



Jamshed Akhtar Qureshi Education Trust

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

Annual Highlights: 2010-11

Introduction

The JAQ Education Trust promotes literacy and primary education among children in the lowest income communities in Pakistan, providing them an opportunity to develop their human potential and to become productive members of society.

The Trust recognizes that delivery of basic education is the government's primary responsibility. However, the present reality of Pakistan is one of growing economic disparity, where glaring gaps remain in the delivery of basic social services, particularly to such marginalized communities. In such circumstances, efforts such as ours, albeit modest, are vital to maintain social cohesion, and to provide a chance to the children of these communities to seek a better life. We cannot afford to lose yet another generation as we wait for the government to fulfill its obligations.

The Trust has been operating in low income communities in and around Islamabad since 2000 – informal operations began in 1996. A summary of our main activities and achievements during the financial year 2010-11 is presented below. The year in pictures is provided in an accompanying document.

Academic Activities

PKSS actively pursued strategies to enhance quality education and improve learning outcomes. As part of this effort, we are reviewing and strengthening our systems for student assessment, syllabus setting and teacher performance appraisals. There is a growing focus on competency-based learning and discouragement of cramming.

- Total student strength grew by 13% over the year. 1173 students (35% girls) are enrolled in 8 informal community-based schools operated by the Pehli Kiran School System (PKSS). An average attendance of around 80% was maintained - significant given the highly mobile and transient nature of these communities.
- 81% students passed their annual exam and were promoted to the next class.
- 14 Pehli Kiran (PK) students appeared in and passed the Class 5 exam conducted by the Federal Directorate of Education. All were mainstreamed into the formal school system, facilitated by the JAQ Trust, and are now continuing their education in class 6.
- In addition, 115 of our students from lower classes (including 41 girls) transferred to formal schools during the year.
- PKSS continued to maintain a Student: Teacher ratio not exceeding 30:1 in its classes to ensure quality learning
- The Trust also provided educational stipends to 30 deserving students in Hafizabad, and 3 former PK students (female) who are continuing their education in formal schools.

Extra Curricular Activities

We continue to emphasize and promote extra-curricular activities as a strategy to broaden the student's horizons and develop a broad range of skills. This has also helped PKSS gain recognition in the wider education sector and PK student participants are now well received at inter-school events. Over the year PKSS students:

- organized various extra-curricular activities over the course of the year, including: inter-school Sports Days; the annual PKSS inter-school cricket and badminton tournaments for boys and girls; Iqbal Day, Quaid-e-Azam Day and Independence Day celebrations at all PK schools including presentations and performances; field trips to the Children's park; and a visit for PK children to a formal school;
- participated in a drawing competition arranged by CDA at Lok Virsa in December to observe Mountains' Day. PK students received special attention from the organizers and Chief Guest for their active and keen participation;
- received a special invitation to attend a book launch for Fauzia Minallah's book "Chitarkari and Banyans" at the National Arts Council in December 2010.
- attended a function to observe the "Education For All (EFA) Global Action Week in May 2011 at the Serena Hotel.
- initiated a mobile library system among PK schools. Prompted by a donation of Urdu and English story books, the school management began a sharing-by-rotation system to allow access to the books by students in each school. Given the distances between the PK schools and their scattered locations, this soon evolved into an effective "mobile library" system.

Student Welfare

Recognizing the particular needs of these communities, the Trust continues its efforts to promote student welfare in every way possible, within the available resources.

- continued to provide a weekly nutritional supplement to students in 7 katchi abadi schools¹. This currently comprises seasonal fruit only, as we have had to discontinue the weekly glass of milk since March 2010 due to insufficient funding. We plan to restore the milk supplement as soon as our financial situation permits.
- received periodic donations of food "daigs" for PK students. PK-8 receives a weekly daig of 'rice palao' from its sponsor.
- distributed new uniforms to all students in the 7 katchi abadi schools, financed by a generous earmarked donation by one of our regular patrons².
- distributed school bags (received from a corporate donor³) to all students.
- facilitated students' access to government sponsored preventive health programs: specifically the government's Polio immunization and vaccination drives during the year.

¹ The nutrition supplement program is being implemented in the 7 slum community schools, excluding PK-2 which is a settled community, and therefore, marginally better-off.

² While we have been trying to ensure uniform distribution at least once a year, this is only undertaken when funds permit.

³ PKSS was one of several schools to receive a donation of (1200) school bags (made from recycled material) from Mobilink.

