

Negotiating Life in Haji Ghulam Zakariya Goth *(Third Annual Progress Report – July 2024 to May 2025)*

1.0 INTRODUCTION

It is with immense pride and sincere gratitude that we present the Third Annual Progress Report of the Amna Shamima Foundation (ASF). ASF was meticulously established with a singular, transformative mission: to empower women in the Haji Ghulam Zakariya Goth, located within Gadap Town, Malir District, Karachi, through comprehensive skill development and educational initiatives. This report encapsulates our robust activities, significant accomplishments, persistent challenges, and transparent financial standing, reflecting a year of strategic growth and impactful community engagement. Our inaugural year of operation has laid a strong foundation, marking substantial strides towards our foundational objectives.

2.0 OPERATIONAL PHILOSOPHY AND COMMUNITY CONTEXT

The Amna Shamima Foundation's core philosophy revolves around fostering intergenerational knowledge exchange, creating a vital interface where the wisdom of the elderly enriches the younger generation through shared skills and experiences. Our operations are strategically situated in Haji Ghulam Zakariya Goth, a vibrant yet resource-constrained settlement within Karachi's expansive urban landscape.

Haji Ghulam Zakariya Goth, situated within Karachi's Gadap Town, stands as a compelling anthropological study of urban resilience, where a diverse community navigates the precarious complexities of informal settlement life. Predominantly working-class, with a modest scattering of middle-level professionals and retired military personnel, this settlement showcases a profound fusion of adaptive strategies against a backdrop of systemic infrastructural neglect.

The socio-economic fabric is distinctly gendered yet interdependent: women largely bolster household incomes through domestic labor, often enduring the health hazards of wood and cylinder cooking fuels, while men engage in various trades like gardening, carpentry, and driving. This labor division underscores an implicit cultural understanding of household sustenance in a resource-scarce environment.

Infrastructural realities paint a stark picture: 25,000 households on unleased land grapple with intermittent electricity, leading to the informal "kunda" system—a direct response to state failure that highlights local,

albeit unregulated, solutions. The absence of sewerage lines forces reliance on in-house pit latrines, and the scarcity of cooking gas pushes families towards wood, a practice observed to cause respiratory issues and smoke-filled homes, particularly impacting women. Essential public amenities—a hospital, government school, or ambulance service—are critically absent, compelling reliance on unqualified practitioners and home-based education, signifying a parallel, informal service economy.

Cultural expressions are nuanced. The pervasive sight of hijab and Naqab among women, often paired with "fashionable attire underneath," speaks to a subtle negotiation of public piety and personal style within a religiously diverse, yet predominantly conservative, milieu. Men frequently sport beards and traditional Kameez Shalwar, though modern attire is also observed, reflecting a dynamic interplay of tradition and contemporary influence. The landscape, dotted with mosques and madrasahs, reinforces a strong spiritual anchor, further complemented by charity initiatives like the Bahria Dastarkhawan.

Economically, the Goth is a vibrant, if sometimes unsettling, nexus. Commercial ventures, from established banks like Askari and Al-Habib to a superstore, coexist with a distinct ethnic division of labor: Sindhi Hindus dominate grocery stores, Punjabis run milk shops, and Pashtuns control vegetable and fruit businesses. This informal economic ecosystem, however, has a grim shadow: the thriving "kabaria" business, fueled by addiction, where stolen goods from homes and shops circulate, revealing a dark underbelly of societal vulnerability.

Living under high-tension power lines on unleased land, with precarious incomes, the residents of Zakarya Goth embody a tenacious spirit of adaptation. This community is a powerful testament to human ingenuity in carving out lives amidst infrastructural voids and socio-economic pressures, where informal networks and resilient cultural practices bridge the gaps left by formal systems

3.0 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

This reporting period has been marked by substantial progress across our program areas:

3.1 Diverse Course Offerings

The Foundation successfully launched and sustained a range of skill-development courses, including basic computer course, sewing, embroidery, mehndi, self-grooming, arts & crafts, and adult literacy. These programs garnered enthusiastic participation from women across the settlement, leading to the graduation of students across three batches.

