



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

2011 IS THE NATIONAL YEAR FOR LITERACY



# PACADE - UNESCO NEWSLETTER

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NO. **2**, 2011



**UNESCO -Punjab Education Department - PACADE  
Workshop on Gender & Literacy Sensitization for Teachers**



Asia Pacific Bureau of  
Adult Education



International Council of  
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.

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## FROM PACADE PRESIDENT'S DESK

PACADE activities during the period under review included (a) the completion of the 40 workshops in 20 districts on Gender, Literacy and HIV/AIDS Sensitization (b) Media Forum for Literacy meetings in Lahore and Peshawar and (c) start of CLCs project in Okara district and in the Wagha border area.

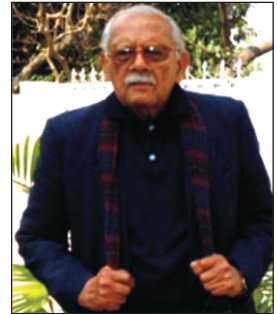
The gender workshops were quite a revealing experience. It was interesting to see how male school teachers asserted their superiority citing Islamic references in support of their stance. A number of female teachers in almost every workshop steadfastly spoke for equality and against unwholesome male domination. An interesting finding was the divided opinion about co-education. Many male and female teachers favoured it. The workshops have yielded the insights that there is an imperative need is to bring about change in the mind sets of the elementary school teachers about the role of girls / women in society. They must be persuaded to concede that women too have to be productive and earning members of the society. Each can serve society in all fields of life as disparate as a sales clerk to business manager or a mechanic to a neurosurgeon. The male teachers have to begin to review their existing erroneous fixed notions about women. Their training courses must have a gender sensitise component. (More details in the next page).

PACADE looks forward to arranging similar workshops in the remaining 16 districts of the province with the support of UNICEF and the Punjab School Education Department.

The Okara project is aimed at imparting literacy, income generation and life skills to 250 or so village women in the Shergarh tehsil of the district. A PACADE team visited Renala Khurd and called on Mr. Muhammad Mohsin, Chairman Mitchles' Fruit Farms. He was most helpful in arranging contacts with local influential people. A number of sites for the "Community Learning Centres" have already been identified. PACADE looks forward to an exciting venture during 2011 involved as it would be in bringing about a wholesome and positive change in the thinking, behaviour and skills of hundreds of village young women.

The Media Forum meetings in Lahore and Peshawar organized with the cooperation of UNESCO were aimed at involving the newspapers and electronic media correspondents to highlight the cause of literacy and education for all. A similar meeting with the Media was also held in Lahore to highlight the celebration of the National Literacy Year announced by the Prime Minister. It was amongst others addressed by chairperson of National Commission for Human Development, Ms Nafisa Shah. PACADE proposes to hold another meeting in Islamabad. PACADE appreciates the initiative taken by Mr. Mansoor Malik, The Dawn correspondent to help set up a Forum for Literacy in Lahore.

The Global Monitoring Report on EFA and the Pakistan Task Force Report on the state of literacy in Pakistan make a depressing reading. The related Millennium Development goals and the Dakar literacy targets will remain unmet if the current neglect to promote EFA continues in Pakistan. It is disappointing to learn that the posts of EDOs Literacy – a pioneering initiative by the Punjab government are being abolished. Instead of boosting the cause of literacy and making up for the lost time to meet the Dakar EFA and Millennium development goals, steps are being taken to slow down the process. This is all the more regrettable after the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment which has devolved the subject of Education entirely to the provinces. With considerable increase in the quantum of funds to the provinces, it was expected that enhanced financial allocations would be made for literacy. This has not been done. There is further need for retaining certain features at the centre including Curriculum, fixing standards, benchmarks, overall national planning and monitoring and linkages with international donors.



**PACADE EXTENDS A WARM WELCOME TO  
UNESCO'S NEW DIRECTOR IN PAKISTAN,  
DR. KOZUE KAY NAGATA**

## UNESCO Activities for Gender Parity and Literacy 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. The programme aims to address these three pillars through working on literacy, gender based violence, and water issues.

UNESCO Islamabad is to play a key role in the third pillar, specifically in the area of education and literacy for adolescent youth. The programme of education and literacy has three main components which are:

1. Provide literacy and continuing education through youth-focused literacy programmes, adult literacy programme and a pilot project.
2. Integrate information on gender parity in the teaching and learning materials used in Community Learning Centres and other formal / non-formal learning venues.
3. Provide trainings, workshops and awareness raising campaigns on gender equality for targeted groups at community learning centres, formal/non-formal learning venues.

