Promotion of Quality Education Through Public Private Partnership
Malala- the Nobel Laureate

It is heartening that Pakistan’s child-education activist Malala Yousafzai has won the coveted Nobel Peace Prize, 2014. She is the youngest-ever recipient of Nobel Prize. This is, indeed, the most rewarding news for every child in Pakistan as she has emerged as the most powerful voice of education for the Pakistani girls at different international forums.

While announcing their decision, the Nobel Committee said, “Despite her youth, Malala Yousafzay has already fought for several years for the right of girls to education, and has shown by example that children and young people, too, can contribute to improving their own situations. This, she has done under the most dangerous circumstances. Through her heroic struggle, she has become a leading spokesperson for girls’ rights to education.” Speaking to the media persons in Birmingham, UK where she is currently studying, Malala Yousafzai said, “I believe the committee didn’t just give this award to me. It is for all the children whose voices are not being heard around the world.” It is highly commendable that Malala Yousafzai has continued to campaign for girls’ education at different global forums. In fact, she is the best ambassador of Pakistan who has brought laurels with her strong commitment for peace and education in the world.
Orientation Session on QAT

The Academic Development Unit (ADU) has arranged an orientation session for FAS partner schools in the district Khushab. PEF team comprising of Hameed Ullah Rafi (SS-ADU) and Asif Nadeem (SS-ADU) were deputed to conduct the orientation session. Almost 130 teachers and principals attended the session. The ADU team explained about the content book, result criteria and item construction for Quality Assurance Tests. The question & answer session was also held wherein comprehensive answers of the queries about the QAT were addressed.

Meanwhile, ADU Department has successfully held 12 cascading sessions in Lahore, Sheikhupura, Chishtian, Lodhran, Bahawalpur and Khushab. These sessions were arranged on the request of partner schools to sensitize their teachers about concepts around QATs.

14th FAS-QAT Results Announced

The Punjab Education Foundation (PEF) has announced the results of 14th Quality Assurance Test (QAT) of private schools partnering under Foundation Assisted School (FAS) program of free school education for the needy students. According to details, 4,38,790 students of 2,125 FAS partner schools in 36 districts took part in it. The success ratio remained 88.28 percent. The Punjab Education Foundation has uploaded the results at its official website for the convenience of the partners.
NSP DCMs Held

The Punjab Education Foundation (PEF) has arranged a series of District Coordination Meetings (DCMs) of private schools partnering under New School Program (NSP) in various districts of the province. According to the schedule, DCMs were held in Jhang on Oct. 14 and in Bahawalpur on Oct. 16. NSP partners’ next meeting was scheduled in Multan on Oct. 17. Similarly, DCM of NSP partners was held in Lahore on Oct. 21. The last DCM of NSP partners was arranged in Rawalpindi on Oct. 23. The PEF Director (NSP) Waqar Azeem presided over these meetings which were attended by 1020 representatives of a total of 510 NSP partners. PEF DMD (F) Salman Anwar Malik also addressed the meetings as chief guest and apprised the partners about various steps taken by the foundation for the betterment of the partners.

The primary objective of DCMs activity was to review various aspects of this free school education program which has been launched in collaboration with the private partnering schools to give free education to the deserving students living in remote and far flung areas where formal schooling facility is unavailable or insufficient to accommodate the children from impecunious strata.
Communication Department of the Punjab Education Foundation (PEF) has setup official social media accounts of the foundation at popular sites to apprise the maximum number of people about the educational activities of the PEF. These accounts have gained popularity because of the importance of topic and quality stuff. The facebook account has been liked by 3,08,598 people while blog has been visited by 1,27,704. Similarly, twitter account is being followed by 89 persons including Punjab Education Minister Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan. This shows great interest of the people in the working of PEF for the deserving students.
EVS Evening Program for Child Laborers Launched

The Punjab Education Foundation (PEF) has launched the evening schooling project of its Education Voucher Scheme (EVS). The pilot project is launched in Lahore, Rawalpindi and Multan in the first phase.

Partnership agreements have been signed with 38 private schools and five other NGOs who will arrange free education of a total of ten thousand deserving male and female children in the three selected districts. These children will be educated up to primary level to continue their education in the next grades. The partner NGOs will open and operate 140 educational centres for giving free education to the needy children in the evening. PEF will provide free text books and monthly payment @ Rs. 450 per student to its partners. It is expected that this pilot project will help to educate child laborers, dropouts and out of school children.

“Dawn” Highlights PEF Efforts

Pakistan’s leading English news daily “Dawn” has published a detailed story on PEF adopted 75 non-formal community schools in Cholistan, Bahawalpur division.

Rs 150 m for 75 non-formal Community Schools in Cholistan

By Our Staff Reporter

Lahore: The school education department has allocated Rs. 150 million for providing furniture and other necessary facilities to the neglected 75 non-formal community schools established in Cholistan by the Cholistan Development Authority (CDA) in 2009.

The schools were adopted by the Punjab Education Foundation (PEF) under direction by Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif in April this year. Since then it is sponsoring the education of each enrolled student with an amount of Rs. 450 per month. The current financial inflow of these schools is Rs. 28 million per annum.

As per the latest decision, taken by the Chief Minister, a comprehensive system of teacher training student assessment and quality assurance would be brought in by the PEF, sources said on Thursday.

