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Aid Afghanistan for Education

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Aid Afghanistan For Education: The Future

After five years of hard work by our project managers, teachers and students, I am not surprised to see AAE's accelerated learning programs become an example of the best use of donor support for development in Afghanistan. The credit goes to our students, their supportive parents, the Ministry of Education and our committed donors.

On 22 March 2008, at the graduation ceremony of our 41 students from 12th grade, I realized the importance of long term commitment to a cause.

Why plant seeds if we don't water them and watch them grow? It was a special moment when the students shared their



thoughts, feelings, and appreciation with me. These remedial education programs are the most fulfilling work I have ever done. Creating a structure to enhance and make a difference in the lives of future generations is

a gift we can give to ourselves. My vision is also to create similar programs for the many young men who have been deprived of proper education as well. We receive many requests from parents for accelerated learning programs for their sons who are between 17 to 25 years of age and have only a third or fourth grade education.

I would also like to see the programs expanding to other provinces and to establish our vocational programs this year as well as integration of our Kabul schools into the regular school system as a program for over aged female population.

Hassina Sherjan

FIRST GRADUATES FROM AAE



Some of our graduates celebrating after their graduation.

Forty one students from our Kabul programs graduated from 12th grade in March 2008.

These girls were also the first graduates from any of the AAE schools. All the graduates participated in Kabul University entrance exam and most of them were admitted to various faculties.

Fourteen of the graduates passed the American University of Afghanistan entrance exam and we are looking for sponsors for them.

AAE will stay in touch with all the graduates and monitor their progress in the wider community.

INTEGRATION

Our accelerated learning programs were initially designed to assist each student to catch up the six years they lost during the Taliban era and then integrate into the regular Government school system. However, students showed great interest in continuing their education with AAE programs and the Ministry of Education (MoE) agreed for the students to pursue their studies up to 12th grade with AAE.

With the clear success of our programs, MoE has agreed to integrate AAE programs within the regular school system by March 2009.

These integrated programs will provide accelerated education for the over aged female population with an added vocational component after 9th grade. AAE will assist with the set up and running of the programs.

TRAINING

AAE, since its earlier years, has been providing its teachers with bi-annual training programs run through the office of the Nebraska University in Kabul.

By September 2005, five of AAE teachers were certified teacher trainers. They provided Methodological and academic training for 78 AAE teachers.

This training enabled the teachers to encourage the students towards a more participatory method of learning rather than memorization. This new approach also enhanced the students confidence and enthusiasm.

In the near future, AAE will be assisting MOE with training librarians.

BOYS IN NEED



While AAE's focus has been on female education, the need for accelerated education for young men who have not received proper education during the years of war, is obvious.

In 2008, we will be establishing two remedial education programs for boys in Samangan and Balkh provinces.

Each of the programs will have the capacity for 350 students and are supported by the Government of Finland.



Some of our students at work in the Classroom.

MEET SOME OF OUR STUDENTS: Razia; Mastora; Luiloma

RAZIA: DOCTOR TO BE

Razia, one of our new graduates, has been accepted into the medical faculty at Kabul University.

During the Taliban times my family went to Pakistan. I developed polio and had to spend many months in hospital there,

she said. I received such good treatment from the doctors there, that I decided I would be a surgeon.

Razia was attending 12th grade when the Taliban captured Kabul. She returned after the defeat of the Taliban and joined the AAE program. Now, at age 27 she is about to embark on the next stage of her dream to be a surgeon.

I wish to be a surgeon and to continue my studies. I want to help the Afghan people and be able to support myself, she said.



Mastora

MASTORA: COOKING UP A NEW LIFE

Mastora is a 35 year-old widow with seven children. She has been the cook at one of AAE schools in Kabul since it was established in 2003.

After working for a number of years she decided to learn how to read and write. The ability to read and write is important to understanding the world around me, she said.

And AAE has been kind enough to employ me as well as teach me. I am very grateful for this. I wish to continue my studies so one day I can be a teacher as well.

LUILOMA: UNIVERSITY DREAMING

Luiloma graduated with her high school diploma from the AAE program in March. She passed the entrance exam for the American University of Afghanistan (AUAF) Foundation Course to prepare her for university where she wants to study computer science.



Luiloma

I wish to study at the AUAF because I think this is the best education I can receive in Afghanistan," she said. AAE is seeking sponsors for each of the 14 graduates who would like to continue their higher education at AUAF.

The sponsorship of \$5000 per year covers all university fees and would be paid directly to the AUAF.

For more information contact us at: aid@aidafghanistan.net

Accelerated Learning



An AAE student in class in Badakhshan province.

The term 'accelerated learning' has been used for 30 years to describe how brain research has been applied to learning. Simply put, it is a process through which students complete required learning faster.

The teaching process starts from the individual needs of the learners.

It motivates and actively involves them while being interesting and fun. Accelerated learning is based on how we learn not what we learn. Most accelerated learning programs complete two grades in one year.

In post-conflict countries such as Afghanistan, accelerated learning allows women, men and children to pick up their studies where they left off.

They progress through the curriculum advancing two grades per year and can either then,

re-enter the regular school programs at their age-appropriate level or go on to vocational programs, start businesses, or sit for university entrance exams.

High levels of literacy and innumeracy are necessary for the confidence and self-esteem of individuals, well-being of families and the future of communities.

Currently, AAE has over 2000 female students in its accelerated learning programs. By June 2008, there will be an additional 1700 students which includes 700 boys.

DONOR UPDATE: ENSURING STABILITY

In February 2003, AAE established its first remedial education programs in Kabul with financial support from DANIDA, the Danish International Development Agency. DANIDA continued to fund these programs and the expansion to the provinces until March 2007.

A bridging fund was provided by CIDA, the Canadian International Development Agency through BRAC Organization to cover April to July 2007. As of August 2007, AAE has been receiving financial assistance from USAID through The Asia Foundation for its current programs.

**DANIDA
CIDA
USAID
FINLAND
UN Committee of
New Canaan**

In the near future, three remedial education programs for girls and two for boys will be established in Balkh, Samangan, Jozjan, and Sare-Pol provinces with support from the Government of Finland.

The UN Committee of New Canaan Connecticut supported two schools with 500 female students in Badakshan province for two years and continues to support AAE.

Due to their ongoing support, we will be able to provide vocational programs for students including spinning of wool and production of woollen products for the local market which will provide sustainable income for their families in Badakhshan.

AAE has achieved much in the last five years and we will continue to do so with the consistent support

CONTACT US

Aid Afghanistan is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization based in Afghanistan and the U.S. AAE was founded in 1996 by Hassina Sherjan, an Afghan woman who left Afghanistan as a refugee in 1979 and has returned to her homeland to participate in the reconstruction process.

AAE was working to provide education for Afghan refugees in Pakistan from 1996 to 2001 as well as supporting five clandestine schools during the Taliban from 1999 to 2001.

Since 2003, AAE has established remedial education programs for girls who have been denied or unable to partake in education over the last twenty years.

AAE programs are now located in the following provinces: Kabul, Ghazni, Bamyan, Badakhshan, Parwan, Samangan, Balkh, Jozjaan and SarePol.

Visit us at:
www.aidafghanistan.net

Hassina Sherjan
President
Aid Afghanistan for Education
Postal:
Aid Afghanistan for Education
PO Box: 1850
Kabul Afghanistan 25000
Phone: 93 (0) 700 696 663
E-mail: aid@aidafghanistan.net
h.sherjan@aidafghanistan.net