

# EduNews

THE SOE DIGEST

School of  
Education

“ Reimagine  
Be a **Leader**  
of Education Reflect  
Reform Redefine  
Reform

## DEAN'S MESSAGE

Our two years of planning for Syed Ahsan Ali and Syed Maratib Ali School of Education (SOE) culminated in the launch of the MPhil program. We welcomed a cohort of diverse, motivated and aspiring MPhil students. They hit the ground running from the orientation to an immediate dive into the rigorous curriculum. The new faculty has been a champion in implementing innovative pedagogies and working on their own research projects and policy engagements. The SOE has become a vibrant, intellectual and exciting place taking shape as an institution where students and faculty collaborate in leading and conceptualizing change.

- Dr. Tahir Andrabi

## WELCOMING CLASS OF 2020!

### School of Education welcomes its first inaugural class

The LUMS Syed Ahsan Ali and Syed Maratib Ali School of Education (SOE) welcomed its first class of MPhil Education Leadership and Management (ELM) and conducted a two-day long orientation session from August 30-31, 2018. The Orientation session was designed to welcome the incoming class and help them smoothly transition into the graduate life. The session included an overview of the MPhil courses offered, introduction of SOE administrative departments, a discussion on Paulo Freire's book, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, and an interactive session with Syed Babar Ali, Founder and Pro Chancellor, LUMS.

The session also featured an exciting tour of the campus, followed by lunch at the LUMS Executive Dining Hall, where students, faculty and staff engaged in candid conversations with each other.

Various sessions were held to familiarise the incoming batch with LUMS policies. The session concluded with the hope that twenty years down the lane, the School of Education will be a dynamic and innovative leader in the education landscape, and the students will uphold ethics and positive values during their pursuit of transforming the society.



Batch picture of SOE class of 2020

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## EVENTS

### Inauguration of the LUMS School of Education

The launch ceremony of the LUMS Syed Ahsan Ali and Syed Maratib Ali School of Education (SOE) was held on Monday, September 10, 2018, at the School's premises. The event, hosted by Syed Babar Ali, Founder and Pro Chancellor LUMS, was attended by his family along with Dr. Arshad Ahmed, Vice Chancellor LUMS, Dr. Tahir Andrabi, Dean SOE, students, faculty, and key stakeholders of SOE including partners, donors and prominent people from the government and education sector. Dr. Arshad Ahmed, and Dr. Tahir Andrabi, made an impactful speech at the ceremony, highlighting the importance of Syed Babar Ali's role in establishing LUMS as a centre of excellence in the region. Syed Babar Ali also shared how the School of Education initiative is very close to his heart. A Skype session also took place with Asim Khawaja, member of SOE Advisory Board and Werner Zorman, faculty Harvey Mudd College, who shared their experience of setting up and defining the goals of the School. Prof. Zorman also talked about the leadership ethos of the Programme.



Syed Babar Ali at the SOE inauguration with his family

### Outreach

SOE LUMS successfully conducted information sessions for its MPhil Education Leadership and Management programme in numerous cities across Pakistan namely, Faisalabad, Gilgit, Gujranwala, Islamabad, Karachi, Sukkur, Quetta, Topi and Turbat. The sessions took place in renowned universities of these cities and attracted a large number of participants, belonging to varying educational and professional backgrounds. The SOE team received a warm welcome by the management of all the host universities. The information sessions provided insight into the features of the MPhil programme, focusing on how the programme will enable graduates to lead education reform, and make a strategic difference in Pakistan's education landscape. Structural, cultural, and intellectual challenges in Pakistan's education system were highlighted in these sessions and it was explained how SOE is aiming towards bringing education reforms in these areas. SOE's collaborations with the Punjab government, the KP government, and other external organisations were also communicated to the audience. All the sessions were very well-received. Along with information sessions about the MPhil Programme, one day GRE/GMAT workshops were also held, where the participants were given an overview of the structure, details and techniques of these tests. All the sessions witnessed an engaging environment where the audience took keen interest in learning about the details of the tests.



