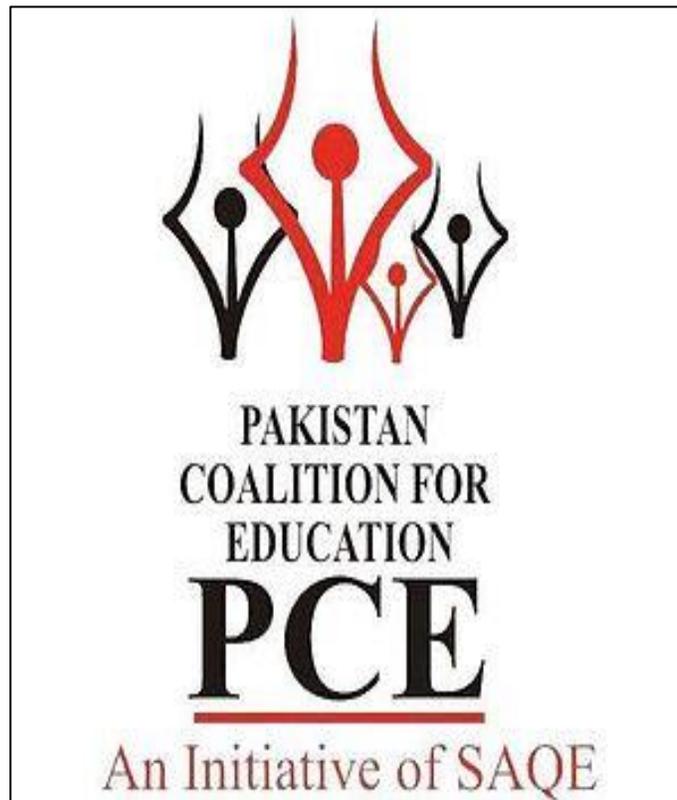


2017

GLOBAL ACTION WEEK



'Vote for Education'

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About us

Pakistan Coalition for Education (PCE) was formed in 2005 as a means to provide a platform for civil society through which they can address key issues on policy advocacy and bridge the gap between policy makers and the civil society. PCE works in 65 districts with more than 200 members including local Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Non- Government Organizations (NGOs), Parents' and Teachers Associations, civil society networks working on women and child rights and education and equally importantly with the media which is inclusive of education reporters associations and representatives of relevant education departments.

The organization was formed for the development and implementation of policy in the context of free and quality education for all. PCE is legally registered as the Society for Access to Quality Education (SAQE) in 2010. It is a staunch supporter of evidence-based policy advocacy, community awareness and mobilization.

Introduction

Global Action Week (GAW) 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. This year the theme was based around the need to 'Vote for Education.'

Pakistan Coalition for Education along with its member organizations commemorated the Global Action Week 2017 in 14 districts namely; Swabi, Mianwali, Jamshoro, Hyderabad, Ghotki, Muzaffarabad, Khanewal, Sukkur, Pishin, Dera Ghazi Khan, Bhawalpur, Sheikhpura, Hyderabad and Quetta. Seminars, debates and educational walks were organized to create awareness and put forth plausible solutions to the prevailing problems in the education sector.



The charter of demands for GAW 2017 is outlined below:

- Pre-budget consultation on financing of education with relevant stakeholders including District Education Officer and representatives from relevant government departments.
- Raising awareness on the need to vote for a political party that sets education as their top priority in their party manifesto.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

1. Tanzeem Huqul Ibaad, THI (Swabi)



Awareness walk led by school going children of Swabi on the need to “Vote for Education”.

THI organized a three pronged event to celebrate the Global Action Week (GAW) 2017. Social activists, government officials, parents and students marked the occasion with their unique contributions. A rally was organized to highlight the theme for this year’s GAW i.e. “Vote for Education” which was followed by a debate competition for school-going children. The debates were centered on the same theme whereby students emphasized the need to vote for a party that prioritizes free and quality education for all in its manifesto.

