



SEF

Collective

May 2005



Dr. Asima providing on-the-spot screening for a child.



Inset: Dr. Khadija with the children and their parents at the CDC.

Introducing Health Care

One more quarter and another activity-filled issue of the SEF Collective. This issue provides a brief yet complete look at the Child Labor Education Program's (CLEP) recently conducted Health Care Program for students; the Support to Private Education Institutes Program's (SPEIP) pioneering teachers' trainings; an addition to the Sindh Education Foundation's (SEF) range of publications and numerous other activities.

The SEF Collective (available both in English and in Sindhi) is a newsletter that covers organizational activities, events and projects for the previous quarter.

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The activity was held at the Child Development Center (CDC) in the month of April, 2005. During the activity, 213 students of the CDC (134 boys and 79 girls), underwent health screening for infectious diseases such as TB, hepatitis A, B and C, and contagious skin disorders. The children were vaccinated for hepatitis B and were also given deworming treatment. In addition, they were tested for their visual acuity and were also provided with on-the-spot treatment for minor ailments/injuries. Some children with serious ailments were referred to Essa Laboratories and doctors at the National Institute for Child Health (NICH) and the Jinnah Post Medical College (JPSC). These children will be given second doses of Hepatitis B in the second week of May. A comprehensive computerized system has been developed to ensure that all new admissions to the CDC will be passed through health screening.

This event received strong endorsement from the children of CDC and their families. In fact, the response of the whole community has been overwhelming. *"I am very glad that this health campaign was initiated at the CDC because such a campaign was a dire need for all residents of the area,"* stated one mother whose family was present at the activity.

World Bank Mission Visits SEF

The Sindh Education Foundation (SEF), being a recipient of technical and financial support from the World Bank, provided an insightful list of lessons learnt from its projects. SEF emphasized that the World Bank should ensure flexibility and innovation when it comes to engaging communities and parents for education. Moreover, SEF highlighted that many projects failed to deliver due to little or no allocation for monitoring, evaluation and research. Therefore, SEF strongly recommended that World Bank should design future projects keeping in strong consideration the element of monitoring.

Thanking Shirkat Gah

The Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) graciously acknowledges Shirkat Gah, an NGO working towards women's empowerment in Pakistan, for giving SEF complimentary copies of books developed with regards to women's issues. These books have been distributed in the Women's Learning & Empowerment Centers (WLEC) of SEF.

Student wins English Speaking Competition



The Adopt-A-School Program (AASP) of the Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) aims to revitalize government schools through the process of adoption, i.e. forming alliances between the public and private sector.

Wardha Mujeeb, a student of the Government Girls Higher Secondary School PAF, Drig, Road (adopted by Mr. Muhammad Aslam), recently participated in an English Speaking Union Competition. She won the competition on a national level and qualified to participate in the international competition which was held in England from May 9 to May 12, 2005. Children from 40 countries around the world participated in this speech competition. Prof. Anita Ghulam Ali (S.I) has appreciated and congratulated Wardha, the school staff and the adopter for this significant achievement.

Case Study: Education Tailored for Working Children



Babar: Enjoying work and studies at the CDC.

Babar, aged 14 and employed at a local tailoring shop, steps out of the house at 10 every morning and returns late during the evening. Even a quick glance at his daily activities would make one realize the hardships most working children go through just to make ends meet. Prior to the establishment of the Child Development Center (CDC), getting an education for children like Babar was a luxury. This is not the case any more. "He is very punctual about his timings and keen to go and study at the CDC," smiles Babar's employer who has been working in Sher Shah for over two decades during which he established a small tailoring shop. Babar's

employer appreciates the efforts of the CDC and the services it offers. "I fully support Babar to study in the CDC. Education is important for every aspect of our lives. The reason behind my support and active involvement is because I was not permitted to have education as my family did not support the cause," Babar's employer comments.

Initially, Babar's parents were a hindrance in the process of his enrolment at the CDC. However, with the persuasion of his employer they are now extremely cooperative. In fact, their satisfaction with Babar's education has resulted in their sister's enrolment at the CDC as well.

