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Sindh Basic Education Program

In partnership with USAID

Newsletter

Volume II | Issue II

April - June | 2016



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Together we are creating a **ROSHAN PAKISTAN**



Profile

The Sindh Basic Education program is a holistic program towards modernizing the education in Sindh. The Government of Sindh and U. S. Agency for International Development (USAID) are working together to implement the Sindh Basic Education Program (SBEP). The program aims to improve the quality and access to basic education for children in Sindh by increasing and sustaining student enrollment at primary, middle and secondary levels. The USAID is contributing \$155 million to the program while Government of Sindh (GoS), Education and Literacy Department, adding \$10 million contribution to the implementation unit of the program. The implementation period is 2012 – 2016 with an extension period of two years till 2018.

Program Management and Implementation Unit (PMIU):

In order to ensure transparent and efficient management of SBEP, the Education & Literacy Department (E&LD), Government of Sindh established a Program Management and Implementation Unit, which is headed by SBEP Program Director, a grade 20 officer, who reports to Secretary E&LD.

Sindh Reading Program (SRP):

SRP aims to address critical issues in early-grade reading and mathematics through continuous teachers' professional development, improving assessment, distributing supplementary materials, and encouraging family participation.

Sindh Community Mobilization Program (CMP):

CMP is working on mobilizing the target communities for increasing enrolment with particular focus on girls' enrolment. CMP is also supporting E&LD in designing and implementing the initiative of Education Management Organizations (EMOs).

Sindh Capacity Development Project (SCDP):

SCDP is supporting the sustainability of the SBEP by ensuring stronger governance and improved public accountability in the education sector through systems building and institutional strengthening of PMIU and E&LD.



Message

Welcome to the 5th issue of SBEP's newsletter.

The Sindh Basic Education Program has continued its journey toward the achievements of its goals & objectives. Another milestone of the program was achieved with the ground breaking ceremony for construction of 21 schools at District Qamber Shahdad kot. This is the sixth district, where work has started. We have already handed over 4 schools in Sukkur & Khairpur. This speaks of the diligent efforts made by the PMIU team and stakeholders in journey towards success.

I would like to acknowledge and thank everyone for their efforts, including the education department Government of Sindh, USAID, CMP, SRP and SCDP without each of them this success would not have been possible. I assure my support to everyone for the attainment of our goals and I am happy to be the part of SBEP team.

Rafique Ahmed Buriro

Program Director

Program Management and Implementation Unit (PMIU) - SBEP



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PMIU UPDATES

Inauguration of new state-of-the-art school buildings

Inauguration ceremony of first state-of-the-art school building for Government Boys High School (GBHS) Kouro Goth was held in village Kouro Goth district Khairpur on April 07, 2016. The ceremony was attended by more than 600 people from different walks of life. The event was chaired by Syed Qaim Ali

Shah, Chief Minister of Sindh and Mr. Brian Heath, U.S. Counsel General and witnessed by officials of the Government of Sindh, students, parents, teachers, civil society representatives, U.S. Consulate in Karachi and most importantly a young champion of girls education, Ms. Bakhtawar Bhutto Zardari daughter of

former President of Pakistan Mr. Asif Ali Zardari and Former Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto. Senior Minister Education and Literacy Mr. Nisar Ahmad Khoro and Dr. Fazlullah Pechuho, Secretary, E&LD appreciated the efforts of USAID and SBEP partners towards modernizing education in Sindh.



The second completed building of GBHS Tando Mir Ali in Khairpur was handed over to the district education department on April 28, 2016. The new school building was inaugurated by the Deputy Commissioner, Khairpur. The event was attended by Director School Education, Sukkur, District Education Officer Khairpur, local communities and other stakeholders.

The third handing over ceremony of Government Girls High School (GGHS) Arain, district Sukkur was held on May 10, 2016. Commissioner Sukkur, Mohammad Abbass Balouch was

the Chief Guest. The school has been officially handed over to the Charter for Compassion (CFC), which will serve as the education management organization (EMO) for this school.