The said all the schools would be given free land by the CDA. Proper buildings would also be constructed before the end of the current financial year.

For that purpose, Rs. 150 million have been allocated by the school education department. The CDA will provide furniture and other required goods by the end of the current fiscal.

All the closed schools would be re-opened within the next three months, allowing local children get education near their homes.

These schools will also be upgraded to elementary level wherever it is required.

The government has estimated that an investment of Rs. 150 million in infrastructure, Rs. 28 million each in school operations and land worth millions of rupees will be made.

The said these were introduced in the backward Cholistan desert falling in Bahawalnagar, Bahawalpur and Rahim Yar Khan districts.

They were run on non-formal mode but had formal school arrangements for students. However, the students were not counted as “enrolled”. They were actually counted nowhere.

Only four of the 75 schools had proper school buildings. The rest were either in the open or in shabby rooms provided by the local community. None of them had any furniture.

Subsequently, 10 schools were closed down, and the remaining continued to educate 3,258 students including 3,317 girls. Initially, two teachers for each school were provided by the community who were paid Rs. 500 and Rs. 250 by the CDA since 2009. The CDA did not develop any system of teacher training or student academic assessment.

The district governments of the three districts were supposed to provide free textbooks to the students but that was usually done only after their own needs were met.

The significant fact about the schools was that the girls’ enrolment that was much higher than the boys. But with the F&D funded project closing down, there was no certainty about the future of these students.
EVS Expansion Phase 13 Launched

The Punjab Education Foundation (PEF) has launched expansion phase 13 of its Education Voucher Scheme (EVS) in the districts of Bahawalpur, Khanewal, Mianwali, Pakpattan, Sargodha and Sheikhpura. This time, applications have been sought from the private schools, NGOs, profit-earning or non profit earning bodies to apply for partnership under this scheme. It is expected that this expansion will enable more deserving students to get free school education through EVS partners in these districts.

The PEF Communication Department initiated a massive public awareness campaign in the targeted districts to motivate the private schools to apply. During this campaign, banners were displayed at different places and colorful stickers were put on display at public transport vehicles. Similarly, a puppet show was also arranged to sensitize the general public about importance of education and how they can benefit from this scheme. It may be added here that Education Voucher Scheme (EVS) was first launched in 2006 with the objective to benefit children belonging to less-affluent and underprivileged areas, who otherwise, cannot get education due to financial and social constraints.
Workshop on PPRA Rules

Punjab Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) has arranged a capacity building workshop on Punjab Procurement Rules, 2014 at Punjab Education Foundation. Managing Director PPRA, Shahid Hussain delivered the key-note address to the PEF high-ups and briefed them about various rules and regulations pertaining to public procurement management. He said that PPRA is aiming at inducting in public procurements elements of fairness & transparency, economy and efficiency and value for money. PEF DMD (Finance) Salman Anwar Malik and DMD (HRM) Aamir Iftikhar Ahmad also attended the workshop. They hoped that this will enable the PEF staff to have better understanding about procurement rules and tendering of ads in the media.

PEF & Ufone Collaborate to Promote Education in Punjab

Ufone has partnered with the Punjab Education Foundation (PEF) to support the cause of education of hundreds of underprivileged students enrolled in the 75 PEF sponsored schools in Cholistan area of Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar and Rahim Yar Khan districts. An activity is being held in this regard, in collaboration with the Punjab Education Foundation, with the objective of promoting free school education under “PEF-Ufone Literacy Drive” in the peripheral districts of southern Punjab where promotion of free school education, especially among girls, is most needed to ameliorate the lot of the indigent strata. Under this partnership, school children would be provided with a variety of stationery items to profusely help them in their studies. It is expected that this would encourage and perk up the small children to study with more vigor and zeal.

This beneficial activity will benefit over one thousand students studying in different PEF sponsored schools situated across Bahawalpur division. The school-kit provided by the Ufone includes school bags, geometry boxes, copies for homework and water bottles to be distributed among the students from grade one to five.

Regarding this unique initiative, Amir Pasha, Head of PR & CSR at the Ufone said, “It is our utmost pleasure to be able to help and facilitate these equally talented, but resource-deprived children of different far-flung areas in the southern Punjab.”

Commenting upon the collaboration, Dr. Anseela Saiman, Managing Director, Punjab Education Foundation said, “This collaborative effort by the Ufone will not only benefit the students enrolled in PEF sponsored schools in Cholistan, but will also infuse passions of hope and positivity in them, that they are not alone in their studies, and there are institutions which profusely care about them. She told that PEF is sponsoring the education of more than 1.6 million male and female students in the Punjab who mostly belong to the impecunious strata. The cooperation of corporate sector for the promotion of education, through their CSR principles, is very encouraging and commendable.”
Capacity Building Workshop for Subject Specialists

The Punjab Education Foundation (PEF) has launched the pilot project of interactive classroom technology in three different districts in the first phase to teach the partnering school students through this beneficial computer technology.

In this regard, a two-day capacity building workshop was arranged at PEF head office for the Subject Specialists attached with the SBSP partnering schools. Besides PEF Directors Bushra Saeed Khan and Samina Nawaz, other concerned officers of different programs, also attended the workshop.

On the occasion, participants were taught about various aspects of handling interactive classroom technology in classrooms. It is expected that this pilot project will help to improve the academic standards of the partner schools.
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