



The Dawood Foundation



The Dawood Foundation's

Children's DAYCARE

Enthusiastic participants engage in STEAM Weekend programmes at MagnifiScience Centre.



The Dawood Foundation Newsletter Q1 2026

Education Inspiring Social Change

Message from the CEO

Empowering Minds, Transforming Communities



As we navigate the first quarter of 2026, I am inspired by the power of community. At The Dawood Foundation (TDF), our mission remains both simple and bold: to ignite curiosity and democratise access to high quality, meaningful learning for all individuals, regardless of their abilities or background.

Central to this mission is our belief that transformative learning cannot be confined to the traditional classroom. While formal education provides the blueprint, informal learning spaces serve as the essential bridges of our society. These environments, from interactive science centres to community heritage hubs, transform complex and abstract scientific concepts into hands on, relatable experiences. By meeting learners where they are, we help our youth build science capital. This represents far more than academic rote learning; it is the collection of confidence, tools, and the innovative mindset required to navigate and lead in an increasingly tech driven world.

Key Highlights

Our recent initiatives reflect this commitment to practical, inclusive growth through the following engagements:

- **Empowering STEAM Leadership:** Through strategic partnerships with Science Fuse for teacher training and the Pakistan Science Club for Technovation Girls, we are actively dismantling barriers. By engaging teachers and girls aged 8 to 18 in real world problem solving, we are inspiring a new generation of female leaders to reclaim their place in STEAM fields.

- **Inclusive Outreach:** Through MagnifiScience Travels, we brought the wonder of discovery directly to public events. A particular highlight was the KDSP Carnival 2026, where we designed adaptive learning environments that supported the creativity and neurodevelopmental growth of children of all abilities, proving that science belongs to everyone.

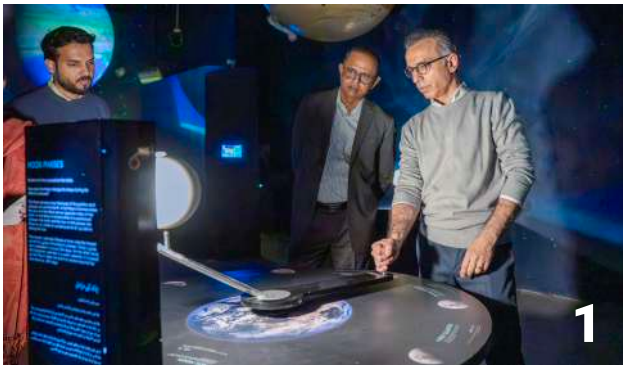
- **Nurturing Foundations and Culture:** Our Children's Daycare remains a sanctuary for early development, utilising sensory play to ensure our youngest learners begin their journey with a strong social emotional foundation. Simultaneously, TDF Ghar continues to be a vibrant hub for cultural connection, community, and inclusivity.

Looking ahead, our vision is clear. We are not just teaching science; we are fostering a lifelong love for discovery. Through collaboration and a radical commitment to inclusion, we will continue to build a sustainable, brighter future for all.

Favad Soomro

Chief Executive Officer
The Dawood Foundation

TDF's MagnifiScience Centre



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Special Visits at MSC

The Dawood Foundation Newsletter - Q1 2026

1. **Mr Khair Muhd. Kalwar**, Secretary of Culture, Tourism, Antiquities & Archives, Government of Sindh

2. **Mr Mahdi Amini**, Director International Relations, Mustafa Science and Technology Foundation, Iran

3. **Mr Feroz Mujtaba Rahman**, Director Operations, Santex Products Limited

4. **Mr Abdul Fatah Shaikh**, Director General of Antiquities & Archaeology, Government of Sindh, and **Ms Zahida Quadri**, Director Excavation

5. **Admiral Asif Sandila** (Retd.), Former Chief of Naval Staff and Chairman, Moawin Foundation



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6. Mr Tony Jones,
U.S. Consulate General
Karachi

9. Dr Carl P. Lander,
Principal & CEO, Karachi
Grammar School

7. Mr Syed Muhammad Raza Shah,
Science Officer, and
Ms Ghazala Naeem,
DRR Expert, UNESCO

10. Ms. Jane Marriott,
British High Commissioner
to Pakistan

8. Ms Stephanie Grant,
Director, Cultural Protection
Fund, and **Ms Susan Winter,**
Grants Manager,
British Council



TDF & BYAC Partnership

The Dawood Foundation has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Balochistan Youth Action Committee (BYAC) to expand the reach of TDF's Nature Series documentaries across Balochistan.

