

EDUCATION BULLETIN

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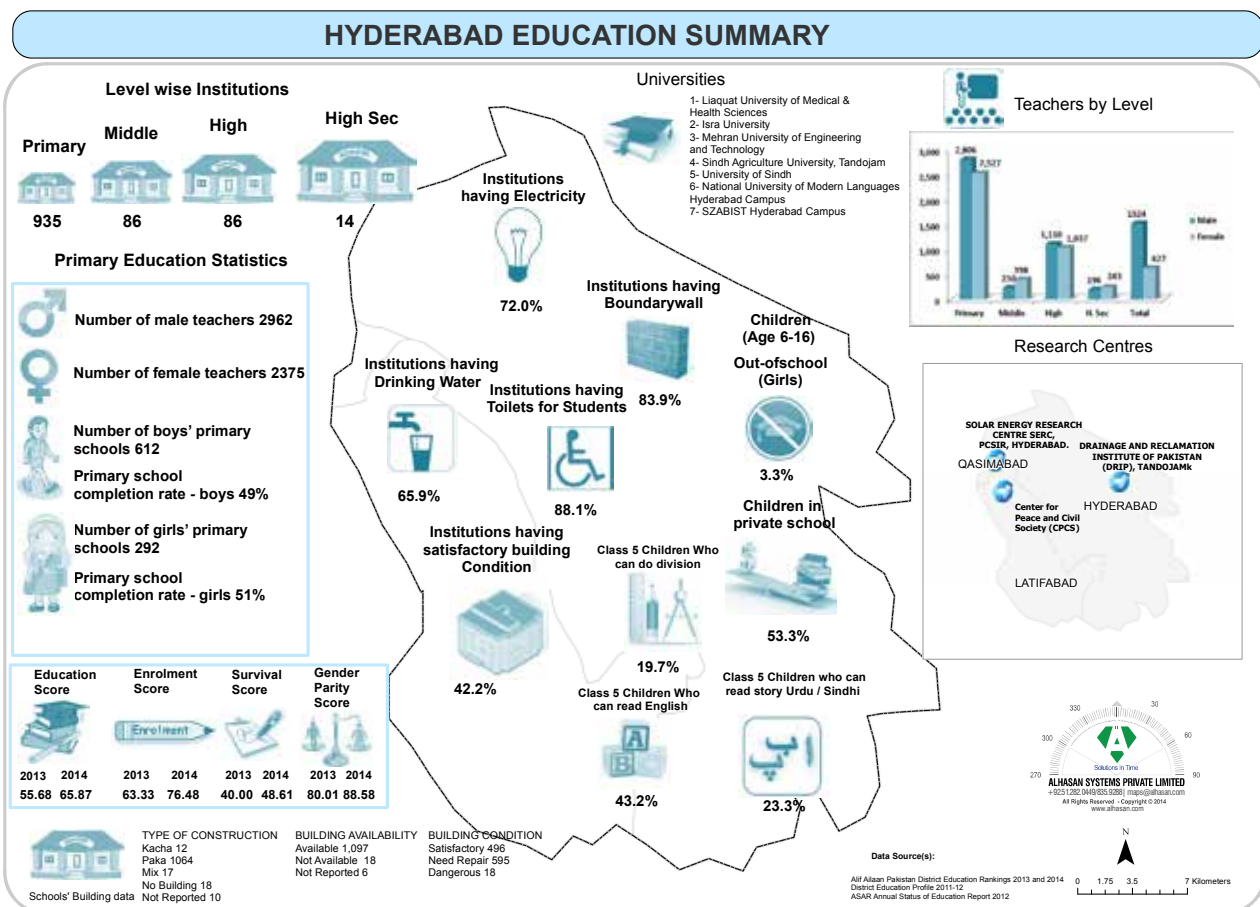
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Denmark to provide \$11m to Unicef for Pakistan programme

The News 30th May, 2014

Shahbaz lauds British cooperation in education sectors

The Nation, 29th May, 2014

PM to disburse fee to 3,184 Sindh varsities students

The News, 29th May, 2014

DETAILS

PESHAWAR: The Danish Ambassador to Pakistan, Jesper Moller Sorensen said on 29th May, 2014 that the government of Denmark would provide 11 million US dollars to the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) to support its ongoing five-year country programme (2013-17) in Pakistan. Speaking at a ceremony at the Government Higher Secondary School No 1 Cantonment, he said Denmark had been providing development assistance to Pakistan since 2010, with emphasis on promoting primary education - especially girls' education - in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Federally Administered Tribal Areas (Fata). Highlighting the importance of education for social and economic progress, he said: "It is estimated that if all children in developing countries could read, global poverty would drop by 12 percent and, more significantly, every time a girl receives just one additional year of education, her wage would increase by 15 to 20 percent. This has a huge socio-economic impact for families and for the whole society." Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Elementary and Secondary Education Muhammad Atif Khan, who was the chief guest on the occasion, said that primary education, especially for girls, was a priority of the provincial government and it was committed to reducing the gender gap in current enrolment, which stands at 70 percent among boys and 30 percent girls. Only education could bring about a positive change in the society and it was also the solution to many of the problems we face, he added. Thanking the government and people of Denmark for their generous contribution to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Fata through Unicef's country programme, the minister said the KP government was focused on increasing enrolment, retention, teacher training, information technology and establishing a system which would reward teachers who show outstanding performance. "The government of Pakistan has announced an increase in the education budget for the coming years. It intends to double the share of GDP that goes to education from two to four percent. This is a step in the right direction, and we fully support this goal. Along with our partners' support, we want Unicef to reach its overall goal of working with the government of Pakistan to ensure that additional 1,200,000 children have access to basic quality education by the end of year 2016," he stated. The Danish grant will help Unicef support activities related to education, water, sanitation and hygiene in schools, health and nutrition, and child protection programmes mainly in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Fata. "We are grateful to the government and people of Denmark for the critical support to the country programme, which could not have come at a more appropriate time," said Dan Rohrmann, Unicef representative in Pakistan. "Investing in children is investing in the future of the country and with a focus on education, the opportunities for the children to access quality education will contribute to the development and growth of Pakistan," he added. "This year we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the important event today can be cast in the collective effort to realise children's rights and make a special effort for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children for whom we need to guarantee equal rights. The Danish support, in combination with the UN programme in Pakistan, will go a long way in helping us achieve that objective," he said. The Unicef's country programme, developed in close consultation with the government of Pakistan, provincial governments and other development partners, is part of the Common Country Programme within the United Nations One Programme (II) and focuses on reaching the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children in the country.

LAHORE: British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Philip Barton met Punjab Chief Minister Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif.

Matters of mutual interest, bilateral relations and cooperation in education, health and other social sectors were discussed in the meeting. Talking to the British High Commissioner, the Chief Minister said that there are historical friendly relations between Pakistan and Britain and cooperation of Britain in education, health and social sectors is highly commendable. He said that schools reforms roadmap programme with the cooperation of British Department for International Development (DFID) is continuing successfully in Punjab while a massive programme in health sector will also be launched in Punjab with the collaboration of DFID. He said that a programme of child and mother care for prevention against diseases will soon be initiated. He said that DFID and Punjab government are moving forward under a comprehensive roadmap with regard to skills development and the scope of this programme will soon be extended to the whole province. British High Commissioner Philip Barton said that cooperation with Punjab government in education, health and social sectors will continue. He said that Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif is making commendable efforts for the uplift of education, health and social sectors in Punjab.

HYDERABAD: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is expected to pay a visit to the University of Sindh Jamshoro on June 3 where he would repay the waived off fees to 3,184 students of Masters and scholars of MS, MPhil and PhD belonging to seven universities of the province under the prime minister's fee reimbursement scheme for less developed areas.

According to communiqué received here, the ceremony will be organised at Shaheed Mohtarama Benazir Bhutto Research Chair and Convention Centre, Allama Iqbal Campus Jamshoro in which 3,184 students and research scholars of seven universities will participate. A charming number of 2,028 students as well as scholars of University of Sindh Jamshoro, 553 scholars of Mehran University of Engineering and Technology Jamshoro, 40 students of Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences Jamshoro, 12 Scholars of the University of Karachi, five scholars of NED University of Engineering and Technology Karachi, three students of Dow University of Health Sciences Karachi and 543 scholars of Sindh Agriculture University Tando Jam will be disbursed the fees in the ceremony. Under this innovative and special scheme, along with tuition fee, the premier would pay other academic, incidental, or mandatory fees charged by educational institutions as one-off or on a per semester basis of masters, MPhil and PhD students belonging to less developed areas of the province. The scheme is focused on enhancing opportunities for access to higher

Hiccups In Higher Education

The Nation 28th May, 2014

education especially to talented but financially constrained students belonging to remote and far flung areas of the country who despite possessing academic merit, are unable to finance their education. The scheme has been executed by Higher Education Commission (HEC) Islamabad, initially introduced for five years, beginning in FY 2012-13, with the provision that those students who join the scheme in the last year, ie FY 2016-17, would continue to be funded until they complete their academic programme. The vice chancellor Prof Dr Nazir A Mughal and academic circles have appreciated the new initiative announced by the Prime Minister for the students belonging to hard and remote areas of the country.

The Federation of All Pakistan Universities Academic Staff Associations (Fapusa) has called a strike to protest against the actions of the government that usurp the autonomy of the universities to appoint their own staff. The Sindh Universities Laws (Amendment) Bill gives full authority to the chief minister to appoint vice-chancellors, registrars, examination controllers and other administrative staff. It also empowers the provincial government to determine and shape admission policy. Except for the appointment of vice-chancellor, all these powers were previously held by the universities. The strike effectively closes down all public sector universities in Sindh, postponing exams and disrupting annual schedules for students. These strikes have been on-going since last year so the disruption that the students have to face is not new, neither is the lack of compromise and solutions on part of the government. In September 2013, teachers of the Karachi University boycotted the Sindh Universities Amendment Bill and academic activities were suspended. In February, the academic staff of universities across Sindh observed a full day strike on Tuesday to protest the delay in revising the Sindh Universities Law Amendment according to their demands. The Sindh University in February protested police raids in teachers' homes. There are reports that similar laws may be enacted by the PTI government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The controversial bill was tabled and passed in the Sindh Assembly on August 19, 2013 and was protested by the MQM. Under the law, the control of public sector universities has been transferred from the governor to the chief minister. At the time of the enactment, none of the Sindh universities were on board. Though the movement of powers from the governor to the chief minister is legal under the 18th amendment, the loss of autonomy over appointing staff was always a sticking point. And it is not unwarranted. Bureaucratic interference in education has played havoc with education not only in Sindh but in other provinces as well and appointments by the government have been prone to corruption. Not to say that the track record of these universities is stellar either. Many of these universities are plagued by political conflict, under-performing academic records and a lack of good teachers. However, education is a profession, and needs to be autonomous and self-controlling. Autonomy does not mean privatisation; these are still government funded institutions, and the VC will still be appointed by the government. More autonomy allows public universities to operate with less red tape and with greater freedom to raise revenue and academic targets.

Schools threatened over co-education in Pakistan's Balochistan

Deccan Chronicle, 23rd May, 2014

KARACHI: An organisation has threatened to attack private schools and coaching centres in remote areas of Pakistan's troubled Balochistan province for imparting English courses and allowing co-education. An organisation named "Tenzeem Islami-al-Furqan" has threatened to attack private schools and coaching centres in the areas of Panjgur and Turbat for teaching English courses and allowing co-education classes. Armed men broke into a home of a school teacher and gunned him down with five others in the Turbat area. "Since that attack fear and concern has grown among the residents of these areas who send their children to private schools and coaching centres," a school teacher said. An official said a grand Jirga has been planned to discuss the situation since most of the private schools and coaching centres have closed down after the threats made to them. "The jirga will be attended by people of all walks of life, including political and religious leaders, members of civil society, teachers, elders and women to discuss the issue in detail and announce a future line of action in view of these threats," said Zahir Hussain Baloch, an educationist running a private school in Panjgur. He said the religious organisation had told owners and teachers to also stop educating girls at their institutions. "We had no other option but to close our schools and language centres," he said. Several thousand people took part in a rally carrying placards and banners inscribed with slogans such as "we will not accept ban on female education", "we want safe education" and "education is the right of girls".

Punjab ahead of all provinces but education situation still bleak

The News, 23rd May, 2014

ISLAMABAD: 'Alif Ailaan District Education Rankings 2014' — an in-depth assessment of the state of education in the country — revealed that Punjab is surging ahead of other provinces with its 14 districts in top 20. The ceremony was organised by Alif Ailaan Pakistan and Sustainable Development Institute here on Thursday.

While addressing the gathering, Mehnaz Aziz, CEO of the Children's Global Network, said data and evidence has to be the basis of increased accountability and gauging the performance of politicians. She said the government needs to launch a census of all children between the ages of 5 and 16 to assess where the country stands in terms of enrolment, and plan accordingly. Punjab's high rank must not be mistaken with the province being anywhere near achieving its target of ensuring 100% enrolment and the provision of quality education. There is still a long way to go. The report provides a snapshot of the education situation in Pakistan's 146 districts and shows how widely education standards vary across the country. It provides a tool to track the performance of politicians, administrators and education providers, and measures the progress that provinces and districts are making. Much like last year, Sindh, Balochistan and Fata occupy the bottom of the rankings with Sindh making its first appearance at number 40 with Karachi. This demonstrates a lack of commitment to follow-up on promises made by the provincial government. A recent example of this is the pledge that nine political parties made three months ago to ensure quality education for all the 6.1 million out-of-school children in the province.

Mehtab Rashidi, MPA, PML-F and former Education Secretary Sindh said that there is need to stop politicising education. "I would urge all politicians to leave education alone. There are other avenues of making money and patronising transfers and posting. Education should not be one of them.

Allocation of additional funds for education in Sindh budget

Daily Times, 22nd May, 2014

Open up! Education is coming

Pakistan Today, 19th May, 2014

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) is the second worst performing province despite the government's commitment to improve the situation. This is owing to gender disparities as well as poor learning outcomes in the province," she added.

