



Forum for Language Initiatives



2019
Annual Report

“Empowering language communities of northern Pakistan to revitalize their linguistic and cultural heritage through research, training, education and advocacy”

About FLI

The Organization

The Forum for Language Initiatives (FLI), founded in 2003 in Peshawar, is a non-profit with goals of preservation and promotion of the endangered languages spoken in northern Pakistan through capacity building of mother tongue speakers. FLI moved to Islamabad in 2009 and stretched its services to the languages of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK) by widening its scope.

Legal Status

FLI is registered with government of Pakistan, Federal Board of Revenue, as a tax exempted, non-profit organization. Ultimate control and supervision of FLI's work is the responsibility of the FLI executive board.

Achievements:

- ❖ Enhanced awareness among communities regarding the importance of mother tongues
- ❖ Trained more than 2000 mother tongue speakers from at least 20 language communities of northern Pakistan in various domains of language documentation
- ❖ Trained around 75 govt. officials in curriculum development, language and culture documentation in KP and GB
- ❖ Published dozens of books in or about the indigenous cultures of northern Pakistan
- ❖ Supported the initiation of a mother tongue based preschool educational program in six language groups in its target region
- ❖ Empowered hundreds of adults (women and men) in two language communities through its adult literacy program
- ❖ Developed PC and Android keyboards for indigenous linguistic communities

Objectives:

- To build the capacity of more people in curriculum development, language and culture documentation
- To enhance the capability of partner organizations in organizational development, advocacy and language promotion
- To upgrade and strengthen the mother tongue based education program through partnership
- To include more languages in KP government school curriculum
- To expand and extend the Adult Literacy Program to more language communities
- To organize migrated people from ethno-linguistic communities, living in major cities of Pakistan

ED's Message

Assalam o Alikum and Hello,

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I feel particularly happy to present to you this year's report because it includes some special reports regarding our work with some departments of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government. FLI has always attributed great importance to working with public institutions for the purpose of sustainability and outreach. During the past year, we started building the capacity of those government officials and teachers who are involved in the process of curriculum development in certain languages. We trained more than a dozen reviewers from each of the Khowar, Hindko and Saraiki language groups and excitedly prepared to soon hold the same training for the Pashtun group. We hope this series of training will play a key role in standardizing the writing systems for said languages.

More good news for this year came from the prestigious Library of Congress, USA, which sought our approval to include our website material in their archives. Now, FLI's website material is safe and easily accessible for more people from all over the world since the Library is the main research organ of the U.S. Congress and the home of the U.S Copy right Office.

I hope you will find even more uplifting news in this annual report in addition to what I mentioned above as, like always, we were involved in good activities throughout the year related to empowering, capacity building, networking, facilitation and advocacy for our languages and our linguistic communities.

I thank our partners, supporters and donors for putting their faith in us and supporting us in every situation. I also once again appreciate the efforts my team made during the year to achieve the objectives of the organization and hope that together we will continue to put forth great effort in this next year as well ”

Thanks

Fakhruddin
Executive Director



Library of Congress Archives FLI's Web Material

FLI is glad to share that its website has been included in the web archives of the United States Library of Congress. FLI's website was selected because its important historical collections were considered worthy of archiving by the Library of Congress. The Library of Congress, established in 1800, is the largest library in the world, with millions of books, recordings, photographs, newspapers, maps and manuscripts in its collections. The Library is the main research arm of the U.S. Congress and the home of the U.S. Copyright Office, preserving and providing access to a rich, diverse and enduring source of knowledge to inform, inspire and engage intellectual and creative endeavors. We hope this archiving

will make FLI's material more readily available to the larger world and serve humanity for a long time while also preserving this knowledge and information from any kind of mishap.