3.2 Women Empowerment

We are proud to report the empowerment of 150 women through our meticulously designed courses. These women have not only acquired invaluable skills but many have also successfully established home-based businesses, directly enhancing their families' economic well-being and fostering greater financial independence.

3.3 Literacy Enhancement

Our adult literacy classes have yielded remarkable progress, with participants demonstrating significant improvements in reading and writing proficiencies. This foundational achievement has profoundly boosted their self-confidence and unlocked new avenues for personal and professional growth.

3.4 Survey Methodology Course

A specialized 10-week survey methods course was launched for young women, with four weeks successfully completed within this reporting period. This initiative aims to equip participants with critical research skills, enabling them to conduct surveys on medical and educational facilities, alongside gathering vital demographic data for the area.

3.5 Pivotal Computer Literacy Program

A monumental accomplishment this year has been the establishment of the Akhtar Hameed Khan Computer Lab (AHKCL) within the Foundation. Generously supported by our dedicated friends and benefactors, this state-of-the-art facility was initiated from June 03, 2024. The curriculum encompasses essential software skills, including MS Office, Inpage, and page-making, marking a significant leap in digital empowerment for the community.

3.6 Robust Community Engagement

The Foundation actively fostered strong ties with the local community, orchestrating impactful awareness campaigns to promote our courses and underscore the transformative power of female education and empowerment. Following activities are conducted in the Reporting period for robust community engagement

3.7 Strategic Data Management

A comprehensive database of graduating students has been meticulously compiled. This invaluable resource will facilitate future follow-ups, enable precise skill identification, and support ongoing impact assessment.

3.8 Impactful Awareness Sessions

Collaborating with the esteemed Teachers' Resource Center (TRC), we conducted five targeted awareness sessions for both students and community women. These sessions, engaging twenty-five participants, covered vital topics such as domestic health and hygiene, fostering positive social interaction with the

elderly, community mobilization through volunteerism for environmental improvement, and addressing early childhood needs, positively impacting households and the area.

3.9 Strategic Networking

To bolster the Foundation's technical capabilities and reach, crucial linkages were established with prominent organizations including HANDS, Hunar Foundation, Teachers Resource Center, and Behbud, exploring avenues for future impactful partnerships.

3.10 Enhanced Visibility:

To effectively showcase the remarkable achievements of our students and the Foundation's broader impact, a dedicated Facebook page has been successfully launched. Furthermore, a comprehensive website is also launched within the current fiscal year, promising to expand our digital footprint and outreach. ASF now has an Instagram account too, and gradually its following is gaining strength.

4.0 SUPPLEMENTAL INITIATIVES AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH: BROADENING ASF'S IMPACT

Beyond our core vocational and literacy programs, the Amna Shamima Foundation (ASF) actively engaged in a diverse array of supplemental initiatives during the reporting period, underscoring our commitment to holistic community development and empowerment. These activities were strategically designed to address multifaceted needs, enhance capabilities, and foster a more resilient and informed community:

4.1 Teachers' Training Program:

To ensure the highest quality of instruction and pedagogical excellence across all our courses, ASF, with the support of Teachers' Resource Centre (TRC), organized a targeted teachers' training program. This vital initiative focused on refining instructional methodologies, curriculum delivery, and classroom management techniques, directly contributing to improved learning outcomes and sustained educational impact for our students.

4.2 Home Budgeting Workshops

Recognizing the critical importance of financial literacy for household stability, ASF conducted practical and engaging workshops on home budget making. These sessions empowered women with essential skills in managing household finances, promoting greater economic stability, informed decision-making, and self-reliance within their families.

4.3 Block Printing Workshop

A series of specialized block printing workshops successfully engaged 15 women, providing them with valuable creative design skills rooted in traditional craftsmanship. This initiative not only fostered artistic

expression but also opened potential pathways for income generation through the creation of unique, handcrafted textile products, thus contributing to their economic independence.

4.4 Child Care Spaces

To facilitate seamless participation of mothers in workforce, ASF in partnership with TRC, provided crucial training and orientation on creating and managing safe child care spaces. This support emphasized a safe, nurturing, and stimulating environment for children, simultaneously empowering mothers to pursue personal development and acquire new skills without the barrier of childcare constraints.

