

Promoting Private Schooling in Rural Sindh

A Public-Private Partnership Project based on Per-Child Subsidy Model



FREE QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL





Education Sector in Pakistan – *From Policies to Classrooms*

Pakistan is amongst the signatories of the Millennium Development Goals, the Dakar World Education Forum 2000 and the Education-For-All targets and is presently implementing several policies and programmes in line with the National Education objectives. The policy goals propose to enhance the retention and completion of primary education cycle and achieve 100% net primary enrolment by the year 2015. Simultaneous efforts are proposed for improvement in the quality of schooling (infrastructure, physical environment, curriculum etc.) offered to the school-goers.

Despite government's concerted efforts to make primary education free and compulsory and where possible also provide stipends, scholarships and subsidized text books, limited access and poor quality education in both the public and mushrooming low-end private school systems remain the most acute crises. A majority of children in the country are still denied access to education for a variety of socio-economic reasons. Issues of education quality are faced at multiple levels from crowded classrooms to poor school infrastructure, inadequate learning environments and lack of qualified and trained teachers.

A large number of primary school age children (more than 8 million of almost 20 million school-age children) are not participating in the school system and more than 50% of such children are girls. The result is one of the lowest literacy rates in the region; out of the country's population of 165 million, 48 million are unable to read and write. The situation of Sindh is very much similar to that of the country. The literacy rate stands at 55% and only 42% of girls are enrolled in the province. In rural Sindh, the literacy rate for females is alarmingly low at a mere 17%. Lack of access, social attitudes and poor quality of the physical infrastructure and educational services continue to be the main reasons behind this trend.

(Source: Pakistan Social Living Measurements 2005-06; UNESCO's report Children out of School: Measuring Exclusion from Primary Education - 2005; AEPAM Pakistan Education Statistics 2006-07, UNESCO's Education-for-All Global Report 2008)





Public Private Partnership – Teaming up for Quality Education

Despite the many problems confronting Pakistan's education system, Pakistan is among 24 countries whose public expenditure on education amounts to as low as 3% or less of GDP. In a context where internal mechanisms have weakened and there is a dearth of resources, partnerships between public and private stakeholders are instrumental for pooling resources to improve the state of education. The 'Education Sector Reform' document also highlights the role of Public Private Partnerships in the context of increasing access to quality education (Ministry of Education, Government of Pakistan, 2001). This accentuates the role of government in ensuring that there is an enabling environment for effective partnerships in pursuit of education targets.

In order to achieve the goals of the ESR program i.e. Universalization of Primary Education and Education for All, the Government of Sindh is working with an integrated sector wide approach which is primarily focused on primary, elementary and non-formal education through Public Private Partnerships.

**Sindh
Education
Foundation –
Pioneering
Initiatives in
PPP**



The Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) consistently works towards promotion of Public Private Partnership (PPP) for providing access to quality education facilities especially in underprivileged areas of the Sindh province. In the light of experience and the mandate of PPP, SEF seeks to not only address the goals of Education For All and quality education targets but also create employment, entrepreneurship and institutional development opportunities at the grassroots for greater ownership and sustainability of the educational interventions.

The SEF has pioneered effective engagement of the public and private sectors, as well as the communities for revival of the institution of the public school in particular. The results have been noteworthy both in terms of infrastructural improvements (in the school) and support and improvement of the teaching-learning process. The Foundation's initiatives under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) include foremost the Adopt-a-School Program (AASP) which became a pioneering initiative that encouraged private sector patronage of public sector schools. The AASP has been recognized at the national level and replicated across the other provinces of the country by their respective Education Foundations. Moreover, during 2002-03 SEF implemented the Support to Private Education Institutions Program (SPEIP) that mainly focused towards creating partnerships with Private Sector for quality education. While AASP serves more than 50,000 students across 227 government schools in Sindh, SPEIP, a unique project in its nature, is the pioneer of a new dimension in Public-Private Partnership for Education that reached out to more than 61,125 students in 278 low-cost private schools. The participatory development philosophy is also evident across other SEF initiatives including the Community Supported Schools Program, Fellowship

Schools Program, Home Schools Program and Women's Literacy and Empowerment Program. These initiatives were launched during the late 1990s and early 2001. Today a network of around 350 community based schools/ centers extends education opportunities to more than 21,000 children and women learners. More recently during 2007-08, the Government of Sindh reaffirmed its commitment to public private partnerships for education by funding the Rural Based Community Schools Project to support 250 schools and the Early Learning Program focused on ECD interventions in 150 government schools.