Inauguration and handing over of the fourth school building GBHS Jhajh Regulator, District Khairpur was held on May 17, 2016. Additional Deputy Commissioner Mr. Riaz Hussain Wassan chaired the event. The school has been officially handed over to the Sukkur Institute of Business Administration (IBA) to serve as the second EMO with whom the concession agreement has been signed.



Commissioner Sukkur Mohammad Abbas Balouch inaugurated new school building of GGHS Arain, Sukkur.



Additional Deputy Commissioner Mr. Riaz Hussain Wassan inaugurated GBHS Jhajh Regulator, Khairpur.

The Journey Continues

The ground breaking ceremony for construction of 21 schools was held on May 28, 2016 in district Qambar-Shahdadkot at Village Monder Lakha, Taluka Naseer Abad. Mr. Fayaz Alam Solangi, Deputy Commissioner Qambar-Shahdadkot was the Chief Guest on this occasion.

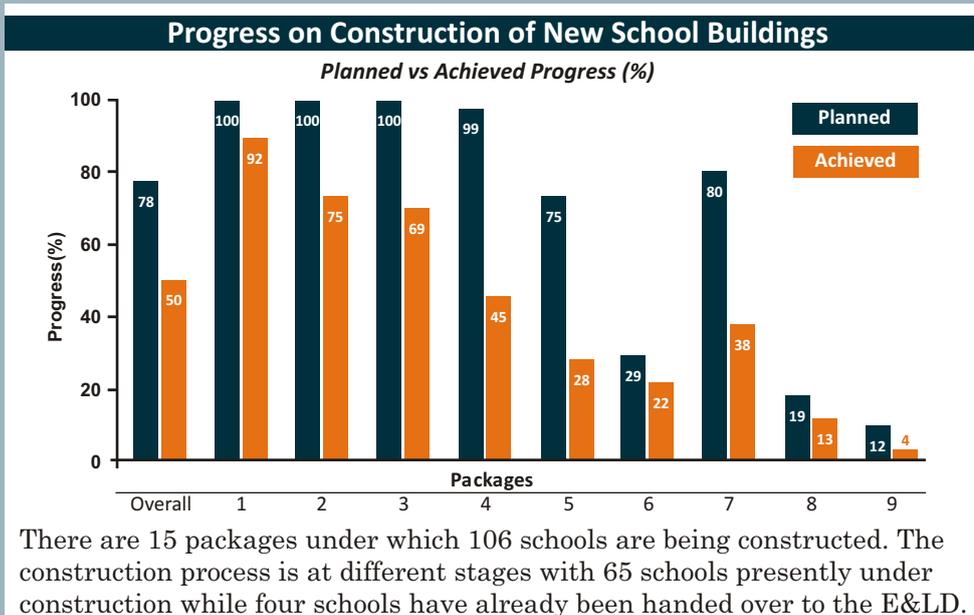


PSC Reviews Progress

The 13th meeting of the Program Steering Committee (PSC) of SBEP was held on May 4, 2016. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Fazalullah Pechuho, Secretary E&LD. Dr. Randy L. Hatfield, Senior Advisor & Program Manager, USAID-SBEP also attended the meeting. PSC reviewed progress of all the program components and took decisions about future course of action.

A leap ahead - Upgradation of schools

The PMIU supported the district education departments of Khairpur and Sukkur in upgradation of SBEP schools. So far three schools GBELS Pir Essa & GBELS Gagri of Khairpur and GGELS Arain of Sukkur have been upgraded from elementary to high schools.



SINDH COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION PROGRAM

SBEP School to feature at Intel Science Fair 2016

Sindh Community Mobilization Program (CMP) in collaboration with Intel Pakistan conducted sessions for students and teachers in all SBEP schools as per the criteria. As a result, 43 project abstracts are developed and will be submitted for Intel Science Fair 2016.

Mother's Day Celebrations

Mother's Day celebrations were organized in collaboration with local communities to acknowledge the contribution of mothers in the nurturing of their children. A significant number of women participated in this event.

