



SEF Collective

December 2009

SEF Launches the 'Integrated Education Learning Program'

A Public Private Partnership Initiative Supporting Private Schools across the Sindh Province

The Government of Sindh (GoS) is committed to address access, quality and equity issues in education. In line with this vision, the Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) in partnership with the Sindh Government provides regular school support funds, teacher training, enrichment of curriculum, provision of learning materials for students and capacity building of local community bodies in areas of school establishment and management. The Integrated Education Learning Program (IELP), launched in 2009 is a recent example of a collaborative effort between GoS and SEF.

Working through public private partnerships the program aims to increase access to and improve the quality of educational services provided to the children in far-flung and highly marginalized areas. Under the scheme the Foundation will extend support to 1500 new as well as existing primary, elementary and secondary private sector schools across the Sindh province. Through provision of per-child fee subsidy to school operators, the program aims to encourage the private sector to assist the government in addressing quality and access issues in education. Moreover provision of subsidy will also seek to promote viable long term public private partnerships for education of marginalized communities.

IELP will extend support to existing school setups across



all 23 districts of the province. New schools can qualify for support through the initiative in 13 districts including Jacobabad, Kashmore, Shikarpore, Ghotki, Sukkur, Nausheroferoz, Jamshoro, Matiari, Hyderabad, Tando Allahyar, Mirpurkhas, Tando Mohammad Khan and Karachi. The main beneficiaries of the program are expected to be school operators, teachers, children, and trainers across 1500 private schools. It is envisioned that extending free and flexible learning opportunities at the grassroots for out of school children and youth especially girls, will supplement government policies under UPE and will ensure gender equality in education. Furthermore, in the longer term, institutional development of schools in partnership with private sector will facilitate sustainability of quality reform efforts.

Schools selection will be undertaken during early next year for which forms distribution will commence in January 2010 across Sindh.

Promoting Partnerships for Education Reforms

Sindh Education Foundation organized an advocacy event on November 23, 2009 the entitled "State of Education in Sindh and Role of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs)." The forum was attended by over 150 experts and professionals, comprising government representatives, private education providers, members of the corporate sector, non governmental organizations (NGOs), media personnel, and representatives from the Sindh Ministry of Education, Finance and Planning & Development departments, Government of Sindh. The half day event featured presentation on various initiatives of the Foundation followed by a discourse on the role of PPPs in furthering the education agenda in the province.

A discourse on "Public Private Partnership in Education: Strategies for Success"



Noted government officials including Mr. Munawar Opal (Additional Chief Secretary, Planning and Development Department, GoS), Ms. Naheed Durrani (Special Secretary, Finance Department, GoS) along with Mr. Mansoob Siddiqui (Director, Private Schools, Sindh) and Prof. Anita

Ghulam Ali - S.I. (MD, SEF) discussed various aspects of the partnerships and engaged audience through a facilitated discussion on the current trends and future directions for multi-stakeholder cooperation for promotion of education in the province. Many critical aspects came under discussion such as challenges of scaling up educational initiatives; corruption at the grassroots that impede reforms effort; the need

for massive amount of monitoring of schools; issues of educational quality; need for teachers' development programs and revival of the ailing school infrastructure.

The forum engaged both public and private sector representatives in a meaningful discourse and the

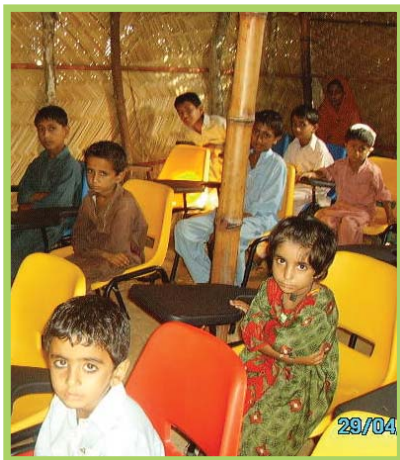
discussion was productive and informative for its various participants. The event also focused on strengthening linkages between partner organizations and provided a forum for revisiting and reintroducing the various Public Private Partnership initiatives that the Sindh Education Foundation is currently leading across the Province. In her address to the participants, Prof. Anita Ghulam Ali

proclaimed that, "there's never a full stop in SEF's work but a comma, from where one can go forward or come back to revisit interventions undertaken by SEF". Ms. Naheed Durrani highlighted the weaknesses in the public school system and stressed that the

public sector needs to partner with the private sector to implement an effective educational reform in the country. She assured that the present government is increasingly involved in supporting organizations such as SEF for their work in the realm of education.

