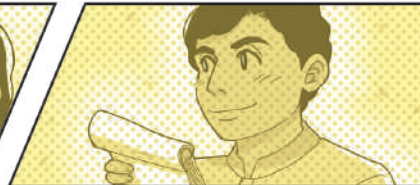


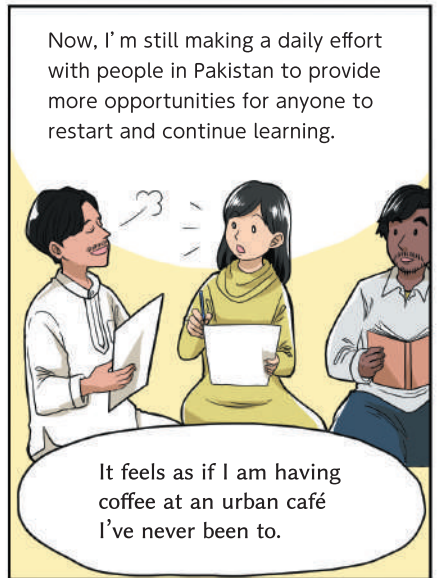
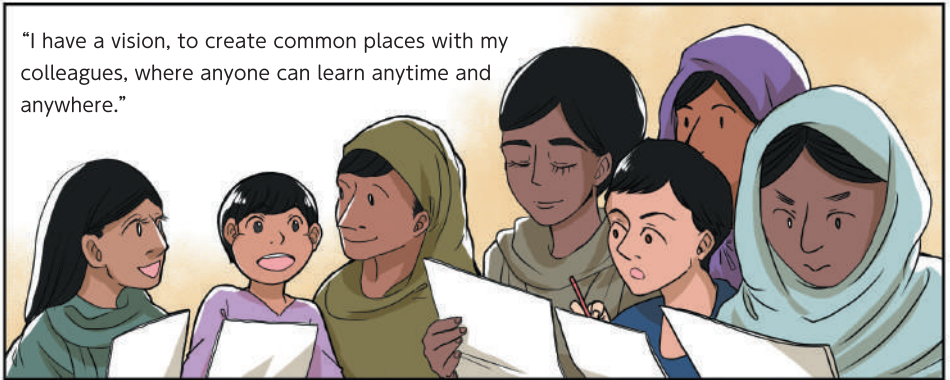
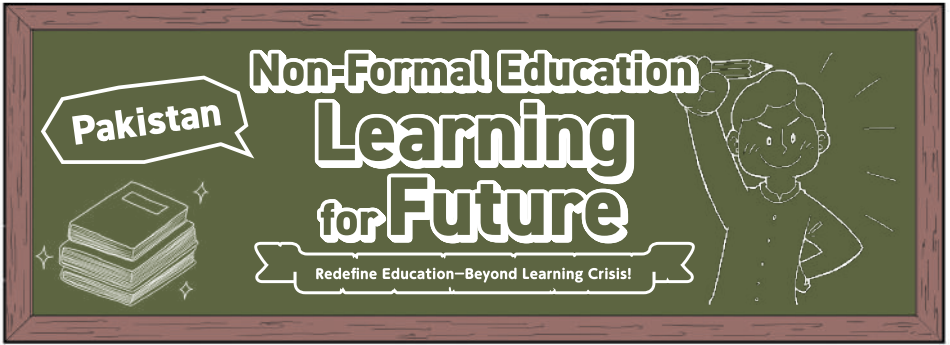
Pakistan

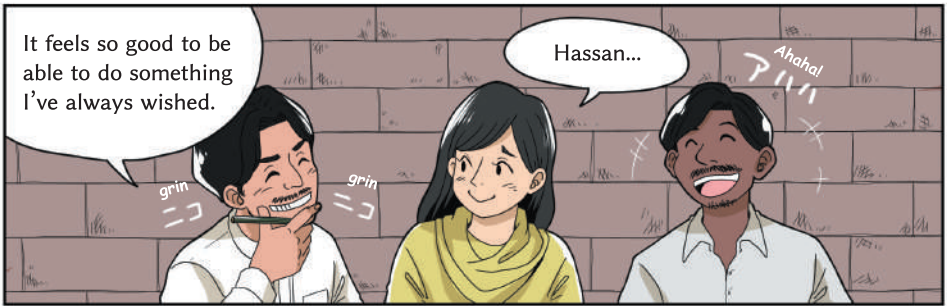
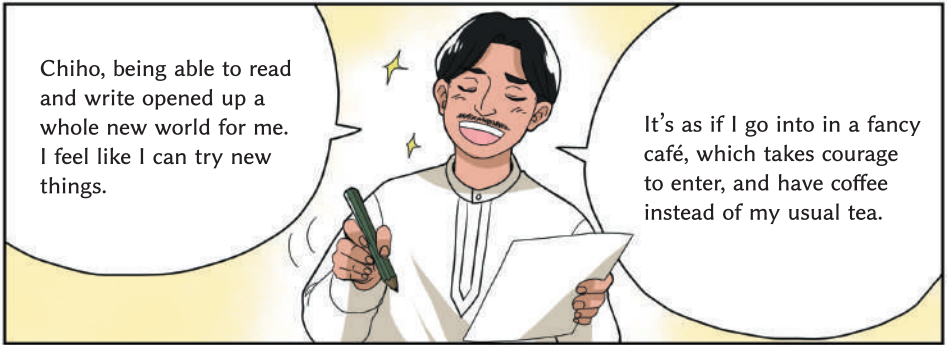
Project History (manga version)

Non-Formal Education Learning for Future

Redefine Education—Beyond Learning Crisis!







The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has been working to improve Non-Formal Education sector for more than 15 years in Pakistan. With the Pakistani government, JICA aims to develop a flexible and needs-based educational system that enables out-of-school children, youth, and adults to have learning opportunities, by enhancing management and delivery mechanism. It also provides support to develop curriculum and teaching & learning materials to meet the people's daily needs.

This is a story of the challenges and achievements of the people involved in this project.

The Overview of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Total area 796,000km²

Capital Islamabad

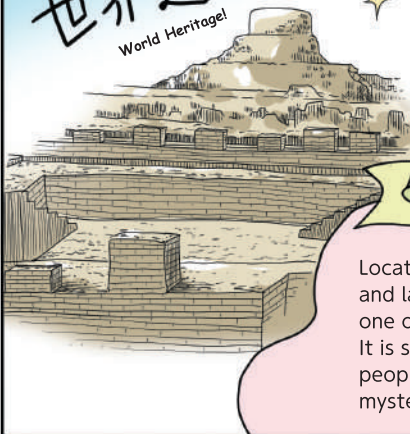
Languages

- Urdu (National language)
- English (Official language)

Surrounded by beautiful mountains and blessed with fertile land

世界遺産!
World Heritage!

The beautiful flag!

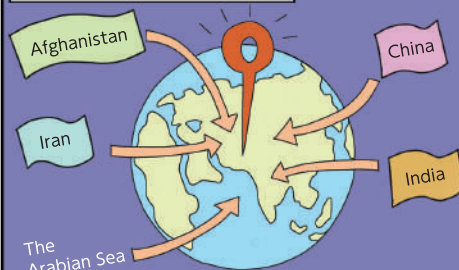


Mohenjo-Daro Archaeological Site
「モヘンジョダロ」考古遺跡

2500 B.C. - 1800 B.C.

Located in the lower Indus River basin, it is the oldest and largest urban site of the Indus civilization, which is one of the four major civilizations in the world. It is said to have been inhabited by nearly 40,000 people, and its collapse in a short period is one of the mysteries... This country has a rich history.

Where is Pakistan?



