POLITICAL ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH SUPPORT FOR TRANSFORMING EDUCATION IN PAKISTAN (TEP)

Phase-II

Pre-Budget Policy Dialogue on

Effectiveness of Education Financing in Balochistan

19th December 2013

Proceeding/Report of Pre-Budget Policy Dialogue - Balochistan





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Acronyms

I-SAPS Institute for Social and Policy Sciences

MPA Member Provincial Assembly

PML (F) Pakistan Muslim League Functional

PPPP Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians

TEP Political Advocacy And Outreach Support For Transforming Education In Pakistan

Context and Background

Institute of Social and Policy Sciences (I-SAPS) is working in collaboration with Alif Ailaan to help tackle education emergency in Pakistan. The initiative is based upon the fact that the role of political leadership and their commitment is fundamental in addressing the challenges of access to quality education for all. With this reference political parties and their leadership are the essential means for shaping, influencing and directing the process of education reforms. There is a need to increase the 'political capital' that has stake in education reforms. Also, the focus of the initiative is to inform and sensitize the politicians, political parties, opinion leaders, local councilors and all those who have a stake in the politics through evidence-based advocacy for transforming education and to deliver right to education provided by Article 25a of the Constitution of Pakistan. Within this backdrop, the joint initiative of I-SAPS and Alif Ailaan in undertaking continuous engagement with wide stakeholders through and evidence-based political advocacy.

Pre-Budget Policy Dialogue

Considering the importance of financing in education, the initiative also focuses on improving its effectiveness of education financing in its respective provinces. I-SAPS has undertaken public finance analysis and conducting policy advocacy through dialogues and consultations with a view to contributing towards system and process improvement by providing evidence-base and informed policy options.

To initiate an informed discourse with relevant stakeholders, the pre-budget policy dialogue has been organized in Quetta, Balochistan to deliberate upon the critical relevance of resource allocation to education quality and accessibility especially focusing at provincial level in Balochistan. The dialogue intended to provide informed policy options and recommendations for improved allocations for public sector allocations and to suggest ways for effective utilization of available resources.

An analysis of education budget of the province of Balochistan shows that it allocated Rs. 24.52 Billion for education in 2012-13. About 92 percent of this allocation is earmarked for recurrent expenses and 8 percent for development expenses. The overall expenditure surpassed the allocation by 11%. The entire increase in expenditure was absorbed in salaries, increasing the salary expenditure by 20 percent over budget allocation and development and non salary expenditure was slashed by 18 percent and 21 percent respectively. An amount of Rs. 34.90 billion has been earmarked for education in 2013-14. The pattern of allocation has been drastically changed, slashing the allocation for primary education and enhancing the allocation for secondary and higher education and other miscellaneous expenses. Secondary education is the first priority with 40 percent allocation, followed by primary education with allocation reduced to 22 percent of total education allocation, higher education with share increased by 36 percent whereas the allocation for others slashed by 21 percent as compared to the allocation in proceeding financial year 2012-13. The actual expenditure will determine the outcomes by the end of this financial year.

Besides, persisting issues in adequate need-based allocation and utilization of budget, the new developments in the wake of 18th Constitutional Amendment and particularly insertion of Article 25-A has thrown new opportunities and challenges for education sector. There is a need to have informed debate on the required financial outlay and legal requirements in order to be compliant with the constitution.

The Pre-Budget Policy Dialogue on Effectiveness of Education Financing in Balochistan was undertaken to inform the key stakeholders about the above mentioned issues. The objective of the dialogue was to share an analysis of provincial education budget trends for the fiscal year 2013-14 and to initiate the process of informed deliberations to facilitate improvement in public allocations and spending on education. The dialogue also highlighted opportunities and challenges for education sector emerging after the 18th Constitutional Amendment for Balochistan.

The broad aim of this dialogue was to facilitate the informed debate on education budget in order to improve allocation education budgets for the year 2014-15. Specific objectives of policy dialogue were as follows:

- i. Provide the much needed interface between government officials, public representatives and civil society for improving the effectiveness of resource allocations and spending in the education sector along with a critical revisit of the associated governance issues;
- ii. Propose a set of recommendations for effective and appropriate budget allocations by relevant education departments in the province.

Proceedings of Policy Dialogue

Registration of the Participants

The participants were welcomed and registered by Mr. Nazar Mohammad Barech District Coordinator I-SAPS Quetta.

