

iEARN Centre Pakistan Society for International Education



Newsletter
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iEARN-Pakistan and the Education of Hope

In October 2011, the Christian Science Monitor published, an article "Amid Dark Times, a Brighter Side of US-Pakistan Ties," which examined the "quiet diplomatic drive that has been working since 9/11 to build positive ties between the US and Pakistan." The writer noted that the largest US cultural and educational exchange program of any US embassy in the world is run from Pakistan. Two of the largest and most successful of these efforts, English Access Microscholarship Program and Youth Exchange and Study Program (YES), are managed by iEARN-Pakistan, which has developed these programs to become a "bright side" of US-Pakistani ties.



Most Americans are not optimistic about the future of US-Pakistani relations. I am, thanks to the staff, teachers, and students of iEARN-Pakistan. Likewise, I am hopeful for the future of education in our countries. One day, the "globally connected classroom" will simply be known as "the classroom." When that day comes, we will know that our schools have been transformed. We will have moved closer to nurturing a critical mass of young people worldwide who trust, respect, and empathize with each other, who want to work together towards a healthier and safer planet, and who believe that each of his and her voices matters. We will recognize that our educational systems support what iEARN-USA Director Emeritus Dr. Ed Gragert calls "an education of hope." When this day comes, we shall owe iEARN-Pakistan our gratitude for its important contribution.

Congratulations to iEARN-Pakistan on all of its accomplishments.

David Potter
Chief Development Officer
iEARN-USA

Green Flag In The White House

It was a usual Thursday morning. I was busy rehearsing for my "Choir Concert" when my Principal approached me and said, "Would you like to go the White House this Monday?" For a second, I just stared at her face in shock and asked, "Ms. Seid, you are joking, right?" She gladly replied that she wasn't. My happiness had no limits and I felt that all my dreams are one by one becoming true in this exchange year. Thursday, March 14, 2013 was the greatest day of my life. As a part of GIN (Global Issues Network) conference, held in Georgetown, I got an invitation to go inside the White House with Congress members and Senators.

The Pakistani flags were in my hand when I met Mr. Obama in person. I introduced myself as an exchange student from Pakistan and told him about

the work I'm doing as a youth ambassador. Mr. Obama gave me a hug, patted me on my back for my achievements and said, "Just keep doing what you are doing". I felt out of this world at that time and got tears of happiness in my eyes. It was the most amazing moment for me to get appreciation from the President of United States. Then Mrs. Obama came and gave me a hug too. She humbly said, "I'm so proud of you, keep representing your country and keep doing whatever you are doing". I am thankful to the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study program and English Access Microscholarship program for making my life worthwhile and unforgettable.

Warisha Atiq
YES (2012-13) Student



Workshop by Gretchen Coppedge for Access Teachers

Gretchen Coppedge, the English Language Specialist, from Georgetown University-Washington DC- United States, conducted training for Access Karachi and Hyderabad teachers on March 16th and 17th, 2013 at the iEARN-Centre Karachi. The two day workshop was attended by more than 60 teachers teaching in Karachi and Hyderabad.

The trainer introduced e-journal to the participants. She mainly focused on learner-centered activities integrating all four skills. Access teachers found Gretchen's workshop highly useful and productive. One of the Access teachers Zafar Ali said, "Gretchen has always been an inspiration. I am glad I attended her session. I will surely integrate e-journal activities in my Access classrooms."



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iEARN 'Photojournalism2.0: Images of Social Change' Face to Face Training

35 Students and teachers from six different Government and trust school from underserved areas of Karachi benefitted from 4-day Photojournalism training program conducted by iEARN Pakistan. The training focused on enabling participants to use photography and technology to address social issues and to make positive contributions to their communities. iEARN Pakistan collaborated with the Canon Imaging Academy, Karachi and the Express Tribune to deliver a four days training program. Canon Imaging Academy expert Rizwan Bhiriya and Furqan Moosani worked with the students teaching them effective and creative use of Canon Power Shot. Farooq Baloch and Farahnaz Moazzam from Express Tribune led the training sessions and discussed topics such as photojournalism, job of a reporter and photojournalist, ethics and libel, a news worthy photograph etc. The iEARN Pakistan trainers talked about Street Photography and organized a fun filled Photowalk at Empress Market. The last session of training engaged students and teachers learning to photo edit and writing cutlines for the selected images.