FLI Builds the Capacity of Government Curriculum Reviewers in KP

FLI has started working with the Curriculum Development & Teachers' Training (DCTE) to enhance the capacity of curriculum reviewers, especially those who are involved in curriculum development in the local languages of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. FLI initiated capacity building training for the reviewers from four languages of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province - Pashto, Hindko, Saraiki and Khowar -- which are being taught in the primary schools' curriculum as subjects. FLI got involved in the curriculum development process with the relevant government departments of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) by formulating a capacity building program for the people who are responsible for preparing books in these languages. FLI was

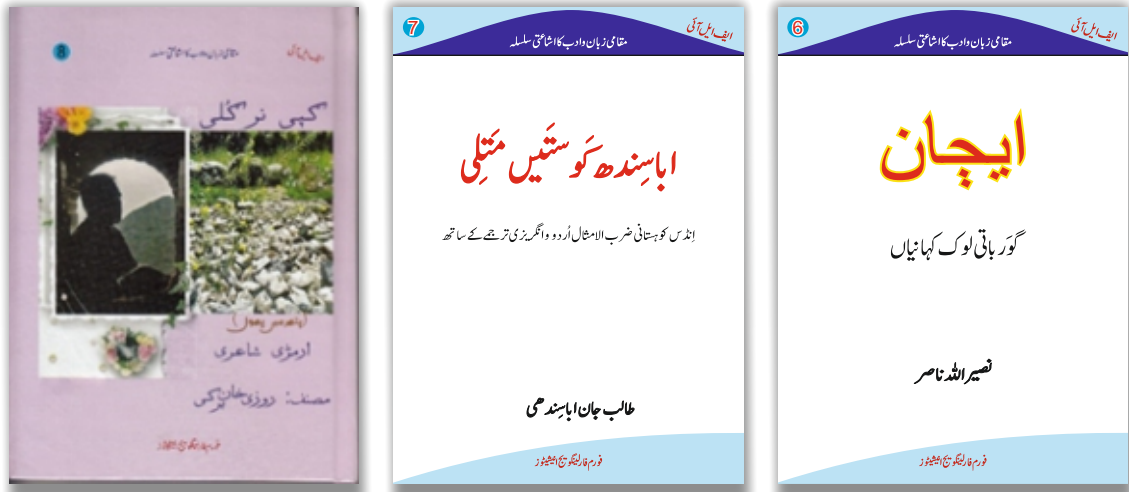
able to use the advantage of its experience working with regional languages to promulgate its program with the KP government officials and started a series of trainings. The first training of this program was held in Chitral during the last week of June 2019 for Khowar-speaking government school teachers. The second training was held for Hindko teachers, the third for Saraiki teachers, and the final training is being held for Pashto teachers, each in their respective regions. The participants will be reviewing the text books that will be developed in their languages. This program is aimed at standardizing the writing system in the local languages of KP which will play a key role in strengthening the use of these languages.



Three More Books Published in Indigenous Languages in 2019

Printing books in indigenous languages of Northern Pakistan is a significant activity which FLI has been regularly pursuing by encouraging its trainees from various language communities to develop their work into publishable form. These books are essential to the effective documentation of these languages. The latest book published was a poetry book in theOrmuri language. It was written by Mr. Rozi Khan Burki and was the third book FLI published in 2019. The first book to be printed this year was in Gawarbatl, a language spoken in the Arandu Valley, Chitral. The second was in the Indus Kohistani language, which is spoken in the Kohistan area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Indus Kohistani is the major language of the west bank of the Indus River. There are two main dialects of Indus Kohistani – one that is spoken along

the Indus River, in settlements such as Seo, Pattan and Jijal. The other is spoken in the Duber and Kandia Valleys, which are more remote. FLI has been working with this community for a long time and many interventions to develop and promote this language are underway. FLI also supports a mother tongue based pre-school system in this community. The printing of this proverb book in Indus Kohistani, authored by Talib Jan who is a researcher and a language activist will serve this language and community long into the future.



Striving to Ensure their Survival, the UN Dedicates the Next Decade to Indigenous Languages

The United Nations (UN) observes that globally, indigenous languages are dying out at a rate of two per month. Urging the member countries to ensure the survival of these languages and reverse this trend, the UN has declared the next decade to be dedicated to indigenous languages. According to a report published on the website of Arctic Today (Dec 20, 2019), the Arctic indigenous leaders, attending concluding events in New York for the Year of Indigenous Languages 2019, wanted the focus of the next decade to be on helping indigenous languages to evolve while still retaining their connection to the natural world by which they were formed. The president of Sámediggi, an

elected assembly of Norwegian Sámi, said the world was facing a digital leap, and we must make sure that our languages do not lag behind. He added that all indigenous languages had to be included in all technological advancements, and these technologies should be used to benefit our peoples and languages. Faced with the loss of nearly half of the world's languages, the United Nations Wednesday called on countries to take "urgent steps" to ensure the survival of indigenous languages as part of a decade-long revitalization effort starting in 2022.