This partnership enables TDF to leverage BYAC's strong on-ground network to promote environmental awareness, climate education, and youth engagement through structured

screenings of the Nature Series documentaries, alongside community outreach initiatives.

Through curated film screenings, facilitated discussions, and interactive sessions, this collaboration aims to inspire young people in Balochistan to take an active role in environmental stewardship and contribute to a more sustainable future.



TALEEM Programme

Learning should never stop even in the most challenging times



In February, Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH) and Umeed Parr Foundation, in collaboration with TDF, launched the TAALEEM Programme, an in-hospital tutoring initiative for patients in AKUH's Child Oncology Ward. The programme is designed to support young cancer patients by ensuring continuity in their education during treatment.

Through structured learning in a supportive environment, TAALEEM helps children build



confidence, and maintain a sense of normalcy during a difficult time.

Beyond academic support, the initiative also plays a vital role in easing children's transition back to school and daily routines following recovery, fostering resilience, hope, and a renewed sense of possibility through learning. Because every child deserves the opportunity to continue learning, no matter the circumstances.

Sponsor a Child's Visit to MSC

Engro Foundation Sponsors TCF School Visit

We extend our sincere gratitude to Engro Foundation for sponsoring a visit for students from The Citizens Foundation (TCF) to MagnifiScience Centre. The visit provided an engaging and immersive learning experience, enabling students to explore, question, and discover science beyond the classroom.

From exploring into the complexities of the human body to solving challenging mathematical puzzles, MSC's hands-on exhibits provided TCF students a fresh and interactive perspective on scientific concepts. Such experiences not only spark curiosity but also make learning more accessible, meaningful, and enjoyable for young minds.



Cost of sponsoring a child's visit: Rs. 2500

LET'S MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Support a child's visit to MSC and bring the magic of science in the lives of underprivileged children.

To donate or learn more about this initiative, please contact us at donations@dawoodfoundation.org



Panel Discussion

Beyond Aid, Towards Collective Impact

In February, GIZ Pakistan visited TDF's MagnifiScience Centre as part of its Inter-Provincial Learning Exchange Visit to Sindh. The visit brought together representatives from government and civil society to explore the future of locally driven development partnerships in Pakistan.

TDF and MSC were presented as a model of successful public-private-civil society collaboration, demonstrating how local institutions can mobilise diverse stakeholders to create sustained social impact.

The panel featured Favad Soomro, CEO of The Dawood Foundation; Mudassar Alam, Technical Advisor at GIZ; and Syed Ali Raza, CEO of Peace and Justice Network. Key insights highlighted the importance of a shared vision, strong collaboration, and long-term investment in human capital.

“Sustainable development in Pakistan depends on empowering local institutions to lead, collaborate, and innovate. What we are really looking at is long-term human capital development, inspiring people rather than simply imparting a skill set.”

– Favad Soomro, CEO The Dawood Foundation

The session provided a valuable platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and reimagining development models rooted in local leadership and collective impact.



STEAM Teachers' Training Hairat Se Hunar Tak

On **14 February 2026**, MagnifiScience Centre, in collaboration with **Science Fuse**, hosted *Hairat Se Hunar Tak*, an intensive STEAM training session for 37 educators from across Karachi. The programme was designed to empower teachers to move beyond rote learning, creating engaging experiences that integrate science with the arts, mathematics, and language.

A unique aspect of the training was its focus on remaining deeply rooted in Pakistan's cultural context. Educators explored key themes such as:

- **Tehqeeq:** The philosophy of inquiry-based learning.
- **Science Sarmaya / Jama Poonji:** Strategies for building "science capital" and learner confidence.
- **The HIEER Model:** A structured framework consisting of **Hook, Inform, Enable, Extend, and Reflect**.
- **Hairat Kada:** Nurturing the innate sense of wonder in every student.

Participants engaged in hands-on activities such as Pani mein Patakha, turmeric art, oobleck, and mystery boxes, highlighting how simple materials can inspire scientific thinking.

The day concluded with reflective exercises that helped teachers translate these concepts into practical classroom strategies.

To support their journey, each participant received an **Official Teacher Training Certification, Hairat Kada Digital Toolkit**, and **"Women in Science"** posters. Equipped with these resources, the educators are now better prepared to nurture curiosity, build confidence, and make STEAM education more accessible and inspiring.

