



Developments in Literacy

Educating Children • Empowering Communities



Mission



Developments in Literacy (DIL) educates and empowers underprivileged students, especially girls, by operating student-centered model schools and providing high-quality professional development to teachers and principals across Pakistan.

Vision



DIL believes that no child in Pakistan, no matter how poor or underprivileged, should be denied access to high-quality education. All children should have an equal opportunity to reach their full potential and contribute toward the socioeconomic betterment of their communities.





Why DIL? Why Pakistan?

Education is a universal right for which we share a global responsibility. Pakistan has the second highest out-of-school population in the world, with over 22 million children aged 5 to 16 failing to enroll. Despite the increase in access to education, nearly three out of four Pakistani children drop out of school before the age of 16. Girls drop out at twice the rate of boys, lowering female literacy rates in some areas to a mere 8%.

With 75% of Pakistan's population living on less than \$6 a day, a meaningful education is the only viable pathway to socioeconomic empowerment. Each additional year of schooling increases an individual's earning by 10%.

Girls who complete primary education marry later in life, have fewer children, and are less likely to become victims of domestic abuse. What is more, the child of a mother who can read is 50% more likely to live past the age of 5.

The journey begins in the classroom.

Our Work



Innovating for Impact DIL supports students' core subject instruction through Technology Enabled Academic Learning (TEAL), using video to encourage creative application of concepts learned in the classroom.



Developing Educators We train teachers not just from our own schools, but from schools across the country, focusing on best practices that are student-centered and promote critical reflection.



Tailoring Curricula DIL creates special curriculum packages with teacher guides and support materials that help students learn in an authentic, meaningful way.



Fostering Success Beyond School Our Gateway Initiative readies students for the future by inculcating life skills, vocational training, and career exploration. Today our alumni work in fields as diverse as medicine, engineering, and public service, charting the future of their country.





Shama Bhutto (left), a DIL graduate, always dreamed of working in medicine. She is now pursuing a BS in Nursing at Khairpur Medical College, paid for in full by the Pakistani government.

Although her father's rickshaw business could barely sustain her family, DIL graduate **Misbah Hassan (right)** is now working as a senior manager at Oriflame, a Swedish multinational cosmetics company.



The DIL Difference

DIL manages a network of 191 schools in the country's most marginalized areas, from Upper Dir and Mansehra in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to Orangi and Khairpur in Sindh.

In addition to enhancing girls' education and promoting local female leadership in schools, we ensure our curriculum cultivates critical thought and equips students with the skills they need to succeed in the twenty-first century.

DIL's programs are transforming lives and changing communities, enrolling a total of **365,224 students** since our founding 27 years ago. The following indicators illustrate how DIL is promoting literacy, rectifying gender disparity, and fostering intellectual enrichment.

Indicators	DIL	Pakistan Average
Drop-out rate	3.9%	41%
Female enrollment rate	68%	45%
Primary school completion	90%	60%
Trained teachers in the classroom	Teachers receive 80 hours of training a year	Teachers trained once in 5 years

