



The Chopan Trust

The occasional newsletter from Anser & Kashi Javed
August 2024

2

An ambition for excellence



Why Chopan?

“We believe the Lord has called us to an education ministry for the unqualified, untrained teachers and children in the hundreds of Christian community based schools across Pakistan.”

Chopan was born out of the conviction that more must be done to help Pakistan’s Christians. The Starfish Asia 2016 Survey revealed thousands of Christian children with no schooling — and hundreds of Christian schools with inadequate resources, low morale, and teachers with no training or ambition. Chopan was born to address these cries for help... to say: *“We care!”*

We want to give hope to Christian families that their children’s lives can be transformed — from a bleak future on a brick kiln or labouring on a meagre income, to lives of dignity, faith and ambition. Chopan Trust’s aim is a generation of young lives inspired by teachers and staff who not only care, but are themselves inspired.

We cannot pay salaries and rents, but we will engage with parents and communities to urge them to share the load. Read further. We cannot do everything. We must do something.

Chopan Trust’s Covenant of Promises

Our aim is to commit to 10 schools, to see their staff develop, the quality of education improve and the schools stand on their own as education providers for the poor in their communities.

We aim at a long-term relationship, but not long-term dependency.



Launching the 3Es programme

Our commitment to work with schools to witness real change

We have chosen six schools in which to start our 3Es programme

- ✘ **Mercy School of Generations**
Started With 25 students in 2020, now 134.
- ✘ **The Good Shepherd School**
Started in 2021 with 25 students, now 200.
- ✘ **EROS School (Educational Reforms of Society)**
Started in 2020 with 6 students, now 98.
- ✘ **Yashwa Academy**
Started in 2014 with 37 students, now 150.
- ✘ **Edify School**
Started in 2010 with 20 students, now 95.
- ✘ **Christ School (Essa Nagar, Lahore)**
Started in 2014 with 14 students, now 180.

We plan to start the first phase of training with these six schools from the end of July and complete it before the schools reopen in August after summer vacations and monthly evaluation visits by the end of September 2024.

This is not a short-term programme. These are the planned outcomes for these six schools after one year of training:

1. To empower the teachers with essential skills in Urdu, English, and Maths to improve the literacy and numeracy skills of pre-class students.
2. To equip teachers with essential pedagogical skills in classroom management and lesson planning.
3. To improve the skills of principals and teachers in leadership, management, and multi-grade teaching.
4. To empower parents and communities through engaging in seminars, workshops, and awareness-raising events on education, child rights and good practices of parenting.

Dar-ul Hikmat, Kamahan Campus

“We were invited to conduct a training session with the teachers of the Dar-ul-Hikmat school in Kamahan, Lahore. Our training session was a resounding success, attended by 15 enthusiastic participants and the Principal. We had a wonderful day filled with engaging and productive activities.

“Our training programmes are designed to be interactive and enjoyable, ensuring a two-way flow of ideas and knowledge. We incorporate group work, interactive exercises, and feedback sessions to make the experience enriching and beneficial for all participants.



“The sessions are not only educational but also full of fun, making learning an enjoyable process. The positive feedback we received from the participants is testament to the effectiveness and appeal of our approach.

“We have been invited to return to continue with further training for the teachers.”

Parents' Awareness Sessions

Providing books and training to teachers is very crucial, but our aim to provide quality education cannot be achieved unless the parents become active stakeholders, aware of the importance of education.

We arranged parent awareness sessions in the 6 schools in which we plan to do the 3Es training programme. We saw tears in eyes of parents and a light in their eyes when we shared the stories of students who had achieved success because of the dedication and commitment of their parents — and we met with parents who told us it was an eye-opener session for them.

“Raising the bar together! Parents and teachers must be partners in progress. We are here to bridge the gap between home and school.

Inspiring parents and fostering a supportive school environment are key to student success”



“We noticed this lady continuously had tears in her eyes during the Parents' Counselling Session. She said her husband had been sick in bed for a long time. She had lost all hope of sending her children to school because of the financial and illness crisis at home. She thanked Chopan Trust for being a shepherd in providing shelter to her children. She was so excited that her children are now attending school with dignity and honour, having books, notebooks, and stationary in a beautiful school bag.”

Investing in the future

To invest in education, is to invest in the future.



“By ensuring our children have access to the tools they need to learn, we're fostering a generation of innovators, thinkers, and leaders.”

We were able to provide school textbooks, together with notebooks (with the Chopan logo) and school bags to 388 children in 5 schools. We need to do more.

Cost of a set of school books with a bag: Approx. £6

Many children in low-cost school are sitting on the floor. We wish to provide basic wooden chairs with attached desk to many schools.

Cost of one chair with attached desk: Approx. £20

“Art isn't just about pretty pictures. It's about sparking imagination, fostering problem-solving, and building confidence in our little learners!”



