Message from Gp. Capt. © Cecil Chaudhary S5, SBT

Since I have been the longest member among the present members of Board of Directors, I feel I am in a position to judge the working of Punjab Education Foundation before it became an autonomous body, compared to the way it is functioning now. Not that we should be comparing this, because whatever the task was assigned to PEF before it became an autonomous body it was fulfilling that task but unfortunately that task was insufficient for an organization of this magnitude. As that was only relating to opening of new schools, funding of teachers to open new schools, on and so forth, but there was not enough emphasis on quality education, teachers training, encouraging the students to perform better; that kind of administrative role was missing. So, I think one of the greatest achievements that I feel I was in this short time since PEF became autonomous is that we have been able to set the ball rolling.

We have been able to achieve at least in the province of Punjab what everybody has been wanting to do and that is Quality Education. How we are doing that is through first of all the student incentive programs. There are a number of student incentive programs and one of the biggest incentives programs that we are now in the process of launching is what we call “The Brain of Punjab”, which is basically aimed at encouraging students to read, to improve their knowledge, both book knowledge as well as general knowledge, because we Board Members are completely in agreement in this, that one of the biggest weaknesses in Pakistan is that people don’t read. So, we, in our own way are encouraging students to read, because cash prizes being offered by Punjab Education Foundation for the Brain of Punjab initially as a Pilot Project; “Brain of Lahore” are very lucrative so that would definitely encourage children to look forward to this program and to start reading which means they will go towards Quality Education. Number of other steps have been taken and that is Public Private Partnership in which a great deal of emphasis is being given on improvement of the current features in the private schools, and that is through an extensive in-service training program and we have also kept incentives for the schools that performed well in the Public Private Partnership. These are our humble efforts at the moment and of course as time passes we will keep on coming out with innovative ideas of how to bring about the best possible overall standards of education in this province of Punjab and for this I must commend each and every member of the Board of Directors along with each and every member of Punjab Education Foundation Secretariat; everybody is doing his work brilliantly well, with great deal of interest and I feel very satisfied seeing the amount of work that is going on.

Message from Mr. Tahir Yousaf

General Secretary Trust School

Education essentially aims at permanent modification in human experience and behavior. It is the cornerstone of better societies and more fulfilling lives. Thus, public education is destined to be the ‘growth industry’ of a nation. Therefore, education should be the single largest enterprise in our political economy. The cherished goal of nation building through human resource development cannot be achieved without providing quality education to the teeming millions of deprived but talented children in Punjab and elsewhere in Pakistan. In this regard, the institution of the PUNJAB EDUCATION FOUNDATION is a timely step in the right direction and PEF’s far reaching, multi pronged initiative is commendable. Hope inspiring ventures like FAS, EVS, TICSS and Brain of Punjab etc are laudable efforts whose scope needs to be enhanced with increased financial assistance and effective implementation.

Now initiatives like PEF-School Broadcast Service, exclusive TV Network promoting School Tech, IMT (Image Projected Teachers) and 3D animated teaching devices etc if experimented, may further boost the image and achievements of PEF in line with its mission.
The share of private sector in the provision of educational services to masses is gradually swelling. Private schools, especially those charging nominal fees and catering to the educational needs of the poor can not manage to pay for qualified and professionally trained teachers. This dearth gradually has its off-putting impact on the learning outcomes of the students. As per its mandate, PEF builds the professional capacity of these schools' teachers through Cluster Based Trainings (CBTs). Each CBT module is a 6 day event and involves at least 4 stakeholders, i.e., PEF, Training organization, cluster schools management and trainees. Meticulous planning is required in order to ensure efficient and effective delivery. Clarity of inputs and subsequent functions are the key factors in ensuring desired outputs.

**Continuous Teachers’ Development Program (CPDP)**

- Partner Selection by PEF
- Agreement with Partner
- Partner Organizations’ Responsibilities:
  - Venue Selection
  - Cluster Formation
  - Training Need Analysis
  - Preparation of:
    - Schedules
    - Tests
    - Sessions
    - Materials

**Quality Assurance Test (PEF – FAS – QAT ) November, 2006**

The 2nd quality assurance tests were administered by PEF in 54 Foundation assisted schools in five districts i.e. Lahore, Chakwal, Sialkot, Khushab and Bahawalpur, of Punjab. Tests were conducted of students between grades 1-10 in the following subjects.

- Mathematics
- English
- Science

Three out of ten high performing schools were in Lahore, two in Chakwal, two in Sialkot and one in Bahawalpur. Out of these ten schools, five were located in rural and five in urban areas. The girls performed very well and excelled over boys in Quality Assurance Test.

