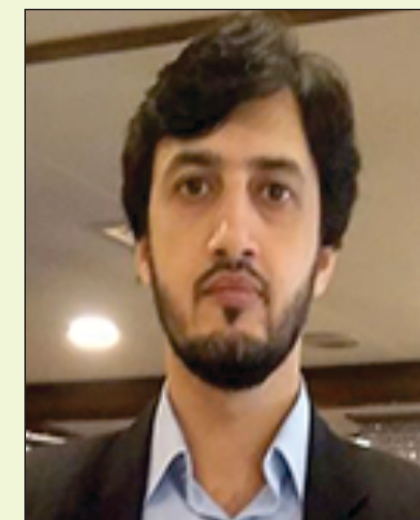




THE DEVELOPMENTALIST

A PROJECT OF LIFE SKILLS-BASED EDUCATION

Words of the Patron



In the context of Life Skills Based Education (LSBE), ACT, in collaboration with UNFPA, has achieved significant milestones in the recent past. Having a glance at the activities, we have been directly engaged with Education Departments, both at the Federal and Provincial levels, to develop a Single National Curriculum (SNC) with a particular focus on incorporating LSBE in SNC. As a result, we have included Age- Appropriate and Gender-Sensitive RHR & LSBE content in a complete quality education cycle, particularly in curriculum and textbooks for grades I-V.

Furthermore, we implemented the idea of digital consultations during the development of a Single National Curriculum and its alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In addition, we developed and approved a technical guidebook on LSBE called "LSBE National Guidelines"- the guidelines for curriculum, textbooks, assessment, teachers' training, parents, the community and out of school children and children with special needs. We also developed and published the LSBE teacher's training module and trained 350 public sector primary school teachers on LSBE in Punjab, KPK and ICT. We successfully conducted an LSBE pilot rollout in two districts of KPK, in which 3200 participants (teachers, children, parents and community), through 128 sessions, on LSBE and its importance regarding Child Pedagogy and Socialization.

During the first quarter of the year 2022, ACT, in collaboration with (NCC) - Ministry of federal education & professional training and UNFPA, is developing a standalone LSBE curriculum and textbooks for primary and middle levels along with that at the federal level. The training module of PBSA is under review to incorporate LSBE with a particular focus on leadership skills will be developed and approved. Furthermore, we have also developed Pakistan's first-ever LSBE supplementary material for 'in and out of school children' with the topic "We are safe" and set guidelines for parents. Furthermore, "We Are Safe" has been translated into local languages to understand supplementary material better, and an Essence of the Quran and Hadith has been added.

We have demonstrated our ability to deliver on our short-term commitments while executing our long-term strategy as an independent, stable and focused civil society organization. We commit to working harder to bring change in the lives of the masses to give them a better tomorrow. We intend to plan, organize, and implement our programs to bring a better tomorrow for our generations in the upcoming days and months.

Editor's Note



United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) emphasizes Skills-based Health Education as a basic human right especially the Right to Education for the development of children to their fullest potential. States are accountable for respecting, protecting, and fulfilling children's rights and taking all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation and sexual abuse. Life Skill Based Education (LSBE) not only draws

heavily from the rights of children as laid out in the UNCRC but also contributes to more than half of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030. They contribute to a range of outcomes specifically; SDG 3 - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages, SDG 4 - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning and SDG 5 - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

To broaden the impact of LSBE on the lives of children, curricula should be rights-based and the capacity of all those who work with and for children to contribute to eliminating all forms of violence against them must be developed. The need of the hour is that initial and in-service training that imparts knowledge and respect for children's rights should be provided. ACT, in collaboration with UNFPA, has put its utmost efforts into taking multifaceted actions for the promotion of LSBE, including; conducting pieces of training for teachers, incorporating LSBE content in the curriculum from grade I to V, conducting workshops for the dissemination of LSBE, preparing training modules and successful rollout of LSBE guidelines to orient 3200 masses. We, in this quarter, worked with the same zeal and enthusiasm and attained the milestones, including; initiatives to incorporate LSBE content in the curriculum of Boys Scouts, specifically Shaheen Scouts, in collaboration with the National Curriculum Council (NCC) development of a standalone curriculum and textbooks for Grade I to VIII and conducting a consultative workshop to review the draft curriculum of LSBE.

