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Meet
Our
EYAs

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RIGHT
TO EDUCATION
PAKISTAN



A World at School



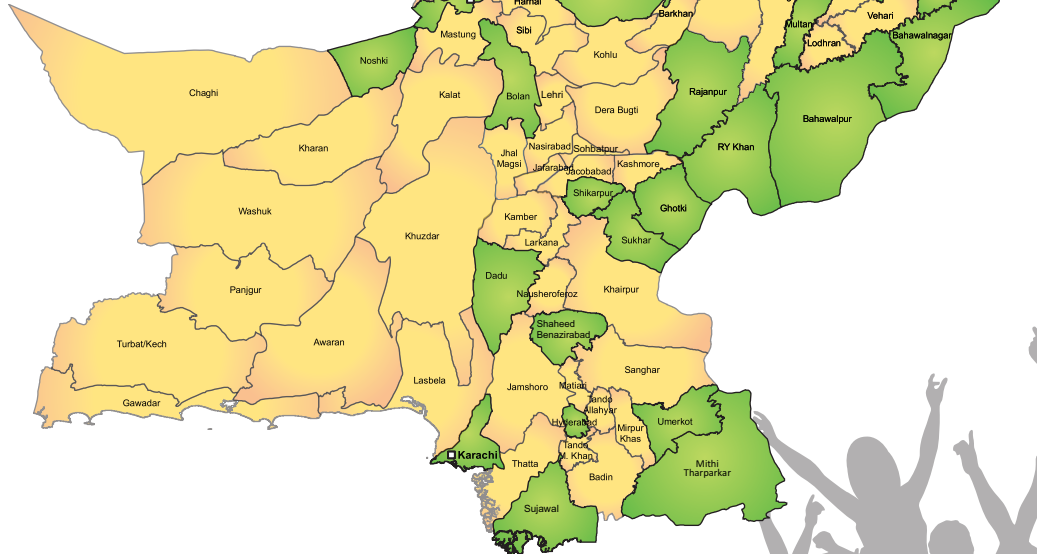
**Introduction:**

The Education Youth Ambassador (EYA) programme was set up in September 2014 by Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi in collaboration with A World at School (AWAS). It has been established to build on and strengthen the emerging youth movement for global education.

Since its launch a year ago, the programme now operates independently and forms a growing network of over 300 youth ambassadors in Pakistan campaigning for all children to realise their right to go to school and learn.

Over the last year, EYAs have organised and participated at a number of events, including hosting informative sessions to mark International Women's Day, planning vigils for the Peshawar school attack, and contributing to the National Education Policy by voicing their recommendations and expressing the changes they want to see in education in Pakistan. They have also written stories for the UNESCO Youth Global Monitoring Report, as well as countless articles and blogs bringing to light some of the issues they have faced in going to school.

The Ambassadors have also helped mobilise more than 2 million petition signatures across Pakistan for A World at School's #UpForSchool campaign – calling on world leaders to ensure that every child is able to go to school, without danger or discrimination. The campaign has gathered more than 9 million signatures and will be presented to world leaders during the United Nations General Assembly for action on education.



Jammu & Kashmir
Disputed Territory





“ My mission is to serve and support the humanity. I wish to serve everyone in the world regardless of their caste; creed or religion. I wish to educate everyone in the world; ensure everyone has access to health facilities; and a peaceful environment for every citizen of the world to live in. ”

Kakar Hayat Hamandzai
Qilla Saifullah, Balochistan



Meet Hayat, our fearless EYA, who is on a mission to serve humanity. Hayat is from the small and underdeveloped district of Qilla Saifullah in Balochistan. He has never allowed the lack of resources or negative elements to hold him back.

With this determination and resilience, Hayat has been running his own NGO, Initiative for Social Change and Development (ISCD) for the past year with focus on efforts for education; health; human rights; and peace in his district. Under the banner of ISCD, Hayat runs a program, which is currently supporting 200 students in various Government schools of Qilla Saifullah, completely covering the finances of their tuition fee, books, uniform, and so on. ISCD also provides teaching and reading material to the Government schools. Hayat strongly believes in empowering the youth and hence arranges awareness and community sessions on a regular basis to motivate the youth to stand up for a better future.

For his tireless contributions to the Right to Education Campaign via his NGO and for collecting 13,000 #UpForSchool signatures, Hayat became the first EYA in the program to be awarded the title of 'EYA of the Month'. Hayat breathes life into the EYA program and we hope to see him working with the same zeal, always.

