



## SMC Provides a Volunteer Teacher

A School Management Committee (SMC) facilitates students and teachers.



Abdul Razaq teaches Arabic to students.

*“I am happy that due to RISE’s initiative, students of my own neighborhood are being taught Arabic.”*

**Abdul Razaq  
Volunteer Teacher  
Govt. Boys Middle School Sessor**

Government Boys Middle School, Sessor is located in a rural and hilly area of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJ&K) in northern Pakistan. Though the school’s students were scheduled to be tested in the Arabic language in their middle school examination, they did not have an Arabic teacher.

Under a USAID-funded project called *Revitalizing, Innovating, Strengthening Education (RISE)*, staff are forming or reactivating School Management Committees (SMCs) for schools in the Bagh District of AJ&K. These groups combine teachers with other community members to form a team working for the improvement of education in the school. After receiving training in their roles and responsibilities, each SMC analyzes and prioritizes the needs of its school and prepares a **School Improvement Plan**. The committee thinks about infrastructure improvements, the support of teachers and the comfort of students.

The Sessor SMC quickly noted the need for an Arabic teacher, and members contacted the education department to see if they could supply a teacher. Unfortunately, officials told the SMC that they did not have the budget for an Arabic teacher in the current financial year. On learning this, the SMC started looking for a qualified voluntary teacher to work with students. They did not have far to search, as the chairman of the SMC had himself worked as an Arabic teacher in his youth. He presented himself as a volunteer to teach at the school.

The students are now happy as they don’t have to worry about the intricacies of Arabic all by themselves and have a teacher to rely on. One of Abdul Razaq’s students said in this regard, “The pressure of learning Arabic was immense as we did not have a teacher. Now, we talk to our teacher if we don’t understand something.”