Institutional Support for 250 RBCS Project Schools

During September 2009 an extensive survey of 250 school sites was conducted by SEF for assessing the infrastructural uplift needs of the existing structures of partner schools under the 'Rural Based Community School Project'. The survey identified the requirements for improving the physical and learning environment in schools and subsequently individual school uplift plans were developed for refurbishing school infrastructure. During October 2009 SEF provided furniture and fixtures including school sign boards, chairs, tables, bookshelves, wheel chairs, fans and fittings to implementing partner NGOs for further distribution to schools. Learning



resources (including charts, story books, activity materials) and stationery items (bags, notebooks, pencils) were also provided for students and teachers.

ECE Classes Initiated in 150 Government Schools

The 'Early Learning Program' aims to demonstrate a sustainable and replicable model of early childhood education with high impact on achievement of children, particularly those disadvantaged by poverty and gender. Efforts are underway towards institutionalizing of pre-primary education in 150 government schools through teacher support, development and mentoring, equipping classrooms with child friendly learning resources, encouraging community and parental involvement in schools and collaborating with school management for sustaining good ECD practices in schools. Furniture in the 150 schools is currently being replaced with student friendly furniture and learning corners established for enhanced learning outcomes. Customized learning kits comprising interactive material for classroom activities will also be disseminated to the 150 schools.

OUP Syllabus Adopted in SEF Partner Schools

The SEF provided free textbooks published by Oxford University Press for around 20,000 children enrolled in PPRS Project Phase 1 schools. The contents of the OUP textbooks have been customized in order to make them culturally appropriate and textbooks have been printed specially for distribution to the SEF partner schools. Each child received a set of English, Math and Science books and a picture dictionary in English and Sindhi languages. Teachers Guides have also been provided in both the languages to facilitate the teaching and learning process. Dissemination of the textbooks to the 200 schools was carried out in September 2009 on the basis of the enrolment as verified through the inspection survey carried out by the SEF. To facilitate effective and smooth implementation of the curriculum, SEF's Learning Support Unit has also undertaken specialized training for the teachers and is presently carrying out learning support visits to the schools.



Accelerated Pedagogy in Rural Based Community Schools

The academic interventions for schools under SEF's Rural Based Community Schools Project have been designed in collaboration with New Century Education. NCE is an organization excelling in accelerated competency based curriculum and pedagogy. The New Century approach is based on over forty years of original research in learning behaviour conducted at institutions including Harvard, the University of Pittsburgh and the Center for Applied Linguistics. In the present initiative, the students enrolled in the RBCS project schools will achieve grade 5 competencies as per the National Curriculum during the 3 year academic cycle.



Building School Capacity through Professional Development

Enhancing Teachers' Proficiency in English Language

International and national communication, in nearly every field, takes place more and more in English. Responding to this growing demand, the SEF recently introduced the Oxford University Press course for primary

listening, speaking, reading and writing; correct usage and importance of grammar; parts of speech; sentence correction and vocabulary. The training aimed to enhance teachers' ability to effectively utilize the English learning resources for teaching children in primary grades.

Transforming Teaching in Early Years Classrooms

Expanding and improving comprehensive early childhood care and education, especially for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children has remained a key focus of the Sindh Education Foundation. The Foundation places strong emphasis in promoting early learning and ECD so as to provide strong foundation for good health and growth of children and also to achieve education related goals such as higher enrolment and lower drop out rates. The Early Learning Program (ELP) was designed by the SEF specifically in response to a growing need for improving quality of education for children in the early years. The aim of ELP is to improve the physical and learning environment of 150 government schools with special focus on Katchi, Grade one and Grade two.

