

Safe Structure Surges a New Spirit for Learning among Young Boys in Punjab

Through the Humqadam-School Construction and Rehabilitation Programme (SCRP), UK aid is providing safe schools in Punjab.

Located in the agricultural District of Sheikhpura, in Punjab province, Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Khanqah Dogran has an interesting history. In 1861, originally built to function as a prison for local criminals, the building was later converted to a school. Housed in cramped jail cells used as classrooms, the school was a far cry from a conducive learning environment for over 700 students. The student to classroom ratio was a staggering 145:1.

Sensing a dire need for addressing the alarming school conditions, Humqadam-SCRP has provided 19 new classrooms and 11 toilets to GHSS Khanqah Dogran.



Transformation of GHSS Khanqah Dogran



“For more than 100 years, jail cells were used as classrooms. It was suffocating, the students were forced to study in cramped space, without proper lighting. We were not able to develop a classroom environment.” - M. Akbar Rana, Principal GHSS Khanqah Dogran

The construction at the school was supported by active community engagement, ensuring highest quality standards. The new building has boosted the teachers’ motivation, increased the enrolment to about 1000 students and brought down the student to classroom ratio to 39:1. Through Humqadam-SCRP, UK aid has transformed classrooms from hazardous learning spaces to safe ones at GHSS Khanqah Dogran.



“New building has well-lit and properly ventilation classrooms makes me feel comfortable at school.” - says student of GHSS Khanqah Dogran

Mian Shehzad, one of the Community Members involved in the construction process remarked, *“We were charged to oversee and inspect the construction site and materials daily. We have been able to make an excellent building for the students.”*

Humqadam-SCRP is largest UK Aid’s infrastructure programme in the world. With an aim to improve infrastructure in government schools in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces of Pakistan, Humqadam-SCRP has constructed **1,151** new classrooms and rehabilitated **881** classrooms in **392** schools (as of June 2017). This programme is a part of the **£420** million [Punjab Education Support Programme \(PESP II\)](#) and the **£283** million [Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Education Sector Programme \(KESP\)](#), large and ambitious programmes which represent a collaborative effort between DFID, Australian Government (contribution in KP province only), and the provincial governments to result in more children in school and better learning outcomes.