



## Volunteering at Al-Asar Academy Kohat

By **Ali Noman – (Team Leader)**

“If there’s will, there’s always a way” was the first thing taught to me there by the founder of Al-Asar Academy, Mr. Haji Ahmed Raza. This quote was quoted by Haji Sahab when I insisted to brief about his struggle in order to build this academic structure on top of a hill in such a remote area near Kohat.

Such a great personality and a sharp minded man, with all his hard work he managed to construct Al-Asar Academy which comprises of a school (till intermediate), student’s hostel, teacher’s hostel, masjid, girls school and an under construction technical college.

Students at the academia were highly intellectual with a bright aim to grow and penetrate in to the corporate sector of the homeland. The teachers played a vital role in bringing students up to the level that they can aim for something higher in life.



I conducted classes and one-to-one sessions with students of diversified classes and family backgrounds, guided them about different sectors to pursue their careers in, provided them with the path to reach there, motivated them to try and also mentored them for a better personality.

The hospitality of residents of Kohat and surroundings was morally, culturally and religiously superior than us (Karachi). I and my team mates often tried to avoid their offerings, but it was observed that they perceived it as a sign of disrespect. So we often had to take it without really willing to. A person almost travelled 14 hours just to meet us and take the charge to take us on tour of the city.

We were moved to Wadi-e-Teira for 3 days. Wadi-e-Teira is a valley in Aurangzai Agency in the north of Kohat. Days lived there are to be remembered for the rest of our lives. The best part about that place was that we carried blankets in the season which they called 'summers' which was further chilled by unavailability of networks there, Yes! No network coverage was found there in the remote area of Teira.



Unfortunately during our ten day stay we weren't able to interact much with the students due to the adverse city conditions. Ah, better luck next time they said. But I personally admire Haji Sahab more than any other person; his struggle is to be remembered for the rest of eternity. I wish Allah gives him courage and strength to escalate this project to the heights. **A lot is learnt, a lot more is to be learnt** from this great personality.