- Distributed text books received from the Federal Directorate of Education Regulatory Authority, covering 90% of curriculum needs. The remaining text books, note books and stationary material was provided by the Trust, supplemented by parents.
- Provided sports equipment and first aid kits at all schools.

Livelihood/Vocational Training

Recognizing the severe economic pressures faced by these communities, the Trust is aware that academic education alone cannot provide these children with the livelihood skills they need to improve their situation. As such, the Trust is increasingly focusing on facilitating access to vocational training opportunities, for which we are piloting various efforts. During the year, the Trust:

- continued a vocational training program for older female students and young community women. This year PK-3 and PK-4 received training in tailoring, embroidery and small crafts, in response to the community's request.
- started a new partnership with PUNKH Livelihood Development Society (PLDS). Their staff visited two PK communities to conduct a needs assessment and orientation, following which they will submit an annual work plan.

Community Engagement

This is key to ensuring that the schools are “owned” by the communities, parents are actively involved, provide in-kind support, and hold teachers accountable for effective delivery. It also helps provide the students with a supportive environment, conducive for their overall growth. This year we:

- initiated a token fee in all katchi abadi schools (ranging from Rs.10 to Rs.40 per month) to substantiate demand for our services, and to contribute to the resource base.
- continued efforts to strengthen PTAs (parent teacher associations). Regular PTA meetings were held in all PK schools, including separate meetings for women, where necessary, to encourage greater involvement by mothers.
- held special community events to distribute the annual exam results.
- PTA's in PK-3, 5 and 7 participated actively in the repair of school sheds.

Staff Employment and Benefits

In view of the Trust's limited resources and the need to deliver highly cost-effective education, payroll costs, which constitute two-thirds of overall Trust expenditure, are carefully controlled. As such, we are only able to offer our teachers very modest salaries. Nevertheless, to attract and retain motivated staff, these are annually adjusted to reflect staff performance and to account for inflation. In addition, we provide some staff benefits such as financing of continuing education, transportation facilities (especially for female teachers) and teacher training. This year we also initiated partial medical coverage for our staff.

- 26 teachers (including 22 women) are employed at PKSS, of which 16 are double shift teachers (working in both morning and afternoon schools). 9 staff members are currently pursuing higher academic qualifications with the Trust's financial support.
- The Trust also employs 6 Teacher Aides, of whom three are former PK students.

Teacher Training

The Trust provided extensive teacher training to its staff during the course of the year, reflecting its growing focus on quality education, and recognition that many of our teachers, when recruited, possess limited teacher training. A broad range of training programs were provided through various partners:

- Subject training for all teachers, with a focus on Math, Urdu and English
- Training on ‘Fun and Activities Based Learning’ (ICAS and DIL - Developments in Literacy);
- Focused training for nursery class teachers and Early Childhood Education (ECE) Training (DIL)
- Head-Teacher Training (DIL)
- Training in CRC (Child Rights Convention) and Child Participation (SUCH – Struggle for Change)
- Training on teaching methods arranged by BRAC in June 2011.

Internship Program

We continue to receive requests for internships at our schools. This year we had two summer interns whose inputs were of great help to the Trust, including in the compilation of this report. As interest in these marginalized communities grows among these young students from prestigious schools, we are very pleased to observe a growing commitment on their part. We also recognize the multi-dimensional strength of this youth engagement which we plan to build upon in the next year.

School Infrastructure

The Trust is actively seeking funding from institutional donors and individuals to help convert the existing removable school facilities in Katchi Abadis to more reliable and low-maintenance structures. In this connection, we had already replaced all wooden poles in our school sheds with steel pipe columns over the previous two years. This year we undertook the following:

- Provided GI sheet roofing and concrete tile flooring for 4 school sheds (20 ft by 30 ft), two each at PK-1 and 8, benefiting from earmarked cash and in-kind donations.
- Meanwhile, to keep the schools operational, the Trust continues to repair and replace the remaining temporary shed structures, at significant annual cost, until such time that all school sheds can be upgraded. This is particularly applicable to the canvas and bamboo roof framing which is frequently damaged by storms and severe rainfall events. We welcome earmarked donations for this purpose.
- Rented building premises (one-room, courtyard and toilet), in response to parent demand, and to accommodate part of the growing student body at PK-5.

Finances

The Trust’s operations are entirely financed by the generous donations of our patrons and trustee contributions. However, there was a significant drop in donations during the year due to a substantial diversion of charity/Zakat funding to mitigate the effects of the unprecedented floods that struck Pakistan during 2010.

