*IN COLLABORATION WITH ZINDAGI TRUST  
ZINDAGI TRUST: 0357-5648487*

Empowering Futures

Education and Economic Support for Underprivileged Communities

Proposed By: Simal Hassan

Simal.alahdal@gmail.com

**Executive Summary**

In Pakistan, over 22.8 million children (44% of the population aged 5-16) are out of school, and approximately 39% of the population lives below the poverty line. Education is one of the most effective tools to break the cycle of poverty. This project aims to provide free quality education, vocational training, and economic support to low-income families in Karachi’s urban slums and rural communities.

The project will run for two years, targeting at least 500 children and youth. We will establish three community learning centers, train 200 individuals in vocational skills, and provide scholarships for 100 students. Additionally, microloans will be offered to at least 50 small businesses started by trained individuals. The estimated budget is PKR 10 million (USD 35,000).

**Introduction/Background**

Pakistan faces a severe education crisis, with millions of children unable to attend school due to financial constraints. Many families prioritize earning a livelihood over education, forcing children into labor. Furthermore, even those who attend school often receive subpar education due to a lack of resources and trained teachers. This project addresses these challenges by:

Providing free primary and secondary education with digital and printed learning resources. Offering vocational training in IT, tailoring, carpentry, and basic healthcare. Awarding scholarships and financial aid to deserving students. Assisting with job placements and small business funding for trained individuals. By equipping individuals with knowledge and skills, we aim to empower families to escape poverty permanently

**Objectives**

**Primary Objective**

* To improve access to quality education and vocational skills for underprivileged communities in Pakistan.

**Secondary Objectives**

* Provide free education to at least 500 students (both children and adults).
* Establish three community learning centers in urban slums and rural areas.
* Train 200 individuals in high-demand vocational skills.
* Award scholarships to 100 students from low-income families.
* Offer microloans to 50 small businesses initiated by trained individuals.
* Partner with local businesses and NGOs to facilitate job placements.

**Methodology/Approach**

1. **Phase 1: Community Assessment (Months 1-3)**

Conduct surveys in low-income areas of Karachi, Lahore, and rural Sindh/Punjab. Engage local schools, NGOs, and community leaders for collaboration..

1. **Phase 2: Education & Skill Development (Months 4-12)**

**Establish three community learning centers with digital learning tools. Provide basic literacy programs for children and computer literacy for youth. Train individuals in IT (graphic design, coding, freelancing), tailoring, carpentry, and healthcare assistance.**

1. **Phase 3: Financial Support & Scholarships (Months 13-18)**

**Offer 100 scholarships to deserving students for secondary education. Provide 50 microloans (PKR 50,000 each) to trained individuals starting small businesses..**

1. **Phase 4: Job Placement & Sustainability (Months 19-24)**

**Partner with local businesses, software houses, garment factories, and health clinics to employ trained individuals. Establish a mentorship program where successful beneficiaries support new trainees.**

**Potential Risks and Mitigation Strategies**

* **Lack of community engagement- Conduct awareness sessions and involve local leaders. Limited participation due to mobility constraints**
* **Financial sustainability** – Seek partnerships with NGOs, CSR programs, and crowdfunding platforms.
* **Dropout rates** – Provide incentives like free meals, transportation, and career guidance.
* **Limited job opportunities**– Develop freelancing programs and entrepreneurship training.

**Project Scope & Deliverables**

* **Scope:** The project will be implemented in **low-income schools** of Karachi, including **Lyari, Korangi, Orangi Town, and Malir**. Free education for 500 students (200 primary, 300 secondary).
* Vocational training for 200 youth in IT, tailoring, carpentry, and healthcare.
* Scholarships for 100 students to continue higher education.
* Microloans for 50 small businesses launched by trained individuals.
* Job placement for 100+ trained individuals through partnerships
* **Deliverables:**
  + 3 community learning centers established.
  + 500 students enrolled in free education programs.
  + 200 individuals trained in vocational skills.
  + 100 scholarships awarded to students via local ngo partnerships.
  + 50 microloans disbursed for entrepreneurship.
  + Employment opportunities secured for at least 100 individuals.

**Timeline**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Phase** | **Activities** | **Duration** |
| Phase 1 | Community survey, partner collaboration | 3 months |
| Phase 2 | Establish learning centers, education and skills training | 6 months |
| Phase 3 | Scholarship disbursement, microloans for businesses | 12 months |
| Phase 4 | Job placement, mentorship, sustainability planning | 6 months |
| Phase 5 | Budget and Resource Allocation | 6 months |

**Budget and Resource Allocation (for an estimate of 350 children)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Expense** | **Estimated Cost** |
| Establishment of 3 learning centers | PKR 3,000,000 |
| Educational materials & teacher salaries | 2,000,000 |
| Vocational training (equipment, trainers) | 2,000,000 |
| Scholarships for 100 students | 1,500,000 |
| Job placement & mentorship program | 500,000 |
| Miscellaneous (Transport, Volunteer Incentives) | 35,000 |

**Expected Impact and Benefits**

* **Increased Literacy** at least 500 students gain access to free education.
* **Economic Empowerment:** 200 individuals receive vocational training, leading to employment.
* **Entrepreneurship Growth:** 50 small businesses launched through microloans.
* **Community Development:** Families improve their financial stability, reducing child labor.
* **Sustainability:** Mentorship ensures long-term benefits for future learners.

**Potential Risks and Mitigation Strategies**

* **Cultural and societal resistance** – Conducting community dialogues and working with religious and local leaders to promote acceptance.
* **Limited participation due to mobility constraints** – Introducing transportation support and conducting digital training for accessibility.
* **Security concerns for women in public spaces** – Partnering with law enforcement to increase patrolling and public safety measures.
* **Lack of sustainable funding** – Establishing public-private partnerships and seeking international grants.
* **Low policy implementation** – Engaging policymakers through advocacy campaigns and ensuring accountability through media partnerships.
* **Financial instability and poverty (SDG No Poverty Impact)** – Integrating job placement services and financial literacy programs for women to ensure economic stability.
* **Limited outreach in marginalized communities** – Partnering with grassroots organizations to expand project accessibility and reach.

**Evaluation and Success Metrics**

 **KPIs (Key Performance Indicators):**

* 500+ students enrolled and completing courses.
* 200 trained individuals securing employment or starting businesses.
* 100+ students continuing education through scholarships.
* At least 50% of small businesses surviving after one year.
* Increase in school attendance in targeted communities by at least 20%.
  + .

**Conclusion**  
This initiative directly supports SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 4 (Quality Education) by addressing educational barriers and providing financial empowerment. By leveraging partnerships and community involvement, this project will create a sustainable model that empowers individuals and families to escape poverty permanently