

A Case Study of Christian Study Center, Rawalpindi Thesis writer; Riaz Ahmad Department of Comparative Religion International Islamic University-Islamabad

The twentieth century is considered as the most notable era for interfaith dialogue and other interreligious activities among the followers of different faiths across the globe. A number of interfaith activities were launched to bring closer, especially, the adherents of the Abrahamic faiths: Jews, Christians and Muslims. Many Christian institutes and organizations are actively involved in such activities. We cannot ignore the role of Christian Study Centers situated across the globe, which are rendering considerable services in the field of interfaith dialogue. One of them is the Christian Study Center Rawalpindi (CSC), Pakistan, which is the focal subject of this research paper. The CSC has a long journey in the course of interfaith dialogue and harmony, as it was its objective since its commencement. The CSC was established in 1967 as an extension of HMI (Henry Martyn Institute, Hyderabad India) to promote interfaith dialogue, harmony and good relationship among the followers of different faiths in Pakistan. It is conceded; the Christian Study Center Rawalpindi has provided great services and contributed a lot to interfaith dialogue, harmony and peace in Pakistan. It is also considered as a pioneer institute in the field of interfaith dialogue and social harmony. In this study the efforts are made to evaluate 40 years journey of the Christian Study Center (CSC), Rawalpindi in the field of interfaith dialogue, social harmony and peaceful coexistence from Pakistani context. In this study descriptive and analytical research methodology is adopted with mix method approach (Qualitative and Quantitative). It is perceived from the study that Christian Study Center is a representative center for interfaith dialogue and harmony in Pakistan and has most important role in promoting interfaith peace, harmony and peaceful co-existence. Moreover, it is also assumed that CSC is not only a dialogue institute but an institute having missionary activities and works for Christian's missions in a slow pace. Due to these issues, a group of Muslim scholars has reservation and difference of opinion on this modern interfaith dialogue movement.

Keywords: Interfaith dialogue, Pakistani perspective, 40 years journey, CSC dialogical activities