The project “Our Money Our Responsibility” is now heading towards its successful accomplishment and the fourth and final Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS) reports for District Jhang and Toba Tek Singh have been successfully compiled, printed and launched in the month of February, 2015.

The findings suggest that there is a need to bring reforms in the need based budgeting, overall functionality and management of the education sector. The participatory engagement of all the stakeholders including School Councils, NGOs, CBOs, Education Activists, Electronic and Print Media along with the Government itself can bring about remarkable improvement in the education sector.

The findings of the report will be shared in the upcoming annual conference with the government officials, Educationists, CSO members, media persons, and students along with others.

“The analysis brings us to the conclusion that there is a clear violation of Article 25-A of the constitution of Pakistan in district Jhang and Toba Tek Singh both as almost all the parents and teachers informed of paying and receiving a monthly sum of PKR 20 from every child enrolled in a public school”.

Promoting Public Accountability through Right To Information (RTI) in Pakistan

After successful advocacy for powerful RTI law for Punjab now CPDI is engaged at grass roots level for effective implementation on law. In this regard CPDI has formed District Right to Information Networks as well as batch of young RTI activists in the four districts of Punjab. Advocacy and mobilization activities include Interface meetings, Seminars, Stalls and Community meetings were held during this month.

CPDI partnered with volunteers and organized four interface meetings with Government officials. These meetings were attended by citizens at large and representatives of government departments including Tehsil Municipal Administration, Traffic Police Department, Environment and Lahore Waste Management Department.

DRTIN on regularly basis meet different society groups for building their understanding on Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013. These meetings also guide and educate citizens on drafting of Information requests. In this regard 13 community meetings were organized with students, lawyers, media personals and CSO’s.

RTI stall, one stop for RTI awareness and technical assistance reaching communities at far flange areas. In February Six stalls were organized at different Tehsil’s and other prominent places of 4 project districts.

Batches of young RTI champions in four districts of Punjab are also actively promoting RTI through community meetings, peer education and Seminars. A major awareness event in collaboration of chamber of commerce Multan was arranged at Multan city.
Developing Employability Skills among Educated Youth

Till the reporting period 113 toppers of Skills Development and Civic Education Training from District Multan, Muzaffargarh, Bahawalpur and Lodhran were taken to Islamabad for exposure visit in five groups. They visited the different federal departments/institutions, Embassies and INGOs etc. Students also participated in different events like TV talk shows and international conference on Media Safety hosted by CPDI in Islamabad. Skills Development and Civic Education Training modules have been revised and second training of trainers was also held in this month.

50 batches of trainees who have completed their DESEY Skills Development Training, 20 batches from Multan, 19 batches from Bahawalpur, 7 batches from Lodhran and 4 batches from Muzaffargarh. While training of 14 batches in all 4 district is ongoing.

After successful completion of three series of training batches in all project districts, a large number of trainees were ready and equipped with employability skills to enter into local and national job market. So the first Job Fair with support of Umeed Jawan held on Feb 24, 2015. Purpose of the Job Fair was to provide a platform to DESEY trainees to meet a large number of employers to get prompt information about requirements and preconditions of employment. On the other end, employer got the opportunity to display their products and collected a large pool to enhance their human resource.

The Role of Media in Elections

Pakvoter is a web portal that provides electoral and democracy related information and resources for various stakeholders including voters, researchers, development professionals, civil society groups, political parties, media, observers, parents, teachers, students and researchers. In this background during the month of February a paper on ‘Role of Media in Elections’ was developed for pakvoter. The paper is constituted of media introduction and its role in elections, media regulatory framework during elections, media environment in Pakistan, freedom of press, safety of journalists, media communication during campaign and elections, media election advertisement, competition, and media and its monitoring role in elections. The paper is developed by keeping in mind the international best practices and existing situation in Pakistan. Various stakeholders can get benefit of this paper.
Our Programme Areas

- TRANSPARANCY AND RIGHT TO INFORMATION
- LEGISLATIVE WATCH AND DEVELOPMENT
- PROMOTION OF PEACE AND TOLERANCE
- RULE OF LAW
- MEDIA WATCH
- BUDGET WATCH

Latest on our Website

- Legislative Fellows Program Fall 2015 Application
- The Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Rules 2014
- Timeline of Right to Information Legislation in Pakistan
- Schedule of costs issued by Punjab Information Commission
- Model Baluchistan Right to Information Bill
- CPDI Comparison of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab Schedule of Cost for providing Information

Media Coverage

- CPDI demands permanent posts of System Networks Administrators in District Governments
- Awaited website of CDGR to launch today
- KP’s Governor House spends more than CM House
- ‘Schedule of Fees for Hard Copies’: Cost in violation of ‘KP Right to Information Act 2013’

Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI-Pakistan) is an independent, non-partisan and a not-for-profit civil society organization working exclusively on issues of peace and development in Pakistan. It was established in 2003 to inform and influence public policies and civil society projects through research-based advocacy and capacity-building, with the goal of promoting peace and achieving sustainable development. CPDI specializes in five sectors of development: 1. Promotion of Peace and Tolerance, 2. Rule of Law, 3. Transparency and Right to Information, 4. Budget Watch, 5. Legislative Watch and Democratic Development.