Recitation of the Holy Quran and Welcome Note

The program was started with the verses of Holy Quran by Nazar Mohammad Barech and Mr. Imran Khan from Alif Ailaan welcomed the participants and gave brief introduction about Alif Ailaan and I-SAPS joint mandate on the. He further elaborated that they are working on District level in Quetta. He also said that the policy dialogue is not only a meeting but also an attempt to work for Quality Education through political voice for two years in Quetta.

Presentation on Pre-Budget Policy Dialogue on Effectiveness of Education Financing in Balochistan

Mr. Ahmad Ali Research Fellow at I-SAPS gave a comprehensive presentation about the Provincial Budget of financial year 2013-14. He further explained the situation of education in Balochistan, number of schools teachers, missing facilities and teachers' training. He explained the major issues regarding budget allocation and its expenditure to the participants and opened the forum for question answers and suggestions Balochistan education budget. All the participants took an active part in Q/A session.

Discussion Highlights

Most of the participants raised questions regarding budget allocation and its proper expenditure as Balochistan being the largest province (covered area of land) still lack proper budget allocation and its expenditure and unavailability of facilities and resources. They

further added that the province need more educational institutions; even in Quetta City which is a provincial capital lacks basic facilities and claimed serious action from the Government.

They further added that government must increase the education budget for promoting quality education as well as make sure the availability of teachers in class which is immense and sensitive issue and Government must assure a serious notice against teacher absenteeism.

Some participants demanded to provide quality education and basic facilities in already established schools than to build new schools.

Perspectives of the Key Speakers

Mrs. Zubaida Jalal

Former Minister for Education Govt. of Pakistan

Mrs. Zubaida Jalal appreciated the combined effort of I-SAPS and Alif Ailaan and said that the government and civil society should cooperate to increase the quality and the enrolment rate of the students. She suggested that the government also fix some amount in the budget for special children. She further highlighted the issue of the teacher's absenteeism in government schools of the remote area. She also suggested that new local bodies have been formed so it should be prioritized to empower them especially on budget matters.

Massoma Hayat

MPA, Balochistan Provincial Assembly

Mrs. Masooma Hayat present MPA of Balochistan Assembly presented her perspective about the economic conditions of the people of the province and illustrated that the reason of not educating their children is their financial draw back. She also highlighted the lack of schools, missing basic facilities, teachers' unavailability and low quality of education un-trained teachers in the remote areas of Balochistan province and the people from remote areas cannot meet the expense of the private schools. She said that she will try to utilize her MPA fund in the education sector of Balochistan Province to improve the quality of the education.

Rehmat Saleh Baloch

Minister Health, Government of Balochistan

Mr. Rehmat Baloch appreciated the efforts and said that the several years' problems cannot be solved within few months. He shed light on the law and order situation and other emerging issues of the province and said that meanwhile we need to focus and resolve the other issues and once we are on track then we will priorities the issues. Every department is facing disturbance and lack the capabilities to recognize their duties. He also mentioned that the free books do not mean free education, but government has to realize its responsibility to provide free and compulsory education with all basic facilities. He pointed out the political interventions and teachers association as the main issue for promoting quality education and emphasized the need of fair and accountable assessment, and wanted all stakeholders to work jointly for the promotion of quality education. He also said that the political parties promised during election manifesto that they will bring reform in all the sectors which are under their

control and will change the old corrupt system in the province and the main focus of the government should be the provision of good quality education and health facilities in Balochistan.

Sardar Raza Mohammad Barech *Minister for Education, Government of Balochistan*

Mr. Raza Barech respected the aims and objectives of the work and valued the efforts of I-SAPS and Alif Ailaan in Balochistan. He showed deep concern for the increasing number of out of school children. He said that thousands of schools are do not have shelter and they lack basic facilities, and also un-availability of teachers. He said, India, Iran Afghanistan and Sirilanka were much backward before 1947 but took education as a serious matter but education is not on our priority, therefore, we are facing problems. At that time India was a facing many problems like religion, sectarianism, population, poverty etc but Indian government was serious and made effort for establishing quality and advanced education system for its people. Now India is far better in education, economics, and others social fields and we ignored the suggestions to invest in education sector and its impact can be seen now. He said, 18th amendment is just an amendment and no financial support provided by the government and at the moment we are not in a position to arrange budget because we don't have resources for that. He criticized the in-correct education ratio which is 57% by the federal government analysis but is just 10%.

It was also mentioned that Balochistan government has passed the bill declaring free and compulsory education under Article 25-A of the constitution.

Sardar Raza Mohammed Barech also discussed that there are schools main city that has no functioning toilets and 850 schools are shelter less in Balochistan.

In Mr. Barech's view, there is a need of recruiting some 60,000 new teachers and opening approximately 13,000 new schools to meet the target of educating all of Balochistan's children.

