Does Huma Know that She Can Claim Article 25- A the Right to Education as a Fundamental Right?  
Global Action Week for EFA 2011 – case studies from Pakistan

Does Huma Know that NOW she has the backing of Article 25-A i.e. the Right to Education as a fundamental right? Probably, not! On May 20th 2010 her name was struck off the school register when she was enrolled in grade 4. Her crime - Huma was a helping hand for her family during the wheat harvesting season. Whilst she helped mobilize sufficient stock to last her family year long, she lost her space in the village school. Since then, she and her older siblings have been urging the head teacher to re-consider the decision and allow Huma to re-enroll in grade 4. An academic year has just gone by for Huma, but so far she has met with little success to claim her right. She will not give up that easily.

Huma is part of an important global statistic. She is one of the 53% girls who are out of school the world over, not because of choice but because of poverty, quality of supply, rigid rules and teachers’ attitudes. She can be labeled as a ‘push out’ first and then a drop out. Huma’s demoralisation is deep as she knows that if she is not allowed to re-enter the school soon, she will probably never return to formal education. Her re-entry is unlikely as in her village where there is no other school other than the one Govt. Girls Elementary school. There are no non-formal centres either. Yet Huma represents considerable learning up to grade 4 but will be counted and labeled as an ‘out of school child un-enrolled and un-lettered’!

In 2010, 54062 children aged 6-16 were tested for learning levels in Urdu/Sindhi, English and Arithmetic up to grades 2 and 3 under the Annual Status of Education report (ASER) survey. It is a citizen led household based survey conducted in 2010 across 32 rural districts of Pakistan (www.. . The news was shocking but also as expected. Of the 6-16 year old children:

34% children could read a simple story in their own language, of which 37% were female and 63% male.
32% children could read a sentence in English, of which 39% were female and 61% male.
25% of the surveyed children could do three digit division, of which 39% were female and 61% male.
What was very revealing is the need for urgent attention to the 20% overall out of school children both un enrolled and drop out. Their learning levels on the same test as in-school counterparts are thus:

24% children could read a simple story in their own language, 20% children could read a sentence in English and 18% children could do a three digit division sum.

Huma currently belongs to the 20% un enrolled children of Pakistan – the out of schoolers. Pakistan’s budget for education has dipped under 2% of GDP. Budgets for non-formal and literacy are a fringe phenomenon. Other than Punjab, there is little attention to non-formal and second chance learners.

The only ray of hope for Huma is the recently launched campaign by the Chief Minister Punjab Mian Shahbaz Sharif, on April 7 2011, called the School Reforms Road Map, mobilizing public administrators, NGOs, Private sector and the donors alike to ensure that all school going children by October 31, 2011. Thus each household is being knocked at for finding out the number of children enrolled and un-enrolled. Once established, the public is to be motivated for enrollment in schools. So, Huma does have a chance after all, if the campaign does come to her village.
It is ironical that whilst this exercise is being undertaken on a ‘war’ footing across Punjab, teachers from schools are ‘officially’ absent because they are on census duty. So as children enroll they have to face desolate schools, especially when teachers are few and far between! The disconnects in education are thus boundless in Pakistan. Citizens will begin to demand accountability from the government as Article 25-A is a recognized, justiceable and actionable right. It will remain unimplemented due to poor planning and poorer resources for education.

The Government has announced allocation of 7% of GDP to education by 2015! In 64 years the resource gap for education in Pakistan is matched by the political action gaps! Education in Pakistan is not seen to date as an equity backed entitlement. Huma and her older siblings think otherwise, as they continue to knock on the school doors for Huma to enroll and complete her primary education at least.. or perhaps secondary according to provisions of Article 25 A (5-16 years).. The Pakistan Education Task Force (PETF) in its March for Education campaign has compelled the Prime Minister of Pakistan to declare 2011 as an Year of Education Emergency claiming that:

- Today one in ten of the world’s children out of school, is a Pakistani.
- There is a 0 per cent chance that the government will reach the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 on education
- Public school teachers get paid two thirds more than their private low cost school counterparts and earn four times more than the average parent of a student. Despite this, on any given day 10-15% of teachers will be absent from their duties teaching.
- The current spending on education is just 1.5% of the annual GDP – less than the subsidies given to PIA, PEPCO and Pakistan Steel.

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Part II - Journey of Hope ..through Huma’s village in Multan district – actions for claiming her Right to Education - sharing details of post ASER diagnosis at the village level – a citizen led response towards Quality Education For all

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Part II - Huma Claims her Right to Education – Global Action Week for EFA 2011 Pakistan ..the citizens march for right to education action.

