

## **Educate Me launches pilot of Teaching At the Right Level Program- the first in Egypt and MENA**

*The pilot involved 236 teachers, 8707 students in 58 public & community schools, in 4 governorates across Egypt*

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**Cairo, Egypt,**

Educate Me, the non-profit foundation that aspires to redefine education in Egypt, today announced the results of the pilot project of Teaching at the Right Level (TARL) program, as the first to be contextualised and implemented in Arabic in Egypt and the MENA region for 236 teachers, 8707 students in 58 public & community schools, in four governorates across Egypt - Cairo, Qena, Sohag, and Beni Sweif. The TARL program was originally pioneered and developed by Pratham NGO in India, aiming to address the core causes of the learning crisis, focusing on basic reading and arithmetic skills through an evidence based approach, researched and evaluated by the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL).

Educate Me also collaborated with the Egyptian Ministry of Education and Technical Education, Maitri Trust and Sawiris Foundation for Social Development, to test the effectiveness of TARL in community and public schools for students in grades three through six. The project assessed students based on their level of knowledge and abilities rather than their age or grade, their performance rather than depending solely on their end-of-year tests, and focused on their basic reading and numeracy skills rather than the curriculum at large.

Also at the back of this announcement, Educate Me organised a seminar to share its experience for the implementation of TARL, the impact of the program, as well as the learnings and success stories. Highlights included: The percentage of students who can read a paragraph in Arabic increased from 38% to 73%, and the percentage of students who are able to perform basic mathematical operations (subtraction or division) increased from 24% to 68%, after attending the program. Also, Educate Me were able to design 8 technical manuals including all materials necessary for further implementation and scaling of the program.

The seminar was attended by Ahmed Saada, Associate Minister of Social Solidarity for Civil Society Support and Health Affairs, Nayera El Hussein, J-PAL MENA Policy Manager, Dr. Yasser Mahmoud, MoETE representative in Sohag and other prominent attendees.

Christine Safwat, CEO of Educate Me, commented: “We are honoured to be the first in bringing a successful educational approach to the Arab world, with the support of Pratham and J-PAL, and are very excited to scale it nationwide in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, donor organisations, and other NGOs working in the Education field. We were very keen and selective in the programs we invest in, especially in the current economic circumstances, and are glad that the TARL program proved to be a promising cost effective solution for literacy and numeracy skills’ development for students in Egypt.”

Nayera El Husseiny, J-PAL MENA Policy Manager added, “We are proud of the role J-PAL played in collaboration with Pratham to develop an effective TaRL model, through extensive research six randomised evaluations to scale it globally, and most importantly, that this program was contextualised to the Arabic language for the first time by Educate Me. In 2021, we were able to implement the program to more than 1 million students in 12 African countries, and hope it would be applied in other African and Arab countries to compensate for the educational loss that occurred during the COVID pandemic.”

Dr. Yasser Mahmoud, MoETE representative in Sohag also, expressed his support for the program: “This is not new for the Educate Me Foundation. We have worked together several times, due to its active role in society. However, the TARK program is phenomenal as it has found great acceptance in the Sohag community, due to the increase of students’ school attendance, and significant improvement of their reading, writing, and numeracy skills, and we look forward to transferring our experience to more governorates across Egypt.”

The TARK program material is accessible on Educate Me’s website for all stakeholders in the education ecosystem, to facilitate the scaling of the program

### **About Educate Me:**

Educate Me Foundation is a registered non-profit foundation that aspires to redefine education in Egypt through a progressive skills- based, learner-centred education model while promoting a culture of self-actualization and lifelong learning.

Educate Me operates a community school in Talbeya, Giza and runs professional development programs for both public school teachers and students across 17 governorates. Educate Me also offers education consultancy services to different organisations.

### **About Pratham NGO:**

Pratham is an innovative learning organisation created to improve the quality of education in India. Established in 1995 to provide education to children in the slums of Mumbai, Pratham has grown in both scope and scale, with programs today reaching children and youth across the country. As one of the largest non-governmental organisations in the country, Pratham focuses on high-quality, low-cost and replicable interventions to address gaps in the education system. Working directly with children and youth as well as through large-scale collaborations with government systems, Pratham programs reach millions of lives every year. Pratham's Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) approach has demonstrated proven impact on children's learning outcomes and is now being adapted to contexts outside India.

### **About J-PAL:**

J-PAL is a global research centre working to reduce poverty through ensuring that policy is informed by rigorous scientific evidence. J-PAL was launched at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 2003 and has seven regional offices at host universities in Africa, Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean, the Middle East and North Africa, South Asia, and



Southeast Asia. The Nobel Prize in Economics awarded J-PAL's founders, Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo, and their affiliate Michael Kremer for their pioneering approach to alleviating global poverty.

J-PAL MENA is the 7th regional office hosted at the AUC in Cairo, Egypt. It was launched in collaboration with the global philanthropist Community Jameel in 2020. J-PAL MENA at AUC builds on more than a decade of research and policy partnerships in the region led by J-PAL affiliates and staff.

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