Political Advocacy and Outreach Support for Transforming Education in Pakistan (TEP) Phase-II

All Parties Conference

April 23, 2014

District: Thatta





Table of Contents

Cont	text and Background	2			
1.	Registration of the Participants:	2			
2.	Recitation of the Holy Quran and Welcome Note	2			
3.	Presentation on Educational Issues in Thatta	2			
4.	Discussion Highlights	3			
5.	Perspectives of Participants	3			
6.	Vote of Thanks	5			
Annex I- Photo Gallery6					
Annex II- List of Participants7					
Ann	Annex III- Media Coverage9				

Context and Background

Institute of Social and Policy Sciences (I-SAPS) in collaboration with Alif Ailaan is implementing the *"Political Advocacy and Outreach Support for Transforming Education Pakistan (TEP)"* in Thatta District along with five other districts across Pakistan (Hyderabad, Quetta, Peshawar, Lahore and Rajanpur). The initiative aims to develop and present evidence based research products to wide stakeholders to help facilitate the demand articulation of the citizens to improve situation of education. Under this initiative, political representatives including elected members and office bearers of the political parties are engaged on regular basis to help improve their roles in improving the education services in Pakistan. We believe that inviting political actors of diverse political orientation to a common forum to present their views on a given issue and having their commitments is very successful intervention.

During implementation of the current initiative we are intensifying and deepening the engagement process by conducting All Party Conferences (APCs) at the district level. The basic objective of the APCs is to present the district specific education issues to the political parties and to motivate them political parties to debate them and take collective measures to resolve these issues.

In the above context, a District All Parties Conference (APC) was organized in District Thatta on April 23, 2014 on the topic of *"Situation of Education in District Thatta; Issues and Opportunities"*. Proceedings of the APC are in the following:

1. Registration of the Participants:

The participants were welcomed and registered by Mr. Mukhtiar Ali zour District Coordinator I-SAPS.

2. Recitation of the Holy Quran and Welcome Note

The program was started with some verses of Holy Quran by one of the participants. Mukhtiar Zour, District Coordinator Thatta welcomed the participants and shared objectives and plan of APC with them.

3. Presentation on Educational Issues in Thatta

Mr. Ahmad Ali from I-SAPS gave a comprehensive presentation on educational situation of District Thatta to the participants. He briefed that under the umbrella of I-SAPS and Alif Ailaan, various research products are being developed including district specific citizen agenda. The Citizen Agenda sheds light on the education indicators of the district and also provides yearly targets for enrolling all out of school children in the district in the schools. He also briefed that the Citizen Agenda also provides the targets for provision of all missing facilities in the schools of the District.

Following statistics were presented to the participants:

- The total number of children in Thatta of the age 5-16 years is 478,000, out of which 288,000 are out of school
- The District has 3,204 schools out of which 729 are closed due to various reasons

- Large numbers of schools in the District have missing facilities, having a direct impact upon the quality of education in the District. Few figures of the missing facilities in the schools of the District are:
 - ➢ 57% are without boundary wall
 - \succ 61% are without latrines
 - ➢ 83% don't have electricity
 - ▶ 81% schools don't have the facility of drinking water

Mr. Ahmad Ali said that the situation shows a bleak picture of the education in the District and demands for the corrective measures on urgent basis for improving this situation. He further said that after the insertion of Article 25A under the 18th constitutional amendment, the state is responsible to provide free education to the children of age 5-16 years. There is need for improved resource allocation at the district and provincial level to fulfill this role.

Following his presentation and briefing, he opened the forum for discussion and requested all political parties to share their point of view regarding education situation:

4. Discussion Highlights

- Participants agreed with the facts and figures presented for the District
- Political party representatives said that they will work with their elected members to raise voice about worst educational system in Sindh, in the assembly
- They further said that they are ready to work for the better education service delivery in association with Alif Ailaan and I-SAPS
- All emphasized on the need for better policy development and implementation for education
- Participants agreed that they will take steps to provide basic facilities in schools
- Teacher absenteeism should be monitored by the Government education department
- Political interference in the education management should be avoided
- Education management should have take actions on absent teachers

5. **Perspectives of Participants**

Madam Humera Alwni former MPA PPP

Madam Humera Alwani former MPA PPP said that the facts and figures presented by I-SAPS show the challenging situation of the education in district Thatta. She said that we understand the implication of Article 25A for the state and province. She further said that we will work with I-SAPS and Alif Ailaan for the betterment of education services in the district it is the main source to defeat poverty, illiteracy and injustice in our society.

Mr.Shafee Mohammad Karnani (JST) Jeay Sindh Tahreek President

Mr Shafee Mohammad Karnai briefed that it's our pleasure that, today we meet only for the purpose of betterment of education, which is main pillar of our society and is getting weak with every passing day. He said that Government is not serious for the education sector and has been ignord for the years resulting into the society we are living today. He said that government has no effective policies for improvement of education. He said we are thankful I-SAPS that they arranged APC for solutions of education and we expect good hopes from it.

