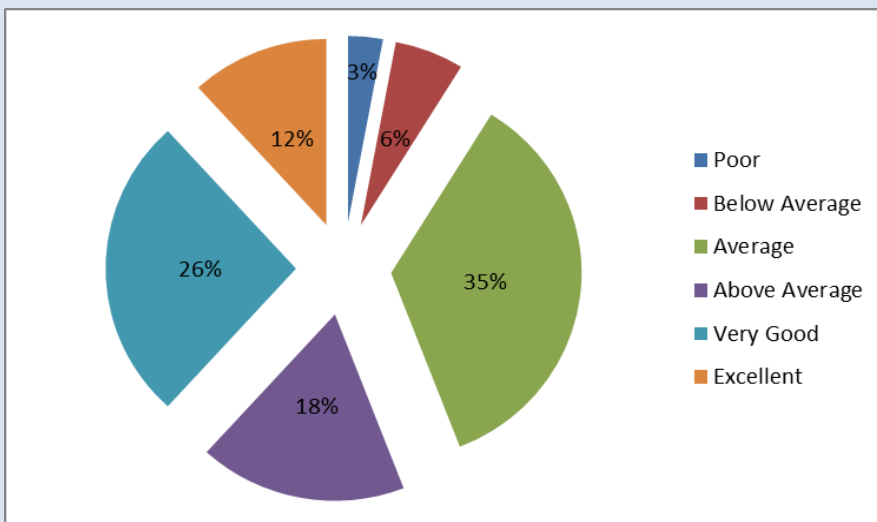
While majority of the teachers found the life skills sessions extremely useful for them, there were a few who couldn't connect the learning made with the benefit to their students, saying that in their circumstances they will not be able to organize 'rock climbing' for the students or they are not allowed/ given the time to do 'blind rope' activity. While the trainers did tell them about other indoor activities that can be done with minimum resources in the classroom which bring out similar learning, in future the cross cutting benefit of these activities and importance/relevance of self awareness/confidence impacting their teaching as well as relationship with the student, parents & fellow teachers need greater emphasis.

## Technology Sessions

The trainees greatly appreciated receiving tablets as was evident in the energy and enthusiasm seen when these were given out and also the trainees using/fiddling with it excitedly in the free time. Subsequently in the follow up being done by the TiF team, many teachers are found to be actively using them with students and uploading on the google group. That was created.

For a few it was an overwhelming new gadget and they felt it was too much to grasp in too little a time and they mentioned in the feedback that these sessions as least beneficial to them. However, it is important and interesting to note their desire is to learn more as many cited further sessions on using technology esp. 'live classes;', ' video conferencing with foreign schools', 'internet usage', 'use of MS word, excel, power point' etc. A few also requested for technology based educational software.

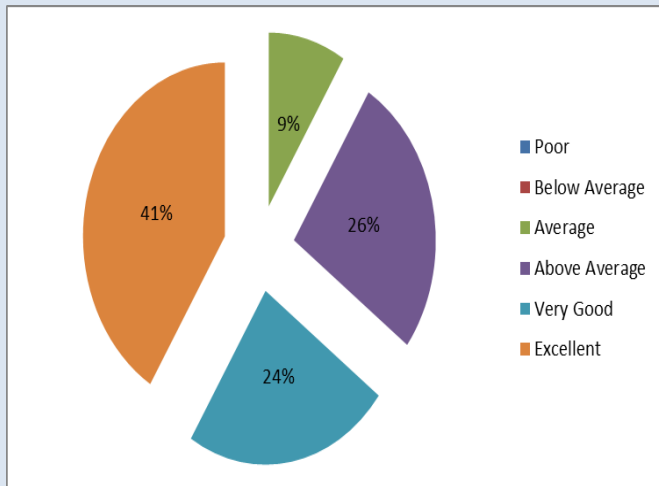
### Information regarding tablet:



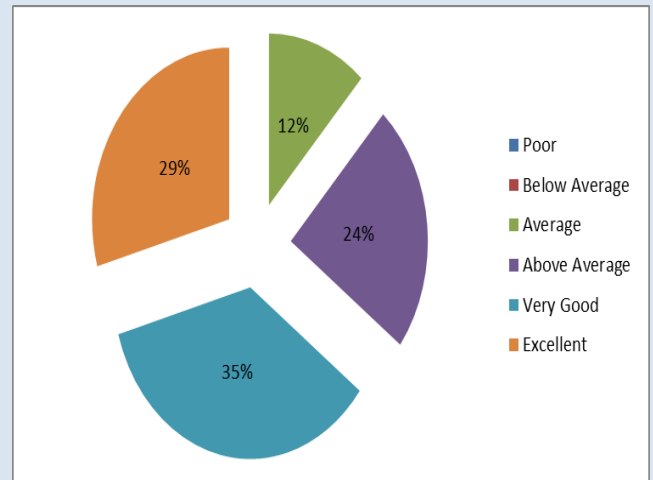
## Workshop Location & Environment

The trainees were very happy with the choice of workshop location and the environment as is evident from the pie chart below. The attached pictures sheets (Annexure 6-10) show as to how enjoyable and full of learning was this workshop. The organizers had also gone out of the way ensuring the comfort and safety of the trainees, where deep friendships were made. Holding the training in an educational campus that is inspirational was greatly appreciated by the trainees who were also taken on an educational tour of the campus.

### Workshop location and environment:



### Overall success of the Workshop:



The closing session was full of emotions and the bond made between the trainees and also between the trainees and the organizers was evident with the deep appreciation expressed by the trainees.

TiF team has been actively following up with the trainees through e-mails and phone calls. Almost all are actively implementing the learning made in the workshop and are being further supported/guided by the TiF team. The next phase of the workshop is scheduled from 5<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> April in New Delhi. Almost all the trainees have confirmed attending the next phase and are looking forward to it.

## **Annexure 1:**

### **Teacher Training and E-learning networks for Madrassa English Teachers 2013-14**

Inaugural Ceremony

25<sup>th</sup> Nov 2013, 9.30-10.30 a.m

#### **Programme Schedule**

9.30-9.35: Welcome- Mr. Usama Zakir (Training Facilitator)

9.35-9.40: Allama Iqbal's Poem- "lab pe aati hai dua"

9.40-9.45: Mr. Amir Abidi (Director- Tarraqi I Foundation, New Delhi)

9.45-10.00: Introduction of Trainees

10.00- 10.05: Two trainees share their thoughts

10.05-10.10: Dr. Mark Robinson (Senior Fellow, RELO)

10.10-10.15: Janab Umar Gautam (Chairman- Islamic Dawah Centre, New Delhi)

10.15:10.20: Dr. Kumar Rajiv (President- Maulana Azad University)

10.20-10.25: Mr. Abdul Aziz (President- Marwar Muslim Education and Welfare Society)

10.25-10.30: Vote of Thanks- Mr. Mohammad Atique (General Secretary, MMEWS)

10.30-10.45: Group Photo & Refreshments

## Annexure 2. Madrasa Professional Development Workshop in Jodhpur

November 25<sup>th</sup> –December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013

### Schedule Week One: Mark Robinson and Amir Abidi

Time	Monday, Nov 25	Tuesday, Nov 26	Wednesday, Nov 27	Thursday, Nov 28	Friday, Nov 29
9:00— 10:45	Inaugural Session What is ELF Program? Who is the teacher? His Bio-Sketch ...	Intro: Accuracy vs Fluency & Integrated Skills using Activities: <i>e.g. Phrasal Verbs</i>	Activities: <b>Switch; What's Missing; Odd One Out</b>	Getting to know your new resource books: How to use them.	<b>Life skills</b>
10:45— 11:15	<b>T E A B R E A K</b>				
11:15— 1:15	Interview a teacher from another district and write a bio-sketch for him or her in 3rd Person	Activities: <b>Using pictures</b> (Span journal) and realia to teach EL	Activities: <b>Sounds like; In English, please! Beat the clock</b>	Teach English (Doff) pp. 34-38; Team-Planning & Demonstrations of interactive lessons	<b>Life skills</b>
1:15-2:15	<b>L U N C H</b>				
2:15— 3:00	Introduce each other at tables/teams with <b>bio-sketches</b>  video-documented	ELT with Children and Adolescents: TPR & TPT; distribute <u>The Children's Response</u> booklets & prepare Role Play	<b>Opposites attract; Pictionary; Pair Work:</b> Give instructions to fill a grid with info.	Team-Demonstrations of lessons planned to increase interaction:  <b>3 tables/teams demo.</b>	<b>Life skills</b>
3:00-3:15	<b>T E A B R E A K</b>				
3:15— 4:00	Intro: Activities: <b>Switch; What's Missing; Odd One Out</b> Survey/Reflection & Needs Analysis	<u>The Children's Response</u> <b>TPR Role Play</b> p. 8 & 11	<b>You are the one; Mind the gap:</b> Give directions with a map; Review <u>Teach English</u> (Doff) pp. 34-38 intro. Cummins	Team-Demonstrations of lessons planned to increase interaction:  <b>4 tables/teams demo.</b>	<b>Life skills</b>



