



Collective

December 2010

Public Private Partnership Initiative to Support 1500 Private Schools in Sindh



Selection of 1200 new and existing IELP Schools by Hon'ble Chief Minister Sindh, Syed Qaim Ali Shah.

Senior Minister, Education & Literacy, Hon'ble Pir Mazhar-ul-Haq and SEF senior management also present on the occasion.

SEF's Integrated Education Learning Program (IELP) aims to establish greater public private partnerships for increasing access to and improving the quality of educational (primary, elementary and secondary) services in 1500 existing and new private schools across Sindh. SEF's 302 community schools have been integrated into IELP and are receiving financial assistance from SEF.

In early 2010, SEF announced a Call for Applications for extending support to 1200 additional schools. 9600 applications were received from across the province. Out of these, 4500 that matched the selection criteria

were short-listed and services of six research firms were hired for field verification.

On 22nd November 2010, selection of new schools through computerized randomization was undertaken by Hon'ble Qaim Ali Shah, Chief Minister Sindh and Chairman Board of Governors, SEF at CM House, Karachi. Since many schools were in the flood affected regions, the SEF will carry out a re-verification survey of the selected school sites to examine whether or not the localities are available for intervention. The selected existing/newly proposed school sites will be awarded contracts in 2011.

Institutional Support Continues to 298 PPRS Schools

The Promoting Private Schooling in Rural Sindh (PPRS) project, launched in 2009, is designed by the Sindh Education Foundation in collaboration with the Reform Support Unit and the World Bank, and envisioned to span over a decade. Project's 4-year pilot phase aims to support establishment and management of 1,000 private schools in 10 districts of Sindh aiming to improve the quality of education provided to children in marginalized areas.

The year 2009 and 2010 saw the launch of the project's phases 1 and 2 with the establishment and support, both financial and technical, to 298 schools. 200 schools were established in the first phase during 2009 while 98 schools



To enable easy access to project information, a comprehensive database of Phase 1 and 2 school entrepreneurs and teachers was developed during 2010. The data bank is useful for not only record keeping and



were established in early 2010 in the second phase. Entrepreneurs who set up and took ownership of the private schools were selected via a comprehensive and transparent selection process based on applicant-related and locality qualification criteria. 8 tranches of per child subsidy have been released to Phase 1 schools and 3 tranches to Phase 2 schools – the subsidy provision for base model is Rs. 350 per month per child enrolled and for base plus model it is Rs. 350 per boy and Rs. 450 per girl enrolled respectively. In addition to financial support, SEF offers technical support to schools which include teachers' professional development, provision of free textbooks, capacity building of entrepreneurs, student assessment and school monitoring. Stationery and school bags were also provided to more than 25,000 students.

reporting but also for program review and monitoring purposes. For example important indicators like teachers' presence in classrooms, turn-over of trained teachers, number of schools per entrepreneur, school coordinates etc. can be checked.

With the launch of Phase 3 in 2011, an additional 700 private schools will be initiated under PPRS Project.

Reaching the Underserved through Non-formal Education

In 2009, 250 schools were established under SEF's Rural Based Community School Project in partnership with local NGOs across 10 districts of Sindh (Larkana, Kambar Shahdadt, Dadu, Jamshoro, Karachi, Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas, Sanghar, Khairpur and Sukkur). The project is benefiting more than 10,000 students, 500 local teachers And 250 Parent Management Bodies established at the school level for day to day management. During the recent floods, some districts were adversely affected causing damages to RBCS schools. To gauge the post flood impact and extent of damages to schools, a comprehensive school profiling survey was carried out.



Institutionalizing Pre-primary Classes in 150 Government Schools

The Early Learning Program continues to target efforts towards institutionalizing Early Childhood Education (ECE) classes in 150 government schools across 5 districts of Sindh namely Tando Muhammad Khan, Badin, Khairpur, Ghotki and Noushehro Feroze. The ELP interventions are reaching out to more than 6,000 children, 450 ECD teachers and 150 teaching assistants.