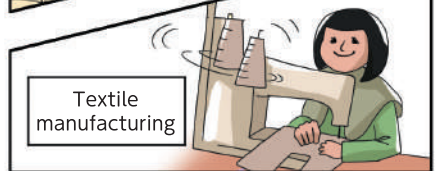
Surrounded by various countries, a crossroads of civilization

The major industries are:

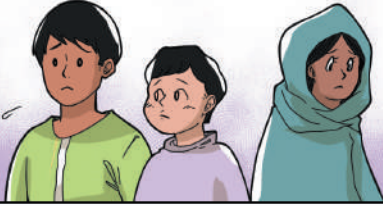
Agriculture



Textile manufacturing



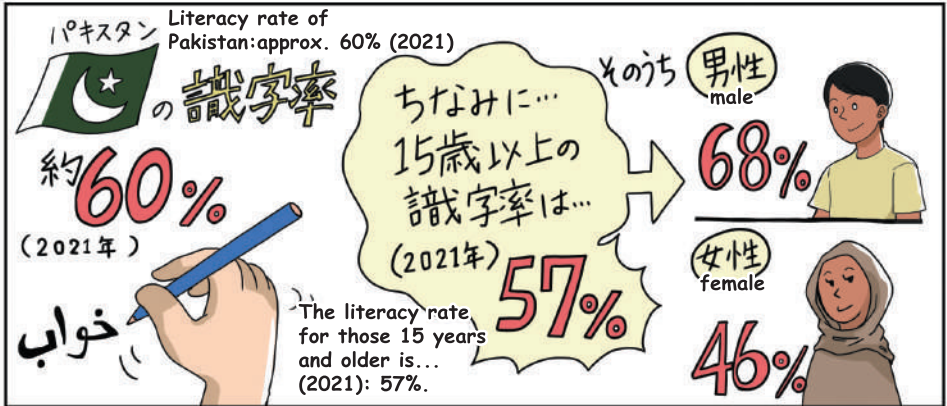
A large number of children cannot go to school due to various reasons.



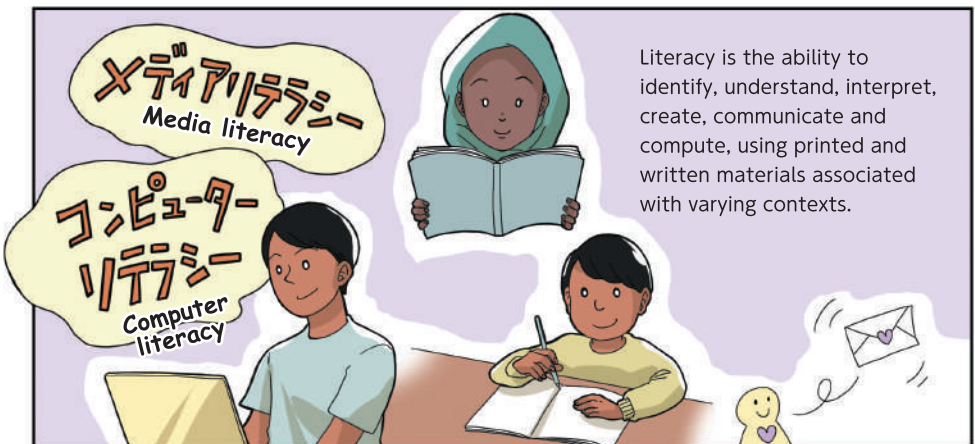
And low

“literacy rate.”

This is the key word in this story.



What does “literacy” mean?



It is reported that 20% of the people in Pakistan are living in poverty.

In rural areas, it is common to have six or seven children per family,



so to help the family financially, the first son has more opportunities, as well as the boys over the girls, to go to school.



Out-of-school children work for domestic help.

Or they are daily workers,



selling things at street vendors,



or working as a housekeeper.



Pakistan is one of the biggest cotton producers in the world; the whole family gathers to pick during the harvest season. There is this idea that children, especially girls, with their small and delicate hands, are best suited for picking cotton, so girls are sent out for 1-2 months during the harvest season.



In the meantime, classes go on relentlessly, so when they return to school after the harvest, it's hard to catch up with classes...



There are inequalities in nutrition as well as education. It is estimated that at least one child in a family is malnourished and stops attending school because they cannot afford school uniforms, shoes, or stationery.

Nowadays, more parents understand the importance of education and desire their children to learn as much as possible.



However, nearly 40% of those parents can't read and write,



so they can't assist with their children's homework.

Poverty makes domestic help a priority, and as a result, children give up on continuing school.



The probability of dropping out of primary school before graduating is nearly 50%, which is very high.

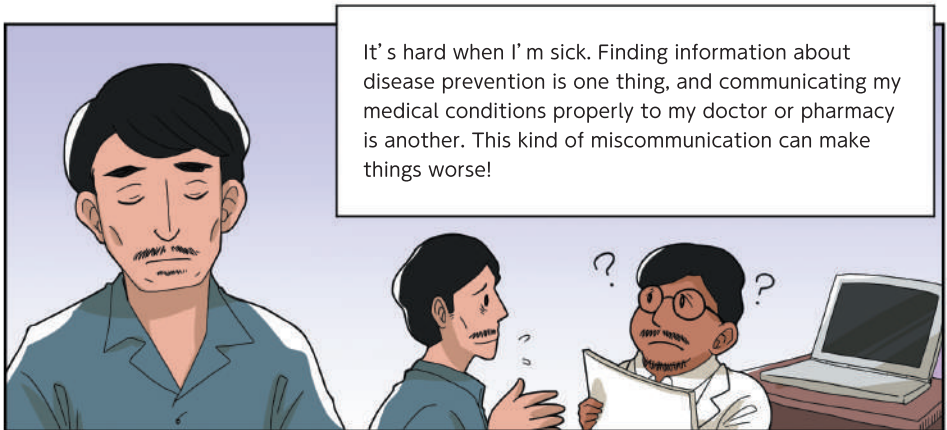
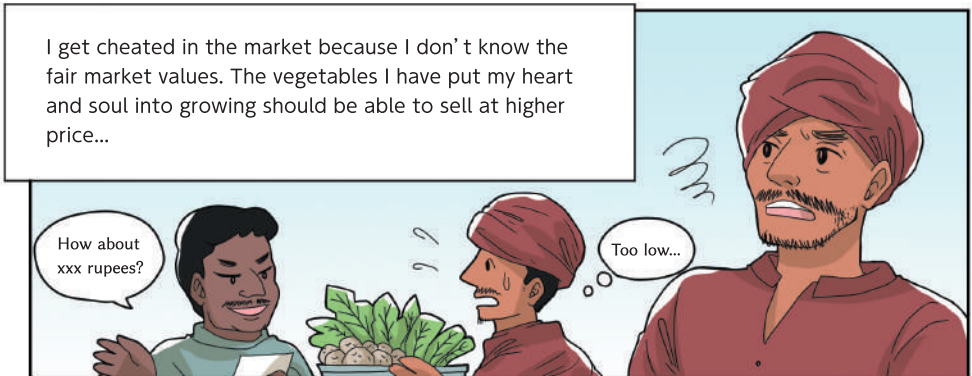
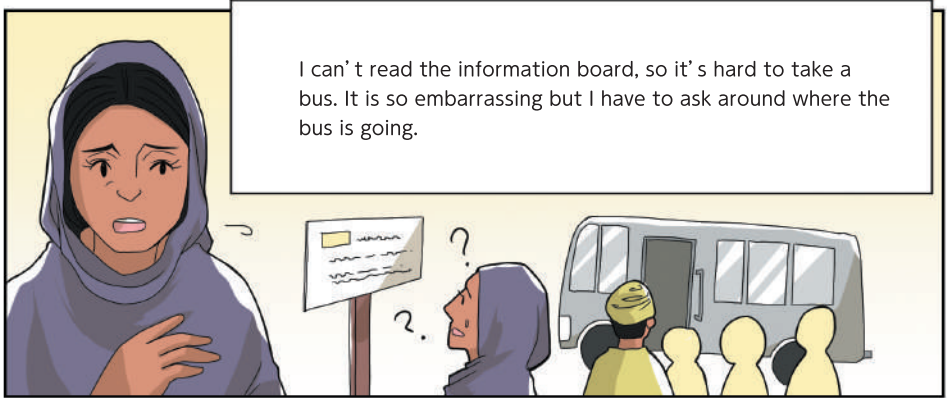
Despite these challenges, Pakistan is a culturally rich country with full of potential. For instance...

Poetry is a tradition in their "oral culture," in which people enjoy composing their feelings in verse; everyone expresses their feelings and thoughts to each other through poems in daily life.



People who express beautifully and in rhyme about daily events, the richness of life, and the beauty of nature are respected, regardless of their education or age.

