



Collective

October 2006



Mr. Mohammedmian Soomro, Honorable Chairman Senate, Government of Pakistan and Prof. Anita Ghulam Ali (S.I) at the Symposium on 'Rediscovering Childhood'

“We must come together to promote the right of every child to his or her childhood and to work for better living conditions for children who are vulnerable and are at risk.”

Mohammedmian Soomro,
Honorable Chairman Senate,
Government of Pakistan

Symposium on Rediscovering Childhood

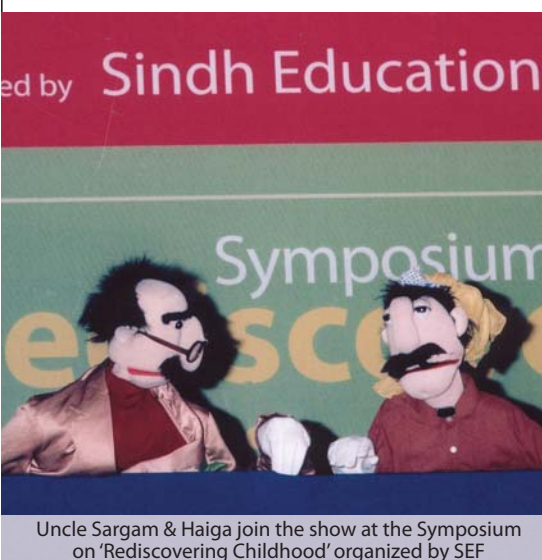
April 3-6, 2006, Karachi: Around 40 experts and practitioners on early childhood, schooling, media, and development assembled together for a 3 day international symposium and a day-long conference organized by the Sindh Education Foundation and supported by the Aga Khan Foundation, USAID and Catco Kids Inc.

The event was organized to deliberate over the enormous challenges children are facing in today's time and age. Children and their childhood are suffering from the onslaught of media, education and consumerism. They are seen as defenseless and powerless by the market of schooling, advertisements and are targeted relentlessly round the clock.

The 3 day symposium, which began on April 3, 2006 at a local hotel in Karachi, was entitled 'Rediscovering Childhood', the purpose of which was to reclaim childhood from the challenges it faces in today's world and remind all the participants of what childhood is ideally meant to be. The symposium was inaugurated by Dr. Adibul Hasan Rizvi, Director, Sindh Institute of Urology & Transplantation. Dr. Hamida Khuhro, Minister for Education, Government of Sindh participated in the symposium as its Chief Guest. Mr. Mohammedmian Soomro, Honorable Chairman Senate of Pakistan concluded the first day of the symposium and stated that there is a dire need to create awareness of how children from all social strata are suffering from the overload and onslaught of media, education and technology. Chairman Senate urged individuals and organizations who were present to join forces to achieve a meaningful nurturing environment for children. Ms. Saadia Chaudry, Advisor to Chief Minister, Government of Punjab participated in the conference as the Chief Guest.



Dr. Hamida Khuhro, Minister for Education, Govt. of Sindh addresses the participants as the Chief Guest at the Symposium on 'Rediscovering Childhood'



Uncle Sargam *steals the show*

By far the most enjoyable part of the symposium on Rediscovering Childhood was the performance by Uncle Sargam and his group of zany puppets. Each puppet, with his/her distinctive character formed during years on television delighted the crowds with their witty and comical critique on childhood, education, society as a whole and its peculiarities. The combination of puppets and live actors proved an excellent way of entertaining and bringing forth the lighter side of society's role in nurturing children.

Children from Sindh Education Foundation's various program & schools were also present to watch the puppet show. The show had an interactive end as all children joined in with the puppets shouting slogans for education.

The man behind Uncle Sargam, the famed Farooq Qaiser, has been entertaining viewers for more than 20 years. His puppets have also helped him win the coveted Pride of Performance.

Uncle Sargam & Haiga join the show at the Symposium on 'Rediscovering Childhood' organized by SEF



Ms. Fatima Surriya Bajiya, Advisor to Chief Minister on Education, Govt. of Sindh



Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Moinuddin Haider, Former Governor of Sindh



Mr. Amar Jaleel, a popular columnist, writer & critic

“Significant resources must be mobilized to allow every child to enjoy his/her childhood and to shape children’s spaces in the public sphere in a manner that every child grows up to be a dynamic member of the society,”

Dr. Hamida Khuhro,
Honorable Minister for Education,
Government of Sindh

The 3 day international level symposium was divided into the following four essential thematic areas:

- Social Institutions & Childhood
- Media, Technology & Childhood
- Development & its Challenges to Childhood
- Shaping of Childhood in the Age of Globalization

The first theme which focused on families and schools as the more vital social institutions associated with childhood, sought to evaluate the changing trends of society that has upset the roles families and schools have to ideally play to ensure a happier and healthier world for children. The session emphasized that rather than trying to control and direct children's learning, parents and teachers should give them opportunities to develop their natural artistic, poetic, dramatic, and linguistic capacities to form deep bonds with the natural world.

