



Pakistan Coalition for Education

Issue No.17, July, 2018



ABOUT US

Pakistan Coalition for Education (PCE) was formed in 2005 in order to provide a platform to civil society through which they can address key issues on policy advocacy and bridge the gap between policy makers and the civil society. The organization was formed for the development and implementation of policy in context of free and quality education for all. PCE is legally registered as the Society for Access to Quality Education (SAQE) in 2010. PCE is a strong advocate of evidence-based policy advocacy, community awareness and mobilization.

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Global Action Week for Education 2018

April 22-28, 2018

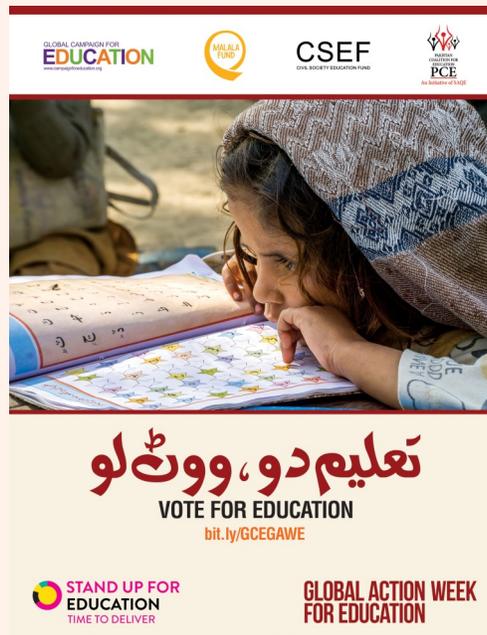
Global Action Week for Education (GAWE) is an international annual campaign led by the Global Campaign for Education (GCE). The week is celebrated globally by the public worldwide to raise awareness on the importance of education. Every year, teachers and civil society members work towards raising awareness on different education related themes.

Keeping in view, the upcoming elections of 2018, PCE's Global Action Week campaign was themed "Vote for Education". The campaign aimed at sensitizing grass root communities on the power of their vote and how it can be used to generate demand for pertinent issues including education reform for girls. The campaign was organized in eighteen (18) districts of Pakistan from all four provinces.

An education manifesto was prepared by PCE prior to the commencement of the campaign. To host a nationwide campaign on voter education, PCE shared this common education agenda with civil society organizations and coalition members for endorsement. The document was then disseminated to all major political parties including PPP, PTI, PML-N, JI, JUI-F, MQM, NP, highlighting pertinent education issues including the improvement of girls' education. An online campaign was also conducted through PCE's Facebook and twitter accounts.

PCE's education manifesto was tweeted to media cells of all major political parties, their manifesto committees and other political party representatives. At the local level, PCE's education manifesto was also shared with participating coalitions to be distributed to the local

Province	Districts
Punjab	Layyah
	DG Khan
	Rajanpur
	Khushab
	Khanewal
	Hafizabad
	Bawalpur
	Muzaffargarh
	Nankana Sahib
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Buner
	Swabi
Sindh	Sukkur
	Ghotki
	Kashmore
	Jacobabad
	Hyderabad
	Mirpurkhas
Balochistan	Quetta



contesting candidates from their respective districts. This document put forth concrete pledges that were meant to inform education manifestos of all political parties and could be incorporated as time-

framed, measurable commitments in party manifestos. It received positive feedback from key legislators including Deputy Chairman Senate.

To ensure equitable, inclusive and quality education and promote lifelong learning for all Pakistanis as agreed upon globally in form of Sustainable Development Goal 4, Civil Society organized by Pakistan Coalition for Education put forth a concise document titled 'charter of demands' to district government functionaries and local political leaders. This charter was shared at all district level consultations and thereby disseminated as collective policy asks to the respective provincial minister of finance, provincial minister of education, provincial minister for planning and development and provincial chief ministers.

Global Action Week for Education in pictures



Consultative meeting on Education in District Buner of KPK, organized by Rural Development Organisation



Education Walk organized in District Swabi by PCE's member organization Tanzeem Haqooqul Ibad



District consultative meeting on Education Financing in Muzaffargarh, South-Western Punjab.



Meeting held in Dera Ghazi Khan, Punjab.



Education Walk in District Rajanpur

Global Action Week for Education in pictures



Interactive session on 'Vote for Education' in District Bahawalpur



Discussion session in District Ghotki, Sindh



Symbolic Walk for Education in Mirpurkhas, Sindh.