Interventions over the later half of 2010 comprised a school profiling activity to assess the post-floods impact on the partner schools and streamlining the future course of action accordingly. Employment contracts were renewed for the 300 lead and assistant teachers who have been recruited as part of the program and continue to undertake



interventions in katchi classes supported across the target public schools in Sindh. Furthermore, learning material for grade 1 classes was also distributed. This comprised charts, flash cards, basic stationery, story books and other interactive resources for children. During the next quarter, grade 1 teachers will be selected for training in key areas of Early Childhood Education and pedagogical techniques. They will also be given a stipend by SEF for offering services under ELP.

Investing in Adult Women's Literacy & Learning

In line with the MDGs and the EFA goals, SEF's Women's Literacy & Empowerment Program has continued to work in the areas of education, health, economic empowerment and self reliance of young and adult women since 2001. 781 adult learners presently enrolled in the 23 centers in Karachi (Malir), Jamshoro (Sehwan) and Hyderabad (Tando Allahyar) districts benefited from educational, self-development and empowerment opportunities during 2010. Competency based assessments were also carried out to gauge progress of learners towards literacy goals.



During 2010, SEF entered into an implementation partnership agreement with UNESCO for establishing 10 Community Learning Centers in Sukkur. For CLC establishment and management, SEF partnered with the Sindh Development Society (SDS). Through the CLCs, SEF envisions to improve participation rate of women in social, economic, cultural and political spheres. A baseline survey

was conducted in 25 villages to identify suitable localities for center establishment and potential teachers and learners



aged between 15 to 25 years. The CLCs started functioning from July 2010 and are offering integrated learning program to adult learners essentially comprising functional literacy, health education, awareness regarding early childhood development, women rights and empowerment and vocational skills. 10 local teachers have been hired and trained for each CLC which has created ownership of the interventions. Center support visits were undertaken by SEF on a monthly basis to observe performance of teachers and progress made by the 250 learners as well as to discuss and resolve any issues that the teachers face on a day to day basis. SEF also facilitated UNESCO during the third party evaluation survey across the 10 centers.

Public School Reforms in Marginalized Communities

SEF's Adopt a School Program (AASP), initiated in 1998, continues to work for greater public private partnership for education. During the later half of the year, SEF facilitated additional school adoptions for 5 schools. Technical support in the school adoption process involved needs assessment surveys, organizing adopters' visit to the respective schools, development of school improvement plans, introductory meetings with school management and official correspondence with government functionaries. The school adoption details are:

- ⊙ Government Boys Secondary School Evershine adopted by the Global Helpline Trust
- ⊙ NJV Government Boys Primary & Secondary Schools adopted by Mr. Sualeh Jumani
- ⊙ Government Girls Primary & Secondary Schools Akhter Colony adopted by Faith Foundation.

All stakeholders including CDGK officials, DO (Education), representatives of the school management, SMC members and adopters attended the formal school adoption ceremonies.

The SEF also partnered with the Citizens Archive of Pakistan (CAP) to undertake a three-year long School Outreach Program to implement interactive history lessons for children of primary and elementary grades across 8 government schools in Karachi. The program, which aims to work with 1,000 students, was initiated in October 2010. Weekly 90



minute sessions are conducted by CAP's volunteers in each school. Through use of interactive approaches and activity materials such as historic photographs, multi-lingual games, role play, essay writing, etc. the students develop critical thinking skills and are able to appraise the influence of past events on present day situations. The program aims to inculcate civil sense, open mindedness and tolerance in the students by teaching them about how to care for Pakistan and its environment, embrace the diversity of its provinces and people and how to appreciate the various cultures.

CLEP maintains Commitment to Child Development

The Child Development Center (CDC) is the primary unit of the Child Labor Education Program (CLEP), initiated by Sindh Education Foundation in 2001. Established in the midst of Karachi's industrial hub – SherShah, the Center offers educational, recreational and self development opportunities to the working children of the area.



Center also provided recreational avenues such as arts and crafts weeks, indoor games and outdoor study visits for the 300 enrolled children.

The Center's community mobilization efforts continued through visits to new employers in the area to orient them about the CDC and its benefits for child laborers. As a result 17 new working children were enrolled in the Center. Meetings with parents and employers of existing students were also held to ensure their involvement and interest in their children's progress at CDC.



