



PAKISTAN
COALITION FOR
EDUCATION
PCE

An Initiative of SAQE

REPORT ANNUAL ACTIVITY 2016



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Pakistan Coalition for Education (PCE) would like to thank its development partners - Open Society Foundations (OSF), Civil Society Education Fund (CSEF), The Malala Fund, Asia Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Educations (ASPBAE) and Global Campaign for Education (GCE) for their financial and logistical support. PCE is also grateful for the necessary guidance provided by its partners concerning the implementation of different projects. We are thankful to our coalition members, legislators, education experts, government departments, civil society organizations and youth representatives for the provision of expertise, and technical support to strengthen our collective advocacy efforts.

This Annual Report was compiled by the PCE secretariat. Many thanks to our staff, volunteers, PCE's members and board for their assistance, contributions, and photographs.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACEA	Advanced Continuing Education Association
AMM	Annual Members' Meeting
ANCEFA	Africa Network Campaign on Education for All
ASPBAE	Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education
BEN-E	Basic Education Network Ethiopia
CBDE	Bolivian Right to Education Campaign
CIES	Comparative and International Education Society
CLADE	Latin American Campaign for the Right to Education
CSEF	Civil Society Education Fund
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
ECOZI	Education Coalition of Zimbabwe
ESP	Education Sector Plan
ESPAAG	Education Sector Plan Action Group
GAW	Global Action Week
GCE	Global Campaign for Education
GI-ESR	Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
GPE	Global Partnership for Education
HR	Human Rights
ICT	Information and Communications Technologies
LEG	Local Education Group
LG	Local Government
NEP	NGO Education Partnership
OSF	Open Society Foundations
PGGA	Pakistan Girls' Guide Association
PPP	Public Private Partnerships
RTE	Right to Education
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SMC	School Management Committees
SSP	School Sector Plan
UNCRC	United Nations Committee on Rights of the Child

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	i
List of Acronyms	ii
Message from our National Coordinator	02
Welcome to Pakistan Coalition for Education	03
Vision statement	04
Mission statement	04
PCE's Achievements and New Initiatives	05
Election of National Coordinator to the Board of Global Partnership of Education	05
Harvesting Hope	05
Engagement with the Local Government (LG)	06
The strength of grassroots and provincial advocacy	07
Global Action Week 2016	07
Trainings for Social Accountability Survey 2016	07
Public Kacheris	08
Provincial Consultations aiding implementation of Right to Education	09
High Level Consultation - Fund the future: Invest in Girls' Education	09
Multi-stakeholder consultation: Planning Matters in Education	10
Impact	10
PCE's Advocacy Initiatives at the National Level	12
National Consultation on Social Accountability, Efficient Budget Spending & Transparency	12
Rethinking modern communication through innovative tools and techniques	12
Annual Members' Meeting (AMM)	13
7th Annual Convention - Goal 4 for Sure	13
National Launch of Do Schools Get Money?	14
Capacity Building of Member Organizations and Local Government (LG) Representatives	14
Impact	15
PCE's Presence at the International Forum	17
60th Annual Conference of Comparative and International Education Society (CIES)	17
PCE's submission of parallel report to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Child (UNCRC)	18
International Congress on Information, Communication Technologies in Education	19
ASPBAE Regional Consultation on Education Financing and Privatization in Asia-Pacific	20
Global Meeting: Private Actors in Education and Human Rights	21
Regional workshop on ASPBAE's Strategic Direction	21
Global Partnership for Education (GPE) CSO 2 Pre-Board and Board Meeting	22
Impact	22
Financial Report	23



Ms Zehra Arshad

National Coordinator
Pakistan Coalition for Education

MESSAGE FROM OUR NATIONAL COORDINATOR

In 2017, we have reached a new age with many changes taking place in Pakistan. While the political scenario shifts, there is less focus on development issues, especially education. The struggles that PCE has been undertaking in the last eleven years, have become more complex as the issues become more intricate by the day. This year, along with working towards its priority areas of financing of education, girls' education and implementation of RTE, we have introduced new topics into the national and global discourse.

These topics are along the lines of developing public-private partnerships, viewing unregulated privatization as a violation of human rights, and continuing our notions of accountability and transparency. This year, we worked on new research initiatives to further understand the education issues in Pakistan. The engagement with government bodies was strengthened as recommendations were submitted to the relevant departments, to be incorporated into the National Education Policy and the Education Sector Plan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In 2016, PCE also engaged new stakeholders and is excited to work with a new tier of government i.e. local government. PCE is also excited to continue working with youth representatives, who have shown a strong desire to work towards addressing some of the issues that they face every day while going to schools and universities.

PCE has gained momentum in the last year and will continue to engage with the relevant policy makers effectively. PCE's coalition members and partners have played a key role in these advocacy efforts, raising awareness, and generating debate across Pakistan. PCE is fortunate to work with its dedicated members, who continuously support the betterment of education, playing a monumental role in translating the effort into action.

My election to the Board of Global Partnership for Education opened a new avenue and space for civil society in Pakistan, especially the ones working towards education. Through this platform, the efforts of the grassroots, provincial, and national advocacy are highlighted on a global forum. Discussions at the global level have been focusing on working in an inclusive manner with the Local Education Groups. These meetings have also been focusing on the need to learn from the successful practices of other organizations working towards education in a similar context.