Reflection from Our Participants

"The mystery box created curiosity and encouraged us to experiment with the objects provided. It was an engaging and informative experience. I will implement these activities in my sessions through different hands-on approaches. Kudos to the Science Fuse and TDF's MagnifiScience teams for making this day so memorable. Hats off to Amber and Ms Shumaila for leading the session so brilliantly."
— Rida Asim, KDSP

"I will begin designing lessons using an inquiry-based approach, linking daily life examples to concepts. I will also use the HIEER framework and encourage student reflection."
— Fatima Siddiqui, Credo

"Students learn best when they build, try and test. Small activities teach big concepts. Good teaching is not about giving answers, it is about creating curiosity."
— Muhammad Taha, Techtree





Eid-ul-Fitr Celebration

This Eid-ul-Fitr, The Dawood Foundation hosted a warm and engaging celebration for its employees, filled with inspiring stories, interactive activities, and festive cheer.

The event began with a storytelling session titled “Stories that Sustain Us”, where TDF alumni and long-serving team members shared memorable journeys of their contributions to TDF, MagnifiScience Centre, and TDF Ghar. These reflections offered valuable insights and inspiration, creating a meaningful connection to TDF’s shared journey and vision.

The celebration also honoured long-serving employees with special awards, recognising their dedication and contribution to the organisation’s mission. Following the award ceremony, employees participated in interactive games that added to the festive spirit and strengthened team bonds.

The event concluded with the much-anticipated “Eidi Swap” gift exchange, where participants shared gifts across teams, followed by a festive lunch that brought everyone together in a spirit of gratitude, camaraderie, and celebration.



Employees Learning and Development Initiatives

The Dawood Foundation reaffirmed its commitment to employee growth through learning and development initiatives that strengthened communication, workplace presence, and technical skills, enabling staff to grow beyond their roles.

The curriculum featured a diverse array of workshops, including **Toastmasters** for public speaking, **Excel training**, and insightful panel discussions. Staff also engaged in sessions on **Public Personas in the Workplace**, as well as a creative **Mobile Photography and Reel Making Essentials workshop** to enhance digital storytelling skills.

To further strengthen digital literacy, the IT team conducted a vital session on **Cyber Security**.

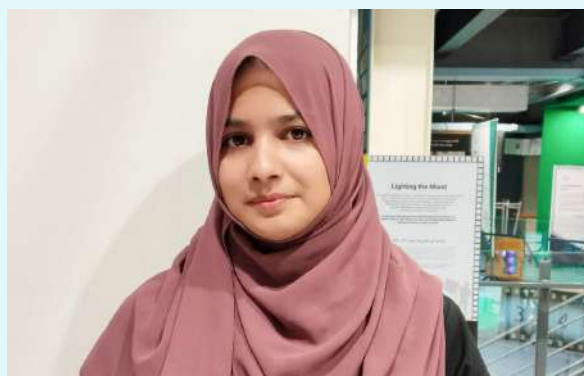
Beyond professional skills, safety remained a priority; a **Fire Safety Drill** was organised at the Dawood Centre to ensure that all building occupants, including those in the daycare, can safely and efficiently evacuate the building during an emergency.

From Minder to Mentor

Madiha's Journey of Growth at TDF's MagnifiScience Centre

Madiha Shahzadi's journey is a powerful reflection of what happens when personal determination meets an ecosystem of opportunity.

When she joined MagnifiScience Centre in June 2023 as a Minder, her goal was straightforward: earn enough to fund her higher education. Coming from a modest background in Karachi, it was a pragmatic choice. What followed however, was anything but ordinary.



"Since I started working here, I have developed strong communication skills and gained a level of confidence I didn't know I had."

The path to science communication

While balancing a full-time role at the Centre, Madiha enrolled in a BBA programme, excelling in her studies by night and proactively seeking growth at MSC by day. She didn't simply fulfil her duties; she immersed herself in the Centre's events, stepping up to assist as a science communicator.

Upon completing her degree, she approached her leadership team with a clear vision for her future. Recognising her evolved skill set and unwavering dedication, the organisation transitioned her into a permanent role. Today, she serves as a Science Communicator, inspiring the next generation of visitors.

"I am truly grateful to TDF's MagnifiScience Centre and my team leads for believing in me. I want to encourage others: no matter where you start, the hard work you put in will be rewarded."

Madiha's story is a testament to MSC's mission, not just to educate the public, but to nurture the talent within its own walls, turning potential into purpose.

Technovation Girls: Engineering a New Generation of Innovators

On 24 January 2026, MagnifiScience Centre, in partnership with the Pakistan Science Club, launched Technovation Girls, a high impact STEAM initiative designed to transform girls aged 8 to 18 years into the tech leaders of tomorrow.

