

ASER National Launch

26-1-2012.

Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA)

The ASER National Launch 2012, for the Annual Status of Education Report 2011 was formally launched on the 26th January, 2012 in the Planning Commission, Islamabad by the Minister for Professional & Technical Training and other respected panalists, including

- Dr. Nadeem-ul-Haq, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission
- Ahsan Iqbal, Former Minister for Education
- Dr. Zeba Sathar, Country Director Population Council
- Ms. Nargis Sultana, Program Officer FOSI
- Mr. Mazhar Siraj, Social Development Advisor DFID-UKaid
- Dr. Nafisa Shah, Chairperson NCHD, MNA
- Asad Umar, President Engro

Time: 2:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Venue: Auditorium Planning Commission, Islamabad.

The program formally started by recitation of SURA ASER with Translation.

Baela Raza Jamil Director Programs Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA) welcomed the gathering and the panelists including Mr. Riaz Hussain Pirzada minister of Professional & Technical Training, Mr.Ahsan Iqbal MNA PML (N), Dr. Nafisa Shah Chairperson NCHD, Dr. Zeba Sattar Country Director Population Council , Ms.Nargis Sultana –FOSI, Mazhar Siraj Senior Advisor (DIFD), Asad Omer President ENGRO and Dr. Nadeem ul Haq, Chairman Planning Commission.

She stated that the work that's been going on for the last three years under ASER has now achieved a substantial scale .The ASER 2011 survey has come a long way. It will become a baseline for further improvements in education. For the first time it shows that now more than ever it is essential to make education a fundamental part of our social life. Despite the step taken through the 18th Amendment, Pakistan still has not seen any law come to light on Right to Education (RTE). ASER data will help all and be available to all. Right to Education is a great opportunity to reach out to the children of the country. She stated that the message of ASER is that the citizens of Pakistan have come together in the March for Education.

At the end of her welcome remarks Dr.Baela Raza, especially thanked Dr. Nafisa Shah Chairperson NCHD who had greatly helped with ASER. She also thanked Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) representatives, Sindh Education department, Balochistan Boys' Scouts Association (BBSA), Khwenda Kor from KP, FBS, ITA UK working, PCE partners, and the 5000 ASER volunteers who actually conducted the survey. She also acknowledged UK Aid, FOSI, OXFAM, OXFAM INTL, DUBAI CARES and ITA UK for their financial support.

A video presentation made by Samar Minallah, was then shown, describing the highs and lows of the state of education using the ASER data.

Citizens' Voice on ASER survey:

Volunteers who actually conducted the ASER survey then talked about their experiences, and what they learned from the survey.

M.Amjad Khan - Mardan:

Amjad conducted the survey in Mardan. He stated that people from Mardan were very excited to be host to such a commendable effort like ASER. Youth in particular emerged as ambassador for the survey and were very eager for the results of the research to come forward.

M.Rafiq - Mianwali:

Rafiq conducted the survey in Mianwali. He said that this year much more people came for volunteer work than expected, and overall the community was highly eager & enthusiastic.

Sh. M. Mushtaq - AJK: Conducted the survey in Azad Jammu Kashmir. In district Neelum because of snowfall the schools remain closed in 3-4 months of the year, and thus need a specific strategy for the local people to counter their issues. He wanted ASER to continue for the benefit of the people. He was of the view that the people who are responsible to improve the situation should be involved in this work, along with the citizens who are being impacted by the adverse state of affairs.

Panel Discussion:

Dr. Baela Raza started the panel discussion. She further stated the unique achievement of ASER that with over 5,000 volunteers, that ASER 2011 also covered urban areas as the pilot year.

The views of the panelists can be seen from the home page.

PROGRAMME

Time	Program
2:30 -2:45	Registration-
2:45-2:50	Opening & Welcome Remarks Baela Raza Jamil; Director Programs, Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA)
2:50-3:10	Highlights of the ASER Pakistan Report - Video/Presentation Documentary on ASER 2011
3:10-3:15	Citizens Speak: The ASER 2011 Journey ASER Volunteers
3:15 - 4: 25	Panel Discussion on Findings <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Nadeem-ul-Haque, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission- Lead Panelist• Ahsan Iqbal, Former Minister for Education MNA PML(N)• Dr Zeba Sathar, Country Director, Population Council• Chaudhry Qamar Zaman, Secretary, Ministry of Professional & Technical Training• Ms.Nargis Sultana, Program Officer, FOSI• Mr. Mazhar Siraj, Social Development Advisor, DFID-UKaid• Dr. Nafisa Shah, Chairperson NCHD, MNA PPP
4:25-4:30	ASER Pakistan 2011 Launch by the Chief Guest & All Participants
4:30-4:40	Speech by the Chief Guest Mr. Riaz Hussain Pirzada; Minister for Professional & Technical Training
4:40	Refreshments