



# NEWSLETTER

July to December, 2018 | Issue V | Vol. II



## **Briefings to the Minister for Education and Secretary School Education, Government of Sindh**

Syed Sardar Ali Shah, the provincial Minister for Education Department visited the Foundation on Friday, August 31, 2018 for a briefing session, where he was given a detailed presentation on Foundation's portfolio, its structural challenges and the progress achieved over time. The management also sought guidance of the Hon'ble Minister for the future roadmap. The Hon'ble Minister acknowledged the

steps taken so far and stressed upon the need for intensifying the efforts and undertaking measures in tandem with the SE&LD towards strengthening education outcomes in the province. Similarly, Mr. Qazi Shahid Pervaiz, Secretary SE&LD, after taking charge, visited Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) on Tuesday, September 12, 2018, where he was briefed about the Foundation's portfolio.



## 5th Executive & Finance Committee (E&FC) Meeting



5th E&FC meeting was held on Saturday, July 14, 2018 under the chairmanship of Dr. Kaiser Bengali. The meeting was attended by; Dr. Muhammad Memon, Mr. Nazir Tunio, Mr. Hasnain Qamar Shah, Mr. Ghulam Abbas (Special Secretary, SE&LD), Mr. Muhammad Moosa Soomro (Deputy Secretary, Finance Department), Ms. Naheed Shah Durrani (Managing Director, SEF) and Mr. Rafique Mustafa Shaikh (Deputy Managing Director, SEF). The Committee deliberated on multiple strategic interventions planned for 2018-19, including; SEF's School Scholarship Program; challenges and opportunities under Foundation's Adolescent & Adult Learning and Training Program (AALTP), measures to improve the performance of schools falling in the "hard areas" and Stop Gap structure for managing schools whose contracts are terminated on account of contractual violations.

## Cash Prize Awards for High Achieving Students and 'World Teachers Day 2018'



Mr Makhdoom Mahboob Zaman, giving awards to high achieving students.



Mr Ghulam Qadir Chandio, giving awards to the best performing teachers.

The Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) organized an Awards Distribution ceremony ahead of World Teachers' day 2018, for honoring 30 teachers and 130 students of the 'Foundation (SEF) Assisted Schools' who had secured A-1 and A grades in the Annual Matriculation Exams 2016-17; for celebrating their outstanding performance. The ceremony was held on Thursday, October 04, 2018, in Hyderabad. The ceremony was attended by the academia, officers, students, parents, teachers and officers of the Sindh Education Foundation. The Hon'ble Minister for Revenue & Relief, Government of Sindh, Mr. Makhdoom Mahboob Zaman graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and Hon'ble Member of the Provincial

Assembly, Mr. Ghulam Qadir Chandio attended the event as the Guest of Honor.

The Hon'ble Minister for Revenue & Relief, Mr. Makhdoom Mahboob Zaman, congratulating the students and the teachers appreciated the work done by the Foundation. He praised the efforts of the students, teachers & SEF Partners and urged them to keep up the good work. Hon'ble Member of the Provincial Assembly Mr. Ghulam Qadir Chandio, congratulated all the students & teachers on their achievement and appreciated the precedence set by the Foundation for recognizing the efforts of students and teachers.



## Strengthening the schools by equipping them with Science and Computer Laboratories



Foundation (SEF) Assisted Schools: SMHS/0119



Foundation (SEF) Assisted Schools: SMHS/0110

Owing to the needs of the modern era, in order to strengthen the quality of the teaching and learning process, the Foundation provides matching/tied grants and technical assistance to the Elementary/ Secondary Schools of SEF for setting up Science & Computer Labs, provided these fit in the basic parameters of the selection for the same. By now 75 Science Labs and 211 Computer Labs have been set up in Foundation (SEF) Assisted Schools.

The android based e-learning software INSTAL (Introducing Smart Teaching and Learning) another notable initiative of the Foundation; which was launched by the Hon'ble Chief Minister at the Foundation's Silver Jubilee Event in January 2018, is also yielding massive dividends. The Project has been rolled out in 288 Schools (8640 tablets @ 30 tablets per school have been distributed) across 22 districts of the province and continuous support is being extended to these schools through Mentoring. ICT based Training has been provided to approx. 1,728 teachers including Head Teachers and the intervention is planned to be rolled out in next 300 Schools by January 2019 and the additional 112 Schools by June 2019.