Use your Language in Social Media but don't forget to speak it

"Using Facebook and Twitter in your languages is a good thing but make sure you speak it, too, after putting down the device", this was shared in a conference held by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in December 2019 in Islamabad. FLI was represented in this international conference having multiple themes around digital spaces, inclusion and sustainable development. Digital age has posed the endangered languages with challenges and

opportunities, too. Language revitalization efforts need to ensure the use of these languages in all domains and digital age has widened the scope of domains. The conference proposed helpful suggestions for saving and promoting the endangered languages.

Why is Traditional Music in Northern Pakistan Eroding?

The art of music is considered to be a vital part of any culture. How is our traditional music doing in modern times and what is its future? To discover the answers to this question, FLI organized a Community of Practice (CoP) on Culture and Arts in March of this year in Islamabad. This CoP was attended by 16 people from 11 language communities of northern Pakistan. Eight people belonging to the Torwali, Gawri, Khowar, Shina, Wakhi, Hindko, Palula and Kalasha language groups gave presentations on how music, an integral part of their indigenous cultures, was eroding along with reasons for that trend. They also floated their recommendations for the promotion of their cultural heritage.

Their conclusions proposed many reasons, varying from geographic to atmospheric, affecting these key cultural elements of the region. Some of the findings of the CoP were as follows:

Music is no longer a likable and profitable profession in some societies of northern Pakistan. Music and musicians are stigmatized in some areas, globalization, religious extremism, social stigma and government negligence all play a role in the overall degradation of local arts.

It was clear from the presentations at this event that every indigenous culture in northern Pakistan gave great importance to music in the past. In some places, music was used not only for casual entertainment but was also a part of

daily life for residents of the region. In the Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral regions, some types of musical instruments are still being played during the traditional polo competitions, with the intention of creating thrill among the players. The same was done in the past during wars to build enthusiasm in the troops as they went out to fight. The participants of this CoP requested that FLI work for the revival of this aspect of culture in its target region. FLI will surely seek government help for this purpose through its advocacy efforts.



What are Intellectual Property Rights?

Understanding the concept of Intellectual property is very important, especially for those working in development sector. It is very important that everyone in this field are knowledgeable about protecting one's creativity from plagiarism and theft, and the basic legal protection available in the country to those ends. In view of its importance and yet the comparable lack of knowledge about these issues, FLI arranged a one day workshop on this topic on Feb 14, 2019, in Islamabad for its staff members as well as individuals from its partner organizations who are involved in creative activities. Dr. Wayne Lunsford, a researcher from the USA who was the organizer of the workshop, facilitated this important learning event. The relationship of a staff member with his/ her

organization for creative works, the benchmark of ownership of the creation and a lot more were described during the event. 16 people from various language communities of northern Pakistan, including FLI's staff members, attended the event. The purpose of the activity was to make the participants aware of Intellectual Property Rights, the procedure involved with acquiring protection and safeguarding one's intellectual property, etc. The participants learned about the sensitivity of the subject as it is relevant to their daily lives. They were also given useful literature for reference and use in the future.



Mother Language Literature Festival in Islamabad

The Mother Language Literature Festival has been a regular component of cultural activities in Islamabad since 2016. The event becomes more popular among literary people each year. The venue where the two day yearly event takes place is what people call the heart of Islamabad, Lok Virsa, one of the few public sector cultural sites in the capital city. Hundreds of mother tongue activists, researchers, teachers, students, writers, poets and language lovers gather in this place every second weekend of February, as this event is scheduled to coincide with International Mother Language day. During this

event, literature in minority languages is put on display, new writers' compilations are launched, local languages are discussed and new promises are made to strengthen them. FLI's members are annually among those who take part in this event. Muhammad Zaman, the Senior Advocacy Officer of FLI, participated in a panel discussion that took place on Feb 16, 2019.



