LITERATURE REVIEW

PRIORITY EDUCATION AREAS - PAKISTAN

Research by: **Mishal Pakistan**
Commissioned by: **ILM Ideas / UKaid**



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Constitution of Pakistan inherently supports the right to education; this originates from the Government of India Act 1935, which was used also as an interim constitution from 1947-1956. During this time period, education policy, planning or syllabus development were never under the realm of the Federal or concurrent legislative responsibilities.

In the Constitution of 1956, state was made responsible for education. It became a constitutional obligation of the state to provide free and compulsory education to combat the prevailing illiteracy rate in the country. While in 1962, when Pakistan adopted Presidential form of governance the responsibility and authority of education was devolved to the provinces; even during the interim constitution of 1972 it remained a provincial obligation

Nevertheless, the constitution of 1973 formally introduced education planning and policy, curriculum and syllabus development, quality and standards and Islamic education in the concurrent and federal legislative lists.

Before the 18th amendment, the Ministry of Education used to make national policies and design curriculum for all the provinces with the help of provincial curriculum bureaus. Whereas, the provincial institutions used to work on the planning and implementation of the education, which fit in the larger framework given by the Federal Government.

The Government of Pakistan exercising its constitutional authority produced the following documents:

- Pakistan National Educational Conference in 1947
- Pakistan Educational Conference in 1951
- National Commission on Education in 1959
- Proposals for New Education Policy in 1969
- New Education Policy in 1970
- Education policy in 1972-78
- National Education Policy in 1979
- National Education Policy in 1992
- National Education Policy in 1998-2010
- National Education Policy in 2009

The fundamental challenge to the ratio of current expenditure-to-development spending is the lack of political will to establish or modify transparency and accountability mechanisms for Education governance. The media is ill-equipped to handle matters related to accountability systems – therefore when Mishal studied the information produced during the first six months of 2014 we found that the issues that were mostly covered included:

- Teachers' related matters
- Governance and malpractices
- Quality of education
- Academic excellence

These patterns indicated poor quality journalism and lack of sophistication while producing information related to education as a matter of "National Emergency". Meanwhile, looking at how the broadcast medium covered the topic; it was highly politicized, diluting the importance of the subject, while the guests did not have a solution-oriented approach; but rather remained political and detached from its electorate; therefore the debate generated was utterly incognizant of underpinning challenges to the education system.

This obviously frames the public thinking and builds perception. A further study into mapping the public discourse about learning and education will help advocacy programs design and disseminate narratives that help in constituting actionable results. Consistency in using an appreciative-approach that directly benefits journalists, editors and policymakers through training, capacity building programs ultimately has an impact on the indirect beneficiary which includes community at large.

The literature review also included the study and comparative analysis of education manifestos of the five mainstream political parties of Pakistan. This will help us understand as what are the education priorities of various political parties.

CONTENTS

Introduction	005
Aims & objectives of the study	007
Roll out strategy	007
Background of the research topics	008
The review topic	011
Public spending on education	011
Girls education and women teachers	011
Enrollment ratios, trends and issues	011
Education infrastructure and school conditions	012
Children with no access to schools	012
Innovation in education	012
Methodology	013
Justification of review method	014
Method of inclusion	015
Method of analysis	016
Overview of included literature	018
Print media	019
Electronic media	021
Policy documents	022
Media coverage of Ilm-O-Agahi	023
Assessment of research evidence	027
Key gaps in the literature	027
Policy practice and research implications	029
Appendices	031
TV Talk shows	032
Newspapers	045
Policy documents	134

CHAPTER-1

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

Article 25A ensures every child's right to education yet millions of children are out of schools. Not even at primary level we have attained universal enrolment ratios, Dropout rates remaining high with no visible plans for infrastructure development and quality of education.

To address this situation UKaid through ILM Ideas engaged Mishal Pakistan to initiate a comprehensive Education Advocacy Program for improved accountability of priority education issues and consensus building on provincial education policies by engaging media, legislators, educationists and the community.

Mishal has excellent and well-established outreach in all the four provinces of Pakistan along with Kashmir, Tribal Areas and Gilgit Baltistan. It has strong ties and working understanding with nearly sixty Press Clubs and Associations across Pakistan. This enables Mishal to undertake initiatives like "Education advocacy program" on national level.

After a series of consultative meetings, Mishal developed a narrative to strengthen media and build its capacity to identify issues in educational development of Pakistan, with follow-up on those issues for the accountability of education duty bearers, policy makers and other responsible for its improvement. The initiative was named "Ilm-o-Agahi" which narrates Knowledge and Awareness.

The overarching objective of Ilm-o-Agahi is to strengthen institutions, create awareness by educating through the media, facilitate sustainable literacy and educational development, providing children, especially girls, better access to educational facilities, encourage journalists to create content which is reflective of the current education scenario while analyzing the policy reforms within the education sector in Pakistan.

The campaign spans over a period of 14 months, starting from December 2013 and concluding on January 2014, both inclusive. During the program, while examining randomly sampled media coverage, we witnessed consensus on ILM-Ideas priority education issues.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE REVIEW

The purpose of the literature review is to highlight project objective; The need for improved accountability and media coverage of priority education issues and consensus building on provincial education policies by engaging media, legislators, educationists and the community.

Therefore, our initial understanding is that: -

- Pakistan's education and academia reporting within the industry is fairly weak.
- Alarming factors contributing to the knowledge deficit is the media's limited exposure to real challenges of education sector in Pakistan and lack of relevant training in the media sector.
- Most of the issues related to education and literacy are being reported in irrelevant context; this undermines and diminishes the importance of the educational, training and child development challenges faced by the society.
- Information pre-requisite to the report should be the following – consider this as an education mapping report (details can be sought from Alif Ailaan) add maps, demographics, livelihood, qualitative, quantitative and graphical context whenever and as many times required (this could also include media transcripts)
- Enrolment rates and retention of primary and secondary students, especially girls
- Initiatives introduced in improving transparency, accountability and enhanced governance in the education sector

ROLL OUT STRATEGY

- Researchers defined components of education issues
- A thorough search for materials done using various search tools including books, catalogue, databases, bibliographies, individual dissertations, media material and previously done similar research findings.
- Evaluation of searched material found is in process to determine the material making a significant contribution to the understanding of education issues in all possible contexts.

- Upon completion of the evaluation researchers analysed content collected, providing a discussion of the findings and conclusions of the pertinent literature
- The review represents a chronological overview of the education scenario in Pakistan through the media-research lens.
- The literature review explains how work of various media entities is similar to and how it varies from the others while talking about thematic education issues.
- Final conclusions as to best pieces considered best in our argument, are most convincing of their opinions, and make the greatest contribution to the understanding and development of core education issues.
- Comprehensive report on literature review findings will be the final product submitted to Ilm-Ideas for their review and input
- Once consultation with Ilm-Ideas is completed the final report on literature review will be published.

BACKGROUND TO THE REVIEW TOPIC

The constitution has always supported the right to education, even before the 18th amendment. However, introducing Article 25-A made the state responsible for providing free and compulsory education to the children between the age of 5 to 16.

Pakistan, initially, inherited the Government of India Act 1935 which is also known as the interim constitution (1947-1956) in Pakistan. From 1947 to 1956, Education policy, planning or syllabus development responsibilities were not part of federal or concurrent legislative responsibilities. The entire system was ambiguous about how to plan and execute required educational reforms in the country. There wasn't any specific body to be hold responsible. Later on, in the constitution of 1956, state was given responsibility of education. It became the constitutional requirement that the state works on providing free and compulsory education as soon as possible to combat prevailing illiteracy rate in the country. In 1962, the constitution of second republic was adopted which gave Pakistan a presidential form of governance but the responsibility and authority of education was directly given to provinces. The interim constitution of 1972 also had the powers vested in provincial governments on the matter of education. Nevertheless, the constitution of 1973 formally included education (planning, policy, curriculum, syllabus, standards of education and Islamic education) in the concurrent and federal legislative lists.

The constitutional power was excised in producing report of the Pakistan National Educational Conference in 1947, report of the Second Pakistan Educational Conference 1951, report of the National Commission on Education 1959, Proposals for New Education Policy 1969, New Education Policy 1970, Education policy 1972-78, National Education Policy 1979, National Education Policy 1992, National Education Policy 1998-2010, and National Education Policy 2009.

Before the 18th amendment, ministry of Education used to make national policies and design curriculum for all the provinces with the help of provincial curriculum bureaus. Whereas, provincial institutions used to work on the planning and implementation of education which will fit in the larger framework of given by the federal government.

Education is a form of learning in which the knowledge, skills and habits of group of people are transferred from one generation to the next generation through teaching, training, or research. Education is a social instrument through which man can guide his destiny and shape his future". It refers to the constitutional right to education of every child in Pakistan (18th Amendment) and membership of Pakistan in various international ventures on education. There international ventures include "education for All in 1990 and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) joint declaration on Education and the Dakar Framework for Action". The paper puts light on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that Pakistan government is fully committed to. The goals include; achieving Universal Primary Education (UPE) and Promoting Gender Equality and Women Empowerment. The chapter also talks about other national and provincial projects including vision 2025.

CHAPTER-2

OUTLINE OF METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

THE REVIEW TOPIC

The objective of the review was to explore how the media in Pakistan post 18th Amendment correlated to ILM-Ideas core areas of its Voice and Accountability Fund. Much of the content though created almost insignificant and incoherent demand from the provincial governments was to improve the quality of education other than becoming more responsive to the growing needs of the young population. The themes over which Mishal focused while reviewing the gathered literature were:

Public spending on education

The provincial budgetary allocations for 2013-14 development expenditure in education are as follows: Baluchistan 30 percent, KP 19 percent, Punjab 18 percent and Sindh 10 percent. Amongst other provinces Khyber Pakhtunkhwa recorded high increase of 30 percent compared to last year spending. At this level, Pakistan ranks 177th globally in terms of public spending on Education, according to the Human Development Report 2013 issued by UNDP.

Girls education and women teachers

More then half of the girls drop out due to the poor quality of education and the fact that schools are not inclusive of communities they serve. The ratio for females is abysmally lower, especially for certain parts of Pakistan such as in rural Sindh and Balochistan, where the ratio for female literacy is 23 per cent and 16 per cent respectively.

Trained teachers in primary education; female (% of female teachers) in Pakistan was last measured at 76.43 in 2010, according to the World Bank. Teachers are persons employed full time or part in an official capacity to guide and direct the learning experience of pupils and students, irrespective of their qualifications or the delivery mechanisms.

Enrollment ratios, trends and issues

The participation of children, Gross Enrolment Rate attending primary schools aged 5 to 9 years at national level during 2012-13 remained at 91 per cent. Provinces showed slight improvement from previous year; while Net Enrolment Rate stood at 57 per cent.

The total number of enrolments during 2013-14 is estimated to increase to 42.2 million.

Education infrastructure and school conditions

Many schools are in need of better facilities to improve the teaching environment. For instance, 9% of primary schools do not have a blackboard, 24% do not have textbooks available for pupils, 46% do not have desks for their students and 36% of public primary schools have access to electricity. Currently, the Provincial Annual Development Plan 2013-14 reflects provisioning of missing facilities, IT Labs, Rehabilitation and establishment of school buildings in Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, FATA and Balochistan.

Children with no access to schools

According to UNESCO, an estimated 1.4 million persons with disabilities in Pakistan were the children of school going age, most of whom do not have access to either inclusive or special schools due to limited capacity in existing facilities. The current Federal Public Sector Development Programme on Education does not reflect the needs of special children. Meanwhile, the Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC) in its annual report claims that almost 25 million children, of whom seven million are aged between three to five years, and adolescents are out of school in Pakistan. The State of Pakistan's Children, reveals that children in Pakistan have to cope with a lack of educational opportunities, poor health conditions, a near absence of protection for poor and vulnerable children.

Innovation in education sector of Pakistan

Though technology is a significant driver behind change, and plays an important role in innovations in educational design and delivery. There is an utter lack of vision by the Federal along with the Provincial Governments in this domain. Political stunts such as laptop schemes in Punjab though targets the youth yet it does not ensure a cohesive call for action towards innovative contribution from young minds in the socio-economic sector of the country. Nor have there been any efforts towards using innovative tools for accountability mechanisms. There are immense possibilities for greater and wider-spread change with the use of present-day technological advancements, as well as with the implementation of innovative educational programs. The challenge is to ensure that innovation plays a constructive role in improving educational opportunities for millions of children in Pakistan who remain under-served in a rapidly developing world.

For instance Teach for Pakistan, a innovative initiative part of the Teach for All global network, seeks to change those current statistics.

METHODOLOGY

Following methods have been considered for the literature review on education priority issues.

- Narrative review
- Systematic review
- Meta Analysis
- Meta Synthesis

A comprehensive search of material published in education priority areas was undertaken from 2010 to 2014, and contact made with key authors and reporters in the field.

We include in this review 1,047 news items, 9 policy documents, 24 media coverage on education events and 21 talk shows and TV programs.

The studies chosen had to meet criteria of having research methods, analysis, and findings sufficiently detailed to provide a sound basis for judgment about the robustness of the conclusions, and information about the characteristics of the context. The evidence demonstrated valid linkages between six priority education areas and outcomes.

Summaries of each of the reports of studies were used to synthesize what the research could tell us about outcomes for education priority area in particular and in education in general.

Systematic Literature Review has been selected as core methodology for the research based on the advantages and effectiveness of the research method for the particular subject.

JUSTIFICATION

Systematic Literature Review (SLR)

- SLR have clear, explicit objectives with clearly stated inclusion criteria for studies to be selected, providing transparency.
- SLR use systematic searching methods that reduce the risk of selective sampling of studies, which may support preconceived conclusions, reducing the risk of bias.
- SLR uses consistent evaluation of available information such as outcomes and study quality thus reducing the risk of bias.
- Systematic Review gives the readers more information about decisions that were made along the way, which allows the readers to assess the quality of the review more directly hence increasing transparency.
- Systematic Study may be able to provide greater precision in estimates of effect, especially where meta-analysis is involved resultantly this increases accuracy.

CHAPTER-3

IDENTIFICATION, SELECTION AND METHOD OF ANALYSIS OF THE LITERATURE

METHOD OF INCLUSION

- Relevance to research topic i.e. education priority areas
- Population suitability i.e. primary education, aged between 5 to 12 years
- Date of research i.e. ever since April 2010 to August 2014 (after eighteenth amendment)
- Research methods - empirical
- Language of report i.e. English, Urdu and other regional languages of Pakistan
- Issued through a credible source with proper references

METHOD OF ANALYSIS

A comprehensive search of material published in education, public policy, political manifestos on education, media discourse, policy documents and other related databases was undertaken from April 2010 to July 2014, and contact made with key authors and reporters in the field for the qualitative assessment of the work done.

Summaries of each of the reports of studies were used to synthesize what the research could tell us about outcomes for education priority areas.

It has been taken care of that although all four source types can and, where available and appropriate, should be used to inform literature reviews, each literature review source should be evaluated for assessing the trustworthiness, dependability, credibility, legitimation, validity, plausibility, applicability, consistency, neutrality, reliability, objectivity, conformability, and/or transferability as should any synthesis that emerge from its inclusion. Indeed, such a meta-evaluation should help the reviewer decide on

a) whether or not to include the source
b) the weight to place on this source, and
c) how much meaning each source provides to the synthesis. Moreover, for all four source types, appropriate practices should be used.

We included multiple sources of data for the literature review for the maximum representation and legitimacy. Representation refers to the ability to extract adequate

meaning from the information at hand. Using multiple source types allows the reviewer to combine the information from various sources in order to understand better the phenomenon. In other words, using multiple source types allows the reviewer to get more out of the data, thereby (potentially) generating more meaning and, in turn, enhancing the quality of syntheses. Legitimation refers to the credibility, trustworthiness, dependability, confirmability, and/or transferability of syntheses made.

For the purpose of this literature review we employed Constant Comparison Analysis method which allows to analyze data that were collected over a series of stages and divided in some main segments.

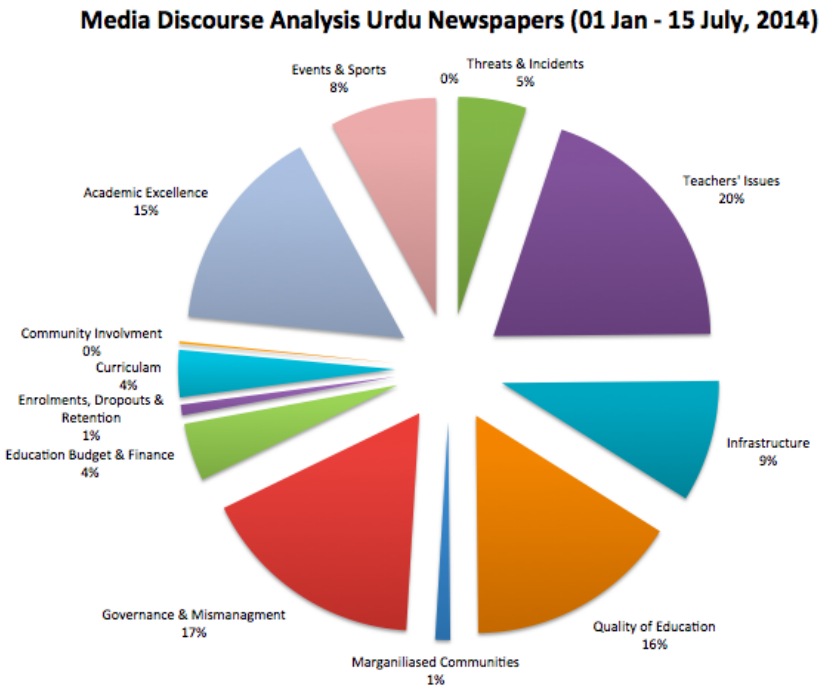
CHAPTER-4

ANALYSIS OF THE LITERATURE

PRINT MEDIA

Pakistan is one of the most educationally challenged countries in the world, still issues in public discussions have a totally different set of priorities as compared the real challenges in the country.

