



**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Helping 150,000 children across Pakistan to learn and grow**

**08 September 2011, Karachi-** *“I want to read, learn and grow into a good citizen. This is my fundamental right”* were the chants of the street children at a rally taken out in the community of Ali Akbar Shah Goth, Korangi 5 on the launch of the Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi’s (ITA’s) **“Chalo Parho Barho campaign.”**

The “Chalo Parho Barho” is a citizen driven campaign through which children’s reading and learning levels are assessed and improved. The ultimate drive of ITA is to improve the learning levels of **150,000 children** per district across Public Private Schools in Pakistan and carry it **till 2015.**

The event also saw the celebration of Literacy Day and the opening of a Drop-in Center for the street children of the community. The Drop-in Center is an educational set-up where out of school children or displaced children of the community will receive primary education or vocational training **free of cost.**

During the inauguration of the Drop-in Center, Chief Guest, Riaz Kamrani, Vice-President, The Citizen’s Foundation applauded the work being done by ITA and said *“ITA has taken an applaud worthy step towards making education free for the impoverished children of the community. By doing so, ITA is going in synchronization 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 years of age.”* He also spoke with the children present and involved them in an interactive session.

The culmination of the event saw training on Health & Hygiene being given to all the children present by ITA’s Lifebuoy team. Ratan Salem, Regional Manager Sindh, ITA and community peers handed out refreshments to all the children present.

**[End]**

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**Editors Note:**

**Idara-e-Taleem-O-Aagahi (ITA)** – was registered in 2000 as a response to the profound education crises in the country. Since its inception, ITA’s main focus is education reform of public sector schools which are in a state of decay and degeneration. It also works in other sectors of basic education in non-formal and literacy programmes for disadvantaged groups such as child labour, destitute, women and youth. Policy and advocacy are an embedded focus of the organisation.

ITA also works across sectors like health and governance to improve the citizen’s voice in local level decision making, through household and school based initiatives across Pakistan.

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