



آغا خان یونیورسٹی ایگزامینیشن بورڈ  
AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION BOARD

## Developing 21st Century Skills in Schools in Pakistan

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# Understanding the Pakistani Landscape



Population – 196 million



Adult Literacy – 58%



Very diverse terrain - flat Indus plain in the east; mountains in north and northwest; Balochistan plateau in the west



More than 70 languages spoken in Pakistan.

(Urdu is the national language and the medium of instruction in the majority of state schools, is spoken by just 7% of the population)



Diverse ethnic groups and multiple religious sects



Only 17% of the population is online.

# Understanding the Pakistani Educational System

- Schools conduct their own examinations and promote students from one grade to the next until grade 8.
- Grade 9 onwards, students appear for external examinations that take place either at a provincial or federal level and award certification for the same.
- There are 27 boards operational at regional levels alongside 2 international boards that offer examinations at the secondary and higher secondary level.
- While the international boards are costly, local boards grapple with issues of fairness and reliability.
- Most of education in Pakistani schools emphasizes rote memorization and mechanical reproduction.



Aga Khan University Examination Board (AKU-EB)

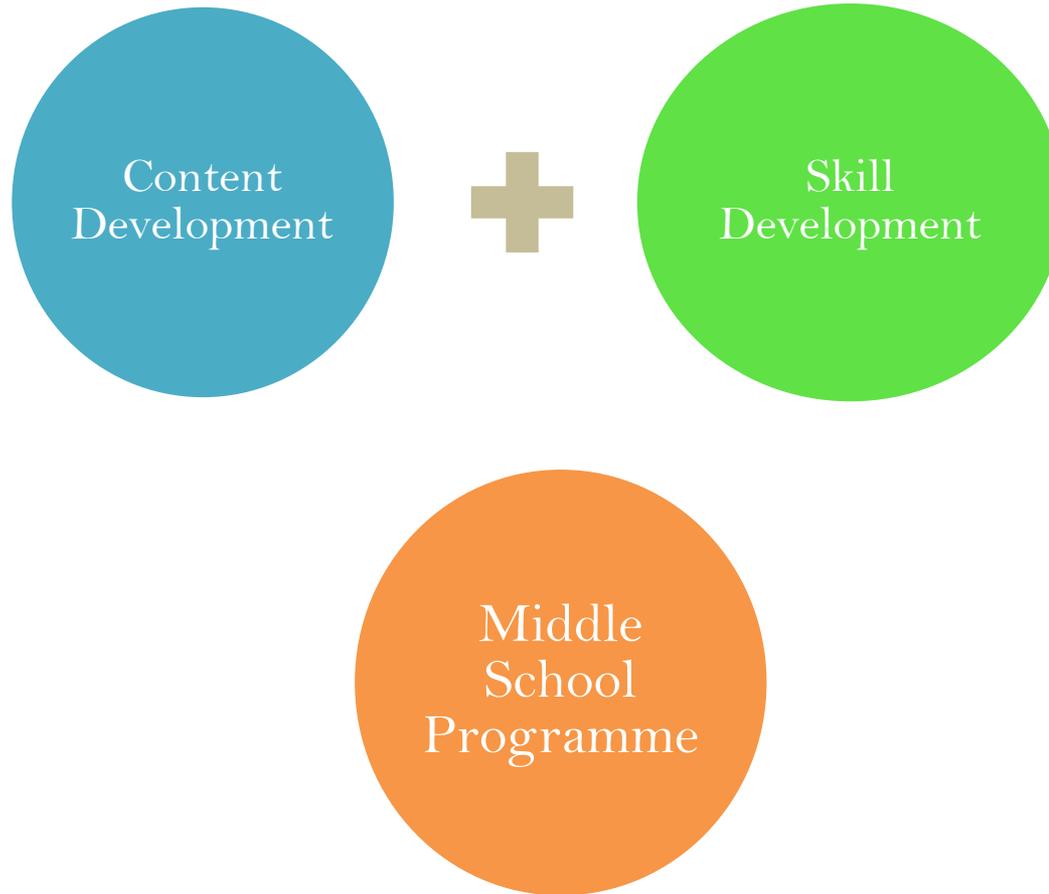
# About Aga Khan University Examination Board

- Established in November 2002 – Ordinance, Government of Pakistan
- Accredited by Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan
- Only Private National Board that exists in Pakistan



Middle School Programme

# Middle School Programme: What, Why and How?



Schools are provided a set of six **interdisciplinary projects** for one academic year.

- Schools opt for any 4 that align with their syllabus

Projects are **process oriented** tasks

- Based on real world problems or situations
- Encourage active engagement with local contexts

Teachers are required to **fill** a standardized rubric at the end of each project

- Assessing students demonstration of competencies.