Bushra Gohar, former ANP MNA, said that it seems from the rankings that Pakistan is only Punjab. "It is time that we start investing in our children. The problem is that the state's focus is primarily security. Education comes nowhere near. This needs to change. KP is followed by Balochistan, which is at the bottom of the rankings. The province has shown poor performance and is a matter of pressing concern given that there are 1.76 million children out of school here," she added.

Senator Abdul Rauf Lala, from Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party, said that situation in Balochistan should not be seen only in the light of the 18th Amendment. The federal government, he said, needs to take ownership of the 65 years of havoc they have wreaked on education in KP.

In Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), the district of Poonch has fallen from its top spot last year and comes at 9th position in 2014. AJK has shown an overall decline from second position last year to third position this year. Although there are success stories this year, with some districts improving their performance to rise in the rankings, the report shows that overall quality and the availability of facilities are still unsatisfactory. Chakwal, which ranks highest nationwide, has a net enrolment rate of just 83 per cent, which is far from the promise of ensuring quality education for all. According to the report, more than 4 out of 5 children in Chakwal who are enrolled drop out before reaching Class 8.

Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, in his address, said that the government is getting enough for what it is investing in. "The government needs to look at better ways of running schools. The sad truth is that even our best districts are far from ideal. Children are still out of school and the quality of education leaves much to be desired," he added.

An interactive data portal, which provides a detailed overview of each district along with provincial and inter-district comparisons was also launched at the event. This is the first-of-its-kind resource that helps pinpoint the key reasons behind a district's low scores, thereby helping identify hurdles in improvement. The 'Alif Ailaan District Education Rankings 2014' and the online portal are unique resources that can help politicians; education managers and the research community better understand the situation of their districts. This report should be used as a policy planning tool by governments, to help design district-specific education improvement plans. The Punjab has already taken the lead on this as is evidenced from its system of ranking districts as part of the Education Reforms Programme.

KARACHI: The Sindh Finance Department should allocate additional funds in maintenance and repair (M&R) head of the education department in forthcoming fiscal year 2014-15 besides establishment of Sindh Education Fund (SEF) for effective utilisation of foreign funds for the uplift and promotion of education sector.

Sindh Chief Minister Qaim Ali Shah presiding over a high level meeting of education and finance departments on Wednesday directed the education department officers to ensure all required facilities in schools of the province specially furniture, fixture and learning items to facilitate the student and teachers. The meeting agreed with proposal to shift execution of funds utilisation under M&R head from works and services department to the authorities of education department and it was decided final decision in this regard would be taken in joint meeting of works and services, education and finance department.

Senior Minister for Education and literacy Nisar Ahmed Khuhro said our focus was to upgrade the existing primary secondary and higher secondary schools ensure all missing facilities increase enrolment especially of girl students and ensure qualitative education through administrative and institutional reforms. I visited many schools previously and gave instructions to management of districts to ensure availability all essential items including furniture, safe drinking water, electricity and other facilities to provide a conducive learning environment to the students and teaching staff, he added.

Meanwhile talking to Ambassador of Finland in Pakistan Rauli Suikkanen Nisar Khuhro said Education City has also been established where many reputable international organisations either were establishing their campus or making joint venture with public and private organisations. He said Sindh was only the province who has established a university of law. Khuhro said Sindh government has established Investment Board only to facilitate the investors. He asked Rauli Suikkanen his country should invest here in Education City besides in other manufacturing and energy projects. He said potential of government's incentives and cheap labor and vast raw material for agro oriented and energy production was available. Rauli Suikkanen said we were aware Karachi has importance in this regard. He took interest in the telecom sector, weather forecast, manufacturing of equipments of different fields. He desired for having joint working group of both side to boost up the trade and commerce relations.

Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Secretary Rab Nawaz said the Waseela-e-Taleem initiative of the programme would be implemented in seven districts of Punjab.

"BISP is all set to launch Waseela-e-Taleem initiative in seven districts of Punjab from the next financial year to boost the ongoing efforts of the provincial education department for enrolment and retention of the children of marginalised section of the Punjab in primary education," he said.

In a meeting with the Punjab education secretary, he apprised that following signing of Memorandums of Understandings (MoUs) between the BISP and all the provincial governments for the purpose, they are conducting meetings with Secretaries of Schools Education Department of all the provinces to finalise the implementation arrangements, said a news release issued on 19th May 2014. Nawaz said the present phase of Waseela-e-Taleem Programme follows a pilot phase

Private schools in Panjgur closed after threats

DAWN News, 15th May, 2014

implemented in five districts all over the country. Lessons learnt in the test phase have been incorporated in the revised design which will now be implemented in 27 districts in the country, of which seven districts would be in Punjab. The programme, he added, aims to enrol five to 12 years children of BISP beneficiaries in Punjab with additional cash transfer of Rs 600 per child per quarter. The seven districts of Punjab – Bahawalnagar, Khushab, Narowal, RY Khan, Rawalpindi and Sialkot – have been selected for the extended phase.

The BISP secretary laid emphasis on the need for a proper coordination at district and provincial level between the education department and Aurat Foundation, BISP's implementation partner, to ensure synergies and integration between the provincial efforts and BISP's initiatives

Due to threats and intimidation, all private educational institutions have remained closed for the eight days in Balochistan's southern district of Panjgur. The private schools were shut down on May 7 earlier this month in the aftermath of threats by a shadowy militant organisation, Tanzeem ul Islami ul Furqan. The newly surfaced militant organisation threatened to target private educational institutions, especially the English Learning Centers imparting co-education in Panjgur.

Haji Islam Baloch, a legislator from the ruling National Party, said that under a pre-planned conspiracy, children of Panjgur were being deprived of education. "They are destroying the future of our young generation," Baloch lamented on Wednesday during the session of the Balochistan Assembly. Thousands of political workers, parents and students marched on the roads of Panjgur to protest against the closure of privately-run co-educational institutions and 23 English Learning Centers. On May 7, unknown masked assailants barged into one center and threatened the teachers and students that learning English was forbidden under Sharia law, one of the instructors who requested anonymity, told Dawn.com. This forced the administrations of the institutions to suspend their studies for an indefinite period. Police have lodged an FIR against unknown militants on the application of school administration and teachers. "Getting an education is not a sin, why are the doors of schools being closed for our children," said NP legislator, Islam Baloch. Armed militants also torched a van which was earlier bringing children to schools in Panjgur. "The militants fled after the incident and fortunately there were no fatalities," Murad Baloch, a police officer said. This incident caused panic among the already disturbed parents and students in the area. Police and personnel of Frontier Corps, a paramilitary force, were quick at the scene. "We strongly condemn fanaticism and stand for a tolerant society," Latif Baloch, an office bearer of the Panjgur Private Schools Association told protesters the other day. The protesters demanded that the government provide security for male and female students studying in educational institutions. Despite repeated calls, the girls and boys refused to speak to Dawn.com due to personal safety. "For the first time, we heard about this militant organisation," a police officer, who declined to be named, told Dawn.com. Panjgur is located in Balochistan's southern Mekran belt bordering with Iran. Mekran is considered to be the intellectual capital of Balochistan, plagued by an insurgency and violent attacks by militants for more than a decade. Panjgur is considered to be one of the most sensitive districts of Balochistan.

Balochistan government restores 450 schools

DAWN News, 13th May, 2014

QUETTA: The Balochistan government has claimed to have re-opened 450 closed schools across the province with the objective of drawing back school children to educational institutions. Adviser to the Chief Minister Balochistan on Education, Sardar Raza Muhammad Bareech while addressing an all parties conference with regard to promotion of education said that most of the schools were opened in Quetta and other backward parts of the province. All major political and religious parties participated in the APC to discuss ways and means for the development of education sector in the province. He reiterated that currently 2.3 million children were out of school in the province. Bareech revealed that there were 44 rental schools located in Quetta and most of the educational institutions were deprived of basic facilities. "Even this time, we need an immediate construction of 42,000 rooms in primary schools," Bareech said. The adviser on education said that international donor agencies were supporting Balochistan Government to establish 3000 schools in the province. "We are also trying to turn some religious seminaries into schools," he said, adding that Madrassahs and Masjids were located in all 22,000 thousand settlements across the province. The adviser stated that complaint management system was also being established in the province to ensure presence of teachers in schools. "We are also trying to introduce coding system for teachers and students and mapping system for schools in the province," he added. Sardar Raza Bareech admitted that the condition of government-run schools in the province was miserable. "I cannot explain, what problems, we are facing," he said.

Child marriages violate right to education: Sharmila

Pakistan Today, 11th May, 2014

Special Assistant to Sindh Chief Minister Sharmila Farooqi has said that child marriages violate the basic right to education of young girls, substantially reducing their access to pursuing economic opportunities. It also has adverse effects on both maternal and child health. She said this while addressing a programme, organized by an NGO Rutgers WPF Pakistan, on International Mother's Day. She said, "Those girls are more likely to be victims of domestic violence due to lack of decision making and negotiation skills." She praised all the Sindh parliamentarians and the efforts for unanimously passing the Child Marriage Bill by the Sindh Assembly prohibiting marriage of girls below 18 years age. Sharmila Farooqi extended her full support to Rutgers WPF to eradicate child marriages. On the occasion, Commissioner Shoaib Ahmed Siddiqui officially launched a movement to end child marriages in Pakistan. The campaign "dekho-bolo-roko" aims to generate community level evidence and support in order to eliminate early age marriages from Pakistan. Praising the efforts of politicians, media, and civil society, Qadeer Baig, Country Representative- Rutgers WPF, Pakistan said, "When we celebrate Mother's Day in Pakistan we commemorate safe motherhood".

The mother award was presented to Ms. Sultana Siddiqui, a prominent media personality. She was awarded for highlighting and strengthening the role of women in Pakistan through her creative productions.

New primary schools in KP to have six rooms, six teachers

DAWN News, 10th May, 2014

PESHAWAR: The Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf-led Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has decided to triple the budget for construction of each new government primary school in the province from the next financial year, according to officials in the education department. They said that under the previous government Rs4 million was allocated for the construction of each new government primary school while the current provincial government had decided to increase the amount to Rs12 million. They said that the decision would be implemented from fiscal 2014-15.

The officials said that with the three-time increase in the budget, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government would construct new primary schools having six rooms. They said that it was a major policy change as earlier two-room primary schools were constructed by the successive governments and those schools had been provided only two teachers for six classes.

Under the old policy, the construction of two rooms and appointment of two teachers for six classes from grade-1 to 6 was illogical, the officials said, adding that it was not possible to accommodate six classes in two rooms and students would face multiple problems, affecting the academic environment. The officials said that in the two-room schools the students of different classes had been sharing a single room while a single teacher was bound to teach to two or three classes. "After the coming budget every new primary school will have six rooms and as many teachers," additional secretary Elementary and Secondary Education Kaiser Alam Khan said, when contacted. He said that the education department had also planned to construct required rooms in the primary schools in different phases. He said that with the provision of shelter to the students in government schools the enrolment would definitely increase. The additional secretary hoped that the dropout rate would decrease and retention rate of students would increase with provision of a separate room for each class. He said that the chief minister had already approved the PC-1 for the construction of 100 primary schools for boys and girls with six rooms and six teachers. A planner in the education department told Dawn that the whole process from approval to completion of construction work on each primary school with six rooms and making it functional would also be accelerated and it would now take two years. He said that the same process for making the two-room schools functional would take three years till now. The remaining required rooms were constructed gradually in the old two-room primary schools. However, sources said that the follow-up work was usually slow and done in most of the cases even decades later. They said that due to the slow work and meagre financial resources, half of the primary schools still had two rooms. Of total 23,073 primary schools in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa only 1,175 including 413 for girls, have six rooms, according to official data of the education department, while 10,318 schools, including 4,440 for girls, are functioning in two-room setup. Similarly, there are 255 single-room primary schools, including 155 for boys and 100 for girls. The data reveal that 3,030 primary schools have three rooms.

According to the data, there are 2,446 four-room primary schools in the province, including 1,526 for boys and 920 for girls, while 1,259 primary schools, including 474 for girls, have five rooms.

Education sector facing serious challenges, says former minister

The News, 9th May, 2014

ISLAMABAD: Former federal minister for education Zubaida Jalal has said that education sector in Pakistan was facing serious challenges to accommodate parents' perspective on education which might include easy access to quality education, de-politicisation of education system and provision of basic facilities for education in far-flung areas of Pakistan. Ms Jalal was speaking at a discussion forum marking the start of Global Action Week by Girls Education Alliance Pakistan. Zubaida Jalal said that a huge sum of monetary support was being provided to Pakistan by different donor organisations and countries but unfortunately no efforts were being made to consolidate the information and develop a holistic picture for effective analysis and quality input. Haroona Jatoti, an educationist, said that it was the responsibility of federal and provincial governments to create an enabling environment for promotion of girls' education, which could only be achieved if devolution of power to local level is ensured. Daud Saqlain from ActionAid Pakistan said that the alliance needed to focus on a single point agenda for policy advocacy campaigning. He said that gender responsive education financing was the key area, which required immediate attention for enhancing the access to quality education. He said that rural areas of Pakistan were lagging far behind in terms of both access to and quality of education. Saeed-ul-Hassan from Oxfam said that the political parties, after one-year of their being in the government needed to be reminded of the pledges they made to the public during their election campaigns. He said that the civil society should rally public support in exerting pressure on provincial and federal governments to improve the access to quality education particularly for girls. Mukhtar Pasha from Care International said that there is need to synergise the efforts and resources for effective policy and decision-making. Iffat Jamil from Plan International said that the alliance members needed to bring in people's perspective to their efforts as all of them were working in different parts of the country. Azhar Lashari from Rural Development Policy Institute said that promoting the concept of 'citizenship' was integral to enhancing access to and quality of education. Mukhtar Ahmed, a representative of Punjab government, said that there were numerous loopholes in education system of Pakistan, which required analysis and improvement.