Furthermore, an educational seminar was put together to reflect on the development of education infrastructure in District Swabi. Sub division officer, Ghaza Bacha, addressed the seminar and drew attention to the School Improvement Plan (SIP) through which a sum of 60 crore has been utilized to facilitate 95 % of schools in the district. He continued that as a measure of improvement, schools have been equipped with 26 new science laboratories, 23 computer labs, 6 exam centers and a play area for a cumulative of 72 schools. He also remarked that as a positive outcome of the ongoing efforts in the education sector, a large number of school children are transferring from private to public schools. Aside from the development goals, special attention is being gravitated towards girls’ education.

Sindh

1. Rural Development Foundation, RDF (Jamshoro)

A consultative meeting was arranged by RDF which was attended by representatives from local government, teachers, media personnel, SMC members, CBOs, intellectuals, politicians and students.



RDF representatives at a consultative meeting on education reform in Jamshoro.

Mr. Fazal Khan Chandio, representative RDF, initiated the event outlining the theme of “Taleem dau, Vote lo” for GAW 2017. He went on to discuss the issues being faced by the education sector in Jamshoro. Mr. Fazal stated that currently 6.5 million children of Sindh are out of schools. He further added that under Article 25-A, the government should be held accountable for not being able to implement RTE and enhance the education budget for the district.

The participants of the event collectively prepared a draft that was shared with the DEO. The draft detailed a number of suggestions aimed at improving the state of education in the district. The dire need to revise education policy was strongly advocated. New surveys to identify existing problems in schools were also suggested. Special training sessions were proposed for SMCs and head masters to enable better understanding on budget and its effective utilization for schools. Furthermore, it was noted that civil society and government should collaborate in order to monitor and assess the utilization of education budget.

2. Sindh Development Society, SDS (Hyderabad)

SDS hosted a dialogue to celebrate Global Action Week 2017 ‘Vote for Education’. Education stakeholders gathered to discuss the policy and framework for district education budget. Views were exchanged on School Management Committees (SMCs), School Council Grants, budget financing and utilization of district education budget. Different issues pertaining to the allocation of educational funds were also deliberated.

The event brought together a diverse group of stakeholders including Mr. Syed Sujha, Regional Head, Reform Support Unit Hyderabad; Mr. Idrees Jatoi, Deputy Director, Bureau of Curriculum; Mr. Rehman Laghari, Finance Officer Education; Ms. Firdous Sangi,



Prominent Education Officers of the district highlighting major issues in policy and framework for education budget.

Director, Association for Better Community Development (ABCD); teachers, students, journalists, and members of civil society.

The attendees asserted that all political parties need to prioritize education in their party manifestos for Elections 2018. Participants collectively made a number of recommendations to the government. They suggested that local government officials should also be made an integral part of the SMC composition routine. Civil society demanded that the government should increase the education budget to at least 6% of total GDP and 20% of the national budget, of which 50% must be dedicated to basic education. Furthermore, it was emphasized that the government should regulate private schools in order to reduce marginalization and promote equality. To increase enrollment, the government should improve the quality of education being provided and introduce a healthy learning environment for public schools. The participants proposed that a monitoring and assessment mechanism should be introduced to gauge the utilization of funds where needed.

3. National Advocacy for Rights of Innocent, NARI Foundation (Sukkur)

To commemorate GAW 2017, NARI hosted a consultative meeting. Mr. Anwar Ali inaugurated the event with a brief introduction about the role of NARI in Sindh. He highlighted the efforts of NARI aimed at bringing about a social change through education. Mr. Anwar went on to explain the objectives of Global Action Week which is celebrated throughout the globe to mark a joint effort at ending illiteracy and enhancing the current education system. Participants discussed the prevailing issues in the education sector and presented various



Nari Foundation, district of Sukkur- Participants at the consultative meeting discussing the role of education in bringing about a social change.

recommendations to provide tangible solutions. The importance of accountability and transparency in use of education grants was underscored. The attendees emphasized the need to mobilize communities for the improvement of education. Mr. Rahim Bux from Parents Association shared that in Taluka Saleh Patt there are a total of 230 Schools out of which only 6 schools are girl schools out of which only one is currently functioning. He reiterated the need to implement Article 25-A thereby ensuring the right to education for all.



