Philosophy

The province of Punjab has witnessed most devastating and shocking floods during the months of July to September last year, in which millions of people were marooned and their properties and livestock, to the tune of billions of rupees, were almost destroyed. It was the most shocking and traumatic moment for the whole nation. The shocking capacity of the flash-floods astonished every one.

The Punjab Government launched a massive relief and rescue operation to provide maximum help to the distressed people. The task was gigantic and it needed massive monetary and material support to rescue the marooned population. For this purpose, the Chief Minister Punjab Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif set up “Chief Minister's Relief Fund for Tameer-e-Pakistan” and a continuous relief & rescue operation, by mobilizing all relevant public sector departments as well as NGOs and corporate sector, was launched. Different steps have been taken by the Punjab Government so that flood-affectedee could resume their normal life. However, considering the huge nature of the rehabilitation task, whole nation should contribute in it so that the damage could be transformed into hope for everyone.

Punjab Education Foundation (PEF) employees have contributed in “Chief Minister's Flood Relief Fund for Tameer-e-Pakistan” besides doling out a donation of vital life saving drugs to the flood affected. PEF also set up disaster management and relief cells in Head Office and other districts to provide prompt guidance to the partner schools management. As PEF partner schools were also affected by the gushing waters, therefore, relief camps were set up for the displaced partner schools management/teachers in Multan where medical facilities were also provided. Moreover, PEF staff performed volunteer works in Lahore and Muzaffargarh districts.

PEF fully taking part in flood affectees’ rehabilitation

The population-wise largest province of Punjab, which was badly hit by the floods, is in the process of recovery and rehabilitation. The Punjab Education Foundation has held a detailed survey of its flood affected schools. As a good-will gesture and with a view to help the affected schools in their rehabilitation, PEF is continuing financial support in shape of monthly dues to all the flood affected partners so that they could make up for the losses.

Meanwhile, different corporate entities besides teams of international donors including World Bank, DFID etc. have also visited PEF Head Office to hold detailed discussions for the early recovery of the damaged schools' infrastructure in the province. Introducing the idea of low-cost construction of the damaged schools, the visiting dignitaries were informed by the Managing Director Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani that according to the assessment plan primed by the Punjab Education Foundation, an amount of Rs. 2 million is required to restore and re-functionalize each of the 64 affected schools situated in the flood-affected districts. The amount is estimated for the reconstruction of a school with four class-rooms, Principal’s office, toilet and necessary furniture for the students. The affected schools are 5% of the total partner schools.
Expansion of New School Program (NSP)

The Punjab Education Foundation is committed to arrange free educational facilities for the out of school children of deprived families in the districts with low-literacy rate. In this regard, PEF has planned to increase the total number of 129 schools, partnered under New School Program (NSP) to 200 so as to provide free educational facilities to maximum number of deserving students.

NSP has emerged as the most economic model of public private partnership for providing educational facilities to out of school children of poor and neglected localities, where no other infrastructure is available to children, especially for girls.

According to the plan, PEF will select eight schools in Vehari, IO each in Khanewal and Bhakkar, four in Attock, nine in Sargodha, five each in Mianwali, Khushab, Narowal, Layyah & Lodhran and seven each in Toba Tek Singh and Rahim Yar Khan districts. The applications have been received and selection process is rolling. It is expected that extension in NSP will provide free quality education to more poor children who otherwise cannot afford it.

The philosophy of NSP is to provide educational facilities to poor students near to their doorsteps so that they may not stop learning. It will also help in reducing drop-out ratio. The NSP has proved especially beneficial for the female students who cannot go afar for education.

Promotion of Information & Communication Technology (ICT)

As Information and Communication Technology is a key to success in the 21st century, therefore, PEF is especially working to bring in ICT in its system to make it more result-oriented, fast-paced and cost-effective. PEF has successfully developed and launched its own need-based Students Information System (SIS) to electronically store all data, pictures and educational record of its one million students so that no impersonation could ever occur. SIS provides capabilities for entering students and schools’ required information through internet, tracking of students and managing many other student-related data needs in a school, college or university. Moreover, it will also help in educational research and assessing socio-economic impact of government reforms in Punjab.

PEF is also working to design and develop electronic marking of students and teachers. Now, daily attendance of all the students will be electronically stored in PEF Server automatically. Launching of SMS service for partner schools is another hallmark achievement.
Education Voucher Scheme (EVS) extension in Multan, Rawalpindi & Kasur

EVS has emerged as a strong labourers and slum dwellers. PEF Education Vouchers in the district household survey. Under this students will be given free and the expenses will be borne out mechanism to educate the child has completed distribution of of Multan after the completion of scheme, one thousand deserving education in their nearby schools by the PEF.

Further, PEF also completed the 17, 500 students of 120 EVS Lahore and Kasur for the months 2011.

Keeping in view of the remarkable poor children of peri-urban areas, EVS in 14 other districts. These because of comparative low literacy rate and poverty ratio. With the introduction of EVS in new districts, its total number of students will reach to 40,000. It is hoped that extension phase will be completed in the current fiscal year. It is important to mention that students of religious minorities are equally benefitting from all PEF programs.

Education Voucher Scheme (EVS) awareness seminar at Rawalpindi

Punjab Education Foundation (PEF) held an awareness seminar at Rawalpindi to foster public-awareness about launching of Education Voucher Scheme there. The function was presided over by Justice (Retd) Rana Bhagwandas, Chairman Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC).

