

Sharjah/IBBY Children in Crisis Project 2016

IBBY Iran (Children's Book Council)

Title of project:

Setting up and Supporting Small Libraries catering to the Weaker Sections of Religious and Ethnic Minorities

Background

The House of Librarians for the Promotion of Reading among Children and Young People whose goal is spreading the culture of reading (reading, watching, listening, touching) among the children and young adult age group (from birth to age sixteen) including those within this same age group with special needs, deprived, poor and those affected by tragedy including working children, victims of earthquakes, orphans, victims of abuse and neglect.

At the outset, this organization saw the need for training librarians and educators in the promotion of reading. Accordingly, approximately ten year ago, the group known as the **Bamdad Group for the Development of Children's Libraries in the Deprived Sector** was formed within the auspices of the House of Librarians taking the needy and remotely located as its target beneficiaries.

The main objective of the Bamdad Group was getting books to children who had no access to them. This is a country-wide problem, thus, this group became active all over Iran. Bamdad, upon the request of teachers in various outlying areas of Iran and local leaders in deprived areas, set about filling the gap in libraries. In addition to setting up libraries, Bamdad continued to offer support including the sending of books and promotion of reading for the libraries. In this way, a few individuals from among the children and young members of the libraries and instructors and local librarians received practical instruction in the propagation of reading.

First report of the Sharjah/IBBY Children in Crisis support:

This part of **Bamdad Group's** Project includes establishing and supporting **five** small children's libraries, in **Sistan and Baloochestan** province. The goal is to provide easy access to quality books for children of under privileged areas who also belong to ethnic groups and religious minorities in the province of Sistan and Baloochestan; In order to empower and enable children, youth, teachers and librarians the offers three workshops, as well.

According to the submitted plan to IBBY, first step of the project was to travel to the region, meet with local officials in order to observe the area, and estimate required equipment for establishing the libraries. This trip happened on October 29th, 2016, with Nahid Jabbari's help right after receiving the fund. Fortunately, school principals and local authorities were very helpful and supportive in finding appropriate spots for establishing the libraries. Local authorities committed to take primary steps to accelerate establishing the libraries. Steps such as painting the walls, separating the libraries from school laboratories and so on.

After visiting the region, the decision was made to choose Fatemieh Elementary School with 243 students and Osman zi Norin Elementary School with 250 students, in Koorsar region in town of Ghasr Ghand, instead of Saravani village's school with 70 students, as appropriate places for establishing the libraries. Also, instead of Effat Elementary school in Darookan village with 83 students, the newly founded Sad Jang Cultural Center will be equipped in order to provide service to all of the children and young adults of the village.

*The location point of the libraries on map of the region:

1. Library of Sad Ganj Cultural Center in Darookan village, 30 km away from Nik Shahr.
2. Library of Aboo Hanifeh Elementary school for boys, in Hit village, 8km away from the town of Ghasr Ghand.
3. Library of Hit Middle School for girls, in Hit village, 8km away from Ghasr Ghand.
4. Library of Fatemieh Elementary school for girls, and Osman Zi Norin Elementary School for boys, in Koorsar region in the town of Ghasr Ghand.
5. Libray of Imam Ali Middle School for boys in the village of Helenchkan, 4 km away from the town of Ghasr Ghand.

-The position of 5 mentioned villages on Iran map:



Darookan village:





Hit village :





Koorsar region in the town of Ghasr e ghand:





Helenchkan village:





Second report:

Immediately after the first trip and doing necessary research, purchasing books and other resources began. The purchase was made based on age, gender and living environment of children. 961 title books for each elementary school and 583 title books for each middle school, overall **4049** copies were purchased.

Volunteers will categorize these books according to Dewey classification (Dewey classification is appropriate for categorizing children's books). In the next step, other equipment such as book shelves, check in/check out material, geographic maps, papers and so on will be purchased and transferred to the region along with the books.

