

ANNUAL REPORT 2015



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Vision

A world in which children are valued and empowered and their rights promoted and protected.

Mission

To promote and protect the rights of children and to empower them through advocacy supported by research, awareness-raising, service delivery, and human and institutional development.

Board of Directors

Ms Humera Malik (Chairperson)

Maryam Bibi

Mr Rashid Ibrahim

Dr Attiya Inayatullah

Mr Qazi Azmat Isa

Mr Anees Jillani

Ms Salma Majeed Jafar

Mr Gul Mastoi

Ms Hafeeza Brohi

Ms Narjis Zaidi

Ms Sadia Hussain (Secretary)

Acronyms

CAGs	Community Action Groups
CSC	Centers for Street Children
FA	Forum Asia
KYI	Karachi Youth Initiative
PTCs	Parents Teachers Councils
SPARC	Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child
WWSF	Women's World Summit Foundation

Message from the Chairperson

Children in Pakistan have to cope with a plethora of challenges; lack of access to education coupled with low learning levels; poor health conditions; a near absence of protection for destitute and vulnerable children; early and forced marriages; dismissal conditions in juvenile jails; trafficking; exploitation and continued employment in hazardous occupations.

Moreover, we must not forget that the children from FATA are an integral part of Pakistan's society and they are part of the fabric that will be its future, it is gravely disappointing to see that they continue to pay the price for the conflict they never created which renders them homeless and impedes their future.

Commitments made by Pakistan by ratifying the UNCRC, and by adopting child related laws and policies are important first steps to realize children's rights, but will remain empty promises unless translated into allocations in provincial and national budgets and efficient public spending for children. We must have reformed and improved legal frameworks in view of implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Moreover, concrete steps are needed to implement laws formulated by the provinces to nurture an environment where children are secure, empowered and valued.

Pakistan as a nation cannot afford to have more incidents like the Army Public School tragedy and Bacha Khan University attacks. As world citizens, we must raise our voices not only at the national level but the international level as well.

I am proud to be a part of the SPARC team. SPARC is one of few NGOs striving at all possible fronts to be a voice for child rights at the policy level, as well as by demonstrating it through its program at the grass roots level.

Humera Malik

Message from the Executive Director

Being in the field of research, it is especially disturbing for me to see that the state of children in Pakistan is nowhere improving over the years. I wonder how we daily see little children roaming aimlessly on the streets of even very posh areas and we are unable to feel the urge to pull them out of this terrible state. Perhaps, we as a nation are so desensitized that we cannot feel their misery anymore. Or maybe we don't perceive it as our problem. If their parents are not willing to put in effort for their wellbeing, why should we be bothered and disturbed? Similarly the State should be alarmed by incidents like Kasur and increasing attacks on academic institutions.

SPARC plays a role in sensitizing the masses and creating awareness about the rights of every child to be nurtured and cared for by everyone. We at SPARC make sure that each and every one who is part of this organization understands the value of investing in kids. Thusm with every intervention, we at SPARC ensure that our beneficiaries will continue to benefit and sustain their livelihood even after the support is withdrawn.

SPARC is a success story, an inspiration that would not have been possible without the contribution of its partners and dedicated employees. During the year, SPARC worked with diverse donors including DAI-AAWAZ Fund, Canadian High Commission, Kindernothilfe, BMZ, American Solidarity Center, US Embassy-INL Program, Karachi Youth Initiative, and Good Neighbors International. We look forward to continuing to engage with them and serving our children. We appreciate the ongoing support from likeminded organizations and government bodies and we pledge to continue in our efforts to exceed expectations.

Sadia Hussain

Introduction

Registered in December 1992, SPARC is an independent-non-governmental organization with the aim of promoting and protecting child rights inclusive of child labor, juvenile justice, violence against children, education and health.

SPARC's work is guided by the international human rights principles and standards which are integrated at the policy and program level, including the UNCRC and the relevant ILO Conventions. It is SPARC's belief that child rights are human rights. SPARC works at the national level, with offices in several major cities, and is a part of prominent regional networks including Forum Asia (member Executive Body) and ASPBAE. It has remained a member of International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN), Defense for Children International and South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children. On a global level, it has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the UN Department of Public Information (DPI). In 2003, SPARC received the United Nations Recognition Award for its work in highlighting the plight of children and promoting the rights of children in Pakistan. In 2006, SPARC received USAID certification under the USAID Institutional Management Certification Program (IMCP). Furthermore, SPARC received certification by the Pakistan Center for Philanthropy in 2015. SPARC is also a member of Forum Asia's Executive Committee.

