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The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows. Sydney J. Harris

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Our Vision
The promotion of Quality Education through Public Private Partnership, encouraging and supporting the efforts of private sector through technical and financial assistance, innovating and developing new instruments to champion wider educational opportunities at affordable cost to the poor.
An interview with Raja Muhammad Anwar Chairman PEF

Please tell us briefly about yourself, your educational background, brought up and your journey to the success ladder?

I graduated from Gordon College Rawalpindi in 1970, in MA Philosophy. I wrote seven books out of which mainly two books “The Tragedy of Afghanistan” and “Terrorist Prince” were published in six countries i.e. USA, UK, Canada, India, Germany and Pakistan. These books are recommended as course books for many universities. I worked as an advisor (on youth) to late Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto from 1973-1977. Then I was appointed as Chairman Task Force on Elementary Education Punjab by the Chief Minister Punjab Mian Shahbaz Sharif in 2008.

After decades of analysis of the problems within Pakistan’s education system, do you bring any fresh approach to solutions?

I think that with 38 percent of Punjab’s primary school-age children are still out of school, low participation at the middle and secondary levels, and low learning outcomes, Punjab is facing a significant unfinished agenda in education. The Punjab government has launched a second generation of reforms that focuses on increasing access and completion rates, enhancing the quality of reforms and student learning outcomes, and strengthening school management and sector governance. In this reform program the most important and the one I think that will bring change, is public private partnership. Through this we can survive better and it will surely enhance the quality of education. The main rationale for Public-Private Partnership (PPP) programs is the potential role of the private sector for expanding equitable access and improving learning outcomes. By providing demand-side financing and contracting private organizations to provide support services, governments can provide better choices to parents and grant them an opportunity to fully participate in their children’s schooling. So, such kind of education market highlights the importance of effective regulatory frameworks and contractual instruments to ensure quality and effective use of public resources.

What positive changes you have made as Chairman PEF and what are the new initiatives to accelerate the PEF pace?

FAS which is one of the major programs of PEF was previously running successfully in 19 districts of Punjab. Due to the increased demand previously from all over the Punjab, I triggered it by introducing the sixth phase and increased the district number to 29. It gives me immense pleasure to tell you that now we are covering more than 68 % of the Punjab. Moreover, the NSP program will be working over the whole Punjab to give wide spheres and opportunities to the new arrivals.

Is there any financial plan for the betterment of PEF’s staff and their development?

Of course, I believe that without motivated staff you can’t run a successful organization. I strongly believe on the capacity building of the staff, individuals grow more rapidly and successfully outside the organization rather than inside. I have a plan to give chance to PEF staff to start a regulatory capacity building program. I plan to increase more budget in this regard.

Apart from the continuous capacity building of teachers, do you have any plans for the financial assistance for the low paid FAS school teachers?

Well as PEF has the policy that it doesn’t interfere with the logistic management of any school, so we have not set any pay scale for the teachers of FAS schools but in spite of this, PEF arranges honoraria for top 50 teachers which perform best in QAT. Highly qualified teachers always demand high pays, so schools themselves have to hire qualified teachers on high pays to meet the 75% criteria of QAT.

Do you think that Chief Minister’s reform program for education has been made successful due to PEF?

Of course, one of the main aspects of reform program was public private partnership, foundation is assisting more than 1300 schools, from which about 6 hundred thousand students are benefitting and getting quality education.

How do you see profession of teachers in a global perspective?

In today’s dynamic world and demanding pedagogies; I would not hesitate to call teaching as one of the most important jobs. Teachers are one of the main pillars of a sound and progressive society. They bear the weight and responsibility of teaching, and apart from parents, are the main source of knowledge and values for children. They can be called the last revolutionaries - no one can make a difference to the world as teachers can do.

What motivates you to be an educationist?

The real source of motivation for me is the success. If you are successful in something then you never go back. I worked hard for the improvement of education in Pakistan. In this field I faced many problems too, but then my success kept me motivated. In every field exogenous factors admittedly are always at play but they could be resolved by continuous hard work and determination.