PCE was able to pave new pathways and expand its scope of work due to consistent efforts of the team, whose diligence and commitment was highlighted throughout the year. Furthermore, I greatly appreciate our donors, partners, and the larger civil society who believe in us as we move forward towards providing quality education that is accessible to all. I also cherish and encourage the success of children, youth and adults in Pakistan through knowledge and learning.



Ms Zehra Arshad

National Coordinator

Pakistan Coalition for Education

WELCOME TO PAKISTAN COALITION FOR EDUCATION

Established in 2005, Pakistan Coalition for Education (PCE) currently stands as the only coalition working on education advocacy in Pakistan for eleven consecutive years. This network of civil society organizations currently works in 65 districts across Pakistan in Punjab, Baluchistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The Coalition consists of members from local Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and Education Reporters' Associations (ERA) in the media, who aim to bring about change in the education system of the country through policy advocacy and civic engagement.

In recent years, PCE has grown immensely with regards to its thematic areas of education. While it started from Financing on Education, PCE is now taking on several issues including the implementation of Right to Education, Education Governance, Girls' Education, Public-Private Partnerships in education and the Sustainable Development Goals. Since last year, PCE has also conducted additional research on unregulated privatization of schools as a violation of human rights.

Under the ambit of promoting people's constitutional right to education and demanding quality in education, PCE strives to educate people on relevant challenges that confront education, and also convey citizens' perspectives to policymakers. In the process, PCE aims to ensure a dialogue between all key stakeholders and use its unique position to provide a platform for civil society to discuss, debate, and pursue measures for the effective and accountable delivery of education, especially for girls and disadvantaged groups. PCE actively works with government bodies and civil society organizations to implement policies and introduce reforms in education. PCE promotes girls' education and believes that real progress can only be made by removing gender disparity and providing quality for all, thus improving the overall state of education in Pakistan. PCE is a strong believer in evidence based advocacy initiatives and has carried out a number of researches with reference to budget tracking of school management grants, privatization of schools etc. Based on the findings of these researches, various advocacy initiatives were carried out throughout the country.

Through its platform, PCE helps to develop and strengthen partnerships with regional and international networks on education. PCE represents viewpoints of its member organizations as



well as Pakistan's Civil Society organizations at large, at various national and international platforms. PCE holds various consultations and discussions to harmonize viewpoints amongst various stakeholders on pertinent issues with a focus on girls', inclusive, equitable and quality education.

PCE strives to play a meaningful role in the implementation of Article 25-A through its advocacy efforts and has filed Public Interest Litigations in Islamabad, Peshawar and Lahore High Courts, to pursue this matter further through the mobilization of the courts of law. With the second highest number of out of school children after Nigeria, there is an immediate need to implement the Right to Education (RTE) in its true letter and spirit to counter this dismal situation.

Vision statement

"Education for all children and youth in Pakistan, which nurtures them to become critical thinkers and conscientious citizens; promoting harmony, democracy, and justice."

Mission statement

- Achieve PCE's vision by influencing policy at all levels, with all stakeholders at the district, provincial, and federal level, and with non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, and donors;
- Undertake research-based advocacy;
- Focus education initiatives on capacity building, especially in the areas of human resources and organizational processes;
- Effectively engage in networking and collaboration with members and stakeholders.

PCE'S ACHIEVEMENTS AND NEW INITIATIVES

Election of National Coordinator to the Board of Global Partnership for Education

In 2016, the National Coordinator of PCE, Ms. Zehra Arshad, was elected as a Board Member of Global Partnership for Education (GPE) for Civil Society Organization -CSO 2 Constituency. Established in 2002, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) comprises of 61 developing countries, more than 20 donor governments and international organizations, the private sector and foundations, teachers, and civil society organizations.

GPE supports developing countries in ensuring that every child receives a quality basic education, prioritizing the poorest, most vulnerable, and those living in fragile and conflict-affected areas.

The GPE Board of Directors is the supreme governing body of the partnership and sets its policies and strategies. Partnership developed solely to fund education in the developing countries comprises of donors, international organizations, civil society, teacher organizations, private sector and foundations. Being a board member of GPE, Ms. Zehra now represents the civil society of Pakistan working in the education sector on a global platform, bringing attention to prominent issues of this sector.

Harvesting Hope

In order to effectively utilize the potential of social media platforms and bring attention to challenges in education, PCE launched a photo-blog campaign in 2016 to highlight the issues of education financing and girls' education in Pakistan. This blog brought attention to 52 portraits of students, teachers, and other key stakeholders who showed promise and potential to respond to the challenge of Girls' Education. The photo-blog was maintained to highlight the struggles and opportunities of individuals, institutions, and the government with reference to the main themes in education. These photo-blogs have elevated PCE's presence on

social media and has provided a unique opportunity for the stories to be shared from far-flung areas across Pakistan.

Social media initiatives aided PCE in increasing its outreach to the general public and proponents of the education sector including students, experts, and civil society organizations. Through these campaigns, a vast number of legislators and government officials were also engaged by sharing information and policy updates. Employing social media tools has resulted in an increase in PCE's online presence via Facebook since it has over 53,000 likes which has led to an increase in PCE's visibility while highlighting the subject's voice on the theme of education.

Engagement with the Local Government (LG)

In order to engage with the Local Government Representatives and establish meaningful engagement, PCE developed a primer which serves as an introduction on education finances on local and Union Council level in Pakistan. The primer is intended for the local government representatives at the corresponding government levels. The primer discusses the nature of education and makes a case for making education a priority on the lowest tier of the government. The budget process is discussed along with the points where the citizens can collaborate with their respective governments. Recommendations for ways in which the local representatives can take opinion from their community to effectively govern are also included in the primer.



