

Field Report

BLLF Pakistan's schools

Punjab October 2017



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The follow-up visits were done between 21st and 24th October 2017. This time we had a special opportunity to get a direct translation with help of Bebergh Khan, who is living in Sweden but born in Pakistan where he lived till he was 14 years. He is a graduate assistant pre-schoolteacher and is working in a preschool in Sweden which have special focus on gender issues. He could give direct feedback in Urdu to the teachers when he noticed things which were not promoting the equality between boys and girls. It was also easier to get a direct contact with the pupils as someone could speak with them in Urdu and younger than our ordinary translator, he is 22 years.

We asked the pupils what they wished for their schools, the answers were jumping ropes and maps, we will bring these things next time. The pupils in Jallo Mor wished to go to Lahore Zoo for one day. The special needs for every school is mentioned in the report under that school.

The overwhelming opinion was the schools were all running well in a proper way and we didn't find any bad things with any schools.

Jallo Mor

Teacher: Tabassum Sultana



Class	Boys	Girls
Preparation class	4	3
Class 1	2	7
Class 2	-	2
Class 3	-	5
Class 4	3	5
Class 5	2	1
Class 6	-	-
Class 7	-	3
Class 8	-	3
Total	40	29

The students participate in all activities without modesty and have a good sense of confidence. They sing and read poems for us without hesitation. Some students play a drama about Pakistan's history singing and dancing about Pakistani founder Ali Jinnah's life and reading poems by National poet Allama Iqbal. They read both English texts well and with good pronunciation. They know the articles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and know what they mean, they also have good knowledge of their world and can name many countries both in Asia and in other

continents. Last year they got money for benches, they are now in place and are very nice and useful. The Parental Committee consists of 9 women, they meet once a month and talk about the education with Tabassum but have no further responsibility for the school environment.

Jallo Mother is a poor city between Lahore and Indian borders Wagha. Most students come from brickwork workers' families, none of the students work after school. Some have siblings who started working after class 5. Tabassum informs us that she continues to use the method to evaluate herself every Saturday about the way she teaches the pupils. With the help of a test she knows whether the pupils have learnt everything from her lessons or have any difficulties in understanding the subject. If some pupils fail in the test, she tries to use another pedagogic method to teach the child or children who have failed. Tabassum's daughter assists her when there is a need to teach anyone individually, also when the pupils work with groupwork. She and her daughter are helping pupils who have problem with their homework or have problem to follow the lessons. These pupils can stay after school-time and get support. She also stands with her idea to give a minimum of homework as she thinks that the parents don't have the skill to help their children and those children who cannot do the homework themselves will feel that they are not that good as the others.

Interviews with pupils

Amna, class 8 and Jamal, class 4

Asma and Jamal are siblings, their father's name is Ghulam Husseni and their mother's name is Koser, they have two more brothers who are elder. Their father is working at a brick kiln together with one brother who is 25 years, the brother who is 16 years is working as daily contract worker. Their mother is working in homes with washing and cleaning work. The family has a pesghi (debt) of 100 000 Rs (800 Euro), they are trying with the help of BLLF to eliminate the peshgi. Amna's favourite subject is English, Jamal's favourite subject is Urdu, they both want to be teachers when they are grown up.



Ali Ahsan, class 4

His father's name is Manzoor and his mother's name was Salema, she passed away 1½ year ago. His father is selling bricks for a brick kiln. He has six siblings, three sisters are more than twenty and are married, his elder brother Allah Rakka and sister Mafia have studied in this school up to class 10 and the sister Zuhera is still studying here. The family had a pesghi (debt) before to the owner of a brick kiln and was bonded labourer but since some years they are free from the peshgi with the help of BLLF in Jallo Mor. Ali Ahsan's favourite subject is mathematic and he wants to be a doctor to cure people who get diseases.



Faiza, class 7

Her father's name is Arif and her mother's name is Shahida. Her father is a brick kiln worker and her mother is working in homes with washing and cleaning work. She has three brothers, all are younger than her. One brother is studying in this school and two brothers left the school after class 5, they are now working together with their father at the brick kiln. The family has a pesghi of 24 000 Rs (200 Euro), it is just now in court with the support of BLLF to get the peshgi eliminated. Faiza's favourite subject is English and she wants to be a teacher in a BLLF-school when she is grown up.



