



The Reformers



EDITION - VI



Future athlete:

Mehreen

from a
government
School



Universal
Children's
Day



Bilal

turned his
dream into
reality

Shape up
or ship out:

**School Education
Department warns
Absentee &
Absconder teachers**



MESSAGE

Over a month ago I have assumed the charge of Secretary for School Education Department. Indeed it has been very busy time and I foresee it is going to be busier in the coming days, considering education emergency in the province. During this short time I have carefully analysed a host of challenges being faced by the department. We can bring about a significant improvements in the service delivery of school education department but for that we have to set the right priorities and focus on the most important tasks first.

In order to tackle these challenges in effective manners, it requires a strong team and full commitment from all stakeholders, particularly teachers and education officers working at UC, Taluka and district levels. We have tried and tested different approaches but there is no substitute for a team work. Let's

work together for uplift of education, not treating it as a job but a cause.

I have served as Secretary in different departments but education is close to my heart. It is my strong desire to make a meaning contribution to the department which positively affect students across the province, particularly those who live in a disadvantaged and far flung areas. Frankly, I will consider it a big reward for myself.

My immediate priorities include timely and impact-oriented utilization of available funds, curbing teacher absenteeism, increasing enrolments and at the same time reducing drop-outs, last but not the least improving physical infrastructure of schools. With these measures I hope we would witness a good change soon.



We can bring about a significant improvements in the service delivery of school education department but for that we have to set the right priorities and focus on the most important tasks first.

JAMAL MUSTAFA SYED
SECRETARY SCHOOL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SINDH

Dear Readers,

I warmly welcome you all to the 6th edition of "The Reformers." This reflects our continuous effort to update you with the important information regarding changes and improvements in the School Education Department.

New Year has started with the commitment to retain the pace of ongoing work along with innovative strategies which complement our previous achievements.

Key highlights of the most important progress during this period include District Review Meetings, chaired by Secretary, School Education Department, discussion on policy draft for Non-Formal Education, capacity building workshops on District Education Plan for achieving Sindh Education Sector Plan (2014-18) targets, workshops on School Specific Budget fund utilization, the regional workshops on implementation of Early Childhood Education in schools. The education department under the new leadership of Secretary School Education Jamal Mustafa Syed, emphasizes on improving a quality system and enhancing a workflow for better implementation of ongoing reforms.

Looking ahead, we are focusing on the communities to bring about positives in our schools. Through the combined efforts I am optimistic about achieving the best results.



FAISAL AHMED UQAILI
CHIEF PROGRAM MANAGER
REFORM SUPPORT UNIT



SHAPE UP OR SHIP OUT

SED WARNS ABSENTEE AND ABSCONDER TEACHERS

Responding to the education emergency, School Education Department, Government of Sindh adopts a zero-tolerance policy for absent and absconder teachers who are not performing their duties. The department has started taking disciplinary actions against such teachers and is making efforts to re-open the closed schools. Besides that, a strict message is being conveyed to all officials, **“Mend your ways and fulfil a responsibly”**

Earlier series of regular district-wise meetings were convened to review a progress of each district. These meetings were chaired by Special Secretary Schools Ms. Aliya Shahid and attended by Director School Education, District Education Officer (Primary/Elementary/ Secondary), Taluka Education Officers (Primary/Elementary/ Secondary) along with Director General, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and representatives from Reform Support Unit. In addition, a regular follow up meetings are now being conducted to gauge progress against the earlier identified issues. These meetings are personally chaired by the Secretary, School Education Department and decisions are taken on spot.