4.5 Climate Change Awareness Session

Recognizing the growing urgency of environmental challenges, ASF organized a critical climate change awareness session for 30 participants with support of Urban Resource Centre and the Tree Man initiative. This aimed to educate community members on environmental sustainability, fostering a deeper understanding of climate impacts and promoting proactive approaches for plantation and to build community resilience against environmental shifts.

4.6 Health-Oriented Organizations Networking

ASF actively engaged in strategic networking meetings with various health-oriented organizations. These crucial collaborations were vital for exploring potential partnerships, identifying avenues to address pressing community health needs, leveraging external expertise, and building a collaborative framework for improving local well-being and access to care.

4.7 Thrift Sales

To promote resourcefulness, accessibility, and community engagement, ASF successfully organized a series of thrift sales. These events not only served as a valuable community service by providing affordable goods but also subtly encouraged sustainable consumption practices and fostered internal community exchange.

4.8 Behbud Mela

In a significant collaborative endeavor, ASF participated in "Behbud Mela." This partnership provided a valuable platform for ASF-trained women to showcase and sell their handcrafted products to a wider audience, directly linking their acquired skills with market opportunities and contributing to their economic upliftment and self-sufficiency.

4.9 Certificate Distribution Ceremony

A highlight of the reporting period was the certificate distribution ceremony, held to formally honor the dedication, hard work, and achievements of our graduating students. This event not only provided well-deserved recognition for their accomplishments but also served as a powerful motivator for both graduates

and prospective students, reinforcing the tangible value of their efforts and inspiring future participation in our transformative programs.

5.0 FINANCIAL STATUS (JUNE 2024 TO MAY 2025)

The Table is a vital record of all financial contributions received by the Amna Shamima Foundation during the specified period (June 2024 to May 2025). This document meticulously tracks the inflow of funds, providing essential transparency regarding the sources and amounts of support. For a charity organization like ASF, it directly reflects the trust and commitment of individual donors, organizations, and partners who believe in our mission. It underpins our accountability and allows us to acknowledge and appreciate the generosity that fuels our empowerment programs, ensuring that every contribution is accurately recorded and utilized for maximum impact in Haji Ghulam Zakariya Goth.

S No	Particular	Dr	Cr
1	Reserve		52,340
2	Donation		1,347,000
3	Director Support		997,425
4	Activity Expense	96,006	
5	Assets	272,400	
6	Consultancy Expense	122,000	
7	electricity expense	2,400	
8	Gas Chargs	1,350	
9	Janitorial Exp	1,500	
10	Maintinance Exp	19,560	
11	new paper	10,155	
12	Office expense	10,920	
13	Photocopy exp	4,540	
14	Postage exp	410	
15	Printing & Stationery	28,107	
16	Salaries Expense	1,578,000	
17	Tcs expense	350	
18	Travel Exp	236,500	
19	Cash In hand	12,567	
	Total	2,396,765	2,396,765

6.0 CHALLENGES FACED; INVESTING IN RESILIENCE: OVERCOMING CHALLENGES TO EMPOWER KARACHI'S WOMEN

The Amna Shamima Foundation (ASF) stands as a beacon of hope in Haji Ghulam Zakariya Goth, Karachi, diligently working to empower women through vital skill development and educational programs. While our

progress in fostering literacy, vocational skills, and digital inclusion (through our new computer lab) has been significant, the journey toward sustainable transformation is fraught with complex challenges that demand immediate attention and strategic partnerships. Overcoming these hurdles is paramount to scaling our impact and securing a brighter future for the resilient women we serve.

6.1 Navigating the Path to Financial Independence

Our most pressing challenge is achieving long-term financial sustainability. Currently, ASF operates without a robust income-generating model, frequently relying on out-of-pocket contributions to cover essential operational costs and staff salaries. This precarious funding structure limits our ability to plan strategically, invest in necessary infrastructure, and expand our reach to more deserving women. A secure financial foundation is not merely about survival; it is about building a scalable and enduring platform for empowerment.