Education Management Organization and Public Private Partnership

An amount of Rs 1.0 Billion has been earmarked in the budget 2016-17 for the expanded portfolio of the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Node at E&LD for EMOs as additional new schools being constructed under SBEP will be

handed over to private sector for efficient management in the next quarter. CMP has provided technical assistance to E&LD for the next phase of EMO expansion. CMP also mobilized support of US\$ 15,000 from Pfizer for setting up and equipping the health rooms in SBEP constructed schools.



SINDH CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Change Makers: E&LD's Senior Official completes a week long course at Harvard Kennedy School

Dr. Fouzia Khan Head of Curriculum Wing, E&LD successfully completed a one-week course on 'Global Change Agents' at the Harvard Kennedy School facilitated by SCDP. According to her, "the course was professionally designed and executed, giving practical insights on evaluating, analyzing, and comprehensively developing strategies encompassing global trends

tailored to local contexts and sensitive to cultural, social and religious values".

Dr. Fouzia Khan, who is also a former Dean and a Professor at the Sindh Madressa Tul Islam (SMI) University Karachi added that "Having served in a University and engaged in higher education myself, I felt that the faculty was top notch. All faculty members were fully involved and gave their best inputs in helping us learn creatively through the tough course. Ex-President of Ecuador, a faculty member, brought tears to the eyes of participants while sharing his real

life case study. I cannot give enough appreciation to Dean Williams, whose command over the program helped us complete the course effectively. I will utilize the learnings in a powerful manner at the Curriculum Wing of E&LD."



HARVARD Kennedy School
Executive Education
Global Change Agents:
Leading with Commitment, Creativity, and Courage
May 15 - 20 2016

Enhancing ICT proficiency among teachers and students

SCDP in collaboration with INTEL Pakistan is providing ICT skills training to 800 teachers, 4,000 students (grades 6-10) and 4,000 out-of-school adolescents, youth and adults from the local communities of SBEP schools, both construction and neighbouring ones.



Student busy in ICT Class Practice

The bulk of the pilot of this 4-level initiative was conducted during May 2016 and will continue expeditiously from July 2016 onwards. A one-week training of 29 Master Trainers for Level-1 was held at IBA Sukkur on 6th May 2016, appreciated by Ms. Zebun- Nisa Mangi, Director Primary E&LD Sukkur division. This was followed by Level-2 training of 22 teachers from 6 government schools in districts of Sukkur and Khairpur, which was delivered by Master Trainers trained in Level-1. In spite of record breaking temperatures in May, these 22 trained teachers subsequently provided 30 hour school-based ICTs training to in-school students (130), out of



School teacher receiving Master Trainers Certificate from Ms. Zebunnisa Mangi, DEO Sukkur.

which 74% or 97 were girls in 5 SBEP schools. In Level-4, out-of-school adolescents, youth and adults inclusive of SMC members will be provided a 10-day training in July 2016. Registration of enthusiastic participants has already begun for the level-4 training from the local communities eager to embrace 21st century skills.

SBEP Communication Strategy

Another first for SBEP is the Communication Strategy finalized with SCDP support along with an action plan by all partners that will be rolled out from July 2016. This will surely help with the visibility of reforms modernizing Sindh.



Research initiated on SBEP interventions

Evidence based planning is well embedded in the SCDP plan under SBEP with two major research studies on: a) Public Private Partnership for Better Services Delivery in Government Schools of Sindh, and b)

Improving Early Grade Reading through Innovations in Government School of Sindh. These were approved by the SBEP Research Consultative Group and advertised for RFP on June 28th, 2016 in newspapers and

PMIU/E&LD websites. The two researches will help build capacity of the E&LD and its recently notified Research and Development Unit supported by SCDP team.

SINDH READING PROGRAM

From Non Readers to Readers – The Beginning of a New Journey

The results of third Formative Assessment of Sindh Reading Program (SRP) reveal that more than 22,000 students of grade 1 and 2 in eight districts of Sindh have embarked on the journey of reading. This journey is marked with improved reading skills, comprehension ability and sense of empowerment.