Huma the young drop out/push out from the local Govt. Girls Elementary school is waiting patiently to re-enroll in grade 4 during the Global Action Week for EFA 2011. She will certainly be the beneficiary of the province wide Chief Minister backed 100% enrolment campaign. Huma is also fortunate that her village has been selected for a pilot for 100% enrollment for pre-school and primary age group children 4-10 and improved learning levels as a result of a citizen led campaign for quality Education For All (EFA). The village Rawani about 21 kms from the historic city of Multan was one of the 30 villages of the district where the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2010 learning levels survey was conducted in October 2010. The survey touched 20 households of Rawani. Its results were as follows:

For age group 3-5 there were only 28 children enrolled and 102 un-enrolled. Out of the un-enrolled 49 % are girls. In 6-16 age group enrolled were 213, of which 57 % are girls. For the same age group the un-enrolled is 113 ( 35 %) of which 19% never enrolled and 16 % dropped out and the percentage of girls in un-enrolled is 57%

Rawani has a major crisis in learning levels when tested in Urdu, English and Arithmetic up to grade 2 and 3 levels. Of the 6-16 years of age, only 7% could do arithmetic (3 digit division); 14% could do Sentence level reading in English and 22% Urdu story level reading. For children in grade 5 this was 6%, 31% and 35% and for grade 4 these were 0%, 12% and 31%.

Armed with this data, the ASER team decided to engage in a deeper but more active dialogue with the residents of Rawani. This resulted in action by its citizens and volunteers. They were mobilized to begin a campaign. The campaign would focus on improving the learning levels and enrollment level of children as the diagnosis of the scale and reasons for both access and quality gaps had been identified.

It was at the village baithak (gathering) held at the girls elementary school in March 2011 where Huma’s problem was first raised by her brother. The community of 70 people at the post ASER gathering agreed that some of the problems in learning and attendance of students were because of their own careless attitude towards education and learning. However, they were also concerned about why the teachers came so late to the school at 10:30 am when the school time is 8:00 am? Although sufficient in number (11), the impact of teachers is not very visible.

They asked why girls were not enrolled and parents denied that right continuously? What are their rights as parents? They were concerned that there is constant discouragement by the school teachers for girls to persist education beyond grade 5 or at post primary level even though it is an elementary school up to grade 8? Why are their girls counseled to learn embroideries rather than be at school? In a school with 11 teachers the enrolment of 9 grades is only 140 with 40 in Pre school or Katchi and only 8 in grade 8? Why are no mothers or female family members on the school council? Why can’t the out of school children and mothers have access to second chance and literacy programs?

To do this decisively, it was decided that instead of a sample of households all homes would be targeted for the survey this time around. The inhabitants of the village agreed and also volunteered four educated young people who could help with the campaign. The survey revealed the following:
Out of school children - 215 (never enrolled = 164; and 52 Drop out) - 52 % Girls (much like the results of the Global Monitoring Report 2011. The in School children were 241 (45% Girls) and ever enrolled were 163 (404). The drop outs in Rawani of out of school were 52 of which 48% were girls. Of the drop outs below grade 2 were 11%; at and below grade 5 were 60% and drop out above grade 6 were 29%.

Once this data was collected and this time by the young citizens of Rawani. It is the most effective highly graphic and real planning tool for Rawani’s households. Happily the ACTION HAS BEGUN!

The good news is Huma has been re-enrolled. Finally her family’s and her own wish is fulfilled.

Over 150 children in both girls and boys elementary schools are getting support for learning levels enhancement through a very precise method learnt from three amazing resource persons from Hyderabad (India) – the CAMAL way (Combined Activities for Maximized Learning). This is totally a learner centred confidence building simple but intensive technique forcing the teacher/s to be interactive. The method was learnt by many including the four volunteers. Now there are teachers in the government school willing to learn the CAMAL method so more children do not risk dropping out.

60 out of school children aged 5-12 years have begun their catch up classes in the afternoons with a view they may manage to enroll/re-enroll in September 2011 or March 2012. Another 40 will be targeted for the same age group in August 2011.

The literacy and life skills class for 14-20 age group who never ever went to school will begin on September 8, 2011 (International Literacy Day). All this will be done as part of a campaign called Chalo Parho Barho (Let us read and grow). The pilot of CPB is currently underway in two villages for scaling up. Two young mothers had asked in the Rawani baithak if they could begin a good early years program as a community based enterprise near the school. With 102 un-enrolled in this age group the demand is huge and unmet. Fortunately there are many partners working to support and synergise the efforts of Rawani for both the un-enrolled and those at risk in schools. These partners include: the community, the government/schools department, Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA), National Commission for Human Development (NCHD), Oxfam International and the Open Society Institute (OSI).

The challenge being debated this Global Action Week for EFA 2011 in Pakistan is that of implementation of Article 25- A, the Right to Education as a fundamental right for children aged 5-16. If ASER is scalable going from 32 to 70 districts in Pakistan; from 54,062 children to 110,000 children; from 19000 to 50,000 households, can Chalo Parho Barho also be scalable? If it can be scaled up to ensure that each village in Multan district suffering an education crisis can be mobilized, then only we can claim 25 –A, and the EFA and MDG targets for universal primary education, gender parity in primary and secondary education, and gender equity in Pakistan? Yes WE CAN; the citizens must rise, both the lettered and the unlettered to make many more Humas complete not just primary education, but up to age 16 at least!