The CDC continues to fulfill its ideological, moral and social responsibility to the child laborers by implementing educational activities such as lessons on living values and health, presenting video sessions and encouraging creative writing. Besides the academic sessions during 2010, the

SEF Steps Up to help the Flood Affected Families



In July 2010, torrential monsoon rains caused the worst natural disasters to have hit the country in 80 years, engulfing approximately 1/5th of the country's land area. The initial estimates revealed that 40 percent of the schools supported by SEF across the province were either completely damaged or found dysfunctional, primarily owing to migration of communities or serving as relief camps. In a dedicated attempt to assist the response efforts, the SEF launched the Foundation Relief Initiative (FRI) during August, 2010. The FRI's two-tier intervention was designed to provide immediate relief and emergency education to flood affected communities.



A tent city was put up in district Khairpur by SEF. Established at Village Ubhri with facilitation from local earmarked authorities, it provided shelter, food and water, clothing and basic medical facilities to over 800 flood affectees from the surrounding regions, residing in over 100 tents. Concerted efforts were made to ensure provision of hygienic and uncontaminated environment both inside and outside the camps. Free first aid and medical facilities that included treatments for skin and eye infections, diarrhea, vomiting,

malaria, and other waterborne diseases, were also made accessible by a volunteer team of specialist doctors. The international community soon came to the affectees' rescue. The Turkish team of doctors co-facilitated the local doctors in treatment of complex diseases. For the purpose of registration of the flood victims a data collection bank was established at the site - serving as the sole source of comprehensive information on flood affectees in the area of Ubhri, Khairpur. Funds raised in cash as well as in-kind were utilized to provide dry food rations such as flour, oil, lentils and energy packs as well as non-food items including water filters, towels, soaps, sheets, mats, kitchen utensils, mosquito coils and nets, medicines including skin disease ointments and clothing to facilitate the relief process. Kitchen utensils and stoves were also provided to IDPs to cook their meals. Arrangements were also made to accommodate and provide fodder for the surviving cattle - refugees' major source of dairy products and their main assets. The SEF staff made generous contributions to the fund from their salaries.

The SEF launched an Emergency Education Program (EEP) as part of FRI. As mandated by the Government of Sindh, the program was initiated across the province of Sindh in September 2010 with the aim of providing 'friendly spaces' for recreational activities as well as non-formal education for displaced children and adults across Sindh. Manuals for teachers/ facilitators were developed by SEF's Learning Support Unit encompassing informational content for children and adults. A training was successfully implemented for 700 teachers in Dadu, Sukkur, Khairpur, Qamber Shehdadkot, Benazirabad, Larkana, Ghotki and Shikarpur districts for implementing emergency education program for the displaced families across the province.

Our Friends & Partners



Hon'ble Chief Minister, Sindh, Syed Qaim Ali Shah announces 1200 new schools to be established as part of the SEF's Integrated Education Learning Program



Mr. Sarfaraz Ahmed Rajar, Advisor to Chief Minister, Sindh, addressing the audience at the Concluding Seminar of IQEP in Hyderabad



Mr. Alam din Bullo (Secretary Education, Sindh) in a meeting at the SEF Head Office



Coordinator PPRS Project in a meeting with World Bank representatives at SEF sub-office in Karachi



Dr. Jawaid Laghari (Chairman, HEC) during his visit to the SEF



SEF signs contract with 300 existing private schools to be supported under IELP



MD, SEF with Dr. Philip Powell Davies, Senior Development Advisor, DFID after a meeting at SEF Head Office



Director, SEF discusses details of IQEP in a meeting with members of the Foundation Open Society Institute and Pakistan Center for Philanthropy



Prof. Anita Ghulam Ali and Mr. Aziz Kabani in conversation with Dr. Sadruddin Pradhan, Director Outreach Programs, AKU-IED



MD, SEF highlighting PPRS Project details to Radio Pakistan during a media briefing at SEF Head Office



SEF acknowledges the first two students of the Child Development Center upon achieving matriculation



Representatives from Prosperous Coastal Area Community, Rehri Bin Qasim Town, Karachi on a visit to SEF

Our Friends & Partners



Representatives of the Punjab Education Foundation on a visit to SEF Head office



World Bank consultant, Ms. Indera in a meeting at SEF Head office



SEF management briefs World Bank mission on the progress of the PPRS Project



SEF and World Bank teams discuss details of assessment framework for teachers and students in partner schools