Figures of the provincial education department data shows that there are only 57,000 teachers employed for 12,600 primary, middle and high schools in Balochistan. But at the Province level there are more than 2,000 'ghost' schools with around 4,000 'ghost' teachers and according to his information almost 23,000 settlements across the province have no schools at all. These settlements need schools in every settlement.

For the achievement of MDG's, resources are required in order to build more than 13,000 new schools and 50,000 teachers in Balochistan. The provincial government has been left without any financial resources and in this allocated budget, development speed will be very slow and it is impossible to meet the goals.

He gave this standpoint that as politician they have to face a lot of problems but still they accept the challenges and will do better and need more time.

Vote of Thanks

At the end of the policy dialogue, Mr. Ahmad Ali thanked the participants for attending and taking part in discussion.

Annex I- Picture Gallery



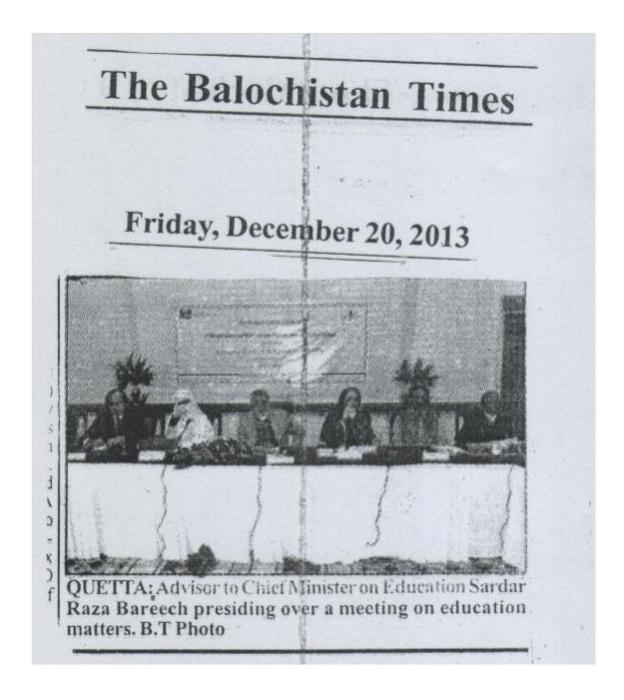


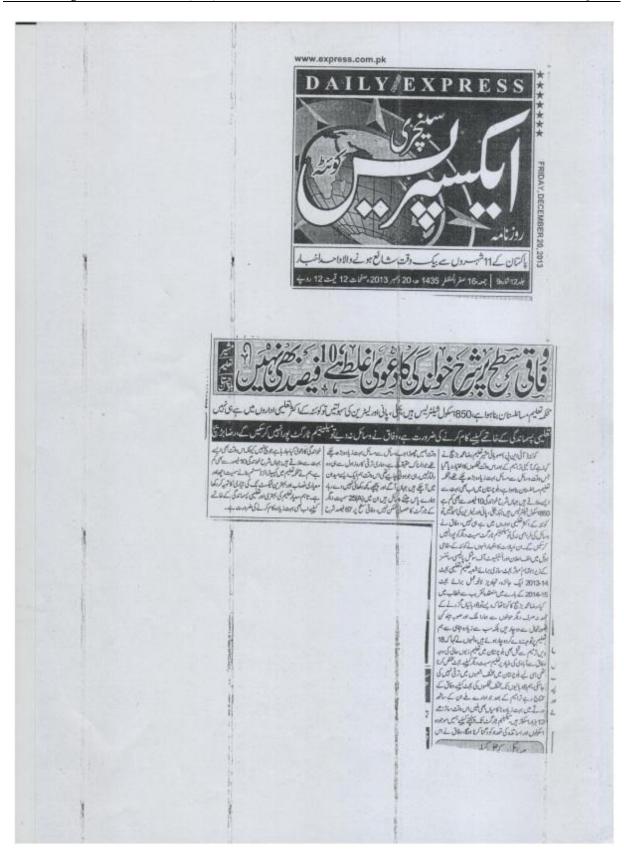


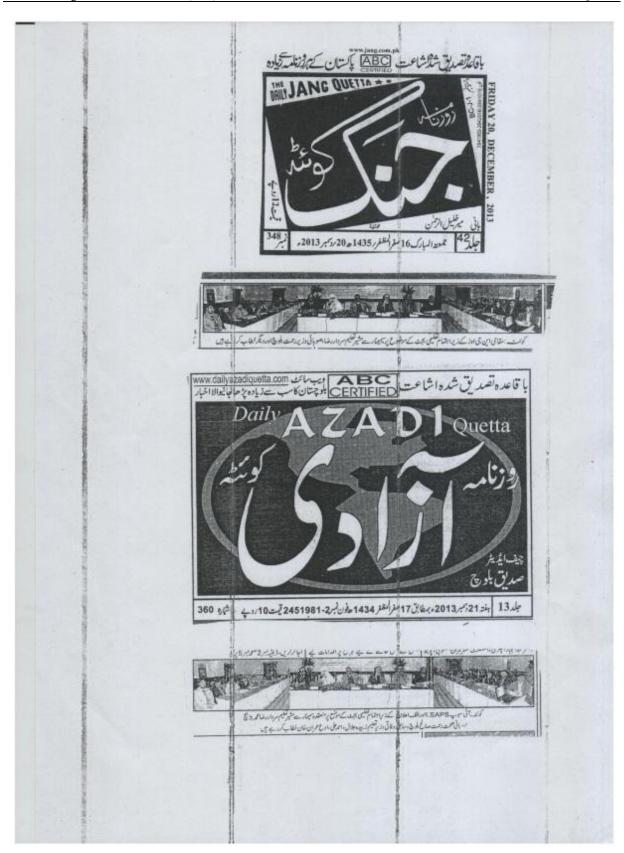


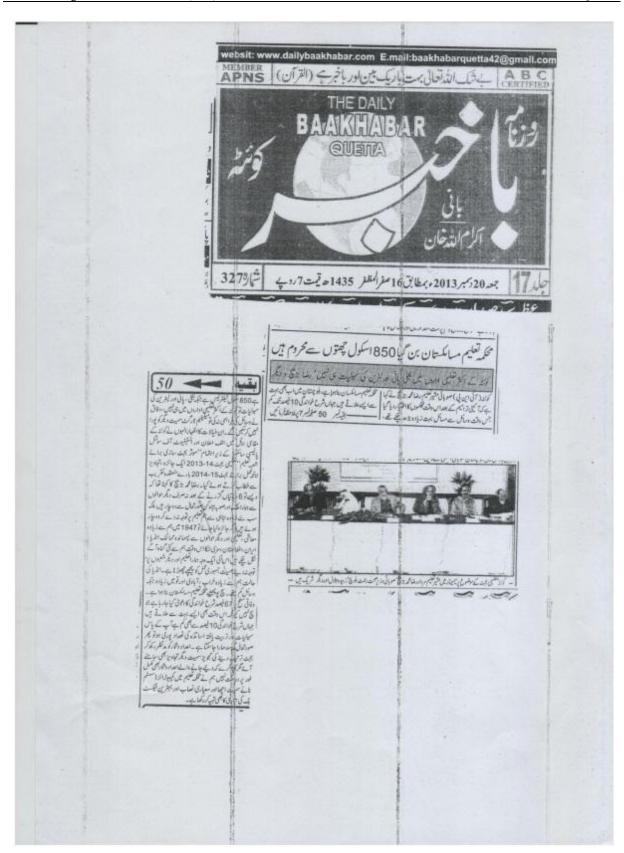


Annex II - Media Coverage





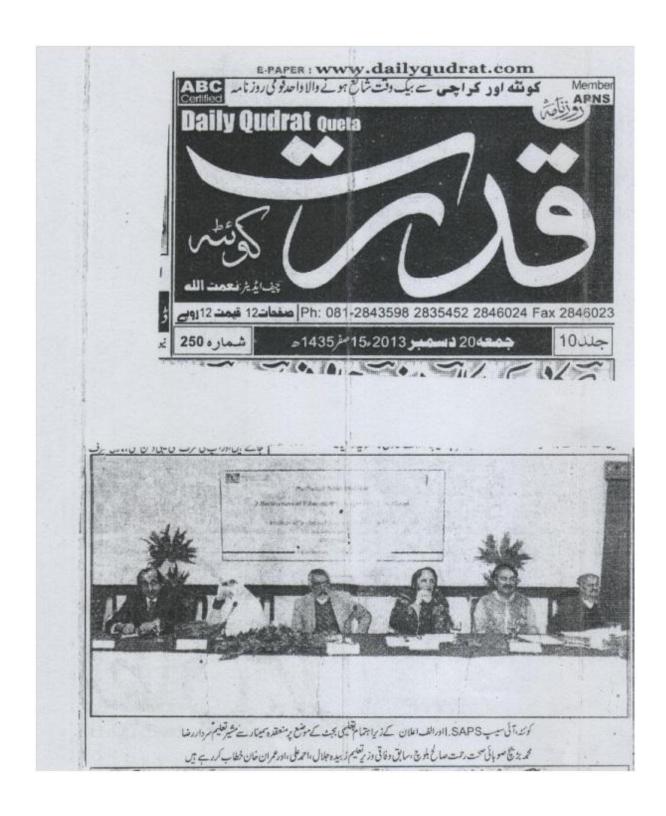












Annex III - List of the Participants

Sr#	Name	Designation	Organization