### Adult Literacy/Community Learning Centres:

The project gained momentum in February, 2010, after signing of agreements with the implementing partners. The planned activities for 2010 were completed during 2010. 8 implementing partners established 115 Adult Literacy/Community Literacy Centres all over the country, where about 3000 learners were enrolled. The progress reports by the partners show a remarkable change among the learners. After three months of teaching, learners were able to read and write and do simple calculations. Monitoring visits by the UNESCO staff were also undertaken to assess the learning achievements. Rural communities were actively involved in literacy centres and learners were keen to acquire income generation skills. The ultimate aim is to socially empower the rural females.

### Mobile-based Post Literacy Programme:

UNESCO Islamabad executed a pilot project titled "Mobile-based Post Literacy Programme" in collaboration with partner NGO (BUNYAD Foundation, Lahore) and Mobilink, Pakistan. 50 Centres were established in rural areas of 4 districts of the Punjab Province, in which 1250 illiterate adult females became literate in 5 months (1.5 months – basic literacy and 3.5 months through SMS by using mobile handsets).

## UNESCO Activities for Gender Parity and Literacy in Pakistan

### Training of Formal & Non-formal Teachers:

With support from UNESCO, Punjab Department of Education and partner NGO (PACADE, Lahore) successfully organized 40 gender sensitization workshops in 20 districts of Punjab (covering central and south Punjab) for about 1600 elementary school teachers (male & female) of the formal school system. Another partner, National Education Foundation, Ministry of Education, Islamabad is organizing 20 teacher training workshops on Gender-in-Education and importance of literacy in 13 districts of Pakistan for 800 NFBE teachers.

### The objectives of these training workshops are:

1. To strengthen the abilities of the teachers on gender sensitive pedagogies and behavior in order to ensure gender quality in access and learning.
2. To raise awareness of teachers and students on gender issues and concepts to promote gender equality
3. To advocate significance of literacy and its application for development in Pakistan

It was encouraging to find out that the initial reservations of the participants graduated into increasing interest and even enthusiasm as the presentations proceeded in the workshops. It was pleasing to see the female and male teachers enthusiastically exchanging their views and ideas with each other on gender issues. Another 60 workshops would be organized during 2011. An Urdu version of the toolkit developed by Gender in Education Network in Asia Pacific (GENIA) UNESCO Bangkok on “Promoting Gender Equality in Education” was printed, which is being distributed to the participants of these workshops as well as stakeholders all over the country.



## NCHD-UNESCO Roundtable on Literacy March 9, 2011

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## PACADE ACTIVITIES

# MEDIA FORUM FOR LITERACY & E F A

Advocacy for literacy is an important component of activities undertaken by PACADE with UNESCO's support.

PACADE has initiated the setting up of a Media Forum for Literacy in collaboration with different Newspapers' and TV channels' education correspondents in Lahore.

Mr. Inayatullah highlighted the purpose of this Forum and introduced members of the Media Forum. He thanked Mr. Mansoor Malik, Convener Media Forum for Literacy and other leading newspapers and TV channels' members of this Forum. He said that there was a pressing need to organize such meetings and talk shows about literacy on TV channels. Different channels should invite the education ministers and secretaries and representatives of related NGOs to review the situation of formal and non-formal education in the country.

A Media Forum meeting was also organized in collaboration with NCHD (National Commission for Human Development) at Lahore on January 29, 2011 at Avari Hotel to promote the cause of literacy in Pakistan. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Nafisa Shah, Chairperson National Commission for Human Development (NCHD). Mr. Zulfiqar Ahmad, Director General NCHD was also present. Dr. Nafisa Shah acknowledged PACADE's initiative and thanked Mr. Inayatullah for the opportunity to address the Media representatives. She said that the country was facing hard times. That we are lagging behind to achieve the EFA, UNLD and MDGs targets. She suggested that the NCHD and Media Forum for Literacy / EFA



should collaborate and develop a strategy of advocacy for raising the issues pertaining to literacy and help build a movement to make the nation literate. She said that "Literacy is also the best weapon against rising extremism." She informed that NCHD proposed to set up 20,000 literacy centres across the country during the current financial year and had so far established 6,000 of them. She urged the provincial governments to play their role in increasing the literacy rate and meeting goals. Mr. Zulfiqar Ahmad, Director General NCHD stressed the need to focus on enrolment, control drop-outs and make more and more people literate to achieve the target of 86 per cent literacy rate by 2015.

