

Forum for Language Initiatives



SUMMER 2013

Literacy Materials Development Workshop-4



This workshop was held in Islamabad from 9-12 February 2013. The members of new Mother-Tongue-Based Multilingual Education (MTB-MLE) projects from the Indus Kohistani, Hindko, and Khowar language groups participated in this workshop, which was the last in a series of four workshops. The purpose of this time was for the language projects to be able to complete school materials for year-1 of their multilingual education programs before the teachers' training workshop and the launching of the schools in April 2014. During this workshop, language project personnel received training and instruction necessary to finalize these materials, especially the primer lessons and small story books. They also now have a good understanding of how to field check their materials in the

community.

Desktop Publishing (DTP) Workshop

The three-day Desktop Publishing Workshop was held from 13-15 February 2013 and was also held in Islamabad. Six people from the Hindko, Indus Kohistani and Khowar Multilingual Education (MLE) Projects participated in this workshop. During this workshop, the participants were introduced to software that enables them to layout books by using or modifying readily available templates, change illustrations from clipart, and make their own line arts from photos, which is very useful for those language groups lacking artists/illustrators. These skills will help project personnel to create illustrations for their MLE curriculum.



International Mother Language Day Observed

Each year FLI celebrates International Mother Language Day (IMLD), with like-minded organizations and language communities in northern Pakistan. This year was no exception as once again on 21 February, FLI celebrated IMLD with a network of the language communities of northern Pakistan called Mother Tongue and Heritage for Education and Research (MOTHER). This celebration was attended by more than 15 language communities' activists, researchers, community members, etc.

All the participants in this celebration held placards inscribed with the names of their respective languages in front of the Islamabad Press Club in Islamabad. This year's theme of International Mother Language Day was "Books for Mother Tongue Education", as announced by UNESCO. The speakers at this celebration reiterated that it is the right of a child to receive their primary education in his/her mother tongue, as is written in the United Nations resolution on linguistic rights. The language communities present for the occasion demanded that all 70-plus languages of the country be declared national languages and be provided state support for their promotion and development.

3rd International Conference on Language Documentation and Conservation



Executive Director of FLI, Fakhruddin Akhunzada, presented a paper at this conference which was held at the University of Hawaii at Manova Campus from 28 February to 3 March 2013. More than 150 researchers from around world presented their papers at the conference. The theme of the conference for this year was, "Sharing Words of Knowledge". Fakhruddin's presentation was entitled, FLI: A Strategy for Revitalizing Endangered languages and Cultures, and highlighted FLI's target languages, MLE programs, challenges, and achievements. The conference provided a good opportunity for Fakhruddin to share about FLI's work with other like-minded organizations and to learn from their work.

Fieldworks Language Explorer (FLEX)

This workshop was held in Islamabad from 18-20 February 2013, and nine people from eight language groups (Hindko, Gawri, Palula, Indus Kohistani, Kashmiri, Khowar, Torwali and Pashto) participated in this workshop. The main goals of this workshop were to install FLEX, import data into FLEX from Toolbox, and give basic instructions on how to use FLEX for language documentation and analysis. This workshop helped participants learn how to operate FLEX effectively for language analysis work, both in working with lexicons as well as texts. The FLEX software provides more extensive language analysis tools than Toolbox. Participants were led step-by-step through the process of installing and using FLEX and related programs onto their computers.

Community of Practice Meeting, Bangkok

The Executive Director participated in this event from 5-8 March 2013. It was organized by LEAD Asia which advocates for MLE and language development work in South and South East Asia. It provided a good opportunity to learn new approaches for identity-based development. At this event, organizations working in the areas of language development and Multilingual Education shared their approaches regarding MLE and language development work.

North Pakistan MLE Advocacy Task Force

This is a task force established for the advocacy, mobilization, and promotion of MTB-MLE work in Pakistan. The main purpose of this task force is to work towards the implementation of favorable policies regarding MTB-MLE in Pakistan. The task force was formed in 2012 and includes some of the key partners of FLI who work with MTB-MLE and language policies in Pakistan.

Child Rights Protection workshop

A Child Rights Protection Workshop (CRP) was held in Islamabad from 4-6 June. Community members from three MLE language groups (Palula, Torwali and Gawri) participated in this workshop, the main purpose of which was to empower children through an increased awareness of child protection policy. After the completion of the workshop, the participants all expressed great appreciation for the sessions, gave positive feedback regarding the material covered, and committed to implementing their own children's rights awareness raising campaigns. They pledged to put their newly acquired skills to work and to use the



information and supporting materials received within their communities, as well as to develop their own materials in their mother tongue.

