

A Brighter Tomorrow for Students in Godho Shar

Education in the Godho Shar village has finally been made possible with the adoption of the Godho Shar school in Shikarpur. Residents of the village can now happily send their children to a school within their locality, something that was unthinkable for them since the shutting down of the nearby government school years ago. Before OSDI's intervention, the children would have to travel to the next village where the nearest school was located. However, due to the long distance, only the elder children were able to do so, depriving the younger ones of an education entirely. Now with the adoption of the Godho Shar school, 30 eager children attend regular classes of English, maths and Sindhi.



Although some resistance from the community heads was expected, we faced no such conflict in setting up the school. The community is highly supportive of this initiative and has been immensely cooperative with OSDI. Especially the Baloch community has been very helpful and willingly sends both their sons and daughters to the OSDI sponsored school.

Since its inauguration in March, there has been a marked improvement in the health and lifestyle of the children. A lot of emphasis has been put on reinforcing hygiene and cleanliness and as a result the children have incorporated a lot of what they have learnt into their own lifestyles. Wearing clean clothes, cutting nails and washing of hands before meals are some of the habits that have been instilled in the students over time. This has resulted in healthier and happier kids with fewer illnesses.

The students are enthusiastic with a thirst for knowledge and are often present in the classroom even before their teacher arrives. *'I love coming to school and studying here with my friends. We all sit together and I love that the teacher comes on time everyday,'* says 8 year-old Liaquat Ali.



The provision of education by OSDI has altered their lives significantly and has enhanced their sense of purpose. Prior to our initiative they were entirely deprived of any form of education and had no hopes for the future. However they now have dreams and ambitions and plans to pursue them.

'We have a lot of fun together and I'm so glad I can study with

all the other girls from the village. I would love to become a teacher one day when I grow up' says 7 year-old Hamida.