

Joint Declaration on Education for All

Signed by participants of All-Parties Conference on
Education for All in Pakistan

February 5, 2008; Islamabad, Pakistan

APC Organized By:



Supported by:



United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization

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Preamble

In the year 2000, the Government of Pakistan ratified two major frameworks of action, namely the "Education for All" charter of objectives at the Dakar World Education Forum and the Millennium Development Goals at the United Nations Millennium Summit in New York. Pakistan has, therefore, committed to undertake necessary steps in the achievement of targets set in the two international frameworks such as universal basic education and literacy, expansion of Early Childhood Education and Care (ECCE) facilities, provision of free and compulsory quality primary education for all children, reduction of gender inequalities in education, and enhancement of quality of primary education by the year 2015.

Therefore,

Recalling *that basic education is a fundamental right of all human being regardless of their ethnicity, gender, economic status, or religious beliefs;*

Knowing *that nearly 50 million adult Pakistanis still cannot read and write which severely effects and limits their chances of participating in an increasingly knowledge-based economy;*

Realizing *that about 5 million Pakistani children of school-going age (5-9) are not enrolled in primary schools; and another 20 million young people of age 10-24 are illiterate*

Considering *that out of every 100 students enrolled at primary level, about one third drop-out before passing Grade 5;*

Observing *that of every 100 male primary level children completing their primary education, only 76 females are able to do so;*

Affirming *that it is the responsibility of the Government of Pakistan to ensure access of all citizens of Pakistan to uniform and equal opportunities of elementary education in order to reduce the growing socio-economic disparities within the society,*

Whereas the **Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan** guarantees provision of free and compulsory basic education,

Whereas Pakistan is committed to pursue the **Dakar Framework of Action for Education for All (EFA)** adopted in the April 2000,

Whereas Pakistan is also committed to achieve the **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)** endorsed at the UN Millennium Summit in the year 2000

Whereas Pakistan has reaffirmed its commitment to achieve the same goals in the country's **Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)** in the years 2001 and 2003

In order to achieve these 'Education for All' targets in Pakistan, We, the representatives of political parties of Pakistan resolve to work for providing the citizens of Pakistan their fundamental right of quality education and universal access to education,

We, further confirm the rights of all men and women to equal educational opportunities and equal access,

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In particular, we, on behalf of our respective political parties, commit ourselves to fully support and, when given a chance, implement the following:

1. **Increase funding** for the public education sector over the next 3 years from the present nearly 2.4% to 4% of Pakistan's annual GDP, with increased focus on areas which lag behind in education and literacy.
2. **Allocate** a minimum of **10%** of the education budget specifically for literacy and non-formal basic education programs, increasing from the present ratio of less than one percent.
3. **Ensuring provision of complete free and compulsory primary education** to all children in Pakistan, and achieving 100% Primary Enrolment, at least 75% Primary Completion rate, and 86% Adult Literacy by the year 2015.
4. Achievement of **gender equality** in primary and secondary education by 2015.
5. Institutionalizing **Non-Formal Basic Education (NFBE)** programmes already underway in the country, and expanding their scope and coverage through increased public spending.
6. Eradicate **political interference and favouritism** in education departments, and to ensure transparency in appointments, postings, and transfers of teachers and other education officials.
7. Build institutional **capacity of the education system** at various levels, through training, simplification of procedures, and introducing a system of accountability and transparency
8. Introduce a **uniform core curriculum and similar facilities** in all schools, and to bridge the gap between various types of public and private schools and Madrassahs in the country, and ratification of international Convention against Discrimination in Education (1960) by Govt. of Pakistan

And,

Given the present state of primary education and literacy in Pakistan, we consider it imperative to formulate policies and undertake practical steps to ensure that Pakistan achieves its targets and goals committed under the Education for All (EFA) and Millennium Development Goals (MDG) frameworks.

We, therefore, resolve to attain the outlined "Education For All" goals pronounced and ratified in this document, and further endorse the commitment of Pakistan to the achievement of declarations ratified at the United Nations and other international fora.

We, the representatives of the following political parties, that met in the All Parties Conference (APC) convened by UNESCO Pakistan Office and PILDAT, therefore, adopt and solemnly proclaim this declaration on 'Education For All in Pakistan 'on this Fifth day of February in the year Two Thosand and Eight at Islamabad, Pakistan

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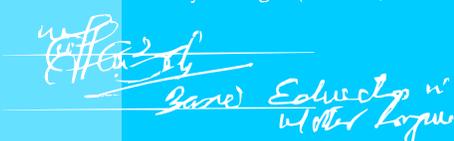
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Awami National Party (ANP)


Haseeb Muhammad Akhond
N.S.G.
Balochistan National Party-Awami (BNP-A)



Balochistan National Party-Mengal (BNP-M)


Same Education in
Whole of Balochistan

Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan (JIP)



Jamhoori Watan Party (JWP)



Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-F (JUI-F)



Jamiat Ulama-e-Pakistan-Noorani (JUP-N)



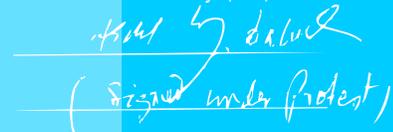
Markazi Jamiat-e-Ahle Hadees (M-JAH)



Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM)



National Party (NP)


(Signed under protest)

Pakhtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP)


under protest for not adding
Mother Tongue in Declaration

Pakistan Muslim League, Nawaz (PML-N)



Pakistan Muslim League-Functional



Pakistan Muslim League (PML-Q)



Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP)



Pakistan Peoples Party-Sherpao (PPP-S)



Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)

