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Extracurricular fun: Fairies, animals and flowers make an appearance at science fair

By Our Correspondent / Photo: Ayesha Mir Published: January 20, 2017

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The students' science projects were on display on their annual day. PHOTO: AYESHA MIR/EXPRESS

KARACHI: Children from Jinnah Foundation School's primary campus dressed up as fairies, animals and flowers for their annual day and science exhibition on Thursday.

The annual day was attended by students, parents, members of the board of trustees and teachers. "We hold this day to encourage students to perform and every year different events takes place," explained school founder Liaquat Merchant in his welcome address. He also said that in the last few years the school has organised cultural and art exhibitions but this year the students have arranged a science exhibition.

"Today out of the 106 teachers we have 27 who were former students of the institute," he said, adding that the day is not far when 50% of the academic staff will be former students.



Jinnah Foundation, which was founded by Merchant in 1988, has established four non-profit schools in Bhitai Colony. The schools accommodate 1,400 students and 106 teachers with laboratories and libraries in the junior and senior sections. "There are 10 members on the board of trustees of the school while there are three main partners who have been helping providing scholarships to the students of to complete higher education," he said.

Standard Chartered Bank, Infaq Foundation and Quaid-e-Azam Aligarh Education Trust are the organisations that are helping students with scholarships.

Arif Habib Group chairperson Arif Habib, who is also a partner of the foundation, said its aim is to educate the marginalised children in society and provide them with high-quality education. He said that the policy of his group is to promote education and contribute as much as possible. “Our motto as the board of trustees is to increase such initiatives and make it an exemplary school by training teachers,” he said.

He also pointed out that the roads leading to the school are dilapidated and the foundation should take steps in this regard.

Students from all four schools prepared science projects on different topics ranging from chemistry to physics and biology.

Madiha Ahmar, a student of class seven took two months to design a solar charger made out of solar panels. “My project can charge mobile phones and be especially useful during load-shedding,” she explained.

A group of two students from class three researched and set up a water filtration cycle and were presenting their project to the visitors.

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ملک بھر سے

جناح فاؤنڈیشن اسکول میں سائنسی نمائش، طالبات نے 67 پروجیکٹس پیش کیے

کراچی (اسٹاف رپورٹر) جناح فاؤنڈیشن اسکول بھٹائی کالونی میں طالبات کی جانب سے بنائے گئے سائنسی پروجیکٹس کی نمائش جمعرات کو منعقد ہوئی۔ سائنسی نمائش میں 100 طالبات نے 67 پروجیکٹس پیش کیے۔ تقریب کے مہمان خصوصی جنگ گروپ کے شاہ رخ حسن تھے جنہوں نے طلباء سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ پاکستان کے مسائل کا حل تعلیم میں ہے۔ انہوں نے سائنسی نمائش پر طالبات کی کاوشوں کو سراہا اور کہا کہ پاکستان میں جی ڈی پی کا دو فیصد تعلیم پر خرچ ہوتا ہے جبکہ 57 فیصد بچے اسکول سے باہر ہیں۔ شاہ رخ حسن نے کہا کہ ایک دور تھا جب مسلمان سائنس اور تحقیق میں سب سے آگے تھے۔ 1959 میں امریکی صدر نے جب بھارت کا دورہ کیا تو انہوں نے بھارتی وزیر اعظم جواہر لال نہرو سے کہا کہ کہیں آپ کو کیا چاہیے تو جواہر لال نہرو نے کہا صرف تعلیم جس کے جواب میں امریکانے تعلیم اور کمپیوٹر کی مدد میں مدد کی جبکہ اس کے برعکس جب امریکی صدر نے پاکستان کا دورہ کیا تو ہم نے ان سے ٹینک مانگے۔ شاہ رخ حسن نے کہا ہمیں اپنی غلطیوں سے سبق سیکھنا ہو گا تعلیم پر توجہ دینا ہو گی۔ تقریب سے عارف حبیب گروپ کے چیئرمین عارف حبیب، جناح فاؤنڈیشن کے چیئرمین لیاقت مرچنٹ نے بھی خطاب کیا اور طالبات کے بنائے گئے سائنسی پروجیکٹس کو سراہا۔ سائنسی نمائش میں طالبات نے دلچسپ پروجیکٹس بنائے ہوئے تھے کسی نے ڈیم کا پروجیکٹ تو کسی نے صاف پینے کے پانی کا پروجیکٹ تو کسی نے شمسی توانائی سے موبائل چارج کرنے کا پروجیکٹ بنایا ہوا تھا۔ طالبات کے ایک گروپ نے ممکنہ زلزلے سے بچنے کا پروجیکٹ بنایا ہوا تھا۔ ایک طالبہ نے بائیو گیس بنانے کا طریقہ بتایا تو کسی نے بارش کے پانی کو ذخیرہ کر کے استعمال کرنے کی ترکیب سکھائی اور تو اور درختوں کو جڑ کے ساتھ نکال کر دوسری جگہ منتقل کرنے کی مشین تیار کی گئی تھی۔ پروجیکٹس تیار کرنے والی طالبات کی انگریزی بہت پر اعتماد اور روانی بہت تھی ایسا لگ رہا تھا کہ یہ کسی کیمبرج اسکول کی طالبات ہیں۔ اس موقع پر اسکول کی پرنسپل نے بتایا کہ ہم بہت کم فیس لے کر معیاری تعلیم دیتے ہیں، اسکول میں 1300 سے زائد طلباء زیر تعلیم ہیں ہم ہر طالب علم پر انفرادی توجہ دیتے ہیں۔ زیادہ تر غریب اور پسماندہ علاقوں کے بچے ہیں۔ 200 سے زائد طلبہ کو اسکالر شپ بھی دیتے ہیں۔