For those who are not entirely familiar with CDC, the center has been established in Sher Shah, District West, Karachi. This particular area of Karachi employs more than 0.20 million children, like Babar, in the construction, manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade. The CDC is a five-roomed premise that remains open from 8am to 9pm, seven days a week. It offers free of cost access to basic facilities like a clean environment where children have access to recreational and educational services. The CDC also provides services such as filtered water, computers, personal lockers, a library and shower facilities that have hot water, soap and towels.

Along with these facilities Babar especially enjoys his cricket and soccer matches. He also thoroughly enjoys celebrating national holidays with his sister and friends at the CDC. For children like Babar the CDC provides an extremely pressure-free environment where they are able to rest after work, indulge in various recreational activities and develop skills relevant and applicable to sustaining their livelihood.

Pakistan Day Celebrated



Children celebrating Pakistan Day at the CDC.

Since its establishment CLEP's Child Development Center (CDC) has been celebrating Pakistan Day every year with much fervor. This year too different activities were scheduled for March 23, 2005. The rehearsals had begun long before the event. A number of students from various grades delivered speeches on topics related to the day and gave performances on national songs. Tablaeaus depicting issues pertaining to working children in society were also

performed. A quiz competition, relating to general knowledge and topics from their syllabus was also arranged for these students. The program continued for three hours and was concluded with a vote of thanks by the Center Coordinator & CLEP Program Manager and a photo session with all the children and audience.

From Literacy to Learning

The Women's Literacy and Empowerment Program (WLEP) is one of the core initiatives of Sindh Education Foundation (SEF). Under this initiative 22 Women Literacy Empowerment Centers (WLEC) are successfully operating since the last four years in Malir (Karachi) and Sehwan (Dadu).

Since their establishment in 2001, the WLECs, have served as entry points for the women of the community to engage in developmental discourse. Running in community homes, these centers not only provide basic literacy but have also become a platform for women to form their own social development organizations. These centers have also become points for cross-cutting awareness for the whole community. With time there has been an increase in demand for the centers to become arenas of community support and conflict resolution. Keeping the ever increasing demand under consideration the SEF has decided to expand the role of all centers to become community learning centers. Community Development Centers will ensure whole community ownership where women will be facilitated to become equal partners in community development.

Training for Integrating Health and Literacy



Learners of the Literacy Centers busy in group work.

In its course of work since 2001, the Women's Literacy and Empowerment Program (WLEP) has noticed that enrollment rates have been declining continuously as a result of poor health conditions prevalent in the communities. Hence, integrating health in its activities was becoming a pressing need. In order to forward this cause two 4-day trainings from April 26 - 29, and May 7 - 10, 2005 were conducted for the Learning Facilitators and Assistant Learning Facilitators of WLEP. These trainings, which were held in Karachi and Sehwan, were attended by approximately 26 participants. The primary objective of these trainings was to increase awareness of participants regarding the importance of health and literacy integration.

QARC Website - www.qarc.org.pk

The Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) in collaboration with the Department of Education & Literacy, Government of Sindh is establishing a Quality Assurance Resource Center (QARC) that aims at developing a quality assurance system in education which will enable support to good schooling and learning practices both in the public & private sectors of education. One of the key features of QARC is the emphasis on the development and improvement of schools' institutional ability to become 'learning organizations' responsible for the dissemination of quality educational services to all segments of the society.

To create awareness regarding QARC a website has been developed which will serve as a forum for information sharing. This website is designed to provide details regarding the QARC including latest news, certification details and services offered by the center. The website is also an excellent resource site for those interested in the quality assurance of education and other related fields of research. The website also provides convenient access to QARC's partnership details.

Teachers' Training Conducted for HSP



Teachers participating in group activities at the HSP training.

The education system in most developing countries is increasingly being seen as providing tools to engage communities towards social reform. In this regard teachers are deemed to be the main proponents for promoting critical thinking. It is important for teachers/educators/developers to understand the importance of teachers' beliefs about education & their relationship with teachers' practices.

