



Rawalpindi

# Kashmir Education Foundation

Newsletter 2005-2006

Websites - Pak: [www.kef.org.pk](http://www.kef.org.pk) U.K.: [www.kefuk.org](http://www.kefuk.org)

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## Overview

Year 2005/2006 has been a milestone in the history of Kashmir Education Foundation; its second project started at Pakhowal comprising **Soan Valley Public School** and **Institute of Teacher Education**. The year was significant in another way as the Foundation embarked on a major relief operation in the wake of tragic earthquake and earned kudos from the national and international donors for its efficiency, transparency and quality of work. The Foundation also earned the prestigious certification for excellence, from Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy. With a reorganised Head Office and motivated Board of Trustees, the Foundation is well on a course of expanding its network of quality schools and Institutes of Teacher Education in the years to come.

## Head Office

### KEF Head Office Reorganised

In accordance with the desire of Trustees, the Head Office was reorganized to efficiently manage the Pakhowal Complex and undertake new projects in other parts of the country. Brig (R) Tariq Mahmood took over as Chief Executive Officer, replacing Brig (R) Abdul Qayyum who had served the Foundation for four years with commitment and dedication. In addition Mr. Dost Muhammad, ACMA took over as Finance Manager.

Sardar Mohammad Habib Khan, the founder trustee had tendered his resignation to the Board due to his failing health. However, the Board unanimously declined to accept his resignation and instead elected him as a Trustee for life. It must be mentioned that Sardar Habib Khan though 92 years old, still takes active part in KEF activities; he recently planned and supervised the tree plantation for Pakhowal Complex. He is also the Chairman of PVPS Management Committee.

Two new Trustees were elected to the Board: Mr. M. Rashid Chaudry and Asif Habib Khan; these two gentlemen had been assisting KEF as friends for a long time.

### Certification by PCP

Kashmir Education Foundation was certified by Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy (PCP) in February 2005 for 'maintaining high standards in internal governance, financial management and programme delivery'. As of today, only 85 NGOs from thousands working in Pakistan have been granted this coveted certification. The Foundation now stands out as a credible NGO in this list, receiving donations by local and international philanthropists which would contribute significantly in generation of funds for its future projects.

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### KEF Media Projection

To project its achievement in delivery of quality education, teachers' training and relief operations and to attract potential donors for its future projects, the Foundation arranged a media visit to the Pakhowal Complex on 8th March 2006 which was attended by 30 representatives from electronic and print media. They were impressed by the quality of education and gave extensive coverage in their papers and TV channels.



A press conference was held at the Press Club in Karachi in May, 2006. This also had a healthy attendance and KEF was given a wide coverage in media. The theme of the press conference was to encourage support for KEF and also highlight the plight of education in Pakistan.

### Endowment Fund

The Foundation has set up KEF Endowment Fund to provide scholarships (Qarze-Hasna) to the deserving students from KEF schools for higher studies in prestigious universities and to sustain various KEF projects, on long term basis. The contribution for this Endowment Fund has come from Mr M. R. Khan and Maj. Gen (Retd) M. Rahim Khan who have generously donated their shares in Pharmagen Ltd and Security Leasing Corporation Ltd. worth Rs. 45 million and also INFAQ Foundation who have contributed Rs. 1 million.

### Corporate Support for KEF

Acting in the highest traditions of corporate social responsibility, Pharmagen Ltd, Lahore and Bank Alfalah Ltd, Karachi have very generously decided to support KEF with annual donations of Rs. 3.00 million and Rs. 1.5 million respectively.

### Pearl Valley Public School (PVPS)



#### *PVPS Shines*

The founder members of KEF can rightly feel proud of the results of the students of class IX and X in the first Federal Board Examination in 2005. Of the 30 students who appeared in the examinations, 19 secured A+ grade (exceptional) while 11 obtained A grade (excellent). The School ranked 7<sup>th</sup> amongst 517 schools affiliated with Federal Board. The high achievers were: Affan Bin Haleem (92 %) in class X and Taqdees Abrar in class IX (92%).

Under the guidance of the new Principal, Air Vice Marshal (R) Aftab Raja, there have been significant improvements in the standards of education and management. He has institutionalized training of faculty members to enhance their subject knowledge and skills, reorganised the administration and has particularly focused on extra curricular activities, especially sports & ecology. .

#### *Annual Day - Students Steal the Show*

PVPS Annual day was held on 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2005. Begum Shehnaz Wazir Ali, Executive Director Pakistan Centre for



Philanthropy (PCP) was the Chief Guest. The students presented an impressive variety show which was followed by the prize giving ceremony for the high achievers in both curricular and extra curricular activities. The entire show, including the school progress report was organized and presented by the students. Begum Shehnaz Wazir Ali, in her address, lauded the efforts of KEF in providing highest quality education to the children from remote areas. She considered PVPS as “**one of the finest schools in Pakistan**”.

