

Illiteracy in Pakistan

Author

Nauman Ali Kalhoro

Abstract

This research gave some important suggestion to the government to take some serious initiatives to improve illiteracy rate especially of Balochistan. We are to look into on the central issues identified with the low education rate. When it comes to policies regarding to tackle Illiteracy Rate in Pakistan, we can observe that various programs were initiated by the previous governments. Pakistan's literacy rate is better than Afghanistan and South Sudan. Additionally, the role of parents in a society where illiteracy rate is common is also as important as providing the infrastructure and quality. This ultimately contributes to the Illiteracy rate in Pakistan drastically over the years. This research emphasized on various local perspective points that are the causes of high illiteracy rate in Pakistan. Attitude of a Teacher: Finally, but not least, poor infrastructure has contributed to the rate of Illiteracy in Pakistan remarkably. The National Literacy Movement have also launched program in remote areas of Pakistan such as tehsils and district to eliminate or at least reduce the illiteracy rate. We have picked this topic to break down the issues related to low education pace of Pakistan. Illiterate people are far away from the information of new policies that are being introduced by society and in society. Resource Gap is defined as the small and conflicting money related help; prompts vulnerability about financing for advancement of proficiency rate among the country. The sent passed a bill making it mandatory for the government to provide free education up to 16 years of education. Though, Pakistani is aware that illiteracy is one of the causes of poor performance of the country on all fronts. One of the major problems of Pakistan is illiteracy. The above hindrances to impart skill to its citizen will soon affect the country in every aspect of life.

Keywords: Illiteracy in Pakistan, education system, resource gap, literate Pakistan, South Asian literacy, National literacy, education policy,

Introduction and background

Large part of human history is the history of ignorance. Literary and other scientific pursuit were considered prerogatives of the privileged. It was until the end of fourteenth century that layman was not considered worthy of these luxurious ambitions. There were no such concepts as formal education until the print revolution in fifteenth century. This print revolution was followed by a period of critical decay under the patronage of protestant beliefs and the teaching of Bible in the vernacular languages. The progress movements of eighteenth and twentieth made it their point to extend education to all and sundry.

During British rule, there were people of different religions like Sikhism, Hinduism, Islam, Christian. Hindus cleverly played their card and won the favor of British as compared to Muslims. British on their part did not allow Muslims to get western education. In this way, Muslims lag behind Hindu in every aspects of life. It was at this time that Sir Sayed Ahmed Khan came to their rescue and pleaded the case of Muslims.

Pakistan appeared on the map of the world in 1947 in the midst of much progressive enthusiasm and dreams of a splendid future. The Survey conducted in 1951 revealed that this nascent state has only 17.9 percent skilled workers. The survey pointed to the fact that there were 18.64 million unskilled workers.

It was expected that soon the number of skilled workers would increase. However, this did not happen, on the contrary, number of unskilled workers witnessed a larger increase. According to the estimate, more than 50 million Pakistani were unskilled in 1998 and this number is increasing ever since. This increasing numbers of unskilled workers suggest that government of Pakistan was unable to impart training and necessary skills to make them productive citizens.

All this expose the tall claims made by government of Pakistan from time to time that it considers giving necessary training to its citizen its priority. The senate passed a bill making it mandatory for the government to provide free education up to 16 years of education. Parents in Pakistan envisage a bright future for their kids to realize their dreams; however, the ground realities soon disillusioned them.

The first one is Commitment Gap. It means the absence of political will and authority. The reserves are authorized, yet government officials don't take intrigue and give administration to its genuine and appropriate use. After the commitment gap there is another gap that is known as Policy Gap: (Lack of clear and solid approach on proficiency and Non-formal essential instruction NFBE) absence of managerial will open and camouflaged restriction to education and NFBE by the customary organizers. Third one is Organizational Gap: Absence of changeless hierarchical structure for education and NFBE in different territories; prompts coordination hole also. Resource Gap is defined as the small and conflicting money related help; prompts vulnerability about financing for advancement of proficiency rate among the country. The last one Capacity Gap: there are islands of greatness however all in all, the sub segment of proficiency and NFBE is defaced by feeble expert base, missing coherence of experience and lack of free research and assessment contemplates.

