Developing Employability Skills among Educated Youth:
“Come Learn and Be Successful…!”

To bridge the employability skills gap among the educated youth of South Punjab, a training course comprises of five modules was offered to graduate and postgraduate student/youth under the recent initiative of CPDI with support of Umeed Jawan. Training modules detail is as following:

1. Professional English Writing Skill
2. Professional English Spoken Skill
3. Computing Skill
4. Job Hunting
5. Civic Education.

During the period, project team identified the potential trainees after building liaising with all major educational institutions of four project districts (Multan, Muzaffargarh, Lodhran, and Bahawalpur). Skill Development and Civic Education Training sessions of 16 batches (each batch comprises 20 participants) have started during the month of Oct, 2014. They also have completed their four skill development training modules.

Mr. Amer Ejaz, Executive Director of CPDI visited the vocational centres in different districts of South Punjab and shared his views with the graduates.

Gauging the School Paisa with PETS:

The research project “Our Money our Responsibility” (OMOR) intends to scrutinize public finance and service delivery in education sectors in 2-districts of Punjab province i.e. Jhang and Toba Tek Singh. The technique of “Public Expenditure Tracking Survey” (PETS) is being used for this purpose. Being a two-year project, currently it is the last phase of second year of the project for which PETS has been conducted in the month of October, 2014 in both the districts. A service delivery assessment, focusing on quality, efficiency, and provision of school education services has been carried out. Citizens’ voice and beneficiary satisfaction levels were measured in PETS-Beneficiaries Assessment Survey. The cash book records have also been collected from every sampled school to provide insights into various sources of income and expenditure heads at schools.

Public Forum to generate demand of RTI:

Under the FNF project, a Public Forum was held in Faisalabad. The event comprised a large group of dedicated government officials, members of the civil society and media personnel. The event was designed for go publically to generate high demand for RTI and sensitize the government officials for timely provision of information upon public request. This public forum was a continuation of series long Public Forums being conducted in different districts of Punjab to sensitize the public and government. The event was divided into two sessions where the participants have been briefed about the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013. The briefing was followed by the Q&A session where the government officials and civil society members placed their queries regarding the proactive disclosure of information.
Promoting Public Accountability through Right to Information:

Seminars, titled “Implementation Status of Punjab Transparency and Right to information act 2013” were organized in four Districts of Punjab. Interactive sessions on Importance of Right to Information were organized in 4 universities and 8 colleges of District Lahore, Sargodha, Jhang and Multan. For the general public awareness on RTI five stalls were organized in District Sargodha and Multan. 20 RTI meetings with CSO’s, media persons, students and other citizens were arranged in District Multan, Jhang, Sargodha and Lahore. These meetings briefed participants about RTI law and facilitated them to file 40 RTI requests pertaining to governance level issues during the meetings.

CPDI Announced Winners of the 1st RTI Annual Champion Award:

Coalition on Right to Information, (CRTI) has constituted Annual RTI Champion Award to protect and promote citizens’ right to information held by public bodies. It was decided that the award ceremony will be held every year on 28th September to celebrate international Right to know day. Each year, a citizen, a journalist and an NGO will be given RTI Champion Award who uses any of the following laws to have access to information held by public bodies.

- Freedom of Information Ordinance 2002
- Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Right to Information Act 2013
- Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013
- Balochistan Freedom of Information Act 2005
- Sindh Freedom of Information Act 2006

Mr. Umar Cheema contributed excellent analytical reports on RTI, perhaps, more than any other reporter. He has also submitted 20 information requests under different RTI laws.

In Organization’s category Centre for Governance and Public Accountability-CGPA won the CRTI-RTI Annual Champion Award. CGPA has not only been advocating for RTI law for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, it has also submitted 143 information requests to contribute to the implementation of this law.

In Citizen’s category, Mr. Sabahat Ghaznavi won the 1st CRTI-RTI Annual Champion Award. He has been given award on first known case of citizen using KP RTI law for achievement of his basic rights.
Unwillingness of Bureaucracy to Share Information
A Case Study:

Earlier, it was alleged that bureaucracy does not like to share information with citizens but now responsiveness of public officials can be proven with facts and figures. Empirically verifiable data is coming out in the public domain to substantiate the lack of responsiveness of bureaucracy in sharing information with public. After the enactment of Punjab right to information law, citizens have the right to have access to information held by public bodies in a specified period of time. So, the number of information requests submitted and number of responses received by a citizen are a good indicator to measure the level of responsiveness of public bodies in terms of sharing information with citizens. CPDI facilitated a journalist from Lahore in filing information request to all Dos of KPK and Punjab asking about the fine imposed on shopkeepers for violating price list.

After the completion of stipulated time period mentioned in each law Mr. Hassan did a story in newspaper based on few responses received from departments.

Detailed story could be read in following link:

Media Coverage:

KP districts show dismal budget preparation
The budget preparation process is dismally weak in majority districts of PTI-led Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) where performance of 86 percent districts can be termed very weak and 14 percent as moderate.

Budget-making process ‘non-transparent’
ISLAMABAD: Budget making process in Pakistan continues to be obscure amid the creative budgeting practices such as block allocations. This was highlighted in a recent research study on Budget Transparency and Accountability in Punjab conducted by the Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI).

KP CM spends Rs2.6m on entertainment, bakery items
ISLAMABAD: While Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan is vehemently preaching austerity and end to VIP culture, his chief minister in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Pervaiz Khattak has spent Rs2.6 million of the public money on entertainment and bakery items alone during the last one year, The News has learnt.