The Senior Sindh Minister for Education Pir Mazhar-ul-Haq has said that 800 primary schools and 300 elementary schools have been upgraded to higher stage to minimize the gap in between primary and secondary schools and to ensure education to the pupils at their door steps.

He said that presently we have 91 percent primary schools as compared to 9 percent secondary schools in the province which according to him was big gap in Primary to Secondary educational infrastructure facilities that being affected on education.

This he observed while talking to the media men on Wednesday at side line of one day seminar on "Free Education Health and Safety Standard in Schools" organized by Sindh Education and Literacy Department with collaboration of UNESCO (United Nation Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization) at Public School Latifabad No. 2, Hyderabad.

The Senior Sindh Minister for Education said that in addition to that, the PPP Government has increased budget of Education Department up to 300 times to provide modern learning facilities at each school in the province. He said that a master plan has been prepared to provide lavatory and hygienic facilities in addition to maintain health and safety standard at each school. He said that under the 18th Amendment education to children upto age from 5 to 16 years of age has become free and compulsory in all provinces whereas the legislation in this regard in Sindh Assembly was in progress to implement on the Article in letter and spirit.

He said that under this act not only the government has been made bond to provide free education but the enrollment of the children having age in between 5 to 16 has also been made compulsory in schools. He said that in case of violation or refusal, the parents should have to face the punishment of five or fine with imprisonment. He said that it is great achievement of PPP government to recover the losses sustained by education sector during the past dictator's reign.

To a question about action against ghost teacher, the Senior Sindh Minister for education Pir Mazharul Haq said that the setback which was received by education sector by the media organizations, that have not been received it from others. Justifying his claim, Pir Mazhar-ul-Haq said that out of 353 ghost teachers, 325 were still working in different media organizations.

He said that he had declared list of such teachers but no one come back to deny. He said that government alone can not achieve all the targets, until and unless positive and supportive response from all stakeholders and society is not received. He stressed upon journalist organizations to put their pressure on such journalists belonging to Education Department so that they either to work with the Education Department or the media organizations.

Responding to a question about the purpose of seminar, Mazharul-Haq said that the seminar on "School health" which had been arranged by UNESCO at Karachi gave incentive to we people of Sindh Education Department to work in this field with UNESCO. He said that now the education department has decided not only to ensure health and safety standard at each school but also to give education to the children about these subjects for their awareness.

He said that we do admit that there were many schools, even lacking the lavatory facilities which creating panic situation specially for girls students and teachers. He said that though we are working and adding such facilities at
schools year by year but since we have to maintain number of schools in thousands that is why we cannot meet this job with one stroke. However, he maintained that now with the collaboration of UNESCO, we have prepared master plan to provide at least basic facilities at each school.

Responding another question about recruitment of the teachers, he said that question does not arise to recruit even single teacher without merit. He said that all the recruitments of teachers were being made on merit and under the third party validation.

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