

INTERACTIVE RESOURCE CENTER



REFLECTING INTERACTIVE THEATRE JOURNEY
FOR SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION



INTRODUCTION

Interactive Resource Centre (IRC) has been a pioneer of interactive theatre in Pakistan. This unique form of community theatre was originally developed by Brazilian dramatist Augusto Boal and is rooted in the “Pedagogy of the Oppressed” articulated by educator Paulo Freire. In this form of theatre, the audience becomes “Spect-Actor and proposes solutions to the pressing community issues. Over the course of 25 years, IRC has developed more than 300 theatre groups across the country and has conducted over 3,500 performances in 13 languages and 18 festivals.

The founder, director, and lead trainer of IRC, Mr. Muhammad Waseem is also the only Pakistani theatre practitioner to have received direct training from Augusto Boal himself.

"Whenever a dialogue turns into a monologue, you have an oppressor and an oppressed." Augusto Boal



IMPACT OF INTERACTIVE THEATRE ON TAYYAB MARJANA AND HIS DAUGHTER SADIA



Tayyab Marjana started theatre back in 2005 after getting the first training on interactive theatre from Muhammad Waseem, Director of the Interactive Resource Centre and formed Jaag Theatre Group.



Tayyab considered theatre as a tool for change that made him question his community's traditions. He has been working on the issues of inheritance and education for girls since then.



“Whenever I am on stage performing, I feel free to express.” Sadia

Tayyab also made a conscious decision to bring Sadia into his theatre group despite resistance from his family and community.

For Sadia, theatre became a source of confidence that helped her improve her decision-making and has developed strength to stand by her choices.



Tayyab and Sadia actively engaged in their theatre group and conducted more than 1300 performances, mostly in Punjab, on the issues of gender equity and girls' education.

IMPACT OF INTERACTIVE THEATRE ON DR. ASIF AND HIS DAUGHTER AFSHEEN

Dr. Asif is a medical doctor, and his engagement with the performing arts began in the early 1980s at Radio Pakistan Hyderabad. In the early 2000s, he received Interactive Theatre training from Muhammad Waseem. Dr Asif formed a Mulk Theatre Group involving his whole family in theatre performances.



Dr. Asif's daughter Afsheen has participated in theatre at the age of six or seven. Growing up within interactive theatre spaces shaped her confidence, creativity, and sense of responsibility. Afsheen has also performed many cultural dances and plays at various literary festivals in Sindh, which led to the group's collaboration with the government for promoting art, theatre, and culture.



“Theatre is a form of knowledge; it should and can also be a means of transforming society. Theatre can help us build our future, rather than just waiting for it.”
— Augusto Boal

Impact of Interactive Theatre on Sujag Sansar: An organization by Mashooq Bharamani

Mashooq Bharamani is the Director of Sujag Sansar. IRC provided interactive theatre training. This support played a crucial role in shaping the group's understanding of theatre as a powerful medium for communication and social engagement.



Sujag Sansar's journey extended beyond 25 years, during which the organization collaborated with numerous national and international partners, where theatre was integrated as a core component of the program.



**"We must all do theatre, to find out who we are, and to discover who we could become."
— Augusto Boal**



“Despite challenges, we remained resilient and kept walking in our own light. This is the power of theatre, it makes us self-sufficient” - Mashooq



“Unlike conventional awareness sessions, theatre performances combined humor, emotion, and storytelling, allowing messages to remain memorable and impactful.” - Mashooq



Sustainable Capacity Building

This project, funded by the U.S. Embassy, was implemented in collaboration with Company E and the Smithsonian Institution.



Digital Storytelling by UNODC

"Voices of Peace" is an initiative designed to promote peaceful coexistence by empowering local communities in Lahore and Multan.



Human Rights Advocacy Funded

The Interactive Resource Centre (IRC), in collaboration with NED, has been training youth and civil society activists in community-based documentary



Satire Festival

Started in 2019, the Satire Fest is our newest addition to the different festivals IRC organizes annually. The concept behind Satire Fest is to bring together Pakistan's most preeminent editorial cartoonists and artists from traditional and novel art branches.



Vasakh

Vasakh Documentary Film Festival is a platform that uses the didactic tool of documentary filmmaking to engage and interact with the youth on issues prominent in our modern society.



Interactive Theatre Festival

Interactive Theatre Festival is an annual event organized by Interactive Resource Centre since the year 2000. It is a multi-day event which encompasses various community theatre performances on themes of interfaith harmony, & fundamental human rights.

Find us at:

IRC Website: irc-org.com

Maati TV Website: <https://maatitv.com/>

Instagram: [maatitvpk](https://www.instagram.com/maatitvpk) - [surtstudios](https://www.instagram.com/surtstudios) - [interactiveresourcecentre](https://www.instagram.com/interactiveresourcecentre)

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