



# Fostering students' creative writing through local festivals to address challenges of climate change

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## Context

According to the Global Climate Risk Index, Pakistan is currently the fifth most climate-vulnerable country in the world

- Gilgit Baltistan is a highly mountainous fragile region in the North of Pakistan. It has a population of 1.2 million people, predominantly agricultural and with a literacy rate of 65%.
- Mominabad Ishkoman School was established in 1962 to provide education to marginalized children in Gilgit Baltistan
- The school has 15 teachers and 225 students (70 girls and 155 boys) from Kindergarten to Year 10



# The Challenge

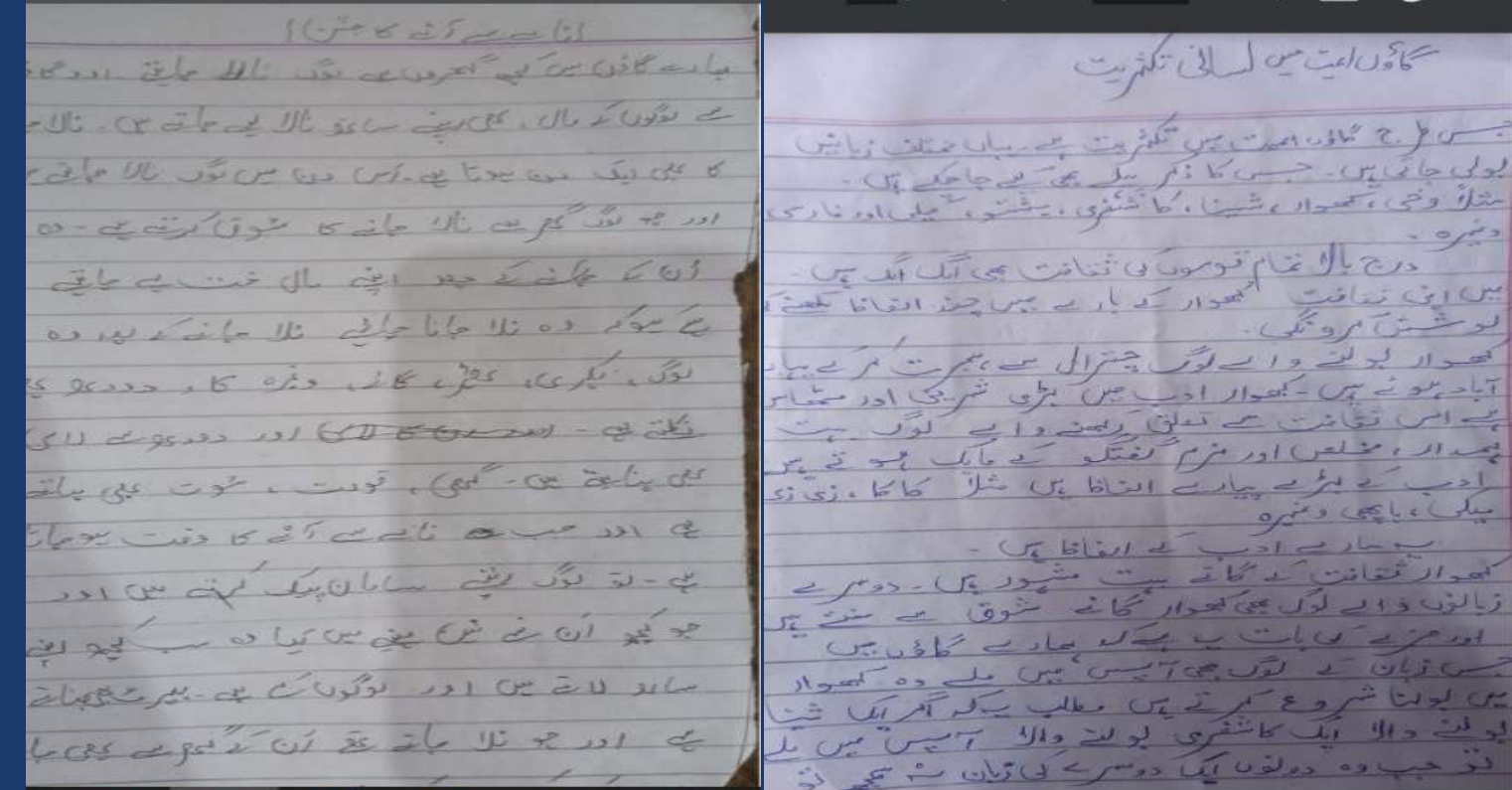
- Identified lack of creative writing skills in grades 9 and 10 through assessments.
- Dependency on memorization and textbooks observed, hindering creative writing abilities.
- Pre- and post-test data showed only 2 out of 30 students displayed creative writing proficiency; interviews with stakeholders conducted for further insight.



