

Literacy, Development, and Philanthropy: Educating One Million Children

(13.09.2021 – 6 PM)

Opening remarks:

In June of 2021, Alight completed a seminal development project on the education of out of school children in Pakistan – successfully managing to enroll over a million kids over the span of 3.5 years with the generosity of the Education Above All Foundation in Qatar and assistance of its various local partners. The objective of this webinar is to explore the EAC consortium’s strategy in terms of social mobilization, technical innovation, stakeholder engagement, girls’ education, capacity building, curriculum design, and non-formal schooling. It is hoped that this webinar serves to initiate a much needed conversation on the state of literacy in Pakistan, charting a framework for its resolution through creative, transparent, accountable, and effective development that leverages the best aspects of both the public and private sectors.

Speakers:

Dr. Tariq H. Cheema (Alight Pakistan) is a renowned philanthropist and social innovator, currently heading Alight Pakistan as its Country Representative. Since leaving a lucrative career as a surgeon to focus on righting global inequalities in 1997, Dr. Cheema has left an indelible mark on several social initiatives during his career, managed medium-to-large grant programs, and worked closely with world leaders and distinguished philanthropists to design strategic giving and impact investing models. His vision of responding to social challenges through equitable economic empowerment has successfully resulted in establishing a strong network of socially-responsible businesses to integrate emerging economies with leading international markets. Dr. Cheema will be offering a broad overview of the Educate a Child initiative, delving into how it came about, the challenges that were faced, the stakeholders that were engaged, and the tools/strategies that were deployed to ensure the project’s targets were met and that its overall objective of educating out of school children was conducted in an innovative, dynamic, and sustainable manner.

Dr. Zahid (Allama Iqbal Open University) is currently serving as Assistant Professor at the Allama Iqbal Open University and has extensive experience in Lecturing, Curriculum Development, Public Speaking, and E-Learning. He will be outlining AIOU’s role in the EAC initiative which brought about much needed innovations in the aftermath of COVID-19 through radio schooling and virtual teacher trainings to tackle disruptions in education as a result of limited mobility.

Abid Gill (Japan International Cooperation Agency) has worked with UNICEF, UNESCO and JICA in management and advisory capacities for over 20 years and is currently Chief Advisor to the JICA-AQAL initiative. He has served as “Member of National Reforms Committee on Education” along with the federal education ministry and provincial departments of education in Pakistan, successfully leading reforms in Non Formal Education in Pakistan including NFE Policies, Standards, Curriculum, teaching learning material, assessment and equivalency mechanisms, and data driven management through NFE-MIS. Mr. Gill will be representing the Japan International Cooperation Agency’s role in the Educate a Child initiative, delving into the details of the accelerated curriculum for non-formal schools that was deployed to streamline the education of out-of-school-children – creating a platform to allow for their transitioning into more formal streams.

Mr. Adnan Ahmed- Vice President Content & Fundraising, Teach the World Foundation'