SOE Manager Marketing and Admissions, Sarah Mahmood addressing the audience at Islamabad information session

### MPhil ELM Information Session at LUMS Open Day 2018

SOE experienced an overwhelming turnout at LUMS Open Day 2018, as people from diverse backgrounds and different cities attended the event to get more information about the MPhil Education Leadership and Management (ELM) programme. The information session was led by Dr. Tahir Andrabi, Dean SOE, while the panel discussion was moderated by Dr. Mariam Chughtai, Associate Dean. The panel also included Dr. Faisal Bari, Director Academics, Dr. Tayyaba Tamim, Associate Professor, Dr. Qaisar Khan, Assistant Professor, Mehreen Noon, Director Teaching and Learning Initiative, and Sarah Mahmood, Manager Marketing and Admissions. Detailed information was provided in the information session by the panel members about the MPhil ELM programme, including curriculum structure, the practicum, admission process, selection criteria, the student life at LUMS SOE, and career prospects after the MPhil degree. Shajia Shoaib, a student of the current MPhil ELM batch, shared that while she was initially apprehensive about leaving her professional life for an ELM degree, she is now completely satisfied with her decision, and the journey has been worth every risk. The session was full of insightful and productive exchanges.



MPhil ELM information session at LUMS open day 2018

### SOE Partnerships

LUMS SOE, over the past three months, has made partnerships with Akhuwat, Infinity School of Engineering, Door of Awareness and Lahore Grammar School (JT/OPF branch) through Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signing ceremonies. Teaching and Learning Initiative at SOE made these collaborations to bridge the gap between theory and practice and also to facilitate students and faculty to conduct research and field work.

- o Akhuwat is a non-profit organisation that aims to alleviate poverty by creating a bond of solidarity between the affluent and the marginalised. They provide interest-free loans to the poverty-stricken so they can start a business and become self-reliant. Some of Akhuwat's educational initiatives include Akhuwat schools, colleges and the first ever fee-free university where students from all over Pakistan will receive quality higher education.
- o Infinity School of Engineering disseminates technical training to a number of skilled and semi-skilled workers in seventeen different professional trades. The quality of training, despite being provided within a short span of time, is as per recommended international standards.
- o Door of Awareness is a non-profit established in 2007. They aim at creating opportunities for the underprivileged students of rural and urban areas of Pakistan. They also work towards female empowerment and provide vocational and IT training.
- o Lahore Grammar School provides education to both boys and girls till A Level. It has extended its network to cater to the needs of the middle income group in its Landmark Schools. LGS has branches in various cities across Pakistan. It offers quality education to the people in low-income group through the Lahore Education Society School, entirely supported and funded by LGS



MoU signing between LUMS SOE and Akhuwat



# SEMINARS AND SESSIONS

## Brown Bag Seminar Series

The LUMS SOE Research Committee initiated a Brown Bag Seminar Series, which serves as a platform for faculty and aspiring researchers and academics to share their research with the SOE community. The seminar series was inaugurated by Dr. Tahir Andrabi, Dean SOE, with a presentation about his current research project on the Beaconhouse School System (BSS).

Subsequent sessions were based on the following topics:

- o Dr. Gulab Khan and Dr. Qaisar Khan, Assistant Professors, SOE: New Teacher Evaluation System with Aga Khan Education Service, Pakistan (AKESP)
- o Zahra Mansoor, PhD candidate, Blavatnik School of Government, Oxford University and World Bank Research Fellow for the Pakistan@100 project: Effectiveness of a range of non-monetary recognition interventions in eliciting teacher effort
- o Sameen Siddiqui, PhD candidate, Department of Economics, University of California, San Diego, and World Bank Research Fellow for the Pakistan@100 project: Education delivery in a high refugee setting (Jordan)
- o Dr. Karrar Hussain, Assistant Professor, LUMS Economics Department: Mobilisation of women voters in the 2018 general elections in Pakistan
- o Alice Danon, Project Coordinator, World Bank: The measurement and importance of socio-emotional skills in Pakistan
- o Dr. Arshad Ahmad, Vice Chancellor LUMS: Re-conceptualising Student Evaluations of Teaching (SET) from outputs to inputs
- o Mr. Koen Geven, Education Specialist at the World Bank: The measurement crisis in education – focus on teacher quality
- o Dr. Mariam Chughtai, Associate Dean and Assistant Professor: Partnership and embedded agency - Women negotiating access to higher education and employment in post-conflict Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan
- o Dr. Yasira Waqar, Assistant Professor, SOE: Thinking in the Digital Age



Dr. Arshad Ahmad, VC LUMS, presenting his paper at the Brown Bag seminar

## MPhil Co-Curricular Program

Fall 2018 also marked the launch of the MPhil co-curricular program that aims to expand opportunities for student engagement outside the classroom, facilitate opportunities for collaboration between faculty and students and enrich students' overall educational experience. The co-curricular program at SOE has intentionally been curated to expose students to various kinds of research and practical endeavors in the field of education, by introducing them to the work of international faculty as well as local partner organisations. The objective of the programme is to enable students to gain a deeper understanding of the school's mission and to think critically about their own contribution and impact in the education sector. The programme was launched by faculty lead Dr. Tayyaba Tamim, Associate Professor SOE. The opportunities available to students include leading their own special interest groups, engaging in collaborative research with faculty vis-à-vis an apprenticeship model, internal and external internships, student-led conferences and a student-run newsletter for the school.