On the closing note, I am thankful to all of our stakeholders and donors, specifically UNFPA, for extending their support for the promotion of LSBE. We pledge to continue the same efforts in the upcoming days and months to orient more people about LSBE to bring change for the better tomorrow for our generation and Pakistan.

Life Skills

Based Education

Adolescence is a period when the intellectual, physical, social, emotional, and capabilities are very high, but, unfortunately, most adolescents cannot utilize their potential to the maximum for various reasons. The challenges children and young people regularly face many and require more than even the best skills. That is why 164 nations, under the United Nations Education sector (UNESCO), include "life skills" as an essential learning need for all young people. Around the world, LSBE is being adopted to empower young people in challenging situations.

Children are the most vulnerable section of society. They depend on adults for their safety, security, sustenance, and life decisions. Keeping them ignorant about the basic realities of life makes them easy prey to criminal elements in society. We cannot be with our children 24/7, but we can give them skills to assess situations, raise the alarm when they feel threatened and take the right decisions at the right time.

The government of Pakistan realized the importance of Life Skills Based Education for children and adolescents and signed relevant international treaties such as the Convention on the Rights of Children, which places focus on LSBE for school children and adolescents. Accordingly, the LSBE was officially made part of some National Policies, such as Pakistan's Youth Policy and National Education Policy. To further strengthen the government of Pakistan's relevant institutions and to build the capacity of policymakers on the inclusion of LSBE in the Single National Curriculum, the curriculum of Boys Scouts, RHR training for transgender people, out of school assessments and dropout record, UNFPA and ACT International partnered for joint interventions. Accordingly, during the years 2020 and 2021, the UNFPA, in partnership with ACT & National Curriculum Council (NCC) multipronged program was initiated by UNFPA and ACT International to engage the National Curriculum Council (NCC) and Federal Ministry of Education for the inclusion of the Life Skills Based Education (LSBE) in Single National Curriculum. The program involved capacity-building support to NCC, national and provincial educationists, and policymakers of provincial education departments on the LSBE, its importance and inclusion in the mainstream Education System through NCC.

This program has following key components:

- ✓ National Advocacy Session on the LSBE
- ✓ Establishment and notification of National Task Force for the inclusion of LSBE in SNC
- ✓ Development of National Guidelines on LSBE
- ✓ National Guidelines dissemination across Pakistan
- ✓ Development of Training Manual for Teachers on LSBE
- ✓ Teachers' training for ICT, A&K, KP, South Punjab and GB in keeping with the LSBE-aligned SNC.
- ✓ Pilot roll out of LSBE national guidelines in two districts of KP.
- ✓ Development of modules for pilot roll out
- ✓ Development of Supplementary material for in and out of school children

LSBE STANDALONE CURRICULUM

In 2015, as the international community adopted the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals, access to reproductive health and rights was recognized as a pivotal component of a sustainable population development program. At the ICPD25 Nairobi Summit in 2019, Pakistan committed to achieving universal access to reproductive health and rights by 2030, including the implementation of Life Skills Based Education (LSBE). The Call of Action following the National Symposium on Alarming Population Growth held in Pakistan in 2018 recognized the importance of integrating LSBE into primary and secondary level curricula on federal and provincial levels. The promotion of Life Skills is also endorsed by numerous international conventions and treaties that Pakistan is a signatory to.

The National Curriculum Council (NCC) has achieved commendable milestones by mainstreaming LSBE into the primary and secondary school curricula through the Single National Curriculum (SNC). The provision of LSBE is now part of Pakistan's National Education Policy and National Youth Policy. While great strides have been made by integrating LSBE content into the SNC, individual concepts of LSBE have been integrated into the curriculum of five subjects across grades I to VIII. These include Urdu, Social Studies, Islamic Studies, Science and English. Under the current system, students are not assessed on LSBE concepts and are simply familiar with the concepts relevant to their main subject curriculum. It was hence felt that for LSBE to be taught holistically, a standalone curriculum was required that would be delivered by teachers having undergone specialized training. Moreover, students would be required to take a final assessment.

