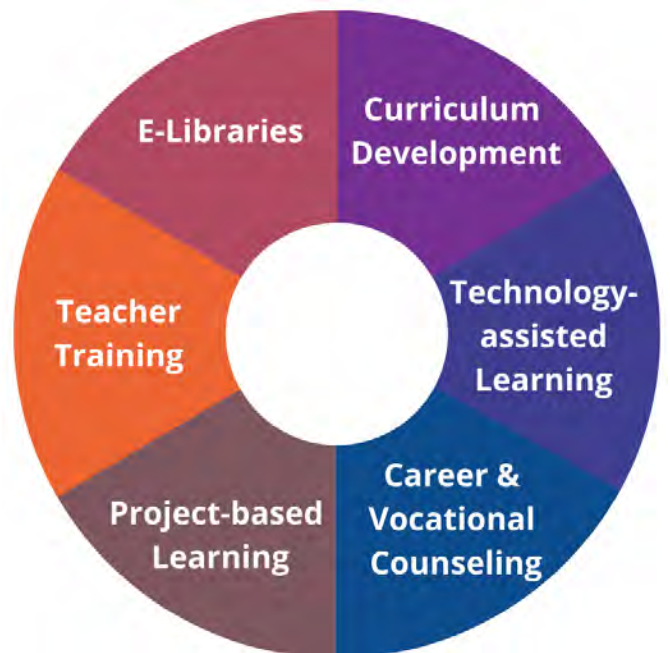


# DONOR IMPACT REPORT

JANUARY—SEPTEMBER 2019

## WHERE WE STAND TODAY

DIL places a premium on making a positive impact on our students, equipping them with the skills they will need to build a new and better world. We are indebted to you, our generous donors, for investing in our schools and making a real difference for our students' future prospects, which depend entirely on the strength of their education. To that end, we would like to share with you the specific ways in which DIL has been improving the education we provide children across Pakistan and the fruits of these efforts.



DIL has made progress on multiple levels. 74% of DIL students in Orangi received an A grade on the most recent matric exam. At an individual level, DIL recently congratulated Faiza Bibi, a young woman who completed her primary and middle grade education at DIL Community School Shahjeevan in the Rawalpindi District, graduating after securing first place in the 2019 Federal Board for Intermediate and Secondary Education Matric Exam. Also, 3 boys from Orangi town, Asim, Mudasir, and Muneeb, gained admission to NED University of Engineering and Technology, a premier public university in Karachi. The 3 boys can claim success despite coming from a disadvantaged background.

# Stories of Success

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Consider the story of Kaināt Balouch, a graduate of DIL Madina Colony School. Kaināt's father was addicted to drugs and used to beat his wife and daughters. Since she was keen to study and had dreamed of becoming a doctor since childhood, her mother decided to send her to school while her father was out of the house. The moment her father discovered she was attending school, he beat her. And one day, he hastily arranged her marriage to an uneducated boy for money. Kaināt resisted, so the beatings became more frequent. Yet she never lost hope. After gracefully overcoming these obstacles with the help of her relatives and DIL

teachers, Kaināt finally tasted success. She has now

been working at a prestigious civil hospital for the last 3 years as a physician. Incredibly, she has cured her once broken father of his drug addiction. Today, he assists his daughter at her private clinic in the evenings, proud to be the father of Dr. Kaināt Balouch.

Consider, too, the story of DIL student Malka Bhutto. Situated in a poor village, Malka contracted typhoid while she was in Grade 4, missing a large portion of the academic year. When she returned to school, she encountered difficulty in catching up with her peers, causing her confidence to suffer. But Malka found in the school library a sanctuary where she could summon the motivation to persist in her studies. It was there everything changed after she read one of Aesop's fables, "The Thirsty Crow," a story about the value of



perseverance in adversity, sourcing inner strength, and thinking creatively when confronted with challenges. The fable touched her in a way that helped her revisit her studies with renewed determination and enthusiasm. Now in Grade 6, Malka is still an avid reader of fiction who admits to spending too much time at the school library. Although at the national level more than 50% of girls enrolled in school drop out after Grade 5, DIL has a stronger retention rate partly because of the abundance of resources we offer our students, including well-stacked libraries where they can explore the limits of their imagination.



# Libraries and Reading

We enrich our students' reading experiences by creating welcoming child-friendly library spaces, providing access to leveled e-books on cost-efficient tablets, and engaging students in independent reading. In particular, our summer reading



program soared, especially Family Reading Day, which involved even illiterate parents joining their children at the library to read books aloud. At



DIL Amina School, when a parent wondered how unlettered people could participate in a book reading activity, the librarian helped her connect illustrations with words, giving her the courage to continue learning how to read. Inviting parents to enjoy the school library is an important part of DIL's strategy to encourage students to spend more time reading at home because ample research establishes a strong relationship between plentiful reading, academic achievement, and success in life.

## TEAL

TEAL or Technology-enabled Academic Learning is a scalable, curricular package of locally relevant instructional videos, linked lesson plans, and student assessments. It gives ballast to core subject learning by using video lessons that enable students to apply new concepts and receive an immediate digital formative evaluation of their understanding of those concepts. Teachers are able to monitor students' progress through real-time analytics.



Zeeshan Ali, a Grade 6 student at DIL Mehran School in Orangi, used to hide himself in class and seemed to be losing connection with his own identity. He was disruptive in class, seldom participating productively. But thanks to embedded engagement strategies like Think-Pair-Share, TEAL has had a transformational effect on Zeeshan. He now takes great interest in his studies, enjoying the video portion of the TEAL lessons as well as eagerly partaking in pair and group work. He especially takes pride in seeing his own improvement between pre- and post-lesson assessments, typically scoring 100% by the end of the lesson.

# Teacher Training

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One of DIL's unique qualities is a comprehensive training program both for DIL schoolteachers themselves and a certain percentage of government schoolteachers. The results of this program in the first year have been remarkable. Almost 800 Primary and Middle grade teachers have received modules for core subject courses designed to expand content knowledge and increase pedagogical efficacy. New modules have recently been launched in the subjects of maths, social studies, and Urdu. What is more, our training now lays greater emphasis on critical thinking, communication skills, and self-motivation.

## Government School Adoption

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Part of what distinguishes DIL from similar education non-profits working in Pakistan is our blueprint for a strong network of schools. In lieu of constructing new schools, DIL adopts government schools to enhance the quality of education children receive there chiefly through robust curriculum development and an arsenal of well-trained teachers. In the first half of the year, 6 additional government schools were adopted, serving more than 2,000 students in the ICT district.

## Gateway Initiative

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DIL's Gateway Initiative prepares students to become productive members of society through the inculcation of life skills, vocational training, and career exploration. Recent results have been promising. Between April and September 2019, 237 students completed life skills development workshops and community service projects. Seven girls from a DIL Orangi School were selected to take IT classes at Tech Karo CIRCLE, a social enterprise which helps women better their lives and communities by enhancing their technological, problem-solving, and financial planning skills.





# Co-curricular Enrichment

## READY, SET, DRAW!

A drawing competition called 'Save Our Earth Art Competition' was held for students in Grades 4 to 6 across DIL schools, sponsored, organized, and judged by IBB in September 2019. Contestants researched how to maintain a clean environment as well as obstacles (such as pollution or climate change), and came up with a creative illustration. Young artists eagerly await the results, and the winning school will receive a set of special books for its library.