SPARC strives to create awareness about child rights and advocate for their promotion and protection. Keeping in mind the huge number of children in Pakistan, and the world over, it is of the opinion that Governments are in the best position to improve the lot of children therefore, SPARC sees its role more as an advocate of children. However, over a period of time, SPARC has also been delivering services in the shape of helping children coming into conflict with the law, including those in prison; providing friendly spaces to children affected by disasters/displacement, reaching out to street children through centers; and improving the state of schools in disaster hit /impoverished areas.

SPARC has worked with most of the major donors working in Pakistan, including:

Actionaid under the auspices of the European Union, American Center for International Labor Solidarity (ACILS), AusAid, Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit and Entwicklung (BMZ), DFID, Kindernothilfe, Plan Pakistan, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Terre des homes (TDH), US Embassy (PAS and INL), Trocaire, Fur die Freiheit (FNF), Karachi Youth Initiative (KYI), DAI- AAWAZ Fund, High Commission of Canada and Royal Norwegian Embassy.

Awareness Raising

SPARC fosters communication and information exchange through its various publications including researches, newsletters, calendars and website.



The State of Pakistan's Children 2014

SPARC launched its annual report, the State of Pakistan's Children on April 16, 2015 at the Marriot Hotel in Islamabad. The event was attended by state functionaries, human/child rights activists, media personnel, donor agencies and civil society representatives. The keynote speakers included Dr. Sania Nishtar, former Federal Minister of Health, Ms. Zoe Leffler of the European Commission, Mr. Hassan Mangi of the Law and Human Rights Ministry and Mr. Anees Jillani of SPARC. The report is funded by Kindernothilfe.

Keeping up with its 17 year old tradition, the report provided an annual overview of the state of various sectors that affect children in the country including child rights, health, education, child labor, juvenile justice, and violence against children. On the occasion, SPARC's research department presented the findings of the 2014 report and highlighted that Pakistan has remained far from achieving its national and international commitments, including the Millennium Development Goals, with regards to protecting and promoting the rights of children in the country.

The State of Pakistan's Children with Reference to Sindh

Karachi: SPARC launched the report on April 28, 2015 in Karachi in presence of civil society representatives and media.

Hyderabad: SPARC organized a seminar on November 28, 2015 at Hotel Indus in Hyderabad. The aim was to highlight the plight of child rights, raise awareness and create debate on these issues among students and faculties of Sindh and Mehran Universities, and government level and with like-minded organizations. A special focus was put on the rise of violence against children cases in Sindh and throughout Pakistan. A presentation was made on the journey of child rights and SPARC including the thematic areas where SPARC has worked since the last two decades. Specific cases on violence against children in Sindh were highlighted.

Newsletters

Four quarterly newsletters in English and Urdu were published with dissemination to readers across the country and around the world. A review of child rights situation in the country, government's progress in purview of international commitments/treaties was taken into view.

Calendars

Child labor was chosen as the main theme to create awareness on the rampant abuse of rights of children employed in various professions.

PCP Certifies SPARC

Pakistan Center for Philanthropy (PCP) certified SPARC as a non-profit organization, with excellent internal governance, sound financial management, and exemplary program delivery.

PCP is authorized by the Government of Pakistan to operate as the first non-profit organization certification agency in Pakistan. SPARC hopes that this certification will prove to be a vital asset to the continuing trust that SPARC's respected donors place in its efforts to promote and protect Child Rights in Pakistan.

Projects Undertaken During 2015

During the year 2015, SPARC undertook a combination of advocacy and service delivery projects to address child rights issues across the country.

Child Labor

To address the growth of child labor, SPARC organized a series of discussions with stakeholders with the support of Solidarity Center.

