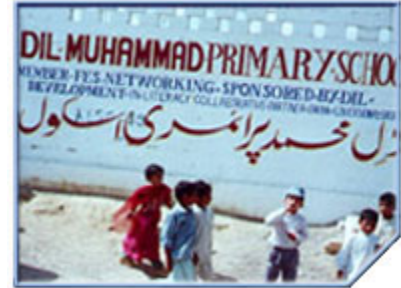


## ARTICLES OF 2001

### New DIL Project in Orangi

DIL entered into a five-year agreement with Faran Educational Society (FES) in February 2001 to establish 25 non-formal schools in the out-reach areas of North West Orangi, covering Orangi Deh, Gulshan-e-Zia, Dildar Goth, Khair Abad, Toori Bangush Colony, Itihad Town and Ramzan Goth, where the literacy rate is extremely low. These schools will serve approximately 1250 students. It is planned that, at the end of the five-year period, these schools will be converted into formal schools.



FES was started in 1975 by a group of highly motivated and dedicated teachers under the leadership of Mr. Reaz Ahmad. It has brought positive changes in the lives of the deprived children living in the barren and inhospitable area of Orangi Town, known as the largest slum area of Asia. It was launched with the support and active involvement of the community. Beginning with a small coaching center, the group moved into non-formal tuition centers, many of which further evolved into formal schools, and by 1994 over 25 two-room schools were formalized.



FES has established collaborative relations with over 773 schools in Orangi, which are catering to the educational needs of children belonging to the poorest sections of society. Such efforts have gradually helped raise the literacy level in the Orangi Township to 70%.

FES also gives primary importance to teacher training. Under the guidance of Dr. Akhter Hameed Khan, FES has established a Resource Center for teachers in Orangi to improve the quality of education, particularly at the primary level.

DIL Board members have made numerous visits to the DIL / FES project and have returned greatly impressed by the enthusiasm and commitment of all those involved.

### DIL Opens Sixty New Schools in Mianwali

DIL signed a three-year contract with MMBMT in May 2001 to support, strengthen and sustain the existing 50 primary schools and to establish 60 new schools in Wan Bachran, District Mianwali. The number of students in almost all the DIL schools has more than doubled since February 1997; therefore, it was considered necessary to open more schools to accommodate the overflow of



children.

DIL plans to continue training its teachers once the SAHE training ends in June. Board members who visited Mianwali in January were encouraged by the progress the teachers and students had made in the last year. They also heard several appeals from the teachers for further subject-specific training. DIL will be utilizing the services of EDCON for this purpose.

### **DIL Students Top in District Exams**

In the examination for Class-V held by the District Education Officer (DEO) for all the schools in Mianwali district, DIL students attained the top three positions. They will all be eligible to continue their secondary studies in any government institution. The local paper proudly highlighted this achievement of DIL students.



### **The Khairpur Project**

Board members Fiza Shah, Najmi Sarwar, and Tasnim Shahreyar visited a number of schools of DIL's Khairpur project in January 2001. They also met all the teachers and many members of the Community based organizations (CBOs) that are responsible for the day to day running of the schools. The teachers spoke enthusiastically of the teacher training which had not only helped to raise their standard of teaching, but had also improved student attendance. The Khairpur teachers are presently undergoing training in English, aimed at improving the English writing and reading skills of their students. In order to take the Khairpur project to the next phase-sustainability, DIL has negotiated a six-month contract with the Indus Resource Center (IRC). IRC is working on grassroots empowerment in Khairpur, focusing on three areas: micro-credit, primary education and preventive health. IRC will take over the responsibility of running the Khairpur schools from NOWA in July 2001. Currently, a detailed study is being done by IRC to evaluate the progress of the schools and their effect on the



### **Excerpts from Teacher's Letters**

**Teacher's Name:** Zainab Khatoon

**Address:** Wan Bachran-Mianwali

**School's name:** Adam Karimjee School, Chandini, Wan Bachran-Mianwali

According to most of my relatives an educated girl becomes corrupt and strong-headed. Despite all the opposition, my parents took a firm stand and continued educating me. As a result, to this date we are cut off from the rest of our family. We were very poor and sometimes I wished I could wear a new uniform and have new books. But, I knew that my parents were trying to make ends meet and did not ask them for anything. Time passed, I cleared my middle examination and then passed matriculation. I could stitch and sew, so I used to help my parents make some extra money, though very minimal.



On June 5, 1997 DIL-MMBMT hired me to teach at Adam Karimjee School. Meanwhile, I admitted myself in Allama Iqbal Open University for F.A. I worked hard and cleared my F.A. examinations. As I teach, I also plan to continue studying further.