Capacity building of management and

academic staff is an inherent feature of SEF program implementation. 150 teachers from the target ELP schools received a comprehensive training during July 2009. This first round of training introduced key concepts of Early Childhood Development, pedagogical methods of activity based teaching-learning, child assessment and techniques for developing low cost classroom resources. Moreover the content emphasized knowledge about child's development as well as skills required for teaching young children and is hoped to increase the impact of culturally appropriate and child-friendly teaching techniques for young children.

Later in August 2009, a six-day training was organized for teachers of the 200 PPRS Phase-I schools. While providing an orientation to early education of young children, emphasis of this training was on developing teachers' understanding of the high scope learning approach and knowledge and skills related to the development of language and mathematics concepts for preprimary children.

Enhancing Teaching of Accelerated Curriculum

'Rural based Community School Project' is SEF's latest initiative that



classes in PPRS Project schools. This step accentuated the need for enhancing teacher proficiency levels in the English language. A three-day residential training was organized for 400 teachers from the 200 PPRS Project Phase 1 schools. The objective of the training was to enhance English language competencies of teachers and introduce interactive hands-on strategies for improving the content knowledge of English as a subject. The sessions concentrated on four basic language development skills i.e.

reaches out to marginalized children that have either dropped out or never attended school. New Century Education curriculum has been adopted in the 250 project schools which will impart primary level proficiency to students in a three year



Members and Teachers of RBCS project sitting in meeting

period. The Foundation realizes that the quality of pedagogy is critical to effective program delivery. To ensure smooth implementation of the newly adopted curriculum, a specialized training was organized during July 2009 for 250 school teachers. The training familiarized the academic staff with the newly adopted academic

program, including the curriculum content and pedagogy. Use of learning materials including flash cards, cutouts, reading cards, props and display materials was also demonstrated to encourage teachers to use low-cost teaching aids effectively and making learning an interactive process for students.

Refresher Training for Primary School Teachers

The Foundation realizes that a one-time training program though helpful, can land up teachers in a dead end if not followed with further



opportunities for learning. Efforts are therefore, continually made to ensure

the sustainability of academic and professional development interventions.

Teachers' professional development is one of the primary focus areas in the 'Improving Quality Education Program' as well. IQEP is presently undertaking qualitative reforms within a cluster of a total of 30 government, community-based and low-cost private schools across Hyderabad. A 3-day refresher for 60 teachers was undertaken during August 2009 as a follow-up to the earlier organized teacher training under IQEP. The forum provided an opportunity to review the progress of implementation of academic interventions in target schools, discuss challenges and shortcomings and revisit the key concepts and themes in the light of classroom experiences and practices. Three main areas the sessions concentrated on comprised thematic teaching, lesson planning and group dynamics; usage of resource/learning material and student assessment.

Leadership Training for School Improvement

The 'Promoting Low-Cost Private Schooling in Rural Sindh' Project works through public private partnerships for increasing access to and improving the quality of educational services provided to children in marginalized areas of the Sindh province. 200 private schools have been initiated under PPRS project during 2009. One of the primary areas of intervention the project focuses on is the capacity building of entrepreneurs.

In July 2009, 3-day training program titled 'Academic Leadership Training for Entrepreneurs' was organized in Nawabshah, Qamber, Shahdadkot, Sanghar, Khairpur, Thatta, Badin, Larkana, Dadu, Umerkot and Mithi. The sessions trained entrepreneurs on their roles in areas of school



establishment; management, team work, record keeping, financial management and accountability, prioritization and utilization of school funds. A comprehensive manual detailing methodologies for spearheading effective school development plans as well as tools and formats for documentation, record-keeping was also shared. It is hoped that building capacity particularly at the individual school level will result in effective school governance at the

grassroots and quality basic education for all children.

Institutional Strengthening and Community Involvement in Education

Having implemented several formal and non-formal education initiatives for girls, boys, adolescents and adult women, SEF carries progressive experience and capacity in quality education services for vulnerable communities. Initiation of 250 schools under the 'Rural Based Community Schools Project' is yet another landmark in SEF's continuing journey towards making quality education available to children in disadvantaged areas of Sindh. It is also a strong declaration of government's unflinching pledge for providing



opportunities of education to all children, especially the female child, in areas where little or no development assistance has yet been delivered.