Dialogue on 'Vote for Education' in District Quetta



'Vote for Education' walk organized in Hyderabad

Media Coverage of GAWE Activities

مجلس اعلیٰ کی 78 ویں اجلاس

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@nawaiwaqt fb.com/nawaiwaqt

LOCAL STAR

DAILY NAWA-I-WAQT LAHORE

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

لاہور کی سچی اور لیدنڈی / اسلام آباد کی دلنجان اور کوئٹہ کی شگفتہ شائع ہوتا ہے

SATURDAY, 28 APRIL 2018

جلد 11 شہان سنہ 1439ھ 28 اپریل 2018ء 15 مارچ 2015ء سے 16 صفحات 102 شمارے 37

UAN 111-222-007 78

سیاست دانوں کی عدم توجہی

سرگسے وگلہ ہال پر ووٹ دینے کی حالی بھریں تو لڑکیاں بہتر ہو سکتی ہے، ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے گزشتہ روز مٹا شادی ہال میں اپنی صدارت میں "تعلیم دو ووٹ لو" کے عنوان سے منعقدہ سیمینار سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ اس موقع پر مقررین جن میں عبداللہ مسعود، مختار احمد، شیخ اعجاز احمد، وحید انور اور جاوید اقبال و دیگر شامل تھے نے اپنی تقاریر میں معاشرے میں نکھار لانے کے لئے سیاست دانوں کو تعلیم عام کرنے کا پابند بنانے پر زور دیتے ہوئے حصول تعلیم کی افادیت پر روشنی ڈالی۔

The REGIONAL TIMES OF Sindh

Uniting People Every Day

THURSDAY APRIL 26, 2018

Consultative meeting on Vote for Education held in Mirpurkhas

By Sher Muhammad Malkani

MIRPURKHAS: Arts Foudation in collaboration with the Pakistan Coalition for Education (PCE) organized a consultative meeting on the topic of Vote for Education in Mirpurkhas. In this meeting, a chartered of demand was also shared with the participants made by Pakistan Coalition for Education. Shabzad Malik, the Executive Director Arts Foundation said, Pakistan became signatory of SDGs in September 2015 in which specifically goal number 3 is of quality education but Pakistan is far behind from achieving these global goals. Alif Aftan has released its report for 2017 regarding educational condition and improvements. According to the report Punjab and KP have brought improvement in the educational sector. Meanwhile, Sindh, Balochistan, and FATA's performance have remained very poor in the educational field. In Sindh, 47% schools are supervised by single teacher. Twenty-seven percent schools are running in the single classroom or washrooms for students. Meeting was attended by Kamran Memon - PTI, Nawab Qureshi - PPP, Naqash Mari - Functional League, Asim Shaikh - Jamiat Islami, Mureed Hyder Laghari, Muhammad Masood Abbas, Ali Raza Bhatto - Nusrat Miano, Sakina Laghari, Zuhra Baloch demanded that educational emergency should be declared in Pakistan and we should give vote to those politicians who priorities issue of education in Pakistan.

روزنامہ ایمان

بانی علامہ ذوالفقار علی خان لکھنوی

جلد نمبر: 03

اتوار 12 شہان سنہ 1439ھ 29 اپریل 2018ء

شمارہ نمبر: 21

پاکستان میں تعلیم سے متعلق چیلنجوں کا سامنا ہے، شہزادہ دین علی محمد میں سب سے بڑی آبادی والا دوسرا ملک پاکستان ہے۔

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روزنامہ پاکستان

بانی علامہ ذوالفقار علی خان لکھنوی

جلد نمبر: 73

اتوار 12 شہان سنہ 1439ھ 29 اپریل 2018ء 16 مارچ 2015ء سے 32 صفحات 15 شمارے 73

تعلیم دو ووٹ لو

تعلیم ذیہ و ووٹ ونو

روزنامہ انجم

بانی شہزادہ امجد علی خان

جلد نمبر: 20

اتوار 29 اپریل 2018ء برطانوی 12 شہان سنہ 1439ھ 116 شمارے

تعلیم ذیہ و ووٹ ونو

Regional Workshop on the CSO Spotlight Report for the 2019 High Level Political Forum (HLPF)

6th - 7th May 2018 Bangkok, Thailand

PCE is a member of the Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE). ASPBAE is working with national coalition in at least six countries in developing 'Civil Society Spotlight Reports' for the HLPF 2019 processes.

