

Sindh Education Alert (SEA)

Newsletter: March 2019, Issue No: 3

Hari Welfare Association (HWA), House No 56 Mehran Colony Nawabshah,
Telephone: 0244-330048, Fax: 0244-330048, info@hariwelfare.org, <https://hariwelfare.org>

Editorial Note

SEA entails three months' main news stories published in different local and national newspapers and other media sources on various aspects of education in Sindh. It focuses on the state of education in Sindh related to budgets, policies, laws, practices, administrative measures and issues in the implementation of laws and policies. It mainly includes news stories from the ground or grassroots levels to inform the policymakers about the cry of students and teachers. We will welcome and appreciate your feedback and comments.

Hyderabad and Sukkur Education Boards staff protests

In front of Hyderabad and Sukkur press clubs, the staff members of the Sukkur and Hyderabad education boards had protested against the transfer of powers of the boards to the regulatory authorities. They demanded the government to take back the decision of handing the boards' powers to the regulatory authority (Kawish, 1 March 2019, p. 2).



سکر: تعليمي بورڊ جا ملازمین مظالمین جي مڃتا لاءِ احتجاج ڪري رهيا آهن

Girls' primary school locked

In village Mian Bux Khoso, UC Shalmani, Tehsil Sunn, the government primary

school is locked after the transfer of a dedicated teacher. More than 100 children of the village had locked the school and protested at the main gate of the school and demanded to bring back the teacher to the school (Kawish, 1 March 2019, p.3).



سن: گورنر پرائمري اسڪول کي تالو لڳڻ خلاف شاگرد پالينون احتجاج ڪري رهيون آهن

Civil society protested to get the school reopened

In Nawabshah city, civil society organisations had organised a protest rally against hundreds of closed schools in the district. They claimed that 750 schools in the district were closed due to ignorance and negligence of the authorities. They also urged the government authorities to provide basic facilities to the existing schools so that children stop quitting schools (Kawish, 2 March 2019, p. 2).

In Thar, out of 5000 schools, 1800 are closed

TO Secondary School, Muhammad Hanif shared in Kawish Kacheri that the biometric system had failed and the teachers were not coming to schools. He said that of the total 5000 schools in the district, 1800 schools were closed, which had resulted in the loss of thousands of children in far-flung areas of the district Tharparkar (Kawsih, 2 March 2019, p. 3).

In Islamkot, school at the verge of closure due to lack of furniture

In Mithi, Islamkot, the Government Higher Secondary School lacks furniture and other basic facilities. In Kawish *kacheri*, the locals cried that the land and business mafia had grabbed the school's playground (Kawish, 2 March 2019, p. 3).

Villagers protested against the shortage of teachers in the school

In a Peer Jo Goth School, the villagers had complained against the lack of teachers and demanded to appoint teachers to support the education of children in the village. They said that around 200 students were taught by only a teacher (Kawish, 3 March 2019, p. 2).

The teachers association has given a call to protest

The teachers' association of primary and secondary school teachers had given a call for the protest and strike on 11 March across the province for the approval of their demands. They had also warned to boycott the examination of ninth and tenth class (Kawish, 8 March 2019, p. 2).

Hari Welfare Association's Education related activities

Since 2014, HWA is working along with Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) and the Government of Sindh (GoS). From January to March 2019, HWA continued to strive to provide quality education to children of underserved areas of Sindh. In the reporting period, HWA has been running

Table 1: The number of enrolled children in schools run by HWA in Benazirabad district

Name of the School	Girls	Boys	Total
HWA STAR MODEL SCHOOL 60 Mile Campus	69	78	147
New Jail Road Campus	120	143	263
Bakhtawar Campus	111	149	260
Sabhago Chandio Campus	108	118	226
Daur Campus	239	306	545
Noor Shah Campus	89	109	198
Nawabshah Campus	27	110	137
Total	763	1013	1776

In Kunb, school's roof's fell on students injured

In village Khair Muhammad Paato, Primary School's roof's pieces collapsed on students resulting in injuries to four students. The villagers, teachers and students protested and demanded to repair the school building (Kawish, 7 March 2019, p. 12).

six primary schools and one high school for the post-primary education of girls in different rural areas of District Shaheed Benazirabad with the support of SEF and the GoS. The table 1 shows that in seven schools, 1776 children were enrolled; out of which 1013 (57 per cent) were boys, and 763 (43 per cent) were girls. HWA is working with the communities to bring in more girls to schools.