The draft curriculum for the LSBE standalone component has been developed in partnership with National Curriculum Council and experts from within and outside the Federal Ministry for Education & Professional Training. The final curriculum will be formally launched at the federal level and incorporated into SNC.

The Developmentalist

A PROJECT OF LIFE SKILLS BASED EDUCATION

Approved By *Mubashir Banoori*

Edited By *Aamir Khan*

Design By: *Umer Tanveer Qureshi*

Support & Reviewed by *Fiaz Mir & Iqra Riffat*

We would like to present our gratitude and thanks to all Contributors for their views and opinions for this issue of the "The Developmentalist"

Aiming Change for Tomorrow (ACT) is a registered not-for-profit rights based national organization focusing on women, youth, children and marginalized segments of the society.

For suggestion & feedback, please approach us:

Email: info@act-international.org

Contact No: +92 51 831 2843-26

Web: www.act-international.org

MESSAGES

MR. SAEED UL HASSAN (CHAIRMAN BOD ACT)

In the absence of reliable sources of information and supportive relationships, adolescents encountering difficult situations or pressures often fail to recognize even the imminent dangers involved, resulting in negative consequences. Adequate and timely education by focusing on knowledge, skills-building, and improving attitudes can empower young people to channel their energies responsibly. Life skills - a construct contributing towards the development of young people - are the abilities for adaptive and positive behavior that enable individuals to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of everyday life. In Pakistan, the youth generally lack appropriate life skills to cope with the pressures and make informed choices. Schools are a platform to reach a large number of young people, where life skills can not only be taught as a subject but can be pursued and reinforced by creating an enabling environment. In this regard, Aiming Change for Tomorrow (ACT), with the technical and financial support of UNFPA, has worked rigorously on the LSBE concept, its incorporation in curriculum & textbooks, and the establishment of the task force as a result of the early consultative workshop. Later on, we held a National Review Workshop on the LSBE curriculum to better understand the importance of incorporating LSBE into the mainstream curriculum and provide concrete recommendations based on the review process.

Furthermore, National Dissemination Guidelines for LSBE were developed, followed by preparing training manuals for teachers, children, parents, and the community. To disseminate the LSBE guidelines, workshops were held parallel to teachers' trainings across the country, including Gilgit Baltistan & AJK, and to date, 240 teachers have been trained. ACT International has also conducted a Pilot rollout of LSBE for Teachers, Children, Parents, and Community to orient 3200 people, starting from two districts of KPK- Nowshera & Mardan, and so far, has achieved the landmark of 3200 people as per criteria mentioned earlier. I look forward to carrying on the work with the same zeal and passion for pursuing the cause by ACT and UNFPA.

MR. SARFARAZ DAHA, CHIEF COMMISSIONER (PAKISTAN BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION)

Scouting is a worldwide movement that aims to support youth in their overall development so that they may play constructive roles at regional, national, and international levels. Pakistan Boy Scouts Association (PBSA) was established in 1947 and currently has 526,626 members. Following the sayings of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, we believe that scouting can play a very vital role in forming the character of our youth, promoting their physical, mental and spiritual development and making them well disciplined, useful and good citizens.

In the modern era, only imparting education is not enough to make the child a global citizen but to teach them different skills so that they could become a greater human capital. To make our scouts at that level, PBSA considers Life Skills Based Education (LSBE) as the most important skill set that weight out the most desired behavior and encircles the abilities such as solving hurdles and thinking critically, enhancing personality including self-awareness, and developing skills that are helpful not in general life but for earning purposes also. We believe LSBE enhances self-esteem, a better way of socializing, the ability to tolerate, take actions to strengthen interpersonal capacities, grab new and different opportunities, and most importantly, have the courage to choose what is good for youth. LSBE also enables individuals to deal effectively with the strains and challenges of life by giving them the strength to protect themselves from mistreatment, abuse, violence, drugs and diseases. In collaboration with UNFPA and ACT, we will enter into a formal arrangement to provide support in developing/reviewing Boy Scouts existing curriculum and incorporating the Life Skills Based Education component. After the development and approval of the Boy Scouts LSBE based Curriculum, we will train young volunteers/boy scouts to develop master trainers who will further train young boy scouts through the cascade training model. In this regard, an LOI is signed between UNFPA, ACT and PBSA to implement proposed interventions in the year 2022 and for a long-run partnership. PBSA will introduce LSBE focused badge syllabus for Shaheen Scouts, and that batch will be called "We are Safe".

