






Second Education Panel

April 17, 2013



Second Education Panel Members

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ToRs of Second Education Panel

- Critically review the report of First Education Panel and address all aspects of education sector
- Identify key issues constraining the quality of and accesses to education at all levels
- Suggest policy options/recommendations for continuous improvement



Key Considerations

- Education is key to developing knowledge-based society
- Quality of education system cannot exceed the quality of teachers and teacher educators
- Improvement in students' performance requires critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Impact of policy changes in education takes long time; ensure continuity of policies with change in governments

Key Considerations

- Although the State is responsible for providing quality education to 5-16 year olds, 40%+ study in independent schools which should be actively engaged at different cost points
- Current education system lacks strategic direction and capacity, hence, it will not take Pakistan to the next level of development
- Major transformation of education sector is required to move towards knowledge-based economy

KEY ISSUES




Key Issues

- Lack of Political Will and Good Governance
- Redressing Some Weaknesses of 18th Amendment Re Education
- Ineffective implementation; Frequently Changing Policies
- Inadequate Access to and Poor Quality of School Education
- Inadequate Management Capacity of Districts and Schools
- Lack of Research-Based School Curriculum
- Ineffective Examination and Textbook Boards

Key Issues

- Poor Quality of Teacher Education / Professional Education
- Need for Encouraging Private Education Sector / Independent Schools Without Abdicating Role of State
- Undermining of Role of Higher Education Commission and Inadequate Funding for Higher Education
- Ineffective Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) not Linked to Market Demand
- Disconnect Between Madressah Education and Formal Education; Restricting Employability of Madressah Graduates

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Political Will and Good Governance

- Initiate education reform supported by a strong political will and sustained commitment from political leadership
- Implement legislation in place to increase education budget by 0.6% of GDP every year until it reaches 5% of GDP in five years
- Separate the education cadre from the Basic Pay Scales of government employees

Education Policy

- Through Constitutional Amendment, redefine role of Federal Ministry of Education and Training to assume responsibilities for school curriculum and setting education standards
- Provincial governments should develop institutional capacity in educational policy and planning, school curriculum, teacher education
- Provincial governments should ensure free and compulsory quality education (where not yet compulsory) for 5-16 years olds
- Ensure Devolution of education system from provincial capitals to districts to tehsils; school heads must be empowered
- The Education Policy 2009 should be implemented by all provinces until a new education policy is developed

Access to and Improving Quality of School Education

- Government must consolidate public sector schools and improve quality of their education
- Public-private partnerships should be strengthened to improve access to and quality of education
- Use of ICT to increase access to education and make learning more meaningful
- The 'Vouchers Scheme' in Punjab has fueled education demand. It should be replicated in other provinces
- Investment in Early Childhood Education and Development has highest payoff and must be introduced forthwith

Management Capacity of Districts and Schools

- Provinces may establish 'District Education Authority' (DEA) in each district
- Streamline and empower School Management Committees
- With active support of provincial and district governments, mount campaigns to create demand for education
- Each district should develop a 5—10 years education plan



Research-Based School Curriculum

- Provincial governments should ensure implementation of national curriculum 2006 and timely production of textbooks
- Establish a 'Task Force' in the provinces to review capacity of Bureaus of Curriculum, Textbook Boards, and Assessment Centres and develop a roadmap for improving their institutional capacity
- Develop a vibrant framework for preparing research-based curriculum and textbooks



Examination & Textbook Boards

- School-based assessment should focus on student learning competencies. Reactivate National Education Assessment System (NEAS)
- Examination Boards must focus on assessing critical and analytical thinking skills and not rote learning
- Other provinces should replicate initiative of 'Punjab Examinations Commission' (PEC)
- Following success of AKU-Exam Board, private sector Exam Boards be encouraged



Examination & Textbook Boards

- Provinces should strengthen Education Assessment Centres (PEAC) to improve student learning achievements
- National Testing Services (NTS) must be strengthened
- Textbook Boards should move away from their traditional role as producers, publishers and printers of school books to regulators and overseers of high quality books



Quality of Teacher Education / Professional Education

- Form a 'Task Force' to review existing Pre/In-service Teacher Education Programmes
- Transform existing 'Provincial Institutes of Teacher Education (PITEs)' in Sindh, Baluchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa into 'Academies of Professional Education and Leadership' (APEL)
- Transform 'Directorate of Staff Development' in Punjab into 'Academy of Professional Education and Leadership' (APEL)
- Establish 'Professional Education Regulatory Authority' like 'Sindh Teacher Education Development Authority' (STEDA) in other provinces



Independent Schools / Private Sector Education

- Without Abdicating its responsibility, Govt. should incentivize independent schools by providing access to credit and grant funding
- Govt. may provide 'Education Vouchers' to high achievers and needy students
- Schools admitting students with 'Education Vouchers' should enrol higher percentage of poor students



Higher Education

- Retain HEC and ensure its autonomy
- Form 'Task Force' to review impact of higher education reforms, examine implications of 18th Amendment and evolve strategy for improving college level education and to strengthen partnerships between higher education and industry
- 20% of education budget must go to higher education in line with global norm. Increase should be phased in over 5 years
- HEC criteria for new universities and campuses be reinforced to control 'mushrooming' of poor quality universities
- Universities must improve governance and promote innovation, research and scholarship through multidisciplinary approach



Technical and Vocational Education and Training

- Form a 'National Skills Development Initiative' with employers to identify market demands and conduct skills research
- Incentivise private sector to establish new TVET institutions to international standards
- Set up a 'National Accreditation Council' under National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) to accredit technical / vocational qualifications
- Establish 'Training Resources Development Centre' to revamp curriculum, training models, pedagogies and assessment practices of TVETs and link courses to industry, business, agriculture and other sectors



Madressah Education

- Form a 'national expert group' with religious leaders and school education/curriculum leaders to improve Madressah curriculum, instruction, and examination
- Emulate experience of some Muslim countries; government may establish free boarding schools at grassroots level
- Ministry of Religious Affairs should work with experts on developing quality assurance framework for accreditation / certification purposes
- Introduce TVET programmes in Madressahs
- Introduce mandatory professional development courses for teachers and heads of Madressahs



Prioritized Policy Recommendations

- Strong Political Will & Sustained Good Governance are Critical; Redefine Role of Fed Min Edu & Training; Enhance Funding
- Develop and Implement Long Range Education Policy; Take Education Devolution to Local Level
- Ensure Autonomy of HEC and Universities
- Reform Examination and Textbook Boards and Teacher Development
- Much Greater Emphasis on Technical and Vocational Education



**Thank You
& Open
For Discussion**

