

GLOBAL HANDWASHING DAY

Kot Diji DRR Park's first public event held on 15th October, celebrated Global Handwashing Day 2014. The event was organised by the Heritage Foundation of Pakistan in collaboration with the District Government Khairpur and Spiritual Chords.

Hand washing with soap is the most effective and inexpensive way to prevent diarrheal & acute respiratory infections, which take the lives of millions of children in developing countries. Although communities surrounding Khairpur may wash their hands, many do not wash them with soap at critical moments, including after going to the toilet and before handling or eating food. Together, they are responsible for the majority of all child deaths. Which is why it becomes crucial for children and mothers to learn to wash hands with soap in order to avoid sickness and disease.

Global Handwashing Day aims to motivate children to embrace and share proper hand washing practices and to take on the role of hand washing ambassadors. HF invited many local and neighbouring schools to the event in an attempt to make the students become agents of change by taking the hand washing lessons learnt there back into their homes and communities.

Participating Schools:

Govt. Primary School, Kot Diji - 160 students
Govt. Primary School, Kot Banglo - 110
Govt. Primary School, Abu Zebi Colony - 30
Govt. Primary School, Mir Ali Murad - 90
Govt. Primary School, Ghulam Ali Talpur - 60
Pir Dilbar Colony Primary School - 90
IRC Primary School - 240

Our guest of honour, EDO, Mr. Saien Bux Wassan addressed the assembly on handwashing followed by a briefing on its advantages by Mr. Naheem Shah. While Amjad, a secondary school student from Moak Sharif gave a practical demonstration. 780 children were recorded to have washed their hands with Herbal Soap, a popular homemade Reetha soap by HF's Eco-Village Moak Sharif. Khairpur District Administration Department, Education and Literacy Department along with participating schools responded enthusiastically. The District Officers and teachers along with HF staff members also participated in the hand washing activity. At the end of the event snack boxes were distributed to all the guests.

Heritage Foundation is hoping to make the DRR Park a centre for health and better disaster preparedness amongst communities that surround it.