MR. WAQAS AFRIDI (MINISTRY FOR EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL TRAINING)

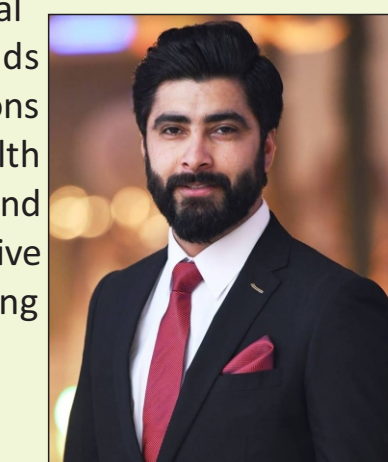
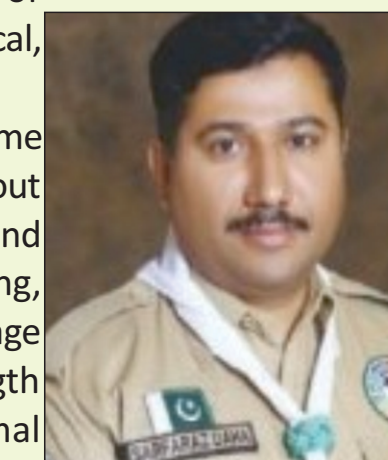
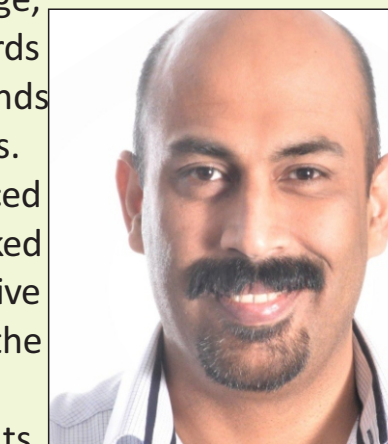
To achieve national development and unity, education is the most significant area to be strengthened. It has the potential to facilitate cultural and societal transformation towards long-term growth. It aids in the development of generic competencies, skills, attitudes, interdisciplinary knowledge, understanding, and application for a sustainable future. The Federal ministry of education is committed to achieving the goals of a Single National Curriculum by transferring the basic life skills and transferring them to children who are out of school. Life Skills Based Education (LSBE) holds significant importance in the education sector. We understand the potential of LSBE in enhancing the capabilities of youth in making vibrant decisions that play a significant role in enhancing their life patterns through sustainable living. LSBE enables the youth to access quality reproductive health that benefits them in the long run. The inclusion of LSBE in the curriculum is a crucial step taken by ACT that projects the standards for teachers and learners. This encompasses the awareness among the students regarding a broad range of personal, interpersonal, psychological, social and cognitive skills that helps them manage their emotional well-being and enables them to make the right choices for a sustainable life. The efforts of Aiming Change for Tomorrow (ACT) in collaboration with UNFPA are highly admirable and appreciated at all levels of the ministry of education. I look forward to a positive impact on our youth in the future by imparting life skills.

