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SUCCESS STORY

SMCs' coordination leads to teachers' appointments in Khairpur Schools

The Sindh Community Mobilization Program continues to maximize community support for the Sindh Basic Education Program's investment in the future of education in Sindh Province by improving coordination between School Management Committees, communities and District administration for improving teaching learning conditions.



Photo by: USAID/CMP

A newly appointed teacher is teaching at GBPS, Kot Pul, in District Khairpur.

“More students into the school also means more teachers. Otherwise, our enrollment initiative will fail. Continuous requests from SMCs and communities of CMP schools to District ELD, Khairpur, for appointing more teachers in their schools for teaching the newly enrolled students led to our decision to appoint 44 female and 36 male teachers in the CMP schools. Thanks, they have begun teaching to the satisfaction of parents, teachers SMC and ELD.”

Mr. Liaqat Ali Khaskheli, District Officer Education (Primary), District Khairpur.

Efforts of the CMP's community mobilization team working closely with the schools and School Management Committees (SMCs) to get enrollments up in SBEP targeted schools have delivered. More than 17,300 children including 7,251 girls and 10,085 boys got enrolled in CMP's 400 targeted schools during program's first 15 months.

This refreshing achievement of a focused enrollment campaign has its own challenges. Imbalance in the student teacher ratio began adversely affecting teaching, learning conditions in the program target areas. SMCs of the CMP schools in District Khairpur began voicing concern over increasing shortage of teachers in the schools, especially after new enrollments, with the District officials of the Education and Literacy Department (ELD). They also persistently conveyed their demand to ELD management to appoint teachers, especially female teachers in the Mix (co-education) schools, for teaching girl students. District Education management assured them of prioritizing teachers' appointments in the CMP schools in the next batch of appointments scheduled in December 2014.

As per new ELD policy of appointing female teacher in Mix schools, ELD appointment orders of 81 teachers in the 38 of 58 CMP schools of District Khairpur became a refreshing news for the students, parents, teachers and SMCs. 36 of 45 female teachers were appointed in the CMP's 15 Mix schools, nine female teachers were appointed in three Girls' schools; and 36 male teachers got appointed in the 20 Boys' schools. These first ever appointments of females in Mix schools also mean success of the persistent gender mainstreaming efforts in the program schools. It has also improved teaching learning conditions and amply reflects that empowered communities can collectively resolve problems.