SEF works with mid-level NGOs through building leadership capacity for managing the RBCS project schools effectively. These mid level organizations are required to undertake day to day management at the field level and work directly with schools. The SEF realizes the need to invest in leadership development at all levels in order to raise levels of educational achievement. This process has involved multiple-capacity building programs for both the 10 implementing NGOs and the 250 school/ parent management bodies. In line with this vision,

three-day training was organized in Karachi in June 2009. Attended by representatives from the 10 partner NGOs, the topics discussed inter-alia included the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders for effective implementation of educational interventions and timely achievement of key deliverables. Importance of leadership and community mobilization were also highlighted and strategies for greater community participation were discussed.

With a view to further enhancing community participation in running of the schools and creating greater ownership at the grassroots, capacity building of Parent Management Bodies was undertaken henceforth in the ten program districts. 750 PMB members from the 250 schools participated in the two-day workshop held in July 2009. The sessions aimed to create an understanding in areas of effective school leadership and management and sensitize the community members to the importance of their involvement in their children's education.

Transforming School Management for Quality Reform

The 'Improving Quality of Education Programme' undertakes qualitative reforms across three schooling models i.e. government, community-based and private sector. All programmatic interventions seek to ensure improvement in the quality of education delivery across the 30 target



schools of Hyderabad cluster. Mobilizing communities for greater school improvement and sustainability of interventions remains a key program focus.

The range of knowledge and skills that effective school managers need today includes curricular, pedagogical, student learning, managerial and financial skills as well as effective communication skills. Under IQEP, a comprehensive training titled 'Strengthening School Management for Quality Reform' was held in August 2009. The two-day training, attended by around 60 members, aimed to strengthen capacity of school management bodies in areas of planning and management of educational interventions and mobilizing effective involvement of communities for greater educational outcomes.

School Inspection Visits



As part of the Phase-I of Promoting Low-cost Private Schooling in Rural Sindh (PPRS) Project, a round of inspection of 200 newly established private schools

was carried out by SEF during August and September 2009. The inspection visits were concurrently undertaken in the ten 10 district of Sindh: Thatta, Badin, Mitthi, Umer Kot, Sanghar, Benazirabad, Dadu, Khairpur, Kambar Shahdad Kot and Larkana. The survey revealed that certain schools were functioning well; however many schools are faced with the teething problems of low enrolment; high rate of retention; inadequate infrastructure, etc. Disbursal of textbooks and per-child subsidy to entrepreneurs was carried out by the SEF based on the verified number of students.



Later, the entrepreneurs were briefed by Prof. Anita Ghulam Ali (M.D. SEF), Mr. Aziz Kabani (Director, SEF) and Mr. Noman Siddiqui

(Senior Manager, Monitoring & Evaluation) during a meeting held at the SEF Head office. The senior management shared the field results with entrepreneurs and emphasized on the need for improving the functioning of schools. Suggestions and recommendations were also extended to facilitate the school owners in better and improved schools administration and management

Qualitative Research undertaken for Quality Improvement

Monitoring and research into the various dimensions of educational quality is one of the primary areas of intervention under the 'Improving Quality of Education Programme'. Keeping in line with that



objective, a Qualitative Research titled "Impact study of quality interventions undertaken in government schools, low cost private schools and community schools", was initiated in early 2009. A sample of 12 schools (40%) was selected for the 1st phase of the study wherein classes from katchi to grade 2 were extensively observed to gauge the impact of interventions being carried out in the schools under IQEP. A subsequent survey was carried out in October 2009 to compare the data of both the phases in order to come to a suitable conclusion. The survey comprised both classroom observations and interviews with teachers. The results of the survey facilitated SEF's Learning Support Unit in designing upcoming teacher training interventions.