The management's response included a two-pronged strategy: (a) cost control: deferring important upgrading of temporary school sheds, renewal of assets, and other short-term, cost-cutting measures to control costs in a high inflation environment; (b) in-kind resource mobilization and cost recovery: items like shed material, text books, note books, stationary, etc. These efforts are reflected in the figures given below.

- Total receipts and expenditures during the year 2010-11, based on the un-audited cash-based accounts are summarized as follows: Cash receipts at Rs 3,355,904 were 81% of the preceding year. Cash expenditures at Rs 3,384,948 were 99% of the preceding year, despite the 13% growth in enrollment. Average annual expenditure per student at Rs 3,058 was 93% of the preceding year. However, this level of expenditure is not sustainable and will need to recover to pre-flood levels in real terms (around Rs.4300 per student per year), to maintain quality.
- The Trust's financial statements are audited annually by an independent chartered accountancy firm and our audited accounts up to 2009-10 can be viewed on the Trust's website at www.jaqtrust.org

Management

We made significant changes to the management structure after a year of careful deliberation, keeping in view the long-term goals and vision for the schools:

- The Board of Trustees was expanded to eight members. The Board sets policy and guides the overall affairs of the Trust.
- The Principal's Position, which was responsible for day-to-day operations, was split into two: (i) an Academic Coordinator; and (ii) a Community and Administrative Coordinator. Both these positions have been filled by our most competent and experienced staff. They will be overseen by the Managing Trustee.
- The School Management Committee (SMC), comprising head teachers (HTs) of each school, continued to support management, with individual HTs taking on more responsibility for each school.

Sustainability

The Trust recognizes the importance of keeping its efforts at a sustainable level. Towards this, over the course of the previous year we have expanded our partnerships with government, NGOs and the private sector, to leverage our resources, and deepened our engagement with the communities, who are now starting to bear some of the costs. We have also motivated and facilitated mainstreaming of over 10% of our student base into the formal school system this year. As our education delivery model continues to evolve, we will keep sharing it with interested stakeholders for wider replication and scale up.

Impacts

Short-term: Anecdotal information based on informal interviews with some of our former PK students shows that while some are still broadly following their family trades they are generally able to perform better than their unlettered parents, in view of their literacy. Hasan Bilal, a former PK student currently working as a Taxi Driver says “*due to my schooling I am able to*

read addresses and can take my passengers to their destination much more easily than my illiterate uncle. My education gives me confidence in dealing with clients”. Local administration officials also acknowledge the positive role played by PK schools in keeping these youth off the streets and away from trouble.

Longer term impacts, related to a broader world-view and community awareness, are hard to quantify at this time – and will only become evident with the next generation.

How you can help

The JAQ Education Trust needs your generous donations to continue and expand its work. You can:

- Sponsor a Child ... for Rs 4,300/yr or USD 50/yr
- Sponsor a Classroom ... for Rs 130,000/yr or USD 1500/yr
- Sponsor a School... for Rs 630,000/yr or USD 7300/yr

Donations of any amount are welcome and may be sent directly to the following bank accounts in Pakistan, under intimation to any of the Trust representatives whose contacts are provided below. They may be in the form of cash, wire transfer or checks. Checks drawn on Pakistani banks should be made out in favor of the JAQ Education Trust. Checks drawn on U.S. banks should be made payable to Navaid Qureshi or Sabira Qureshi (for the JAQ Trust). A formal receipt will be issued for all donations.

Donations can also be sent directly by wire transfer to the following bank accounts in Pakistan, *under intimation* to one of the authorized representatives for a receipt.

Bank Information:

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

Contacts for authorized representatives:

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Pehli Kiran Schools Aggregate Statistics 2010-11

Branch	Location in Islamabad	Start Year	Total Enrollment (June 2011)	Total Enrollment (June 2010)	Change in Enrollment	
PK-1	E-11 (Near Police Foundation Colony)	1996	84	80	4	5%
PK-2	Golra -R-Station	1998	157	133	24	18%
PK-3	F-11 Green Belt	1999	89	95	-6	-6%
PK-4	E-11/Golra corner	2006	150	138	12	9%
PK-5	F-11 corner/end Nazimuddin Road	2006	227	201	26	13%
PK-6	I- 10 Green Belt	2004	122	114	8	7%
PK-7	H-11 Green Belt	2004	104	83	21	25%
PK-8	F-11 Green Belt	2006	240	198	42	21%
Total			1173	1042	131	13%
Proportion of Girls			35%	36%		