

# Forum for Language Initiatives



Spring 2014

## Mother Tongue-Based Adult Literacy Program

The Palula Language Organization held an adult literacy follow-up workshop in the MLE School in Ashret on 21-27 July 2013. The Palula MLE Project staff attended this workshop, the main goals of which were planning an Adult Literacy Program for the Palula language community and drafting some initial materials for the curriculum. During the workshop, the participants also discussed the intended impact of the program. FLI plans to establish mother tongue-based Adult literacy Programs in the Gawri language community in Swat as well as the Palula language community in Chitral, in collaboration with the Gawri Community Development Program and Anjuman Taraqi-e-Palula, respectively.



## Book Launching Ceremony Held

The Press Club in Chitral arranged a launching ceremony for FLI's new publication *Zaban-o-Saqafat* on 13 September 2013. MNA Chitral Prince Iftikhar Uddin was the chief guest for this occasion. The people who spoke at this event were Prof. Mumtaz Hussain, Amir Khan Mir, Muhkam u din Muhkam, Gul Murad Hasrat, Shah Murad Baig, Zahir uddin Ajiz, Farid Ahmad Raza, Dr. Inayat Ullah Faizi, and Fakhr-e-Alam. More than 200 people attended this event, including renowned Khovar writers, poets, educators, journalists, and politicians. The speakers noted their appreciation for the efforts of Dr Inayat Ullah Faizi for the promotion and preservation of Pakistani languages and cultures, as well as FLI's works for the documentation and promotion of cultures and languages of the region. The Book *Zaban-o-Saqafat* is a collection of Dr. Inayat Ullah Faizi's language and cultural related columns that he wrote for various national Urdu newspapers during the last 30 years.

## GCDP Observed International Literacy Day

Gawri Language Community observed International Literacy Day in September in Kalam, organized by Gawri Development Programme (GCDP). Students of the five MLE schools from the area, their parents, community elders, journalists and teachers participated in the event. The event was addressed by the elders of the community and they stressed equal right of



education for girls and boys. They appreciated GCDP's initiatives for education in Kalam. Abdul Baqi, an elder of the community, said "we are satisfied with learning progress of children in the MLE Schools. We request the GCDP to open another school in Kokonel."

### Discovery Program Course Held

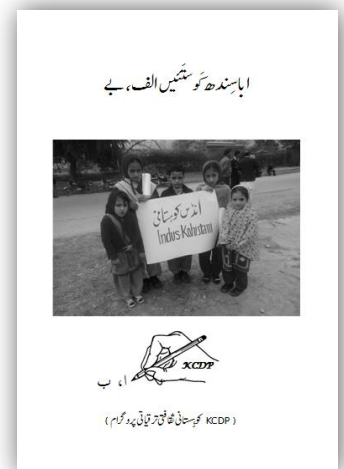
FLI launched a new Discovery Program for another four language groups. The first two-week course of this year-long program, entitled "How to Start a Language and Culture Documentation Project," was held on 20-31 September in Islamabad. Nine people from four languages communities—Gawar-Bati, Palula, Indus Kohistani, and Gojri—participated in this course. The course was facilitated by former FLI trainees and field researchers from northern Pakistan who are engaged in the documentation of their own mother tongues. FLI's Discovery Program is comprised of four courses that together span the length of one year. After two-weeks of classroom training, the researchers go out to complete field research for six weeks and collect data about their mother tongues and cultures. The main goal of this program is to develop preliminary language documentation skills among the people who are interested in preserving and promoting their mother tongues. Previously, 30 people from 10 language groups of northern Pakistan have participated in this program and are now engaged in the documentation of their own mother tongues and cultures.



### Curriculum Development for MLE Schools

New MLE Projects have continued to develop curriculum for their MLE Schools. During the reporting period, they have worked on these materials with people in their communities, received feedback on their work from FLI facilitators, and edited and revised the materials accordingly. These close to finalizing all the year-1 curriculum materials included primer, reading stories, listening stories, math books, songs, and rhymes for year one of their MLE schools.

FLI is helping another three language groups-- Khowar, Indus Kohistani, and Hindko -- to establish mother tongue-based MLE Schools in their language communities. One MLE school in each language group will be launched in April of this year after training teachers from each group.



