



# Newsletter

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## Editorial

Welcome to the latest edition of the quarterly newsletter of Human Appeal. It coincides with the closing of three of our very important projects – EHSAS Quality Education Project, Food Security Project and Qurbani Project – and hence is dedicated to give an overview and accomplishments of them, respectively.

Launched in collaboration with the government of Azad Kashmir, EHSAS Quality Education Project allowed us to play a role in the personal and professional development of students and teachers at 772 public sector high and higher secondary schools in AJ&K. It benefitted over 100,000 students and 12,000 teachers, respectively, besides raising a whole new lot of 2,300 trainers at the schools.

Similarly, Food Security Project enabled as many as 241 farmers to attain food security at drought-ravaged Tharparkar, Sind. They were provided with extensive training to grow vegetable under highly unfriendly circumstances. The project successfully underlined the fact that Tharparkar has a full potential to become a food basket of the country, provided helped overcome water scarcity issue through modern trends and technology.

Last but not the least, Qurbani Project this year again allowed us reaching to the most neglected and marginalized segments of the society with sacrificial meat. Over 9,000 people received the meat on the occasion, many of whom confided to have tasted it after months and months due to chronic poverty and deprivation.



## EHSAS Co-curricular competitions take off at 772 public sector schools

EHSAS Quality Education Project of Human Appeal is inching towards its completion leaving behind a legacy of learning, innovation and enhanced interest of masses in public sector institutions. Marking the culminating phase of the project, co-curricular competitions at clusters level took off during the period under review and witnessed the contestants bending backwards to prove their metal.

As many as 772 high and higher secondary public sector schools in Azad Kashmir participated in the competitions. Comprising 18 schools apiece, clusters level competitions in the first phase involved students representing 42 clusters. The winners of the competitions received certificates and cash prizes, besides qualifying for regional level completions.

Regional level competitions would be held at Muzaffarabad, Rawalakot and Poonch and, apart from contestants, top government officials including District Education Officers (DEOs), heads of schools and district administration representatives would participate in the events.

To help students of public sector schools showcase their true potential, they were provided with an opportunity to prove their metal in the realms of public speaking,

story writing, drawing and preparation of wall magazines. Interestingly, girls outshined boys in most of the events and received huge appreciation for that.

The final round of the competitions would take place in the capital city Muzaffarabad in which winners of regional level completion would come across each other. Expectedly chaired by the prime minister of Azad Kashmir Raja Farooq Haider, the winners of the completions in different categories would be presented with shields, certificates and hefty cash prizes.

It needs to be recalled here that, launched in collaboration with the government of AJK, the EHSAS Quality Education Project was aimed at personal and professional development of students and teachers alike across Azad Kashmir in an attempt to bring public sector schools in the area at par with the private sector quality institutes. It benefitted over 100,000 students and 12,000 teachers, apart from raising a whole lot of 2,300 education trainers in Azad Kashmir.

The project set off a new culture of learning at public sector schools and was thoroughly appreciated by concerned circles, including print and electronic media. Some of the key achievements of the project deserve a special mention here for the benefit of our readers:

## **Development of training and reading material**

- Under the supervision of established educationists, a comprehensive training and reading material was developed, keeping in view the needs and requirements of teachers and students, respectively. The material covered issues related to motivational skills, teachers as role models, reading habits, writing skills, moral and ethical values and time management.
- Over 12,000 books were distributed amongst teachers for guidance and learning on relevant issues. The initiative went a long way in promoting book reading culture in teachers.
- Similarly, over 365,000 booklets were distributed among students on traits, values, skills, habits and selfhood. Reaching to such a large number of students across AJK with free of cost reading material was an unprecedented experience for all stakeholders. It was also noted

that despite a strong yearning, majority of students had no access to any reading material, except the text books. The initiative triggered a new motivation in them as in many cases they took a lead to establish libraries, though quite modest and limited, at their schools, respectively.

## **Training of trainers**

To make the project a real success story, a whole lot of more than 45 trainers were developed under the supervision of top notch professionals and educationists. They were exposed to modern concepts of pedagogical skills, child behavior and learning and human resource management. It was again unprecedented in the history of AJK that such a large number of educated youths were engaged in a totally different discipline and provided with an opportunity to exploit their potential for common good.