A seminar on child labor was organized by SPARC at Hyderabad on December 29, 2015. Panelists were from the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), Sindh Education Foundation (SEF), Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO), Hyderabad Press Club president, Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) and Labor Department representatives. It was regretted that child labor numbers escalated to 10 million whereas, Pakistan also lost UN Human Rights Council election which depicts a sorry state of lack of political will.

Executive Director Ms. Sadia Hussain deplored that even middle class families employ under age children as their domestic servants. She shared the recreational and educational services provided at Street Children Centers in Hyderabad, Multan, Peshawar and Rawalpindi. She expressed determination to arrange funds under all circumstance so not to send back these children to the streets. It was pointed that until good governance and political will does not interfere in the situation, the state of child rights will not change.



Reaching Out to the Vulnerable Children of Sindh

SPARC concluded a project with Good Neighbors International (2013-2015) where 350 children of liberated peasants in Sikandarabad Hari Camp were provided with hot meals on a daily basis, non-formal education, health and hygiene sessions and skill provision. The team mainstreamed 100 children into the formal education system.

The center was able to bring about a positive change in the lives of downtrodden and marginalized children where they were treated with care, irrespective of cast, creed or color.

Research Report: Hope for the Bonded Laborers

Research to help bolster lobbying and advocacy efforts for creating demand for bricks produced in decent working conditions is required. Keeping up with the requirement, SPARC and CLAD undertook a research with the help of Solidarity Center affiliated with the American trade union, AFL-CIO. Each chapter of the book treads new ground and comes up with viable solutions that can help in alleviating the suffering of bonded laborers.

The book aims to document prevailing brick kiln industry practices, including violations of internationally recognized workers' rights; external factors affecting these practices; and opportunities to promote decent work in the industry. It also examines approaches for reducing bonded and child labor in brick kilns. In 2013, the European Union granted Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) Plus status to Pakistan allowing Pakistani products duty-free access to the European markets. However, Pakistan is required to take affirmative action in implementing 27 international conventions including the eight ILO fundamental Conventions.

Access to Justice

Countering Violence in the Prisons of Punjab

SPARC concluded a project with the US Embassy- INL program on provision of legal aid and vocational training to the adult and juvenile prisoners in Punjab jails.

An end of project seminar was held in Islamabad to present the project achievements, lessons learnt and results to stakeholders including high ranking officers of the police force, team of lawyers and the Director General Ministry of Law, Justice and Human Rights.

A documentary on the project's implementation was produced and screened for the participants. It was followed up by a comprehensive presentation regarding the project objectives, processes and challenges faced during implementation of the project. After the presentation, the floor was opened for discussions. SPARC and lawyers identified key issues such as non-friendly behavior of police during investigation; overcrowding in jails, only two rooms available for 65 incarcerated juveniles at District Jail, Multan with poor sanitation facilities. More worryingly,

barracks of adult prisoners were not at a distance from the barracks of children which exposes them to sexual assault.

SPARC was able to surpass the actual target and legal aid was provided to 1,817 adult males, 35 females and 92 juveniles. In addition, non-formal education was provided to 243 inmates from nursery to 10th grade including inmates in BI & JJ Faisalabad - 41, District Jail Faisalabad – 68 and Women Jail Multan- 134. Most of the women prisoners were illiterate therefore, the teachers taught them basics to enable them to read and write. Some women were preparing for Primary and Matriculation exams and teachers taught them all subjects including Urdu, English and Mathematics.

S. No	Prison	Trade	Number of Participants
1	Women Jail Multan	Beautician	25 females
2	District Jail Multan	Motorcycle Mechanic	25 males
3	Central Jail Multan	General Electrician	24 males
4	Central Jail Faisalabad	Motorcycle Mechanic	25 males
5	District Jail Faisalabad	Tailoring	31 females
6	District Jail Lahore	General Electrician	25 males
7	Central Jail Lahore	Home appliances	25 males
8	Sub Jail of Women Lahore	Tailoring	26 females
9	General Jail Sahiwal	Tractor Workshop	17 males
		Total	223

The lack of probation officers, especially female probation officers and dearth of resources for the Reclamation and Probation Departments across the country remain obstacles in the granting of probation to juvenile offenders.

Tolerance, Peace and Coexistence Through Dialogue

A project advocating on tolerance, peace and co-existence was initiated with the support of the Canadian High Commission during December. In this connection, a seminar was organized on December 30, 2015 at the Marriott Hotel in Karachi.

