

Annual Report

Binte Malakand 2017



Management and teachers of Binte Malakand thank all the supporters and philanthropists for generously helping Binte schools despite unfriendly circumstances in Malakand for girls' education

1. Background Binte Malakand

Binte Malakand is a local Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) registered under Voluntary Social Welfare Act 1961. The NGO was registered in 1998. The main purpose to found this organization was to "Provide an opportunity for education to children of Malakand, especially girls, from poor households."

This initiative took birth from voluntary initiative of two women from Malakand Agency who worked as female extension workers in a Pak-Holland funded Malakand Social Forestry Project (funded by Governments of Holland and NWFP, Pakistan) in 1987. The source of inspiration was our awareness and protest against the malpractices going on in our feudal environment. One of the most painful local practices was that girls were engaged as servants at the homes of feudal lords with nominal or no remuneration, opted by parents who were indebted to those lords due to their eminent poverty and thought that this was the only way to pay back! This is not exactly bonded labor – but certainly excluding girls from any opportunities to either get education or at least get a reasonable salary with a defined period to make up their lives. Binte-Malakand believes that this practice, which still prevails in some shape, is an open violation of human rights and a societal prejudice against girl child.

Malakand is a tribal area administered under Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province of Pakistan. Many schools have been established by the government in Malakand which are supposed to serve village population. However we still have many children from poorest families cannot access these schools either due to the distance from their hamlets or the formalities involved in getting education from those schools are many and expensive for them to bear. Moreover, in a rural society, boys were the lucky ones whose education is considered to be more important by poor parents. Parents think that the boys will feed the parents once they grow old. Girls are the first to be pulled back from the schools and engaged on farms with the parents or sent to Khan's home for serving his wife and baby sit their kids. Besides, the rural society is rather traditional and many did not believe that girls should even need education. Hence making a choice in a poor family for who goes to school, girls often lost the case.

Binte has made a conscious decision to promote girls' education. Binte Malakand established primary schools for girls, not excluding little boys who could not join far off schools in remote areas. The schools followed government syllabus and all the rules and regulations followed by government system of education. The system of examination was governed by district education department. These linkages were established in order to make the school certificate recognized by government for education beyond primary level.

1. How was the security situation in the villages of the schools in 2017?

In general, security situation in Pakistand and Swat districts is improved. It has positive implication on the villages where Binte is working. In 2017, Binte did not face any big challenge with reference to security situation. However, in some villages incidents of sexual harrasement and abuse with children were reported in police. Due to these incidents, parents in some villages were hesitant to send their childrene regularly in the schools. The management team of Binte conducted meetings with parents in those villages and motivated them for regualr attendene in the schools.

2. Could you please fill in the numbers of students enrolled per school at the end of 2017?

Table: enrolment school wise (as of December 2017)

A total of 687 children are enrolled in 5 schools. The following table provides class wise enrollment upto December 2017; the earlier records are available with Binte Malakand as well.

Enrolment school wise of December 2017

	Alladand	Dargai	Khar	Matkanai	Nawaro Tangi	Total
Nursery	25	20	10	35	20	110
1	28	23	19	27	25	122
2	23	18	17	28	54	140
3	22	23	25	24	12	106
4	22	15	22	24	14	97
5	28	20	19	28	17	112
Total	148	119	112	166	142	687

It is important to mention here that Binte Malakand has been interacting with "National Education Foundation" since 2013. During 2015, National Education Foundation took over two schools (Wajidabad fully) – and one school (Dargai – partially) out of 7 schools. The remaining 5 schools are still functioning with Binte. The children of Dargai school (partially handed over school) later on rejoined the Binte schools because National Education Foundation closed its school in Dargai.

Furthermore, handing over process of 5 other schools are not being initiated due to lack of government's response and interest. Government consider that these schools are too large for them in number of students.

3. How does Binte monitor the progress of the schools, teachers and students? How often does Binte visit the schools? How is drop out and absenteeism monitored?

The monitoring of Binte schools has been conducted through multiple sources. Each school has been visited at least three times in a month. The monthly monitoring visits have been conducted by the following stakeholders:

- Monitoring by the School Management Committees (SMC):** School Management Committees (SMC) are mothers' associations which also act as SMC. These committees regularly visit the schools and monitor the conditions, cleanliness, attendance of students and teachers in the schools. Out of 5 SMCs, 3 SMCS i.e. Matkanai, and Khar Aladand are very active and meet on monthly basis. However, the SMCs of Dargai and Norwrotangi are partially functional.
- Monitoring by the team of Binte: The Binte team including Chief Coordinator, education coordinator and social mobilizer pay regular (three times per month) to schools.**
- Monitoring by the government staff: The District Education Officer and teachers of government schools visit the schools and provide thier support. The Annual exams are also conducted by Government Education Department under the supervision of the DEO

4. How did it go with the schools and the teachers in 2017?

In 2017, the students and teachers regularly attended the school and participated in the school activities. The children also participate in extra curricula activities i.e. Mother's Day, Independence Day and Labor Day. The children conduct various activities. The children and teachers enjoy good relationship and performed their activities with full interest. Nowadays teachers have started teaching phonics which the children are learning with much fond. Teachers are downloading good poems from internet and showing to students. This make students much interested in learning.