Dr. Tayyaba Tamim briefing students on co-curricular program

## British Council Session on Teacher Training Initiatives

Representatives from the British Council Pakistan, Ms. Arzu E. Daniel, Director English and Mr. John Shackleton, Director English for Education Systems (EES) conducted a session on their teacher training initiatives in Punjab at the LUMS School of Education.

John Shackleton discussed the challenges facing the Pakistani education system and the programmes the British Council runs through partnerships with the government of Pakistan, for improvements in the quality of classroom teaching and learner outcomes.

Arzu E. Daniel presented on teacher education in the private education sector in Pakistan. She focused on teaching challenges, main training requirements of private education sector and providing access to digital training to the teachers.



Mr. John Shackleton presenting on British Council projects in Punjab

## Seminar on Teacher Evaluation and Appraisal

On December 5 2018, Dr. William C. Smith, Teaching Fellow at the University of Edinburgh and former Senior Policy Analyst at UNESCO's Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report, conducted a session on the role of test scores in teacher evaluation and appraisal and how tying both leads to a warping of the education process. The session was attended by students from the MPhil program and Dr. Gulab Khan's undergraduate class EDU 210 - Critical Debates in Education.



Dr. William C. Smith addressing the SOE audience through video session

## Seminar on Curriculum Design and Implementation

Dr. Yasira Waqar arranged a seminar on curriculum design for the undergraduate course EDU220 - Curriculum, Teaching and Learning, on October 26, 2018 to create awareness of curriculum development and implementation practices in multiple local contexts. This discussion was very valuable for students as they work on their final project to prepare a sample curriculum document for a local school. These students already have knowledge of curriculum design dimensions and the procedures of curriculum development.

A diverse body of schools was invited to participate in this discussion. The participating schools had different philosophies of education, pedagogical approaches and they cater to students from different socio-economic backgrounds.

# SEMINARS AND SESSIONS

## EduSpeak Sessions

SOE organised EduSpeak 2018 sessions which are moderated speaker events that allows SOE students to have an interactive discussion with innovative thinkers in the Pakistani education sector. Details of each event is given below:

### The Philosophy of Philanthropy with Impact

Dr Muhammad Amjad Saqib, who is the founder of Akhuwat foundation, presented on the topic of 'The Philosophy of Philanthropy with Impact'. The session was attended by SOE students, faculty, and the LUMS community. He emphasised on the importance of continuous analysis of the effects that education institutions have on society. Dr. Mariam Chughtai moderated the session and posed questions regarding his inspirations to bring about a change in the education system of Pakistan.



*Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib addressing the audience*

### Myths about Urdu: an Exercise in Deconstruction, Debunking and Amendments

Dr. Tariq Rahman, Dean & Professor, School of Education, Beaconhouse National University (BNU) presented on the topic 'Myths about Urdu: an Exercise in Deconstruction, Debunking and Amendment'.

Dr. Rahman elaborated on his work in the field of Urdu language. He also stated that he has explored the role of regional languages in identity formation, creation of indigenous regional language movements, history of British language policies, and the legacy of policies on the choice of medium of instruction. Moreover, he explained how Urdu was derived from different languages. The highlight of the session was his poetry recital in different languages, in order to trace back roots of the Urdu language. He also explained how Urdu evolved through different times and ages. The session was attended by SOE students, faculty and the SOE Dean, Dr. Tahir Andrabi.



*Dr. Tariq Rahman presenting his session on the Urdu Language*

### Communicating Physics: From the classroom to the playground

Dr. Sabieh Anwar, Associate Professor, Department of Physics, Syed Babar Ali School of Science and Engineering (SBASSE) was the speaker of the session on 'Communicating Physics: From the classroom to the playground'. The event was attended by the Founder and Pro Chancellor LUMS, Syed Babar Ali, Dr. Tahir Andrabi, Dean SOE, Dr. Mariam Chughtai, Assistant Professor and Associate Dean SOE, LUMS faculty and students. The session revolved around an experiment of liquid nitrogen, which was performed to demonstrate the need for classroom experiments. Through the session and the experiment, Dr. Anwar emphasised upon the importance of analytical skills gained through experiments along with text book theoretical knowledge. He mentioned how the sole focus on theoretical concepts in the Pakistani curriculum does not leave room for any creativity, and that for concepts to be communicated in an engaging manner, they need to tell a story which can only happen through classroom experimentation.



