



Revitalizing, Innovating, Strengthening Education

Subh-e-Nau Promotes Out-of-the-Box Thinking

Subh-e-Nau encourages innovation, imagination and originality among students.



A student explains her water purification project during the science competition.

“It is the first time that I participated in such a competition. I never thought that the concepts of science had their applied side.”

**A Participant
Class V**

In most schools of the earthquake-affected rural areas of northern Pakistan, the method of teaching has been traditional, involving mostly lecture on educational content that had little to do with students’ lives. Even in science, the emphasis is on rote learning. Students are tested for their memory and not for their practical grasp of concepts.

Under the USAID-funded project *Revitalizing, Innovating, and Strengthening Education (RISE)*, child-centered teaching methodologies are encouraged. Teachers are trained to encourage originality and initiative in students and to help them develop higher-order thinking skills. Subh-e-Nau is one such RISE initiative that promotes active-learning by arranging competitions in science, mathematics and English.

Under Subh-e-Nau, a science competition was held among Government girls’ primary schools in a rural area of district Mansehra. A large number of students participated from neighboring villages. They showcased their projects and explained them to the audience. The achievements of students came as a surprise to many parents. “I can’t do what my daughter did. For the first time I know how much she is learning in school,” said a parent looking at her daughter’s project. The competition was significant because it brought the students, teachers and parents together. Students sought help of their teachers and parents in preparing their projects and shared their successes with them.

Perhaps the biggest outcome of this activity is that the traditional method of learning has given way to more innovative and original methods in the classroom. The students gained confidence and learned that there is an applied side to the concepts of science that they used to learn by heart. And all this was done through the use of low-cost or no-cost materials, dispelling the idea that science could not be learned without well equipped laboratories.