### ***PVPS Survives the Earthquake***

It was the mercy of God Almighty and the foresight of the planners that the PVPS building, the only two storey school in the valley which sustained the earthquake. All the three hundred students present in the school and the faculty were evacuated safely without injury. TV Channel Aaj crew visited the school after the earthquake and screened a special documentary on the quality of construction and schooling of PVPS.

### ***PVPS Upgraded***

With the starting of higher secondary school classes in PVPS, the School has now been upgraded to College level. The Foundation has planned to construct separate hostel for boys and girls of secondary and higher secondary classes so that students from remote and far flung areas can be accommodated in the school premises.

## **Soan Valley Public School (SVPS) Pakhowal**

Soan Valley

### ***SVPS Takes Off***

Soan Valley Public School was opened in May 2005 with Prep and Class I with 25 students in each class. The selection of students was done through APID test in which 114 children from neighbouring villages appeared. The School was initially headed by Ms Joan Atkinson with Mrs. Kaukab Ara Nasir as principal designate; she later took over as Principal in December 2005. In March 2006, the new Prep Class was added through APID test. Within a short span of time SVPS has emerged as a top quality school with qualified faculty, well equipped library with sufficient resource material, play area, multipurpose hall for indoor games and other physical activities, well furnished class rooms with computers and television etc. SVPS was fortunate to get four experienced volunteer teachers from PVPS Rawalakot on deputation.



### ***The First Parents Day***

The first formal Parents' Day was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2006 and was also attended by guests from the local area. The children were awarded prizes and certificates for outstanding performance. The function had all the makings of an annual day of a well established school.

## Institute of Teacher Education (ITE) Pakhowal

### *ITE Shifted*

The ITE that was functioning in Rawalakot since 2000 and had trained 53 teachers in three courses of 18 month duration has been shifted to its custom made campus at Pakhowal Complex. The first course in the new campus started in October 2005 with an intake of 28 graduate trainees from AJ&K, Rawalpindi and Mianwali. Joan Atkinson, who was the pioneer Director of ITE Rawalakot, again volunteered and returned from UK to head the Institute during its formative years. KEF Trustees greatly appreciate Joan Atkinson's continuing support for ITE and KEF. The other faculty members are Suzanne Davies, an AVI volunteer, Jane Seekings, a VSO volunteer and Francis Kuraishi, a Scottish master trainer presently living in Islamabad. The ITE has been provided with a well equipped library, a computer lab and an arts and crafts room. The language lab and science lab are being set up and would be ready before next course starts in November 2006.



The high quality of instructors and the facilities available at ITE has attracted interest of a number of national and international institutions and organizations to avail this facility for training of teachers for new schools being built in earthquake affected areas of NWFP & AJ&K.

## Kashmir Education Foundation, UK

KEF UK remained active in the uplift of education in the rural areas of Pakistan, by providing generous donations for KEF and for the earthquake affectees, both of NWFP and AJ&K.

### *Donation of books*

In January 2006, KEF UK sent a container with 20 tons of books for KEF. This generous donation of seven hundred cartons of books was made by the Kirklees Education Services (KES), UK through the tireless efforts of Kathryn Sheard, KES and Akram Khan Cheema, OBE, Trustee/ Secretary of KEF UK. The books which are of high quality will be distributed among ITE, PVPS, SVPS, and new KEF schools.



### *KEF Chairman's visit to UK*



The Chairman of KEF, Maj Gen (R) M Rahim Khan visited the United Kingdom in September, 2005, to attend fund raising events organized by KEF UK. One of the events was an appearance on a live TV Programme, broadcast by ARY TV simultaneously in UK and Europe. The objective was to bring KEF's vision and work in Pakistan to a much wider audience, and to create public awareness. The Foundation received generous support from the Pakistani community in UK, and would like to thank the management of ARY, and particularly the people of Bradford, Leeds and Glasgow.

During his visit, the Chairman was invited to visit Valentine High School in London which is regarded as a centre of excellence. The school has generously raised funds for KEF to help the people affected by the earthquake. In turn the children of PVPS sent thank-you cards which are still on display in the school.

## ***KEF-UK Office***

KEF-UK is pleased to appoint Iffat Ferdinand to its Board of Trustees. The office is now under the joint management of Khizer Hayat and Tahir Hussain both volunteers working with great dedication for the KEF cause.

