

IMPACT OF TORWALI MULTILINGUAL EDUCATION IN PAKISTAN BEYOND SCHOOL

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Torwali language: Introduction and background

- ❖ Torwali is a Dardic language of Indo-Aryan family mainly spoken in the Bahrain and Chail areas of District Swat in Northern Pakistan.
- ❖ Total number of Torwali speakers is approximately 120,000-150,000.
- ❖ Close to 35 to 40 percent of its speakers have migrated permanently to the bigger cities of Pakistan.
- ❖ The language Torwali is originated from the pre-Muslim Dardic communities of Swat.

Torwali Language Documentation And Preservation Initiatives

Research & Documentation



Orthography Development

Publications

Trainings

Advocacy



With Civil Society & Academia

In Community

With Government

Reclaiming Identity

Culture Preservation & Celebration

Literacy Development



Adult literacy

MLE

A group of children are sitting at a wooden table, each with a small whiteboard. They are using markers to write on the boards. The boards contain various drawings and text in Arabic script. One board in the foreground shows the words 'اللهم صل على محمد وآل محمد' (O Allah, send peace upon Muhammad and his family) and 'اللهم صل على محمد بن عبد الله' (O Allah, send peace upon Muhammad bin Abdullah). Another board shows 'اللهم صل على محمد بن عبد الله' and 'اللهم صل على محمد بن عبد الله'. The children are wearing colorful clothing and some are wearing headscarves. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting an indoor classroom setting.

MLE

Torwali Multilingual Education Program

Mother Tongue Based Multilingual Education Program ILM Schools

- Back in 2008, Idara Baraye Taleem wa Taraqi (IBT) established first ever MTB-MLE school in the community by the name of Mhoon School (Our School) later on the name was changed to Innovative Learning Model (ILM) School



Mother Tongue Based Multilingual Education Program ILM Schools

- Course books were developed for this school in Torwali language. Most of the subjects were in local Torwali language and according to the local environment and culture.
- Initially we had only one school in the main town Bahrain in Swat valley Pakistan but over time the number of schools was increased to 08 throughout the valley in the community.



Mother Tongue Based Multilingual Education Program ILM Schools

- Each school has two mandatory classes – Kindergarten 1 (KG 1) and Kindergarten 2 (KG 2) – except on the main campus in Bahrain, where Class 1 and Class 2 are also included, and Torwali is taught as a subject. Almost all instruction is done in Torwali by the teachers, who are native speakers of Torwali with Pashto and Urdu as second and third languages. They are also somewhat proficient in English.



Mother Tongue Based Multilingual Education Program ILM Schools

- Students complete two years of their early schooling at these schools in Torwali, and then their parents get them admitted to either public primary schools or low-cost private schools, which are in Bahrain only.
- None of the private and public schools teach Torwali as a subject or use it as a medium of instruction. Most of the teachers, however, use Torwali to give instructions to the students during their teaching.



Mother Tongue Based Multilingual Education Program ILM Schools

- This approach involves a transitional early exit from MLE schools after students are admitted to either private or public schools.
- IBT staff, however, now and then evaluate the performance of the students at other schools in order to connect them to mother tongue literacy. IBT and the MLE school staff call some of the students and evaluate their literacy— writing and reading—in Torwali each year.



Impact of Torwali Multilingual Education

IMPACT ON STUDENTS:

- Since the beginning of the schooling for the kids is purely in their mother tongue, the children could easily understand and were at ease in their studies.
- The cognition level of children is far higher as compared to traditional schools .



Impact of Torwali Multilingual Education

IMPACT ON STUDENTS:

- The children start valuing their language and culture and have better understanding of each subject as the subjects are all in their mother tongue, Torwali.



Impact of Torwali Multilingual Education

IMPACTS BEYOND SCHOOL:

- Initially in the start of this project, people were reluctant to send their kids to Torwali mother tongue-based school because they thought it will bear no fruit.
- But after seeing the performance of their kids they realized the importance of mother tongue education. The learning outcome of children from Torwali school was far better than children who were in other traditional schools.