DR. BAKHTIOR KADIROY (COUNTRY DIRECTOR – UNFPA)

It's the basic right of Youth to lead a healthy and productive lifestyle. Yet access to sexual and reproductive health has been a challenge for millions of youths across the country. Due to this challenge, young people are not aware of the knowledge and skills necessary to make safe decisions to prosper in a healthy lifestyle, which exposes them to several health issues. Thus, UNFPA has been actively involved in policy advocacy and community outreach initiatives to equip young people with necessary life skills and to enable them to make the right choices for a healthy and productive lifestyle for themselves and their families. Working closely with the Federal and Provincial Ministries, Education Department, and Civil Society Organizations, UNFPA advocates for the inclusion of age-appropriate and gender-sensitive LSBE content in National and Provincial curricula for both in and out of school children. A successful digital campaign on LSBE was recently launched in partnership with the Prime Minister's "Kamyab Jawan Program", reaching out to 650,000 young people. This campaign is raising awareness about essential topics on LSBE, such as gender-based violence, cyberbullying, peer pressure, and so on. Based on our present partnerships and collaborations with ACT, UNFPA will continue to support the Ministry of Education and Provincial Education Departments in delivering vibrant LSBE to young people for a brighter future.

DR. MARIAM CHUGHTAI (DIRECTOR NATIONAL CURRICULUM COUNCIL)

National Curriculum Council (NCC) was established with the vision of one education system for all; hence Single National Curriculum (SNC) was introduced to design and implement one curriculum and textbooks across the country. The purpose behind the whole idea was to provide equal education opportunities across the country. In collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Education, NCC is dedicated to reaching the goal by communicating value-based quality education to our young generations. Life Skill Based Education (LSBE) remained one of the main ingredients of SNC, which has been incorporated for grades I-V, provided a framework for the educational institutions to teach our generation about problem-solving, decision making, situation handling, and, most importantly, identify a potential threat of child abuse. Considering the importance of LSBE as a top-notch, we are in the process of incorporating the same into the curriculum from 6th to 8th grade. The same is expected to be incorporated for upper-grade students too. The efforts of UNFPA and Aiming Change for Tomorrow (ACT) are highly appreciable in this regard for collaboration with NCC to develop National LSBE guidelines, Teacher training modules, and supplementary material to create awareness among stakeholders.



Accomplishments



Meeting between UNFPA, ACT and PBSA for the integration of LSBE content in Pakistan Boy Scouts curriculum



Consultative Workshop for Review and Development of Draft Curriculum on LSBE



Meeting with Secretary Education South Punjab

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COLLABORATION WITH PAKISTAN BOYS SCOUTS ASSOCIATION FOR ENGAGING YOUTH IN LSBE PROMOTION



Scouting was founded in Pakistan as part of the British Indian branch of The Scout Association and spiritual development, making them well disciplined, useful, and good citizens. PBSA also aim to have one million youth volunteers to help out in emergencies.

LSBE component. In the context of untiring efforts carried out during the years 2020 and 2021, both UNFPA and ACT were able to access & influence the national level policymakers of federal & provincial governments for LSBE inclusion in the Single National Curriculum on the one hand. On the other hand, they developed a cadre of highly committed trainers on RHR. In this vein, ACT is proposing interventions with Pakistan Boy Scouts Association in the year 2022. After the development and approval of PBSA's LSBE Based curriculum, we will train young volunteers/boy scouts to develop master trainers further to train young boy scouts through the cascade training model. This will be a sustained intervention.

CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP FOR REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT OF DRAFT CURRICULUM ON LSBE



Pakistan in 2018 recognized the importance of integrating LSBE into primary and secondary level curricula at federal and provincial levels. The National Curriculum Council (NCC) has started mainstreaming LSBE into the primary and secondary school curricula through the Single National Curriculum (SNC). The provision of LSBE is now part of Pakistan's National Education Policy and National Youth Policy.

In this context, the concept of an LSBE standalone curriculum for grades I to VIII surfaced. The draft curriculum for the LSBE standalone component has been developed in partnership with the National Curriculum Council and experts from within and outside the Federal Ministry of Education & Professional Training. A consultative workshop was organized to review the draft for finalization collectively. The final curriculum will be formally launched at the federal level and incorporated into SNC. The purpose of the workshop was to take expert opinions specifically from NCC about the development of LSBE focused curriculum, incorporate feedback provided by the experts and then develop textbooks for grades I to VIII with the consultation of related stakeholders. The workshop was attended by Institutions, the Private Schools Association, experts from NCC and the Federal Ministry of Education, and educationists from the Federal College of Education and Army Public School. UNFPA and other NGO representatives working on education and LSBE also participated and shared their views. The events were commenced by Assistant Education Advisor, NCC, Mr. Sohail bin Aziz with opening remarks on the importance of LSBE in daily lives. He also discussed the past events and successes NCC has achieved in incorporating LSBE skills in SNC.

