



Mari Muhammad Khan is one of the three focus villages adopted by OSDI in district Matiari. With a sparse population of 258 households, people here are chiefly involved in casual labour, livestock and agriculture work.

In 2013, OSDI surveyed and identified *Government Primary Boys School, Mari Mohammad Khan*. It was observed that there were approximately 15-20 students attending classes with 4 teachers on the government payroll. However, the teachers were defaulter teachers and were not running the school with regularity and punctuality. High levels of teacher and student absenteeism fused with the deplorable conditions of the school building, which induced low levels of motivation, within this weak educational system. Parents too, were hesitant and worried about the future of their children as they were not receiving proper education.

OSDI took an initiative to adopt this school and served as a catalyst for change in the village of Mari Muhammad Khan by completely revamping the school's infrastructure. It was a big challenge.

Renovation involved repairing the floors, rebuilding broken walls and the main gate of the school, constructing restrooms and painting the building. The renovation was funded by OSDI as well a 20% contribution from the village community to demonstrate their active participation in improving educational facilities in their hometown.

Government Primary Boys School was reinstated in December 2013.

In addition to renovating the building, OSDI provided two water coolers, glasses and stands were placed inside the school to provide clean drinking water to the children. The new management appointed by OSDI is responsible for regularly cleaning and refilling the coolers.

OSDI hired a representative to work as a focal person to supervise the maintenance of the newly refurbished government school. It was also ensured that OSDI hired representative also communicates with the village to uplift the attendance and enrollment rates.

Books, stationary and school bags were gifted to the children as an incentive by OSDI to motivate children to attend school more willingly. Community meetings are held at regular intervals to ensure the smooth running of the school and to keep a check on attendance. From mealy 15-20 children, enrollment rates have swelled to 90 admitted students out of which 65-70 attend school on a regular basis.

OSDI's adopted school consists of 3 classrooms and offers classes from Nursery to Class 5. After the appointment of the OSDI teacher, it was found that the government appointed defaulter teachers also regularly started attending the school. The OSDI appointed teacher, teaches Sindhi, Urdu, Math, Islamiat and Pakistan Studies subjects.

The *Government Primary Boys School, Mari Mohammad Khan* is a healthy initiative taken by OSDI to improve the living conditions of the community. Today, Parents are keen on sending their children to school daily and are happy that the system has improved greatly in a relatively short span of time.