## ***Online donations***

The KEF-UK has provided the facility of web based on-line donations for KEF using major credit cards, including the option to pay by Direct Debit. **Ebay** is another avenue now available to donors to sell their items and automatically donate a percentage of the proceeds to KEF.

## **Future Projects**

During the meeting of Board of Trustees in December 2005, it was decided to expand the scope of teacher training from present primary level to include training of subject teachers for secondary and higher secondary levels. It was also decided that present capacity of Primary ITE be sufficiently enhanced to conduct courses for trainee teachers from all over the country. Accordingly, it has been planned to expand the present ITE from 75 trainees to 200 and provide hostel facility for additional 100 students. A secondary ITE would be set up in the proximity of Pakhowal to train up to 300 subject teachers with hostel facility of 200 teachers. In the interim period a pilot project covering four major subjects (English, Sciences, Math and IT) will be run in the vacant space of SVPS. Efforts are in hand to raise funds for these projects.

## ***New Talent Schools***

With the funding of a UK Philanthropist, the Foundation plans to set up a new talent school on the lines of PVPS in the earthquake area in AJ&K. Another talent school is planned in the rural area of Chakwal for which the funding will be provided by Mr. Akram Khan Cheema's family.

## **KEF EARTHQUAKE RELIEF AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMME**

In the wake of the tragic earthquake of 8<sup>th</sup> October, KEF was specially mandated by the Board of trustees to undertake relief operations in the earthquake hit areas. The Foundation immediately mobilised volunteers and initially started sending truck-loads of food, medicine, and clothing to Rawalakot, Bagh, Balakot, Manshera and Muzaffarabad.

## ***KEF UK Chairman's visit***

After hearing the devastating news of the earthquake, Haji Mussadhik Hussain, Chairman KEF-UK, reacted promptly, and was able to collect over fifty thousand pounds for the relief, which he brought with him to Pakistan within twenty four hours of the disaster. The money was used directly to provide food, clothing and tents to the affectees. The Pakistani community likewise responded generously, by donating three hundred and fifty thousand pounds for the relief effort, which came as a blessing at a very desperate time. KEF UK as well as other donors still continue to send in donations.

Many UK donors contributed directly to KEF's shelter programme.





### ***KEF Winterised Shelters A Success Story***

Within days the KEF volunteers, in the basement of a house in Rawalpindi (that later became the Operations Room) and on site in Rawalakot, designed a prototype tubular steel framed CGI sheets shelter with thermopour insulation and tarpaulin for winter. It was KEF that advocated that tents were not an option for the harsh winters above the snowline. Within one week, a prototype shelter was made in the grounds of PVPS Rawalakot and by 28<sup>th</sup> October the first winterized shelter was installed for a victim in Rawalakot. Demonstration shelters were installed in Rawalpindi, Manshera, Balakot, Bagh and Muzaffarabad. It was, however immediately realised that the major danger to the affected people was the fast approaching winter. KEF shifted its focus to shelters within days.

Initially the aim of KEF was to set up 200 shelters. However the response from the local donors and international philanthropists was so overwhelming that by 31<sup>st</sup> January a total of over 2500 shelters were fabricated and installed, all above the snowline. Government of Norway deserves special thanks for donating funds to KEF for 1000 shelters through IOM/UNDP. 'KEF shelters' proved to be quite a success and are regarded as the 'best shelters' and are being adopted by one UN agency for future disasters internationally. It will not be out of place to mention that KEF, not being a Relief organization with zero experience, zero funds, and zero resources managed to mobilize funds and volunteers to deliver one of the best winterized shelter programmes in the country.

### ***Inoculation***

Some seven hundred people, including children, adults and elders were inoculated against Tetanus in October by two caring nurses - Saeeda and Bushra, who took precious time out of their busy schedule to travel all the way to Rawalakot.



### ***Hospital SOS***

A big landmark in the relief programme took place in early January 2006. The heavy New Year snowfall resulted in the complete collapse of the 'winterized tents' of the Jordanian medical contingent and the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) Rawalakot tented facility. When KEF received an SOS from CMH at 1 am at night, immediately, the volunteers modified the design to make it suitable for a hospital, the fabricators were woken up at night and the first modified

shelters were dispatched next day to Rawalakot. Hats off to KEF volunteers who trekked 10 miles in snow to get to the hospital. Within days a 'transitional hospital' was set up with the assistance of KEF.

