



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

2011 IS THE NATIONAL YEAR FOR LITERACY



# PACADE - UNESCO NEWSLETTER

NO. 3, 2011



Director UNESCO addressing the National Press Club Islamabad at the Media Forum Meeting for Literacy



Asia South Pacific Association  
for Basic and Adult Education  
Learning Beyond Boundaries



ICAE

## PAKISTAN ASSOCIATION FOR CONTINUING & ADULT EDUCATION

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# A Word about PACADE

PACADE is the national NGO for Literacy and Continuing Education in Pakistan. It was established in 1984. It is a registered society and has its head office at Lahore with representation in Peshawar, Karachi, Quetta and Islamabad. It is affiliated with ASPBAE (Asia and Pacific Bureau of Adult Education) and ICAE (International Council of Adult Education). It is a member of LANGOS (Lahore Association of NGOs) and has been linked to CIVICUS (The World Alliance for Citizens).

PACADE has held a number of conferences, seminars and workshops for the promotion of adult and continuing education in Pakistan. Mention may in particular be made of the South Asian Conference held in 1987 on the subject of Continuing Education Key to Effective Living. It has held meetings on law and the citizen, health, education, environment issues and networking. Seminars and workshops on literacy methodologies, functional literacy, community involvement, monitoring, post-literacy and joy of learning have also been held in Lahore, Peshawar, Karachi and Islamabad. PACADE has made about 6000 village women literate. It has run Female Literacy Centres in villages near Lahore primarily to test literacy methodologies. PACADE has been particularly keen to highlight and propagate the cause of Female Literacy. It also has had a programme for research on literacy and continuing education including a Journal published for a number of years, a magazine of and for newly literate women as also a number of books. PACADE has of late been working in the field of Gender and has organized a number of workshops to sensitise elementary teachers in 20 districts of the Punjab. More such workshops are on the cards.

One of PACADE's major roles has been to lobby with the government, international organizations and NGOs for the promotion of literacy programmes. In this connection it remains in touch with the central and provincial governments in Pakistan, National commission for Human Development, education foundations, universities and international agencies including UNESCO, UNDP, Asian Development Bank, UNICEF and NGOs active in Pakistan as well as other international organizations related to EFA.

As a partner organisation with UNESCO, it has besides other tasks, helped prepare the national strategy for the Implementation of EFA National Plan of Action in Pakistan. Some of PACADE's significant contributions include helping organize Media Forums for EFA as well as the start of a Parliamentary Forum for Literacy. Mention may be made of The Literacy Forum consisting of leading literacy NGOs an idea pioneered by PACADE and organising the first ever National Literacy Review Roundtables organised in collaboration with UNESCO and NCHD.

PACADE President was the first Chairman of the National Commission for Literacy and Mass Education. He also held the offices of Federal Secretary and Ambassador. He has been involved with environment education and was invited by the World Bank (EDI) to participate in a number of environment related workshops in India and Nepal. He has been actively participating in the UNESCO, ICAE, ASPBAE and CIVICUS conferences held in Beijing, Hamburg, Melbourne, Dacca, Buenos Aries, Cairo, Beirut, Delhi, Colombo and Bangkok. He was invited to the UN World Conference of NGOs in New York where the proposals for the following UN Millennium Summit were formulated in the year 2000. In his capacity as a newspaper columnist, he has been writing for the promotion of literacy and education helping UNESCO Islamabad to involve the media and the parliamentarians in literacy. He has contributed more than two dozen articles on the state of literacy in Pakistan. He was chosen to write the Research paper on Adult Literacy in Asia and Pacific for the prestigious International Handbook (A publication of the Asia-Pacific Educational Research Association). He has also edited the first ever publication on Continuing Education in Pakistan.

PACADE has its own websites ([www.pacade.org](http://www.pacade.org) & [www.pacadelrc.org](http://www.pacadelrc.org))

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Today around 60000000 Pakistanis are utterly illiterate. And the prospects for the promotion of Literacy are not very bright.

After the 18th Amendment the subject of Education including literacy has become the responsibility of the provinces. This development coupled with current economic crunch has adversely affected the literacy programmes. The posts of EDOS' Literacy in the Punjab have been abolished while lack of expected funds from the central government has resulted in drastic reduction of NCHD's adult literacy centres and other activities, which earlier were planned to be undertaken, this year.



