

Youth Global Consultation on

FINANCING EDUCATION PUNJAB

22nd April 2016

Contents

Acknowledgements.....	3
Introduction	4
Framework for Engagement at the Consultation	7
Summary of Recommendations.....	7
Concluding Remarks.....	8
Annex	9

Acknowledgements

The Youth Global Consultation on Financing Education was held in Lahore, Punjab on the 22nd of April 2016. Punjab University, Institute of Education and Research graciously hosted and facilitated the ITA team for the consultation on behalf of the **International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity** (<http://educationcommission.org/>).

The Education Commission chaired by Sir Gordon Brown, UN Special Envoy for Global Education was established in September 2015 and announced in July 2015 in Oslo. It has three clear objectives:

1. Bring together the best evidence from around the globe about what works to expand and improve learning opportunities.
2. Agree on an investment case and agenda for action.
3. Inspire and persuade leaders – at all levels and sectors – to action.

Students and faculty from the University along with EYAs participated in the consultation process.

This exercise would not have been possible without the active engagement and support of;

Open Society Foundations for supporting ITA's nationwide advocacy campaign for Right to Education for achieving 25 A as a fundamental right under the Constitution of Pakistan

Teams from:

- Campaign: Education Youth Ambassadors (EYAs) in Right to Education (RTE) 25 A Pakistan
 - Campaign: ASER Pakistan
- Supported by

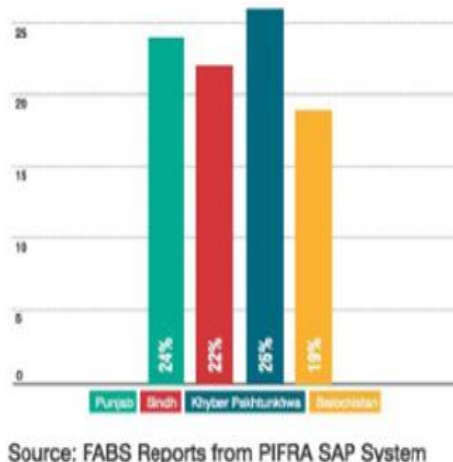
Idara-a-Taleem-o-Agahi (ITA) public trust, both National and Provincial teams

Introduction

The world today faces the grave danger of failing yet again to meet the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG s) and SDG 4 with respect to education, and increase the ever widening gap between developed and developing countries if efforts to deliver quality education are not improved considerably. Inaction will lead to more than 124 million children and youth being denied access to schools, and a growing number beyond 250 million children in schools and not learning. According to Alif Ailaan estimates, 25 Million children in Pakistan aged 5-16 are not in school¹ (Alif Ailaan 2015)

Sadly, despite an urgent increase in the need for education funding, in recent years, there have been budget cuts in a number of countries not only by the governments but also international partners. A conservative estimate on annual financing gap for basic education is upwards of \$27 billion projected by 2020, excluding most marginalized children and young people from access and learning entitlements as committed under Article 25 A of our Constitution. Moreover, the finances present are inefficiently allocated across and within countries. Pakistan, a country marred by education crisis has allocated a meager budget of - only 2% of the GDP - to education. Pakistan lagged and was off track to achieve the Millennium Development Goal (MDGs) of universal Primary education and gender equality (MDGs 2 and 3) let alone the more ambitious post 2015 targets or SDGs 2030 particularly SDG 4 and its targets. In order to make quality education a reality for all children, urgent action must be taken by to increase the effectiveness and scale of investments in education. We must also focus on the most disadvantaged and devise innovative mechanisms to finance education in a manner so as to ensure inequalities in education are not perpetuated in the future.

Share of Education Budget in Total Provincial Budgetary Outlay, 2014-15



In a progressive step toward education, all provinces including Punjab have allocated a significant amount of their budget for education. In FY 2014-2015, a total of Rs. 260 Billion were allocated for education in Punjab, which is a 12 percent increase compared with FY 2013-2014. This is 24 percent of the provinces entire budget. However, the quality of education remains a question mark. According to ASER from class 5, 57 percent students can read sentences in English, 63 percent can read a story in Urdu and 51 percent can do a 2-digit division in arithmetic. While the

¹ www.alifailaan.pk/

province seems to be doing better than the rest of the country, we are well short of our aspiration for access and quality education for all. Similarly, the problem of the gender gap persists in Punjab also with 53% of all out of school children being girls.

Cognizant of the challenges of education in Pakistan, Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi held its third round of the Youth Global Consultations on behalf of The Education Commission. (<http://educationcommission.org/ways-to-engage/global-consultations/>)

Through these consultations ITA intends to stir debates about innovative means of financing education to fulfill Pakistan's national and international commitments to education and Inspire and persuade leaders - at all levels and sectors - to action.

International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity² is the outcome of the Oslo Summit on Education for Development (July 2015) where Pakistan's Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif chaired a panel on education emergencies and contributed through the powerful article "Schooling and social change in Pakistan", announcing the SDG Secretariat in Pakistan and reiterating increase of GDP from 2 to 4 % for education. <http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/pakistan-schools-and-social-change-by-muhammad-nawaz-sharif-2015-07>

The Commission's launch coincided with the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 mindful of 124 million children and youth denied access to schools and more than 250 million not learning. .