Dr. Habiba Hasan (Pediatrician & Women's Rights Activist) with Prof. Rehana Mughni and Prof. Anita Ghulam Ali at SEF



DFID representatives in a meeting with MD, SEF

Team at work



Director SEF on a visit to SEF's Flood Relief Camp at Village Ubhri, Khairpur



Senior Manager, Monitoring & Evaluation Unit, on a school monitoring visit



LSU trainers conduct classroom support visit to school in rural areas



SEF trainers demonstrate low-cost learning resources developed in-house for classrooms



SEF celebrates Sindh Culture Day in December 2010



Members of SEF's Learning Support Unit demonstrating interactive teaching-learning methodology for early years classrooms

Raising Educational Standards Through Professional Development of Stakeholders

SEF believes that through focused capacity building of its stakeholders, quality of education offered in schools can be improved. In this regard, teachers' professional development and educational management and leadership training for school operators are integral components of SEF's educational interventions. Capacity development initiatives undertaken during the past six months are highlighted below.

Training of Adult Learning Facilitators

A 6-day capacity building session was organized by SEF for teachers of the 10 Community Learning Centers (CLCs) in Sukkur district. The CLCs are operating as part of a year long project initiated by UNESCO and implemented by the Sindh Development Society under the supervision of SEF. The training reinforced the interventions at the CLCs that reach out to 250 adult women learners, who are otherwise deprived of self-development opportunities.

SEF's team of master trainers designed and carried out the training sessions from 12th to 17th July, 2010 at Sukkur. Participants were provided an overview of effective CLC management, community mobilization methods, andragogical techniques, lesson planning strategies and development of low cost learning material. Detailed orientation was given on 'Teztareen'- an accelerated syllabus, which will be introduced across the centers for developing functional literacy and numeracy competencies in adult learners. Professor Rehana Mughni, the lead trainer, with extensive experience in women empowerment and adult education, demonstrated pedagogy of 'Ujlee Rahein', a post literacy primer that she developed herself. The publication comprises theme-based post literacy materials targeting adult women learners and educators.



Professional Development of Private School Teachers

Under the 'Promoting Private Schooling in Rural Sindh Project', a 9-day district based teacher training program was organized in 5 clusters namely Thatta-Badin, Mithi-Umerkot, Sanghar-Benazirabad-Dadu, Khairpur and Larkana-Kamber Shadadkot from 31st July to 8th August, 2010. 200 teachers from 98 Phase-II schools participated. The sessions entailed orientation on text books published by the Oxford University Press that are being used in SEF partner schools. Methods and techniques for effective teaching in early years' classrooms as well as usage of additional learning aids to enhance learning were also demonstrated by trainers. To enhance teachers' English language skills, dedicated sessions were conducted with the objective of improving language proficiency of primary school teachers.



The training was conducted as part of quality assurance interventions which SEF offers to its partner schools for improving the standards of education and educational outcomes.

Orientation for School Entrepreneurs

A one-day orientation was organized for entrepreneurs of 200 PPRS Phase-1 schools on 9th July 2010. 152 participants were introduced to concepts of effective school leadership, management and administration. Details of partnership contracts signed between SEF and school entrepreneur were also discussed. A customized 'Entrepreneur's Toolkit' was also provided to facilitate school leaders/operators in ensuring high standards of educational quality in schools.



Emergency Education for Displaced Children and Adults

Education plays a crucial role in aid responses following a natural disaster or complex emergency. Understanding its social responsibility, SEF launched an Emergency Education Program as part of the efforts for rehabilitation of flood victims. The program was initiated during September 2010 and aimed at providing 'friendly spaces' for recreational activities as well as non-formal education for displaced children and adults across the province of Sindh. Resource manuals



were developed in Sindhi language for teachers of early years as well as adult educators. In order to maximize the usage of emergency education content, SEF initiated the process of information dissemination to facilitators/educators. Training sessions demonstrated various teaching methodologies such as activity based learning, discussions and role-plays, etc. to be used during the educational/recreational interventions in various IDP camps. The trainings benefitted an estimated 700 teachers in Benazirabad, Sukkur, Khaipur, Ghotki, Dadu, Qamber, Larkana, Hyderabad and Shikarpur districts of Sindh.