# The Solution

To address challenges in creative writing by leveraging local wisdom and learning from indigenous festivals and celebrations.

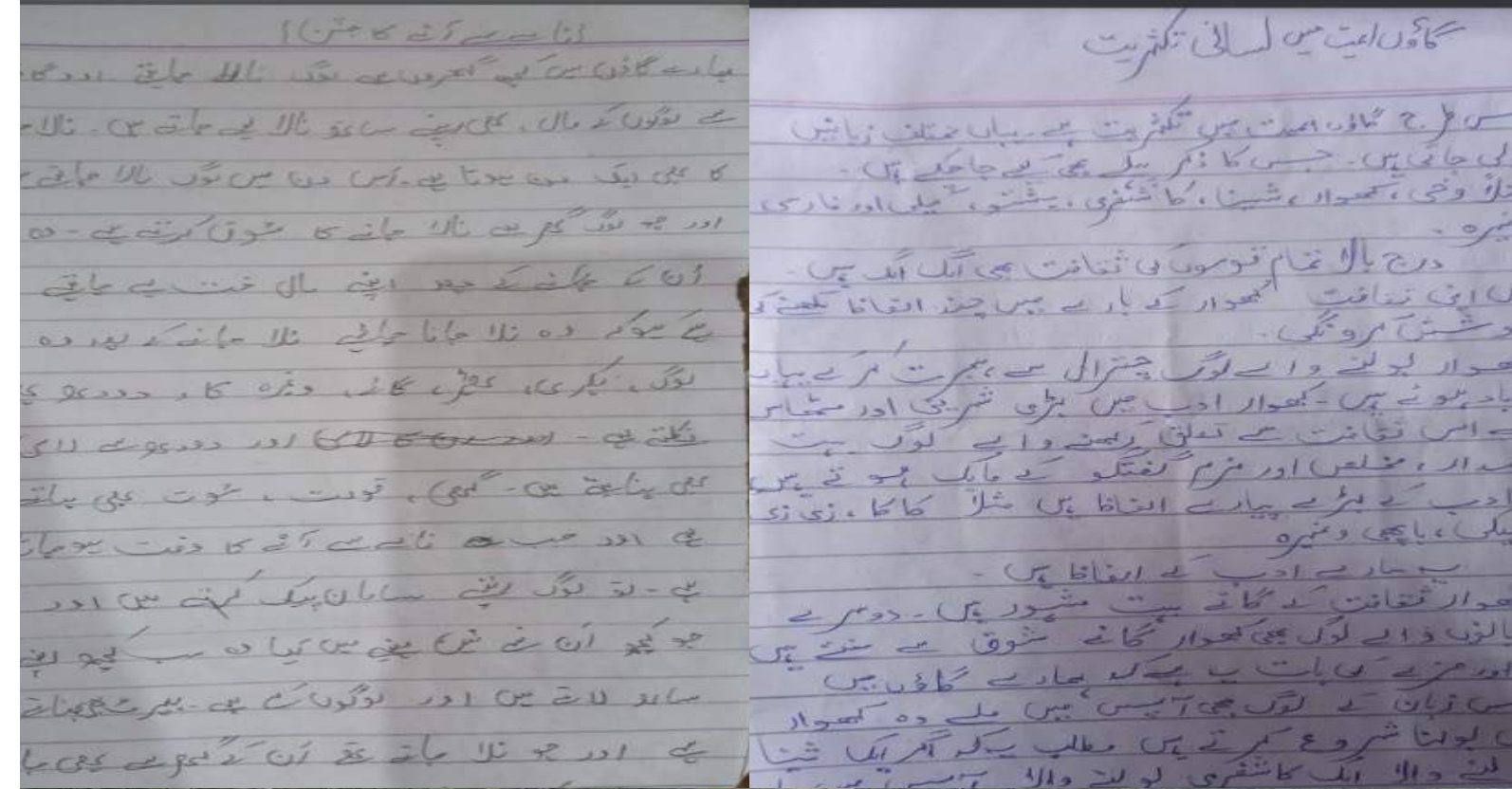
- Integrated creative writing into local celebrations, festivals, and events where students actively participate.
- Children documented organizational aspects, their roles, and their enjoyment of events.



