



SKF September 2020 Newsletter

Educational institutes in Pakistan have been shut since March 16th, 2020, because of the Corona pandemic. Beginning from September 15th educational institutes are being opened in phases, starting with colleges and universities. Primary schools are scheduled to reopen from October 1st, 2020.

The teaching staff at SKF's Educational Grooming center in Multan are busy these days, preparing the center with COVID-19 health and hygiene requirements to keep SKF children safe when the center reopens on October 1st. Making arrangements that desks and chairs placed in the classrooms are at safe distance for each child, masks availability for each child to wear while at the center and other health and hygiene safety measures to be followed as per the official guidelines.

In this month's newsletter SKF management would like to share some good news!

Two of the SKF children from "*SKF's Educational Grooming Center*", Multan, Pakistan have been selected and succeeded in getting admission in **FG Public School, Multan Cantt** for the school year 2020-21.

As many of you may know that "*SKF Educational Grooming Center*" is a center for learning for children ages 4 years to 12 years. All the children belong to extremely poor households, families living in slums and the parents unable to send their children to a regular school program.

In August the admission forms were filled out and payment for the forms and the admission fee was paid by SKF. With the help of SKF teacher the two children prepared for the admission test and gave the test that was conducted by the staff of FG Public School. **On Monday September 7th, 2020**, the complete list of all those students who had succeeded in getting admission at FG Public School, Multan for the session 2020-21 was announced.

Proud moment for SKF when the school admission list included the names of both children! Ms. Hoor ul Ain aged 10 years for Grade 5 and Master Syed Zahoor aged 9 years for Grade 4 admitted on merit after passing the admission test!



Both the children will be leaving *SKF's Educational Grooming Center*, **BUT their contact with SKF will not end here!** SKF's mission to support the children's educational journey will continue as they become students at FG Public School, Multan Cantt.

As "*SKF's Raising Star students*" these two children will move on to be part of "**SKF's Raising Star Scholarship Program**". Under this scholarship program, SKF will be responsible to make payments for their monthly school fees. Pay for their school uniforms, books, stationery and any other expenses related to their school program, including pocket money for their daily snacks.

To monitor their progress the two children will be expected to maintain bi-monthly contact with the teaching staff of SKF Educational Grooming Center via text or in person visits. The children will provide regular updates on their studies, tests and overall educational progress. At the end of each school year, SKF management and teaching staff will evaluate the overall progress of each child at the school and will then approve "*SKF's Raising Star scholarship*" for the next academic school year.

ABOUT THESE TWO SKF RAISING STAR KIDS

Ms Hoor ul Ain and Master Syed Zahoor are siblings. Their parents belong from a village in Jhang, in the province of Punjab in Pakistan. The father works as a poor farmer on a daily wage earning ONLY 3 dollars per day, and a monthly income of around \$100 (Rs 15,000). Because of the hardships in the village, their mother along with the other 4 older siblings decided to move to Multan city and started working as a "*Masee (maid)*" in different homes. With 4 older siblings in the house and extraordinarily little income to spare, the parents could not afford to send these two children to a regular school.

It was in February of 2018, when through someone the family heard about SKF's Educational Grooming Center where children get basic primary level education, free

of cost! The mother along with the 2 children came to visit the SKF center, she was informed about SKF's mission and what prospects would be available for her children. She did not understand completely and was reluctant but decided to test SKF for her children's education. Both Syed Zahoor and Hoor ul Ain had some understanding of basic Math's, English and Urdu alphabets taught at home by their older siblings when they joined SKF learning center. Syed Zahoor was placed in group Level 1 and Hoor ul Ain was placed in group Level 2. From the start both the siblings showed a desire to learn and dream big! During the 2 years at the SKF center with the help of SKF's dedicated teaching staff, both Hoor ul Ain and Syed Zahoor started to excel in their studies.



Within 2 years Syed Zahoor progressed to Level 3 and Hoor ul Ain to Level 4 syllabus that was being taught at the SKF Educational Grooming Center. Part of their other activities at SKF center included reading story books, writing short stories, drawing and coloring, playing sports and taking part in educational trips to parks and fun time trips for eating pizza especially organized for SKF children during the year.

It was in early 2020 when SKF management seeing the overall progress of these two children decided that both Syed Zahoor and Hoor ul Ain were ready to be placed in a regular school program in March. BUT COVID-19 pandemic happened, and all the educational schools got closed and the admission forms could not be submitted until August.

The mother on hearing about both her children being successful in getting admission at FG Public School is thrilled and full of praise for the hard work of SKF teaching staff, SKF's management and all the donors and supporters of SKF who made her dream to educate her children come true! She has become a strong supporter of SKF and promoting SKF's mission and work to others as well!!

This was a short introduction about SKF's 1st batch of the two "SKF's Raising Star Students". We will through future SKF newsletters update SKF donors and supporters on the educational journey of both Syed Zahoor and Hoor ul Ain at their new school. As well as other SKF children that will be joining the "SKF's Raising Star Scholarship program" in future.

Update on SKF work since the last newsletter

As a result of the ongoing SKF center closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic, on July 18th, the 2nd round of the monthly *Educational Kits* was distributed to all 22 SKF children. The education kit included homework register to do Math's, Urdu, and English assignments, pencils, sharper, eraser, story books, drawing books, color pencils, color paper & plastic cover for the books.



Educational Kits distributed to SKF children for at home learning

July 18, 2020



We at SKF would like to make a difference in the lives of all those children from poor households, those wandering on the streets or having to work or stay at home because their parents cannot afford to send them to a school.