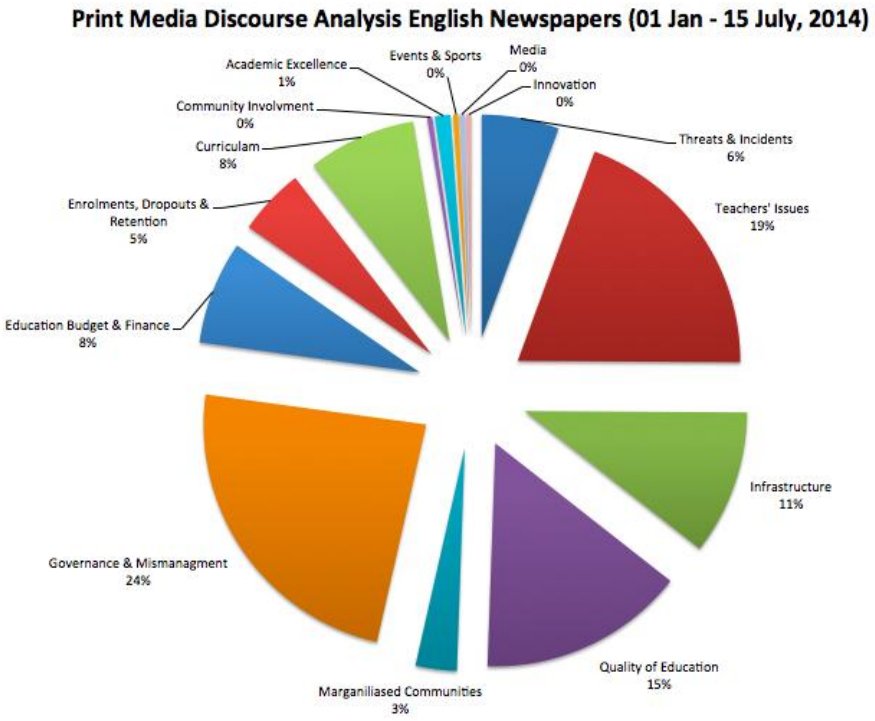
The print journalism however has been more proactive in this regard and have been much more generous to report on education related issues. In the first six months of 2014, total publications of 1082 were evaluated and theses six newspapers covered 899 articles and news items. The analysis of these newspapers shows that the leading issues being covered by the print media is on 1) teachers and their issues 2) governance and malpractices 3) quality of education and 4) academic excellence.



However the priority areas for English and Urdu press greatly varies, this is due to different target markets and level of education of the of the news consumption patterns.

For Urdu the pattern is almost the same, however the English newspapers had a slight difference in terms of their priorities, which includes

1) Governance & Mismanagement as the most important issues
2) Teachers' related issues
3) Quality of Education and 4) Infrastructure.



A total of 1,047 news were analyzed for the study which included 776 news from Urdu dailies while 271 news were on English Media.

Below is the snapshot of study:

URDU Newspapers: from January to July 2014

The daily Express	167 news items analyzed
The daily Jang	267 news items analyzed
The daily Nawa-e-Waqt	342 news pieces were analyzed

ENGLISH Newspapers: from January to July 2014

The Express Tribune	65 news bits included
The News	47 news were analyzed
Daily Dawn	159 News analyzed

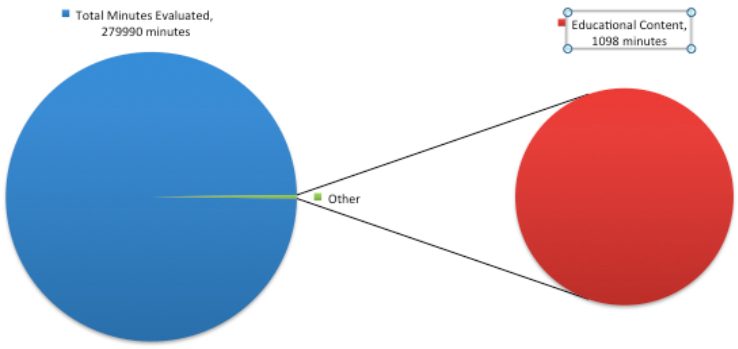
ELECTRONIC MEDIA

A six-month analysis of the media discourse on education identified that Education is not a priority for media across print and television, however an in-depth study of media's priority on content reflects some interesting trends. The CredibilityLab at Mishal Pakistan analysed 17 news channels and current affairs channels, along with three leading newspapers in English and Urdu each.

This involved almost 279,990 minutes of television programming across 17 leading news and current affairs channels. The print media discourse analysis-involved evaluation of the leading newspapers being simultaneously published from Lahore,

Karachi and Islamabad, they included The News, DAWN and Express Tribune for English papers and Jang, Express and Nawa-e-Waqt for Urdu. The selection criteria for these newspapers was based on a matrix of simultaneous editions from the three metropolitans (Lahore, Karachi and Islamabad), also these newspapers are the top three national dailies, with a publication lifespan of more than 3 years. This involved 1082 newspapers to be browsed through to see the current state of Education reporting in the country.

Current Affairs Programming Evaluated on Television (01 Jan - 15 July, 2015)



POLICY DOCUMENTS

According to UNESCO Convention Against Discrimination in Education 1960, the International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 1966 and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989 have all instituted the basic Right of all individuals to get meaningful education, in addition to being a signatory to these conventions, Pakistan has also endorsed the MDGs and Education for All EFA goals. While after the 18thAmendment in the Constitution, making the provinces responsible for the education till higher secondary levels and claiming free and compulsory education for each child from age 5 to 16, But ironically in Pakistan even after more than 60 years the education ratio is not yet reached to 60 percent, while in FATA the situation is so worse than that, where there is saying that the education ratio is only 17 percents for boys and for girls only 3 percent.

It has become an evident that only making changes in the constitution or signing and ratifying conventions can never bring educational reforms but it needs real political will and practical intentions i-e investment in education particularly at primary level.

Therefore, Keeping in view the best interest of the child and prosperous Pakistan the current governments should take effective administrative, financial and policy level initiatives to upgrade and redesign education structure according to the needs, and the requirements of the nation and the country. In fact it became a dire need to call education emergency in the country i-e mass mobility of the general public as education being the basic step towards country's overall development.

To reach on some conclusion following policy documents have been included in the research study.

- National Education Policy 2009 - Ministry of Education GOP
- 18th Amendment Federal and Provincial Responsibilities in Education - ISPS
- Education Chapter 2014 - Pakistan Economic Survey
- Pakistan Education Roadmap Report 2013 - Global Agenda Council Pakistan
- Pakistan National plan of action 2013-2016 - Ministry of Education GOP
- Pakistan's action plan for progressing towards achieving MDG 2

- Balochistan Ordinance - Provincial Assembly Document
- Punjab Ordinance - Punjab gazette

MEDIA COVERGAE OF ILM-O-AGAHI

We have observed that an Education advocacy program achieved its maximum objectives and succeeded in creating a dialogue on priority education areas within the media, community, across stakeholders. In our assessment we found media professionals giving priority to the accountability of Education duty bearers.

The initiative created a brand identity to identify the Education reforms in the country with the title of Ilm-o-Agahi (Empowerment through Knowledge). The brand in Urdu and English language has been a catalyst in creating an acceptance in the community and the policy makers to take the education reforms as an agenda for empowerment of the communities and improvement in education infrastructure from their representative political parties in respective provinces.

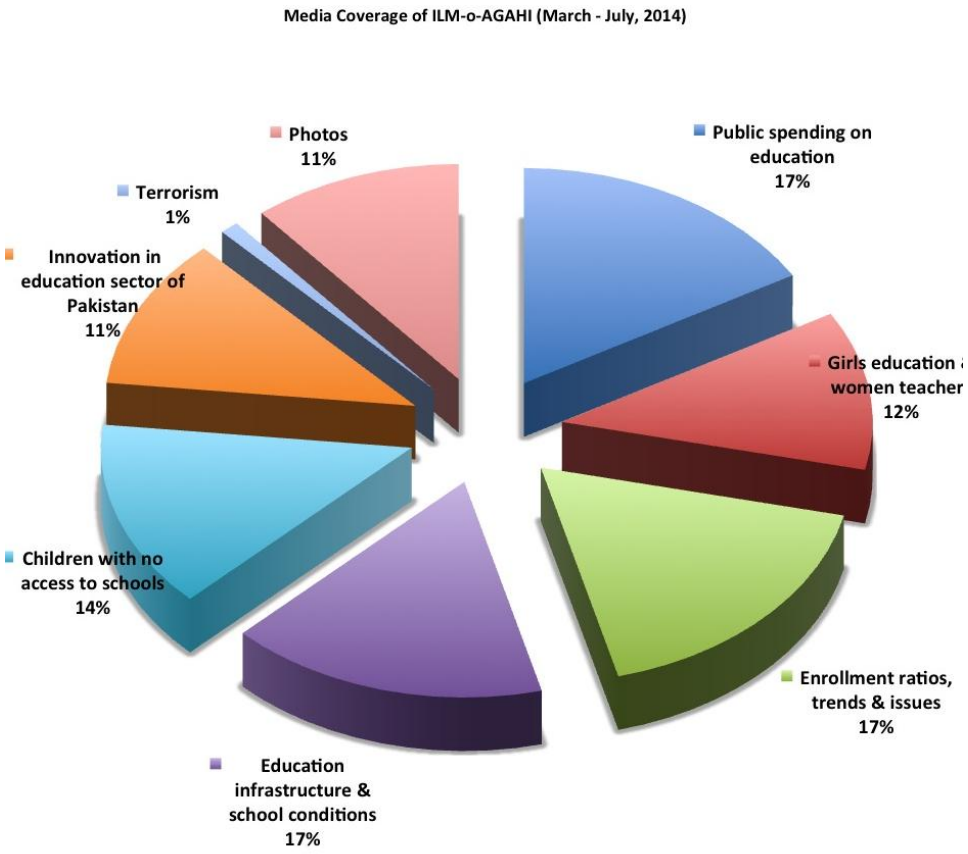
Mishal, in collaboration with stakeholders, identified the key priority areas and a set of indicators where the policy emphasis should be placed. These indicators have been now accepted as the benchmark for improving the state of education in Pakistan. The indicators are as follows:

a) Public spending on education
b) Girls education and women teachers
c) Enrollment ratios, trends and issues
d) Education infrastructure and school conditions
e) Children with no access to schools
f) Innovation in education sector of Pakistan

The project created partnerships with key stakeholders like:

a) Community (Journalists working on education beat, Editors, CSOs working on education, Students and Parents)
b) Policy makers and legislators (Political leadership, Minister of State for Education, Standing Committees of the Senate and the National Assembly)
c) Education duty bearers (Provincial education authorities)
d) ASER Pakistan (Annual State of Education Report)
e) Alif Ailaan (Advocacy initiative by DFID/UKAid on Education)

Through the initiative, 18 education journalism workshops were held across 13 districts in Pakistan for education reporters, created 13 journalists for education forums and held four editors roundtable. In each workshop, more than 30 education reporters were selected, to enhance their capacity to report on pre-identified educational challenges and issues to improve their understanding and skills in capturing the community's perspective, role of the government, with an a focus on the ethical dimension.

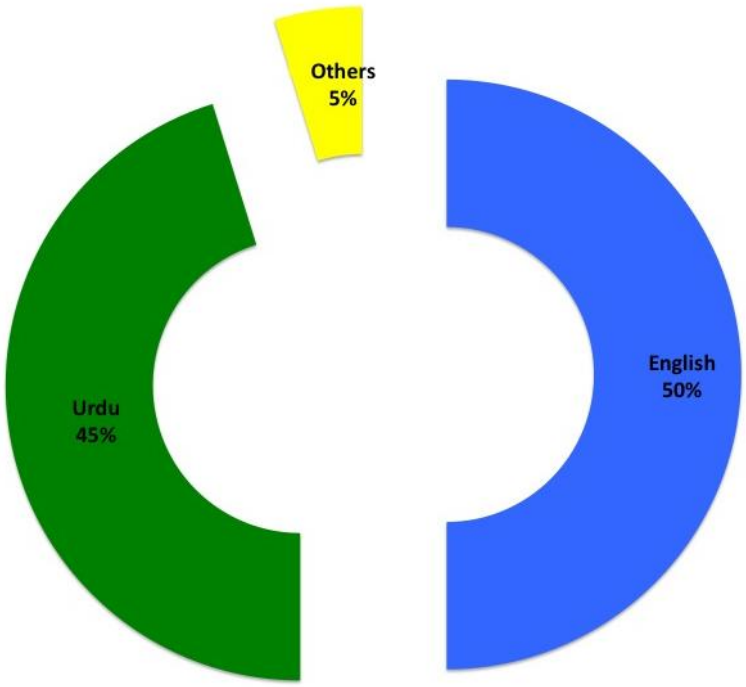


We witnessed, that post training and mentorship sessions the journalists more or less ILM Ideas six priority education themes. These areas were discussed in 62 English, 53 Urdu and 6 Sindhi newspapers. This included special editions, editorial coverage by many media outlets.

Most focused reporting was done from reporters based in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. This provides significant opportunities to train journalists in emphasizing on socio-economic challenges of the northern and western part of the country. (Please insert the timeline of the workshops of and editorial meetings)

Thematic Areas	No. of Articles
Public spending on education	85
Girls education and women teachers	61
Enrollment ratios, trends and issues	89
Education infrastructure and school conditions	85
Children with no access to schools	72
Innovation in education sector of Pakistan	58
Terrorism	5
Photos	56
TOTAL	511

ILM-o-AGAHI Media Coverage (Language-wise)



CHAPTER-5

FINDINGS

ASSESSMENT OF RESEARCH EVIDANCE

A thorough assessment of research evidence has been undertaken to dig out the key findings on education reporting.

Research evidence was available in terms of number of news items published on a specific education priority area. This showed the focus or shift of media to some specific education issue. It also enabled us to analyze that print and electronic media represented slightly varying trends in terms of quantitave analysis and major mass was put in qualitative aspect of the news reports, policy document or other available evidence.

All the key study areas have been backed up with appropriate sample of evidence (also attached as appendices with this report).

KEY GAPS IN THE LITERATURE

Pakistan is among the 21 countries facing an “extensive” learning crisis, according to the report. This encapsulates a number of indices, such as enrolment, dropout rates, academic performance and literacy. Pakistan scores low in every index.

Broadly, global standards of primary education seemed particularly severe in South and West Asia, and Western Africa. The countries in these regions, including Pakistan, are behind in virtually every index. Pakistan features along with 17 countries from sub-Saharan Africa, Mauritania, Morocco and India.

A careful analysis of print and electronic media and the thorough review of policy documents of central government and the provincial bodies along with the analysis of trends in news coverage on education issues the following has been identified as major gaps in education literature.

Incidence reporting instead of issue reporting

It is observed that most of the material generated on any aspect of education entails incidence reporting without any correlation to the cause and effect. This undermines the issue and resultantly it only serves as a news bite and noting more.

The role of innovation and technology

The role of innovation and technology especially in vernacular media is needed to be taken care of. Recently a mega event on education has been conducted at Islamabad

namely DisruptEd. The review of news coverage for the event showed that majority of reporters have reported the same as merely an event and no value judgment has been given to the issues highlighted through the DisruptEd.

Public vs Private

Children in a low-fee private school outperform those that are enrolled in the top tier of government schools, laying bare the government's crumbling educational infrastructure. However, even in private schools, 36% of grade 5 students cannot read a sentence in English, which they should have been able to do by grade 2.

Provincial Divides

The report exposed the inequalities in education within the country as well:

"Geographical disadvantage is often aggravated by poverty and gender. In Balochistan province, Pakistan, only 45% of children of grade 5 age could solve a two-digit subtraction, compared with 73% in wealthier Punjab province. Only around one-quarter of girls from poor households in Balochistan achieved basic numeracy skills, while boys from rich households in the province fared much better, approaching the average in Punjab."

Teaching crisis

The children were not the only problematic indicators. In a list of countries that have the highest shortfall of teachers, Pakistan was the only non-African country to be on the list. Nigeria was highest on the list, requiring 212,000 teachers. The research indicated that between 2011 and 2015, 5.2 million primary school teachers are required globally to make sure that universal primary education is guaranteed however the situation is worst in Pakistan.

Women's health, education tied together

The review also provided further evidence to the relationship between education and health. In Pakistan, only 30% of women with no education believe they have a say over how many children they have, compared with 52% of women with primary education and 63% of those with lower secondary education.

POLICY, PRACTICE AND RESEARCH IMPLICATION

The Economic Survey of Pakistan 2013-14 refers to the constitutional right to education of every child in Pakistan. Pakistan's federating units including Azad Jammu and Kashmir along with the provincial governments signed a joint declaration abiding by the country's all international commitments within the framework of the 18th Amendment. Pakistan's international commitments include "Education for All", "Millennium Development Goals" and the "Dakar Framework for Action. The Survey defines education as a form of learning in which the knowledge, skills and habits of group of people are transferred from one generation to the next generation through teaching, training, or research. It is a social instrument through which man can guide his destiny and shape his future.

The provinces have exercised their legislative authorities after amendment; for instance in the current year the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan passed an ordinance that contains provision of the mother language as a compulsory additional subject for primary level of education.

The Pakistan National plan of action 2013-2016 suggests a blend of traditional and innovative strategies to enroll more children in schools, retain the existing students, and meeting the quality standards of education. While Pakistan's action plan for progressing towards achieving MDG 2 calls for strengthening the institutional capacity to monitor becoming more responsive towards retaining more children in schools and therefore improving the quality of education and student to teacher ratio.

The most important aspect, which also the media either has ignored or perhaps is not trained to report is on education governance model. This mainly covers how the funding, provision, ownership and regulation of education and training system is coordinated and at what level; local or national in case of Pakistan. The system calls for greater efficiency, effectiveness and accountability. Unfortunately, the comparative study of the political manifestos on education indicates that the ruling party, which is the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) policy does not have either transparency or accountability mechanism as its strategy; whereas PPP, MQM, ANP and PTI all have developed a feedback loop monitoring system as part of their manifestoes on education. This is an important indicator as to determine the commitments of the provincial set-ups towards the community they serve and the international obligations that they have subscribed to.

It is important to note here that since its inception in 2003, the Medium-Term Budgetary Framework initiative received an approval from the Federal Cabinet in 2009. This reform changes the budget preparation process through i) Budget Strategy Paper ii) Out-based Budgeting. The report published by PILDAT is a good reference to improve governance. In the last six months of the work produced by the journalists that was reviewed none covered this aspect.

APPENDICES:

A) TV TALK SHOWS:

Talk Show: **8:00 PM** Date:**13 June**

Channel: **Waqt TV** Host: **FA**

Guest: **Asad Umer PTI, Rana Muhammad Afzal Khan PML-N, Tahira Abdullah Human Right Activist, Baela Raza Jamil Social Worker and Tariq Mahmood Waqt News**

Topic: **Priorities of government when it comes to education**

Summary:

Referred to **UN's stats**

- According to literacy rate, Pakistan is at 180th number
- Pakistan's illiteracy rate is 79%
- The most of the illiterate people in Pakistan are between the age of 15 to 24
- 72 % of the youngsters are not educated.
- Illiteracy rate of people between the age of 25 to 44 is 57%
- Literacy rate of people between 45 to 54 is 46%
- The highest rate of literacy is found between the age of 55 to 64
- Only 3% of the students make it to college and only 1% of them
- **75% leave education before making it to metric**

Government destroyed a charity school (Pehli Kiran) in Kachi Basti, Islamabad, in the name of terrorism where about 125 students were studying.

