

Report on
Policy Dialogue on Education and Role of Parliamentarians
Islamabad, 19th December 2006

Participants

- * Javed Ashraf Qazi, Federal Education Minister
- * Riaz Fatyana MNA, Chairman PCHR
- * Tehmina Dasti MNA, Chairperson NA Standing Committee on Education
- * Senator Rozina Alam Khan, Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Education
- * Senator Dr, Abdul Khaliq Pirzada
- * Bushra Anwar Sipra MNA,
- * Zummard Khan MNA
- * Gul-e-Farkhanda MNA
- * Nafeesa Munawar Raja MNA
- * Ehsan Haroon Peracha MNA
- * Pir Muhammad Aslam Bodla MNA
- * Nawab Mirza Advocate MNA
- * Syeda Farhana khalid Banori MNA
- * Senator Raheena Yahya Baloch
- * Maulanana Rehmatullah MNA
- * Bukhtiar Mani MNA
- * Fauzia Habib MNA
- * Siddique Sajid Chief Reporter, Online
- * Zarnigar News Reporter PTV
- * Dr. Suleman Hamayun ESRA
- * Zahoor Ahmed ESRA
- * Abrar Mustafa Reporter Jang
- * Rizwan Ali ARY
- * Wajid Rasool ATV
- * Babar Shahzad APNA TV
- * Waheed Yousaf Rung TV
- * Umer Farooq Royal TV

Working Group

- Mr. Riaz Fatyana MNA Chairman PCHR
- Mr. Haroon Ehsan Piracha MNA
- Syed Javed Ali Shah MNA
- Ms. Nafisa Raja MNA
- Ms. Tehmina Dasti MNA Parliamentary Secretary for Education
- Ms. Rifat Javed Kahlon MNA Parliamentary Secretary for Telecommunication & IT
- Ms. Bushra Anwar Sipra MNA Parliamentary Secretary for Environment
- Ms. Gul-e-Ferkhunda MNA

Dr.. Farid Ahmed Piracha MNA
Syed Bukhtiar Maani MNA

Seminar Proceedings

This seminar was organized by PCHR in collaboration with ESRA at Parliament House at Islamabad. Federal Education Minister Javed Ashraf Qazi participated as chief guest while Riaz Fatyana MNA, Chairman PCHR presided the seminar. This seminar was organized by PCHR in collaboration with ESRA at Parliament House at Islamabad. Federal Education Minister Javed Ashraf Qazi participated as chief guest while Riaz Fatyana MNA, Chairman PCHR presided the seminar. He delivered his presidential address on education. Participants of the seminar presented their views about education reforms. Chief guest highlighted various issues on which education ministry is working for inclusion in the education policy.

State of Education in Pakistan

Education is the corner stone of broad based socio-economic development and that education plays a vital role in activating human agency towards enlightenment reform and development. Education for any nation is a mean to achieve what it envisages for prosperity and growth. In our understanding education promotes a productive and informed citizenship and creates opportunities for the socially and economically underprivileged section of society. Only educated workforce equipped with modern skills can compete and benefit from globalization.

State of Pakistan is not very encouraging since its inception. While various regimes have emphasized on the significance of education., however it is still in, despair. Many reasons are as lack of commitment on the part of political leadership, unavailability of adequate financial means, sticking to traditional approaches in education policy formulation and ambitious goals set by the policy makers stand supreme among others. As a result, the country is logging behind education sector even to its other less developed regional countries. This is a hard reality that we have lowest literacy in our region. We are just spending , until the last financial year, 2.1% of GDP on education sector whereas at least 5% is desirable for a sustainable education system according to international standards.

Education Policy

Education policy making in Pakistan , had remained invariably, a political. It is confined to policy makers , consultants and government officials. It has never been placed into popular political discourse. In a nutshell education policy making , in Pakistan, embraces top down approach. It can safely be argued that discourse about education policy making must be held in mainstream politics with a commitment and dynamism .Realizing this importance of education for our nation. We aim to incorporate public opinion into education policy making by stretching debates to public forums and involving their representatives at centre and provincial levels.

Parliamentarians Participation

In a democratic system , parliamentarians represent the people at all levels. Therefore, they are potent force and can make real difference on any issue of public interest. It is fact that they have direct link with people of their constituencies and have better understanding of their cultural and social needs. On account of this basic quality , their involvement can ensure that legislation in national and provincial parliaments relating to education is relevant to the needs of their people. Moreover, parliamentarians are in better position to raise debate and sustain the political will for action on various issues of national importance including the education as well. Above all, they can apply their control of the national budgetary process to promote adequate adequate budgetary allocations for education sector.

Javed Ashraf Qazi, Federal Minister for Education reiterated that present government is committed to improve the education standards in the country. He said that work on separate management service is underway for improving the quality of overall education management. Government is also considering to allow more monetary and career structure incentives to teaching professionals. Minister informed the participants that government has taken positive steps to improve the current examination system and uniform policy is being adopted in the country in this regard. Education Minister said that government is keen to spend more funding in this sector apart from NGO< s and donor agencies. Qazi Javed Ashraf also said that present government is concentrating to enhance quality of education and striving hard to raise the literacy rate in Pakistan to bring at par to other countries.. In this regard government is investing more on education reforms in remote and less developed areas of the country.

Chairman PCHR Riaz Fatyana MNA welcomed the participants with the hope that policy dialogue on education will be beneficial in formulating the education policy. He said that continuous professional development training of teachers shall play significant role in the promotion of education standards .He said that due to least coordination on education reforms among federal, provincial and local level , utilization of resources are not properly justified .

Ms Tehmina Dasti, Chairperson National Assembly Standing Committee on education briefed about the objectives and role of school management committees She said that school management committees are being made more effective to bring revolutionary sustainable reforms in the education sector.

Chief Coordinator Shafique Chaudhry highlighted the objectives and importance of policy dialogue on education. A working group of National Assembly members belonging to different political parties was constituted, to promote coordination among parliamentarians on education reforms. Working group will meet to discuss and highlight educational reforms issues on each time before the session of National Assembly.



(R-L) Riaz Fatyana MNA Chairman PCHR, Federal Minister for Education Rtd. Lt. General Javed Ashraf Qazi (Chief Guest) & Ms. Tehmina Dasti MNA Chairperson NA Standing Committee on Education in a seminar on education policy & role of parliamentarians



Shafique Chaudhry Chief Coordinator PCHR & Bakhtair Mani MNA participating a seminar on Education Policy & Role of Parliamentarians organised by PCHR in collaboration with ESRA