To promote this notion, two 4-days training workshops were held in the month of March, 2005, one in Karachi and the other in Jamshoro, for the teachers of the Home Schools Program (HSP). Approximately 100 teachers & supervisors from various parts of the province including North Nazimabad, Kemari & Malir Towns of Karachi, Jamshoro, Mirpur Khas, Kot Ghulam Muhammad, Sinjhoro-Sanghar, Mehar-Dadu & Thul-Jacobabad participated in the workshop. The participants were exposed to new techniques and theories regarding teachers' beliefs about education. They were also made to recognize basic classroom behavioral problems of children such as shyness, attention deficiency etc. Finally, they reviewed basic strategies to address such behavioral issues. In addition, the participants were facilitated to create an open, creative and activity-based learning environment in the classroom. They were also guided how to effectively teach in a multigrade setting as all the schools in HSP are one-room, one-teacher settings. Partner NGOs/individuals and teachers were encouraged to work together for teaching-learning processes and community mobilization. Mr. Mohammed Ibrahim Joyo, a renowned intellectual, and Mr. Mazhar ul Haque Siddiqui, Vice Chancellor, University of Sindh, Jamshoro, distributed certificates among the participants after the Jamshoro training workshop.

HREP Conducts Training

The Human Rights Education Program (HREP) recently coordinated with the Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) to provide training regarding the usage of HREP publications in the classroom. The training revolved around how teachers can educate their students on different concepts of human rights which in turn can help children in bringing about a social change. The training took place at the SEF head office on March 17, 2005.

JICA Representatives Visit SEF

Dr. Visako and Ms. Noriko Hara, Project Formulation Advisor, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) visited the Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) during the last quarter. JICA is aiming towards promoting education in Sindh, and in their endeavor has shown their keenness to work with SEF, in order to take innovative steps towards enhancing educational initiatives.

Researches Undertaken by SEF

The Education Development & Research Cell (EDRC) is an integral unit of the Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) that engages in designing and conducting short and long term research studies, surveys and impact analyses related to education initiatives within SEF and on general practices and concerns related to the education and development domains.

Recently the research activities EDRC has been engaged in include two studies. One focuses on 'Income and Expenditure Patterns of Working Children attending SEF's Child Development Centre'. This study enunciates the utilization patterns of child earned income and contributing factors besides poverty that propel children into the labor market. The second is a case study 'Understanding School Dropout' undertaken in one of SEF's Community Supported Schools (CSS) investigated the background and causes of high rates of dropout and absenteeism in the village school and captured stakeholders suggestions for dealing with the negative trends by making schooling more community specific.

FUNPARA Project



Artwork created by the children at the FUNPARA project.

The Community Supported Schools Program (CSSP) initiated a FUNPARA Project in September 2004. The FUNPARA project provides opportunities for children to learn and develop their art skills. These children have developed extremely innovative things such as fancy pencils, bracelets made of beads and other wonderful works of art. This project provided an opportunity to the students of the Community Supported Schools to further enrich their skills by learning to develop material with clay and glass. The items developed during the project were a huge hit at two mela's held during the quarter (see below) and are currently on sale at the SEF head office. Interested individuals are requested to contact the Marketing Advocacy & Publications Unit, Sindh Education Foundation.

SEF Participates in Japan-Pakistan Cultural Mela

The Community Supported Schools Program (CSSP) participated in two exhibitions in February & March 2005. The Japan-Pakistan Cultural Mela was held at the Danish Gah from February 14 - 18, 2005. The Pakistan Day Fair was held on March 25, 2005 at the British Overseas School. At both exhibitions the CSSP team displayed all the items that were developed by their school children during the FUNPARA project (see above). These exhibitions are held every year and stalls are set up exhibiting Pakistani crafts. The funds generated from these mela's were distributed among the children who developed the creative material.