Mr Syed Shazad Hussain Shah PML (N) General Secretary

Mr Syed Shahzad Hussain Shah said that we feel astonished on the presented facts and figures but agree with them as these facts are in line with the issues in Sindh overall. He said that there is lack of coordination between the state departments, how they can help improve the situation. He said that it is very important to implement Article 25A of the constitution and needs increased budget. He said that we will raise voice in assembly to try to solve education problems discussed today.

Mr. Ghulam Shafee Samoon (Jamaet Islami Thatta) Naib Ameer

Mr. Ghulam Shafee through referencing the verses from Holy Quran said that education is very important for every child. He said that the situation demands for the improvement in the policy formulation for the education sector. The government departments and politicians need to work together on emergency basis which can save the future of the children in our country.

Mr Nawaz Khan Zour JST Jeay Sindh Tahreek Central Voice Chairman

He said that presented fact and figures are very dangerous for our coming nation; it will destroy our history of the nation if we don't take effective initiatives rapidly. We will work together with I-SAPS for improving this situation.

Mr Gayas Ahemd Memon (STP) Sindh Taraki Pasand Party District President

He said that corruption reached top level, education management found irresponsible and there is no effective monitoring system in government education department.

Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Alsti Memon Chairmen (ALWST) Asthan Latif Welfare Society Thatta

He said that poverty is the main cause of low literacy rate in Sindh. He said that the policies of the government are useless and no serious actions are being taken for resolving the issues by any decision makers. He further said that all the stakeholders are responsible for the for the kids who are begging on the roads. We need to undertake serious efforts for the fair distribution of budgets which should be performed by all.

Mr Kamred Hussain Awami Jamhori Party (AJP)

He said that there is big challenge in Sindh for us that educational system is at destructive point. He further said that for the betterment of this situation, not only I-SAPS but all responsible people should play their role. He said teachers associations are working only for the rights of the teachers but they are not performing well for better education. Government should have planned effective monitoring polices

for better education and Government should take actions on absent teachers as most of the schools are closed due to irresponsible teachers.

Other Participants

Others said that today presented facts and figures prove that educational system of Sindh is extremely worst. We appeal to the political parties and other decision makers who participated in today's APC that that education is basic right of humans, so there is need to immediately change and implement better policies.

6. Vote of Thanks

Mr. Ahmed Ali thanked all participants and said that this engagement will continue with all stakeholders in the coming months. He invited them for refreshment.