Action to Enlighten Teaching Entities

The quality and effectiveness of any education system largely depends on the quality of its teachers. They are the single most important factor in determining success and in meeting the system’s goals. Equally well, the educational and personal well-being of children hinges crucially on their competence, commitment and resourcefulness.

In order to foster the quality and effectiveness of the educational system and to underline the importance of teachers PEF has started its Continuous Professional Development Program (CPDP) in August 2005 for primary, elementary and secondary school teachers. It is a 6 days (4 hours a day) training workshop for the subject areas of English, Mathematics & Science largely focuses on content knowledge and pedagogical skills as well as partially incorporating gender sensitization, awareness regarding Child Rights & promoting Hygiene Education. School Leadership Development Program (launched in February 2007) is a 2 days (6 hours a day) training workshop with major focus on School Leadership & Management, Child Psychology, Effective Teaching Strategies & Assessment Techniques exclusively designed for head teachers.

PEF has conducted 1770 Cluster Based Training workshops and trained more than 70,000 teachers. Moreover, PEF has trained almost
8,000 School heads/Principals from 454 SLDP workshops. PEF ensures 100% monitoring of all trainings being conducted by partner organizations.

PEF has initiated new phase of partnership in Oct.08 with NGOs and certification of trainers in an efficient and transparent manner as per criteria approved by Board of Directors. A committee, Professional Development Certification Body (PDCB) was constituted for selection of organizations to conduct CBTs and SLDPs with PEF. The committee has recommended 27 organizations for partnership in CBT and 25 organizations for SLDP conduction.

The CBTs are conducted by certified trainers of PEF because we believe that only quality trainer can eradicating the mental block of trainee, stimulate the trainee to learn, remove the negative perception of the trainee regarding the training.

These trainers are evaluated by Professors of eminent institutions/organizations and subject specialists of TICSS/ADU on the basis of their content knowledge, content delivery, communication skills, knowledge regarding teaching strategies, assessment techniques, taxonomy and learning outcomes, lesson planning, educational technology and classroom management. An Evaluation Mechanism has been developed to monitor & evaluate pre-training, during training & post training policy implementation by the partner organizations. Therefore, each organization has been allocated trainings as per percentage of its performance evaluation.

**Districts Coordination Meetings**

FAS has always welcomed the suggestions from all stakeholders. In order to solicit meaningful feedback, FAS has a tradition to have district level meetings with the owners and principals of partner schools.

For the said direct liaison District Coordination Meetings were arranged for Districts Multan, Lodhran, Bahawalpur and Bahawalnagar. The venue for former two was Multan Arts Council and for the latter two was BISE Bahawalpur.

Chairman BOD assured participants that the issues will be looked into. He advised the participants to focus on quality education as the schools guarantee the progress of nation. He informed the participants that the FAS program would be expanded in near future and number of schools would be increased to 1800 from 1300. The Chairman also announced that FAS schools would be supported with science and computer laboratories, and all FAS teachers would be trained by PEF.

Chairman Board of Directors BODs Punjab Education Foundation Raja Muhammad Anwar chaired these DCMs. The participation from PEF partner schools was more than 90 %. School principals and school owners shared their views about FAS and discussed the problems and difficulties. Their main concerns were the increase of capping limit, the conduction of OAT on the pattern of Intermediate Boards and enhancement of time to improve infrastructure facilities before imposing any penalties.

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He requested the participants to maximize their efforts to enroll the out of school children. He also stressed the need to enroll children from the poor segments of the society.

Deputy Management Director Operations, Deputy Management Director Finance, Director FAS, Director Monitoring and Evaluation, Director Human Resource Management were also present in these meetings.

**FAS Participation in Chief Minister’s Debating and Essay Writing Competitions**

Co-curricular activities form the core of students' life in schools, since it helps to develop the all-round personality of students to face the undaunted task and turbulent world of future. The aim of curricular activities is to make the students fit for the future time and to develop a sense of co-operation, leadership, diligence, punctuality, team-spirit as well as to provide a backdrop for the development of their creative talents.

