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PAKISTAN



A World at School
Global Youth Ambassador

Introduction to the Education Youth Ambassador (EYA) Program

Idara-e-Taleem o Agahi office, Lahore

10/27/2014



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Introduction:

IdaraTaleem o Agahi (ITA) in collaboration with A World at School (AWAS) has launched a new venture: Education Youth Ambassador (EYA) Program on September 22, 2014. It is a one year volunteer program and an off shoot of the Global Youth Ambassador (GYA) Program from A World at School, specific to Pakistan only. The Right to Education (RTE) team at ITA is currently in the process of receiving applications and recruitment of the EYAs. The program seeks to form a network of 500 young leaders with the interest, passion and skill set to campaign in their schools and communities in Pakistan for action to extend and ensure the RTE and Education for All (EFA). The program aims to adopt a holistic approach towards working for education improvement and hence, encompasses all education related issues ranging from educational access and availability to teacher training and beyond. The program is basically a promulgation mechanism for the RTE Article 25-A whereby, the state is mandated to provide free and quality education to all falling in the age bracket 5-16 years. The UNICEF Pakistan report 2012 revealed the daunting aspect of the literacy rate for the youth aged 15-24: 79.1% for males and 61.5% for females.¹

Objective:

The EYA program looks forward to engage the youth in Pakistan that accounts for 29% of the country's population as per the 2005 PILDAT statistics², to stand up and propagate the various issues in the education system in Pakistan and bring about a positive change through peaceful and apolitical efforts. The program is a digital mobilization and communication initiative harnessing the efforts and energies of the many NGOs, teachers' organizations, faith groups, individuals and youth campaigners to make education a reality for all the world's children. Thereof, the main objective of these introductory sessions was to introduce the program to the different youth networks and to interact with and clarify any ambiguities of the prospective applicants about the program. It was an attempt at acquainting the various youth members and activists with ITA and its undertakings and the facts about the education sector in Pakistan and to market the EYA program in such a way as to convince the audience to apply for the EYA program with fervor and to spread the word within their extended networks.

Program:

Session 1	Activity
4:00 pm	Welcome Address + Introduction to the session
4:00-4:30 pm	Presentation

¹http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/pakistan_pakistan_statistics.html

²<http://www.pildat.org/Publications/publication/youth/youthandpoliticsinpakistan.pdf>



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4:00-4:40 pm	Orientation on how to fill the online application
4:40-5:00 pm	Q &A
5:00 pm	Refreshments
Session 2	Activity
5:00 pm	Welcome Address + Introduction to the session
5:00-5:30 pm	Presentation
5:00-5:40 pm	Orientation on how to fill the online application
5:40-6:00 pm	Q &A
6:00 pm	Refreshments

Proceedings:

The sessions were conducted by Ms. Zaynah Gilani and Ms. Miral Sharif from the RTE campaign team at Idara-e-Taleem o Agahi (ITA).

The team had prepared a presentation for the sessions covering:

- An introduction to ITA sharing the vision of the organization with the audience
 - A brief overview of the different initiatives and undertakings of ITA with a specific mention of ASER and its survey methodology
- Some basic global and national, education and youth statistics highlighting the gender disparity along with a briefing over the RTE Article-25 A and its implementation status in the different provinces
 - A briefing over the process of law making and enactment in correspondence with the status of the law in the different provinces of Pakistan
- A reference to the School reopening incident in Soan Gardens, Islamabad and protest against the kidnapping of the Nigerian girls as a rough idea of the different engagements of ITA and what would be expected of the applicants in case of association with the organization
- Data from ASER 2013 was quoted, learning levels for children aged 5-16 years in English, Arithmetic and Urdu/Pushto/Sindhi were displayed and elaborated upon in relative detail.
- The issue of inadequate facilities in government and private primary schools was highlighted and stressed upon
- Brief mention of and discussion over the education countdown and initiatives of mutual collaboration between AWAS and ITA
- The presentation covered the EYA program, its eligibility criteria, expectations from the EYAs and the benefits accrued to the EYAs in considerable detail.



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The floor was opened for questions and suggestions at the end of the presentation. The first session was more inquisitive while the second one was more suggestive in terms of the response from the audience.

There were a variety of questions and queries put forward by the audience, ranging from the different technicalities of the program (e.g. the age limit etc.), actual day to day situations that an EYA possibly might have to face, the nature of their activity as an EYA (if proposals for projects would be funded etc.), clarification of the role of ITA as a facilitative mechanisms and other such questions. The second session encouraged various thought provoking comments and suggestions on the undulating educational crisis pertaining to the information shared in the presentation. All queries were answered to the inquisitor's satisfaction.

The sessions were interactive and the audience was receptive to the whole information and the EYA program. The sessions also worked to encourage representatives of other youth led organizations to approach the ITA team for possible engagements with ITA with regards to the EYA program.



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Annex



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