It’s a Right!
Make it Right!
Education for
Girls & Women
NOW!

GLOBAL ACTION WEEK
2-8 May 2011 - Pakistan

Policy Brief No. 06

Governing Attendance Levels to Improve Education Quality
Public and Private Schools

Annual Status of Education Report

ASER 2010
Facilitated by SAFED

www.safedafed.org
Teachers' and Children Attendance Levels for Public and Private Schools
National and Provincial Profiles

**Figure 1:** Children Attendance (%) as per headcount on the day of visit

**Figure 2:** Teachers' Attendance (%) on the day of visit

**Figure 3:** Percentage of vacant teaching posts in Government schools

Governing Attendance Levels to Improve Education Quality Public and Private Schools
Data Interpretation

Nationally student attendance in government schools stood at 82% according to the headcount on the day of school visit, whereas in private schools was 89% as per headcount.

Teachers’ attendance in Govt. schools was 87% and in private schools was 90% on the day of visit. 7% of the sanctioned teaching positions were vacant in the Govt. schools.

**Public school teachers’ salaries are much better than the private school teachers, resulting in decreasing the gap between the public and private school attendance!**

**Balochistan:** The survey was conducted in 110 government schools and 20 private schools. Overall student attendance in Govt. schools stood at 85% and 89% in private schools. Teachers’ attendance in Govt. schools was 89% and in private schools was 89% on the day of the visit. 3% of the sanctioned teaching positions were vacant in the Govt. schools.

**Khyber Pakhtunkhwa:** The survey was conducted in 114 government schools and 53 private schools. Overall student attendance in Govt. schools was 86% and 93% in private schools. Teachers’ attendance in Govt. schools was 92% and in private schools was 93%. 4% of the sanctioned teaching positions were found to be vacant in the Govt. schools.

**Punjab:** The survey was conducted in 387 government schools and 292 private schools. Overall student attendance in Govt. schools stood at 81% and 87% in private schools. Teachers’ attendance in Govt. schools was 85%, whereas it was 90% in the private schools. 11% of the sanctioned teaching positions were vacant in the Govt. schools.

**Sindh:** The survey was conducted in 148 government schools and 17 private schools. Overall student attendance in Govt. schools stood at 85% and 89% in private schools. Teachers’ attendance in Govt. schools was 89% on the day of visit, whereas it was 89% in the private schools. 5% of the sanctioned teaching positions were vacant in the Govt. schools.

**Gilgit Baltistan:** The survey was conducted in 29 government schools and 27 private schools. Overall student attendance in Govt. schools stood at 83%. Overall attendance in private schools was 93%. Teachers’ attendance in Govt. schools was 84% on the day of visit, whereas it was 92% in the private schools. 5% of the sanctioned teaching positions were vacant in the Govt. schools.

**Key Issue**

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<th>Sindh has an alarming 65% children attendance in the Govt. schools!</th>
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<td>- The children and teachers’ attendance level is well below 90% in Govt. schools.</td>
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<td>- The current attendance levels are not being translated into good learning levels of the children.</td>
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<td>- The learning levels of the children are hugely affected by large number of school days lost because of teacher and student absenteeism.</td>
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<td>- 7% of the sanctioned teaching posts are vacant at a national level.</td>
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**More than 100:1 Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) in more than 30 villages across all the provinces, 8 villages in Punjab, 13 in Sindh, 3 in Balochistan and 2 each in KPK and AJK.**
Reasons for absenteeism: Children

- Children are not interested in the things they are taught. They run off from schools or find recreational activities on their way to the school.
- Schooling is often a second priority for parents. They take their children to work e.g. in the fields during the harvesting period.
- Lack of hygienic facilities like washrooms and drinking water can cause frequent illness in children.
- Teachers' absenteeism and improper teachers' attitude i.e. use of corporal punishment by teachers.

Reasons for absenteeism: Teachers

- Lack of check and balance on the teachers' attendance.
- Other duties are assigned for teachers, such as; election, census, polio duties etc.
- The threat of losing one's job is negligible in public schools.
- Residence far away from the schools in rural area.
- Lack of school facilities, such as clean water and electricity, can seriously hamper the job motivation of the teachers.
- Studies have been conducted which show that teachers internalize the existing cultural norms and behaviors of fellow teachers, which then develops a school absenteeism culture. (Rivin-Abeles, Lirit, 2001)

Policy Options

- Improvement of facilities like; separate washrooms for girls and boys, at least 1 classroom for 1 teacher, safe drinking water, play ground along with other sports facilities, school library etc.
- Hire and train teachers from within the local community in order to fill up the vacant posts.
- Sanction more teachers in villages with high PTR.
- Adequate salary packages in order to attract young and competent people in private schools.
- Train teachers in order to reinforce teachers' professional motivation.
- Stringent ways to enforce and regulate rules related to teachers' absenteeism e.g. penalize after a set number of absents, and check attendances regularly, surprise visits to check attendance.
- Recognize and reward performing teachers to boast morale and role models amongst schools teachers.
- Develop interesting teaching techniques and tools which students enjoy while also help develop analytical skills in the students.
- Programs to incentivize parents to send their children regularly to school, e.g. free lunches, cash payments if students don't come because they are working in farms during harvesting period.
- There should be regular health checkup of students e.g. nails, clothes, hair etc.
- Text books should be provided by the government in all the provinces.

References:

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