The second theme concentrated on the consequences of today’s media and rapidly changing technology on the innocence of childhood. Children have been made the innocent targets of aggressive marketing schemes and consumerism, violent TV viewing and a purely individualistic ideology all of which combine to usurp the role once assumed by family, home and community.

On the third day of the symposium, eminent academics of national and international repute, took on the devastating outcome that globalization and rapid economic development has had on the upbringing of children. They highlighted today’s educational and economic systems that are shifting children from selfless cooperation to cutthroat competition and are leading towards a society which does not value culture, traditions, creativity, morality and intergenerational and indigenous knowledge systems.

To conclude the symposium a day long conference was aimed at engaging the decision makers and policy makers in a dialogue to review challenges and opportunities for Early Childhood Development in Pakistan.

Log on to www.ecdpak.com for more details

Symposium on **Raising Capable Children**

Following the symposium on Rediscovering Childhood, the Aga Khan Foundation organized a symposium on Raising Capable Children in the picturesque valley of Gilgit. A rich group of speakers from Pakistan and all over the world were invited to this symposium to contribute to the group of participant’s theoretical and applicable knowledge. The symposium was held at the Karakoram International University from May 22-24, 2006.

The message at the symposium was clear: Children are our future and if we do not invest in them now, we will lose out in terms of a better tomorrow. A child needs a loving family, affectionate teachers, a clean physical environment, access to health care and education which nurtures the love of learning inherent in each child. SEF participated in all the sessions of the symposium and was significantly involved in organizing and managing the event.

Log on to www.ecdpak.com for more details.



Ms. Wendy Griffin, of the Aga Khan Foundation - Pakistan, hosts the conference in Gilgit

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING FACTS:

- ➡ Almost 85% of the world's traffic accident victims are in low- and middle-income countries.
- ➡ Pedestrians and cyclists together account for almost 65% of traffic deaths in low and middle income countries. Over a third of those victims are children.
- ➡ WHO estimates that by 2020, road crash injuries will be the third-highest threat to public health.



Source: World Health Organization

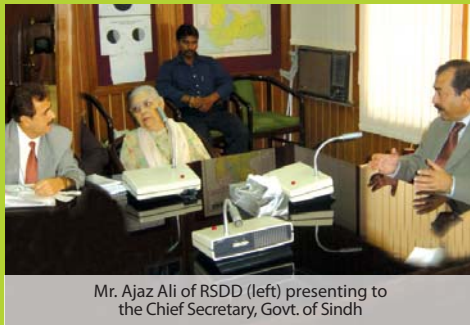
ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM

Supported by the Road Sector Development Directorate (RSDD) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) with a budget of 10.2 million rupees, the Road Safety Education Program (RSEP) aims at imparting road safety education primarily to 10,000 children across 100 selected community based and government schools of Sindh from August 2006 to July 2007. The program aims at inculcating road safety education amongst students, teachers, parents, community members and traffic officials. The program was formally launched by Mr. Fazlur Rehman, Chief Secretary, Government of Sindh on June 22, 2006 in an event which marked the contract signing of the project between the Govt. of Sindh and Sindh Education Foundation (SEF). SEF is the implementing agency of the project providing logistical and technical support in areas of training and capacity building of stakeholders and advocacy and awareness raising. SEF will aim at creating an effective road safety education model, applicable for duplication across the country.



Mr. Fazlur Rehman, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Sindh & Prof. Anita Ghulam Ali sign their commitment to Road Safety

A series of interactive workshops were conducted in the Jamshoro, Dadu, Larkana and Khairpur districts of Sindh during August-September 2006 to engage local government officials in providing support for the implementation of the project and to channel more resources & efforts towards the initiative. Local Government Officials from various departments including education, traffic and highway authorities, health and emergency services and media were also present on the occasion. A working session was also held in which targeted schools for the project were mapped and road networks, emergency services and major issues that children and elders face while using roads in the area were identified and discussed. Roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder group towards ensuring road safety were shared and an agreement was also signed between SEF and the district governments.



