

From The Editor



Welcome to the PEP letter update!

PEP since the year began has been anything but inertness, and throughout the month of February it has AGAIN, been successful in achieving the best for the communities of rural Sindh.

While having the Oscars hype and the Asia T20 2016 on the frontline, there are great PEP updates that we expect will become the next headlines on your email list. So, read on!

More Schools In Rural Sindh

An amazing achievement for Primary Education Project has been the opening of the nine new schools in the two district areas of Rural Sindh (Sanghar and Badin District).

These new schools were selected by the School Management Committee of the current PEP schools running in the same districts. The total enrollment in these schools are more than 373 having _228_ boys and _145_ girls. Though the schools have been launched in huts and the infrastructure of the schools are not very adequate for children, the communities are strongly committed to education and ready to face challenges that will be ahead of them.



Teacher Training for New Teachers

The other best part of this month was to have the opportunity to train new teachers of the new schools. 27 new teachers had arrived to PEP for teacher training that would help them in teaching their students effectively in the new schools.

It is always special to have new teachers from different communities because for most of the teachers the teacher training is a completely new experience. This new experience comes along with many challenges that they have to face when taking training. Some of the challenges are, learning to grasp English language, accepting the need to learn, listening to one another, and accepting the opportunity to learn something new that can otherwise be difficult.

Observing the teachers daily made us realize that they were achieving more than they imagined. The results after the training are definitely going to be similar to as winning an Oscar!



The Women's Empowerment Training Programme

The Women's Empowerment Programme has Formed and trained 26 women for 9 new communities including for some of the communities in the existing PEP schools.



The new groups were selected by the WEP's Area Coordinators who will help further in facilitating the programme in the new communities after the training. The Women's Empowerment Programme was designed to change the mindset of women about the importance of girls' education and encouraging them to send their daughters to school which is why today, many girls from Rural Sindh have the opportunity to attend school.



What Does a Tablet Device Mean to Rukhsana? Read Her Thoughts..



Rukhsana is a student of Bharu Thakur, one of PEP's school in the area of Tando Ghullam Ali. She studies in grade 5 and is happy to share her thoughts on how the tablet device has helped shape her capabilities in academic studies.

"Holding a tablet device for the first time scared me", says Rukhsana. "Never in my life I had seen such a thing. We live in a community where we don't have much knowledge about technology, so it was first time in PEP school that I ever learned to operate an electronic device."

"Before the tablet devices were introduced, I studied through a copy and slate which was good because that was how I learned to read and write. But now that I have the opportunity of using a tablet, I believe I have developed good English reading and writing skills. I have more confidence to do things I thought I couldn't: like, reading aloud, writing words on the board and taking up more challenges by participating confidently in class activities."

"Now that I know how to operate a tablet, I can learn about as many apps as I want. Till now we have learned through the edify app about Khan Academy, Children's books and Seed of Empowerment. We will have more apps in Sindhi and Urdu to help us improve our native language too."

"The pattern of our studies has changed much due to the dawn of tablet device in our school. Now we learn a lot through exciting audio and video apps that has developed much of our interest in studies. We enjoy the challenge and it is

interesting to solve the problem that comes with it because we all made mistakes when we started, but it is really interesting to solve our mistakes now."

"I love the tablet device because it taught me to learn new things, and it is important to learn new things if you want to grow in life."

What stories do you most like about PEP? We would love to have your replies!



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