Meet Tajdar, a leader for the youth of FATA, who thrives on sensitizing the youth about various issues in Pakistan. He is a social activist and President of a youth-led organization called the Mashal Society and Community Based Welfare Organization. Being a graduate of Journalism and Communication, Tajdar uses the power of his pen to create awareness of the importance of education and rights of children, both boys and girls.

With his efforts, Tajdar has succeeded in enrolling 130 children into school. Tajdar has also arranged 20 awareness and motivational sessions in different schools and is now working to improve access to education for girls in the Khyber Agency area. Tajdar's work is not limited to education. He started a campaign to stop aerial firing, a tradition of celebratory gunfire at weddings, which often results in death and injury. As a result of his efforts he has received a number of awards and honours.

Tajdar Alam

Jamrud, Federally Administered Tribal Areas



“ I started my volunteer efforts in FATA, on promotion of education because education is the fundamental for everything and without education no nation can achieve its desired goals. I am determined to sensitize individuals, groups and communities to make education for all a reality, enrolling out of school children in schools and motivating the youth for higher education. ”



“ I have seen so much child labour and so many out of school children wandering the streets that I found myself responsible to raise my voice & utilize my power to educate them. I am proudly educating my community by conducting awareness sessions for right to education. I strongly believe that the Youth is power and if we empower our youth we can bring about positive change in all sectors. It is only possible if we join hands and educate our future because together we can. YesWeCan! ”



Muhammad Ahmad
Rahim Yar Khan, Punjab

Muhammad Ahmad, the one with innovative ideas, strongly believes in the power of the youth to bring about change. Ahmad is a strong advocate of the phrase: “YesWeCan!” and uses it in his efforts to motivate the youth to come forward.

Along with being an EYA, Ahmad is also a Global Youth Ambassador and President of a Student Welfare Organization, Mentor Amiable Professional Society (MAPS); that is working for the eradication of child labor and creating awareness. Ahmad has led education awareness drives in his community such as the “Pehla Qadam” campaign, through which he is determined to help at least 100 children who have been orphaned, out-of-school, or have gone through child labour.

Ahmad is also actively involved in conducting career counselling for the youth, that too in their local languages. Since 2014, under Ahmad's leadership, MAPS has been organizing Education Expo's in South Punjab with career counselling workshops and seminars by partner organizations and universities who join from all over the country, catering to about 7000 students each year. No other organization in South Punjab, Pakistan has provided such a platform for the youth before, where they can get expert opinion on how to shape their future.

Sadaf Taimur Islamabad-ICT



“Change can be initiated by bringing about a difference in behavior and attitude of people around us, through education & capacity building. All what we need is to develop individual's understanding of themselves for the benefit of society. Let us unite and make a difference....”



Meet Sadaf, one EYA who is quick to respond in times of need. Sadaf is well known for her work as an 'Agent of Change', a title awarded to her by the World Merit. Bigger purposes and making a difference in the society defines her work. Sadaf is passionate about developing and implementing a strategy that will enable children and youth to become well-rounded global citizens and leaders of tomorrow.

Knowing that most of the underprivileged communities do not have access to quality education she is working to develop quality leadership and educational programs, to make quality education accessible to underprivileged communities and see them develop and evolve. For this purpose, Sadaf often organizes motivational sessions for children and youth from underprivileged communities.

Having a Master's degree in Educational Planning & Management, Sadaf has been a member of Silver Oaks School System since 2011. As an educationist, Sadaf has co-authored original research on "the impact of structured intervention of giving formal life skills' training in schools", which was presented in The Sixth Asian Conference on Education (ACE2014), Japan.

Sadaf also sits on Advisory Board of "Global Education Conference", a global educational body based in the U.S. Sadaf has initiated various environmental projects in 20 schools. "Organic Gardening" activity was also implemented in two other schools in Peru and the UK, in collaboration with British Council.

Syeda Anam Sana Naqvi

Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Meet Syeda Anam, the power girl, whose energy and determination to advocate for Right to Education is simply infectious. Syeda is on a mission to break gender stereotypes with her efforts for Right to Education and to promote girls' education.

She was raised in Peshawar, where women are expected to take on the stereotypical role and be good home-makers, remaining within the four walls of their homes. Syeda, however, refused to conform. She is a member of the National Youth Assembly; and actively advocates for girls' access to quality education in each session. The highlight of the contributions made by Syeda came when she organized a 'Jirga' (local term used for the gathering of the wise for taking decisions) in her community to address the need for girls' education and better schools. This was a notable contribution as she had successfully managed to gather so many people in an area where a woman's word is not likely to be taken too seriously.

