Our Money Our Responsibility (OMOR)

CPDI’s unique initiative “Our Money Our Responsibility” came to its close with a series of high visibility activities. Following the School Paisa reports, published this month, were disseminated and discussed widely. Two Media briefings, four interface meetings and a provincial conference were held. A number of press releases were also part of the dissemination plan. Media briefings held in Jhang and Toba Tek Singh were attended by local and national print and electronic media. Findings of the Following the School Paisa reports were shared with the media. The shared information got its due space both in newspapers as well on news channels.

Four interface meetings were organized by the team in the project districts. The objective was to bring the district education managers and other stakeholders on one table, share the findings of following the school paisa reports, hold the public officials accountable for their responsibilities towards education and share recommendations for better performance of the education sector.

Second annual conference on education sector budget and bridging gaps held in Lahore on March 7, 2015 was attended by policy makers, government officials, education experts, budget experts, education and rights activists, civil society, parents, teachers, students and the media. Raja Shaiba Akber, Program Manager CPDI, shared “Following the School Paisa Report”s with the participants. Speakers spoke on the need of education prioritization, reforms in education budgeting, and concrete steps for implementation of article 25-A. Punjab Assembly Finance Committee member Mrs. Ayesha Jawed spoke on the legislative oversight of the education sector allocations. Mr. Qamar Ul Islam Raja, Punjab assembly education committee chairperson wrapped up the discussion at the end and talked about the efforts that the government was making to implement article 25-A and to improve the education sector budget allocations.
Developing Employability Skills among Educated Youth (DESEY)

- Project is swiftly moving towards its end and almost 80% of the project targets have been achieved.
- 63 batches from all project districts have completed all the modules of their skills development and civic education training. Training imparted to them has evident feedback as most of the youngsters already have been selected and many were contacted by different hiring companies. While training of 10 batches are ongoing.
- 45 more toppers of from district Multan, Bahawalpur and Lodhran were taken to Islamabad for exposure visit in the month of March 2015. They visited the National Assembly, Russian Embassy, German embassies, Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary services, Monument of Pakistan etc. CPDI also arranged interactive sessions with top political figures and government officials for these trainees.
- Exposure visit of 12 batches within their respective districts have also been completed, in which trainees visited different government office like Social Welfare, Excise and Taxation department, Agriculture and Traffic department for better understanding of procedures of public departments, services they provide and general information about their structure. Trainees also visited private institutions to have better knowledge of their working mechanism and human resource.

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

DRTIN’s (District Right to Information Networks) formed in four district of Punjab are functioning to implement The Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013. These groups are engaged with citizens and Government officials for the mass awareness on Punjab RTI law. In the month of March 2015 DRTIN members together with our district teams organized (7) stalls for the awareness of citizens where briefing on Law was given and RTI material was disseminated. Understanding need for sensitizing citizens on use of RTI DRTIN members together with our resource persons held (17) meetings with different community groups. In efforts for successful implementation of the Punjab RTI law DRTIN members files information requests to public bodies and arrange interface forums to find a resolve for the highlighted issues. In this context (2) interface meetings were arranged during March 2015.

RTI Champions trained and supported by CPDI takes on goal of promoting RTI in (4) districts of Punjab through innovative RTI campaigns. During March RTI volunteers Lahore arranged RTI Seminar in collaboration with The Punjab University Lahore. RTI Champions Sargodha arranged a story telling event and our volunteers from Jhang appeared as a radio show guests to create awareness on Punjab RTI Law.
Research on public schools money in Punjab indicates infringement of right to education

Free education for all? No!

Govt is open in rhetoric and secret in reality

Calls to repeal discriminatory laws on International Women’s Day

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.