



Education Returns to the Valley

SRSP's SCHOOL REVIVAL PROGRAM





ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

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Research & Produced by: *Fresth Htgdfre Kjdthe*
Creative Direction & Copy by: *Fretshd Hsgsted*
Designed by: *JGsdnn Khsswbs*
Printed by: *Hsdhdj Htsdn*
Photography: *Gstevdk Gsjd*



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Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP)
reconstruct damaged school buildings
 schools would either remain closed or function with ad-hoc arrangements **RECONSTRUCTION**
 The government
‘Education Revival’
earthquake areas Sarhad Rural Support Programme
 long standing history of working in KP
proven successful semi-permanent light weight steel **structures**
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Education Returns to the Valley

The valley of Swat in Pakistan's north had long been known as a 'mini Switzerland' resplendent with emerald green fields, lush fruit-laden orchards, and rushing rivers. However, when the militants swarmed the area in 2007, they quickly turned this small paradise on earth into a place of destruction and terror. Then the army operation against the militants started here. These turbulent times led to the largest human migration from that area in the country's history, with many thousands of people leaving their homes, lands, livelihoods, and belongings behind to live with friends, and relatives, and in shelter camps in safer areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

While the conflict finally ended, it left in its wake the after effects of a war. Houses, livelihoods, fields, orchards and infrastructure bore the brunt of a relentless conflict. One

major area that needed urgent attention was education. 401 government schools were badly damaged, with 176 completely destroyed. Then the floods of 2010 swept in, damaging a further 109 schools and washing away 33 completely. And this does not even account for the damages suffered by colleges and other non-government schools. 65 percent of these damaged/destroyed schools were girls' schools, which had suffered heavily under the misogynist Taliban regime. Time was of the essence, since thousands of children had already lost two substantial years of education and were still vulnerable to losing more due to destroyed school infrastructure, and missing or inadequate facilities. It became even more critical considering that drop-outs increase in post-secondary schooling and now many households were facing economic pressures and there was a need to add the number of people earning.

The government planned to reconstruct the damaged school buildings, however reconstruction takes a lot of time and until then the schools would either remain closed or function with ad-hoc arrangements. Under these circumstances, the Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP), which has a long standing history of working in KP, decided to step in and implement its 'Education Revival' model which had already proven successful in the earthquake areas. This model consists of replacing demolished school structures with semi-permanent light weight steel structures and, along with infrastructure, also addresses issues of quality, community involvement and accessibility.

The SRSP model comprises of four components, which are:

- **Component 1: Rebuilding and Rehabilitating School Structures**
Facilitates children to return to schools and resume education
- **Component 2: Community Participation**
Encourages participation of men and women communities in school management
- **Component 3: Teachers' Professional Development**
Enables teachers to adapt active learning techniques
- **Component 4: Innovating the Education Process**
Diversifies the education process by undertaking an innovative approach



COMPONENT I

Rebuilding and Rehabilitating School Structures

Although, the pre-fabricated structures are categorically termed as a transitional arrangement, the SRSP model is both a quick-fix and a strategic solution that is raised in just 45 days and has a life expectancy of 15 years. This structure had already gained considerable acknowledgment from the district head quarters in Manshera, where SRSP had replaced demolished buildings of 30 community-based and public-private schools with the semi-permanent light weight steel structures. The pre-fabricated structures have thus proved to be a more cost-effective, time-efficient, safe and reliable transitory alternative.

Mobilising both philanthropic and its own resources, SRSP rebuilt and rehabilitated **21 government schools enabling 4,255 students, 3,745 girls and 510 boys**, to return to school.

- **7 completely demolished government girls' schools** were rebuilt with Semi-Permanent Light Weight Steel Structures. Each school building was refurbished with furniture for both the students and the teachers. Appropriate latrine installations were also made. **1,028 girls returned to the schools.**

SR. NO	SCHOOL	UNION COUNCIL	NO OF STUDENTS
1	GGCMS Matta Kharerai	Matta	170
2	GGPS Datpani		155
3	GGPS Spina Khpa	Dureshkhela	60
4	GGPS Allahabad	Charbagh	190
5	GGPS Jehanabad	Teligram	48
6	GGPS Tootkay	Manglawar	96
7	GGPS Tootao Bandai	Tootano Bandai	309
	Total		1,028



- **4** of the **government schools** that had received major damages and were not recommended for use were rehabilitated by SRSP. This facilitated **545 students** to return to schools.

