

Ethics and Education in Pakistan- Principles, Policies and Practices

Manzoor Hussain Soomro
President

ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF)

PSF Building, 1- Constitution Avenue, Sector G-5/2, Islamabad-Pakistan



www.eco4science.org

ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) and the ECO Region

10 Member States with Good Natural Resources



Objectives of ECOSF

- Facilitate promotion of scientific research & collaboration leading to Economic Development among the Member States
- Promote and Popularize Science at grass root level (**IBSE**, Travelling Science Expos etc.)
- Harmonize ST&I policies of ECO Countries

Ethics and Education

- Ethics is a code of conduct, that an individual, group or society holds as definitive stand in differentiating right and wrong (Morality and Ethics in Islam (www.whyislam.org/social-values-in-islam)).
- While, education is considered central to the moral fulfillment of individuals and the well-being of the society in which they live.



Ethics and Education in Islam- *The Principles*

- The Islamic moral system stems from its primary creed of belief in One God as the Creator and Sustainer of the Universe, defines universal fundamental rights and standards for humanity by which actions may be deemed moral or immoral.
- In Islam, the concept of *taqwa* means the moral ground that underlies human actions and signifies the ethical sense which makes human beings aware of their responsibility to God and the society.



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

Ethics in Islam

- The concept of social life of the Prophet of Islam- Muhammad (Peace be upon Him- PBUH); to whom, God in Quran called, *Rahmatul-lil-Aalameen* (Blessing for the Worlds), is very much positive and constructive.
- According to Him, the loftiest service is the service to humanity.
 - And to serve humanity in an appropriate manner, the better way is to guide him; or in broader terms, *Educate* him.



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

Ethics for Education in Islam

- The Quran's first revealed verse began with the word "***lqra'a***" meaning- "***read***"!
- Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:
 - “Seeking knowledge (education) is compulsory for men and women”;
 - “Seek knowledge, from cradle till grave”.
 - “Seek knowledge even if you have to go to China”; which perhaps was considered a far away from the Muslim base of the time and a difficult journey.



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

Women and Islam

- Islam inherently and irrefutably gives women, the rights and respect as equal before God and also in this world.
- Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) always demonstrated a great respect for women and held his wives and daughter in great esteem.
- His attitude towards women is characterized by politeness, equality, love and respect.



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

Constitution of Pakistan- The Policies

- Pakistan as per its Constitution follows the Islamic principles as guiding path.
- The Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan states in its preamble:
 - ❖ *“Whereas sovereignty over the entire Universe belongs to Almighty Allah alone, and the authority to be exercised by the people of Pakistan within the limits prescribed by Him is Sacred trust”.*



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

Constitution of Pakistan- The Policies

- ❖ *“Wherein the Muslims shall be enabled to order their lives in the individual and collective spheres in accordance with the teachings and requirements of Islam as set out in the Holy Quran and Sunnah.”*



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

State Obligation to Education

- The state obligation to provide free and compulsory education was included in Pakistan's 1973 Constitution.
- This right is reinforced by laws and policies at both federal and provincial levels.
- The Constitution's Article-25A guarantees the right to education for all children aged 5–16 years.



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

Education Structure in Pakistan

Education Levels

The formal education system can be divided into five levels:

- Primary
- Secondary
- Higher Secondary/Intermediate
- College
- University



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

Education Structure in Pakistan

Parallel Systems of Education

There are three parallel systems of education in Pakistan:

1. Public Schools (Urdu Medium)
2. Private Schools (English Medium)
3. Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Schools
4. Madrassahs (Religious Seminaries)



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

Public-Private Sector Contribution

- According to recent data of Pakistan Youth Parliament 2015, there are around:
 - 180,577 Public schools (Urdu/Sindhi Medium) + PPP Schools
 - 74,693 Private schools (English Medium)
 - 12,599 Madrassahs (seminaries)



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

Public & Private Sector Contribution

The Public Sector accounts for 70% of enrolment while Private Sector has 30% of enrolment

(In 2013 it was 74% and 26% respectively!)
The shift continues!



