

ASSET

Association for Social Studies Educators and Teachers



Newsletter Volume 2

July 2005

Dear colleagues,

This issue of the Asset Newsletter is coming out after a gap of one year. That year (June 2004- May 2005) was successful for Asset in many ways, our association achieved in holding a very effective summer session on designing and planning of study tours and the first Asset Olympiad was successfully organized on the theme of *Pakistan: The journey, 1947 to date*. Also recognizing the importance of the new emerging theme of human rights in social studies we had organized three consecutive sessions of monthly workshops on *Human Rights education in Schools*. Participants who attended all three sessions were awarded special certificate. ASSET has also started collaborative sessions with other associations of PTAN. First step towards in that direction were session with MAP and SAP. Most important is that ASSET has gained significant popularity among its members, the number of participants in regular workshops has increased considerably which showed their support and interest to the programs of Asset. The team of the executive committee of ASSET is focusing on the objective of making the teaching of social studies more effective by facilitating the professional development of its teachers. We hope with the grace of God and with the cooperation of our members we will make some improvement in the teaching of Social Studies. Please feel free to share your concern and issues regarding teaching social studies with the members of the executive committee so we can do future workshops focusing on them.

Huma Ghaffar

**PLANNING, DESIGNING AND EXECUTING
CREATIVE STUDY TOURS
(SUMMER SESSION – JULY 8 – 10 2004)**

This three day Summer session was conducted by Sadiq Merchant, Hawa Hajji Mohammad and Huma Ghaffar. The focus of this session was on the

importance of study tours and proper planning of it. Different aspects of the study tours administrative and academic were discussed in detail and it was much highlighted through a presentation of Ms Hawa on her students visit of SOS Village, an exhibition of the work of students on that visit was also arranged. To give a practical experience of the organized tour participants visited two sites one is National Museum of Pakistan and Edhi Home Clifton.



Moreover, they designed pre, while and post activities on those visits. Furthermore in groups they selected topics from the text books and did a detail planning of study tour from selecting a site, formulating objectives, listing administrative requirements and designing pre, while and post activities and presentation of it.

FIRST ASSET OLYMPIAD

(DECEMBER 18, 2004)

Report by Mrs Bilques Munaf

Planning for the first Olympiad had been started two months earlier on the day of the event. Many ideas were shared in the meetings of executive committee of ASSET. Finally it was decided to have an Olympiad on poster making along with quiz. But we planned to introduce them in such an innovative way,

which enhanced students creative, comprehension and social skills. The objectives of Olympiad were Introduce a fresh and thriving approach to the study of the history of Pakistan

- To develop students creative abilities
- To provide students a platform to express themselves
- To promote students comprehension and presentation skills
- To discourage the rote culture and stereotype quizzes
- To promote spirit of collaborative effort among the students

So the focus were on enhancing student's creative and comprehension skills and promoting interaction and collaboration among students

The theme of the Olympiad was 'Pakistan: The journey, 1947 - to date', this theme was basically based on three thematic articles

- Building relationship (SAARC)
- Achievements (Textile of Pakistan)
- Revisiting the vision (Quaid e Azam address of August 11,1947)



Fourteen schools participated in the Olympiad namely; Qamar-e-Bani, Mohammadi Girls, Bahria College Karsaz, Sunbeam Grammar, Happy Palace, Prince Aly Boys, Sadiq Merchant Institute, Al Murtaza Boys, AL Murtaza Girls, Fatimiyah Girls, Fatimiyah Boys, City Prep Boys, Waris Ali Shah and SBM Quaid-Azam Public.

All schools sent three students along with a teacher. Fourteen teams were formed and each team had three students and one teacher. A unique idea in group forming was that members of each team belonged to different schools and it was like a challenge to them to develop a rapport among them

in a brief time and work with collaboration on the given text.

The Olympiad consists of two levels of competition. At first level text on the above mentioned topics were provided to different groups of participating team and they were asked to prepare a poster on A3 size sheet along with a text on another A3 sheet. They were provided necessary stationary and work material. In a given time they had successfully finished their work and posted them on the wall for display. The next level was a quiz competition, each group was asked questions from the given material. A panel of judges, which comprises of Ms Zaira Wahab (faculty of Hamdard University), Ms Saeeda Wahab (faculty of Comics Institute), and Ms Fehmida Fehmi (Artist) evaluated the posters. The teams were awarded on securing highest score in poster and quiz.

