



HOLISTIC  
LEARNING  
INNOVATIONS

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## LEARNING THROUGH ACTIVITIES

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Country: Afghanistan

Target Age: 10-15 Years

Learning Areas: Collaboration | Engaging Out of  
School Youth | Literacy | Numeracy | Parental  
Involvement | Science

## THE CONTEXT

Sar-e-Ahangaran High School is located 25km east of Bamyan City in Afghanistan, serving a remote population of 1,700 people. The area faces harsh winters and high illiteracy rates, with most residents relying on farming and livestock herding. The school enrolled 235 students in 2024. However, it faces significant challenges such as student absenteeism due to distance and weather, lack of resources, and a shortage of qualified teachers. Traditional teaching methods dominate, with little incorporation of active learning strategies.



The design team in Sari-e-Ahangaran High School in a Human-Centred Design workshop.



Teacher-centered classroom, Sari-e-Ahangaran High School



Creating instructional materials

## THE CHALLENGE

**How might we find more creative and engaging ways of teaching?**

The school's design team identified several key challenges for students, particularly in Grade 7. These included difficulties in literacy (reading comprehension, expressing ideas, writing, and spelling), mathematics (geometry, measurement, algebra, and data organisation), and science (physics, biology, and chemistry). Students received minimal academic support at home due to parents' lack of literacy. Teachers relied heavily on traditional, teacher-centred methods, which exacerbated students' difficulties and led to increased absenteeism and disengagement.

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Teacher Ghulam Rasool says "*that the previous teacher-centered methods were ultimately boring for the students, which is why students' absenteeism during class hours increased.*"

## THE SOLUTION

### LEARNING THROUGH ACTIVITIES

The school's design team developed a student-centred approach called "Learning Through Activities" for Grade 7 students. This innovative solution transforms lessons into interactive, hands-on learning experiences through various competitive activities such as puzzles and quizzes, storytelling, essay writing, math problem-solving, modelling, and drawing. Teachers act as guides and facilitators, framing topics as competitions and engaging all students in group and individual activities both inside and outside the classroom. This approach promotes the use of diverse educational resources and encourages students to invest more effort, fostering curiosity and deeper learning.



Electrical system experiment by students



Building a model in group activity



Spelling competition within small groups



Creating educational materials by students under the guidance of teachers

## IMPACT SO FAR

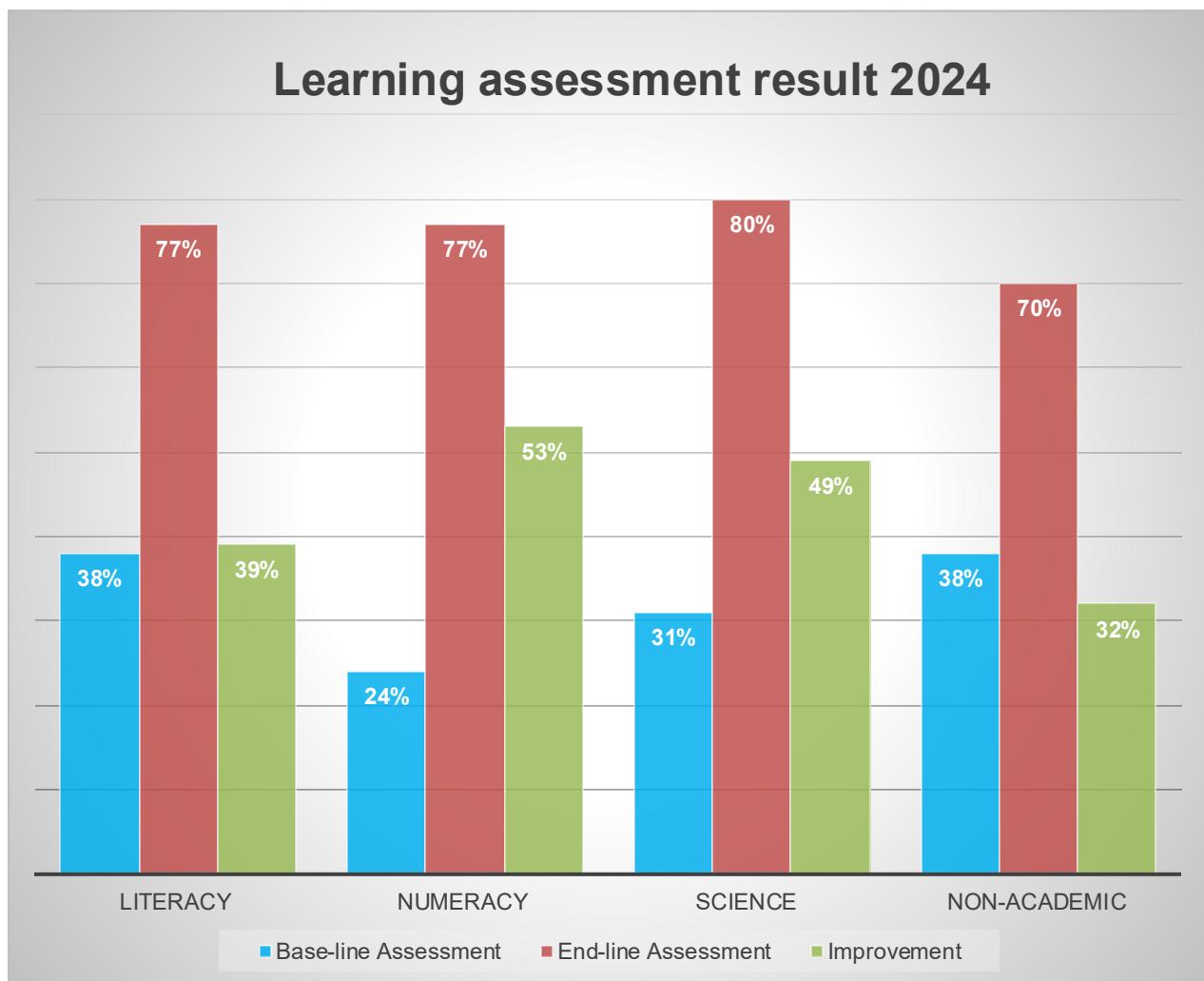
### A better student experience

After five months of implementation, the “Learning Through Activities” approach showed significant positive outcomes. Teachers adopted new, active teaching methods, while students became more engaged and participative. Parent involvement and trust in the school increased. Student absenteeism decreased, and creativity and innovation among students improved. By the end of the academic year, students progressed to the next grade with higher academic grades. The solution’s success is evident in the increased student motivation, reduced daily absenteeism, and enhanced overall learning experience.

Ali Yasir, a student in Grade 7, says: *“This year, activities in the class were conducted in a competitive format, and I participated in all of them. This motivated me to work harder to achieve better grades than my classmates and be recognized by the teacher. As a result, I learned how to create educational models and write essays, and stories.”*

## THE IMPACT (CONTINUED)

The table below shows the results of the baseline assessment, end-line assessment, and progress achieved through the implementation of the plan.



## Meet the Teacher



**Ghulam Rasul**

*Teacher*

Ghulam Rasool has 13 years of experience as a teacher in science subjects at school. He takes great joy and happiness in seeing his students active and motivated. Students' achievement of good results and high scores in exams and winning competitions bring the teacher immense satisfaction. He consistently strives to encourage teachers to learn from one another during their free time and share their experiences, aiming to replace traditional methods with new and innovative approaches in the school.



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