For a Better World 2016

A Survey Report of Low-cost Schools for Christians in Pakistan

Summary of Findings

There are many schools out there meeting a real need

- 604 schools were surveyed. Nearly all were co-educational. More girls were enrolled than boys (52% to 48%). 85,135 students were taught by 4218 teachers.
- Excluding head teachers there was one teacher for every 24 students.

School facilities are basic ...

- 13% of schools had no toilets for children. Around half had no separate facilities for staff
- Half of schools had no playground.
- A quarter of primary and middle schools lacked useable drinking water.
- Over half of grade 2 and 4 classes were taught together with another class.
- A quarter of class 8 students did not have a chair to sit on.

... and there is a dearth of learning resources

- 15% of students were without notebooks and writing implements in class 8.
- 1 in 10 high schools did not even have a blackboard in the classroom.
- Internet access was available in 23% of high schools and 2% of primaries.
- Only 5% of primary and middle schools had any library (even a box of books).

Teachers are dedicated, but poorly paid and lacking qualifications

- Teacher attendance was 97% on the day of the survey
- Teacher salaries range from US\$20 to US\$70 per month (compared to Pakistan's national minimum wage, US\$134, and the international poverty line, US\$57).
- A quarter of teachers had not reached Intermediate (UK A-level) in their own schooling.
- 4 out of 5 teachers had no teaching qualification of any kind.

Students come from poor families and attendance is low

- 45% of class 2 students were not wearing footwear.
- Student attendance was just 52% on the day of the survey.

These schools are Christian but not exclusively so.

- 12% of students came from Muslim or other communities.
- All Head Teachers were Christian (a condition for inclusion in the survey) as well as 86% of remaining teachers.
- A third of schools had a formal church association.
- 95% of schools incorporated Bible teaching in their curriculum. NB to comply with the law in Pakistan, all schools include Islam in their curriculum.

Schools are run on a shoe-string

- A fifth of schools charge less than a dollar per student per month.
- Each school expects to collect just Rs39,000 a month in fees.
- Nearly two thirds of schools (64%) receive no funding from government, churches or NGOs and rely solely on fees.