Foundation (SEF) Assisted Schools: SAS/84717



Foundation (SEF) Assisted Schools: SAS/75625



Orientation Session "Setting up of Computer Lab in SEF Assisted Schools" in Karachi







Scholarship holders at NJV Higher Secondary School, Karachi.

# SEF's School Education Scholarship Program

Looking at the encouraging outcomes of the Scholarship Program in collaboration with M/s Dr. A.Q. Khan School System, SEF launched a full-fledged SEF's School Education Scholarship Program (SESP). Under Phase-1 of the SESP, Foundation signed contracts with Sukkur IBA Community Colleges & Schools and Public Schools of Gadap, Mirpurkhas and Hyderabad for the provision of Scholarship to 970 high achieving students (75% students of SE&LD run schools and 25% students of Foundation (SEF) Assisted Schools) belonging to all 29 districts of the province for the pursuit of their post primary education up to Grade 12. At present 869 students (624 SE&LD Students, 245 SEF students) are studying at their respective institutions.

Earlier Foundation had entered into Phase-II of its Scholarship Program with Dr. A. Q Khan School System Islamabad for the academic year 2018-19 whereby the Foundation strictly followed merit-based selection criteria for awarding scholarships and selected top-50 students from each stream, i.e.



Students of SEF Schools under 'SESP' at Dr A.Q. Khan School System Ibraheem Capus Islamabad.



Students during a lecture in IBA Public School Larkana.



Students during a brainstorming session at Public School, Gadap, Karachi.





Students during a healthy yoga session  
NJV Higher Sec. School, Karachi.



SEF management at 'School Commission  
Day' of Public School Gadap, Karachi.



SEF & SE&LD schools. In case any student withdrew or showed unwillingness to avail the scholarship opportunity then the student next in-line was given the opportunity of scholarship.

Under another arrangement formalized in May 2018 with the approval of the Hon'ble Chief Minister; the SE&LD, SEF and M/s Akhuwat agreed to provide scholarship opportunity to 70 high achieving students of SE&LD run schools from rural and sub-urban parts of the Province for completing their education from Grade 9 up to Grade 12 at NJV Higher Secondary School, Karachi. Out of 70, 60 students have joined NJV Higher Secondary School, on the basis of SAT results under the said arrangement; where the tuition fee is not being charged by M/s NJV HSS and SEF is bearing the lodging & boarding costs.

## *Making a difference*

### **Rupa Bagri,**

Rupa is the eldest of 3 brothers and 1 sister. Her Father is a farmer. Their parents had planned that after grade 5; Rupa will discontinue her education and get married according to their customs. But when she heard about the scholarship opportunity; she resisted this plan despite her family's opposition. She was supported by her mother only, who wanted Rupa to do something special in life and fought for her right to education. Eventually her family gave up and Rupa got admission in public school Hyderabad. She gives all the credit to her mother who struggled for her. Now every girl of Rupa's community wants to study and move ahead in life like Rupa. She has become a role model for her community.



## *Road to Success*

### **Lovesh Kumar,**

Lovesh belongs to a slum in Tharparkar and is the only boy in his community who could clear the SAT test and reach here, his area is devoid of basic facilities and it is extremely difficult to reach the main city from his house, yet his father has sent him here to study and come back after becoming a doctor and support his other siblings.





## Teachers' Professional Development



Foundation pursues a regular and comprehensive capacity building program covering content, pedagogy, and support for teachers for overall quality improvement. The vertical and horizontal expansion of the Foundation makes it more demanding to train a higher number of teachers in order to help them develop pedagogically sound learning environments. Lately, a part of these trainings has been outsourced as well. The province wide 'Teachers' Professional Development' intervention through Sukkur IBA University, the training of 743 elementary school teachers continued during the period from July to



December 2018. In addition; Sukkur IBA was also tasked to train a cohort of 291 teachers under the AALTP intervention.

Additionally, two separate sessions for Teaching Support Associates (TSAs) were organized in Sukkur and Hyderabad followed by Performance Review Meetings to assess their performances. In the first session around 35 TSAs from Sukkur, Larkana and Dadu districts participated, whereas 18 TSAs from Hyderabad, Shaheed Benazir Abad, Karachi and Mirpurkhas districts attended the second session.

## A 3-Day Workshop conducted by Chemonics International on Digital Development



Chemonics International Inc, Foundation's partner for the implementation of USAID funded Sindh Reading Program, conducted a capacity development workshop for SEF's staff from September 12 to 14, 2018. The purpose of the workshop was to acquaint the participants with nine basic principles for the Digital Development and its application in the field of education.