The journey began with immersive sessions on ideation and community mapping, where participants transitioned from passive users of technology to active creators. By identifying local issues and applying scientific thinking, these young innovators began developing the digital tools and frameworks required to solve complex, real world challenges.



Hosted every Saturday at Jugaar Ghar (STEAM Lab), the programme was offered entirely free of cost, ensuring accessibility for girls from all walks of life. Following a brief hiatus for Ramzan, sessions resumed with renewed energy, concluding the instructional phase on 4 April 2026.

The programme featured Beginner, Junior, and Senior tiers, allowing participants to learn coding, logic, and design thinking at their own pace. By merging technical skills with social leadership, Technovation Girls fosters critical thinking and purpose-driven innovation required for the next generation of female leaders to thrive in STEAM.

The programme reached its finale on 25 April 2026 with the Technovation Girls Pitch & Celebration Event.

40 Onsite Participants (MSC)

250 National Impact (Online / Remote)

Astroverse Series: Our Celestial Friends

The Karachi Astronomers Society hosted a captivating session of the Astroverse Series, titled "Celestial Friends", at MagnifiScience Centre. A total of 292 participants attended the session, which unfolded in two engaging parts.

The evening began with an introductory astronomy talk, offering insights into recent cosmic discoveries and developments in the field.



This was followed by rooftop telescopic observation, where participants had the rare opportunity to view Saturn and its rings, Jupiter and its Galilean moons, and the waxing gibbous Moon in remarkable detail.

The session concluded with an interactive Q&A, leaving attendees inspired by a deeper and more personal connection with the cosmos.



MSC Community Outreach Programme

Clearpath Orthodontics Session

To promote preventive oral healthcare, ClearPath Orthodontics organised an awareness session for MSC Community School students, emphasising the importance of healthy habits and good dental hygiene from a young age. The session highlighted the benefits of brushing twice daily and healthy dietary choices. It also featured an interactive discussion where students shared their daily brushing routines and learned about the importance of consistent oral care.

In addition, the initiative was also extended to TDF team, where employees attended dental check-ups and awareness sessions, receiving professional guidance on maintaining oral health.



Dreaming Big

Mustafa's Transformation Through Community Outreach

Before Mustafa joined TDF Community Outreach Programme, his world was bounded by the streets where he played. At four years old, he had never been enrolled in school, and the idea of a structured classroom felt distant and intimidating.

When he first arrived, the transition was difficult. Like many children entering a formal learning environment for the first time, he was overwhelmed and often upset. But through the patience and dedicated care of the MSC Basic Literacy Programme team, those tears gradually gave way to a bright, eager smile.

"Today, Mustafa dreams of becoming a doctor. Something that once felt distant now feels possible as we watch him grow and aspire toward a bright future."



Six months on, the transformation is remarkable. Mustafa is no longer the shy child who struggled to adjust, he is a confident student who wakes up looking forward to school. For his family, that shift represents something far larger: a change in what is possible.

Mustafa's journey is a heartening reminder that when we give children the right tools and a supportive environment, we are not just teaching them, we are giving them the power to dream big.

Weekend Programmes



Mindblowing Science – January

In January, MagnifiScience Centre introduced young minds to a series of Mindblowing Science experiments, sparking curiosity and imagination through hands-on discovery. Young scientists explored a range of engaging activities, from crafting floating 3D holograms to witnessing chemicals transform the colour of fire, and testing the laws of motion through the classic Egg Drop challenge.

In ScienceViance, children uncovered the physics behind bubble blowing and discovered what makes these shimmering spheres so captivating. Meanwhile, Experimentrix introduced the art of invisible messages using baking soda ink, a classic experiment with a magical twist.

Participants also enjoyed making their own homemade ice cream before heading to the Mystery Lab, where they explored the fascinating concept of magnetic levitation through interactive activities.

Water Science – February & March

February and March brought the wonders of Water Science to the forefront through an energetic series of hands-on explorations. The journey began with the Hot and Cold Balloon activity, where participants observed how temperature changes influence atmospheric pressure.

Water Shield and Straw Siphon demonstrated principles such as heat capacity and thermal expansion, while Aqua Lab invited participants to explore the core properties of water, including density, volume, and pressure. In Liquid Science, they investigated the intriguing behaviour of liquids, and the Blanched French Fries activity transformed a familiar kitchen process into a fun and insightful science lesson.