The strongest subject in terms of score had been Mathematics followed by Science and English. Twenty Three schools out of fifty four laid in the range of 90% to 100%.
Comparison of 1st and 2nd QAT in 54 Partner Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>1st QAT March 2006</th>
<th>2nd QAT November 2006</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lahore</td>
<td>56.96</td>
<td>70.49</td>
<td>+13.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khushab</td>
<td>55.71</td>
<td>82.9</td>
<td>+27.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chakwal</td>
<td>79.94</td>
<td>84.81</td>
<td>+4.87</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sialkot</td>
<td>50.74</td>
<td>68.56</td>
<td>+17.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahawalpur</td>
<td>79.29</td>
<td>85.27</td>
<td>+5.98</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Education Voucher Scheme (PEF – EVS)

In a bid to remove shadows of melancholy engulfing dwellers of marginalized and less affluent areas of Punjab, Punjab Education Foundation brought forth a unique program named Education Voucher Scheme (EVS). Education Voucher Scheme aims to empower children of Kachi Abadis seeking quality education to choose among those private schools which otherwise are financially out of reach.

As a pilot project Sukh Nehar area of Baghban pura was approved and selected for further proceedings of voucher scheme due to geographical spread out along with other factors like poverty and backwardness. Moving forward, data of 1000 deserving children between age brackets of 5 to 13 years was collected and tabulated for further processing. A total of 12 partner schools have entered into partnership with Punjab Education Foundation. These partner schools are located within a radius of 2 kms from the target area thus easily accessible by foot. In order to facilitate residents of the Kachi Abadi, a local office has been established at main Rasheedpura road. Education Voucher Scheme has received overwhelming appreciation from residents of SukhNehar therefore, Punjab Education Foundation envisages to increase number of vouchers from 1000 to 5000 in the near future.

How EVS Works

1. Data Collection of Children from a selected Kachi Abadi
2. Tabulation of Data & Assigning vouchers No. to each Child
3. Identification of quality schools within radius of 2 km from a Kachi Abadi
4. Voucher Writing & Intimation to House holder
5. Voucher Writing & Intimation to House holder
6. Snaps Taking & Dissemination of voucher at local office
7. Signing Partnership with shortlisted schools
8. Follow up with Schools for Monitoring & Evaluation EVS Children

Freedom of Choice

Brain of Punjab Scheme (PEF – BOP)

Meeting of the committee for Brain of Punjab chaired by Dr. Fareeha Zafar, was convened on November 8th, 2006 at Punjab Education Foundation Secretariat. Cp. Capt. (C) Cecil Chandhary (member BOD), Mr. Tahir Youssaf (member BOD), Dr. Allah Bakhsh Malik (Managing Director PEF), Mr. Rana M. Arif (Dy. Managing Director PEF) and Mr. Syed Mahmood Gallani (Program Officer TICSS) also attended the meeting. Committee set parameters for the execution of Brain of Lahore event.

The committee unanimously agreed to hold the event in near future. Committee approved the names of Innovation Alliance & Mishal Pvt. Ltd. as Consultancy Company for Brain of Lahore event.
Teaching in Clusters by Subject Specialists (PEF – TICSS)

TICSS project orientation with partner schools was an effort by Punjab Education Foundation to share the true parameters and goals of the project. The role and interest of all the stakeholders were explored to achieve true objectives of project. TICSS partners were briefed that core target of Subject Specialist is to uplift the standard of Quality Education and to build on the basic work done by permanent faculty members. Subject Specialist will work on conceptual development and den the learning outcomes of students.

Creating the conceptual depth of subject content the effort will be done by Subject Specialist to add value in TICSS partners schools. Results of QAT were shared among TICSS partners and it was acknowledged by all stakeholders that investment in quality teaching by Subject Specialist through concept development methodology has paid dividends. TICSS partners have assured flexibility and adaptability to harness the true objectives of the project.

Seminar on World Teachers’ Day

National Seminar on World Teachers’ Day was held on October 5th, 2006 as a joint venture by Punjab Education Foundation and Children’s Library Complex, Lahore. The core objective of the event was to highlight the importance of competent teachers. The Education Minister, Punjab, Mian Imran Masood, was the Chief Guest.

Mr. Ittikhar Elahi, Director British Council Lahore, indicated the key to the success of a nation was to be found with teachers of vision. Dr. Fareeha Zafar, Director SAHE suggested that at least graduate teachers should be appointed in schools, if any improvement at the basic formative level was to be expected.

Mrs. Rubina Tariq Jillani, Project Director, Children’s Library Complex Lahore, welcomed the guests to the seminar. Many eminent scholars, educationists and speakers graced the occasion. Gurpari Capt. (R) Cecil Chaudhry said that the teachers were the backbone of the society and quality teachers could ensure quality education.