A meeting was convened in this regard in Bangkok, Thailand. PCE's Research Coordinator, Nida Mushtaq, attended the meeting on behalf of PCE. The objectives of the meeting are detailed below:

- Create a deeper understanding of SDG and SDG4 /Education 2030 processes, in particular the High Level Political Forum (HLPF), and the Voluntary National Review (VNR)
- Come to an agreement on the format, content, process, timeline of the Country Spotlight Report on SDG 4 for HLPF 2019;
- Agree on the content and key messages of the thematic

spotlight reports on education financing, youth, and gender and skills;

- Facilitate sharing and coordination between and among ASPBAE and National coalitions concerning SDG/SDG 4 processes at national, regional and global levels.

GPE Board Meeting, Brussels 12-14 June, 2018

Prior to the board meeting in Brussels, a pre-board meeting was conducted in the presence of GPE Board representatives Tony Baker and Kira Boe (CSO1), Laura Giannecchini and Zehra Kaneez, National Coordinator, PCE (CSO2), as well as Alba Gonzalez and Sylvain Aubry (CSO1), Bernie Lovegrove, Helen Dabu, Solange Akpo, Teopista Birungi (CSO2 constituency), and Natalie Akstein and Wolfgang Leumer (GCE Secretariat). During this meeting a joint position paper was finalized to guide the interventions of civil society representatives at the board meeting.

The key outcomes of the GPE board

meeting are detailed below:

- ➔ A paper was presented that called upon the Board to review actions of improvement identified in the GPE results report. The document called upon partners and civil society representatives to address the key challenges they face in their role as outlined by the GPE results report.
- ➔ Improving efficiency of Education Sector Program Implementation Grant (ESPIG) processes
- ➔ The Board approved Euro as the second holding currency of GPE Fund

➔ The Board approved the extension of countries eligible to access the Multiplier during the 2018-2020 period

➔ The Secretariat emphasized that due to a successful Replenishment, there is an expectation of around 70 grants to be approved in 2018-2020, which results in an increase in transaction costs related to grant application and approval processes. The Board decision language was largely approved, with a few minor modifications.

District Jamshoro: A case of neglect



In 2017-18 budget speech, the Sindh government announced that it will increase the education budgetary allocation from Rs 163.1 billion in 2016-17 to Rs 202.2 billion. Despite this increase, the condition on the ground is shoddy with poor infrastructure and serious governance issues. PCE developed a plan to engage district administration, local government representatives, school management committees, head teachers, community members and other key stakeholders to identify the root causes of the deteriorating education situation in the province. The model that PCE developed was to include all key stakeholders in Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), Community Consultations, Capacity Building Sessions as well as creating a volunteer People's Action Group for Education (PAGE). This group was formed in anticipation that the local issues could be identified, prioritized and resolved at the local level. PCE carried out its first phase of activities in August, 2017 where a school based survey was to be carried out in two selected UCs of District Jamshoro (Shalmani and Shah Awais).

Representatives of PCE also held meetings with the local authorities, community members, school management committees and parents. The outcome of the survey and the meetings revealed much greater underlying issues that were not known before the start of the intervention. PCE team also visited schools of UC Shalmani and Shah Awais to experience the extent of deterioration prevalent at the school level. School visits also helped in validating the claims made by the community members in the FGDs.

Despite various attempts, the District Education Department officials were reluctant to cooperate with the implementing partner/member of PCE. The District Executive Officer – Education (DEO) refused to provide a No Objection Certificate (NOC) to carry out a school based survey in the selected UCs. The DEO justified his denial by stating that he does not have the authority to give out such permission instead permission must be sought from the Provincial Education Department in Karachi. However, once the objective of the

survey was made clear to him, he gave a verbal permission to conduct the survey without a formal written letter. The implementing partner/member also sought the permission from Provincial Education Department which was declined.

Without the written permission, Head Teachers were also reluctant to provide information with regards to the School Management Committee funds received and utilized. Most of the Head Teachers also stated that they have not received any funding from the government and have not kept any record of its utilization.

For an in-depth analysis of the situation at hand, PCE team interviewed all key stakeholders of the District Jamshoro. The key stakeholders included Local MPA, UC Vice Chairman, Head Teachers, District officials, community and SMC members. A series of questions were put forward and responses were documented for the purpose of further analysis.

[Read further here.](#)

RTE in Pakistan: A right out of reach. Can justiciability of RTE transform Education in Pakistan?