Our Friends & Partners



MD, SEF briefing the Hon'ble Qaim Ali Shah (Chief Minister, Sindh) and Hon'ble Senior Minister for Education, Pir Mazhar-ul-Haq about SEF activities



Hon'ble Pir Mazhar ul Haq (Senior Minister, Education & Literacy, GoS) visiting one of the SEF Partner Schools in Sindh



Hon'ble Nisar Khoro (Speaker Sindh Assembly) is welcomed by SEF Directors at the launch of Adult Education Reader "Ujlee Rahain"



Hon'ble Senior Minister for Education at the Launch of Early Learning Program



Ms. Naheed Durrani (Special Secretary, Finance Department, GoS) and Mr. Munawar Opal (Additional Chief Secretary, Planning and Development Department, GoS) at SEF Promotion Event during November 2009



Mr. Mansoob Siddiqui (Director, Directorate of Private Schools/Institutions Sindh, Education & Literacy Department, GoS) at the SEF Promotion Event



Meeting of PPRS Project Steering Committee, being held at SEF in 2009



Mr. Raja Mohammad Anwar (Chairman Punjab Education Foundation), in conversation with MD-SEF



Prof. Anita Ghulam Ali in conversation with Dr. Adeb ul Hasan Rizvi, Director SIUT



Ms. Nafeesa Shah (Chairman, NCHD and Member of National Assembly) during her visit to SEF



Representatives from the British Council with Prof. Anita Ghulam Ali



Ms. Fehmida Riaz, renowned writer and Guest of Honour at the launch of "Ujlee Rahain" with Prof. Anita Ghulam Ali

Our Friends & Partners



Dr. Ishrat Husain (Dean, IBA) and Dr. Marcia Grant (AKU) in conversation at SEF event



Public Affairs Officer, American Consulate, Ms. Tracy Brown during a discussion at SEF



MD-SEF with Munawar Opal, (Chief Secretary, Planning and Development Department, Government of Sindh)



Teachers from SEF Partner Schools attending SEF advocacy event in Karachi



Ms. Ismat Niaz and Ms. Zubeida Dossal with Prof. Rehana Mughni (Program Advisor, SEF), author of 'Ujlee Rahein'



Mr. Mashhood Rizi (Director British Council) at SEF's Program Launch



Ms. Sadia Rashid, VC. Hamdard University attending the launch of SEF's Early Learning Program



MD-SEF with Mr. Javed Sadiq, Cultural Affairs Advisor, U. S. Consulate, Karachi



SEF's Learning Support Unit demonstrating an ECD classroom environment at launch of Early Learning Program



Delegation from JICA in a meeting with MD, SEF



PPRS school entrepreneurs receiving fee-subsidies at SEF Head Office in Karachi



Community members and SEF team discussing school improvement plan

SEF Team at Work



LSU Member Dr. Tayyaba receiving a token of appreciation on successfully completing her Doctorate in Education from Karachi University.



CDC students at an Award Ceremony at the SEF after successfully passing their matriculation exam



Farewell get-together of SEF departing member Mr. Saifullah Jaskani.



SEF Partner Schools

The task of ensuring quality education in SEF Partner schools demands concerted and collaborative efforts from entrepreneurs, NGOs and teachers according to the type of model the school is being run under. Despite limited facilities and resources both financial and human, the aim of providing quality education remains a constant motivation for the teachers and managers of SEF partner schools. Following are examples of how the schools have increasingly made efforts towards providing an enriching learning experience to the children across Sindh.



Many SEF Partner Schools have worked upon their performance in the recent years; however, some of them have really made a noticeable mark under the guidance of the entrepreneurs, teachers and NGOs. Both at the management and academic levels, these schools present good models of educational practice with regularly updated attendance registers, effective use of learning materials and a clean and healthy classroom environment. Below are some of the schools that stood up well against the quality indicators during this period.

