

We are all, as individuals, in couples or in groups, to differing degrees, on or off the Siraat-al-Mustaqeem. The decision reached by those who formed this Trust, after deep reflection and mutual consultation, is to take path (Siraat) to serve Allah and humanity. "Allah, show us the straight path"

## WHAT IS AS-SIRAAT

As-Siraat Trust is registered as a public charitable trust under the Trust Act of 1882. Established in 2010, it is the brainchild of a group of young, enthusiastic university students passionate about social work. As-Siraat is working in different areas of Pakistan with the sole aim of: Serving Humanity. Our main areas of focus are: Education, Poverty Eradication and Social Service.

Team As-Siraat firmly believes that tiny drops make an ocean. We cannot expect to transform the whole world overnight, but we can certainly take the first steps towards that transformation!

As-Siraat trust began by starting small projects, however over the years, as the team grew, As-Siraat took on larger and more challenging projects, while staying focused on our main areas of interest. Some of the ongoing projects of As-Siraat include:

- As-Siraat Public School
- Sewing Machine Project
- Master Ayub Park School Project
- Ramadan Charity Program
- Community Service Projects

**"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today." - Malcolm X**

Education is the wing on which dreams fly: a simple sketch becomes a masterpiece; a verse becomes a sonnet embodying the thoughts and feelings of a living soul. A thought, a hypothesis, a theory nurtures in a fertile mind under the blessed rain of education and becomes a fact, a rule, a certified phenomenon which changes our outlook and perspective of this very universe. Education is self-empowerment. It not only empowers you to earn a respectable living,

and benefit the community, but also gives a clear perspective and purpose to your life. Education remains imperative to our progress as individuals and as societies. Children are the future of a society. They are the building blocks on which a nation develops. Ensuring access of quality education to children would create an enormous ripple effect, having a positive influence on generations to come.

# EDUCATION IN PAKISTAN

Pakistan is facing a lot of problems at economic and global front. Home to many brilliant minds, this fertile nation has a potential to excel at several fronts, yet an unsatisfactory education system continues to hamper our progress.

Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) shows that Pakistan's performance is weak on education related elements of competitiveness, when compared with other Asian countries.

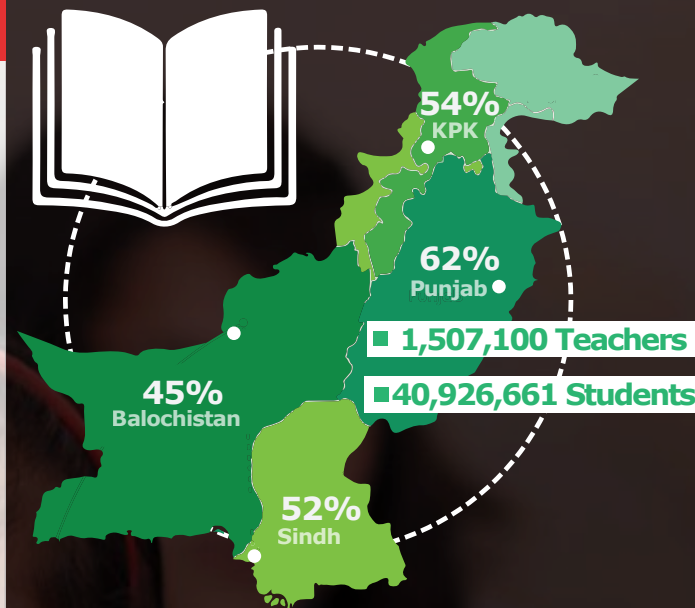
Pakistan has expressed its commitment to promote education and literacy in the country by national education policies as well as its participation in international initiatives such as Dakar Declaration and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). At the domestic level, several national education policies have laid down strategies to increase literacy rate, train teachers and enhance facilities in educational institutes.

Internationally, as a signatory of the Dakar Declaration (2005), Pakistan has promised to meet the Education For All (EFA) target. However, on-ground reality and statistics clearly show that Pakistan is lagging behind in achieving EFA targets and its MDGs.

The MDGs had laid down two goals for education sector:

- Universal Primary Education (UPE).
- Eliminating gender disparity in all levels of education by 2015.

In Pakistan, there is a clear disparity between male and female literacy rates. The national literacy rate of males is approximately 71% while that of females is 48%. Economic Survey of Pakistan confirms that during the year 2013-14 literacy remained much higher among males than females.