With financial support from the Department of Education and Literacy, Government of Sindh, the SEF provides regular school support fund, teacher training and salaries, enrichment of curriculum, learning materials and capacity building of local community bodies in areas of school establishment and management. The continued support to these educational facilities are a reflection of Foundation's persistent advocacy and sincere efforts for establishment of low-cost, effective and replicable quality education models.

With experience and expertise in implementing a huge PPP portfolio, the Sindh Education Foundation launched the '*Promoting Private Schooling in Rural Sindh Project*' in 2008 which seeks to support 1000 newly established private schools in underserved areas across 10 districts. A similar initiative, the '*Integrated Education Learning Program*' was launched more recently in 2009 to extend support to 1500 existing as well new private schools across the province. Both these initiatives aim to establish greater public private partnerships for increasing access to and improving the quality of educational services provided to the children in marginalized areas of Sindh province.



Promoting Private Schooling in Rural Sindh Project

Promoting Private Schooling in Rural Sindh (PPRS) is a recent scheme of the Sindh Education Foundation under the Public Private Partnership Component of the Sindh Education Reform Program 2008-2009. The Project has been designed by the SEF in collaboration with the Reform Support Unit & the World Bank and is envisioned to span over a decade.

During the 5-year pilot phase the project interventions will support establishment and management of 1000 private schools in underserved localities in 10 districts of Sindh that rank poorly along three indicators; the size of the out of school children population (4-9 years), distance to the nearest primary school, and gender disparity in primary school participation.

The implementation is being spearheaded by the Sindh Education Foundation. Entrepreneurs are invited to apply to set up private schools in rural localities. All schools established as part of the project are to be registered with the Private Schools Directorate and follow Private Schools Ordinance/Act. Since the government is committed to provide free quality education for all, the entrepreneurs are not allowed to charge any fee from the enrolled students.

The first two stages of the pilot phase have extended both financial and technical support to 300 new private co-educational primary schools with the aim of increasing access as well as the schools' overall learning environment and students' academic achievements. Entrepreneurs to set up the private schools are selected via a comprehensive and transparent selection process based on applicant related and locality qualification criteria. The completion of the pilot phase will determine key insights and provide learning for enriching initiatives across other districts of the Sindh province.

