

Forum for Language



Initiatives

International Literacy Day Celebration:



FLI and Anjuman-e-Taraqqi Palula, the implementing partner of the Palula MLE Project, jointly celebrated International Literacy Day on 8 September in Ashret, among the Palula language community. The FLI Board and Leadership Team members, members of Anjuman-e-Taraqqi Palula MLE students, government and private school students, community leaders, and a large number of people from the Palula language community attended the event. The FLI Board and Leadership Team members and community leaders spoke on the occasion regarding the importance of literacy. They appreciated Anjuman-e-Taraqqi Palula's efforts for the promotion of mother tongue-based education among the Palula language community.

Advance Cultural Course

This two-week workshop was held in the FLI office in September. Five people from five language groups participated the training which was facilitated by FLI Anthropology Consultant, Maarit Liljegren, a Finnish anthropologist. The main goal of the training was to enhance the research skills of the people who are already involved in cultural research.

Second International Hindko Conference

The 2nd International Hindko Conference was held in November in Peshawar, and was organized by the Gandhara Hindko Board, the language organization of the Hindko language community. Politicians, government officials, and representatives from other minority language communities of Pakistan attended the conference in addition to a great number of Hindko speakers. FLI's Board and Leadership Team members got opportunity to talk about their language and they found this time to be a good opportunity to have one-on-one meetings with government officials and others. On this occasion, government officials shared their decision to establish a government-sponsored academy for the promotion of the Hindko language, which is a new development in the history of FLI target language communities.





FLI's Consultancy Sessions with MLE Projects

These two-day consultancy sessions were held on-site with new MLE projects. FLI's Language Development Consultant and Training Coordinator held these sessions with each MLE project individually in their respective communities. The main goal of these sessions was to check the progress of the project and provide feedback. The projects revised their primer lessons, small stories, and listening stories according to the feedback provided by FLI's facilitators.

Teacher Training Worskhop for Palula Teachers

This three days teacher training workshop was a series of on-the-job teacher trainings organized by the Palula MLE Project for MLE school teachers. All the project staff participated in this event. The MLE Coordinator and Supervisors were the main facilitators of this training. The training was organized in such a way that the participants first demonstrated their lessons according to their lesson plan, and then held a question and answer session directly following their presentations.



Workshop on Palula Writing Practice and Issues

The Palula Project organized a five days ladies workshop on Palula writing practice and issues (27–30 July) in the Palula MLE School in Ashrait. 16 women including MLE school teachers participated in this workshop. The female MLE supervisor was the main facilitator for this workshop. During the workshop the participants discussed orthographic issues in the Palula language. They practiced Palula writing and spelling rules.

Teacher Training Worskhop for Gawri Teachers

The Gawri MLE Project held teacher training workshops on facilitating transition on 5th and 6th July 2012 at two different places (separate for male and female). All the teachers and supervisors along with office staff participated in the workshop.

Three Gawri MLE classes completed MTB-MLE cycle

In three different locations the Gawri MLE Project completed their cycle of three-year-long academic sessions, and children were given certificates to enroll in nearby government schools. All the children successfully completed three years of studies and passed Primary 1





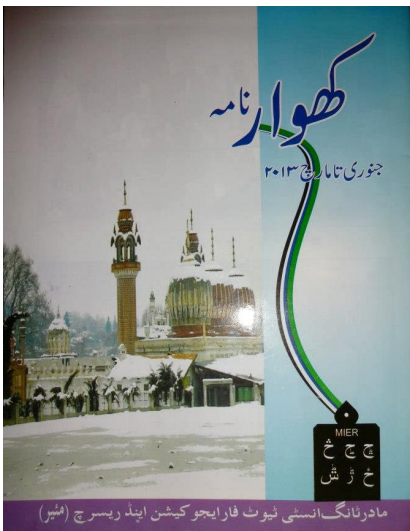
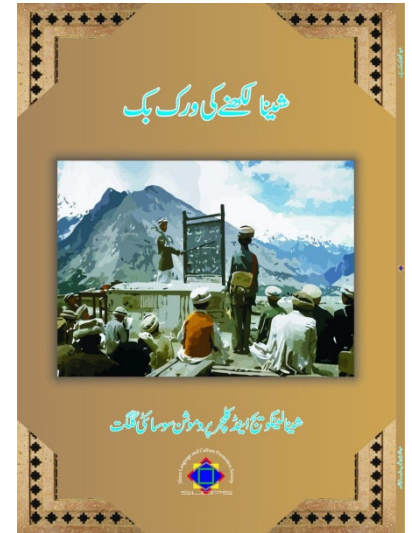
from Gawri MLE schools.