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

Public Schools (Urdu Medium)



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

Private Sector Schools

Within Private Schools, there are two categories:

1. The costly private schools with far superior quality of education, mainly in urban areas.
 - i. They use English as the language of instruction.
 - ii. Given the high fees associated with private education, these schools have traditionally been the main choices for the elite and wealthy sections of the society.



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

Private Sector Schools

2. The low cost private schools catering to lower middle class families, have also sprung up and their numbers and enrollment have been growing rapidly, particularly in rural areas. The reason: fast deteriorating quality of education in Government schools!



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

Private Schools (English Medium)



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Schools

- These are another type of schools, designated as Public-Private Partnership (PPP) schools:
 - These are public schools taken over by educational entrepreneurs, philanthropists or NGOs interested in improving the quality of education;
 - They are categorized as *private schools* since government has no say in their management.



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Schools



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

Madrassahs (Religious Seminaries)

- Madrassahs refer to religious institutions that may include an equivalent to school, college or university, operated mainly for the purposes of imparting religious education.
- Madrassahs are the most accessible source of education for many children, **especially from poor families in rural areas.**



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

Madrassahs (Religious Seminaries)

- Madrassahs offer free education, food and lodging, thus enhancing their appeal to families who otherwise cannot afford to provide any kind of education to their children.



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

Madrassahs (Religious Seminaries)



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

Status of Education in Pakistan- The Facts & Practices

- Latest study by "Alif Ailan" (an education campaign agency), there are 52.91 million children of age (5-16 years) in Pakistan in population of around 200 million(25% kids!)
- Among them (only 27.89 million children attend an education institution (public or private); whereas, 25.02 million remain out of school (Alif Ailan calculations)



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

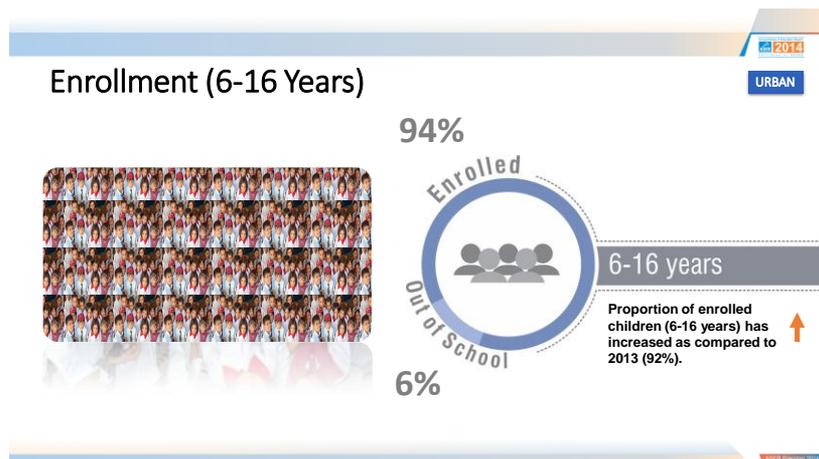
Status of Education in Pakistan- The Facts & Practices

- Pakistan has the third highest number of out-of-school female students in the world; i.e., 55% out-of-school children in Pakistan are girls!
- While the current female net enrolment rate at primary level is 64% compared with 72% for male counterparts!



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

Enrollment (6-16 years) in Urban Areas



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

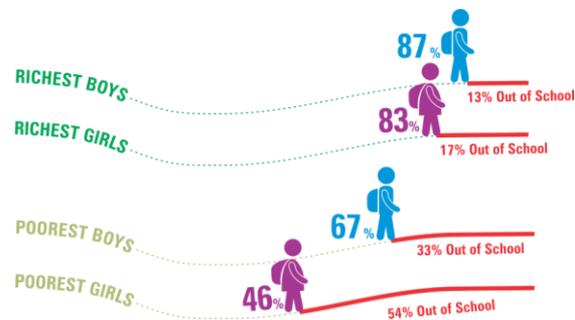
2014 Enrollment (6-16 years) in Rural Areas