Access 2012-14 Award Ceremony in Karachi

Access Karachi Award Ceremony was held on 19th January 2013. 1500 students coming from different localities of the city gathered under one roof to celebrate their admission to the Access 2012-14 program. They were joined by teachers, Access team and SIE-iEARN officials. Michael Dodman, the Consular General from US Consulate, Karachi welcomed Access students to this great learning opportunity and awarded the certificates to the students' representatives from 15 Access locations. Officials from the Public Affairs Section of US Consulate in Karachi and Embassy in Islamabad were also present at the event, and enjoyed their time talking to students and interacting with them. Two Access alumni served as the Masters of ceremonies. Two other Access alumni shared their reflections about how Access had changed their personality and how much confidence they have gained from the program. Students from the current Access talked about how Access has benefited them so far by helping them learn English language in an interactive and friendly environment. Two of the Access teachers shared their reflections on their experiences while teaching on the Access program.

Enhancement Activities in Access

During the quarter January to March 2013, Access students were engaged in a wide range of community service activities including: planting, recycling, beach cleaning, renovating the school library, and so on. As part of enhancement activities, Trace Effects an interactive computer game for English Language learners, has been introduced at many Access centers. Trace Effects is a collaborative English language video game

for students from ages 12-16 developed by the Office of English Language Programs, U.S. Department of State. Access students found the game really interesting and useful. Many students were familiar with quite a few computer games but this was the first time they played games developed for a specific purpose of improving their language skills. Trace Effects will be introduced in all Access Centers in the next quarter.



Access Karachi Skype with Access Turkey

One group of Access Karachi (each group comprises of 25 students) at CNN School skyped with Access Turkey students to pilot a facebook activity. The interaction started off with a Skype session held in February. Both the Access groups shared their views about Access and how they are learning English language. The one hour long session also talked about a follow up activity in the form of a closed group created on Facebook, where Access students from both the countries will be interacting, sharing and learning using ICT skills. Learning English language in an authentic environment is all what these Access students need.



Workshop on "Enhancing your Creativity with Adobe Photoshop"



A workshop on "Enhancing your Creativity with Adobe Photoshop" was conducted by iEARN Pakistan on 29-30th March, 2013. 18 teachers from different schools in Karachi gathered for the 2-day training at iEARN Centre, Karachi. This workshop provided innovative ideas to teachers to incorporate Photoshop skills in classroom teaching and engage students to enhance their image editing skills and creativity as well. The various hands-on activities included photo editing, poster/flyer designing, newsletter designing and layout. Besides Adobe Photoshop, the facilitators also helped them develop understanding of another wonderful tool Adobe Photoshop Lightroom. The participants had to work in groups to plan and act a TVC for the products provided. They also enjoyed poster making activity and the hands-on time. In the end certificates were distributed to the participants.

Youth Empowerment and Leadership Program (YELP)

Youth Leadership Training under the Karachi Youth Initiative was held in Islamabad for a week from 28th January till 3rd February 2013. 30 young leaders from different areas of Karachi were trained on using community action projects as a tool for counter violence and extremism. The project aims to promote peace, tolerance and diversity in at-risk communities through formation of youth clubs. The participants belong to marginalized areas of Lyari, Korangi and Sultanabad in Karachi where the people in formative years of age are at a strong risk of getting involved in violent activities due to lack of opportunities. Karachi Youth Initiative aims to provide healthy alternatives to young people in these areas in the form of active youth clubs who will be supported to run community action projects. During this 6-day training, participants went through a rigorous capacity building program designed specifically to enhance their leadership and communication skills while inculcating within them all the necessary skills to lead youth in their areas. They also designed and presented a small activity to promote peace in their communities. Staff from SIE will be working with the participants over the period of next few months to ensure success of the youth clubs via facilitation and support. A few experienced youth leadership trainers have also been hired to share their experiences and expertise and inspire the youth trying to make a difference through this platform.



Special Education Workshop



The YES Alumni KPK organized a 2-day Personal Development Workshop for 60 differently abled students of Special Education Complex in Hayatabad Peshawar where these students were engaged in various activities like training about hygiene, art and games, in order to exercise and enhance their abilities. The activities aimed at developing participants' abilities in five areas: physical, cardiac, cognitive, self-help and socialization. The two day workshop was facilitated by 12 YES Alumni and volunteers.