A student Portfolio comprises of



In addition to, assessment done by the Teacher

## 8 key identified competencies:

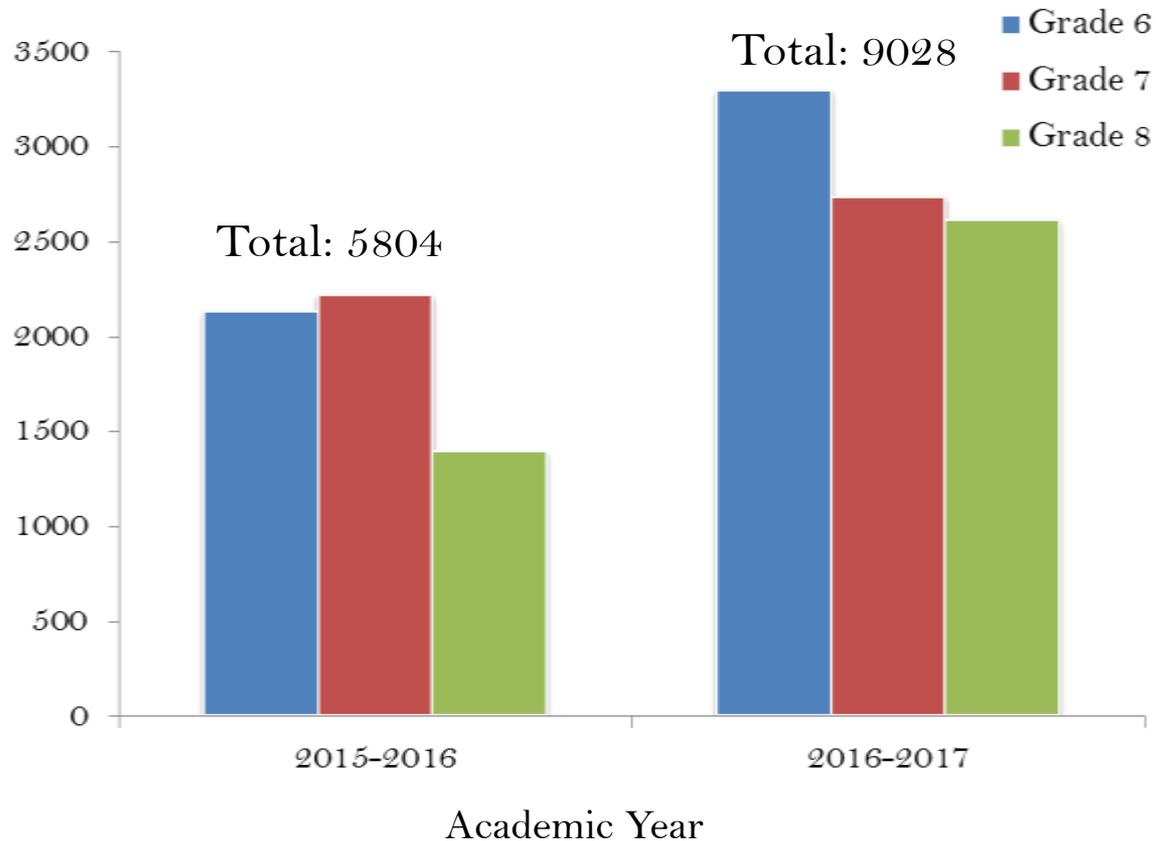
- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Creativity and innovation
- Information gathering
- Communication
- Listening, reading and observation skills
- Team work
- Interpersonal skills
- Responsibility

| Competency                                 | 1   | 2 | 3  | 4 | 5  | 6 | 7   |
|--|---|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| <b>Problem Solving / Critical Thinking</b> | <p>Always needs help to think through a problem and offer appropriate solutions.</p> <p>Always needs support to analyze the main issue.</p> |   | <p>Needs help to think through a problem.</p> <p>Sometimes offers appropriate solutions.</p> <p>Sometimes analyzes the main issue.</p> |   | <p>Is able to correctly think through a problem.</p> <p>Usually offers appropriate solutions.</p> <p>Analyzes the main issue and can identify some of its reasons / effects.</p> |   | <p>Is able to correctly think through a problem.</p> <p>Offers (multiple) appropriate solutions.</p> <p>Analyzes the main issue and can identify most of its reasons / effects.</p> |

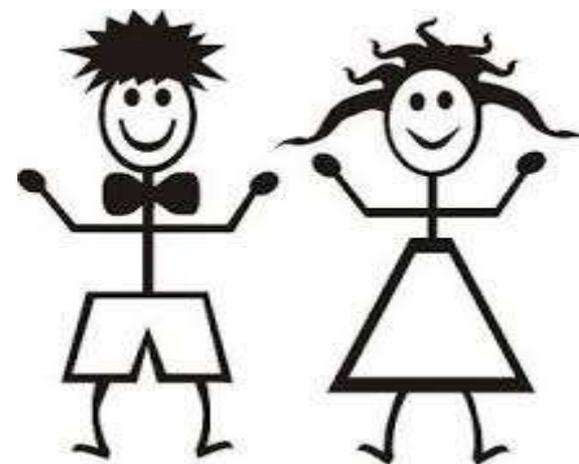
In the past 2 years...

