

Preface

This report presents the proceedings of the third seminar which was organized at Quetta from November 23-24, 2009. The objectives of the seminar were: to investigate gender disparity from district perspective versus provincial, to share good experiences of gender equity in various districts of Balochistan, to discuss ways and means to institutionalize dialogue between government and civil society and to address gender issues at various districts of Balochistan and provincial levels.

This seminar was organized by Academy of Educational Planning and Management in collaboration with Pakistan National Commission for UNESCO (PNCU) financial through UNESCO Participation Program 2008-09. In this seminar thirty three middle level Education Managers, Planners and Policy makers participated. Efforts were made to sensitize the participants regarding this crucial policy issue. Major courses of these disparities were discussed. The proceedings of this seminar will be useful for all stakeholders, who are directly involved in policy formulation and its implementation.

I appreciate the efforts made by Khawaja Sabir Hussain, Deputy Director/Project Coordinator and his team members for organizing this seminar. I also appreciate the services of Muhammad Sohail, Research Assistant for typing, composing and technical assistance for this report.

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Introduction

Since the inception of Pakistan every successive government made efforts to provide universal primary education and quality of education to the citizen of the country. All National Education Policies and Development Plans emphasized on access to education, equity and quality of education. National Education Policy 1998-2010 expressed the feature of making arrangement for reducing gender disparities at all levels. The thrust of Social Action Programs was to reduce the gender disparity emphasizing on girls education specifically in rural areas.

One of the goals of millennium development is 'to eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005 and in all levels by 2015'. Being signatory Government of Pakistan made every possible effort to reduce Gender Disparity in Education by introducing various reforms i.e. Education Sector Reforms (ESR), Education for All (EFA) action plan etc. but these interventions could not remove gender disparities in education particularly in rural area.

The reasons of disparities in education are complex and vary from province to province and district to district in Pakistan. However, the most important factors are economic, social and cultural. Research Studies conducted by various organizations found that on the one hand enrolment is low and high dropouts on the other hand at elementary. Furthermore girls have less access to education because of distance, security, early marriage, poverty, non-availability of physical facilities, particularly toilets for girls' students and teachers in public sector.

The modern era of information technology has turned the world into global village, the world is moving very fast due to technological advancement. Economic progress and prosperity cannot be brought in the country until and unless the gender disparities in education can be removed from all levels of education. As education is key for socio-economic development in the any society. Human Resource Development is pre-requisite for sustainable economic growth and establishment of

informed societies for taking benefit of technological
to boys and girls in rural and urban areas.

This provincial seminar on Gender Disparities in Education was organized at Quetta from December 23-24, 2009 for exploring the major causes of these disparities in education in Balochistan province. Moreover, efforts were made to sensitize the Educational Managers, planners and policy makers at provincial level so that strategy can be developed for reducing these disparities in education in the Balochistan province.

Objectives of the Seminar

The following were main objectives of the seminar.

- i. To investigate gender disparities from district perspective versus provincial.
- ii. To share good experiences of gender equity in various districts of Balochistan.
- iii. To discuss ways and means to institutionalize dialogue between government and civil society.
- iv. To address gender issues at various districts of Balochistan and provincial levels.

Themes of the Seminar

The following themes were identified and presented by eminent scholars:

- i. Gender Issues in Educational Planning.
- ii. Gender Disparities, Equity and Related Issues.
- iii. Gender Mainstreaming in Education Policy Making and Planning.
- iv. Strategies for Reducing Gender Disparities.
- v. Group formations for preparing groups reports were also made