The whole program was very well organized and lively comparing of Sadiq Merchant made this event memorable. In the end Chief Guest Dr Bernadeet Dean awarded shields to the students of winning team and certificates to all contestants and teachers. In the closing ceremony Ms Dean and Ms Saeeda Wahab addressed the participants and appreciated their spirit and work. Also all the teachers and students greatly appreciated the Olympiad. Finally with the help of volunteers and members of ASSET the first Olympiad of ASSET successfully finished on time.

ASSET WORKSHOPS

(JUNE 2004 – MAY 2005)
SALINET FEATURES

QUESTIONING: A STRATEGY TO PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING AMONG STUDENTS (JUNE 26, 2004)

Facilitators of this workshop were Huma Ghaffar and Hawa Hajji Mohammad and their focus was on highlighting the role of questioning on developing critical thinking among students. Through activity the major divisions of questions, higher order and low order was explained then the importance of asking questions in learning were discussed. Moreover they shared the levels of thinking through Bloom's Taxonomy and use of its key words in enhancing and assessing student's learning. This session followed different activities specially designing questions of different levels a text, poem and picture.

At the end participants realized not only the role of questioning in enhancing the learning of students but also the proper way of making questions.

**DIRECTED ACTIVITIES RELATED TO TEXT
(AUGUST 21, 2004)**

DART is an strategy which helps in developing comprehension skill of students and enable them to focus on the structure and meaning of different types of text. Sadiq Merchant in his interactive workshop by sharing selected text and activities demonstrate how DART could be apply in social studies. He shared many ways of designing worksheet on social studies text. Participants also worked on different worksheets and realized the role of it in learning process.

**CITIZENSHIP AND HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION
IN SCHOOL**

(September 25, October 23 and November 27)

Providing awareness about the human rights and citizenship education at school level ASSET organized a series of workshops. The facilitators of the workshops were Ms Rakhshanda Ovais Principle of Fatmiyah School and Umma-e-laila PDT of the same school. Three consecutive workshops were held in September 25, October 23 and November 27. The facilitators discussed the major issues related to human rights theme i.e. current state of citizenship education, How to inculcate values of good citizenship and human rights in children, the convention on the rights of the child etc. Besides discussing the relevant issues they also shared work sheets and innovative ways of providing awareness about the human rights to the students of all levels.

**CONCERNS AND CHALLENGES OF SOCIAL
STUDIES TEACHER
(JANUARY 15, 2005)**

This session basically had a format of panel discussion and moderator of it was Tahseen Jahan, Bilques Munaf and Huma Ghaffar. They motivate participants to share their views and experiences. Through discussion and sharing of ideas, it was emerged that most of the teachers concerns were fall into two categories one teaching strategies and another classroom management. Participant and specifically moderator suggested few ways of tackling those issues.

**HEALTH MANAGEMENT AND MATHEMATICS
(March 5, 2005)**

With the collaboration of MAP (Mathematics association of Pakistan) the February session of ASSET was held in the first week of March. The theme of the workshop was "Health Management and Mathematics" and MAP executive committee facilitated it. The focus of the workshop was on stress management and balanced diet and on these theme activities of mathematical calculations were designed. This interactive session was full of activities and participants filled many worksheets. It was attended by large number of participants and more than hundred participants were present their.

**CLASS MANAGEMENT AND MOTIVATIONAL
SKILLS
(March 26, 2005)**

The facilitator of this workshop was Mrs Sayida Wahab, Assistant professor at Commecs Institute of Business and Management Sciences. In a very lively and interactive session she highlighted the traits of effective and ineffective teacher, and pointed out the tips for classroom management. She discussed many theories and methods of class management and motivational skills, moreover she shared her experiences and it generated a lively discussion among participants.