-Images related to preparing resources:





-Images related to transferring books and resources:





Bamdad Group's second trip happened on February 27th, 2017, in order to equip the libraries and hold workshops about scientific classification of books and other resources in order to facilitate accessing the books for people. Children, teachers and other interested individuals participated in these workshops. They did learn about Dewey classification and its advantages, and accordingly, practiced in classifying the books by categorizing them based on subjects such as: fiction, poetry, Script, Reference books, philosophy, phycology, religion, social sciences, natural sciences, the arts, biography, history, and geography. Then, they placed the books on the shelves based on Dewey classification.

-Images related to the workshop about Dewey classification:















- Images related to categorizing the books by participants:











-Images related to placement of the books on shelves:









The whole work from unloading the books, to placing them on the shelves and decorating the libraries have done by the participants. Workshop educators selected individuals among the participants to take on the responsibility of directing the library. These individuals have been selected based on their qualifications and abilities. The selected individuals trained at the end of the workshop to manage the work of the library such as: process of check in/check out, participatory management of the library, communication with project supervisors and so on.

-Images related to training of the library holders:







Achievements of staying for one or two days at each school:

- Stimulating curiosity and passion among the residents of the village.
- Participation of local community, specifically, children, adolescents and teachers.
- Participation of girls and women who had not have the possibility to take part in social and out of house activity. This facilitates overcoming obstacles of women's social participation as results of cultural restrictions.
- Discovering qualifications such as responsibility and management abilities in participants of workshops in order to hold and manage the libraries.
- Active participation of children and adolescents in all levels from training and establishing the libraries.
- Identifying interested volunteers for taking responsibility for holding and managing the library.

It is necessary to mention that selected volunteers will be in contact with project supervisors via social media and send their reports along with pictures of their work.

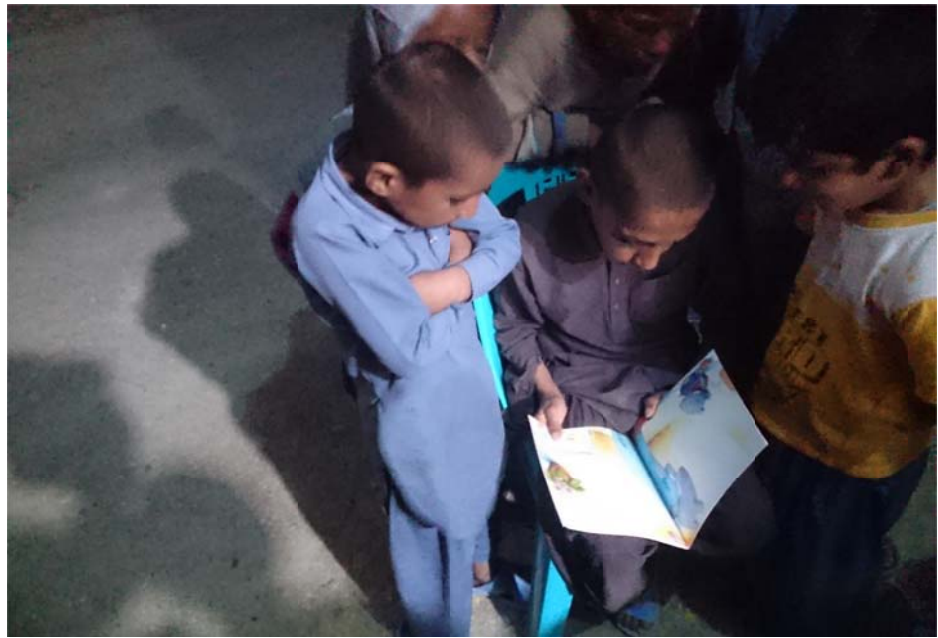
-Images related to stimulating curiosity and passion among the residents of the village:





-Images related to Participation of local community, specifically, children, adolescents and teachers:







-Images related to participation of girls and women:









-Images related to active participation of children and adolescents:









