

IRC Tribune

Of Lattes and Wrenches (Part 1)

by Jamal Osman, 2nd year MBA



The Defence Housing Authority (DHA) is one of the most opulent localities in Lahore – the second largest city of Pakistan. The crème de la crème of the society thrives in DHA – a popular destination for many Lahorites to have pancakes and café lattes and of course, the notorious dance parties. The Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) – my undergrad school is also located here with its \$3000 annual tuition making it hopelessly inaccessible for most Pakistanis. Barely 3 kilometres from LUMS is a slum called Chararpind. The inhabitants are mostly day labourers and helpers in DHA houses. The monthly family income there ranges from \$80 to \$175 – and this is the combined sum for both husband and wife. These are large families (average size, approximately 6-7) and the children are expected to contribute to the family income as soon as they can pick up a wrench. The girls more often than not end up helping their mothers in the DHA homes, whereas the boys might work in auto workshops, grocery stores etc. Those families, who are able to send

their children to school, would discriminate between the sons and the daughters – the former getting the preference over their sisters.

It is in this setting that Society for the AdVancement of Education (SAVE Inc.) has opened its first school by the name of Mashal Primary. Faraz Sheikh, the founder of this Indiana based NGO, is studying for his PhD at Indiana University Bloomington, and SAVE Inc. is his brainchild. His vision is to run such schools from primary to post-secondary levels and to run them absolutely free of cost. SAVE Inc. has started in Pakistan but is intended to be a global mission and does not differentiate between race or religion. I know Faraz from our time at LUMS and am very good friends with his younger brother, Samir Sheikh, who is based in the UK and actively involved in SAVE Inc. All details about the school can be obtained at <http://www.educationsaveschildren.org>. There is also a community on facebook by the name of “FREE Primary School in Lahore Project” which has information on this NGO. More on this in the next edition of the *IRC Tribune*.

IRC Corner

Dear IR Students and IUJ Community,

Welcome to winter quarter! The IR Council is excited to present the 2nd edition of the *Tribune*. We are very glad that there has been such an active interest in the newsletter and are pleased that so many of our IM counterparts have submitted articles for this edition. The IR Council is working harder than ever to improve both academic and social life here at IUJ for the whole community. To this end, please check out our **calendar of upcoming events** on page 6 for winter term 2009. A special note: we would like to extend a cordial invite to **all women on campus** to celebrate **International Women’s Day** together at the CNP on Saturday, March 7, 2009. The IR Council is pleased to offer a unique opportunity for **all** the ladies at IUJ (including students, wives, friends, and daughters!) to enjoy this special holiday together. More announcements coming soon! For now, good luck with midterms, and as always, we welcome your feedback on our work: irc@iuj.ac.jp.

Sincerely,

*Kamila, Rabi’ah, Lisa, Stanley, Anki,
& Oogii, your IRC members*