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Country Report

Pakistan

NFE Innovations

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Establishment of 82,000 Non-Formal Basic Education Community Schools

Despite tall claims of past political governments and repeated commitments in each Education Policy and in all the Five Year Development Plans, the dream of achieving Universal Primary Education could not be achieved in Pakistan due to following factors:

1. High population growth rate.
2. Small settlements and scattered population.
3. Inappropriate selection of sites.
4. Heavy capital cost on the establishment of formal primary schools.
5. Poverty and illiteracy of the parents in rural areas.
6. Lack of commitment of teachers.
7. Lack of community participation.
8. Multigrade teaching/ curricula and methodology.
9. Impediments in the role of private sectors

Keeping in view the gravity of the situation of literacy and basic education in the country. Pakistan Literacy Commission (PLC) devised a Non-formal Basic Education Schools Project in December 1995. ECNEC approved the project for establishment of 10,000 NFBE Schools at the cost of Rs.1263.3751 million. 7,000 such schools have been established since April 1996 and the programme has been well received by the beneficiaries. The total enrolment in the existing schools is around 214,000. Primary level course under the programme completes in 3 years and 4 months instead of 5-6 years of the formal schools. The drop out rate is very high as compared to formal school system i.e. 12%. The problems of absenteeism among the teachers working in these schools are not being faced.

To achieve meaningful impact on the literacy situation in the country inline with Dakar Framework for Action commitment, the model needed to be taken to scale. Hence the PLC prepared a project titled "Establishment of 82,000 NBFEE Community Schools". The project has been approved at a total cost of Rs.11214.898 million to be implemented within a period of five years. The project is based on the idea of home

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schools to be run through Non-Government Organizations and community based organizations.

Institutional Infrastructure

- The whole country including AJK, FATA & FANA will be divided into 8 zones and each zone will be required to establish 10,000 NFBE community schools on an average.
- Each zone will be divided into 5 sub zones. Each sub zone will cater for the Planning, Training of teachers, Implementation, Monitoring & Evaluation of 2,000 NFBE Community Schools on an average.
- In each sub zone, the 2,000 NFBE Community Schools will be divided into 4 Clusters of 500 Schools each on the average.
- Each Cluster will comprise 10 NFBE Community School Unit of 50 such schools each.
- The whole project will be implemented through Provincial Directorate of NFBE, as at present.
- A close and effective liaison will be maintained with the NGOs involved in the project at all tiers of the infrastructure.
- Similar coordination will be strengthened with the District Education Authority, District Administration and the Local Government Functionaries. Each NFBE Community Unit will be headed by one male social mobilizer and one female supervisor.

Implementation Strategy

The project will be implemented in the following steps:

1. Establishment of Field Offices.
2. Selection of NGOs and sites/areas
 - a. Advertisement in the media
 - b. Identification of the sites/NGOs through survey and government agencies i.e. Social Welfare Department and Education and Local Government & Rural Development.
 - c. Conventions of the NGOs/allocation of schools and areas.
3. Training of Master Trainers, Field Functionaries, Trainers & Teachers.
4. Procurement of equipment and material for offices and schools.
5. Distribution of material.
6. Formation of Committees at local levels.
7. Registration of the students.
8. Teaching/Learning activities at school level.
9. Supervision/monitoring of the Schools and feedbacks.
10. Periodical review meeting at different level of operation
11. Refresher courses.
12. Evaluation