



SEF

# Collective

April 2004 - December 2004



Prof. Anita Ghulam Ali (4th from the left) with other participants at the ceremony in Karachi

With the start of a promising new year, the second issue of the SEF Collective brings to you a crisp update of all that has been keeping the people at the Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) fully engaged. For those who have just begun to know us, the SEF Collective is a newsletter that covers organizational activities, events and projects.

Published by the Sindh Education Foundation, the SEF Collective is available free of charge exclusively on request, so contact SEF and we would be glad to send you a copy of your own.

Wishing you a fulfilling new year!

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## Universal Literacy Day Celebration

The Women's Literacy and Empowerment Program (WLEP), Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) celebrated Universal Literacy Day in Karachi and Sehwan on September 11 and September 14, 2004 respectively. Prof. Anita Ghulam Ali, Managing Director, Sindh Education Foundation, presided over the ceremony at Karachi whereas Prof. Rehana Mughni, Manager, Women's Literacy and Empowerment Program chaired the Sehwan ceremony. About 150 women attended the literacy day ceremony in Karachi and 300 were present at the Sehwan ceremony.

While addressing the ceremony in Karachi, Prof. Anita Ghulam Ali stated that the development of any state is assessed by its literacy rate and SEF has been working hard to enhance this indicator by imparting literacy and education to the communities, especially those that are most ignored by the current educational system. In this regard, SEF has established learning centers which are currently enrolled with 1000 learners. Prof. Anita Ghulam Ali also appreciated the efforts of the learners and their interest in becoming literate. Prof. Rehana Mughni congratulated the learners on attaining basic literacy skills. She also emphasized that the learners should continue to pursue their studies with utmost dedication. Both ceremonies were concluded with the distribution of merit certificates to the successful learners of the first level of Adult Literacy.

## Case Studies

### The Learning Merit

Rajbaee is an enthusiastic and responsible learner of the Women's Learning and Empowerment Center in Goth Ali Murad Panjotha. She has been attending the Center daily and her brother insisted on knowing how much she had learned in her classes. To assess if the Center actually made a difference, he asked Rajbaee to make a grocery list as he was going to the market. Rajbaee, without delay, put together a list of all the grocery items that they required. When her brother reviewed the list, he was both delighted and astonished, not only because he could not find any mistakes but because he realized that Rajbaee wrote much better than he expected. Rajbaee's brother is now very appreciative of SEF's Women's Learning & Empowerment Centers which provide much deserved learning opportunities to the women of his community.

### A Joint Struggle (Chashma Goth)

The Women's Literacy and Empowerment Program's (WLEP) continuing endeavors were recently brought to the forefront when the team facilitated the resolution of a community dispute in Chashma Goth. The dispute concerned the equitable distribution of scarce water resources, owing to which there was a gradual decline in the enrolment of the Center. On investigation by the WLEP team and the Goth Nari Sangat (GNS)\*, it was found that the community in Chashma is settled on two different sections of land, each on separate levels. Due to excessive pumping by the settlement which resided on higher ground, there was a rapid depletion of water resources of the community which was settled on a lower level. The women settled on the lower level had no other option but to fetch water from the settlement on the upper level. Given the inconvenience and difficulty of the task and the time it took to fetch water, women from the lower settlement were unable to attend the Center, in which women from both the communities are enrolled as learners, thereby causing a decline in overall attendance.

To resolve this issue, the WLEP team and the GNS facilitated a meeting between the communities. The women played an active role in this meeting. The two communities, on learning the facts, reached a compromise. It was mutually decided that the equitable distribution of water would be ensured by making certain that both communities would have exclusive access to water on alternate days. As a result of this arrangement women from both settlements have been attending the Center regularly.

This episode of events represents the role educational and development interventions play as a vehicle for reclaiming indigenous and traditional ways of settling conflicts within the community. It also clearly demonstrates the influence of literacy on the learners beyond the learning centers.

*\* a core group comprising women learners working towards center management and community development.*

### "Khushhali ka Safar" A Woman's Story of Self-reliance

Khushhali ka Safar (A Journey towards Prosperity) is a functional literacy book produced by the Women's Literacy and Empowerment Program (WLEP). The story is conceived and written by Prof. Rehana Mughni, Manager, WLEP and is especially written for functional literacy programs. The story revolves around the idea of women entrepreneurship and self reliance. It speaks of a woman, Amina, who is struggling to make both ends meet. Her husband, who is the sole earner for their family, works as a caretaker of an orchard. Amina, with the assistance of a woman entrepreneur, takes a brave step to start her own bee-keeping business. The story takes the reader through Amina's journey towards self reliance and the challenges she faces on the way to success.



