

## An Educated Pakistan is a Progressive Pakistan



Message from the CEO

“Without education it is complete darkness and with education it is light. Education is a matter of life and death to our nation.”

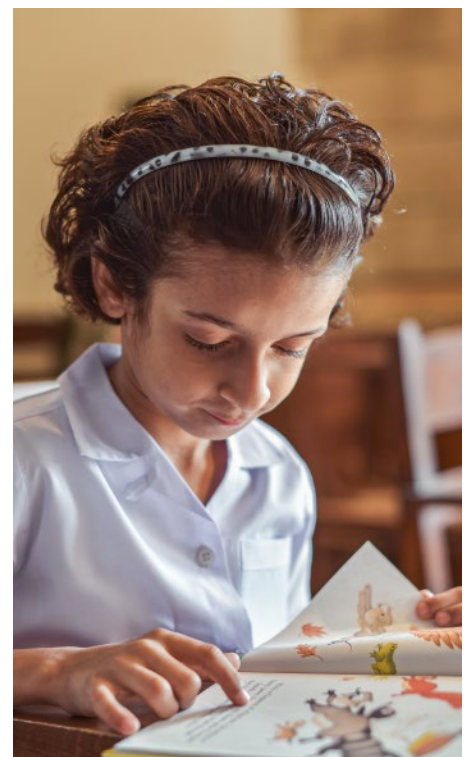
### Father of the Nation - Quaid-e-Azam, Muhammad Ali Jinnah

There is no doubt that the progress of a country is dependent on how educated its citizens are. This was made clear by our visionary founder decades back and yet, 74 years later, we cannot truly be proud of where Pakistan stands in terms of education; sadly, we are still struggling in this arena.

This situation is further exacerbated when we look at the striking inequalities based on gender and socioeconomic status. The cost of quality education has hit the skies and the common man finds it difficult to ensure education for even one of their children, let alone more. This is also one of the reasons behind rampant gender disparities, because even in the 21<sup>st</sup> century if families have to choose, they will, more often than not, send their sons to school rather than their daughters. The disastrous COVID-19 pandemic has made matters all the more worse.

There is no denying the statement that education can guide Pakistan towards a better future and the need of the time is to make quality education accessible to everyone. Education is the light that will help one achieve not only materialistic gains such as a better future, social standing and professional status, but also help us become more aware of what is happening around us and how we can play a part in improving a situation.

It is time we not only realized the gravity of the situation, but also work to improve it. On this day, let's make a pledge to work for education in this country and give it the importance it demands, and rightly so. It is only through quality education that we can hope to not only improve the lives of our citizens but also allow Pakistan to reach the heights she deserves to be at.



Come join hands with OTF and let us work together to improve the educational setting for the youth of this nation. We can proudly claim that OTF's programs are open to all regardless of their background, religion or gender. Let us allow everyone to attain equal opportunities and a chance to improve their lives. Let us pass on our privilege to those who deserve it.

Blaming does not help. The change starts with you!

**Omer Mateen Allahwala**  
**CEO Orange Tree Foundation**