### ***Donations for KEF Relief & Shelter Programme***

We acknowledge with gratitude the generous contribution of hundreds of donors who made it possible for KEF to organize relief and provide 2500 transitional shelters and provided refuge to over 20,000 men, women and children. Names of the major donors who arranged funding are listed below:

Government of Norway through UNDP/IOM

Yousaf Islam (Small Kindness UK)

Imran Khan Relief

Sheikh Ahmed Bibikir (UK ULFAAid)

Shabbir Khan

Shakil Anwar (Discover Islam, Bahrain)

Capt. Raffat Jamil (PIA)

Haji Massadaq Hussain (UK Radio Ramadan)

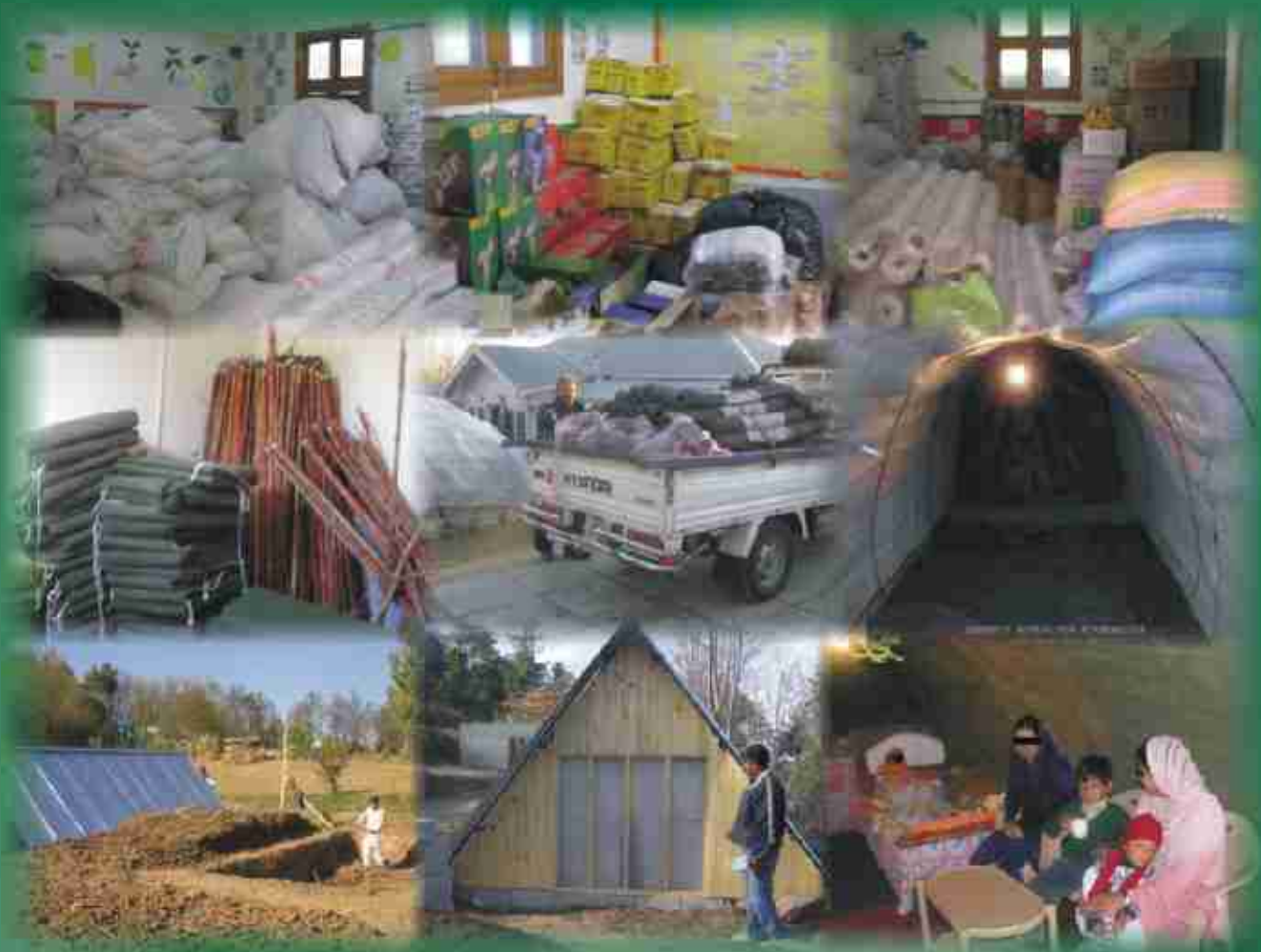
Ather Ali Shah (Impex International)

Mrs. Samina Mukhtar

Citizen Foundation



# Kashmir Education Foundation



## *Note of Apology*

*We regret that KEF Newsletter has been delayed for over a year due to Earthquake and hectic schedule of opening of the new KEF Campus at Pakhowal.*