The above hindrances to impart skill to its citizen will soon affect the country in every aspect of life. The frustration in the unskilled youth will considerably affect country progress. As the parents would lack the necessary of money and commitment to give quality education to their kids. This would result in uneducated and financially unsound next generation. This generation will without any doubt unable to earn decent living for it and would considerably mar country progress towards prosperity. One cannot expect that they would make a sound choice when it comes to electing it representatives in the election.

Introduction

There is no fixed definition of illiteracy. In Pakistan, Illiterate has been defined as the one who cannot write his name. According to the UNO illiterate is one who cannot follow the written direction. This illiteracy affects people more in this present era as they lag behind others in pursuit of white collar jobs and they suffer psychologically.

Illiteracy is one of the major issues that plague the present day Pakistan. Many challenges that Pakistan faces now is invariably the result of this illiteracy. It is also adversely affecting country progress and development. The agriculture background of the people of Pakistan is one reason of this illiteracy. In the agriculture community, education is not given. As the jobs are very difficult

for the illiterate people, so they feel redundant. One of the other bad effects of illiteracy is increase in the crime rate. This situation is more alarming in the rural setting. Jobless skilled workers are also demotivating factor for most people. One of the major problems of Pakistan is illiteracy. Though, Pakistani is aware that illiteracy is one of the causes of poor performance of the country on all fronts. On the other hand, this illiteracy exists on colossal state ever since the creation of Pakistan. There is a lack of concrete efforts on the part of government to mitigate this grave situation. The cover up till now failed to tackle this problem head on.

According to the economic survey 2017-18, the illiteracy in Pakistan is reaching at high level as compared to previous year, therefore, for the betterment of this issue government should be looked into the matter, in order to improve the economic condition of Pakistan, and government should consider it the main priority to foster the development and renewal of primary education and to eliminate illiteracy

There is a generally perceived certainty that mass instruction is a pre-imperative for the advancement and thriving of a nation. The fundamental need of the creating nations is to encourage the improvement and reestablishment of essential instruction and to dispense with absence of education. Pakistan, tragically, similar to the next unstable nations, has gained little ground in this viewpoint. Since freedom, she keeps on staying in the gathering of nations with the most reduced proficiency rate.

Hypothesis

We have picked this topic to break down the issues related to low education pace of Pakistan. We are to look into on the central issues identified with the low education rate. We do not have the option to elevate our proficiency rate even subsequent to professing to have instruction on our national need list. Our low proficiency is by all accounts the underlying driver of every other sick of the general public that have ascended to the scene in the most recent decade. One of them may incorporate bigotry and absence of mindfulness for human rights among the majority of the country. We will consider the main root cause of the mother of the issues. Our fundamental reason will be to feature the variables that are giving a passive and resistive power to the advancement of sound education framework which might have the option to pull in increasingly more populace towards education.

We believe that the reasons for Illiteracy Rate in Pakistan are because of following;

- 1) Insignificant spending plan in Education Sector
- 2) Poor infrastructure
- 3) Gender Gap
- 4) Low Public Awareness

Methodology

The research strategy we will use for our paper will be mixed method that includes both qualitative and quantitative methods. For information gathering and inspecting we will interface with those individuals who are were not ready to continue with their education because of some odd reasons, attempt to find those reasons and what steps ought to be taken by government and other association to annihilate those issues. We will likewise communicate with those individuals who didn't ever get an opportunity to class. We will likewise go to those individuals who bid farewell to consider after registrations and after schools. We will attempt to collaborate a few educators of school level and attempt to find the reasons that why most of understudies leave the investigations after school and universities. We will likewise attempt to collaborate with some educationist and furthermore get their supposition. We will likewise meet the youngsters who are working at various workshops day and night and are battling their midsections and furthermore ask them that what the explanations for it are. We will likewise meet their folks and ask them for what good reason they are sending their little kids to employments and not schools.