PACADE President Mr. Inayatullah thanked the Chairperson and Director General of NCHD for their cooperation in supporting the advocacy initiative of PACADE. Hopefully, he said, similar Media Forum meetings for Literacy and EFA would be held in Islamabad and other places.

## **PACADE ACTIVITIES**

### **Peshawar Press Club Meeting**

### **Media Forum For Education For All**

A Media Workshop on the Media Forum for Education For All was held on February 26, 2011 at Peshawar Press Club, Peshawar. It was addressed by Mr. Inayatullah, Chairman PACADE and Mr. Saif-ul-Islam Saifi President Peshawar Press Club.

Participants included senior correspondents of a number of newspapers and TV channels.

Mr. Inayatullah welcomed the participants and spoke about the purpose of the workshop emphasizing the need for the Media to take up the cause of literacy in Pakistan. He said that Pakistan was lagging behind the rest of the world in literacy. This was because of lack political and resultantly inadequate allocations of funds for EFA. He spelt out the existing state of literacy in the various provinces and how the media could help in focusing attention on this important but neglected field.

His address was followed by an interactive session. Most of the media representatives actively participated in the discussions raising a number of points. Mr. Inayatullah also provided information about the valuable contributions made by UNESCO for the promotion of EFA.

He drew their attention to the 18<sup>th</sup> 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. He drew attention of the correspondents to press the government to promulgation the law for enforcing the Constitutional provision. He appealed to the media participants to highlight the importance of accelerating the spread of literacy with media and provided guidelines how to do so.

Mr. Saif-ul-Islam Saifi, President Peshawar Press Club thanked UNESCO and PACADE for holding the meeting at the Press Club. He assured on behalf of the newspapers and TV channels representatives that henceforth the media would make special efforts to advocate the cause of literacy. He also responded positively to the proposal made by Ms Sophia Malik that a Media Forum for EFA should be set up in Peshawar like the one established in Lahore.





## PACADE Projects 2011

PACADE will be starting new projects at different places of Punjab.

PACADE has carried out a survey of district Okara in cooperation with Syed Muhammad Mohsin CEO of Mitchell's Forms. He facilitated and provided competent staff for our new project which will be implemented in the villages of Okara district near Renala Khurd.

- i. PACADE will be establishing 7 CLCs in this area for illiterate and disadvantaged girls and women in a number of villages. And 3 CLCs at Wagha Border. This project aims at:
  - a) Imparting literacy skills as well as life skills and vocational training to 250 village women /girls. Vocational Training will include the following skills: \*
    - i. Making local crafts
    - ii. Dress making
      - Design
      - Cutting
      - Stitching
    - iii. Embroidery
      - Hand
      - Machine
    - iv. Basic computer skills
  - b) To bring about a positive change in the thinking, attitudes and behaviour of 250 village women/girls by raising awareness about their rights and responsibilities, about nutrition and health and how they can better run their households. Some other life skills would also be imparted.
  - c) These centres will have a small library, informative charts and hand-outs relating to health and community welfare. Meetings will be organized in cooperation with local government, educational, medical and other institutional units. Gender and environmental sensitization meetings will also be held.  
Scenes from Shergarh, Okara
  - d) Events relating to national and international days will be organized involving the community.



Gender and Girls Education Sensitisation workshops  
in 16 districts of the Punjab. (Preparations are in hand)

### PROJECTS ALREADY COMPLETED

PACADE has completed a series of very interesting Gender, Literacy and HIV/AIDs Sensitization Workshops for Elementary Teachers in 20 districts of the Punjab.

Two Media Forum Meetings were held in Lahore and Peshawar.

## Pakistan launches Girls' Education Initiative

In a concerted effort to address gender disparities in education, Pakistan's Ministry of Education, with the support of the UNGEI Secretariat, the United Kingdom's Department for International Development, UNICEF and NCHD has launched the Pakistan Girls' Education Initiative (PGEI).

The initiative, which grew out of consultations across the country, aims to address the critical issues of educating girls in a country where so many are out of school. Man-made and natural disasters, including the wide-spread flooding in July have exacerbated the situation, with over 10,000 schools partially or fully damaged and hundreds of schools occupied by internally displaced persons.