It may also be noted that many of these trainers have already adopted it as a lifelong professional and playing a commendable role in promotion of quality education in AJK, through training and career counseling.

The project also provided job opportunities to the trainers associated with it.



## Training of teachers

- The project also created an opportunity for over 12,000 teachers to obtain robust training to enhance their professional skills and know-how to cope with modern day challenges. Amazingly, a telling majority of them was reportedly first time exposed to any such an extended and well structured training in their while professional career.
- They were also provided with an opportunity to enhance their reading, writing and speaking skills through a series of activities and engagements.



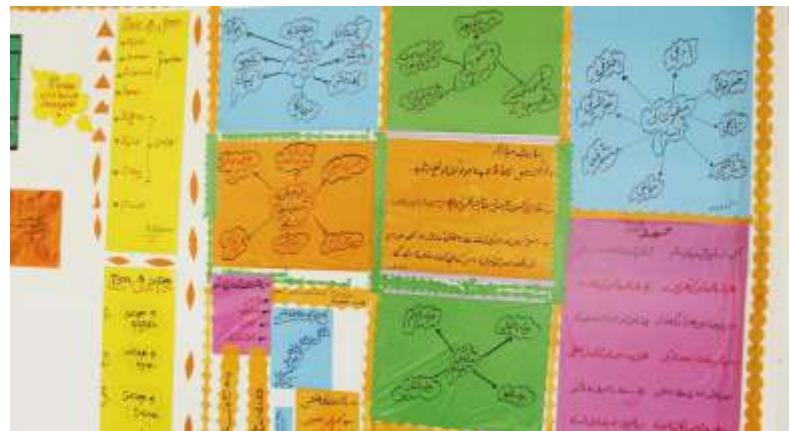
## Emergence of Co-Curricular Teachers (CCTs)

- A new discipline of Co-Curricular Teachers (CCTs) also emerged as a result of the project. Three to four teachers were trained at each school to carry the activities forward after the formal closure of the project by Human Appeal International. It may not be over looked that 2,366 CCTs are already rendering their services across AJK at the moment.

## Speakers and Writers Clubs

- Defying all odds, the project successfully engaged over 100,000 students in a plethora of co-curricular activities in the four corners of AJK. Under Speakers and Writers Clubs, over 1,500 training sessions were conducted at 772 schools to promote speaking and writing skills in students. To equip them with self-confidence and professional fundamental skills, they were put through numerous processes and challenges.
- Furthermore, they were trained in public speaking and writing innovative short stories, fiction, essays and so forth. Interesting, over 8,000 activities were held under speakers and writers clubs collectively to blossom the hidden talent of students.
- It also deserves a special mention here that the students brought out more than 4,000 wall magazines which carried the inedible imprint of their passion, skills and vision.
- They were directly involved in the establishment of Learning Corners were established in 10 model schools to make class rooms more interactive for children.





## Media recognition of the talent

- Both print and electronic media showed the art work and talent of the students duly. It was underlined repeatedly that it was not an issue of talent, but non-availability of suitable platforms for the students of public sector schools to express and establish themselves.

## Cluster/State Level Competitions

- Inherently designed to help students showcase their talent, the project also provided a platform to them to participate in intra/inter schools, regional and State level competitions. The top position holders were awarded with shields, certificates and cash prizes, respectively. Moreover, they were also provided with opportunities to interact with top professionals, educationists and policy makers to blossom their talent.



## Food Security Project at Tharparkar extended

Initiated almost one year back to help drought-ravaged people of Tharparkar attain self-reliance, Food Security Project also reached its landmark during the quarter under review, before getting extended in view of the results achieved on the ground and the interest shown by local people in that.

Under new arrangements, Huma Appeal started extending a comprehensive training to over 200 farmers to grow various kinds of vegetables in the winter seasons. Previously, they were trained in growing vegetables in summer seasons.

The project has a strong link with the installation of solar powered water pumping system at Islamkot area of the district, which ensured access of around 20,000 people to clean drinking water. To make the best use of the extra water, the project was introduced in the area on modern and scientific basis, which registered amazing results, enabling the targeted population to produce food at its door steps to immediate requirements.