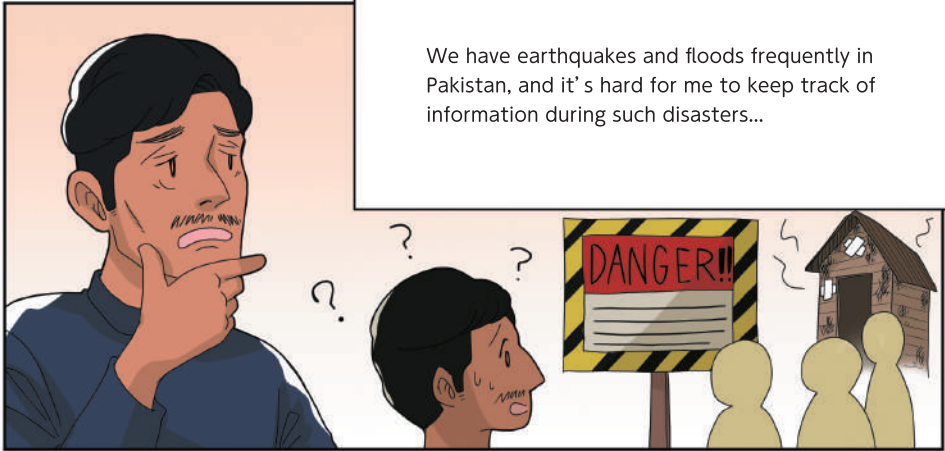
There are so many obstacles that people who have low literacy skills run into in their daily lives.



Since I can't read the prescription or the medicine labels, I've made life-threatening mistakes such as taking more pills than the prescribed dose or giving my child a bottle of pesticide thinking that's medicine...



We have earthquakes and floods frequently in Pakistan, and it's hard for me to keep track of information during such disasters...

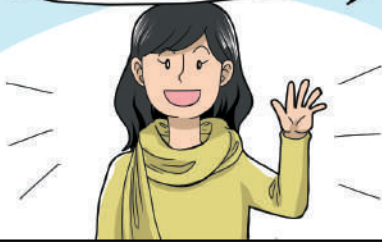


Social security, loans, elections... many opportunities to participate in society are deprived...



These are the kind of problems that low- and semi-literate people face.

Please allow me to introduce myself, Chiho, quickly. I'm a member of the project to improve Pakistan's educational system and the main character of this manga.



I never thought I would be involved in international cooperation when I was a student, and doing it as my life's work...



I became interested in Asia after traveling around Asian countries and ended up finding a job there.



The organization where I was employed was not aiming to "help" an Asian country in need of cooperation!



Let's learn each other and work together!

We started our work based on the idea of "disseminate good picture books for children and youth".



But through these activities what I learned was...



the fact that many people, even adults, could not read and write particularly in rural areas.

So it was decided to create educational materials for those,



and I became familiar with the word "literacy".

Later, I got to learn more about "Non-Formal Education" at UNESCO, through creating primary education and literacy manuals and materials as well as activities at a community learning center. The values that became the essence of my activities were developed.

It was the Asian friends I worked with



who taught me the value and essence of "Non-Formal Education" and "literacy".

Then I found JICA.

I'd love to work in non-formal education!

I want to turn my ideas into reality!

At a time when I could not let go of the thoughts...

This is it!

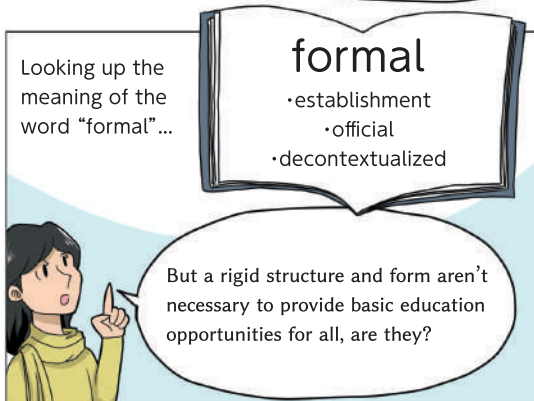
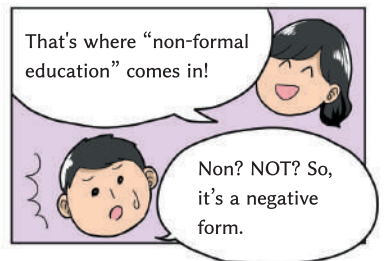
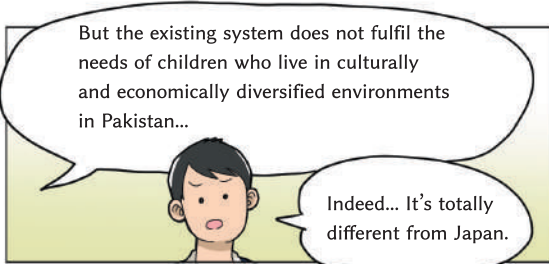
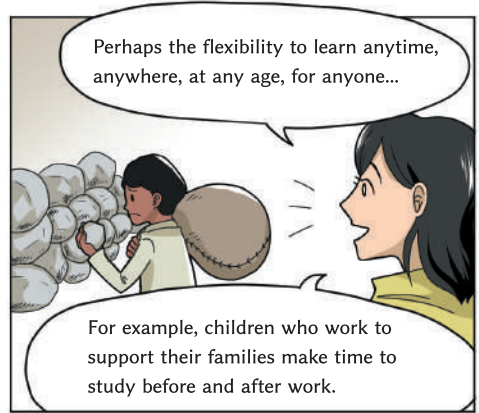
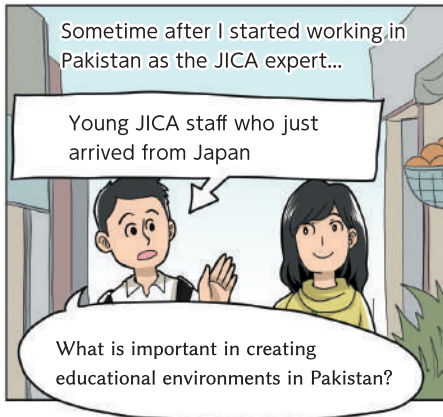
The Japan International Cooperation Agency

JICA

Hiring for a specialist in Pakistan!!

I immediately applied for the position, and I was accepted.

In 2008, I left for Pakistan, where JICA assigned me.



Right!
Diversity is the key!



Besides, in a regular formal school, students are divided by grade, but in non-formal education, people of different ages and background often study together at their own pace.



This way, they support each other, creating a synergistic effect which helps them learn more.

I got it! So “non-formal education” is a part of the entire education system



which is “flexible and meeting the needs of learners”!



Exactly! We don't wait for them to come to school,

but we go out to those who need education! It is also important to know what learning contents and skills may help their life in the future.

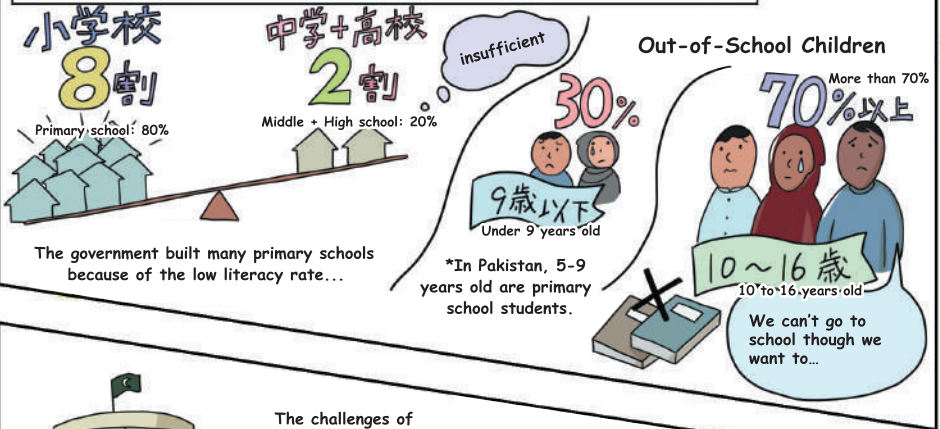
As each of them grows, society will improve, too.



That's right. I believe “education” is there to encourage that kind of social change.