## Findings of "School Observation & Academic Development Initiative (SOADI)"

Earlier in November 2017, M/s SZABIST was tasked to undertake SEF's Schools' observation and firm up recommendations for strengthening SEF's portfolio. It was an extensive exercise spanned over a period of ten months whereby 409 schools were thoroughly observed. The overall objective was to get a third-party

feedback about the prevalent learning environment in schools with a view to plan for the future roadmap. The findings of SOADI were presented by M/s SZABIST's team led by Ms. Lubna Khalid and Mr. Shakil Ahmed in August, 2018.



# REGION HIGHLIGHTS

## Internal Progress Review Meetings

A series of internal progress review meetings headed by respective Regional Heads were arranged with School Partners in Larkana, Dadu, Khairpur, Sehwan and Shaheed Benazirabad with a purpose to understand the quality of school operations in terms of academics, data accuracy & validity, facilities, classroom management and effective implementation of trainings. The meetings also focused on the issues faced by the school partners in the School Development Plan.



## Clean & Green Pakistan Campaign

The Foundation is also participating in the nationwide “Clean & Green Pakistan” drive through encouraging Partner Schools and communities for planting trees in the Schools and their surroundings for a safer and healthier environment.

## Science Exhibitions

The Public High School Noushehro – an SEF partnered School, organized a Science Exhibition on October 18, 2018 in which students from grade VI to X presented different interactive experiments and exhibits. Similarly, The Hope High School, another SEF partnered School proactively participated in a Science Fair organized by The Citizens Foundation in Tharparkar district on October 26, 2018. The young science lovers showcased their projects on Biogas, Titration, Water Alarm Indicators etc.



## The Phase-II of the School Data Validation Activity (SDVA) 2018-19

The Phase-II of the School Data Validation Activity (SDVA) 2018-19 for SAS, PPRS, SMHSP and ESSP was carried out by M/s. VTT Global (a third Party). The SDVA was initiated from Karachi region from October 15, 2018 and proceeded cluster wise across Sindh. The Firm was assigned the task to completely validate the profiles of Students, Teachers, Schools and Operators/ Partners of Foundation (SEF) Assisted Schools.





## Upgradation of PPRS & SAS Schools in 18 Districts

The M&E Cell assessed the status of 98 Primary, Elementary and Secondary Schools under PPRS and SAS Programs for determining their eligibility for up-gradation to the Elementary, Secondary and Higher Secondary level as per the given criteria. M&E recommended 21 schools under PPRS Program and 47 Schools under SAS Program for their up-gradation.



## USAID Hands Over Mobile Bus Libraries (MBLs) to SEF



The International Rescue Committee (IRC) Inc., Foundation's partner for the implementation of USAID funded Pakistan Reading Project, handed over two Mobile Bus Libraries to SEF on July 03, 2018 for improving reading habits of the young students at the Foundation Assisted Schools across the Province. This intervention is likely to bring forth a revival in the rural areas towards book reading and aims to inculcate reading habits and improve interest of children in reading literature outside their syllabi. It shall provide opportunities for disenfranchised and hard-to-reach populations having no or poor access to such services, thereby helping them improve their personal, social and emotional development. All in all, in the next three years the MBLs shall target to benefit approx. 156,000 children and around 4,000 teachers of Foundation (SEF) Assisted Schools across Sindh.

***In the first phase from May, 2018 to April, 2019, 260 SEF's Primary Schools from 12 districts will be covered to benefit approximately 52,000 students enrolled therein.***

## Microsoft EduDays- Pakistan 2018

Microsoft, in collaboration with the SE&LD, Information, Science and Technology Department, Government of Sindh and SEF, hosted the 'Microsoft EduDays-Pakistan 2018' on December 18, 2018 at Karachi. The Provincial Minister for Information Science and Technology Mr. Taimur Talpur was the Chief Guest of the evening. The conference brought together delegates from across the region and showcased the latest technology designed specifically for K-12 education to promote 21st-century learning. The Microsoft Country Manager for Pakistan Mr. Abid Zaidi in his key note session said that 'Technologies such as Skype, Minecraft and OneNote have played a big part in redefining learning through creating immersive and inclusive learning experiences that inspire lifelong learning'. The Chief Guest, Mr. Taimur Talpur appreciated the event and acknowledged that such events can open up many avenues for collaboration on the technology front.