THE STRENGTH OF GRASSROOTS AND PROVINCIAL ADVOCACY

As an evidence-based advocacy organization, PCE has always believed that advocacy campaigns should not be limited to upper tiers of the state, but it should be practiced at grassroots levels as well. To achieve this goal, PCE has been actively working in 65 districts, engaging member organizations, while also effectively building partnerships with new organizations.

Global Action Week 2016

Every year PCE conducts activities for Global Action Week in various districts and in the Islamabad Capital Territory as well. Global Action Week for Education is an annual worldwide campaign, organized by the Global Campaign for Education (GCE), implemented by PCE in Pakistan to raise awareness on education and the commitments made by the international community to achieve the global education goal. In 2016, the campaign, which was scheduled from 25th April to 30th April, focused on the theme of Education Financing, under the slogan 'Fund the Future: Education Rights now.'

As part of Global Action Week 2016, coalition members of PCE conducted consultations on Financing of Education in various districts of Pakistan. It included Hyderabad, Jamshoro, Sukkur, Jacobabad, Karachi, Qila Saifullah, Noshki, Quetta, Jacobabad, Ghotki, Mianwali, Dera Ghazi Khan, Bahawalpur, Khanewal, Muzaffargarh, Peshawar, Swabi, Lahore, and Muzaffarabad.

The consultations brought together a number of scholars, government representatives, including District Education Officers, civil society representatives, media personnel, School Management Committees, and youth representatives. PCE's member organizations also devised a list of recommendations based on the discussions of consultative meetings and shared them with the district government, so that these could be translated into effective action towards the issues faced by the community members regarding education.

Social Accountability Survey 2016

In 2016, the third series of PCE's budget tracking initiative "Do Schools Get Money?" was continued; it was initially piloted in 2014. This year, the quantitative part of the study covered 14 districts from Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Punjab, and Sindh collectively while the province of Baluchistan was analyzed qualitatively. The purpose of this budget tracking study is to form basis for social

accountability mechanisms and campaigning in Pakistan. It is an attempt to explore various dimensions of governance structures existing at government primary schools with a particular focus on the functions of School Management Committees (SMCs). This study endeavors to gain new insights regarding social accountability in terms of citizen participation including the gender make up, and in particular budget tracking of education service delivery in Pakistan.

To ensure that the surveyors are equipped with knowledge and understand the purpose of survey, training sessions were conducted in the districts where research study was to be carried out. These sessions were conducted in collaboration with PCE's coalition members and partners. These sessions were aimed at ensuring that the surveyors are fully aware of the survey form including all the fields and sections required to be filled out and collect only the authentic data.

Public Kacheris

After completion of the social accountability survey trainings, successful verification and compilation of the data collected, preliminary analysis of the districts was carried out. PCE partnered with its member organizations to hold district level consultations. Findings of the survey was presented to all key stakeholders to hold the district administration accountable in four different districts (Larkana, Ghotki, Khanewal and Nowshera). These consultations comprised of all key stakeholders from the district, including education department, Local Government Representatives, District Bar Association, and Civil Society, representatives of SMCs, community members and affiliates of academia.

These meetings were intended to sensitize the public by informing them about the roles of SMCs and district education officials. In each public kacheri, based on the findings as well as the challenges highlighted by the participants, discussions were held while the district government officials were also present. The focus of these gatherings were budgets received and utilized by SMCs, enrollment rates, and basic facilities provided in the public primary schools of the district.

The meeting in Ghotki was productively concluded with the D.E.O validating the data collected by congratulating PCE. He stated that the findings were an eye-opener for the officials and a basis for further action on the pertinent education issues. Furthermore, as a result of the discussions, participants in these consultations voluntarily agreed to form People's Action Group on Education (PAGE) to deliberate further upon the education issues of the district, devise recommendations and continuously engage with the government officials to ensure that the issues are resolved at the district level.





PROVINCIAL CONSULTATIONS AIDING IMPLEMENTATION OF RIGHT TO EDUCATION

Since the addition of Article 25-A in the constitution of Pakistan, PCE has engaged with provincial authorities, government officials, and legislators to discuss the enactment of Right to Education in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Building on that engagement, PCE continued to deliberate on this important issue, making use of the momentum that was previously built.

High-Level Consultation - Fund the future: Invest in Girls' Education

To address the pertinent issues on the financing of education, PCE organized a consultation on girls' education in Peshawar, which took into consideration funding of education for efficient allocation and utilization. This discussion brought together policy makers, legislators, government representatives, civil society representatives, media personnel, girl advocates, and development partners to examine how to improve children's access to a classroom.

Socioeconomic factors and cultural norms, which often prevent girls from enrolling in school were highlighted along with low allocation of the budget to the education sector. To improve the state of education, the participants urged the government to increase the education budget to at least 4% of GDP in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Multi-stakeholder consultation: Planning Matters in Education

Following the meeting on girls' education and financing of education, another consultation was held that brought together the key architects and donors of the Education Sector Plan (ESP) 2010-15 as well as other development partners. Through this meeting, gaps in education financing in KP were identified while substantive recommendations were given to the government officials for strengthening the system through effective allocation and efficient spending.