### Education For All

Before an audience of 300 in Islamabad, National Assembly Speaker Dr. Fehmida Mirza welcomed the establishment of PGEI as a “step towards creating effective alliances of committed partners at the international, federal and provincial levels in order to create an enabling educational environment, where girls, as well as boys, can flourish and unleash their untapped potential.”

Head of the UNGEI Secretariat Cheryl Gregory Faye said that PGEI was the outcome of the effective participation of the Pakistan delegation in UNGEI's 10th anniversary conference, “Engendering Empowerment: Education and Equality,” held in May 2010 in Dakar, Senegal.

“Through the PGEI network - with its enhanced capability for information sharing, building partnerships among key stakeholders, policy advocacy and assistance to the government of Pakistan in its response to emergencies - our hope is that each child in Pakistan, girl and boy alike, will complete a high quality education,” Ms. Faye said.

Hopefully Pakistan with the cooperation of UNESCO, UNICEF and other donors will move fast to fully avail of this new facility to promote the education of girls in the country.



# PACADE Annual General Meeting

PACADE Annual General Meeting was held in the beginning of January 2011.

The Chairman welcomed the members and expressed his satisfaction that they had managed to attend the meeting despite rain and other personal engagements. He said that a number of regrets were received because of bad weather.

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1. The chairman informed members about PACADE activities and circulated a statement in this respect. The statement is reproduced below.

PACADE – 2010 – A Glimpse

The year 2010 was an important year for PACADE for various reasons.

One: PACADE has come to be fully recognized as the National NGO for Literacy and Continuing Education.

Evidence:

1. Partnership status with UNESCO reflected in UNESCO – PACADE Newsletter (The first issue in the press)
2. Holding the UNESCO and NCHD sponsored National Literacy Review Roundtable held in November in Islamabad, co-chaired by the Federal Education Minister, Director UNESCO and Chairperson NCHD.
3. Chairman PACADE was the only non-official member of the National Steering Committee setup for the National Literacy Years 2010-2011. (as announced by the prime minister)

Two: During the year two major activities were:

- i. A Nine months long Model Literacy Centres Programme in villages in the Wagha Border Area
- ii. Gender and Literacy Sensitization workshops in 20 districts of the Punjab Province

Three: PACADE is the leading organization in Pakistan regarding Advocacy for Literacy. Two workshops with the Media were held one in Lahore and the other in Multan. A Forum for Literacy & EFA was being setup in Lahore.

Four: Last but not least PACADE initiated "The Literacy Forum – consisting of Literacy NGOs" and has held 6 meetings during the year.

2. The chairman then drew the attention of the members to the audit report of PACADE accounts and explained how PACADE expenditure was met. PACADE accounts were placed on the table and approved.

3. The chairman asked the members to offer suggestions about Continuing Education programmes for the future.

Two proposals were made by the worthy members:

a) Health Sector: Promotion of "Mother and Child Health Education". It was agreed in this connection that a committee under the Chairmanship of Major General Muhammad Saleem Khan (R) be setup with the under mentioned members:-

- i. Ms. Lubna Javaid ii. Prof. Akhter Khan iii. Mr. Zahid iv. Ms. Sophia Malik

- I. Col. Qamar Bashir (R) Convener  
Ms Lubna Javaid will be preparing a concept paper.

b) Continuing Education Programmes:

With particular reference to use of Electronic Media, a committee was setup to process the Programmes with the media, under the chairmanship of Dr. Ijaz A. Khawaja with the under-mentioned members:-

I. Ms. Lubna Javaid ii. Mr. Taj Muhammad iii. Ms. Sophia Malik

iv. Mr. Farooq Ali Awan v. Col. Qamar Bashir (R) – Convener

c) These Committees should meet before 15<sup>th</sup> January 2011. All arrangements to finalize the meetings will be made by the Convener.

1. Mr. Shahzad Ishaq proposed that a plan for future programmes both short term and long term be prepared so that PACADE activities could be assessed by the members. Mr. Shahzad volunteered to help formulate such a plan in cooperation with Secretary General and Ms Sophia Malik. The first meeting will be held with a week.



2. Mr. Dr. Ijaz A. Khawaja spoke about the status of education in the country and the distortions that had crept into it. He also observed the need to promote technical education. He pleaded for a clear vision and dedication to the cause of education. He emphasized the urgency of promoting literacy and education in the country.

3. Mr. Muhammad Ismail Chaudhary, Treasurer appealed to all members to pay annual dues and arrears as early as possible. Members spoke for the need for organizing a fund-raising campaign for PACADE. He emphasized that availability of funds was a must to move forward.