# Iteration and evolution of solution to meet changing needs

Last year, the school and community were disrupted by a devastating flood, which caused extensive damage and impacted students emotionally, diverting their focus.

The students' growing interest in writing and documentation led them to a new solution: capturing the impact of these floods on their community.



## How did the evolving situation transform into a solution?

- Integration of climate change education by incorporating observations and discussions about the flood-affected areas into our creative writing sessions.
- The activities aimed to educate students about the flood's impact, raise awareness about climate change, and refine their creative writing skills.
- Students began discussing and writing the broader implications of climate change on the local population, enriching their understanding and narratives.



## Activities

- Climate Clubs formation in school
- Flood affected site visits
- Interviewing flood affected individuals
- Discussion with community leaders
- Developing slogans regarding plantations and flood defence
- Climate Exhibitions and Painting Competitions



# Interviewing Flood Victims



Views of Flood victims

After flood incident we club members met some relatives of flood 2023. they told us their stories. their Houses are totally damaged and abolished. they lost their life stock like sheep, goats, cows, donkeys. They lost their trees, crops and land. they were sad and worried. some victims kept telling their stories. They said dear students, pray for our safety in future.

club member  
BHS Ishkoman

- 1- Sohail.
- 2- Kamran.
- 3- Zeshan





# Climate Exhibitions and Painting Competitions

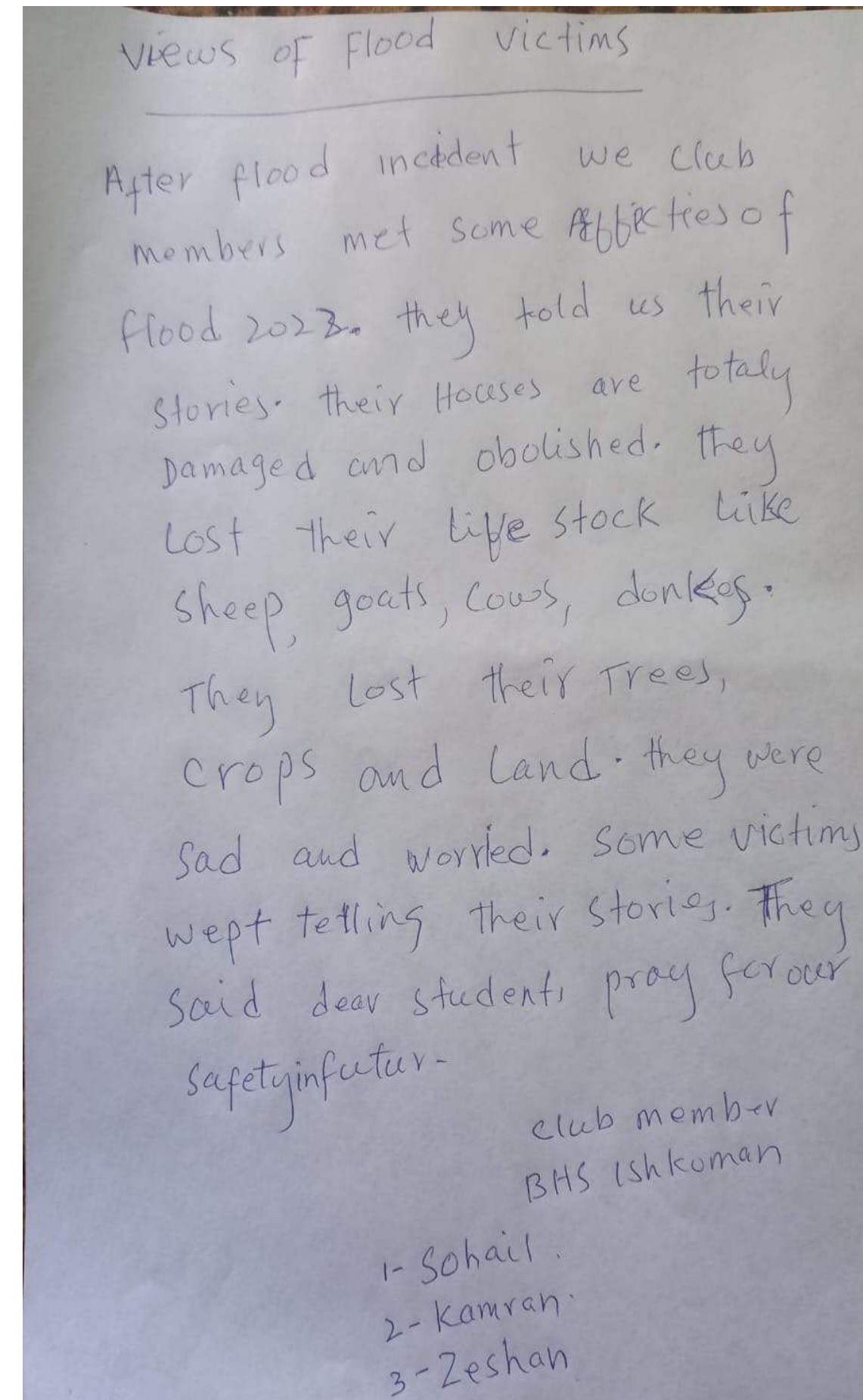


انگلوں میں سیلاب کا واقعہ  
 2023  
 گاؤں انگلوں میں 7 دن جاری ہوا سیلاب بارشوں سے بعد درخت 21 اگست  
 استعینہ نالے سے ایک خطرناک سیلاب آیا جس نے تقریباً 22 لوگوں کے گھر  
 زمین تباہ کئے 10 دن انگلوں کوٹ اور جلال آباد کے لوگ گروہ میں  
 محسوس ہو کر رہ گئے 4 شمار درخت لوگوں کی ذیور کاشت کھیت  
 میں سیلاب کے نظر 4 گئے انگلوں کی تاریخ میں یہ بہت بڑا سیلاب  
 تھا۔ اور اس کی وجہ گلشن کی بیلج کی تھی۔ بے گھر لوگوں کو  
 کھیت میں اور کچھ کو رشتہ داروں کے پاس رہنا پڑا۔ کھانے  
 پینے کی چیزوں کی قلت ہو گئی۔ یہ سیلاب 21 اگست سے  
 28 اگست تک جاری رہا۔ ایک ذیور تعمیر یا اور یا اس  
 میں اس سیلاب میں ہم گیا۔ یہ سیلاب ذیور نظر  
 بنانے کے استعینہ نالے سے آیا تھا۔  
 \* دانش کلاس دلیم