Ismail town, Pattoki

Teacher: Narges, assistant Saba Ishaq



Class	Boys	Girls
Preparation class	4	6
Class 1	4	5
Class 2	5	3
Class 3	4	4
Class 4	4	6
Class 5	3	3
Class 6	2	4
Class 7	2	3
Class 8	1	2
Total	29	36

This school is the new school where majority of the pupils from the second school in Jallo Mor were studying before. It is situated at the brick kiln as many parents were frightened to send their children far away by walking. There is still a growing discrimination against the Christian community in Pakistan and it was especially difficult in the area where the families lived before. The parents were not willing to let the children go to the school in Jallo Mor. It is much easier for the pupils and parents now when the school is at the brick kiln and the brick kiln owner has agreed that the school can be run here. There are also more pupils now as there were many children who lived in this area and who didn't have any school near to their

houses. The teacher seems very confident and give an impression of good knowledge and pedagogic skills. She informs that she needs a new black board and a chair for the assistant teacher. Parents' committee members are little shy and avoid being in picture, we were anyhow allowed to take a photo of a group of pupils sitting in one of the class rooms. But we were not allowed to make interviews and photo of specific pupils. Hopefully they are more confident next time and can relax from their fear to expect attacks from the society.

Bhai Kot, Chak No 3, Pattoki

Teacher: Aqsa



Class	Boys	Girls
Preparation class	7	13
Class 1	1	2
Class 2	2	1
Class 3	1	2
Class 4	2	2
Class 5	-	-
Class 6	-	1
Class 7	-	1
Total	35	22

This school was founded by BLLF since April 2014 and was situated at the home of the teacher. We had remarks about that there were too many pupils (97) with only one teacher and one assistant. This time we were informed that the "Punjab Education Foundation" has started a school from class five about 3 km from the brick kiln six months ago. They employed the teacher in that school, but it was impossible for the younger children to get admission in that school and difficult for some pupils to walk so long distance. A new teacher and an assistant replaced the former teacher and the school could continue but now in the home of the neighbour of the former school. The pupils were open-minded and could reply our questions with confidence. As the teacher was new, we used extra time to introduce her about the reporting of pupil's presence and school results.

The Parents' committee consists of 12 members, all women. They meet every week to discuss the school matters and help with the construction work going on to make more space for the school. They express that they are very poor, all are brick kiln-families, so to help with the construction is the only way they can afford. They are waiting for benches, which is ordered but not delivered yet. They prioritised to buy books first as too many pupils didn't have any books before.

Interviews with pupils

Umaira, class 7

Her father's name is Allah Raqqa and her mother's name is Abda Parveen, they are both brick kiln workers. Umaira has lived in Jallo Mor before but the family moved to Pattoki when the brick kiln owner transferred his business to Pattoki. Umaira was working at the brick kiln from she was 3 years up to 6 years when she started in BLLF's school in Pattoki. She has two brothers, one elder brother has finalised his studies after class 5 and one younger brother is studying in this school. She has two sisters, one is married and illiterate and one sister finalised her studies after class 7 two years ago. Her favourite subjects are Urdu and English, she wants to be a teacher when she is elder.



Ali Reza, class 3

His father's name is Gillal Din and his mother's name is Raisa. His father is working as daily contracted worker and his mother is housewife. Ali has four brothers and one sister; three brothers are studying in this school and his sister studied here up to class 5. His favourite subject is Islamiyat, he wants to be a doctor when he is grown up.