1	Ishfaq Mengal	SPO	Aurat Foundation Quetta
2	Samiullah	Porgramme Officer	B.E.F
3	Asad Yar	Accounts Officer	B.E.F
4	Dr. Bismillah Khan	President	BLESS
5	Raza Muhammad Barrech	MPA	PKMAP
6	Gohar Ayub	Program Manager	
7	Dr. Faiz Hashmi	Doctor	HRCP
8	Syed Abdul Ali	Manager IA &C	BRSP
9	Bostan Kishtmand	Secretary	HDP
10	M.Zaman	C.E.O	Socio Economic & Research Centre
11	Akbar Shah	Reporter	APP
12	Asmat Ullah	Program Officer	Home Department
13	Syed Ali Shah	Business Recorder	Dawn
14	Abdul Razzaq	Secretary	PMAP
15	Rahmat Ali Baloch	Minister	
16	Masooma Aayat	MPA	PKMAP
17	Nazar Barrech	District Coordinator	I-SAPS
18	Taj Muhammad	Reporter	M.W.M PB-2
19	Abbas Ali	Gen Secretary	Majlis Wahat Ul Muslimeen
20	Ghulam Mehdi	Director	SDNP M.W.M
21	Abdullah Kakar	Vice President SCBAP	SCBAP
22	Samiullah	Finance Director	BLESS
23	Nazir Lehri	Network Coordinator	Alif Ailaan
24	Muhammad Zubair	Network Coordinator	Khudi Pakistan
25	Brig (R) Abdul Razaq	Consul for France/Germany	
26	Atta-ul-Haq	Vice President	The Hope
27	Sardar Iftikhar Ahmed	Provincial Director Balochistan	Save the Children
28	Muhammad Ismail	President	Haqooq Teachers Association
29	Syed Tehfeem	Provincial Head	ITA
30	Fareed Ahmed	Coordinator	HRCP
31	Faiza Mir	Lecturer	IR/UOB
32	Shams ul Mulk	Coordinator	Say
33	Zubaida Jalil	Educationist	
34	Wadood Jamal	C.E	SAAD
35	Rasheed Shah	ED	SMAAJ