Tahira Abdullah blames government for not giving education due attentions. Government is good at governance when it wants to sell 3G & 4G or other interests but when it comes education they have decided to not do anything about it. She also talked about the point of gender imbalance in the UN stats given above. **Education is not government's priority.**

Asad Umer PTI's policy is centered on education all children especially girls. There is no better investment than investing in education.

Rana Muhammad Afzal Khan PML-N According to PEMRA 25% air time has to be for education and if channels would do that the situation will be entirely changed. If we allow such (kachi basti) illegal settlements then we will have the entire Islamabad occupied.

Conclusion From the discussion appears that education is not government's priority

Reference: http://affairs.com.pk/Play_Show_8-PM-With-Fareeha-Idrees--13th-June-2014_59288

Talk Show: **Aaj with Reham Khan** Date:**19 June**

Channel: **Aaj News** Host: **Reham Khan**

Summary:

The show had representation of all the provinces and focused on education and health.

Asad Umer: KPK allocated 111 billion for education. KPK's recent budget is twice more that the budget allocated to per child in Punjab. PTI government generated revenue to cover up less allocation of budget in KPK by taxing the rich.

Senator Saleem Mandviwala PPP: Federal government always gives less budget to provinces as compare to the amount proposed.

Ayesha Ghaus Pasha PML-N: Claims to spend more than 27% (273 billion) of the budget allocated for education in Punjab. Provincial government has introduced reforms to improve learning outcome and enrolment.

Baluchistan representative couldn't make it.

Conclusion: All four provinces are going in a good progressive direction and have 25% or more budget allocation for education. Provinces should not totally depend on federal budget, they should generate their own budget to make up for it.

Reference: http://affairs.com.pk/Play_Show_Aaj-With-Reham-Khan--19th-June-2014_59717

Talk Show: **AakhirKyun** Date: **27th May**

Channel: **News One** Host: **Batool Rajpoot**

Summary:

HEC Chairman's appointment. Not relevant to our research which focuses on primary and secondary education.

Reference: http://affairs.com.pk/Play_Show_Aakhir-Kyun--27th-May-2014_58057

Talk Show: **Assignment** Date: **2nd April 2014**

Channel: **Waqt TV** Host: **Ameer Abbas**

Summary:

Professor Naeem Masud Educationist: We don't have FSC labs but we make atomic bombs. We have great talent in Pakistan, we just don't have a good leadership.

Professor Dr. Ikram Chaudhry VC Sargodha University: Out of 60% youth only 11 lac are getting education whereas at least 30 lac should be in universities.

Conclusion: 15-30 years old make up 60% of the population of Pakistan who should have been in schools, colleges, and universities. Pakistan doesn't has required infrastructure, teachers and other facilities. Unless until Pakistan has the same education system despite the socio economic backgrounds of students in Pakistan we can't grow as a nation. The entire program was mainly based on higher education.

It was not very productive or solution oriented program.

Reference: http://affairs.com.pk/Play_Show_Assignment--2nd-April-2014_54486

Talk Show: **Assignment** Date: **10th June**

Channel: **Waqt TV** Host: **Ameer Abbas**

Summary:

Dr. Mohammad Nizamuddin Vice Chancellor University of Gujrat: Pakistan has the lowest budget allocated to education in the entire south Asian region, lower than Nepal and Bangladesh. 17% of budget goes to Higher Education. 18th Amendment didn't dissolve education it only dissolved education ministry; education has always been provincial matter. We don't have basic facilities for schools. Procurement and selection board is general mostly which doesn't give much autonomy to recruitment of staff for schools and colleges.

Punjab has passed the law that school is compulsory but until they open schools and cover distances by providing transportation it can't work. Punjab has passed the law but didn't change the environment. No one bothered to bring reforms in schools and colleges. Civic education is also missing from schools which teaches students to be a responsible citizen.

For improvement in education you need improvement in the bureaucracy too which stays there for a longer period of time.

Conclusion: Anchor person said, 'attempt to make a national education policy through the platform of this program'

This program overall talked about the teaching those subjects to the students that are required to contribute in the economy of Pakistan. The points that were made regarding primary and secondary education have been mentioned above.

Reference: http://affairs.com.pk/Play_Show_Assignment--10th-June-2014_59035

Talk Show: **Assignment** Date: **10th June**

Channel: **Waqt TV** Host: **Ameer Abbas**

Summary:

The show was about the Islamia University of Bawalpur and didn't talk about primary or secondary education which is the main focus of our research. The show has very annoying music in the background.

Dr. Muhammad Mukhtar Vice Chancellor The Islamia University of Bahawalpur: He mainly gave the anchor person a tour of his university and how the university has several departments.

Reference: http://affairs.com.pk/Play_Show_Assignment--10th-March-2014_53080

Talk Show: **Beelag** Date: **5th March**

Channel: **Capital TV** Host: **EjazHaider**

Summary:

Ejaz Haider: To deal with terrorism counter narrative in syllabus is very important in Pakistan.

Dr. Abdul Hameed Nayyar Physicist: Course books have been changed as compare to the past. An ideological war exists in Pakistan which has changed in to a war with weapons (hinting at terrorism).

Ahmad Saleem Analyst: Every time our reports were appreciated but nothing was actually done. Some of the books that were being taught during Zia's time were republished with the different year. The basic question is defining to what extent religion should be involved.

Conclusion: Personal ideologies should not be imposed on others. Similarly, one religion should not be imposed on other religions living in Pakistan. Course books should focus more on unifying the nation instead of preaching one perspective. Moreover, students should be encouraged to question and teachers should help students to grow as individuals. Teachers need to be trained too so that they won't take class room as a control room.

Reference: http://affairs.com.pk/Play_Show_Belaag--5th-March-2014_52816

Talk Show: **Beelag** Date: **8th January**

Channel: **Capital TV** Host: **EjazHaider**

Summary:

The topic of the program was education and knowledge. Host started the program with reference to Article 25 A. It states, "The State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of 5 to 16 years in such manner as may be determined by law".

Mosharraf Zaidi Analyst: Parents should at least send their kids to school. It is an ecosystem; enrolment, quality, and good teachers are directly related but will be a step by step process. Manifestos of political parties on education: JUI promised 15%, PPP 5%, MQM 4.5%, PML Q 5%, and PML-N 4%.

Abbas Rashid Educationist: In many areas, students help their families in the fields and parents find it useless to send them education specially when education is not skill based. Along with improving enrollment, it is very important that the quality of education has to be improved as well. Education of teachers is very essential too. Colleges that produce teachers should give quality education too. We have accountability system in place but the point is that is the government willing to move beyond giving education only to hire their favorites? To deliver in terms of education, there is a dire need that the skilled people are hired in the education sector.

Sehar Tariq Educationalist: Even a brilliant teacher can't teacher a class of 60. If we really want to succeed as a nation we have to improve the quality of education. The entire system of education has to be changed. Need to spend more money on education, need to train teachers, and the children of politicians and bureaucrats should be sent to public schools.

Reference: http://affairs.com.pk/Play_Show_Belaag--8th-January-2014_49549

Talk Show: **Hum Awam** Date:**16 January**

Channel: **Geo TV** Host: **Masood Raza**

Summary:

According to the report of a foreign country (didn't mention the name of report or country) people above/about the age of 50 are more educated as compare the youth. **The talk show didn't cover primary and secondary education.** The show focused on the bad result of Sindh colleges as compare to other provinces.

Out of Karachi's total 260 colleges, 136 are in Karachi. Only 25% of the students from Karachi colleges passed with 50% or more than 50% numbers.

Professor Haroon Rashid, former director colleges Karachi:

Iftikhar Muhammad Azimi, SPLA Karachi:

Dr. Fazlullah, Secretary Education Sindh: There is a miss match in schools and colleges. 90% schools are primary and secondary.

Dr. Abdul Wahab, President Muhammad Ali Jinnah University:

Pro. Inaam Bari, Regional director colleges Karachi:

Reference: http://www.affairs.com.pk/Play_Show_Hum-Awaam--16th-January-2014_49958

Talk Show: **Izhar** Date: **8th May**

Channel: **Dawn News** Host: **M. Jibran Nasir**

Summary:

According to UNESCO's report about 5.5 million children are not going school. Pakistan is the second country with this position in illiteracy. All stake holders should be involved in the policy making of education.

Mosharraf Zaidi Analyst: Referred to 18th amendment, Article 25A. The above mentioned figures and the figures government uses are mainly for the primary school. According to Alif Ilaan if you talk about students out of school, it is 25 million actually. Education issues are linked to education. The amount of budget being spent are meager but even the amount allocated is not being spent sufficiently and then corruption is done.

Ahmed Ali Senior Research Fellow: Also talked about 18th amendment; The article 25A also states that according the law and raises the point that what laws have provinces made following the 8th amendment. Education is government's responsibility. No feudal or land lord stops street children from going to school. One of the major is teacher rationalization, at some places there are 4 teachers for 6 students and at some other place 1 teacher for many children. Teacher rationalization is only up to government institutions that transfer teachers.

Reference: http://affairs.com.pk/Play_Show_Izhaar--8th-May-2014_56874

Talk Show: **Khabar se Khabar** Date: **8th July**

Channel: **Dawn News** Host: **Nazish Farooq**

Summary:

Pakistan spends only 2% of its total income which is the result of bad governance. Referred to the 18th amendment. Spending on education reduced from 7% to 4% in 2014. They discussed a report published by a private institute, Alif Ailaan. The report analyzed the state of education in Pakistan for last two years. The program focused on the infrastructure, enrolment, and quality of education.

Orya Maqbool Jan Senior Analyst: A nation can never learn and succeed by learning everything in a foreign language. We have left our language and have adopted a new language which has destroyed us as a nation. Education is not our government's priority.

Mosharraf Zaidi Analyst, Alif Ailaan: According to the report, Chakwal is on the top in terms of education and quality. It is a leadership failure, teachers or head masters contact higher ups for personal interests but never for the educational issue.

A.B Shahid Analyst: The elite mind set is not to teach children from lower socio economic system so that they won't grow up to ask tough questions.

Reference: http://affairs.com.pk/Play_Show_Khabar-Say-Khabar--8th-July-2014_61015

Talk Show: **Khabar se Khabar** Date: **8th July**

Channel: **Dawn News** Host: **Nazish Farooq**

Summary:

Muhammad Baleegh-ur-Rehman Minister of State for Education, Shaukat Ali Yousafzai PTI, Dr. Atta-ur-Rehman Columnist, Brig (R) Kamran Zia Defence Analyst and Fahad Chaudhry Dawn News in fresh episode of Khabar Say Khabar on Dawn News and talk with Nazish Farooq.

Not even a single Pakistani could make it to the top 400 universities' list of Times Higher Education or to the top 100 universities of Asia. Government needs to change its priorities from motorways to education.

87.8 Billion were allocated to education last year and this year it have been reduced by 1.6%.

Muhammad Baleegh-ur-Rehman Minister of State for Education: Talked about budget given to HEC and higher education.

Dr. Atta-ur-Rehman Columnist: Only talked about Higher Education in Pakistan.

Reference: http://affairs.com.pk/Play_Show_Khabar-Say-Khabar--30th-June-2014_60496

Talk Show: **NBC on Air** Date: **30th May**

Channel: **AbbTaak** Host: **Nasir BaigChughtai**

Summary:

Education was one of the three topics discussed in the show. It focused on the education in KPK.

In KPK, total 7.1 million children are between the age of 5 to 16 out of which 1.85 million girls and 0.92 million boys don't go to school. 60% funds have been allocated for boys' schools and 40% for girls' schools. 43% children are studying in villages, 12% of which are in middle schools and 5% are in high schools. However, only 22% schools are in approvable condition. More than half of the schools don't have electricity, 10 out of 13 schools don't have drinking water, 4 out of 25 schools don't have bathrooms, 2 out of 10 schools don't have boundary, 7% of the schools have only one classroom, and in Kohistan 30% of the schools have only one class room. So far, less budget is allocated to KPK as compare to other provinces.

During the last 5 years, extremism was at its peak. From 2008 to 2010, 2500 schools were destroyed fully and partially. According to the former education minister, Sardar Hussain Babar, 790 schools were blown up due to terrorism. According to stats 620 schools have been rebuilt and 170 school are under construction. 1700 schools were destroyed by the floods, out of these 240 were fully destroyed and 1465 were partially affected.

USAID promised to give 25 million Dollars which still haven't been received. Last year, 2012 to 2013, the government allocated 7.1 billion for education and promised to complete 90 projects. ANP-PPP, during 5 year rule, established 9 new universities.

Participants included Shaukat Ali Yousafzai PTI, Mosharraf Zaidi Analyst, and Fakhar Kakakhel Area Expert.

Reference: http://affairs.com.pk/Play_Show_NBC-On-Air--30th-May-2014_58331

Talk Show: **On the front** Date: **13 March**

Channel: **Dunya TV** Host: **Kamran Shahid**

Summary:

Started the program by comparing the Sindh that Bilawal Bhutto's Sindh festival intended to show as compare to the Sindh that exists in reality. They showed a school in Nodaro, Larhkana, which has been declared dangerous due to the cracks in the building; a teacher is still teaching students in the class. The head master of the school is not coming regularly for the last 6 years.

Another Government boys school has a sanitary worker and a drug addict as a teacher (Teachers are not coming to school).

The program also showed underage girls working in the fields at 5 minutes drive from Garhi Khuda Bakhsh. In Sindh, usually women work and men spend time playing cards.

A school, Hakim Jeo school, in Larhkana being used for living for 2 to 3 years.

The ruling feudal have kept the general public in Sindh away from education on purpose.

Reference: http://affairs.com.pk/Play_Show_On-The-Front--13th-March-2014_53290

Talk Show: **On the front** Date: **18 March**

Channel: **Dunya TV** Host: **Kamran Shahid**

Summary:

Anchorperson visited Cholistan, Punjab. Even drinking water is not available. The anchor person says if it doesn't get reported doesn't mean people don't die there.

Showed Cholistan Community School, Bahawalpur, Chak 19/DRB, which had no infrastructure and proper teacher availability. The school project was to end on 31st March. Children don't even have a roof above their head.

There was another school in Cholistan which is used to shelter animals.

There are 6 girls schools in total and 8 middle schools and 4-5 high schools.

Cholistan Development authority is there but government is reluctant to give funds.

Reference: http://affairs.com.pk/Play_Show_On-The-Front--18th-March-2014_53581

Talk Show: **On the front** Date: **25 March**

Channel: **Dunya TV** Host: **Kamran Shahid**

Summary:

Focused on the use of religion in Pakistan, didn't talk about secondary or primary education.

Reference: http://affairs.com.pk/Play_Show_On-The-Front--25th-March-2014_53996

Talk Show: Date:

Channel: Host:

Summary:

Reference:

Talk Show: **Sawal hai Pakistan ka** Date: **28 February**

Channel: **Aaj News** Host: **Rizwan Jaffar**

Summary:

Host did the show in IBA, Sakhar, and called students from other local schools too. One of the student proposed that quota system should end. The country should have one unified education system with one same national course. The main problem is education set up in Pakistan which sould start from primary level. Pakistani education system need transparency and accountability.

Syed Komail Haider Shah PPP, Muhammad Saleem, MQM MPA Sakhar, Sports & Youth Department's secretary Dr. Riaz Ahmed Siddiqui, Writer, Columnist, and Journalist, Jami Chadio, IBA director career development and quality enhance Dr. Sher Muhammad Daud

Reference: http://affairs.com.pk/Play_Show_Sawal-Hai-Pakistan-Ka--28th-February-2014_52499

Talk Show: **Sawal hai Pakistan ka** Date: **31 May**

Channel: **Aaj News** Host: **Rizwan Jaffar**

Summary:

The program mainly focused on a protest to protect universities' autonomy.

Dr. Jameel Kazmi President AUJK: After 18th amendment devolution of power happened but the power was just transferred to provinces whereas we thought the transfer of power would be given to more lower sector.

Dr. Waheed Chaudhry President Fapuasa

Syed Muhammad Usman Ali President Fapuasa Sindh: After 18th amendment, Sindh government over stepped and took the powers given to the statuary bodies of universities. We disagree that the government confiscated universities' autonomy.

Ghazanfar Hussain President NED University and Mueez Khan Secretary Jamia Karachi Fapuasa Sindh in a fresh episode of Sawal Hai Pakistan Ka on Aaj News and talk with Rizwan Jaffar.

Reference: http://affairs.com.pk/Play_Show_Sawal-Hai-Pakistan-Ka--31st-May-2014_58381

Talk Show:**SawalYehHai** Date: **18th April**

Channel: **ARY News** Host: **Dr. Danish**

Summary:

Dr. Atta-ur-Rehman Former Chairman HEC: In Pakistan, British parliamentary system can't work. In Pakistan we have feud democracy system which hinders education development. It depends on the good leadership. The current quality of education is producing the politicians we have and if we still don't improve the quality of education we will keep on producing the same politicians. Governance has to be improved.

Ahmed Ali Former Chairman Senate Standing Committee Finance: Gave an over view of history that Pakistan had nothing to start and now it has somewhat come a long way.

Dr. Ikram Ullah Khan Analyst: Politicians haven't played any positive role in the field of education. Some of the politicians don't appear to have mental health on screen. Civil society should play their role in education and raise voice against corruption.

Conclusion: Program generally talked about education, nothing specific was mentioned about primary and secondary education in Pakistan.

Reference: http://affairs.com.pk/Play_Show_Sawal-Yeh-Hai--18th-April-2014_55549

B) NEWS PAPERS

Sr#	Date	Newspaper	Reporter	Article Type
134	8/4/2014	Express		News

Reference (website address):
http://express.com.pk/epaper/index.aspx?Issue=NP_ISB&Page=City_Page002&Date=20140408&Pageno=2&View=1

Page #
2
Headline: Annual prize distribution at city school F 8 nursery

Summary:
Awards were distributed among position holders

Sr#	Date	Newspaper	Reporter	Article Type
98	01-06-2014	Jang		news

Reference (website address): http://e.jang.com.pk/06-01-2014/pindi/page2.asp

Page # 02

Headline:
kahumat kee muzakarat kay bad usatza kay mutalabat tasellem karay kee yakeen dahany

Summary:

the protest of Mutahid mahaz teacher brought fruit full result . The government assured them in coming budget their salaries will be increased.