A glimpse from "Khushhali ka Safar"

The story is narrated in a very simple manner and the text is complemented with several illustrations. The book will hopefully prove to be a useful resource for women who have acquired the skill to read simple sentences. It will help them enhance their language skills as well as provide guidelines to those searching for ways to initiate local entrepreneurship.

## A Policy Seminar on Early Childhood Education (ECE)



Dr. Hameeda Khuhro, Minister for Education, Sindh, reviewing the material on SEF's stall at the ECE seminar

A Policy Seminar on Early Childhood Education (ECE) was organized by the Department of Education & Literacy, Government of Sindh in collaboration with United Nations Educational, Science and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations International Children's Educational Fund (UNICEF) and Teachers Resource Centre (TRC). The two day seminar was held on November 29 - 30, 2004 at a local hotel. Dr. Hameeda Khuhro, Minister for Education, Sindh presided over the ceremony. The purpose of the seminar was to increase awareness regarding ECE amongst Executive District Officers (EDO) - Education and District Nazims with the aim of promoting ECE at the district level. The seminar highlighted the need and significance of ECE interventions and reviewed the current situation of ECE efforts within Pakistan, specifically in Sindh. The seminar helped identify the disparities between policy and practices within the field of ECE and presented possible solutions for effective implementation of ECE efforts. SEF, due to its efforts and expertise in the area of ECE was invited to participate and share its experiences. In this regard, Prof. Anita Ghulam Ali, Managing Director, Sindh Education Foundation and Mr. Mashhood Rizvi of Sindh Education Foundation participated in the opening ceremony of the seminar. SEF also setup a stall to display the monitoring & evaluation tools and awareness raising material on ECE which was developed by SEF under the Releasing Confidence & Creativity (RCC) Program. Mr. Aziz Kabani of Sindh Education Foundation made a presentation on 'Monitoring & Evaluation Framework for Early Childhood Education' on the second day of the seminar.

## Partnership Formed with Private Schools



Chief Guest, Makhdoom Rafiq-uz-Zaman, Zila Nazim, addressing the participants at the ceremony

Earlier this year the Support to Private Education Institutes Program (SPEIP) team was involved in conducting district level orientation sessions in Hyderabad, Badin, Thatta, Dadu, and Khairpur. These sessions were attended by representatives from the Department of Education & Literacy, Government of Sindh, school owners, principals, teachers, and parents. They were briefed about the Sindh Education Foundation's operations, the phenomenal growth of private sector educational institutions in Pakistan, objectives and methodology of SPEIP, the nature of technical and

financial support which would be extended to them and the desired outcomes of SPEIP's intervention.

All stakeholders took keen interest in the project. Most private schools showed willingness towards partnering with Sindh Education Foundation under the SPEIP program. The schools were then invited for a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony.

The MoU signing ceremony was conducted in two districts, Hyderabad and Khairpur in which certificates of partnership were also distributed. As per the program design 68 schools signed the agreement for 3 years and 49 schools signed the agreement for 2 years. This agreement bonds SEF and the partners to work together for achieving the objectives of SPEIP.

The Hyderabad ceremony was held on June 28, 2004. The MoU's were signed with 57 schools from district Hyderabad, 12 schools from District Thatta, 12 schools from District Badin and 12 schools from District Dadu. Makhdoom Rafiq-uz-Zaman, Zila Nazim, was the chief guest of the ceremony. He appreciated the efforts of SEF in the field of education. Mr. Mashhood Rizvi of SEF further briefed the participants about SEF's initiatives and the SPEIP intervention. The briefing was followed with a highly interactive question and answer session conducted by Mr. Rizvi.

The MoU signing ceremony of District Khairpur was held on June 30, 2004, where 24 schools signed the agreement. Mr. M. Abdullah Abbasi of SEF represented the Foundation at the ceremony. Ms. Naseem Aijaz of the Department of Education, Khairpur, addressed the participants regarding her expectations from SPEIP and was positive about the change that SPEIP would bring to the traditional school system. Mr. Tahseen Ahmed, DoE Planning, congratulated SEF for initiating this program.

