

CPDI-Pakistan

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2. Rule of Law
3. Transparency and Access to Information
4. Budget Watch
5. Legislative Watch and Democratic Development

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election 2008

Election Manifestos
of Political Parties
on Education



CPDI-Pakistan
Promoting Peace and Development
Through Citizenship

party explicitly talks about this problem.

- 3.7. In relation to higher education, only PML-N has made a clear and specific commitment that it will guarantee by 2010 that all students who get 1st division in matriculation and intermediate examinations will get admission in a public sector college in their tehsil/ taluka/ sub-division. Other parties talk about quality of existing colleges, increasing the number of higher educational institutions, merit and the autonomy of Higher Education Commission (HEC) but make no clear and time-bound commitments.
- 3.8. The PPP-P, PML-Q and ANP make no reference to the need to improving the syllabus and curriculum.
- 3.9. The PPP-P, MQM and ANP have committed to lift the ban on students' unions. No other party has made any mention of this issue in its manifesto.
- 3.10. Only ANP clearly talks about promoting democratic culture in education institutions. On the other hand, MQM talks about extracurricular activities in educational institutions through elected students unions, while the PML-N focuses on ethics and values based curriculum and teaching system.
- 3.11. No party has made any specific commitments for improving governance and promoting accountability in the education system. The issues that needed to be especially addressed include, among others, monitoring systems, transparency of expenditures and procurements, merit based admissions, merit-based recruitment, politically motivated transfers and postings of teachers, and inefficient utilization of development budget.
- 3.12. The PPP-P, MQM and PML-N all give importance to private sector educational institutions either by emphasizing the need of regulating them or making commitments about fiscal and other incentives for them. The PML-Q and the ANP have not said anything about private sector in relation to the education.

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3. Highlights of Education Related Commitments in Election Manifestos

- 3.1. All political parties included in this comparative analysis have committed to work for 'education for all'. The PPP-P has committed to achieve universal enrollment of 5-10 year old children by 2015; whereas the PML-Q has made the commitment to achieve mass literacy within next 10 years. The PML-N has set the target of achieving 100% enrollment in middle school education by 2012 and in secondary school education by 2015. MQM and the ANP have also made general commitments for compulsory education for all and ending illiteracy, but have not set any specific targets. It is considered a good practice to set targets, as it enables the Party as well as the electorate to track the performance vis-à-vis targets and commitments.
- 3.2. Only PML-Q and the ANP make a special mention, although very briefly, of girls and women education. Other parties may have chosen not to talk about it in view of their general focus on mass literacy or 'education for all'. However, in view of the additional constraints faced by girls in accessing educational facilities, it is important for the political parties to come up with targets and strategies that address the specific problems faced by girls in an effective manner.
- 3.3. Most political parties, especially PML-Q and PML-N, tend to emphasize the scientific and vocational education. However, no one talks about the importance of humanities or social sciences, which are also considered crucial for social, political and institutional development in any country.
- 3.4. Only MQM and PML-N talk a little bit about how the education sector will be financed. MQM has committed to increase tax expenditures from the current 2.2% to 5% of GDP. The PML-N has not set a target in terms of %age of GDP for the education sector but has made commitments like the Federal Government will fund 50% of the public sector education program up to higher secondary level through grants to provinces.
- 3.5. Only ANP is suggesting that the mother tongue would be made the medium of instruction. All other parties are silent on this issue.
- 3.6. Only MQM talks of abolishing what it calls the 'dual system of education' that involves, on the one hand, educational institutions for the poor people with poor standards and, on the other hand, elitist schools with high standards. However, MQM aims to abolish this 'dual system' by raising the standards of Urdu medium and government schools. No other

2. Election Manifestos: Comparison of Education Related Commitments

Sn	Party Commitments	Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPP-P)	Pakistan Muslim League (Q) PML(Q)	Muttahidda Qaumi Movement (MQM)	Pakistan Muslim League (N) PML(N)	Awami National Party (ANP)
1	Universal literacy/ adult literacy	To universalize basic education, every child in government primary schools would be provided a stipend. Universal enrollment by 2015 of all children between the age of 5 to 10 is the target of the Party. 9	Education will be the number one priority. Free and universal primary education will be ensured. There is a commitment for mass literacy in the country within the next 10 years.	Compulsory education for each and every child and it would be available free of cost up to matriculation or its equivalent level. New schools, colleges, universities, professional and vocational institutions in cities, towns and villages throughout the country would be established. Secondary school for any village where the population exceeds five thousand people would be established. Adopt a school policy be encouraged. Promote 'earn and educate' concept in public schools also.	National Education Corp will be setup to employ all graduates without jobs, who would implement literacy and adult education programmes with the objective of achieving 100% adult literacy by 2010, 100% adult education up to middle level by 2015, and 100% adult education up to matric by 2020. Education in all public sector institutions up to higher secondary will be free of cost. The system will work through provision of transferable voucher scheme to encourage competition in the public sector educational institutions. 100% enrollment in middle school	Fundamental aim of the party will be to end illiteracy and promote free and useful education. There shall be a comprehensive plan for adult literacy.