DIL schools have helped us achieve an identity of our own. Had this opportunity not been given to me by DIL and MMBMT, I would have been nowhere. I always wanted to impart my knowledge to other girls of our area and I know how difficult it is for them to continue their studies because of the pressures of our society. The training provided by DIL through SAHE has made teaching a lot easier for me. It is so true that God sends his angels down on this earth, which become a source of life for people like us. DIL and MMBMT have given us so much that we can never repay them. I thank all of you who are here and all those who are abroad for making a difference in our lives. May God bless you all. Amin.

**Teacher's Name:** Huma Rid

**Address:** Madina Colony Kachi Abadi MC-19, Khairpur

**School's Name:** Col. Noor Mohd. School

In 1996, I started teaching 30 female students at an NGO school, funded by the Government, in Khairpur Sindh. The funding ended after two years but I decided to remain associated with NOWA Pirbhat Association and worked without salary. The girls were in class III and there were no other funds available to keep our schools running. We felt hopeless and at a loss in terms of our future; then our Director informed us that we should continue teaching these young girls as Developments in Literacy (DIL) had taken on the responsibility of educating these girls. It is because of DIL that, today, that those girls completed their primary education. Out of those students, one joined us in teaching, 6 got admission for secondary education and three were married.



After getting training under DIL's teacher training program, I consider myself fully trained and equipped to teach a class with full confidence. Training has improved my personality on the whole. I also received the "Best Teacher Award" from DIL.

We all face certain problems: social and cultural obstacles, the foremost amongst which is the attitude of those parents who are not in favor of female education at any level; no proper school building-my father has donated a room in our house for this purpose; high cost of electricity consumption during summers; fee collection problem.



At present I have 48 students enrolled in my class and 15 more attend anyway. Education means change for the better. I sense a great positive attitudinal change in my students. Education has helped them grow mentally and has impacted them socially, morally and economically.

### **Rhythms of the Indus: A Mystical Evening in Singapore**

Members of the DIL chapter in Singapore worked tirelessly for three months to make a resounding success of their Fundraiser, held on April 20, 2001, which raised over S\$120,000.



Seventy percent of the funds were raised through corporate donations via table sponsorships ranging from S\$2,000 to S\$5,000 per table. The sponsors were largely multinationals like Citibank, Merrill Lynch, CSFB, ABN-AMRO, and Nortel among others. Apart from the enthusiastic participation of the Pakistani community in Singapore, it is noteworthy that more than two-thirds of the guests were of non-Pakistani origin, which has helped in raising the awareness of DIL across multiple ethnic and social segments in Singapore.

The event was a fully sold-out Dinner and Qawwali at the Conrad Hotel Ballroom attended by over 400 guests. The highlights included inspiring poetry renditions by young Pakistani women, a video presentation focusing on the challenging task undertaken by DIL to spread literacy in the poor, remote areas of Pakistan and, in conclusion, a six-minute slideshow focused on the children in DIL schools. A sumptuous buffet dinner was followed by almost 3 hours of Qawwali by maestro Ustad Asif Ali Khan and partners. The young 26 year old Asif, protégé of the late Ustad Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, has the same charisma as his mentor and many in the audience remarked at the similarity in their tenor and style.

The challenge now is to build on the event's success and enhanced name recognition of DIL in Singapore, which should hopefully ensure a constant supply of funds and volunteers for such future events.

### **DIL Opens Chapter in San Francisco**

DIL opened its fourth chapter in San Francisco on April 19, 2001. The San Francisco DIL Board consists of the following members: Sara Abbasi, President; Lubna Shaikh, Vice

President; Saira Siddiqui, Secretary; Zar Aslam, Treasurer; Asma Sheikh, Head of fundraising committee.

The Board Members plan to hold their first Fundraiser on September 23, 2001.

## Financials

### Developments in Literacy, Inc. Activity for Year Ended December 31, 2000

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. REVENUE:  |                     |
| Sponsorship of Children  | \$ 73,535.00        |
| General Donations  | \$182,292.48        |
| Interest & Dividends   | \$15,317.84         |
| <b>Total Revenue Received in 2000</b>  | <b>\$271,145.32</b> |
| 2. EXPENSES:   |                     |
| Education Expense  | \$63,858.27         |
| Transfer to Endowment  | \$52,875.67         |
| Tax & Legal Fees   | \$2,643.61          |
| Printing Expense   | \$1,475.74          |
| NSF Check & Fee  | \$65.00             |
| <b>Total Expenditure in 2000</b>   | <b>\$120,918.29</b> |
| Net Income for 2000  | \$150,227.03        |
| DIL Board Members have underwritten all administrative costs incurred so far. Every cent of donor's contribution goes towards education. |                     |