As the second phase of the project is already in progress, it will not be out of context to underline here the some of the achievements of the project made so far to put things in perspective.



## Accomplishments of the project

### Professional training of farmers

- As many as 241 farmers were provided with a four months long intensive on-field training to grow vegetables in highly unfriendly weather conditions. With the technical support of an internationally acclaimed company, the farmers learnt the art growing vegetables including, but not limited to, potato, tomato, lady finger, green and red Chili, peas, cabbage, carrot, garlic, onion, Bingil and etc.

### Female farmers accorded equal importance

- A large number of female farmers also obtained the training and started applying the knowledge and skills to earn a niche for themselves in the field of agriculture.

### Crop cycle management

- The beneficiaries were provided with agriculture tools and seeds as well to focus on agriculture to attain food sufficiency.

### Efficient use of available water

- The farmers were provided with full support and guidance from crop cycle management point of view, which equipped them with a new insight on the issue.

### Emphasis on self-reliance

- Efficient use of water to grow vegetables was another area of training which attracted inflated attention from the trainees. They were

realized that even the minimal but efficient use of water can also do wonders to grow vegetables in a desert area.

### Creating awareness at grassroots level

- The project infused a new yearning in the targeted community to make a transition from living on charity to self-reliance.

### Creating income generation opportunities for farmers

- A good number of farmers started selling their products locally and earn some extra money to give a better life to themselves and their families.

### Spotlight agriculture potential in Tharparkar

- The project made it abundantly clear that Tharparkar living on charity is not written in the stars of the people of Tharparkar; they can meet their food requirements locally if only provided with a modest irrigation system.

### Importance of solar water pumping system underlined

- Solar water pumping system holds the key to address food and health issues of the local people. All it needs is an unflinching commitment on the part of the concerned circles to make a new beginning.



This was perhaps the most beautiful and rewarding time period of my life. With the kind support and guidance of Human Appeal, I produced enough quantity of vegetables to meet my family requirements. Earlier, we used to rely on donations and charity as no opportunity was available to us break this shackle. Human Appeal made us believe that we can also attain self-sufficiency and finally we did". **Ram Deen**, local resident



## **Qurbani project: Over 4 metric ton meat distributed to 9,000 families**

On the festive occasion of Eid, this year again Human Appeal took it upon itself to reach to as many deserving and poverty-stricken people with sacrificial meat as possible. It achieved the target of distributing over four metric tons of meat to nine thousands families, living in far flung and most neglected areas of Pakistan.

Elaborate arrangements were made for the distribution of the meat at different places, including Tharparkar, Gadap, Rahim Yar Khan, Gilgit Baltistan, Mansehra, Bagh and Neelum Valley, Azad Kashmir. The list of the beneficiaries of the project was finalized in light of a careful survey, conducted by the field staff of the organization.

The beneficiaries of the project included widows, disabled people, Kashmiri refugees and women headed families.

Furthermore, Human Appeal made it a point to be present in the border district of Tharparkar in the South on the one hand and Neelum Valley in Azad Kashmir in the North on the other. The people at these two places in particular needed special attention on the occasion in view of persistent drought conditions and disconnection with the main land, respectively.

With the kind support of Human Appeal, UK and Human Appeal, Aus, over 400 animals were sacrificed on the occasion, keeping in view the sharia principals and injections. Dedicated teams of Human Appeal supervised the whole process, while steps were also taken to ensure community participation in the exercise at designated places.



## **Bringing smile on the face of a poverty-struck family**

A resident of Libbo, Tharparkar, I - Fatima Arshad – lost my husband four years ago, leaving behind his large family in total disarray. In consequent, I had to adopt the additional role of bread wining for my family, which unfortunately was too much for me due to non-availability of any income generation related opportunity in the area.

There have been times when we dined only with a loaf of bread and water. Life at Tharparkar is no doubt very tough, even though we're quite accustomed to it. But, to tell you the truth, sometimes it is too much, especially for an elderly woman, like myself.

It was a pleasant surprise to see team Human Appeal knocking at my door to drop the drop Qurbani meat. Undoubtedly, it was really something very special for me and my family. After a long long time we tasted meat once again and it was all thanks to you. May Allah bless all those who are associated with it in any way and don't forget us when we need them the most.



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