S.NO	SCHOOL	UNION COUNCIL	NO. OF STUDENTS
1	GGHS Drushkhela	Dureshkhela	200
2	GGMS Drushkhela		
3	GGPS Drushkhela		
4	GGPS Baidara	Baidara	345
Total			545

- Another **10 government schools** were facilitated with restoration of water supply. Their water supply schemes had been damaged, depriving children of clean drinking water. This has facilitated **2,682 children** to gain access to clean drinking water in their schools.

SR. NO.	SCHOOL	UNION COUNCIL	NO. OF STUDENTS
1	GGHS Fazalabad Kanju	Kanju	350
2	GGHS Gwalerai	Gwalerai	400
3	GHS Gwalerai	Gwalerai	390
4	GGHS Drushkhela	Dureshkhela	200
5	GGHS Manglawar	Manglawar	147
6	GHS Runial Arkot	Arkot	120
7	GGPS Matta	Matta	550
8	GGPS Tootano Bandai	Tootano Bandai	309
9	GGPS Sakhra	Sakhra	120
10	GGMS Qambar	Qambar	96
Total			2,682

With an investment portfolio of Rs. 28.2 million (US \$ 0.331 million), SRSP rebuilt 7 government schools and repaired major damages for another 17 schools, thus enabling the return of **4,475 children** to schools in District Swat.

DFID allocated SRSP **Rs. 132 million (US \$ 1.552 million)** for 40 government schools in Swat – an initiative to enable the return of over 5000 children to schools. Along with rebuilding the school infrastructure, the investment also catered for restoring water supply in the schools, refurbishment and teachers' training, encouraging community participation and addressing psycho-social needs of children.



4,475 children RECONSTRUCTION

the investment also catered for restoring water supply in the schools,

proven successful teachers' training

long standing history of working in KP damaged school

addressing psycho-social needs of children

'Education Revival' COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP)

COMPONENT 2

Community Participation

This component is aimed at encouraging the participation of men and women communities in school management. With support from Give2Asia, and then later with DFID, SRSP began complementing its rehabilitation efforts with its other components under the education programme. This included formation of Parent Teacher Councils and teachers' professional development.

Women Parent Teacher Councils (PTCs) formed for the schools were provided training to build their capacities and they were also made familiar with the district education department. The councils were facilitated in developing School Improvement Plans and also supplemented with small grants for implementing those plans to improve the functioning of the schools. SRSP initially formed 17 PTCs.

- 6 women PTCs were organised and facilitated with School Improvement Plans and supported with Small Grants (Rs. 0.21 million) for fulfillment of school needs, which had been identified in the School Improvement Plans. These comprised of 48 women. The PTCs were notified with the district education department and underwent training for 3-days on their roles and responsibilities. This initiative facilitated rehabilitation of 6 girls' schools that had received minor damages during the conflicts. Nearly, 420 girls are enrolled in these schools.
- 11 women PTCs with 88 members were organised for government schools that had been constructed/rehabilitated with pre-fabricated structures.

SRSP
Joyful Activities For The Children of Swat
Organized by:
Sarhad Rural Support Programme
With The assistance of Give2Asia

SRSP
Joyful Activities For
Organized by:
Sarhad Rural Support Programme
With The assistance of Give2Asia



COMPONENT 3

Teachers' Professional Development

This component enables teachers to learn and adopt active learning techniques. The initial investment in this component was made in partnership with the Citi Foundation and Give2Asia. It also forms an integral part of the DFID project.

The education department had highlighted the need for training teachers on active learning techniques before they went back to the schools. Hence, SRSP developed and delivered training on **'Road to Healing in Conflict-Affected Areas'**. The training manual basically aimed at enhancing the skills of teachers to help, facilitate, unite and encourage children who had been witness to scenarios of armed conflict, displacement, loss and exploitation. The manual, inclusive of a movie documentary, made use of various methodologies for delivering the course content.

The first women teachers' training event was organised in January 2010. Three events were then organised in District Swat and 75 women teachers from 25 primary, middle and high schools were trained. The efforts of SRSP in enhancing the skills of teachers were endorsed by the district education department and the local administration.