## SEF Larkana Office



The re-established SEF office at Larkana

To further strengthen operations under its Education Support Network (ESN) Program the Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) has re-established its regional office in district Larkana. Nearby districts are served and supported through this office. SEF's ESN program is geared towards creating strong linkages amongst all stakeholders at the district and local level especially with the functionaries of the local government. These linkages are being developed with the purpose of training and capacity building, resource mobilization and, most importantly, reviving closed schools through community ownership and participation.

## TCS's CONNECT FORUM

Courtesy: TCS Connect



Mashhood Rizvi of Sindh Education Foundation was invited as a speaker for a panel discussion organized by the TCS CONNECT FORUM on the subject of "Promises and Challenges of Public-Private Partnership". Mashhood Rizvi is a regular guest speaker at such forums. The panelists comprised professionals that evenly powered the thought-provoking debate. They were: Mr. Aslam Sanjrani, Chief Secretary, Sindh, Barrister Shahida Jamil, former Federal Law Minister, economist Akbar Zaidi, Sadiqa Salahuddin, Executive Director, Indus Resource Centre, Mashhood Rizvi and Leon Menezes, General Manager HR, Shell Pakistan, . This intellectually energetic discussion was moderated by Ramiz Allowala, a freelance management consultant.

Mashhood Rizvi stressed that the revival of the public sector and provision of services to the masses through the public sector should be placed at the heart of any public-private partnership. He also expressed concern over the lack (at times complete absence) of social responsibility of large corporations which has led to abject poverty, hunger and other socially destructive consequences. His beliefs, although viewed critically by many, were well appreciated by most of the panelists, particularly Mr. Sanjrani, and other guests.



## SEF's Professional Retreat



Ms. Zubaida Jalal, former Federal Minister for Education and the SEF team

The Sindh Education Foundation's (SEF) strategic focus is shifting from being just an initiator of educational programs or a conventional education and development organization to being a dynamic and proactive agency, engaging in possibilities of addressing conceptual/intellectual, capacity and innovation gaps in the education sector. The need for such a transformation resulted from the changing role of the organization. To keep alive the creativity, innovation and intellectual thought in the field of education SEF organized a two week 'Professional Retreat' for its staff.

The professional retreat was organized from May 31, 2004 to June 12, 2004 at the Institute of Business Management (IoBM). All employees of SEF, including the support staff and drivers, attended the event. The Retreat was inaugurated by Mr. Ghulam Ali Shah Pasha, Former Secretary for Education, Sindh. Ms. Zubaida Jalal, former Federal Minister for Education, and Ms. Baela Raza Jamil, Former Advisor to the Federal Minister for Education, were invited as guest speakers.

The main purpose of the Retreat was to redefine the vision, objectives and strategies of the organization through a collective and critical reflection on the Foundation's past experiences and its current program portfolios. The design of the Retreat was such that it allowed space and opportunity for intellectual discourse on unlearning and relearning concepts, and paradigms of education and development. The goal of the Retreat was two pronged: firstly to initiate a discourse on education and development issues facilitated by a team of renowned educationists and secondly to complement the intellectualization process with capacity enhancement of all SEF team members for better program conceptualization, implementation and evaluation.

## Intellectual Development Programs

During the Professional Retreat, SEF invited a team of renowned educationists for sharing their experiences and knowledge, facilitating in the process of intellectualization of SEF's education and development framework and helping the program teams in their re-envisioning exercises. The most prominent of them were Mr. Munir Fasheh, Director, Arab Education Forum, Harvard University and Ustad Yusef Progler, Associate Professor of Humanities, Social and Behavior Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences, Zayed University.



From left to right: Mr. Munir Fasheh, Prof. Anita Ghulam Ali, Ms. Zubaida Jalal, former Federal Minister for Education and Ustad Yusef Progler

Intellectuals from Pakistan included Mr. Qais Anwar, Save the Children (UK), Mr. Shahid Siddiqui, Ghulam Ishaq Khan (GIK) University, Mr. Wasif Rizvi, Aga Khan Education Service, Pakistan (AKES, P), Mr. Raziq Fahim, Institute of Development Studies, Pakistan (IDSP) and Mr. Asim Sajjad, Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS).