Assessment Orientation Workshop for ECE Teachers

In order to assess and evaluate the impact of teaching-learning interventions, the SEF has set up an Assessment Unit to work dedicatedly on designing and administering school based assessment programs. The Assessment Unit conducted a 3 day "Orientation and Tools Development Workshop" from the 26th to 28th October, 2010 at a local hotel in Karachi. The workshop focused on Key Learning Areas, Expected Learning Outcomes, Stages of Child Development, Education Assessment, Student Achievement Indicators and Different Approaches of Early Childhood Education. The main objective of the session was to develop an understanding regarding assessment of young children (grades katchi to grade 2) and designing child-friendly assessment tools through use of rubrics, portfolios and checklists. In addition, the workshop aimed at enriching the assessment process and to facilitate the exchange of experiences with regards to child evaluation practices. Experts, Tanveer Ishrat (Child Psychologist) and Afshan Razzaq (ECD Specialist), were hired to conduct the 3-day sessions along side SEF's trainers. Teachers from urban schools as well as from SEF's partner schools in rural Sindh, provided a rich mix of backgrounds that allowed for the SEF to design culture-sensitive assessment questions / items and add to the pool of question bank for developing assessment papers in future.

The workshop was highly interactive and involved group discussions, role-plays, videos and hands-on exercises that allowed for cross-fertilization of concepts and ideas and enriched learning at both organizational and school levels. The SEF plans to continue with similar workshops in future in order to create greater understanding of child-friendly assessment approaches reflecting local contexts and evaluate higher order skills like comprehension, logical thinking and problem solving rather than rote memorization.

Capacity Building of Public School Teachers

The SEF's Adopt-a-School Program has worked to improve the quality of education within government schools through public private partnership. While adopters bring in technical and financial resources, linkages with like-minded organizations are also developed through SEF so as to enrich the academic interventions in schools.

During 2010, 11 teachers from 4 AASP partner schools attended a 3-day workshop organized by Aga Khan University Education Board (AKU-EB) in Karachi. The workshop focused on formative assessment methodology in secondary classrooms particularly of Urdu, Math and Science subjects. Later in October and November, two follow-up sessions were conducted by AKU-EB to link field knowledge to the learning from the workshops. The public school teachers were encouraged to undertake frequent, interactive assessments of student progress and also adjust their teaching approaches to better meet identified learning needs of the students.

Moreover, 21 students and 10 teachers from various AASP partner schools attended the orientation workshop organized by Intel International Science Engineering Fair (ISEF) in September in Karachi. The workshop familiarized the participants with details of the science fair organized annually by Intel in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. Students are expected to develop original research based projects in categories of Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Computer Science and Mathematics. The winners at the National Science Fair are sponsored to participate in the Intel ISEF which is held every year in USA with over 1,500 students competing for US\$ 4 mn in prizes.



PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES

Children's Newsletter

The Children's Newsletter, a deliverable of Releasing Confidence and Creativity (RCC) ECD Programme, is one of the primary interventions undertaken by SEF to enhance learning during the early years. The newsletter is used as a means to raise awareness about important issues.

The themes of recently published issues revolve around 'Staying Safe', 'Being Responsible' and 'Climate Change'. In the issue 'Staying Safe', children are made to understand the importance of safety in and around the house, on the road and about danger from strangers through illustrative stories, activities and informational tidbits. 'Being Responsible' explains the benefits of being disciplined and organized. It reinforces the message that being a responsible person makes us feel good about ourselves and earns us respect and appreciation from our elders and friends. While 'Climate Change' introduces important terms such as global warming, greenhouse effect, pollution and ozone layer. It goes on to encourage children to take part in environment friendly activities to help in the cause.



The publication serves as a channel for promoting children's creativity and confidence and is geared towards enhancing the quality of learning by providing information that is both meaningful and entertaining.

Magazine for Parents and ECE Practitioners

The Sindh Education Foundation publishes 'Nurture' and its Urdu version 'Parwarish' as part of the Releasing Confidence and Creativity: ECD Programme.