		Children.	and through the internet so that these can be availed well in time by deserving students and these are not allowed to lapse.		Take over and manage education facilities through high level professionals.	
10	Civic education/ democracy/ student unions/ Peace education	Ban on student unions will be lifted. Arms will not be permitted on campuses.		Extracurricular activities would be reintroduced/ strengthened through elected students unions.	Ethics and values based curriculum and teaching systems with a focus on character building to develop honesty, perseverance, tolerance, discipline, wisdom, innovation, respect, and team play, as enshrined in Islam, will be introduced at all levels.	Democratic culture shall be promoted in educational institutions. Students shall have the right to form unions.
11	Governance/ monitoring and accountability/ merit based transparent recruitment of teachers	Quality of existing colleges and universities will be improved and the	The Higher Education Commission would be made autonomous and encouraged to improve	Educational intuitions would have management boards/ committees and their performance monitored regularly.	Strategies shall be made to optimally harness and utilize the existing education facilities by improving governance, efficiency, monitoring and effectiveness.	Autonomy of educational institutions shall be protected.
12	Basic necessities at schools/ libraries	Will focus on providing computers progressively for every secondary school and college in Pakistan. The party will install at least one computer in each	Will encourage setting up of public libraries equipped with the modern research and reference tools, including internet facilities.	A network of public libraries would be established all over the country.	Special attention will be paid to the development of libraries at national, provincial and district levels.	

		Number of public universities and colleges will be increased, especially in science, engineering, medicine and agriculture. Funding will be regulated and monitored through Quality Assurance Boards of the Higher Education Commission.	quality of universities.	intermediate examinations will get admission in a public sector college in their tehsil/ talukar/ sub-division.	intermediate examinations will get admission in a public sector college in their tehsil/ talukar/ sub-division.	
8	Syllabus and curriculum			The syllabus would be amended according to our national requirements and the needs of the modern age.	National curriculum will be standardized and adopted at all levels to eliminate multi-class system based education in the country. Curriculum will be enriched by putting more emphasis on acquisition of practical skills, along with theoretical perception, and environmental education.	
9	Incentives for poor students/ scholarships/ incentives for educated	Apna Ghar scheme building of free boarding schools for socially or economically disadvantaged	It will be ensured that al scholarships offered to Pakistanis, either at home or from overseas, will be duly publicized through advertisements		To improve quality of education for the poor, education foundations will be set up in each province and eventually at the district level to	There shall be unemployment allowance for unemployed educated youth.

					education by 2012; 100% enrollment in secondary education by 2015; 80% enrollment in higher secondary education (intermediate) by 2020.	Women education shall be specially encouraged.
2	Emphasis on girls' education/ remote or disadvantaged districts		The existing educational institutions will be improved and upgraded from primary to secondary, from secondary to higher secondary and from secondary and from schools to colleges. This would specially be provided in the case of education for girls and women as well as institutions in rural and backward areas.			
3	Annual budget allocation/ Financing of development programmes			Increased expenditures in education from 2.2% to 5% of GDP during the next 5 years. Minimum 20% of the provincial and district governments revenue expenditures be allocated for education.	The Federal Government will fund 50% of the public sector education programme up to higher secondary level through grants to provinces and 100% of all public sector universities and higher education institutions	

					through grants. The Federal Government will also fund the National Education Corp.	
4	Science and vocational education		Vocational and technical education would be encouraged so that education is linked to enhancement of skills.		Maximum facilities for science education and vocational training for all middle and high school students. Promote several centres for professional excellence in various scientific disciplines by providing highly qualified teachers, generous scholarships for training abroad, and liberal grants to science laboratories.	
5	Multiple systems of education/ Medium of instruction/ teaching methods			Abolishment of the present dual system of education in the country where the educational institutions for poor people have different standards as compared to the English medium and grammar schools. This can be done by raising the standard of Urdu medium and		Medium of instruction shall be the mother language. Arrangements shall also be made for education in other languages for the purpose of progress and development. Teaching methods and style shall be changed. Research oriented and

						creative approach shall be adopted.
6	Teachers' emoluments and status/ Teachers training		Training of teachers, expansion of their expertise, and increasing their salaries and status would be ensured. A special day in the national calendar will be set aside as the 'national teachers day' as a mark of respect to the honourable profession of teaching. Retirement age of teachers will be increased to 65.	government educational institutions to bring it at par with the grammar and English medium educational institutions. Salary structure of teachers must be revised upward, above 3% inflation each year. Training and refresher courses of primary and secondary school teachers would be launched extensively throughout the country. Female teachers would be given preference for primary education recruitment.	Teaching profession will be made more attractive by grant of higher salaries to teachers who possess qualifications higher than the prescribed level. Additional increment for better performers and best teacher awards shall be introduced at all levels of education. National medals and awards will be given to nation's best teachers every year. Principals/ heads of educational institutions / teachers will be given special status in local areas. Female teachers will be posted as close to their homes as possible.	Emoluments of teachers shall be increased so that they have a respectable place in the society.
7	Higher education	Quality of existing colleges and universities will be improved and the	The Higher Education Commission would be made autonomous and encouraged to improve	The university education would be strictly on merit with more scholarships for	Will guarantee by 2010 that all students who get 1st division in matric and	