

## PEOPLE IN MISSION



Anila Justine

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Drug Rehabilitation

Pakistan

### **My mission call:**

I am passionate about sharing the love of God with those who are struggling with drug misuse and need someone's help to overcome life's complex issues.

### **My role:**

I am actively involved in giving counselling to individuals and families suffering from drug addiction. IBTIDA runs a residential rehabilitation facility in which men (and some women in the past) stay for longer term rehabilitation before gradually re-entering the mainstream of life. Besides serving in the residential centre, I reach-out to different communities with the prevention message to help young people stay off drugs.

### **The main reason for my placement:**

Drug addiction is a huge issue in Pakistan. According to estimates, there are more than half million hard-core drug users in Pakistan. Young people are at high risk of experimenting with soft drugs that are easily available all over and gradually end up hooked to hard drugs. Families suffer socially, spiritually and financially due to a family member's drug using behaviour and themselves adopt many unhealthy behaviours. Individuals and families trapped in the vicious cycle of drug addiction need professional help and counselling to break the cycle dependency.

### **More details of my role:**

I serve with IBTIDA as Project Officer, I am involved in providing counselling to individuals and families who are trapped in the dependency cycle. I am also involved in taking drug prevention message to the communities to help the youth stay away from experimenting with drugs. Being project officer I am also responsible to develop project proposals and write progress report. I am actively involved in Church life and serve as an Executive member of the Women Fellowship Ministry of the Diocese of Karachi since 2013.

### **My story:**

I was born and raised in a Christian family in KPK province from where I graduated. Being a Punjabi living in KPK gave me cross-cultural living experience. I was married and moved to Karachi where my husband serves as Parish priest with the Diocese of Karachi. Apart from being involved in IBTIDA I am actively involved in parish ministry along with my husband in a low-income community of Karachi where we serve two churches to help people develop holistically. I also hold an M. Div. from St. Thomas Theological College in Karachi. I started working with IBTIDA as a volunteer in 2010 and grew in my role by serving the project through the various gifts God has given me. The project emphasises on individual spiritual growth and helps people of all faiths from Karachi and surrounding areas to come off drugs, believing that the best way to stay drug free is through transformed lives.