

Annual Report

Binte Malakand 2020

Background of Binte Malakand



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

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 who cannot access these schools either due to the distance from their hamlets or the formalities involved in getting education from those schools, or the many expenses 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.

Bint 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 follow 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 did it go in general with the schools, students and the teachers in 2020?

In 2020, in the beginning when people heard the news about Corona Disease, there was great fear among them. All the schools, hospitals and other institutions closed for safety. Crowding was prohibited as the disease was spreading at a high rate. Transport was also stopped, which affected every aspect of life. Learning activity was suspended, due to the closing of schools and transport. There was no distant learning facility in the region and therefore children faced a lot of loss.

2. How did COVID-19 impact the schools, teachers and the students? How long were the schools closed exactly? What happened in the time the schools were closed? What effect did the closure of the schools have on the students?

There was a bad impact on the education of students due to COVID-19. The schools had been closed for six months consecutively. The students stayed at home during that period. They were given weekly or once in two weeks homework in their courses and the teachers checked them on weekly basis. They were promoted to next classes on the basis of the scores they had gotten in their homework. Actually, this (homework policy) was applied by all the government schools and so we also did the same. The closure of the schools had a bad effect on the learning of students. They did homework up to some extent but were not being taught all courses properly. Their next starting sessions were also delayed (started from September instead of March).

3. What COVID-19 measures have been taken in the schools?

With the opening of schools, safety measures were applied in schools. All the teachers and students were trained to follow SOPs. They were provided SOPs items i.e. soaps, detergents, disinfection material for schools, masks and sanitizers etc. The SOPs items were provided by Madam Arjumand Nizami from Helvetas for all schools, enough for 12 months. The teachers and students implemented SOPs in schools. They cooperated with each other as they washed hands periodically, maintained distance from each other during learning etc.

4. Besides COVID-19, did Bint, the schools, teachers and students face other challenges in 2020? How were these challenges addressed?

Besides COVID-19, there had been a lock down and all people were limited to their homes. The disease was being spread among people. Due to obstructions to work there was much unemployment, resulting in financial issues leading to hunger. Monitoring of schools and studies were stopped off during that period and affected progress of students indirectly as studies were not scheduled accordingly.

5. Could you please fill in the numbers of students enrolled per school at the end of 2020?

Table 1: enrolment school wise (as of 31 December 2020)

	Alladand	Dargai	Matkanai	Total
Nursery	25	51	45	121
1	32	29	33	94
2	24	21	30	75
3	22	19	30	71
4	20	16	31	67
5	20	24	22	66
Total girlsS	143	150	151	444
Total Boys		10	40	50
Total students	143	160	191	494

6. Could you fill in the number of new admissions and dropouts in 2020 in the table below?

Table 2: new admissions and drop outs in 2020

Class/ School	Aladand	Dargai	Matkanai	Total
Nursery New Admission	25	51	45	121
1	-2	--1	-2	5
2	-1	-2	-2	5
3	-1	-1	--2	4
4	nil		+1	
Dropouts	4	4	6	14
<i>Incoming</i>	25	51	45	121

7. What are the main reasons that students dropped out in 2020?

There are not so many dropouts. The reasons for dropped out students in 2020 are that some children have shifted to another villages and some have got married.

8. Could you describe the progress of the children in 2020? What was the result of the exams in March 2020? Did all grade 5 students participate in the exams?

Exam Results: In 2020, total number 71 students of 5th grade appeared in the exams. The government department conducted exams in March 2020. All the students passed the exams.

Table 3: Details of grade 5th Result 2020

Class/ School	Aladand	Dargai	Matkanai	Total
5 th Exams 2020 Passed out	20	25	26	71
Failed	0	0	0	0
Percentage	100%	100%	100%	100%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

9. What did Bint monitor the progress of the schools, teachers and students? How often did Bint visit the schools?

Schools were closed for six months. During that period monitoring was done in the form that teachers assessed student's homework. We could not call Department members because gathering and clusters were not allowed. However, after these six months we and the Department as well monitored progress of the schools through visits.

10. How was the collaboration with the government in 2020? Did they monitor and support the schools?

Yes, they supported when was possible, depending upon the conditions of COVID-19.

11. How was the security situation in the villages of the schools in 2020?

The security situation was as usual in 2020, but during COVID-19 the security was in fear and risk itself as no one was safe from the pandemic.

12. How did it go with Bint as organization in 2020? What other activities did Bint do? How did it go with fundraising? Are there any new developments in Bint?

In 2020 Bint activities were distribution of food ration among our three community schools parents provided by Madam Arjumand Nizami (Helvetas) to 550 families. Apart from these, we have distributed woolen wears including sweaters and shawls among the students donated by the Mother of Madam Bertken de Leede. No new development for direct fund raising due to covid.

13. What plans does Bint have for 2021, both for the schools and for Bint as organization?

Bint plans for 2021 are trainings of teachers about curriculum, implementation of SOPs, and new teaching strategies like delivering lectures through multimedia.

14. Finance: could you please attach a detailed financial report for 2020 and a budget for 2021? Please explain any significant differences with the budget of last year.

Attached.

Saving from 2019:	PKR	81,076
Total budget 2020:	PKR	1.249,380
Total expenses 2020:	PKR	1.476,305
Total incoming among 2020:	PKR	1.360,305
Saving:	PKR	140,000

The difference in expenses was due to distribution of warm cloths to children from extra funds received from SOMOP. Also some of the books had to be bought.