A committee of experts called the Education Sector Plan Action Group (ESPAG) was also formed comprising of legislators, girl advocates, education experts, and civil society activists. ESPAG was primarily formed to analyze the ESP 2010-2015 in terms of assessing the effectiveness of the policies introduced and implemented. This analysis also outlines the policies that may be taken forward in the new ESP (2015-2020). Based on this analysis, ESPAG along with PCE's research team, developed a Policy Memo which was later presented to the Secretary Education KP. This Policy Memo gave concrete recommendations in order to improve the new ESP which will be the guiding policy document for the next five years. PCE also urged the government to periodically review ESP in light of SDGs and make necessary changes and course corrections.

Impact

Engaging with member organizations present at the grassroots level, raised awareness regarding the state of education in Pakistan, especially in light of its international commitments while mobilizing the general populace. Through various activities, PCE members were able to actively engage citizens, local district administrations, SMC members, parents and other key stakeholders in holding dialogues and effectively raising awareness around Education Financing. These initiatives urged the public to develop their ownership towards the financing of education and implementation of Right to Education.

To support the advocacy initiatives through all major activities, PCE developed Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material which played a significant role in terms of raising awareness, building capacity and sensitizing key stakeholders to make education a priority in policy discussions and formulation. Conducting these activities also enhanced recognition of PCE as a key advocate for education.

PCE played an important role in bringing various key stakeholders together on a single platform through public hearings to discuss matters related to education and also to devise recommendations to resolve them at the local level. After the completion of survey and analysis of the data,



district launches were held in four districts of Khanewal, Nowshera, Ghotki and Larkana. The findings from the study were presented in the presence of District Education Officials while engaging the representatives of School Management Committees, community members, parents, local CSOs and other key stakeholders in each of the districts. These open forums provided the space for the participants to discuss the findings and give recommendations in order to remedy the situation. Through these district launches, PCE disseminated information regarding the survey including gender disaggregated information and in particular the budget tracking of education service delivery in Pakistan. This also helped promote culture of civic participation at the grassroots level.

PCE actively utilized its social media platforms to highlight its activities as well as the most pertinent education issues that encompass the society. It has been regularly posting about various education issues in the country on its social media platforms. These posts were targeted to reach people from a diverse background to raise awareness and to generate debate around education issues. Conducting these activities has also enhanced recognition of PCE as a key advocate for education.

PCE was also successful in generating the interest of policy makers and strengthening their commitment to girls' education. PCE will continue to engage girl advocates in policy discussions, orient them regarding the state of education. Through this process, girls will share their voices with all important stakeholders on pertinent education issues. This will increase their scope of knowledge, allowing them to participate in high-level policy discussions to reflect on the importance of educational opportunities for girls in Pakistan. These efforts by PCE will advocate for improved laws and policies, and government funding to fulfil the needs of and to create change for the most vulnerable girls in line with the implementation of Right to Education.



PCE'S ADVOCACY INITIATIVES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

Building on the efforts taking place at the district and provincial level, PCE also highlighted some of the core education issues at the national level. These included frequent discussions on girls' education, implementation of Right to Education, increasing budget to 4% of the GDP for education, enhancing monitoring and transparency through budget tracking. PCE also raised the issue of education privatization and the need for its regulation as it has an adverse impact on human rights of citizens.

National Consultation on Social Accountability, Efficient Budget Spending, & Transparency

In March 2016, PCE organized a National Consultation on Social Accountability, Efficient Budget Spending, and Transparency, which was attended by government officials from five districts where PCE previously collected success stories from. This consultation featured an extensive discussion on citizen's participation in the budget making processes in order to lay the foundations of social accountability in the public sector. Furthermore, the consultation also featured an extensive discussion on how the Right to Information Act can be utilized to make the budget planning procedures more inclusive.

The consultation focused on the need for a simple version of technical documents to enable the community representatives to interpret them according to their needs. This will allow for enhanced accountability as the citizens will be able to question the decisions taken by respective authorities. At the end of the consultation, PCE launched a series of case studies' document titled as "Small Initiatives, Big Impacts: The agents of change in Education." The brief document presents the best practices of the district departments for wider dissemination on the national level as a role model for other districts to adopt. The need for collective action, developing synergies, and joint action was encouraged, emerging from the grassroots level and leading to larger initiatives at the provincial and national level.

Rethinking modern communication through innovative tools and techniques

PCE, in collaboration with Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE), conducted a communications workshop in Islamabad on 'Rethinking modern communication through innovative tools and techniques.' The objectives of the workshop were to establish a framework for developing a communication strategy, identifying target audiences, developing main messages using appropriate communication

tools, and identifying strategies for implementation. The workshop also focused on building support amongst PCE, its members, and partners for a strategic communications plan and activities. It further encouraged creative inputs and ideas for an effective communications plan.

The training provided the participants a platform to discuss their organization's communications program and express some of the challenges that were faced in ensuring effective communications. The training established a popular consensus in recognizing the power of social media and how, if used effectively, it can significantly contribute to the successful implementation of a communications strategy by instantly reaching out to a wider and more diverse audience.

The workshop module encouraged participants to work together in groups to identify key issues in Pakistan related to education and lifelong learning. This led to another exercise where participants identified key issues for stakeholders to be aware of. The groups identified target audiences, main messages for the target audiences, and the communication tools to reach a wide range of addressees.

The interactive workshop enabled participants to work together to brainstorm on issues relevant to education in the country and to prioritize main messages for education advocacy; all essential elements of a communications strategy.

