

## Case Study:

### OSDI's efforts – Transformation of a School

Primary access to education is the basic right of every child. OSDI aims to provide education to out-of-school children in rural communities. In 2010, when OSDI started working within this district, the children used to study under a make shift leaf shade.

The first Temporary Learning Center (TLC) began operating in this village in February 2010 with the support of the local community.

After observing a great turnover in its flagship Temporary Learning Center in village Malhee, OSDI has constructed a concrete school building for the children in this village. The new infrastructure has five classrooms, separate toilets for girls and boys and a hand pump with a motor along with additional basic necessities.



The school construction was monitored closely to ensure that safety measures and quality services, such as drinking water and toilets, were being provided. Periodic meetings of the Village Committee in Malhee were convened during the school's construction to communicate the responsibility of the community towards the newly constructed building and motivate them to send their children to school.

OSDI has improved the status of the Temporary Learning Center into a formal school building which is a ray of hope for the inhabitants of village Malhee. The transformation in infrastructure is proving dedicated team work and tireless efforts of Shikarpur team. The significant improvement in behavior and health hygiene has also been observed in three years.

This community genuinely needed a school and was determined to make OSDI's school a success. To promote an understanding of the need for education among children and their parents, activities are also arranged to engage parents and village elders. Parents and community members have pledged to keep the area clean and ensure better hygiene for their children.

Initially, 15 students were enrolled in the temporary set-up of the school in village Malhee, Shikarpur. Gradually enrollment increased and student count has now reached 165.



The inauguration of the school was done by the Founder Trustee, Mr. Asim A. Siddiqui. Distinguished guests from the civil society and social sector attended the program.

Over a period of three years, different programs have been observed in the school such as Pakistan Day celebration, Global Hand-washing day and school-based de-worming activities etc.

OSDI also held a grand distribution ceremony of school uniforms and shoes in which Education District officer distributed uniforms amongst the students. The community provided 50% monetary contribution to show their active engagement and participated in the event enthusiastically. The children are happy and excited to study in the new school building. They are excited to wear new uniforms and they pledge to study with more dedication now.



To acknowledge the status of cleanliness and personal hygiene, OSDI Model Primary School, Malhee has started a campaign called 'Student of the week' in which children who come neat and clean are appreciated and awarded with school badges.

The students were given a week to demonstrate their best behavior practices, and actively participate in classroom discussions and come neat and clean to school maintaining the health and hygiene status.

Every week, each student is encouraged to be the featured student of the school. Winning a title from the school administration is a real boost for the student's in developing their confidence; especially, when everybody is gathered to be present during school assembly. This campaign was initiated to introduce behavioral change amongst the students and safe practices.

Building the moral character of a child it is an essential component of personality development. The intent of this activity was also to focus on character building of the child which can be traced from the everyday activities of the students. This activity also helps to build a competitive environment and good spirit among children. A health and hygiene quiz has also been initiated which creates awareness regarding healthy practices amongst the children.



In pursuit of winning the title, every child tries to do his best and ultimately one who is more proactive takes the title home. This activity makes students healthier and helps actively participate in academic as well as in extra-curricular activities which results in low absenteeism.

After education and health awareness programs, considerable improvement has been observed in sanitation. Apart from their personal hygiene, students are taking care of their surrounding cleanliness and also motivate their parents to follow the same practices in their home. OSDI's district team and teachers regularly follow-up to evaluate the standard of education in the focused villages.

In the first year of the school, the annual examination has also been conducted on time in OSDI Model Primary Malhee School. As per the academic calendar, a well designed question paper was prepared by dedicated school teachers and the provision of answer sheets was made sure to facilitate the students.

The school staff worked diligently to conduct the activity as per schedule. The question paper was designed in such a manner that understanding of the students regarding subject could easily be evaluated. The children were happy to appear in exams, wearing new school uniforms and shoes.

The District Education Officer, Shikarpur visited the examination hall and appreciated the devoted services of the OSDI team. He also asked verbal questions from the students and checked their answer sheets. EDO Shikarpur has also announced that he would provide reading and writing material for the enrolled children.

The children were punctual and confident in their learning to appear before the exam. Newly enrolled students also appeared in the oral examination.

Overall, 151 students; 35 girls and 116 boys from Class I, II and III took written tests for English, Mathematics, Science, Sindhi, and Islamiat subjects.



The seeds of education that OSDI has sown three years back are now becoming a tree. The culture of education along with the equal ratio of girls and boys in the school shows that education has been promoted at the Temporary Learning Center, Shikarpur which is now OSDI MODEL PRIMARY SCHOOL MALHEE.