Panelists from Terre des Hommes, Initiator Human Development Foundation, Action Aid talked about the need and importance of religious harmony and tolerance in society. Children from different ethnicities and religion participated through tableau/presentation.

Former senator and SPARC board member, Mr. Javed Jabbar stressed to use the word ‘respect’ for all religions instead of mere ‘tolerance’. Ms Sadia Hussain shared that over the years SPARC has trained a number of students from different schools in Karachi, to counter violent narratives through peace and tolerance. Now those students are ambassadors of peace and tolerance in their communities.

Education

Learning is Fun: Promoting Child Friendly Classroom Environment in Selected Schools of KP

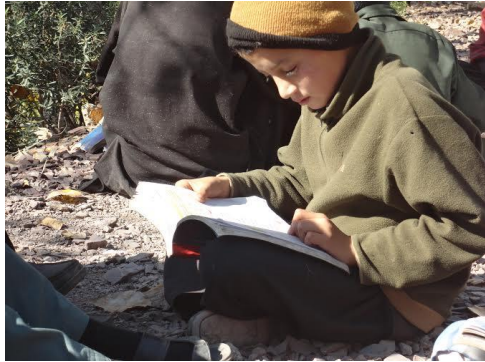
SPARC, with the financial support of KNH and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), completed the second year of the educational project in District Abbottabad and Haripur in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). The project largely aims at improving quality of education and learning outcomes in target districts through provision of basic educational facilities and infrastructural support to 60 selected schools, training of 120 master trainers and over 360 school teachers and strengthening of child protection systems in the province through lobbying and awareness raising.



As of December 2015, SPARC has:

- Refurbished 34 selected schools of Abbottabad with provision of WASH and play facilities;
- Trained 237 Parents Teachers Council members from 60 schools on improved governance at school level;
- Trained 112 teachers on effective classroom management techniques who have started replicated trainings under the supervision of Training Unit. Each five day long training event involved plenary sessions with hands on activities using role play, demonstration lessons, interactive discussions/ lectures, Visualization in Participatory Programming (VIPP) techniques, home assignments and other participatory approaches;
- 84 new teachers were trained by MTs where upon the request of District Education Department Abbottabad; teachers of 5 additional schools were trained as well;
- Developed a comprehensive quiz and spelling booklet for further used by teachers during competitions;
- Child Rights Committees and member lawyers provided legal aid to 24 beneficiaries and 29 fact findings were reported from both districts;
- A book fair was organized at Government Girls Primary School Srisala at Haripur where Assistant Commissioner Haripur, District Education Officers, Social Welfare Department officials participated;
- Coordination with likeminded NGOs and awareness raising through multiple channels including IEC material, theater performances, articles in local newspapers and airing of radio spots are features of the project.

KNH/BMZ Delegation Visits Project Areas in KP



Ms. Anja Osswald, KNH/BMZ Program Manager visited Pakistan and held a monitoring visit to the target areas during October. Accompanied by Mr. Sajid Gulzar- KNH Country Coordinator and SPARC team members, she conducted field visits to the selected schools of Abbottabad and Haripur districts.

Ms. Osswald visited Government Primary School, Mohabta and Government Girls Primary School City at Abbottabad, Government Primary School and Government Girls Primary School at Gheba, Haripur where she also planted an Araucaria sapling to mark her visit. She conducted meetings with principals and teachers together with visits to classrooms and interacted with students from KG to Grade 5. It was learnt that the mode of instruction and change in curriculum at primary level to English is testing for the teachers and students both. This calls for induction of fresh and highly educated teachers in primary schools.

KNH delegation also conducted meetings with the District Education Officers (DEO Female at Abbottabad and DEO male at Haripur) where findings of the field visits were further shared with them. They acknowledged the teaching challenges whereby expressing satisfaction over SPARC's work in selected girls and boys schools and proposed to increase the range of activities to surrounding schools. This includes the replication of trainings by SPARC's Training Unit which would cater to more number of teachers in both districts.