University education: Two Pakistanis get Cambridge anniversary scholarship

Source: Express Tribune, 6th May, 2014

LAHORE: Two students from Pakistan have been granted Cambridge 800th Anniversary Scholarships for undergraduate studies at the University of Cambridge. The scholarships have been made possible due to funding from the Cambridge International Examinations. The Cambridge 800th Anniversary Scholarships were launched in 2009 to enable students from Pakistan to study at the University of Cambridge for free. The scholarships provide full funding, covering tuition and maintenance, for undergraduate study at the University of Cambridge. Cambridge International Examinations Chief Executive Michael O' Sullivan said, "We are delighted to award our outstanding students with the scholarships. We believe that getting into a university is really only the first step and that developing the skills to get on in both work and life is just as important. We wish our new scholars every success as they continue their academic careers and look forward to life beyond university." The two seats offered by the University of Cambridge are conditional on the students achieving specific grades. Shahzaib Ali, a scholarship recipient, said, "Studying at Cambridge, the best university in the world, has always been a dream. But thanks to the scholarship award, I will be

RIS and Aus-Pak bridging educational ties

Source: *The News*, 4th May, 2014

able to pursue my dream. I am deeply grateful to Cambridge for deeming me worthy of this wonderful opportunity." Muhammad Faaiz Taufiq, the other scholarship recipient, said that he was extremely grateful for the prestigious and generous award. He said that the 800th Cambridge Anniversary Scholarship Award would enable him to study mathematics, his favourite subject, at Cambridge, a university which has always been at the forefront of mathematical discoveries and breakthroughs. Taufiq said that he hoped that his undergraduate experience would be a significant step towards the realisation of his dreams.

ISLAMABAD: Patrick Kearins, senior trade commissioner for South Asia from Australian Consulate General Secretariat, Mumbai, visited Roots International Schools (RIS), Pakistan on and met with CEO Walid Mushtaq. Australian Trade Commission (Austrade) Senior Trade Commissioner for South Asia Patrick Kearins has been working toward development of trade and education sector in South Asia, developing linkages between the schools and institutions network, looking at collaborations and articulating opportunities for Australian institutions. It was his first visit to RIS considering it the pioneering private sector institute of Pakistan that has revolutionized the standards of education. He said that Pakistani businessmen must avail cutting-edge Australian technology for various sectors. He added that commission at present was working in three areas including trade, investment and education. The senior official visited the school and was impressed with the infrastructure and the state of the art facilities provided to the students. Patrick Kearins also met with the students and he praised the vision of Mr. Walid and was delighted to hear the perspective of students regarding the innovative learning strategies followed by RIS. The two representatives spoke on collaboration for improvement of education sector in Pakistan. This visit has facilitated educational ties and linkages with Australian universities and series of follow up meetings and visits of directorate of Australian business schools and Universities are also taking place between RIS and Australian universities. Walid Mushtaq being a business and trade leader said that Australia and Pakistan enjoy long-standing friendly and growing relations underpinned by people-to-people links. The significance of this bilateral relationship is apparent through the number of Pakistani community in Australia, reaching 33,000 people claiming Pakistani ancestry. Just In 2012 there were 11,000 Pakistani students enrolled in Australia's universities, colleges and education facilities. Pakistan appreciates the steps taking by Austrade in building bridges and exploring opportunities in Pakistan. Walid Mushtaq said that a huge potential existed to enhance Pak-Australia cooperation in education, energy, livestock, agriculture, mining and advance manufacturing. Education being the most important sector needs to exploit such opportunities to open ways for global exposure of students. Australia has always been on the priority list of every Rootsian when it comes to pursuing higher education and many of students of Roots International Schools have received acceptances and scholarship from Group of 8 (Go8). Patrick Kearins was very happy to see the interest of young Rootsians in Australian universities. Patrick Kearins said that Australia had formed Growth and Emerging Market Group that includes South Asia, South America and Central European States, while, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka were included in the group and Australia would continue to work with these countries in trade, investment and education sectors. And Roots International Schools is already working toward the development and advancement of Pakistan.

EDUCATION SECTOR FRAMEWORKS NEWS

Higher Education Commission (HEC)

Devolution woes: Higher education must be a federal subject, Senate told

Express Tribune 26th May, 2014

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has informed the Senate that the national regulatory body will lose effectiveness and functionality if provincial higher education bodies were allowed to be set up. This came in reply to a question from Senator Syeda Sughra Imam about the current status of the provincial higher education commissions and their effect on higher education, research and innovation.

According to a reply submitted by the HEC, it said that only Sindh government has passed the "Sindh Higher Education Commission Act 2012", while the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa government has formed a working group for deliberation, the Balochistan government was reviewing the matter and the Punjab government has also held a meeting to discuss the issue. About the possible effect on the overall higher education at the national level, the HEC has said that the mandated scope and working of the commission would be "greatly affected" if it was devolved to provinces.

"For instance, if variable standards at the provincial levels are set for degrees award, faculty appointment, university accreditation and recognition, research output and scholarships, of higher education will lose effectiveness and international recognition." It further stated that the HEC was a role model federal organisation which has full participation of provinces and universities in higher education policymaking for national development. "In most federations around the world, higher education is a federal subject with a say from the federating units," said the HEC, adding that for national integration, it was essential that the HEC must continue to perform its functions which it has been doing for the last 12 years. About the question of the HEC's role after establishment of the provincial bodies, it said that powers and functions of the HEC, as defined in Section-10 of HEC Ordinance 2002, have been extended to the whole of Pakistan, but through the act, the Sindh government has assumed the entire functions of the HEC and has replicated the same section of the ordinance. Similarly, the act has also been challenged in the Sindh High Court. "If validated, the HEC would have no role related to the higher education in Sindh," it replied.

UNESCO Pakistan

UNESCO walks for education

Pakistan Today 5th May, 2014

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) held an advocacy walk on 6th May 2014 in connection with Global Action Week (GAW) on Education for All (EFA).

The GAW on Education for All (EFA) is an annual awareness-raising campaign which has been initiated by Global Campaign for Education (GCE). UNESCO Islamabad office has been observing GAW every year.

According to UNESCO, this year, the global theme for campaign is "Education and Disability" complemented by slogan "Equal Right, Equal Opportunity." The purpose of GAW events this year is to highlight the profound challenges faced by persons with disabilities in realizing their right to education. The walk is being organized at Sports Complex, Aabpara, Islamabad from 09am to 10am for raising awareness on EFA by bringing together a critical mass of government functionaries, NGOs including organizations of disable persons, media, students, and local community activists.

Capital Administration and Development Division Secretary Faridullah Khan was the chief guest on the occasion. Joint Secretary Education, students (male/female) from Islamabad Model Schools/Colleges; officials and representatives of Federal Directorate of Education, CAD, Ministry of Education, Pakistan National Commission for UNESCO, National Commission for Human Development, Disabled Persons Organizations (DPOs), NGOs, Media, UNESCO and UNICEF also attended the Walk.

US Agency for International Development (USAID)

US awards scholarships to 102 students

The Nation 27th May, 2014

KARACHI: The US Agency for International Development (USAID) on 26th May, 2014 awarded scholarships to 102 students enrolled in ADE and BEd (Hons) programs in Sindh as part of the \$165 million Pakistan Reading Project. The ceremony was held at Marriott in Karachi and USAID provincial Director for Sindh and Balochistan Leon S Waskin who is also acting US Consul General for Sindh attended with Sindh Secretary of Education Dr Fazlullah Pechuho. The scholarships will pay for tuition and supplies as well as provide a stipend to recipients. The US government will provide more than 4,500 scholarships to aspiring teachers. During the ceremony, 11 future teachers who recently completed a US-funded ADE program were awarded graduation certificates.

While addressing the students, Leon S Waskin said, "The quality and improvement of the education system depends critically upon the quality of teachers. The USAID funded Pakistan Reading Project is a significant initiative of the U.S. Government in collaboration with the Government of Pakistan to improve the standard of basic education." Dr Fazal-ullah Pechuho, Additional Chief Secretary Education also spoke on the occasion and thanked the U.S. Government for their support in improving the standard of basic education in Sindh. The Pakistan Reading Project will improve the reading skills of at least 2.5 million children to ensure that they are reading at or above grade level by 2019. The Project works closely with 28 Pakistani universities and 116 elementary teacher training colleges throughout Pakistan to improve the quality of teaching skills and curriculum. Over the next five years, the Pakistan Reading Project will award a total of 1,066 ADE and BEd (Hons)

scholarships to students from Sindh.

The U.S. partnership with the Government of Pakistan supports the rehabilitation and construction of over 1,350 schools in Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Azad Jammu & Kashmir and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas. The United States is also establishing centers for advanced education studies at four Pakistani universities and expanding English skills for more than 5,000 low-income students. The United States has awarded more than 4,800 scholarships to university students to pursue higher education through the Pakistan-USAID Merit and Needs Based Scholarship Program.

Girls Education Alliance Pakistan (GEAP)

GEAP urges promotion of education, better facilities for girls

Source: Daily Times 7th May, 2014

ISLAMABAD: Marking the start of Global Action Week, Girls Education Alliance Pakistan (GEAP) held a discussion forum on Tuesday to analyse the different aspects of promoting girls' education in Pakistan.

Addressing the participants, former education minister Zubaida Jalal said that the education sector in Pakistan has been facing serious challenges to accommodate parents' perspective on education which might include easy access to quality education, de-politicisation of the education system, and provision of basic facilities for education in far-flung areas of the country. Zubaida was of the view that a huge sum of monetary support was being provided to Pakistan by different donor organisations and countries, but unfortunately, no efforts were being made to consolidate the information and develop a holistic picture for effective analysis and quality input.

GEAP is an alliance recently formed by four different international organisations – Action Aid Pakistan, Oxfam, Plan International and the Care International. These organisations have been working in different parts of the country to promote access to quality education. To develop synergy and to influence policy decision-making, these organisations realised the need for an effective alliance to bolster their campaign and help Pakistan achieve Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Haroona Jatoi, an educationalist and professor at Quaid-e-Azam University said that it was the responsibility of the federal and provincial governments to create an enabling environment for the promotion of girls' education which could only be achieved if the devolution of power to local level is ensured.

Action Aid Head of Programmes Daud Saqlain said that the alliance needed to focus on a single point agenda for policy advocacy campaigning. He was of the view that gender responsive education financing was the key area which required immediate attention for enhancing the access to quality education. He said that the rural areas of Pakistan were lagging far behind in terms of both access to and the quality of education. Saeed Hassan from Oxfam said that the political parties, after one year in the government needed to be reminded of the pledges they made to the public during their election campaigns. He said that the civil society should rally public support in exerting pressure on the provincial and federal governments to improve the access to quality education, particularly for girls.

Mukhtar Pasha from Care International said that different actors and players have been out in the market to make their contribution for the promotion of quality education sector. Iffat Jamil from Plan International said that the alliance members need to bring in people's perspective to their efforts, as all of them are working in different parts of the country. People should lead the movement to pressurise their respective governments for enhancing education financing, and improving access to quality education. Azhar Lashari from Rural Development Policy Institute (RDPI) said that promoting the concept of 'citizenship' was integral to enhancing the quality of education. People led transparency boards can help analyse local budget for education and make appropriate recommendations. Mukhtar Ahmed, an educationalist and representative of the Punjab government said that there are numerous loopholes in the education system which requires analysis and improvement.

This year, the focus of the campaign is on the theme of "Education and Disability" under the slogan "Equal Right, Equal Opportunity". The consultation highlighted the profound challenges faced by persons with disabilities in realising their right to education. To mark the GAW, and as the first joint strategic engagement by the GEAP, the dialogue helped it put the stakeholders and collective acts together to collaborate more synergistically and meaningfully to bridge the commitment and implementation gap in education policies and practices in Pakistan.

HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTIONS IN EDUCATION SECTOR IN PAKISTAN

The Ngo World (TNW)

ZEST (ZakaUllah Educational Scholarships & Trainings) talent scholarships

22nd May, 2014

The ZEST (ZakaUllah Educational Scholarships & Trainings) program designed to support poor/oppressed talented students, which was launched in Oct 2013. The Ultimate goal of this program is to empower the benefited students so that they may act as change agents among their respective families and uplift their social status.

Under ZEST Project, The NGO World Pakistan has delivered the ZEST talent scholarships among the winning students on 22nd May, 2014. Total 50 scholarships were delivered in Government Elementary School in Jhang.

- **Advocacy Walk: May 06, 2014**

The NGO World Foundation team Islamabad participated the walk "Education For All (EFA)" campaign at sports complex Islamabad arranged by UNESCO Pakistan. Participants including government departments, UN agencies, students, civil society, press and media were the part of this walk.

Dr. Kozue Kay Nagata, Country Director, UNESCO Pakistan and Muhammad Tahir Rafiq ("Joint Secretary (Education) at Ministry Of Capital Administration and Development Islamabad) lead the walk and delivered their speeches.

- **National Forum: May 07, 2014**

The NGO World on invitation by UNESCO participated A National Forum on Education for All (EFA) managed at Crystal Ball Room, Marriott Hotel Islamabad by UNESCO and UNICEF

Following speakers delivered their speeches and participated in panel discussion;

- Ahsan Raza, Secretary Education, Training and Standards in Higher Education
- Dr. Kozue Kay Nagata, Director, UNESCO Islamabad
- Mr. Dan Rohrmann, Representative UNICEF
- Mr. Ahmed Ali, Institute of Social and Policy Science (I-SAPS). Presentation on Education Sector Financing by (I-SAPS)
- Dr. Allah Bakhsh Malik, Additional Secretary Education and DG National Education Foundation Pakistan
- From The NGO World, Mr. Zafar Iqbal (Executive Director) shared his views relevant to the topic.

The national forum focused on interactive discussions on the required legislation and implementation under Article 25-A, increase in fiscal space, quality enhancement and developing a comprehensive monitoring system for education sector in Pakistan. Speaking in her welcome remarks, Dr Kozue Kay Nagata, Director UNESCO Islamabad emphasized the realization of education for all particularly for persons with disabilities in Pakistan. She said that an estimated 1.4 million persons with disabilities in Pakistan were the children of school going age, most of whom do not have access to either inclusive or special schools due to limited capacity in existing facilities. UNICEF Education Specialist, John Ekaju said that EFA was a critical priority and government commitment for increasing the education budget allocation would further improve the education for all including the disable children.

