

Chapter 4 | SCHOOL AND COLLEGE EDUCATION

Education sets the foundation for achieving social and economic progress in a country on sustainable basis and acts as an enabler for development. Education is a formal process by which society deliberately transmits its accumulated knowledge, skills, customs and values from one generation to another. It is not only about the individual but it has also a societal role of selecting, classifying, distributing, transmitting and evaluating the educational knowledge, reflecting both the distribution of power and principle of the social contract. The proportional share in terms of the allocation of economic resources is indicative of an economy's priority towards achieving its national interest and consequently in producing good and responsible citizens through quality education.

A broadening of access to quality education has been envisaged in Vision 2025 and 11th Five Year Plan (2013-18) and improving quality of education. Lack of access to education has resulted in low literacy rate, while low quality education affects the productivity of the country's labour force. High dropout rate and absenteeism, weak governance along with inequitable participation of disadvantaged segments such as girls, children in rural areas and those from deprived families are some of the reasons for a low literacy rate or poor quality of education. The public sector education institutions need to enhance their capacity to control increasing dropout rate and low rate of enrolment. The challenges to quality education include lack of schools, lack of equipped laboratories and libraries, lack of trained teachers, lack of quality infrastructure and absence of basic facilities in schools like water, sanitation, electricity and boundary walls.

Performance review 2016-17

In the post 18th Constitutional Amendment scenario, provinces are responsible for policy coordination, increasing access to education, improving quality while maintaining uniform standards in education. For this purpose, Inter-Provincial Education Ministers (IPEM) Conference has been revived under the Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training and its meetings are convened periodically to resolve the issues in education sector. In order to achieve education related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and for ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education, the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training and provincial education departments will take necessary actions. The following table shows a glimpse of education indicators at the national and provincial levels.

Education Indicators at National and Provincial levels, by gender

(Percentage)

Indicator	Primary NER ¹			Middle NER ²			Metric NER ³			Literacy Rate		
	Over-all	Male	Female	Over-all	Male	Female	Over-all	Male	Female	Over-all	Male	Female
National	67	72	62	37	39	34	27	29	24	60	70	49
Punjab	70	73	67	38	39	38	29	29	29	63	71	55
Sindh	61	67	54	34	37	30	25	29	20	60	70	49
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	71	78	62	41	48	31	27	34	18	53	71	35
Balochistan	56	67	42	26	31	19	15	19	9	44	61	25

Source: Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measures (PSLM) Survey 2014-15.

The above indicators are not very encouraging and there is need to inject more financial resources along with improvement in governance of the sector to improve the educational attainment targets.

Pakistan is not better than any other SAARC country except Afghanistan as revealed from different education sector indicators given below:

Country	Education Indicators										
	Literacy rate adult %ages 15 years and older (2005-2014)	Youth %age 15-24 years old		Population with some secondary education %ages 25 years & older	Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) 2008-2014				Primary School Dropout rate (2008-2014)	Public Expenditure on education (%age of GDP) (2005-2014)	HDI Rank
		Male	Female		Pre-Primary	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary			
Pakistan	54.7	63.1	78	33.2	82	92	38	10	37.8	2.5	147
Nepal	57.4	77.5	89.2	27.4	87	133	67	14	39.5	4.7	146
Afghanistan	31.7	32.1	61.9	18.2	1	106	54	4	n/a	n/a	171
India	62.8	74.4	88.4	42.1	58	113	69	25	n/a	3.8	130
Bhutan	52.8	68	80.0	34.4	14	107	78	9	21.1	5.5	132
Sri Lanka	91.2	98.6	97.7	74	89	98	99	17	3.4	1.7	73
Maldives	98.4	99.4	99.2	30.1	82	98	72	13	17.2	6.2	104
Bangladesh	58.8	81.9	78	37.8	26	114	54	13	33.8	2.2	142
Iran	84.3	97.7	98.3	65.1	38	119	86	55	3.8	3.7	69

Source: Human Development Index Report 2015

Federal PSDP

The federal government adopted a holistic approach to revamp and strengthen all tiers of the schooling system by taking the following ongoing and new initiatives:

¹ **Primary NER:** (Number of children aged 6-10 years attending primary level (class 1-5) divided by total number of children aged (6-10 Years).

² **Middle NER:** (Number of children aged 11-13 years attending level (class 6-8) divided by total number of children aged 11-13years).

³ **Metric NER:** (Number of children aged 14-15 years attending level (class 9-10) divided by number of children aged (4-15years).