Project Goal

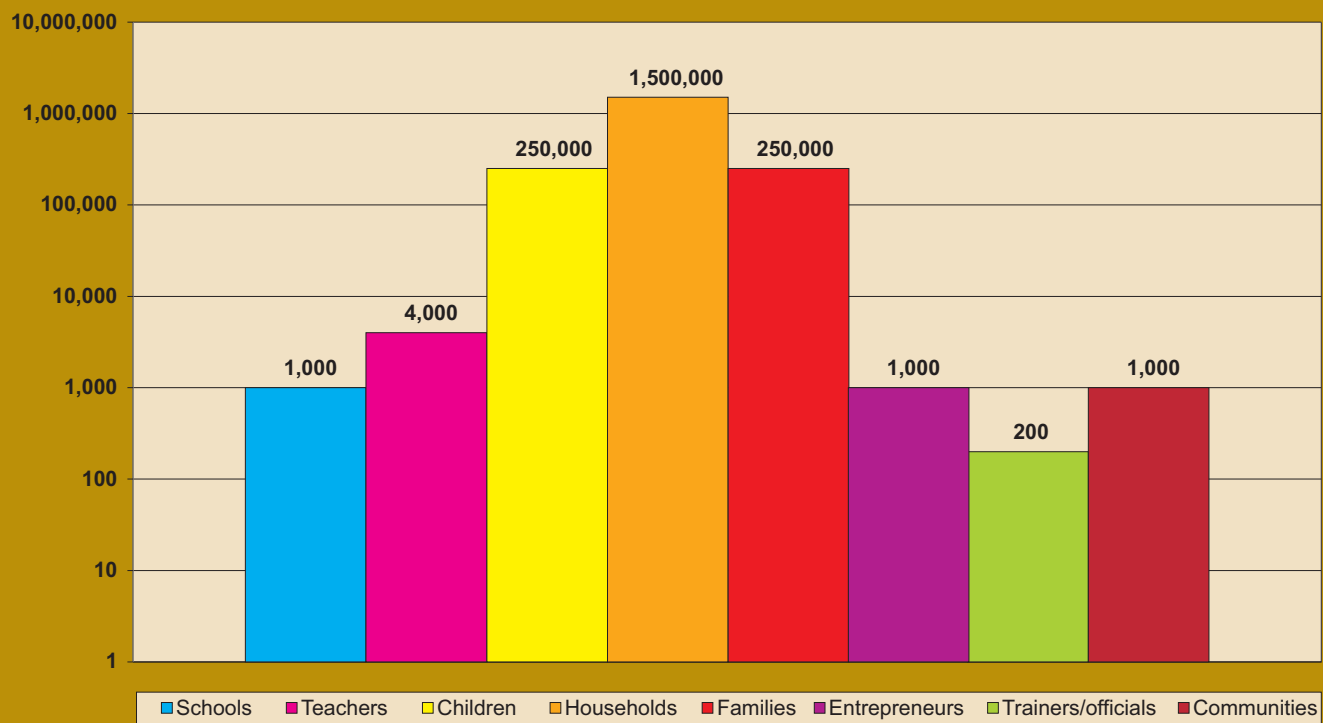
'To establish public private partnerships for increasing access to and improving the quality of educational services provided to the children in marginalized areas of Sindh with support of private sector'

Objectives

- ☞ Establish long-term public-private partnerships by supporting low cost private schools in order to increase access to education in marginalized areas of Sindh
- ☞ Enhance the quality of education and educational practices within classrooms thereby improving student learning outcomes
- ☞ Reduce gender disparity in education



