

Monitoring Report of School Eye Health Program in AJ&K

- Name of the Project:** School Eye Health Program in AJ&K
- Executing Agency:** Al-Shifa Eye Trust Hospital (ASTEH) in collaboration with Fred Hollows Foundation Australia.
- Duration:** From January 2012 to October 2015 (Still on-going)

Description: The Eye Health Program was launched in AJ&K by the above two agencies back in 2012. According to the report submitted by ASTEH, they screened out the students in 382 institutions including government, private schools and some of the Madaraas in districts Neelum, Muzaffarabad, Hattian and Bagh. A meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Additional Chief Secretary (Development) to address the observations by Secretary Health and Education (schools) for its continuation. A committee was constituted headed by D.G (M&E) P&DD with additional secretary (schools), additional secretary health and representative from ASTEH as members to verify the work done. During the meeting of the said committee, it was decided to send following monitoring team to check/verify the tasks/work done by the reporting agencies:

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|----------------------|----------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Malik M. Kashif | Assistant Chief (M&E-P&DD) | Head |
| 2. Dr. Shabir Mir | Eye Specialist (Health Deptt.) | Member |
| 3. Javed Ahmed Khan | Legal Officer (Education Deptt.) | Member |
| 4. Raja Naeem Ashraf | Refractionist (ASTEH) | Member |

Team selected twenty two schools/institutions at random in district Muzaffarabad and Hattian including mostly Government boys and Girls schools and some of the Private schools and two Madrasas also. List of schools/Madrasas is attached as annex "A".

Findings:

1. All the twenty two schools/ institutions were visited by the ASTEH teams for student's vision screening.
2. All of the students of the schools/ institutions were screened out.

3. Some of them were referred to Al-Shifa Eye Hospital Raroo (Ambore, Muzaffarabad) for detailed checkup/treatment whenever it was necessary.
4. Effected students were given the prescription for eye glasses and directed to go to Jinnah Optical Center Muzaffarabad to get the free glasses as per prescription. However, some of the students didn't manage to go to the nominated optical shop to get the free glasses and managed on their own. While some of them could never managed to go to ASTEH or optical shop due to some constraints like lack of financial resources or unavailability of their parents/guardians.
5. In the report submitted by ASTEH, it was shown that 3126 teachers (male/female) were trained. The visits revealed that no formal training was conducted for the teaching staff. However, orientation/awareness discussion was carried out for them.
6. It was found that there was some missing procedural linkages between the implementation agency (ASTEH) and core stack holders (Education/Health Departments). Moreover, ASTEH has all of the record at every activity but the schools/institutions administrations as well as the secretariat of education (schools) and health were not updated.

Recommendations:

1. It was found to be a very positive and useful activity and needs to be done in all the leftover schools/ institutions.
2. It should be a regular and periodic activity with leading role Education (schools) and health department.
3. Detailed eye exam/checkup, if needed, should be carried out in the nearest available facility rather than to direct everyone to Al-Shifa Eye Hospital which in some cases is difficult to reach especially from far-flung area school or they may be given some financial support for this purpose.
4. Similarly, only one optical center is providing eye glasses on ASTEH behalf. It should be available to the nearest possible facility.

5. Head of the schools/ institutions can play a vital role by establishing a liaison with parents/guardians and teachers for follow-up of identified student's checkup or provision of glasses etc.
6. It is recommended that ASTEH must give copies of relevant record to head of schools/institutions along with the administrative hierarchy of department of education (schools) and health to avoid any future confusion or misunderstandings.
7. As per notification number P&DD/General/10025-34/2012 dated 29-3-2012, Planning & Development Department should be in the loop to keep record of any activity being done by any NGO/Donor etc. in AJ&K. (Copy of notification is attached at annex "B" for ready reference)

Signatures:

Malik M. Kashif	Assistant Chief (M&E-P&DD)	Head	
Dr. Shabir Mir	Eye Specialist (Health Deptt.)	Member	
Javed Ahmed Khan	Legal Officer (Education Deptt.)	Member	
Raja Naeem Ashraf	Refractionist (ASTEh)	Member	

List of Schools/Madrass Visited by Monitoring Team

District Muzaffarabad:

1. OPF Public School, Upper Chatter
2. Faiz-e-Madina, Upper Chatter
3. Jamia Muhammadia, Upper Chatter
4. Government Boys H/S, Gojra
5. Sky Link Public School, Gojra
6. Government Girls H/S, Chela Bandi
7. Government P/S, Chela Bandi
8. Government Girls H/S, Center Plate
9. Government Pilot H/S for Boys, Eid Gaah Road
10. Government Girls H/S, Tariqabad
11. Government Goys H/S, Khun Bandway
12. Government Boys P/S, Lower Tandali

District Hattian:

13. Government Girls M/S, Kaninan
14. Government Boys M/S, Chathian
15. Government P/S, Hill Malik Pura
16. Government Girls M/S, Hattian Bala
17. Government Boys M/S, Hattian Bala
18. Government Inter College(H/S), Hattian Bala
19. Government P/S, Mahajar Camp, Naily
20. Read Foundation P/S, Mahajar Camp, Naily
21. Government Girls H/S, Ghoharabad
22. Read Foundation H/S, Ghoharabad