4. Others who actively participated in the meeting were:-

Ms Lubna Javaid, Prof. Akhter Khan, Mr. Farooq Awan, Mr. Father Sharif Sardar  
Ms. Ayesha Rauf, Major General Saleem Khan

5. Col. (R) Qamar Bashir was re-elected as Secretary General and so were other office – bearers.

6. Ms. Sophia Malik contribution as consultant to the success of PACADE activities was much appreciated by members.

7. The literacy centres Supervisor and teachers who had been specially invited for the meeting were introduced to the members. They spoke about their experiences regarding the running of the adult female literacy centres.

Media Forum Meeting at Press Club Peshawar

Press Clipping



Falling literacy ratio

Govt urged to allocate more funds for education

OUR STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR - The dwindling literacy ratio, could be swelled through prioritising education as top and compulsory substance in the country, saying progress and development couldn't be possible without literate society.

These views were expressed by President Pakistan Association for Continuing of Adult and Development of Education (PACADE), Inayatullah, while addressing a press conference at Peshawar Press Club here on Saturday.

He called for making primary education free and compulsory under the Constitution of 1973 throughout the country. Sofia Malik, a representative of UNESCO was also present on the occasion.

He said that the targets and goals were set for promotion of education, were far behind

due to giving least importance to them.

Inayatullah said that the National Plan of Action had launched to get the target of 68 per cent of education by 2015 under the millennium development goal (MDG).

However, he said that they were also lagging behind to achieve the MDG in context of literacy as ratio decreasing day by day instead of making any progress to compete globally.

Inayatullah was pessimistic about literacy rate, as compared to neighbouring countries. In India, he said literacy rate stood at 70 per cent, China with 99.2 per cent, while Pakistan education far behind from them with 57 per cent.

Regarding the elementary education centres, he said that more than 5,000 centres had established in Punjab, 3,000 in Sindh and around 4,000 in Khy-

ber Pakhtunkhwa. The purpose of the centres was to focus on adult and primary education to enhance the literacy rate in the country, he explained.

He stressed the need for highlighting and sensitisation the government functionaries and mobilise masse about the pathetic picture of the education through media in the country. "We didn't pay much attention to education sector, which was biggest dilemma of the nation, he disappointed.

The government allocated just 2 per cent of the GDP, which was also not fully injected for the purpose, he maintained. About 10 per cent of the entire budget was obligatory to meet the international standard of the education, he explained.

He emphasised for focusing on adult literacy to boost up education ratio and meet the

international obligations and target set under the millennium development goal. The political consciousness was imperative for making improvement in education sector across the country, he demanded.

The PACADE President said that the UNESCO had launched advocacy programme for sensitisation and mobilisation of all stakeholders for jacking up literacy rate in the country.

Preliminarily, he added that the programme would be determined by engaging media to highlight the gaps and hurdles before the progress of education sector.

There was need of adequate financial allocations for improving literacy rate, he added, and said that the progress and development could not be possible without educated society.

ملک کی 6 کروڑ آبادی غیر تعلیم یافتہ ہے غیر سرکاری تنظیم  
50 لاکھ بچے سکولوں سے باہر ہیں 57 فیصد شرح خواندگی بھی مشکوک ہے این سی ایف ڈی  
پشاور (سٹاف رپورٹر) غیر سرکاری تنظیم نیشنل کمیشن فار 50 لاکھ بچے سکولوں سے باہر ہیں وہ جمہرات کے روز  
انجکشن کے چیئر مین منیت اللہ نے انکشاف کیا ہے۔ پشاور پریس کلب میں پریس کانفرنس سے خطاب کی  
کہ پاکستان میں 5 کروڑ لوگ ان پڑھ ہیں جبکہ اسی تھے انہوں نے (باقی صفحہ 10 بقیہ نمبر 44)



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روشنی کی خدمت، آج کا نصب العین  
روزنامہ  
پشاور پاکستان  
ایڈیٹر  
عبدالواحد یوسفی  
22 جولائی 2011ء تا 23 اگست 2011ء۔ 1432ھ۔ 10 جولائی 49  
پشاور پبلشرز آڈیو ویڈیو ڈسٹری بیوٹرز اور پبلشرز کا کثیر الاشاعت اخبار

