



## Project Based Learning Instilling the Concept of Hygiene and Healthy Living

**'We broke new ground in designing icons in collaboration with the rural communities. The whole project was done with the involvement of the community at every stage.'**

**Fouzia Latif, Teacher, The Fauji Foundation Model School**

Environment and water pollution is one of the crucial problems of Pakistan. WHO reports that 25-30% of all hospital admissions are connected to water borne bacterial and parasitic conditions, with 60% of infant deaths caused by water infections.

Ms. Azra Darbar and Ms. Fauzia Latif, secondary school teachers at Fauji Foundation Model School, Chak Shahzad Campus did their training under the Intel® Teach Program. During the training, they learnt how they can involve students in project based learning.

The Fauji Foundation Model School is located in an area where people are unaware of the damaging effects of poor and unhygienic living conditions. Keeping this in mind, Azra and Fauzia decided to give their students a project based on 'Healthy Living' to create awareness about personal hygiene. The role assigned to the students was to investigate and understand the causes of diseases and epidemics. Students worked in groups, observed the community, researched on the internet and interviewed people to find out how poor personal hygiene and lack of awareness causes diseases and what steps can be taken to improve the conditions in their own surroundings. Finally students developed presentations, banners, flyers and distributed to community members.

As Chak shahzad is a rural based community and women play a vital role in it, a health day was celebrated in school where they invited community members and the students performed skits, dramas, and recited poems to create awareness on cleanliness and its importance in daily life.

A corner meeting with community adults was organized by the school in which awareness pamphlets, made by the students, were distributed. This inspired the adults to approach the Capital Development Authority who sent garbage trucks to the venue. Students and volunteers worked side by side to clean the garbage piles and install dustbins. Students also helped in filling up dangerous and disease spreading water puddles in the streets. This initiative inspired the community so much that they contributed and covered the open drainage system voluntarily. Students also visited houses and helped households understand the importance of boiling water before drinking.

A plastic bag campaign was also initiated by students where they briefed the community on the harmful effects of use of plastic bags. Students stressed on the importance of re-cycling and taught the community how to re-cycle bags in an effective manner.



These school children really changed the outlook of people regarding hygiene and the importance of healthy living. Results from the cleanliness drive were quite apparent over the next few months: diseases due to water pollution reduced, community members started drinking boiled water, many open drainage were covered by the community members voluntarily, piles of garbage were removed by students, volunteers & CDA and disinfectant was sprayed regularly in the locality.

After this project, the teachers felt a marked difference in their students, in terms of responsibility towards the community as a vital, contributing member and students became more conscious of basic hygiene principles. The suggestions made by the students were practical, which they began implementing in their homes and areas around.

***'Project Based Learning methodologies, taught in the Intel® Teach Program made a huge difference in how our teachers interact and educated our students. Education is no more a bore; learning is more fun and the last year has been another successful year in our developmental efforts. We thank Intel for providing us with this opportunity and with the ongoing program we will exceed in all standards of education.'*** Mrs. Gul Nafees Janjua, Principal