Perturbed by the Quality of Education, Parents Demand Qualified Teachers

Case Study Rahim Yar Khan

ASER Team visited Wahid Bux Laar village in Tehsil Sadiqabad in District Rahim Yar Khan to share the results of this village with the community. It was revealed to the community that only 41% girls were enrolled in schools and the learning levels of student in math and English were really low at 15% and 38%, respectively.

Both male and female members of the community became very depressed to see the low learning levels of their children. They said that despite ensuring that their child goes to school, s/he is not learning. It was during the Baithak discussions that it was revealed by a father that the teachers of the Government Boys’ Primary School, Wahid Bux Laar are not qualified to teach Math and English. On further inquiry we found out that due to the change in the syllabus of Math and English teachers lacked sufficient trainings. The parent said that these teachers are not trained properly in tackling with the new syllabus. When teachers were asked about this they admitted to this but not directly. Teacher said that change of syllabus required re-training or need based training to teachers. And when this didn’t happen teachers become handicapped in teaching new syllabus to students. Community asked the AEO present at the Baithak to appoint a new qualified teacher for the students of fifth class in the Government Boys Schools. AEO of that particular Markiz said that appoint at this time of the year was not possible. He said that the government has is a proper process of recruitment of new teachers so another solution needs to be found. However, he said that in the coming three to four months, these teachers’ skills will be updated and they will be trained to teach the new syllabus. AEO was very cooperative regarding this matter and even gave his number to all the Boys School teaching staff to contact him if any help was required.

One participant suggested another solution to this problem. She said that a volunteer for this purpose must be searched from the community who teaches on temporary basis. But unfortunately it was astonishing to see that no one in the community stepped up to take this responsibility. Another solution that came from the community was that in the Government Girls Primary School
new qualified teacher Miss Asma Maqbool was recently appointed and maybe, if she agrees, she can be hired as a temporary teacher for the Boys School. The Miss Asma was also present at the baithak and all the community members, the AEO and all the female staff members requested her to help. Miss Asma agreed to teach the fifth class of Boys Schools Math and English. But she said she will only be able to donate thirty minutes daily before school closing time. Furthermore, she said that students shall visit the Girls Schools and should sit in a separate room near the gate so that Girls School system is not disturbed. Everyone agreed to this and it was finalized with the AEO that after three or four months when male teachers are trained and are able to teach the syllabus then students’ visit of Girls School will end.

Today, 15 students from GBPS of fifth class visit GGPS to study Math and English. AEO raised the issue of training teachers to EDO who has taken the matter up to the DCO. The DCO has agreed to hold extra training sessions for male teachers so that hopefully, by September GBPS will have qualified teachers teach the students.

(On the hand, due to the ASER Baitak community became aware of the low enrolment of girls. In order to increase female enrolment, community members established an enrolment group taking members from the community who would start an enrollment drive to ensure 100% enrolment in Girls’ School at Basti Wahid Bux Laar. The group members are 1- Zafir Ali Contact # 0300-9673008 2- Abdul Rehman Contact # 0333-7418185 3- Jam Shafique Ahmad Contact # 0334-6861744 4- Muhammad Zubair Contact # 0333-7822630.)

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