Sr#	Date	Newspaper	Reporter	Article Type
1	01.01.2014	NawaeWaqat		News

Reference (website address): http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2014-01-01/page-12

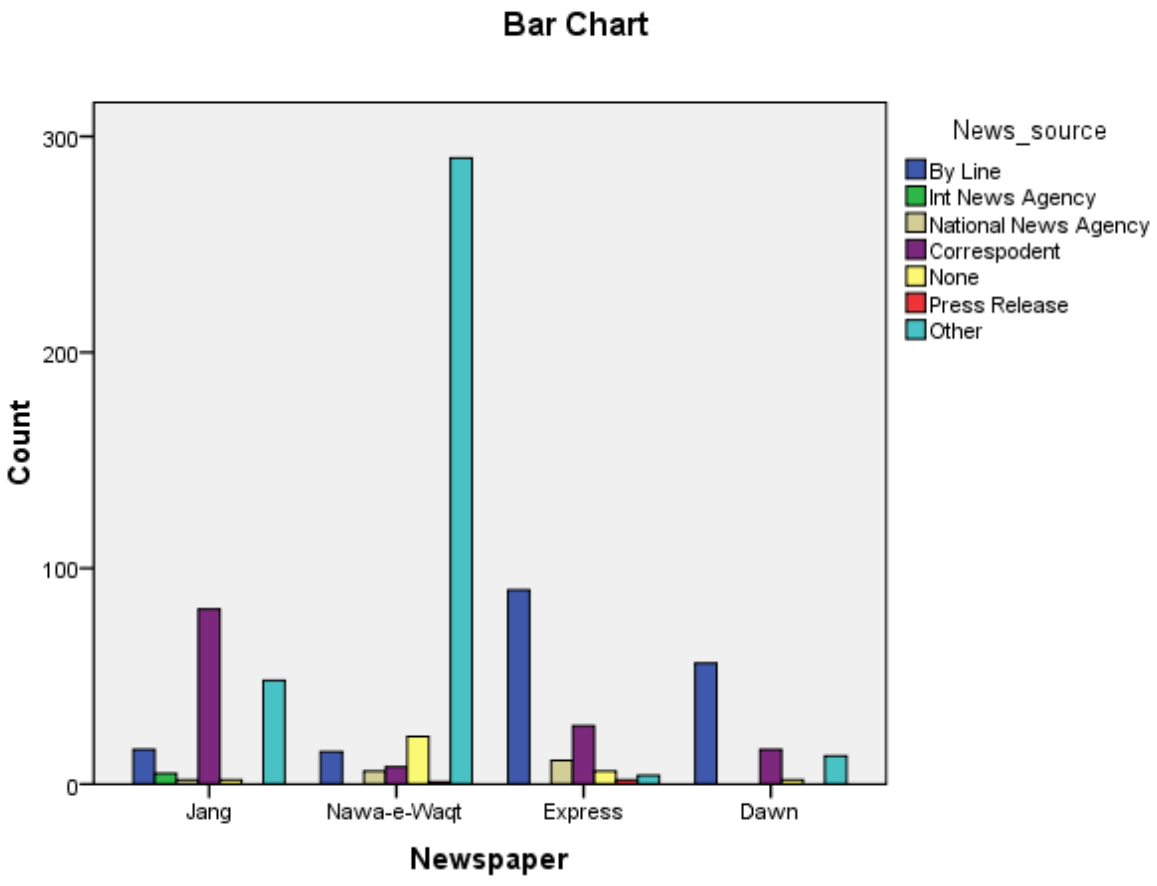
Page # 04

Headline:Same Course in All province

Summary:
The Courses of Class 1 to Intermediate would be same in 4 province.

News Source – Wise Distribution of Education Related Coverage by Jang, Nawa-e-Waqt, Express and Dawn

		News_source							
		By Line	Int News Agency	National News Agency	Correspodent	None	Press Release	Other	Total
Newspaper	Jang	16	5	2	81	2	0	48	154
	Nawa-e-Waqt	15	0	6	8	22	1	290	342
	Express	90	0	11	27	6	2	4	140
	Dawn	56	0	0	16	2	0	13	87
Total		177	5	19	132	32	3	355	723



Item Name: Disparity in education

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 1

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Zakaullah Mirbahar

Summary: This article urges the Sindh Government to implement the Sindh Right of Children to Free Education Act 2013. This includes direction to private schools to provide free education also for primary and secondary students and it is highlighted how this will result in promotion of tolerance and diversity in education institutions. It is also highlighted how much of this disparity owes to lack of interaction between students of different systems of education being offered in the city. This news item highlights further challenges to education in Pakistan.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1077840/disparity-in-education

Item Name: School exam system sheds key subjects

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 1

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Mansoor Malik

Summary: This article highlights how Computer Studies and Social Studies have been removed from the primary and secondary board examination curricula in Punjab. It highlights how such a step is in contrast to statements by the CM promoting ICT education, and that it would set students back from other provinces in competing for scholarships. If internally assessed, there would be no pressure on school management to come up to the mark. Statements from the government mention that such a step has been taken keeping in mind heavy burden on students and in line with international practices, and also to ease the burden on teachers and headmasters. This news item highlights the different sides of policy decisions that need to be taken into consideration before a final decision is announces. It highlights stakeholders and their viewpoints and how this factors into the policy making process.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1077669/school-exam-system-sheds-key-subjects

Item Name: Chitrali teachers

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 2

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Bashir Hussain Azad

Summary: This article urges the Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa government to declare Chitral a center for Chitrali candidates for the NTS test for primary teachers. This will improve access and save applicants for the posts of senior school teachers from travelling to Mingora, Dir or Peshawar. The previous month 5000 applicants had to make the journey and with snowfall and closed roads it would be near impossible. This news item highlights an urgent problem being faced by people in far flung areas and emphasizes how it can be solved by the provincial government through a few administrative steps only.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1077836/chitrali-teachers

Item Name: School van drivers' licence mandatory

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 3

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Staff Reporter

Summary: The article highlights the communication sent out by the ITP to all schools and all parents in the federal capital. The former are required to ensure all school van drivers are formally licensed for the sake of the children's safety. The latter are asked to not let their children go with unlicensed drivers. This news item thus draws attention to a positive step being taken towards ensuring child safety and ease of access to education.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1078037/school-van-drivers-licence-mandatory

Item Name: Mardan schools ‘fleecing’ students

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 3

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: It has been reported that government and private schools are taking money from students in the name of ‘fees’ for appearing in the board examinations. Students have reported that extra money is being taken and poor families are being affected by this. School administrations are not only disallowing students who fail to pay from appearing in exams but also cancelling their admissions. A complaint line has been opened to tackle this and firm action has been promised. This news item highlights how important it is to have administrative control structures in place to tackle such situations and make sure they are prevented in the first place.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1078050/mardan-schools-fleecing-students

Item Name: Elementary Education Foundation to be restructured

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 4

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Bureau Report

Summary: The EEF would be restructured to include more private sector members on the Board of Directors to ensure greater vibrancy and reduce government intervention. The managing director would be hired through a transparent head-hunting process from the private sector. Aspects of the Adopt a School Programme and the Rokhana Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Taleem Programme were also highlighted, such as in the former, missing facilities in schools would be provided and in the latter, the government would pay fees for students in private schools where government schools did not exist. The Chief Minister highlighted how provision of education was a priority of the government. The news item carries a solution oriented approach to the various problems being faced by education in the province.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1078286/elementary-education-foundation-to-be-restructured

Item Name: The NTS colander: Straining out merit

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 5

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Ruby Zaheer

Summary: The NTS service in openly declaring that it conducts tests on international standards, has been blamed for being biased towards A Levels students as opposed to intermediate students. The latter students with high marks are filtered out with their overall percentages greatly reduced, which affects their eligibility for top universities. They are also charged higher as they often have to enroll in evening rather than regular courses. It is highlighted that a lack of uniform education system in the country has led to unfair and biased testing and hard work by intermediate students is thus wasted. This news item highlights the urgent importance of introducing a uniform education system in the country.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1078516/the-nts-colander-straining-out-merit

Item Name: Changes proposed in primary schools' construction plan

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 6

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Mohammad Ashfaq

Summary: This article highlights how a report has been submitted to request the KP government to shift from constructing primary schools with two rooms and two teachers for six classes to six rooms and six teachers as a standard. It highlights how it is difficult for multiple grades to study together. On the other hand this would involve increasing budget three times to cover additional costs. The KP government was already spending Rs. 4-5 million annually to build new primary schools with 70% on girls' schools to reduce gender disparity. This item highlights the need for infrastructural development to improve overall quality of education.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1078611/changes-proposed-in-primary-schools-construction-plan

Item Name: No secondary school for visually impaired children in KP

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 6

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: Secretary General of Blind Association highlighted how there were no school sfor the visually impaired in all of KP while Punjab had them in every Tehsil. He mentioned educating this part of the population was essential if they were to become productive members of society. He also mentioned Braille and special libraries should be set up and that the PTI government should make it a priority to mobilize in this area. He also said that there were only two vocational training centers for the visually impaired in the entire province. This article highlights the need for special education in KP as well as the rest of the country.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1078613/no-secondary-school-for-visually-impaired-children-in-kp

Item Name: Balochistan teachers

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 6

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Haider Ali

Summary: It is highlighted how teachers in Balochistan, recruited fully on merit and fully qualified, have a salary of only Rs. 16, 500 at maximum. They are forced to do dual jobs to make ends meet and the government has started legal proceedings against teachers found doing dual jobs. It is requested that salary packages be revised in respect of the profession and legal proceedings withheld. This article highlights a major problem being faced by teachers that hinders the best possible provision of education and will have long term consequences.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1078722/balochistan-teachers

Item Name: Suicide blast at school kills student in Hangu

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 6

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Zahir Shah Sherazi

Summary: A suicide bomber was prevented from entering a school by a student in Peshawar and triggered the bomb at the entrance. The student was killed and two others injured. The Taliban have a history of blowing up hundreds of schools in KP, and another attack was also carried out outside a girls' school in another area, damaging the building. This news item highlights how security is a major threat and challenge to provision of education in the province and must be factored into any long term policy in the province.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1078731/suicide-blast-at-school-kills-student-in-hangu

Item Name: KP schools without IT teachers, labs

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 9

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Mohammad Ashfaq

Summary: It has been reported that the KP government made teaching IT compulsory at primary and secondary level across all schools, but failed to provide trained teachers and computer labs. As a result, many schools disregarded the instructions while others hired untrained teachers to teach theory to students, which has led to minimal progress. Headmasters complain that they are using Parent Teacher Council funds to cover the extra costs which leaves nothing over for minor school repairs. This news item highlights the importance of research based decision making at policy level and the importance of knowing ground realities before imposing such injunctions.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1079343/kp-schools-without-it-teachers-labs

Item Name: Substandard shoes for students

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 9

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: An NGO had promised to provide 200,000 high quality shoes for students in villages of Bajaur and Khyber Agencies, and the first sample was rejected by local students and teachers for being of low quality. The FATA education department has stopped the distribution of shoes. This news item highlights how checks and balances are necessary when employing non government sources to lend a hand in the process of providing quality education.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1079342/substandard-shoes-for-students

Item Name: Regional languages to be included in Balochistan curriculum

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 9

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Syed Ali Shah

Summary: The Balochistan Cabinet has announced that as the eighteenth amendment gives provinces full rights over curricula, it would introduce Balochi, Brahvi, Pashto, Persian and Sindhi in educational curriculum of the province. In consensus with all coalition members it was decided that these regional languages would be optional. Local historical figures would also be mentioned in the syllabus. This news item highlights changes that have been made possible due to the Eighteenth Amendment and mentions how promotion of regional languages is an important part of policy objectives.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1079416/regional-languages-to-be-included-in-balochistan-curriculum

Item Name: Madressahs & myths

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 10

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Mohammad Sajid Jadoon

Summary: This article highlights how Madrassahs are not solely responsible for spreading hate literature- if at all. The author calls himself a Madrassah alumnus and mentions that no hate literature was every propagated during his years of study. However, he highlights that scholars and civil society are not doing enough to dispel this hate literature. This news item highlights now prominent figures and regular individuals from all walks of life can contribute to improving education and ground narratives in the country.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1079495/madressahs-myths

Item Name: Teachers' recruitment

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 10

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Qadeer Ahmed Khandro

Summary: This article highlights how the World Bank sponsored a project for teachers' recruitment through the Reform Support Unit where 20 000 candidates cleared NTS requirements for recruitment. The project was to take a few months only and over a year had dragged on and it remained incomplete. The author highlights how the World Bank has issued a warning that if it remains incomplete any longer the sponsorship would be withdrawn. This article emphasizes how political leadership must mobilize and not let such opportunities go waste. It shows how lack of progress in the education sector owes much to inefficiency.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1079485/teachers-recruitment

Item Name: Call to fill vacant post of education board

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 11

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: Teachers have demanded that the position of chairman of the board of intermediate and secondary education, that had lain empty for over a year, should be filled immediately. This, in conjunction with 13 000 other posts that lay empty, has severely affected the working of the education department. It was also reported that the four tier promotion system formulated by the ANP government had not been implemented, and that Arabic should be introduced as a foreign language course for students of all grades. This article emphasizes the importance of removing administrative hurdles in the path to quality education and this requires hiring competent professionals in a timely fashion.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1079686/call-to-fill-vacant-post-of-education-board

Item Name: 'If we don't educate, there will be no Sindh, no Pakistan'

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 12

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Peerzada Salman

Summary: It was highlighted at the Sana Convention that the government was spending more on law and order than on education although the latter is the one that the future of the country depends on. It was raised that there had been no monitoring or check and balance system in place since the inception of the country to record where all the money being poured into education was being used. The US Consul General also spoke and mentioned how education was on their list of priorities in development work that was being done in Pakistan. 120 new schools had been built and 3.2 Pakistani children had been enrolled in a reading programme. It was highlighted how courts had to safeguard the fundamental right to education through article 25 A, and that access, quality and equity in education were important. This item highlights how various speakers emphasized the different facets of tasks that need to be fulfilled to bring the education system in Pakistan up to speed with the rest of the world.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1079849/if-we-dont-educate-there-will-be-no-sindh-no-pakistan

Item Name: Community involvement: Back to school

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 12

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Ismat Riaz

Summary: It is highlighted that with more than 25 million children out of school across the country, it is essential to take urgent steps to build more schools, provide more trained teachers and at the same time ensure that quality of education and literacy are on the rise. Neglect by consecutive governments and the huge population explosion have been identified as particular challenges that need to be overcome. Pakistan is far from realizing the MDGs and community based learning where parents and children both come together at schools together with teachers for community building is one suggested solution. Additionally, militants and terrorists have destroyed hundreds of schools and this is not only a loss of funds and infrastructure but also tears apart the psychological fabric of society and everything that a school symbolizes. This news item is highly important as it highlights the different layers and levels at which the problem needs to be tackled- on ground through administration and resources, but also on a psychological front.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1079874/community-involvement-back-to-school

Item Name: Educational institutions wear deserted look on Saturdays

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 12

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Ikram Junaidi

Summary: The decision of the CADD to re-introduce a six day working week has so far proven futile as attendance is low and costs for transport have increased in millions. There is greater consumption of electricity and gas and financial burden on parents and teachers. The decision was taken with the view that curricula could be completed in good time however institutions had planned courses according to the five day week and with attendance as low as 30% teachers were not taking classes. Officials continue to argue that courses remained incomplete with the 5 day work week. This item highlights the importance of informed decision making and consistency in education policy in order to produce the best possible results.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1079976/educational-institutions-wear-deserted-look-on-saturdays

Item Name: 300 posts of teachers vacant in Swabi

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 12

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: Of the 300 posts lying vacant, it is reported that 75% would be filled through promotions and the remaining through the Public Service Commission. Teachers had been instructed to submit the necessary documents and it was estimated the procedure would be completed soon; however the remaining 25% were said to take much longer. Due to demands from different teacher groups, they had been requested to re-submit documents after changes were made leading to further delays. This news item highlights lack of efficiency and streamlining in the system as a major cause for lack of progress in the education sector and draws attention to how these issues need to be resolved urgently.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1079990/300-posts-of-teachers-vacant-in-swabi

Item Name: Unified education system in KP from March, says CM

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 13

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Bureau Report

Summary: Pervez Khattak has announced a uniform education system across the board and the abolition of a class based education system. He mentioned that this would go a long way in removing disparity and promoting economic development also. This news item highlights the government's attitude towards education and practical steps being taken in the province to promote goals highlighted in the manifesto.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1080599/education-in-wana

Item Name: Early childhood education project to be launched in July, says Khuhro

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 16

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: Sindh's senior education minister has stated that an early childhood education programme would be launched for children from three years of age, and 8000 female teachers would be recruited. He said admission details would be computerized and linked to NADRA and PTCL and this would help track admissions and drop-outs. He also mentioned scholarships for girl students. He condemned the copy culture and called for closed schools to be reopened. This article highlights not only the challenges being faced in Sindh but also political measures that are being taken to overcome them.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1080572/early-childhood-education-project-to-be-launched-in-july-says-khuhro

Item Name: Students denied stipend for four years

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 16

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Shafiq Butt

Summary: It is reported that more than 450 primary and secondary students have been denied internal stipends for over four years, and the amount has piled up to Rs. 4.93 million. Education officials reported that they had send notices to local government for release of funds but there had been no response. This item highlights inefficiencies in policy implementation infrastructure that need to be tackled urgently if provision of services is to improve.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1080638/students-denied-stipend-for-four-years

Item Name: School without washrooms, furniture

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 16

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: It is reported that a boys' primary school damaged by floods last year is still without boundary walls, washrooms, or furniture. Contaminated water is being consumed. Village elders stated that they had sent numerous notices to the education department and received no response, and that the teachers were also irregular in their duties. This news item highlights obstacles to the provision of education in far flung areas of the country.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1080678/school-without-washrooms-furniture

Item Name: Education in Wana

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 16

Source: Dawn

Contributor: M. Zalib Wazir

Summary: It is reported that the people of Wana in South Waziristan are deprived of education as the primary and secondary school buildings are being used as guest houses by the Maliks of the area. This news item highlights how infrastructure is misused and how strict steps need to be taken to prevent this and provide quality education. Taking local people on board with government plans may go a long way in resolving the problem.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1080599/education-in-wana

Item Name: Teachers observe hunger strike

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 17

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: Teachers in Badin observed a hunger strike "demanding reinstatement of their colleagues sacked in Tharparkar, quota in jobs for deceased and retired teachers and regularisation of contractual teachers". They also asked for promotions and group insurance. This news item highlights how teachers can be given better incentive packages and facilities so that they are better able to perform their duties.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1080778/teachers-observe-hunger-strike

Item Name: 7m children out of school in Punjab

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 19

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: The Governor has stated that 7 m children are out of school and most schools lack clean drinking water facilities. Students of teachers training colleges also protested in the hundreds against merging the girls training center with the boys training center. This news item highlights issues being faced both at student and teacher level and signifies the importance of taking local opinions into account before formulating decisions.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1081261/7m-children-out-of-school-in-punjab

