What are the PSY Private Programs?

Dr. Sakena Yacoobi’s ultimate goal is to see her country transformed into one where the people are self-sufficient and programs offered to people are able to be sustained without outside funding. To help move towards this vision, Dr. Sakena Yacoobi has founded programs which she calls “Profit-for-Non-Profit”. These programs are established using some funding from donors and then begin to charge affordable fees to help sustain the programs.

So far, Dr. Yacoobi has established four private schools, one private hospital and in 2015 will be establishing a radio station using this model. The private schools charge reasonable fees, and, for families that cannot afford the fees, scholarships are provided. The private hospital is run in much the same manner – every patient who comes to the hospital is treated, and all are asked to pay what they can afford.

The private hospital and three of the four schools are now completely self-sufficient.

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-Rumi
Dr. Sakena Yacoobi has established four private schools: two in Herat Province and two in Kabul Province. This year has been one of great success for the private schools. The year began with one of the schools in Herat winning a regional football (soccer) tournament. The students were so proud of their classmates.

Later in the year, one of the Kabul schools was recognized as one of the top schools in the region by the provincial Ministry of Education. In October, three students from this school participated in an educational competition, and one of the girls from the school won the entire competition!

To finish the year, one of the private schools in Herat Province was honored as being selected as one of the top four schools in Herat Province by the Ministry of Education. The letter of appreciation provided to the school thanks the school for their extraordinary services, and, in a speech, the advisor to the Ministry of Education thanked Dr. Yacoobi for her hard work and for educating thousands of Afghans.
Afghanistan needs a balanced economy that includes a private sector, which is why Dr. Yacoobi has established a private hospital in Herat. All patients treated at the hospital pay something. Those who can afford treatment pay full price, which helps to subsidize treatment for the needy. This system is working well, but the Afghan economy is still developing and there are sometimes funding gaps, which our donors help to fill.

The hospital has been open for 4 years, averaging 15,000 patients a year. Patients receive treatment for illness and injury, dental issues, surgeries, reproductive health and c-sections. This facility is highly regarded and known for exemplary standards of care and pharmaceutical products.

My name is Farzana and I am 24. I live in Herat City. My husband is a bus driver, but it does not pay well. When we were first married, I was not getting pregnant and we didn’t think that there was anything we could do about it. A friend told me to go to a hospital and see if the doctors could help. I went to many hospitals, and doctors said an operation could help, but it was too expensive. There are government hospitals, but they do not do this kind of operations. I was desperate and hopeless until a relative told me about the professor Yacoobi Private Hospital. I went and was scheduled for an operation within days. The hospital did not make me pay too much. The operation changed my life. I quickly became pregnant, and delivered a boy at the same hospital. Now we are all so happy and thankful to the expert doctors and the whole team for helping us.
For many years, Dr. Yacoobi has been searching for a way to deliver AIL’s high quality educational programming to people who live in remote and insecure areas.

This year, Dr. Yacoobi made the decision to add a third floor to AIL’s offices in Herat. The construction would serve two purposes: house the growing AIL staff and a new radio station. When she began raising funds this summer, she believed that she could do it, and by November she had. All of the funds necessary to add a third floor and establish a radio station had been raised.

Construction began in late summer, and the finishing touches to the new floor were put in to place by December. As 2015 begins, all of the permissions for the station have been secured, a staff is being hired, and preparation of programs has begun.

The radio station will offer programming very much like that offered by NPR in the United States. There will be news, educational programming, music, programs for entertainment and poetry. The AIL staff decided on the name *Meraj* for the station, which roughly translates to ‘reaching for the highest wisdom.’

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