In his key-note address, Justice (R) Rana Bhagwandas said that a Judge sitting in the courtroom and teacher enjoys equal importance. “Both, justice and knowledge are pivotal pillars of society that strengthen other organs of the State, as well.” Adding that age-old norms of tolerance, social equality and peaceful co-existence are real emblem of Pakistani culture, he said that we need to ensure free education for all the children. This will herald real social change at the grassroots, he added.

The function was also addressed by PEF-Chairman Raja Muhammad Anwar, Managing Director Mohyuddin Wani and famous journalist/Columnist Rauf Klasra.

Education Voucher Scheme (EVS) agreement signing ceremony

The Punjab Education Foundation (PEF) has signed agreements with different private schools of Lahore and Kasur for providing free education to deserving children under its Education Voucher Scheme (EVS) in deprived areas of these districts.

PEF Project Officer (EVS) Shafique Ahmad signed on behalf of the Punjab Education Foundation.
PEF promoting child-friendly schooling

PEF has headed out a campaign to eradicate all forms of corporal punishment from its 2445 plus partner schools working in 29 districts of Punjab. Not contending with its mandate to provide free education to marginalized sections of the society through partner schools, the PEF has entered into an agreement with Plan Pakistan to develop a comprehensive institutional mechanism for promoting public awareness against corporal punishment in PEF partner schools.

So far, PEF has appointed three focal persons: one each in the districts of Lahore, Multan and Rawalpindi to closely monitor the situation there, besides inculcating the subject of corporal punishment in its teachers’ training curriculum. It has also launched a public sensitizing campaign; and in this regard, an awareness workshop was also arranged by Plan Pakistan in Murree in which PEF staff, partner school owners and other stakeholders took part and finalised the strategy to get rid of this menace from the schools.

Library books for partner schools

With a view to promote the culture of learning in the students, PEF has distributed free library books to its partner schools situated in different districts of the province. It is expected that this will help to raise the intellectual ken of the students with economically deprived backgrounds. These books have been provided by noted German organization Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) as a gift to students of PEF partner schools.

Each library, given to schools, is worth Rs. 50,000. The books, including wider subjects like art, culture, science, mathematics, literature, religion, English and humanities, are carefully selected to help foster students’ emphatic understanding of worldview and to pervade a cosmopolitan understanding in the younger generation so that they could emerge as better citizens of the society.

Chairman PEF, Raja Muhammad Anwar has also announced to introduce compulsory Library Period, every week, in partner schools, so that students could enjoy books reading in school hours.
PEF new building

PEF Head Office has been shifted from 19/218, Ahmed Block, Garden Town, Lahore to 78 - B1, Gulberg III, M.M Alam Road. All the stakeholders are requested to use new address for further correspondence.

3rd party Conduction of QAT

Punjab Education Foundation has hired the services of National Testing Service, University of Management and Technology, Agha Khan University Examination Board and Board of Intermediate & Secondary Education, Bahawalpur to conduct its Quality Assurance Tests. The purpose is to ensure transparency, impartiality and quality of papers.

PEF partner schools excel in PEC exams

According to the results announced by the Punjab Examination Commission (PEC) sponsored examinations of 5th and 8th classes for the year 2010, PEF partner schools have bagged 45 of the 87 top positions in various districts. This shows improvement in education quality resulting due to partnership with the PEF.

10th FAS- QAT concludes

The 10th biannual Quality Assurance Test of Foundation Assisted Schools was held from 3rd to 15th of November, 2010 in 29 districts. PEF has introduced barcode technology in the exams to ensure transparency. The QATs are a strong determinant to examine educational quality of the partner schools.

This time, a central control room was set up at Head Office to monitor and organize the field activities of Quality Assurance Test under the supervision of Ms. Huma Rizvi Project Officer (ADU). She was assisted by Ziauddin Butt Project Officer, Ms. Ayesha Siraj Subject Specialist, Ms. Sadia Rafique Project Assistant and Ms. Kinza Aslam Data Processor.
Visits to PEF

A four member delegation from Balochistan led by provincial Secretary Education/ member BOD Balochistan Education Foundation visited PEF Head Office in October 2010 to find out about the role of Public Private Partnership in education sector in Punjab. PEF-DMD (Finance) Salman Anwar Malik briefed the visiting delegation about various programs’ implementation. The delegation showed keen interest in PEF working.

Meanwhile, representatives of various donors including World Bank, Department for International Development (DFID) besides Punjab Government officials held a detailed meeting at PEF Head Office and reviewed working of Foundation Assisted Schools (FAS). On the occasion, Dushyanth Ragu (WB) and Dr. Javed Malik (DFID) gave presentations about educational scenario in Punjab. The meeting agreed that education is the basic right of every child and innovative measures should be adopted to promote education.

CPDP revamping

Punjab Education Foundation is working to revamp and improve its Continuous Professional Development Program (CPDP). As teachers’ training is integral part of the school education, therefore, training modules have been revamped & improved and latest data-base is also developed. Follow up trainings have been arranged, impact evaluation is conducted and standardized contact list is prepared to avoid duplication. It is expected that this will help in better training of school teachers.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) introduced

In line with the governmental instructions, Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) have been developed and implemented to evaluate performance of PEF employees.