## Munir Fasheh Reflects on his Visit to Pakistan



Mr. Munir Fasheh

"What fascinated me most in Pakistan were the people I met and the way SEF works. First the people. The beauty, which I felt in the people I interacted with and in the culture I experienced during that week in Pakistan, was manifested in the sincerity, warmth, politeness, enthusiasm, commitment, attentiveness, and the level of energy, dynamism and openness of the minds. It was also manifested in women's clothes, both in colors and styles (I told the group that their clothes would put the designers in Paris and Milan to shame!).

On his time spent with the SEF team Munir observes: "... what was extremely unique about the group are aspects that go beyond what can be measured, beyond the technical, beyond the outcomes... aspects such as spirit, vision, faith, continuous searching, commitment, caring, honesty and sincerity... It is very rare in today's world to have a group or an institute/ foundation (especially related to education and development) having a president with the spirit and vision that Anita has. I can't think of one person in any Arab country (and I have visited many) who presides over an educational foundation and who has the wisdom, clarity, commitment and warmth that Anita has. I hope that our dreams and work will continue to nurture one another."

Mr. Munir Fasheh is the Director of the Arab Education Forum, Harvard University.

## Skill Development Programs

SEF organized a number of skill enhancement workshops during the Retreat. The workshops conducted were on Social Research, Project Development & Management, Social Marketing, Basic and Advanced Computer Skills, Communication Skills, Administration Skills, Event Management and "Reflection & Action" - a technique that induces critical thinking of one's objectives and actions. The trainings were conducted by NGO Resource Center (NGORC) and the faculty of College of Business Management (CBM). Mr. Rameez Allawalla, an expert on leadership, team building, ethics and trust models also conducted sessions for the SEF staff on some of these areas. At the end of the Retreat, certificates were distributed amongst all the SEF staff members.

## Post Retreat Activities

After the Retreat, all program teams underwent reflective exercises. They revisited their goals, objectives and strategies, and planned program activities. As an outcome of the Retreat and reflective exercises, all programs have undergone transformation in terms of their content and methodologies and are striving to adopt innovative and indigenous approaches for education and development in Sindh.

## New Premises for the Child Development Center

The Sindh Education Foundation's Child Development Center (CDC) is located in Sher Shah, Colony UC-7 of Kemari Town. The colony is located in the proximity of the SITE industrial area. The abundance of factories and businesses functioning in the locality is the foremost reason why many working children live there. Since January 15, 2000, the CDC has been running in a five room premises in which educational and recreational facilities are provided to more than 200 working and street children.



A classroom session at the new CDC premises

An increasingly popular request has been to expand the CDC to provide for more educational and vocational training. A new center, which has recently been rented to meet these demands, will begin working in January 2005 and will have additional facilities like computer labs, and vocational training labs. Financial support will be provided to children who are innovative and show entrepreneurial skills. The CDC will have facilities to organize programs for parents as part of adult education and reclaim cultural social values. Facilities present at the current CDC along with many others will be provided at the new center. These facilities include: filtered water, lockers, audio/video equipment, computers, a library, abacus/charts, games and hot water for children during winter. Two doctors from a Government Basic Health Unit are also providing services by taking good care of the health and immunization of the children.

## Universal Literacy Day Celebration

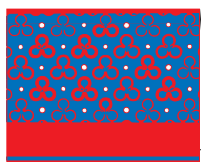
Universal Literacy Day was celebrated on September 8, 2004 at the Child Development Center (CDC), Sher Shah. 27 mothers and children were invited to attend the ceremony. Such an audience was most appropriate to discuss the importance of education for boys and girls and the role of the mother in her child's education and development.



Children at the CDC celebrating Universal Literacy Day

The program began with recitation from the Holy Quran. The children then presented a short play which emphasized the importance of education especially for working children. Another play was presented which focused on the role of mothers in children's education, especially for daughters. Mothers present at the event expressed their appreciation of the high standard and kind of education being given at the Center.

## SEF Greeting Cards



The Sindh Education Foundation has developed a set of attractive greeting cards which can be used for any occasion. A pack of five cards are available at nominal price of Rs.50 only. The proceeds of the sale will go towards providing educational opportunities for children in rural areas of Sindh. The cards can be purchased from the Marketing, Advocacy & Publications Unit, Sindh Education Foundation.