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HWA has also established the Audio Visual Room with the support of SEF in Daur school campus. It has introduced E-Learning strategies in all school so that the children of the marginalised communities have access to technology and also can quickly learn the knowledge. The introduction of modern technology has aided to improve teaching methods. HWA has built the capacity of teachers in the areas of information and communication technology. It has also supplemented the existing teaching methodologies for improving the quality of education at the grassroots level. In these schools, HWA has encouraged the concept of green and renewable energy resources, which has enabled the schools to get affordable continuous or unhindered power supply so that children continue to get an education in a cool and calm environment. From January to March 2019, HWA has conducted various important activities, which include organising sports days in each school for the physical and mental health of students.



Sindh Education Foundation being blackmailed by schools operators

KARACHI: The spokesperson of Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) has stated

that a few ex-school operators (whose contracts had been terminated on account of provision of substandard education services to the students despite substantive financial and technical assistance by the Foundation), together with few current partners who have been served notices either on account of financial irregularities or non-documentation or misrepresentation, have begun a slanderous and defamatory campaign against the Foundation using different media platforms... [more](#). (Pakistan Today, February 12, 2019).

Education department gave acknowledgement certificates to the hardworking teachers

A gathering was arranged in Karachi city to provide the acknowledgement with certificates to the hardworking teachers. On occasion, Sindh education minister, Sardar Ali Shah, praised the hard-working teachers who are very committed and sincere with their job. The gathering was attended by the education department staff and teachers from all over the province. Total of 115 teachers was awarded as the “Best teachers of the year”. Out of which, 15 teachers belonged to Larkana, 25 from Hyderabad, seven from Karachi, 22 from Mirpurkhas, 23 from Shaheed Benazirabad and 23 from Sukkur region. The certificate was awarded based on the performance of students. (Kawish, Jan 4, 2019).

The high school charged extra fees to students in the context of exams despite the provision of free education



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its worst condition even before the finishing of construction work. (Kawish Feb 22, 2019)

Protest against the miserable condition of the school building

Teachers, students and parents in Nawa Jatoi protested against the miserable condition of the building of Sidhooja Primary School. While protesting, the parents complained that big pieces of the school keep falling down and often they have to rush to school to check on them after such incidents. They said that it has become very risky to send children to school. Now the teachers have started to teach the students under the open sky. They demanded from the education department to take necessary action. (Kawish Feb 26, 2019).

Sindh High Court orders the private schools to practice according to the court decision regarding school fees

Yesterday the Sindh High Court heard the case of complaints registered by the parents against private schools for not implementing the court decision regarding school fees. The parents had complained against Foundation Public School and Head Start School. The judge said that according to the court order, the fee challan should have been issued for Rs. 12,665 but, instead of that, the school has issued the fee challan for Rs. 15,000. In response to that, the lawyers, representing the schools, said that they had cancelled the challan already. (Kawish, Feb 26, 2019).

Sindh's education department thinks having exams outdoors can curb cheating

Parents and teachers have rejected the Sindh government's decision to hold matric exams outdoors to control cheating. Matric exams are scheduled to start from March 20 in Sindh, according to the dates announced by the matric board... [more](#) (Reported by Sonia Shehzad in Sama TV 2 February 2019).

Sindh government hands over Education College to Zindagi Trust

The solution to all problems is only education. However, to maintain high standards of education, it is imperative to have highly qualified and trained teachers, who are unfortunately not available in Sindh where the number of police officers exceeds the number of teachers and where only nine per cent of teachers could teach the science subjects at the 40,000 state-run schools... [more](#) (The News International, 12 April 2019).