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

Income Inequalities and Out of School Children

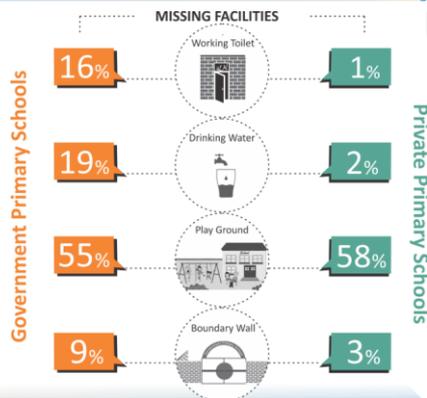
Income inequalities as per ASER Findings



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

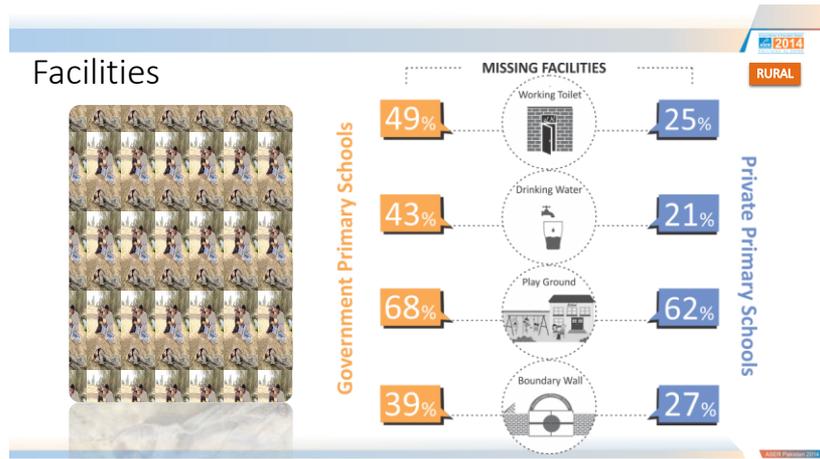
Public & Private Primary Schools Facilities in Urban Areas

Facilities



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

Public-Private Primary Schools Facilities in Rural Areas



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

Misinterpretation of Islamic Law!

- Shockingly surprising that some people in the name of Islam destroy centers of learning like schools, and shoot at the girls who go to school!!
- The story of Malala Yousafzai and her colleagues in Pakistan and others in Afghanistan and Nigeria etc.

Lack of education OR vested political interests??



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

Misinterpretation of Islamic Law?

- The reason I believe, is simple:
 - ❖ The lack of education and perhaps vested interests feeling threatened from the "educated". The knowledgeable try to find the truth and feel empowered!
 - ❖ Perhaps another important reason is the growing injustice, disparity & violence in the society!

Emigrants Crisis in Europe??



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

Madrassahs- Controversial Educational Institutions

- Madrassahs of Pakistan are facing International scrutiny after the event of 9/11 in United States. Since then that event of terrorism has been attributed to with Islamic militancy, and many attacks around globe!
- Yesterday's terrorist attacks in Paris?



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

Madrasahs- Controversial Educational Institutions

- Resulting in a two divergent pictures of these institutions that:
 - i. They are a source of radical ideology, and thus, a security threat to the modern world,
 - ii. They are a network of social security for underprivileged, who are ignored by the states' social services.

But what are the factors leading to terrorism engagement, must be investigated. After all, it is not easy to end one's life!



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

Madrassahs and Terrorism Relationship- the Assumptions

- Commenting on the issue, Stern (2004) claimed in a report that "global Islamic militancy grows in Pakistani madrasahs, which are functioning without government supervision; thus, have become training camps of terrorists".
- But these statements are NOT based on DATA as investigations using scientific method are either not done or not made public if done to some extent.



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

Madrassahs and Terrorism Relationship- the Assumptions

- The killers and the Reasons of killing of high profile persons have not been made public! General Zia, Murtaza Bhutto, Benazir Bhutto, Karsaz Massacre of Oct 2007 in Karachi and many more!



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

Curriculum taught at Madrassahs?

- Since the content of curriculum taught to students, has a vital importance as education is not just the contents of text books being poured into students' minds like an "empty barrel", but it is really the character & personality building that educates and grooms young minds.
- The current madrassahs curriculum is invalid in economic market and does not impart market oriented education.