AI-Khidmat Foundation (AKF)

AI-Khidmat Foundation Develops Computer & English Learning Center In Landhi Jail

26th May, 2014

AI-Khidmat Foundation in association with Landhi Jail administration started a modern computer lab and English language learning center for the Landhi Jail prisoners. An opening ceremony was arranged on the occasion held on 25th May, 2014. This initiative will help the prisoners learn about computers and improve their skills while they serve the jail sentence. Note that prisoner's welfare is one of the active working areas for AI-Khidmat Foundation.

AI-Khidmat Foundation & Riphah College of Veterinary Sciences Design Village Training Course For Livestock optimization

26th May, 2014

AI-Khidmat Foundation and Riphah College of Veterinary Sciences has announced to start over a 'village training course' under the Roller-support program. In the first phase of the program 26 young students will be taught a three-month 'village veterinary course'. The course will teach preventions measures and control of animal diseases, assisted reproductive technology, and techniques to improve meat and milk production. The purpose of the roller support program is to enable young people and to provide them job opportunities.

Distribution of School bags and Scholarships among orphan students

5th May, 2014

Al-Khidmat Foundation arranged a ceremony under Al-Khidmat Orphan Care Program in which monthly scholarships and 60 school bags were distributed among orphan students in Hafizabad and Sahiwal, Punjab.

Serve Foundation (SF)

Promoting Low-cost Private schooling in Rural Sindh-PPRS School

5th May, 2014

The Government of Sindh is committed to provide quality education to the most underserved communities of the province. Under public private partnership, the government has launched a pilot initiative for the promotion of low-cost private schooling in 10 districts of the province. The pilot phase of the project is being spearheaded by the Sindh Education Foundation (SEF), Government of Sindh (GoS).

Under PPRS Project, Serve Foundation has conducted the activity of verification of schools on 5th May, 2015 in Taluka Qubo Saeed Khan of district Qambar Shahdadkot. 1500 children's have benefited by this activity.

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EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS**

DISTRICT HYDERABAD EDUCATION PROFILE

Highlights

Literacy Rate (10+)	70%
Male	75%
Female	66%
GPI (Enrolment)	0.83
GPI Primary	0.63
GPI Middle	1.31
GPI Secondary	0.49
Population that has ever attended school	67%
Student Teacher Ratio	19%
Primary	16.7%
Middle	55.4%
High	8.7%
Higher Secondary	7.4%

Source: PSLM 2012-13 and NEIMS 2011-12

Enrolment and Educational Facilities by level and Gender (Public Schools)

According to NEMIS-AEPM, Ministry of Education, there are 1,121 education institutions in district Hyderabad, (542 in Urban areas and 579 in Rural areas), serving 162,666 students with the help of 8,547 teachers, of these 6,986 are teaching in Urban area and 1,561 in Rural Areas¹. Following table shows the level wise statistical detail of public education.

Level	Schools			Enrollment			Teaching Staff		
	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Male	Female
Pre-Primary	-	-	-	16,732	7,423	9,309	-	-	-
Primary	935	619	316	89,199	54,562	34,637	5,333	2,806	2,527
Middle	86	44	42	34,798	15,019	19,779	628	230	396
Secondary	86	51	35	18,682	9,261	9,421	2,147	1,110	1,037
Higher Secondary	14	6	8	3,255	2,387	868	439	196	243
Total	1,121	189	191	162,666	88,652	74,014	8,547	4,342	4,205

Source: NEIMS Census 2011-12

As the recent data collected by ALHASAN Systems (Pvt) Ltd. of 2013-14, under the open access/open data policy, there are 304 education facilities in District Hyderabad– 544 public and 304 private. Following table shows level wise education statistics of Public and Private sector reported by ALHASAN Systems in 2014.

Table : Number of Educational Facilities in 2013-14

Education Facilities	Type	Co-education	Female	Male	Total
Primary	Public	35	125	284	444
	Private	34	1	-	35
Middle	Public	-	1	-	1
	Private	10	3	-	13
High	Public	9	17	23	49
	Private	135	6	-	141
Higher Secondary	Public	4	8	15	27

¹ National Education Management Information System, Academy of Educational Planning and Management, Ministry of Education, Trainings and Standards in Higher Education, Government of Pakistan, District Education Profile 2011-12

Education Facilities	Type	Co-education	Female	Male	Total
	Private	3	4	1	8
Masjid School	Public	1	-	-	1
	Private	20	3	5	28
Colleges	Public	6	5	3	14
	Private	27	7	2	36
Computer Center	Public	-	-	-	-
	Private	2	-	-	2
Technical Institute	Public	4	-	-	4
	Private	-	1	-	1
Coaching Center	Public	-	-	-	-
	Private	38	-	-	38
University	Public	4	-	-	4
	Private	2	-	-	2
Total	Public				544
	Private				304
Grand Total		334	181	333	848

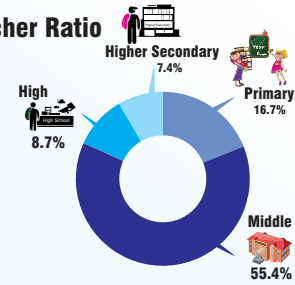
Source: ALHASAN's Systems Pvt Ltd, 2013-14

District Hyderabad - Education Infographic

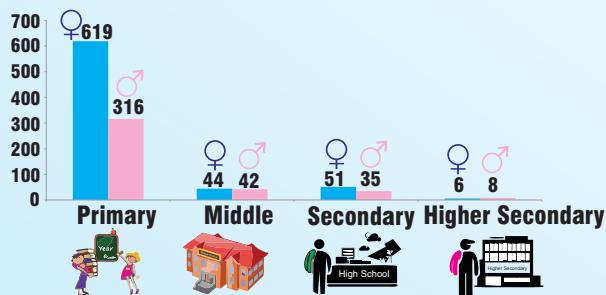


Literacy Rate
70%

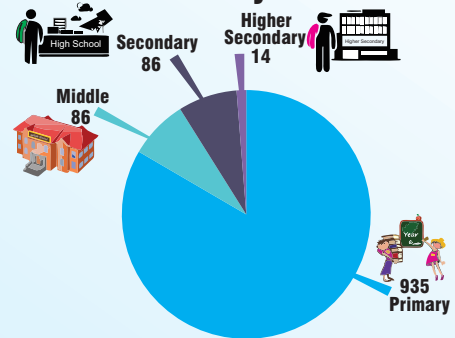
Student Teacher Ratio



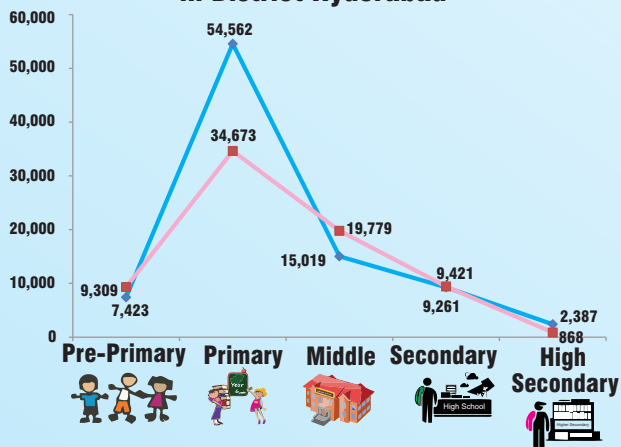
List of Boys/ Girls School in District Hyderabad



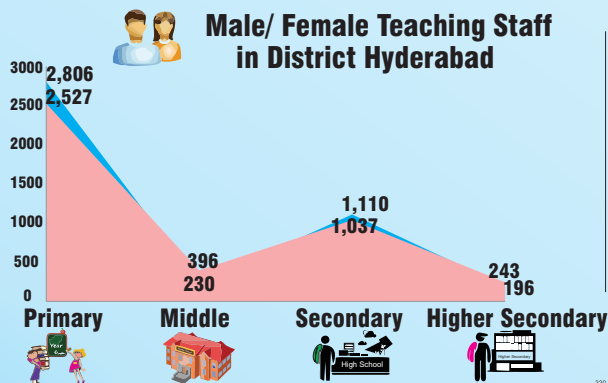
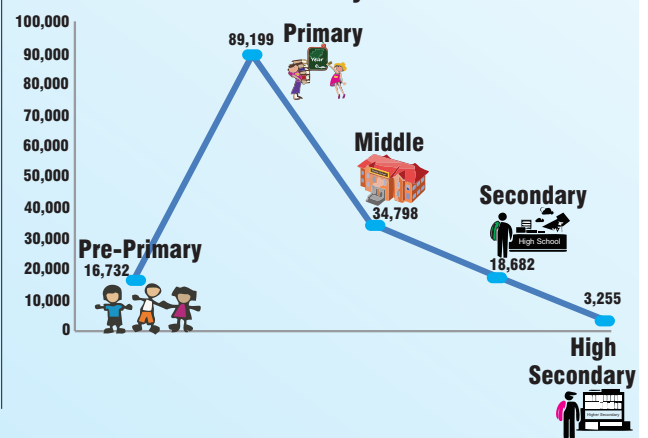
Total List of School in District Hyderabad



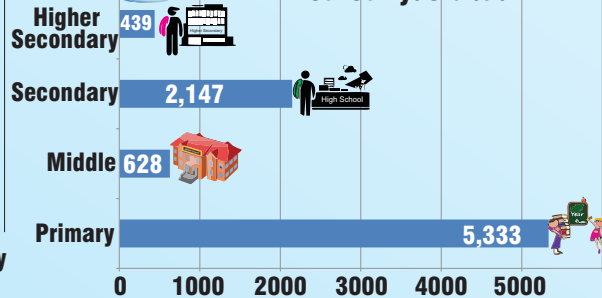
Male/ Female School Enrollment in District Hyderabad

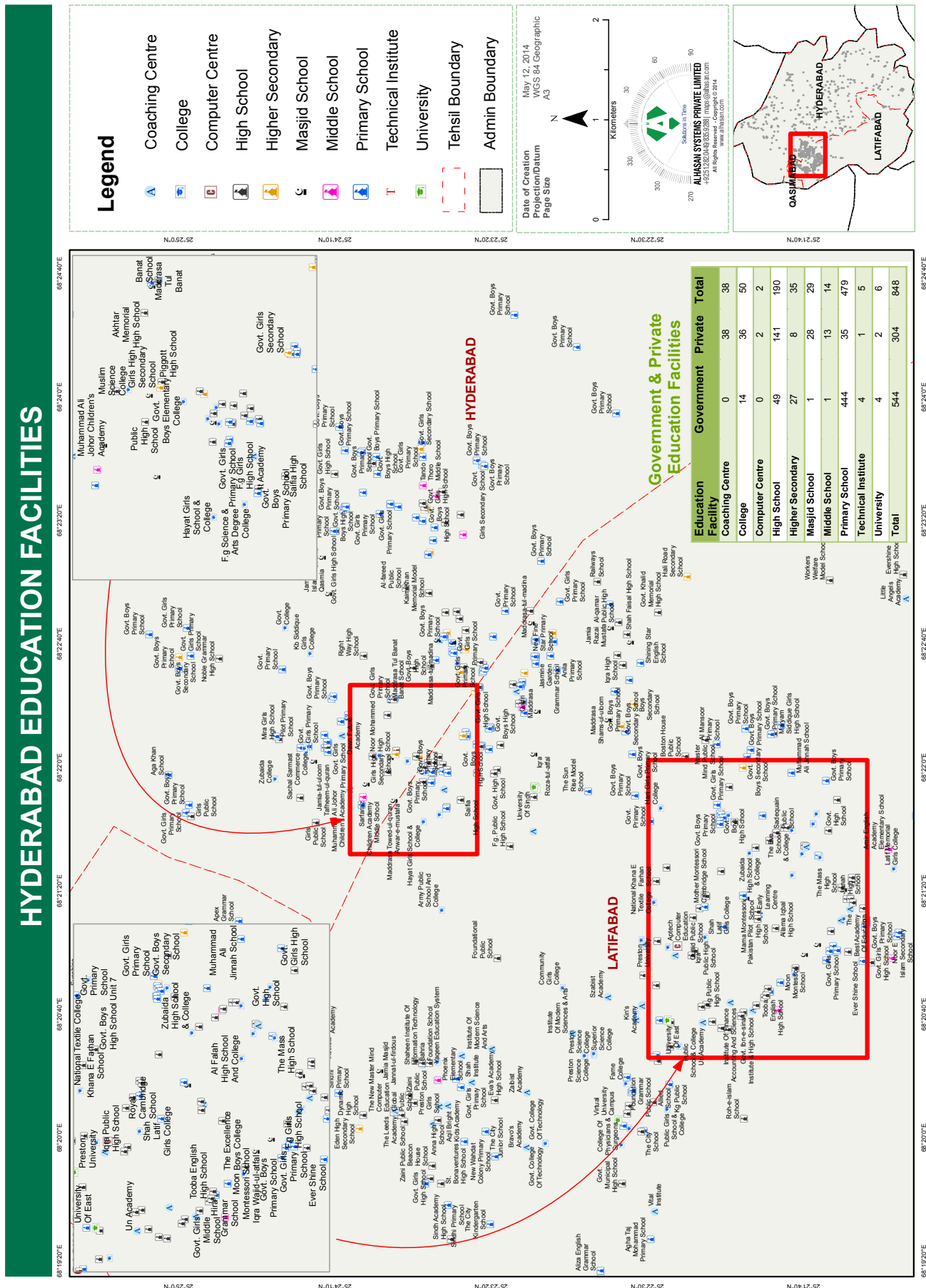


Categorywise Total School Enrollment in District Hyderabad



Total Number of Teaching Staff in District Hyderabad





For child labourers, education still a distant dream

By Aamir Yasin

Posted in DAWN News

Date: 4th May, 2014



Every morning, Zubair Ahmed, 9, wistfully looks at other children going to schools. Young Ahmed always wanted to get education but his parents' poor financial condition forced him to work at an automobile workshop to earn bread for the family.

Early in the morning, Ahmed reaches at his workplace near the Government Muslim High School at Saidpur Road and works there the whole day.

"I want to go to school and play cricket with other children. But how can I fulfil my dream when I work in the workshop from 9am to 9pm," Ahmed said while talking to Dawn. "My father is a labourer and he wanted me to get technical training instead of working as a labourer and requested the owner of the workshop to train me."