- Shams Public school owned by Mr. Shakeel Ahmed Chandio - Kot Diji, District Khairpur
- Bismillah Model School Jani Buriro owned by Mr. Amir Hashmi Buriro - District Khairpur
- Bhittai Public School owned by Mr. Munawar Ali Mairi - District Larkana
- Government Girls Primary School Agroval Colony School - District Badin
- Government Girls Primary School Sheikh Bhirkio - District Tando Mohammad Khan
- RBCS School Village Saleh Khaskheli - District Mirpurkhas
- RBCS School Village Ismail Soomro - District Mirpurkhas

Latest issue of ECD Magazines for Parents & Teachers



'Nurture' and its Urdu version 'Parwarish' are published by SEF under the Releasing Confidence & Creativity: ECD Programme. The latest issue of the publication was recently developed. The issue features valuable information on the theme 'Children and their Environment'. The contents of the magazine emphasizes the significance of providing a healthy and secure environment to children in their homes, schools and other surroundings. The writers have provided practical recommendations for parents and teachers for creating healthy environments where children and families can flourish. One feature particularly highlights the need for environment to be accommodating towards children with mental or physical disabilities as well so that they are also able to participate with a sense of self-reliance and dignity in society. A set of poster and flyer is included with the magazine carrying essential information about various environmental interventions that can foster healthy development in young children. The English and Urdu versions of the magazine were shared with

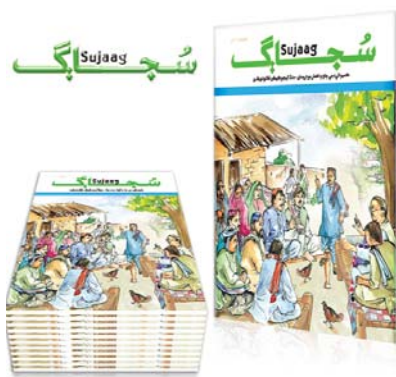
around 8000 subscribers throughout the country including target school stakeholders as well as educationists, parents and elders, teachers, school heads and organizations working in the area of ECD, in an effort to educate and empower communities to be better caregivers for children.

Children's Newsletter

The SEF regularly develops a Children's Newsletter titled 'Khel hee Khel mein' and its Sindhi version 'Raand Roond'. The publication serves as a channel for promoting children's creativity and confidence and is also geared towards enhancing the quality of learning by providing children with information that is both meaningful and entertaining. The latest issues deal with the themes of 'Play and Safety' and 'Accepting & Appreciating Diversity'. Through illustrative stories, activities and informational tidbits, children have been presented with the concepts of keeping their environment clean so that our surroundings become safe and free from potentially dangerous litter. The sixth issue focuses on the importance of accepting diversity in our lives and about respecting individual differences while aspiring to inculcate in children the sentiments of tolerance and peace. The Newsletter is one of the primary interventions undertaken by SEF to enhance learning during early years of classrooms.



Community Magazine – Sujaag



The community magazine, 'Sujaag' (Awakening) was successfully launched in February 2009 amidst great anticipation and appreciation for the venture. Published in Sindhi language, 'Sujaag' aspires to reach out to grassroots communities while facilitating and enhancing information sharing in our society. The second issue of the magazine has recently been disseminated to its subscribers that mostly consist of SEF partner school communities in Sindh. The latest issue features articles on lifelong learning, health education, the importance of two-way barrier-free communication between communities and SEF, case studies highlighting the difference education has brought in the lives of people and an interview with Prof. Qalandar Shah Lakiari, a revered educationist. The magazine also includes folk stories, illustrations and poems many of which are contributed by community children. Sujaag is a sincere effort to engage with local communities in order to ensure that the educational interventions by SEF are responsive to people's real needs and contribute to the process of grassroots level transformation.

ECD Mapping Study Launched on ECDPAK Website

The ECD Mapping Study carried out as part of the RCC: ECD Programme showcases the nature and scope of work carried out by various organizations in the realm of Early Childhood Development in Pakistan, that is, health, nutrition and education. The Study aims to catalyze collaborative ECD efforts for reaching the goal of raising healthy, competent and confident children. Basing its findings on extensive desktop research, the Study highlights the importance of early childhood development; explains the situational analysis of ECD in Pakistan; expands upon the aims and objectives of RCC: ECD Programme and finally, focuses towards details of initiatives undertaken by 29 organizations country-wide. The ECD Mapping Study aspires to strengthen ECD networks within Pakistan and has been launched on the ECDPAK website (www.ecdpak.com).