Endorsement of Teachers' Training by District Administration

Mr. Atif Rehman, DCO Swat, attended the Women Teacher's Training on Active Learning Techniques, held in Swat, as the Chief Guest. He encouraged the women teachers to play an active role in the teaching process. The DCO applauded SRSP on its commendable efforts for the revival of the education system in Swat and appreciated its intervention with the teachers to help them understand active learning techniques. He emphasised that the teachers must apply their learning in their class rooms and take full advantage of the training they had been provided by SRSP. He called on SRSP for its continued support and assured the full cooperation of his office.

During discussions with the teachers it was found that nearly 50 percent of the participants had teaching experience of more than 10 years and in their service they had been part of a multitude of capacity building programmes. However, none had focused on developing the kind of attitude and behaviour a good teacher needs to have in order to play an effective role in the development of the personalities, abilities and experiences of the students.



COMPONENT 4

Innovating the Education Process

This component aimed at diversifying the education process in the district by taking up innovative approaches to education and learning. The initiatives taken under this component were facilitated with resources mobilised from small private philanthropists.

- In a landmark effort aimed at improving the quality of education, SRSP started an initiative **'Enhancing Access of Youth in High and Higher Secondary Schools to Information'**. Under this initiative, computer labs were established in 25 government schools (20 high and 5 middle schools) with 171 computers. The aim has been to globalise a small village level school, where the only source of information is the textbook and the teacher. In an environment where the masses have been radicalised, increased access to information is the only way of helping the youth develop critical thinking and be proactive in decision-making.
- School Kits were distributed among 1,311 girls from primary government schools in Union Councils Kabal, Khwazakhela and Matta.
- SRSP's education programme also envelopes the needs of underprivileged children in District Swat. The term here categorises children who drop-out of the education system at the higher secondary level due to related high costs of the post-secondary education. Field experience shows that conflicts and disasters adversely affect the economic well-being of the communities, thereby placing enormous pressures on the resources available and cutting-off opportunities of growth and development, especially for the youth. In order to supplement the cause of restoring hope for children from low-income and underprivileged households, who are most vulnerable to the phenomenon of being dropped-out of the education system, SRSP extended academic scholarships to 40 students. These are students from secondary schools between the ages of 14 - 18 who have limited or no resources to pursue post-secondary education. The students were identified through a Poverty Score Card exercise. This initiative was funded by the Citi Foundation. These children will begin with their post-secondary education after the summer vacation in 2011. Their performance will be monitored and support provided as and when required.



Education Project with DFID's Support

SRSP and DFID signed an agreement to replicate the education project for reviving education in the district. It was a nine-month initiative with the following components;

- Rebuilding 40 government schools (32 for girls and 8 for boys). Each school has been rebuilt and refurbished to provide for improved environment.
- Teachers' Professional Development for 120 teachers (96 women and 24 men) on Road to Healing
- Formation and training of 40 Parent Teacher Councils (32 women and 08 men PTCs) with 320 members (256 women and 64 men)
- Psycho-Social Activities/Co-curricular Activities for the students in the 40 schools.

SR. NO.	COMPONENT	ACHIEVEMENTS	PARTNERS
1	Rebuilding and Restoring School Infrastructure	21 Schools	SRSP resources and philanthropists
	<i>Note: 61 government schools have been rebuilt and rehabilitated under this component</i>	40 Schools	DFID
2	Community Participation	18 PTC with 144 members	SRSP resources and Give2Asia
	<i>Note: 58 PTCs have been formed, notified and trained under this component. These have 464 members</i>	40 PTC with 320 members	DFID
3	Teachers' Professional Development	75 women teachers	Citi Foundation and Give2Asia
	<i>Note: 195 teachers have been trained under this component.</i>	120 men and women teachers	DFID
4	Innovating the Education Process	25 Computer Labs	SRSP's Resources
		Academic Scholarships for 40 students	Citi Foundation
		School Kits	Mercy Relief



Dureshkhal Complex Schools

BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE

AFTER



GGPS Allabad

Sarhad Rural Support Programme Network (SRSP)
House No. 7, Street 49, F-6/4 Islamabad, Pakistan
Tel: 051-2029141, 2829556 Fax: 051-2829115
Email: info@srsp.org

www.srsp.org