The project began to expand both in terms of content and geographical scope. It included promoting diverse learning styles, improving learning environments, developing various curriculum and teaching & learning materials, and making non-formal education policies, etc.

The issues related to education in Pakistan were:



The challenges of out-of-school children...

Despite the large number of children and youths over the age of 10, there needs to be more recognition.

JICA worked on finding solutions.

They are becoming socially acceptable!

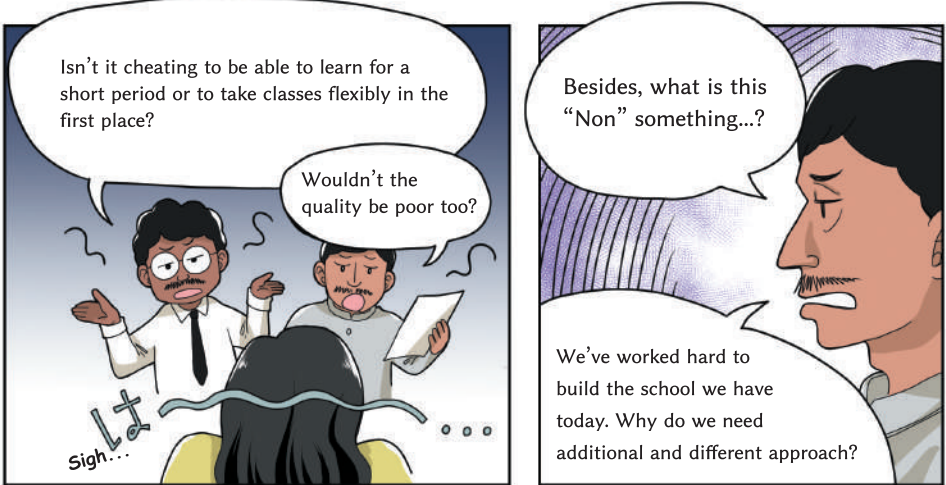
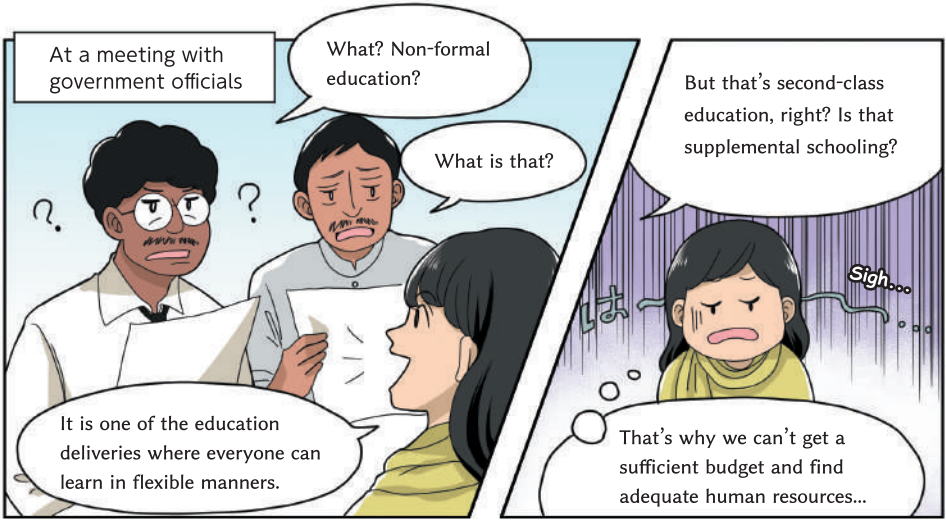


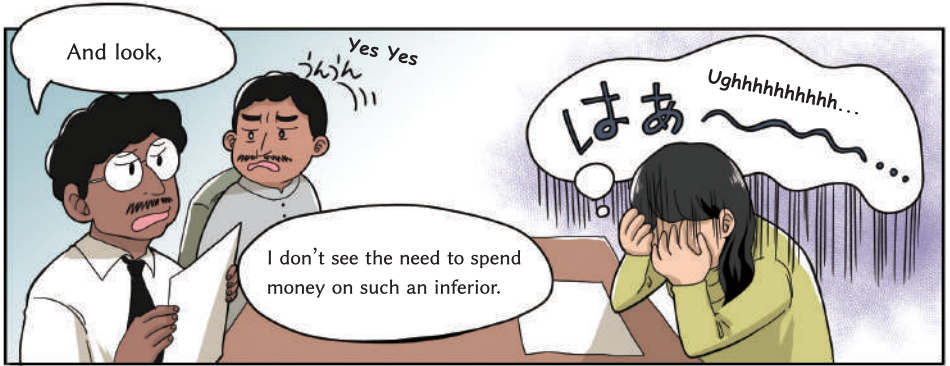
具体的でしっかりした制度

concrete and solid system

Nonformal learning
ノンフォーマル教育

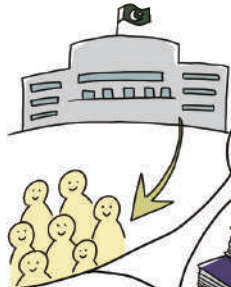
Learners can learn in shorter duration through the accelerated learning method even after school age!





1

Develop policies and other frameworks!



2

Make quality and needs-based curriculum and teaching & learning materials!



3

Create Proactive Teams!
(the government, development partners, etc.)



They can learn in a short duration while dealing with other aspects of their lives!

SPEED!

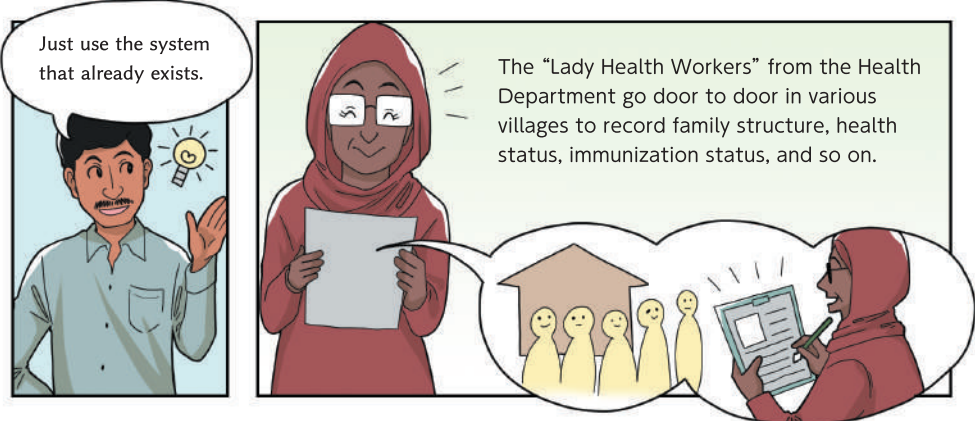
Accelerated Learning Program and learner-centred teaching method were a useful tool to learn in a short period of time.

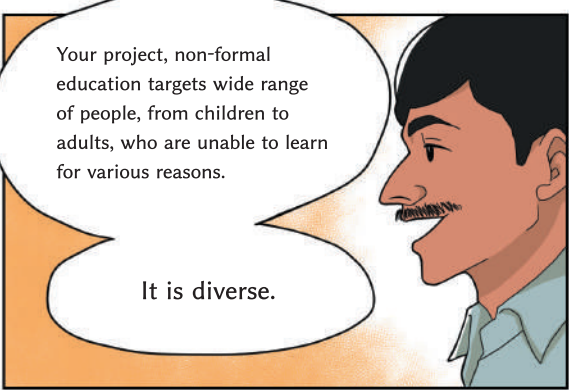
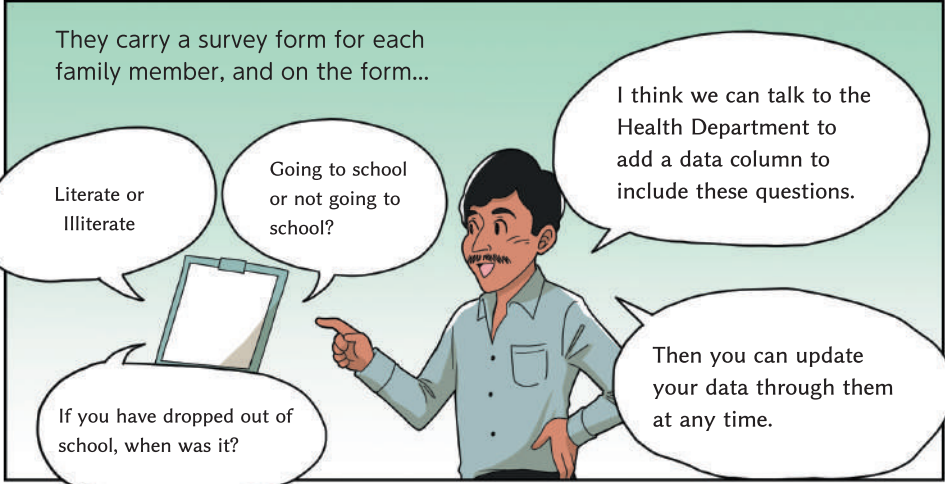


It became one of the most significant aspects of non-formal education.