نیشنل کمیشن فار ایجوکیشن کا معاہدہ سر د خانے کی نذر ہو گیا عنایت اللہ  
انٹرس کا مقام ہے کہ ہمارے ملک میں خواتین کی تعلیم پر کوئی توجہ نہیں دی جا رہی پریس کانفرنس  
پشاور (سٹاف رپورٹر) نیشنل کمیشن فار ایجوکیشن یونین کی نذر ہو گیا ہے۔ جس کی وجہ سے پاکستان میں روز  
کے چیئر مین منیت اللہ خان نے کہا ہے کہ حکومت کی بروڈ تعلیمی معیار گرنا جا رہا ہے پشاور پریس کلب میں  
جانب سے نیشنل کمیشن فار ایجوکیشن کا معاہدہ سر د خانے پریس کانفرنس سے خطاب (باقی صفحہ 10 بقیہ نمبر 44)

# WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH EDUCATION/LITERACY?

## 'Edu can control extremism'

OUR STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE - Punjab Chief Minister Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif has observed that our future is linked to the education, while terrorism and extremism can only be overcome by promoting education.

"Special attention has been paid to the promotion of primary education, which has key importance in the education sector. Implementation on the roadmap evoked for this purpose is yielding positive results," he said, while addressing a briefing meeting regarding implementation on roadmap evolved by British Educationist Sir Michael Barber with regard to reforms in the schools of Punjab, here on Wednesday. Provincial Education Minister Mujtaba Shuja-ur-Rehman, MNA Saira Ahsan Tarar, Chairman Punjab

Education Foundation, Chairman Planning & Development, Secretary Schools, and representatives of Department for International Development (DFID), UK were also present.

Addressing the meeting, Shabbaz Sharif said the elimination of poverty, ignorance and unemployment was only possible through education. "Although military operation is of vital importance for elimination of terrorism, yet promotion of education, health and other socio-economic activities cannot be ignored. Extremism can be checked through equipping the youth with modern knowledge and polishing their talent by saving them from undesirable activities," he averred, while enlisting various steps of his government, such as IT labs, promotion of technical education, selection of Executive District

Officers-Education through Search Committee, suspending of EDOs for poor performance, and training teachers on modern lines.

He mentioned that he would himself preside over the meeting every month to review the pace of implementation on the roadmap of reforms in schools. "Special training for primary teachers in Mathematics, English and science subjects will be arranged and DFID and CIDA will cooperate with the Punjab government for imparting training to the teachers," he said, adding that a comprehensive programme had also been evolved for monitoring and best District Monitoring Officers would be appointed for this purpose who would be responsible for the monitoring of education sector. He mentioned that Education Minister and Chairman

Punjab Education Foundation would evolve a policy in consultation with elected representatives for setting up new schools in future.

He thanked Sir Michael Barber and his team for extending invaluable cooperation for the improvement of education sector particularly primary education.

Earlier, Sir Michael Barber, terming the implementation on a plan evolved for improvement of primary education and reforms in schools as an impressive, said the Punjab government was implementing this programme speedily and the keen interest of CM for improvement of this sector is the main reason.

He also informed about the implementation on roadmap and various targets achieved in this regard.

## Education emergency No action, just talk

By Jamal Shahid

ISLAMABAD, March 9: Pakistan is crippled by an education emergency threatening tens of thousands of children, said Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) legislator Shahbaz Wazir Ali on Wednesday.

The co-chair of Pakistan Education Task Force was briefing government officials, civil society organisations and media at the launch of March for Education, a campaign running throughout the month to raise awareness of the country's education emergency.

The launch was accompanied by the release of a booklet, Education Emergency Pakistan, sketching a grim picture of the state of education.

It highlighted that one in ten children is out of school in Pakistan, equivalent to the population of Lahore, placing the country second in the global ranking of out-of-school kids. Reminding the audience about every child's constitutional right to education, the booklet did not see the government achieving millennium development goals on education by 2015.

"The government's commitment has been articulated but it did not translate into action on ground," Shahbaz Wazir said.

On the other hand, India, the booklet said

Bangladesh and Sri Lanka were on their way to achieving the same goals. India's improvement rate was ten times that of Pakistan, Bangladesh's was twice that of Pakistan, it said.

The speakers lamented that at the current rate of progress, no person alive today would see a Pakistan with universal education as defined in the constitution. Balochistan would see it in 2100 or later, they said.

A presentation caused further distress when it showed children in classrooms that resembled sheds. It also highlighted fewer educational opportunities for girls in the country.

"It is absolutely unacceptable what is happening to children in Pakistan. The responsibility falls on this government, successive governments and the people," said a speaker.