Item Name: Revamping education: Hopes and reality

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 19

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Muhammad Ali Musofer

Summary: Pakistan has the second largest number of out-of-school children totaling around 5 million and millions dropout. For those who are enrolled poor teaching and facilities prevent them from achieving a high standard. "A lack of political will, negative political influence, lack of accountability, a poor examination system and inadequate textbook and teaching-learning materials" are identified as possible causes. It is time for political parties to step up and fulfill their promises, revamp the system that has few merit appointments, remove political influence from the education sector, monitor teachers' performance and improve textbooks and evaluation criteria for students. The news item highlights not only the problems being faced but also suggests steps towards resolving them, particularly after the eighteenth amendment when provinces should make full use of the autonomy they have been given.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1081201/revamping-education-hopes-and-reality

Item Name: Rs50m released for furniture in 300 girls' schools

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 20

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: The City District Government Rawalpindi has released Rs. 50 m for 300 girls' schools in the district and maintained that it would release funds for boys' schools in the next fiscal year. There are a total of 1100 girls schools and 900 boys schools that have reported missing facilities and face an environment that is not conducive to learning as there is no furniture. The Punjab government had asked local PML-N leaders to nominate schemes that needed funds and they had failed to do so. This is why funds were not provided in a timely fashion. This news item highlights the lack of facilities students have to face as well as failure on the part of political leadership to take notice and act urgently.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1081396/rs50m-released-for-furniture-in-300-girls-schools

Item Name: School roof collapses

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 21

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Bureau Report

Summary: School roof collapsed in Mirpurkhas, injuring two teachers at the Government Boys Middle School. The education department SDO inquired into embezzlement of funds by the School Management Committee. This news item highlights poor safety measures taken in constructing school buildings and lack of importance given to strong infrastructure. This must be tackled if children are to be provided with a safe environment.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1081536/school-roof-collapses

Item Name: Scout unit launched in school

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 21

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: A scout unit was launched at Lakki Marwat and it was announced that similar units would be launched all over the province to encourage responsible citizenship in students. Parents on the occasion demanded that schools be upgraded and provided better infrastructural facilities. This news item highlights some of the challenges being faced by the education sector as well as some of the progress being made towards providing holistic education.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1081616/scout-unit-launched-in-school

Item Name: No progress in education

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 21

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: The Annual Status of Education Report highlights Punjab as showing the best indicators with Sindh at the bottom. 57% of fifth grade students cannot read proper English sentences and half of these cannot read stories in Urdu, Pashto or Sindhi. Private schools and urban areas showed better results than public schools and rural areas. Corruption, teacher absenteeism or lack of competency, political quotas, underdeveloped infrastructure, and lack of capacity at provincial level to deal with the challenges at hand post devolution are quoted as probable causes for the dismal state of affairs. The news item provides a concise snapshot of the state of education in Pakistan currently.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1081705/no-progress-in-education

Item name: Payment of hiring allowance with salary still a dream for teachers

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 22

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Ikram Junaidi

Summary: The CADD in 2004 announced that as number of government houses were limited in the capital, the responsibility for disbursing funds for employees to rent private accommodation would be given to different departments. The Federal Directorate of Education established the Estate Management Office for this purpose and it is reported that funds for hiring allowance are not disbursed along with salary due to red-tapism and unnecessary delays, leading to frustration in teachers. The EMO has also established its office on high school premises leading to many visitors going back and forth, and teachers have expressed concerns for safety of students. This news item highlights an administrative failure slowing down the provision of quality education and calls for urgent attention.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1081902/payment-of-hiring-allowance-with-salary-still-a-dream-for-teachers

Item name: Only 26pc pass HSSC supple exam

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 22

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: It is reported that only 26% candidates passed the HSSC supple exam and this dismal state of affairs is attributed to poor teaching and lack of facilities. It was also reported that private school students were performing better. This news item highlights disparity in the education system and the urgent need for teacher training and merit recruitment.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1081905/only-26pc-pass-hssc-supple-exam

Item name: Teachers' attendance in Khyber schools improves

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 22

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: Due to measures being taken by the KP government against absent teachers, attendance has improved. Surprise visits showed that some teachers had deputed relatives to teach in their place and upon termination of service tried to mobilize local elders against the authorities. Some even stole textbooks to exert pressure, and it was reported that one teacher had been on salary for 20 years without appearing for work. This news item highlights urgent problems in staff and faculty that are proving an obstacle to provision of quality education.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1081836/teachers-attendance-in-khyber-schools-improves

Item name: Community schoolteachers not paid salary for six months

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 22

Source: Dawn

Contributor: muqaddam-khan

Summary: 220 teachers of the Basic Education Community Schools in Swabi have not been paid their salaries for six months and officials were adopting delaying tactics. Books were not received and students were exposed to harsh weather due to lack of facilities. Teachers were even accommodating students in their homes and were losing incentive to perform and no support was forthcoming from the government. This news item highlights challenges teachers face in discharging their duties and raises concern over political and administrative hurdles in the provision of education.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1081829/community-schoolteachers-not-paid-salary-for-six-months

Item name: Six schools upgraded in Bajaur

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 22

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: The local education department in conjunction with local government and foreign donors has upgraded six girls' middle schools in Bajaur to provide additional classrooms. Rs. 45.2 million has been spent. This news item highlights positive steps being taken to improve educational infrastructure and facilities being provided to girl students in far flung areas.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1081803/six-schools-upgraded-in-bajaur

Item Name: Seven teachers suspended

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 17

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: Seven teachers were suspended on grounds of corruption when the DCO paid a surprise visit to the school. There was false attendance where the figures for the actual number of students in the class did not match the ones in the register and strong action was taken against the principal. It was reported that this was a common practice in secondary schools. This news item highlights rampant corruption that needs to be tackled from within the system.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1082109/seven-teachers-suspended

Item Name: Independent monitors to oversee school affairs in KP

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 23

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Mohammad Ashfaq

Summary: The Elementary and Secondary education department is to start a 3 year independent monitoring programme costing Rs. 1.3 Billion, to be funded by the DFID. 475 monitors had been recruited for data collection and monitoring and would “collect data about the absent teachers, student-teacher ratio, missing facilities in the schools, enrolment and dropout rate of students, physical environment of schools buildings” and “also check the distribution of free textbooks, stipends to the girls’ students, and utilisation of fund for minor repairs”. They would be shuffled each month and provided smartphones and fuel allowances for real-time data input to the Independent Monitoring Unit. It was hoped that this data collection would help make better policy decisions and if successful the programme would be continued beyond the stipulated time. This news item is solution-oriented.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1082089/independent-monitors-to-oversee-school-affairs-in-kp

Item name: Teachers hold demo at Bhuttos' mausoleum

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 24

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: Primary Teachers' Association held a demonstration at the Bhutto Mausoleum to draw authorities' attention towards their charter of demands. It was attended in hundreds by teachers from across Sindh. They reiterated their demands for a quota system, insurance, opposed privatization of institutions under instruction of international organizations such as World Bank and demanded time-scale for junior schools teachers (JSTs) and running scale for untrained teachers in the light of the apex court's decision. This news item highlights pressing issues being faced by primary teachers in Sindh.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1082251/teachers-hold-demo-at-bhuttos-mausoleum

Item name: Centres for special children lack transport, hostel facilities

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 26

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Irfan Haider

Summary: Students at the National Special Education Centre for Physically Handicapped Children have reported a lack of transport facilities for students travelling from far. As a result they have to use public transport which has no support for physically disabled passengers. Parents have requested that special chairs and special psychotherapists and physiotherapists should be arranged by the school for its students. There were also no Braille books for the visually impaired. It was also reported that government departments had set up their offices in the institutions and that led to lack of space for education and accommodation of handicapped children from outside Islamabad. It was reported that 70 more could be admitted if the government offices were to be removed. There was also a shortage of funds. This news item highlights urgent need for attention to special education so that these children can also become productive members of society and contribute to the development of the country.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1082835/centres-for-special-children-lack-transport-hostel-facilities

Item name: Centres for special children lack transport, hostel facilities

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 26

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Irfan Haider

Summary: Students at the National Special Education Centre for Physically Handicapped Children have reported a lack of transport facilities for students travelling from far. As a result they have to use public transport which has no support for physically disabled passengers. Parents have requested that special chairs and special psychotherapists and physiotherapists should be arranged by the school for its students. There were also no Braille books for the visually impaired. It was also reported that government departments had set up their offices in the institutions and that led to lack of space for education and accommodation of handicapped children from outside Islamabad. It was reported that 70 more could be admitted if the government offices were to be removed. There was also a shortage of funds. This news item highlights urgent need for attention to special education so that these children can also become productive members of society and contribute to the development of the country.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1082835/centres-for-special-children-lack-transport-hostel-facilities

Item name: No regional languages at private schools yet

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 26

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Mohammad Ashfaq

Summary: Regional languages such as Pashto, Hindko, Seraiki, Kohar and Kohistani were to be taught at all private school in KP and so far the elementary and secondary education department has failed to implement this. It is argued that despite challenges in teaching these languages, it was important to promote and preserve them and private schools should be taken into confidence about this. This news item highlights the importance of outlining achievables in line with ground realities with regards to new education policies.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1082820/no-regional-languages-at-private-schools-yet

Item name: Rs23m to be released to keep school bus service running

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 27

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: Rs. 23 Million would be released to keep 107 buses running to pick and drop students in the federal capital til the end of the financial year. In November 2013 all fees and charges were abolished in accordance with Article 25(A) under which the right to education was recognized as a fundamental and universal right. This has increased financial burden on schools with additional problems due to Saturday being declared a working day. This news item highlights the different considerations that need to be taken on board before major financial decisions can be made.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1082964/rs23m-to-be-released-to-keep-school-bus-service-running

Item name: JSQM protest against private schools

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 27

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: JSQM protestors conducted a token hunger strike outside a local press club against the 150 or so private schools who were not teaching Sindhi as part of their curriculum in the district. They also condemned the education department for not taking notice. This news item highlights the importance of taking local opinions and culture into consideration when implementing education policy.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1082883/jsqm-protest-against-private-schools

Item name: Education of 5,500 Cholistani children in limbo

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 28

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Majeed Gill

Summary: Closure of the Literate Cholistan Project being run by the Cholistan Development Authority has put at stake some 75 schools being run under the project. The local community had been providing rooms and shelter to keep these schools running and up to 5500 children were benefitting. Many attempts were made to incorporate these schools into the education plans for the area but to no avail. This news item highlights lack of encouragement from political authorities for local initiatives which would ultimately lessen the burden on the political authorities themselves.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1083205/education-of-5500-cholistani-children-in-limbo

Item name: School vans

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 29

Source: Dawn

Contributor: Staff reporter

Summary: An urgent meeting was called for private school associations to discuss the safety of CNG run school vans. It was decided that they would carry stickers and be painted in the same colour. This news item highlights positive steps being taken by authorities to ensure a safe and conducive learning environment and provide ease of access.

Reference: http://www.dawn.com/news/1083358/school-vans

Item Name: Crisis of Education

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Feb 3

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: The editorial details how despite the fundamental right to education granted by Article 25 A, the Global Monitoring Report released by Education for All paints a rather bleak picture. Pakistan is far from attaining its educational targets for 2015 and the education emergency is not ranked as a political priority. 35% of the population is under 15. It is demanded that funding for education must be increased to promote tolerance and reduce crime, as well as promote economic growth. This news item highlights the significance of prioritizing the development of the education sector for widespread positive results in other areas of the economy as well.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201402030015&EN_ID=11201402030013&EMID=11201402030002

Item Name: MC School Teachers Awaiting Promotions Since 1990

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Feb 5

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Fawad Ali

Summary: The article details how over 400 teachers were being deprived of due perks. They were being denied wage increases for almost the entire length of their service while over 200 general cadre teachers had been reported to have been transferred into MC schools. Authorities however deny allegations and state that the transfers were made to fulfill vacant posts rather than employing a recruitment strategy. This news item highlights lack of communication between authorities and employees and administrative hurdles preventing progress in the education sector.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201402050041&EN_ID=11201402050039&EMID=11201402050004

Item Name: Let Universities Help Improve Schools

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Feb 6

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Ali Usman

Summary: The article details recommendations from University representatives that they should be included in the boards governing secondary schools to help inculcate a research culture and promote linkage between schools and universities. They could also help improve education standards in primary and secondary schools. This news item highlights channels available to policy makers to improve provision of education in the country.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201402060127&EN_ID=11201402060118&EMID=11201402060014

Item Name: $7m for girls' education in distant areas

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Feb 7

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: The article details the signing of an MoU between the Ministry of Education and UNESCO to fund education for girls in far flung areas. The 5 year plan aimed to improve access to education as well as quality and reduce drop-out rates. This was also expected to increase employment for women in far flung areas. The news item is solution oriented and highlights steps being taken at policy level to encourage progress for female education.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201402070146&EN_ID=11201402070130&EMID=11201402070016

Item Name: Special Athletes Compete in Education Sector Games

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Feb 7

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: The article details the participation of over 500 special athletes in the Punjab Youth Festival in different sporting events. The Festival was also attended by MPAs. This news item highlights positive steps being taken to diversify educational activities especially for special children.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201402070166&EN_ID=11201402070148&EMID=11201402070017

Item Name: No Building in Sight for Visually Impaired Students

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Feb 11

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Muhammad Sadaqat

Summary: The article details protests by primary school students and teachers demanding an official school building. The principal stated that he had been providing education to the visually impaired girls free of cost and needed government support. The original rented school building had been flooded and the new premises and hostel, along with the equipment, were being threatened eviction by authorities. This school was the only one of its kind in the region and girls attending from far flung areas would be deprived of education if the problem were not resolved. The news item highlights major administrative challenges to the education sector, of which special education is a very important part.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201402110121&EN_ID=11201402110113&EMID=11201402110014

Item Name: Punjab School Attendance Indicators Stagnant

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Feb 11

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Aroosa Shaukat

Summary: The article details the ASER report, which states that education indicators in Punjab had stagnated over the last year. These include enrollment and drop out rates, low attendance for teachers and students, learning levels, teacher qualifications and missing facilities. These were compared across rural and urban areas as well as between public and private schools. The news item highlights large disparities across indicators and brings to attention the qualifiers that policy makers need to be studying in order to implement the best possible solutions for the education sector.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201402110145&EN_ID=11201402110137&EMID=11201402110017

Item Name: Japan to help in schools' upgrade

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Feb 12

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: The article details an agreement inked between the Japanese Ambassador and the Secretary for the Economic Affairs Division where Japan would help expand opportunities for girls' education in rural Sindh. $7.85m were pledged and it was mentioned that Japan would assist in upgrading girls' education in other parts of the country as well. This news item highlights foreign assistance being procured to further educational goals in the country, particularly with regards to girls' education.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201402120035&EN_ID=11201402120031&EMID=11201402120003

Item Name: Teachers to boycott Matric Exams, plead for ex recheck

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Feb 16

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Kashif Abbasi

Summary: The article details agitation by the Punjab Teachers' Union (Rawalpindi Chapter) claiming that results for the previous matriculation exam were bogus and unless they were rechecked teachers would boycott the upcoming exams. They claimed that the board had deliberately failed hundreds of students just to make money from rechecking. It was also reported that the education department had stopped wage increases for 200 teachers for faulty exam checking. The RBISE declared that only a few dozen students passed after rechecking, and not hundreds. They also stated that they had introduced a new oath system binding employees to fair and just practices. This news item highlights still further administrative hurdles preventing even the current education system from performing to its full potential.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201402160029&EN_ID=11201402160027&EMID=11201402160003

Item Name: Big Push Required to Improve Education in Balochistan

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Feb 17

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Riazul Haq

Summary: The article details how the ASER report mentions low enrollment, high dropouts, poor standards and socio-political issues as key obstacles in improving education in Balochistan. The literacy rate has stagnates at 46% with high gender disparity, low survival rate and millions of out of school children. Advisor to the Balochistan CM highlighted access to education as one of the biggest challenges for school age children, as well as low population density- imbalancing the costs and benefits of building new schools- and lack of facilities such as electricity. Many children could also not speak Urdu, the language of the national curriculum. However, steps were also being taken to recruit new teachers and establish a monitoring and assessment system. Political problems were also highlighted. This news item details the challenges particular to education in Balochistan, and highlights how strategic planning must be done to overcome these obstacles.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201402170138&EN_ID=11201402170127&EMID=11201402170017

Item Name: 100% enrollment of children expected in Punjab by 2015

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Feb 17

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Aroosa Shaukat

Summary: The article details how the School Education Department has claimed that it is likely to see 100% enrollment for students aged 5-9 by 2015. It details the Jahalat Say Azadi Drive and highlights its effectiveness in achieving enrollment targets. A monitoring mechanism for attendance and facilities provision had also been introduced. The SED contests the findings of the ASER report which says 16-18% students are still out of school. It is also reported that updated official figures are not available and that authorities rely on projected figures. Proper reporting of figures is required, as well as a strategy for students over ten years of age who have never been enrolled previously. Including drop-out rates, it is reported that at least 15% children are out of school however the SED maintains that progress is taking place. The news item highlights the need for accurate and relevant research to inform policy makers and steps being taken towards full enrollment for primary students.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201402190449&EN_ID=11201402190244&EMID=11201402190060

Item Name: Education Budget must be increased

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Feb 21

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: The article details speeches at the Annual Children's Assembly where it was mentioned that the education budget must be increased for overall economic development, curricula must be revised to be uniform across the country as well as free from hate literature in order to combat terrorism and promote tolerance. It was also mentioned that infrastructure must be improved and enrollment and dropout rates controlled. Allocation of the budget must be monitored and an alliance between the government and private schools should be formed. The Right to Education Bill must be used to advocate greater provision of education across provinces. This news item highlights government and civil society resolve to work towards a better education sector.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201402210055&EN_ID=11201402210049&EMID=11201402210005

Item Name: No Teachers More Problems

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Feb 25

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Riazul Haq

Summary: The article details how according to the "Status of Teachers in Pakistan" report, more than 85 000 posts remain vacant with the highest shortage in Punjab. There was a need to implement transparent systems for recruitment on merit rather than political motivation. Problems also include low salaries and lack of incentives as well as poor working environments that prevent entrants into the profession. Public School teachers were reported to be paid 10-15 times less than their private school counterparts. High gender disparity and rural-urban disparity was also reported. This news item highlights the need for proper recruitment and training procedures for teachers, and a revision in the incentive package.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201402250132&EN_ID=11201402250126&EMID=11201402250016

Item Name: 25% of class 9 students could drop out

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 1

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: This article details an event held to discuss the Punjab Education budget for 2013-2014. Issues faced include poor standards, missing facilities such as no boundary walls, furniture or clean drinking water, or a teacher to student ratio as high as 1:290. 38% of school children in Lahore alone were out of school and another 25% likely to drop out in transitioning from grade 9 to ten. It was highlighted that successes include bringing 3.5 million children to school by the new government, although the challenge now was to retain them. Recommendations included keeping in mind inflation when allocating budget, and taking into consideration ground realities for better use of education budgets rather than simply increasing the monetary amount. This news item provides a holistic snapshot of the state of primary education in many parts of Punjab.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201401010178&EN_ID=11201401010160&EMID=11201401010022