Achieving through Advocacy

FLI established great relationship with all important stakeholders in its target region through its advocacy endeavors. FLI's advocacy strategy driven by its focused team continuously targeted the influential elements to influence the desired change. The organization's advocacy team remained active throughout the project term since 2015 in the quest of bringing change to its target region and to communities. The team kept meeting with those who mattered. The expedition aimed at resolving issues through talk, relationship building and networking bore much more fruit than expected throughout the period. To be precise, FLI got into an agreement with the Curriculum Development Wing for a capacity building program of those government officials who are responsible to

develop learning material in regional languages. This government body is also called Directorate of Curriculum and Teacher Education (DCTE). This was the greatest achievement of FLI's Advocacy Team, led by its Executive Director which established a mutual trust based on organization's professional expertise with the government institutions in its target region. Working with the governments for greater impact and sustainability is one of FLI's objectives and the organization attaches great importance with this objective. Working with policy makers and communities at grass root level are other layers the organization has been pursuing for bringing change.



FLI helps Southern Language groups in Financial Management

Moving out of its target area of northern Pakistan, FLI once again reached out to the southern part of the country to support its national level partner, the Institute of Applied Linguistics (IAL, Karachi) to facilitate a one-week long Financial Management Workshop in January 2019. The training benefited 20 people from 12 different language communities of Sindh. FLI's Senior Finance Officer facilitated the workshop. The aim was to enhance the accounting and financial management skills of the language communities to properly manage their projects and organization's finances.



Ormuri language speakers with FLI facilitators

First Ever International Mother Language Day Recognition in Gilgit

"I assure FLI and its partners in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) who have devoted their lives to work for the development of indigenous languages of GB my full support and every assistance in the GB Assembly", this was stated by the opposition leader in the GB Legislative Assembly, Capt. (r) Muhammad Shafi while speaking in a seminar FLI held on Feb 21 to mark International Mother Language Day (IMLD 2019) in Gilgit City of Gilgit-Baltistan. FLI decided to observe the international day of languages in Gilgit so as to gather the speakers of indigenous languages of GB and discuss what they feel about the future of their heritage languages. Mr. Shafi appreciated FLI's efforts to hold the event in Gilgit City for the first time. There are five languages vigorously spoken in GB and there is a positive impression that the sitting government of GB is pursuing a plan to develop these languages so their use is preserved far into the future. Some good minds in the executive hierarchy of the government have been given the task of including local languages in the schools' curriculum. FLI is eagerly awaiting the initiation of this great work by the GB government and also has assured its full technical support for the successful implementation of the plans of the government. The aim of observing the year's IMLD in this way was also to reaffirm FLI's resolve to not only work with the government but also with language communities of the region. All five languages were represented in the event. Eight literary people who belonged

to Shina, Balti, Khowar, Burushaski and Wakhi languages and one from the academia were present while two government officials gave presentations on the current status of the language work, the challenges they encounter and opportunities they foresee. The event was a great success as it gathered all the genuine language workers from the region in one place and linked them with politicians and government officials. While speaking on the occasion Hasan Hasrat, a literary representative of the Balti language, thanked FLI for holding the event in Gilgit and said that the event was never observed by any organization or government in GB.



More children get education in their mother tongue

Starting education in the native language could be a new phenomenon in our country but not in some parts of FLI's target area. The process has been in a successful practice since 2008, when FLI helped six of its target communities initiate a mother tongue based education system. A total of 1611 children have so far completed their two years preschool program from these schools established in Swat, Chitral, Abbotabad and Kohistan. What to celebrate is around 50% of the students are girls. These students begin their schooling in their own language then start getting reading books in other languages i.e. FLI helped these language projects in curriculum development, printing of books, teachers and supervisors training and provides annual evaluations for review and feedback. Details of the students

completing education since 2015 till date from these schools is given below:

Language Community	Boys	Girls	Total
Gawri (Swat)	186	227	413
Palula (Chitral)	62	70	132
Torwali (Swat)	379	310	689
Indus Kohistani (Kohistan)	97	55	152
Khowar (Chitral)	65	57	122
Hindko (Abbotabad)	54	49	103
Total	843	768	1611