Bakarwal Mobile Schools' (BMS) external evaluation

FLI was approached by the BMS project to conduct an external evaluation of their schools for the Gujri language communities in northern Pakistan. Gujars are nomadic tribes that travel with their animals to the high mountains in the summer and lower lands in the winter. FLI's Language Development Consultant evaluated the schools in April when they were in the lower regions. During the 9-day field evaluation, he visited 17 of 20 schools in different areas. The main focus was to assess the performance of children, the bridging process from Gujri to Urdu, and the performance of the teachers. He also met with the parents of the students and other community members. He learned that more schools are needed because this is a large and growing community, and currently there are not enough schools to offer educational opportunities to all of the students. There are only a handful of schools with limited capacity.



FLI's Mobilization Campaign

FLI staff met with people from various language communities and personnel from various language organizations in an effort to motivate them to initiate work to promote their mother tongue. During the reporting period, FLI staff met with people from the Yidgha, Kalasha, Dameli, Gawar-bati, Balti and Wakhi language communities. FLI staff also distributed FLI flyers and other informational material among these communities. During these meetings, FLI staff learned that the Yidgha, Balti, and Wakhi language groups have already initiated work to promote and preserve their mother tongues. These language groups have already established language organizations for this purpose and FLI may run joint projects with these organizations in the future.



Facilitator Discovery Programme (FDP)

FLI held this three-day planning session on 11-14 June in the FLI office in Islamabad for the facilitators of the upcoming Discovery Programme (DP). During this first planning session, the facilitators divided up the lessons and revised and edited the training manual for the first course of the DP. All the facilitators made preparations for the upcoming one-year Discovery Course, which will start in October of this year .

MTB MLE School Evaluation

In May 2013, a team from FLI led by the Executive Director visited the Gawri, Torwali, and Palula MLE Schools in Swat and Chitral districts. The FLI team met with students of these MLE schools, their teachers, and also community members such as parents and other elders. The FLI team found all the programs running successfully and the local people happy with the performance of their children. The performance of all the children was above satisfactory, and some of them were very excellent. We learned that those children who transition to



private or public schools from these MLE schools have shown better results in their furthering education as well. These three communities have requested more MTB MLE schools in more locations, but unfortunately due to funding limitations, this is not possible at this time.

Translation of UN Human Rights Declaration

FLI began a translation of the UN Human Rights Declaration into six local languages, Shina, Khowar, Paluala, Towarli, Gawri and Hindko. FLI's new Training Coordinator translated the document into the Shina Language (his own mother tongue). Translation into the remaining 4 languages is in progress. Once completed, the translated documents will be photocopied and distributed among the community-based organizations.



SWOT Analysis

FLI's Executive Director facilitated this SWOT Analyses session with the Khowar, Palula, and Gawri Language organizations individually in their respective offices. The organizations developed organizational plans according to the outcomes of these sessions.

Gawri MLE Project Completed Three-Year Academic Sessions

The Gawri Mother-Tongue Based Multilingual Education (MTB-MLE) Project completed their three-year cycle of academic sessions in three different locations of the Gawri community in the Kalam Valley. Gawri speaking Children who completed this three-year cycle of schooling in their own mother-tongue were given course completion certificates in order to enroll in

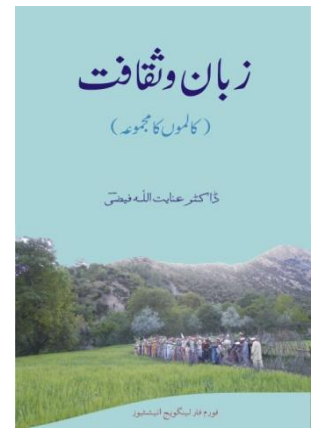
government schools.

FLI New Publication

FLI published Dr. Inayat Ullah Faizi's language and culture book. This book is a compilation of articles related to language and culture that have been published in various newspapers. The book includes interesting material for language and culture researchers. It has information regarding the languages and cultures of northern Pakistan, the issues these languages are facing, and initiatives for the promotion and preservation of these languages.

Textbook Board Published Khowar Primer

The Textbook Board Peshawar published a Khowar primer and distributed it among the government schools children in district Chitral. FLI's trainees from khowar language group, who have curriculum development skills remain involved in the development of th primer along with other khowar scholars. The MLE coordinator of Khowar MLE Project Farid Ahmad Raza is the compiler of the book. It is the first Khowar book the government has developed and published for government schools children.



Contact Us

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