USAID to modernising education in Sindh

Islamabad: United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in partnership with Sindh government has completed and handed over 47 schools out of 118 to School Education & Literacy Department (SE&LD). Rests of the schools are on different stages of construction. Sindh Basic Education Program (SBEP) is USAID initiated a five year of worth \$159.5 million in collaboration with Sindh government. The government of Sindh is contributing an additional \$10 million in this program and is working collectively with USAID to improve quality and access to education for the children of Sindh in



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primary, middle and secondary schools...
[more](#) (Reported by Obaid Abrar Khan. The
News International, 12 April 2019).

Sindh's new education policy to define 'school' for the first time

KARACHI: The Sindh Education and
Literacy Department has decided to
restructure its various sections, especially
consolidating the teachers' training and
curriculum wings. The department also
decided that for the first time, the
education policy would define the word
"school", so that all resources, including
the budget, may be used
accordingly...[more](#) (Reported by Saba Naz,
9 February 2019).

The Government of Japan, Sindh's School Education & Literacy Department and UNICEF inaugurate non-formal education centres

Karachi: Mr Katsunori Ashida, Acting
Consul General of Japan, and Mr Qazi
Shahid Pervaiz, Secretary for School
Education & Literacy Department,
Government of Sindh, marked the opening
of a new Non-Formal Basic Education
(NFBE) Centre in Baloch Mujahid &
Phulani Para, Ibrahim Hyderi, in the urban
slums of Karachi yesterday. The centre is
one of 150 recently established thanks to
supporting from the Government of
Japan, in partnership with the
Government of Sindh, Japan International
Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the United
Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The
centres will provide 4,500 out-of-school
children and adolescents -- more than half
of them girls -- with access to primary

education... [more](#) (UNICEF, 01 March
2019).

Indian Group Hacks Sindh Education Department Website

Web Desk: Indian hacking group 'LulzSec
India' has hacked the official website of
Sindh Education and Literacy Department,
Sindhpost reported on Saturday. Hackers
breached the main page of the website
and defaced it. The authorities have failed
to recover it so far. This is not the first
time that this group has messed with a
Pakistani website. Previously, they have
tried to hack many government websites.
The story of the LulzSec group and
Pakistani websites goes way back. Around
seven years ago, the group said that they
enjoyed Pakistani hacking websites the
most. The group not only hacked Pakistani
government websites but also breached
the Sony, PBS, US Senate, the CIA,
Minecraft and League of Legends web
portals (Sindh Post, 19 January 2019).

Only 9% Teachers In Sindh Can Teach Maths And Science: Education Minister Shares Shocking Facts

Sindh Education Minister Syed Sardar Ali
Shah on Tuesday made shocking
revelations regarding the state of
education in the province. He said that
only 9% out of 150,000 teachers in Sindh
understand Mathematics and Science and
could teach the subjects. Speaking at the
second consultative workshop organised
by the Sindh Education and Literacy
Department, the Sindh education minister
said that there was a lot of room for
improvement in the sector, reported
Express Tribune. He revealed that out of a



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total 42,000 government schools in Sindh, as many as 39,000 provide only primary education... [more](#) (Naya Daur TV, 15 February 2019).

Sindh govt ends public holidays for educational institutes

The Sindh government decided on Wednesday to abolish public holidays in educational institutes across the province and instead organise events at schools on those holidays. The Steering Committee of the Education Department has decided to change holidays as well as school timings during a meeting today. During the meeting, it was decided that the government would abolish public holidays. These public holidays include Kashmir Day, Urs of Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai, Quaid-e-Azam Day, Pakistan Day, Eid Milad un Nabi and Independence Day. On these public holidays, schools will host events to celebrate these holidays. The committee also decided that new timings for schools would be from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. While the teachers have also been given a new schedule. Teachers will now be staying at their institutions till 3:00 pm, local media reported (Reported by Aisha Mahmood in Business Recorder, 2 January 2019).