Education is essential for the development and growth of a society. It is a fundamental human right and is a crucial means of realizing other human rights. Education empowers, emboldens and provides opportunities to promote equity and quality of life. It plays a pivotal role in every individual's life by teaching them how to think, how to function as a productive citizen, developing skills, capacity and confidence to secure other rights and be mindful of the obligations of the governments, duty bearers and right holders.

Access to quality education in Pakistan remains an elusive dream. Data and statistics indicate that enrollment and literacy rates are decreasing. The Economic survey of Pakistan revealed a 2% decline in literacy rate in year 2016-17. The survey further noted that the Net Enrollment Rate (NER) for primary schools at both the provincial and national level has decreased from 57% in year 2013-14 to 54% in 2016-17 thereby showing a cumulative

decline of 3% . This comes off as highly unexpected after the enactment of Article 25-A which holds the state liable to ensure free and compulsory education for all school going children. Why then have we noticed a steady decline in enrollment rates at national and provincial level? Enrolment only attends to one part of the equation, i.e. access to education. Quality of education also remains questionable with public schools offering substandard education, facilities and materials. Pakistan is ranked 145th out of a total of 187 countries in the Human Development Index (HDI). While Right to Education has been recognized by the state of Pakistan as a fundamental right, through the enactment of Article 25-A, its implementation in true letter is yet to be seen.

Public Interest Litigation can be filed by any concerned citizen for the protection of public interest. However, this entails issues of broad public concern that affect the public at large and can benefit the society.

The litigation can be used to address violation of basic human rights, fundamental rights, and religious rights and also to compel public or municipal authorities into action to perform a public duty. The Article 25A of the Constitution of Pakistan recognizes education as a “basic” right of the citizens which makes it a justiciable right, whereby the court can exercise its power and its judicial authority to ensure that these fundamental rights are not being violated. Courts can help shape educational priorities and effectively mandate the authorities to overcome the insufficiencies of the education system.

Article 25- A states that “The state shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age five to sixteen years in such a manner as may be determined by the law”. This Article holds the government liable to provide inclusive, equitable and quality education specially catering to the disadvantaged segments of the society. Public Interest Litigation

can be used to effectively advocate for lifelong learning opportunities for citizens whereby the government can be mandated to act in public interest and uphold their commitment towards performing public duties without delay.

PCE has been involved in public interest litigation in the Islamabad Capital Territory and the Provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab for enforcement of the fundamental right of children between the age of five to sixteen years to free and compulsory education guaranteed by Article 25A of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. It is noteworthy that the existing laws and statutory enactments are inadequate and do not fully encompass the scope of Article 25A of the constitution. Through public interest litigations, PCE is trying to further the education agenda by advocating for a comprehensive legal framework for the effective implementation of Article 25 A. Furthermore, PCE is campaigning for an increase in education budget, its timely dispersal and effective utilization, provision of basic amenities in schools, a proportionate teacher-student ratio in schools, improvement in mentorship and training for teachers, critical review of the curriculum and pedagogy methods, immediate efforts to enroll out of school children and regulation of private schools. PCE hopes to end the education apartheid where the poor can only access mismanaged public schools or madrassahs.

PCE has been pursuing the Litigation filed in Peshawar High Court quite aggressively. The results so far have been encouraging. The writ petition filed in Peshawar called upon the Government of KPK through Chief Secretary, Secretary Education and Secretary Finance, Civil Secretariat Peshawar. In the successive proceedings of the case, the court noted with a degree of concern that most of the schools in the province of KP lack basic necessities such as safe drinking

water, sanitation, proper buildings and furniture. The court ordained the Secretary of Education and other respondents to check and collect the data and records for all schools of the province and thereafter submit the details. They were also directed to inform the court about the remedial and corrective measures that have been undertaken or are in the pipeline to address the prevalent issues in schools. Furthermore, the Peshawar High Court directed the Secretary Development to submit a detailed report regarding the poor results in SSC examination. The court called upon the Additional Secretary to submit a performance based report on the missing school facilities and the out of school children that have been successfully enrolled.

While PCE has made significant headway with the petition filed in Peshawar High Court, the proceedings in Islamabad and Lahore High Court have been progressing at a sluggish pace. In Lahore case, there was a change of counsel for the petitioner whereby the former counsel did not cancel the power of attorney; instead the petition was withdrawn from the Court. Thereby, a new petition was filed with new counsel for the petition. In Jan 2016, the petition was clubbed to another case of the same nature. However, the proceedings have not been yielding progress at the desired rate. The petition has been de-clubbed lately and a co-counsel will be engaged to make the proceedings more effective.