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.544462018921272128990178121162222028&type=3>

Parents' Orientation and Workshop for YES (2013-14) Participants

K-L YES program provides opportunity to high school students to live and study in the US for one academic year. For the class of 2013-14, 108 students have been selected from all over Pakistan as youth ambassadors. For Sindh and Balochistan, parents' orientation and students' workshop were held in Karachi on March 2-3, 2013. For Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Kashmir and FATA areas, it was held in Islamabad on March 9-11, 2013. A deep insight of the YES program as a whole was shared with the parents. YES alumni also gave presentations about their exchange experience to parents and students. In the workshop, Students were involved in different sessions that included introduction to iEARN online collaborative projects, social media and community service.



YES Alumni workshop at Aghaz School

YES alumni Karachi visited the Aghaz School, which is run by Pakistan Youth Forum for the students from nearby slums. YES Alumni conducted a workshop regarding the health & hygiene awareness. This workshop educated the students about the importance of healthy lifestyle. The workshop concluded with the students creating colorful & creative presentations for their classrooms, explaining the teachings of the workshop for other students.



YES Alumni Training of Trainers Workshop

A K-L YES Alumni Training of Trainers Workshop was conducted from January 30th - February 5th 2013 at Bali, Indonesia. It was organized collaboratively by iEARN-USA and American Councils along with AFS - Indonesia. 25 Alumni from 12 countries were trained about training ethics, methodologies, obstacles and problems related to conducting successful training sessions. Hassan Saeed (Youth Programs Coordinator iEARN-Pk), Muzammil Sheikh (YES-09) and Shaima Kiyani (YES-06) represented YES Alumni Pakistan at the workshop successfully.



AIF-03 Teachers' Symposium & Students' Art Festival

A group of 28 teachers and 70 students gathered at DIL Community Model School, Khuda Ki Basti, a rural area of Kala Shah Kaku near Lahore, for AIF-03; Our Family, Our Neighborhood, Our World Project Teachers' Symposium and Students' Art Festival on February 8, 2013. The project O3; Our Family, Our Neighborhood, Our World is a United States Department of State funded project. It combines the use of interactive media with Punjabi art forms to foster to people-to-people connections and increased intercultural understanding among young educators, students, and artists in India, Pakistan, and the United States. The project combines the global (news media) with the local (Punjabi art forms) as two powerful vehicles for educators and students alike to build and harness linkages of a shared Punjabi cultural identity and foster increased collaboration, cooperation, and understanding. Some teachers and students shared their experiences and the change O3 program brought in their lives and how participation in O3 project has helped them understand and appreciate similarities of Pakistan and Indian Punjab culture and people.



iEARN PJ2.0 Media Labs in Schools

As part of iEARN Photjournalism2.0-Images of Social Change project, iEARN Pakistan has setup media labs in 6 schools in Karachi that are part of Photojournalism program. These are fully equipped media labs with latest technology gadgets that includes: HP PROBOOK 4540s Core i7, laptop back pack, Cannon Power Shot camera, EVO Unlimited, Head Phone, Webcam, USB Speaker, USB flashdrive, External Hard Drive, and Tripod stand. The media lab equipments will be kept in schools within easy reach of students, who can utilize them for project work and other project related activities. After 4-day face-to-face workshop and exciting photowalk, the participants are expected to complete their photojournalism assignment and these equipments will help them in completing their task. The iEARN Photojournalism 2.0: Images of Social Change is funded through the U.S. Department of State and sponsored by the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs (SCAA). The aim of this project is to engage students and educators in Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Tajikistan in practical and meaningful inquiry based learning and improved awareness using power of photography and technology.



My Days with iEARN...

Projects of iEARN are the best, that's all I can say,
We do these projects with all our hearts in school days,
We clean our roads and ways,
Sometimes plant trees and help others on Sundays,
We also communicate with others across the globe every day,
For these projects, in school we stay,
We do these projects with fun, joy and play,
I hope it will achieve more success in future, hurray!

Readers Club at Access Quetta-Pishin

As part of enhancement activities of the Access program, Readers' Clubs were formed at Access Quetta-Pishin to help foster a culture of reading among the students. A wide range of interesting story books were provided to the students at all Access localities. The students will exchange books throughout the program with each other to gain maximum from the Readers' Club. Different book reading templates and other activities have also been developed for the students to enhance their reading skills.

Musawer, an Access student expressed his views by saying, "The books given are having wonderful topics and pictures which will be good to improve our English skills"

Farrukh, another Access student said, "I am surprised to see such beautiful books, thanks for giving us these books"



International Education and Resource Network
Pakistan

(A Project of Society for International Education)

www.iearnpk.org



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