Mr. Ajaz Ali of RSDD (left) presenting to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Sindh

Reviving Kachehri Tradition

Kachehri was once a pivotal component of the rural setup that has become almost extinct. The *kachehri* is a gathering of village residents where they are free to discuss everything from everyday problems to local and international news. This assembly of people is a custom that has imbued values such as community ownership, reverence for elders, voicing one's opinions and the notion to critically analyze issues.

Looking at the importance of *kachehri*s, the Community Supported Schools Program (CSSP) organized 4 such *kachehri*s in the villages of Kamber Kot, Dodo Kambeer Salar, Ali Khan Rin, and Mitho Jhital, in order to revive the tradition. The setting proved informative for participants in terms of messages coming through Shah Latif's poetry, theater, traditional folk songs, and music. Traditional poets called *Sughr* were the key participants along with personalities from the local government who even supported in organizing the event.

Organizing this gathering created enormous enthusiasm amongst all community members, all of whom agreed that conducting such gatherings help in maintaining cultural roots and traditional ways of life.



Participants discussing issues during CSS *kachehri* sessions

An Interview with Ms. Sirajunissa Isani

Q You have been a regular contributor to Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) in terms of financial support and other forms of assistance. What makes you give so generously to the Foundation?

Yes, this is the fourth time I am helping SEF. Other than the personal relationship with Prof. Anita, I have been interested in child development since quite some time. Being a pediatric nurse, child development has been something that has always been close to me.

What are your thoughts about how individuals such as yourself and the private sector in general can support the education sector?

I personally think that there are a lot of people who want to donate; but they are inhibited by corruption and nepotism. People want to know that their money is

Also now that I am not working as an active nurse and have time, I would like to undertake sessions with the teachers and parents at the Child Development Center of the Child Labor Education Program on their children's health problems. This is something which I would like to do.

Ms. Isani, we would like to know you better on a professional and personal level. Can you tell us something about yourself?

Well I've always been interested in nursing ever since I was a child. It began when I was admitted for 10 days at the Holy Family Hospital in Pindi where I was really spoiled by the nuns. I used to talk to them all day long as I was away from home. That is how I became interested in nursing though my family was against it and some even doubted my sanity. But I stuck to it and since I loved children



Ms. Sirajunissa Isani speaks about herself & her joy for helping others

falling in the right hands. There is also a lot of mistrust in the society and those who have established their honesty and integrity are showered with funds. One other thing that I wanted to add was that despite the mistrust we still are a very generous people. Our religion itself requires us to act as socially responsible individuals and help society.

Your support has specifically been directed to the Child Labor Education Program. In what way do you think you would want this support to be utilized?

When I give support to any organization or individual I don't dictate. I expect the person to be honest enough that his/her needs should be met or attempted to be met with my support. My first priority is schools, especially where SEF is concerned because the Foundation deals with a lot of schools in disadvantaged areas where structural support is needed.

I chose pediatrics. I have a soft spot for children and wherever I feel my support can help children I contribute in some way or the other. I did my nursing and midwifery from Holy Family in Karachi and also nursed when I was in England and Canada. I even took some courses when I was abroad.

Finally, I wish you all the luck in doing all the good work you are reputed for doing. Prof. Anita Ghulam Ali should not only be an inspiration for all of you professionally but also on a personal level. There is a lot to be learnt from her. Good luck once again!

Ms. Sirajunissa Isani has been working as a nurse in Karachi and abroad. She has supported various programs of the Sindh Education Foundation on different occasions.



Students adding color & life to the walls of CDC

Child Development Center Receives Donation

- ICI has donated a total of Rs.145, 000 to the Child Development Center (CDC) which have been employed for renovation of the center. This initiative of the company has been much appreciated by SEF.
- Berger Paints supplied CDC with 17 gallons of paints. Fifteen enterprising students from the Indus Valley School of Art & Architecture together with young enthusiasts at CDC and teachers volunteered to paint mural to improve the physical outlook of the center.

British Council Donates Computers to Child Development Center

British Council, Pakistan donated 10 computers with accessories to the Sindh Education Foundation's Child Labor Education Program (CLEP). The computers will be used to set-up a computer lab in the newly renovated Child Development Center (CDC). More working and street children will benefit thanks to British Council's generosity.

Support Extended to CLEP Beneficiaries

Students of the Child Labor Education Program (CLEP) faced with financial constraints at home have been supported through the Pakistan Bait-ul-Maal fund. Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal is an autonomous body significantly contributing toward poverty alleviation through its various funding. Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal provides funds through different projects for educational assistance, medical treatment, financial aid to charitable institutions and promotes self employment schemes. 24 families of CLEP have received funding of Rs.8,000 each. Each family will be investing the amount in some business to supplement their existing stream of income.