Annex I- Photo Gallery



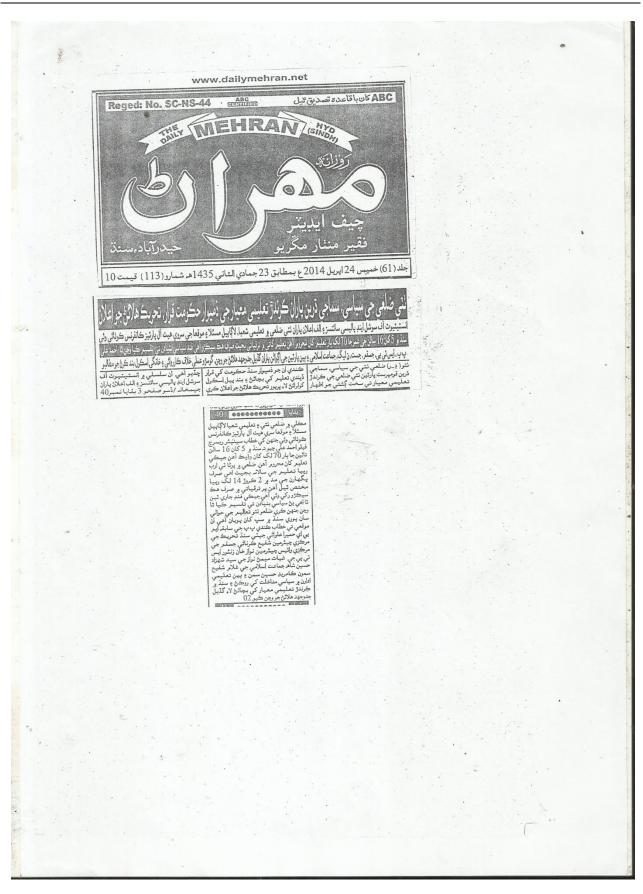
Annex II- List of Participants

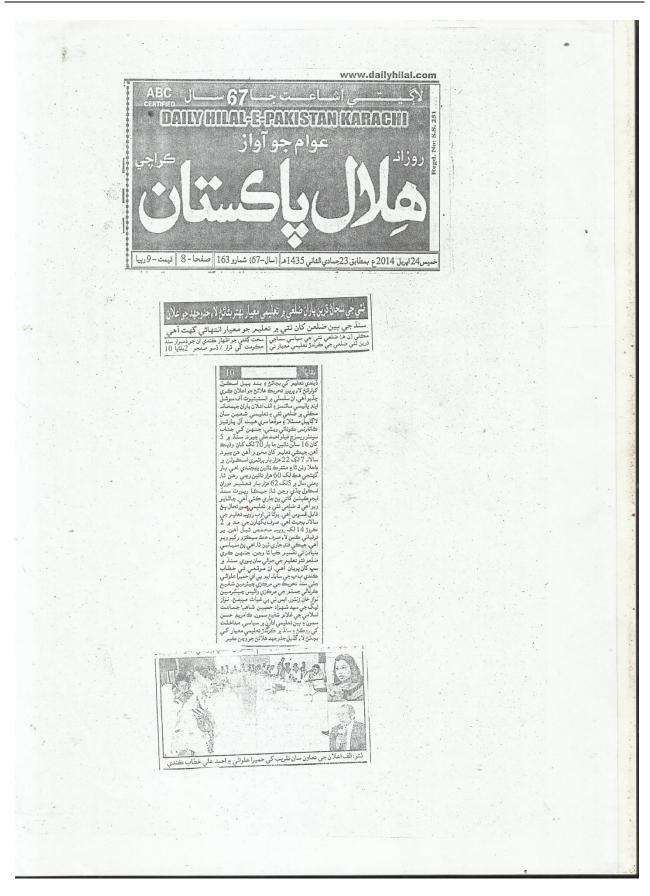
Sr#	Name	Designation	Organization
1	Arbab Ali Nawaz	Member Sindh Council	PML (F)
2	Shah Nawaz Brohi	Information Secretary	PML (F)
3	Pir Ayaz Hussain Qureshi	President	PML (F)
4	F. Imamdin	Member Sindh Council	PML (F)
5	F. Inam	S.W	PML (F)
6	Shahzad Hussain	Secretary General	PML (N)
7	PS to MNA Marvi	PS	PML (N)
8	Faqeer Javed Jokhio		PML (N)
9	Nargis Bano		PPP
10	Humera Alwani	EX MPA	PPP
11	Ghulam Shafi	Niab Ameer	Jamat e Islami
12	Mohammad Omer	General Secretary	Jamat e Islami
13	Essa Jokho	Zonal Organiser	MQM
14	Nawaz Shah	Vice President	Jeay Sindh Mahaz
15	Natho Khan	Vice President	STP
16	Hassan Brohi	Central Leader	STP
17	Ghayas Memon	President	STP
18	Qadir Chandi	President	SUP
19	Nawaz Khan Zour	Central Vice Chairman	JSQM
20	Mumtaz Zour		JSQM
21	Shafi Muhammad	President	JST
22	Faquer Abdul Raza	District Secretary	JST
23	Muhammad Saleem Atif	District Deputy Secretary	JUI (F)
24	Imdad Hussain Memon	F.S	AKU
25	Mohammad Soomar	President	Bar Council
26	Javed Shah	General Secretary	Frontline
27	Saleem Tunio	DPM	HANDS
28	Abdul Hamid	National Coordinator	LEAD
29	Shafqat Ali	N.C	LEAD
30	Shaukat Zour	District Coordinator	MSS
31	Noor Nabi Jung	DPME	NCHD
32	Ghulam Nabi	DPM-E	NCHD
33	Muhammad Daim	DGM	NCHD
34	Maqbool Bhan	Deputy Coordinator	Paiman
35	Neelam Abbasi		PAMAN
36	Munawar Ali Bhutto	General Secretary	QAT

Sr#	Name	Designation	Organization
37	Muhammad Arab Khuskheli	President	Sahar
38	Rafia Komal Memon	C.O	Sehat Mand Sindh
39	Tariq Hussain	Senior Coordinator	SPO
40	Aziz Ahmed	Coordinator	WHDT
41	Ghulam Abbas	Admin & Finance Officer	WHDT
42	Faqeer	Founder Chairman	
43	Hamid Ali Mughal	Social Worker	
44	Gul Hussain	Additional Secretary	
45	Muhammad Khalid Khattak	President	Press Club
46	Mirza Abrar	District Reporter	ARY News
47	Shabir Bhatti	District Reporter	Awami Awaz
48	Samar Mirza	District Reporter	Express
49	Muhammad Hanif	Reporter	
50	Mehar Ali	Reporter	
51	Muhammad Usman Memon	Reporter	Kawish

Annex III- Media Coverage







Institute of Social and Policy Sciences (I-SAPS)