Prof. Dr. Hafiz Iqbal, Director IER (PU), stressed the importance of teachers’ training and said that conducive and congenial working environment and handsome salaries should be provided to teachers to enhance the learning outcomes of students. Mr. Steve Ryan, Director Ali Institute of Education, reminded the teachers to play their role in building the character of students.

The Chief Guest, Mian Imran Masood, dilated upon the nation building role of teachers in society and said that good teachers will always be in demand and command respect. Teachers could make or unmake a nation. He stressed the importance of Teachers’ Training Programs to update their content knowledge and skills to meet the new challenges of the new century.

At the end Managing Director PEF, Dr. A. B. Malik, concluded the seminar by a vote of thanks and requested the Chief Guest to present souvenirs to the guest speakers.
News

Learning by Sharing

Mr. Rana Muhammad Arif, Deputy Managing Director (Finance) and Mr. Muhammad Yasin, Director Continuous Teachers’ Development Program (CTDP) visited Sri Lanka to study the educational system of Sri Lanka with particular focus on learning through sharing the initiatives in public-private educational & training institutes. During their educational tour to Sri Lanka both officials visited a number of Institutions in Kandy & Colombo, i.e National Institute of Education, Centre for Education Leadership Development, St. Sylvester College, Good Shepherd Convent, Dedigama Primary School, Royal College and Carey College.

Both sides shared their experiences in the field of education. PEF has tried to integrate these learning experiences in their relevant programs so that entire working of PEF Projects may be improved.

Seminar with FAS—Partners

A seminar was held on 16th November, 2006 in PEF secretariat with the management of 24 FAS partner schools of Lahore. Chairperson PEF, Mr. Shahid Hafeez Kardar, presided the seminar. Managing Director PEF, Dr. A. B. Malik briefed the participants about the PEF-FAS program. Heads of private educational institutions shared their views and comments about FAS program and thanked the Chairperson for initiating the FAS program in less privileged and under developed areas of Punjab.

Chairperson PEF, Mr. Shahid Hafeez Kardar, said that teaching staff will be trained through professional development program of PEF. DMD (Finance) Mr. Rana M. Arif, Program Officer FAS Mr. Sajjad Khan and Monitoring & Evaluation Officer Mr. Ahmad Jamal Cheema dilated upon the different aspects of monitoring, evaluation and finance of FAS program and thanked the participants for their cooperation with PEF management.
Growth & Professional Excellence in Year 2006

PEF — FAS
Partner Institutions = 184
Districts Reached
- Lahore
- Sialkot
- Chakwal
- Khushab
- Bahawalpur
- Bahawalnagar
- Narowal
- Bhakkar
- Mianwali
- Gujrat
Students Benefited = 63,134
- Male = 32,082
- Female = 31,052
Total Financial Assistance Released = Rs. 81,980,400

PEF — TICSS
Districts Reached
- Lahore
- Sialkot
- Layyah
- Rahim Yar Khan
- Jhelum
- Gujranwala
- Faisalabad
- Rawalpindi
- Multan
- Bahawalpur
Schools Benefited = 150
Students Benefited = 10,500

PEF — CTDP
CBTs Conducted = 242
Teachers Trained = 10,477
Schools Benefited = 2,483
Districts Reached = 35
Average Training Cost = Rs. 1500

PEF — EVS
Vouchers Distributed = 1000
Targeted Area — Sukhmehar
Partner Schools = 12
Benefiting Households = 400

Letter to the Editor

Valued Sir/Madam,

As a matter of fact, we have organized five workshops under the supervision of Punjab Education Foundation over here. Sometimes doing things with the best of interests doesn’t work the way we want them to. It takes a lot to avoid or minimize the trickle-down effects. We know saying things are much easier than actually performing them. As a corollary, we anticipate such an opportunity to get the assigned task done with the best of our abilities. As trainers, putting in our maximum is our habit. And the kind of touch of commonality that is excluded by PEF staff, while their visit here has given a come-on-to our ambition. The rare dimension of honesty of profession with you people, which is not commonly found nowadays, is commendable. We intentionally don’t want to praise you; however, we know that the head of an Institution is held responsible for the fiascos. If yes, why not be crowned for success? I can not help appreciating Managing Director and his staff’s dedication towards this mission. All kudos goes to Managing Director and his staff for this creatively splendid designation and management of schemes. Unquestionably, it’s a fantastic effort on your part to disseminate such skills to those who need them the most.

With best Regards,

Nadeem Alam
Principal
Alams School
Mianwali

Contact Us:
19- Ahmed Block, Garden Town, Lahore.
Tel: 042-5940261-3, 042-5940284-6, 042-9230729
Fax: 042-9230785
Email: pef@wol.net.pk
URL: www.pef.edu.pk