SEF Provides Institutional Learning Material

The Child Development Center (CDC) is the primary operation unit of Child Labor Education Program. Teaching aids and learning material were provided to CDC to facilitate the process of activity oriented learning; the material included: books, indoor games, educational CD's, DVD's and arts & crafts material.

Research Study Awarded

Documenting Innovations in Education by the Civil Society

supported by Commonwealth
Education Fund

Although, mainstream educational functions remain shrouded in vicious cycles of access, enrollment, retention and quality, there has been a parallel emergence of many innovative models within public and private education sectors. To explore the different innovations currently underway in education at the national, provincial and grassroots levels, the Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) with support of the Commonwealth Education Fund is conducting a research study focusing on translation of 'innovative' ideas into educational practices.

Led by Mr. Aziz Kabani the research study revolves around innovative models which include both indigenous as well as adaptable/replicable models that have been customized according to the local needs. Innovation at any level of educational context will be reviewed under this proposed study. However, preference will be given to those models which have been developed primarily to cater to the needs of the marginalized/excluded children and youth. The research will review educational programs initiated both by the government and non-government sector.

Adopt-A-School Program Study Tour



Members of the Adopt-A-School Program Team visit a school during the tour to Lahore

As part of the Adopt-A-School Program team's professional development strategy, a 7-day study tour, from March 5 to 11 2006, was organized. The tour included visits to Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi in Lahore and the Pakistan Center of Philanthropy in Islamabad to study models of Adopt-A-School programs underway in Punjab. The program team members were able to reflect, review and learn from program experiences across Punjab province and incorporate lessons learnt into their own working framework. The visit also provided an excellent opportunity for SEF to develop institutional linkages for strengthening the Adopt-A-School Program in Sindh.



Training Conducted for Learning Facilitators

A 5 day training was organized for 34 Learning Facilitators of the SEF's Women's Literacy & Empowerment Program. The training titled "Teachers as Critical Thinkers" was held from August 28 till September 1, 2006.

The training that was immensely appreciated by all participants and covered various topics which included:

- Teachers' Belief System
- Adult Learning
- Activity Based Learning
- Center Management



Workshop on 'Supporting Quality Revival in Public Schools'

A 2 day interactive workshop was held at a local institute during the month of April-May 2006. The training, titled "Supporting Quality Revival in Public Schools" focused on familiarizing Adopters & Head Masters on community sensitization, school observation ethics and school development plan. Mr. Ghulam Ali Shah Pasha, former Secretary Education, Education & Literacy Department, Govt. of Sindh participated as the Chief Guest of the event.



SEF Trains NGO Supervisors

A 2 day training was conducted by the Home Schools Program for its NGO supervisors. The NGO supervisors act as facilitators and intermediary between SEF and its Home Schools. The training evolved around enhancing school support, efficient implementation of school level activities, enhancing the process of daily reporting, community mobilization and the basics of monitoring and evaluation.

The training was conducted for 34 NGO supervisors on September 19-20, 2006.

Sindh Education Foundation A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

programs/projects

ACCESS - ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING PROGRAM	no. of centers	2
ADOPT-A-SCHOOL PROGRAM	no. of schools	165
CHILD LABOR EDUCATION PROGRAM	no. of centers	1
COMMUNITY SUPPORTED SCHOOLS PROGRAM	no. of schools	100
FELLOWSHIP SCHOOLS PROGRAM	no. of schools	105
HOME SCHOOLS PROGRAM	no. of schools	100
QUALITY ASSURANCE RESOURCE CENTER	no. of centers	1
ROAD SAFTY EDUCATION PROGRAM	no. of schools	100
SUPPORT TO PRIVATE EDUCATION INSTITUTES PROGRAM	no. of schools	300
WOMEN'S LITERACY & EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM	no. of centers	28

organizational framework



Research Study on Emotional Behavioral & Learning Problems of Young School Children

Learning Support Unit (LSU) of Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) in collaboration with University of Leicester, UK and University of Karachi, Pakistan is carrying out a survey on emotional, behavioral & learning problems and their influence on academic achievement amongst 5-11 years old school children in Karachi.

