



Jamshed Akhtar Qureshi Education Trust

... Supporting every child's right to basic education

Annual Progress Report 2008-09

What we do: The JAQ Education Trust is working to promote literacy and primary education among children in some of the lowest income communities in Pakistan, to: (i) help these children better achieve their full human potential and (ii) become useful and productive members of society, and thereby help alleviate poverty in these communities. The Trust operates a network of non-formal community schools under the Pehli Kiran School System (PKSS), which strives to increase children's access to mainstream schools, safeguard their health, and supplement their nutritional intake. It works closely with the communities to ensure their involvement and establish long-term commitment to basic education for all.

Who we are: The Trust is a registered non-governmental organisation¹ managed by a Board of Trustees comprising a diverse group of professionals. Actual field operations date back to 1996. The PKSS currently operates eight schools with over 1000 students in urban and peri-urban areas in and around Islamabad. Student enrolment increased by an unprecedented 24% over the past year. The Trust also provides limited educational stipends and scholarships to deserving students outside the PKSS communities².

Relevance to our times: A significant portion of semi and unskilled labour force serving Islamabad and other urban centres of Pakistan lives in squalid illegal settlements lacking even basic services. Children in such communities seldom get to a school. Lacking basic life skills, they often turn to beggary, crime, drugs, or extremism. When schools are inaccessible due to physical distance or high cost, parents have few options other than to send their children to local madrassahs, inadvertently providing ready recruits for extremist groups such as the Taliban³. JAQ Trust tries to break this vicious cycle by exposing these children to free basic education, ethical values, and the possibility of a better life. Recognizing the transitory nature of these communities and the need to intensively engage with the children for whatever time is available, the PKSS uses an innovative one-of-a-kind educational delivery model that is the product of thirteen years of experimentation, learning-by-doing, refinement and system consolidation.

The PKSS Model: includes some fairly unique features: (i) a target population that is highly vulnerable, disadvantaged, very low-income, made up of totally un-served communities who are predominantly rural migrants in search of better livelihoods; (ii) school locations in the heart of our communities, facilitating easy access and minimizing absenteeism; (iii) movable school shed structures that allow us to move with these communities when they are evicted/uprooted/relocated, demonstrating a long-term commitment that helps build trust; (iv) school operations designed with a high degree of flexibility that adjusts to community needs: school timings (afternoon schools where requested), an admission policy that recognizes the high turnover of families and permits year-round student admissions, and appropriately structured curriculum delivery (divided into terms); (v) low cost operations that maximize limited resources by targeting quality education delivery and minimize ancillary costs and overheads; (vi) mainstreaming of students into the formal school system: through parent motivation and provision of incentives such as stipends for continuing schooling, particularly for girls; (vii) a teacher profile that emphasizes young, locally recruited teachers, with a shared vision for community

¹ The JAQ Education Trust was registered in September 2000 under the Trust Act (II of) 1882. Trust Registration No: 2675, Book # 1, Volume # 1155

² Further information about the JAQ Education Trust and PKSS Operations is available on our website at <http://jaqtrust.org>

³ See for example Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy's documentary 'Children of the Taliban'

http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/stories/pakistan802/video/video_index.html

development, who are offered continuing education opportunities, and a career path with progressive management responsibilities.

Community Engagement and Impact: The schools are demand driven, based on community invitation and commitment through provision of land, labour for shed construction, and oversight responsibility. Regular PTA meetings provide timely feedback and accountability. Over time, the Trust has established strong relationships with the communities and has, on occasion, responded to needs beyond the schooling, e.g. provision of tube-wells for clean water, health check-ups and other facilities in some communities. PKSS interventions have effectively and consistently demonstrated a significant improvement in the outlook, bearing, character and self-confidence of children who have gone through even a few years of schooling in the PKSS system when compared with those who have not. It has therefore made a real difference in the lives of these disadvantaged children.

We believe that the innovative PKSS model is directly replicable for scaling up low-cost education service delivery to the vast urban slum population across Pakistan, which is currently un-served on a sustainable basis, and we welcome any opportunity to share our grass roots knowledge and learning with all interested parties.

