

Report an important tool for systematic analysis of EFA goals

Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training Secretary Muhammad Ahsan Raja on Thursday lauded the efforts of millions of teachers all over the world for devoting their lives to the mission of teaching children, youths and adults.

He launched the Pakistan Education for All (EFA) Review Report 2015 aimed at ensuring systematic monitoring of the progress towards achieving 'Education for All' goals. The task to generate data for all the indicators of six EFA Goals was accomplished by the Education Management Information System (NEMIS) at the Academy of Educational Planning and Management (AEPAM).

He said the National EFA Review Report was an important tool for systematic and objective analysis of the achievements and challenges faced in pursuing the EFA Goals. He said that Pakistan was fully cognisant of the importance of education and the report would be instrumental to building upon the success and lessons learnt for devising more effective planning and strategies, which were more inclusive and cost effective.

He said the key progress and achievements, such as providing free and compulsory education to all children of ages five to sixteen under Article 25 A of the Constitution, in Islamabad Capital Territory and its ratification by Sindh and recently, Baluchistan were milestones towards progressing in achieving EFA goals, besides the increase in the education budget to accelerate education related to the Millennium Development Goals through the National and Provincial Plans of Action. He applauded the efforts of the UN agencies (UNESCO, UNICEF, ILO and WFP) for contributing to the preparation the report that would serve as a guiding document for different stakeholders working in the education sector.

Speaking on the occasion, representatives of WFP, UNICEF and ILO emphasised the need for more joint efforts towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, particularly in education. However, they applauded the Government of Pakistan for taking a number of initiatives to accelerate progress towards the achievement of EFA goals and stressed the need to improve the educational planning and management system of Pakistan, aligning and enrolling over 5 million out-of-school children and improving incentives for teachers.

Students and teachers, through speeches and poetry, paid tribute to the important role and value of teachers for the development of the country. At the concluding session, the chief guest, Muhammad Ahsan Raja and the representative of UNESCO distributed souvenirs among the outstanding teachers from different provinces/areas in recognition of their services.

As the lead agency for 'Education for All', UNESCO has been mandated to coordinate the international efforts to reach the goals by the end of 2015.

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