Annual Members' Meeting (AMM)

PCE also conducted its Annual Members' Meeting (AMM) in 2016, discussing education issues with existing and potential members from the grassroots perspective. The AMM highlighted the advocacy initiatives taken by the members at the union council, district, and provincial level, mainly contributing to a discourse on the financing of education and Right to Education. The AMM also significantly contributed to PCE's strategic direction in significant ways, giving PCE an opportunity to focus on its priority areas whilst increasing advocacy initiatives at the grassroots level, with the potential to translate into effective strategies at the national level.

7th Annual Convention - Goal 4 for Sure

PCE organized its seventh annual convention with the theme "Goal 4 for Sure - Making a collective effort for Inclusive, Equitable and Quality Education" to highlight the fourth goal of the SDGs i.e. Quality Education. The convention also featured detailed discussions on public-private partnerships, Right to Education and Financing of Education, with a strong emphasis on girls' education.

As part of the proceedings, PCE screened a documentary film on girls' education to highlight the various issues persistent in the education sector and in our society. The film depicted the story of a young girl and her desire to pursue education against all odds with determination, moral courage, heroism, and strength. The documentary was viewed by 150 participants including girl advocates, students, teachers, legislators, representatives from the civil society, experts from the Education Sector, and social activists. A panel discussion was lead on after the screening, based on the key themes depicted in the film i.e. education for girls, girls' empowerment and Right to Education. Technical experts discussed education issues with reference to the globally adopted Sustainable Development Goals, twelve years of free and compulsory education and the need to increase budget to 4% of the total GDP.

The ensuing discussion also focused on aspects of education including issues in girls' education in

terms of access, security, transportation, implementation of Right to Education and availability of basic facilities in schools. Extensive privatization of education in Pakistan from the perspective of Human Rights was also discussed. Ms. Nafeesa Khattak, Member National Assembly from Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf expressed her willingness to work towards the implementation of Right to Education in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by mobilizing parliamentarians in KP and connecting them to the relevant government bodies. She offered her services in making a caucus of female legislators to ensure that maximum efforts are being made in order to make education a reality for all girls. The film itself was received positively by the students, teachers, and other participants. The themes depicted were relatable to the students and generated discussions, which resulted in the panel discussions throughout the day.

To further highlight the importance of girls' education and the hurdles faced by young girls in attainment of education in Pakistan, PCE collaborated with girl advocates from different government schools who shared their inspirational stories.

Another panel discussion titled "Education: a right out of reach?" discussed the impact of privatization of education in Pakistan. It gathered different perspectives from the civil society on this polarizing issue. The discussion introduced the human rights aspect of this issue to PCE's coalition members and other participants. This discussion served as a preamble to PCE's future capacity building training aimed at the members highlighting the issues related to an unprecedented and unregulated growth of private actors in education. PCE has been a regular CSO alternate report contributor on various UN treaty bodies committees of which Pakistan is a signatory. These alternate reports focus on the status of human rights in the country guaranteed under the international human rights' laws and the Constitution of Pakistan. PCE shared its recommendations that were to be presented to one of these treaty bodies committees which the panel, along with the civil society present at the convention, endorsed.

National Launch of Do Schools Get Money?

After successful completion of the third series of its social accountability initiative, PCE launched "Do Schools Get Money? 2016" in Islamabad. This launch was attended by various segments of the society including representatives of civil society, academia, and media. This event featured national findings of PCE's budget tracking research study. These included many interesting insights regarding the make-up of SMCs and the availability of basic school facilities in primary schools across the districts that were surveyed. The importance of citizen-led initiative such as this research and how the participatory processes that takes place and the access to data was strongly emphasized on. The study was commended as it puts the citizens at center stage and is ultimately making way towards connecting right-holders with duty-bearers, which were central to any responsive and accountable social setting. This study also highlights the need for strengthening of democratic institutions through the involvement of communities at grassroots level.

Capacity Building of Member Organizations and Local Government (LG) Representatives

PCE arranged a two-day training exercise in Islamabad titled "Capacity building on RTE: Operationalizing citizen-local government relationship to strengthen public service delivery." The training covered the dimensions of human rights, advocacy, the Sustainable Development Goals and social accountability.

The training was conducted by Ms. Rehana Sheikh- Education Expert, Ms. Zehra Arshad- National Coordinator – PCE, and Dr. Bushra Rahim-Deputy Director Local Government, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The participants who attended the training were Local Government Representatives from ten different districts across the country, PCE's member organizations and Islamabad based Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

This capacity building session facilitated the civil society at large and local government representatives with knowledge and skills to improve education status of children, particularly of marginalized children in their respective areas. The training focused on building the capacity to understand the rights-based approach with reference to education and its application at policy and implementation level. It also developed knowledge and skills of CSOs and local government representatives to better understand the concept of social audit, take practical actions to strengthen community participation and accountability mechanisms for improving education in their respective areas. The capacity building exercise also assisted in developing advocacy and social mobilization skills of CSOs and local government representatives to influence policy and implementation processes of education to make them favorable for poor and marginalized groups.

Impact

This year, PCEs activities generated active discourse on several important matters, which lie deep within the education sector. PCE took on new initiatives and discussed public-private partnerships at national and international platforms. This particular discourse brought the focus back to the education of children – stressing on the “right” as opposed to education as a commodity being sold as a result of privatization while emphasizing on the need to develop a working relationship between the public and private sectors.