Based on the information collected by monitoring assistants from the field, the department is taking the following corrective measures:

- Training sessions by M & E on rules and procedures regarding disciplinary proceedings against Absconders and Absentee teachers
- Collection of correct information about teachers
- Teacher rationalization based on proposals submitted by district official
- Commencement of disciplinary proceedings against Absconders and Absentee Teachers
- Assignment of SEMIS code to schools



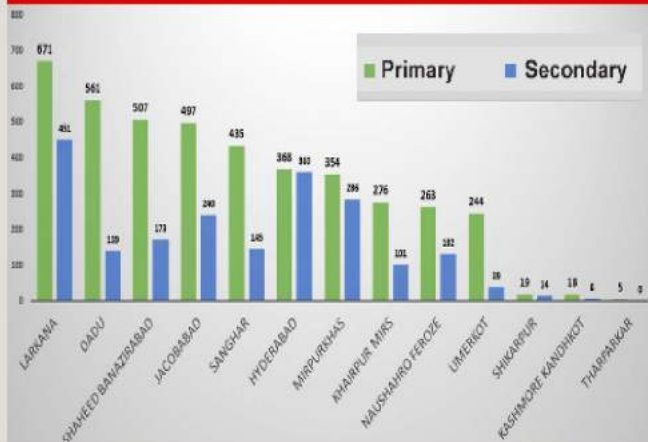
“Our first and the foremost priority right now is to provide children with teachers who can teach. We appreciate everyone’s support in pointing out the gaps in school infrastructure, and will ensure that we spend funds judiciously and provide each student with a school building that they can be proud of.”

JAM MEHTAB HUSSAIN DAHAR
MINISTER FOR EDUCATION SINDH

Absentees of 13 Districts

Who are absentees?

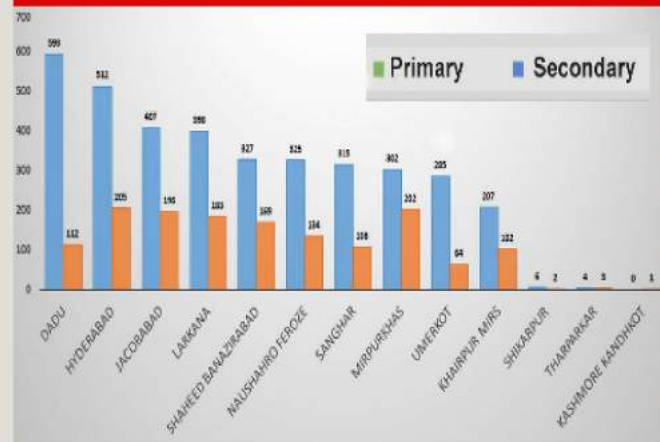
Those teachers who have been verified through bio-metric but have been absent 70 percent of the time during motioning visits.



Absconders of 13 Districts

Who are absconders?

Those teachers who remain absent from a school for a long time and are not traceable despite various efforts by monitoring staff.



UNIVERSAL CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION



School Education Department celebrates Universal Children's Day in Liyari

School Education Department, Government of Sindh, organized an event in connection with celebration of Universal Children's Day at Government Girls' High School Mir Ayub no. 01 (SEMIS Code 408050248) Liyari, Karachi. The event comprised of different parallel interesting sessions for students which included theatre performance, story telling, and interactive discussions on early childhood education, career counselling and awareness-raising session on children's right to education. The purpose of this event was to advocate, promote and celebrate children's right in Sindh by creating a platform for the children where they can develop reading/ writing habits through recreational activities as well as demonstrate their talent.

ACTIVITIES

- Awareness session on child rights & Article 25-A
- Story telling sessions
- Career counselling for students of IX-X
- Interactive sessions for early childhood education students
- Reading games
- Science & Arts
- Learn with play

OUR PARTNERS

- Right to Play
- Oxford University Press
- USAID-Pakistan Reading Project
- USAID-Sindh Reading Project
- RAST fpap / Visionary Foundation Pakistan
- Children Literature Festival
- Rahnuma Foundation
- Strengthening Participatory Organization
- School meal program





European Union mission visits government schools at Kashmore - Kandhkot, District

Members of European Union (EU) mission based in Islamabad visited three government schools in district Kashmore - Kandhkot towards the end of November 2016. The mission was led by Senior Advisor, Mr. Siddique Bhatti. The mission met with officials of School Education Department, Government of Sindh in the district and discussed the progress related to utilization of School Specific Budget, availability of school facilities, teacher rationalization and other on-going reforms and their impact.

