

The Lone Cause Champion

Sustaining Hope and Shaping Lives

Muhammad Zubair | 22 Male | Teacher
Gadap Town, Karachi District, Sindh, Pakistan

After his own education was curtailed due to a lack of finances once he had graduated from high school, Muhammad Zubair, 22, resolved to ensure that poor children in the villages near Gadap Town - where he grew up and which is one of the eighteen towns that fall within the boundaries of the southern Pakistani city of Karachi - would not meet the same fate. With a population of one (1) million people, Gadap Town is one of the largest towns in the Karachi metropolitan area. It is also one of the poorest.

Seeing that the number of out-of-school children was extremely high in the rural areas close to his home town and armed with a white-board, Zubair set out to teach as many children as he could in a rural community called Goth Haji Saen Rakhio Jokhio, with a population of about 6000. Soon, the number of children under his free tutelage had risen to 150.

In 2018, the Alight Pakistan literacy mobilizer team identified Goth Haji Saen Rakhio Jokhio as a target area to set up a non-formal STAR school for local out-of-school children in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4, which seeks "to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all." The team partnered with Zubair, now a teacher-cum-community leader, who facilitated meetings with other community leaders to ensure the provision of free education for the children of the target area and other nearby communities.

The non-formal STAR schools are part of a countrywide program, run jointly by ALIGHT Pakistan and the Pakistani government in collaboration with the Educate A Child (EAC) program, run globally by the Education Above All Foundation (EAA), which seeks to enroll one million Out-of-School Children (OOSC) in Pakistan. ALIGHT Pakistan also collaborates with the public and private sectors to provide teacher's training and supplies to these schools, including stationery, bags, uniforms, notebooks, etc.

Boosted by the support he has received from ALIGHT Pakistan, Zubair has flourished in his role as a community leader, helping to teach not just poverty-stricken children in an area lacking the most basic of amenities, but also arranged ten stitching machines so that the women of the local communities can be empowered to learn the craft of stitching and become self-reliant.

Muhammad Zubair bought a white board, markers and a few books, and started teaching children in his locality who could not afford education due to extreme poverty