The speakers called for political will to sustain a programme of education reform, and an increase in education expenditure to 4 per cent of the GDP.

The task force formed in December 2009 is calling on national and provincial political leaders to make education their number one priority and for all political parties to unite around a common education agenda.

DAWN Lahore, THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2011

The Nation on Web

# The Nation

10th March, 2011

## Danish Schools

Published: February 5, 2011

Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif has inaugurated a Danish School in Hasilpur, District Bahawalpur, where he has said that such schools should be opened across the country to end the deprivation of the poor. By bringing the government sector into imparting English-medium education, Punjab has met a longstanding demand of parents, who want to equip their children for the workplace in which they will function, and who have found that while the English-medium schools in the private sector may provide superior education, they do not provide the ideological content that is also desired. Combining the two would be a sure-shot formula, but the intrusion of non-merit considerations, mainly political, into appointments, transfers and postings, has resulted in government schools not providing the desired quality of education. Mian Shahbaz has already declared his commitment to appointing teachers in the schools on merit; if this can be maintained, the Danish schools will produce the results they are expected to. However, if they too are looked on as another source of jobs for the boys they will be converted into mere empty shells.

However, the new schools being set up should not mean a neglect of the old schools. The purpose of public-sector education must be to provide a minimum standard based on expectations of the needs of the future, because if this goal is not met, the public education sector, which has by far the biggest budget of any government department, would be a waste of resources and nothing else. The goal should not be limited to Danish schools, but the uplift and improvement of all other schools as well, both primary and secondary. They have already received stepmotherly treatment all along, and the Danish schools should not become an excuse for more. The Punjab Chief Minister should also devote attention to the technical education sector, and should take steps to highlight its importance, especially in the crowded workplace of tomorrow, when technical skills will be more important than ever.

2011 declared as Year of Education

## Education key to resolving crisis: PM

ABRAR SAKIED

ISLAMABAD - Declaring year 2011 as "Year of Education", Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani Wednesday said that the "education for all" target was yet another challenge, which required collective efforts across the political and social divide.

The Prime Minister was chairing a special meeting on education system and planning in under-developed areas, here at the PM House.

The Prime Minister said that the year 2011 had been declared as "Year of Education" keeping in view the fact that education was key to the resolution of multiple challenges being faced by the country. "Article 25-A of the Constitution enjoins upon the state to provide free and compulsory education to all children aged between 5 to 16 years which makes this task a shared responsibility between the federal and the provincial governments," he added.

The Prime Minister said that although education was specifically the responsibility of the provincial governments, it would

be helpful that the recommendations prepared by the National Education Task Force be given due weight-age by the provinces in their Education Improvement Programmes.

The Prime Minister stressed upon the need for preparing complete and accurate data of public and private educational institutions particularly in the under-developed areas of the country to help assess the needs of missing facilities and requirements of trained teachers.

He also called upon for developing some methods for the accountability of the performance of the educational institutions as well as the teaching staff at district level. The targets for achieving literacy rate for each Tehsil, he said, needs to be fixed in order to achieve the millennium development goals by the year 2015. He also suggested that special programmes needed to be developed for teachers' training and their capacity building in specialised subjects.

The government had prepared a comprehensive National Educational Policy 2009 in consultation with the federating units and other stakeholders, he

said and added, "The policy has set the goals of raising the annual budgetary allocations for the sector to seven per cent of the GDP and increasing literacy to 85 per cent by 2015." In this regard, focused attention of all the stakeholders, he said, would be essential.

Earlier, Begum Shahbaz Wazir Ali, Co-Chairperson of Pakistan Education Task Force briefed the Prime Minister on the state of education in the under-developed regions of the country including Southern Punjab. While underlining the importance of education for national development, she emphasised that involvement of political and social leadership is essential to address the issue of illiteracy leading to miscellaneous challenges.

In her briefing, she mentioned that only 23 per cent of children went to schools in various under-developed regions of the country.

In most of these areas, she said, the teacher-student ratio was imbalanced while the infrastructure school buildings were either not available or inappropriate for proper schooling.

The Nation, Lahore  
THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2011

**A PERSONAL VIEW****GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOLS BLUES**

INAYATULLAH

Education is the key to progress.

The advanced countries are fast becoming knowledge societies. There is an explosion of information. The communication revolution has changed the way the states and societies work. Wikileaks is a dramatic example of how ready access to information impinges on politics and international affairs.