He said at present he was not being paid any salary as he was getting training. "After working for about two years, the workshop owner started giving me one-time meal and Rs50 daily. I spend most of the amount on purchasing sweets for my younger sister and two brothers," he said.

"How can I get education? My father has to work as a daily wager to make ends meet. On rainy days and public holidays, there is no work at all. My mother saves some money from the amount which I give her daily and uses it during these lean days," he said.

Gul Zaman, 13, who works at an automobile workshop at Dhoke Hassu, added that he also wanted to get education but poverty forced him into working at the workshop. "My father died a few years back and my mother married again. Our stepfather asks me and my 10-year-old brother to work and bring him money daily."

He said his stepfather used to tell him that education was not important and a technical person could make more money. "I have been working at the workshop for three years. The owner mostly asks me to clean the room and open the nuts of vehicles. However, I learned many things while observing him repairing the vehicles," he said.

"I have no other choice except sending my child to work. We are poor and cannot afford education which is for the rich people. We have to work daily to earn the bread," said Abdur Rasheed, the father of a boy who also works at an auto-workshop in Satellite Town.

He said the family would suffer if he sent his child to school. "I worked daily but my income is not sufficient to feed my nine-member family," he said.

This is not the story of two or three children as there are hundreds of children working in workshops, tailor shops, barbers, restaurants, markets, etc.

Three years back, the Punjab government launched a 'universal primary education campaign' in the province to enroll all out-of-school children in the age group of five to nine years.

According to the programme, the schoolteachers were to visit the areas adjacent to their schools and convince the parents to send their children to school. In return, the school will provide free books, uniforms, bags and stationery to the children.

However, even three years after launching the campaign, the provincial government failed to bring all children to schools.

Executive District Officer (education) Qazi Zahoorul Haq said last year the government gave his department the target of enrolling 64,065 children in the district. "We achieved 98 per cent of the target and enrolled the children adjacent to government schools," he said.

"For this year, the provincial government has directed us to enroll 120,000 children. We achieved 25 per cent of the target till April," he said and added that the remaining target would be achieved by the end of 2014.

However, the education department also included private school and seminary students in the list.

According to a list prepared by the education department for this year, 7910 boys and 6966 girls were enrolled in government schools in the district while 7916 boys and 6950 girls were enrolled in private schools. Besides, 395 boys and 191 girls were enrolled in different seminaries. "We made the list about how many children in the district were going to educational institutions, including seminaries," the EDO said.

To a question about children working in workshops and other places, he agreed that there were still lots of out-of-school children. He said the government should formulate a policy to introduce a package for the poor parents to convince them to send their children to schools.

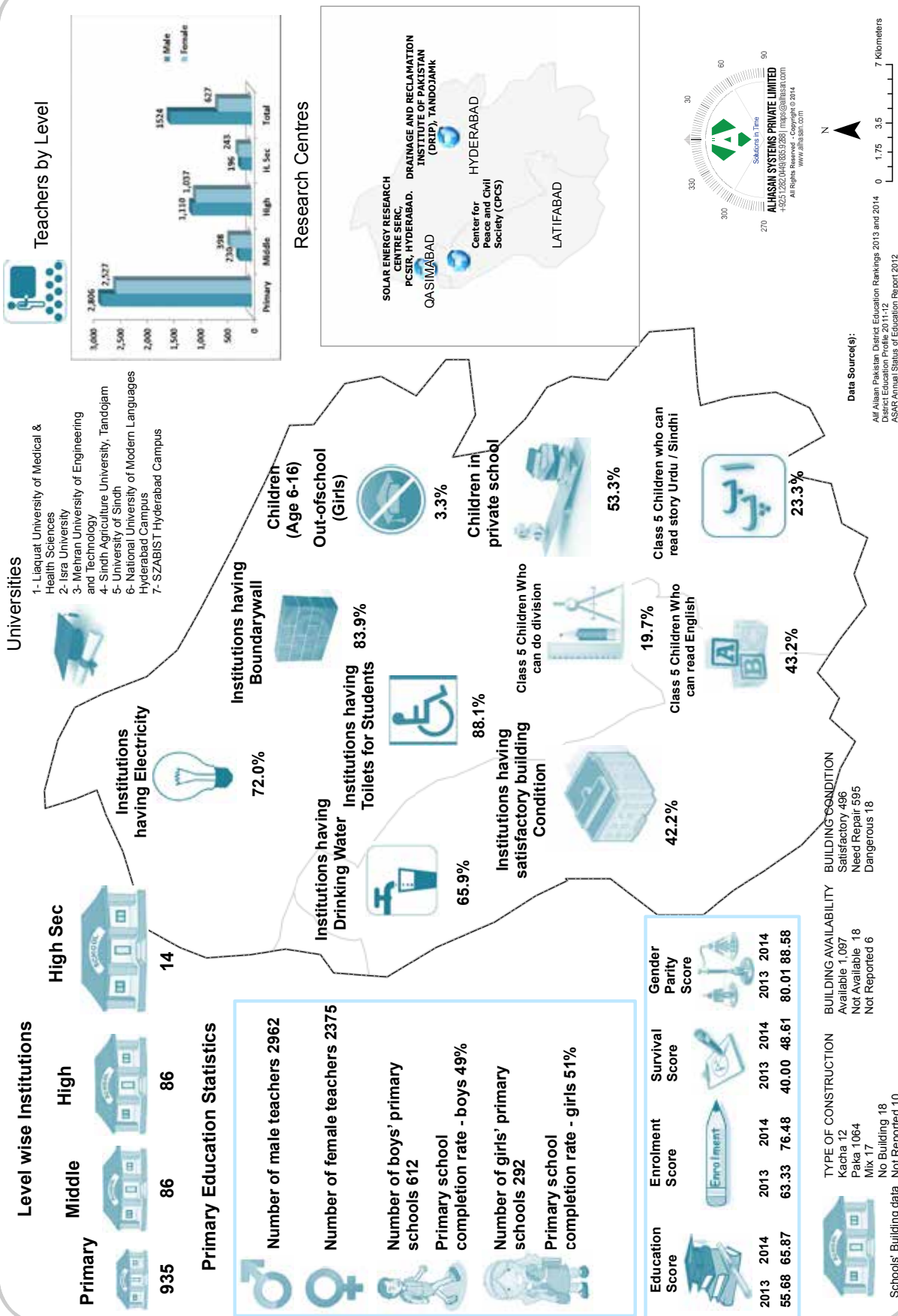
Shafqat Munir, a human rights activist who works with Oxfam International, said the government should devise a plan to ensure that no child remained out of school.

"It is not a charity to give free textbooks and other facilities to children as it is the responsibility of the government to provide education to them. And the government has to work to achieve the millennium goals under the international conventions," he said.

Former MNA and PML-N leader Malik Shakil Awan said the PML-N had started a union council-wise survey in the district to collect data about out-of school children. "After the completion of the survey, the PML-N leaders will visit all the parents and try to convince them to send their children to schools."

He said they had given suggestions to the government to enroll all deserving parents in the Punjab government Khidmat card scheme for their financial assistance. Education and health facilities would also be provided to them through these cards under a phased programme, he added.

HYDERABAD EDUCATION SUMMARY



Pakistan's 60 million illiterates

By Inayatullah (Ex-federal secretary and ambassador)

Posted in The Nation

May 31st, 2014

This column is about the 60 million Pakistanis who cannot read the number of a bus or a calendar. The country is a signatory to numerous international commitments to guarantee everyone's right to education. The very first national education conference in Pakistan in 1947 resolved to accord the highest priority to the promotion of education with Quaid-e-Azam telling the participants that for the newly founded country, education was "a matter of life and death." A number of commissions and committees followed to reiterate and reinforce the message. The 1973 Constitution laid down that illiteracy was to be eradicated within the minimum possible time.

In 1990, the world held the largest ever conference on education at Jomtien, Thailand, where along with others, Pakistan committed itself to substantially lowering its illiteracy rate. Very little however, was actually done, with the result that the literacy rate remained one of the lowest in the world.

In the year 2000, education ministers from all over the world (including our federal minister and four education ministers from the provinces) met at Dakar, Senegal, and solemnly pledged to achieve six Education For All Goals by the year 2015. These goals included the achievement of hundred per cent primary education and 86% of overall literacy in Pakistan.

Today we claim to have reached 67% or so net enrolment at the primary level and 58% adult literacy though these figures are disputed. Education-wise, two new developments of recent years need to be noted. These are (a) devolution of education to the provinces with the abolition of the concurrent list and (b) the insertion of a new Article in the Constitution i.e. 25-A which states 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." Such enabling laws have been promulgated by the Federal government in the Islamabad Capital Territory and the government of Sindh. The other 3 provinces have yet to enact such legislation. This new constitutional provision has made the Right to Education a human right which the state is duly bound to honour and enforce. So far as EFA and education-related Millennium Development Goals are concerned, progress made so far by Pakistan has remained most disappointing.

According to the 2013-14 Global Monitoring Report, Pakistan belongs to the category of countries which will remain "far away" from achieving any of the EFA goals. Most of the education-related MDG targets will also fail to be realised. But why this dismal failure?

The answer lies in a lack of practical will, poor allocation of funds, faulty organization and the absence of professional expertise.

A few years back, Punjab broke new ground and stepped up efforts to improve primary education; enrolment drives, recruitment of quality teachers, provision of facilities etc. While enrolments increased considerably and thousands of new teachers were recruited, little improvement is visible in the quality of teaching and learning. The 2014 ASER report testifies that students from class 5 could not solve math questions suitable for class 3 and were unable to correctly read English books.

As for adult literacy, for the first time, a full-fledged department of literacy and non-formal basic education in the Punjab was

established with a separate minister and secretary as also EDOs for literacy in the districts. At present there is no separate minister for literacy and the post of EDO literacy has been abolished. Although a number of useful projects have been initiated, there is no focus on the promotion of adult literacy. There is news of a large programme for the upscaling of literacy centres. It has yet to find the light of day with the result that close to 35 million adults (age 15+) in the Punjab remain utterly illiterate. Conditions in the remaining 3 provinces are worse. There is no separate full-fledged department of literacy and non-formal education. The education secretaries are much too busy coping with the education department programmes and problems. Steeped as they are in formal education structures and approaches, they have little understanding of the requisites and nuances of non-formal education. Part of the challenge of literacy has been met by the National Commission for Human Development but the task is much too big for an inadequately funded central agency. After the 18th amendment, the commission almost ceased to exist and was saved by the skin of its teeth by the Supreme Court.

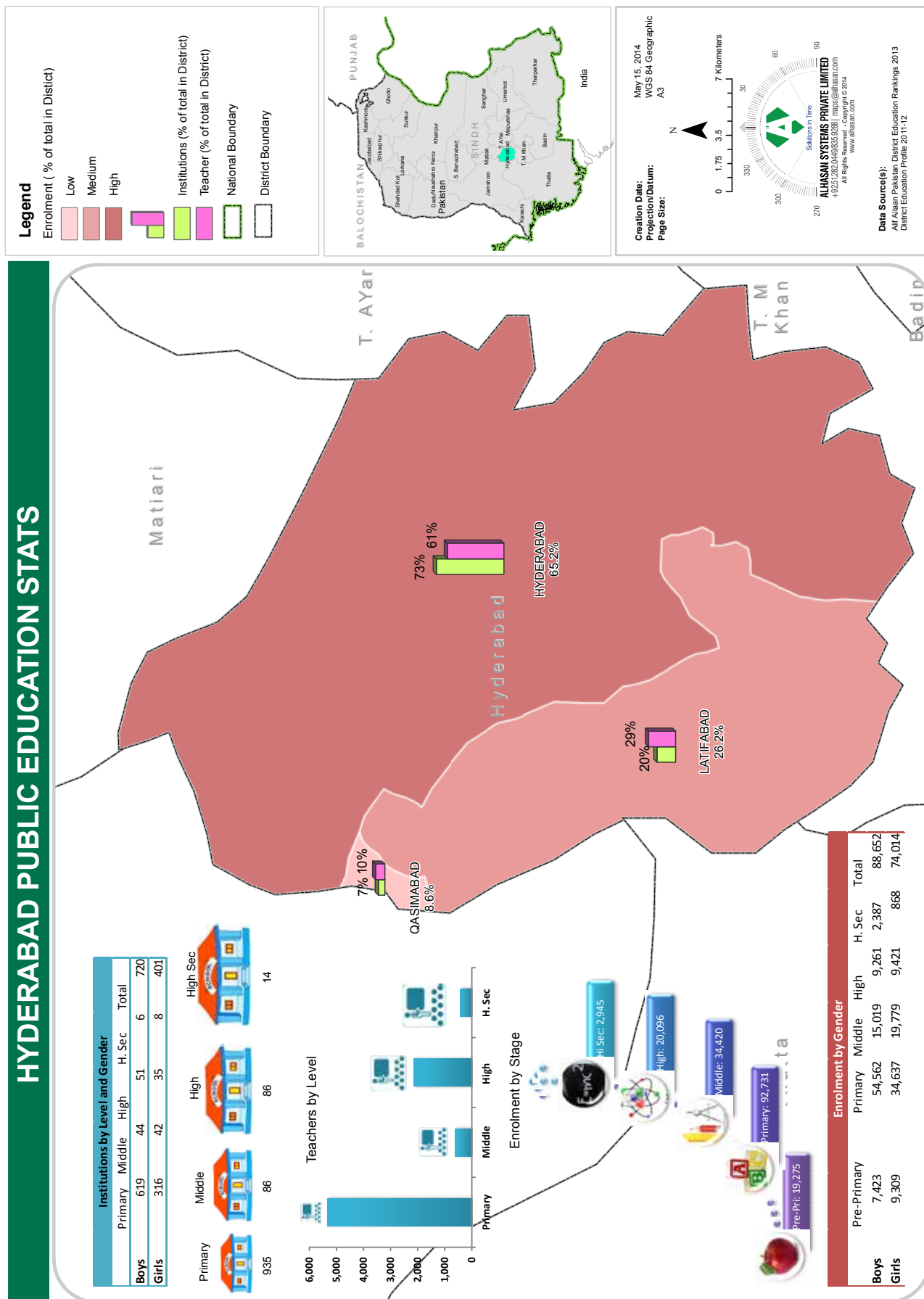
With a view to helping laggard countries, from time to time UNESCO devised imaginative strategies and programmes including the E-9 ministerial meetings and the Literacy Initiative For Empowerment (LIFE). Not much was achieved with these programmes' constitutions in Pakistan because of government apathy. Realizing the urgency for prodding and activating lethargic states like Pakistan, UNESCO convened a high-level meeting of ministers, heads of country delegations, reps of UN agencies, donors and civil society organizations on September 2012 and issued a Communiqué on up-scaling literacy. The communiqué recognizes that literacy is a basic right; it is an instrument for achieving equitable and inclusive societies. It urged all lagging governments to "develop and implement time-bound... and cost-effective national literacy action plans for scaling up literacy programmes towards 2015 and beyond."

