

Islamabad Dialogue

Citizens' Audience Recommendations

1. There cannot be penal sanctions on parents unless poverty is addressed.
2. Young adolescents/adults deserve a second chance in literacy so some alternative thinking may be needed. Rural-urban models should be studied so that relevant education is provided.
3. The concept that parents do not want to send their children to school is wrong. The schools are in terrible shape. There is still widespread teacher absenteeism/shortage. There are ghost schools in Karachi, whereas children are sitting on the floor in Chitral. The problems must be understood and specific solutions provided – where basic facilities are needed, provide basic facilities. Where teachers are needed, provide teachers.
4. Curriculums should be process-oriented as opposed to subject-oriented so that cultural diversity is accommodated.
5. The role of the media is important in terms of holding local officials accountable.