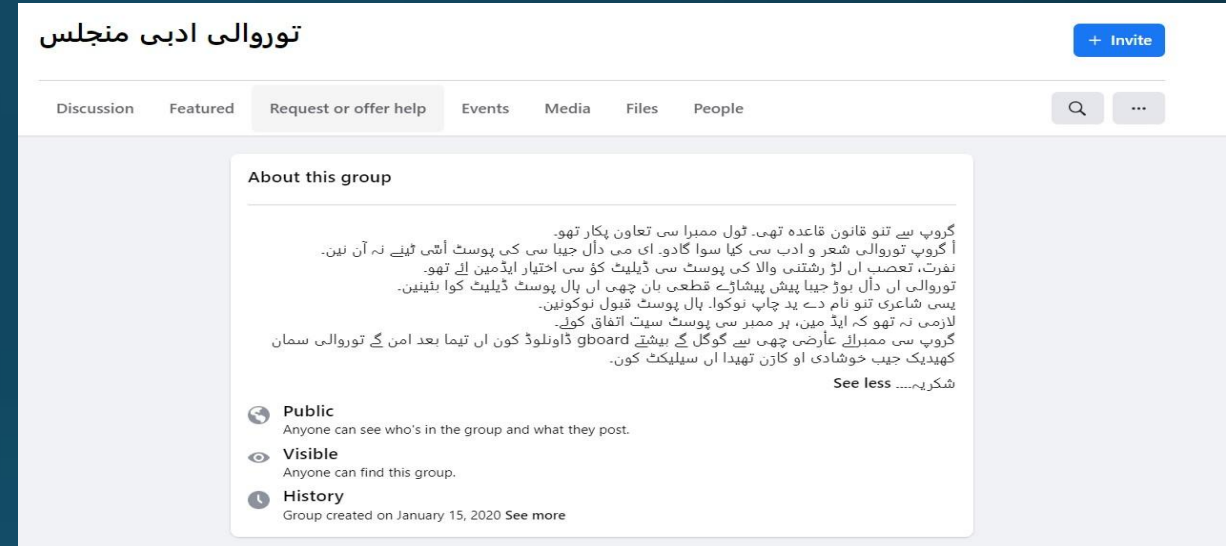
Impact of Torwali Multilingual Education

IMPACTS BEYOND SCHOOL:

- Another impact of our program was on the parents and community. Seeing the result there was an immense demand for such a program for adults.
- Because of this demand IBT started an adult literacy program for the mothers of these kids throughout the community to make them literate in their mother tongue-Torwali, Urdu and basic numeracy.

Impact of Torwali Multilingual Education

- Major impact of Torwali multilingual project is on the community where there is increased sense of identity as well as mother tongue readership and writing in it has increased.
- People now proudly assert their identity and write and read in their language.



Impact of Torwali Multilingual Education

- People also write social media posts in Torwali and there are now a number of pages and groups where all the content is in Torwali language.
- Another big milestone is the inclusion of Torwali language in the next Census of Pakistan.

توروالی ادبی منجلیس

+ Invite

Discussion Featured Request or offer help Events Media Files People

About this group

گروپ سے تہو قانون قاعدہ تھی۔ ٹول ممبرا سی تعاون پکار تھو۔
ا گروپ توروالی شعر و ادب سی کیا سوا گادو۔ ای می دال جیہا سی کی پوسٹ اسی ٹیہے نہ آن نین۔
نفرت، تعصب ان لڑ رشتنی والا کی پوسٹ سی ڈیلیٹ کؤ سی اختیار ایڈمین اے تھو۔
توروالی ان دال بوڑ جیہا پیش پیشاڑے قطعی بان چھی ان پال پوسٹ ڈیلیٹ کوا بنین۔
پسی شاعری تہو نام دے پد چاپ نوکوا۔ پال پوسٹ قبول نوکونین۔
لازمی نہ تھو کہ ایڈمین، پر ممبر سی پوسٹ سیت اتفاق کول۔
گروپ سی ممبرا عارضی چھی سے گوگل کے بھشے gboard ڈاونلوڈ کون ان تیما بعد امن کے توروالی سمان
کھدیگ جیب خوشادی او کارن تھیدا ان سہلیکٹ کون۔
شکر یہ..... See less

Public
Anyone can see who's in the group and what they post.

Visible
Anyone can find this group.