Two months ago, former UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown visited Pakistan as a UN special envoy to push Pakistan to speed up efforts to meet the EFA goals by 2015 and in the Islamabad meeting promised hundreds of millions of dollars on behalf of the UN and other international donors in support of Pakistan's programmes.

The meeting was also addressed by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. While he waxed eloquence on the importance of education and referred to a proposal to launch a literacy movement in the country, all that he committed to do was increase the total provision for education to 4 percent by the year 2018. This means Pakistan will take four and a half years to raise the allocation for education to the minimum recommended by UNESCO.

Two more months have slipped by. Will the Prime Minister, who promised at the Islamabad meeting to launch a literacy movement, please stand up and tell us what he has done in these two months and what he plans to do in the remaining 19? The least he can do is raise the allocation for education/literacy to 3.5% of GDP which is less than the minimum recommended by UNESCO.

Do we realize just how much these tens of millions of illiterate men and women drag down the economy and society?



تفصیلات

سرخیال

تعلیمی نظام کی بہتری کیلئے کاپی کلچر ختم کرنا

ہو گا، انعام اللہ

روزنامہ جنگ

31 مئی 2014

محکمہ تعلیم کو کرپشن سے پاک کرنے کیلئے نیب

تمام افسران کے اثاثے چیک کرے، تعلیم

بچاؤ کمیٹی

روزنامہ جنگ

30 مئی 2014

اوبائو (نامہ نگار) ڈھرکی کے مقامی کھاد بنانے والے صنعتی ادارے کے تعاون سے ہائر سیکنڈری اسکول اوبائو میں تقریری مقابلہ منعقد کیا گیا۔ تقریری مقابلے میں ضلع بھر کے مختلف اسکولوں کے انٹر کے طلبہ نے شرکت کی اور تقریروں میں حصہ لیا۔ مقابلے میں پہلی پوزیشن موزا جاوید، دوسری محمد عاشر اور تیسری محمد ایوب نے حاصل کی۔ آخر میں طلبہ میں تقریب کے مہمان خصوصی انعام اللہ خان نوید نے انعامات تقسیم کئے۔ تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ تعلیمی نظام کو مزید بہتر بنانے کی اشد ضرورت ہے اس کے لئے ہر اسکول کے سربراہ کو اسکولوں سے کاپی کلچر کا خاتمہ کرنا ہو گا تاکہ نوجوانوں میں معیاری تعلیم فروغ پا سکے۔ انعام اللہ خان نوید نے گورنمنٹ ہائر سیکنڈری اسکول اوبائو میں واٹر ٹریٹمنٹ پلانٹ فراہم کرنے کا اعلان کیا۔

کراچی (سٹاف رپورٹر) تعلیم بچاؤ ایکشن کمیٹی نے کہا کہ محکمہ تعلیم میں کرپشن عام ہے اس محکمہ کو کرپشن سے پاک کرنے کیلئے نیب کے ذریعے افسران کے اثاثے چیک کئے جائیں۔ جمہرات کو کراچی پریس کلب میں پریس کانفرنس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کمیٹی کے کنوینر انیس الرحمن اور جنرل سیکرٹری عبد الرحمن نے کہا کہ حکومت کو کرپشن اور تباہی کے ثبوت دیئے جاتے ہیں مگر وہ کوئی ایکشن نہیں لیتی ہے کراچی کی گریڈ ایک سے 15 تک کی مقامی اسمبلیوں پر دیگر اضلاع کے لوگوں کا تقریر کیا گیا۔ اساتذہ یانان ٹیچنگ اسٹاف میں جو لوگ ریٹائر ہو جاتے ہیں ان کی خالی پوسٹیں گریڈ 9 تا 15 اور اسی طرح ایس ٹی، سپروائزر، ایس ایل ٹی، عربی ٹیچر، ڈرائنگ ٹیچر، ڈبلیو آئی بی ٹی آئی، (گریڈ 9) کی پوسٹیں اپائنٹ کی پوسٹیں ہیں۔ اسی طرح نان ٹیچنگ اسٹاف گریڈ (ایک تا 7) بھی اپائنٹ کی پوسٹیں ہیں ان پر اسی ڈسٹرکٹ کے لوگوں کو 1974ء سندھ گورنمنٹ سروس رولز کے مطابق اپائنٹ ہونا چاہئے۔ ڈسٹرکٹ کراچی کے اساتذہ اور نان ٹیچنگ اسٹاف کی تعداد 41098 ہے جس کیلئے بجٹ رقم میں رقم مختص ہے۔ ان پوسٹوں پر این ٹی ایس سے بھرتیاں کی جا رہی ہیں جبکہ این ٹی ایس کے ورلڈ بینک رقم مہیا کرتا ہے چنانچہ این ٹی ایس کیلئے نئی این ای منظور کی جانی چاہئے۔ اسی طرح ورلڈ بینک کی این ٹی ایس کی 2600 پوسٹیں ہیں وہ صرف ان پوسٹوں کیلئے ہی ہدایات دے سکتا ہے لیکن ایسا نہیں ہو رہا بلکہ آر ایس یو (ریفارم سپورٹ یونٹ) نام ہے جو ادارہ قائم کیا گیا ہے اس کے تحت تمام پوسٹوں پر ورلڈ بینک کی ہدایت کے مطابق عمل ہو رہا ہے۔ گویا تمام پوسٹیں ورلڈ بینک کے ماتحت ہو گئیں اسی وجہ سے اپائنٹ اور پروموشن یوسی وانز کے جاریہ ہیں چنانچہ 90 فیصد نمبر لینے والا قابل امیدوار کی یوسی میں اگر جگہ نہیں ہے تو اسی کی تقرری نہیں ہوگی جبکہ 60 فیصد نمبر لینے والا کم اہلیت کا امیدوار اس لئے اپائنٹ کر دیا جائے گا کہ اس کی یوسی میں جگہ موجود ہے اس منصوبے پر عمل کرنے سے پہلے ایک خاص سازش کے تحت تقریباً 125 اسکولز مع آسمانیوں کے مضافاتی علاقوں میں منتقل کر دیئے گئے تھے جن علاقوں سے یہ اسکولز منتقل کئے گئے اس علاقے کے دوسرے اسکولوں کی خالی آسمانیوں پر ان کا اسٹاف ٹرانسفر کر دیا گیا اس طرح مضافاتی علاقوں میں 100 فیصد آسمانیوں خالی ہو گئی ہیں اور منتقل شدہ علاقہ کی یوسی کی پوسٹیں بھر گئیں ہم نے اسی وقت اس امر پر حکام بالا کو خطوط لکھے۔ کیونکہ یہ اقدامات تعصب کو جنم دیتے ہیں اور غیر قانونی ہیں اور میرٹ کا قتل عام ہے۔ سپریم کورٹ آف پاکستان اور سندھ ہائی کورٹ اپنی ایس افسران کے متعلق فیصلہ صادر فرما چکی ہیں کہ ان پوسٹوں پر متعلقہ گریڈ کے افسران مقرر کئے جائیں اور اگر مناسب تعداد میں متعلقہ گریڈ کے افسران میسر نہ ہوں تو فوری طور پر ڈی پی سی کر کے سینئر افسران کو ترقی دے کر ان پوسٹوں پر تعینات کیا جائے لیکن محکمہ تعلیم نے اس پر بھی توجہ نہیں جس کے باعث کئی اہم پوسٹیں خالی پڑی ہیں اور ان پوسٹوں کی اضافی ذمہ داری دیگر افسران کو دی گئی ہے جس کے باعث ان افسران کا کام کافی بڑھ گیا ہے اور اس وجہ سے ان کی کارکردگی بھی متاثر ہو رہی ہے مثلاً سندھ ہیکسٹ بک بورڈ کا سیکرٹری ایک 18 گریڈ کا اسٹنٹ پروفیسر قادر بخش رند ہے جو گزشتہ 11 سال سے پڑھانے کے بجائے سندھ ہیکسٹ بک بورڈ کے سیکرٹری کی پوسٹ پر محض کر رہے ہیں۔ سندھ ہیکسٹ بک بورڈ کی اضافی ذمہ داری ایک ایڈیشنل سیکرٹری تعلیم کو دی گئی ہے جس کا نتیجہ یہ ہے کہ سرکاری اسکولوں میں ابھی تک صرف چند کلاسوں ہی کی فری ہیکسٹ بکس مہیا کی گئی ہیں جبکہ کلاس دوئم، سوئم اور چہارم کی درسی کتب آج 29 مئی تک مہیا نہیں ہو سکیں جو کہ قواعد کے حساب سے مارچ کے آخری یا اپریل کے ابتدائی ایام میں مل جانی چاہئے تھیں۔

خیبر پختونخوا کے وزیر تعلیم عاطف خان نے کہا ہے کہ موجودہ حکومت صوبے میں تعلیمی حالات کو بہتر بنانے کے لئے متعدد انقلابی اقدامات شروع کر رہی ہے جس کے لئے آنے والے بجٹ میں شعبہ تعلیم پر خصوصی توجہ دی جائے گی۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار جمہرات کے روز انہوں نے گورنمنٹ ہائر سیکنڈری سکول نمبر 1 پشاور صدر میں ڈنمارک حکومت کی جانب سے پاکستان میں تعلیم کے فروغ کے لئے یونیسیف کے کنٹری پروگرام کو 11 ملین امریکی ڈالر فراہم کرنے کے حوالے سے منعقدہ تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ صوبائی وزیر نے کہا کہ معیاری تعلیم کی فراہمی ہی سے ہمارے تمام مسائل کا حل یقینی ہے جس کے لئے صوبائی حکومت نے صوبے کی تاریخ میں پہلی بار اساتذہ کو تربیت دینے کا پروگرام بنایا ہے اس کے علاوہ دور دراز علاقوں میں بچوں کو سکولوں میں آنے کے لئے ترغیب دی جا رہی ہے جس کے خاطر خواہ نتائج حاصل ہو رہے ہیں۔ علاوہ ازیں اساتذہ اور پرنسپل صاحبان کی کارکردگی کو بہتر بنانے کے لئے انعامات کا سلسلہ بھی شروع کیا گیا ہے۔ صوبائی وزیر نے اس موقع پر تعلیم کے شعبے کے لئے ڈنمارک حکومت کی طرف سے 11 ملین ڈالر کی فراہمی پر ڈنمارک کے سفیر کا شکریہ ادا کیا۔ اس موقع پر پاکستان میں مقیم ڈنمارک کے سفیر مسٹر جہر مولر سورنسن نے اپنے خطاب میں کہا کہ ڈنمارک حکومت 2010 سے پاکستان میں بالخصوص لڑکیوں کی پرائمری تعلیم کے فروغ کے لئے تعاون فراہم کر رہی ہے۔ انہوں نے سماجی اور معاشی ترقی کی اہمیت پر روشنی ڈالتے ہوئے کہا کہ تمام ترقی یافتہ ممالک میں اگر سارے بچے تعلیم حاصل کرنا شروع کر دیں تو غربت میں ناقابل یقین حد تک کمی واقع ہو سکتی ہے۔ بعد میں صوبائی وزیر ڈنمارک کے سفیر کے ساتھ بچوں کی ایک کلاس میں گئے جہاں انہوں نے بچوں کے ساتھ تعلیم کی اہمیت اور ضرورت کے بارے میں باتیں کیں۔