Ms. Maryam Chughtai (Director NCC) also joined the session and discussed the NCC achievements so far and answered the questions of the participants. Mr. Mubashir Banoori (CEO, ACT-International) presented LSBE and the input of their organization about developing the LSBE curriculum and its pilot testing in the field.

ADOPTION AND TRANSLATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY RESOURCES INTO REGIONAL LANGUAGES (HINDKO, PASHTO, SARAIKI)

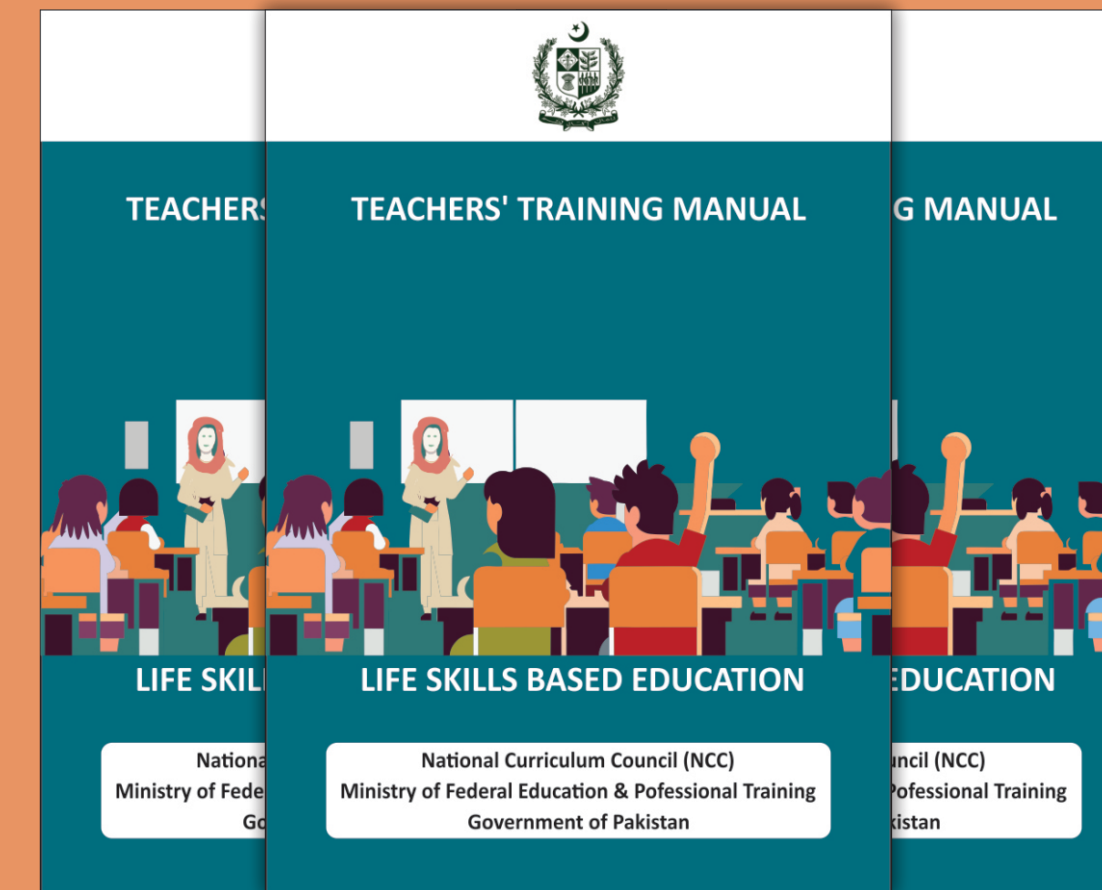
"We are safe" is an initiative to protect children from the dangers they face in their daily lives. Protecting children from the dangers of various novelties is only possible when we are aware of these dangers. Although the role of parents, guardians and teachers is significant in this whole process, it is very important to make the children aware of these dangers and teach them how to avoid them.

