

ALUMNI NETWORKS: PAKISTAN



APRIL 2020

## **OVERVIEW**

Since late 2018, inHive has been working with CARE Foundation's team to strengthen alumni networks at **20 schools in and around the city of Lahore, Pakistan**.

With the support **from the UK Government's Small Charities Challenge Fund**, we have completed the first year of our partnership, in which we piloted an approach to building alumni networks in primary and secondary schools that are either run or supported by CARE Foundation.



At the start of the programme, in**Hive provided training to the dedicated team at CARE,** who subsequently worked with alumni committees of 5 - 7 members at each of the schools. They shared with the committees **practical steps to increase their alumni engagement.** 

17 of our 20 pilot schools started thinking about alumni engagement when we started working with them.

Teachers, school leaders, current students and others who are part of the committees were very excited and worked hard to follow the proposed methods. For example, the committees diligently **set up or improved formal systems to keeping and updating alumni records,** such as their contact details, which can be quite challenging for some rural schools with insufficient access to technology.

## **QUICK FACTS**

Our 20 pilot schools provide education for more than 28,700 students, 62% of whom are girls.

12 of the schools are headed by women.

Since the start of the project, alumni committees spent on average only 526 rupees on alumni programme, which is roughly £2.60, showing low cost route to impact.

10 months into the programme, 95% of teachers felt extremely confident about building alumni network at their school.

65% of the alumni committees use phones to manage their alumni contact details.



## **ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT UP 45%**

In November 2019 we conducted an assessment of our programme - we held **group discussions and interviews with more than 50 people**, including principals, teachers, students and alumni. We also administered a **survey** at each of the pilot schools to see the immediate impact of the work.

Through the project, the **alumni committee members successfully worked with other teachers and parents at their schools** to bring them on board. 60% and 80% of the committees gained other teachers' and parents' support for the alumni programme.

For **95% of the schools it became extremely important to have support of the former students** and 45% of them believed their alumni became very or extremely engaged, when none of them believed so at the start.

Alumni who came to meetings organised during the year were interested to give back, ranging from sharing their professional skills in IT and computer engineering, to providing internships, organising football games and giving advice on university or college admissions' process.

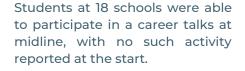
The alumni felt they also benefited from being part of the community. For example, because women in Pakistan don't often have equal career opportunities, **the community of other women who studied at their school just like them, provided them support and source of confidence.** 

"It is useful for me to talk with all the students. Everyone can do this. I always thought one day I'll be successful and I'll be in front of my school. And I did go back to my school and I was very happy." *Jawad, CARE school alumnus* 



All 20 schools reported that alumni are supporting with the key challenges identified by the school.







17 of our pilot schools had alumni- led mentorship sessions for their students since the start of the project.



100% of schools now have a formal system for engaging alumni, from a standing start of zero schools.

