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## NGO launches initiative for education to 150,000 children



By Asad Farooq

KARACHI: Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA) has recently launched an educational initiative entitled 'Chalo Parho Barho' to improve the learning skills and level of 150,000 children across the country.

ITA, also works in health, governance and other sectors for deprived children by launching household and school-based initiatives. The non-governmental organisation (NGO), on the launching of campaign also inaugurated a 'drop-in centre' at Ali Akbar Shah Goth, Korangi, an under privileged remote area of the metropolis.

The centre was established to provide displaced street children with an opportunity to receive free of cost primary education and vocational training so that they could become a responsible citizen.

In this regard, the organisation initiated several programmes including Whole School Improvement Programme (WSIP), Early Childhood Education (ECE), Education in Emergencies, Child Labour and Health and Hygiene.

Bela Raza Haroon launched ITA as a trust in year 2000 with the support of several philanthropists, who were sensitised over the issue of literacy and education, having vision that education is a gateway to success and prosperity not only for the individuals but for the country as well.

Addressing at the launching ceremony of centre chief guest, The Citizen's Foundation Vice-President Riaz Kamlani appreciated the services and contribution of ITA for deprived children and said, "ITA has taken a worthy step for free education to the impoverished children. By doing so, it is synchronising with the newly added Article-25 A in the Constitution of Pakistan which states that free education should be compulsory for all children between the ages of five and sixteen." He also spoke with the children in an interactive session.

ITA Sindh Regional Manager Raphan Saleem shed light on the services of organisation and informed that 'Chalo Parho Barho' is aimed towards improving the learning levels of 150,000 children across public and private schools in Pakistan till 2015.

Manager ITA CSR Durray Sadaf, Curriculum Adviser Furat Owais and Drop in Centre programme head Marya Perveen also expressed their views on the occasion.

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