Barriers to Girls Education in Selected Districts of Multan

SPARC with the support of AAWAZ-Response funding carried out a research study to identify the barriers to girls' education from the ages of 5 to 16 years. The research was undertaken by Ms. Sadia Hussain in three targeted districts of South Punjab: Multan, Muzzafargarh and Bahawalpur. SPARC engaged stakeholders including the parents, children, school principals, teachers and officials from the targeted districts and provincial departments.

The findings of the published study were disseminated through three seminars held at Multan, Bahawalpur and Lahore in presence of over 250 participants. In Multan, EDO Education and participants concluded that cultural traditions and early marriage in South Punjab was a key reason behind girls dropout.

In Bahawalpur, Federal Minister, Mr. Balighur Rehman was the chief guest appreciated the in-depth research and interest to conduct similar studies for other districts too. He shared that the Government has allocated a higher budget for education in 2015. He shared that they will select

12 districts as a pilot project for girls' education and will utilize 7 million for providing missing facilities and for awareness campaigns about girls' education.

At the Lahore seminar, participants stressed that improved governance is a requisite and civil society cannot bring change alone. Irrelevancy of curriculum is an impediment to economic development of women and a critical need remains to review the curriculum.

Countering Violent Extremism through School Engagement

Over the two decades, Karachi is beset by violent protests, inter-ethnic, -political, and -religious conflict, record-breaking murder rates, and terrorist activities. Disillusioned youth are vulnerable to exploitation by extremist elements.

SPARC partnered with Karachi Youth Initiative to promote alternative narratives based on the values of tolerance, inclusiveness, and cooperation by engaging with eight public secondary schools in Abbas town, Sohrab Goth, Sachal Goth and Gulshan-e-Iqbal. The interventions included formation of Child Rights Club where three inter school competitions on debates, quiz, essay writing and poster competitions were organized on diversity and interfaith harmony etc. The CRCs held rallies in front of the Press Club, Karachi and condemned attacks on Army Public School and Shikarpur Imam Bargah. SPARC held sensitization sessions with teachers with the involvement of human rights activists. These teachers supervised the CRC meetings and brainstormed on peace, tolerance and harmony. Schools were provided with basic library furniture, additional books and reading material on peace, tolerance, inclusiveness, multiculturalism and good citizenship etc. 200 Child Rights Club (CRC) students from were taken on a field trip to the Bahria Museum where they had a day filled with insightful events and activities.

An MoU was signed between SPARC Center of Excellence for Women's Studies, Department of Social Work, University of Karachi where SPARC extended support to the promote child / human rights and countering conspiracy theories which create misunderstandings among youth and trigger violence in Sindh.

Research Education Exhibition at #EDPolicyHub

SPARC was one of fourteen Ilm Ideas partner organizations participating in conference-Education Policy Hub, held on August 6, 2015 at the Marriott Hotel, Islamabad. It was geared towards creating an interface between public representatives and civil society actors to engage on key policy. All partners present, worked in areas of improving access, quality and governance for Pakistani children, with a focus on budgeting and fiscal management, inclusive education, enactment and implementation of RTE, education journalism, role of teachers, school governance and management, and health education. SPARC's products displayed at the stall included research studies, annual reports, documentaries, policy papers, brochures, posters and briefs and capacity development material.

Violence against Children

Centers for Street Children in Multan, Rawalpindi, Hyderabad and Peshawar catered to 1,715 children through provision of nutritional, recreational, vocational and educational facilities. A range of services including skill training, non formal education and mainstreaming of street/slum dwellers into formal education system, exposure visits, and psychosocial support were some of the features of the project where three centers were supported by Kindernoithilfe whereas Multan Center was managed by SPARC through its own resources.

S No.	Services	Beneficiaries
1	Total number of children registered in all centers	1,715
2	Children receiving skill training	379
3	Mainstreaming in educational institutions	260
4	Referral to health services and skill centers	118
5	Medical camps/checkup	1,125
6	Sports and Recreational/ Outdoor Visits	202
7	Reunification with families (Peshawar)	45

19 Days Campaign for Prevention of Violence against Children and Youth

SPARC registered for WWSF's annual 19 Days Campaign as an active participant. The key theme for 2015 included *Bullying* amongst 19 other themes. SPARC organized an interactive theater in Abbottabad on November 19, 2015 at the District Education office where 145 students (77 boys and 68 girls), five male teachers and 16 female teachers from five different government schools and District Education Officers participated in the event. The Hazara Theater Society performed the play- *Hitting hurts for a life time*. It was meant to sensitize teachers, to discourage bullying and corporal punishment at schools and to promote child friendly classroom environment.

