

### Recommendations from NEP Consultation Session Punjab: Bahawalpur

#### **Primary Education**

During the consultation session, participants focused on answering questions such as how access to schools can be improved, what the medium of instruction should be, what can be done to ensure teachers are appropriately qualified and certified, and how technology can be used to our advantage. There was also a lot of focus on how dropout rates can be decreased.

Pointing out students, parents, communities, and teachers as stakeholders, the group made the following recommendations:

1. Monitoring tools to be introduced and implemented to ensure a check and balance in the primary education sector.
2. Semester system to be introduced at primary level as well to ensure better learning
3. To make schools more accessible, government should provide transportation to students who don't live close to schools.
4. Schools should be at the center of all communities
5. Primary teachers should not be given the responsibility of teaching at ECE level as well. ECE needs its own set of trained teachers
6. Capacity building events for teachers and parents should be organized and held often
7. There should be the same number of primary and secondary schools, so when children have completed primary education, they have somewhere to graduate to
8. Retirement age for teachers should be 45 years

#### **Secondary Education**

During the consultation session, the group discussed issues such as how access to secondary schools can be improved for boys and girls, what can be done to incorporate life skills in students' education, and whether or not grades 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> should be included in secondary education as well.

Recommendations and way forward include:

1. A school ranking system, similar to the primary system, should be introduced at secondary level as well
2. Community service and sports activities should be made part of the curriculum
3. National merit programs should be introduced to encourage enrollments and retention
4. Teacher training and certification should train teachers to teach in a hands-on manner. A culture of learning by doing needs to be introduced at secondary level
5. Different incentives should be created and offered to parents so they continue to enroll their children in schools

### **Technical and Vocational Training**

During the breakout session, participants discussed how manpower can be optimally used, the need for job creation, introducing ways to generate income, eradicating gender specific jobs/tasks, and eliminating gender and ethnic disparities.

Recommendations and suggested way forward include:

1. Create an awareness regarding TVET opportunities and bring about a shift in the stigma attached with TVET
2. Define standards for various fields – brick laying/plumbing etc.
3. Integration of conventional/skill based trainings in schools
4. Create awareness about the benefits of trained/certified workforce
5. The current quota system must be revised
6. Accountability systems for teachers/trainers/institutes/instructors have to be introduced
7. Alignment of training and industry expectations so students have employment opportunities after the training

### **Non-formal Education (NFE)**

Participants within this sub-sector discussed the need for creating linkages between formal and non-formal education, creating jobs, and educating women. They wanted to clarify what “adult” education constitutes and establish evaluation and assessment systems.

The main recommendations presented included:

1. Ensuring effectiveness and improvements in the quality of NFE
2. Mobilizing the community and media to encourage and motivate parents to send their children to schools

### **Financing for Education**

When discussing how to best finance and allocate resources within the education sector, the group discussed what the optimal percentage of GDP allocated to education should be. They also discussed whether introducing a voucher system to keep children in school would work. Further they discussed the current infrastructure of schools and how to best prioritize the use of the allocated budget.

The group presented the following recommendations:

1. Increasing the GDP allocated to the education sector – recommended percentage was 4%
2. Creating attractive incentives to prevent dropout rates – scholarships, food, gifts etc.
3. Directing fund towards developing infrastructures – libraries, Audio Visual aids, labs, play grounds etc.
4. Bring per student public sector spending to the same level as private sector spending

### Governance

When talking about governance, the group discussed why there is a need for a new revised policy, what can be done to ensure 100 percent enrollment at primary level and decrease the percentage of dropouts. Teacher absenteeism and missing facilities were pointed out as the most pressing issues that need immediate attention.

The recommendations presented included:

1. Proper training of stakeholders – teachers, school management etc.
2. Accountability across the board
3. Suitable monitoring measures
4. Appropriate recruitment processes
5. Relevant personnel for governance