As an EYA, she actively participated in the Girls Leadership Conference 2015 organized by Centre for Awareness Training & Development (CATD) in Peshawar; where she motivated the young girls to challenge themselves and think about various career choices.

“The situation of the educational landscape of Pakistan will only change when we change ourselves.”



“ To make Pakistan a peaceful, prosperous and booming state, education is the prerequisite. The EYA program has served as a lighthouse in my journey to work for inclusive education and education for all. ”

Aisha Rasool

Lahore, Punjab



Meet Aisha, the caring EYA, who is extremely passionate about inclusive education. She has spent most of her time working with mentally challenged children; with children who are emotionally volatile in shelter homes and also as a school counselor in various government schools. Aisha is also a writer and her work voices the need for inclusion in Pakistan's education system. Her stories have also been published by the Global Observatory for Inclusion, Italy.

After the tragic incident of 16th December, in Peshawar, Aisha personally interviewed the son of the Army Public School Principal, Tahira Qazi, and wrote about her impeccable personality and dedication to work for education. In Mardan, KPK she planned and initiated a session on “building self-esteem & Laughter Yoga” with over 120 orphan children. In Taxila, she outlined a workshop on “Career Counseling and Time Management” for around 100 male students from FATA. And as an EYA, she has collected more than 1000 signatures for the #UpForShool petition.

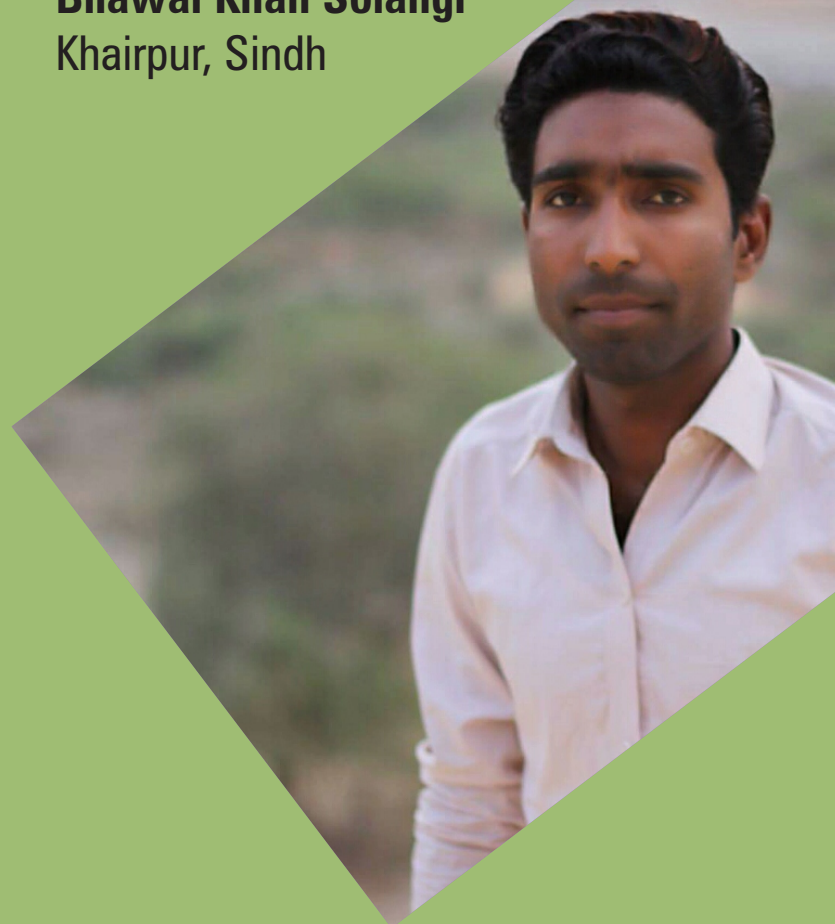


Meet Bilawal, the resourceful EYA, who belongs to the village of Kamal Khan Lashari in Khairpur district which has long lacked an opportunity for girls to receive education. There is only one government school in his village and it is only for boys.

As an EYA, Bilawal set-up a Temporary Learning Center (TLC) for girls in his village with the help of the local community. This was a long ordeal though, as Bilawal had to do a lot of awareness raising at first. Currently, 170 girls are enrolled at this school. The students who are benefitting from this education can in future have more options for employment other than just agriculture and livestock, improving income and economic prospects of the community as a whole.