This project was not something what the JICA and I accomplished on our own. It was made possible with so many people bringing what they could do to the table and worked together to make it happen.





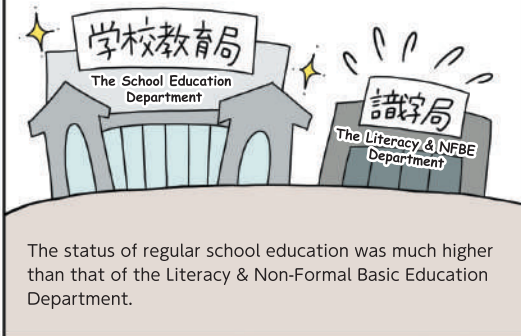
Indeed, we needed his commitment on this project. Abid understood the purpose of this project well and was passionate about it. He was good at drawing out the interests of those he spoke with and connecting them to our needs. He had many friends, networks, and excellent communication skills. He was decisive and willing to try first to achieve our goals.

Hassib Sahib*—a man who has been a great help to the project.



*“Sahib” means “Mr.” with respect in Pakistan.

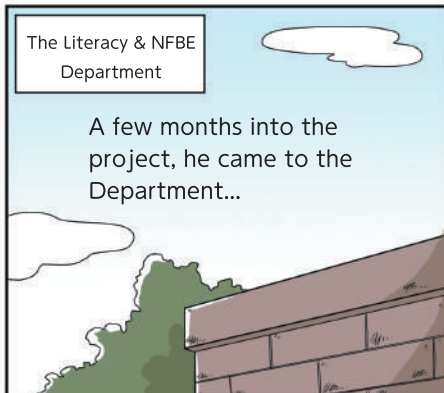
The Literacy Department in Punjab is an independent department from the School Education Department and was newly established in 2002. Departments related to the economy had higher importance compared to the Literacy Department in Pakistan.



The status of regular school education was much higher than that of the Literacy & Non-Formal Basic Education Department.

The Literacy & NFBE Department

A few months into the project, he came to the Department...

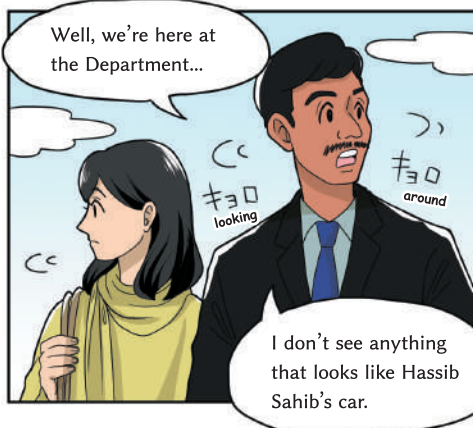


Well, we're here at the Department...

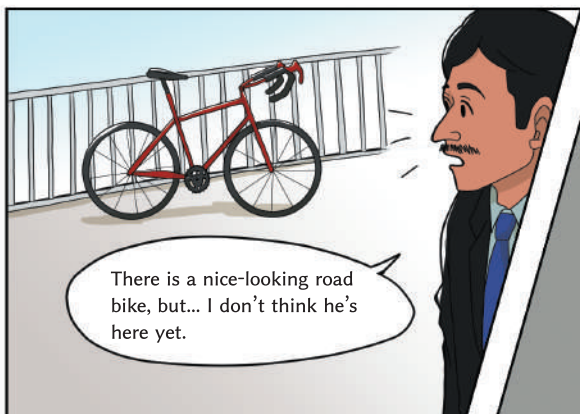
キョウ looking

キョウ around

I don't see anything that looks like Hassib Sahib's car.

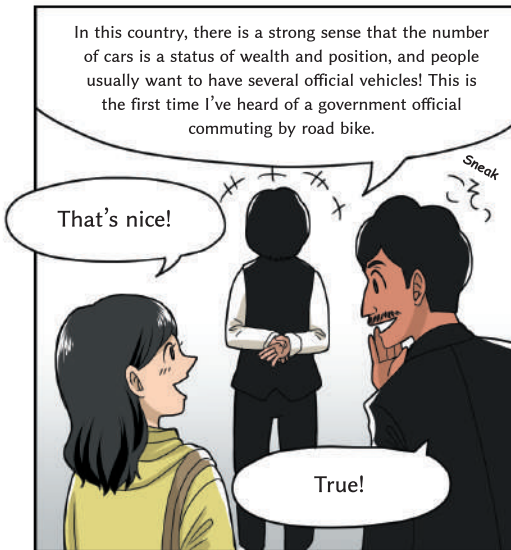


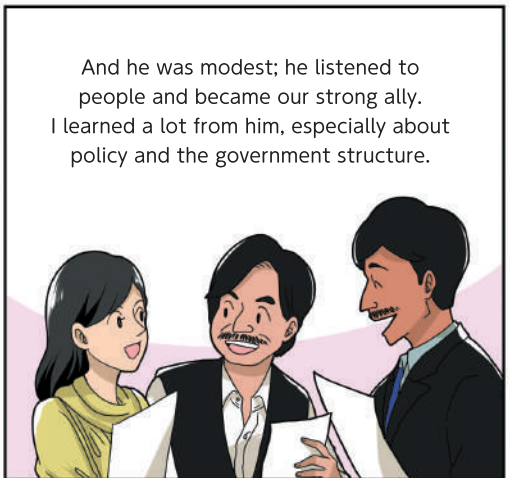
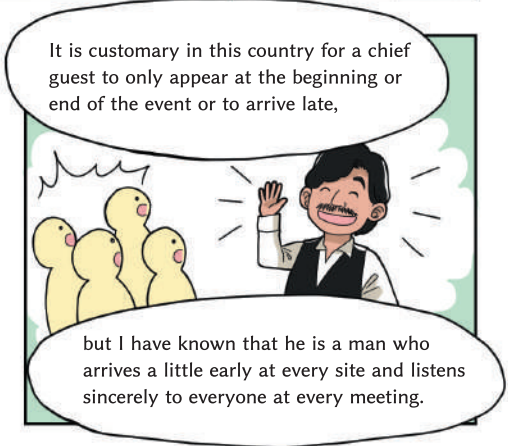
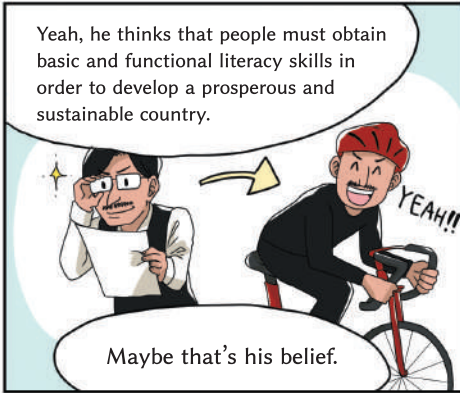
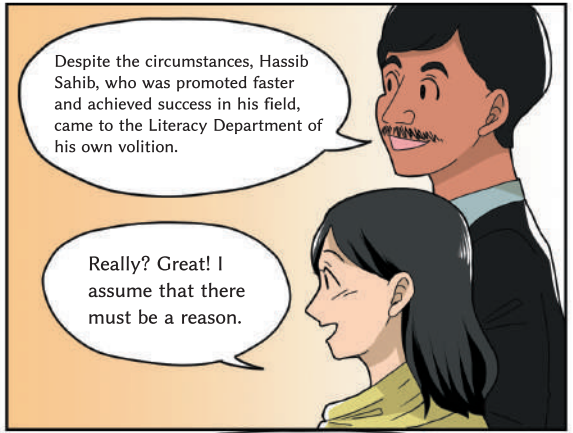
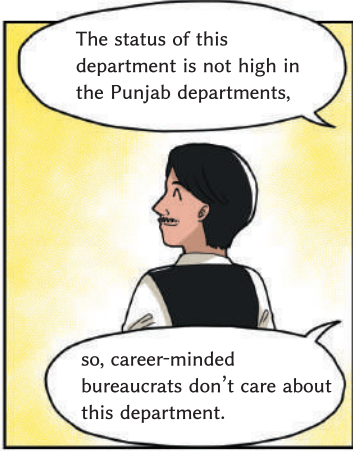
There is a nice-looking road bike, but... I don't think he's here yet.



