

ASHABI MOSQUE, MAKLI, STABILIZED USING LARI-EMERGENCY PREVENTIVE INTERVENTION (L-EPI) METHODOLOGY

The handing over of the stabilized 16th century mosque took place on 17th April 2015. The burnt brick structure based on a triple dome arrangement had been in a highly endangered state. The work of stabilization under L-EPI has been carried out through careful and reversible use of mud brick, lime plaster and provision of bamboo support where necessary. Care has been taken to match plasterwork with the original; however in order to distinguish between the original and new plaster, the new plaster is always slightly indented. Externally care has been taken to close all cracks and gaps in the domes and roofs to prevent further water ingress. Internally, the damaged state of the muqarnas etc. has been dealt with by applying layers of mud lime plaster for securing detached renders, securing only those in danger of collapse and leaving the structure by and large without treatment.

The structure, especially blackened domes and walls have been thoroughly cleaned, thus providing a new lease of life to the mosque.

An amount of Rs. 1,000,000 (out of approximate cost of Rs. 1,400,000) has been generously contributed by Ms. Safeeyah Moosa of Spiritual Chords, South Africa.

All aspects of the work have been fully recorded and all steps have been documented on a regular basis.

The good will generated due to the rehabilitation of the mosque has resulted in the community providing volunteers for cleaning the surroundings as well as in the construction of a low perimeter wall in mud brick. This has helped strengthen relations between the Foundation's field team headed by Naheem Shah and the surrounding communities.

The cleaning up and rehabilitation of the graveyard belonging to the Sammat group is a marker in developing stake and ownership of communities. Led by Naheem Shah and under the guidance of HF teams, the Sammat group with their exceptional volunteer effort have rehabilitated their ancient graveyard. More groups are now coming forward and HF is working out a strategy for engaging as many groups that have interest in stabilizing the graves of their forefathers to be helped in their endeavours. Building pride and ownership of communities is among the utmost tasks that has been set by CEO Yasmeen Lari.

The event consisted of quran khwani (reading of the Holy Quran) by children in the mosque. After 'dua' (prayers) sweetmeats were distributed and a large number of devotees and the khalifa (custodian) of the Ashabi Mazaar participated in the program, showing the huge amount of interest that has been generated by stabilizing a small mosque due to its symbolism as a precursor of how much can be achieved through a collective and voluntary effort.

