

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Sindh Education Foundation, Government of Sindh, is a semi-autonomous organization committed to educating and empowering children and communities towards social change by improving access to educational facilities. Since its establishment in 1992 as a semi-autonomous organization, the SEF endeavors have focused on bringing the light of education for the growth and development of those living in remote and disadvantaged areas of the Sindh province in Pakistan.

The Early Learning Program (ELP) was initiated by the Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) in 2008 through funding by the Education and Literacy Department, Govt. of Sindh. The program is based on the concept of Early Childhood Education (ECE) and focuses on the development of early learning practices. The program focuses on qualitative reforms and increased participation in 5 districts, namely, Ghotki, Khairpur, Noushehro Feroz, Tando Muhammad Khan and Badin. 150 schools and 10000 children have so far benefitted from this intervention.

In order to strengthen early childhood education, and provide an in-depth analysis of context, extensive field research is required. The main purpose of the research consultancy would be to contribute to the knowledge base of early learning education in the context of Pakistan, and in Sindh in particular. The outsourcing of the research would allow for third party validation, and would help to design and prepare an effective strategy for the future.

S. No.	IMPORTANT PRE-QUALIFICATION / ASSESSMENT POINTS	Score/Marks
	Maximum Technical Score <u>Comprises following criteria of marking</u>	100
1	At least Masters OR PhD in related field of Literacy, Educational Policy, Policy Planning and Social Sciences. For PhD - 20 , For Masters-10,	20
2	At least 10 years relevant work experience in the field of Research.	40
3	Excellent report writing skills.	20
4	Must have CNIC & NTN Nos.	20
	<u>Minimum 60% marks are required to shortlist.</u> The Final selection will be followed through interview process.	

Experienced Individual Consultants are invited to provide their comprehensive CV in respect to above criteria **before June 14th 2013, the detail TORs are available on our web site www.sef.org.pk .**

SEF may have right to reject all or any CVs subject to the relevant provisions of Sindh Public Procurement Rules 2010.

This advertisement is available on the websites of Sindh Education Foundation & SPPRA-Sindh i.e. www.sef.org.pk, & www.pprasindh.gov.pk respectively.

Manager Procurement

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

Research Consultant

Position: Early Learning Program-Research Consultant

Project Title: “Research on Effects of ELP Intervention at School Level”

1. Background

The Early Learning Program (ELP) was initiated by the Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) in 2008 through funding by the Education and Literacy Department, Govt. of Sindh. The program is based on the concept of Early Childhood Education (ECE) and focuses on the development of early learning practices. The program focuses on qualitative reforms and increased participation in 5 districts, namely, Ghotki, Khairpur, Noushehro Feroz, Tando Muhammad Khan and Badin. 150 schools and 10000 children have so far benefitted from this intervention.

While *katchi* classes is not a novel concept, and exist in public schools, the present practice does not fulfill guidelines and objectives as underlined by ECE concepts. ELP, through establishment of ECE classrooms in public schools, aims to foster an environment conducive for early learning. In particular, the program focuses on providing training to teachers, to familiarize them with the ECE concepts.

2. Rationale

In order to strengthen early childhood education, and provide an in-depth analysis of context, extensive field research is required. The main purpose of the research consultancy would be to contribute to the knowledge base of early learning education in the context of Pakistan, and in Sindh in particular. The outsourcing of the research would allow for third party validation, and would help to design and prepare an effective strategy for the future.

3. Scope of Work- Objectives and Research Questions of the Study

The Early Learning Program is primarily focused on developing early childhood centers in government schools to initiate an active and healthy learning environment. Training and orientation to teachers was provided to teachers under this Project. The intervention is confined to *katchi* class although some support was provided to teachers of grade I and II in the past. The inclusion of ELP in schools also suggests an impact on other classes' students and teachers which requires further study. Therefore this study aims to:

- Understand the impact of ELP initiative at various levels: classroom, school and community etc.
- Assess the impact of ELP intervention at behavioral, administrative and pedagogical levels in the schools, particularly beyond *katchi* level
- Explore stakeholders' perception of ELP initiative in schools.
- Identify challenges faced by the ELP program during its first phase of implementation and its impact on the possible expansion of the program.
- Explore the willingness of schools to expand child-centered qualitative reforms to the primary level.

4. Responsibilities of Consultant/Deliverables

The study will be assigned to a single individual. In light of the above objectives, the consultant is required to:

- 1) Develop a research proposal (including research question(s), research methodology, sample design, data collection tools and work plan)
- 2) Undertake all necessary technical, administrative and logistical activities for his/her research including data collection, analysis, report writing as well as coordination with field staff (hired solely by consultant if required).

All instruments, data (soft and hard form) along with report will be delivered to SEF. The report will broadly consider the impact of ELP program, and the possible expansion of child-centered learning up to the primary level.

The work of the consultant will be considered complete after all stakeholders have agreed to the research proposal and report and they are unanimously approved.