6.2 Addressing Systemic Barriers to Education and Empowerment

Despite the enthusiasm for our programs, we face heartbreaking participant dropouts. Early marriages, frequent family relocations, and overwhelming domestic responsibilities disproportionately impact young women, often forcing them to abandon their learning journeys. Furthermore, deeply entrenched gender discrimination, particularly against older women in adult literacy programs, and the economic pressures that push young girls into domestic labor in more affluent neighborhoods, actively undermine our efforts. These are not just individual setbacks; they are systemic societal barriers that diminish human potential and perpetuate cycles of poverty.

6.3 Building Local Capacity and Operational Strength

Identifying and retaining qualified personnel from within the community for teaching roles or day-to-day management proves exceptionally difficult due to limited educational qualifications and professional capacities among local women. This directly impacts our ability to foster true community ownership and prepare for a future where ASF can be led and sustained by those it serves. Furthermore, a crucial operational bottleneck persists: the lack of an official bank account. Despite our diligent efforts, delays from regulatory bodies prevent us from formalizing our financial transactions, leading to lost funding opportunities and forcing us into less ideal practices for managing donations. This significantly hampers transparency and our ability to attract larger institutional support.

6.4 Fostering Community Ownership and Comprehensive Well-being

To truly embed our work within the community and ensure its long-term viability, we recognize the urgent need to establish a community-based advisory group. This group would foster a deeper sense of ownership, guide our initiatives, and lay the groundwork for eventual community-led management. Beyond skills, the

scarcity of quality health services in Haji Ghulam Zakariya Goth represents a dire, unaddressed need. While not our primary mandate, our ability to integrate health initiatives or facilitate access to vital services is severely constrained by current resources.

6.5 Bridging Distance and Creating Economic Pathways

The distance and commutation challenges often deter external organizations, private groups, and individuals from engaging with us on a voluntary or collaborative basis. This isolation limits our access to critical expertise, resources, and networking opportunities. Crucially, a significant gap remains in effectively linking our newly skilled women with sustainable income opportunities, whether through market access for their home-based products or facilitating remote online work. Moreover, we have untapped potential in optimizing and utilizing our existing physical space to generate monthly income, which could partially offset operational costs and enhance our self-sufficiency.

6.6 A Call to Partnership

The challenges faced by the Amna Shamima Foundation are substantial, but they are not insurmountable. They are, in fact, an urgent call to action. By addressing financial sustainability, strengthening community engagement, building local capacities, and creating direct pathways to economic independence, we can amplify our impact exponentially. We invite forward-thinking donors and partners to join us in transforming these obstacles into opportunities, ensuring that the women of Haji Ghulam Zakariya Goth can realize their full potential and contribute vibrantly to Karachi's future. Your investment in ASF is an investment in human dignity, economic empowerment, and sustainable community development.

7.0 FUTURE OUTLOOK

In the forthcoming year, the Amna Shamima Foundation is committed to an ambitious trajectory of expansion and deeper impact:

7.1 Expanded Course Offerings

We aim to diversify our vocational and technical training programs, introducing courses in entrepreneurship, social and infrastructure mapping, and trainings in marketing, utilization of opportunities in digital sector, mental health and social well-being etc, broadening the scope of skill development.

7.2 Enhanced Community Engagement

We will intensify our community engagement and awareness campaigns to further encourage and solidify female participation across all initiatives.

7.3 Diversified Funding

A key strategic imperative is to actively explore and secure additional funding sources, enabling us to significantly augment our budget and extend our transformative reach to even more women.

7.4 Holistic Health Initiatives

With foreseen support from like-minded health professionals and organizations, we are committed to launching wide-ranging health initiatives specifically tailored to address the well-being of women, elderly and children in the community.