Operating Highlights for 2008-09

	2008-09	2007-08	Change
Number of PKS Schools operating	8	8	
Total Student Enrolment (end of period)	1068	807	+ 24%
Proportion of Girls in student body	33%	34%	-1%
Student: Teacher Ratio	30:1	30:1	
Avg. Student Attendance	85%	77%	+8%
Overall Students Passing Annual Exam	79%	71%	+8%
PKSS Students Passing Class 5 Board Exam	18	14	+4
Other students getting Educational Stipends	22	22	

- A computer laboratory was set up at PK-2 and the first phase of computer training for PKSS staff has started.
- Three new steel structures were added during the year (at PK-6 and 8) to accommodate the growing student body, and to gradually move towards sturdier construction of school sheds.
- The nutritional supplement program continued to provide milk and fruit once a week to students in the seven katchi abadi schools⁴.
- Teacher refresher training and team building activities were conducted during August 2008.
- Iqbal Day and Quaid e Azam day were celebrated in all schools through student performances and presentations.
- Emphasis on sports continued. Sports Kits were provided and a sports period was introduced twice a week in all schools. An inter-school cricket tournament was initiated during the year.
- Monthly Parent Teacher Association (PTA) meetings were held regularly at all schools. Separate PTA meetings were initiated for mothers in the Pathan communities of PK-2, 4, 6 & 8 encouraging more women to become involved in school affairs.

The Trust continued to focus on institutional strengthening. A School Management Committee (SMC) comprising all 8 head teachers (HTs) was established to assist the Principal and provide inputs in to PKSS policy and rule formation. The SMC gives HTs a voice in decision making, provides management and leadership training for career growth, and ensures consistency and sharing of good practices across schools. A strengthened procurement policy was also instituted to cater to increasing procurement needs as the student body grows.

⁴ All schools except PK-2, which is in a regular (non-Katchi Abadi) community.

Continuous Improvement: The Trust is currently partnering with DIL (Developments in Literacy), a very large educational NGO in Pakistan to provide teacher training to PKSS staff and to develop a social/ ethics curriculum that would help children from these largely disenfranchised communities imbibe stronger basic human & social values that are central to the survival of any civilized society. We are also working to further strengthen the PKSS delivery model, within available resources, by increasing extra-curricular activities that make learning more enjoyable -- art classes, increased number of educational and recreational visits, events such as annual parents day, sports day etc., and by bringing in speakers on topical issues relevant to the lives of these children.

Our state of Finances: The Trust's financial statements are audited by M/s. Anjum Asim Shahid Rahman, an independent firm of chartered accountants, affiliated with the international firm of M/s. Grant Thornton. Audited financial accounts for FY 2007-08 and previous years are posted on the Trust's website. Accounts for 2008-09 are currently being finalized. According to preliminary figures, total receipts for the year were around Rs 2,485,000 whereas total expenditures were around Rs 2,574,000 (US\$ 32,665 equiv). Based on this, the average annual cost per student is estimated as Rs 3,180 (US\$ 40 equiv) during 2008-09⁵ highlighting the cost effectiveness of the PKSS model for basic education delivery.

Who pays for all this: The operations of the JAQ Education Trust are entirely financed by donations from individuals, a few companies and through the contributions of our trustees. We use various forms of partnership to support these operations. One of our patrons has adopted one school (PK-8) and is essentially financing all its operating costs. Some other donors provide regular monthly contributions.

Your generous donations to the JAQ Education Trust make our continued operations possible. Donations, (whether cash or in kind), may be sent directly to the following bank accounts in Pakistan, or to the Trust representatives whose contacts are provided below. The Trust would also appreciate the possible adoption of a school or any number of children by a potential donor, which we would be happy to discuss further. Additional information is available on the Trust website: www.jaqtrust.org

Bank Information:

Name of Account: Jamshed Akhtar Qureshi Education Trust

Pak Rupee Account No: 1406-02-01-002051-6; US Dollar Account No: 1406-02-02-000256-1

Name and Address of Bank: Muslim Commercial Bank (MCB), F-10 Markaz Branch, Islamabad, Pakistan;
Swift Code: MUCBPKKA

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⁵ Using an average conversion rate of 1 USD= Rs 78.80 prevailing on Dec 30, 2008.

Pictures depicting a range of school activities

1. A PT display during a sports event



2. Prize distribution at an annual parents' day



3. Combining art with learning alphabets



4. Two sisters enjoying a joke!



5. Prize winners



6. Learning with flash cards