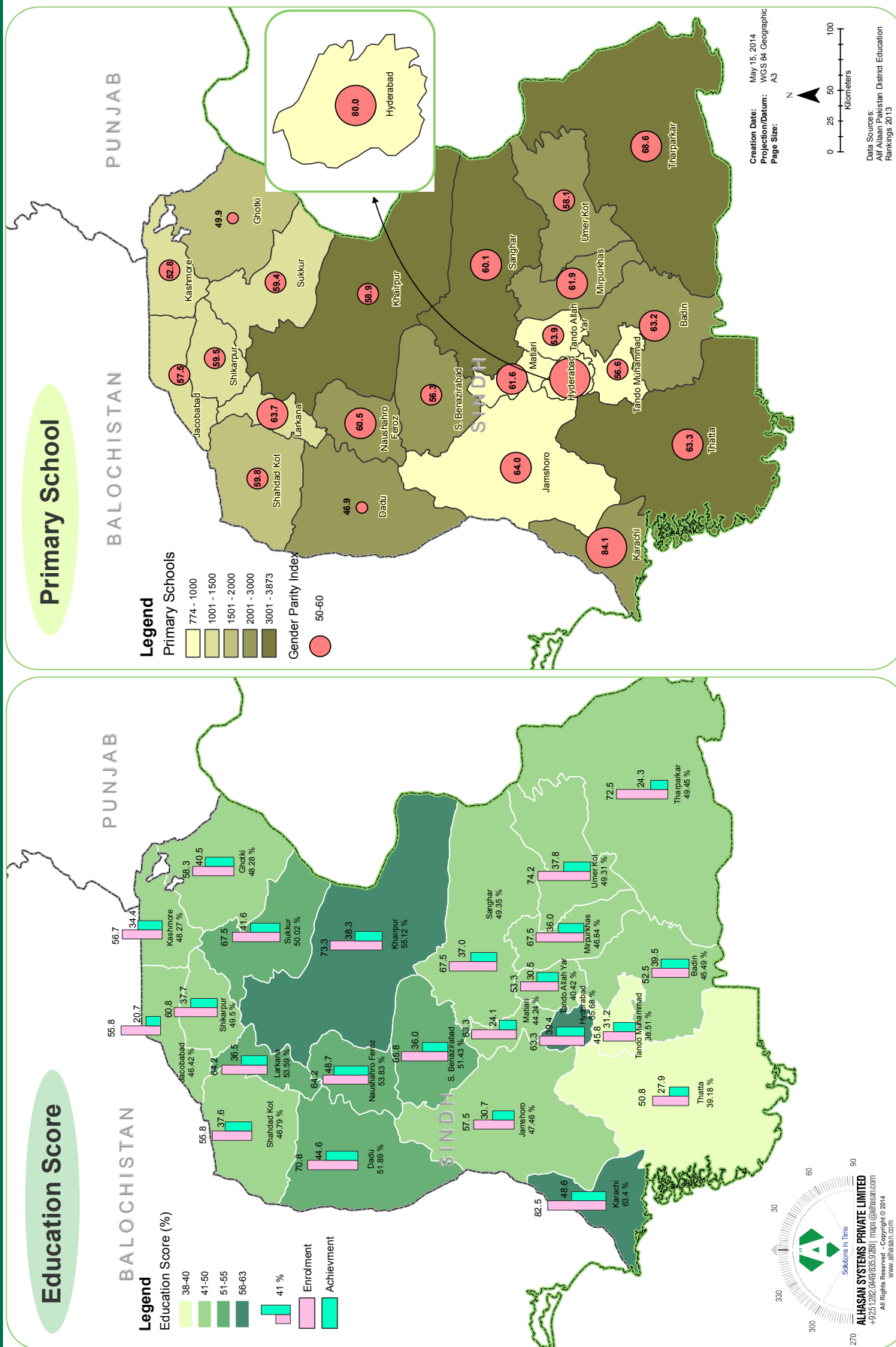
حکومت ڈنمارک پاکستان میں تعلیم کے فروغ کے لئے یونیسیف کے کنٹری پروگرام کو 11 ملین امریکی ڈالر فراہم کرے گی۔ مسٹر جہر مولر سورنسن

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29 مئی 2014

SINDH - PRIMARY EDUCATION STATS-2013



سندھ میں تعلیمی پسماندگی کا کیس وفاق میں اٹھائیں گے، نفیہ شاہ

روزنامہ جنگ

29 مئی 2014

غیر معینہ مدت کے لئے تمام تعلیمی سرگرمیوں کی معطلی کے فیصلے کی حمایت

روزنامہ جنگ

27 مئی 2014

بھارتی فنکار پٹنا تک کا بنایا ہوا مودی اور نواز شریف کا یہ ریت کا فنکار پوری کے ساحل پر بنایا گیا جس پر لکھا ہے 'امن کو ایک موقع ملا'

بلی بی آر دو

26 مئی 2014

کوسیدو: کم ترقی یافتہ علاقوں کے لئے اعلیٰ تعلیمی اسکیم جاری

اسکیم جاری

روزنامہ جنگ

25 مئی 2014

نالچ پارک خطے میں پہلا منفرد تعلیمی مرکز ہو گا، انتہا پسندی پر صرف گولی سے قابو ممکن نہیں

نوائے وقت

03 مئی 2014

خیبر پور (ہیڈ رپورٹ) شہید ذوالفقار علی بھٹو انجینئرنگ کیمپس کے پرووائس چانسلر انجینئر غلام سرور کندھر نے امتحانی سینٹر کا دورہ کیا۔ پرووائس چانسلر اپنے دورے کے دوران سول، الیکٹریکل، میٹریکل، پیٹرولیم، نیچرل گیس اور دیگر شعبوں کے امتحان ہالز میں گئے۔ انجینئرنگ شعبوں کے سربراہان اسٹوڈنٹس ویلفیئر آفیسر اور امتحانی کمیٹی کے افسران ان کے ہمراہ تھے۔ پرووائس چانسلر انجینئر غلام سرور کندھر نے کہا کہ شہید ذوالفقار علی بھٹو انجینئرنگ کیمپس سندھ کے پسماندہ اور رورل ایریا کیمپس ہے، وہ اس کیمپس کو ملک کا مثالی کیمپس بنانے کے لئے کوشاں ہیں جبکہ اس کیمپس کو جلد یونیورسٹی کا درجہ ملے گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ان کو فخر ہے کہ خیبر پور کیمپس ملک کا پہلا کیمپس ہے جہاں نقل کار جان نہیں ہے۔ طلبہ محنت کر کے امتحان میں بیٹھتے ہیں اور اچھے نمبر حاصل کرتے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ان کو اس بات پر بڑی خوشی ہے کہ شہید ذوالفقار علی بھٹو کیمپس میں سیاست نہیں ہے، طلبہ سیاست بازی کا مقابلہ کرنے کے بجائے ایک دوسرے کے ساتھ ذہانت کا مقابلہ کرتے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ مستقبل میں خیبر پور کیمپس سے کامیاب سائنس دان اور بڑے انجینئرز نکل سکیں گے۔

کراچی (اسٹاف رپورٹر) انجمن اساتذہ وفاق اردو یونیورسٹی، عبدالحق کیمپس کے صدر پروفسر نجم العارفین، جنرل سیکریٹری ڈاکٹر شاہد اقبال نے فیڈریشن آف آل پاکستان یونیورسٹی اسٹاف ایسوسی ایشن کی جانب سے صوبے بھر کی جامعات میں غیر معینہ مدت کے لئے تمام تعلیمی سرگرمیوں کی معطلی کے فیصلے کی حمایت کرتے ہوئے حکومت سندھ سے مطالبہ کیا ہے کہ وہ فوری طور پر سندھ کی جامعات کے رجسٹرار اور ڈائریکٹر فنانس کی آسامیوں کے لئے جاری ہونے والے اشتہار کو واپس لے۔ انجمن اساتذہ کے عہدیداران نے اپنے بیان میں کہا کہ اس قانون نے یونیورسٹیوں کی خود مختاری کو سلب کر لیا ہے اس طرح یونیورسٹیوں اور اسکول کالجوں میں فرق ختم ہو گیا ہے۔ ان رہنماؤں نے کہا کہ یونیورسٹیوں کی خود مختاری ختم ہونے سے علمی آزادی کا ادارہ ختم ہو گا اور یونیورسٹیوں میں تحقیق کا ماحول ختم ہو جائے گا، اس طرح سندھ کی یونیورسٹیاں ملک کی دیگر یونیورسٹیوں سے معیار میں پیچھے رہ جائیں گی۔ انجمن اساتذہ کے عہدیداران کی اپیل پر اساتذہ نے بازوؤں پر سیاہ پٹیاں باندھیں اور عبدالحق کیمپس میں سیاہ پرچم لہرایا گیا۔

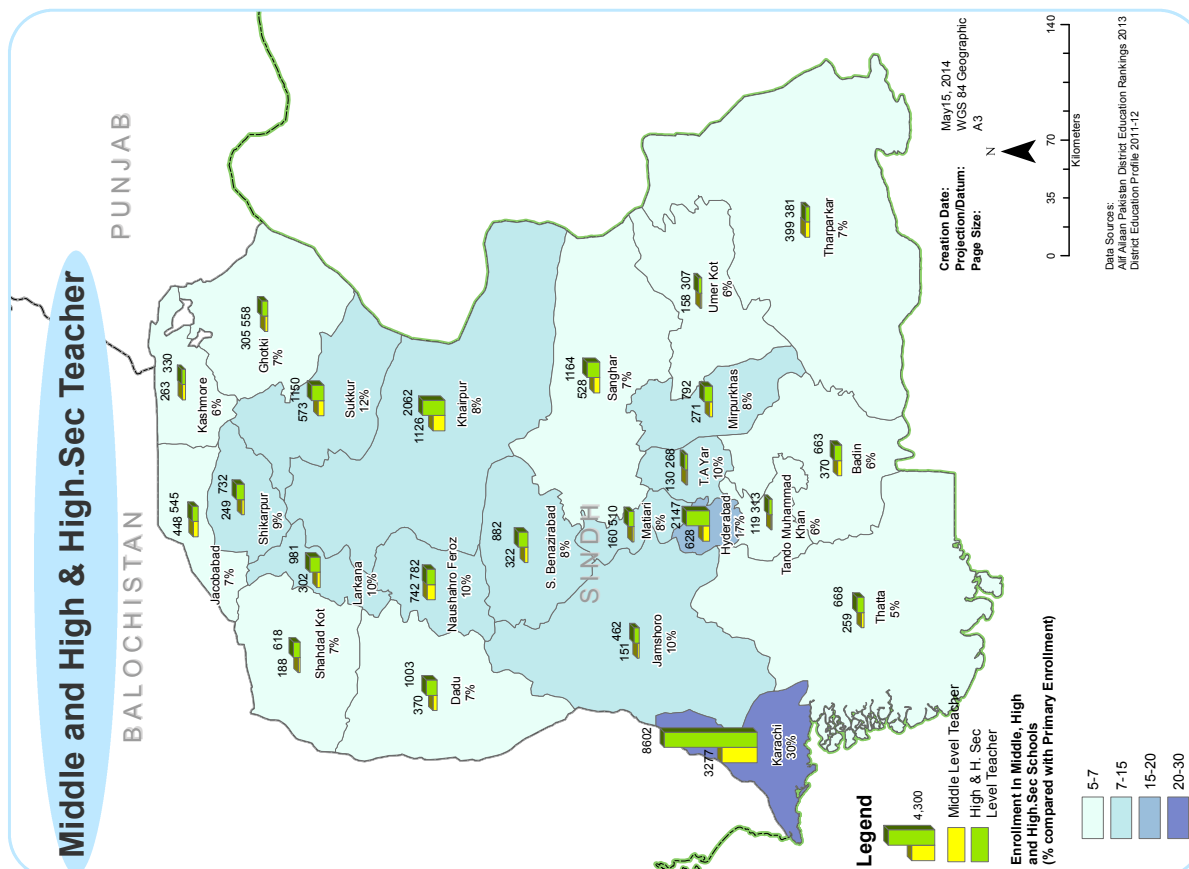
پاکستانی وزیر اعظم میاں نواز شریف کو بھارتی وزیر اعظم نریندر مودی کی تقریب حلف برداری میں شرکت کا فیصلہ کرنے پر جہاں ہر طرف سے مبارک سلامت وصول ہو رہی ہے وہیں پاکستان تحریک انصاف کے کارکنوں کی جانب سے تند و تیز حملوں کا سامنا بھی کرنا پڑ رہا ہے۔ ایک بڑی اکثریت نے اس دورے کی حمایت کی جیسا کہ ذہیر فیصل عباسی نے ٹویٹ کی کہ 'گلتا ہے کہ پاکستان میں وزیر اعظم نواز شریف کے دورہ بھارت پر مکمل سیاسی اتفاق رائے پایا جاتا ہے تاکہ وہ حالات اور ماحول کا جائزہ لے سکیں۔ دوسری جانب عثمان غنی نے اپنی ٹویٹ میں لکھا کہ 'میں نواز شریف کے دورہ بھارت کی حمایت کرتا ہوں۔ میں چاہتا ہوں کہ میرے ٹیکس کا پیسہ میرے بچوں کی تعلیم پر خرچ ہو نہ کہ فوج پر۔ یہ سمجھنا کتنا مشکل ہے؟'

پاکستان پیپلز پارٹی کی رہنما نفیسہ شاہ نے اپنی ٹویٹ میں لکھا کہ 'وزیر اعظم نواز شریف کے دورہ بھارت نے خطے میں امن کے لیے ایک مثبت پیغام بھجوایا ہے تمام سیاسی جماعتوں کو اس خوش آمدید کہنا چاہیے اور اس کی حمایت کرنی چاہیے۔ بھارتی صحافی کنل موجد انے ٹویٹ کی کہ 'پاکستانی تناظر میں نواز شریف کا وزیر اعظم مودی کی حلف برداری دورہ بھارت خوش آئند ہے مگر اب تک صرف ایک قدم ہے۔