Different Competitions of Speeches, Essay writing, Debates, Poetry Competition were held under the instructions of Punjab Chief Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif with an objective to promote the creative and mental abilities of students at all levels in Punjab.

Students from FAS schools from all over the Punjab participated in these Competitions.

Indus Model Boys & Girls High School, Mianwali, Al-Suffa Model High School System, Mianwali, Sir Syed Model Secondary School, Mianwali won positions at Teshil level.

The fluent speech and charm of the debaters attracted attention of the adjudicators and that of audience as well. Prizes were distributed among the position holders in different ceremonies held at Tehsils levels throughout the province in this regard. We congratulate the students on their achievement.
Enhancing Quality of Education

PEF ensures the quality of education through its Quality Assurance Test. So far 8 QATs have been conducted successfully and a total number of 1327 schools have been tested. In 7th QAT, 1083 schools were tested, out of which 984 schools passed and the remaining 102 schools were declared fail. Among the failure, 27 schools were twice failure, with which PEF terminated the partnership.

The 5 teachers of 50 top schools were awarded an honoraria of Rs. 10,000/- on the basis of the 7th QAT’s result.

Following are the Top six schools in Punjab, which were given Honoraria of Rs. 50,000/- each school.

1. Shaheen Public High School, Bahawal Nagar
2. City Flower Model School, Mandi Yazman
3. Ideal Public School, Ahmadpur Sial
4. Hanan Public Boys High School, Dunyapur
5. Winner Model School, Multan
6. Al-Farooq Model Public School, Jatoi

NSP- Speculating on Change

NSP was launched as a pilot project in five tehsils of Punjab in March, 2008 namely Chiniot, Dunya Pur, Khaipur Tamerwali, Jatoi and Rojhian with an objective to ensure the enrolment and retention of out of school children in the underserved localities at the edge of society. NSP fosters an atmosphere of mutual respect among students and staff, enhance students self esteem and leads them to optimally utilize their potential. New School Program is providing chances of better access to quality education for out of school children through public private partnership. In the pilot phase PEF signed NSP agreements with 50 schools. Currently, more than 6000 schools are getting free education from NSP schools. In accordance with the decision made in 39th board meeting of PEF, it was decided to extend the coverage area of NSP. As per decision of the board members new districts that are to be covered are DG Khan, Rahim Yaar Khan and Layyah.

Looking for Hope

Hope is a candle, that enlightens our ways, the dark, dense places of our life. Step by step it takes us away from this darkness Keeping this ray of hope in our heart of hearts We move out of the Darkness... into Allah’s Light & Love

A heading place; A growing place; A place of rejoicing...
Where the song we shall sing Will be bright
as the broad day light like that of the sun
which shines after the rain stops

Ubaid-ur-Rahman Farooqui

World Bank Delegation visits Punjab Education Foundation

On Oct 13, 2009 a World Bank’s delegation visited the Punjab Education Foundation (PEF) secretariat to discuss policies, progress of the foundation and its programs.

The delegation comprising of Dhushyanth Raju (Education Economist), Felipe Barrera (Senior Educator), Humma Wahid (Research Analyst), Umbreen Anif (Education Specialist) and Randy Hatfield. Javed Malik (Education Adviser) from the Department for International Development also attended the meeting.

PEF Managing Director Mr. Mohy-ud-din Wani briefed the delegation about the FAS Program, and discussed in detail that five Phase have been completed successfully in 19 districts, Phase 6 has been launched in 10 new districts. The policies and implementation plan of the new phase were discussed with the delegation.

Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Zaffer DMD (Operations), Ms. Samina Nawaz Director (M&E), Mr. Nadeem Masood Director (FAS), Mr. Itikhar Rabbani & Mian Kashif Project Coordinators (FAS), Mr. Hassan Javed Project Officer (N&P), were also present in the meeting.