## Establishment of Quality Assurance Resource Center



Several countries have conducted studies to understand the factors that have affected the quality of education. These studies tend to blame the school system and educational policies that focus more on quantity – at the expense of quality – in order to enhance literacy rates. Recognizing the need to improve its declining quality of education the Government of Pakistan, through its national educational policy (1998-2010), has placed a major thrust on improving the quality of elementary education in order to maintain an essential equilibrium between quantity and quality. As per the national educational policy (1998-2010) the Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) in collaboration with the Department of Education & Literacy, Govt. of Sindh is establishing a Quality Assurance Resource Center (QARC) that aims at developing a quality assurance system in education that will enable support to good schooling and learning practices both in the public & private sector of education.

The QARC will devise a meticulous Quality Assessment Framework that will allow the categorization of the schools on merit and on the basis of their holistic qualitative performance. QARC will also develop a Quality Assessment Guide in order to influence policy decisions at provincial and national levels. Such a guide will allow parents to assess for themselves the right type and kind of schooling for their children.

The QARC will soon open membership for public and private schools across Sindh. The support which will be offered to member schools will comprise capacity building measures, institutional material, access to QARC computer lab and library and the formation of linkages with renowned educational institutes. If you are interested in becoming a member of the QARC please contact SEF for more details. Interested individuals can also log on to the QARC website – [www.qarc.org.pk](http://www.qarc.org.pk).

## Acceleration of Girls' Education (AGE) Project



Meena and her parrot - mascots of the AGE Project

In Pakistan, particularly in Sindh, girls continue to face discrimination with regard to access to education. Out of 40,121 government primary schools in Sindh only 6,348 cater to girls' education - an appalling and meager 15%. 'Acceleration of Girls' Education' (AGE) is an initiative of the Department of Education & Literacy, Govt. of Sindh and UNICEF, in collaboration with the Sindh Education

Foundation, geared towards increasing opportunities for girls' education in Sindh. Its underlining objectives are as follows:

**To make majority of the parents in target areas aware and convinced of the importance of girls' education:** Under this project a mass level media campaign has been developed and implemented to increase parents' awareness regarding the importance of girls' education.

**To develop systems for greater coordination and resource mobilization for girls' education:** Where the credibility of the public education sector is at stake, it is indeed the responsibility of the private sector and civil society to help improve the conditions of public schools. It is estimated that 42% of girls' government schools in Sindh have no provision for drinking water and 50% have no toilets.

To develop a support system to reverse this abysmal situation the project will aim at launching a Sindh Alliance for Girls' Education (SAGE) which will consist of members from the government, private sector and civil society. The SAGE mission will be to take direct actions to support the girl child and her quest for equal and quality access to education. For more information regarding the Sindh Alliance for Girls' Education log on to [www.age.org.pk](http://www.age.org.pk).

The Foundation will be undertaking a rapid donor mapping study in the districts of Thatta, Khairpur, Sanghar & Mirpurkhas under the AGE project. This study will provide the Government of Sindh with a synopsis of prevailing donor support towards girls' education in Sindh.

## Meeting with the Chief Minister, Sindh

Prof. Anita Ghulam Ali along with Dr. Hameeda Khuhro, Minister for Education, Sindh, had a debriefing with Dr. Arbab Ghulam Rahim, Chief Minister, Sindh. The Chief Minister appreciated the efforts of the Sindh Education Foundation in general and Prof. Anita Ghulam Ali in particular for supporting the cause of education in Sindh. He also expressed his desire for a detailed orientation of SEF's portfolio in the near future.

## Meeting with the Chief Secretary, Sindh



Mr. Sanjrani and Prof. Anita Ghulam Ali

Mr. Aslam Sanjrani, Chief Secretary, Sindh, visited the Sindh Education Foundation. The purpose of the visit was to address SEF's staff, particularly the program managers, regarding the possibilities of reviving and revitalizing the public sector. Mr. Sanjrani praised the efforts of SEF particularly the Adopt-A-School Program (AASP); AASP is geared towards mobilizing the private sector and civil society in improving the physical condition and the quality of public schools. 127 government schools have been adopted under this program.

## SEF Distributes Computers to Private Schools



SPEIP team members inspecting the computers

The Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) has successfully completed the distribution of computers to 117 private schools in five districts of Sindh. Pentium 4 computers with essential peripherals have been distributed to private schools, which are partners of SEF under the Support to Private Educational Institutes Program (SPEIP). SPEIP is an innovative program of SEF under the Government's Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) which strives for institutional development and quality advancement support to low cost private schools in areas of teachers' development, school management and Information & Communication Technology (ICT) by developing a School Improvement Program for each school.