Let's wait inside...







The project proceeded with a concerted effort...

Sindh Province
سندھ



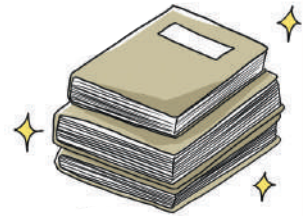
A development partner was planning to open a school for out-of-school children.



Punjab, Province
پنجاب

The Accelerated Learning curriculum and materials were to be used.

We invited them to look at our activities.



Yes!
This approach sounds fascinating!
Let's do it together!!

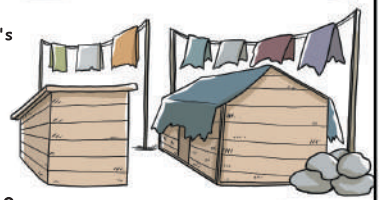
They delayed the opening of the school for six months longer than planned until the materials for the Sindh Province were ready.



The representative of the development partner



Children in Karachi's slum areas also received these materials.

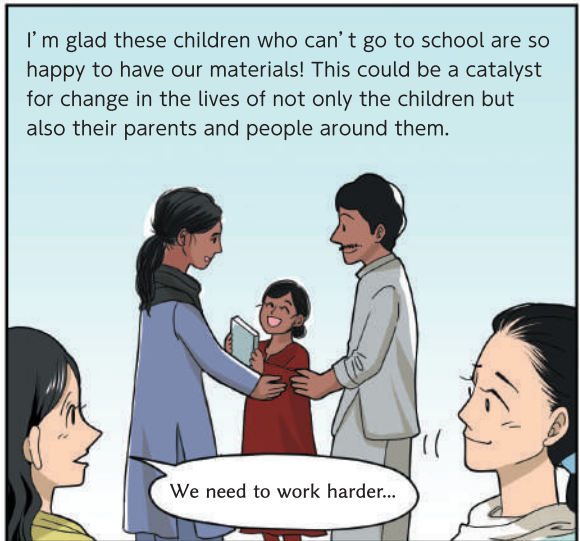
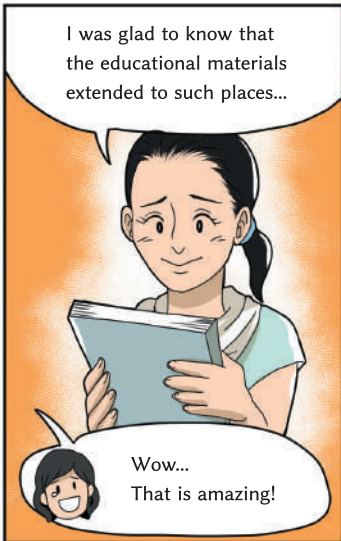
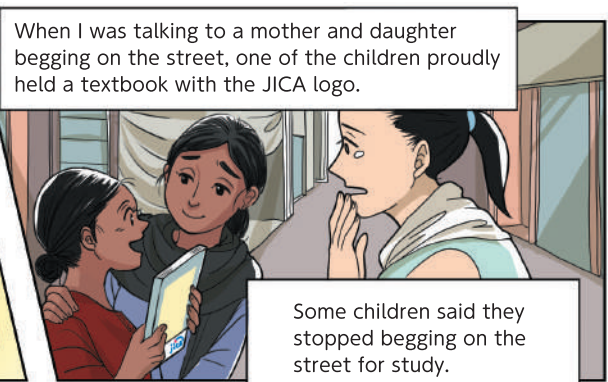


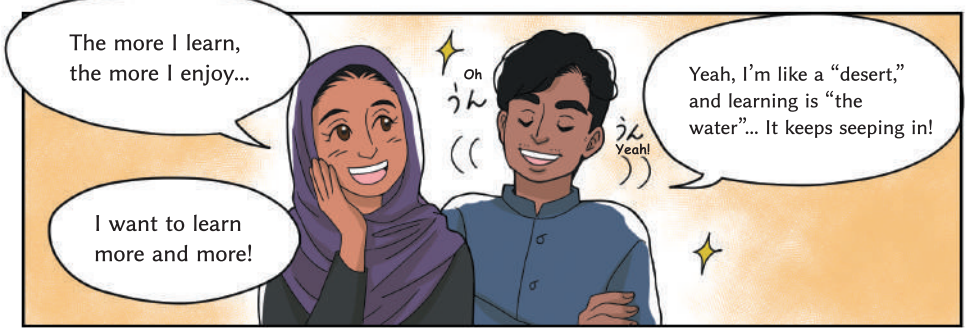
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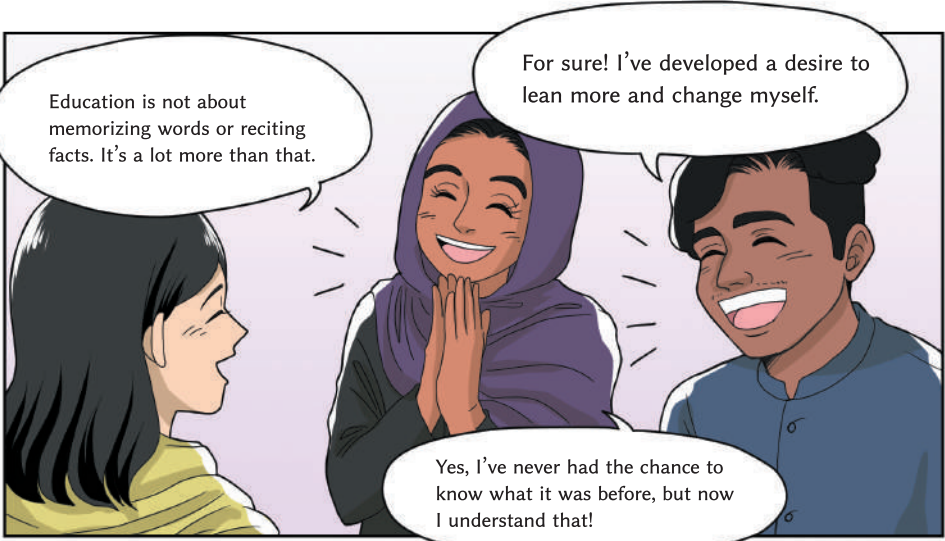
After we were well prepared, we provided the materials to over 10 thousand children through their channel!



*Michiko is a researcher in education for ethnic minorities in Karachi.