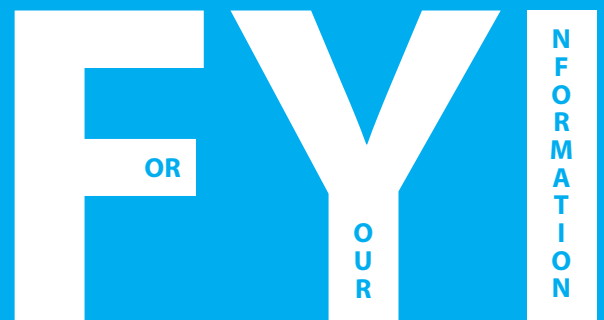
This research will determine specific prevalence of internalizing disorders including mood disorders and externalizing disorders including anxiety, behavioral and conduct disorders amongst children of private schools and government schools, madrasas and community based schools.

The research findings will be shared with policy makers in order to influence and develop school environments which provide conducive, emotional and learning environment for children.

Thematic Booklets on 'Rediscovering Childhood'

A comprehensive set of five booklets have been compiled to cover the Symposium on 'Rediscovering Childhood' and Conference on 'Early Childhood Development in Pakistan' organized by the Sindh Education Foundation. These booklets range from covering the introduction of the three day symposium and a day long conference to an in-depth analysis of some of the major themes that effect childhood. These themes include social institutions and childhood, media and childhood, development & its impact on childhood and lastly Early Childhood Development in Pakistan.

These booklets aim to bring to light the existing plight of childhood and give an insight to those who were unable to attend the event. It also serves as an important resource guide for educationists, practitioners and those dealing with children as it brings forth the essence of childhood and steps necessary for nurturing children in the challenging environment of the global era. To request for your free copy contact SEF at info@sef.org.pk



- The SEF team briefed Mr. Fazlur Rehman, Chief Secretary, Government of Sindh on the role of the Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) and the impact of its efforts over the years. The efforts of SEF have mostly been in the form of support to improve access to education for the most disadvantaged and remote areas of the province. The Chief Secretary lauded the contribution of SEF and stressed that the Foundation should pay extra attention towards promoting its own educational initiatives to provide quality education all over the province.
- SEF contributed to the National Policy Education Review held in Islamabad. Mr. Mashhood Rizvi participated as Co-Chairperson for one of the groups i.e. Relevance of Education.
- Four members of the SEF team participated in the training conducted by the School of Leadership titled 'Management by Organizational Effectiveness'. All members of the SEF team did distinctively well during the training.
- Prof. Rehana Mughni, Manager, Women's Literacy & Empowerment Centre became a member of the UNESCO Life Core Group. The Life Core Group was formed by UNESCO to increase literacy by 2015. The core group will work towards capacity building of teacher and development of post-literacy material.



log on to learn more on SEF

www.sef.org.pk

لالی

تحریر: پروفیسر ریحانہ مughنی



Post-literacy Material

Stories play an integral role in instigating a change in mindsets and actions of individuals. It also facilitates the reader to reflect on and resolve issues at the community level. Prof. Rehana Mughni Manager of the Women's Literacy Empowerment Program at the Sindh Education Foundation has written 9 short anthropological stories catering for educating women who have passed the early literacy phase. These stories are centered on three broad themes which include health and nutrition, income generation and conflict resolution.



These beautifully illustrated stories with colors and characters are an innovative attempt to inculcate women to think critically and be effective problem solvers within their homes and their communities. A teacher's guide has also been developed to assist the teachers in lesson delivery. This has been a one of its kind attempt in Pakistan catered specifically for the women through employing their lives as a channel for learning.



Log on to the SEF website www.sef.org.pk for more information on SEF Programs, Units and Activities.

SEF Collective is published by the
Sindh Education Foundation
Plot 9, Block 7, Kehkashan, Clifton 5, Karachi-75600, Pakistan.
UAN: (92-21) 111-424-111 Fax: (92-21) 9251652
info@sef.org.pk www.sef.org.pk

Designed and Developed by the
Marketing, Advocacy & Publications Unit, SEF

Sindh Education Foundation
Progress Report
2004-2006



SEF Progress Report 2004-2006

The SEF progress report highlights initiatives and innovations undertaken by the Foundation during the past two years. The SEF progress report 2004-6 is available for general viewing. Contact the Sindh Education Foundation to order your copy.



Third Issue of 'Nurture' Published

The third issue of Nurture – a semi-annual magazine focusing on Early Childhood Development has been published by the Sindh Education Foundation. The issue focuses on 'Health and Hygiene' and comprises articles on nutrition, immunization, hygiene, disease prevention, emotional health and other related topics. It is a must read for parents and practitioners alike charged with the responsibility of ensuring a lifelong healthy and hygienic lifestyle of children.

If you are interested in getting your own free copy of Nurture call now at (021) 111-424-111 (216) or write to us at nurture@ecd-pak.com and order your free copy. Kindly include your postal address and contact details.