


Message from Federal Minister for Education and Information Technology

The Annual Status of Education Report-ASER Pakistan (Rural) 2010 is a timely and appropriate instrument to address governance and quality challenges in our education system. ASER Pakistan 2010 is a bold tool and yet simple in its approach. The data has been collected by more than 2000 citizens of Pakistan covering 54,062 children (58% male, 42% female) for 3-16 years age group. The survey is undertaken without compromising the rigor of an assessment instrument to measure both quality of learning levels and access to schooling. We, at the Federal Ministry of Education welcome this initiative once again. We congratulate all ASER Partners for their successful scaling up from a pilot in 11 districts in 2008 to a national survey covering 32 districts of Pakistan. It has reached every province and area barring FATA. We are pleased that ASER Pakistan will be repeated annually for each district from 2011- 2015 and by 2012 all 138 districts of the country will have encountered the ASER Pakistan experience.

2010 in Pakistan witnessed the landmark 18th Amendment to the 1973 Constitution and article 25 A which, for the first time in our history makes education a fundamental right. The right carries enormous responsibilities of education provision to children aged 5-16 years. The ASER survey covers the age groups 3-16, with data collected both at the household and school level. This information, will no doubt be of tremendous help to the provincial and federal Government departments and ministries engaged in planning and budgeting for Education For All (EFA) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Our system of measuring learning at the national and provincial levels encompassed by the National Education Assessment System (NEAS) and its provincial counterparts is in place for grades 4 and 8 which is poised to be linked with the international cross country tests of TIMSS. ASER Pakistan 2010-2015 will continue to work alongside at the grass roots level. We hope that it will compliment NEAS to address the building blocks of literacy, comprehension and numeracy for grades 2 and 3 respectively. ASER Pakistan 2010 is the first survey to have used the new age bands of 6-10 year olds as per our National Education Policy 2009, instead of the conventional 5-9 year olds. This is a timely shift for Pakistan.

On behalf of the Federal Ministry we are very pleased to see that Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA), the National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) and Sindh Education Foundation have worked collaboratively with many alliances and the Departments of Education in Balochistan and Gilgit-Baltistan. They have partnered strategically for an impressive survey across rural Pakistan on critical EFA indicators which will be used for benchmarking and tracking indicators until 2015. We acknowledge the positive collaboration of our South Asian partners, ASER Centre India with the South Asia Forum for Education Development (SAFED), UNESCO Pakistan and the Foundation for Open Society Institute (FOSI). SAFED's work must be integrated within the SAARC education initiatives. It is also important that the ASER Pakistan 2010 data be reflected in the Global Monitoring Report (GMR).


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