

# **Strengthening Educational Legislative Governance in Punjab(SELGP)**

## **TERMS OF REFERENCES (ToRs)**

### **for Public Policy and Law 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.

In Punjab the legislators and political leaders have been performing their oversight and supervision functions in a limited manner for a number of reasons. Our experience informs that major constraints, with regard to little engagement of legislators for improved education governance in Punjab, are mainly limitations of Rules of Procedure of the provincial assembly Punjab, weak public demand and weak engagement of civil society for transparency and accountability. The Rules of Procedure limit the role of the standing committees by stating [Rule No. 148(2) of the Rules of Procedure, Punjab Assembly, 1997] that a committee shall only deal with a matter which may be referred to it by the assembly. Similarly, the Rule 154 of Punjab assembly (Rules of Procedure) does not empower the standing committees to accept and examine petitions of public interest. The Rules 158, 162 and 164 in Rules of Procedure also reduce the opportunities for transparency and citizen participation for oversight and accountability. There is a huge likelihood of improved legislative governance of education for better planning and service delivery if the above constraints are addressed especially if the role of standing committee on education is enhanced. The role of standing committee on education is extremely critical in view of the fact that there exist serious challenges in the context of public sector education system, which need to be effectively addressed to achieve the goal of quality education for all.

In this backdrop, I-SAPS needs services of a Public Policy and Law expert for conducting the Study on Challenges faced by Standing Committees in Punjab.

## **1.1 Purpose of Engagement**

The main purpose of the activity is to identify issues faced by provincial legislators in the education governance. It will inform about the restrictive clauses of the rules of procedures of standing committees that hinder effective legislative governance at provincial level. This evidence shall be used to sensitize provincial legislators about amendments required in the rules of procedures.

## **1.2 Scope of Work and Key Tasks**

During the activity evidence shall be generated regarding the procedural and administrative constraints faced by the provincial legislators in general and standing committee on education in particular.

Following activities shall be carried out to carry out this study:

- a) Review of Rules of Procedure of the Punjab Assembly, 1997.
- b) Prepare research instruments, such as Questionnaires.
- c) Conduct key interviews with members of provincial assembly and members of standing committees.
- d) Review of regional and international best practices.
- e) Review and analyze if any amendments have been proposed for improvement in the Rules of Procedure for the standing committees.
- f) Data analysis and prepare draft report on the study.
- g) Review and finalize the report for printing and dissemination.

## **1.3 Time Frame**

The final report of the study must be completed and approved for printing by the last week of the October 2015.

## **1.4 Deliverables**

The deliverable shall include:

1. Literature review summary
2. Questionnaires for key interviews
3. Report of the study on the Rules of Procedure for Standing Committee.