### Language and Education Conference, Bangkok

Dr. Inayat Ullah Faizi, a member of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Language Authority, and Muhammad Zaman, FLI's Language Development Consultant, presented a paper at this conference which was coordinated by several organizations including Payap University and UNESCO and was held in Bangkok on 6-8 November 2013. Six other people from Pakistan also attended this event: Dr. Zubair Hasret, faculty member at Bacha Khan University and a member of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Language Authority, Zulfiqar, Director of the Curriculum Development department of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Language Authority, Fakhruddin Akhunzada, FLI's Executive Director, Muhammad Osama Ashraf Gondal, Sahar Rushnakin, UNESCO Youth Ambassador for Goodwill, and Rabia Khalid from Roots schools.



The event provided a good learning opportunity for the people from Pakistan, especially for those who are engaged in a government department to develop curriculum in students' mother tongue. Participants met personnel of like-minded organization including educators and researchers working on mother-tongue based multilingual education in different countries.

#### **Future Planning of my language, workshop**

FLI conducted this three-day workshop on 26-28 November in Islamabad. Seven people from the Shina, Palula, Gawri, Khovar, and Kashmiri language communities participated. The main facilitator of the workshop was Dr. Henrik Liljegren, a linguist from Stockholm University. The goal of this workshop was to develop skills of the participants regarding tools for recognizing levels of language endangerment and potential activities to revitalize endangered languages. Participants went through the steps of conducting a language endangerment survey according to the Sustainable Use Model (SUM) using the EGIDS scale and discussed how they could carry out these surveys in the language communities of Northern Pakistan. During the workshop it was also decided to start the survey in May 2014 in the Gawri language community of Swat.

#### **Workshop for Linguistics Study Group (LSG) Held**

FLI conducted a one-week Dardic Linguistic Study Group on 2-5 December in Islamabad. Five researchers from the Shina, Gawri, Palula, Khovar and Kundal Shahi language communities participated in this workshop. The goal of this study group is to bring together publications focused on Dardic languages in the future, a project that will be carried out by researchers at FLI. This study group was facilitated by Dr. Henrik Liljegren from the Department of Linguistics at Stockholm University.



## FLI's Mobilization Campaign

FLI leadership team continued its mobilization campaign within language communities of Northern Pakistan. During the reporting period, phone, Skype, and one-on-one meetings were held with social workers, community leaders, language activists, and researchers from Dameli, Yidgha and Gawar-Bati language communities. The main goal of this campaign is to create awareness among the people regarding the preservation and promotion of their mother tongues. FLI also learned that Yidgha language speakers have established the Yidgha Language and Cultural Society to preserve and promote their language. FLI established a new network with the personnel of this new language organization and shared some basic information regarding language preservation and promotion. It is worthy to mention that Yidgha is one of the extremely endangered languages in northern Pakistan, and in need of immediate efforts of revitalization and development.

## Facilitator Discovery Program (FDP)

A three-day session of FLI's training facilitators was held in Islamabad on 17-20 December 2013. During this session, the facilitators reviewed the training manual of the 2<sup>nd</sup> course of the Discovery Program and developed a schedule for the course. Each facilitator also developed power point presentations for his lessons.

## Translation of UN Human Rights Declaration

FLI translated the United Nations Human Rights Declaration into one more language. The Gawri Language Project completed their translation of this declaration into Gawri. Work on the Torwali, Khovar, Palula, and Hindko translations of this declaration is still in process. The Gawri translation will be printed for distribution and uploaded to FLI's website.

## Bakarwal Mobil School System

The first introductory ceremony of Bakarwal Mobile School was held at the Rawalpindi Press Club. The Chief Guest of the program was Senator Jaffar Iqbal, Vice President of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz. He is known as Sardar-e-Gujar (chief of Gujar tribes). The ceremony was presided over by Baji Mian Muhammad Qasim from Kotli Azad Kashmir. People from various walks from the Gojari language tribe participated in the ceremony. The director of Bakarwal Mobil Schools System, Mr. Yousuf Mahtab, presented the goals and achievements of the Bakarwal Mobile Schools system. BMS is running 40 mother tongue-based mobile schools for nomadic Gujar tribes in the mountains of Northern Pakistan.



Contact Us

Forum for Language Initiatives

P.O. Box 763 Islamabad

Ph: +92 (0)51 23 54 551

Email: [info@fli-online.org](mailto:info@fli-online.org)

Website: [www.fli-online.org](http://www.fli-online.org)