The ninth issue of the magazine has been recently published addressing the 'Children and Global Issues' theme. The issue covers a broad array of topics, particularly the negative impact of global problems on children - one of the most vulnerable groups that tend to bear the brunt of disasters. The role of parents, caregivers, teachers and ECD Practitioners in understanding and responding to the needs of children is particularly highlighted. The magazine also highlights other global issues such as poverty, terrorism, unemployment, child labour, media violence, global warming and emergency situations that ought to be addressed in order to make this world fit for children.

To reinforce the content, 3 issues of Children's Newsletters have also been circulated to magazine readers along with 5 posters which were developed to supplement the magazine. The publication is circulated to 6000 parents,

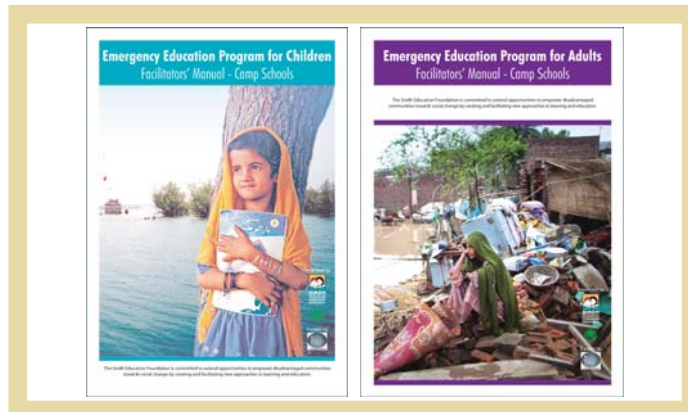


caregivers, teachers / ECD practitioners, and various public / private institutions and organizations.

Resource Manuals for Emergency Education

The Foundation recognizes that education during emergencies is a lifesaving strategy as well as a right that displaced adults and children are entitled to. As part of SEF's disaster relief efforts, two resource manuals were developed for teachers of adults and young children to facilitate implementation of emergency education across refugee camp sites. The resource manuals are in Sindhi language and comprise educational content on crisis management, health and hygiene, environmental awareness, life skills, human values and rights modules and structured recreation activities like art and drama for active learning. These manuals can serve as supplementary education materials in early emergency and can also be used for enriching the

curriculum, training of trainers, teachers training or conducting lessons to meet some of the psychosocial and learning/recreational needs of emergency-affected children and adults.



Entrepreneur's Toolkit for Effective School Management

In order to ensure high standards of educational quality provided to children studying in SEF partner schools, a toolkit was prepared and shared with entrepreneurs of the PPRS Project. The document defines a framework for quality protocols which is based on five key elements comprising Good Governance, Standardized Learning Practices, Curriculum Planning, Quantifiable Assessment Techniques and Effective School Management. The administrative and academic guidelines will facilitate SEF partner schools to work independently as well as collectively to attain high standards of educational quality within the schools.

Resource Guide for Multi-grade Teaching

In order to enrich the educational interventions for working children studying in SEF's Child Development Center, a resource manual was prepared for teaching in a multi-grade classroom. The manual comprises guidelines for organizing classrooms to manage the teaching and the needs of the students more effectively. Lesson planning, assessment methods and record keeping are explained through examples to successfully manage the curriculum learning outcomes. The manual aims to facilitate a learning environment that enables children to reach their potential and gain educational outcomes and skills for life long learning.

MONITORING & EVALUATION

Monitoring and evaluation is routinely conducted across SEF program and project schools to monitor school performance, determine effectiveness of planned interventions as well as enable programmatic improvement. The survey details

- ⊙ **Field verification** of short-listed applications under the Integrated Education Learning Program was conducted in May-June 2010 to finalize 1200 school sites for support. A Round 2 of verification will be undertaken if 1200 required applicants do not qualify in the first round.
- ⊙ **A Baseline Survey** across 307 existing SEF partner schools was undertaken to collect information on schools' infrastructure, students' enrollment and attendance, number of teachers, room size, income/expenditure details of the school, presence of learning resources and availability of drinking water and functional toilets, etc. The schools will be supported through one of SEF's per-child subsidy models, the Integrated Education learning Program.
- ⊙ **A School Profiling Survey** across SEF partner schools

was initiated in October 2010 to gauge the post-flood impact in schools. Data was gathered from around 1000 partner schools operating under various SEF initiatives including the PPRS Project, ELP, RBCS and WLEP. The information facilitated SEF is devising strategies to address post floods program needs at the grass roots.