Reaching Out to More Languages



FLI reaches another milestone by beginning work with the Kataviri language, the 20th language the organization has targeted to preserve and promote. FLI conducted a vitality survey during the second week of October in Shekhandeh, Bamburet- Chitral, to find out what was the exact status of orality, identity and literacy of the language among the community through use of the Sustainable Use Model (SUM). Six to eight people including young, aged and learned people from the Kati community attended the sessions throughout the week. The Kataviri language was found to be vigorous in orality with a strong position on the identity scale but lagging behind in literacy. Currently, the language lacks a writing system. The Kataviri language is spoken in the hilly peripheries of Chitral Valley, sharing a border with the

Nooristan area of Afghanistan from where the speakers immigrated some 130 years back. The areas where the language is spoken on this side of the Durand Line, Pakistan, include Shekhandeh, Gobor, Langorbat, Badugal, Urtsun, etc., in Chitral. The language is called Shekhani by locals which is a group name for two Nooristani languages spoken in Chitral: Kataviri and Kamviri. However, the native speakers like to be identified as Kati speakers. Other communities in Chitral call this language Bashgaliwar.

Based on the survey outcomes, FLI is planning to strengthen the language by helping the community to develop a writing system for their language. For this purpose, basic orthography and writers' workshops will be held for the community so that they can turn their purely oral language into a written one as well. FLI has so far enabled hundreds of people from 19 language communities in northern Pakistan to document and develop their native languages, making Kataviri the 20th language FLI has started to develop by enabling its speakers in language documentation.

Conducted Vitality Survey in 3 More Speech Communities

During the year, FLI carried out a language vitality survey in three more speech communities --Burushaski, Kataviri and Dameli- to see how sustainable these languages are in the areas of orality, identity and literature. For the Burushaski speech community, the activity was held in Taus, Yasin Valley, in the Ghizer District of Gilgit Baltistan, in June, 2019. For the Kataviri speech community, the survey was conducted in the Bamburet Valley of Chitral in October. The Dameli speech community was passed through the same methodologies in December. The Sustainable Use Model (SUM) was successfully applied in each community to determine the status of these languages. Burushaski, considered an isolate language by linguists, is spoken by more than 70,000 people in the Hunza and Ghizer areas of GB. This is considered one of the literary languages of the country as a good amount of religious literature for the Ismaili sect of Islam has been developed by some local preachers. However, the language faces some issues regarding the standardization of its orthography in GB. The Kataviri language was found to be facing the issue of a lack of literature as the language doesn't have a writing system so far. The Dameli language, though, already has a writing system which was developed through a project FLI implemented in 2016.

The workshops were attended by 15 participants total, five from each speech community, who later conducted the

survey in their communities. This was the first ever intervention of FLI for the Burushaski language while people from the Kataviri and Dameli language communities have benefitted from the work of FLI in the past. Based on the outcomes of these surveys, FLI is in the process of formulating development programs for the languages, providing for development activities to be carried out soon.



Literacy Day Observance in Northern Pakistan

UNESCO has been celebrating September 8 every year as International Literacy Day to draw the world's attention towards the eradication of illiteracy from the world. FLI annually observes this day together with its partner organizations in their respective regions. This year, the event was sponsored by FLI in three language communities of Northern Pakistan: Palula in Chitral, and Gawri and Torwali in Swat. The respective community organizations invited community elders, influencers, religious leaders, parents and students to the event and used the opportunity for awareness raising. Speakers shed light on the importance of literacy, especially among women, focusing on literacy in the mother tongue. The community elders who were also given a chance

to speak on the occasion pledged to support FLI's and its partner organizations' vision to empower our communities by equipping them with education. This event has become a regular part of our literacy endeavors in our target area, and it provides our partners with the opportunity to meet community people and cement their relationship with them.



More than 100 adult women who missed schooling become literate in Swat and Chitral

More than hundred illiterate women (103 to be exact) have started their second batch of basic literacy after successful completion of their first session from the centres of Adult Literacy Programs (ALP) FLI initiated in two language communities (Gawri in Swat and Palula in Chitral). These centres are functioning since 2015 providing basic numeracy and reading, writing skills to people who could not go to schools in their childhood for any reason. In total, 130 people with a majority of female beneficiaries have benefited from this program since then. Below are the beneficiaries of ALP.