## Fellowship Schools Receive a Donation

The Fellowship Schools Program (FSP) was generously donated a sum of Rs. 200,000 by Ms. Sirajunnissa Issani to be used for infrastructural support for Fellowship Schools of Hala cluster. There are 19 Fellowship Schools in Hala and with an enrolment of 1455 boys and girls. The total number of teachers is 54. Such philanthropy can go a long way in assisting the sustainability of SEF's community based schools

## Lever Brothers Pakistan Donates Computers to SEF

Lever Brothers, Pakistan donated 10 computers to the Sindh Education Foundation's Child Labor Education Program (CLEP). The computers will be used to set-up a computer lab in the new campus of the Child Development Center (CDC). More working and street children will benefit thanks to Lever Brothers generosity.



## Workshop on Identifying and Developing Strategies for Addressing Gender Biases & Disparity in Primary and Secondary Education Curriculum and Textbooks

A three-day workshop on "Identifying and Developing Strategies for Addressing Gender Biases & Disparity in Primary and Secondary Education Curriculum and Textbooks" was held from September 27 to September 29, 2004 at a local hotel in Karachi. The workshop was organized by the Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) and Provincial Institute of Teachers Education (PITE) with the collaboration of UNESCO, Islamabad. Dr. Hameeda Khuhro, Minister for Education, Sindh, was the chief guest of the workshop.



From Left to Right: Prof. Anita Ghulam Ali, Dr. Hameeda Khuhro and other speakers

Dr. Hameeda Khuhro expressed her concern at the shocking state of affairs regarding the existing syllabus. She promised that in the next year determined efforts would be made to revise the syllabus to address all gender biases.

Prof. Anita Ghulam Ali, Managing Director, SEF, stated that the struggle against discrimination and biases on the basis of gender has been raised to a new level by publicly discussing the issue. She was also of the view that the gender bias incorporated in the textbooks was due not to the action of any particular individual or group, but rather to the mindset of society. She also warned that achieving gender equality in the educational institutions should be an on-going task which will require monitoring and reporting of the evolving situation in education initiated by the reforms instituted by government time to time.

The workshop commenced with a presentation by Dr. Munawar Mirza, winner of UNESCO award 2004, on "Gender Analysis of Primary School Textbooks in Punjab". She stressed the need of a planned and conscious writing on women with the realization that they were contributing to the economic and social development of the country. She said that with regards to characters in the text books there were merely 26% female characters.

Dr. Raana Syed, Chief, Field Office, UNICEF, in her presentation on "Accelerating Girls Education in Sindh: Challenges and Possibilities" pointed out that the restricted movement for girls, shortage of female teachers and overall illiteracy were some of the challenges to promoting education of females.

## Six-Day Workshop on Teacher Development



Mr. Wasif Rizvi presenting a certificate to a participant of the workshop

As part of the need for developing "teachers as critical thinkers" to implement quality education and school development initiatives a six-day workshop on "Teacher Development" was conducted. It was held from October 4 to October 9, 2004 at the Quality Assurance Resource Center (QARC) Office. The workshop was conducted by the Aga Khan Education Service, Pakistan (AKES, P) and was attended by 26 participants including associates, officers and field staff members of SEF.

The main premise of the training was to learn about teacher development and to identify potential mentor teachers and master trainers for SEF's programs by introducing concepts like teacher's beliefs, peer learning, adult learning and learning circles. At the end of the workshop, certificates and souvenirs were distributed amongst the participants and facilitators by Prof. Anita Ghulam Ali, Managing Director, SEF and Wasif Rizvi, General Manager, AKES, P (South). The training team from AKES, P comprised Ms. Yasmeen Bano, Ms. Sajida, Ms. Ameen Kanji, Ms. Muneera Shams, Ms. Meenaz, Ms. Huma and Ms. Afshan Razzaq.

## Workshop Conducted by the Family Education Services

A workshop was conducted and organized by the Family Education Services on October 2, 2004. Two of SEF's employee's represented the Foundation. Experts from Italy and Holland presented teaching methods and skills for capacity building of the teachers in Family Education Services. The use of video/documentaries to highlight various teaching methods proved a worthwhile and informative experience for SEF's representatives.