The writ petition filed in Islamabad High Court initially called upon two respondents Secretary, Ministry of Education and Secretary, Ministry of Finance. Upon further deliberation, the learned counsel for the petitioner requested to implead the Federal Directorate of Education as respondent no. 3 to the case. In ICT, Capital Administration and Development Division has been established to govern Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) and Private Educational Institutions Authority (PEIRA). Therefore, CADD was also sought as respondent no. 4 to the writ petition filed for the ensured provision of free and compulsory education in

Islamabad Capital Territory. On 9th May 2017, the counsel for the petitioner also applied for PEIRA to be impleaded as a respondent for the proper adjudication of the petition.

Access to quality education is the requisite to ensuring a peaceful, prosperous and tolerant nation and is the incontestable right of every citizen. The inclusion of Article 25 A in the constitution marks education as a justiciable right. There is no longer a need justify access to quality education on the basis of other rights. It is therefore, sufficient reason for a concerned citizen to file a petition in context of larger public interest. PCE hopes to make education a public good that is accessible to all and not just an exclusive preserve of the elite. Substandard education system in public schools is a direct negation of RTE, as education is supposed to equip the disadvantaged segments of the society to not only change their socio economic living conditions but also to contribute towards nation building as productive citizens. It is the responsibility of the State to ensure that each child of school going age is enrolled in schools and has equal opportunities in education. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which have been ratified by Pakistan include a commitment to ensure inclusive, equitable, quality education and promotion of lifelong learning opportunities for all. PCE hopes to end the education apartheid where the poor can only access mismanaged public schools or madrassahs. It might seem like a tall and arduous task, but access to free and quality education is a liability of the government as they hold the public office and swore to protect the rights of their citizens. Therefore, as citizens and right holders it is only but fair to hold the duty bearers accountable for any shortcomings and negligence observed in the provision of free and compulsory education.

You have the information: Now will you vote for Education?

This blog was penned by PCE's research coordinator, Nida Mushtaq, prior to the General Elections 2018.

Tomorrow is Election Day! It is sadly that one time in every five years where the political parties scramble to get the attention of their polity by all means possible. It can be in form of cash handouts [1], meting out animal cruelty [2] or mudslinging the opposition party candidate [3]. It is also the sadly that one time in five years where the people continue to vote as per their traditions and beradari. [4]

All arguments on the transparency and viability of the upcoming elections and civilian government aside; if we were to gauge where the political parties stand on certain subject, an issue based cross comparison on their manifestos would be a good place to begin. After all there is a segment of population which is increasingly turning to cast their votes based on the promises of the contenders.

Almost all major (and some minor) parties have spoken about education in their manifestos. Rightfully so, given the dismal state of education in the country: 22. 84 million remain children out of school, most of which are our girl children.[5] This all exists despite the state undertaking the responsibility for providing free and compulsory education to all children from ages 5 to 16 as enshrined the Article 25-A of the Constitution.

So how do we know that the contenders for one of the prime positions in our political system are promising enough to uphold the promise contained in the Article 25-A? A closer look at their manifestos on education using the human rights framework would be apt. While using the UNESCO framework for Right to Education implementation checklist, I checked to see if the select political parties have given enough thought to ensure Right to Education for all Pakistani citizens.

	No
	Yes

Checklist points for key measures in ensuring RTE	PTI	PML (N)	PPP	ANP	AWP
Ratification of all relevant human rights conventions (including the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention against Discrimination in Education, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities).					
Establishment of multi-sectoral approaches to coordinate and implement the right to education across all stages of the life cycle.					
Review of all relevant legislation to ensure consistency with the right of universal access to education – for example, minimum age of marriage, nondiscrimination, child labor, compulsory years of education, birth registration, protection from all forms of violence, exclusion of children with disabilities.					
Devolution of responsibility for education, accompanied by capacity building, access to budgets and systems for ensuring local accountability and involvement.					
Commitment to transparency, accountability, access to justice and stakeholder participation in the provision of education.					
Full commitment to universal access to free secondary education					

Read further [here](#).

Contact Pakistan Coalition for Education



Get in touch with us



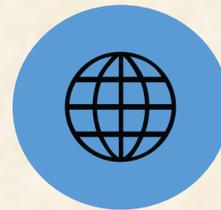
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