



RIGHT
TO EDUCATION
PAKISTAN












Urgent recommendations for political parties' manifestos on education to achieve article 25-A and SDG-4 (Sustainable Development Goals)

The General Elections for Pakistan in 2018 represent Democratic Strengthening. It is an opportunity to place demands on our political parties for education, a rock bed of strong societies. We, at the Idare-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA) along with the Education Youth Ambassadors (EYAs), students, teachers, civil society organizations (CSOs), academic and media partners seek support for Right to Education (RTE) for ALL Children, youth and adults for inclusive and equitable life long learning; especially for children 5-16 years of age. Article 25 A of the Constitution is a gift of Democracy that was achieved in 2010. We must exhort our Political Parties to support 25 A as a fundamental constitutional right in its true spirit taking

necessary actions for stronger systems. The time for IMPLEMENTING Article 25-A is NOW; it cannot and must not be delayed any more!

ITA has been leading the nationwide Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) learning surveys with its partners as a campaign for RTE since 2008/9. ASER report cards have provided benchmark data for many reforms on 'learning' in Pakistan and beyond. ASER has supported collaborative campaigns with many organizations including Alif Ailaan; *the learning metric* from ASER has contributed to the Annual District Rankings reports for Pakistan.

ITA-ASER teams have produced the Right to Education Report Cards of major Political Parties mapped to their Political Manifestos

Balochistan	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Punjab	Sindh
 Pakistan Muslim League – N (PML-N) (2.5yrs)  National Party (2.5 years) 	 Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf (PTI) 	 Pakistan Muslim League - N (PML N) 	 Pakistan People's Party (PPP) 

We acknowledge efforts and achievements made by the Political Parties for their non-partisan support to education; ***but much more needs to be done.*** There is an urgency for All Political Parties to revisit their Political Manifestos for Education & Learning of ALL Citizens as an actionable fundamental right !

I) Increase in budgets for education significantly from 3% of GDP to 6% to implement 20 Urgent Priorities to implement Article 25 A (5-16 year olds) and post secondary education for youth, teachers and adults to achieve Sustainable Development Goal No. 4 on Education; SDG 4 is a catalyst for meeting All 17 SDGs by 2030 through government departments, education foundations, private sector and hybrid partnerships.

Access – Sector Wide Transition for Children & Citizens

1. 50% increase in quantity and quality of schools at middle and secondary levels especially for girls and boys based on evidence, need and demographics.
2. Allocate 10% of budgets at current level (recurrent & development) in each province for quality Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE) programs (schools and community based), with active engagement of care givers, health providers & lady health workers.
3. Allocate sufficient funds for 100% provision of missing facilities – in public and education foundations supported programs, embedding funds in recurrent budgets for each school assuring inclusive facilities, funds for utilities, SMCs, learning materials, enrichment activities, school/cluster based training and monitoring.
4. Design and implement programs for expanded TVET/technical vocational skills and higher education for capable and quality workforce.

Quality & Innovations for 21st Century Learning & Work

5. Increase 50% of current allocation levels for Quality, to improve learning outcomes of students reaching required competencies and supporting accelerated interventions for teaching at the right level (TARL) for struggling students and learners.
6. Creating progressively new cadres of: i. teachers and assistants for early childhood education (ECE/ECCE), ii. special/inclusive mainstream education and iii. substitute teachers in Pakistan ensuring gender balance.
7. 50% increase of existing budgets for workforce development of teachers (pre and in-service), awards and support services including residential facilities in challenged areas, sensitive to needs of female teachers.
8. Accelerated implementation for interactive Science, Climate Change and Maths (STEM) education along with soft skills in all primary, middle and secondary schools.
9. Massive increase in Technology enabled learning opportunities backed by resources in ALL Schools financed by the government, public, private and madrassas.
10. Grants in aid be provided to elementary and high schools for promoting and scaling innovations, enterprise, technical and life skills and livelihood programs.
11. Allocate special and generous grants to schools (primary to higher secondary) for libraries/reading, Children’s Literature Festivals (CLFs), STEM & environment clubs, summer schools, tours, life skills based education (LSBE), sports activities and second chance programs.

12. Creating opportunities for teachers, headteachers and students for ‘leadership, counselling and mentoring’ programs.

13. Enhance research and innovation grants for evidence based planning on what works in the education sector for improved, cross sectoral and accelerated implementation at schools, post secondary and tertiary education.

14. Investment to be increased in **‘Education for the Future’** initiatives for deeper learning, Artificial Intelligence, Robotics for 21st Century skills.

Equity & Inclusion

15. Special progressive provisions for compensatory transport, residential facilities, school meals, active learning, scholarships with protection to students in all disadvantaged districts and poor/ poorest households.

16. Allocation of 10% of total education budgets for inclusive and special education facilities, staffing and support services through multiple delivery partners.

17. Initiating a country/province wide program for recruiting career counsellors in high schools to support socio-emotional guidance for adolescents.

18. Fast Track enhancement of grants in aid and public private partnership initiatives by the government to non-state providers including low cost private schools, madrassahs, special education and non-formal community led programs to meet education targets at all levels for enrichment and better learning outcomes.

19. Special Talent Hunt schemes to be launched in multiple areas across all provinces and districts so that no child of exceptional talent is left behind because of lack of opportunities and affordability.

20 Communications & Awareness : Allocate & spend 2% of total education budgets in each province for communications and public awareness through all media regarding Education Reforms and Learning Initiatives so all CITIZENS & STATE functionaries alike have access to Right to Information 19-A, claim their rights and entitlements.

II. **Create Independent Education Commissions of Experts** in each province to actively address the continued challenges of **language, quality learning, curriculum enrichment and protection** of all children.

III **Immediately End** within the next 2 years the practice of closure of govt. high schools interrupting regular learning during term time (April/May each year) when these facilities are used as examination centres by the Boards; ALL Boards/ BISE need transparency in the use of funds generated through fees for multiple annual examinations for improvement/repair and support to partner schools examination centres.