*Dr. Sabieh Anwar demonstrating his experiment*

### Alumni Homecoming Weekend 2018 Masterclass by Dr. Tahir Andrabi

Dr. Tahir Andrabi, conducted a session for the Alumni Homecoming Weekend 2018 on the topic of 'Evidence Based Policymaking in Naya Pakistan' on December 14, 2018. The session aimed to stress the importance of data and census in the policymaking process, and how it can help policymakers in formulating better policies. The main policy discussion revolved around education and literacy in Pakistan. He discussed the issue of adult literacy, out-of-school children, late enrollment and retention issues. He also emphasised the importance of formulating an approach based on equity, alongside meritocracy, when formulating policies on education. The session was very well received and was attended by LUMS Vice Chancellor, Dr. Arshad Ahmad, Deans of other schools, LUMS faculty and a large number of alumni.



*Dr. Tahir Andrabi addressing the masterclass*



# STUDENT ENGAGEMENTS

## Teaching and Learning Initiative

The Teaching and Learning Initiative (TLI) at SOE, organised its field visit to partner schools during Fall 2018. The visits were organised as part of the field engagement component of the MPhil Education Leadership and Management programme. The main objective is to provide SOE MPhil students with real world exposure to the diversity in the provision of education and enhance their skills for structured observation and documentation. Following partner schools were visited:

- Usman Ideal Girls High School
- Allied Schools
- Salamat School System
- Sanjan Nagar Public Education Trust
- The Citizen's Foundation
- Rising Sun Institute for Special Education
- Royal Grammar School
- Ala-ud-Din Academy
- Beaconhouse School System
- Kawish Welfare Trust
- Bunyad Foundation
- Infinity School of Engineering
- Akhuwat
- Door of Awareness
- Jinnah International
- Royal Public School
- Ali Ideal School
- DAMEN
- TEDDS
- Lahore Grammar School
- Mahnoor Foundation
- Image School

## End of Semester Party

On December 10, 2018, an end of semester party was held for the inaugural batch of 2020, in celebration of completing the first semester. Dr. Tahir Andrabi, SOE Dean, started the party with a speech where he expressed his appreciation for the students, faculty and the staff. It was followed by a cake cutting ceremony to bid farewell to Dr. Mariam Chughtai for one semester that she will spend as a fellow at Harvard University. Refreshments were served, after which the students released their stress by dancing on music.



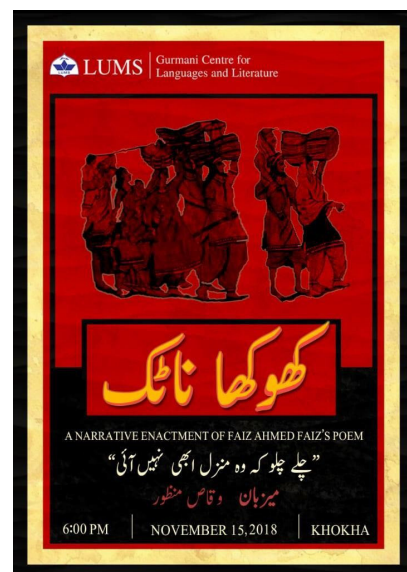
SOE team and students at the end of semester party



An MPhil ELM student on a school visit

## Khoka Natak

On November 15, 2018, the first ever performance of Khoka Natak, an initiative taken by Gurmani Center for Languages and Literature, was held at LUMS. The performance was first in a series of three, where the students orchestrated a play at the Khoka. It was organised by Waqas Manzoor, an MPhil student at SOE, who has extensive experience as a theatre artist and previously worked with Alhamra Arts Council. The performance comprised of students who recited Faiz Ahmed Faiz's 'Subh-e-Azadi' as it encapsulates the true essence of street theatre. Nowadays, a stage is considered to be an important factor for conducting plays. With performances like Khoka Natak, Waqas aims to challenge the stereotypical ideas of stage performances by bringing theatre to the streets. He believes that the culture of street performances such as 'Bahroopias', 'Reech walas' and 'Bandar walas' is now dwindling. The Khoka Natak performances are an effort to reintroduce street art forms. Future performances will comprise of regional pieces of literature to reconnect with Pakistani culture.



Khoka Natak



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