Launching Seminar of Early Learning Program

A Launching Seminar was organized for the Early Learning Program, an initiative of the SEF under the Public Sector Development Program 2007-2008. Held on 20th August, 2009, the launch event was attended by ECD practitioners, school teachers, members of civil society organizations,

will pay tremendous dividends down the road. Lauding the efforts made by the SEF in early years' education he endorsed that institutionalization of Early Childhood Education in 150 government schools of Sindh is a positive step in the right direction. Prof. Anita Ghulam Ali - S.I. (Managing Director, SEF) further stressed on the importance of early childhood education in creating a better future for children as well as having a greater positive impact on various social issues in the long run.



government officials, educationists and members of the corporate sector. The forum introduced the ELP program interventions and highlighted the fact that the first years of life are crucial years for children for the development of the cognitive, physical, social and emotional skills they need to reach their full potential and succeed in life.

Hon'ble Pir Mazhar ul Haq (Senior Education Minister, Government of Sindh) inaugurated the launch and also presided over the event as Chief Guest. He emphasized that investments in early childhood development are critical and

A presentation by SEF's Learning Support Unit on 'A Healthy Learning Environment for Children in the Early Years' demonstrated that a creative teacher carries the ability to teach children concepts of mathematics, languages and science through the most commonly available and inexpensive materials such as paper, straws, newspaper, wooden boxes etc. It further endorsed that learning cannot happen without an array of aids and materials is a myth. SEF's implementation strategy emphasizes the same philosophy for institutionalizing ECE and improving the physical and academic environment within the 150 public schools.

Launching Ceremony of Adult Education Reader

Ujlee Rahain (Qaida and Teachers' Guide) is a recent addition to SEF's publications portfolio comprising theme based post literacy materials for neo-literate adult women learners and their educators. The publication was launched in a dedicated ceremony held in Karachi on 11th of August, 2009. The publication has been authored by Prof. Rehana Mughni (Program Advisor, SEF) who has won various accolades from national and international organizations for her work in the field of adult education and women empowerment.

Mr. Nisar Khoro (Speaker Sindh Assembly), the Chief Guest on the occasion, appreciated the efforts made by the SEF in spreading education especially to the marginalized communities. Prof. Anita Ghulam Ali (Managing Director, SEF) spoke about the plight of women in the country and underlined the need for their education and empowerment for achieving development. She detailed the Foundation's initiatives and interventions for the vulnerable segments of society and underlined that indigenous, interactive and learner centered content made available through the present publication will be useful for educating adult women. SEF's Learning Support Unit enacted a story from the publication



demonstrating the pedagogy to be used for educating adults.

Guest of honor, Ms. Fehmida Riaz, a well known Urdu writer, poet and feminist of Pakistan, appreciated SEF's contributions towards female education and spoke on the need and importance of women being socially and financially empowered. Mr Iqbal Ur Rehman, (Director Education National Commission for Human Development) congratulated the SEF on launching such a useful resource and welcomed the publication at a time when the government is increasingly focusing to address the education

and development objectives through adult education initiatives. Other noted personalities at the occasion included Mr. Yousuf Jamal (Advisor to Governor, Sindh), Ms. Ismat Niaz (Provincial Secretary, Pakistan Girls' Guide Association), Ms.

Dilshad Mirza (Deputy Director CIEC, Government of Sindh), Ms. Farhana Iqbal (FPCCI), Begum Baji (Mufad-e-Niswan Trust), and Mr. Nasir Masood and Mr. Adnan Ahmed Siddiqui from Johnson & Johnson Pakistan (sponsor of the publication).

National Road Safety Conference 2009

The SEF pioneered the implementation of children's 'Road Safety Education Program' in 2006-07. Program's school-based initiatives and public education and public advocacy interventions across 100 target schools in Sindh aimed to promote collective efforts and responsibility towards sustaining the initiative and ensuring safer roads for children. SEF, in partnership with Road Sector Development Directorate, Government of Sindh and the Indus Motors Company, also organized the 'National Road Safety Conference' in 2007.