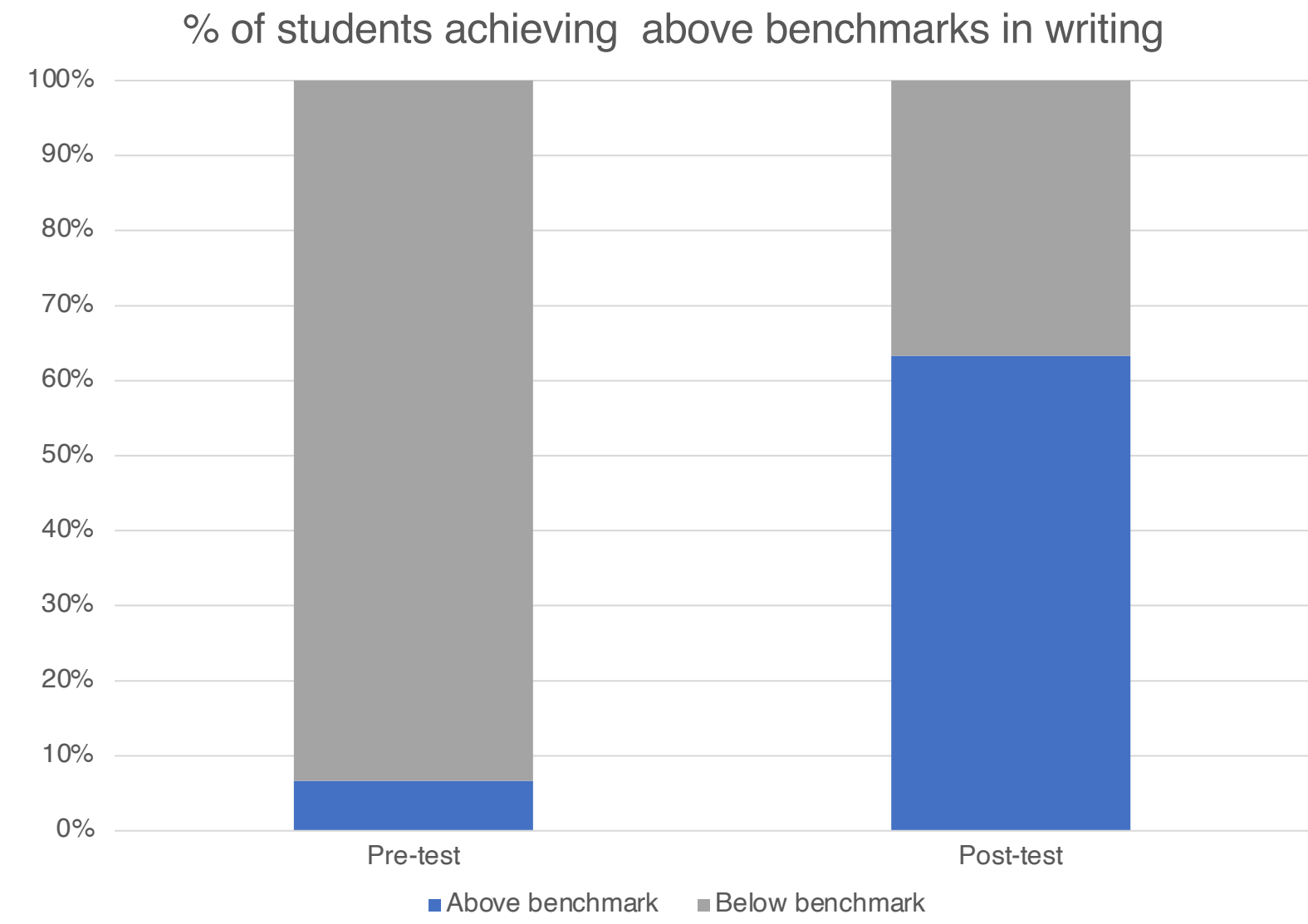
## Response from students

- Showed great interest in creative writing, which became relevant and meaningful to them
- Positive engagement among students and wider community
- Adaptation to emerging situation
- Realization of climate change and its impact
- Appreciation of the role young people and communities play in climate change mitigation and adaptation



# Evidence of Impact

- Students showed significant improvement in test scores for writing:
- From less than 10% achieving above the benchmark to over 60% by end of the year
- Improvements to classroom environment, including more active engagement and participation of students and improved student relationships
- As a teacher I improved my pedagogical practices including new forms of assessing students' academic and non-academic skills





**THANK YOU!**



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