## Grade wise Enrollment

Student Numbers



## Gender Distribution



54% boys

46% girls

# Presence Across Pakistan



## Regions

-  Gilgit Baltistan
-  Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
-  Punjab
-  Sindh
-  Azad Jammu and Kashmir

72 schools across Pakistan

## What we've learnt...

Teachers, Parents and Schools struggle to understand the value of developing competencies and often question what the child has or will achieve or whether it links with their grades.

Teachers struggle with understanding that scoring on a rubric is not a 'grade'

Teachers find it difficult to adopt the role of a facilitator and are often very instructive.

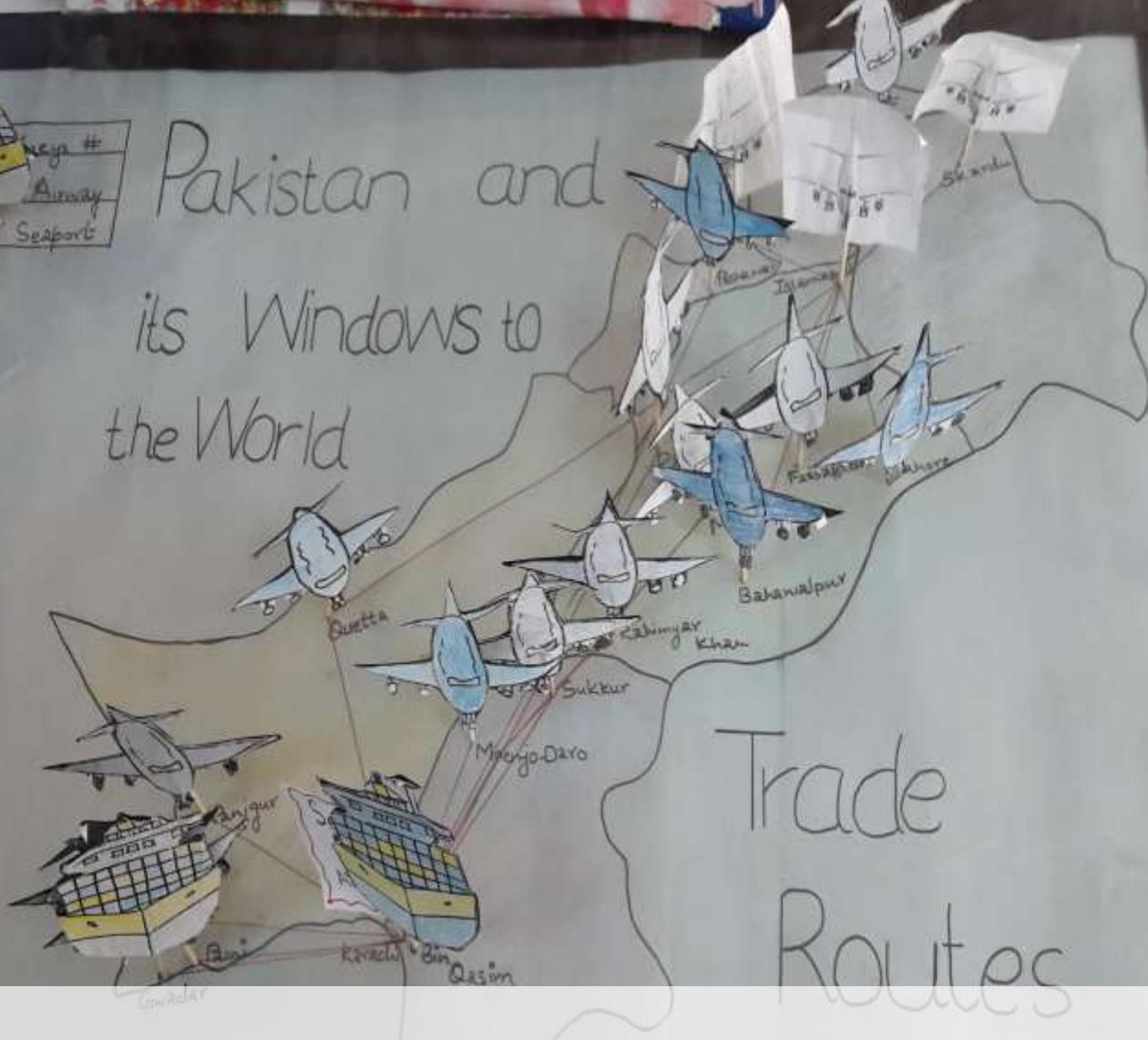
Enhancement in student confidence and engagement in learning self reported by teachers and schools

There is greater focus on product than on process

The varying terrain means accessibility and implementation of a project happen very differently across Pakistan and our support to these schools is also dissimilar

|         |
|---------|
| Map #   |
| Airway  |
| Seaport |

# Pakistan and its Windows to the World



Thank you!

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