Project Beneficiaries



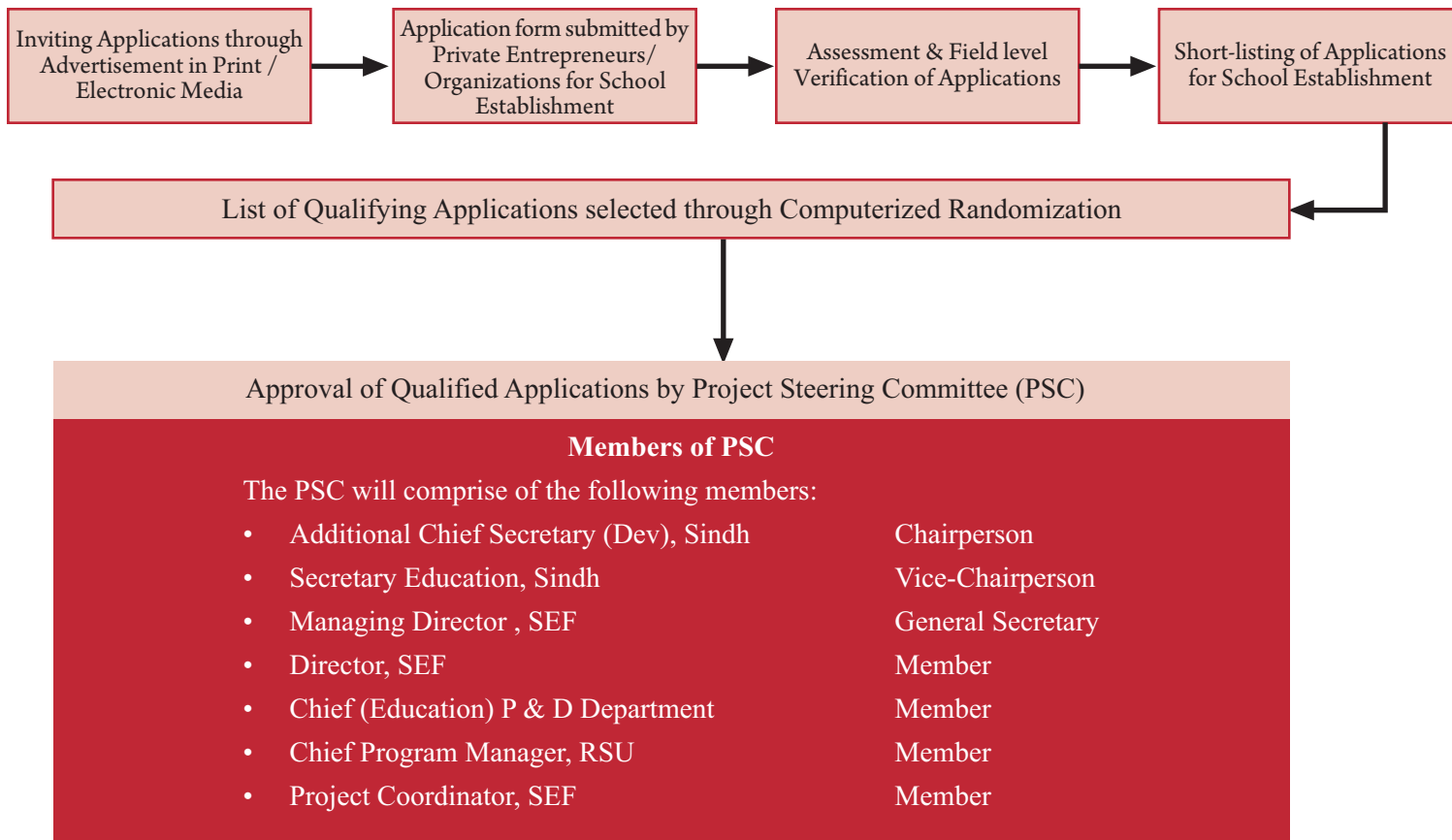
Key areas of Intervention

- **Establishment of 1000 schools**
- **Fee Subsidy**
Provision of Rs. 350 per enrolled child per month
- **Teachers' Professional Development**
Regular teacher training and support to improve quality of teaching and learning
- **Capacity Building of Entrepreneurs**
Leadership and school management training for entrepreneurs to help them run these schools effectively
- **Enrichment of the Learning Environment**
Provision of an interactive set of learning material to supplement the learning environment
- **Student Assessment**
A bi-annual student assessment
- **Ensuring Community/ Parental involvement**
Through ensuring functional school managing bodies
- **School Monitoring & Research**
Regular school monitoring to ensure smooth project implementation and research to gain insights into projects success, issues and challenges.
Qualitative research to attain thorough insight about the key factors regarding the implementation and impact of the project

Requirements for School Localities

- No other primary school of any kind within the radius of 1.5 KM of proposed school site in a habitation.
- Availability of minimum 1600 square feet open, well demarcated space (Preference will be given to land owners); In case of existing building, children will be accommodated at 8 square feet space per-child (mandatory).
- Availability of at least one potential female teacher with minimum qualification of middle pass (grade 8) who is willing to teach in the new school.

Application Selection Process





Responsibilities of Private Entrepreneurs





- School Site Identification
- School Establishment
- Student Enrollment
- School academic processes
- School Management
- Student Assessment
- Teachers' Training
- Community Mobilization
- Parental Involvement
- School Monitoring
- School Administrative & Financial Record Maintenance
- Regular Reporting to SEF