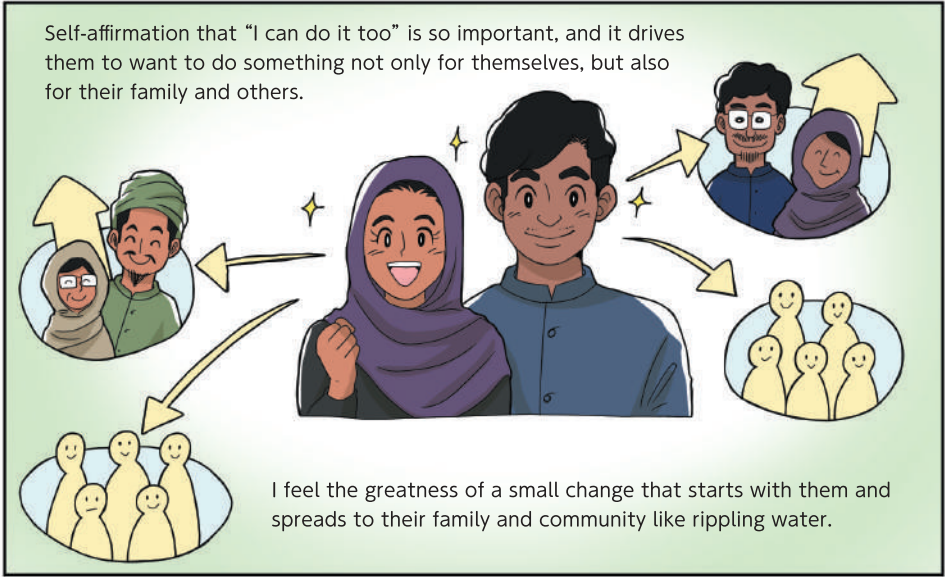




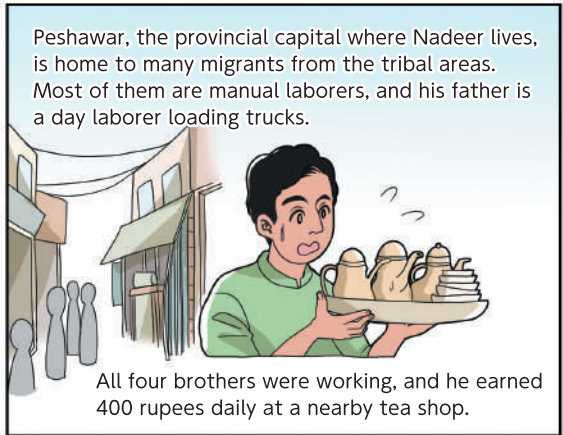
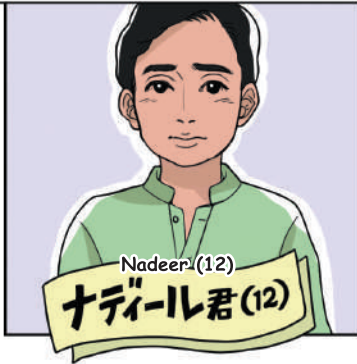


I felt so rewarded.

Their words were the culminated answers to what education should look like and what direction we must be taking.

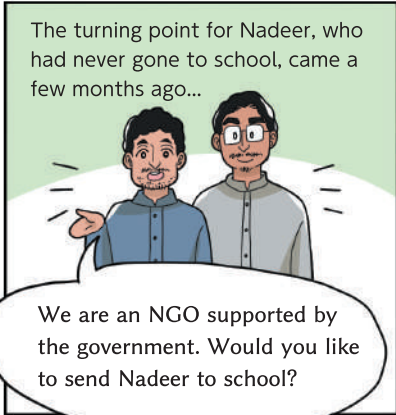


Here are various examples of such issues surrounding literacy in Pakistan.



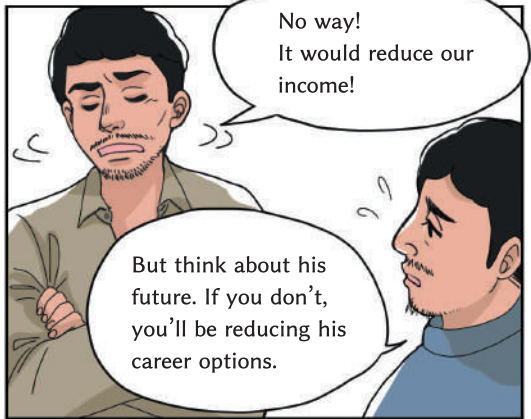
Peshawar, the provincial capital where Nadeer lives, is home to many migrants from the tribal areas. Most of them are manual laborers, and his father is a day laborer loading trucks.

All four brothers were working, and he earned 400 rupees daily at a nearby tea shop.



The turning point for Nadeer, who had never gone to school, came a few months ago...

We are an NGO supported by the government. Would you like to send Nadeer to school?



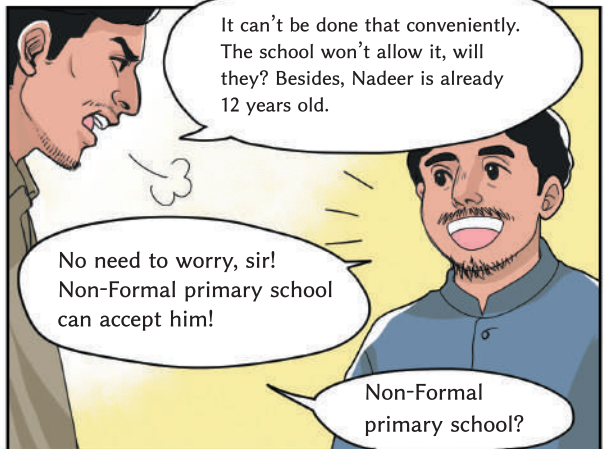
No way!
It would reduce our income!

But think about his future. If you don't, you'll be reducing his career options.



I know, but I don't have the money.

Then, how about going to school in the morning and working in the afternoon?




It can't be done that conveniently. The school won't allow it, will they? Besides, Nadeer is already 12 years old.

No need to worry, sir!
Non-Formal primary school can accept him!


Non-Formal primary school?

Yes, even children past primary school age can learn,



and earn a primary school certificate in about 3 years.

The textbook that the provincial government created with JICA has a lot of useful information for Nadeer's daily life.




Nadeer is a math whizz! Is there a chance to develop what he's good at?

Yes, sir!
He will learn and grow there!




Besides studying, he'll learn health and sanitation and life skills for being a good person! He will surely grow up to your amazement!

His salary was reduced to 200 rupees due to the reduced working hours, but he was able to learn in school.




His parents became more understanding and supportive, hoping he could get a better job by getting education certificates.

And now Nadeer can help keep the store's bills and books.



His colleagues at work appreciate him, and he is gaining more and more confidence.

That is not all. He now understands when customers order in Urdu or English, and his scope of interest is expanding.



He wants to get a primary school certificate as soon as possible, move on to middle school and beyond, and even dream of starting his own business someday.

14 years old, Nadia studies in a Non-Formal school with her four brothers and sisters.



Where did your dad move to the fishing port of Karachi from?



My dad came here from Bangladesh when he was little.

I have 10 brothers and sisters; my three older brothers work in a butcher shop and an embroidery factory.



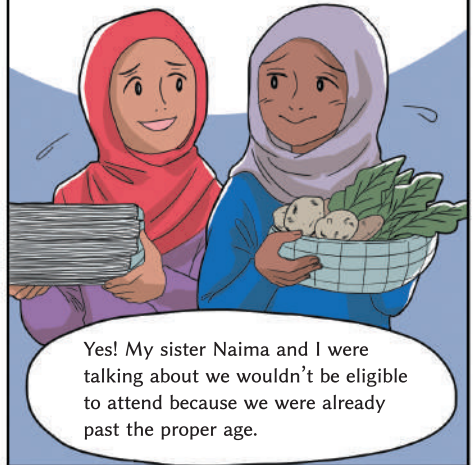
We never went to school because our area had no schools.

I see...and then you found this Non-Formal school.



Yes! So glad I found this place because it's in my neighborhood!

And you all started going together, right?



Yes! My sister Naima and I were talking about we wouldn't be eligible to attend because we were already past the proper age.

Then we heard that the school is also for people who are overage to attend a regular school, and everyone in the family was overjoyed!



Right now, five of us, from my 18-year-old sister to my 11-year-old sister, are studying in the same classroom.

Good for you!



I'm almost done with the 3rd-4th grade level of primary school.

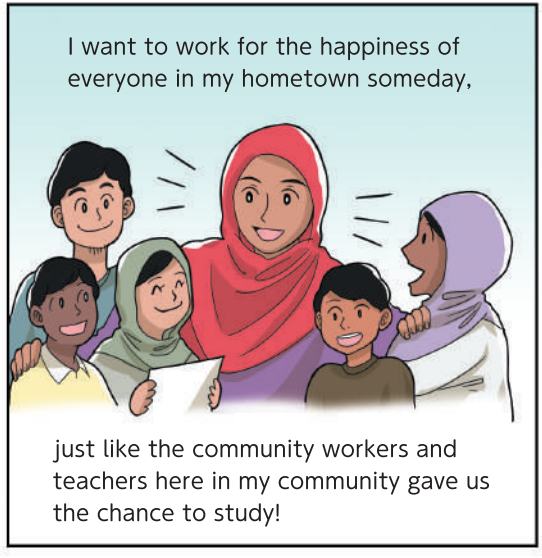
Our two younger brothers are looking forward to going to school too.