Building the team

As support has begun to grow, so have our need to have more space to operate effectively — and to strengthen our team. It is like starting all over again on familiar ground. It comes with a sense of excitement as we know so well the needs and the opportunities.



Welcome, Ruby

Kashi has appointed Ruby Sharoon to work with her as her assistant to help her in training sessions and coordination with schools. We have known Ruby for several years, an inspirational teacher once on the staff of the Ghauri Wisdom School who have kindly released her to work with Kashi.

More space

In our present house we are unable to set up a proper office so Ruby is currently working from home, doing her assignments from home, which is not good as Kashi needs her in the office to work on training sessions.

We are looking for a building, in which we can have our housing and use the upper portion as office. Economy is an important factor, and rental costs have increased beyond what we had budget. This is a call for prayer, guidance and a lot of hard work.

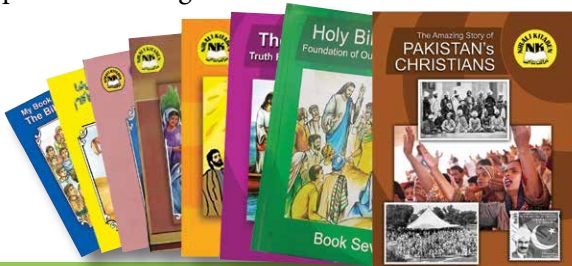
Values in education

Our ambition to promote Bible knowledge and Christian commitment

It is extremely important for us that our students grow in their faith in Christ along with academic education.

We are thankful that Starfish Asia has provided 3,300 Bible Curriculum books from classes 1 to 7 for the schools we have connections with.

We plan to appoint a pastor dedicated to visit the schools and make sure of teaching and learning of these books and to provide training to teachers how to use them in class.



Approximate costs required for a pastor to visit schools to promote Bible teaching: £100 a month

Dreaming bigger dreams

Every need presents a wonderful opportunity

We continue to dream and plan for better

- ✘ We hope to hold a conference for about 100 Christian school principals and teachers later in the year, — to relate, inspire, engage and encourage. So many courageous Christian entrepreneurs are working hard to serve their communities, but suffer endless discouragement, lack of funding and poor resources. The least we can do is to bless, guide and encourage.

Approximate conference costs: £1500

- ✘ We would like to publish and distribute a magazine for Christian teachers, similar to *Nai Uraan* magazine that Kashi edited and produced in past years.

One *Uraan* edition: £300



- ✘ We dream of funding 2-year Midwifery courses, leading to a respectful profession, especially targeting less privileged girls from villages and brick kilns — and also to introduce Lab and Xray technician courses for boys. These all will help young boys and girls to even apply for government jobs.

Courses for the poorest young people: £ unlimited

- ✘ We hope to provide scholarships for teachers to upgrade their academic qualifications — and also Teaching Aids and classroom décor for junior classes, and reading books for children.

TV, classroom décor & teaching aids £500 for each school

“We continue to dream...

Knowledge shouldn't have a price tag!

We are helping level the playing field for kids from low-income families.

Every child deserves a shot at a bright future!”



From High School to Masters in Pharmacy

Anser writes: “Today, I was invited as a Judge and speaker at a Speech competition for Christian schools in Youhanabad.

Shahzil was also a judge. He was sitting next to me and during a break, he said: “*Sir, you gave me an outstanding Achievement Award in 2016. I was so motivated and encouraged that I continued working hard in my studies. Now I am a Doctor of Pharmacy and I have got a full scholarship to do my masters in Pharmacy in Italy.*”

I was proud of Shahzil as a hero of the Christian community. His example serves as an inspiration for thousands of Christian children in Pakistan.”

<https://chopantrust.com/>

Chopan Trust needs the funds to continue

“I am again pleased to be able to endorse the vision and commitment of Anser and Kashi, and will do my utmost to ensure they have the resources to fulfil their dreams.”

To receive regular news from the Chopan Trust contact: Mike Wakely (michael.wakely@gmail.com)

To give to CHOPAN through the AMEN Trust, go to:

<https://www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/20028744>

Fill in the form (as a Stewardship Guest or if you have a Stewardship Giving Account)

Be sure to note under “Message of Support”: **For Chopan Trust**

You may also send a cheque (made out to AMEN) to:

Janet White (AMEN Secretary), 79 North Road, Dartford, Kent DA1 3ND (janet@amentrust.co.uk)

Contact Janet if you qualify for Gift Aid — or would like to set up a Standing Order.

All payments must be clearly noted as being **for Chopan Trust**.

Chopan Trust is a registered Trust in Pakistan accountable to trustees, also registered with the Punjab Charity Commission, with a bank account and annual audit. It also operates with permission from the Pakistan Government Economic Affairs Division.