Public financing of education in Pakistan: Estimating gaps and future costs

This panel aims to look into financial plans of the federal and provincial governments of Pakistan for achieving the primary education goal/target as given in the Education for All (EFA) goals/targets planned in the Dakar Framework for Action 2000. In doing so, the panel will estimate the financial gaps which need to be filled for ensuring achievement of the primary education targets by Pakistan in general, by Sindh and Balochistan provinces specifically in the next five years.

After the 18th Constitutional Amendment in 2010, education became a provincial chapter as well as a fundamental right of all children from 5 to 16 years of age, but before introduction of the Constitutional amendment, Pakistan had already signed up to international commitments such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Education for All (under the Dakar Framework for Action 2000). The federal and provincial governments had already introduced laws for enactment of compulsory primary education and later, the federal government chalked out of a national plan of action (2001-2015) for achieving primary education targets and removing gender disparity in primary education by 2015.

However, it has been widely discussed in the media and by civil society that Pakistan has not been able to achieve primary education related targets to date set in its national plan of action as well as promised in the EFA/MDGs, and in the future, it will not. A major reason for this is lack of financial resources in the field of education.

Education financing has emerged as a key area of concern for the achievement of MDGs and EFA targets, and in Pakistan it is very serious concern, which requires urgent attention. The panel will help:

- calculate the duration to achieve the MDGs and EFA target following the current resource allocation trends in Pakistan;
- estimate the financial requirements and indicate the magnitude additional resources needed; and
- recommend ways to improve financial procedures, collaboration between various governments departments, coordination with INGOs and civil society.

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