Education Management Organizations Program in Sindh, Pakistan: Public-Private Partnership Profile

LaRocque, Norman and Sipahimalani-Rao, Vandana have written a brief paper that examines the use of public-private partnerships for education management organisations in Sindh, Pakistan. One of the key points of the paper is “Education outcomes in Sindh are poor, especially for

girls and those in rural areas. The Government of Sindh (the government) passed the Sindh Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act in compliance with Article 25-A of the Constitution of Pakistan in 2013. This put renewed pressure on the government and its School Education and Literacy Department (SELD) to address the weak performance of the province’s education sector. [For more details click here](#) (Asian Development Bank, March 2019).

Sindh govt changes vacation, exam schedule, daily timing for educational institutions

KARACHI: In a meeting to deliberate on bringing reforms in the education sector, the Sindh government has taken some crucial decisions on Wednesday including changing the schedule of vacations and examinations and daily timing of educational institutes. Presiding over a meeting of the Sindh education department’s steering committee, Provincial Education Minister Sardar Shah said summer vacations would be observed in May and June... [more](#) (Reported by Anwar Khan in ARY News, 2 January 2019).

Sindh govt abolishes ‘public holidays’ for educational institutions

The Sindh government on Wednesday abolished ‘public holidays’ of schools and colleges throughout the province. Presiding over a meeting of the Sindh education department’s steering committee, Provincial Education Minister Sardar Shah said summer vacations would be observed in May and June whereas the new academic year will commence in



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August instead of July. The education minister's spokesperson relayed that academic activities will remain suspended in schools on public holidays and instead they will host activities about the importance of the specific day to create awareness among students. The abolished holidays include Kashmir Day (Feb 5), Pakistan Day (Mar 23), Independence Day (Aug 14), Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai Urs (Safar 14), Eid Milad-un-nabi (Rabbiul Awal 11) and Quaid-e-Azam Day (Sep 11) (Nation, 2 January 2019).

Turkey takes control of FETÖ-linked schools in Pakistan's Sindh province

Teachers and students warmly welcomed a delegation of Turkey's Maarif Foundation that took control of three Pakistani schools linked to Gülenist Terror Group (FETÖ) in the southern port city of Karachi. The handing-over ceremony was held Wednesday at the main branch of Pak-Turk Maarif International Schools and Colleges — formerly known as Pak-Turk schools — in Gulshan-e-Iqbal neighbourhood of the city...[more](#) (Daily Sabah, 16 January 2019).

Matric exams postponed in Sindh

KARACHI: Sindh government has delayed annual matriculation exams, scheduled from March 25, in the entire province including Karachi. This was announced by Sindh Education Minister Sardar Ali Shah while addressing the protesting workers of All Pakistan Clerks Association and Lower Staff outside Karachi Press Club. He said owing to strike of the employees of Sindh Education Department; preparations were not finalized for the exams. Therefore, the

matric examination has been delayed. Now, the matric exams will be held from April 01 (The News International, 23 March 2019).

European Union's new support to Education, Rural Development and Democratic Institutions in Pakistan with 115 million euros grants funding

Islamabad, 28 December 2018: The European Union is supporting Pakistan in its inclusive, sustainable and democratic development with new grant funding. Financing Agreements were signed with the Federal Ministry of Finance for 100 million Euros today, and the end of the year will commit an additional 15 million Euros. Fifty million Euros will support education in Pakistan, a key sector in a country where millions of children do not have access to quality education yet. The 'Development through Enhanced Education Programme (DEEP)' is a five-year programme aiming at contributing to the universal access to quality education in the province of Sindh, enabling young people to progress and engage in productive employment or higher/vocational education. DEEP will contribute to tackling issues such as higher enrolment rate, reduction of drop out and better quality education in a context of persistent demographic pressure.... [more](#) (Press release by European External Action Service, 2 January 2019).

71 Per cent of Students Failed SAT in Sindh: Media Report

The Standardized Achievement Test-6 (SAT) was conducted in Sindh in February



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this year. While the results of the examination are not out yet, a media report claims to know the unreleased results. The reported results show a dismal picture of the education system of Sindh. More than 71% of the students have failed the tests while no region, including Karachi, could achieve a passing result for more than 29% of students...[more](#) (Reported by Ambreen Shabbir in ProPakistani, 14 February 2019).