Department of Education & Literacy, GoS holds Annual Meeting

The Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) hosted the annual planning meeting of the Department of Education & Literacy, Government of Sindh in which all major educational initiatives and expansions were discussed for the next financial year. SEF submitted concept notes for three new education schemes under the Public Sector Development Program of the Education Department. Mr. Hashim Leghari, Secretary Education and Mr. Abdul Qadir Mangi, Special Secretary Education assured SEF of the DoE's complete support. On behalf of the Department of Education & Literacy, Government of Sindh, the Education Secretary and the Special Secretary thanked Prof. Anita Ghulam Ali and the SEF staff for creating numerous opportunities for the most disadvantaged areas of the province of Sindh. The Education Secretary regarded SEF as one of the best foundations of the country and extended his appreciation and acknowledgment of SEF's work.



Education Secretary heading the Annual Planning Meeting.

SEF Participates in Special Education Conference

Ms. Sana-e-Zehra Haidry, Manager Research & Development, Education Development & Research Cell (EDRC) attended a two-day conference on Special Education, organized by the Ministry of Women Development, Social Welfare and Special Education & Directorate General of Special Education in collaboration with the World Bank (April 4 - 5, 2005). She actively participated in the discussions & group activities in reviewing and finalizing the draft policy. This conference was attended by the respective ministry along with federal and provincial departments. Focal persons from NGOs, academics and persons with disabilities also participated in the conference.

Teachers' Training Workshop Organized by SPEIP



Ms. Husn Ara of SEF heading a session with the trainees.

The Support to Private Education Institutes Program (SPEIP) is a pioneering initiative taken by the Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) under the Public Sector Development Program which is striving to transform private schools into dynamic learning spaces for all. SPEIP focuses on institutional development and quality advancement support to low-cost private and community based schools in areas of teachers' development, school management and Information & Communication Technology (ICT). SPEIP is being implemented in 300 private educational institutions in Sindh.

One of the areas that SEF provides support to schools that have partnered with SPEIP is that of quality advancement. As a result, SPEIP conducted training workshops to build the capacities of its teachers. These workshops were held between January 17 and February 9, 2005 for 5 districts of Sindh. The participants of these trainings engaged in critical analyses and discussions regarding teachers' beliefs about education, learning, students, parents, and teachers themselves. The training was divided into two broad themes entitled 'Teachers as Critical Thinkers' and 'Information and Communication Technology in Education'. The beneficiaries of these workshops were 351 teachers from 117 partner schools.

MoU's Signed with SPEIP Partner Schools

During the past quarter, 133 additional private schools were selected to be part of the SPEIP family – taking the total to 300 schools. Among the new partners 68 schools are from Hyderabad, 13 are from Thatta, Dadu and Badin, and 26 are from Khairpur. To initiate the intervention, Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremonies with new partner schools were held on April 7, 2005 in Hyderabad and Thatta and on April 9, 2005 in Khairpur, Dadu and Badin.



Heads of the schools at the MoU signing ceremony.

Trainings Conducted for Parents Education Committees



Teachers participating in 'forming the learning web' activity.

The Fellowship School Program (FSP) is based on a community school model that aims at providing quality education in numerous districts of Sindh. The Parents Education Committees (PEC) established in these schools are representative bodies of parents and communities which manage and monitor the schools. In order to further strengthen the PECs a cluster based training was arranged by FSP between May 2 and May 25, 2005 for 350 participants.

These workshops aimed at building PECs capacity in organizational management, basic record keeping, leadership qualities, community mobilization, resource mobilization, monitoring of the school, teaching methodologies, conflict resolution, networking and developing linkages. It is hoped that these trainings will help communities in managing their schools more efficiently.

National Education Assessment System

The Government of Pakistan is committed to improving the quality of education along with its efforts to increase enrolment and access. This commitment is reflected in the government's policy documents and in its reaffirmation at international forums to include quality outcomes such as student achievement scores, one of the most important performance monitoring indicators in the education system. In lieu of these objectives, a dialogue about the need and mechanism for establishing a National Education Assessment System (NEAS) as an integral part of the education system in Pakistan was initiated at a national workshop at Lahore in December 1997.