Furthermore, the 'Rethinking Modern Communication through innovative tools and techniques' workshop helped to brainstorm on issues related to education in Pakistan and developed guidelines on the elements required for a communication strategy. Additionally, the training provided a clear view of the different aspects of the strategy and established linkages of its various components, laying the foundation for an effective communication. The event comprised of more than 25 participants from Developments in Literacy (DIL), Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA), Care International, Centre for Peace and Development Initiative (CPDI), Right to Play, Tele Taleem Pakistan, Action Aid Pakistan, Community Development Organization, Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung für die Freiheit, RCDO Mianwali, Muslim Aid, Sindh Development Society collectively.

PCE's annual convention was attended by over 150 participants from different backgrounds, allowing multiple opportunities for developing new linkages and partnerships. By collaborating with Pakistan Girls' Guide Association (PGGA) and their network of students, PCE has reached out to a new stakeholder – who is directly impacted by the implementation of education policies in the country. This group of students was introduced to core concepts in the education sector; highlighting the importance of SDGs and more importantly, allowing them to understand that education is a fundamental right that cannot be denied.

The themes that PCE touched upon in its activities this year has resulted in a high rate of collaboration and cooperation between different government and non-governmental bodies. Engagement and promises of working together were witnessed on several occasions as the legislators offered their support to government officials in aiding them towards implementing education policies. This

particularly happened on two occasions when Jaffar Shah from Awami National Party offered his support to conduct a pre-budget meeting with the Standing Committee in KP to highlight the importance of increasing the budget to 4% of the GDP. Another incident of a partnership between the government and legislators was seen at PCE's annual convention when Ms. Nafeesa Khattak from Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf offered to develop a caucus of female legislators working towards the implementation of RTE to facilitate the local government departments.

PCE, through its dialogues and trainings, reached to elected representatives of the local government and oriented them on the implementation of RTE law. This engagement was fruitful as several participants committed to discussing education as part of their election manifesto, especially with the onset of the 2018 General Elections. This also helped PCE to inform LG representatives about the human rights perspective of education and assisting them in developing insight on the core themes in education.

PCE continued its social accountability initiative into the third year, which also featured public hearings in several districts, engaging the School Management Committees and community members in each of the districts. These open forums provided space to the local communities and the concerned members of civil society including parents, to discuss problems in light of the research findings.

PCE expanded its scope of work with its research and advocacy efforts by conducting the budget tracking survey in 14 districts while qualitatively analyzing the province of Baluchistan. This study has been effective in providing the government officials as well as the local community members an enhanced understanding of the school management committees and how they function on the district level. Through this study, key stakeholders now have an increased understanding of district budget allocation to schooling, utilization of that budget, and the decision-making behind that allocation and utilization. Awareness regarding accountability and participation has also increased. PCE publicly announced the "Vote for Education" campaign during the national launch to gather support for the implementation of education policies leading into the 2018 General Elections.

As part of 'Do Schools Get Money?-2016', PCE also initiated the process of developing a Social Accountability Framework (SAF), which intends to operationalize social accountability through defining the key entry points for citizen participation at the grassroots level. SAF proposed by PCE, aims to empower citizens to participate in a manner which results in improvement of publicly funded education service through improved access to information such as the allocation and spending, and the participatory oversight of budgets and schools performance.

Through consistent efforts, PCE was able to bring together relevant government departments and the lawmakers to bridge the gap between the bureaucracy and the legislators. Through various activities carried out throughout the year, PCE was able to provide relevant platforms that helped in increasing willingness of legislators to work towards improving RTE processes.

PCE played an important role in bringing various key stakeholders together on a single platform through public hearings to discuss matters related to education and also to devise recommendations to resolve them at the local level. After the completion of survey and analysis of the data,



PCE'S PRESENCE AT THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM

60th Annual Conference of Comparative and International Education Society (CIES)

PCE participated in the 60th Annual Conference of Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) which was held in Vancouver, Canada. The Society's members included nearly 2500 academics, practitioners, and students from around the world.

This year the theme of the conference was "Sixty Years of Comparative and International Education: Taking Stock and Looking Forward". The conference featured how the society and the field have evolved over the decades, and where they are and should be going. The participants in the conference were also invited to address the theme from the perspectives of their particular specializations, theoretical and practical standpoints, geographic locations, and academic and professional identities.

Ms. Zehra Arshad, National Coordinator, represented PCE as an expert speaker and presented a working paper on "Innovation, activism, mobilization and building a people's movement for education." The paper, apart from the conceptual clarification of civil society and social movement, sheds light on how civil society can strengthen itself to play an effective role in the promotion of education that in turn strengthens democratic culture in Pakistan. The paper presented also discusses the effectiveness of these strategies for building people's movement to transform education in Pakistan. It briefly focuses on the fundamental steps of social movement along with challenges, gaps and opportunities. Moreover, it shares some of the recommendations to strengthen the people's voice to call for good governance through inclusive and participatory approaches while observing the values of transparency, decentralization, justice and social accountability.

While addressing the participants at the conference, Ms. Arshad also gave a presentation on "Do Schools Get Money?" which is a part of Social Accountability study series being conducted by PCE. Ms. Arshad stated that education coalitions must play their role in raising civil society's voice while shaping global targets for education. She stressed that it is the civil society's responsibility to ensure that the goals set by the international

community are contextual and relevant. While talking about the role of media in advocacy campaigns, she said the media must conduct well-considered debates on education issues without sensationalizing and fanning of biases and prejudices.

Speaking at the conference, Ms. Zehra shared with participants various education initiatives taken by PCE for many education issues specifically access to quality education, Right to Education (RTE), financing for education and education governance. While concluding her discussion, Ms. Zehra said that it's a positive sign that all civil society organizations are continuously working towards influencing their governments for making education a priority and increase education financing to achieve the global targets. It is imperative to collectively raise voice for all prevalent education issues to improve the state of education and bring a positive change in the society.