Together, these sessions transformed scientific concepts into tactile, memorable experiences, making learning not only informative, but also highly interactive and enjoyable for learners of all ages.

To explore our weekend programmes, visit:
Meta: The Dawood Foundation
IG: @thedawoodfoundation

MagniScience Travels

The Origin School Exhibition

On 14–15 January 2026, MagniScience Travels hosted an interactive science exhibition at The Origin School, engaging over 1,000 students in experiential learning.

Through hands-on exhibits such as Pulley, Mirror Writing Table, Art of Balancing, and Gravity Run, while hands-on activities like EDU Blocks, Build a Bridge, and Kapla Blocks, students explored key scientific concepts in a fun and accessible way. The exhibition fostered curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking, inspiring a lasting interest in science beyond the classroom.



KDSP Carnival 2026



On 8 February 2026, MagniScience Travels participated in the KDSP Carnival in Karachi, an inclusive event marking World Down Syndrome Day, attended by over 1,000 visitors. Under the theme “Minds at Work,” TDF created an interactive learning space featuring hands-on exhibits such as the Soma Cube, Tiling Table, Da Vinci Bridge, and Pool Noodle Pixel Wall, alongside activities like the Art Cycle, Snake Game, Kapla Blocks, and Laser Maze.

These experiences were designed to encourage creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking among children of all abilities.

The initiative was widely appreciated for promoting inclusive learning and fostering curiosity and confidence, reflecting TDF’s continued commitment to accessible and inclusive learning.

TDF's Children's Daycare

Orange Party

In January, TDF's Children's Daycare celebrated the vibrant citrus season with a joyful Orange Party. Children took part in hands-on activities, exploring colour mixing and painting while proudly wearing orange badges. The celebration concluded on a refreshing note as they enjoyed fresh oranges together, creating a fun sensory experience exploring colours, textures, and tastes.



Iftar Together

Embracing the spirit of Ramzan, the Daycare team organised a heartwarming Iftar experience for its young learners. Children recited the Iftar prayer, broke their fast with dates and water, and shared a communal meal. Dressed in traditional attire, they learned about the significance of Ramzan, fostering values of gratitude, sharing, and togetherness.



Chand Raat Celebration

TDF's Children's Daycare came alive with the spirit of Chand Raat, transformed by vibrant decorations, colorful ribbons, and the festive sparkle of bangles and henna. The atmosphere was filled with joy as children arrived in their finest traditional attire, adding a wonderful charm and excitement to the festivities.

The celebration featured a variety of engaging activities designed to bring the holiday to life:

- **Creative Eid Cards:** Children crafted personalized greetings for their loved ones.
- **Henna Station:** Tiny hands were adorned with beautiful, intricate designs.
- **Cultural Connection:** Every moment celebrated the true spirit of Eid through togetherness and tradition.

The event beautifully captured the warmth and cultural significance of this special occasion, creating lasting memories for our youngest celebrants.



TDF Ghar



School Visit

Students from Headstart School, Gulshan Campus, recently visited TDF Ghar for an immersive educational experience. During their visit, they toured the restored historic spaces and archival displays, gaining a deeper understanding of the city's history and cultural evolution.

The students also spent time at the exhibition "From Borders to Belonging: Karachi's Journey of Migration." There, they engaged with powerful narratives of Partition and resilience, reflecting on the shared heritage that continues to shape Karachi today. This visit provided a unique opportunity for the students to connect with the living history of their city.



Drum Circle

Drum Circle Nights at TDF Ghar brought Karachi's vibrant community together in a dynamic celebration of rhythm, creativity, and connection. Led by Mohsin Qazi and the team at The Karachi Drum, the sessions transformed the space into a hub of energy, where participants immersed themselves in collective drumming, creating powerful beats and shared expression.

The evenings fostered an inclusive and welcoming environment, encouraging individuals to connect, unwind, and engage through music, strengthening a spirit of community and cultural exchange.



Game Night

TDF Ghar hosted an engaging Game Night in collaboration with Boardgame Baithak, bringing together enthusiasts for an evening of strategy, laughter, and friendly competition.

Participants explored a curated selection of board games, including Skull King, Secret Hitler, Love Letter, Mission: Red Planet, and Bohnanza. The night was marked by lively gameplay, social interaction, and the joy of discovering new favourites, all within the warm, historic setting of TDF Ghar.



SAT 25th April

8 p.m. onwards **Rs. 750**

TDF Ghar's entry ticket will be charged separately

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YE WATER COOLER AAPKA HUA!

Sponsored By: National City of Karachi Khaas

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