**COASTAL COMMUNITIES AND THEIR
DEPENDENCE ON MANGROVES FOREST
(April 23, 2005)**

This collaborative session of ASSET and SAP (Science Association of Pakistan) was conducted by representatives of WWF (Wild World Foundation). Dr Ejaz Ahmad, Deputy Director General of WWF and Mr Fayaz Rasool were the facilitators of workshop. In the first session Dr Ejaz explained about the bio diversity of Pakistan, environmental issues and elements effecting it. The second session started by a documentary on mangroves regions and coastal communities. This documentary followed a presentation of Mr Fayaz Rasool on Mangroves in which he shared basic information about Mangroves along with mentioning the threat they are facing and the activities of its conservation project. In the end participants did a group activity on environmental issues. This informative and interesting session succeeded in making some effect on participants

and they realized the importance of environment and its effect on human being. Furthermore they realized their responsibility and role in protecting the environment.

LESSON PLANING FOR EFFECTIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING (May 28, 2005)

Lesson planning plays a vital role in teaching. It is basically a framework, which helps teacher in planning and achieving her lesson objectives. A lesson without it might end up enhancing any learning abilities of students. Ms Tahseen Jahan and Ms Hawa Haji Mohammad the facilitators of this workshop highlighted the importance of lesson planning and shared the components of a good lesson plan moreover they discussed the term of smart objective and its significance in drawing objectives of lesson. At the end of the session participants did a group work and they designed a lesson plan on a topic by implementing their learning about lesson plan. Through this workshop participants realized the role of good lesson plan in effective teaching and learning.

ACTIVITIES FOR STUDY TOURS

The summer session of July 2004 was on 'Planning, designing and executing creative study tours'. Many tasks were assigned to the participants of workshop in reference of making objectives and activities for study tours. Their group work came up with very relevant, interesting and up to the level of students. Here we would like to share them with our readers; they are suggested sites and objectives of field visit on the theme of textbooks. Also pre, while and post activities according to the level of classes.

SITE OF VISIT AND OBJECTIVES

CLASS LEVEL: PRE PRIMARY

TOPIC: In the garden
STUDY TOUR: A near by garden
OBJECTIVES: Students will be able to
Differentiate between different types of flower and plants
Discuss the concept of habitats with reference to birds and animal
Recognize the importance of greenery for human being

TOPIC: Jobs
STUDY TOUR: A community walk
OBJECTIVES: Students will be able to
Get more exposure about different type of services available in society
Discuss importance of different jobs
Comment on dignity of work

CLASS LEVEL: PRIMARY

TOPIC: Agriculture
STUDY TOUR: Visit of modern agriculture farm house
OBJECTIVES: Students will be able to
Differentiate between traditional and modern means of agriculture
Observe and write function of modern tools of farming
Study and record the measures taken to protect plants from harmful insects

TOPIC: Natural resources of Pakistan and industry
STUDY TOUR: Cotton mill
OBJECTIVES: Students will be able to
Explain the process of making cloth through a flow chart
Discuss the importance of cotton industry

CLASS LEVEL: SECONDARY

TOPIC: State and Government
STUDY TOUR: Provincial Assembly building
OBJECTIVES: Students will be able to
Assimilate learning about legislative bodies
Familiarize the learners with the proceeding of provincial assembly
Write a critical note on existing value of democracy in our country

TOPIC: Industry
STUDY TOUR: Pakistan Steel Mill
OBJECTIVES: Students will be able to
Have an exposure of the set up of Pakistan steel mill
Discuss the role of steel mill in the economy of Pakistan

TOPIC: Historical and cultural heritage
STUDY TOUR: National Museum
OBJECTIVES: Students will be able to
Get first hand experience about the things read in text books
Develop observation and perception skills to make social studies content more meaningful
Discuss the concept of continuity and change

PRE, WHILE AND POST ACTIVITIES ON STUDY TOURS

VISIT TO THE ZOO (pre primary)

PRE ACTIVITIES

Slide show of the Zoo
Movie session on animal life
Puzzle game (matching activity)

WHILE ACTIVITIES

Poems during travel
Flash cards with pictures of animals and birds for matching the real animals and birds
Counting of animals in the cage
Observing the actions of animals
Taking photographs

POST ACTIVITIES

Coloring worksheets
Free hand drawing
Making card games
Role play by children
With the help of the models of animals teacher will conduct different activities eg counting, matching and pairing activities. Also the concept of big and small could be given

VISIT TO A DEPARTMENTAL STORE (Primary)