8.0 FOSTERING WELL-BEING: COMMITMENT TO STAFF CARE

At the Amna Shamima Foundation (ASF), we recognize that the dedication and well-being of our staff are paramount to achieving our transformative mission in Haji Ghulam Zakarya Goth. During this reporting period, thanks to the invaluable support of our friends and benefactors, ASF implemented several impactful staff care initiatives that underscore our commitment to those who tirelessly drive our programs. These efforts go beyond mere remuneration, aiming to directly address staff needs, reduce personal burdens, and foster a supportive working environment. A significant stride in staff welfare was the provision of solar panels and associated accessories. In a community grappling with intermittent power supply, this intervention directly alleviated a major infrastructural challenge for our staff members' households, ensuring stable electricity and improving their quality of life. Furthermore, understanding the financial pressures faced by many, ASF generously covered the education costs for the children of a couple of staff members. This direct investment in their families' future not only eased financial strain but also demonstrated our profound appreciation for their commitment, reinforcing their ability to provide for their loved ones. In a spirit of camaraderie and appreciation, gifts were distributed on religious and other significant occasions. These gestures, though seemingly small, played a crucial role in boosting staff morale, fostering a sense of belonging, and acknowledging their invaluable contributions beyond their daily tasks. Lastly, aligning with our broader community development and environmental awareness goals, trees were provided free of cost for plantation to the staff. This initiative not only offered a tangible asset to their homes but also encouraged environmental stewardship and created a lasting personal connection to the foundation's ethos. These comprehensive staff care efforts reflect our core philosophy: empowering our team is fundamental to empowering the community we serve, ensuring a motivated, resilient, and dedicated workforce for sustained impact.

9.0 A CALL TO ACTION: SUSTAINING EMPOWERMENT

The Third Annual Progress Report of the Amna Shamima Foundation (ASF) stands as a testament to the transformative power of grassroots empowerment in Haji Ghulam Zakariya Goth. We have witnessed remarkable achievements: women equipped with vocational skills, bolstered literacy rates, and the pivotal establishment of the Akhtar Hameed Khan Computer Lab. These successes underscore the profound impact strategic interventions can have in a resource-constrained environment, fostering economic independence and personal growth amidst systemic challenges. Our comprehensive efforts in community engagement, data management, and strategic networking have solidified ASF's role as a vital anchor in the community.

However, the journey towards self-sufficiency and broader impact requires continued, robust support. As detailed within this report, ASF navigates critical operational challenges, including the absence of a sustainable income model, the struggle to secure an official bank account, and the pervasive societal barriers like early marriage and gender discrimination that impede women's continuous participation. These are not merely administrative hurdles; they are fundamental obstacles that threaten to curtail our potential and limit the reach of our life-changing programs.

Therefore, we issue an urgent call to action to our invaluable donors and prospective partners. Your investment is not merely a donation; it is a direct contribution to human dignity, economic empowerment, and the cultivation of a resilient, self-sustaining community. Funds are critically needed to cover essential running expenses, ensuring the continuity of our established programs and the dedicated team that delivers them. Beyond operational sustenance, we seek visionary support for future projects, including the expansion of advanced vocational training, vital health initiatives for women, and the crucial establishment of a community-based advisory group to foster long-term ownership. By addressing these challenges collectively, we can amplify our impact exponentially, turning obstacles into opportunities and ensuring that the women of Haji Ghulam Zakarya Goth continue to thrive, contributing vibrantly to Karachi's future. Join us in forging a path towards lasting change and equitable opportunity.

10.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our invaluable donors, dedicated volunteers, inspiring instructors, and the resilient community of Karachi for their unwavering support and profound commitment to the mission of the Amna Shamima Foundation. Our initial years have been a journey of invaluable learning and remarkable growth, and we are genuinely excited to continue our vital work of empowering women in Haji Ghulam

Zakariya Goth. We firmly believe that, by working collaboratively, we can collectively forge positive change and uplift the lives of countless women in the community.

PHOTO DOCUMENTATION



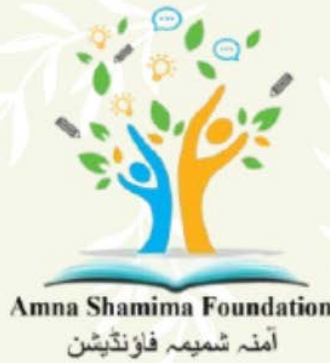












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AT
BEHBUD FIESTA

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH 2024

12PM TO 10 PM

BEACH VIEW PARK

**ALL PROCEEDS WILL DIRECTLY BENEFIT OUR
STUDENTS!**



