

ARTICLES OF 2000

The Khairpur Project

The dawn of the new millennium has been an exciting time for our Khairpur project. The first cohort of 500 girls has graduated from DIL schools. A graduation ceremony arranged by NOWA, the NGO in charge of the project, was held in their honor at the Satchal Sarmast Auditorium on February 24. The auditorium was filled to capacity with proud parents, teachers and students dressed in their finest apparel. Some had arrived in rickshaws and donkey carts while others had walked for miles on foot. DIL Board Members had also flown in from Los Angeles,



Rehana Vakil School

Singapore and Islamabad to attend the auspicious occasion. Skits, songs and dances, performed by students throughout the day, kept the audience enthralled. Teachers spoke candidly of their struggle to attain an education and pave the way for a brighter future for their young students. Certificates were awarded to students, while teachers and community members were recognized for their commitment and dedication. On the whole, it was delightful to see the hopes and dreams that have begun to flourish in the hearts of the young women and girls living in one of the most conservative regions of Pakistan.

The steady improvement of the Khairpur schools can, to a large extent, be attributed to the year-long teacher training conducted by SAHE. The training, which ended in June, has been highly rated by the coordinating staff and DIL monitors. Not only has it boosted teacher confidence by giving them better teaching skills and techniques, but a marked improvement has also been observed in their ability to keep their students interested and focused.

Another interesting development this year was the agreement between the local community and the sponsor of the Rehana Vakil School to construct a two-room school in Boota Khan Bhatti. When our Board Members visited the school in February, the teacher was instructing her students in a makeshift classroom that did not have a roof, having recently vacated the previous school building at the landlord's request. The sun was beating down on the children who were trying to shield their faces from the glare that was preventing them from reading the blackboard. The teacher humbly requested that DIL consider laying a roof for them as the local community could not afford the cost, and she was concerned that the excruciatingly hot summer months would affect attendance. Two months later, a deal was brokered: a community member would donate the land, and the cost of construction would be borne equally by our generous



Dance performance by Younis Tai Memorial School

sponsor and the community. This embodiment of community-donor partnership, where the community has a major stake in its schools, ensures the success of non-formal schools.

The Mianwali Project

MMBMT, the nongovernmental organization (NGO) in charge of the Mianwali project, has tried to enroll every child of school-going age in the vicinity, increasing the number of students from 1000 to 2937. Sixty assistant teachers were hired on July 1, 2000 to overcome the shortage of staff caused by this influx of new students. Because of the dearth of qualified teachers in the area, many of the assistant teachers have been hired on the condition that they take the matriculation exam by next year. In the meantime they will receive training for and teach only kindergarten and first grade.



On the 10th of May DIL decided to adopt ten more schools whose sponsorship contracts had ended with their previous donors, since they were promising and contiguous to the existing schools. MMBMT, on DIL's approval, also hired a supervisor and a project coordinator to better manage the growing demands of the project.

In addition, encouraged by the success of the teacher training conducted by SAHE in Khairpur, DIL also decided to provide training to its Mianwali teachers. The training commenced on June 9th, 2000 and will end in May 2001. The training-conducted by the Society for Advancement of Education (SAHE)-encompasses the following: it helps teachers attain complete knowledge and understanding of all the subjects taught in primary school, particularly English, science and math; it introduce the latest teaching methods, including the use of training aids, examination techniques and assessment of students; it enhance community participation in education through effective monitoring and supervision. So far, teacher participation has been positive and enthusiastic. Ten out of the fifty teachers attending the sessions will undergo additional training to become teacher trainers so that in the future DIL will have its own teacher trainers.

DIL Pakistan: The heart of initiatives and implementation

By Mehnaz Akber

"The nexus of any development initiative lies in true accountability and organizational systems," according to Dr Akhter Hameed Khan. Today I will relate to you the "DIL story" placing special emphasis on its organizational structure in Pakistan. The inception of DIL in 1997 sprang from a dream-a dream of those who had left Pakistan and now wanted to give something back to their country of birth-a country that was stuck in a time warp, desperate to improve and link up with the global community. After much deliberation, those responsible for DIL's creation decided to focus on primary education

for the underprivileged living in some of the most marginalized areas of Pakistan. I distinctively remember being called upon by Dr. Tahir Andrabi to work with DIL because of my background in the field of education. That started the long journey toward establishing DIL in Pakistan. Initially, I worked out of my tiny sitting room; eventually, my father, Mr. Akber Aziz gave DIL free space in the house annex to establish an office. A modest budget was allocated for office expenses and a part-time program associate was hired. More recently, due to the increase in workload, a full time program coordinator has been added. Consequently we now have a fully operational office in Islamabad.

Most importantly, DIL was registered under the Societies Act of the Government of Pakistan in July 2000. At the time of registration eminent educators, social sector development specialists and media persons were invited to serve on our board. Our Pakistan board today consists of eight prominent members who bring tremendous credibility to the organization. Our first board meeting was held on 16th September 2000 where issues such as monitoring, audits and annual reports were discussed in depth.