PRE ACTIVITIES

Slide show
Movie session
Discussion with the students about their experiences of the visit of shopping center

WHILE ACTIVITIES

Interviews with shopkeepers
Filling a worksheet

POST ACTIVITIES

Role play by students
Making a booklet
Designing a poster
Model making

VISIT TO A VILLAGE NEAR KARACHI (Primary and secondary)

PRE ACTIVITIES

Showing pictures of village life
Sharing students views on village life

WHILE ACTIVITIES

Worksheet (marking next to the things found in the village and the things did not find)

Interview of a farmer about his activities
Share and play games of common interest
Taking photographs

POST ACTIVITIES

Make a comparison of city and village life through models, booklets and posters and exhibition of them
Discussion on village life
Writing a letter about the visit of village
Role play (to show how do the village children help their parents)

VISIT OF A POST OFFICE (level 4-5 grade)

PRE ACTIVITIES

Students gather information on different functions of post office
(Stamps, procedure of parcel and money order etc)

WHILE ACTIVITIES

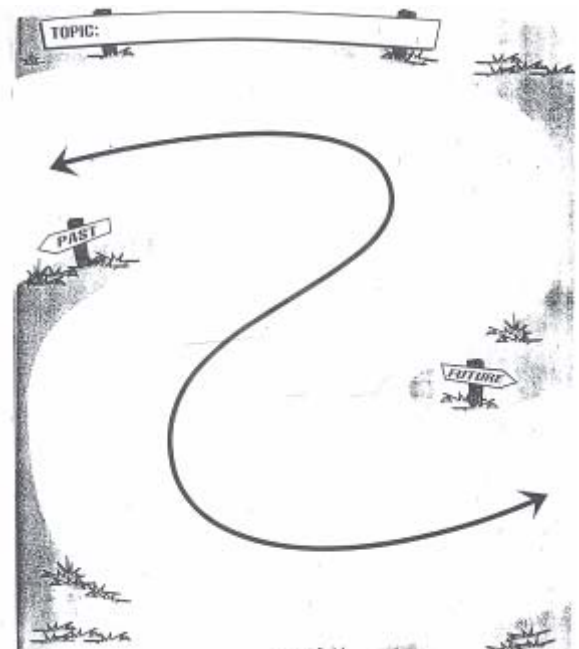
List the different departments of post office
Interview with postman
Interview with the head of post office

POST ACTIVITIES

Role play
Booklets
Model making
Poem (dignity of post man)

Worksheets

On the road to the future



Purpose

Sequencing events helps students gain a sense of order and time. As students place key events, ideas, or people they are studying in a chronological sequence, they are better able to evaluate the information and form connection between the past and the present. This organizer provides students with a means for visualizing a sequence of event and gives them individualized practice in using and reading time lines.

How to use the organizer

Help students brainstorm and list key events in the time period they are studying. Then show them how to make one mark along the center line of the road to the future of the events in the list. Students can use words, picture, or a combination of the two to label each mark. Ask volunteers to use their completed organizers to recall and retell the sequence of events that they have recorded.



How to use the organizer

Be sure that students understand that a cause is an action or event that makes something else (the effect) happen. If necessary, review simple cause and effect relationships such as “if I knock that glass over (cause), the water will spill (effect).” Have students identify a cause and write on the tree trunk. If all students are exploring the effects of the same cause, write the cause on the tree trunk before making copies of the organizer. Students can work together or individually to identify and record the effects on the branches of the tree. Top show multiple cause for one effect (for example, the cause of the civil war), change the labels on the organizer before making copies for the class. Write EFFECT on the tree trunk and CAUSE on each of the branches.

Cause and Effects Tree

Purpose

Identifying causes and effects helps students understand the consequences of actions and events both throughout history and in their own lives. Understanding causal relationships is an important critical thinking skill that leads to a deeper understanding of subject matter and allows students to make connections between their learning and their own lives. Students who can recognize the result of actions or events are better able to make choices about their own behaviour.

Source: Jackson, Jennifer and Raymer, Dottle, The Big Book of Reproducible Graphic Organizer, New York: Professional Books.

Looking forward for your active participation in ASSET activities, and also feedback on our first newsletter.

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