PCE's submission of parallel report to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Child (UNCRC)

In 2016, PCE developed a shadow report titled "Privatized Education in Pakistan and the Right to Education: A right out of reach?" with the support of Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (GI-ESCR), ASPBAE and seven national CSOs. This report was presented to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Child (UNCRC) at its 72nd Session for its consideration of the List of Issues for Pakistan.

The Committee comprised of child rights experts and informed by PCE's shadow report, questioned Pakistan on its failure to adopt legislation implementing the right to compulsory education in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in particular and in the territories of Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir. It raised concerns about the poor enforcement of right to education legislation in provinces where such legislation does exist.



The Committee was also alarmed about the privatization of education and in particular, the lack of measures to ensure the compliance of private schools with minimum educational standards, curriculum requirements and qualification for teachers. Connected to the above issues, the Committee was concerned about the extremely low Budgetary allocations for education.

It was a success for PCE and internationalist national and international partners to be able to effectively persuade the Committee to ask such pertinent questions based on its shadow report.

International Congress on Information, Communication Technologies in Education

PCE also participated in the International Conference on Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) and Post-2015 Education in Qingdao, China. This conference brought together ministers responsible for Education, high-level government officials, representatives of the civil society organizations, teachers' organizations, United Nations agencies and development partners, and members of academia and the private sector that unanimously agreed upon the Qingdao Declaration. Along with other key focus areas, Declaration reaffirmed the need to include ICT in education development and management as envisioned by the Education 2030 at the World Education Forum 2015, in Incheon, Republic of Korea. Internationally agreed 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Education 2030 Framework for Action with a vision to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all" highlights the importance and indispensable role of ICT in education development.

With this in mind, the International Forum for Partnerships on the Qingdao Declaration was organized in December 2015 in Qingdao to form a global alliance for technology-enhanced education. It was commonly agreed that regular meetings should be held to monitor the progress and share knowledge. During this meeting, six action lines were established to operationalize the Qingdao Declaration, including advocacy for enabling policy environment, empowering teachers to ensure quality learning for all, promoting girls' and women's access to and competency of using ICT, reinforcing school leadership, harnessing ICT to empower vulnerable population, establishing monitoring and evaluation mechanism.

The International Congress on ICT in Education 2016, themed "Education Reform in the Internet Age and Education 2030 Agenda" was organized in Qingdao to look at the long-term mechanisms for global communication and cooperation guided by Qingdao Declaration in order to achieve the SDG-4. The objectives of this Congress were to discuss major ICT trends and their impacts on higher education, vocational education and special education. Expert speakers from different parts of the world shared effective policies and innovative practices on how national institutes and schools can provide support for effective pedagogical use of ICT in education. The International congress also stressed upon the need to have effective mechanisms and action plans to build global partnerships and cooperation platforms.

The International Congress was followed by a day designated for field visits. Participants were taken to "International Innovative Achievements

Exhibition on ICT in Education” where various government sector officials as well as private companies showcased their innovative ideas and products that are transforming education in China and across the globe. The field visits ended with a visit to Weidong Group which is playing its important role in developing convenient information-based education services and products that have been adopted by schools in all major provinces of China.

ASPBAE Regional Consultation on Education Financing and Privatization in Asia-Pacific

PCE participated in the regional consultation organized by Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE) on education financing in the context of SDGs and privatization of education in the Asia-Pacific region. The consultation brought together various stakeholders including the civil society organizations, national coalitions from APAC region, International Development organizations and other donor agencies to discuss extensively on the education financing in these regions as well as the challenges faced. The discussions centered on issues in terms of making the financing more equitable and equal across the regions as the SDGs mandate.



Initial discussions focused on the challenges of achieving SDG4 in terms of equity based financing and ensuring equality. Various policy experts facilitated the sessions where the participants discussed the equity financing models in their countries to be quoted as examples. Representatives from PCE presented on the equity financing in Central and South Asia.

Privatization of education and its repercussions on the right to education in terms of access and basic human rights were also discussed. Representatives from organizations such as Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (GI-ESCR) introduced the issue to the participants. In this regard, PCE presented its parallel report to the UNCRC along with other regional partners who were also involved in similar efforts. The report highlighted the segregating

effect of private schools within social classes, gender, and urban-rural divide. The effect of low fee private schools and the public-private partnerships subject to weak monitoring mechanisms were focused in the national report endorsed by partners. The close of the consultation saw a renewed pledge to ensure equality and equity across education systems in the region and increased coordination between the civil societies present in these countries.

Global Meeting: Private Actors in Education and Human Rights

The global meeting on Private Actors in Education and Human Rights was held between the 8th and 10th of September 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya. This was the third meeting of the network of organizations working on privatization in education and human rights, building on two previous meetings held in October 2015 in London and in June 2014 in Geneva. The event was attended by over 30 different organizations from 20 different countries across Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East. The aim of the meeting was to review progress made so far and to determine next steps for collective action. It was also an occasion to discuss difficult, though substantive points and to try to agree on common positions around these issues. Pakistan Coalition for Education also participated in this event and presented its parallel report to the UNCRC with a particular focus on the effect on unregulated public private partnerships on RTE.