The Commission is co-convened by Prime Minister **Erna Solberg** of Norway, President **Michelle Bachelet** of Chile, President **Joko Widodo** of Indonesia, President **Peter Mutharika** of Malawi and the Director-General of UNESCO Irina Bokova. The UN Special Envoy for Global Education, **Gordon Brown**, serves as the Chair of the Commission with 25 commissioners representing diverse geographical and disciplinary backgrounds

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² International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity. <http://educationcommission.org/>,

The Commissioners including Baela Raza Jamil – Adivser/Trustee ITA are
(In two columns please)

1. **Anant Agarwal**, CEO, edX; Professor, MIT
2. **José Manuel Barroso**, Former President, European Commission
3. **Felipe Calderón**, Former President, Mexico
4. **Kristin Clemet**, Managing Director, Civita; Former Minister of Education and Research and Former Minister of Labour and Government Administration, Norway
5. **Aliko Dangote**, CEO, Dangote Group
6. **Julia Gillard**, Chair, Global Partnership for Education; Former Prime Minister, Australia
7. **Baela Raza Jamil**, Adviser/Trustee, Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA)
8. **Amel Karboul**, Secretary-General of MEF (Maghreb Economic Forum); Founder and Chair of Change, Leadership & Partners (CLP); Former Minister of Tourism, Tunisia
9. **Jakaya Kikwete**, Former President, Tanzania
10. **Jim Kim**, President, World Bank Group
11. **Yuriko Koike**, Member of the House of Representatives, Former Minister of Defense, Japan
12. **Anthony Lake**, Executive Director, UNICEF
13. **Ju-ho Lee**, Professor, KDI School of Public Policy and Management; Former Korean Minister of Education
14. **Jack Ma**, Founder and Executive Chairman, Alibaba Group
15. **Graça Machel**, Founder, Graça Machel Trust
16. **Strive Masiyiwa**, CEO, Econet Wireless
17. **Teopista Birungi Mayanja**, Founder, Uganda National Teachers' Union (UNATU); Deputy Director Education Services, Kampala Capital City Authority
18. **Shakira Mebarak**, International Artist; Founder, Fundación Pies Descalzos
19. **Patricio Meller**, Professor, University of Chile; President, Fundación Chile
20. **Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**, Chair, GAVI; Former Minister of Finance, Nigeria
21. **Sheikha Lubna Al Qasimi**, Minister of International Cooperation and Development, United Arab Emirates
22. **Kailash Satyarthi**, Founder, Bachpan Bachao Andolan
23. **Amartya Sen**, Thomas W. Lamont University Professor and Professor of Economics and Philosophy, Harvard University
24. **Theo Sowa**, CEO, African Women's Development Fund
25. **Lawrence Summers**, Charles W. Eliot University Professor and President Emeritus,

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The Education Commission is a major new global initiative engaging world leaders, policy makers and researchers to develop a renewed and compelling investment case and financing pathway for achieving equal educational opportunity for children and young people. The Commission's report is to be presented to the UN Secretary-General, who has agreed to receive and act on the report's recommendations, at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2016.

Framework for Engagement at the Consultation

The session started with welcome remarks from the ITA team and a comprehensive presentation on the overview of the Education Commission, the current status of education in Pakistan and its shortcomings in providing quality education for all in light of the 18th amendment, article 25-A, and the SDG 4. It further highlighted the gaps in education financing in Pakistan and potential innovative methods to fill this gap.

Following the presentation, the audience was split into five groups, each group evenly consisting of the attendees. The faculty at Institute of Education and Research, Punjab University as well as the ITA team facilitated these group discussions. The participants were also provided packages with a clear discussion guide as well as supplementary material on cases of innovative financing methods being used across the globe allowing the team to gather inputs and recommendations in a systematic way.

Following the group discussions and breakout session each group presented their recommendations and inputs

Summary of Recommendations

The student of Punjab University unequivocally stated that poverty is the leading cause of our failures to meet education goals and targets in Pakistan. Despite increase in sources of funding as well as heavily subsidized, and in some cases, free education, parents choose to not send their children to schools because the opportunity cost of child labor is too high. However, they recognized the need to increase sources of funding for education. They were determined that we can find our way out of the education crisis in Pakistan if we, as a community work collectively urge policy makers to devise innovative mechanisms of funding education. Some recommendations that the students came up with were:

- The government must cut down on infrastructure expenditure such as roads and metro busses (especially in the context of Lahore) and increase the budget of the social sector – Education should be given 4% rather than 2% of the province’s budget.
- The need for an all encompassing national framework on financing education that can serve as a blueprint for the provinces to follow to increase sources of financing education and best utilizing existing resources.
- Utilization of revenue generated from mineral resource exploitation for example Reko Diq in Baluchistan to increase source of funding for education.
- Debt-for-education swaps for education i.e a bilateral agreement cancel debt in exchange for better education outcomes. For example, in 2002 Germany agreed to cancel bilateral debt of USD 25.6 Million in return for Indonesia to spend on teacher training and building learning resource centers.
- Schemes such as adopt a school where donor organizations and private enterprises can provide funding to a public school to increase access for children and enhance learning outcomes
- Taxation on items deemed harmful for the society such as tobacco and caffeine, revenues from which can be used to fund education. Examples of such innovative methods of generating funds can be found across the globe. In South Korea alcohol and other such items are taxed revenues from which are used to improve educational quality.

- Empowering School Management committees and Parent Teacher Associations with greater financial autonomy for the efficient and speedy allocation of resources.
- Trainings of School Management committees and Parent Teacher Associations as to how they may utilize resources as best as possible
- Active participation of citizens to hold public officials accountable to make sure there are no leakages in financing of the education system.
- Education Funds should be transferred directly to students via student loan schemes to offset the opportunity cost (child labor) of their education.

Concluding Remarks

Following the presentation, Mr. Mathew Smith who joined ITA from KPMG London for strategy consultation expressed his delight at being part of a youth led initiative by ITA. He stated that this very youth is the future leader of Pakistan and it is extremely necessary that they take ownership of the problems of their country as a first step to remedy the wrongs and ensure quality education for their future generations.

Annex

Pictures