To transfer the knowledge of LSBE material at the grass-root level to facilitate and enlighten the community and children, already developed and approved supplementary material on LSBE (We are Safe) has been translated into three regional languages, including Hindko, Pushto and Saraiki for better understanding of local communities. It is also proven that a child's understanding gets higher if they are taught in their native language, so this translated material will create a greater impact. The National Curriculum Council publishes the translation of this guide for children, Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training under the LSBE program in collaboration with UNFPA and ACT.



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TEACHER TRAINING MANUALS



ACT, in collaboration with National Curriculum Council (NCC), Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training (MoFEPT) Government of Pakistan, is working on the development of teacher's training manual on LSBE. The manual adopts an inclusive approach for the capacity building of teachers who teach students as an integrated subject. The teacher training manual is being developed, keeping Pakistan's educational demographic and socio-economic realities in the mind. Moreover, the manual is intended to organize into four main sections.

The first section explains the aim of the training and outlines the overall learning outcomes of teachers concerning LSBE.

The second section provides an overview of the structure (content and schedule).

The third section covers the training day plans, focusing on sessions' outcomes for the participants, learning activities, activities' pace, and required resources. It illustrates the topics to be covered in each session and corresponding teaching and learning activities, pedagogical approaches and techniques.

The fourth section includes annexures containing handouts (reading material, presentation, worksheets, and other relevant instructional resources). There are 3 Annexures added to the manual, mainly covering effective teacher characteristics and Islamic reference material on LSBE.

