



NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY

1998 - 2010

SALIENT FEATURES

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
ISLAMABAD

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To prepare the nation to gracefully enter the 21st Century, it was imperative to develop a new Education Policy - a policy that could provide guidelines on strengthening the ideological frontiers of Pakistan, based on Islamic teachings and to equip the nation with required knowledge and skills. The policy synchronizes its provisions with the targets of 9th Five Year Plan and the Social Action Program and it follows the perception of the Vision-2010.

In compliance with the directive of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, the first Draft of Education Policy was presented to the Federal Cabinet by the Ministry of Education on 2nd January, 1998. The Cabinet appreciated the draft document and desired that the policy should expand the spectrum of its deliberations to cater for the aspirations of the general masses. Also, the Cabinet constituted a Sub-Committee to provide necessary guidance to the policy-makers.

Accordingly, a two-day National Educational Conference was organized by the Ministry of Education in which 52 eminent scholars across the country participated. The participants comprised scientists, religious scholars, educationists and intellectuals. In addition, public opinion was also sought through the media and about 4,029 proposals spread over 3,500 pages were received by the Ministry. The national Press also played a pivotal role of offering useful feedback in their editorials and articles. International donors such as the World Bank, British Council, UNESCO, UNICEF etc. provided useful advice. All these proposals were thoroughly reviewed and incorporated in the policy document. Later, the revised draft was put before the Federal Cabinet on 21st January. The Sub-Committee of the Cabinet scrutinized it that was ultimately submitted to the Cabinet on 18th February and was approved.

The Prime Minister presented the Education Policy in a National Education Convention (NEC) televised live on 21st February. NEC was attended by Provincial Chief Ministers and Governors, members of the Federal and Provincial Cabinets and more than 1,500 teachers, students, educationists, intellectuals and others. The Prime Minister led over two hours of discussions on the policy. He was impressed by the enthusiasm and feedback of the participants and requested the nation to extend more proposals to the Ministry of Education by 15th March. He expressed his desire to launch the policy on 27th March to coincide with 100th death

anniversary of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan - the great educational reformer of the sub-continent. He declared that education will be top priority on his agenda and gave out the assurance that "we will provide the required resources to implement the policy"

The appeal of Prime Minister was very well received by the public, Standing Committees of the Senate and the National Assembly on Education, educational experts, teachers, students, scholars and the public at large. The media analyzed and discussed the major policy issues frequently. In the process, the Ministry of Education received 774 additional recommendations and thoroughly examined these proposals and presented 239 new recommendations to the Sub-Committee of the Cabinet for consideration. Recommendations, approved by the Sub-Committee of the Cabinet, were duly reflected in the final policy document. The importance of this policy can be gauged from the fact that it was announced by the Prime Minister himself live on T.V. - a unique event indeed in the history of Pakistan.

An important feature of the policy is its in-built capacity to absorb any innovative measure that will carry positive implications during its implementation. Consequently, the policy will keep on ameliorating as it is translated into concrete plans and programs.

BASIC COVENANT OF THE POLICY

1. *Jihad* against illiteracy to accelerate the literacy rate.
2. Curriculum revision in accordance with the requirements of 21st Century.
3. Introduction of computer education in schools and greater emphasis on technical education.
4. Minimizing disparities in rural and urban schools and between males and females.
5. Active participation and contribution of local communities in educational management via the District Education Authorities, School Management Committees and Village Education Committees.
6. Ensuring effective implementation of the policy.
7. Easy access to education at all levels.
8. Encouraging the private sector to invest in education.
9. Bring in the element of competition in the preparation and selection of text-books.

10. Provision of financial support to deserving students.
11. Promotion of research in higher education.
12. Professionalization and improvement of the examination system at all levels.

MAJOR INITIATIVES

1. As much as 45,000 new primary and 20,000 Masjid schools will be opened under the new Education Policy. In addition, 75,000 non-formal basic education schools will be initiated by Prime Minister's Literacy Commission (PMLC) during the first five years. Evening shift in the existing 20,000 primary schools will be introduced.
2. The existing 45,000 primary schools will be upgraded to middle level. It will quadruple the number of middle schools and 30,000 new secondary schools will be opened.
3. As many as 305 new secondary vocational institutions will be opened and 126 new mono/polytechnic institutions will be established - an increase of 150%.
4. 21 new universities will be established.
5. 100,000 new teachers will be recruited for primary, middle and secondary schools.
6. The participation rate at primary level will shoot up to 90% by the year 2003 and 105% by 2010.
7. Participation rate at secondary level will reach to 39% and 75% at degree level.
8. The existing literacy rate will be enhanced by the 31% attaining 70% literacy by 2010.
9. Primary education will be made compulsory through a legislation and will effectively be implemented.
10. Greater emphasis will be given to female education.
11. Integrated curricula will be introduced for Class I-III and consequently the load of the school-bag will be reduced.
12. School Administrative Committees, Village Education Committees and Parents Teacher Associations will be strengthened to ensure support for basic education.
13. Education Card scheme will be introduced for the poor and the needy students.