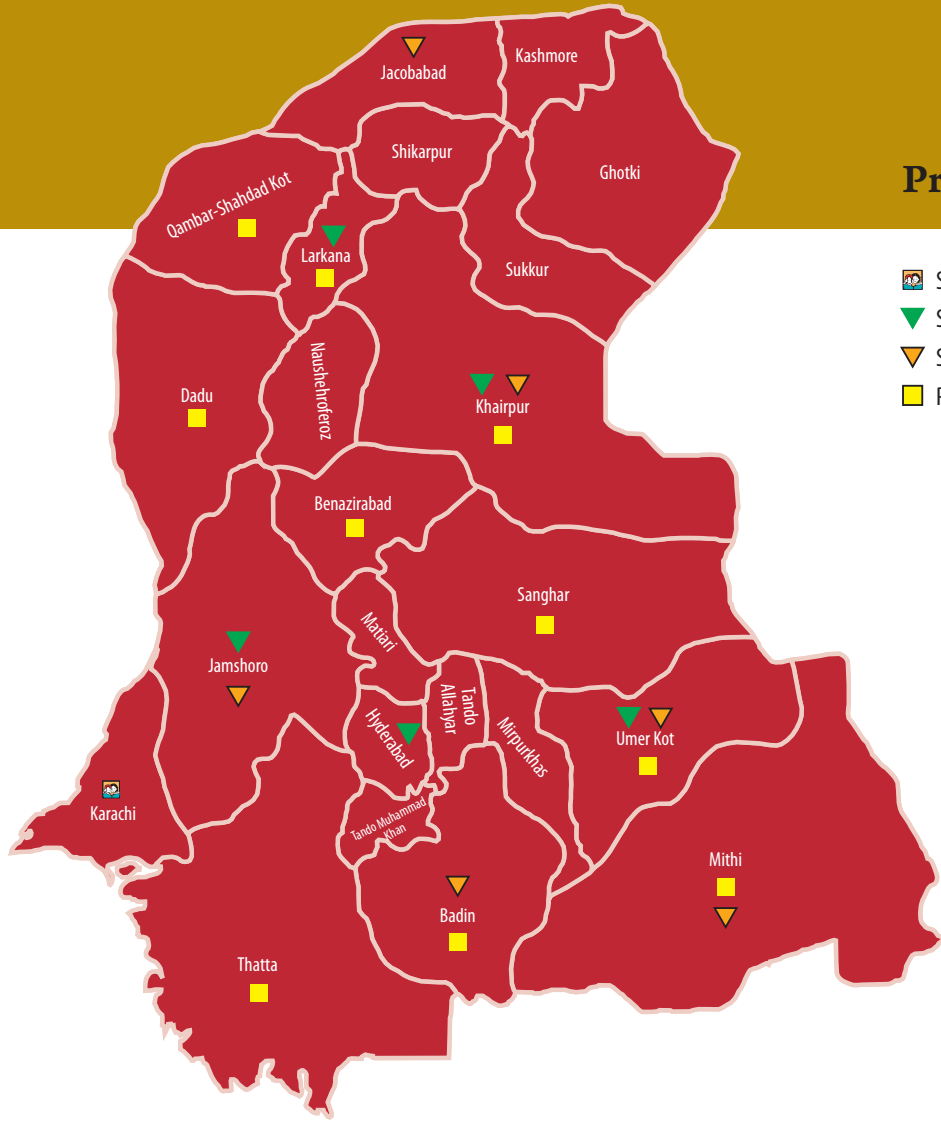
Quality Assurance Criteria - Key Features



- Providing accessible learning opportunities to marginalized communities of Sindh
 - number of beneficiary households
- Student enrolment and attendance
- Entrepreneurs competence vis-à-vis
 - administrative and financial management
 - entrepreneurship style (whether participatory or prescriptive)
 - activism for school improvement
- Conducive and nurturing learning environment including
 - healthy teacher:students ratio
 - healthy student: classroom ratio
 - lighting and ventilation in classrooms
 - toilet facility and clean water
 - teaching-learning aids available/displayed
- Teacher Assessment
 - qualification (academic; professional)
 - participation in capacity building initiatives
 - pedagogical skills
- Student Assessment
 - assessment scores
 - average attendance
- Parental/community involvement
 - existence of a managing body (MB)
 - number of MB meetings

Project Outreach

-  SEF Head Office
-  SEF Regional Office
-  SEF Field Office
-  PPRS Project Outreach





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