IPA Honors SPARC: International Day of Street Children

International Police association organized an event in connection with the International Street Children Day at Islamabad Club. The purpose of the ceremony was to engage society towards its responsibility towards the vulnerable children through quality education and protection of rights sans any discrimination. Ms. Sabeen Almas represented SPARC. The ceremony was attended by serving and retired Pakistani police officers and representatives of NGOs working for child rights. IPA also presented a shield to SPARC in recognition of its services towards children.



Publications List 2015

S#	Type of Publication	No of copies
1	Research Report Barriers to Girls Education in Selected Districts of the Punjab	250
	English	500
	Urdu	
	The State of Pakistan's Children	
	English	1000
	Urdu	500
	Training Manual	
	Teaching is fun	
	English	250
	Urdu	750
	Quiz and Spelling Booklet (KPK)	250
	Table Calendar 2015	2000
	Hope for Bonded Labor	
	English	2000
Urdu	2000	
2	Brochures	
	No Fun without Children's Smile	10,000
	Parent Teacher Council	10,000
	Corporal Punishment	10,000
	Know your rights (Urdu)	20,000
	Know your rights (Eng)	7000
	School Health & Hygiene	10,000
	Violence in Karachi (Urdu)	10,000
	Citizen Charter of Demand (Urdu)	3000
	Street Children Centers (Introduction)	10,000
3	Posters	
	School time table mounting for Haripur and Abbottabad	500
4	Newsletter	
	March 2015 (Edition 82)	
	English	2500
	Urdu	2500
	June 2015 (Edition 83)	
	English	1000
	Urdu	1000
	Sept 2015 (Edition 84)	
	English	1000
	Urdu	1000
	Dec 2015 (Edition 85)	
	English	1000
Urdu	1000	

Networking

SPARC Attends Forum-Asia in Nepal

Forum-Asia is a regional human rights organization committed to the promotion and protection of all human rights including the right to development. Twenty participants from India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bangkok attended its annual meeting on November 5th, 2015 in Kathmandu, Nepal. Dr. Fakhar Sohail represented SPARC. The meeting was held for three purposes: to consolidate FA's strategy and priorities to effectively deal with human rights challenges of the South Asian region by engaging its members in review, reflection and sharing of learning and challenges; to draw a regional road map for South Asian members; and to finalize a draft guideline outlining better working arrangements among members, the secretariat and the Executive Committee and General Assembly of Forum-Asia.

Effective Voice and Accountability Models for Improved Education Delivery

Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability – Free and Fair Election Network (TDEA-FAFEN) requested SPARC to participate in a Discussion on *Effective Voice and Accountability Models for Improved Education Delivery* as a panelist on August 6, 2015 at the Marriott Hotel, Islamabad.

SPARC Research Manager, Zohair Waheed spoke on the occasion and shared highlights of the DFID funded project - *Communities Taking Charge: Bringing Quality Back into Public Primary Schools*. It was an initiative that aimed to bridge the gap between public and private schools in Multan and Bahawalpur (in Punjab) and ensure that standard educational practices are followed in both.

Child Rights Movement

SPARC Islamabad continued to participate in Child Rights Movement monthly meetings with necessary feedback on pressing child rights issues/ lobbying and reform needs.

Staff Capacity Building

Over the year, SPARC employees were sent on trainings in different cities for their professional developments on procurement life cycle, child sexual abuse, anti-sexual harassment legislation and engaging with human rights institutions in Pakistan. The trainings were organized by Institute of Tender Management, Center for Psychosocial Support, Aasha and Center for Social Justice.

Changes in Management

Ms. Sadia Hussain joined SPARC as Executive Director in November 2015. She has been working in Pakistan on diverse areas of education, monitoring and research for the past fifteen years. Ms. Hussain holds a Masters degree in Educational Leadership and Management from the University of New England, USA, and a Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering. She has also completed several continuous professional development courses from Harvard School of Education and University of Missouri, USA.