This phenomenal improvement reflects success of our 6-month interventions. In terms of numbers, 70% Sindhi non-readers

and 59% Urdu non-readers have started to read grade 2 level text in their respective languages.

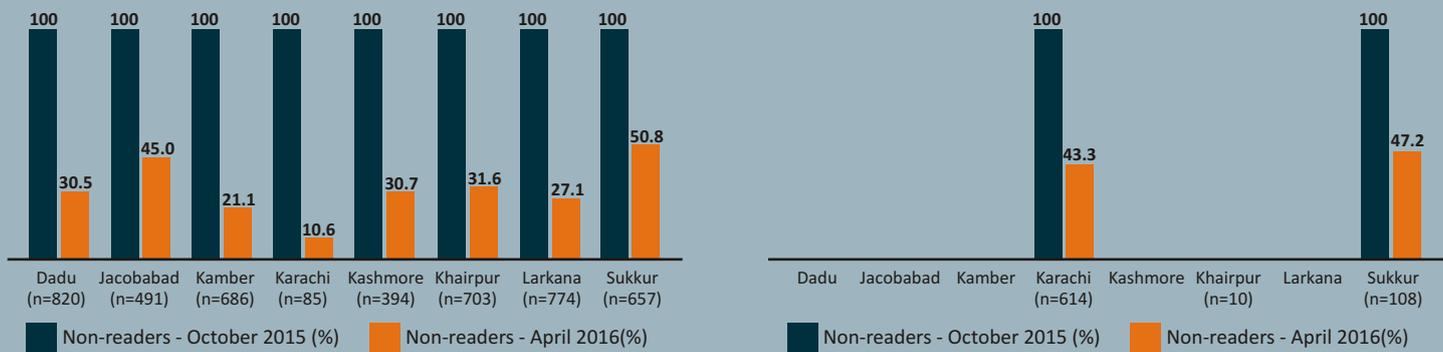
SRP uses a technology-driven formative assessment model that systematically targets all the students of grade 1, randomly selected in a group in of ten per class section, to assess their i) orientation to print; ii) letter name recognition; iii) receptive vocabulary (object only); iv) individual word reading; and v) comprehension of words read.

Grade 2 students are separately assessed in the categories of non-readers and readers, randomly selected in a group of ten per category and class section.

For non-readers, specialized test are prepared to assess their i) phoneme isolation; ii) letter-name recognition; iii) non-word reading; iv) oral reading fluency (ORF); and v) comprehension of ORF text. Whereas, readers are also assessed in all above except the letter name recognition.

Comparison of district performance for Non-readers (Oct 2015 to April 2016)

Proportion of Grade 2 Non-Readers in FA1 and in FA3, Sindhi/Urdu



Transforming Learning Spaces

A large corner room on the ground floor is brimming with boisterous energy and enthusiasm. It is divided into carefully planned interest areas; there are huge bookcases on one side of the room, and tables and chairs neatly lined up on the other. Just as you turn

around, you will see a small corner lit up with bright, primary colors and a variety of reading and call-to-action materials posted up on the wall. The lively atmosphere is vibrating with sounds of music and story-telling activities with young kids.

This is the scene in the library that has been launched in a state-of-the-art building of GBHS. Kouro Goth, Khairpur.

As part of SBEP’s broader agenda, USAID and Government of Sindh are constructing 106 campus schools across the eight districts



of Sindh with the ambition to modernize education in the province. With contemporary design and advanced facilities, each campus school is equipped with a library that is being supported by SRP.

In April 2016, two libraries were established in Khairpur district.

Promoting Libraries with A Purpose

As part of the efforts to revive public libraries, the program's upgraded library in Lyari town, Karachi has become a magnet that is drawing children and community people alike with dedicated programs and special events. The community events are aimed at creating broader awareness about the library and attracting a wide array of visitors. The library outreach program has gained momentum as the local government of Lyari have been fully supportive in moving this initiative forward.