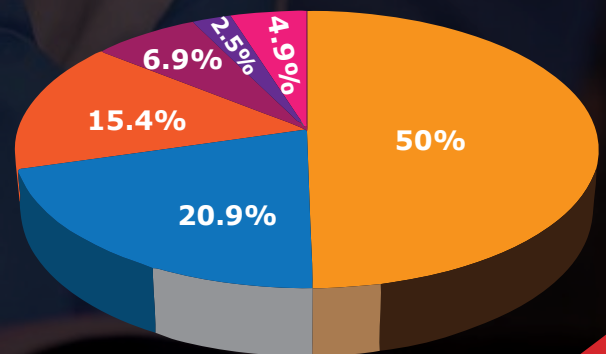


## Province-wise net primary enrolment

### Education System of Pakistan

- ~70% Public Schools
- ~30% Private Schools

According to National Education Census (NEC) and NEMIS, over 36 million students were attending an educational institution in 2005/06.



- Primary Level
- Pre-Primary
- Middle Elementary
- Secondary
- Higher Secondary
- Post Secondary

Economic Survey of Pakistan confirms that during the year 2013-14 literacy remained much higher among males than females.



48%

71%

## Male and Female Literacy Rate

## Primary Schools



## of Pakistan



24% don't have Textbooks



9% don't have Blackboards



46% don't have Desks



Only 36% have Electricity

Lack of proper planning and insufficient allocation of GDP on education development seem to be the main problems facing the education system in Pakistan. In several cases, funds are allocated for educational projects but there is no mechanism that ensures the proper expenditure of those funds.

Many schools are in need of better facilities to improve the teaching environment. For example, 9% of primary schools do not have a blackboard, 24% do not have textbooks available for the children and 46% do not have desks for the students. Only 36% of the public primary schools in the country have electricity. The faculty hiring process is also politicized. Merit is often ignored, and to compound the problem, no or low investments are made in teachers' training.

Shortage of schools, long distances, insecurity, poverty, and cultural norms all contribute to low enrolment and high dropout rates. Law and order situation and natural disasters have also contributed to the education conundrum in Pakistan.

For the lower and lower-middle classes, cost is an important factor. The economic cost is higher in private schools, but these are located in richer, urban areas mostly. The paradox is that private schools are better but not accessible for everyone, whereas government schools ensure equitable access but do not provide quality education. The majority is, thus, still deprived of the "luxury" of quality education.

In conclusion, it would not be wrong to say that the nation is facing an 'education crisis' which demands concrete measures to put us back on track. The reforms required in the education cannot be done by the government alone; sustained and productive public-private participation is the best way to pull out the country's population from the clutches of illiteracy.

# AS-SIRAAT PUBLIC SCHOOL

***Education is key; if it's success you wish to see.***

Registered | Middle-level | Custom-built campus

Free education | Free books and stationery

English medium | Blend of modern and religious education

Education with its trickledown effect has the power to reform any society. As-Siraat Public School was established in the remote area of Ahmedpur East (near Bahawalpur) in 2012. It is providing the finest quality of English-medium education in the city. Keeping in view that the majority of the local population of Ahmedpur East cannot afford to provide their children quality education, As-Siraat Public School offers **free-of-cost education** to its students along with **free supply of books, copies and stationery**. The education provided is a fine blend of religious and worldly education. The school provides academic excellence in a quality Islamic learning environment.

Dynamic classroom environment and learning aids make learning more conducive for the students. As-Siraat Public School provides proper school furniture, books, stationery and audio-visual learning aids to the students. This in itself is a remarkable feat considering that 46% of primary-level schools in Pakistan don't even have desks for students, and 24% do not have any textbooks available.

The school is providing

**Qualified and trained teachers ,**

**Learning sheets, drawings, toys and colors etc**

As-Siraat Public School currently comprises of a **Primary Section** and a **Secondary Section**. Primary Section is comprised of two blocks Jinnah Block and Iqbal Block. It includes classes from Nursery to Grade-5, **library, computer lab, multifunction hall, multimedia room and a large playground with swings**. Secondary Section comprises one spacious building named Edhi Block. It includes classes from Grade 6th to 10th, science lab, computer lab, library and an Admin Department. A large area around the Secondary Section has been landscaped beautifully.



As-Siraat Public School got registered in December 2015 as a middle level school. **Another milestone achieved by the school is the appearance of its first batch of grade 5 students in PEC Examination 2016.**

Through provision of free quality education at par with any good urban school, As-Siraat Public School aims to empower the undeprivileged population of the rural area of Ahmedpur East to overcome socio-economic barriers and become a part of mainstream Pakistan. Many bright and fertile young minds of this area are barred from achieving their full potential due to obstacles, including poverty and poor quality of education being offered. We aim to impart a holistic education and upbringing, which will enable moral, spiritual and intellectual development of children of Ahmedpur East grooming them into responsible and productive citizens of Pakistan.