What's your dream for the future?



I want to become a social worker to help people in my community!

I want to work for the happiness of everyone in my hometown someday,



just like the community workers and teachers here in my community gave us the chance to study!

2022年、夏の洪水... 国土の1/3が被害に...



In 2022, the summer floods damaged 1/3 of the country's land and approx. 3.5 million children were affected...

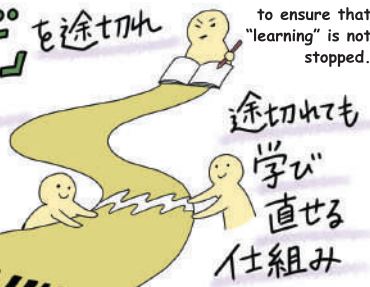


約350万人の子供たちが被害を受けることに...

プロジェクトでは
ノンフォーマル教育における
経験を活かし、

The project utilizes the experience in non-formal education to ensure that "learning" is not stopped.

「学び」を途切れさせない



A system that allows you to relearn even if there are interruptions.

Functional literacy = literacy



Income generation



Rebuilding Lives for Recovery



Hygiene



アラマイクバル放送大学

Teachers are also proud to receive the "Non-Formal Education Teacher Training Certificate".

Distance learning universities from all over Pakistan.



コース学習をサポートする
学習センター1000以上

Number of study centers supporting course study: more than 1,000 nationwide

ノンフォーマル教育

Providing essential education opportunities for out-of-school youth.

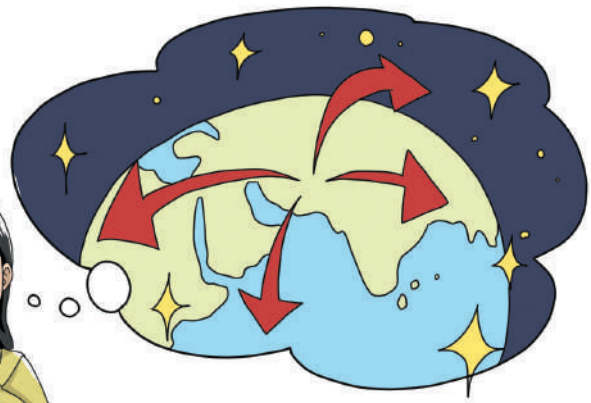
The federal and provincial governments recognize it.



I am working on development of the Middle-Tech scheme.



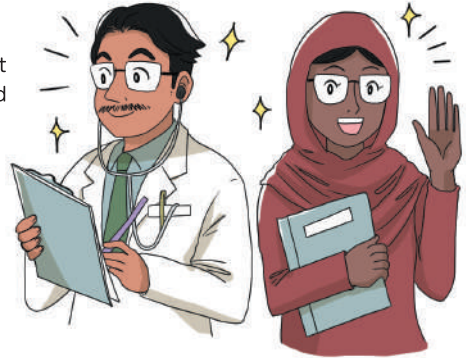
What I hope as a JICA expert...
I would like to see the flexible
and needs-based approach in
non-formal education spread
outside Pakistan, including in
Japan.



Creating an environment
for learning at any age...



I want to see the confident
faces of those who learned
there.



learn

We don't want anyone to give up on
learning, which is why we want to continue
creating places to learn.





The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) aims to promote international cooperation and provide assistance to developing countries, as a sole Japanese governmental agency in charge of Official Development Assistance (ODA) implementation. “Leading the World with Trust” as its vision, JICA, with its partners, will take the lead in forging bonds of trust across the world, aspiring for a free, peaceful and prosperous world where people can hope for a better future and explore their diverse potentials.

The Non-Formal Education Project in Pakistan

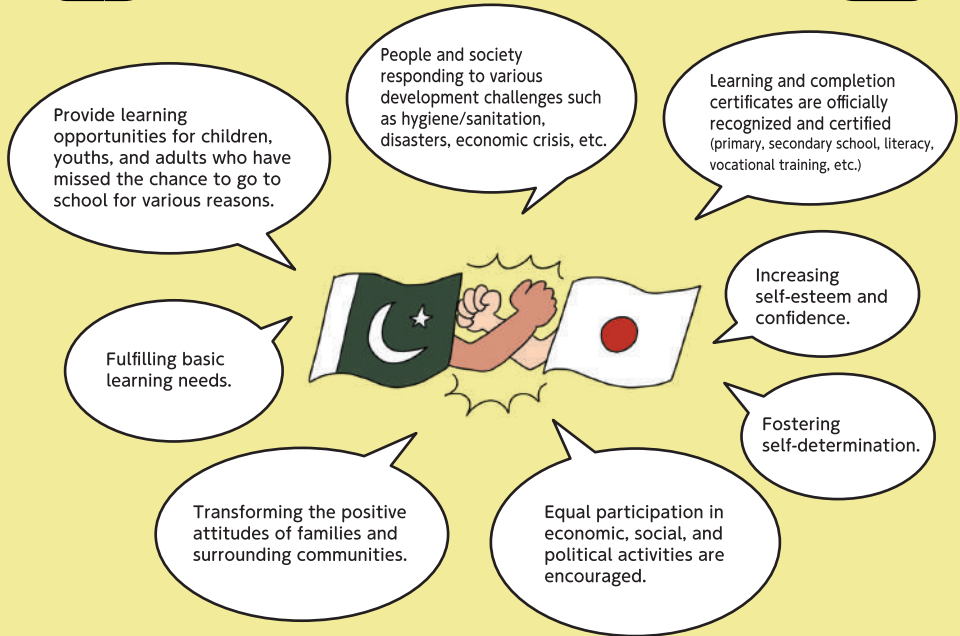
The literacy rate in Pakistan for those aged 15 and over is 57% (46% for women and 68% for men) (2021), one of the lowest groups in the world. In addition, the number of out-of-school children in Pakistan is high, especially among girls, and there is an urgent need to expand educational opportunities. Non-formal education (NFE) is a practical approach to solving this problem. It provides a learning environment in or near the community where the children live, and the necessary costs are low. JICA has been supporting NFE in Punjab since 2004, and in 2015, the targeted areas have been expanding. JICA has positioned NFE as an alternative approach for children who cannot enjoy the opportunities of conventional schooling and for adolescents and adults who have missed out on such opportunities and supports the government's efforts to strengthen the quality of education in the country.



For more information
please check this out!



The Impact of AQAL Activities and Non-Formal Education



The Introduction of JICA's Non-Formal Education Project

There is a way to start learning or relearning “anytime, anywhere, anyone, at any age.” This Non-Formal Education system provides learning opportunities for those who want a second chance. In the past, it was often regarded as “second-rate education” compared to public education, and it started with no funding, human resources, or even trust. Gradually, they gained encouraging allies to work with them on the project and developed an educational system that enables out-of-school children, youth, and adults to learn and participate in society, as well as alternative and integrated learning packages with curriculum, teaching & learning materials and assessment tools. As a result, the project has successfully expanded to the Federal and all provincial governments of Pakistan.

I got it! So “non-formal education” is a part of the entire education system which is “flexible and meeting the needs of learners”!



The Collaboration Between JICA, Government, and Civil Society

Social Development and Economic Foundations
Fostering a society where diverse people can live together



AQAL Project

Providing learning and qualifications to support various people in making their dreams come true

Transgender
Girls and women in rural/ remote areas
Working children/youth



Ethnic and religious minorities
Refugees/Stateless people
Persons with Disabilities



Policy and Institutional Framework: Build a foundation

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Supervised by: Chiho

Manga created by: birujiros

Script written/ Designed by: ROOM810, Inc.

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Check out the Project History Book here



This is a translated edition of the manga, which was created based on the Project History Book written by Chiho "Non-Formal Education—Learning for Future: Redefine Education—Beyond Learning Crisis!".