# Welcome to all delegates in the group discussion on

"Rural Education in Pakistan"

Organized by: IPSI

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## **Brief overview of Pakistan**

- Islamic Republic of Pakistan, is a federal parliamentary republic.
- Located in South Asia on crossroads of Central Asia and Western Asia.
- Pakistan has a coastline along the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman in the south
- It is bordered by India to the east, Afghanistan to the west, Iran to the southwest and China in the far northeast respectively.
- It is separated from Tajikistan by Afghanistan's narrow Wakhan Corridor in the north, and also shares a maritime border with Oman.
- It is the 6th most populous country with a population exceeding 200 million people.
- Of the total population, 38.8% is urban based while 61.2% is rural based.

### **Facts on Education in Pakistan**

- Education in Pakistan is overseen by the provincial governments
- Federal government assists in curriculum development, accreditation and in the financing of research and development.
- Constitution of Pakistan obligates the state to provide free and compulsory quality education to children of the age group 3 to 16 years.
- The education system in Pakistan is generally divided; University Masters College • Bachelors Higher Secondary Secondary School School Elementary • Class 11 to 12 • Class 9 & 10 School **Primary** Class 6 School • To Class 8 Pre-school From Class 1 • 3 years • To Class 5 To 5 years

#### **Education in Rural Areas of Pakistan**

- More then 50% of people in rural areas of Pakistan are illiterate.
- Some villages are far off from the nearest schools.
- Reasons for a continued lack of education is a lack of investment in schools and the reluctance of teachers to venture into the rural areas of the country.

#### **Initiative of OCD**

MKK is an initiative of OCD (Organization for Community Development). It is a symbol of quality education in an extremely rural setting. It is providing an opportunity to the rural community to get the best education for their children. Before this initiative, parents have to send their children in cities for quality education. It was not only difficult but also costly for them. MKK is providing quality education to the community's children at grass root level.

# **Community Services**

Schools are a hub for knowledge exchange. MKK does not ensure kids schooling and knowledge enhancement but also works for adult education and women trainings under the umbrella of OCD. Through its programs on informal education and women skill enhancement trainings, MKK also contributes in improvement of KSA's (Knowledge, Skills and Abilities) of community members.

# Barriers / challenges to mainstreaming the activities

The major two challenges faced are:

- Limited resources both financial and human resources
- Safety and security within school premises

# How did you solve or what do you need to solve barriers / challenges?

- The first challenge was mitigated by exploring local philanthropists and resources from like minded organizations. Moreover mainstreaming local human resources can also be helpful.
- The second challenge was the increasing rate of terrorism in Pakistan due to which government made it compulsory to make some security arrangements to keep schools operational. MKK complied with all these requirements and installed security cameras, barbed wires, imparted emergency trainings and others. MKK did not let the students to miss even a single Day of schooling because of this.

#### Recommendations

- It is time to approach education from a new perspective based on creative and innovative educational ideas.
- For rural settings, it is important to use latest technology and qualified staff for ensuring student's success.
- It is important to ensure high level of parents and community engagement and active participation.
- We need to practice multiple approaches to address different learning styles.

# **Recommendations (continued)**

- High level of staff morale and engagement helps to ensure best results and increasing satisfaction of parents.
- It is important to impart greater confidence in students to boost their creativity.
- Education should be a learning process that generates interest in the students and motivate them to stay back in the institutions than to run away from it.
- Education should be entertaining and fun to students not boredom or just a duty.



# THANK YOU

International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI)





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