The month of April included reading sessions with Grade 2 and 3 students and a two-day orientation for private school

SRP provided more than 1700 books in Sindhi, Urdu and English languages to each school. The provision of educational games, children's soft seating, and print-rich materials in local languages has enriched the library space and will boost children's learning.

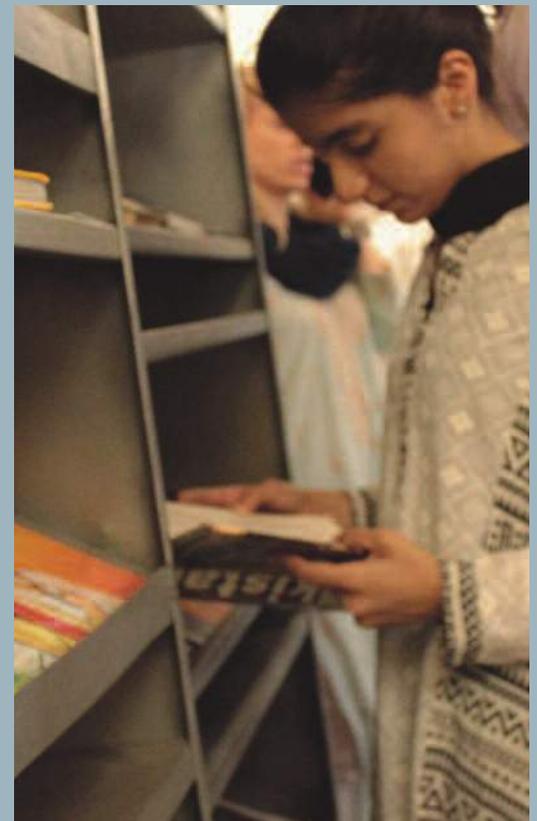
teachers on SRP's reading approach. Teachers were also given insights into school outreach and information sessions about the library and available facilities.

Information sessions were organized from May 10-18, 2016 with head teachers from neighboring schools. This led to a special visit of primary grade children to our library.

In coming months, these libraries and reading spaces will serve as centers of discovery and communication – a one-stop-shop for teachers and students of all ages to come together and bring information to life through personal interaction.

Subsequently, two campus school libraries were established in the month of May, in GGES Arain, Sukkur and GBHS Jhajh Regulator, Khairpur. SRP provided 2200 books altogether to the two schools.

SRP led introductory sessions to the libraries, reading circles and musical readings during the launch events held at the schools in conjunction with CMP and PMIU. These reading sessions were based on SRP's handpicked read-alouds, especially those of musical readings which involved unique interactive contributions from the children during the performances.



Adding A Vital Chapter in Non Formal Education

With the aim to integrate 30,000 out-of-school children in Sindh into formal schooling by 2018, SRP is playing a significant role in the designing and finalization of non-formal education (NFE) curriculum and materials. In the initial round, SRP has completed the distribution of 9,000 textbooks among 3,000 learners, enrolled in the newly launched 101 NFE centers in Dadu, Jacobabad and Kashmore. These efforts are a part of the broader partnership between SRP, Non-Formal Education Directorate Sindh and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The learning materials were distributed among 2,226 girls and 774 boys in special ceremonies. Children relayed the message of 'Education for All' and 'Let Girls Learn' through tableaus and stage performances.

Speaking at an event, Director NFE Sindh, Mr. Mohammad Alam

Children's Literature Festival

More than 12,000 children, parents and teachers experienced the national level two-day Children's Literature Festival in Sukkur for the first time. The Festival was organized by SRP, in collaboration with the Government of Sindh. Syed Khurshid Ahmed Shah, Leader of the Opposition, National Assembly and Dr. Fouzia Khan, Head of Curriculum, E&LD attended the festival along with

Thaeem said, "I am thankful to USAID and SRP for introducing the NFE System in Sindh for the first time. SRP and the NFE Directorate's biggest achievement at the moment is developing a separate NFE Curriculum up to Grade 5. With collaborative efforts, Sindh will soon have an approved policy to regularize and consolidate our work in the NFE sector."

