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2020 PROFILE

GAHWARA ORGANIZATION

Nurturing Children's Intellectual Development

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About Gahwara

Gahwara is a non-profit organization, working to compose, write and translate children storybooks into Persian-Dari, Pashto and Uzbeki languages, establishing a valuable source of educative and entertainment materials for children in Afghanistan. Gahwara members are professional translators, writers, poets and artists who have several years of experience in their respected fields, reside in Afghanistan and various parts of the world, many of whom contribute voluntarily.

Gahwara is the only organization in Afghanistan that works in this field. It has published more than 80 books online, as well as printed and distributed more than 37000 books from different titles over a short period of time. Gahwara's dedicated work quickly caught the attention of media and well-known organizations, and reached thousands of children living inside and outside Afghanistan.





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Statement of Need

Prolonged war, destruction, disruption in educational system, mass migrations and poverty are some of the main reasons for lacking resources to develop appropriate storybooks for children. Children's storybooks are one of the main sources of storytelling. War and destruction have left many generations of Afghanistan's children without stories, fictional characters, heroes and mental activities that could stimulate their curiosity and imagination.

Objectives

- By composing stories, we help children learn the values of life, such as, friendship, family, hope, love, peace, reconciliation, gender equality, creativity, honesty, sense of responsibility towards community and humanity in general and much more. To reach this goal, our new generation ought to have access to variety of books. By providing storybooks to our children we provide them with the opportunity to learn about their own as well as other countries, cultures, and societies.
- Storytelling forms a crucial part of childhood cognitive development. It stimulates early brain development and helps build key language, literacy and social skills in children. With children's brain development occurring the fastest between birth and age three, this period is especially important for setting stage not just for future learning and intellectual success, but also for children's emotional wellbeing. Storytelling also ignites children's curiosity, enhances their imaginative skills, and gives them new perception about the world.
- We aim to help our children learn new values and shared memories that promote tolerance, multiculturalism, diversity, gender equality and compassion.

Technical Approach

Gahwara composes/writes, translate and publishes stories in three major official languages for children in Afghanistan.

Program implementation includes :

- 1 Develop a comprehensive action plan that includes clear actions with achievable time-frame after consultation with all technical members of Gahwara;
- 2 Develop a comprehensive action plan that clearly states members' activities within achievable time-frame;
- 3 Composing stories and translating stories from foreign languages into official languages;
- 4 Storybook Design;
- 5 Text Revision/Editing;
- 6 Illustration/Picture Editing;
- 7 Book Editing;
- 8 Printing & Publishing;
- 9 Distribution to the targeted points;
- 10 Presenting the storybooks;
- 11 And program impact assessment.

The storybooks could be accessible in three formats: paper copies, PDFs and Audio clips and very soon by short animation movies. The distribution points are among public schools, kindergartens, libraries and related elementary educational associations in all over Afghanistan. Hence, it is available for children in all geographic zones especially for those living in rural and underprivileged areas.





Through each project we are targeting the important social values such as gender equality, peace, conflict resolution, reconciliation process, etc.

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Example of Previous Works

Gahwara has implemented several educational projects. Below highlights one of the recent projects completed in 2019:

- Felissimo's donation to support female/children in difficult situation due to conflicts. Gahwara composed a story by the name of the Play-Doh City in Pashto and distributed 1,250 copies in the primary schools in Pashto speaking areas, as well as certain children/girls associations in Kabul and Baghlan Provinces. Likewise, the Magic Sack Story was translated from Russian into Persian-Dari, printed in 1250 copies and distributed among primary schools in Persian-Dari speaking areas as well as certain children/girls' associations in Kabul and Herat Provinces.





Impact

Gahwara measures the impact of its projects by collecting feedbacks in the form of survey, questionnaires and reviews on a regular basis. The questionnaires and feedbacks are regularly evaluated by a team of our experts to keep track of project progress and accomplishments.





Storytelling plays a very important role in the cognitive development of children.

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Innovative

As the only children foundation that publishes storybooks in Afghanistan, Gahwara does not only serve children inside Afghanistan but also continues to provide E-books on downloadable PDF files as well as Audio clips accessible online for free. This initiative, the first of its type, has created a platform for Afghan diaspora around the world to help their children learn their native language.



Partnerships

We are in close coordination with Ministry of Education, national and international organizations such as Organization for Rehabilitation & Relief, The Asia Foundation, Charmaghz Foundation, Afghanistan Centre at Kabul University (ACKU) and Afghanistan national library, JICA, Felissimo Company,...





So far we have distributed thousands of our free storybooks to more than 270 primary schools, kindergartens, orphanages, public libraries and other children institutions in Afghanistan.

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Sustainability

Obtaining quality education is the foundation to creating sustainable development. It is set as the UN's fourth Sustainable Development Goal for 2030. Access to education at any form helps equip individuals with the tools required to develop innovative solutions to the world's greatest problems, such as, resolving prolonged conflicts as it is a catalyst for positive societal change, social justice and peace.



Future Plans

We are committed to increase the quality, quantity and diversity of languages and storybooks published in local languages, and provide them for free as an appropriate source of educative and entertaining materials for all Afghan children around the world.

We are also planning to provide educative movies, short animations, songs and intellectual games to increase the desire for learning among children.

*We are committed to provide
a valuable source of educative
and entertaining materials for
our Children in Afghanistan.*

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