

## **A ray of hope for the bright future: dropout students enrolled and promoted to next grades**

Education opens doors for many but not everyone is lucky enough to benefit from quality education equally. Millions of children remain out of school in Pakistan, many who are enrolled in primary schools are unable to complete and still more miss out on secondary schools.

The story of children of “Faiz Abad” a small village of Jalalpurpirwala a flood affected sub-district of district Multan is not very different. Many students were out of school, never enrolled and dropped out. In 2011, the Government Girls Elementary School Darkhanwala (Faizaabad) was partnered under the Whole School Improvement Program (WSIP) supported by Dubai Cares under Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA).

Since there were many out of school, or drop out students in the village, the accelerated learning program “*chalo parho barho* (CPB) or let's read and grow was initiated in the partner school to formally enroll out of school and dropout students of Faizabad village. Many enrolled children studying in the school who were weak also took classes under CBP. During these learning camps the focus was to enhance the learning levels of students by engaging them under through different activities under the Combined Activities for Maximized Learning (CAMAL) Methodology. CAMAL is an interactive technique designed in India successfully that teaches literacy and numeracy through non sequential approaches such as reading a story directly or buying and selling through currency notes without knowing preceding competencies. The children made mindmaps to build their vocabulary and were soon connecting sentences progressing fast up to story level.

Out of those students who attended the learning camp, learning levels of 20 students were improved to such a level that head teacher Ms. Abida Parveen promoted them from nursery to second grade. The decision of the head teacher was welcomed by the families of children since they were enrolled late in the school and were older than their fellow students.

The promoted students are very well settled in their new classes and are facing no learning challenge. The promotion has also triggered a sense of encouragement for other fellow students to learn hard and grow.

### **OUTCOME:**

- Students took keen interest in their daily class lessons;
- Students become punctual and regularly attend their classes;
- The absenteeism has decreased and students encourage their parents to regularly attend school;

### **BENEFICIARIES:**

- Drop out students in the community;
- Students of the partner school