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PAKISTAN

SUCCESS STORY

Land worth over Rs. 25m donated to Education Department for schools

Land owners and communities grateful to USAID and Education Department for reconstruction of their school



Rashid Hussain

"We are grateful to USAID and the Government of Sindh for working together to construct a school building with provision of necessary facilities. The community is very excited to see their dream come true. This would shape the future of our children, especially of our girls"

-Allahdad, former owner of GBPS Bakshan Khan Chakrani School, Saleh Pat

With USAID Sindh Basic Education Program team's tireless efforts, private land owners of twenty government schools in Khairpur, Sukkur Larkana and Dadu donated land worth over Rs. 25 million free of cost to Education and Literacy Department for reconstruction and expansion of schools.

Government Boys Primary School (GBPS) Bakshan Khan Chakrani is one of the many schools in Sindh running under dilapidated but repairable conditions. The school is located 90 kilometers away in a far off town called Saleh Pat in Sukkur (district). The school is up to Grade 5; which restricts young girls from acquiring further education. "There's no middle or high school in close proximity so the girls then sit at home," said the head master, Shah Bux Chakrani. Deprived of basic facilities, with meager water and electricity supply, the children continue to attend school without complaint. Having merely two proper classrooms still did not influence the enrollment of three hundred students in the limited school space. Over a hundred children struggle to find shade under a tree to study, yet the attendance is outstanding. They get sick from dehydration and heat of the sun but as avid students, they return the next day with more devotion to learn.

Despite such conditions, the evoking spirit of education still exists in Sindh. Government of Sindh's Education & Literacy Department over the years has been giving primary education top priority.

The fate of Bakshan students changed, like others, the day the Government of Sindh under the USAID's Sindh Basic Education Program (SBEP) responded to this problem. They succeeded in convincing the private land owner of Bakshan Khan Chakrani School, Mr. Hussain and Mr. Allahdad Chakrani to generously donate the land so the school can be reconstructed. It would upgrade from primary to middle school with eight classrooms, covering 2200 square yards of land. The children, ecstatic at the news rose to their feet from the ground. Sweets and desserts were distributed in celebration around the community.

Since SBEP's tireless efforts, private land owners of twenty government schools in Khairpur, Larkana and Dadu donated land worth over Rs. 25 million free of cost to Education and Literacy Department for reconstruction and expansion. They all indulged in the same act of benevolence, proving their commitment to the cause of education in their community.

"We are grateful to USAID and the governments of Sindh and Pakistan for working together to construct a school building with the provision of necessary facilities. The community is very excited to see their dream come true. This would shape the future of our children, especially of our girls" said the former owner of the school Mr. Allahdad Chakrani

SBEP funded- by USAID and being implemented by the government of Sindh will provide support for reconstruction of almost 120 schools affected by the catastrophic 2010 floods or for consolidation and merger. It will support the Sindh government's policy of consolidating, merging and upgrading schools throughout the province.