



Performance Report 2024-25

This document provides a summary of SET's background and performance. For further details please visit our website <<http://thesetschool.org>>.

Background

Of many social needs, education is seen to be the most important pre-condition to transforming the lives of the less privileged members of society. However, some 24 million children of school-going age are not attending school in Pakistan. This, inevitably, leads to low literacy rates and high unemployment. The standards of our state schools made a poor start and have since deteriorated continuously. No one entity/organization can remedy the whole problem but, as individuals and groups, we can make a contributory effort. The out-of-school figure quoted is a recent one but matters were no better in 1998 when a small group of individuals established a school for the less privileged to educate their children at an affordable cost. Thus, Saran Educational Trust was founded to manage The SET School, starting with 8 students.

Wider Horizons

We aspire to impart not only good standard of education but also to develop our students for a better future. We take specific steps in this regard, such as:

- Teacher training to improve standards of teaching.
- We involve some of our alumni in counselling students about higher studies and careers.
- Good health is crucial for developing youth. Healthcare is expensive in Pakistan, prohibitively so for some segments. A healthcare screening facility was introduced in 2024 whereby every student is screened by a qualified doctor annually for underlying or undetected health issues. Notable findings are conveyed to respective parents. Screening is free of cost to parents.
- We attach great importance to education of girls. Apart from empowering their lives, as future mothers they will have a positive influence on education of their children.

All such initiatives require resources but we believe they are a well worthwhile investment in our children.

Legal Status

SET was originally registered with the Registrar's Office, Gulberg Town, Karachi. Subsequently, it became mandatory for it to be registered with the Government of Sindh under the Sindh Trust Act, 2020. This obligation was met in June 2023. SET is also accredited by Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy, the country's leading certification body for charities. The accreditation signifies that good governance standards are observed and gives prospective donors confidence that their support will be well used. The Federal Board of Revenue recognizes SET as a NPO, enabling local donors to claim tax relief under prevailing rules.



Operations

The SET School's operations started with a campus in Federal B Area of Karachi. The operations were shifted to a purpose-built facility in Gwalior Society, Karachi. In 2022 this campus was expanded with completion of a new block. Most privately run schools in Karachi operate from residential premises, which limits the educational experience for children. SET, therefore, has been moving towards purpose-built facilities which enable it to provide playing/ assembly areas as well as computer laboratories and libraries.

The school is open to children of all backgrounds, ethnic, religious or sect. All classes are offered, graduating with Matriculation (the Secondary School Certificate) examination of the Board of Secondary Education, Karachi. There is clear objective to prepare students for higher education as well as a successful life. Admissions are based on tests, among other criteria, but the emphasis is not to select only on academic ability in order to serve our target market better. Considering this fact and the background of students, the school considers that it delivers good results (a summary of the latest results is given later). Its alumni have gone on to leading higher education establishments, including Dow University of Health Sciences, Institute of Business Administration, NED Engineering University, Sir Syed University, Bahria University and Karachi University. A few have gained admission to foreign institutions of higher education.

Financial assistance is given to those in need to make fees affordable for them. Of course, the overall extent of such assistance is constrained by available resources. The cost of financial assistance is met out of donations. Currently, donations account for about 31% of total revenue. However, with the growing operations, funding sources need to be expanded. Our policy seeks to ensure that over-dependence on charitable giving is not created, the cost to parents remains affordable, parents remain invested in their children's development and we are able to cater for a larger number of children.

The total student strength is 775. In the long-term, it is hoped to utilize additional land owned by SET in Gwalior Society for another purpose-built building.

Academic Achievements of Students

Given the economic and social background of our student intake, we believe we provide a good standard of education, as evidenced by aggregated matriculation results, shown below:

Secondary School Certificate Examination Results	Percentage of Entrants Achieving Grades:		
	A-1	A	B
2009**-2024	39%	35%	17%

** 2009 was the first year that our students appeared for matriculation exam.



Governance

The medium and longer-term objectives are the expansion of operations and donor base. In order to achieve these objectives, SET is constantly working on strengthening governance, bringing in best practices (e.g. documenting procedures and policies, ensuring compliance etc.) and improving communications with stakeholders. To these ends, the following represent ongoing programme of development. Good progress has been made, as evidenced by our PCP certification.

Administrative Set-Up

A Board of Trustees (BOT), comprising of 14 trustees, is responsible for overall supervision of the Trust. The BOT meets annually to review performance, elects office holders, appoints the Executive Committee (EC), approves audited financial statements, approves capital expenditure etc. Trustees provide their services voluntarily, claiming no compensation or expenses.

The EC is responsible for day-to-day matters. It meets regularly and proceedings are minuted. The Committee reviews and progresses a wide range of matters, including:

- Action points from previous meetings.
- Monthly reports (management accounts, donations etc.).
- Approval of annual revenue and capital expenditure budgets.
- Regulatory approvals (adoption of minutes, audited financial statements for Board of Trustees' approval, capital expenditure etc.).
- Formulation and adoption of policy statements.

The EC comprises of office holders and co-opted members. We are fortunate to have the services of successful professionals, experienced and young. The list of members is given below:

1. Syed Sadiq Hussain – Managing Trustee
2. Syed Saeed Reza – Deputy Managing Trustee
3. Jawad Yousuf – Secretary
4. Yawar Abbas – Joint Secretary
5. Syed Firoz Haider – Treasurer
6. Syed Niaz Husain – Member
7. Arif Kazmi – Member
8. Syed Mohammad Ali – Member
9. Mehreena Khatoon – Trust Administrator

School operations are the responsibility of the School Management Committee, comprising of trustees, school principal, administrator and senior school staff. It meets regularly to consider all matters relating to day-to-day operation of both campuses and reports to the EC.



Financial Statements

SET's fiscal year runs from 1st July to 30th June the following year. The annual financial statements are audited by Messrs. Dawood Associates., Chartered Accountants. The statements, together with the audit report, are posted on our website.

Communications with Stakeholders

Communications with stakeholders are very important in order to maintain their confidence and support. This is done by direct contact and through our website. In keeping with the modern trend, social media activities have been stepped up and are being developed further.

Cost-Benefit of Charitable Work

So far, eleven batches have matriculated from the school. Many of our alumni have made their way into the premier universities of Karachi and other institutes of higher learning.

Currently, we are providing financial assistance to 309 (40% of total strength) students out of 775 out of which 120 students (15%) receive full fee waiver. Financial assistance (FA) is given on a need basis. Students receive a fee waiver ranging from 10% to 100%. The need is assessed by a committee headed by the Principal.

Most importantly, our efforts to educate the less privileged, instils a culture of educations for future generations in families which have not always been committed to the cause.

Acknowledgement

We are indebted to all our donors, friends and staff for more than 26 years of invaluable support in a very worthwhile endeavour. We believe education can transform lives and, indeed we have witnessed this. However, our achievements are small-scale and with your growing support, we wish to take it to an entirely higher level.

Submitted by:

Jawad Yousuf

Secretary

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