Good education helps the spread of enlightenment.

Pakistan is facing multiple educational crises. There is first, this issue of three parallel systems, namely, the public institutions of learning, the private schools and the Madrassas. Not only there are wide differences in funding, methodologies of teaching and learning, reading material and facilities, they also have different missions and visions. The products of these three streams represent different mind-sets and capabilities resulting in fissures and dichotomies. Little has been achieved over the years by way of remedying the situation in spite of a number of reforms and new education policies.

Another major drawback has been the limited financial allocations by government for educational sector. In Pakistan the ratio has seldom exceeded 2%. The distribution of funds also has been a matter of continuing controversy. In Musharraf's regime most of the budgetary allocation went to higher education. The schools did not get the priority that was their due. Promotion of literacy too remained side-lined.

Presently, the public schools cater to the lower middle class and the poor while the quality of education imparted in most of these schools is sub-standard.

Private schools are expensive; some of them attract elite classes and provide quality education and facilities. Most are commercial units. They seek to ensure good results, although many do not provide facilities like playgrounds and open spaces. There is much exploitation in such schools in the rural areas.

In this column I propose to deal with the state of public schools. The Constitution of Pakistan lays down that "State shall be responsible for eradication of illiteracy and provision of free and compulsory education upto secondary level, within minimum possible time." And the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment provides that "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." (Thus making the right to education justiciable).

The last decade has seen some innovative initiatives to set up systems and schools for the poor and disadvantaged. Limited public-private partnership have been forged and provincial education foundations have been encouraging the growth of private schools. The recent contribution in this respect has come from the Punjab in the shape of Danish Schools. The government describes a Danish School as "a momentous step for free quality education for the brilliant but poor children."

Now a few words about the state of school education in the Punjab. A number of headmasters in various districts I have met recently, have questioned the policy of spending crores on just one school while government high schools lack facilities and are starved of funds. Much can be said for both points of view. If sustained as planned, the Danish schools are bound to yield excellent results. Poor talented boys will get high standard education and many of them might emerge as great scholars, engineers and scientists.

While there is need for larger allocations to the public primary and high schools, there also are at the same time other problems and issues which have very little to do with budgetary matters.

A number of educationists including headmasters and old teachers I have talked to, singled out the teachers' apathy and lack of passion to teach as a major deficiency. Teachers generally take their task as a joyless routine with the result that the learning environment remains uninspiring. This in spite of a big raise in their salary.

There main interest is making money through tuition of the school students – in many places at the school premises after the classes are over.

Another critical point that came to notice is that the total time for instruction – short school hours, frequent holidays, long vacation, special declamation sessions, daily assembly and other breaks leave inadequate time to complete studies which have gained volume over the years. Add to it the frequent teachers absenteeism. The private schools on the other hand devote much more time with a very short vacation period.

A disturbing development has been the transfer of English teachers from the primary schools to the high schools without replacements. Now that education in the sixth class onwards is to be in English medium, most of the students coming from primary schools poorly (or not all) taught English language are just not in a position to read or comprehend the subjects in English. This has posed a serious problem and needs to be addressed urgently.

Another baffling phenomenon is that teachers selected for posting in rural areas reside in the cities. Thousands of them travel long distances (in some case as far as 80 kilometers) to reach the school in the morning and then return home. They are not entitled to any conveying allowance. Thus they sometimes skip attending classes and thus save cost of travel. It is the school and the students who suffer. The education department must think of remedying this undesirable practice.

The mother of most of the evils of the school system almost unanimously voiced by a number of senior teachers and supervisory administrative staff, is blatant political interference. MPAs and MNAs literally order officers and headmasters to do their bidding in matters of discipline. Even the assignment of teachers to different classes is sometimes dictated by the politicians. There is also the unpardonable practice of getting relatives and hangers-on appointed as teachers and in other positions. In most such cases these appointees remain at home and seldom visit the schools or their offices.

Even strong-willed headmasters yield to such pressures for fear of being transferred to far off places.

Last but not the least most of the libraries and science laboratories in the government high schools in the Punjab districts either remain closed or infrequently used. Most of the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> class science students in a number of high schools in the districts I talked to, had never been to a science laboratory. Some of the students said that they expected to be taken to the laboratory for 2 or 3 weeks prior to the annual examinations. Libraries are seldom used even by the teachers. Many of students said they had never visited the library even once. Allah be praised.

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF PACADE'S ACTIVITIES IN PICTURES

