

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Title of work: ASER Pakistan 2017

Location: Across Pakistan (146 Districts)

Duration: 6 months (2017)

Implemented by: Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA)

Supported by: Foundation Open society Institute, DFID and Citizens of Pakistan.

ASER - The Annual Status of Education Report is the largest citizen led; household based initiative that aims to fill a gap in learning outcomes and provide reliable estimates on the schooling status of children aged 5-16 years residing in the rural districts of Pakistan. By using an innovative citizen driven approach, ASER Pakistan intends to mobilize policy makers as well as ordinary citizens- parents, students, local communities and the public at large – to become aware of actual levels of children’s literacy and numeracy, and build on that awareness to stimulate practical community and policy change across Pakistan. The survey's stated objectives are three fold:

- To get reliable estimates of the status of children's schooling and basic learning (reading and arithmetic level) at the district level.
- To measure the change in these basic learning and school statistics from last year.
- To interpret these results and use them to affect policy decisions at various levels.

Since 2009 (after a pilot phase in 2008), ASER Pakistan has grown from being active in 11 to 146 districts across Pakistan in 2015. Each year, 600 households are surveyed per district selected in the following manner:

From each district

- 30 villages are selected randomly using the Probability Proportional to Size (PPS) technique from the village directory of the 1998 Census.
- In each selected village, 20 randomly selected households are surveyed along with 1 public and 1 private school.
- Every year, 20 villages from the previous year are retained and 10 new villages are added (using the same PPS technique) giving us a “rotating panel” of villages.

Through a rigorous bottom up-and top down concurrent dissemination strategy, ASER Pakistan segments its audiences (parents, parliamentarians, teachers, media, judiciary and civil society) putting into perspective the urgency of placing learning alongside access. ASER material are shared at all levels-National, provincial, district, village and globally - with all the stakeholders i.e. government departments, privatesector, parliamentarians, NGOs / civil society organizations, teachers and parents. Dissemination of findings is done through seminars, workshops, media briefings, and policy briefings etc. Its evidence is part of the annual Economic Survey of Pakistan prepared by the Ministry of Finance, GMR (2014-2015), sector plans, key government documents, both within and outside of Pakistan.

This year ASER Pakistan plans to conduct the same survey across all rural districts of Pakistan. For this purpose, ASER Pakistan is seeking Expression of Interests (EOI) from interested organization(s) for implementation of ASER Cyle 2017. The roles and responsibilities for the survey implementing / monitoring partners are listed below:

SURVEY IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:

- The ASER implementing partner shall be an organization that:
 - a) Is registered.
 - b) Is local.
 - c) Is based within the sampled district.
 - d) Is operational.
 - e) Has local presence in their area of operation.
 - f) Is either tax exempted or has a valid NTN number
 - g) Has NOC for conducting survey
- Partners must assign a focal person for correspondence and communication.
- Partners must provide suitable individuals as Master Trainers (MTs)
 - a) In case of a partnership in more than 4 districts, the partner must provide 2 persons at the National level.
 - b) 2 persons from each district must be trained at the Provincial level.
- The potential partner must identify 60-70 suitable volunteers from their district. At least 50% of volunteers should be female. Volunteers should have the appropriate educational qualifications and previous ASER experience (preferred).
- Ideally, the volunteers should meet the following criteria:
 - a) Can read English;
 - b) College graduates above 15 years of age.
 - c) Have access to a mobile phone;

- The potential partner must conduct ASER Training at district level followed by a Mock Survey. 40-60 potential volunteers should be provided 3-4 days of training by qualified MTs at a suitable venue.
- The potential partner must identify the location of the village provided by ITA and make a survey plan.
- The potential partner will work closely with the District Education Department/PDMA and get permission to conduct the survey in Government/Private schools of the district(s) without informing them of the actual locations of the villages.
- The partner must organize the ASER 2017 Survey in 30 villages (selected by ITA). 2 trained volunteers must survey each village. The survey will be done over two days (Saturday & Sunday or Sunday & Monday).
- The partner will be responsible for successfully completing the ASER survey in their chosen district/village within two weeks.
- The MTs must monitor the survey and ensure that the completed data is of a high quality.
- The partner must ensure that the data is complete and clean before sending it to the Head Office in Lahore.
- The potential partner must inform the Education Department/Media/community of the ASER Survey findings at the provincial/district and village levels.
- In order to be eligible for the budget, the partner must sign and abide by the terms of the Partnership Agreement and carry out all deliverables.
- The partner must provide original expense and attendance sheets to the head office after the completion of the survey.
- The partner must provide periodical event and financial reports to the appropriate ITA Regional Office.

MONITORING PARTNER:

- Potential partners must have a physical presence in the district(s) in which they intend to work as ASER Monitoring Partners.
- The partner must attend all provincial/district trainings in their respective district and province.
- The potential partner must monitor ASER 2017 District Level Training (at least 2 days, 3-4 hours minimum).
- The partner must ensure that survey objectives are being fulfilled.
- The partner must regularly send monitoring reports to the appropriate ITA Regional Office.

- After the Survey, the potential partner will help disseminate the ASER 2017 findings at the national/provincial/district and village levels.
- In order to be eligible for the budget, the partner must sign and abide by the terms of the Partnership Agreement and carry out all deliverables.

COMPENSATION / BUDGETS

ITA will provide some modest funds to support the training, survey and monitoring cost. Complete budgetary details will be shared after the initial selection of partners.

SUBMISSION:

Interested organizations are invited to submit an EOI along their organizational profiles, names of the selected districts and a cover letter, including the names, addresses and telephone numbers of their focal person, with an indication of the relevance of the work done previously. ASER Pakistan reserves the right to select and nominate districts for the potential partners.

In case of queries, please contact:

Sehar Saeed
Manager Program
ASER Pakistan
TEL: 042-35711109
70 B-1, Gulberg III. Lahore

All the interested organization(s) should submit EOI /documents in hard form to the address mentioned above by no later than 22nd January, 2017.

Note: Outside of envelope to be marked: “EOI – ASER Pakistan survey 2017”