



Group Development Pakistan

# Case Study

## Positive behavioral change

The outcome of the Life Skills Based Education (LSBE) provided to children in the Non-Formal Education center is visible via a refreshing change in the pupils' attitude. They await the field officers' visits eagerly and listen to them attentively. They are happy to miss 'break' time and insist on the session continuing.

In Mashal School, Haider was adamant that he was not interested in going to school and could hardly be convinced to even consider Matriculation (Grade 10). Over time he shared with the field officers that he was very impressed by the discussions that GDP was facilitating with students; he added that those discussions had "fixed his brain" and that he knew he had to continue his education as much as possible.

The children of the E-11 Non-Formal Education (NFE) center have developed great survival skills. They are usually child laborers and must protect themselves from situations that are not always child conducive and sometimes even violent. Hence, fighting when they felt coerced or threatened was a natural reaction to them. They often displayed very self-centered and individualistic attitudes, coupled with low self-esteem. They largely focused on their own personal interest first, in order to survive. However, the NFE teachers and GDP field officers ensured that all sessions conducted with children in the NFE center were based

around empathy, respect for children and positive disciplining. Consequently, GDP staff eventually observed a distinct behavioral change among several children; eg Dilawar, a pupil who was particularly anti-social and aggressive with his fellow comrades, was observed helping others to wash their hands at a hand-washing session by opening and closing the tap for them while they waited in line. This change occurred months after Dilawar joining the NFE center established by GDP in E-11 sector.

This confirms the value of empathy, child conducive attitude and positive feedback to motivate children in their education and in behaving in a non-violent manner in general.