The participants presented a draft of recommendations at the conclusion of the event. The following suggestions were put forth:

- The government should ensure proper sanitation and drinking water for girls primary school
- The government needs to ensure timely utilization of non-salary budget
- The role of SMCs should be enhanced by arranging monthly meetings and coordination with communities

4. Hwa Foundation (Ghotki)

Hwa foundation carried out a consultation activity as part of Global Action Week 2017; an annual week pledged to raise awareness for education by the Global Campaign for Education, under theme “Vote for Education! وڈ، ووٹ لاء! ”. The prime agenda of the campaign was to collect the recommendations for next fiscal budget related to education at district level. Mr. Mansoor Ahmed of Hwa Foundation commenced the ceremony and outlined the need for an increase in the education budget to better facilitate the education sector of the district. He further added that during public opinion is never taken into account when devising the education budget.



Hwa Foundation; Parents, politicians and Union Council representatives at a consultative activity based on the theme of “وڈ، ووٹ لاء!”.

A series of discussions took place with regards to the need to vote for education and the maintenance of quality education which needs to be carefully analyzed and prioritized. The attendees put forth a list of suggestions including the need to construct and repair school buildings. Provision of furniture, basic facilities, school playgrounds and sports equipment was also discussed. Furthermore, the attendees signified the need to revise funds from Rs. 22,000 to Rs. 150,000 for all SMCs in the district. It was also said that non salary budget should be released on time for contingency planning. All the speakers were of the view that funds should be maximized for teacher trainings and refresher courses.

Baluchistan

1. Sabawoon for Peace & Sustainable Development, SPSD (Pishin)

A consultation workshop was held in District Pishin to commemorate Global Action Week 2017. A variety of people attended the workshop including members of School Management Committees, parents, students, CSO representatives, local political leaders, and opinion makers. SPSD, Executive Director, Mr. Naseem Tareen, inaugurated the event with the theme of ‘Vote for Education’. He

requested everyone to reserve their votes for parties and candidates who feel strongly about reform in education.



Sawaboon for Peace and Sustainable Development- Relevant stakeholders at a consultation workshop held in district of Pishin.

During the event, participants enumerated the issues being faced by female teachers and the lack of basic facilities at majority of the schools in Pishin. The view that transparency and accountability should be ensured was largely shared by all attendees. Furthermore, the need to regulate all private schools was emphasized, so as to ensure equality and reduced marginalization. Media personnel were briefed at conclusion of the event.

2. Youth Organization, YO

Youth Organization conducted an event on Global Action Week 2017, based on the theme of 'Vote for Education'. The event aimed to strengthen the voice of civil society in highlighting and assessing the prevalent problems of education sector in the district. Assistant Director of Education, educators, political figures, community representatives, lawyers, members civil society were present at the event to discuss the prevailing issues and mitigate possible solutions.

The participants stressed that the government should ensure inclusive and equitable quality education in Baluchistan. In an effort to make RTE a reality for Baluchistan, the need to integrate civil society members, PTSMC members, students, education department officials was discussed. The Head of Program Youth Organization, Amjad Lashari, briefed the participants about their project in district Panjgoor. The platform was used to reflect on School Development Plan at macro level particularly involving PTSMCs in developing the annual budget for education. The discussion also outlined that the funds allocated by Baluchistan government are inadequate to fulfill the needs of schools. The role of PTSMCs needs to be enhanced in this regard and Physical Need Assessment plan should be prepared to identify the requirements of schools so that they can be incorporated in the budget.