The material development process has been driven through a series of workshops over a period of two months. The draft NFE curriculum includes text books for Sindhi, Urdu, English and Mathematics as well as teacher's guides. SRP is also playing a lead role in the Task Force on NFE Material Development instated by E&LD. As a result of these efforts, it is expected that the SRP-developed NFE materials will be institutionalized in all donor-funded and government-supported NFE centers across Sindh.

local authorities, renowned Sindhi poets and writers, representatives from donor organizations, and public and private institutions.

With support from SRP, over 1,000 public schools were mobilized for the event. The highlight of the festival was the participation and performance by children with special needs from Child Protection Unit Sukkur.



"I want to be a teacher when I grow up, and teach children just like I am being taught in the (NFE) center. I want the children of my village to be educated, so that no one can say that the children in this village are uneducated. Education is our identity," said Isra, 12, student of SRP supported NFE center.

SRP's focus on building community consensus and responsiveness to support opportunities for children at-risk of leaving school and for school drop-outs, is adding a vital new chapter in Sindh's education sector.





Success Story

A Journey of Passion to Action

Intrinsic motivation and strong passion towards personal development has its own impact. Ms. Aneela Rajpar, a motivated and committed community based teacher from village Wadi Wahani, District Larkana is an example of this gifted quality.

The CMP team discovered this passionate teacher during the field visit to her village, which consists of 300 households. The team found that the local government school was closed for last three years due to teacher absenteeism. CMP delivered community the good news of the construction of a new state-of-the-art school under SBEP and encouraged them to take proactive measures for functioning of the existing school.

The community decided to run the school with the help of volunteer teachers until such time as regular teachers were appointed by E&LD. It was in this meeting that a young woman Aneela, raised her hand volunteering to serve as a teacher. She turned her enthusiasm into action by bringing 70 out-of-school girls and ensured that they and another 60 enrolled girls get access to education. She never allowed her family's economic condition to become a limiting factor in her work, although she and her parents prefer that she becomes a regular paid teacher.

Besides teaching, Aneela participates in CMP's programs, like Enrollment Campaign and

School Improvement Plan formation.

Community members, especially women, are happy that Aneela took this initiative which enabled girls to attend school. As one mother put it, "Now girls feel safe because they get an education and attention from a female teacher and we as mothers feel the sense of protection for our daughters." As for Aneela, the journey has been anything but easy. She shared that "In starting, it was very difficult to convince parents to enroll their girls and I had to literally go door to door, but once few parents enrolled then it became easy for others to follow the trend."

PMIU achieved milestone in the Sindhi Language translation

PMIU's Google Sindhi Translation committee achieved the target of translation and validation of 150,000 words, phrases and

idioms. This speaks the tireless efforts made by the team for making this a great success. The SBEP program Director

congratulated each contributor of Sindhi Language and awarded with shield as a token of appreciation.

In-School Children's Exposure to 21st Century ICT Skills

My name is Dua Batool. I study at GBHS Setharja Khairpur – a co-ed school in far away rural area. I am a grade 6 student. It was my first day at the 30 hours ICT training session. I was completely unaware about the terms of hard ware; mouse; key board etc. Besides, my hands felt so stiff as if I was crippled while trying to hold on to the mouse. But on the second day, I grew comfortable and with continuous practice I made progress on how to open MS word and how to prepare time table formats. Not only this type of training with excellent modules will be fruitful but will help us transform with ICT information and skills as a key part of our academic activities. Our teachers were excellent to help us achieve the magic of ICT in a short period of time.



Unlike like other subjects, learning Computer skills need not have a specific time. During ICT module session immediately after the sudden announcement of summer vacation, I experienced the importance of ICT as a basic skill in my studies. Various programs were practiced during the session. I learnt how make an email account as a tool of communication. This training will produce desirable results in our future academic activities.

Comment by Ms. Tooba Student
Grade 10th GGHS Sukkur.
May 27, 2016

Inauguration of Government High School Koro Goth, April 7, 2016





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