European Union is one of the major development partners supporting an implementation of Sindh Education Sector Plan 2014-18. The delegation wanted to see an implementation of European Union funded reforms in Sindh and develop an insight into challenges being faced on ground. The EU is working in a close coordination with Reform Support Unit and is providing pivotal cooperation in improving access to education as well as quality of education.

The EU team members shared their observations with Reform Support Unit officials and discussed steps for further improvement in future.

Sindh Develops Non-Formal Education (NFE) and Alternative Learning Pathways (ALP) Policy



Directorate of Literacy and Non-Formal Education (NFE), School Education Department, Government of Sindh has successfully developed a Non-Formal Education (NFE) and Alternative Learning Pathways (ALP) Policy 2016. The purpose of the policy is to mainstream out of school children and achieve literacy rate among adolescent, young people and adults who, earlier in their lives, had not been able to access to or adequately utilize the opportunities offered by formal education system. At the moment, the policy is in a process of approval.

The policy specifically targets two type of age groups: a) out of school children of primary and post primary age (9-16) b) adult literacy age group (15 - 29).

Directorate of Literacy and Non-Formal Education is initially planning to set up a total of 50 NFE and 100 Adult Literacy centers in five districts of Sindh with 10 NFE and 20 Adult Literacy centers in each district. Overall enrollment target is 4,500 for one year with 30 students in each center. Further, a principle for establishing non-formal basic education centers is that they should not replace or overlap existing schools. A total budget of Rs. 20 million has been approved in this regard.

ABOUT THE POLICY

The policy aims to include out of school children in fast-tracked primary and post primary courses where regular curricula is combined with provision of technical skills.

For youth and adult literacy, it calls for programs that are relevant and embedded in local needs of the participants.

Policy recommends a standard-based approach that not only provides participants with meaningful learning but also certifies their skillsets for further education and employment.

NFE centres to be set up in the following five districts:





AN ATHLETE IN THE MAKING FROM LIYARI

Mehreen Juma Jan is a bold and courageous girl from the Government Girls High School, Mir Ayoob No. 1, Liyari (SEMIS Code 408050248) who dared enter the field of sports. She studies in class IX, unlike other girls of her age in the neighbourhood, she has embarked on played boxing, which has been out of bounds for girls due to social stigma.

“I was always very much interested in sports but did not have the opportunity to do so. Initially I tried playing cricket in school but people found it strange and started heaping a criticism on me. I did not succumb to it but rather switched from cricket to boxing!” -Mehreen

Further, Mehreen told that her father — a foot ball player — inspired her to become a boxer. “My *Abbu* is a great athlete and an amazing father. He really inspires me,” shared Mehreen. She is very enthusiastic and aspires to participate in an international competition. Mehreen goes to the ‘Young Lyari Health Boxing Club’ after school to practise her jabs, hooks and upper cuts for hours. In a short span of six months, she has participated in five different local competitions and has won a silver medal and ‘wining belt’. Mehreen told *The Reformers*, that her dream is to become a professional boxer and represent her school at the national-level, and Pakistan at the International level. “I want to go for Olympics, I do not just wish to participate, I want to win a medal for my nation. Insha’Allah, I will make Pakistan’s name famous.” She added.

MUHAMMAD BILAL EHSAN — MYTH BUSTER

A general perception about students enrolled in government schools is that they are not as good as students in private schools. Hafiz Muhammad Bilal Ehsan, a student of class IX at the Government Boys’ Secondary School, (SEMIS Code-408010186) Younasabad, UC-04, Bababhit, Kemari, District South, Karachi has busted that myth by winning a Karachi-wide quiz competition titled, ‘Challenge to everyone’ which was organized by ‘Helping Hand Trust’.

While sharing a process of selection of students at school level he said “We were informed in the school about the competition. Some students were selected for trials. When the in-school trials took place, three out of six students were able to qualify to represent the school in three different kind of competition; I was selected to represent the school for the quiz competition.”

From district South (Karachi), 14 schools participated and Bilal stood first in the district. He was awarded

the district winning belt’ and qualified for the next round of the competition.

For the Karachi crown, there were competitors from all the six districts. Bilal was the only competitor from a government school, while all others were from the private schools. “We were given three themes by the organizers: ‘The creation of Pakistan’,

BILAL, WINNER OF THE COMPETITION, IS AN INSPIRATION FOR ALL STUDENTS STUDYING IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS.