- ⊙ **Situation Analysis** Survey across 36 relief camps for flood victims was conducted to gather data on basic indicators including number of displaced individuals, type of accommodation, availability of drinking water and sanitation facilities, etc. Relief efforts were mobilized accordingly from various individual and organizational donors.

SEF also partnered with the Idara-e-Taleem o Agahi for the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) survey which was undertaken across 30 districts of Pakistan in 2010.

A database has also been developed by SEF's R, M&E Unit for maintaining and modifying school data. The database allows for easy access and fast retrieval of required information.

Sindh Chief Minister selects 1200 New Schools through Randomization

A computerized random selection of 1200 schools was made by the pressing of a key by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Sindh, Syed Qaim Ali Shah on 22nd November, 2010. These schools

are being established under SEF's new education scheme titled the Integrated Education Learning Program (IELP). Supported by Government of Sindh, IELP will support 1500 existing and new private schools across Sindh in partnership with local NGOs, CBOs, trusts and individual entrepreneurs. SEF will extend financial and technical support to partners which will include provision of per child subsidy, teachers' professional

development, capacity building of stakeholders, provision of free textbooks and learning material for children and schools, student assessment and monitoring and evaluation.

Professor Anita Ghulam Ali (S.I.), MD, SEF gave a detailed briefing on SEF's portfolio and efforts to improve the state of education in the Province, which were appreciated by the Hon'ble CM, also the Chairperson, SEF Board of Governors. Highlighting the Foundation's achievements Professor Ghulam Ali added that 700 new schools have been established under the tenure of the present government serving more than 50,000 children. She also quoted from World Bank's recent report, which termed SEF's educational

initiatives as "phenomenal success" vis-à-vis improving access to educational facilities for the marginalized and deprived children. Responding to a question regarding quality of

education, Professor Ghulam Ali explained that to ensure high standards of quality in schools, SEF not only provides resources and material to enrich the classroom environment but also undertakes regular monitoring and school support. To further improve education delivery in schools, SEF is pursuing partnership with Aga Khan Education Board (AKEB) for introducing student assessment of international standards, a step

much appreciated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. MD, SEF also briefed the Hon'ble CM about teacher development initiatives of the Foundation helpful in creatively responding to teachers' qualification issues.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister commended SEF's efforts for the promotion of education in Sindh and especially lauded its new scheme IELP which will benefit more than 250,000 children and create employment opportunities for at least 4000 teachers in far flung rural areas. He further stated that IELP will help the Government of Sindh in responding to many issues which the education sector is faced with in the province.



'Improving Quality of Education Programme' Concludes

The Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) has pioneered in effectively engaging the public and private sectors for school reform as well as advocated and established a number of partner schools and other innovative educational models for the marginalized groups and communities.

The Improving Quality of Education Programme, an effective Public Private Partnership model piloted by SEF, concluded the two-year implementation in 2010. A concluding ceremony was organized in Hyderabad on 15 July, 2010. The event was attended by 150 participants comprising school heads and teachers from 30 partner schools, government officials, representatives from media and program partners and SEF staff. IQEP was implemented

by the SEF in collaboration with Open Society Institute (OSI) and Pakistan Center for Philanthropy (PCP). The two-year interventions aimed to enhance the educational quality across 30 schools (government, low-cost private and community based) in Hyderabad cluster.

Hon'ble Sarfaraz Rajar, Advisor to CM, Government of Sindh, presided over the Seminar as the Chief Guest. Addressing the audience, Mr. Rajar lauded the efforts of SEF towards promoting lasting public private partnerships for provision of quality education services to marginalized children across

Sindh. Prof. Anita Ghulam Ali (S.I.), MD, SEF sharing her views at the successful completion of the project, recognized the pilot model as a milestone for future endeavors for raising standards of educational quality.

Success stories, research-based learnings and challenges faced during the 2 years of implementation were also shared by the programme team.

The seminar concluded with recommendations for strengthening partnerships, improving communication, and addressing the capacity gaps in the education sector for replicating best practices for greater number of schools and children.