Literature review

Education is an essential tool for each human and has now turned into a standard to quantify the social advancement of countries. It is most likely a key to the political, social and monetary advancement. In the ongoing history, it has turned into a conspicuous wonder. The instruction arrangement is consistently on the highest point of national needs today. The ongoing flared circumstance of worldwide narrow mindedness is likewise accepted to be connected with education. Education rates have been demonstrated with research to be connected with the economic advancement of the nation. The proficient social orders are additionally gaining today. They have more prominent social and political steadiness. So Education is a significant viewpoint

globally. Pakistan faces a test of the low education when contrasted with the creating nations. Pakistan has one of the most reduced illiteracy paces of the locale, in OIC Pakistan has one of the lowest education rates and discover the reasons for this we accept that following are the major;

- Economic causes
- Gender Inequality
- Population Growth
- Lack of Quality and Awareness

Boissiere led research on elementary school determinants and results in lower developed nations. As indicated by the author, nowadays just getting kids to class isn't sufficient; the state ought to likewise guarantee that kids complete their essential cycle to pick up the fundamental information and skills required for their prosperity and improvement as individuals. Numerous studies have been analyzed on how all assets are committed to the sector of education. Boissiere's examination shows five fundamental contributing components to education adequacy: curriculum plan, learning materials, guidelines, showing procedures and the learning limit of students.

Johnston (2004) directed research on grown-up education rates and financial development to show that supported economic development is a need for the state and that interest in human capital, seen as economic development, is a significant commitment. His examination likewise centered on raising the fundamental proficiency rate in grown-ups by expanding business and work efficiency towards a positive economic effect. It adds to logical research which was completed for human capital that is; information skills, General skills, individual education reflection, skills capacity quality is one of the most significant general subjective abilities. Education was once considered to mean the capacity to pursue and compose; the individuals who can't arrive at an extremely fundamental standard—for instance, writing of one's name—are viewed as unskilled. The essential meaning of literacy incorporates perusing and utilizing as well in society, to be able to have a sense of purpose and socialize in whatever ways. In other words, it's to be able to be flexible.

Kremer et al. (2005) directed research into schools, educators, and training results in developing nations. The most important approach is that education gives improvement in the welfare of the

five billion individuals living in developing nations that originated from the potential job of education. Numerous economists have emphasized the effect of education on economic development. This was an enhancing experience deserving of careful research, remembering the information and broad changes for the educational frameworks of developing the world. What's more, various developing or on the verge of developing nations have done the assessment of their educational; arrangements in the course of recent years. The numerous contrasts between the educational frameworks in MEDC and LEDC give essential data about the role of education in developing states.

Ridker (1997) performed a search on the determinants of educational achievement and accomplishment in Africa, and he portrays and clarifies the educational accomplishments, fulfillments, and investment in various African nations. Accessible data on schools, youngsters, family units, and networks are investigated for this reason. His research came to find out four sorts of national studies and field proof of strict intervention in elementary schools, and demonstrated a wave of issues diverging from school attributes in deciding educational results: the impact of value enhancements for enrolment, reading material versus class size, properly trained teachers vs. not trained teachers, and the job of parent cooperation. It was discovered that results differed essentially relying upon the system and the status of factors.

Based on the Global Authors perspective on Literacy rate in Pakistan, This research can come to a common finding that role of education do really play a vital role when it comes to development of a state which eventually raises the bar for illiteracy rate, considering the fact that Pakistan is ranked in one of the worst countries. Furthermore, if this research were to compare Pakistan with abroad countries that are also struggling with quality education than certain common reasoning come to picture as well for instance the concept of trained teacher vs not well trained. Secondly, the amount of stationary that is on shortage when it comes to distributing it to the whole class. Additionally, the role of parents in a society where illiteracy rate is common is also as important as providing the infrastructure and quality. However, as the authors above mentioned that all these factors differ in different scenarios.

