

# SEF Stands by Its Decision to Stop Renewal of Selected IELP Schools

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*SEF makes public the photographs and reports of schools with pathetic physical environment whose contracts have not been renewed.*

**Karachi, Sindh, August 18, 2015** –Sindh Education Foundation, Govt. of Sindh believes that accountability breeds strengthened systems in any organization. In order to ensure provision of free quality education across Sindh through a transparent system in its subsidy modelled-programs, SEF has started accountability of its stakeholders across the board.

According to the SEF spokesperson, the Foundation has decided not to renew contracts with selected operators for their non-functional or poor-performing schools. The decision has been made in light of the monitoring reports, periodic warning letters to and meetings with the school operators.

This has resulted in a backlash from the affected school operators who are now spreading false allegations about the SEF as terminating the contracts abruptly without prior notice or warning. Holding petty demonstrations full of emotional sloganeering, they are depicting the non-renewal of school contracts as a step which would affect the Sindh's education adversely. The same has also been given coverage in some Sindhi dailies, too.

SEF is dismayed – and rightly so – at the media's inability to take its account while publishing any story against the Foundation. Responsible journalism entails taking opinion of both the parties so as to let the public decide on whose account to go with.

However, SEF firmly stands by its decision and considers it a blow to the school operators who have made the sacred profession of education as a source of making money illegally. Their false accusations and sloganeering have no base as SEF has solid proofs in form of reports and photographs which show the true picture of the schools, i.e. non-functional.

Where we believe their so-called demonstrations and protests for fake schools will not affect the reputation of the SEF, we do think that this may mislead the public into believing in the stories they make up in their speeches; therefore, in order to educate the masses on the real situation of the schools, the SEF has decided to make public the profiles, reports and quantitative data along with the photographs taken at blind visits which reveal the pathetic and inhuman conditions of the schools.

The front-row school operators in this defamation campaign are Mr. Wajid Laghari (Noujawan Sindh Samaji Sangat), Mr. Abbas Khoso (Integrated Rural and Development Organization), Mr. Shehzado Malik (Arts Foundation), Mr. Bashir Ahmed (Sindh Sujag Sahkar Sangat), and Mr. Rehmatullah Turk (Village Improvement & Social Welfare Association).

They are misleading the media sections on the facts by quoting as many as 900 schools being 'closed' for 'no reason' in a step which would deprive 100,000 students of quality education. They also allege that no prior notice or warning was issued by the SEF before the decision of ceasing renewal of contracts of the schools run by particular operators.

This is quite baseless as contracts of only a hundred and more schools have not been renewed on the grounds of below poor performance, and SEF has sent many warning letters to the aforementioned asking

them to improve on school's physical and educational environment. We have the log and record of all the correspondence and communication carried out with the school operators since signing of the school contracts.

Also, it is also pointless to maintain that children would be affected by discontinuation of renewal of contracts of schools which have actually not been functioning.

SEF maintains that the aforementioned operators are barefaced in claiming to provide quality education in their schools; the physical as well as educational condition of the schools of these operators is piteous and inhuman. No sane mind would like to send their children in schools like these where there is a thin line of difference between the condition of drinking water facility spot and toilets. Many schools were even found to be non-functional at frequent blind visits made by the SEF's M&E teams.

In contrast, they have received millions of rupees in shape of per-child subsidy for the same schools. Details of their individual subsidy can be obtained from the SEF.

We are uploading the photographs of the schools of the mentioned operators which will show you the actual 'structures' which they call schools and in how pathetic condition they are.

SEF feels pleasure in sharing that, with few schools under-performing, we have the majority of well-performing schools in our program which not only have good physical infrastructure, but they are also imparting quality education with commitment from the school operators' side. We are hereby sharing some photographs of some of such schools to build a contrast between the non-functional and the properly functioning schools, both operating under the same subsidy model.

We would also like to share that SEF is covering all areas where these schools were proposed in a new phase of IELP which was announced a couple of months back. As a response, SEF has received an overwhelming response from potential individuals and organizations that are willing to open schools at their desired location in Sindh on legal conditions as set under the IELP's new vision.