The elected representatives and even the media have paid little attention to this issue. It is important that the civil society organizations, and media impress upon the government to take immediate steps to ensure that internationally committed primary and adult literacy targets in terms of EFA & MDGs are achieved by the year 2015. Another urgently needed step under the 18th Amendment is the enactment of a law to implement the constitutional provision for making the Right to Education justiceable. UNESCO's initiative in this respect merits appreciation.

PACADE-UNICEF Gender Sensitisation Workshops for government elementary teachers have continued in the Punjab Districts. Such workshops have been held in Mianwali, Bahawalnagar, Lodhran, Sargodha and Attock districts. By the 3rd week of June, PACADE would have covered all the districts of the province.

The new UNESCO Director Dr. Kozue Kay Nagata came to Lahore in the first week of May and interalia visited historical sites and some of the government offices including the Punjab Literacy & NFBE department and Directorate of Staff Development (DSD). She was gracious enough to invite provincial government officers and reps of some NGO's to dinner and discussed matters of mutual interest with them.

PACADE has organized 10 CLCs in Okara and Lahore districts with the support of UNESCO. The local community provided commendable cooperation in Shergarh Tehsil where 7 centres have been set up. Three of PACADE literacy centres in the Wagha area Lahore district have also been upgraded as CLCs.

A special public meeting at Shergarh was organized in connection with the Global Campaign for Education week. It was addressed by the CLCs teachers and learners as well as the local community leaders.

## **Madam Kozue Kay Nagata (Ph. D) Directors UNESCO Representative to Pakistan, Islamabad**

Ms. Kozue Kay Nagata assumed responsibility of Director/Representative of UNESCO to Pakistan in March 2011. Prior to her current position, she served as Economic Affairs Officer in the Development Cooperation Branch of the office of ECOSOC Support and Coordination, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) in New York. Since 2006, she has been heavily involved in the substantive servicing of the operational activities segment of ECOSOC, held every year, and the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF). Among other things, she contributed to the 2007 version of the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review of the Operational Activities of the United Nations for Development (TCPR) and the Asia-Pacific Regional DCF.



Ms. Nagata (from Japan) obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Indo-Pakistani Studies from the Tokyo University of Foreign studies, a Master of Arts in Education from the California State University (Bakersfield, USA) and a Master of International Public Policy (MIPP) from the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at the Johns Hopkins University in Washington DC (USA). She subsequently gained a PhD in Development Studies from the Nihon Fukushi University in Nagoya (Japan).

Ms. Nagata joined the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva, as Associate Expert (funded by the Government of Japan). She worked as Assistant Statistician at the World Trade Organization (ex-GATT), also in Geneva, from January to September, 1988.

From October 1988 to July 2011, Ms. Nagata worked as a Social Affairs Officer with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), based in Baghdad at that time (SCWA Headquarters is now in Beirut). During this period, she worked in three duty stations (Baghdad, Amman and Beirut). She was notably involved in the organization of the Arab Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Population Conference in Cairo (1993), and of the Arab Regional Preparatory Forum for the World Summit for Social Development (1994).

In 2001, Ms Nagata was temporarily re-deployed to the UN Peace-keeping operation in East Timor (Timor Laste), where she served as the Chief of the Social Services Division in the Ministry of Labour and solidarity of the United Nations Transitional Government in East Timor (UNTAET). From July 2002 to August 2006, she worked as the Economic Affairs Officer at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Bangkok, where she led the process of regional preparations for the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which entered into force in May 2008. She also headed the launch and implementation of the second Asia-Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (2002-2013).

**PACADE wishes Dr KK Nagata  
success in her new assignment**

## **UNICEF Activities for Gender Equality, Girls' Education and HIV/AIDs in Pakistan**

Pakistan scores well when it comes to the proportion of seats held by women in the National Assembly and the Senate, the provincial assemblies and the local councils, but the Gender Parity Index (GPI) for primary, secondary and tertiary education still paints a grim picture, stark reasons simply being; girls not sent to school, the distance from home, the perceived lack of security in schools, assistance in domestic work and other cultural and social norms (as stated within the Millennium Development Goal for Gender Parity). These factors unfortunately undermine their contribution towards the economic growth of the country.

Girls' education is a priority for UN and the government of Pakistan but their access to education is very limited in Pakistan just as in many other developing countries. About two third women in Pakistan are illiterate. Primary school level participation rate is low in under developed provinces and districts. In rural Balochistan, only 22 % women can read and write.

Under One UN Programme, UNESCO Islamabad is executing a project on "Towards Gender Parity in Pakistan" which relates to Joint Programme in Education and Cross-cutting theme "Gender Equality". This two-year project (2010 2011) aims to support the Government by addressing gender equality across the three pillars of the national policy on development and empowerment of women; legal and political, economic and social empowerment.

### **NEF's DEFAULT**

**During visits to a number of districts in the Punjab Province in connection with Gender Sensitisation workshops, Non-formal Basic Education Schools' teachers met Chairman PACADE and other PACADE staff members and complained about non-payment of salaries for the last 8 or 9 months. At one place, one teacher was in tears which reflected her misery. It is indeed most unfortunate that NEF has been responsible for such a worrisome display of inefficiency and default.**

**This piece of news is a sad reflection on the working of not only the National Education Foundation but also the now defunct Ministry of Education.**

**How sad indeed to see the way we have been implementing the official basic education programmes.**

***Prime Minister of Pakistan is requested to urgently provide the salary arrears to these teachers.***

## **Global Action Week for EFA 2011**

### **Celebrated by UNESCO in Islamabad**

Global Action Week (GAW) for EFA took place from 2-8 May 2011, under the theme of "Girls and Women Education". In Pakistan, UNESCO in collaboration with other partners is supporting a number of activities for observance of the Week.

EFA Week is observed every year, all around the world to reaffirm determination for achievement of goals and target set by the international community and the governments during World Education Forum, which held during April 2000 in Dakar, Senegal. UN Agencies including UNESCO and UNICEF are partners of EFA movement and Dakar Framework of Action. EFA Week 2011 highlighted the key advocacy messages through various slogans including; "It's a Right, Make it Right: Education for Girls and Women Now!" The Global Campaign for Education (GCE), as the main organizer, announced that GAW 2011's main activity would revolve around "story telling", also referred to as "The Big Story". The main activity aimed to link the local group and school work with the national and global events.

With only 5 years left until the 2015 deadline to achieve Education for All goals, the GCE reminds the international community once again, their task of being the 'voice for the voiceless' by increasing the frequency of their demands from governments to live up to their commitments in education. EFA indicators in Pakistan are low. There are apprehensions that Pakistan may not be able to achieve EFA Goals by 2015 with its present pace, unless special initiatives are taken to accelerate educational development in the country.



## PACADE ACTIVITIES

### National Press Club Islamabad Media Forum For Education For All

A Media Workshop was organized by the Media Forum for Education For All on April 14, 2011 at National Press Club Islamabad. It was chaired by Dr. Kay Nagata, Director UNESCO Pakistan. It was also addressed by Mr. Tahir Rafiq, Joint Secretary, Capital Authority and Development Division, Mr. Arshad Saeed Khan, Senior National Specialist (EDU) UNESCO, Mr. Inayatullah, Chairman PACADE.

Mr. Inayatullah welcomed Dr. Kay Nagata, Director UNESCO, Mr. Tahir Rafiq, Joint Secretary CADD and participants including senior staff members of a number of newspapers and TV channels.



He spoke about the purpose of the workshop and the state of literacy in Pakistan. He appealed to media representatives to take up the cause of literacy. He appreciated the UNESCO's role by way of supporting the efforts being made by the government and NGOs. He wanted its support for the promotion of this neglected field.

Mr. Arshad Saeed Khan, UNESCO's Senior Education Specialist made a presentation to enlighten and sensitise the Media representatives on the importance of stepping up efforts for the promotion of literacy. He drew their attention to the 18th Amendment Article: "The State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of five to sixteen years in such manner as may be determined by law."



Under this Article the Right to Education has been made justiciable Mr. Arshad Saeed Khan asked media participants to highlight the need for promulgating a law so that this Right could be legally enforced.

Questions raised by participants were replied by Mr. Arshad Saeed Khan and Mr. Inayatullah.

Participants assured that they would cooperate with PACADE and UNESCO to highlight the cause of literacy and drew government attention to seriously own the responsibility to achieve the Dakar EFA goals and MDGs by 2015. They responded positively to the proposal made by Mr. Inayatullah that a Media Forum for EFA should be set up in Islamabad.

Mr. Inayatullah acknowledged UNESCO's initiative in helping organize the meeting.

PACADE appreciates the cooperation extended by Mr. Afzal Butt, President of the National Press Club and his colleagues for organizing the Media Forum Meeting.



## **PACADE ACTIVITIES**

# **Director UNESCO's speech at National Press Club** **On April 14, 2011**

Distinguished delegates from Pakistan Association for Continuing and Adult Education (PACADE), media participants, ladies and gentlemen.

This is my great please to address this timely and important Forum of Media persons, the people who influence minds of people and minds of decision makers, public opinion and who can bring a change in the society. I have conviction that changes and social transformation must come from the minds of women and men.

UNESCO not only works in the fields of education, science, and culture (including protection of the World heritage Sites, such as Mohenjodara and Taxila), we, UNESCO also contribute to promotion of communication and information and free flow of information around the world. We have a programme called Communication and Information (C & I), as part of which UNESCO helps member states, civil society and media organizations in capacity building

We believe that every citizen should have equal right and access to good education and on this occasion we are glad to be a partner with media, which is an engine to achieve our common goals for Education for All (EFA) and assert for social transformation and progress.

We appreciate the historic initiative of Law Makers of Pakistan how have recognize the right to free and compulsory education though Constitutional Amendment No 18. Not only the decentralization, but this amendment promoted the rights to education, first time, under the constitution. This is a significant milestone for all of us.



What's next? Now the next steps to be taken by the provinces are legislation and policy, and to increase education budget. Though there are many other indicators for commitment but the best one should be budget, tangible and clear indicator. There is a joke, but this is a reality in it. So increased budget is among the best indicators.

If these steps are not taken timely, Pakistan might miss this golden opportunity and its targets and millions of children will continue to be deprived of their fundamental right of free education. This will of course have a serious impact on the level of human resources (human capital) and economic growth in this country, in an easy and simple mathematics.

UNESCO aims to help build a sustainable society and economic growth, with fairness and kindness, a society that values knowledge, peace, diversity and gender equality ad social inclusiveness, and to defend human rights of all. This can be partially achieved by providing Education For All (EFA). An educational system which will reach all, the poor girls and women, rural communities, disabled people, minorities of all sort etc. If this bottom is not strengthened, we shall never enjoy the sustainable human rights and equality neither. Human right is not for privileged people but it must reach all people at the bottom, otherwise, it will be frangible.



I will concluded my speech, by thanking the guests for your attendance regardless of busy schedule. For this good cause of education, and specially the media persons for their active participation.

UNESCO wish to strengthen its partnership with PACADE, civil society organizations, Islamabad Press



**PACADE ACTIVITIES**

**GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR EDUCATION**

**GAW May 2-8, 2011**



PACADE organized a seminar for Global Campaign for Education on May 4, 2011 at Shergarh, District Okara at Education Complex. Members of the local community, social activists, PACADE's Community Learning Centres' teachers, learners and PACADE staff including president and general secretary and coordinator of the project attended the meeting. It was lively event with teachers, learners and local social activists addressing the meeting.

of the Shergarh leading




The president of the Shergarh leading welfare NGO, Mian Muhammad Mian Ashraf in his presidential speech appreciated the initiative of UNESCO and PACADE to open 7 CLCs in various villages/Chaks in Shergarh Tehsil of District Okara.



He acknowledged the excellent start of the programme and hoped that these efforts would be further extended to promote the cause of the EFA in the area.




Education For All Week (2011)



Education For All

GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR  
**EDUCATION**  
www.campaignforeducation.org



**"It is a Right, Make it Right!  
Education for Girls and Women NOW!"**

## **PACADE Projects 2011**

### **Gender Equality, Girls' Education & HIV/AIDS Sensitisation Programme for Advocacy/Training Sessions for Elementary Teachers**

1. PACADE has been holding Gender and Literacy Sensitisation Workshops on behalf of the Punjab Education Department (Schools) in various districts. So far 15 workshops in 5 districts have been held. The workshops are sponsored and supported by UNICEF.

Some of the salient points and features of the presentations made at these workshops are given below:

- i. Stress was laid on the differences between the concepts of Sex & Gender and how gender relationships are influenced by family, society, religion and other factors. The message was well registered by the participants as was evidenced by clear responses of the male / female teachers.
- ii. Participants showed a lot of interest in expressing their views during Group discussions. It was interesting to watch male and female teachers voicing their opinion and appreciating each other's ideas and concepts.
- iii. Participants also found the information provided to them regarding HIV/AIDS most useful. They expressed a lot of interest and raised a number of questions about the disease and its treatment and how the life of a person suffering from AIDS could be made easier by a humane approach and positive behaviour.



*P.S. A female teacher literally wept in the workshop and admitted that she did not pay attention to her daughter's wishes in regard to studies. Her husband too was interested only their son's education. Now their son has left his parents and they live alone. But the daughter continue to look after them even after her marriage.*

2. PACADE's 10 Community Learning Centres in Shergarh and Wagha areas continued making satisfactory progress.



## Education Policy and Commitments

### Pakistan's Development Perspective

#### Vision 2030

“Developed, industrialized, just and prosperous Pakistan through rapid and sustainable development in a resource constrained economy by developing knowledge inputs”

#### Vision 2030

“The citizen shall have greater access to quality education, as well as basic amenities like health, water and sanitation. Freedom of enterprise and enlarged opportunities will transform the lives of the majority but the benefit of social protection will provide sufficient cushion to the most vulnerable”.

#### National Education Policy 1998-2010

The National Education Policy (1998-2010) particularly emphasized:

- Increased enrolments in public sector schools;
- Higher budgetary allocations to education:
- The removal of urban rural and gender imbalances:
- Improving the quality of education at all levels

(The Education Sector Reforms (ESR: 2001-06) was the action plan for the NEP 1998-2010)

#### National Education Policy 2009

##### VISION:

“Our education system must provide quality education to our children and youth to enable them to realize their individual potential and contribute to development of society and nation, creating a sense of Pakistani nationhood, the concepts of tolerance, social justice, democracy, their regional and local culture and history based on the basic ideology enunciated in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan”

##### Objectives

To enable Pakistan to fulfill its commitments to achieve Dakar Framework of Action, Education For All goals and Millennium Development Goals relating to education.

##### South Asia: Socioeconomic Profile

	Population growth rate (%) 2008	GDP per Capita (US\$) 2008	IMR (#000 live births) 2005-08	LWB (%) 2003-08	AL (%) 2008
DB	1.4	520	45	22	55
India	1.4	1,070	55	28	63
Nepal	1.8	400	42	21	58
<b>Pakistan</b>	2.2	980	64	32	54
Sri Lanka	0.9	1,780	16	18	91

Source: EFA Global Monitoring Report 2011; UNESCO

## **About NGO working for Literacy - HEAL**

Health Education & Literacy Trust was established in 1987 with focus on community development. It focuses on women empowerment through literacy, non-formal education, health education especially reproductive health and capacity building of adolescent girls and women in rural areas. It conducts various training workshops and refresher courses for confidence building and self-reliance of the most disadvantage segment of the society which is women, adolescent girls and children.



HEAL has a Board of Trustees which is responsible for policy making and provides directions and instructions for the smooth running of organization to implement various projects. Board appoints Executive Director who is responsible for the activities of Field Unit, Design Unit, Finance Section and general Administration. HEAL's annual budget and audit is approved annually by Finance committee. HEAL has a dedicated team of 8 members, except Finance Manager and Accountant, all are females. Team believes in strong interpersonal communication for the smooth functioning of the organization.

HEAL believes in the networking with other organizations and is currently member of Pakistan Reproductive Health Network (PRHN), The Literacy Forum, Punjab NGO Coordination Council, Population Association of Pakistan and UNGEI. It has regular contacts with other organizations and donors through email-, fax, courier and post.

Since its establishment, HEAL has implemented various donor funded projects and provided consultancy services to different NGOs and government institutions. Currently it is partner of Plan Pakistan in non-formal education. A project on Safe Motherhood through Women Literacy has been initiated in 10 villages of district Nankana.

Presently Mrs. Farkahda Tabassum is Executive Director of HEAL. She is also general Secretary of The Literacy Forum (TLF).

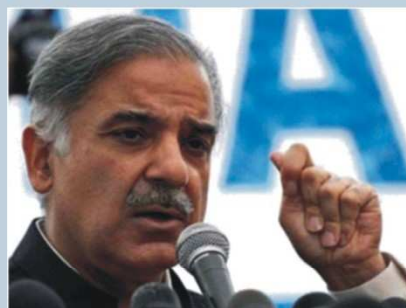
### **Punjab government's adult literacy programme**

**President PACADE has had an opportunity of visiting a member of districts in South Punjab where he talked to a number of ex-EDOs literacy and the serving district literacy officers. The net impression gained by him is that only a few hundred centres are claimed to have been open during the last three years in the districts with average attendance of less than half of the prescribed numbers at the literacy centres.**

**Unless special efforts are made, more funds provided and incentives given like the imparting of income generation skills, there is little hope of achieving the national and international targets.**

## Shahbaz links future to vocational Education

LAHORE: Mian Shahbaz Sharif has said that future of Pakistan is linked with vocational education and equipping the youth with modern knowledge and skills is essential for elimination of unemployment and rapid development of the country. He said solid measures had been taken for the promotion of vocational education while the Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (Tevta) had been made a vibrant institution and given the target of producing 500,000 skilled workers annually in accordance with the market needs. He said skilled workforce and vocational training were directly linked with economy, adding that Tevta had evolved a



commendable roadmap for the promotion of vocational education and it should be implemented rapidly. He said there was a need for concentrating on modern machinery, master trainers and teachers' training. The chief minister was presiding over separate meetings regarding Tevta, the Punjab Small Industries Corporation (PSIC) and Skills Development Programme in Punjab at the Chief Minister's Secretariat here on Thursday. He said only those counties had progressed which had equipped their youth with modern education, adding that Korea, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia and other countries had not only made rapid progress but were also earning huge foreign exchange by producing a skilled workforce. He said the Punjab government had reorganised and reactivated Tevta and the authority's strategy for the promotion of vocational education was appreciable. He issued directions for adopting all the possible measures for the vocational training of the maximum number of youth through institutions of Tevta. Shahbaz said vocational education in accordance with the market needs should be imparted to the youth so that they could immediately be adjusted in industrial institutions. Lauding the briefing given by Tevta Chairman Saeed Alvi regarding promotion of vocational education, the chief minister said the programme was highly encouraging.

*Education Watch Pakistan, Islamabad: May 2011*



Asia South Pacific Association  
for Basic and Adult Education  
**Learning Beyond Boundaries**

## WHAT IS ASPBAE?

The Asian South Pacific Bureau of Adult Education or ASPBAE was established in 1964 by a group of adult educators, inspired by the idea of promoting adult education in the region.

Today, ASPBAE has grown to a network of organizations and individuals involved in formal and non-formal adult education, working with and through NGOs, community organizations, government agencies, universities, trade unions, indigenous peoples, women's organizations, the media and other institutions of civil society across the Asia-Pacific.

ASPBAE'S fundamental purpose is to defend and advance the rights of adults throughout the Asia-Pacific Region to learn throughout their lives in order to gain control of their destiny. Increasingly it takes on a full "Education For All" agenda and addresses the challenges for achieving primary and secondary education for children as well as its historic focus on adults.

*ASPBAE's over-all goal is to secure equal access of all citizens to basic and adult education of good quality, contributing to poverty eradication, sustainable development, and lasting peace.*

ASPBAE present head office is in Mumbai.

Its website is: [www.aspbae.org](http://www.aspbae.org)

## **For Readers' Information**



A WORLD  
WORTH  
LIVING IN

**ICAE VIII WORLD ASSEMBLY**  
MALMÖ SWEDEN 14–17 JUNE 2011

The ICAE World Assembly is a forum that brings together people and organizations working on lifelong learning and adult education around the world and it takes place every four years, as a celebration of the importance of adult education for the construction of just and equitable societies. The first one was held in 1976 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, under the presidency of Julius Nyerere.

ICAE World Assembly is open to members, partners, and friends and also to all those networks that work or are linked to the adult education movement promoting adults' right to earn. It will be an excellent opportunity to reflect on the changing current context and the challenges for the education movement.

It will take place from June 14 to 16, back to back with the General Assembly of the European Association of Adult Education (EAEA), a Swedish national conference on Popular Education and a Conference of the Nordic Folk High Schools (NFR).

### **Objectives:**

- To provide a collective space to strongly affirm the right to lifelong learning and education for all and to assert the immense value of adult education and learning in enabling citizens to build a world worth living in.
- To identify the priorities of lifelong learning and education and to develop proposals for action at a global, regional and local level.

The International Council for Adult Education, ICAE, formed in 1973, is the main global network promoting Youth and Adult Education and Learning and doing advocacy for the right to learn of youngpeople and adults.

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[www.eaea.org](http://www.eaea.org) [www.folkbildning.se](http://www.folkbildning.se) Please visit:  
<http://www.youtube.com/user/ICAEWA2011>

## NEWSPAPERS' CLIPPINGS

DAWN LAHORE MONDAY MAY 2, 2011

METROPOLITAN

# Non-formal schools, non-serious attitude

By Mansoor Malik

**C**HIEF Minister Shahbaz Sharif's dream to ensure a 100 per cent enrolment and retention of students in schools by October 31 this year will be affected by some government's actions. The Punjab government has abolished the supervisory tier of executive district officers (EDO) of literacy and already overworked EDOs of the Punjab School Education Department have been told to look after Punjab Literacy and Non-Formal Basic Education Department affairs in their districts.

Literacy Department officials say that the new arrangement will hit the department's efforts to bring out-of-school and over-age children to non-formal schools. Punjab School Education Department Secretary Aslam Kamboh says each EDO-education has a large workforce of deputy district education officers and assistant education officers which can run the literacy affairs without any

problem.

He said EDOs-literacy were actually the employees of the School Education Department.

The Punjab government has abolished a number of seats as part of its plan to save money.

Literacy Department officials say that measure will not help the Punjab government save money as EDOs-literacy will continue to take their salaries even as officers on special duty.

"We were catering to the out-of-school children and dropouts and sending them to mainstream education after imparting them education up till class-v in non-formal education settings," says one of the literacy officials.

The recently launched UNESCO's Global Monitoring Report, 2011, states that one out of every three children in Pakistan is not going to school. It also states that around 25 per cent of illiterates in the world are residing in Pakistan. In Punjab, a literacy official says there are some 3.8 million five-nine years age children, who are not going to schools. Similarly, statistics

show that some 50 per cent of the out-of-school 10-year plus age population in Punjab has never been to school. The Punjab's official literacy rate is still as low as 62 per cent that include those who can read the Holy Quran.

This justifies the need for more schools.

A senior Education Department official says that the department needs to set up some 14,000 more schools to

accommodate around 3.8 million out-of-school children in Punjab.

"While 3.8 million children are out-of-school in Punjab and those who get admission to schools, some 40 per cent drop out while reaching class-IV and 77 per cent of children join dropouts before reaching class-IX," he said. Referring to the school secretary comments that EDOs-education have a large workforce and will look after the literacy task as well, a Literacy Department official

says this statement can also be true if the government returns to one unified education department and close down the School Education Department. A large workforce led by an additional secretary will deal the school education affairs. "It is a time to take rationale decisions," he added.

Pakistan Association for



Continuing and Adult Education (PACADE) chairman Inayatullah says the subject of literacy will land in hot waters, if the Literacy

Department is affected on administrative grounds. Saying that the previous Punjab government had taken a right decision to set up a Literacy Department, he added the department was never given sufficient funds to make a mark on literacy scene. "It will be just myopic to suspend or hamper department's programmes and activities being run with meager resources," he added.

He demanded that the provincial governments set up provincial commissions in line with the National Commission for Human Development, which could not get funding at national level after the 18th Amendment making way for devolution.

BUNYAD Vice-Chairperson Shaheen Atiqur Rahman has written a letter to the chief minister asking him to think of over 30 million illiterates of 10 plus years age, who will have no future if EDOs-literacy will not be in place.

"The Education Department is already over-stretched with over 60,000 schools and yet it is not able to plug the dropout rate, one of the worst dropout rates globally," the letter reads.

THE Punjab University Model United Nations (PUMUN) team has won six Outstanding Diplomacy Awards at the Muenster University Model United Nations (MUMUN), 2011, at Muenster, Germany, and Finnish Model United Nations (FinMUN) 2011 at Helsinki, Finland.