- Improving Human Development Indicators in Pakistan with focus on SDGs relating to Education.
- National Curriculum Council to maintain uniform curriculum standards at the national level
- Modernization of the Examination System to standardize the assessment system
- Mainstreaming of Madrassas to formalize and align their system of education with the mainstream education system and to make their children more productive for society
- National Best Teacher Awards scheme to recognize and honour services of outstanding teachers
- Establishment of Smart Schools to introduce technology-based blended learning
- Educational leadership and institutional management
- National Endowment Scholarship for Talent (NEST) to finance education for talented students

During 2016-17, a sum of Rs 5.716 billion was allocated in the federal PSDP for basic and college education in Federal Areas. An abstract of development projects in PSDP 2016-17 is given below:

Scheme	No. of Projects	Total cost	(Rs in million)
			Allocation
Literacy, Curriculum, Mainstreaming of madrassahs, Capacity building of teachers and principals	09	8,619.11	2,121.06
Establishment / uplifting / Renovation / Physical up-gradation of schools and colleges,	13	6,122.49	1,059.46
Cadet College Kharan	01	1,382.06	500
Digitalization of the holding of National Archives of Pakistan and Improvement of Record Preservation	02	62.047	27.80
National Endowment Scholarships for Talent (NEST)	01	10,000	2,000
Grand total	26	26,185.703	5,708.314

Provincial ADP

During 2016-17, the Punjab government allocated Rs54.64 billion for development schemes in education sector, Sindh allocated Rs11.50 billion, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rs15.67 billion, and Balochistan allocated Rs3.84 billion, which totalled to Rs85.65 billion for the basic and college education in the provinces. In education sector, provincial governments prioritized provision of missing facilities, up gradation of girls and boys primary schools to middle, high and secondary levels, construction of new boys and girls schools and colleges, provision of scholarships through endowment funds and scholarship schemes, provision of stipends to girls students up to the matriculation, improvement of the physical infrastructure in schools, establishment of the IT and science labs in the secondary and higher secondary schools, Early Childhood Education (ECE) at the primary level and strengthening of the Provincial Institutes of Teacher Education (PITE). All the provinces have allocated ample budget for the education foundations. Funds within the development budgets have been allocated for the capacity-building of teachers in order to enable them to

provide quality education. In addition, establishment of the cadet colleges to meet the demand of quality education was also prioritized in the provinces.

Outlook 2017-18

Development is an ongoing Process. The government intends to create a knowledge society, by allocating more financial resources for capacity building, research & development, providing access to education for children belonging to low income and disadvantaged segments, decrease disparity, improve quality to strengthen retention and decrease dropout rate at all levels. These measures will lead to reducing regional and gender-wide disparities. Pakistan, being a signatory to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has established a strong coordination mechanism needed to put forward efforts of federal ministries, provincial and area governments to achieve the targets set under SDGs. Avenues are being explored to increase contribution of the private sector, which at present contributes only 16 per cent of the total educational resources.

The Smart schools project has been initiated to increase quality of education. These schools will use IT based blended learning to increase analytical and cognitive skills. This initiative will be replicated in the provinces and other federal areas. Under the madrasa reforms initiative, the Madrasa students will be mainstreamed with formal education for increasing the chances of their higher education and employability. Initiatives have been taken to modernize and harmonize curriculum, examination and teachers' training at the national level. A modern National Teachers Training Institute will be established in Islamabad. The above mentioned projects, in collaboration with the provincial education sector plans, will help increase access to education at school and college level and improve quality and help bridge the gender parity. These efforts are in line with the Vision 2025 and 11th Five Year Plan.

Programmes

The Federal Government has included 24 projects (ongoing 17 and new schemes 7) for basic and college education for financing in the fiscal year 2017-18. An estimated total cost of Rs25,508.745 million has been earmarked in the PSDP 2017-18 for these projects. Abstract of development projects relating to the basic and college education in the PSDP 2017-18 is tabulated below:

Education sector projects in the PSDP 2017-18

(Rs million)			
Scheme	No. of Projects	Total cost	Allocation
Literacy, Curriculum, Mainstreaming of madrassahs, Capacity building of teachers and principals / Modernisation of Examination System/Education Reforms	11	7,476.67	2,961.93
Establishment / uplifting / Renovation / Physical up-gradation of schools and colleges,	11	6,848.75	2,718.47
Cadet College Kharan	1	1,382.06	500
National Endowment Scholarships for Talent (NEST)	1	10,000	1,000
Grand total	24	25,508.75	7,100.22