The executive Director of Youth Organization, Hameed Ulalh Kakar drew the attention towards the importance of community involvement in educational institutes. He went on to add that the government constructs the school buildings but the responsibility of maintaining it rests with the people of the community. Recruitment of female teachers was emphasized along with the need to facilitate them in remote areas of the district.



گلوبل ایکشن ویک کے سلسلے میں یوتھ آرگنائزیشن اور پی سی ای کی تعاون سے منعقدہ سیمینار میں پولیٹیکل پارٹیز، محکمہ تعلیم کے افسران و طلباء اور سماجی تنظیموں کے نمائندے اپنے خیالات کا اظہار کر رہے ہیں۔

Political leaders, civil society representatives, teachers and students commemorating Global Action Week 2017.

Punjab

1. Research and Community Development Organization, RCDO (Mianwali)

RCDO arranged an event to commemorate the Global Action Week 2017. The event was launched with the slogan of “Taleem Dau, Vote lau”. Civil society representatives stressed upon the need to vote for parties that will be focusing on education in the upcoming election campaigns. Regional Coordinator of Alif Allaan came forward to present statistics regarding education sector in Mianwali. He quoted that out of a total of 1296 schools in the district, 756 are functioning as girls’ only schools. He also highlighted that the number of schools for girls at primary level outweigh the number of schools for boys, whereas the opposite is true for middle schools. The unfortunate fact that there are no high schools for girls in seven union councils was also reflected upon. Leakages in school allocated funds were pointed out bringing to light the staggering fact that 9 % of schools in Mianwali district lack basic drinking facilities. The existence of dummy SMCs and the need for complete reformation was discussed with local body members.



Regional Coordinator of Alif Allaan, presenting facts and figures on education sector of District Mianwali.

Mr. Younis Kalyar from AEO development presented a list of ongoing projects in the education sector. He related that the government is focusing on providing basic facilities to schools and prioritizing quality education for girls. Mr. Tariq Ahmad Khan, opposition leader at District Council Mianwali shared his views regarding the state of education in Mianwali. He accounted that he wasn't aware of the existence of NSBs and reiterated that in the next district council session he would discuss the need to amplify the role of NSBs. He hailed the efforts of PCE in raising awareness and campaigning for a structured change in education policy. The house was thereby open for discussion, recommendations and suggestions. Participants talked on different issues pertaining to transparency and accountability in the education budget.

As a concrete step towards introducing education reform in the district, a resolution was drafted at the event. The resolution detailed the need for active SMCs and increased cooperation of UC chairman for the betterment of education sector. The resolution was presented in the Union Council Session by Mr. Tariq Ahmad on behalf of civil society.

2. Al-Asar Development Organization, ADO (Dera Ghazi Khan)

ADO representatives carried out a formal discussion session in Dera Ghazi Khan which included participation from teachers, civil society representatives, school management committee, students and political leaders. Mr. Tahir Iqbal (Project Officer - ADO), gave a brief introduction and background of Al-Asar Development Organization, Pakistan Coalition for Education, Global Action Week (GAW) 2017 and theme for current year i.e. "Vote for Education".

Education budget for 2017-2018 was discussed in great detail. Participants noticed budget outline and shared their views. The overall education budget of District Dera Ghazi Khan was found to be sufficient to complete the administrative expenses including salaries. Upon greater deliberation, it was noticed that no cost available was accounted in the budget for repair and maintenance of school buildings, furniture, safe and clean drinking water etc.



ADO representatives at a formal discussion session held in Dera Ghazi Khan.

Building upon the issues that were discussed earlier, several recommendations were made by the participants aimed at ensuring an improved education system. All attendees remarked that schools should not be privatized through Punjab Education Foundation and free education should be accessible for all. The demand for better facilities and increased budget for maintenance of schools was put forward.