Shadman Colony school, Pattoki

Teachers: Rehmat Shaker, Bushra, Chendi and Zeiba



Class	Boys	Girls
Preparation class	14	14
Class 1	3	4
Class 2	7	4
Class 3	3	5
Class 4	8	4
Class 5	4	2
Total	72	39

This is the oldest school in Pattoki and the teachers Rehmat Ali Shaker and Bushra have long experience in education and pedagogic skills. The pupils are very active and have a very friendly relation with their teachers, many of them come to show their books and explain properly the meaning of the different subjects. They pupils showed us different contests between boys and girls. We discussed this with teachers and told that when the boys win and the girls lose, which happened most of the times, the boys will feel that they are better than the girls and the girls will feel weaker than the boys. The teachers understood the gender problem and made mixed groups, also let the girls have competition against girls and boys against boys. We talked about different similar situations and how it could be done to strengthen the girls, the teachers were very interested to know more, and we will follow up this next time.

The parents' committee are represented by 5 members, the committee consists of 13 women. They have organised meetings every second month and meet more often if there are some special needs. They express their satisfaction with this school and all say that this is the best school, there is no fee, the school books are free, and they don't need to buy uniforms. They are also satisfied with all the teachers who are from the same society and meet the pupils in very good way, it is forbidden to beat pupils and they are very happy for that. They have two wishes, first is a computer were the pupils can learn about the computer, also how to search information from internet, the second wish is more benches for the new constructed schoolroom.

Interview with pupils:

Ali Hamza, class 4

His father's name is Muhammed Saleem and his mother's name is Rukhsanna Bibi. His father is working in a factory and his mother is cleaning in other families' houses. He has three younger brothers and two younger sisters, four of them are studying in this school. His favourite subjects are Urdu and English, he wants to work in an office when he is grown up.



Iqra Rasullah, class 5

Her father's name is Nasraullah and her mother's name is Rashmi. Her father is a driver and her mother is cleaning other people's houses. She has four sisters and one brother, two are elder but have finalised class 5 in this school, the younger ones are still studying here. Her favourite subjects are Urdu and English, she wants to be a doctor in the future.



Tibbi Kambohan, District Kasur

Teacher: Amber Saleem



Class	Boys	Girls
Preparation class	10	12
Class 1	2	3
Class 2	6	9
Class 3	3	3
Class 4	-	6
Class 5	-	2
Total	21	35

This school is also situated in an area with many brick kilns and many of the pupils come from brick kiln families. BLLF has been working since many years in this area and many of the parents are members of BLLF. Therefore, there are few pupils who belong to bonded labourers, most of them are free or freed workers at the brick kiln. The pupils remembered the complains they had about the English lessons last time I was here. They asked me that time why they must learn English which they thought was a very boring language. They promised me to study more so that we could speak without interpreter this time. This time many of them wanted to read for me so I could hear that they

had studied more. One thing we noticed was that they were talking very fast and it was difficult to understand due to that, after positive feedback about their skills in English we asked them to speak slowly and focus on the pronunciation. They were very quick to adopt our feedback and read without any problem. We also asked about different things in the neighbour countries, they were quick and gave proper answers. They were little weak to know where different countries were situated, we promised to bring a world map next time. The teacher tells us that she uses to divide them in groups and give assignments to each group. When they work in groups, she uses to focus on one group each time to explain and give support.

The Parents' committee consists of 10 members, 5 women and 5 men, who use to meet every week and discuss different things about the education. They are very happy for this school with free books and no fees. They think that the quality in this school is far better than the governments schools were the teacher only comes sometimes to get salary. The teacher in this school considers everyone equal and are very friendly with the pupils, no beating, tell us that this is the best school. There is a need of benches, sun protection and a fan during the hot season.



Interviews with pupils:

Maria, class 5

Her father's name is Ashiq and her mother's name is Rukhsanna. Her father is distributing milk and her mother is housewife. She has four brothers and four sisters, one brother is elder and is riksha driver, he was studying here up to class 5, one sister is studying in class 6 in government school and the younger siblings are studying in this school. Her favourite subjects are English and Maths, she wants to be a doctor when she is grown up.



Shoeib Ali, class 3

His father's name is Hanif and his mother's name is Kausar. His father is riksha driver, his mother is housewife, they are both illiterate. He has four brothers and three sisters, all are elder except one brother who are studying here. The brothers are riksha drivers and the sisters are helping the mother at home, all are illiterate. He is found of all subjects but when he must choose one he said that the funniest thing is to read books. He like to be a military officer.

