Minutes of the 1st Meeting regarding Non-Functional Government Schools in Punjab

Punjab Education Foundation is taking over 1006 Non-Functional schools of the Government of the Punjab, out of which 107 schools will be taken initially for phase one of the project. As the schools are non-functional due to various reasons; un-availability of teachers, students or buildings etc, therefore, it has been planned to make them functional through PEF mandate on promoting quality education through public private partnership. A brain storming and discussion session was organized by the PEF at Pearl Continental Lahore on March 17, 10. The meeting started with recitation of Holy Quran. Managing Director PEF, Mr. Mohyuddin Ahmed Wani welcomed the participants and briefed them about vision of PEF initiative to take over the non-functional schools of the Government of the Punjab.

Director CPDP Ms. Maliha Batool presented the situational analysis of non-functional schools in the Punjab and brain storming session was held by inviting suggestions from the participants to explore the possibilities for public private partnership in order to achieve the target through public private partnership. It was proposed that organizations may suggest modalities to develop sustainable framework by catering indicators like infrastructure, repair and maintenance, teaching and non teaching staff recruitment, salaries and training, students enrolment and retention, school management committees constitution and their activation, monitoring and evaluation mechanism and roles and responsibilities of PEF and NGOs may be defined accordingly. The following decisions were taken;

- The NGOs/ entrepreneurs may be taken into partnership in order to achieve the target.
NGOs and PEF may assess the needs of the schools in each district and proceed accordingly.

Terms and conditions for partnership may be developed on the basis of needs assessment.

Along with needs assessment, PEF may also conduct visual census of the schools to be selected for intervention and geographical mapping may also be done in this regard.

Expressions of Interest may be invited from the NGOs/entrepreneurs along with proposals for technical and financial assistance provision, service delivery mechanism and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for the schools.

It was decided that GIS and TNA may be done at the earliest, and information may be uploaded on PEF website in order to provide them easy access to database.

The available information regarding selected schools may be uploaded on PEF website at the earliest.

The NGOs may come up with their proposals at the earliest, as the first phase has to be launched within one month.

The NGOs may come up with various models to be implemented successfully and district wise sustainability may be ensured by the applicant NGO.

The Public Private Partnership for providing quality education at affordable price will be the mandate for the intervention, so that available resources may be utilized optimally in order to increase and ensure access to education.

The NGOs had concerns regarding legality of the schools adoption either the said schools will be the property of the Government of the Punjab or will be owned by PEF. MD informed the participants that the schools will completely be taken over by PEF and will be functionalized through public private partnership.
The Budget of selected schools will also be transferred to PEF in order to make schools functional. A framework may be developed to utilize the budget for achieving the target.

The NGOs had concerns regarding posts approved in SNE as if the schools are going to be functionalized in PPP, the teaching and non-teaching staff recruitment and salary may also be redefined.

NGOs suggested that instead of primary, schools’ level should be elementary as there is more drop out after primary completion.

It was decided that focus of the intervention will be on making such schools functional and quality must be assured in addition.

It was decided that a draft framework regarding intervention will be circulated to all concerned in order to get their feedback on the proposed framework.

The NGOs and PEF will work together in order to develop sustainable model for making schools functional within agreed timelines. Benchmarks will also be settled before intervening.

It was decided that after GIS and TNA, schools will be identified in each of the vicinity, so that schools may be functionalized as per needs of that vicinity.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks from the chair and attendees agreed to work together in order to achieve the target of making Non-Functional schools workable.
Participant Organizations

1. Adult Basic Education Society (ABES)

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2. Idara—Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA)

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3. Care Foundation

Address: 21 Waris Road, Lahore
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4. Development in Literacy (DIL)

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5. Kashmir Education Foundation

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6. Rural Education and Development Foundation (READ)

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7. Children's Global Network, Pakistan (CGN)

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