The PU's nine-member student delegation took part 0

in MUMUN, 2011, along with over 200 delegates from across the world and won five Outstanding Diplomacy Awards. The winning students are: Muhammad Umer Riaz and Zeeshan Nadeem of Law College; Saad Arsalan Iqbal of College of Art and Design; Uneza Hamid, of Institute of Communication Studies; and Muhammad Saqib, of Institute of Chemical Engineering and Technology. The Muenster University selected four PU students Muhammad Bilal Ramzan and Ameer Hamza Dogar of Law College, Sher Afghan Malik of IAS and Raza Bakir Shah of IBA as judges, who adjudicated sessions in various committees as well as served as members of the secretariat in the conference.

The delegation also took part in the single committee FinMUN conference. The PU delegation won the award for 'Best Delegation at Global Village' and the sole Outstanding Diplomacy Award was won by Uneza Hamid of Institute of Communication Studies.

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## 'Quality edu key to alleviating poverty'

ISLAMABAD (APP) Education is deeply linked to poverty alleviation and it must be matched to market demands blended with technical vocational education for earning livelihood in a dignified manner and leading the persons towards higher confidence and self esteem.

These were the unanimous views of speakers at public dialogue organized by Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA) here in collaboration with UNESCO, UNICEF, National Commission For Human Development (NCHD) and the Pakistan Coalition for Education (PCE).

In this dialogue held in connection with Global Action Week for Education for

All (EFA) 2011, more than 130 youth champions, parliamentarians and rights activists demanded urgent action for scaling up girls and women's education in Pakistan as a fundamental Rights issue, backed by Article 25 A under the Constitution. Voices were heard unequivocally about the efficacy of female education as the largest and most potent multiplier for Pakistani society to secure economic, social and democratic rights in the country.

Speakers were of the view that education without quality is of little value and teachers are the pivot of quality who can make learning more relevant, flexible and innovative so that it can lead to higher returns.

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Speakers were of the view that education without quality is of little value and teachers are the pivot of quality who can make learning more relevant, flexible and innovative so that it can lead to higher returns. They stressed that mass media has a big role to perform for promotion of girls and

women's education as the first pillar for social change in a globalized world. Both the state parties and parents need to comply with Article 25 A of the Constitution.

Country Director UNESCO Kozue Kay Nagata forcefully argued for making girls and women's education a reality in Pakistan. She endorsed all the suggestions made during the dialogue to empower women through high quality education for social justice and sustained development with a human face.

She said that there is no better investment with high returns for education and the 18th Amendment of the Constitution and Article 25 A guarantee for the first time education as a fundamental right for girls and boys.

ITA Chairperson Baela Raza Jamil's call to making Global Action Week for EFA 2011 the beginning of a movement for five years up to 2015 is fully endorsed. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2009 and the Constitution seeks to positively address the gender gaps and equity issues.

The dialogue was also a kick off for the signature and petition campaign through stamped post cards and signature sheets to the highest decision makers of Pakistan demanding Education as a Right for Girls and Women NOW. The panelists who shared their insights and struggles ra

included Mrs. Saira Afzal Tarar MNA PML N from Punjab, Mrs. Farhana Azim Chairperson Pakistan Girl Guides Association (PGGA), Maryam Bibi CEO of Khwendo Kor in Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa, Tahira Abdullah a human rights activist, Zeeshan Arshad heading Pakistan Coalition for Education (PCE).

The Young champions also shared their own unique stories of commitment as young citizens and pledged to participate in the promotion of girls and boys education as the fundamental pillar for social, economic and political reform for Education For All.

Dr. Nafisa Shah, Chairperson NCHD spoke eloquently about the nexus of terrorism and illiteracy. She appreciated that the Global Week for EFA is being observed to gain the attention of the government demanding girls and women's right to education.

The Dialogue ended with valuable decisions mainly welcoming Article 25 A as a Constitutional & Fundamental Right to Education for all children/citizens 5-16 years of age and addressing household poverty through stipends to girls up to grade X and school feeding programmes encouraging families to send their girl-children to school and improve completion rates. It also recommended to build and equip schools affected by emergencies, natural Disasters and conflicts. Agencies

NATIONAL NEWS

## 'Education helps alleviate poverty'

## A FEW PACADE ACTIVITIES IN PICTURES