History
Group created on January 15, 2020 See more

"Rejuvenating the endangered melodies of Torwali culture"

MANJOORA (The gift)

for the people of Swat-Kohistan

 **Torwali Literature and Music** توروالی ادب او موسیقی
2.5K likes • 2.7K followers

Impact of Torwali Multilingual Education

In 2015-16, Kimmo Kosonen from SIL International conducted an external evaluation of Torwali language project. In the picture you can see his observations regarding the outcome of the project.

Self-assessment by the Torwali project team was unique in comparison with the other five MLE projects, as the Torwali representatives rated their performance lower than the FLI board. The difference was small at -0.17, but no other project team rated their own work lower than the board or the leadership team. This may demonstrate the respect that the FLI board shows to the remarkable achievements of the Torwali project, as well as critical realism and maturity, as well as long-term experience of the project team. In comparison with the mean score of the FLI leadership, the Torwali project was in line with most others projects, and the project team representatives assessed the project achievements slightly higher with a difference of 0.33 in comparison with the LT.

Impact of Torwali Multilingual Education

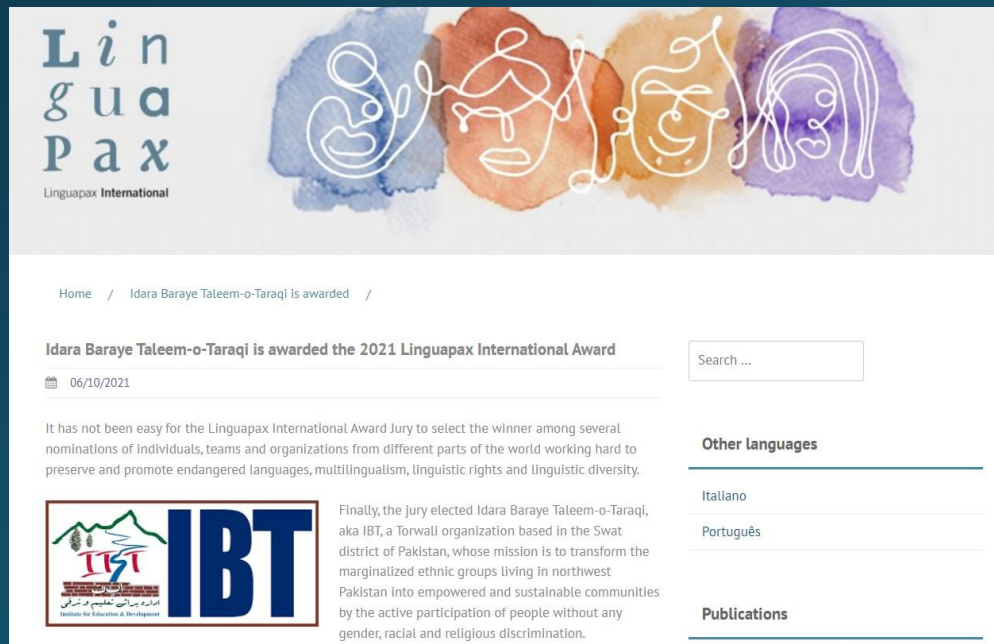
Researchers Muhammad Hassan Abbasi, Mushtaque Ahmed Solangi , Wafa Mansoor Buriro recognised and applauded the project in their research paper on Torwali language Project published in Pakistan Languages and Humanities Review (PLHR) journal. This journal is published by Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC). You can also find this research paper on their website <https://plhr.org.pk/>

members takes ownership. Torwali language has provided its speakers a sense of identity, ownership, social standing because of its promotion of education, folktales, poetry and lexicon through dictionaries. This model can be adopted on the same footings in other provinces as well; to introduce and give equal weightage to the indigenous languages along with the official and national languages. The Digital Cenus-2023 should provide data for all the 74 languages in its survey, this will enable the Government and indigenous people to own their language. Hence, the indigenous language can be promoted and Torwali's multilingual education model can be adopted for it.