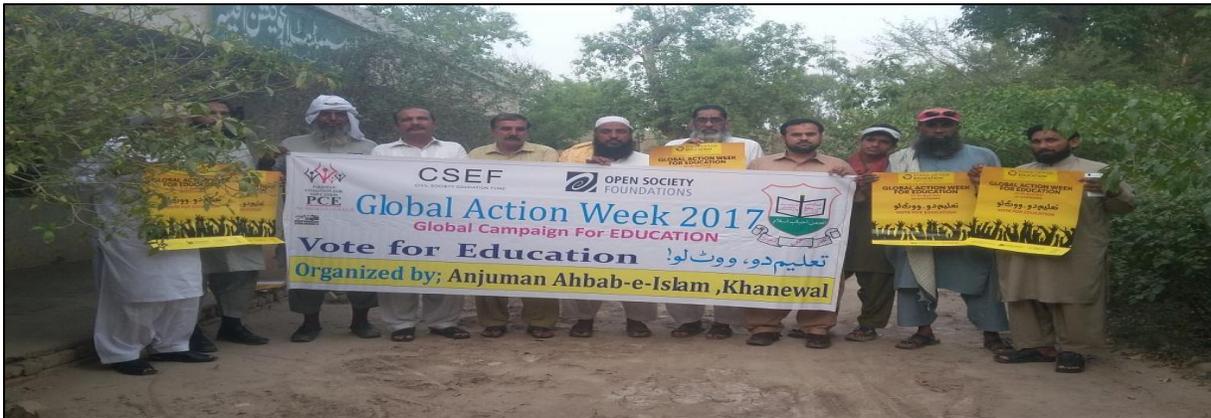
Dialogue held to raise awareness and make effective the identified gaps in the education sector.

according to the Article 25-A of constitution of Pakistan, the government is liable to provide free and compulsory education to every child aged between 5 and 16 and should be held accountable if it fails to do so. He opined that it is our responsibility to demand our constitutional right from government representatives and make voting conditional in favor of education. In the second phase of the event a debate session was organized that focused on only one UC of Tehsil Safdarabad, UC Dhabaan Kalaan. The education officials stated that the UC comprises of 8 villages where currently only 2 elementary schools for girls are functioning. Community members from village Talriyan Wali informed the gathering that their village has only one primary school. The condition is worse for middle and high schools that are located at a distance of 4 km from the village thereby affecting the education of girls in particular. The UC chairman proposed to further discuss the issues presented with the political leaders of the district.

3. Youth for Development and Democracy, YDD (Sheikhupura)

To commemorate the Global Action Week 2017, YDD organized a conference in district Sheikhupura. The theme for the conference was outlined as “Taleem dau, vote lo” and it was emphasized that people need to reserve all votes for electoral candidates who categorize education as a priority in their campaign for election 2018. Program Manager YDD, Mr. Tayyab Jahanzaib stated that

4. Anjuman Ahbab-e-Islam (Khanewal)



Diverse number of education stakeholders including education officers and members of the education departments celebrating Global Action Week.

Anjuman Ahbab-e-Islam organized a dialogue to partake in the GAW2017. The dialogue was attended by a number of education stakeholders who discussed the need to 'Vote for Education'. The participants demanded that the government should allocate to at least 6% of the total GDP and 20% of the national budget for education. 50% of the education budget must be dedicated to basic education. Furthermore, the participants drew attention to the need of accountability and transparency when allocating education funds/grants. The role of media and electronic media was highlighted as a means to ensure transparency and proper utilization of funds.

5. Noor Women Welfare Organization (Mianwali)

As part of the Global Action Week on Education 2017, Noor Women Welfare Organization held a dialogue in Kalabagh on 26th of April 2017. The dialogue was aimed at addressing the persisting issues in the education sector and introducing a conscientious voting policy. As per the theme of GAW this year, the participants collectively agreed to vote for a party that ensures free and fair education for all. The need to facilitate schools with clean drinking water and proper sanitation was also brought under discussion. All education stakeholders present at the dialogue agreed to further enhance the role of SMCs through guided efforts. The speakers and other education experts were of the view that an increase in literacy is pivotal to the development and progress of Pakistan but such an increase will remain next to impossible until and unless the government makes increased finances for education a budgetary priority.

