

Education For All

National Plan of Action

Our Roadmap to EFA



EFA Wing
Ministry of Education, Government of Pakistan
in collaboration with
UNESCO Office, Islamabad



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by*

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National Plan of Action – *Background*



In accordance with the Dakar Framework of Action, agreed to by 184 countries of the world in April 2000 in Dakar (Senegal), Pakistan has committed to achieve EFA goals by the year 2015. Pakistan, like other nations, is required to develop its own National Plan of Action (NPA) for EFA by the year 2002. Since the Government of Pakistan is determined and keen to achieve EFA goals and make Pakistan a literate nation, the Ministry of Education took immediate steps to prepare a plan. The first draft of the National Plan of Action for EFA (2000-15) was ready by mid 2001, and was presented in the Ministerial Meeting of E-9 countries in Beijing (China) in August 2001. It is heartening that Pakistan took the lead and became the first country in the world, to come forward with a National Plan of Action to achieve EFA goals set in Dakar.

What is a National Plan of Action?

The National Plan of Action is a roadmap to meet the Education For All' targets set in April 2000 in Dakar by the World Education Forum. The National Plan of Action (NPA) reflects population projections, targets, strategies, programmes, projects and actions to be taken to promote literacy and basic education in Pakistan. The NPA outlines what is to be done, and how it is to be done, and what resources are needed to eradicate illiteracy from the country, bring all the school age children into school, improve the quality of learning and make it relevant to the needs of individuals and society. A National Plan of Action is not just a document with ambitions and statistics, it reflects the will and determination of a nation to fight against illiteracy and to universalize primary education in a country.

National Plan of Action – *The Process*

The National Plan of Action (NPA) for EFA was evolved through a participatory process, wherein all stakeholders including Provincial Departments of Education, eminent educators, representatives of private sector schools, civil society organizations and NGOs were involved. In order to ensure wider participation of principal EFA actors in the provinces, Provincial EFA Forums and Provincial EFA Technical Groups were constituted, which worked hard and developed Provincial EFA Plans in all the four provinces.

In consultation with the Provincial EFA Forums, the Ministry of Education developed a consolidated National Plan of Action (2000-2015). This National Plan of Action (NPA) is fully supported by the Provinces, NGOs, individuals, experts and professional organizations in Pakistan. Infact it represents the aspirations of the people of Pakistan to achieve EFA goals. The NPA also serves as a framework/guideline for the preparation of Provincial, District and Local EFA Plans.

EFA Goals and Targets

In April 2000, Education Ministers and representatives of 184 nations of the world met in Dakar (Senegal) and committed to achieve the following EFA goals in their respective countries:

1. **ECCE** Expanding facilities for pre-school/preparatory or early childhood care and education (ECCE).
2. **Free and Compulsory Primary Education** of good quality for all children by the year 2015, especially for girls and children in difficult circumstances.
3. **Learning Needs of Young and Adults:** Meeting the learning needs of all young people and adults through equitable access to appropriate learning and life skills programmes.
4. **Adult Literacy:** Achieving 50% improvement in adult literacy by 2015, especially among women, and access to basic and continuing education for all adults.
5. **Gender Disparity:** Eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005 and achieving gender equality by 2015 – ensuring full and equal access for girls to basic education of good quality.
6. **Quality Education:** Improving all aspects of the quality of education so that recognized and measurable learning outcomes – especially in literacy, numeracy and essential life skills are achieved by all.