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS



191 School Campuses



61,448 Students



2,855 Teachers & Principals



23-to-1 Student Teacher Ratio



177,572 Library Books



57 Dedicated IT Labs

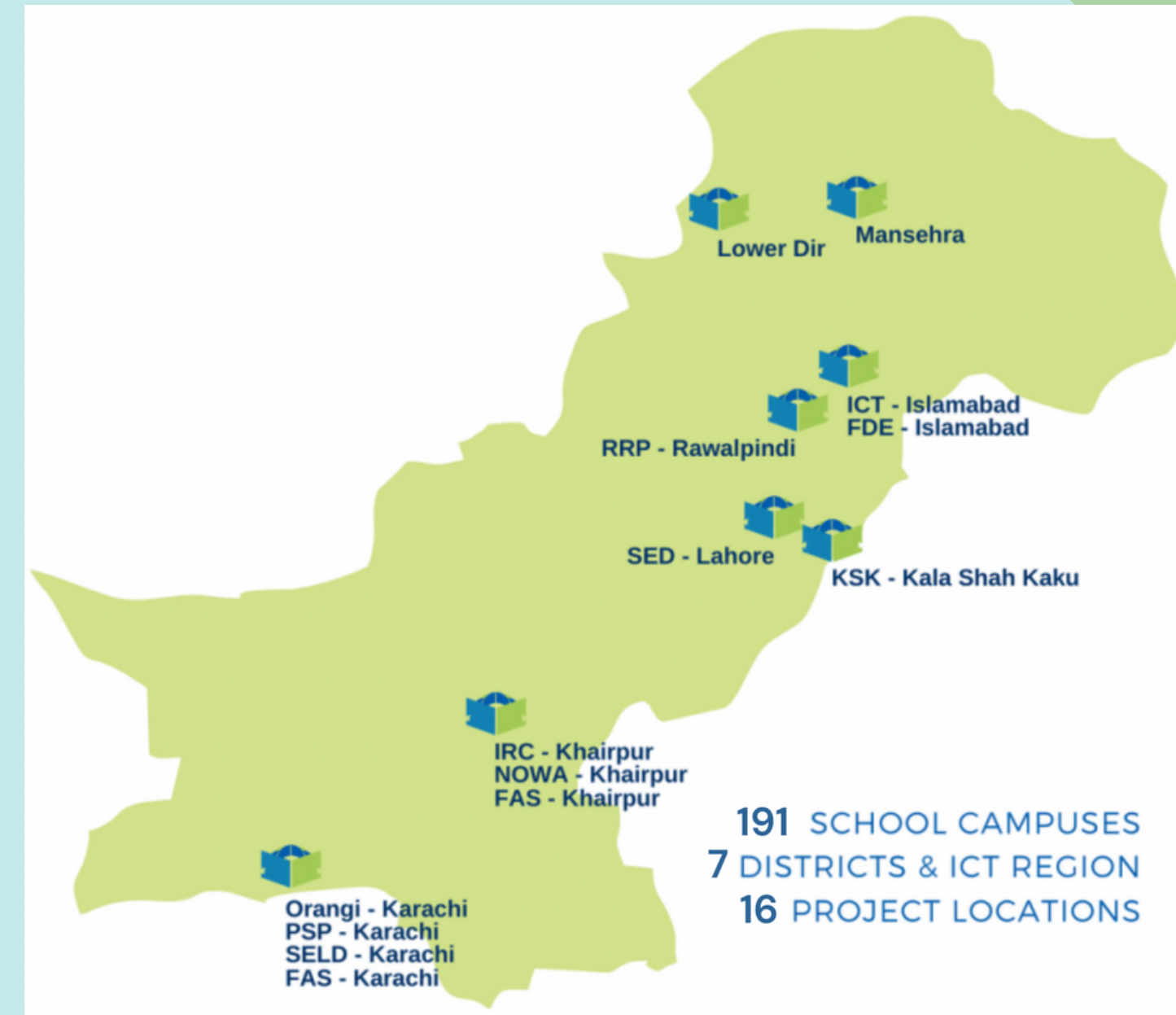


89% Students Have Access to Technology



68% Female Enrollment Rate (vs. 45% Pakistan Average)

Areas DIL Serves



"The day my local DIL school opened, my mother came home brimming with excitement. 'This is your chance to build a future that lies beyond Asbanr,' she urged. I didn't believe her until I met the teachers. They sparked in us a joy for learning. It was there that I learned my ABCs and 123s, and the values of hard work and compassion."

Dr. Neelum Bibi (DIL alumna and physician in Asbanr, Lower Dir)



Technology for Schools

DIL's EdTech innovation, **Technology Enabled Academic Learning (TEAL)**, uses video to support core subject instruction in the classroom (**math, science, and English**).

TEAL enables students to **construct their own understanding of a concept** through a synthesis of video, student-centered learning activities, and assessments. It has transformed teaching by shifting (a) the function of the teacher from direct instruction to **guiding students' acquisition of knowledge**, and (b) students from **passive to active learners**.

In March 2022, TEAL was nominated for UNESCO's World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) prize in their media category for the program's contribution to information exchange and knowledge creation. A total of 4,775 pupils have benefited from the full breadth of TEAL programming, **helping raise student access to technology to 89%**.

As newly learned concepts constellate in students' minds, teachers employ scripted, activity-based lesson plans to support students in creatively applying those concepts.

A Story of Progress

When Saba Katohar finished her primary school education, she had already heard from her Grade 6 friends about how TEAL video lessons enabled them to improve their performance in English and science. For Saba, these were the most difficult subjects to master during her primary years.

When Saba started her secondary education, TEAL immediately began helping her acquire a firmer grasp of concepts like English analogies and the process of human respiration. It brought her joy to be able to form her own mental picture of concepts in lieu of relying on rote memorization.

At the beginning of December, however, Saba took ill. Her doctor traced the newfound paralysis in her legs to bone tuberculosis. The physical agony of infection was surpassed only by the anxiety of not knowing what the future holds.

Happily, Saba's friends—Zara, Noureen, Ahsan, Zoya and Sajid—decided to visit her to do TEAL lessons on portable tablets together. Even her English teacher came to her home twice a week to review video lessons. **"I couldn't have kept up with my studies without my teacher and dearest friends,"** says Saba. **"TEAL has made a world of difference for me!"**





Libraries & E-Libraries

A quality education must lay emphasis on reading comprehension. Since children living in rural communities have little or no access to library books that would help them become avid readers, DIL's Reading Program is designed to inspire in children a love and habit of reading, furnishing ample books to match students' reading abilities and interests.

Our students gain not just from the expansion of our traditional book collections, but equally from that of our e-library, which is specially curated for our growing tablet-based reading program, **Read to Grow, Read to Know (RGRK)**.

RGRK accelerates reading development and comprehension in English, a skill all children must master to succeed academically in Pakistan. Reading texts on android tablets demonstrably strengthens familiar word recognition, oral fluency, and understanding literary themes.

A Story of Growth

Rafaqat Jamal felt helpless at his local school. Although he enjoyed reading, he couldn't get his hands on books he hoped would immerse him in new worlds and connect him with unique characters. Luckily, Rafaqat's father, Jamal, knew a teacher at the nearby DIL Farash Community Model school. Jamal was thrilled to learn from her that the school's teachers had been well-trained and that the fee was affordable. There was a catch: Rafaqat would need to live with the DIL Farash schoolteacher, away from home. Still, Jamal knew a quality education for his son was worth the sacrifice.

Rafaqat's critical reading skills and level of academic engagement had suffered so much at his previous school that he became truant at his new one. Then, in 2016, the RGRK pilot was introduced to DIL Farash. Rafaqat found himself mesmerized by new technology offering a treasure trove of stories to choose from.

Now motivated to attend school regularly, he spent hours at the library, relishing independent reading as much as the librarian's read-aloud storytime. And so Rafaqat came to love reading and learning. He graduated from DIL Farash with 75% marks on his board exams, a high score in the Pakistani education system that will yield promising opportunities for him.



Rafaqat pictured above with video tablet.



To discover more about how your generosity can make a difference, contact us:

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Your donation will empower underprivileged children in Pakistan to live their dreams.

DIL is a United States-based 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, nonprofit organization (Federal Tax ID #33-0843213) that supports the education of underserved children in Pakistan.



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