

Anita Ghulam Ali,

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Subject: My proposal on revival of State Schooling System in Sindh through mutual partnership of Sindh Education Foundation, Civil Society Organizations and Sindh Education Department

Dear Anita Apa, Salams

I thank you for all your kindness, valuable cooperation and support that you have extended to us so far in our efforts to adopt government schools under your Adopt a School Program.

Rizq Foundation now wishes to work with a broader objective of reviving Education at Government Primary and Secondary Schools throughout Sindh. While this may appear to be an ambitious task, given the will and dedication of all participating stakeholders I do not see it as an impossible goal.

PLEASE PAY ATTENTION TO MY FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS AND PROPOSAL AS YOUR OWN PERSONAL INTEREST IN THIS REGARD WILL BE KEY TO OUR SUCCESS:

Why Government Schools Become Dysfunctional:

It is a common belief that government schools become dysfunctional because of the unwillingness of teachers to attend them. While it is true to a great extent, this is not exactly true in all cases.

There are several government school teachers who are willing to attend schools. For instance, When we took over 5 closed schools under your Adopt a School Program in District Thatta, our initial impression was that we will have to employ our own teachers to teach at these schools. But once these schools were taken over by us, we saw teachers slowly return to take up their duties within next few weeks. Now we have only one school where we have employed our own teacher.

There are several other reasons which lead to the absence of teachers from schools and their eventual closure, such as lack of transportation facilities to travel to schools. This is particularly a problem in case of Lady Teachers who cannot use Motorcycles as means of transportation as compared to their male counterparts. Lack of accommodation available to the teachers where they have been posted from a different city is also one reason why they are unable to attend schools.

A number of schools are deserted by the students and communities not by the teachers. A number of rural communities in Sindh are unsettled communities. They are of a nomadic nature who move from one place to another searching for greener pastures to feed their flocks. Hence, several schools are left behind with no populations around them.

Why state schooling system becomes dysfunctional.

While a lot has been written and said about corruption, mismanagement, political appointments and other reasons for the failure of state schooling system, to me the fundamental reason for failure of this system is that it thrives on a rather old fashioned beurocratic system of governance that is run by EDOs, ADOS and Supervisors who often lack the will and ability to carry out their delegated tasks and are not held accountable for their failure to do so.

The solution lies in creating proper professional management structures at the UC level who are given the entire task of managing the state schooling system at the Union Council Level.

Reviving the closed Government Schools is a better option than building new schools.

Ever since, the state schooling system became dysfunctional in the province of Sindh leading to closure of an extraordinary number of schools, a number of new schools are now being built by the private sector NGOs, philanthropists and other institutions under sponsorships from international donors, as a replacement for these schools. Billions of rupees are being spent under these programs.

Thus, while Government continues to spend billions of rupees on feeding a dysfunctional state schooling system, Billions more are spent by the private sector on creating a parallel schooling system which has limited outreach and cannot meet the needs of entire population in Sindh.

Hence under present environment, while the Sindh government will build up more schools every year to add to its present stock of 42,000 primary and secondary schools most of which are now closed, private sector will build new schools at huge cost which will have a limited outreach. As most of the new schools built by Sindh Education Department will be eventually closed and not even a fraction of them is likely to be replaced by the private sector, the overall gap between the number of functional and dysfunctional schools in Sindh is likely to get widened leading to an ever growing population of out of school children in Sindh.

Adopt a School Program introduced by Sindh Education Foundation and the provincial government is a good Program But as it is not a funded program and lacks proper attention and support from the

government it has achieved limited success. There are only 165 schools adopted so far under this program whereas under World Bank Funding 390 private schools are being supported under PPRS PROGRAM. (source SEF website).

THIS SHORT ANALYSIS LEAD US TO THE FOLLOWING CONCLUSIONS:

- (1) WHILE WE CONTINUE TO SPEND MORE TIME EFFORT AND MONEY IN CREATING PARALELL EDUCATION SYSTEM BY SETTING UP NEW STATE PRIVATE SCHOOLS, LITTLE EFFORT TIME AND MONEY IS BEING SPENT ON REVIVING STATE SCHOOLING SYSTEM WHICH HAS BECOME LARGELY DYSFUNCTIONAL CREATING AN EVER INCREASING POPULATION OF OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.
- (2) AS THERE IS A SURPLUS NUMBER OF TEACHERS AVAILABLE WITH THE PROVINCIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, AND THERE ARE AMPLE NUMBER OF SCHOOL BUILDING AVAILABLE IN CLOSED SCHOOLS, ANY SUCCESSFUL EFFORT DIRECTED AT REVIVING THE STATE SCHOOLING SYSTEM AT DISTRICT AND UC LEVELS IN SINDH WILL BE MORE PRODUCTIVE AND CARRIED OUT AT A MINISCULE OF THE AMOUNT OF MONEY BEING SPENT BY PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR ON BUILDING NEW SCHOOLS.

WITH THIS IMPORTANT ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION I WISH PUT UP THE FOLLOWING PROPOSAL:

EDUCATION SUPPORT CENTRES SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED AT UC LEVELS UNDER PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP THE OBJECTIVE OF REVIVING EDUCATION AT THE UC LEVEL IN ALL GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS IN A PARTICULAR DISTRICT.

These Centres shall be set up with the mutual participation of following stakeholders:

1. Sindh Education Department.
2. Sindh Education Foundation.
3. Civil Society Organization, philanthropist, or institution.
4. Donor organizations.

The prime task of these Centres shall be to ensure that entire state schooling system at the Uc Level is revived and remains functional throughout the year.

They will be set up with following goals and functions:

1. To ensure 100% enrolment of children in all government schools in the Union Council.
2. To interact and coordinate with local supervisors, headmasters and teachers and the heads of local communities to make all schools operational in the area.
3. To arrange for the transport, accommodation and other facilities required by the teachers to attend the schools.
4. To arrange for private teachers temporarily in the schools where government teachers cannot be arranged.
5. To monitor the quality and standard of education in all schools in the area.

6. To arrange for the Teachers training program in order to improve the quality and standards of teaching.
7. To undertake various research and analysis tasks in the area to assist other organs of Sindh Education Department such as SEF, RSU etc.
8. Each centre will have its own website on which it will compile its data on each school with regard to:
 - (a) No of Student Enrolled in each school. Boys and Girls
 - (b) The level of Education they have attained.
 - (c) The state of facilities available in each school. Etc
9. The SMC funds shall be disbursed to the Centre who shall ensure their proper utilization.

More details on exact Functioning and role these **EDUCATION SUPPORT CENTRES** can be established through further discussion and debate.

I strongly recommend that a pilot project be initiated by Sindh Education Foundation on this idea. The achievements and results of that pilot project will lead to a correct model of EDUCATION SUPPORT CENTRES which can be established throughout Sindh.

Rizq Foundation shall be pleased to become a partner with SEF in that pilot project.

I SHALL BE PLEASED TO MEET YOU ANY TIME TO DISCUSS THIS PROPOSAL.