

MINUTES OF TLF MEETING

Held on December 16, 2009 at PACADE Office

The meeting of The Literacy Forum held on December 16, 2009 at PACADE Office (101-J, Model Town, Lahore).

Following were present:

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| 1. Mr. Inayatullah | President TLF/PACADE |
| 2. Mr. David Dewan | Chairman, Nirali Ketaben |
| 3. Mrs. Farkhanda Tabassum | Executive Director, HEAL/G.S. TLF |
| 4. Ms Lubna Afzal Javaid | General Secretary PSPP |
| 5. Ms. Samina Khushi | Project Coordinator, OWO |
| 6. Mr. Asher David | Girl Guides Association |
| 7. Father Sharif Sadar | RCDF |
| 8. Ms Nausheen | RCDF |
| 9. Mrs. Shaheen Ahmad | Executive Director, SHE |
| 10. Ms Katherine Alexander | WESO |
| 11. Ms Stella | The Salvation Army |
| 12. Mrs. Nishat Afza | Volunteer |
| 13. Sophia Malik | Consultant PACADE/Convener TLF |

Mr. Inayatullah welcomed all the participants. He referred to the TLF meeting with the Punjab Education Minister who deeply appreciated the Forum's activities. He assured the Forum members of cooperation and support in its endeavor to work for the case of literacy and continuing education.

The members then discussed their concepts of a Model Literacy Centre on the basis of their experiences.

Members shared their experiences as given below:

Ms Farkhanda Tabassum highlighted her literacy cum health programmes. She mentioned following features which are used to make successful programme:

- i. Teachers should go to learners' home once in a month to observe the improvement in their household management on the basis of information and instructions imparted to learners and their mothers.
- ii. A learners' Mothers Group should be constituted

- iii. Health Lady Workers of the area should be involved to get information about learners, their families and also involve them in literacy.
- iv. HEAL provides cards to pregnant mothers (learners) to check up and their visits to hospital.
- v. HEAL has also set up made small libraries and reading corners in shops and other places.

Asher David representing Girl Guides Association; endorsed points raised by Ms Farkhanda Tabassum as the Association was working on a project in collaboration with HEAL. He added three points:

- i. We should use health visitors' registers to get information about women of the area.
- ii. We should also involve the health visitor in the literacy programme and committee.
- iii. Sanat Zar set up by Government could be used for displaying products made by learners.

Ms Stella representing Salvation Army made a point about empowerment through skills. Different skills should be imparted so that they could contribute to their families' income.

Ms Lubna Afzal Javaid representing PSPP said that various health and other services should be provided to learners and their families. This helps increase interest of learners in attending classes.

Ms Katherine Alexander from WESO, mentioned the importance of teachers' training. There is need to introduce innovative and practicable approaches to the teachers. Reading material relating to learners needs and interests should be provided.

Ms Shaheen Ahmad from SHE, highlighted the importance of income generation skills. She also said that we should help the other family members of the learners then the community and learners' would take it serious and help us to make literacy centre successful. She also promised to arrange a visit Special Education Complex in Johar Town.

Father Sharif representing RCDF emphasized the continuing need for motivation of teachers and learners. Just one or two ----- and training sessions are not enough.

Ms Sophia Malik representing PACADE said that there is need to involve the community in the literacy programme. A model centre should have different activities according to

the learners' need like income generation skills, health facility. She also emphasized on marketing tools. It should be part of teachers' training. She suggested that TLF should organize a Mela for learners' products to sell so they could get the benefit from this Mela and all the members should participate in this event.

1. Sub Committees were made:

The following were elected as Chairpersons:

Mr. David Dewan Media Sub Committee

Ms Samina Khushi Publication Sub Committee

2. Following decisions were taken:

1. Ms Samina Khushi would produce the TLF Newsletter within a week
2. Mr. Davis Dewan would contact the media to project TLF.
3. We should try to get a display centre to organize the products of learners
4. Need to be made a page of TLF on Facebook (on internet)
5. Ms Shaheen Ahmad would arrange a visit of Special Education Complex, Government of the Punjab.