**Schedule Week Two: Mark Robinson, Amir Abidi and Claire Bradin Siski**

Time	Monday, Dec 2	Tuesday, Dec 3	Wednesday, Dec 4	Thursday, Dec 5	Friday, Dec 6
9:00— 10:45	Claire Introduction to Tata Croma tablet; Take & Share photos via DropBox	Claire Make & upload videos to DropBox & YouTube	Claire Make & share teaching videos	Summarize CLT, Integrating Skills & Lesson Prep; Program Evaluation	Amir
10:45— 11:15	<b>T E A B R E A K</b>				
11:15— 1:00	Claire 11:15 - 12:00 set-up & practice new email accounts; Yahoo Group  12:00-1:00 Tech Activity:	Claire 11:15 - 12:00 Yahoo Group Discussion  12:00-1:00 Tech Activity:	Claire 11:15-12:00 Plans for future communication; Explore Web resources  12:00-1:00 Tech Activity:	Valediction and Presentation of Certificates	Amir
1:00-2:00	<b>L U N C H</b>				
2:00— 3:00	Activities:	Activities: Using your Advanced Learner's Dictionary to teach vocabulary & grammar	Activities: Practice using new book: Oxford Basics: Speaking	Activities:	Amir
3:00-3:15	<b>T E A B R E A K</b>				
3:15— 4:00	Activities:	Activities: Using your Advanced Learner's Dictionary to teach vocabulary & grammar	Activities: Practice using new book: <u>Oxford Basics:</u> <u>Storytelling</u>	Activities:	Amir

**Annexure 3. Trainees list for RELO Workshop 2013-14:**

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Madarsa</b>	<b>City/State</b>
<b>1.</b>	Mr. Abdul Mazid	Tamir e Millat(Boys)	Aligarh/U.P
<b>2.</b>	Mr. Zaheer Ahmad	Tamir e Millat(Boys)	Aligarh/U.P
<b>3.</b>	Ms. Rubeena Shareef	Tamir e Millat(Girls)	Aligarh/U.P
<b>4.</b>	Ms. Fauzia Khanam	Tamir e Millat(Girls)	Aligarh/U.P
<b>5.</b>	Maulana Saood Qasmi	Madarsa Moin ul Islam	Zakir Nagar/Delhi
<b>6.</b>	Maulana Ibrahim	Markaz Ud Dawah	Delhi
<b>7.</b>	Ms. Sayra Bano	Madarsa Jai Hind Basti	Delhi
<b>8.</b>	Mr. Zafruddin	Jamia Nusratal Quran	Delhi
<b>9.</b>	Mr. Mohd Arafine	Madarsa Talim Un Noor	Meerut/U.P
<b>10.</b>	Mr. Mohd Vaseem	Jamia Islahul Banaat	Manglore/Uttarakhand
<b>11.</b>	Ms. Muftakhar Umama	Madarsa Banatul Muslimeen	Tonk/Rajasthan
<b>12.</b>	Mr. Mohd Nasir	Madarsa Banatul Muslimeen	Tonk/Rajasthan
<b>13.</b>	Ms. Asema Parveen	Madarsa Anglo Oriental	Tonk/Rajasthan
<b>14.</b>	Ms. Farha Gulzar	Madarsa Zakir Hussain	Tonk/Rajasthan
<b>15.</b>	Mr. Mohd Asim	Madarsa Alif	Tonk/Rajasthan
<b>16.</b>	Ms. Umme Kulsum	Madarsa Crescent Public School	Jodhpur/Rajasthan
<b>17.</b>	Mr. Mohammed Arif	M Crescent Public School	Jodhpur/Rajasthan
<b>18.</b>	Mr. Mohd Abid	Mewat Modern Academy	Mewat/Haryana
<b>19.</b>	Ms. Zaiba	Al Hasan School	Mewat/Haryana