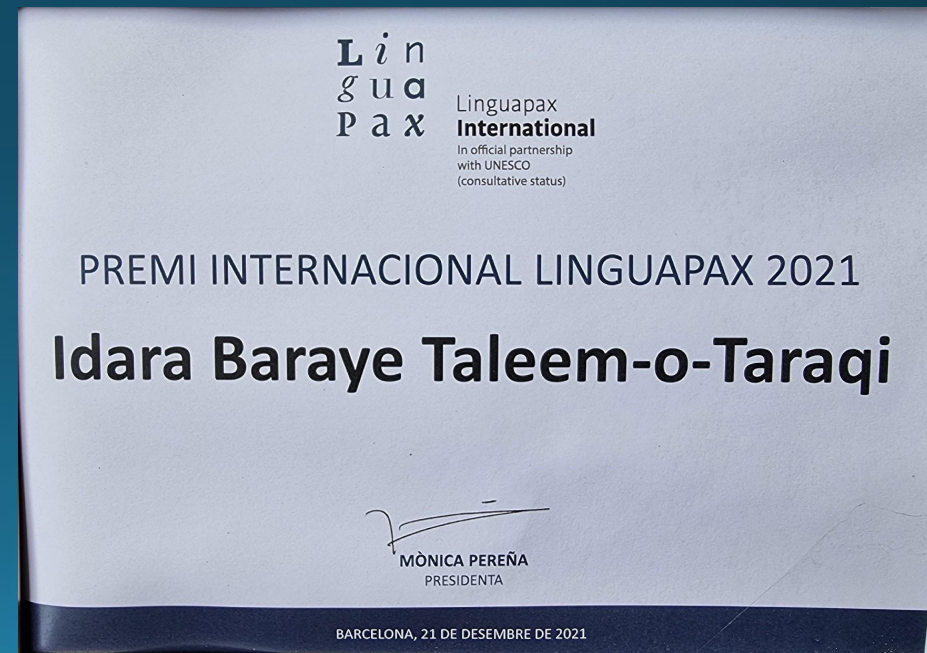
Impact of Torwali Multilingual Education

IBT is the winner of Linguapax International Award for the year 2021. IBT is the 2nd winner of this award in Asia. The award is mainly for the MTB-MLE initiatives as well as revitalization of Torwali Language through literacy.

The award details can be found here:
<https://www.linguapax.org/en/idara-baraye-taleem-o-taraqi-is-awarded-the-2021-linguapax-international-award/>



The screenshot shows the Linguapax International website. At the top left is the logo 'Linguapax International' with a graphic of four stylized faces in watercolor colors (blue, orange, yellow, purple). Below the logo is a breadcrumb trail: 'Home / Idara Baraye Taleem-o-Taraqi is awarded /'. The main heading is 'Idara Baraye Taleem-o-Taraqi is awarded the 2021 Linguapax International Award' with a date of '06/10/2021'. A search bar is visible on the right. The main text begins: 'It has not been easy for the Linguapax International Award Jury to select the winner among several nominations of individuals, teams and organizations from different parts of the world working hard to preserve and promote endangered languages, multilingualism, linguistic rights and linguistic diversity.' Below this is a logo for 'IBT' (Institute for Education & Development) and a paragraph: 'Finally, the jury elected Idara Baraye Taleem-o-Taraqi, aka IBT, a Torwali organization based in the Swat district of Pakistan, whose mission is to transform the marginalized ethnic groups living in northwest Pakistan into empowered and sustainable communities by the active participation of people without any gender, racial and religious discrimination.'



The image shows the cover of the award certificate. At the top left is the 'Linguapax International' logo, which includes the text 'In official partnership with UNESCO (consultative status)'. The main title is 'PREMI INTERNACIONAL LINGUAPAX 2021' followed by 'Idara Baraye Taleem-o-Taraqi' in a large, bold font. At the bottom right, there is a signature and the name 'MÓNICA PEREÑA PRESIDENTA'. At the very bottom, it says 'BARCELONA, 21 DE DISEMBRE DE 2021'.

Conclusion & Challenges

- From a minority perspective, education in their language provides an additional essential opportunity to influence the younger as well as the parental generation.
- And by having the mother tongue in such schools, the inter-generational ethno-linguistic continuity is strengthened.
- Being socially, economically and politically marginalized, the minority language and culture groups are always under-resourced to carry initiatives of protecting and promoting their languages.
- Successive governments in Pakistan have not considered it necessary to fund or adopt such programs.

Conclusion & Challenges

Sadly, in June this year, after 15 years of struggle and success we had to close this program due to unavailability of financial resources.

THANK YOU

Questions are welcomed. !!!