Item Name: Curriculum biased against Non-Muslims

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 1

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: This article details how civil society is urging for reforms in curriculum. Speakers at the Peace and Development Foundation highlighted discriminatory clauses in the Constitution of Pakistan and demanded a removal of hate literature towards non-Muslims that was found in school curricula. There was also concern over policy of giving 20 extra marks to children who had memorized the Quran and it was called an unfair advantage. This news item highlights the diverse sets of concerns that need to be taken into consideration when formulating education policy.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201401010169&EN_ID=11201401010151&EMID=11201401010021

Item Name: Arabic set to be a compulsory language

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 5

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Awais Jafri

Summary: The minister for religious affairs said that the government is planning to introduce Arabic as a compulsory language in Primary Schools. This was said to be able to help fight terrorism as children would be equipped to understand the Quran. It was also said to help promote tolerance and tackle the challenge presented by sectarianism in the country. This news item highlights how curriculum reform is also a way forward with widespread repercussions across the social fabric.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201401050044&EN_ID=11201401050040&EMID=11201401050005

Item Name: Going Back to School Takes on a New Meaning- In English

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 6

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Umer Farooq

Summary: The article highlights the 30% increase in education budget in KP and how the PTI government intends to change the medium of instruction for math and science in grade 1 to English to bring about a uniformity in the system, true to its six point education agenda. Books have been printed and teachers will be trained as master trainers and set to train still thousands more teachers across the province in a step by step process. It would take up to ten years to change the entire medium of instruction in schools as these children progress from grade to grade. A biometric system would be introduced to ensure full attendance for both teachers and students. Working groups of educationists and experts were involved in this redesigning. This news item highlights progress towards educational goals taking place in KP.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201401060007&EN_ID=11201401060006&EMID=11201401060001

Item Name: Education Ministry's Letter Unanswered

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 7

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Riaz ul Haq

Summary: The article highlights how a letter from the education ministry to all provinces requesting recommendations for a central curriculum commission to reform the country's educational curricula sent out in June 2013 remains unanswered in the administrative confusion following the 18 amendment. Concerns were raised over the existence of the ministry in the first place as education had been devolved to provinces and it is argued that having a federal ministry will help disseminate funds by donors. Rs. 188 billion plans to bring 25 million out of school children into the system in line with MDGs were also highlighted to have achieved no progress since 2012. It was mentioned that the ministries, six months after devolution, were still deciding roles and allocation of work between center and provinces. This news item highlights the post eighteenth amendment scenario and administrative hurdles in place for the education sector.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201401070506&EN_ID=11201401070238&EMID=11201401070066

Item Name: Education an investment, not an expenditure

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 7

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: The article details the inauguration of an e-learning programme for students of grades 9 and 10 wherein textbooks would be made available free online. It was planned that the scope would be extended to students of other grades also. CM Shahbaz Sharif talked about distribution of laptops and expanded internet infrastructure, scholarships and fee vouchers to school children, and how 80 000 teachers had been recruited already. This news item highlights progress towards education sector goals as achieved by the PML N government.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201401070530&EN_ID=11201401070261&EMID=11201401070068

Item Name: Teachers' Profiles Affect Students' Outcomes

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 8

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Hassan Naqvi

Summary: The article details a paper presentation on teacher profiles that affect learning outcomes in students by a member of the University of London. It was found that students of politically active teachers score less, with more female teachers being politically active than male. It was also found that teachers who professed to be confident about math produced better math results for their students and a staggering 50% professed to have difficulty in math. It was also found that 60% of girl students as opposed to 73% of boy students agreed that education was equally important for girls and boys. It was also found that gender biases on the part of teachers, who generally believed that boys were more academically inclined and better at math and science subjects, did not necessarily affect test scores for students. This news item draws attention to key determinants of students' performance that need to be taken into consideration when formulating education policy.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201401080152&EN_ID=11201401080138&EMID=11201401080017

Item Name: Most Schools in Nisar's Constituency in Shambles

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 12

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: The article details abysmal conditions in one of many schools in the Interior Minister's constituency. This includes leaking ceilings, unsound structures, and no furniture or gas connection, which severely inhibits learning abilities during the biting cold. Teachers have to pay building rent through their own salaries with no response from local authorities despite being approached several times. This news item highlights harsh conditions under which government schools are being run that need urgent attention.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201401120145&EN_ID=11201401120119&EMID=11201401120016

Item Name: Most fifth graders cannot read this headline

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 17

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Riazul Haq

Summary: The article details the ASER report which states high disparity between schools in rural and urban areas, the large number of children out of school, and how only about half of those surveyed could do simple language comprehension or arithmetic exercises. There was high gender disparity and low attendance for both teachers and students especially in rural areas. Mothers were more literate in urban areas, where a prevailing 'tuition culture' was also found to exist. This news item highlights the major challenges to development of the education sector as detailed in the ASER report.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201401170026&EN_ID=11201401170024&EMID=11201401170003

Item Name: Teachers Decide Not to Boycott Exams

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 23

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Aroosa Shaukat

Summary: The article details the Punjab Teachers' Unions plans to continue to agitate against the government's DEAs through rallies in the province as well as Islamabad, and protest against non-academic duties for teachers. However it had decided not to boycott the grades 5 and 8 board examinations. This news item highlights concerns faced by the teaching staff.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201401230173&EN_ID=11201401230148&EMID=11201401230017

Item Name: Capital's School Buses No Longer in Jeopardy

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 24

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Riazul Haq

Summary: The article details how CADD has approved funds for fuel, hiring and daily wagers. After cutting of school funds the previous November, school administrations had already told parents to arrange transport for students. However funds were subsequently approved for transport for both students and teachers and some promotions also announced. Teachers on daily wages, though, continued to face uncertainty regarding the scale and timing of their wages. This news item highlights the uncertainty surrounding the education sector in Pakistan which needs to be urgently tackled if the sector is to develop.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201401240145&EN_ID=11201401240125&EMID=11201401240016

Item Name: Provision of Facilities will help Student Retention

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 26

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Aroosa Shaukat

Summary: The article details how the School Education Department in Lahore is set to initiate more than 8600 projects to provide missing facilities in schools. These include bathrooms, boundary walls, clean water, electricity and more in both girls' and boys' schools across Punjab. It was hoped that provision of facilities would reduce drop-out rates across the board. This news item highlights positive use of funds towards developing the education sector.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201401260035&EN_ID=11201401260027&EMID=11201401260005

Item Name: A Ghost School in Islamabad

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: June 2

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Riazul Haq

Summary: The article details how a school built four years previously under the NA-49 constituency was still not operational. Authorities claimed that the building had not been built according to regulations, while the principal continued to draw a salary. Local residents who had donated land for the school were forced to send their children to private schools instead, or bear heavy expenses for commuting to other areas. They had approached authorities and been denied and were insisting they would fund and start operations themselves if steps were not taken to resolve the issue. The news item highlights administrative hurdles to the effective provision of education.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201406020092&EN_ID=11201406020038&EMID=11201406020013

Item Name: Not enough money for new schools in Capital

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: June 2

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Riazul Haq

Summary: The article details how CADD had only been granted Rs150m against a proposed Rs240m for all necessary projects. The government had increased enrollment, insisted on free education and abolished evening shifts, leaving CADD in a dilemma. Not only was there an urgent need for new schools and classrooms, but also for provision of basic facilities to existing ones. Money was needed for computer and science labs as well as construction of boundary walls for many schools. The news item highlights lack of or misallocation of funds necessary for development of education sector.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201406020096&EN_ID=11201406020039&EMID=11201406020013

Item Name: Rs64b earmarked for education sector in PSDP

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: June 4

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Riazul Haq

Summary: The article details how the new budget marks an 8% increase in allocation for education. Although education was devolved, the federal ministry is responsible for capacity building for teachers and technical training. Funds were allocated to facilities uplifting, teacher training schemes, new schools, literacy and curriculum reforms. A large fraction has also been allocated for Education For All goals. This news item highlights budgetary distributions for different education related goals.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201406040098&EN_ID=11201406040050&EMID=11201406040013

Item Name: The right to education is an entitlement, not charity

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: June 5

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: The article details discussion at the national roundtable for education. It was highlighted how the right to education was an entitlement that should not be pegged to the ability to pay, which was the case where private schools existed for profit. The gender gap and rural urban gap was also highlighted. Lack of basic infrastructural facilities at most schools, lack of budget and emphasis on critical thinking, and lack of quality education were also highlighted. The news item mentions civil society views on how education is lacking and the way forward.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201406050114&EN_ID=11201406050043&EMID=11201406050013

Item Name: CADD seeks advice on employees' regularisation

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: June 13

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: The article details CADD seeking advice for regularization from the law ministry and the Establishment Division following protests by hundred of teachers. The news item highlights slow admin responses to ground challenges in the education sector.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201406130036&EN_ID=11201406130026&EMID=11201406130004

Item Name: Students are not forced to attend summer camps, says School Secretary

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: June 13

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: The article details petitions filed by district teachers against summer camps being conducted for primary and local secondary students. They said the heat was causing health problems as there was no water or electricity at 50% of the schools. A student had reportedly died of sunstroke, creating panic. Teachers' mobility allowance was also being withheld. They said that this should be taken into consideration before issuing notices. The Education Secretary informed LHC that parents' views would be taken on board and no summer school was being held without their consent. Once again, this news item highlights the disconnect between policy decisions and ground realities with regards to the education sector.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201406130047&EN_ID=11201406130031&EMID=11201406130005

Item Name: Private Schools using own syllabi

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: June 17

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Fawad Ali

Summary: The article details how all private schools in the Rawalpindi district are violating board regulations by using their own syllabi, preferring books published by the Oxford or Cambridge boards. This highlights the need for curriculum reforms that can actually be implemented.

Reference: http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201406170029&EN_ID=11201406170017&EMID=11201406170003

Item Name: Education key to reduce domestic violence

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: June 20

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Hasan Naqvi

Summary: The article details how a gender based study conducted in 6 districts recommends education as key to reducing domestic violence. The news item introduces a new element of urgency to the education situation in the country.

Reference: http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201406200032&EN_ID=11201406200015&EMID=11201406200004

Item Name: Education is a concern, but only on paper

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: June 23

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Riazul Haq

Summary: The article details the finer workings for budget allocation, highlighting how even though the overall amounts have increased, the amount for operational workings such as repairs and inputs is declining rapidly in real terms, while liabilities such as pensions and salaries are rising. There was a wide variation as KP had spent only 15% of the allocated budget while Punjab spent 85%, and high inflation meant that the overall budget was in decline. This news item highlights the need for rethinking budget allocations for greater efficiency and effectiveness.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201406230028&EN_ID=11201406230013&EMID=11201406230003

Item Name: Education Dept Needs Capacity Building

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: June 27

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: The article details how there was a consensus between print and electronic media representatives at a roundtable hosted by Ilm-o-Agahi that provinces needed capacity building after devolution post eighteenth amendment so that they could better tackle challenges in the education sector. Balochistan especially needed infrastructure enhancement. The news item highlights the discourse surrounding the education sector and media involvement in steps forward.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201406230028&EN_ID=11201406230013&EMID=11201406230003

Item Name: Canada donates Rs6.7m for feeding schoolchildren

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: July 3

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: The article details donation by the World Food Programme for internally displaced children in North Waziristan. More than 200000 children in 1200 schools will be supplied, and milling of wheat will also be supported. The donation supports education and nutrition in schools, and will help enrollment and food security. This news item highlights different means available to policy makers to achieve education related goals.

Reference: http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201407030040&EN_ID=11201407030024&EMID=11201407030004

Item Name: All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: July 6

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Fawad Ali

Summary: The article highlights how 64% of government schools in Rawalpindi have no playground. Open spaces that could have been used as playgrounds have been grabbed by land grabbers. While time is allocated for playing, lack of facilities leads to teachers asking students to remain indoors. The news item highlights the urgent need for authorities to incorporate a physical education component to curricula.

Reference: http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201407060019&EN_ID=11201407060007&EMID=11201407060002

Item Name: Making a case for customized education

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: July 7

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Maryam Usman

Summary: The article highlights how differently abled children such as those with autism or aspergers' syndrome need acceptance rather than pity and their unique capabilities must be harnessed through special facilities and teacher training. The news item highlights the need for creating an all-inclusive education system.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201407070010&EN_ID=11201407070005&EMID=11201407070002

Item Name: In major step, KP's education department puts elementary school data online

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: July 9

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: The article highlights how information for 28 000 schools including missing facilities and maps is now downloadable online. Enrollment and other statistics are freely available, and it is stated how this data is crucial for getting civil society and donor groups more centrally involved. This encourages openness and transparency and provides a platform for public demands. The news item highlights major steps forward being taken by the KP government.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201407090116&EN_ID=11201407090060&EMID=11201407090013

Item Name: Teachers Demand Training Academies

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: July 9

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Fawad Ali

Summary: The article highlights how the PTU has demanded training academies for teachers, stating how successive governments have focused only on revising curricula rather than training teachers. Practical training was necessary rather than book-ish teaching degrees. This news item highlights steps that must be taken if quality of education is to be improved.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201407090126&EN_ID=11201407090067&EMID=11201407090014

Item Name: Out of School Children to Reach Grade 5 in 40 months

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: July 10

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Aroosa Shaukat

Summary: The article highlights course development by the Literacy and Non-Formal Basic Education Department in collaboration with JICA. Latest educational techniques had been incorporated so that students could take board exams after completing primary level packages, even though they were not formally enrolled in schools. The news item highlights alternative techniques being used to promote educational goals and circumvent obstacles.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201407100145&EN_ID=11201407100073&EMID=11201407100017

Item Name: Centralising Education Subjects not on the agenda

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: July 12

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Riazul Haq

Summary: The article highlights the extent of debate over devolution of subjects between center and provinces, and how extremely important agenda points continued to remain unresolved as committees debated. The news item highlights further challenges being faced in the post eighteenth amendment scenario.

Reference: http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201407120032&EN_ID=11201407120018&EMID=11201407120004

Item Name: Education Activists back Malala Day

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: July 13

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: The article details Malala Day celebrations and how education activists highlighted their support for promotion of girls education, and pride in how a girl from Swat had become a symbol for peace and education rights. The news item highlights efforts being made towards education goals at civil society level.

Reference: http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201407130016&EN_ID=11201407130009&EMID=11201407130001

Item Name: Rawalpindi teachers decide to go to court

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: July 14

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Muzaffar Mukhtar

Summary: The article details how the PTU has decided to approach the court on the new government policy of allocating only one teacher to each 40 students a school has. For schools with lower enrollment, this means increased workload for teachers. The PTU argues that not only has the government not taken enrollment into consideration, but also ignored the difference between subject specific and general teachers. It was also raised how some schools had been merged to save rent and were facing staff shortage. The news item highlights pressing challenges to staff and faculty in the delivery of education services which policy makers must make use of.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201407140019&EN_ID=11201407140009&EMID=11201407140002

Item Name: Teachers to protest attendance targets

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Mar 3

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Aroosa Shaukat

Summary: The article details how teachers across Punjab are planning to protest the 95% attendance requirement for both teachers and students. They complained the focus was on quantity rather than quality and that targets should be revised. While the School Education Department figures had shown increased attendance, the ASER report showed stagnation. The PTU stated that with increasing non-academic duties being assigned to teachers such targets were unrealistic and unreasonable. More than 5000 teachers were expected to attend. This news item details difficulties being faced by teaching staff in public schools and how goal-setting at policy level is disconnected to ground realities.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201403030143&EN_ID=11201403030133&EMID=11201403030016

Item Name: Education Department to Monitor Matriculation Exams Via CCTV.

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Mar 11

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Umer Farooq

Summary: The article details how strict measures are being taken to minimize cheating in KP through CCTV cameras at centers and live video links. Strict action would be taken against offenders and invigilators with a reputation for being above board were being delegated for duties. The news item highlights different means being used by the KP government to improve standards of education.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201403110130&EN_ID=11201403110125&EMID=11201403110015

Item Name: BISE Abbottabad bars media from examination halls

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Mar 13

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: The article details how the media was being banned from giving coverage to the the Secondary and Intermediate examinations being conducted. They had approached the Deputy Controller Exams for the province as well as the CM and been denied access on grounds that this wastes students' time and is a distraction. Media has argued that due to the recent passing of the access to information law and claims by the KP government that exams were now being conducted through a transparent process, they should be allowed to access. This news item details media considerations for policy makers in deciding parameters within which educational protocols, such as exam-taking, are to be conducted.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201403130140&EN_ID=11201403130132&EMID=11201403130017

Item Name: Why should children only be exposed to academic books?

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Mar 13

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Aroosa Shaukat

Summary: The article details how developing a reading culture and establishing public libraries across the province (Punjab) especially at primary level might help combat terrorism. It is argued that reading encourages empathy and understanding and promotes tolerance. Children at present only had access to academic books. Through a project by Alif Laila Book Bus Society in collaboration with USAID, 1000 books were being provided to primary schools and it was noted that reading as a leisure activity was on the rise due to this. It is also stated that the government should allocate a block sum for the establishment of libraries at all schools and while legislation for the right to free education for all would take time, success was beginning to be apparent. This news item highlights a three dimensional approach to education that should be taken by policy makers.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201403130181&EN_ID=11201403130170&EMID=11201403130020

Item Name: Curriculum Authority to stay provincial

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Mar 14

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Aroosa Shaukat

Summary: The article details the debate between the provinces and the center with regards to where the authority to develop curriculum lies. The Eighteenth Amendment gave authority to provinces to independently develop curricula but in the interest of ensuring greater uniformity across provinces, the federal authorities have been urging provinces to return this particular issue to the federal domain. It is argued however that while the provinces will work towards greater uniformity, the authority to decide should remain with them. The news item highlights structural challenges being faced post eighteenth amendment in resolving goals for the education sector.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201403140048&EN_ID=11201403140043&EMID=11201403140005

Item Name: Students demand end to curfews

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Mar 17

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: The article states how students in Miranshah were protesting constant curfews as interrupting their educational activities. Many families had moved away due to children's school years being wasted. This news item draws attention to the obstacle presented by security and law and order problems in ensuring educational goals.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201403170006&EN_ID=11201403170006&EMID=11201403170002

Item Name: Education Survey Reveals Mixed Bag of Results

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Mar 26

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Riazul Haq

Summary: The article details findings reported in the Pakistan Education Atlas 2013. It shows comparisons for out of school children and drop-out rates across the provinces, with ICT and GB faring 96% and 95% for primary enrollment respectively and Sindh and Balochistan at the lowest ends of the spectrum. Percentages for adult literacy also varied highly between rural and urban areas. It was also reported that a large fraction of primary schools operated out of single classroom buildings and many did not have access to electricity, clean drinking water or bathroom facilities. The news item highlights challenges being faced in the education sector and statistical evidence of where changes need to be made so that policy makers can prioritize accordingly.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201403260106&EN_ID=11201403260101&EMID=11201403260012

Item Name: Why is 95% of the budget being spent on health/education?