**School Trip**



**Swings**



**Play Ground**



**Free Stationery**



# ABDUL SATTAR EDHI



## Charity

## Personified

The new block of As-Siraat Public School has been named 'EDHI BLOCK' in memory of Abdul Sattar Edhi.

**A**bdul Sattar Edhi, a man who was an institution in himself, needs no introduction. His great legacy, Edhi Foundation, speaks for itself. He won the hearts of millions around the world through his acts of kindness, devotion towards his mission and scrupulous honesty. He will always be remembered for his selfless service towards humanity. In 2013, The Huffington Post claimed that he might be "the world's greatest living humanitarian". He had even been nominated several times for the Nobel Peace Prize. Abdul Sattar Edhi's heart ached for the poor and helpless since a very young age. He had meager resources himself, but his goodness of heart and empathy would make him collect donations for others. His first charitable project was a free dispensary that he established in the 1950's in Karachi. In 1957, he was able to buy his own ambulance, which he drove himself. (Today, Edhi Foundation has a fleet of 1800 minivan ambulances). Edhi single handedly changed the face of welfare in Pakistan. He founded the Edhi Foundation. From humble beginnings, it soon became the largest and most trusted charity network of Pakistan. Edhi Foundation currently runs hundreds of hospitals, homeless shelters, rehabilitation centres, and orphanages across Pakistan. So far, Edhi Foundation has rescued over 20,000 abandoned infants, rehabilitated over 50,000 orphans and has trained over

40,000 nurses. Edhi himself was officially registered as a guardian of nearly 20,000 children. Edhi Foundation has run relief operations in Africa, Middle East, the Caucasus region, Eastern Europe and United States too. Last year, the whole nation united in mourning at Edhi's death. There was an outpouring of grief and sorrow. His massive funeral proved that he was one of Pakistan's most respected and legendary figures. Rich tributes were paid to Abdul Sattar Edhi at his death. However, this is not enough. We should take his life as a model for ourselves, and strive to serve humanity in whatever way we can. Edhi died, but his spirit of selfless service must live on in every Pakistani. This is the lesson we need to learn from him and infuse in our own lives. After all, it is our duty to take his mission forward. To keep the candle of hope burning is our responsibility that we owe to those who are less fortunate, whose eyes constantly await our succor.

**"People have become educated, but have yet to become human."**

— Abdul Sattar Edhi

# SEWING MACHINE PROJECT

## Empowering Women to Achieve Dreams

Charity should aim to be empowering, not demeaning. Giving some money to a beggar is the easy way out. Trying to stop him from begging is a far nobler goal. Helping a poor person to stand on his own two feet is far more rewarding than throwing alms at him every now and then.

The wise, old Chinese proverb states: "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a life time."

We have an example in the life of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) where he gave money to a poor man to buy rope and an axe and start cutting and selling wood instead of begging.

The same philosophy is operating behind As-Siraat's Sewing Machine Project. The Sewing Machine Project is a unique project that aims to empower

deserving women to earn money from the comfort of their homes in a respectable manner. One sewing machine

**"The proper aim of giving is to put the recipients in a state where they no longer need our gifts."**

C.S. Lewis

month is delivered to a deserving woman. It is verified that the recipient is genuinely in need, knows the art of sewing and shows the desire to earn through sewing.

This project maintains the self-respect of the recipients and enables them to become financially

independent and secure rather than always being dependent on others. It initiates the spark of hard work in the recipients, and provides them an opportunity to help in supporting their households.

The fairer sex is the weaker sex, and becomes especially vulnerable in the context of poverty. Through economic empowerment of women, this project aims to solve several social issues stemming from gender exploitation. Women deserve to be financially secure. Providing them this security solves other secondary issues stemming from their economic vulnerability.

As-Siraat Team contacts the beneficiaries after three months to check out their progress. We are pleased to have come across several amazing success stories so far. Several women have started small-scale tailoring businesses. Some are supplementing the income of male breadwinners; some are the sole breadwinners of their families because of death or drug addiction of male members. All the recipients develop increased confidence and self-respect after they start earning for their families, and their financial situation becomes stable.

Till now, sewing machines have been dispatched to people in different areas of Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Bhara Kahu, Sargodha and Azad Kashmir. It is always heartening for us to see that there is one less family that now needs to spread out hands and ask for charity.

## Milestones' 16

- **Ramadan Charity Program**  
250 Families were provided with the Ramadan Rasahan & 100 individuals with new clothes.
- **Sewing Machine Project**  
10 Sewing Machines are provided in year 2016.
- **As-Siraat Public School**  
150 Students in total with 2:1 girls and boy ratio respectively.

## Donations

Account # 0148-02000310

IBAN: PK31ALFH-0148001002483481

Swift code: ALFHPKKA148

Bank Alfalah, F-8 Markaz, Isb.