SEF and Indus Motors once again joined hands when the second 'National Road Safety Conference' was organized in July 2009. The forum attracted a wider array of partners including Shell Pakistan, Road Traffic Injury Research Project, Ministry of Health, Aga Khan University and JPMC. The aim of the conference was to bring road safety at the forefront of national public policy and implementation and to emphasize the importance of investing in safety mechanisms for reducing road traffic injuries. The importance of creating an integrated support mechanism between various stakeholders including the corporate sector, the health sector, the education sector and the engineering sector for ensuring road safety for all was also emphasized. Key note speakers at the event were Dr. Arbab Alamgir Khan (Federal Minister of Communication), Dr. Rashid Jooma (DG Ministry of Health), Mr. Zaiviji Ismail (Managing Director, Shell Pakistan), Mr. Parvez Ghias (CEO, Indus Motor Company) and Mr. Aziz Kabani (Director SEF).

MD, SEF addresses NCHD Symposium

To highlight the instrumental role of teachers in providing quality education and for creating a healthy learning environment, a Symposium on World Teachers' Day titled "Engaging Teachers' Associations for Achieving MDGs – Universal Primary Education" was organized by National Commission for Human Development and Department of Education, Government of Sindh in collaboration with UNESCO. The symposium took place in a hotel in Karachi on 5th October, 2009 where various renowned and qualified speakers from various organizations talked about vital educational issues such as providing quality education in primary schools of Pakistan, measures for dropout prevention and the role of PTAs in improving quality of education.

Prof. Anita Ghulam Ali, (M.D. SEF) was one of the speakers at the Symposium and elaborated on the conducive learning environment in schools. Her presentation was both engaging and informative and brought up an important aspect of creating an engaging learning environment in schools through enhancing teacher competence; provision of teaching aids; improving infrastructure; and increasing parental and community participation. Other noted speakers on the occasion included Hon'ble Qaim Ali Shah (Chief Minister, Sindh) Hon'ble Pir Mazhar ul Haq (Senior Education Minister, Government of Sindh), Ms. Nafisa Shah (Chairperson, NCHD), Mr. Shams Kassim Lakha (Chairman, PCP), Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Jattak (President of Government Teachers Association), Mr. Khurram Badar Alam (NCHD) and Dr. Fareeha Zafar (Director, Society for the Advancement of Education). The various speakers reiterated the core objective of the symposium, which was to emphasize the importance of constructing a healthy learning environment for children.

International Child Rights Day Celebrated

In November 2009, SEF joined JAGARTTA (an NGO working in Sindh), in commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Representatives from SEF head office and regional offices and teachers and students from partner schools participated in a rally, along with 150 other participants comprising the Art Foundation, officials from the district government and members of civil society. The rally organized in Mirpurkhas on the Child Rights Day, propagated the importance of education, rights of the girl child, iniquities of child labor, need for respecting the rights of children and improving the access and quality of education so that all children get the education and opportunities that they need and deserve.

Since its inception in 1992, the SEF has been extending educational opportunities to thousands of children across Sindh with a particular focus on female education. The organization is also running a Child Development Center in Shershah, Karachi. There are around 300 working and street children presently studying in the center that provides education, recreation, counselling and hope to the many marginalized communities.

Walk for Literacy

The 'International Literacy Day' was celebrated throughout Pakistan on September 8 with a view to providing impetus to the literacy campaign in the country. Members of SEF's Learning Support Unit together with learners and learning facilitators of the Women's Literacy & Empowerment Program also participated in the 'International Literacy Day' walk in

Karachi. The walk culminated at Mazar-e-Quaid where Pir Mazhar-ul-Haq (Senior Education Minister, Government of Sindh) addressed the audience and said that eradication of illiteracy constitutes one of the most significant objectives of the national government which is implementing dedicated reforms to take the agenda of education forward at an accelerated pace.



SINDH EDUCATION FOUNDATION (Government of Sindh)

Plot-9, Block-7, Kehkashan, Clifton 5, Karachi-75600, Pakistan. UAN: (92-21) 111 424 111 Fax: (92-21) 99251652, Email: info@sef.org.pk, Website: www.sef.org.pk