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: May 1

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Hafeez Tunio

Summary: The article details concerns raised over no expenditure to show for the large amount of budget being allocated to just a few departments, including education. Member of the Sindh Assembly highlighted the need to oversee development projects. While billions of rupees had been allocated to schemes, there was no corresponding development to show in schools and colleges. The news item highlights the need for greater monitoring and following up with budgets.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201105010100&EN_ID=11201105010033&EMID=11201105010013

Item Name: Teachers demand release of pay, regularisation

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: May 6

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: The article details how around 500 teaching and non-teaching daily wage staffers protested at D-Chowk demanding regularization. They did not receive full rights for their services or timely salaries, they claimed. Some had gone unpaid for months and had to bear transport costs out of their own pockets. Authorities were reported to remain inactive. The news item highlights urgent need for action from authorities.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201405060134&EN_ID=11201405060085&EMID=11201405060017

Item Name: Education for disabled persons still a challenge in Pakistan

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: May 7

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: The article reports UNESCO participation at an advocacy walk at the Sports Complex by thousands of disabled children. It was said that while there had been a marked improvement in education in Pakistan, there were no facilities for the disabled, and thousands were deprived of access to education because of this. Local Government representatives said that it was part of their mission to enroll out of school children, including disabled ones. This news item highlights how education policy and provision of facilities needs to encompass multiple considerations and demographics.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201405070028&EN_ID=11201405070017&EMID=11201405070004

Item Name: Schoolteachers stage sit in against “government’s attitude”

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: May 9

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: The article details a sit-in called by the PTU against how the SED had not responded in a timely and effective manner to demands to revise rationalization. Representatives of the PTU said that the Department was threatening action against the teachers if they continued to protest. Teachers were protesting deductions in salary, non academic duties and rationalization procedures. The news item highlights inaction by authorities to solve issues on ground.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201405090114&EN_ID=11201405090056&EMID=11201405090017

Item Name: CADD drags feet over filling key vacancies

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: May 12

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Riazul Haq

Summary: The article details how CADD has been slow in filling vacancies for five key educational bodies in the ICT, slowing down management and administrative functions. Internal politics on making appointment have been reported, while authorities have dismissed allegations that the workings of the institutions are being compromised. This news item details administrative hurdles in the timely and effective provision of educational services.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201405120114&EN_ID=11201405120070&EMID=11201405120017

Item Name: Girls' School gets new boundary wall

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: May 12

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: The article details the inauguration of a boundary wall at a local school in South Punjab. It was said that an education revolution was needed to address all problems and that the government had done much to uplift the situation. The news item highlights individual steps being taken towards achieving educational goals.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201405120121&EN_ID=11201405120073&EMID=11201405120018

Item Name: Teachers to be posted to areas of their sect

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: May 14

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: The article details how teachers in some parts of KP were having to be reallocated due to target killing based on their sects. This highlights how security problems must be urgently addressed to ensure the uninterrupted provision of education.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201405140006&EN_ID=11201405140003&EMID=11201405140001

Item Name: Panjgur protests attacks on “English Schools”

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: May 15

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: The article details how more than 2000 men, women and children protested in Quetta against an organization targeting teachers and proponents of co-education. They were supported by political parties. The news item provides a snapshot of civil society involvement in promoting educational goals.

Reference: http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201405150021&EN_ID=11201405150012&EMID=11201405150003

Item Name: Stakeholders Skeptical of Education Ordinance

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: May 16

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Aroosa Shaukat

Summary: The article details reservations by stakeholders on the implementation of Article 25A in Punjab. Concerns raised include lack of debate on the public forum before finalizing, no tax cuts for private schools before asking them to give free education to 10% of their students, a focus on enrollment instead of retention of students, and such an increase in teachers’ duties without taking them into confidence. It was also mentioned that increased funding by the DFID in the Punjab would go a long way. This news item highlights practical concerns that the legislation failed to address.

Reference: http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201405160119&EN_ID=11201405160061&EMID=11201405160017

Item Name: 38% of children don't go to school, APC told

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: May 21

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: The article details recommendations by a policy think tank mentioning that 38 new schools were needed in Lahore to enroll the 1 million out of school children in the next five years. It was also suggested to increase the number of teachers and classrooms and provide missing facilities. There were also wide variations in the teacher student ratio. The news item highlights research based recommendations that government policy makers need to take into consideration.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201405210047&EN_ID=11201405210029&EMID=11201405210005

Item Name: Free Education for Students with Disabilities

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: May 23

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Umer Farooq

Summary: The article details the announcement of free education for students with disabilities in KP. This would include hostel, tuition and textbooks. The medium of instruction would be changed to English. The Tameer e School program was also started for 122 schools to be provided with facilities. 14 000 schools were also identified where funds raised through the Tameer e School need to be allocated. This news item highlights challenges as well as positive steps that are being taken towards educational goals in the country.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201405230016&EN_ID=11201405230009&EMID=11201405230002

Item Name: Capital leads the pack in mixed bag of district education index

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: May 23

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: The article details the Alif Ailaan district report for education, with the ICT taking top place. Transparency and uplift of the education sector was stressed upon. No district in KP or Sindh reached the top 20. The need to stop politicizing education was also highlighted. The news item highlights ground realities that need to be taken into consideration in formulating education policy and allocation of resources.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201405230031&EN_ID=11201405230016&EMID=11201405230004

Item Name: At Public Schools, Libraries are a luxury few can boast of

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: May 25

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Fawad Ali

Summary: The article details lack of libraries on schools in the Rawalpindi district. There are no separate spaces allocated to books, and reading culture is not inculcated as part of the educational procedure. Teachers complain that between teaching and checking assignments, they have no time to encourage reading. There are only a few old books to be found which students are not in the habit of taking up. It was highlighted that this leads to tunnel vision where students cannot access or sift information other than their coursework and this stumps idea generation. The news item highlights the urgent need for 360 degree education approaches.

Reference:
http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201405250017&EN_ID=11201405250007&EMID=11201405250002

Item Name: Most widely spoken mother tongue ignored in schools

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: May 26

Source: Express Tribune

Contributor: Fawad Ali

Summary: The article details how, unlike the other provinces, the mother tongue is not being taught in Punjab. University professors highlight how concept formation is only possible in the mother tongue and how Punjab was ignoring its cultural heritage by not making this a priority. Most teachers could not teach effectively in English, inhibiting the learning procedure. This news item highlights the importance of including regional languages in the curriculum.

Reference: http://74.205.74.128:88/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201405260048&EN_ID=11201405260022&EMID=11201405260002

Item Name: Cheating culture to be uprooted in Sindh: Khuhro

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Apr 6

Source: The News

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: Sindh Education Minister declared that 2000 monitors would be employed to monitor schools, teachers and students in Sindh, and these would replace school supervisors. He urged all stakeholders to actively uproot the copy culture in a talk at a seminar arranged to improve primary school practices in Sindh, held by the Sindh Education Improvement Programme. The leader of the opposition also said although the public sector was providing teachers higher salaries than the private sector, education quality was still not improving as well as it should be. This item thus highlights major challenges being faced by the education system particularly in Sindh.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-242548-Cheating-culture-to-be-uprooted-in-Sindh-Khuhro

Item Name: Dozens of cell phones recovered from students during SSC exams

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Apr 6

Source: The News

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: During a surprise visit by the education secretary while the SSC examinations were being conducted, dozens of cell phones were removed from students. Photocopy machine owners were also arrested for copying examination questions and answers. The secretary arranged the visit after hearing that unfair practices were rampant during exams and later held educational staff and headmasters responsible for allowing this practice to spread. Such practices bring down the standards of education by a large degree, and constitute the challenges being faced at both policy and practice level by primary education stakeholders and providers.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-242550-Dozens-of-cell-phones-recovered-from-students-during-SSC-exams

Item Name: Education reforms yield encouraging results: Shahbaz

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Apr 6

Source: The News

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: CM Shahbaz Sharif emphasized that a solid policy had been adopted for raising standards of education for the betterment of the country's future. This included the laptop scheme, the internship programme, educational endowment fund and the voucher scheme of the Punjab Education Foundation. He also spoke to public figures such as the founder of the Zindagi Trust, Shehzad Roy, who highlighted the quality of education being provided to poor children. The establishment of Danish Schools providing free education in poor and far flung areas was also mentioned. Free boarding and lodging was also being provided to students at these schools.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-242891-Education-reforms-yield-encouraging-results-Shahbaz

Item Name: Punjab teachers divided over protest call

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Apr 8

Source: The News

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: The Punjab Teachers' Union had called a protest against "anti teacher policies" of the School Education Department. The teachers wished to register complaints against the rationalization policy. The protests included a sit-in outside the Punjab Assembly. It was highlighted how thousands of students and parents were affected by erroneous examination results for primary and secondary level classes issued by the Punjab Examination Commission. Some teachers, however, refused to respond to the call leading to a split in the union. This news piece highlights challenges faced by primary education providers, students as well as parents.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-242895-Punjab-teachers-divided-over-protest-call

Item Name: 'Education to solve problems in Balochistan'

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Apr 8

Source: The News

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: Former Balochistan Chief Secretary highlighted how education and democracy could tackle feudalism and poverty in Balochistan. He said awareness in the masses, increasing the literacy rate, increasing education spending, controlling population and streamlining the democratic process were the steps forward. This item is therefore solution oriented and mentions the significance of primary education as well as how its role can be enhanced.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-243587-Education-to-solve-problems-in-Balochistan

Item Name: UNHCR to continue providing free education to refugee children

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Apr 16

Source: The News

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: It is highlighted that the UNHCR will continue to provide free primary education to 73000 children in refugee villages. It will work with management committees to increase enrolment and reduce drop out rates especially for girls. This aims to increase provision of education as well as enhancement of school infrastructure and materials provision. Pakistan is still hosting the largest and most protracted refugee population in the world. This news item highlights how different bodies are active in the country to raise standards of education provision and lower the burden on the public sector.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-244455-UNHCR-to-continue-providing-free-education-to-refugee-children

Item Name: KP CM for monitoring system to detect 'ghost' schools

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Apr 17

Source: The News

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: Chief Minister Pervez Khattak emphasized that a monitoring system for "ghost schools and proxy teachers" was essential to improve the education sector. He spoke as chief guest at the inaugural ceremony for the Independent Monitoring Unit. He praised the Education Department and Department for International Development (UK) for their combined efforts. He said this was important to combat corruption rampant in all segments of the system. He also said education was a priority. This news item highlights the policy priorities of the KP government and important steps that have been taken to achieve policy goals.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-244679-KP-CM-for-monitoring-system-to-detect-ghost-schools

Item Name: Pakistan urged to adopt 'education for all' objective

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Apr 18

Source: The News

Contributor: Murtaza Ali Shah

Summary: The article highlights how overseas Pakistanis can contribute towards funding education systems in Pakistan if they are assured of a transparent system. It also highlights how making education available to students from underprivileged backgrounds will go a long way in overall development of the country. Essentially, it was highlighted that many educational problems would be solved if the government did more to inspire the trust of overseas Pakistanis.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-244988-Pakistan-urged-to-adopt-education-for-all-objective

Item Name: KP govt to launch Tameer-e-School programme, PA told

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Apr 19

Source: The News

Contributor: Delawar Jan

Summary: To overcome funding shortages to rebuild destroyed schools, the KP government is reaching out to affluent individuals to fund missing facilities in thousands of schools. A shortage of 22000 schools was declared, and it was announces that a biometrics attendance system for teachers would be enforced to ensure transparency. Monitors would also be appointed. This news item highlights policy level solutions being introduced in KP.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-245126-KP-govt-to-launch-Tameer-e-School-programme-PA-told

Item Name: Getting it right on education reforms

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Apr 19

Source: The News

Contributor: Prof Ahsan Iqbal

Summary: It is highlighted that it is essential and urgent to create a uniform system of education across social classes and across provinces. The post Eighteenth Amendment scenario has created new challenges and opportunities. It is important to build the capacity of provinces to distribute funds at the district level and share knowledge and expertise across the country. Curriculum reform and the establishment of a National Curriculum Council are among the suggested solutions. Critical thinking, foreign languages and reforms in medium of instruction are also highlighted as important. Public schools should be converted into 'smart schools' and the teachers' capacity and role enhanced in the best possible way. In the interests of the MDGs and Vision 2025, these goals must be implemented speedily and efficiently. The news item highlights policy goals as well as the way forward to implement them across provinces.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-245133-Getting-it-right-on-education-reforms

Item Name: Primary teachers observe hunger strike

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Feb 3

Source: The News

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: The item highlighted challenges faced by the Sindh Primary Teachers Association, Larkana Chapter. They observed a hunger strike to demand changes in pay scales, quotas and regularization notifications and announced to launch a sit-in in front of the House for the Sindh Senior Minister for Education.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-230201-Primary-teachers-observe-hunger-strike

Item Name: UK scholarships for 7,500 Punjab girls

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Feb 4

Source: The News

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: This item highlights the announcement of scholarships for poor but bright female students by the British High Commissioner to Pakistan. The Scholarships will be for 2 years covering Rs. 3000 per month for transport, books and fees. The girls will be selected from 11 of the poorest districts in Punjab and provided through the Punjab Education Endowment Fund. This is being run by the government of Punjab since 2008. The High Commission also said that it is working closely with provincial governments across Pakistan to help develop education and hopes to benefit millions of children.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-230457-UK-scholarships-for-7500-Punjab-girls

Item Name: Education, health sectors priority, says KP CM

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Feb 9

Source: The News

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: Chief Minister Pervez Khattak highlighted that reforms in Health and Education were a priority for the PTI-led KP Government. He said that measures were underway to improve both, whilst addressing a team of the College of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-231449-Education-health-sectors-priority-says-KP-CM

Item Name: Standard of education deteriorating in Sindh, says Khurshid

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Feb 10

Source: The News

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: The leader of the opposition, Syed Khurshid Shah, stated that standard of education in his constituency was deteriorating rapidly. Teachers were receiving full salaries and not reporting for work. He highlighted poor monitoring by local officials and political interference as major problems.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-231651-Standard-of-education-deteriorating-in-Sindh-says-Khurshid

Item Name: 'Overpopulation, lack of civic amenities biggest challenges'

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Feb 14

Source: The News

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: During the Jang Economic Session on Population Growth and Rise in Social Problems, it was highlighted that lack of education was a major factor in underage marriages leading to high population growth. Speakers called for an education emergency and a mass media campaign to promote this.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-232546-Overpopulation-lack-of-civic-amenities-biggest-challenges

Item Name: KP women teachers protest forced induction in vaccination campaigns

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Feb 14

Source: The News

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: Female teachers protested outside the Peshawar Press Club, demanding that they should not be forcibly inducted to the polio vaccination drives. They stated that this was not part of their job responsibilities and that teachers were being forced to participate or else face disciplinary action. They also highlighted that the government was not providing security to 'volunteers' and they could not be asked to put their lives in danger.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-232553-KP-women-teachers-protest-forced-induction-in-vaccination-campaigns

Item Name: Report on school van accident submitted to CM

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Feb 14

Source: The News

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: The 98 page report regarding the Daulatpur School Van accident, while placing the blame on the driver of the dumper, also highlighted violations of safety in the School Van. It said it was carrying 34 passengers, which is much higher than its capacity of 22 and this was a failure on the part of the school administration to comply with its responsibilities. The accident cost the lives of 20 students, 2 teachers and the Van driver.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-232544-Report-on-school-van-accident-submitted-to-CM

Item Name: School blown up in Hangu

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Feb 16

Source: The News

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: The Government High School in the Sial Talab village of Doaba was blown up entirely with 6 devices of 10 kilograms each, in the early morning. The watchman sustained injuries and the police defused a further four devices planted outside the building. This item highlights one of the major challenges to the education infrastructure in the country- terrorism.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-232945-School-blown-up-in-Hangu

Item Name: '25 govt girls schools to be reopened in Bara'

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Feb 19

Source: The News

Contributor: Said Nazir Afridi

Summary: The Education Department in the Khyber Agency has announced the reopening of 25 girls' schools that had been closed for four years, in March. After consultation with political, tribal and local religious leaders, this decision was taken for the girls' schools in Bara Tehsil. The reasons for the delay in reopening were highlighted as that the female faculty mostly hailed from Peshawar and were unwilling to work in the uncertain security environment in the Bara Tehsil. A local militant outfit has now guaranteed security to them and local leaders have promised free transport. Dozens of Schools had been closed in the Tehsil since the launch of the military operation in 2009.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-233595-25-govt-girls-schools-to-be-reopened-in-Bara

Item Name: Better Economy Linked to IT Education

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 1

Source: The News

Contributor:

Summary: This item reported the Jang Economic Session held at Lahore, highlighting how the IT sector did not face the problems of gas and electricity like other sectors, but had its own unique set of challenges. It was said that it was as such important to promote IT Education and to provide better facilities and incentives to students so that this sector could flourish and they would face less employment problems.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-223710-Better-economy-linked-to-IT-education

Item Name: Students Should Also Focus on Values: Punjab Governor

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 1

Source: The News

Contributor:

Summary: This item mentioned that the Punjab Governor has claimed that the PM and CM of Punjab are committed to raising quality of education on a policy level. He also said they wanted to reduce unemployment and promote knowledge, peace and harmony. He also urged students to utilize their knowledge to serve the country.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-27666-Students-should-also-focus-on-values-Punjab-governor

Item Name: 31pc students get basic education in private schools

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 2

Source: The News

Contributor:

Summary: This item addressed policy, mentioning that with such a large percentage of students attending private schools, up to date data should be made available so that policies can be formulated accordingly. It was mentioned that the Public Sector is educating 26.63 million students while the private sector is educating 13.96 million. Challenges highlighted included how Pakistan was lagging behind in educational competitiveness when compared to other South Asian countries. It was stated that new measures would be taken to collect and compile more in depth data about private schools.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-224002-31pc-students-get-basic-education-in-private-schools

Item Name: Hangu school named after student hero Aitzaz Hasan

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 14

Source: The News

Contributor:

Summary: The article highlights the efforts of Aitzaz Hasan in saving his school mates and visits by the KP political leadership to offer their condolences. His high school was renamed Aitzaz Hasan Shaheed High School. Aitzaz Hasan saved hundreds of schoolchildren by foiling a suicide attack. His efforts have also been awarded by the International Human Rights Commission.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-27929-Hangu-school-named-after-student-hero-Aitzaz-Hasan

Item Name: Malala's book launch issue triggers heated debate

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Jan 29

Source: The News

Contributor: Tauseef-ur-Rehman

Summary: The report highlights the ban placed on Malala Yousafzai's new book by the KPK government and subsequent intervention by Imran Khan to restore freedom of expression in academia as a policy move. Although Primary and Secondary education have not been mentioned, such a step has repercussions for education policy as a whole.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-28244-Malalas-book-launch-issue-triggers-heated-debate