36	Nazir Ahmed Panezai	PRO Assembly	Assembly
37	Gul Zaman	Free Land	Economist
38	Saleem Shahid	Bureau Chief	Dawn
39	Syed Kalam Shah	Reporter	Daily Mashriq
40	Muhammad Zulfiqar Jatoi	Deputy	Education Department
41	Sagheer Ahmed	Edcuation Officer	UNICEF

Annex IV - Program

03:30 p.m.

Pre-Budget Policy Dialogue

on

Effectiveness of Education Financing in Education Budget of province of Balochistan

organized by

Institute of Social and Policy Sciences (I-SAPS)

in collaboration with

Alif Ailaan

Thursday, December 19, 2013 at Xuelian Restaurant, Serena Hotel, Quetta

03: 00 p.m.	Registration of the participants

Welcome Note

04:05-05:00 p.m.	Presentations
03:35 – 03:45 p.m.	Analysis of Balochistan Education Budget 2013-14: Some Inferences
03:45 – 04:15 p.m.	Article 25- A: Challenges and Opportunities for Balochistan

03.43 – 04.13 p.m.	Article 25- A. Chanenges and Opportunities for Baiochistan
04:20-05:30 pm	Concluding Session
04:35 – 04:50 p.m.	Remarks by the Guest of Honour Ms. Raheela Durrani, MPA
04:35 – 04:50 p.m.	Remarks by the Guest of Honour Mr. Abdul Rahim Ziaratwal MPA
04:35 – 04:50 p.m.	Remarks by the Guest of Honour Mr. Rehmat Baloch MPA
05:00 – 05:20 p.m.	Remarks by the Chair Sardar Raza Muhammad Khan Barrech Provincial Minsterfor Education, Balochistan
05:20 - 05:25 p.m.	Vote of Thanks and Way Forward Mr. Ahmad Ali, Research Fellow, I-SAPS
05:25 pm	Refreshments