



PAKISTAN
COALITION FOR
EDUCATION

PCE

An Initiative of SAQE

OUR COMMUNITIES
OUR STRENGTH

THE ROAD TO EMPOWERING CITIZENS

The PCE Story: Join Hands For An educated Pakistan

Established in 2005, Pakistan Coalition for Education (PCE) currently stands as the only coalition working on education advocacy in Pakistan for eleven consecutive years. This network of civil society organizations currently works in 65 districts across Pakistan in Punjab, Baluchistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The Coalition consists of members from local Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and Education Reporters' Associations (ERA) in the media, who aim to bring about change in the education system of the country through policy advocacy and civic engagement.

In recent years, PCE has grown immensely with regards to its thematic areas of education. While it started from Financing on Education, PCE is now taking on several issues including the implementation of Right to Education, Education Governance, Girls' Education, Public-Private Partnerships in education and the Sustainable Development Goals. Since last year, PCE has also conducted additional research on unregulated privatization of schools as a violation of human rights.

Under the ambit of promoting people's constitutional right to education and demanding quality in education, PCE strives to educate people on relevant challenges that confront education, and also convey citizens' perspectives to policymakers. In the process, PCE aims to ensure a dialogue between all key stakeholders and use its unique position to provide a platform for civil society to discuss, debate, and pursue measures for the effective and accountable delivery of education, especially for girls and disadvantaged groups. PCE actively works with government bodies and civil society organizations to implement policies and introduce reforms in education. PCE promotes girls' education and believes that real progress can only be made by removing gender disparity and providing quality for all, thus improving the overall state of education in Pakistan. PCE is a strong believer in evidence based advocacy initiatives and has carried out a number of researches with reference to budget tracking of school management grants, privatization of schools etc. Based on the findings of these researches, various advocacy initiatives were carried out throughout the country.

Through its platform, PCE helps to develop and strengthen partnerships with regional and international networks on education. PCE represents viewpoints of its member organizations as well as Pakistan's Civil Society organizations at large, at various national and international platforms. PCE holds various consultations and discussions to

harmonize viewpoints amongst various stakeholders on pertinent issues with a focus on girls' inclusive, equitable and quality education.

PCE strives to play a meaningful role in the implementation of Article 25-A through its advocacy efforts and has filed Public Interest Litigations in Islamabad, Peshawar and Lahore High Courts, to pursue this matter further through the mobilization of the courts of law. With the second highest number of out of school children after Nigeria, there is an immediate need to implement the Right to Education (RTE) in its true letter and spirit to counter this dismal situation.

Vision statement

"Education for all children and youth in Pakistan, which nurtures them to become critical thinkers and conscientious citizens; promoting harmony, democracy, and justice."

Mission statement

- Achieve PCE's vision by influencing policy at all levels, with all stakeholders at the district, provincial, and federal level, and with non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, and donors;
- Undertake research-based advocacy;
- Focus education initiatives on capacity building, especially in the areas of human resources and organizational processes;
- Effectively engage in networking and collaboration with members and stakeholders.

Multi-tiered Approach



Key Policy Advocacy Areas

- Right to Education
- Girls' Education
- Sustainable Development Goals
- Education Governance
- Community Mobilization
- Financing of Education
- Budget tracking under social accountability
- Privatization of Education (Human Rights Lens)

Thriving in Unison



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT



PCE is actively involving grass root level through its member organizations and has a reach that extends to 1000 Union Councils (UCs). PCE has been engaging a wide variety of decision makers, legislators, government officials, teacher, parents, students, media personnel and representatives of the government through various consultations at national, provincial and district level. Over the course of several years, PCE has been able to establish strong linkages with these stakeholders and has been working towards reinforcing these connections to make more coordinated efforts in highlighting the prevalent issues in education.

IMPACTING LIVES

Galvanizing Communities: Instilling Change at the Grass Root Level

PCE believes that real change stems from effecting social reforms at the grass root level. Community mobilization is at the heart of PCE's advocacy efforts. PCE has been raising awareness through various activities and initiatives in far flung districts of Pakistan. Through collaborative efforts with our member organizations, we hope to inculcate a better realization of rights and capacitate communities on the means to translate demands into actions. To better inform the masses, PCE continues to adopt evidence based advocacy, whereby each intervention and research study is preceded by surveys of schools to draw a realistic picture of the situation on ground. PCE developed a baseline report in district Ghotki and Jamshoro to help devise a more informed intervention on how to capacitate stakeholders on good governance.

This year, PCE campaigned for the need to vote for education in 14 districts of Pakistan. Global Action Week 2017 was centered on the theme of "Taleem dau, Vote lau" whereby it was pledged by all attendees to only vote for a party that prioritizes education in its party manifestos.

Citizen Led Initiatives: Together We Can, Together We Will

Citizens are the key to introducing relevant reforms in education. No education models can work without the active involvement of relevant stakeholders. PCE has been working arduously to develop a strong communication mechanism in order to bridge the gap between three key stakeholders of education at UC level; namely the School Management Committees (SMCs), Local Government and the Local Administration. Through capacity building sessions, PCE capacitated SMCs on School Development Plans, record maintenance and fund raising while representatives of the Local Government were trained on topics such as Local Government structures and their roles and responsibilities with reference to the promotion of education in their constituencies. As a result of these trainings, two People's Action Group for Education (PAGE) were formed in two districts of Sindh, Jamshoro and Ghotki, on a volunteer basis. The groups are being steered by local people to help build an effective communication and coordination mechanism between key stakeholders. PCE continues to facilitate all meetings of PAGE thereby enabling citizens to identify issues pertaining to education and work on tangible solutions at the local level.