Item Name: Quality of education in Pakistan is pathetic: WB

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: July 1

Source: The News

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: World Bank report reveals that quality of education in Pakistan is deplorable, especially in rural areas where it was tested that only a few third graders could read a sentence in Urdu. Both reading and arithmetic competence was found to be exceedingly low up to eighth grade and in many cases the teachers themselves were not able to teach the curriculum. Countries such as Nepal and Sri Lanka have made significant progress and Pakistan would do well to employ comparative policy in the education sector. This news item highlights the urgency of teachers' training which is also a priority highlighted in almost all political party manifestoes.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-259158-Quality-of-education-in-Pakistan-is-pathetic-WB

Item Name: 'Hand over missionary school to Christian community'

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: June 3

Source: The News

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: The Chirstian Community appealed to the Punjab government to hand over charge of St. Francis High School to the Christian community, just like all other schools operating under the Catholic Church had been handed over under the denationalization policy in 2004. They mentioned how the school which once educated 3000 students now had only 150 and that the building was in shambles. 1.6 million had also been paid to the government to complete the denationalization procedure. This news item highlights yet another challenge being faced by the education sector with regards to minorities.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-253767-Hand-over-missionary-school-to-Christian-community

Item Name: Unilever and Schools Education Department Punjab to drive health, hygiene awareness through schools

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: June 12

Source: The News

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: Unilever Pakistan Limited and the Schools Education Department, Punjab, signed a Joint Declaration proclaiming the need for a health and hygiene awareness drive through school curriculum in Punjab. This would save preventable deaths such as through diarrhea and positively impact the environment. Unilever would also like to introduce a programme for children as brand ambassadors. The company also committed to providing schools with technical advice on how to incorporate health and hygiene into the curriculum. This news item highlights how involving the corporate sector can help tackle some of the challenges being faced by education in Pakistan.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-255590-Unilever-and-Schools-Education-Department-Punjab-to-drivehealth-hygiene-awareness-through-schools

Item Name: 'No summer camps without parents consent'

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: June 12

Source: The News

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: The Punjab Secretary of schools appeared before the Lahore High Court to testify that no summer camps were being held without parents' consent. A petition had earlier been filed by teachers and concerned individuals challenging a notification issued by Punjab Secretary stating that summer camps would be held for terminal classes during summer vacations. The Secretary emphasized that action would be taken against school administrations holding such camps without parents' consent. This news item highlights how parents, teachers and the local government come together as important stakeholders in the educational process.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-255801-No-summer-camps-without-parents-consent

Item Name: KP teachers threaten protest

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: June 15

Source: The News

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: KP teachers under the Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Teachers' Association threatened to wear black armbands and reduce classes to three per day before completely halting altogether if their eight demands were not met. These included introducing a quota system such as other government employees enjoyed, introducing a transport allowance even during holidays and increasing pay scales as per the recommendations of the previous PPP government. This news item emphasizes the importance of accommodating staff and faculty if quality of education is to improve.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-256113-KP-teachers-threaten-protest

Item Name: Teachers reject KP budget

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: June 16

Source: The News

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: Teachers' Organizations in KP came together to protest the new KP budget, calling it anti government employee. They demanded that a time-scale promotions scheme should be introduced and a teachers' incentive package be formulated. They mentioned how other government employees had seen salary raises but this did not extend to teachers. They warned that protests should be launched if the government did not take notice. It was also highlighted how any steps towards improving education must also facilitate teaching staff and provide them with proper incentive packages. This news item is significant in the issues that it raises with regards to teachers' demands.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-256275-Teachers-reject-KP-budget

Item Name: Girls clinch top three positions in Abbottabad board SSC exam

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: June 18

Source: The News

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: The top three positions in the Secondary School Certificate exam were all taken by high performing female students. This further highlights the need for prioritizing female education across the board.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-256683-Girls-clinch-top-three-positions-in-Abbottabad-board-SSC-exam

Item Name: '5.4m children out of school in Pakistan'

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: June 27

Source: The News

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: 5.4 million children out of school is the second highest number in the world, after Nigeria. Almost 60% of these are girls. According to the policy paper highlighting this, other countries facing similar situations improved by providing benefits to poor families, improving curricula, and by removing school fees. UNESCO highlighted how political will must be mobilized to improve the situation and achieve universal enrollment. "The analysis has identified six policies that have brought about success in these countries and may offer useful lessons for others including fee abolition, social cash transfers, and increased attention to ethnic and linguistic minorities, increasing education expenditure, improving education quality and overcoming conflict."

This news item thus highlights practical policy steps that can be taken to achieve universal enrollment which is a primary education policy objective in almost all political party manifestoes.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-258498-54m-children-out-of-school-in-Pakistan

Item Name: Pakistan ranks low on human development index

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Mar 1

Source: The News

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: Federal Minister for Planning and Development highlighted how Pakistan is ranked 146th on the Human Development Index, indicators of which include health and education. He highlighted the problems being faced by the education sector included low expenditure in percentage of GDP and low per capita income. He highlighted that possible solutions included creating a better investment climate in the country, improving access and quality of education, and allocating more funds to the education and development sector. He also said that the government had taken special initiatives to improve the education sector and that human development as a whole was a major priority over the rest of the government's elected term.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-235644-Pakistan-ranks-low-on-human-development-index

Item Name: 'Children future of country'

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Mar 9

Source: The News

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: Federal Minister for Planning and Development, Ehsan Iqbal, highlighted that children are the future of any country and all efforts must be made to equip them with the best possible physical, mental and educational growth. This will enable them to serve the country in the best possible way.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-237208-Children-future-of-country

Item Name: Fata students given laptops

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Mar 23

Source: The News

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: Students in KP were distributed laptops as Governor Shaukatullah said that an educated society was the basis for a democratic society. This item highlights the KP Government's policy approach to education, which was identified as being a top priority and that all efforts would be made to provide facilities to FATA and KP students.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-239793-Fata-students-given-laptops

Item Name: Teachers warn of protest

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Mar 23

Source: The News

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: The Punjab Teachers Union in Lahore urged the government to withhold implementation of the rationalization policy, arguing that a minimum of five teachers were needed at primary schools to uphold standards. Reducing the number of teachers to two would deteriorate the quality of education being provided drastically. They also argued that implementing this policy whilst conducting recruitment would be counterproductive. This item highlights a major challenge being faced by the primary education sector in the country.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-239944-Teachers-warn-of-protest

Item Name: AJP's Education long march reaches Dolatpur

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: Mar 31

Source: The News

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: Representatives of the AJP highlighted both challenges and solutions to the educational system in Sindh. Upon reaching Dolatpur, they said that thousands of schools in Sindh were closed and hundreds occupied by feudal lords. The system was declared as highly politicized, with 30 000 Ghost Teachers. They demanded that a comprehensive list of teachers be made available online, with an educational emergency launched for at least ten years. They also urged the civil society to play its role to improve education, and called for depoliticizing the system.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-241371-AJPs-Education-long-march-reaches-Dolatpur

Item Name: High schools in three KP UCs get furniture

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: May 4

Source: The News

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA) with financial assistance from Japan provided furniture to three government primary and high schools in three union councils of Peshawar. RAHA has provided furniture previously to 18 government run schools in Peshawar and more than 120 members of the teaching staff. This news item highlights assistance and support local institutions are receiving in building infrastructure for education.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-248013-High-schools-in-three-KP-UCs-get-furniture

Item Name: Teacher held for taking bribe

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: May 4

Source: The News

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: Anti-Corruption establishment officials arrested a teacher for being caught in the act of accepting a Rs. 200 000 bribe for appointment to the Education Department. The teacher was caught using notes that had been signed by the local magistrate to trace him and he was held in police custody for two days. This news item highlights an incident of the corruption that needs to be tackled if education reforms are to be implemented.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-248015-Teacher-held-for-taking-bribe

Item Name: Protest over school's closure

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: May 4

Source: The News

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: Residents of Panakot in Upper Dir protested the closure of a girls' middle school after it was merged with a high school building constructed 1km away. They said that the girls were facing difficulty due to the distance and classes should be resumed at the local building. They had offered more land for the construction of the high school next to the current middle school but authorities had chosen to make it further away. This news item highlights the challenge of making education accessible, especially to women and how authorities need to be more proactive in accomplishing this.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-248018-Protest-over-schools-closure

Item Name: Non-availability of school textbooks perturbs lawmakers

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: May 7

Source: The News

Contributor: Muhammad Anis

Summary: Members of the National Assembly raised concerns over non-availability of text books to public school students in the federal capital. The National Book Foundation had been given responsibility for printing and the task had not been fulfilled. An MoU had been signed between the Federal Directorate of Education and the NBF for the provision of free textbooks from grades 1-8, but due to the delay students were now buying in the open market. It was also highlighted how this was wasting precious study time. This news item emphasizes some of the administrative challenges associated with education related policy goals.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-248656-Non-availability-of-school-textbooks-perturbs-lawmakers

Item Name: 'Education sector facing serious challenges'

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: May 9

Source: The News

Contributor: Rasheed Khalid

Summary: Former Federal Minister for Education has said that the goals of easy access, de-politicization, and provision of basic education facilities in far flung areas are facing serious challenges. She said a large amount of funds was being provided but there was no mechanism in place to provide a holistic picture of results for further analysis and decision-making. Representatives from different donor organizations said that female education needs urgent attention and that political parties need to be reminded of the promises they made during elections. It was also highlighted as important to bring on board the views of local people in far flung areas with regard to the education being provided to them. This news item effectively highlights challenges being faced in not only implementing education policy but also in formulating it as it is clear that an adequate feedback mechanism is non-existent.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-249007-Education-sector-facing-serious-challenges

Item Name: Call to increase education budget for economic growth

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: May 10

Source: The News

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: Students speaking at the Jang Economic Forum called for employment-oriented educational opportunities, higher education budget rather than spending on schemes such as the laptop scheme, ensuring proper utilization of education budget, and a greater priority be given to the education sector as a whole. They also called for the introduction of a uniform education system across the board and highlighted that the government is responsible for providing free education to every child. This would also play a very important role in economic growth in the country. This news items highlights grievances being faced by students and policy areas that need immediate attention.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-249301-Call-to-increase-education-budget-for-economic-growth

Item Name: Proposal to tax Pakistani schools abroad

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: May 19

Source: The News

Contributor: Mehtab Haider

Summary: The SECP has proposed to the FBR to levy a 15% tax on schools in Pakistan with branches abroad. This step has been taken keeping in mind the heavy fees such schools charge from students abroad, contributing only a fraction in taxes to the national revenue. This news item highlights measures being taken at a policy level to increase incoming funds from the education sector.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-250960-Proposal-to-tax-Pakistani-schools-abroad

Item Name: Education key to tolerant society, says Malala

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: May 19

Source: The News

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: Through video conference at the National Youth Award Function, Malala emphasized how all young people should continue to contribute to the uplift of education in the country, as every child deserved provision of quality education. Journalist Talat Hussain praised the efforts of young people in contributing to this cause. The news item highlights the discourse and efforts prevalent in civil society towards improving education provision in Pakistan.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-250972-Education-key-to-tolerant-society-says-Malala

Item Name: 'Govt to introduce uniform curriculum in Punjab'

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: May 19

Source: The News

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: Punjab Minister for Education stated that the federal government has decided to introduce a uniform curriculum throughout the country "to ensure unity". He declared that the Punjab government would achieve the target of 100% enrollment by 2016, and had started regulating private institutions. He also said that 140 000 teachers had been recruited to the public sector during the last fourteen months purely on merit and that all efforts were being made to facilitate them. This news item highlights policy steps that are being taken to improve the national education system.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-250975-Govt-to-introduce-uniform-curriculum-in-Punjab

Item Name: 500 private schools not teaching Sindhi to students: Khuhro

Format: Newspaper Article

Date: May 21

Source: The News

Contributor: Correspondent

Summary: Sindh Education Minister highlighted that some 500 private institutions were not teaching Sindhi to students as part of the curriculum. He said that there had been a change in syllabus post eighteenth amendment and that strict action would be taken against the management of such schools. He also said that free textbooks would be provided so that private schools could fulfill this duty. This news item highlights challenges being faced post eighteenth amendment and the solutions and support being provided by the local governments in this regard.

Reference: http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-251357-500-private-schools-not-teaching-Sindhi-to-students-Khuhro

C) POLICY DOCUMENTS:

Sr#	Title	Author	Published by	Date
2.	National Education Policy 2009	Not given	Ministry of Education Government of Pakistan	Revised August 1, 2009
Reference: It was a pdf file, online link not given				
Summary: The first chapter of the document focused on two main problems that lead to the deficiencies in the performance of education sector in Pakistan; "commitment gap and the implementation gap". The commitment gap comprises of "system values, priorities, and resources". On the other hand, the implementation gap means "ensuring good governance" in the country. The chapter 2 and 3 talked about the ways to deal with the two main problems as well as articulating vision of Pakistan regarding education. Chapter 4 advocated Islamic values to construct Pakistani society. It also stressed on the need of the makeover of the society on the basis of Islamic as well as human values. Chapter 5, 6, 7, and 8 talk about the reforms and policy to be implemented at different levels in the education sector. Chapter 9 gives a well thought framework for education policy. The last part of the paper outlines the current state of education in Pakistan in comparison to other countries.				

Sr#	Title	Author	Published by	Date
1.	18th Amendment Federal and Provincial Responsibilities in Education	Not given	Institute of Social and Policy Sciences	Not mentioned

Reference: It was a pdf file, online link not given

Summary:

The constitution has always supported the right to education, even before the 18th amendment. However, introducing Article 25-A made the state responsible for providing free and compulsory education to the children between the age of 5 to 16.

Pakistan, initially, inherited the Government of India Act 1935 which is also known as the interim constitution (1947-1956) in Pakistan. From 1947 to 1956, Education policy, planning or syllabus development responsibilities were not part of federal or concurrent legislative responsibilities. The entire system was ambiguous about how to plan and execute required educational reforms in the country. There wasn't any specific body to be hold responsible. Later on, in the constitution of 1956, state was given responsibility of education. It became the constitutional requirement that the state works on providing free and compulsory education as soon as possible to combat prevailing illiteracy rate in the country. In 1962, the constitution of second republic was adopted which gave Pakistan a presidential form of governance but the responsibility and authority of education was directly given to provinces. The interim constitution of 1972 also had the powers vested in provincial governments on the matter of education. Nevertheless, the constitution of 1973 formally included education (planning, policy, curriculum, syllabus, standards of education and Islamic education) in the concurrent and federal legislative lists.

The constitutional power was excised in producing report of the Pakistan National Educational Conference in 1947, report of the Second Pakistan Educational Conference 1951, report of the National Commission on Education 1959, Proposals for New Education Policy 1969, New Education Policy 1970, Education policy 1972-78, National Education Policy 1979, National Education Policy 1992, National Education Policy 1998-2010, and National Education Policy 2009.

Before the 18th amendment, ministry of Education used to make national policies and design curriculum for all the provinces with the help of provincial curriculum bureaus. Whereas, provincial institutions used to work on the planning and implementation of education which will fit in the larger framework of given by the federal government.

Sr#	Title	Author	Published by	Date
3	Education Pakistan Economic Survey 2013-2014	Not given	Not given	2014

Reference: It was a pdf file, online link not given

Summary:

The chapter defines the meaning of education, "education is a form of learning in which the knowledge, skills and habits of group of people are transferred from one generation to the next generation through teaching, training, or research. Education is a social instrument through which man can guide his destiny and shape his future". It refers to the constitutional right to education of every child in Pakistan (18th Amendment) and membership of Pakistan in various international ventures on education. There international ventures include "education for All in 1990 and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) joint declaration on Education and the Dakar Framework for Action". The paper puts light on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that Pakistan government is fully committed to. The goals include; achieving Universal Primary Education (UPE) and Promoting Gender Equality and Women Empowerment. The chapter also talks about other national and provincial projects including vision 2025.

Sr#	Title	Author	Published by	Date
8	Pakistan Education Roadmap: For Universal Primary Education & Skills Education		Global Agenda Council Pakistan	Not mentioned specifically

Reference: It was a pdf file, online link not given

Summary:

The report takes an innovative approach towards education and sees it as an investment which will benefit society in the long run. Secondly, the report talked about putting the current education pattern on the track which will help overcome the barriers to provide education to all children. The report also made recommendations improving legislation environment, enhancing governance standards, increasing outreach and enhancing knowledge management as well as on skills, quality and relevance.

Sr#	Title	Author	Published by	Date
5	Pakistan National plan of action 2013-2016	Not given	Ministry of Education, Trainings and Standards in Higher Education	August 2013

Reference: It was a pdf file, online link not given

Summary:

The document is a concrete plan of action to meet the international standards, as a part of UN's Millennium Development Goals (MDG), for primary education in Pakistan. The education ministry coordinated with other provincial departments and thoroughly analyzed the current state of primary education in Pakistan. On the basis of the study done about current state of education in Pakistan, provincial plans were formed as well as a Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT). Each province has location specific action plan to achieve universal primary education standard. The document suggested traditional and innovative strategies to enroll more children in schools, retain the existing students, and meeting the quality standards of education.

Sr#	Title	Author	Published by	Date
4	Pakistan's action plan for progressing towards achieving MDG 2	Not given	Not given	Not given
Reference: It was a pdf file, online link not given				
Summary: The Pakistan's action plan for progressing towards achieving MDG 2: More children in school, for longer, and learning more focuses on improving schools as many parents don't send their children to school due to the poor quality of education. Secondly, teacher redistribution according to the required student-teacher ratio is also a matter of concern. Moreover, targeted expansion, measures to lower barriers, health and nutrition programs, on time ground level campaign, and strengthening monitoring and top level leadership involvement also constitute the major part of Pakistan's action plan to educate as many children as possible.				

Sr#	Title	Author	Published by	Date
6	Balochistan Ordinance		Provincial Assembly document	2014
Reference: It was a pdf file, online link not given				
Summary: The document contains provision of mother language as a compulsory additional subject for primary level of education. The ordinance was passed by provincial assembly of Balochistan.				

Sr#	Title	Author	Published by	Date
7	Punjab Ordinance		Punjab Gazette	May 13, 2014

Reference: It was a pdf file, online link not given

Summary:

The ordinance document talks about the compulsory and free education for all children between the age of five and sixteen in Punjab. According to the ordinance government and provincial body is responsible for the providing free education to all children and ensuring enrollment of out of school.

MISHAL PAKISTAN

250-B, North Service Road, E-11/3, Islamabad 44000, Pakistan
Telephone: +9251 2228590 Fax: +9251 2228559
info@mishal.com.pk | www.mishal.com.pk