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A student explains her science exhibit to Liaquat Merchant, Shahruxh Hasan, Arif Habib and Mussarat Taher at the Jinnah Foundation School on the institute's annual day — The News photo by Saeed Qureshi

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'It is education that makes a nation great'

[Home](#) / [Today's Paper](#) / [Karachi](#) / 'It is education that makes a nation great'By **Anil Datta**

January 20, 2017

Print : Karachi



What makes a nation great is education. Education is the vital cog in the chain of a country's progress. Success of countries depends entirely on the attention they accord education.

This exhortation was made by Shahrukh Hasan, Group Managing Director, Jang Group, while speaking as chief guest at the annual day of the Jinnah Foundation School at the school premises on Thursday morning.

He asked, "What makes cultures, societies and nations and cultures great?" He answered his own question by saying, "Education."

There was a time when the Muslim ummah was the greatest civilisation on the face of the earth, which is a far cry from the dismal affairs today. "Compare the state of the Muslims of yore and those of today," he said. The primary difference is that we have neglected the quest of knowledge.

"If we want to be successful in industry or any other field of endeavour, we need to excel in that particular field," he said.

Pakistan grew excellent cotton so our textiles were among the finest in the world; countries that invested in medical and allied science were the leaders in that field, he said, adding that those investing in space sciences and space technology had landed man on the moon and would perhaps land on Mars very soon.

Mr Hasan repeated most emphatically, "The factor responsible for the advancement or failure of most nations and societies hinges around education -- or the lack of it."

Countries that invested in the manufacture or consumption of knowledge became great, he said.

There was a time, he said, when the Muslims ruled Spain, part of what is now France, Hungary, Cyprus, Serbia, Sardinia, Bosnia, Albania, Persia, North Africa and the Middle East.



A student explains her science exhibit to Liaquat Merchant, Shahrukh Hasan, Arif Habib and Mussarat Taher at the Jinnah Foundation School on the institute's annual day — The News photo by Saeed Qureshi

However, things began to go awry when we stopped giving education the importance it deserved.

He lamented that in 57 Muslim majority countries, there were only 600 universities, one for every 2.5 million, but in the US there were 6,000 universities and 8,500 in India.

Speaking of Pakistan, he said that 57 percent of the children in the 3-4 age group were not enrolled in school, the second worst rating in the world, and seven million children were out of school. Pakistan, he said, was spending a measly two percent of its GDP on education as against a regional average of four percent.

“If we want to be as great as we once were, we shall have to rediscover, reinvent ourselves. Hate, anger and rebellion will not turn us into winners. Schools and universities will,” he said.






Mr Hasan acknowledged the yeoman’s service the Jinnah Foundation and Liaquat Merchant, chairman of the Jinnah Foundation, were doing society. He lauded Liaquat Merchant, the Board of Trustees of the Foundation, and everyone associated with the setting up and running of the school.

Noted brokerage house owner and stock exchange personality Arif Habib said he hoped that the partnership of the Arif Habib group and the Jinnah Foundation would grow with the passage of each day. He promised that his corporation would finance the repairs of the approach road to the school.

Later, the speakers and the guests witnessed a science exhibition set up by the children. The effort of the children was highly commendable. There stalls displaying issues like conservation of water, conservation of the environment, electric call bells, deforestation and a whole lot of others were highly commendable.

The children of the school are all those who belong to the working class background inhabiting the locality. The fees are a fraction of those charged by other schools. According to Mrs Mussarat Taher, the principal, around 30 percent of the children are paying nothing in light of their very pressing financial condition.

Talking to journalists, Mr Merchant said, “Heaven was never my target. I am doing this service to society to visualise my dream of an enlightened Pakistan, and to perpetuate the name of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.”

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