14. Teacher Training Program will be made more effective. Teachers will be recruited on merit and their attendance will be monitored to improve school performance.
15. Primary education will be universalized through non-formal and formal education methods which will help in eradicating illiteracy.
16. An opportunity for primary education will be provided to children of age 10-14 years who were left out. A 2-3 years comprehensive educational package will be prepared for this group.
17. Those with Quranic literacy will be trained in conventional literacy too. The existing Quranic literacy Program meant for females will be extended to cover males.
18. To enforce the literacy Act, the gazette of Pakistan will notify a date for this purpose.
19. Technical and vocational curricula will be completely revised in consultation with the industrial sector.
20. New technologies such as telecommunication, information technology, food preservation and textile will be introduced in the existing polytechnic institutes in line with the market demands.
21. A new stream, Matric Tech. will be launched in addition to the existing Matric Arts and Matric Science.
22. A Nation Technical Education Council will be established.
23. An effective mutual cooperation will be developed between technical institutes and the industrial sector.
24. Production units will be set up in selected technical institutes.
25. Merit will be the only criteria for admission and recruitment of teachers in higher education.
26. Education institutions will be encouraged to generate funds in order to supplement their budgetary requirements.
27. The present ratio of 71:29 in Arts and Science subjects will be balanced gradually to 50:50.
28. A three years course of BA/BSc Honour will be introduced besides the existing two-year degree programs.

29. Linkages between the universities and industries will be developed.
30. Applied research will be encouraged in accordance with the needs of industry. Accordingly, new Centers will be established and the existing ones will be improved.
31. The employees of the Examination Boards and Universities would be declared as essential services.
32. Affiliated universities will be set up to conduct college level examinations.
33. National Educational Testing Service will be introduced in the professional and higher education institutions.
34. Selected Degree Colleges will be empowered to award degrees.
35. A continuous method to improve the examination system will be adopted.
36. Local community will be involved in school supervision.
37. Investment in education from local and foreign sources will be encouraged.
38. Students will be encouraged to specialize in a specific trade through industrial units. Nazira Quran from Class-I and Quranic translation from class-VI will be made compulsory. Islamiat will also be made compulsory from Class-I to BA/BSc level.
39. Optimum and effective utilization of education budget shall be ensured. Allocation for education budget shall be increased from the existing 2.2% of GNP to 4% by 2003.
40. Through a legislation, budgetary allocation to education will be made non-lapseable, non-transferable and not liable to cuts.
41. By the year 2003, Rs.709 billion will be required for educational expansion and reforms which includes about Rs.150 billion from the private sector investment in education. All these estimates are based on an annual growth of 6% in GDP.

Education is a matter of life and death to our nation. The world is moving so fast that if you do not educate yourself you will be not only left behind but will be finished up.

Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, September 26, 1947

EDUCATION POLICY 1998-2010 TARGETS

No. of Institutions	1997	2010	Increase
Primary School	145,960	190,960	45,000 (31%)
Mosque School	37,000	57,000	20,000 (54%)
Non-formal Basic Education Center	7,177	250,000	242,825 (3485%)
Middle School	15,000	60,000	45,000 (300%)
Secondary School	11,000	30,000	9000 (173%)
Higher Secondary School	350	1100	750 (214%)
Secondary Vocational Institutions	410	715	305 (74%)
Polytechnical Institutions	84	210	126 (150%)
Degree Colleges	532	700	168 (32%)
Universities	23	44	21 (19%)
PARTICIPATION RATE	1997	2010	Increase
Primary level	71	105	34%
Middle	46	85	39%
Secondary	31	70	39%
Higher Secondary	11	18.4	7.4%
Degree	2.6	10	7.4%
Literacy Rate	38.9%	70	31.1%
No. of TEACHERS	19,907	2,010	
Primary	339,000	439,000	100,000 (29%)
Middle	95,800	325,800	230,000 (240%)
Secondary	160,500	360,000	99,500 (124%)
Higher Secondary	10,400	21,000	10,600 (102%)
Vocational	3,300	8,200	4,900 (148%)
Degree Colleges	20,907	21,286	379 (2%)