Palula = 69 (all females)

Gawri = 61 (27 male and 34 female)

Total = 130 (27 male+103 females)

FLI has trained male as well as female teachers to facilitate ALP sessions to make the learning convenient for these remote area women. FLI's ALP program is functioning with a great success which is reflected in communities' demand for expansion of the program. FLI has already planned to expand its adult literacy program to other communities in near future. The program includes curriculum development, material printing, facilitators' training, evaluation and remuneration of the centre staff.



Language News Brief

What is 'Gender Discrimination' explained in Upper Chitral

FLI strives to contribute to building a balanced society in its target region. For the purpose the organization held a three-day Gender Equality Workshop in the headquarter town of Upper Chitral, Booni in May this year. The objective of the activity was to sensitize the local community about the very basic necessities of a pluralistic and inclusive society based on recognition and provision of equal rights and opportunities to both the human genders without any kind of discrimination. Seven females and seven males attended the workshop who pledged to play their role in creating conducive environment, especially for women.

Ormuri Language Researchers trained in Basic Computer Skill

Three Ormuri language researchers got the skill of using basic computer use in a three day workshop FLI held in their locality, Dera Ismail Khan in January this year. The participants learnt and practiced the basic computer guide including keyboard installation, add language and windows settings, installation of fonts and basics of MS Words. The Ormuri language, classified among Iranian cluster of languages in the Indo-Iranian group is basically spoken in Kaniguram area of South Waziristan but the speakers of this language now are living in other areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa due to security issues in their region. The Ormuri language is spoken also in the Logar province of Afghanistan by a small group.

Mankiyali Language Issues discussed in detail

A three day workshop, to discuss the issues relating to Mankiyali language and possible solutions to them, so as to develop the language was held in February 2019 in Danna Village of district Mansehra, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It was the first ever training activity with Mankiyali language group. Fifteen male participants from the language group benefited from the workshop. The participants included school teachers, writers, poets and elders from the community.

Adult literacy teachers enhanced their skill

The teachers of FLI's Adult Literacy Program (ALP) enhanced their facilitation skill to teach the Stage-III of the program and started the session after the training. The three day workshop was held in April 2019, in Ashrait village of district Chitral which was attended by three women and one man who have been facilitating Stage I and II previously. FLI's adult program is providing basic numeracy, writing and reading skills to adults men and woman in Ashrait village of Chitral and Kalam, Swat.

Promotional Conference for Ormuri Language in DI Khan

FLI was represented by one of its language researchers in an academic activity held for the discussion on issues relating to the Ormuri language in Dera Ismail Khan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The event was organized by the Pashto Academy of the University of Peshawar in November 2019. The objective of this event was in line with FLI's thematic areas, as the conference was aimed at drawing the attention towards the preservation and promotion of the Ormuri language. Useful suggestions and needful actions for the language were proposed during a series of activities. FLI supports all kinds of such activities with regards to working on languages.

Language Study in Indigenous Perspectives

A valuable discussion under the theme of "Language Study: Global Debates and Indigenous Perspectives" took place in the Department of Applied Linguistics at Government College University Faisalabad in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC) in November 2019. FLI was represented in this conference. The central theme of the conference was aiming to unearth the indigenous linguistic treasure and compare and contrast it with advanced languages by employing scientific and state-of-the-art approaches to enhance the overall linguistic scholarship.

Orthography Issues discussed In Chitral

The common issues that languages around the globe face when it comes to the documentation process were explained in a one day activity in Chitral. The Mother Tongue Initiative for Education and Research (MIER), a local language development organization in Chitral, arranged the event in collaboration with FLI in Chitral in July 2019. The chairperson of the Linguistic Department of the University of North Texas, Dr. Sadaf Munshi, facilitated the training. More than twenty participants who represented seven languages spoken in Chitral benefited from the event.

Language Map Making

FLI's seven master trainers received training in developing maps which could then be included in their research work on languages. They now have the skills and abilities to make maps in accordance with their research projects, allowing them to support their written research with detailed geographic aspects of pertinent information. This training was facilitated by the linguist Mr. Qandeel Hussain in the FLI office in November last year.