Mr. Mashhood Rizvi of the Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) is working as one of the key consultants to the Ministry of Education's project to develop monitoring and evaluation frameworks for the National Educational Assessment Systems.

Refresher Courses Offered



Participants busy with an arts and crafts training.

During the past quarter, the Fellowship Schools Program (FSP), a community school model of the Sindh Education Foundation (SEF), conducted refresher courses for 92 teachers. These trainings were held cluster-wise in Hala and Khairpur during the first week of April, 2005. The objective of these one-day trainings was to improve the quality of education imparted at the Fellowship Schools. During the training the teachers were provided trainings on teaching multigrade classrooms, teaching arts and crafts and conducting functions and assemblies.

Support SEF



The Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) supports a number of schools and learning centers via its various programs.

200 ADOPTED SCHOOLS

1 CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

100 COMMUNITY SUPPORTED SCHOOLS

120 FELLOWSHIP SCHOOLS

100 HOME SCHOOLS

300 PRIVATE SCHOOLS

22 WOMEN'S LITERACY & EMPOWERMENT CENTERS

SEF welcomes you to provide support in cash and kind, and also encourages voluntary work. Even a small contribution can go a long way, so step forward and make a difference.

Also, visit our office and we will be glad to show you around and tell you more about our work. We are sure you will find a way to show the deserving children that you care.

Contact the

Sindh Education Foundation at:

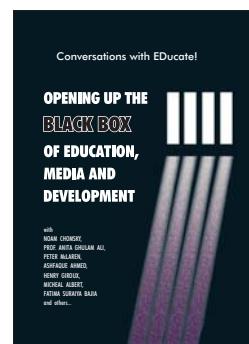
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EDucate! Upcoming Issue

The Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) brings out Pakistan's pioneering quarterly magazine on education and development. This magazine called 'EDucate!' focuses on different issues pertaining to education and development. The upcoming issue (Issue No. 4, Vol. 2) focuses on 'Alternate Systems'. It includes features on participatory economics, alternative media and schooling, and an interview with Ms. Helena Norberg-Hodge, one of the founding members of the International Society for Ecology and Culture (ISEC), and Ms. Najma Sadeque, the founding member of Shirkat Gah. By means of this issue, SEF hopes to encourage rejuvenating local culture and systems of learning and living.

EDucate! Series Booklet

As a collectors item for its readers, the Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) plans to publish a collection of interviews and personal discussions with prominent public intellectuals for a wide-ranging discussion on various issues that concern the developmental and educational course. In this compilation Noam Chomsky, David Korten, Ashfaq Ahmed, Fatima Suraiyya Bajiya and many more who have previously been featured in Educate!, provide critical insight and opinions on the media, education and society. An essential for everyone concerned with and interested in the rapidly transforming faces of education, media and development, this booklet will be available for purchase at SEF's head office and all leading bookstores.



EDucate! Booklet

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EDucate! - Pakistan's first quarterly on Education and Development
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Parwarish

One of the newest additions to SEF's array of publications has been the Urdu version of Nurture – Pakistan's pioneer publication on Early Childhood Development (ECD). This publication, named Parwarish, has been launched with the intention to reach out to a wider audience. It is also inline with SEF's belief that for advocacy campaigns to be effective they ought to be more contextualized and should primarily be carried out in the local language. Parwarish is a thematic magazine, with the themes revolving around various issues such as positive parenting, care giving, health, hygiene, etc. For the first volume of Parwarish several portions of Nurture (English) were translated to Urdu. These will be distributed in several districts of Sindh and Balochistan. It is targeted towards parents and teachers of children between the ages of 0-8 years and attempts at drawing attention towards early childhood developmental issues and practices at the communities' level.



Parwarish: Volume 1

Free Subscription

To book your free subscription of Nurture (English) and Parwarish (Urdu)
contact the Sindh Education Foundation at:

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