In view of the overwhelming positive response from the community, the government also appreciated Bilawal's effort of increasing female literacy levels in poor communities of Sindh. The parents of his village are happy to see their daughters getting an education and getting promoted to higher grades. What is even more delightful is the fact that the community pays the salary of the two teachers working at this school themselves, as a collective effort. From this school in district Khairpur, 97 girls have successfully appeared in government administered annual examinations the year. Bilawal now hopes to establish a proper school facility for the girls of his village very soon.

Bilawal Khan Solangi Khairpur, Sindh



“ The great aim of education is not knowledge, but action and for me nothing has ever brought me more joy than to see the girls at my learning center succeeding. ”



“ In a country which is at the forefront of terrorism and extremism to the extent where even our children are not safe, it's time for the citizens to take charge - to do what's in their power to make this world safe and tolerant for our children. As a concerned young Pakistani citizen, my activism is not about coming out on the streets to raise slogans only; it is about reaching out and connecting with those fellow citizens who are in need of moral and financial support. Unlike many others, I do not envisage community service as an achievable short-term goal. For me, it is a way of life and an ongoing process. ”



Maham Ali
Islamabad-ICT



Meet Maham, star of the EYA program, who strongly believes that activism is about reaching out to people. Maham is currently affiliated with Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA), where she is heading the program, Children's Literature Festival (CLF) and Teacher's Literature Festival (TLF).

Under Maham's leadership, CLF has become a social movement reaching out to children all over country. CLF provides children with the opportunity to engage in learning opportunities through various interactive activities, which allow them to express themselves. So far Maham has successfully organized 15 CLFs and 4 TLFs throughout the country and she does not plan to stop there!

Through her efforts, she has hosted the victims of Army Public School Peshawar at CLF and will soon be hosting victims of the Kasur Incident at the upcoming CLF in Islamabad, 2015. She believes that we must do everything in our power to help these children forget their trauma, even if for a few hours.

However, organizing events is not all that Maham does, as she has been engaged in welfare work since the disaster struck Pakistan in the form of an earthquake in 2008. Maham might not be a writer in the traditional sense, but she never fails to express her strong opinion on social media outlets about current affairs and the happenings of the education sector. Her pure feelings coupled with intelligent analysis has managed to secure Maham a large following.

Meet Umair, the wisest EYA of the program, whose every action and initiative is aimed at serving the larger purpose of ensuring free and compulsory education for all, as stated in Article 25-A of Pakistan's constitution.

Along with being an EYA, Umair is also a Global Youth Ambassador and Executive Director of Kafka Welfare Organization (KWO), a youth-led organization working for the development & empowerment of socio-economically disadvantaged & vulnerable people in Pakistan.

Through Kafka, Umair has taken several commendable initiatives that deserve to be mentioned; which were held in collaboration with the leading education campaign in the country, Alif Ailaan. Umair organized a round table conference for a discussion on security conditions of schools in Pakistan. He regularly conducts community sessions to raise awareness about right to education. Umair is also fighting to end the menace of child marriages in Pakistan. Umair recently led an enrollment awareness campaign in Lahore with the Rangeela Rickshaw Tour, creating awareness about the importance of sending children to school. Other than all of this, Umair actively participates in several conferences to raise his voice such the Lahore Education Conference, 2015; Voice of Teachers session and session on budget hurdles and implementation status of Article 25-A. Umair also organized a seminar on the importance of introducing sports in a learning environment in order to ensure educational development.

Umair Rana Lahore, Punjab

“I am working to provide children with better and compulsory education; which will in return give Pakistan a better and bright future. I am determined to find solutions for each one of the problems in our education system.”



“ My objective is to introduce importance of quality education in Pakistan. This is the reason I am working as a mentor for school students and teacher trainer for teachers in child development centers. I want to be an educationist and my career objective is to contribute in making quality education a priority in Pakistan. ”



Raeesa Javed
Lahore, Punjab



Meet Raeesa, the teacher & the mentor, who is determined to make quality education a priority and relies on her own skills to make her dream a reality. Raeesa spends most of her time mentoring school students, helping them to make road maps for career development and higher education. Through her workshops and sessions, she prepares matriculation level students for decision-making. By becoming their mentor, she helps them choose subjects for higher education. Raeesa also conducts motivational sessions to boost the confidence of her students.

Raeesa is also a writer and she often writes about the education crises in Pakistan. Her pieces focus on raising awareness among the youth about the importance of hard work and early childhood education. Raeesa also conducts teachers' training to introduce teachers to the latest and most effective teaching methods. In her spare time, she likes to participate in debates, meetings, seminars and campaigns related to education.