Regional workshop on ASPBAE's Strategic Direction

The Regional workshop on ASPBAE's Strategic Direction was aimed at developing a detailed strategic direction for ASPBAE for coming years, which is to serve as a guide to the newly elected Executive Council of the organization. The consultations consisted of discussions on sub-regional opportunities and challenges in the context of education and development, panel discussions, and capacity building sessions.

The meetings on sub-regional opportunities and challenges were intended to offer the space for a joint analysis in the regional and global context for education and development that would shape ASPBAE's future priorities. These seminars also characterized the strengths and limitations of civil society and the value-addition of a regional organization such as ASPBAE in the current civil society, education, and the development perspective. The discussions were followed by panel discussions on advancing the Right to Education and Lifelong Learning within the SDGs and Education 2030 agenda. Topics of these deliberations comprised of linkages between the SDGs and SDG4 with updates on Education 2030, the architecture for CSO participation and adult literacy in SDGs, and financing frameworks for SDGs. Moreover, the capacity building workshops covered themes such as adult education, policy advocacy, membership and governance, information and communications, and resource mobilization. PCE staff took part in policy advocacy, and membership and governance sessions to better equip themselves in these thematic areas.

Overall, the conference resulted in a positive exchange of experiences that lead to an efficient learning practice for the youth and experts alike. It was especially an encouraging platform for the young people to familiarize themselves with development practices, particularly with regards to SDGs and Education 2030.

Global Partnership for Education (GPE) CSO 2 Pre-Board and Board Meeting

The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) held its Board Retreat (pre-meeting) and Board Meeting in Siem Reap, Cambodia. The representatives from Civil Society Organization -CSO 2 Constituency (CSO 2) met two days prior to the meeting with global south to discuss the important issues to be taken up in the board meeting. As an alternate board member for CSOs constituency 2, Ms. Zehra Arshad, the National Coordinator-PCE, participated in the meeting. One of the important areas that came under discussion was the communication and coordination mechanism, to improve the future flow of communication among the CSO 2 constituency, through deeper engagement with regional focal points that help facilitate country inputs, and sharpen the constituencies' inputs into the board. The CSO 2 constituency is working towards developing a CSO 2 Engagement and Communication plan for future use.

For this CSO meeting, national coalition representatives from the Bolivian Right to Education Campaign (CBDE), the Ethiopia Basic Education Network (BEN), the Education Coalition of Zimbabwe (ECOZI), and the NGO Education Partnership (NEP), also participated.

Impact

PCE's presence in the international arena for educational events has allowed an increase in awareness and information with reference to the activities that are being undertaken by international NGOs, international development partners and regional coalitions. This gain in information has led PCE to enhance its advocacy initiatives, keeping them relevant to the changing regional and global context. At these international forums, PCE has also been able to highlight its own advocacy initiatives, the challenges and the need to strengthen advocacy work in Pakistan.

Presence at the international events has elevated PCE's status, maintaining it as a strong coalition capable of engaging different stakeholders at the national level while conducting research on important issues and presenting them on the international stage. Through the sharing of work, PCE has been able to develop partnerships and synergies with like-minded organizations, paving the way for collective actions towards education. At the UNCRC, PCE presented its shadow report on privatization of education as a violation of human rights; questions based on this report were asked from the government officials with reference to implementing RTE, ensuring free and compulsory education for all. This report also gave rise to a bill being drafted on Public Private Partnership in the National Assembly in Pakistan.



FINANCIAL REPORT

MAQBOOL HAROON SHAHID SAFDAR & CO.
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Auditors' Report

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of **Society for Access to Quality Education** which comprise of the balance sheet as at June 30, 2016 and the income and expenditure account, the statement of changes in funds and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

The management of society is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with approved accounting standards as applicable in Pakistan, and for such internal control as the management determine(s) is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with approved auditing standards as applicable in Pakistan. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the balance sheet of **Society for Access to Quality Education** as at 30 June 2016 and of its surplus, its statement of changes in funds and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the approved accounting standards as applicable in Pakistan.


Maqbool Haroon Shahid Safdar & Co.
Chartered Accountants

Date: 29 September 2016

Place: Lahore

Muhammad Safdar – FCA
(Engagement Partner)

**Society For Access To Quality Education
Income and Expenditure Account
For the Year Ended June 30, 2016**

	Note	2016 Rupees	2015 Rupees
INCOME			
Restricted grants	12	38,162,043	51,195,771
Unrestricted grants		7,059,184	454,239
Other income		73,962	-
		45,295,188	51,650,010
Direct project expenses	13	32,490,507	43,650,788
Administrative expenses	14	7,750,709	6,613,578
Other operating expenses		563,638	-
		40,804,854	50,264,366
Net surplus/ (deficit) for the year		4,490,334	1,385,644
(Transferred To Unrestricted Funds)			

The annexed notes form an integral part of these financial statements.


FINANCE MANAGER


GENERAL SECRETARY

© **Pakistan Coalition for Education**

An initiative of Society for Access to Quality Education

Photo credits: Umar Bin Tahir, PCE

Concept and design: Muhammad Imran Aslam, LINEart Designers

All Rights Reserved

Printed in Pakistan

Published

January 2017

Any part of this publication can be cited with reference to PCE.



PAKISTAN
COALITION FOR
EDUCATION

PCE

An Initiative of SAQE

**Pakistan Coalition for Education (An Initiative of SAQE), Office # 27, 2nd Floor,
Al-Anayat Mall, G-11 Markaz, Islamabad-44000, Pakistan.**

☎ +92 51 8440514-5

✉ info@pcepak.org

🌐 www.pcepak.org

📘 www.facebook.com/pcepak