Shina Workbook Published

The Shina Language and Culture Promotion Society (SLCPS) published the Shina Work Book. The book has been written in the Shina and Urdu Languages and will help people who want to learn Shina writing. The book has been compiled and edited by SLCPS members. SLCPS is working for the promotion of the Shina language and culture in Gilgit-Baltistan. The organization has published many books in the Shina Language .

Coordinator Participated in a Management Course

Talib Jan Abasindhi, the MLE Coordinator of the Indus Kohistani MLE Project, participated in this training organized by CRSM Islamabad for two days in September 2012. The topic of the training was capacity building in local organizations, starting with developing their mission and vision statements, and continuing to include topics such as staffing and recruitment, project management, proposal writing, and liaising with donors.



Khowar Calendar Published

The Khowar Calendar was published in November. This calendar was developed by the Mother Tongue Education and Research (MIER) organization. The calendar contains the names of the months in the Khowar language and photographs from Khowar culture. These are the first calendars to ever be printed in the Khowar Language.

Khowar Newsletter Published

MIER also published the first volume of the Khowar quarterly newsletter. Farid Ahamad Razad, The MLE Coordinator of the Khowar Project is the Chief Editor of the newsletter. The newsletters mainly contain articles regarding Khowar culture and language and also include poetry in Khowar. The main aim of the newsletter is to

standardize the Khowar writing system.

FORUM FOR LANGUAGE INITIATIVES - success stories

FLI is the first of its kind in the region addressing languages and multilingual education. During the last few years FLI has made some good progress towards its goals. Below, a number of specific achievements of FLI are highlighted.

Has Helped in Establishing Mother-Tongue Based Multilingual Education Schools

FLI helped start multilingual education (MLE) pilot projects in language communities. FLI trained people from these language communities in the areas of school management committees, curriculum development, and teacher and supervisor training. A two-year curriculum for these three communities was also published by FLI. In addition, FLI helped these communities in organization development, which included finance management, project management and leadership development.

Has Published Books in Disadvantaged Languages

FLI has published a number of books that highlight important linguistic or cultural features of several local communities. FLI publishes two series: one academic series called “FLI Language and Culture Series” and another vernacular series called “Maqami Zaban-o-Adab ka Ishati Silsila” (مقامی زبان و ادب کا اشاعتی سلسلہ). These publications help raise the status of these communities.

Has Interlinked Disadvantaged Language Communities.

FLI provided a platform for collaboration among the disadvantaged language communities of northern Pakistan through training events and workshops. FLI-sponsored conferences are another opportunity for collaboration across local communities. This networking of communities, NGOs and CBOs has been deemed beneficial, as information and experiences are being shared. The various communities invite one another to participate in each other’s major events which in turn encourage mutual learning and respect.

Has Provided Advocacy for Language Rights and Multilingual Education

The situation in this area is very different now compared to when FLI was founded nine years ago. FLI’s advocating for language rights and multilingual education remains effective, and FLI’s motivational activities encourage the disadvantaged language communities to recognize the importance of their mother-tongues and the need for education in the different mother-tongues. People from many language communities have organized themselves into community-based organizations and started to address their community issues in an organized way.

Has Established A Linguistic Library for Researchers

FLI has established a library of books, articles and electronic resources. The collection of printed resources now exceeds 1000 volumes; additionally, more than 1000 electronic resources are also available. These resources, which include topics like linguistics, anthropology, literacy, orthography, lexicography, training and management, are being used more and more by Pakistani and non-Pakistani researchers, trainers and consultants.

Has Enabled People to Document their Mother-Tongues.

FLI has enabled people from disadvantaged languages communities to document their languages, to establish MLE schools, and to solve issues within their mother-tongue languages communities. FLI’s one-year Discovery Programme trained more than 30 people from a dozen languages communities in basic documentation.

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