

# DEMAND FOR FREE AND COMPULSORY EDUCATION IN PAKISTAN



RIGHT  
TO EDUCATION  
PAKISTAN  
Article 25 A



Phases I & II 2012-2013

Article 25 A:

*The state shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of five to sixteen in such a manner as may be determined by law.*

Initiated by Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA) centre for education and consciousness and supported by multiple organizations with the common goal of raising awareness about right to education (RTE) as a constitutional fundamental right the One Million Signature Campaign demands provision of free and compulsory education for all children aged 5-16 years as per Article 25-A of the Constitution of Pakistan through mobilization of youth and civil society.

The Campaign successfully completed phase I by July 2012, where signatures were collected from a million Pakistani children and adults. Phase II of this campaign was launched on September 8, 2012, with the aim of collecting one million signatures from Out of School Children only (both never enrolled and drop outs).

This phase is currently underway to be completed by April 17th 2013 coinciding with global Meetings of Ministers on April 18th, 2013 and the Global Action Week for EFA April 21-27, 2013.

After being presented to all major political parties' representatives in Pakistan, the summary of the OMS Phase I was presented to UN Special Envoy for Education Rt. Gordon Brown upon his arrival to Pakistan on Malala Day November 10, 2012.



As an impact, several milestones have been achieved through citizens' activism:

- Ratification of The Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2012 by the National Assembly for Islamabad Capital territory
- Approval of The Sindh Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Bill 2013 (Governor's approval pending)
- Ratification of Baluchistan Education Ordinance 2013
- Approval of The Prohibition of Corporal Punishment Act 2010 by the National Assembly
- Approval of The Prohibition of Corporal Punishment Act 2010 by the Sindh



### The Demands of OMS (I & II) are the following:

1. Draft Legislation NOW in all the remaining Provinces for the Right to Education which shall comprehensively address access, quality and equity for ALL Children of Pakistan (5-16);
2. Ensure that the legislation defines NORMS for quality education services, roles, responsibilities and the implementation process explicitly;
3. Commit that the drafting of the law and rules undergoes a transparent process of nationwide debate and consultation;
4. Allocate at least 4% of the GDP for education provision across Pakistan immediately more than doubled from the current 1.7% - making education as the No. 1 Priority;
5. Devise mechanisms for allocating 70% of budget for Article 25-A; its timely release and utilization of resources allocated for quality learning and time bound inclusion of the excluded
6. Inclusion of Right to Education for Quality learning outcomes in the manifestoes of all political parties including 5 actionable steps for tracking by ASER Pakistan.
7. Draft Legislation for the prohibition of Corporal Punishment in Schools in the remaining Provinces.

By April 17th 2013 prior to the Education For All Global Action Week 2013 the campaign will have secured all one million signatures from OUT OF SCHOOL children. Considering the constraints of time and conditions of extreme stress, lack of security and displacement, this is a tremendous accomplishment only due to the extra ordinary cooperation of OUR PARTNERS:

*One million out of school children; Members of Parliament (provincial and national); Youth Parliament of Pakistan, Hamza Foundation AJK; citizens across Pakistan; Alif Ailaan; Pakistan Coalition for Education (PCE), Child Rights Movement (CRM), Democratic Commission for Human Development (DCHD), National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) Mir Khalil ur Rahman Foundation (MKRF); Zara Sochiye ; GEO, Journalists Associations, Departments of Special Education Punjab; Depts. of Education in many districts of Pakistan; PITE- Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa, Bacha Khan Trust Educational Foundation (BKTEF); Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA) in Pakistan and ITACEC UK; Beaconhouse School System (BSS); St Joseph College Karachi, Sindh Education Foundation (SEF), Schools Madrassahs, Non-formal centres, Youth Groups; Colleges & Universities in Pakistan*

Several other activities for the RTE Campaign have been conducted for spreading awareness and advocating for quality, access and equity in Education. These activities include:

- Political dialogues with the representatives of all mainstream political parties focused on the implications of enforcing Article 25 A and bring it to the forefront of political debate.
- Presentation of One Million Signature campaign summary to Gordon Brown (UN special envoy for education) on Malala Day.
- Special workshops were conducted for Education Journalists all over Pakistan to understand implications of Article 25 A: Right to Education for improved reporting on education issues.
- To understand legal implications of Article 25 A and mobilize the legal fraternity, consultations were held with Bar Associations/lawyers in Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi.

*Foundation Open Society Institute (FOSI), DFID UKAid, Oxfam NOVIB, Dubai Cares, citizens groups including expatriate Pakistani community have supported the effort.*

**We honor their SUPPORT for collaboration till the Fundamental Right to Quality Education is Provided to ALL the children of Pakistan (5-16 years)**

**Citizens Movement for Quality Education**



عوامی تحریک برائے معیاری تعلیم

Join this CMQE NOW!

[www.rtepakistan.org](http://www.rtepakistan.org)

**Giving Dignity & Hope to**

**180 million People of Pakistan**