

STRENGTHENING EDUCATIONAL LEGISLATIVE GOVERNANCE IN PUNJAB (SELGP)

TERMS OF REFERENCES (ToRs)

for Education Public Financing Expert

Institute of Social and Policy Sciences (I-SAPS) implemented various activities all across Pakistan for improving education governance and financing. I-SAPS is implementing an initiative for Strengthening Educational Legislative Governance in Punjab, through evidence-based advocacy that informs and engages provincial legislators to raise voice for amendment in the Rules of Procedure for standing committees. We understand that the standing committee on education will serve as the entry points for initiating debate for enhanced participation of standing committees in the legislative governance in Punjab. Under this initiative, I-SAPS will also engage CSOs and media to leverage evidence-based demand for strengthening education governance, financing and oversight. It is expected that the project will help create political and legislative support for improvement in procedures of the standing committee and effective participation of provincial legislators for improved education governance.

Role of legislators comes into play at various steps in the education governance which include policymaking (e.g. curricula development), resource allocation (e.g. development schemes), and procurement (e.g. printing of textbooks). Considering significance of linkage between legislative governance and education there is need to mobilize various stakeholders to demand and galvanize legislators at federal and provincial levels to deliver better education for all children.

In order to fulfill the challenges posed by Article 25-A of free and compulsory education to the children aged 5-16 years, it is vital that the financial priorities are re-aligned. Not only legal and administrative sides of reforms are needed but there is also need to shift financing priorities and practices to ensure that all out of school children are brought into the education system and retained. In this context, a study on public financing of education is being carried out under the project to identify challenges and areas for improvement in budgetary allocations and utilizations. With this reference, I-SAPS is hiring services of an Education Public Financing Expert to conduct the Study on Public Financing of Education in Punjab.

1.1 Purpose of Engagement

The main purpose of the activity is to produce evidence to engage provincial legislators and government officials for improved education financing and provide guidance for effective implementation of Right to Education (RTE) (Article 25-A) in Punjab.

1.2 Scope of Work and Key Tasks

In order to fulfill the challenges posed by Article 25-A of the Constitution of Pakistan of free and compulsory education to the children aged 5-16 years, there is also need to shift financing priorities and practices to ensure that all out of school children are brought into the education system and retained. In this context, in-depth analysis of education budgets at provincial and district levels will be carried out under the project to identify challenges and areas for improvement in budgetary allocations and utilizations. The budget analysis would include

analysis of spending trends using budget books and detailed analysis of Project to Improve Financial Reporting and Auditing (PIFRA) Data. A report based on the analysis of provincial and district levels education budget for 2015-16 in comparison with previous two years would be prepared. The analysis will identify changes in the pattern and trends in allocation and expenditure and highlight their implications for educational outcomes. The report will also include analysis based on consultations with select School Council (SC) members as well as public and private sector education practitioners/experts. Information and knowledge generated through the analysis will be disseminated widely (especially among CSOs, private- and public-sector education practitioners/experts, SCs and media) and will be used to engage provincial legislators and government officials for improved education financing. The report and its findings will be shared with all relevant stakeholders through a report launch event.

The expert will be engaged to perform following tasks.

- a) Extracting and analyzing budget data using budget books.
- b) Data cleaning and analysis
- c) Holding consultation meetings with public and private sector education practitioners/experts.
- d) Collecting PIFRA data and its analysis.
- e) A report on provincial and district budget analysis.
- f) One report launch event to share the findings and information from the report.

1.3 Time Frame

The report will be prepared by November 16, 2015. Event shall also be conducted by the end of November 2015.

1.4 Deliverables

The deliverable shall include:

1. Report on Public Financing of Education in Punjab.
2. Raw data tables for budget analysis.
3. One report launch event.