<b>20.</b>	Mr. Altaf Hussain	Utopian Islamic School	Mewat/Haryana
<b>21.</b>	Mr. Saddam Hussain Laskar	Country Grammar School	Mewat/Haryana
<b>22.</b>	Mr. Mohd Ayub Khan	Jamia Aisha Lil Banaat	Mewat/Haryana
<b>23.</b>	Mr. Mohd Javed Nazeer	Islamia Madarsa School(Boys)	Maler Kotla/Punjab
<b>24.</b>	Mr. Mohd Bilal	Islamia Madarsa School(Boys)	Maler Kotla/Punjab
<b>25.</b>	Ms. Shabnam	Islamia Madarsa School(Girls)	Maler Kotla/Punjab
<b>26.</b>	Ms. Parveen Bano	Islamia Madarsa School(Girls)	Maler Kotla/Punjab
<b>27.</b>	Mr. Bilal Ahmed Sheikh	Darul Uloom Public School	Baramulla/J&K
<b>28.</b>	Mr. Ubaidullah Bhat	Darul Uloom Public School	Baramulla/J&K
<b>29.</b>	Mr. Irshad Ahmed	Iqra Madarsa	Kundroo/J&K
<b>30.</b>	Mr. Mohd Iqbal	Iqra Madarsa	Kundroo/J&K
<b>31.</b>	Ms. Samina Tabasum	Banaat Institute Of Education Higher Secondary	Srinagar/J&K
<b>32.</b>	Ms. Samina Bashir	Banaat Institute Of Education Higher Secondary	Srinagar/J&K
<b>33.</b>	Mr. Mohd Sidiq Pal	Banaat Institute Of Education Higher Secondary	Srinagar/J&K
<b>34.</b>	Mr. Muneer Ahmad Khan	Welfare School	Srinagar/J&K
<b>35.</b>	Mr. Javaid Ahmed Mir	Welfare School	Srinagar/J&K

## **Annexure 4.**

### **TEACHER TRAINING AND E-NETWORKS FOR MADRASSA ENGLISH TEACHERS 2013-14**

#### **Workshop Evaluation and Feedback Form: Weeks 1 & 2**

Please be frank in your evaluation; your comments will help us to improve future workshops. We do **not** need your name on these forms.

**1. How would you rate the course content in addressing the your interests and needs?**

Poor     Below Average     Average     Above Average     Very Good     Excellent

**2. How would you rate the course materials?**

Poor     Below Average     Average     Above Average     Very Good     Excellent

**3. How would you rate the workshop location and environment (room, facilities, etc.)?**

Poor     Below Average     Average     Above Average     Very Good     Excellent

**4. How would you rate the usefulness of the practice teaching sessions?**

Poor     Below Average     Average     Above Average     Very Good     Excellent

**5. How would you rate the overall success of the workshop? (How well will it help you be a more effective teacher?)**

Poor     Below Average     Average     Above Average     Very Good     Excellent

**6. How would you rate the information you received about the tablet?**

Poor     Below Average     Average     Above Average     Very Good     Excellent

**7. How would you rate the Life Skills sessions?**

Poor     Below Average     Average     Above Average     Very Good     Excellent

**8. Please tell us which sessions you think will help you most in your teaching. Why?**

**9. Which sessions do you think will have little impact on your teaching? Why?**

**10. Please tell us what topics we should address in future trainings. Please be specific, and also list any topics that are related to your new tablet that you would like to see us focus on.**

## **Annexure 5. Life Skills and Workshop Plan:**

### **Phase I – Inward Bound**

In this phase the focus will be on knowing the different aspects of the self. Efforts will be made for the participants to look at explore known and unknown facets of themselves through guided and self discovery experiences.

Exercises will be facilitated to help participants know about following components of the self

1. Learning Styles – paper pencil inventory – 3 hours
2. Teaching Styles – paper pencil inventory – 1 hour
3. Motivation – outdoor activity – 4 hours
4. Building students motivation – 2 hours
5. I – Thou – It – 2 hours

### **Phase II**

In this phase the efforts will be directed towards providing practical skills to the participants to enable them to build and maintain constructive working relationships.

