



Name:

Anila Justine

Location:

Karachi, Pakistan

Home town:

Haripur

Mission programme:

Drug Rehabilitation

The Mission Field:

Drug addiction is a serious issue in Pakistan. According to estimates, there are more than half a million chronic drug users in Pakistan. Young people are at risk of experimenting with soft drugs that are easily available and gradually become hooked on hard drugs as well. Families suffer socially, spiritually, and financially due to a family member's drug seeking 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 of dependency.

My Mission Calling:

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

My Role:

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

My Story:

I was born and raised in a Christian family in the KPK province, from where I also graduated. Being a Punjabi living in KPK gave me cross-cultural living experience. I married and moved to Karachi where my husband serves as a 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 a Master of Divinity 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 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.