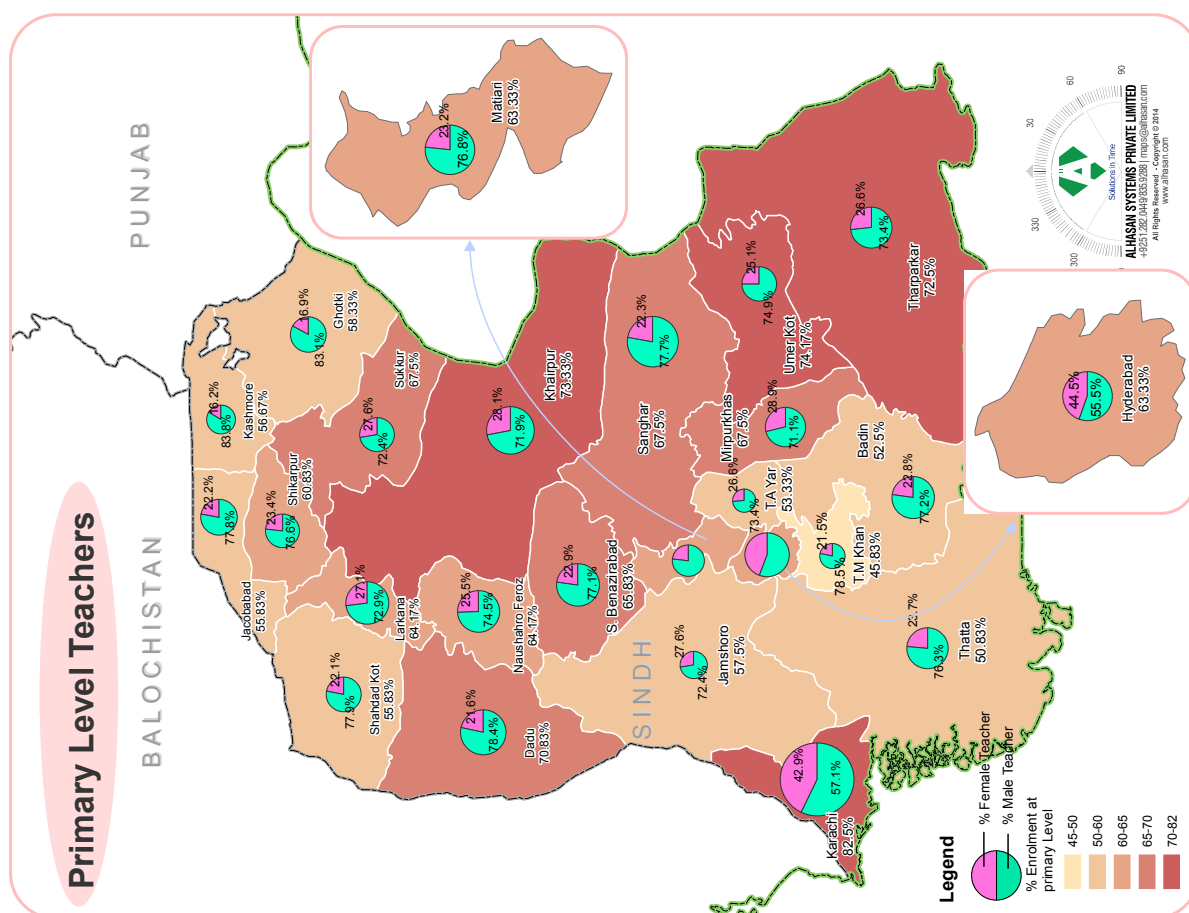
کوسیدو (محمد صالح خان) ملک کے کم ترقی یافتہ علاقوں کے اعلیٰ تعلیم کے خواہاں طلبہ کے تعلیمی مصارف کی کفالت کی ملک گیر اسکیم بدھ کو یہاں گورنر ہاؤس کے دفتر میں سبز زار میں منعقدہ تقریب میں جاری کردی گئی اس موقع پر وزیر اعظم نواز شریف کو بطور مہمان خصوصی تقریب میں شرکت کرنا تھی جس کا فیصلہ انہوں نے خود کیا تھا لیکن اچانک علالت طبع کے باعث انہیں اپنا دورہ آخر وقت میں منسوخ کرنا پڑا جس سے تقریب کے شرکاء اور بالخصوص طلبہ کو قدرے باؤسی ہوئی۔ وزیر اعظم کی نمائندگی وفاقی وزیر خزانہ و اقتصادی امور سینیٹر محمد اسحق ڈار نے کی۔ وزیر اعظم کی آمد کے حوالے سے حفاظتی بندوبست سمیت تمام انتظامات مکمل تھے تقریب گاہ کورنگارنگ کتبوں، قومی پرچموں اور اچھوتے نعروں سے مزین میز سے سجایا گیا تھا اسٹیج کے عقب میں گلی وزیر اعظم نواز شریف اور ان کی صاحبزادی چیئر پرسن یو تھ پروگرام محترمہ مریم نواز شریف کی دل آویز پورٹریٹ ان کی عدم موجودگی کی یاد دلا رہی تھی تقریب خالص پاکستانی رنگ میں رنگی تھی جس میں بلوچستان کے تمام 32 اضلاع سے آئے ہونہار طلباء طالبات شریک تھے تنہا گرمی زیادہ ہونے کے باوجود طلباء طالبات نے غیر معمولی نظم و ضبط کا مظاہرہ کیا۔

لاہور (خصوصی رپورٹر) وزیر اعلیٰ محمد شہباز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ لاہور میں قائم ہونیوالا نالچ پارک جنوبی ایشیا کے خطے میں بین الاقوامی معیار کا پہلا منفرد تعلیمی مرکز ہو گا جس میں اساتذہ اور ملکی و غیر ملکی طلبہ کیلئے رہائش گاہیں، شاپنگ مال، تفریحی مراکز اور زندگی کی دیگر تمام سہولتیں دستیاب ہوں گی۔ پاکستان نے دہشت گردی کی خلاف جنگ میں 40 ہزار قیمتی انسانی جانوں کی قربانیاں دی ہیں۔ دہشت گردی کے خاتمے کیلئے ہمارا عزم کسی بھی جنگ و شہ سے بالاتر ہے۔ میں دیانتداری سے یہ سمجھتا ہوں کہ عسکریت اور انتہا پسندی کے موجودہ رجحان پر صرف ہندو کی گولی سے قابو نہیں پایا جاسکتا۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے گزشتہ روز لندن میں نالچ پارک کے منصوبے کی تعارفی تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ تقریب میں برطانوی سرمایہ کاروں، یونیورسٹیوں کے سربراہوں، ڈیزائنر مارہارن تعلیم نے بڑی تعداد میں شرکت کی اور لاہور میں نالچ پارک کے قیام کے منصوبے میں گہری دلچسپی کا اظہار کیا۔ شہباز شریف نے اپنے خطاب میں کہا کہ اعلیٰ تعلیم کے اپنی نوعیت کے اس منفرد مرکز کے قیام کا بنیادی مقصد ان پاکستانی نوجوانوں کو اپنے ملک میں اعلیٰ تعلیم کی سہولتیں فراہم کرنا ہیں جن کے پاس مہنگی تعلیم حاصل کرنے کیلئے بیرون ملک جانے کیلئے وسائل نہیں ہیں۔ اس نالچ پارک میں قائم ہونیوالے تعلیمی اداروں میں صرف پاکستان کے ہی نہیں بلکہ دوسرے ممالک کے طالب علم بھی تعلیم حاصل کریں گے۔ نالچ پارک میں غیر ملکی تعلیمی اداروں کے کیمپس کھولنے کیلئے سرمایہ کاروں کو سہولتیں دی جائیں گی۔ پنجاب کی پہلی انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی یونیورسٹی کا کیمپس بھی نالچ پارک میں بنے گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور برطانیہ کی دوستی مضبوط تجارتی اور ثقافتی رشتوں پر استوار ہے اور ہم تعلیم کے

Middle and High & High.Sec Teacher



Primary Level Teachers



میدان میں برطانیہ کے تعاون کو قدر کی نگاہ سے دیکھتے ہیں۔ پاکستان میں انتہا پسندی اور تشدد کے رجحانات راتوں رات پیدا نہیں ہوئے اور اب انہیں ختم ہونے میں بھی وقت لگے گا، تاہم ہمیں پاکستان کی موجودہ صورتحال کو اس کے صحیح تاریخی تناظر میں دیکھنے کی ضرورت ہے۔ پاکستان نے دہشت گردی کیخلاف جنگ میں 40 ہزار قیمتی انسانی جانوں کی قربانیاں دی ہیں اور دہشت گردی کے خاتمے کیلئے ہمارا عزم کسی بھی شک و شبہ سے بالاتر ہے۔ ہمیں دہشت گردی کے مختلف اسباب کا زمینی حقائق کے مطابق جائزہ لیکر انہیں دور کرنا ہو گا۔ شہباز شریف نے کہا کہ تعلیم کو عام کیے بغیر عوام میں رواداری، برداشت اور وسعت نظری کے کلچر کو متعارف نہیں کرایا جاسکتا، اسی طرح ہمیں معصوم مگر غریب نوجوانوں کو انتہا پسندوں کے چنگل سے نجات دلانے کیلئے ان کی بیماری اور بھوک کا مد ادا کرنا ہو گا۔ پیشتر ازیں تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے صوبائی وزیر تعلیم رانا مشہود احمد نے کہا کہ لاہور کی پرائم لوشیشن پر 852 ایکڑ اراضی پر نالج پارک جنوبی ایشیائی تعلیمی معیشت میں ایک انقلاب ثابت ہو گا۔ پاکستان میں برطانیہ کے ہائی کمشنر فلپ بارٹن نے اس موقع پر اپنے خطاب میں وزیراعظم محمد نواز شریف اور وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب محمد شہباز شریف کی فروغ تعلیم کیلئے کاوشوں اور اقدامات کی تعریف کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ تعلیم کے میدان میں مثبت پیشرفت کی جارہی ہے اور برطانیہ پنجاب سمیت چاروں صوبوں میں فروغ تعلیم کیلئے اٹھائے جانے والے اقدامات کے حوالے سے تعاون جاری رکھے گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ لاہور میں بہت جلد برطانیہ کا ڈپٹی ہائی کمشن قائم کیا جائیگا۔ علاوہ ازیں شہباز شریف سے گزشتہ روز لندن میں برطانوی سرمایہ کار کمپنیوں کے سربراہوں اور نمائندوں نے الگ الگ ملاقاتیں کیں۔ وزیر اعلیٰ نے برطانوی سرمایہ کار کمپنیوں کو پنجاب میں سرمایہ کاری کی دعوت دی۔ شہباز شریف نے برطانوی سرمایہ کاروں سے بات چیت کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ پنجاب حکومت سرمایہ کاری کے فروغ کیلئے ٹھوس اقدامات کر رہی ہے۔ برطانوی کمپنیوں سمیت تمام غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاروں کی ایک ایک پائی محفوظ ہوگی۔ شفافیت پنجاب حکومت کا طرہ امتیاز ہے، برطانوی سرمایہ کاروں کا پیسہ امانت سمجھ کر عوام کی فلاح و بہبود پر خرچ ہو گا۔ علاوہ ازیں لندن میں مقیم پاکستانیوں کی جانب سے دیئے گئے استقبالیے سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے شہباز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ گزشتہ حکومت پاکستان کی تاریخ کا سیاہ ترین دور تھا۔ مسلم لیگ (ن) کی حکومت میں کرپشن کا کوئی کیس سامنے نہیں آیا۔ چین نے پاکستان کیلئے 32 ارب ڈالر کا ہینکج دیا ہے، پاکستان جاتے ہی 1300 میگا واٹ کاسنگ بنیاد رکھیں گے۔ آئندہ 7 سالوں میں پاکستان کو دوست ممالک کی مدد سے 20 ہزار میگا واٹ بجلی ملے گی۔ بجلی کے منصوبوں پر 3 ارب ڈالر خرچ ہونگے۔ ہمارے دوستوں نے نواز شریف کے اقتدار میں آنے کا انتظار کیا ہے۔ سابقہ حکمرانوں کو غیر ملکی دوروں میں کوئی مالی امداد نہیں ملی۔ دوست ممالک نے پاکستان حکومت پر مکمل اعتماد ظاہر کیا ہے۔

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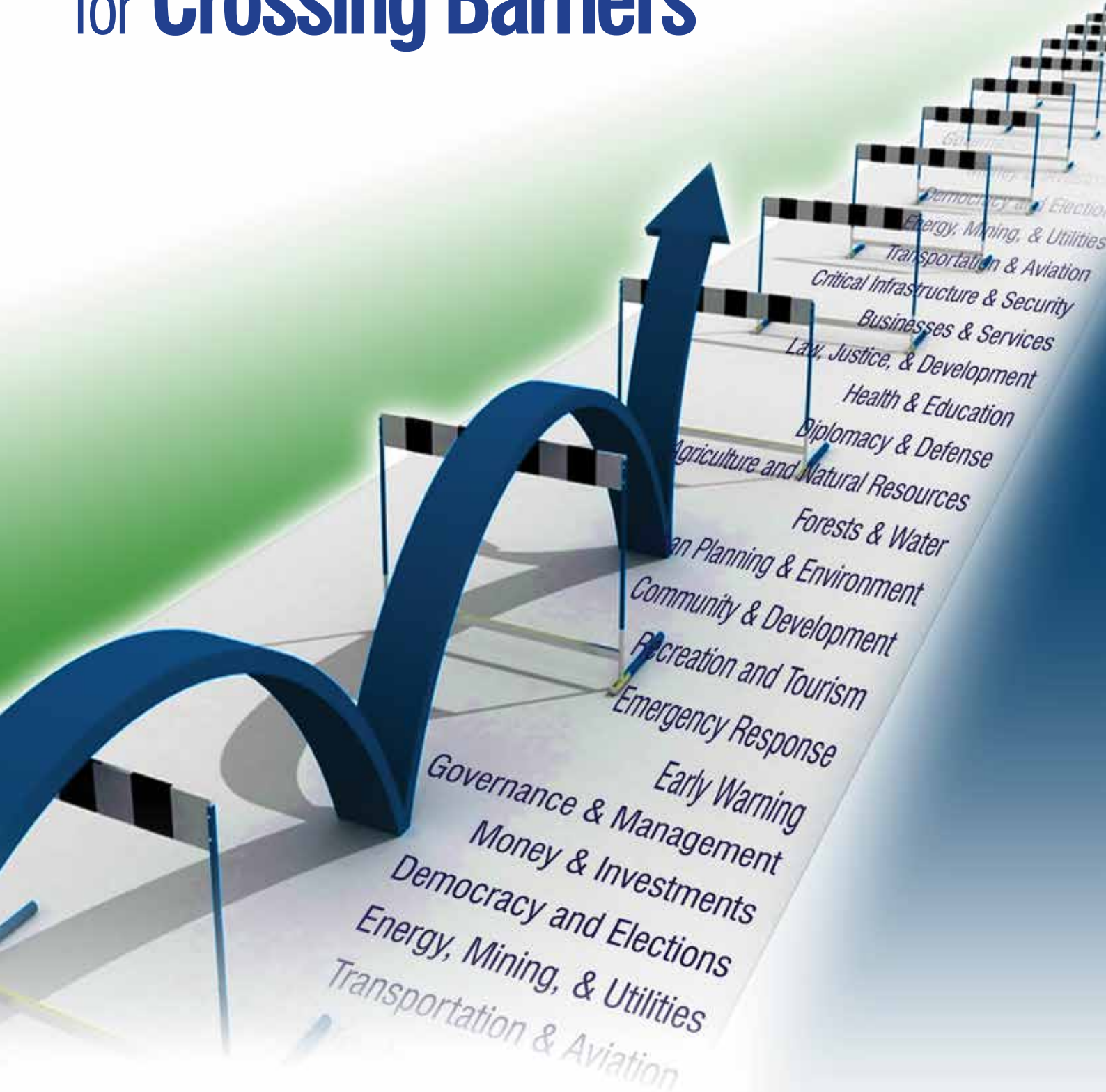
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