Universalization of Primary Education (UPE)

At present 6 million children of the Primary Education age group (5-9⁺ year) are out of school. The target is to increase the Net Enrolment Ratio (NER) or net participation rate from existing 66% to 79% by 2005, and to 100% by the year 2015. This goal will be achieved by:

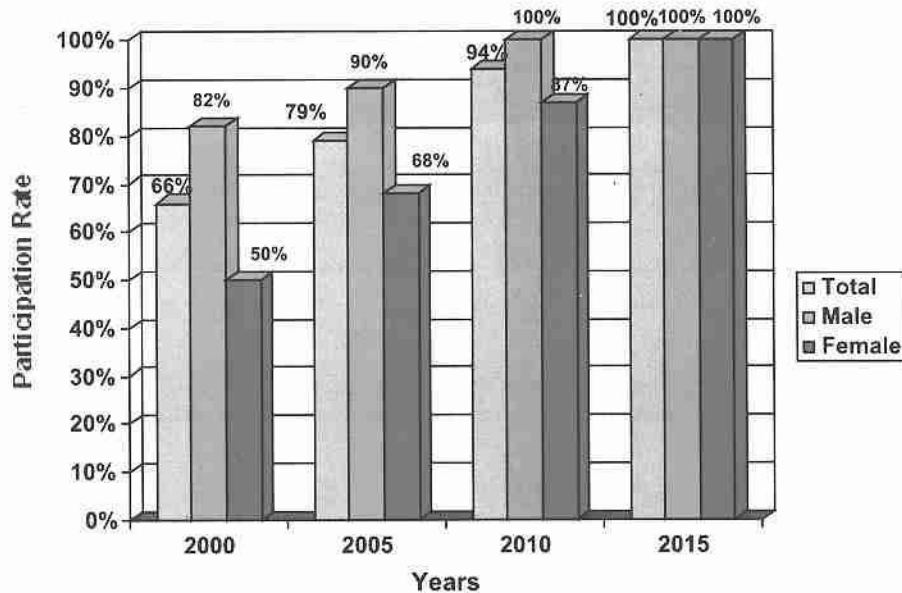
- * Opening 10250 new primary schools.
- * Establishing 2500 additional Masjid/Maktab schools.
- * Appointing 56100 additional primary education teachers during the next 15 years.
- * Upgrading 18600 Primary schools to Middle schools
- * Starting double shift in 8500 primary schools.
- * Opening of 205000 Non-formal Basic Education Schools for (5-14 year) dropouts and missed out children. In these schools a 5-year primary education course will be taught in 40 months.

By **2015** each primary school age child (5-9⁺) will be in school. This will need additional resources to the tune of **Rs.240 billion**. In case of male children NPA envisages 100% enrolment by the year 2010 and for females by 2015. Besides that the primary education completion rate will also be raised to 100% by the year 2015.

N.B: 5-9⁺ means more than 5 years and less than 10 years, which constitutes 18 million children in Pakistan as per NIPS data 2000.

Targets of Primary Education

Participation Rate	2000	2005	2010	2015
Overall	66%	79%	93.5%	100%
Male	82%	90%	100%	100%
Female	50%	68%	87%	100%





Our Dream – A Literate Pakistan

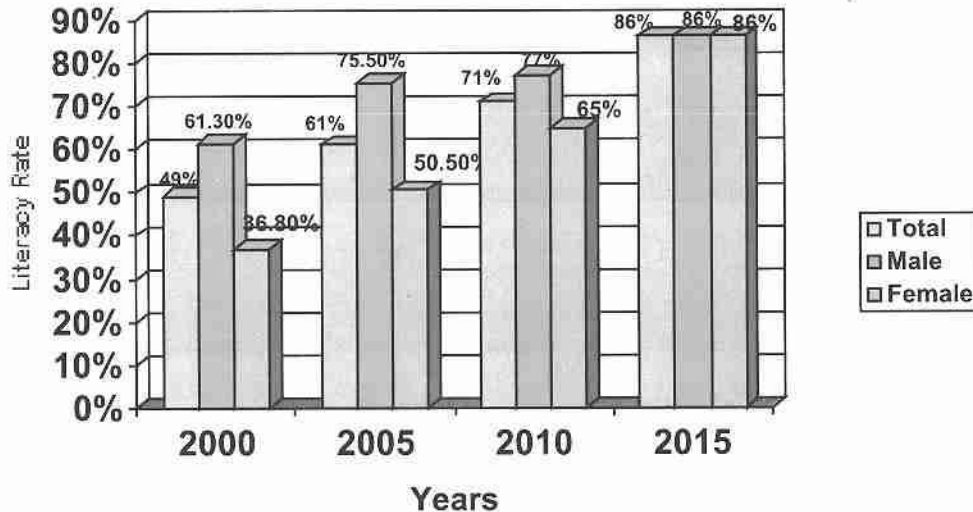
There are over 50 million illiterate Pakistanis of age 10+ in the country. The target is to increase the existing literacy rate of 49% to 86% by the year 2015. This goal will be achieved through the following initiatives:

- * 140000 adult literacy classes/centers to be organized by the Public Sector
- * 25000 literacy centers by the private sector and 14500 centers by NGOs
- * Imparting literacy skills through Quranic Literacy
- * Upgradation of literacy centers into Vocational/ Trade Centres/Skill Training Centres
- * Community Viewing Centers (CVCs) or TV literacy centers to be established

About **81 million** adult illiterates will acquire literacy training through the above listed projects. The total number of literates in the country will be raised to **126 million**, and the illiterate lot will shrink to only 20.4 million by the year 2015.

REDUCING THE ILLITERATES

Inputs	Phase-I (2001-2 to 2005-2006)	Phase-II (2006-7 to 2010-11)	Phase-III (2011-12 to 2015-16)
Literacy Centres	440,000	460,000	525,000
Neo-Literates	21.00 million	28 million	32.0 million
Illiterates (Reduced to)	45.4 million	38.3 million	20.4 million



Rs.180 Billion will be needed for Literacy Programmes

ECCE – Preparing a Child for Education

Early Childhood Care and Education prepares a child for formal education in his/her early years in such a way that he/she finds learning a joyful act and acquires basic skills and attitudes which facilitate later school education. ECCE starts at home, with the parents playing an important role. Nursery and Kindergarten classes are forms of ECCE. Unfortunately, in Pakistan in the public sector schools, there is no formal provision for ECCE. The National Plan of Action (NPA) aims to institutionalize and formally recognize the Katchi Class and further expand ECCE facilities in the country.

ECCE Targets & Projections

- Recognition of Katchi Class.
- Provision of an additional room (if needed) and a teacher for the Katchi Class in each school.
- Activity-based textbook (Qaida) and other learning material for ECCE.
- Teaching Kit & A.V. Aids for ECCE.

Phases	Phase I (2001-02 to 2005-06)	Phase II (2006-07 to 2010-11)	Phase III (2011-12 to 2015-16)
ECCE Centres	11,200	11,300	20,000
Additional Enrolment	0.4 Million	0.45 Million	0.8 Million
ECCE Teachers	13,450	13,550	24,000

Rs.47.74 Billion will be needed for ECCE

What Students Learn ?

The parents, community leaders and educational planners are concerned about the deteriorating standards of education. A number of research studies undertaken during the last 5-10 years present a dismal state of affairs. A summary of the major findings is given below:

Reading: Only 26.8% students can read with comprehension

Mathematics: Grade-V students could correctly attempt only 50 % sums in rural Kasur

Social Studies: The mean percent score for social studies was only 22.5 % for boys of Grade-V in rural Sindh

The above scores show that most of the children graduating from our Primary Schools are not acquiring the desired level of competencies.

Improving the Quality of Basic Education

The NPA envisages to launch the following initiatives to improve the quality of education at primary level:

Accountability of Teachers: Strengthen and enforce regulations to check teachers' absenteeism.

Teacher Training: Intensify, expand and reform the in-service training of teachers.

Textbook Reforms: Revision, updating, and enrichment of textbooks.

Assessment & Evaluation: Introduction of National Education Assessment System (NEAS) under ESR.

Community Participation: Parent Teachers Associations (PTAs) and School Management Committees (SMCs) to monitor and support effective functioning of schools.

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