As the organization evolves so do its initiatives. Negotiations are underway to start a 50-school project in NWFP where defunct government buildings will be used to house the students instead of community donated rooms as in Mianwali and Khairpur.

Judging from its organizational structure, its project implementation and its steady expansion and, of course, its strict adherence to financial transparency and accountability at all levels of its involvement, I believe DIL to be an ideal program.

DIL Fund-raiser-Los Angeles

By Adam Fakhri

Lassi Walla! Aloo-chola! Chai! Sounds, which are intimately familiar to any Pakistani native, but in the heart of Long Beach, California? Unusual, yes, but these were the sounds heard as you entered the Third Annual-Development in Literacy (DIL) fundraiser held on October 1, 2000 at the Westin Long Beach Hotel. By converting a hotel banquet room into a village scene, the DIL board miraculously allowed participants to experience Pakistan through its sights, smells, and tastes. As they entered, guests were greeted by the village cow "Rani" and a donkey cart with a sign that read "dekh magar piyaar say". Once inside, food stalls offering everything from samosas and "chat" to "lassi" lined the perimeter of the room, whilst the center of the room housed the "charpoy" and the village well. Young women, dressed in beautiful traditional garb balancing their goods atop their heads, went about their daily chores. The men of the village performed traditional dances to the beat of the "dholak" clad in traditional "lungis".



As the evening progressed, guests, almost 500 in number, were escorted to the main banquet room where the function commenced with a recitation from the Holy Quran. The main topic of illiteracy was presented and discussed through several formats, including

speeches by Jameela Fakhri (President, DIL), Mehnaz Akber (Pakistan Representative, DIL), Pakistan Consul General Tariq Azzizudin and an emotional video presentation which focused on the teachers and students at the current DIL schools in Sind and Punjab.



The DIL board members and volunteers should all be commended for their outstanding commitment to a worthy cause! The DIL board would also like to thank its generous partners for underwriting the entire expense of the fundraiser, especially its platinum sponsor: Washington Mutual Bank. The evening ended on a successful note with the amount of funds collected totaling \$163,000!

We look forward to seeing everyone at next year's event!

DIL Singapore

On a warm tropical island, situated at the other end of the world, Najmi Sarwar, Malik Sarwar, Amra Faruqi and Uzma Nathani formed the Singapore Chapter of DIL in November of 1999.



Rabia Sarwar visiting Sabeen Sarwar School

On the 29th of January, the Chapter Board hosted their first fundraiser at the residence of Najmi and Malik Sarwar. The evening was meant to inform the audience about the importance of empowering women in the rural areas of Pakistan, and the effect primary education has on the birthrate and lifestyle of a female . A video presentation, followed by a Q&A session helped further explain the importance of female literacy. Omar Sarwar, 18, and Rabia Sarwar, 16, who had visited the MMBMT/DIL project in the summer of '99, spoke of how the experience had enriched their lives and shared with the audience how the children cherished attending DIL schools and being given the opportunity to receive even a basic education. Not only did the audience donate generously, but they also offered their time and talents to promote a cause that touches every 'dil'.

Through the year, presentations have been made at the Singapore American School and the United World College, which has resulted in the sponsorship of DIL schools by these institutions.

The Board is looking forward to having another fundraiser in February 2001, inshallah.

DIL New York

On October 29th, 2000, Fouzia and Sajjad Iqbal very graciously included DIL in an event featuring the international celebrity Zia Mohyeddin. Almost 200 people were present, including the Pakistan Ambassador to the United Nations, Mr. Shamshad Ahmed. Representing DIL were Tasnim Azhar and Saeeda Fancy.

The program started with a viewing of the DIL video, which provoked an interesting question and answer session.

By the end of the evening DIL had raised \$12,400.

Two new members have been inducted; Shaila Zamir and Fouzia Iqbal will represent DIL in Westchester and Northern New Jersey respectively.

Financials

Developments in Literacy, Inc. Activity for Year Ended December 31, 1999

1. REVENUE:	
Sponsorship of Children	\$78,025.00
May Fund-raiser	\$35,930.86
General Donations	\$32,623.24
Interest and Dividends	\$8,035.11
Total Revenue Received in 1999	\$154,614.21
2. EXPENSES:	
Education Expense	\$59,912.60
Monitoring Expense	\$6,700.00
Transfer to Endowment	\$8,365.00
Printing and Mailing	\$773.74
IRS	\$500.00
Merrill Lynch Management Fee	\$150.00
Wire Transfer Expense	\$125.00
Postmaster Yearly Fee	\$100.00
Telephone	\$60.00
Check Reorder	\$39.00
Fee for NSF	\$25.00
Franchise Tax Board	\$25.00
Total Expense in 1999	\$76,775.34
3. Net income for 1999	\$77,838.87
Net Assets-Beginning of Year	\$136,947.13
Change in Net Assets	\$77,838.87
Net Assets-End of Year	\$214,786.00
DIL Board Members have underwritten all administrative cost incurred so far. Every cent of donor's contribution goes towards education.	