RTE: A JUSTICIABLE RIGHT

Public Interest Litigation

On 19th April 2010, the Parliament enacted the 18th amendment in the constitution whereby it was stated that the "State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of five to sixteen years in such a manner as may be determined by law." Since after the amendment, Right to Education has become a justiciable right for the people of Pakistan. A public interest litigation was filed by PCE on behalf of the citizens of Pakistan to advocate for the proper implementation of Article 25-A.

Following the inclusion of right to education as a fundamental right clearly marked a shift towards the right direction. However, this requires further concrete steps in order to fully

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PHC seeks explanation on poor exam results of govt schools

BUREAU REPORT

FESHAWAR: A Peshawar High Court bench on Tuesday directed the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa elementary and secondary education department to file report on the alleged poor performance of the government's educational institutions in the recent secondary school certificate examinations in the province by and large and the government's steps for increasing enrolment of out-of-school children.

Justice Qaiser Rasheed Khan and Justice Mohammad Ayub Khan also asked the government if the relevant department acted against the people responsible for poor performance at the government schools.

The bench observed that it was unfortunate that the improvement in the education sector as claimed by the government was not visible despite the spending of billions of rupees during the last couple of years.

It fixed Sept 5 for the next hearing into the petition of a nongovernmental organisation, Society for Access to Quality Education, seeking the court's directives for the provincial government to enrol out-of-school children in line with Article 25-A of the Constitution.

Regrets improvement in education sector as claimed by government not visible

Lawyer Haider Imtiaz defended the petitioner in the case, whereas additional advocate general Mian Arshad Jan, additional secretary of the elementary and secondary education department Mohammad Arshad Khan and deputy secretary (legal) Enayatullah Khan appeared for the government.

Haider Imtiaz said in KP, hundreds of thousands of children of school-going age had so far not been admitted to educational institutions.

He said a survey put the number of out-of-school children in the country at around 25 million and 22 per cent of them were in KP.

The government's representatives claimed that around Rs22 billion had been spent on the provision of missing facilities, including boundary walls, electricity, water, washrooms and furniture, to schools during the last few years.

The bench observed that it was alarming that despite the spending of such a huge sum of money, the standard of education in government schools had declined.

It added that most people had enrolled their children in government schools over inability to pay fee of private schools and not over 'good' education offered to them.

The government's representatives said currently, 10 per cent of the government schools were without boundary walls, 35 per cent schools were without electricity, 25 per cent were without potable water, and 11 per cent were without washrooms.

They added that Rs9 billion were allocated in the present 2017-18 provincial budget by the provincial government for provision of these facilities.

The government's representatives blamed the delay in provision of facilities on the non-functioning of parent-teacher councils in around 27 per cent schools saying the funds were to be utilised through those councils under the rules.

The bench directed the government to make efforts for providing missing facilities to schools at the earliest and produce a report within a month.

It observed that it was the need of the hour that the government should take action against the people responsible for the declining standard of education in its schools.

The petitioner claimed that a large number of children begged and scavenged or worked as labourers instead of going to school for formal education.

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implement and enforce the law in its entirety. Provincial governments have not been able to develop "Rules of Business" for the implementation of Right to Education Act in their respective jurisdictions. PCE filed petition in Lahore High Court, Islamabad High Court and Peshawar High Court. As a result of the latest ruling on the case in Peshawar High Court, the secondary education department has initiated action against the headmasters of government schools that had demonstrated poor results in the FSC examinations.

Negation of RTE: Commodification of Education

PCE is an indefatigable defender of RTE and has been viewing the unregulated growth of private actors in education through human rights perspective. Privatization of education contributes towards increased segregation in society. PCE has been engaged in highlighting this issue on the national and international platforms. PCE presented a shadow report titled "Privatization of

Education in Pakistan and the Right to Education: A right out of reach?" with the support of Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (GI-ESCR), ASPBAE and seven national CSOs. This report was presented to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Child (UNCRC) at its 72nd Session for its consideration of the List of Issues for Pakistan. PCE was also attended pre-sessions for UPR that were intended to reflect on the unprecedented growth of privatization in education.

INITIATIVES

UC & District

- BudgetTracking Study titled "Do schools get money?" covered 14 districts of Pakistan
- Developing a communication and coordination mechanism for community stakeholder by creating Peoples' Advocacy Group on Education (PAGE)
- Raising awareness on multiple education related themes via Global Action Week
- Capacity building sessions with stakeholders from different districts regarding RTE, School Development Plans and Education Governance
- Mobilizing 3000+ community members for Implementation of RTE through public demonstrations in 20 districts

Provincial

- Public Interest litigations in Peshawar, ICT and Punjab High Court for the implementation of RTE
- Formation of Education Sector Plan Action Group (ESPAG) through consultative process
- Sessions with parliamentarians on the implementation of RTE, budgetary allocations in favor of girls' education
- Engaging policy makers on the formulation and analysis of Education Sector Plans

National

- Engagement with Standing Committees on Education at Senate and National Level
- Consultations on Girls' Education, Sustainable Developments Goals, budget tracking and Right to Education
- Policy discussions and development of Policy briefs
- Oversight meetings with parliamentarians on RTE and budget tracking initiative
- Public Interest Litigations on Right to Education

Global

- Parallel reporting to United Nations Committee of the Rights of Child through PCE's shadow report on Privatization and Human Rights
- Part of the pre-sessions for UPR
- Harvesting Hope initiative used as an information source for discussion on issues regarding education
- Selection of National Coordinator as board member of Global Partnership of Education, representing Pakistan Civil Society at the Global Level



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