Sindh Education minister calls protesting teachers for settlement

KARACHI (Dunya News) – In response to the police action in Karachi, the protesting teachers of government schools have decided to boycott the education activities across the Sindh. Several schools in Hyderabad are closed today (Friday) due to the absence of teachers that is seriously affecting the education of the children. The protesters have put forward eight demands including making them permanent, promotion and revision of timescale...[more](#) (Dunya News, 29 March 2019).

PTCL Collaborates with Indus Resource Center in Sindh

Islamabad: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) has signed an agreement with the Indus Resource Center (IRC) for the adoption of two schools in remote areas of Khairpur, Sindh. PTCL supports IRC to run the primary schools as both are committed to providing quality education to the local community. The schools have played an integral part in, not only promoting education in the vicinity, but also

supporting girls' education through progressive policies. These schools cater to vast areas of Khairpur, having 46% female students...[more](#) (Reported by Kazim Raza Rizvi in Custom News Pak, 26 February 2019).

Save Education Save Sindh - Sindh Education Day 8th Jan

Sindh Education Day will be celebrated on 8th January 2018 in all over Sindh. Purpose of Education Day: To raise our voice for the empowerment of education in Sindh. United For Education Empowerment In Sindh (I Support Cause, January 2019).

Meeting Decides To Revise Academic Session for Schools Across Sindh

Steering Committee meeting of Sindh Education Department here on Wednesday decided to revise the academic session schedule in the province from July to April. The meeting chaired by Minister for Education and Literacy, Syed Sardar Ali Shah for summer vacations further decided that annual examination at all Primary and secondary level schools would be held from March 20 to April 30...[more](#) (Reported by Fakhir Rizvi in Urdu Point, 2 January 2019).

48pc of fifth graders in rural districts cannot read a sentence in English: report

ISLAMABAD: In rural districts of the country, 48pc of surveyed fifth graders in public and private schools cannot read a sentence in English and 44pc cannot read a story in Urdu, Sindhi or Pashto. This was revealed at the release of the Annual Status of Education Report (Aser) by a



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private NGO, Idara-i-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA) launched on Tuesday. Education Minister Shafqat Mehmood conducted the formal launch...[more](#) (Written by Kashif Abasi in Dawn, 20 February 2019).

A Citizens Dialogue on 25-A Right to Education for Sustainable Development Presentations

- Highlights of Article 25A and SDG 4
- The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan 1973: Fundamental Rights & Principles of Policy – Linkages with Right to Education 25-A
- Sindh Acts on Education, Child Marriage Inclusion/Disability and Child Protection-Interplay with Right to Education & SDG 4
- Jurisprudence regarding Right to Education-Article 25A – A summary of Court Cases

Saving Sindh's education system

Public sector education system of Sindh portrays gloomy picture in all dimensions. The large budget of Rs. 208.23 billion is fixed for the current fiscal year, but there has not been seen satisfactory progress for quality education. All the reports of national and international organisations working in the education sector in Pakistan, particularly in Sindh make us worry that things are going to be worst. Although Sindh's education department is divided into many sub-departments and agencies, their progress suggests that policymakers are either incompetent or lack the sincere spirit of working towards the betterment of public sector

education... [more](#) (Written by Sarwech Saryo. Daily Times, 24 March 2019).



Education in Sindh

RASHIDA is soon set to graduate from a government college in Badin. The occasion has been a lifelong dream of her grandmother, a single parent whose own children grew up illiterate never having had the benefit of education facilities in the area. Fortunately, by the time Rashida reached school-going age, the nearby village of Allahabad Parihar had turned into an education hub, with The Citizens Foundation using modern teaching methods to educate students, most of them from landless families ... [more](#) (Written by Meer M. Parihar in Dawn, 20th March 2019).

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Umbreen Kousar prepared the SEA March 2019 Issue 3. Please share your feedback with us at info@hariwelfare.org