6. Al-Kausar Welfare Organization (Bhawalpur)

Al-Kausar welfare organization conducted a consultation seminar on education budget at the District Mayor's office in Bhawalpur. The seminar was based on the theme of 'Vote for Education'. The main objective of the seminar was to align political parties and government officials to focus on education policies in the upcoming elections. The activity also aimed at highlighting the importance of quality education in ensuring better future for children.

Political representatives, district management officials, SMC members, students, teachers, opinion makers and media personnel attended the seminar. The participants prepared a unanimous resolution of demands and recommendations aimed at improving the education sector for district Bhawalpur. The resolution was sent to Prime Minister of Pakistan, Federal Minister of Finance, Federal Minister of Planning and Development and Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training. The participants emphasized the need for all political parties to add education as a top priority in their manifesto for general elections 2018. The attendees also stressed upon the need to include local representatives in school management matters so that issues can be identified and rectified. It was proposed that the government should increase education budget to 6% of the total GDP and 20% of the education budget. 50% of the entire education budget should be dedicated to basic education. The government was also asked to take immediate steps to regularize private institutes so as to promote equality and negate the sense of marginalization. Lastly, the government was urged to take necessary steps to enroll maximum out of school children in the nearest schools and ensure their retention.

Azad Jammu Kashmir

1. Sustainable Development Organization, SDO (Muzaffarabad)

SDO held a meeting in Muzaffarabad to mark the Global Action Week 2017. Mr. Khurram Jamal Shahid, Chief Executive of SDO, gave brief presentation about GAW 2017 objectives, global movement and PCE's efforts in Pakistan for ending education emergency. He elaborated the commitment of SDO and PCE for improvement and reforms in education sector. He highlighted the dire need of reasonable allocation of funds and transparent utilization of the budget. He urged all the attendees to vote for electoral candidates who set education as the top benchmark in their party manifestos.



Seminar arranged in Muzaffarabad to remind government representatives and policy makers of their promises regarding the promotion of education.

During the discussion it was revealed that AJK has the poorest infrastructure and facilities when compared to other provinces. 90-95 % of the education budget in AJK is non-development (major salaries). Mr. Raja Aftab, President AFN, CRM Coordinator pointed that the hiring process of teachers should be fair and on merit. He further added that young and educated teachers should be hired to introduce

A charter was put together by the attendees outlining various recommendations and suggestions for the improvement of education sector in AJK. The charter has been presented to the Prime Minister and Education Minister of AJK. The draft detailed the following demands and suggestions:

- Government of AJK should provide free, equitable, inclusive and quality education to all children.

- The government should also enact the Right to Information act whereby all information regarding education policies and budget should be accessible to the public.
- There should be no political influence in the governance, management and operational matters of education department.
- An increase in the education development budget should be made and a mechanism for the timely disbursement of grants against the running projects should be ensured.
- The participants also urged the need to ensure transparency for the fair utilization of the funds.
- The government should include civil society activists, educationists and think tanks in budget consultations and planning.
- A strong checks and balance mechanism should be introduced by the government to record the attendance of teachers.
- Promotions and awards should be based on the performance of teachers and students annual result.
- Government should help enhance the role of SMCs so that the performance of schools could be monitored and regulated.
- SMCs should be empowered to work closely with DEOs, DDEOs and AEOs for better school management as well as fund raising for schools.
- Government must improve quality and learning environment of public sector schools to increase enrolment and retention of students.
- The government spending on education should be increased to at least 6% of total GDP and 20% of the national budget.

In conclusion, it was highlighted that all votes should be reserved for political parties that include education as a top priority in their party manifestos for general elections 2018.