

KARACHI

This blog is in continuation of the earlier blog regarding first learnings and provides more detailed information regarding building of school rooms and the curriculum for basic learning that has been developed.

According to conservative estimates the number of schools fully damaged and partially damaged runs into several thousands which means that in Sindh the school going children have been without any learning possibilities for the last several months. If the poor state of education because of COVID closures and the usual ghost school syndrome is added to the problem, it would seem that several million children have suffered throughout this period and without a smattering of learning, they have no chance of survival in the competitive 21st century.

How can we leave generations in our country without dealing with this issue. The problem is extremely complex because of high cost of usual construction and non availability of funds to be able to provide even a basic teaching room, let alone provision of toilets and potable water. However, if we could accept it as a challenge and work out sustainable solutions, it is my belief that we could use this opportunity to bring about the social change that is needed today.

The prototype for the proposal has been started in the successful pilot of 1,000 households to create sustainable zero carbon communities where the first school room has been built in early December. In the 1,000 households pilot, the basic needs and flood mitigation and environmental improvement components, along with barefoot enterprises in each village for income generation, has been accomplished within 10 weeks. The Pono Village cluster is ready to take up the next phase.

Health and some other aspects of further flood mitigation measures along with storage of grain/food and cattle feed and safety are being gradually taken up. However, in view of the plight of school going age children, we felt that focus on missing school rooms was essential.

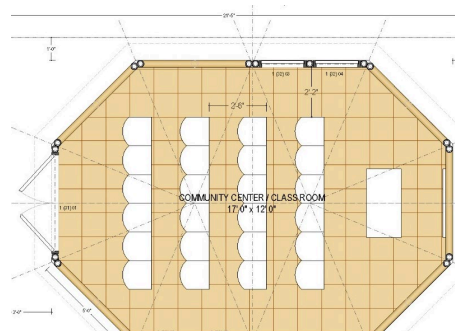
Some weeks ago, Chief Executive, The Hampton School, educationist and director Heritage Foundation has provided training to 4 local village teachers to begin the basic learning programme.

We have now begun building another school room along with two eco toilets in a village near Pono cluster which is being built as a prototype for interested organizations to examine it as a model of a sustainable school and whether it could be taken up by them to embark on the challenging task of provision of safe rooms for our children's education.

Among important initiatives would be to encourage local universities and corporate sector to initiate a programme for joint school building with student volunteers and community on the same pattern as Heritage Foundation's Climate Volunteers.



View of School Room 17'x12' in size.



Plan of School Room.



Climate Volunteers after completion.



Children of Pono Village attending learning centre.