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

Curriculum taught at Madrassahs

- Instead of studying math, science, students spend large part of their days **memorizing religious materials, without understanding!**
- The content of curriculum being taught in madrassahs is not guiding the tender and immature minds towards positive thinking.
- Inappropriate education and society's condemnation of madrassahs, perhaps encourages the youth towards militancy!



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

Teachings of Madrassahs- A Distorted Version of Islam

- Some madrassahs, teach a distorted version of Islam, indoctrinate children to discriminate against non-muslims, raising children to hate non-muslims and muslims outside their sects as enemies of Islam and so on!
- Islam is a religion of many sects and exposing children to only a narrow mind-set strengthens the breeding ground for future intolerance and an endless cycle of sectarian violence.



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

Teachings of Madrassahs- A Distorted Version of Islam

- This problem runs deeper and impacts all minority religious and ethnic groups as well as the majority of Pakistan.
- Above all, the religious leaders have formed political parties and these young minds are brainwashed to support the political targets of their leaders in the name of religion.



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

Madrassahs Students and Terrorism

- The most worrying issue is; the involvement of young people in the terrorist activities!
- Which despite a lot of efforts and expenditures by the Government, is not ending and numerous high profile individuals (a Prime Minister, Ministers, Ministers, Politicians, Journalists, Academics, Officials & Minorities) have been killed by suicide bombers and terrorists in Pakistan!



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

Madrassahs Students and Terrorism

- Some key institutions including the establishments of the armed forces, schools and mosques are also being attacked (Peshawar Army Public School attack).



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

Causes of Disparity in Pakistani Society

- It is thus important to look critically, analyze the fact that despite all the efforts so far made by the successive Governments, the issue of terrorism could not be resolved.
- The recent assassination of Punjab Home Minister Mr. (Late) Shuja Khazada in Attock revealed the bitter truth that after all, perhaps the country's authorities are not on the right path in capturing the evil or the root cause of it.



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

Causes of Disparity in Pakistani Society

- In my considered opinion the "substandard" or "no education", disparities in wealth distribution and injustices in the society are some of the root causes of *unethical* social behavior of young people and their mentors.



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

Issues of Standard and Quality of Education in Pakistan

- The standard and quality of education in Pakistan is a major issue and many cases of fake certificates and degrees have been appearing in press during the last few years.
- There are numerous reports indicating low quality of education, absentee teachers and ghost schools.



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

Issues of Standard and Quality of Education in Pakistan

- It all indicates that *ethics* or lack of it, is the cross-cutting issue and the responsible authorities and individuals have perhaps moved away from the Islamic principles and teachings of Prophet of Islam and unethical actions have led to some serious problems, unfortunately in the name of Islam!



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

Reforms in Education Policy

- Therefore, the country has to make serious efforts in fulfilling the constitutional commitments to Education.
- Educate growing number of children and eliminate the perceived element of militancy from Madrassahs education system.
- Bring those institutions to mainstream and introduce the healthy activities and inquiry based science education (IBSE) by drawing motivation from Quranic verses.



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

Reforms in Education Policy

- So that students can develop critical, positive and logical thinking by their own, and have a strong character building and logical approach towards the rising issues in society.
- If the situation does not change sooner, the achieving sustainable development goals 4 & 5 (Education & Gender Equality) will remain doubtful.



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

Reforms in Education Policy

- However, if such reforms are brought about, they could and should lead to a significant change in the society by mainstreaming and engaging young people, especially those from underdeveloped, resource-poor rural areas and those studying in Madrassahs, thereby bringing them to the light of optimism and stronger ethics.
- The global religious and political leadership therefore, have a greater responsibility and role to play, though the task is quite challenging!



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

Some latest media reports

Education Crisis

[Link](#)

Editorial by Dawn

Militants find breeding grounds in universities

[Link](#)

The Express Tribune

Analysing the radicalisation process

[Link](#)

The Express Tribune



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

My Thoughts

- Religious minorities doing so well?
- In some societies, they do not get opportunities due to religious biases??
- Are not all human beings the children of one God-Allah, Baghwan, Eshwar ???
- Do children have a religion?
- What different religions teach as a single common point?



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City

Thank You



Workshop on Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education (13-15 Nov 2015), Vatican City