In addition, teachers also conduct meetings with parents and share the performance of students.

5. Could you describe the progress of the children in 2017? What was the result of the exams in March 2018? What was the number of children that dropped out in 2017? What are the main reasons for drop out?

- a) Exam Results: In 2017, a total of 112 students of 5th grade appeared in the exams. The government department conducted exams in March 2018. All the students passed the exams.

Table 2: Exam results of 5th grade 2018

Class/School	Aladand	Dargai	Nawarow tangi	Matkanai	Khar	Total
Passed	28	20	17	28	19	112
Failed	0	0	0	0	0	0
Percentage	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Total	28	20	17	28	19	112

The reasons for dropped out students are that some children have shifted to another villages. Some have got married. In case of boys, some of them shifted to boys schools.

Table 7: Details of (drop out) from schools and new admissions 2017

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Class/ School	Aladand	Dargai	Nawarow Tangi	Matkanai	Khar	Total
5 th Exams 2017	28	20	17	28	15	112
Nursery	+25	+20	+ 14	35	20	114
1	-8	-7	-5	-3	+3	-23
2	-2	-6	+3	-4	-7	-19
3	-3	+2	-2	+5	+2	9
4	+3	--5	+1	-2	+5	9
Dropouts	13	18	21	-9	-7	-68
<i>Incoming</i>	28	22	18	40	30	138

The childrens in general are taking a lot of interest in education and in general quality of life has improved a lot in the schools with provision of material. Childrens are punctual and teachers are far more confident and keen to attend schools. The parents are also showing interest. Quality of teachers' performance has been much better and we have received good views from district education set up and National Education Foundation.

6. How did it go with Bint as organization in 2017? What other activities did Bint do? How did it go with fundraising? Are there any new developments in Bint?

Bint has been regularly conducting its qualitative activities with Mother's associations and schools. Entrepreneurship activities with Mothers associations are working well. However, exploration of new donors has been challenging. In Pakistan, the space and funding for NGOs is shrinking. Most of the donors are directly working with government, organizations like Binte Malakand suffer more because they are not located at mainstream places.

7. What challenges did Bint, the teachers or the students have in 2017? How were these challenges addressed?

- a) Bint struggled a lot to get books from the government department for the children. Books were available with the education boards and not available with local sellers and schools. Other networks or education organizations were also not available to help in this regard. However, Bint team used their contacts with education department in Swat and Shangla which helped them in collection of the books.
- b) *Fund raising of these schools has been challenging, the donor funding and local philanthroy is shrinking for NGOs.*

8. How was the contact with the National Education Foundation in 2017? Is there any development or plan for further cooperation?

Bint and National Education Foundation have good connections. However, approach of both organizations differ from each other. The schools of National Education Foundation are mostly homebased and their system is non-formal; their centers are run by only one teacher. They are also not responsible to provide books to children regularly.

The education system of Bint Schools is formal. In Bint's schools, more than one teachers are working like government system. In addition, Bint also provide books, uniform and other learning materials. It is being difficult for National Education Foundation to takeover these schools because it increases their burden.

9. How is the support of the villages for each school?

Do you have contact with the leaders and elders of each village? Do the richer people in the villages donate to the schools of Bint?

Local community provides enormous support in terms of school monitoring and checking cleanliness. They also provide support in entertaining Education Department during exam and regular meetings.

The community leaders have good working relationship with Bint. However, at some places community leaders influence to join their political parties which Bint team avoid to join.

10. Plans for 2018 And 2019

The team of Binte Malakand consider that financial sustainability of these schools can be achieved through establishing alternate sources of income in addition to financial support of international and national philanthropists. The team is working on the following aspects:

- a) Handover of two schools: The education department has newly established two schools i.e. in khar and nawaro tango. In March 2018, Bint has handed over these schools to government.
- b) Bint is working on establishing an outlet of handicrafts in District Dirwith the help of Government female teachers. Bint will closely work with local women entrepreneurs to produce the material and create market linkages with other organizations working in the same field.
- c) In 2019, Bint will establish forest nursery in each school for fundraising. In this regard, Bint has already discussed this option with the Forest Department to buy these plants.