

Press Release

REFORM PLAN UNVEILED FOR QUALITY EDUCATION IN SINDH

Karachi, 22 April, 2014: Education & Literacy Department Government of Sindh is endeavoring to provide educational facilities to the masses in general and to the downtrodden people of Sindh in particular. In this regard various reforms in education sector have already been introduced Education & Literacy Department, Government of Sindh has developed partnerships with World Bank, European Union, USAID, Global Partnership of Education, DFID, GIZ and UNICEF etc for improvement of quality of education. Government of Sindh has also approved "*The Sindh Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act-2013*"; under the article 25-A of 18th Constitutional to fulfill its responsibilities.

The Reform Support Unit of Education and Literacy Department has developed an **online Complaint Management system** to listen the public voice and address it accordingly. An online complaint form is available on the home page of the official website of Reform Support Unit. (www.rsu-sindh.gov.pk).

Education & Literacy Department Government of Sindh has established an **Independent Monitoring System**, which will work under direct control of the Secretary Education. According to the plan Government of Sindh will hire about 2000 independent monitors to monitor the attendance of teachers and students through smart phone technology. Govt. of Sindh has also engaged third party for data collection to improve the quality of data and the evidence based planning for the education sector.

For the first time in Pakistan, the process of **Teacher's Recruitment** has been adopted as per international process. Thereby, in the first round, all applications are verified and then further processed. One of the most important initiatives is the merit and need based recruitment of teachers through third party testing. Nearly 13,800 teachers have successfully recruited in two rounds of teacher recruitments through IBA Sukkur and Sindh University; third round of 20,000 recruitments are under process. The process of recruitment for High School Teachers (HST) and Junior School Teachers (JST) has nearly been completed and PST is in process and will be completed very soon. All these teachers will be given induction training. An initiative towards

women empowerment has also been taken up by giving additional 20% marks to the woman candidates. So far, HST recruitment is completed and the offer letters are uploaded on the website. In addition to this, the appointment letters of Larkana and Mirpurkhas regions will be available on the website within a week.

On financial aspect, Government Of Sindh is providing grants to the schools through School Specific Budget to meet day to day school expenses. Under the School Management Committees Funds, Rs. 1.75 Billion allocated budget for the year 2013-14 for approximately 40,000 plus schools on need ad demand basis which is determined on the basis of Enrolment and Class Room Studet Ratio (CSR). This grant will be given annually.

Under **SERP- II**, to improve the poor infrastructure of the schools, Education & Literacy Department Government of Sindh is also providing additional funding of Rs 6.0 billion for construction of school buildings, additional classrooms provision of missing facilities in the schools.

To improve the governance, Government of Sindh has also introduced the **School Consolidation** and school clustering process, whereby, different schools running in same premises will be merged and headed by one Head teacher. Nearly more than 2000 schools have been merged. Through clustering nearby schools will be linked together to share the resources of each other and being looked after by a bigger school called Hub School. The issue of closed school is being handled through extensive monitoring, school GIS mapping, school consolidation and clustering.

On quality side the Government of Sindh has initiated various initial and professional development trainings of teachers. Government of Sindh is also conducting **Student Achievement tests (SAT's)** to measure the learning level of students of class V and VIII.

To promote girls education, Education and Literacy Department Government of Sindh has initiated **Girls stipend** program, under the instant program girls are getting Rs 2500 and in low transition areas Rs. 3500 annually as an incentive to continue their education.

Government of Sindh with the support of Global Partnership for education has also developed a five year Sindh Education Sector Plan, which focuses on key activities and targets to improve the quality education in Sindh.