Two more languages get Android Keyboards

FLI has achieved another landmark in the promotion of the endangered languages of Northern Pakistan: it has developed Android keyboards for two more endangered languages of the region. With the development of this milestone, Yidgha (spoken in the Lotkuh Valley of district Chitral) and Indus-Kohistani (spoken in the Indus Valley of Kohistan, KP) have joined the Shina and Khowar languages in having keyboards developed for them by FLI that are being used by their community people. These keyboards, which are ad-free and very simple to use, have all been made available on the Google Play Store for those in the community who use Android cell phones. The keyboard for Khowar has acquired a green ticket on the Store for been heavily downloaded and used. Below are the links of the keyboards:

KP Govt. prints 5.5 million Books in regional languages

Text book Board Peshawar has provided us the following details of book printing for government schools in KP during the last three years. It said the books for 2020 in the same languages were ready to be printed in the first quarter of the year.

The Khyber Pakhtunkwa government included five languages in the government schools' curriculum and initiated the development of learning material in four regional languages in 2016 and books distribution among students of government schools in the particular areas was started in 2017. Since then, one book is added each year and in 2020, books for Grade-IV will be distributed. According to the Textbook Board source, the books for Grade-IV were being sent for printing. The languages included Pashto, Hindko, Saraiki, Khowar and Kohistani. The process of development of learning material in the Kohistani language could not be started due to some clerical errors in the government notification and FLI is striving through its advocacy with the government officials to remove the ambiguities in the government instrument as well as to add more languages into the list so that more children in the province could have the opportunity to learn in their mother tongue.

Language	Year	Primer	Grade-I	Grade-II	Grade-III	Total
Pashto	2017-18	1,06,3000	768,000			1,831,000
	2019	991,867	780,489	684,608	610,575	3,067,539
Saraiki	2017-18	31,250	21,470			52,720
	2019	28,350	16,400	12,250	11,700	68,700
Hindko	2017-18	126,900	88,840			215,740
	2019	102,680	71,905	55,615	53,187	283,387
Khowar	2017-18	18,330	13,880			32,210
	2019	12,031	10,060	9,694	9,012	40,797
		1,311,408	1,771,044	762,167	684,474	5,592,093

FLI's project for education in mother tongue is a high achiever

The Multilingual Early Childhood Education (MLECE) project of FLI is focusing on promoting the right to education for children from the ethnic minority groups; Gawri, Torwali and Palula spoken in the North of Pakistan. The objective of the project is to provide an effective educational system that makes literacy attainable to children from minority language communities in a way that is relevant to their lives while preserving their rights and maintaining their identity in their specific ethnolinguistic communities.

The intervention serves as a best practice example to show education authorities the benefit of providing education in the mother tongue. The great achievement, FLI attained under this project is the initiation of an awe-inspiring program of capacity building of government schools' curriculum reviewers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Working with the governments is one of the objectives of the organization as it gives sustainability to the outcomes. This program has built the capacity of the said reviewers belonging to Khowar, Hindko and Saraiki language groups. The same training is being held for Pashto group very soon.

FLI also revised and standardized the mother tongue curriculum of three languages under this project and facilitated more children to study in their mother tongues. Then, there comes another milestone of Picture Dictionary the organization thought important to provide the children to make the comprehension of children easier and durable. FLI is using a method called Mother Tongue based Multi-Lingual Education (MTB-MLE) in which children start education in their mother tongue and gradually are introduced to the majority language to ensure that children,

later on, can join mainstream schools which provide education in the majority language. FLI has been providing preschool education to these language groups.

What more is, the project is going to also impact the siblings of the 200 children who will be offered the education, as each family has on average 6-7 children, an estimated 800 siblings will indirectly benefit and 400 parents of these children will be engaged to support their children's education. The education materials developed through this project are being made available and accessible to 1800 children from minority groups in mainstream schools. 100 parents and community members of minority groups will have increased support for children's rights to education and rights of girls. The CBOs promoting language rights for children from minority language groups are strengthened in their capacity to provide sustainable high-quality MTB-MLE education for children from minority language groups.





FLI's Capacity Building Program for Govt. Curriculum Reviewers in pictures



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