The workshop focused on the characteristics a teacher should possess, the skills he/she ought to employ to keep his/her students motivated, and the importance of exuding inspiration and enthusiasm in the classroom. The workshop also shared with the participants the skill to create progress charts to evaluate their own teaching methods. It was also stressed that teachers play a vital role for the children in enhancing their knowledge by providing them with an environment in which they can build their confidence and improve their social skills.

## Training Conducted by Idara-e-Taleem-o-Agahi

In the light of continuous expansion of SEF's operations, it is imperative that people engage in relentless capacity building and skills enhancement efforts. As part of this initiative a six-day training was conducted from October 25 to October 30, 2004 at SEF's QARC Office. The workshop was conducted by Idara-e-Taleem-o-Agahi (ITA), Lahore. ITA works to "promote education as a comprehensive process for human and social transformation".

The essence of the training was to design a framework on "Quality and Institutional Development Capacity Building". Discussions were held to explore the meaning of school improvement and effectiveness. The training was attended by 34 participants of SEF including program managers, assistant managers and co-coordinators and program associates.

The facilitators from ITA comprised Ms. Raheela Naz, Ms. Sitara Zaidi and Mr. Tahir Tabassum.

## Releasing Confidence & Creativity Program Phase II



Releasing Confidence & Creativity (RCC) Program is an Early Childhood Development (ECD) Program sponsored and supported by the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) & USAID. The program has entered its second phase comprising two and a half years, ending November 2007. This phase is going to take the learning of phase I one step further by responding to needs on the ground, consolidating and expanding program gains, seeking to take advantage of new opportunities, and encouraging innovation in new ways. Through a reorganization of the previous phase, program objectives and addition of several emerging opportunities, a new framework has been devised for phase II of RCC. During its second phase the program will expand its implementation to 157 schools across Sindh and Balochistan.

The overall program goal of RCC phase II is to **“improve the quality of learning and teaching during the early years in select government primary schools and their surrounding communities in Pakistan”**.

The Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) serves as a technical support agency under the RCC program, working on the following areas:

- (1) Monitoring & Evaluation.
- (2) Research.
- (3) Awareness-Raising Material Development.
- (4) Development of ECD Magazine & Management of ECDPAK Website.
- (5) Advocacy.

## SEF Participates in E-Learning Conference in Jordan

Gulrukh Razi of SEF's Adopt-A-School Program attended a conference on E-Learning which was held in Amman, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, from July 5 to July 11, 2004. This conference was organized by the International Education and Resource Network (iEARN).

iEARN ([www.iEARN.org](http://www.iEARN.org)) is an international organization with its head quarters in America. It is a non-profit global telecommunications community of over 7,000 primary and secondary schools and youth organizations in over 109 countries, making it the largest online K-12 network in the world. The iEARN, founded in 1988, strives to enable young people to use the internet and other technologies to engage in collaborative projects. These projects enhance learning and address issues of global importance. iEARN Pakistan became a member of this global community in 1999 and since then several Pakistani schools nationwide have joined iEARN and hundreds have participated in iEARN online collaborative projects.

### Partnership with iEARN Pakistan

iEARN has been working in the public schools in collaboration with SEF's Adopt-A-School Program (AASP) since 2002. To date they have collaborated with SEF in two different projects:

- **'BRIDGE' (Connecting youth through the internet)** where computer labs with internet access were set up in several public schools.
- **'YES' (Youth Exchange & Study Program)** through which selected students were given a scholarship under which they are enrolled for a full academic year of High School study in the US. These participating students will act as cultural ambassadors to their American host communities, becoming invaluable resources for Americans, whose contact with YES students will provide them with an opportunity to learn about the rich and vibrant cultures of students' native countries. SEF's AASP had been assigned the job of selecting students from its network. After going through a vigorous exercise three girls from three adopted government schools were finally selected along with thirty other children from private schools all over Pakistan. The students are now enrolled in High Schools in the U.S.A and are doing exceptionally well.

### SEF's Revamped Website



[www.sef.org.pk](http://www.sef.org.pk)

SEF's website ([www.sef.org.pk](http://www.sef.org.pk)) is now online with an all-new look. After going through significant face-lifts and revamping, the website is now an all essential resource for SEF's partner NGOs/CBOs, other educational and social sector organizations with information regarding the range of SEF's activities. Also available on the website are electronic versions of SEF's wide range of publications

Improvements and enhancements are continuously being made to the website. So keep visiting us online to know more about what's new at SEF.