1. Self in relation to others – Johari window
2. Behavioral styles – paper pencil inventory
3. Communication & Influencing behaviors - Quality Circle time [ experience and practice]
4. Multiple Intelligences

### **Phase III**

The underlying theme for this phase will be Collaboration for synergy.

1. Team work
2. Win as much as you can
3. Problem solving

## Annexure 6: Inaugural ceremony of the RELO Madarsa English Teacher Training Workshop 2013-14 Phase-1, 25th November, 2013.

Pics (L-R) 1.) Mr. Amir Abidi at the podium. Seated on the Dias R-L: Dr. Kumar Rajiv, President- Maulana Azad University; Dr. Mark Robinson, Senior RELO Fellow; Mr. Umar Gautam, Director-Markaz ud Dawah; Mr. Abdul Aziz, President- Marwar Muslim Education and Welfare Society; Mr. Mohammad Atique, General Secretary-MMEWS) 2.) Trainees & Guests during the Inaugural 3. , 4. & 5.) Trainees receiving the training bag.



**Annexure 7: English Session-Trainees participating in various sessions on engaging and interactive learning practices.**

Pics (L-R) 1.) & 2.) Trainees creating story posters 3.) Mr. Usama Zakir facilitating the 'Chillection' session. 4.) Trainees using old newspapers/photos as Teaching Learning Materials (TLMs).

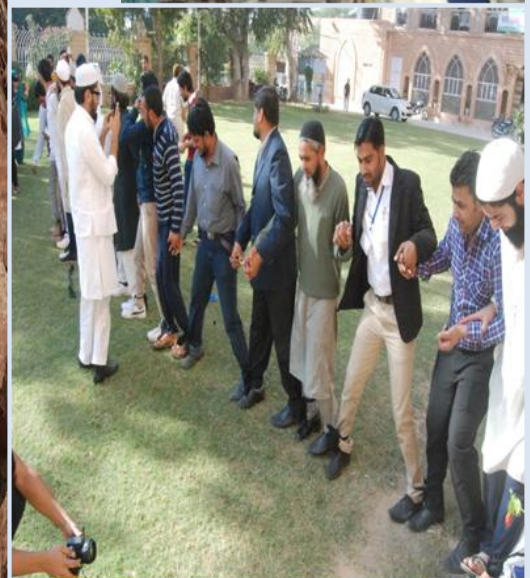




## Annexure 8.

Two days were delegated to 'life skills' training facilitated by Ms. Archana Thakar & Mr. Abuzar Kamal (supported by his team). While the activities were enjoyable, challenging and interactive, the follow up debrief was extremely intense and transformational.

Pics (L-R) 1. Blind Rope activity 2.) Ms. Archana Thakar facilitating a session 3.) Expressing idea of a Good school/student using old newspapers as resource 4.) & 5.) Rock climbing 6.) Blind folded and tied legs challenge.



## Annexure 9.



Tablets were given out to all the participating madarsa/schools with training to use technology in language teaching & learning. A google group has been created which the trainees use to post their lessons and share ideas/learning. Pics( L-R) 1.) Ms. Claire Siskin taking a technology session supported by Mr. Aamir ul Haq & Mr. Shahzeb. 2.) Dr. Mark Robinson, RELO English Language Trainer & Ms. Claire Siskin, RELO Technology trainer. 3.) Tablets distribution ceremony wherein Mr. Areez Ahmad, Ministry of HRD, Govt of India ( at the dias) was the Chief Guest. 4.) Teachers from Tameer e Millat Madarsa, Aligarh receiving their Tablets 5.) Participants engaged in Tab session.



## Annexure 10. Closing Ceremony of the RELO Workshop Phase-1.

Pics (L-R) 1.) A self-drawn picture being presented to the trainer Dr. Mark Robinson by a trainee. 2.) Trustees of MMEWS presenting gifts (Local Tie & Dye fabric) to all the trainees and facilitators of the workshop 3.) A trainee showing a poster made by him to gift to the host MMEWS. 4.) Closing session with reflections, feedback and appreciation 5.) Group photo with all the trainees, trainers, staff and organizers. 6.) Mr. Amir Abidi thanking and presenting sweets to Mr. Farooq of MMEWS.