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Global Action Week EFA 2011 and ITA Activities in Pakistan

ITA Public Trust is celebrating the Global Action Week for Education for All (EFA) 2011 across Pakistan through multiple strategic advocacy actions based on the themes proposed by the global action partners (GCE). These include:

- A National Poster Competition – All ages - My Right to Education – GAW 2011
- A Post Card Petition Campaign- 4000 pre paid post cards to Decision Makers (President; Prime Minister; National Assembly Speaker; Chief of Army Staff; Chief Ministers all provinces; Secretaries/ministers Education
- A signature Petition campaign (20,000) signatures across Pakistan to the same personnel
- Policy Briefs on Girls Education: Access; Quality and Equity - Thematic Focussed Briefs backed by data and analysis to influence decisions by parliamentarians, media and more .. (Urdu and English)
- The Big Read - a nationwide collection of 20 stories of eminent and/or committed women parliamentarians, decision makers, Youth leaders and educators ‘How I made it with Education and by Education” and
- A Global lesson or the Big Read on the GAW 2011 theme to be implemented in all schools in ITA’s outreach program areas across Pakistan (Annex)
- Walks and programs with communities in villages, districts across Pakistan
- An Art Mural with Fauzia Minallah –Funkor Art and Vulnerable Children of Drop in Centres of Islamabad and Rawalpindi
- A public dialogue with parliamentarians and youth in Islamabad
- Five Dialogues in Pakistan: Big Read Lessons led by Champions of Girls & Women's Education
- Linkage with Pakistan Coalition for Education (PCE) In all of the above as well as with Alif Laila Book Bus Society (ALBBS) for the national postage stamp competition
Supporters of Global Action Week for EFA 2011: Multiple Partners of ITA in Pakistan

- UNESCO
- OXFAM International
- Dubai Cares
- Foundation Open Society Institute (F-OSI)
- ITACEC UK
- UNILEVER Pakistan Limited

In Collaboration With

- Pakistan Coalition for Education (PCE)
- UNGEI (United Nations Girls Education Initiative)
- NCHD
- Alif Laila Book Bus Society (ALBBS)
- Pakistan Education Leadership Institute (PELI) Alumni

Status of GAW For EFA activities on May 1, 2011

The poster competition ended on April 25, 2011 and winners are announced (Rs. 15,000, Rs. 7500, Rs. 5000 and Rs. 1000). The posters are being printed in large quantities in Urdu and English for nationwide dissemination to all stakeholders. A Panel of 5 artists/educators declared the winners.

The Post Cards and petitions are printed for distribution, signing and postage from 2-8th to all decision makers.

The Policy Briefs (6) will likewise be distributed across the country to important stakeholders.

The Public Dialogue at the national level is taking place in Islamabad on May 3, 2011 at the Serena Hotel – Kehkashan Hall.

- Public Dialogues preparations in Ghotki, Quetta, Peshawar, Multan, Rahim Yar Khan, Chiniot
Annex II:

Program for Public Dialogues - 2-2.30 hours with tea and refreshments

Global Action Week for EFA 2011 – Public Dialogues

"It is a Right, Make it Right! Education for Girls and Women NOW!"

Hosted and Led by Education Stakeholders – Parliamentarians, Senior Civil Servants, Youth Leaders, Scouts and Girl Guides, NGOs, Educators, Teacher Unions/Associations Media in each location

50-75 people

Program 2 Hours or 2 Hours 30 mins (3-5 pm) or (9:30-11:30 am)

- Context Setting - Video and Presentation - Facts and Figures Sheets
- Sharing Big Stories by Champions of Girls/Womens’ Education: Parliamentarians/Administrative Heads/Youth leaders/Media Champions
- The Big Read - Stories from my Soul ... How I made it with Education and by Education” by eminent and/or committed women parliamentarians, decision makers, Youth leaders and educators
- Materials can be used from ‘A Global lesson or the Big Read on the GAW 2011 theme to be implemented in all schools in ITA’s outreach program areas across Pakistan (Annex)
- Discussion on Article 25-A Right to Education - what does this mean for girls and women’s education/ How will this be made justiciable and actionable?
- Signing of Petition and Post Cards
- Three to Four Key Declaration and Demands from each Dialogue with respect to Girls and Women’s Education

Materials to be supplied by ITA: Video (1) PPT -1; Banners (4-5) /Policy Briefs (50) /Posters (100) /Petitions (1000) /Post Cards (500)) in five locations

Right to Education Article 25-A: The provision of education as a fundamental right has become the statutory obligation of the Government to provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of five to sixteen years.

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Article 25 A and its implications notwithstanding the 18th Amendment Act 2010 has also devolved education almost entirely to the provinces leading to massive changes in Pakistan’s education history such as the dissolution of the Federal Education Ministry (March 31, 2011) with some institutions retained under the newly created Capital Administration & Development Division (www.cabinet.gov.pk)