PEF team discussed plans of FAS Phase 6 and NSP Phase-II and briefed the World Bank delegation about new districts for FAS and NSP program.
The PUNJAB Education Foundation (PEF) is a non-profit organization working towards promoting quality education through public-private partnerships. PEF was established in 2000 with the aim of providing educational opportunities to underserved communities, particularly in rural areas and those facing economic challenges.

PEF has a strong emphasis on teacher training and the development of leadership skills among educators. Through various programs, PEF aims to improve the quality of education and ensure that every child has access to a quality education.

One of the key initiatives of PEF is the PEF Action Grant (FAS), which provides financial support to educational projects. FAS grants are awarded to educational institutions that demonstrate innovative approaches to addressing educational challenges.

Another important aspect of PEF’s work is the Evanston Value System (EVS), which focuses on the social and emotional development of students. EVS programs are designed to promote values such as respect, responsibility, and collaboration, thereby fostering a positive learning environment.

PEF also collaborates with various international organizations and foundations, including USAID and the US Agency for International Development (USAID), to leverage resources and expertise for its education programs.

Overall, PEF is committed to making education accessible and equitable for all, regardless of socioeconomic status or geographic location.
**A Diamond in the Rough**

EVS child Muhammad Aqeel was in spotlight when he achieved 3rd position all over the Lahore in a debate competition in Youth Human Rights Awareness Programme 2007-2008. In spite of belonging to an unprivileged family Aqeel works hard to rise to the expectation of his Parents. He passed his matriculation by gaining 675 marks. “I always wanted to achieve high goals in the field of commerce and finance but due to my poor family I didn’t foresee to achieve my goal, but now due to EVS program I am able to continue my studies. I think there should be uniformity in the country’s education system so that high aimed students belonging to impeccable families like me should also be given chances” said Aqeel now student of I.Com.

**Stunning the world Academia!**

Who says Pakistani youth will be terrified and knocked out due to the poor social and economical situations of the country. 55 Young Pakistani students are scooping out top positions in O level examination. Terming as fantastic the achievements of the students, Simon Lebus, Cambridge Assessment group chief executive said that schools in Pakistan had great academic records and that teaching methods always brought unbelievable results.

William Bickerdike, the University’s regional manager in South Asia, pointed out that the Pakistani students had shown a marked improvement. “We have made comparisons and seen that students from Pakistan achieve high grades, which is the result of the excellent teaching in Pakistani schools,” he said.

High achievers are not limited in studies only but five teenaged scientists from Pakistan got selected in international Science Olympiad held by Intel Corporation, world’s leading chip maker and computer manufacturers. These young scientists will visit USA this spring to compete with nearly 1400 scientists selected on their basis of innovation in science and technology. Private schools have 70% share in education on self help basis. Private schools are running in all districts of the country having different fee structures and they are paying salaries to the staff members and providing facilities to the students according to the charged fees.

A major portion of the nominated high achievers belongs to the private schools irrespective of their fee structure. In an international survey conducted by International publishing house Pakistan has been nominated as “rising star”. In a short period of six years Higher Education Commission has sent 25,000 scholars for PhD studies to different universities worldwide which brought about 400 percent increase in research output.

One can anticipate the time when students by public private partnership will stun the world by achieving high goals.

**New Colleagues**

Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Zaffar has joined PEF as Deputy Managing Director (Operations). He is a Management Professional with diversified educational qualification. He has a vast experience of working with reputed public and private organizations. After joining PEF he is continuously engaged in the development and efficient working of the foundation. He has a stoic determination and resilient management skills to make PEF a progressive and prosperous organization.

Mr. Nadeem Masood has recently joined Punjab Education Foundation as Director Foundation Assisted Schools (FAS), after doing M.Sc in Economics from Quaid-e-Azam University. He has experience in launching, supervision, monitoring and Evaluation of projects in health care services and skill based Education.

Malik Jaleel ur Rehman, has joined us as Director Finance having a vast experience of management. He has worked abroad and in Pakistan at key management positions.

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