

ABC Children's Aid Pakistan

Vision for Growth and Sustenance 2013 and Beyond

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Factors Considered:

1. Increased enrollment
2. Operation of four high schools, one boarding school and sponsored college students along with other schools and projects
3. Decrease in funding results in lack of facilities and provisions
4. Need to continue adding next grade and to continue addition of new students at lower end in order to maintain permits granted by department of education
5. It is more economical to run ABC school versus sponsoring children to attend another school.

Brief Overview:

Over time students have been progressing one year at a time to higher grades and many have reached college level and are studying in various different colleges and vocational schools. With this positive upward movement, lower level grades always had to be filled with new/waiting applicants.

After the economic collapse in Iceland, funding of the projects was affected quite a lot and many adjustments, in the form of cutting provisions and facilities, had to be made in order to keep the projects running.

All of us know that there is only so much that can be cut without bringing the whole project to a standstill or closure. Nevertheless, adjustments and changes need to be made in order to accommodate the demands of the time.

With the current situation, I can foresee, in the event that there are no changes that some schools may need to be closed down, which no one wishes to do.

I don't know how much difference the proposed steps would make in near future but I do feel that this would be a step in the right direction for longevity of the projects. Further, these changes would also come by with their own set of challenges. I would like to see following options explored and implemented if suitable and practical for the situation:

- A. To implement a policy of having mixed population of paying and nonpaying students.
- B. To start college level programs, medical training in different areas and vocational training on the basis of "STUDY NOW PAY LATER."
- C. To have income generating projects.

Mixed Population (Paying on Sliding Scale and Nonpaying):

Every year all groups move one grade up leaving the lowest grade with no students which opens doors of opportunity for waiting children. Over time and progression in grade levels, there are many students who are currently receiving college level education in different colleges and vocational schools. ABC Pakistan has to meet their educational needs at the same time meet the needs of new groups that enter the system but have no provision in the budget.

So far ABC Pakistan has been managing by curtailing on the provisions and facilities but as we all know that there is only so much that can be curtailed. We also know that in order to keep the doors of the schools open for years to come, lower level grades will need to be filled every year. So, in order to meet the budgetary requirements, either funding needs to be increased or other provisions need to be made and one of that is to have a mixed population where paying and nonpaying students study together.

Paying students will be on a sliding scale contribution based on the financial situation of the family and their ability to pay.

Training After High School:

It is always much more expensive to send students to different colleges or vocational training schools rather than have such programs in ABC school. Initially we did not have many students who completed their high school so it was practical to send them to other colleges but as we progress, more and more students are completing their matriculation and need college or vocational training.

ABC Pakistan needs to look into the possibility of starting teachers' training program, computer skills center and secretarial courses. I named these because these are less complicated and much of these can be handled by current staff.

Further, since we do not have necessary funds to develop our own medical center where we can have hands on training for skills such as, X-ray technician, Medical lab technician, Physical therapy, Aid Nurse or Nursing program, ABC Pakistan

should look into the possibility of affiliation with a hospital for practical training but instructional side can be handled in an ABC school.

These courses can run from 6 months to 3 years, depending on the course, and students will join these programs on the basis of "STUDY NOW, PAY LATER." This concept will also instill the idea to GIVE BACK after they have started working.

In time this program can also become self-sufficient.

Technical Training School:

Not all students that complete Matriculation have academic motivation to go for medical training courses or degree programs in a college. In order to provide a short skill training to students that are more interested in hands on jobs we need to come up with a Technical Training School.

In this school courses such as, electrical, plumbing, welding, woodwork, auto mechanic and others can be offered. These courses are going to be much shorter compared to formal college education and students can be ready to take up jobs in respective fields at a faster pace.

This training will make students self-reliant in a shorter time and at the same time they can become a support for ABC in the plan "Study Now, Pay Later".

Income Generating Projects:

Needless to say, this is the way to go in order to achieve some level of self-sustainability in all the projects. ABC Pakistan has tried its hands on two small projects which are sewing and a small poultry farm. Both of these projects make some contribution towards the projects.

In addition to the above mentioned projects, the small farm land in the boarding school provides some relief for the cafeteria and from the orchard we are able to give some fruits to children as well. These projects are very small but if done at bigger levels they can bring bigger relief.

Along with these future developments, there are immediate needs of facilities in the boarding school in Machike and improvements and renovations are badly needed in other schools as well. Needs are a lot and we will keep on trusting our God for providing all these in His best time.

FUTURE/CURRENT DEVELOPMENT PLANS:

1. The biggest group of population that lives under dire poverty and lack resources and facilities to receive formal education lives in villages. To establish and build schools in so many villages can be very expensive and operational costs can make it impossible to keep them running on long-term basis.

After discussions and much thinking the idea of local community owning the project seemed more viable. In this plan:

- A. The community will provide land to build a church school and a small House for the teacher/spiritual leader.
- B. The construction will be done with the help of the donors.
- C. Teacher/spiritual leader will be sent by ABC Pakistan.
- D. Operation of the school will be a joint effort of the community and ABC which will be determined on project to project basis.
- E. The school will be run as a multigrade classroom and the level of education will be up to grade 3 where children will acquire basic educational skills.

I am still working out a schedule with Korean friends, who are very much interested in building churches, to visit Pakistan and see if they can get involved in helping the cause of ABC. This is a long term plan and am still not sure how soon it can become a reality but this is something that we need to keep in our plans.

2. Upkeep of the ABC properties and school buildings and development of new infrastructure is a challenge with current availability of funds. Negotiations and contacts are being made with government agencies, political leaders, business friends to provide necessary funding for different needs.

Currently we are waiting for the funds to pave the roads and make a proper drainage system in Machike boarding school. Funds were provided for Peshawar school and the leaders are quite happy with ABC's work and we are hoping to get more assistance in future for developments in different schools.

3. Contacts are being made with friends, well-wishers and business people to assist ABC in completing the school building in Machike boarding school. So far some work has already been done on a couple of classrooms. The work that is done is plastering of the walls, put in place electrical connections and complete the floor. I am sure with this trend and getting more people involved, sooner or later we can complete the school building.