‘The evolution in the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan’ and



‘Pakistan’s resources’. The competition became very stiff in the end with three competitors. And we were [then] asked the out-of-theme questions” said Bilal.

“I WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE PARTICIPANTS FROM THE PRIVATE SCHOOLS WOULD OUT-CLASS ME IN THE FINAL ROUND BUT IT TURNED OUT A GOOD FIGHT.” HE ADDED.

Expressing happiness over a success of Bilal, Mr. Saleem Ullah Qureshi, Head Master of the school said, “The entire school is proud of him”.



World Bank Team Visits Government Boys Higher Secondary School Church Mission School



A high level World Bank delegation comprising of Chief Executive Officer of the International Bank of Reconstruction & Development (IBRD) and the International Development Association (IDA) Kristalina Georgieva, Vice President for the South Asian Region Annette Dixon, Director, Strategy & Operations Franz R.Drees-Gross, Country Director for Pakistan, Illangovan Patchamuthu and Senior Education Specialist Umbreen Arif visited Church Mission School (CMS) Government Higher Secondary School. The team was briefed on the implementation of ongoing education reforms that Government of Sindh is implementing in the province with the support of World Bank.

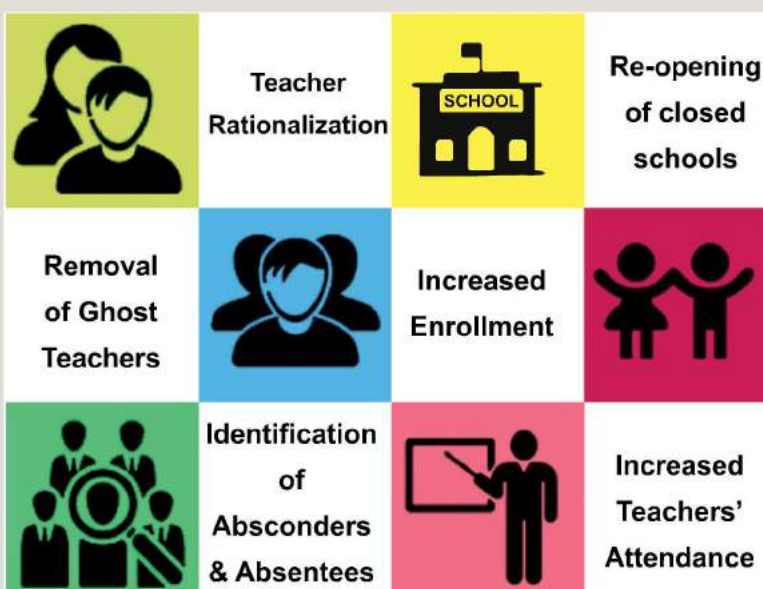
Within a short span of one and half year this historic school has been turned around. Some of the notable alumni include founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, and several cricket legends like Hanif Muhammad, Javed Miandad and Haroon Rashid. The team appreciated the efforts of School Education Department and congratulated CMS management for transforming the school. (SEMIS Code 408060270)

While briefing team members, Secretary, School Education Department Jamal Mustafa Syed said that SED has made significant progress in key reforms across Sindh. This school is one of the best examples that showcases all key education reforms of the Government. Some of the important ongoing reforms include School Consolidation Policy, School infrastructure development, merit based recruitment of teachers, girls' stipend, free distribution of textbooks, teachers' training and school management committee grants. Further, a presentation was given to the delegation about achievements being made through Sindh School Monitoring System –SSMS at school. The SSMS has played a pivotal role in improving overall education governance in Sindh.



SINDH SCHOOL MONITORING SYSTEM (SSMS)

- The SSMS is designed to collect, analyze and disseminate data on key school-level indicators, including student enrollment and teacher presence.
- Data is collected on a monthly basis to allow monitoring of trends and 'real-time' response to identified weaknesses in education system.
- To promote good governance and accountability.
- Data collection is carried out by independent monitors who report directly to the Director General (M&E).



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