COLLABORATION WITH SCHOOL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SOUTH PUNJAB FOR LSBE PROMOTION

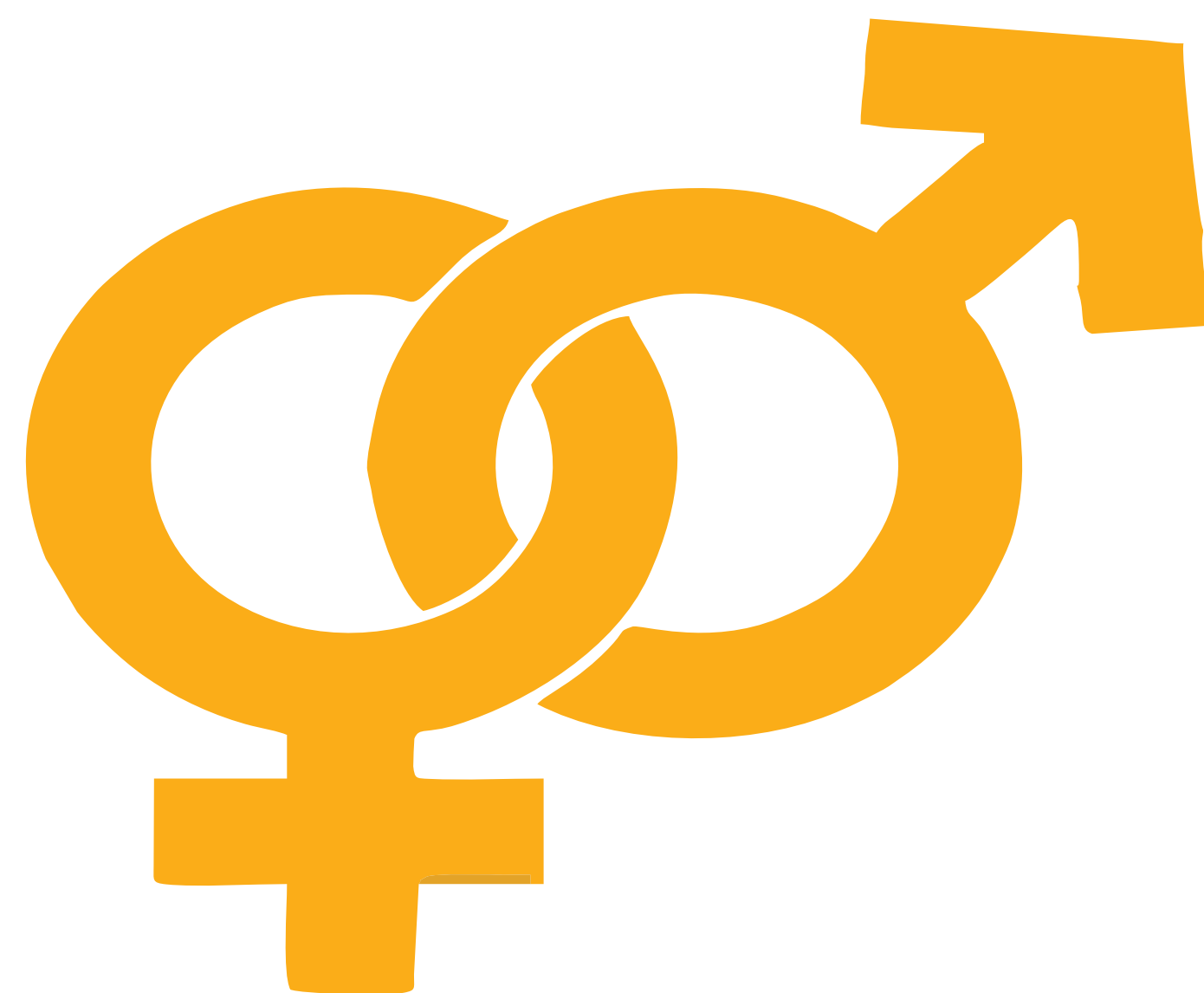


"Transgender people are the most vulnerable segment of the society and are excluded from the mainstream. As a partner of UNFPA, ACT is going to engage transgender people into the mainstream. In this regard, a consultation was held with the Secretary of Education in South Punjab. South Punjab education department is leading as they have initiated the first-ever transgender School in Multan. The idea has also been replicated in Lahore. To provide further support, ACT will organize RHR trainings for selected transgender, enrolled in transgender schools in Lahore & Multan. Another great initiative of the Education Department South Punjab is the Subh-e-Nou school for out of school children. To further strengthen the Education Department and enhance its capacity to incorporate the rights and needs of youth in their policies, program and institutional mechanisms, ACT and School Education Department, South Punjab have agreed and entered into an LoU to collaborate for joint implementation of the activities, at the provincial level, as planned collaboratively by both parties. ACT and School Education Department, South Punjab, resolve to set up a joint consultation mechanism concurrently at the state level to enhance cooperation and collaboration further. To achieve the common goals, a comprehensive study will be conducted to trace out of school children in south Punjab. The study will focus on the out of school children for Subh-e-Nou school working areas in South Punjab. To disseminate information regarding Subh-e-Nou School services and make sure that the message is communicated to the target audience regarding Subh-e-Noh schools and associated Helpline 1234 will be promoted. A separate LSBE TOT module for elected Student Council Members will also be developed, followed by comprehensive training sessions.

DEVELOPMENT OF CONTENT ON LSBE REFERENCE SUPPLEMENT MATERIAL BASED ON QURANIC VERSES, HADITH AND SUNNAH



To contextualize LSBE from an Islamic perspective, it is important to provide support from the Holy Quran, Hadith and Sunnah to relate it to the Islamic perspective. Learners should also consider it as their religious obligation. In this regard, pamphlets/diaries have been published mentioning the Islamic notion of LSBE with related references of verses or hadith. This material will be disbursed among all the stakeholders, including federal and provincial education departments. This material will also be used in trainings and other events on LSBE and RHR. This material will be helpful for in and out of school children, parents and teachers' education on LSBE.



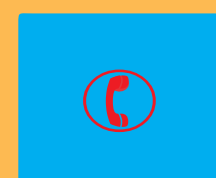
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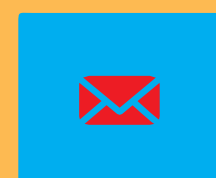
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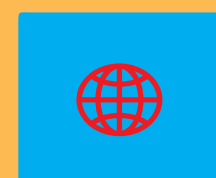
Office # 5 & 6, 3rd Floor, Malik Arcade,
E11/2, Islamabad



+92 51 8312 826



info@act-international.org



www.act-international.org