According to Abdul Wadood illiteracy is one of the biggest problem that world is facing, not only by Pakistan. Further he added that the illiterate people cannot participate in any kind of platforms

where educated people are. They are unable to learn new techniques but educated people can learn easily because they have knowledge. Illiterate people are far away from the information of new policies that are being introduced by society and in society. Illiteracy is a barrier that stops the social progress.

Further he gave some conclusions that how a good society can tackle these kinds of problems. First one is to give awareness to them via mass media and communication about the impact of illiteracy. Second is about to take serious initiatives by government to teach illiterate people because every individual has right to get education Government should have to make institutions and provide good teachers for the betterment of their life (Wadood, 2018).

According to Shoaib Ahmad, Pakistan's literacy rate is better than Afghanistan and South Sudan. He highlighted the nine policies that government of Pakistan has introduced in last 60 years with effect to resolve the issues. Further, he stated that the problems exist because of broad policy hurdle and some other factors. In policymaking, lack of political will is one of the major problems. Due to low budget spent on education, sometime delays in passing the funds and also government inefficiency. Corruption is also cause of this problem. Teachers without good teaching skills are working there (Ahmad, 2017).

Syeda Anam Tahira compared illiteracy with darkness because it might be cause of any individual's failure in every aspect of life. Many other problems occur due to illiteracy like illiterate people do not know how to earn well and how to spend well. As all of us know that illiterate people are the part of our society, they can make any problem as social issue for example child mirage and high growth rate of population and many others. She has given special important on the education of girls. She raised her voice to give equality to the women\girls in society. She came out to support women that girls should not be restrained to their but has right to get well education. She is against to build new institution for education because she wants government to work on the system that has created difference in gender (Tahria, 2018).

Maikhan Amir (2019) highlighted the reasons that are the cause of illiteracy. He said that slow economic growth, poverty, poor education system and lack of teachers with good teaching skills. Most of the criminal are un-educated. They cannot make differences between good and bad deeds. They are not aware. He linked illiteracy with violence that society is dealing with. He gave some

important suggestion to the government to take some serious initiatives to improve illiteracy rate especially of Balochistan.

This research emphasized on various local perspective points that are the causes of high illiteracy rate in Pakistan. The corruption is one of them. Due to this, budget is not much spent on the education sector as much as required. Terrorism is one of them. Because of this most of the families are not sending their children to school and any other educational institution. Poor policymaking has also bad effects on educational system but not just in this sector but also in every sector where policy exists.

Results and Findings

Attitude towards Child Labors:

It is estimated that around 12.5 million children are invested in child labor in Pakistan. We are aware over the fact that this bring social and moral harm to the society but the question that arises here is why is our society that claims to follow the basic teachings of Islam or Democracy still promoting such standards. For the sole purpose of this research we went to find out from various kids in the area of Bara Kahu where there are plenty of Vehicles workshops that includes kid's underage working. Although it was quite a risky job of asking the kids where most of the owners interfered to stop us. Eventually we managed to interview couple. Asim, age 15 who is a master of tuning bikes and servicing cars at such age belongs to a remote area in muree. When we asked him as to why and how did he get into workforce at such young age, we were shocked to hear his comments. Asim always wanted to attend school since his early days however the situation or the upbringing of his household taught him otherwise. He was taught things such as school are far outreach to him and his sibling hence his parents encouraged him to work so he can provide some income to the family. Furthermore, we asked him if government do check or raid such places. His response was quite funny which circled around the fact that government cops are involved in giving and taking. What we can learn from this is that from base root the problem occurs and in this context we are talking about Influence of Household. If any individual grows up to hear that workforce is important then education than its crystal clear to see that its not the children's fault but parents themselves which also gives the benefit of the doubt because maybe they were taught when they were children that workforce is better off. At the end of the day, the child is bringing finance distribution. However, the government is equally to be blamed because if there are laws against child labor then there is no implementation.

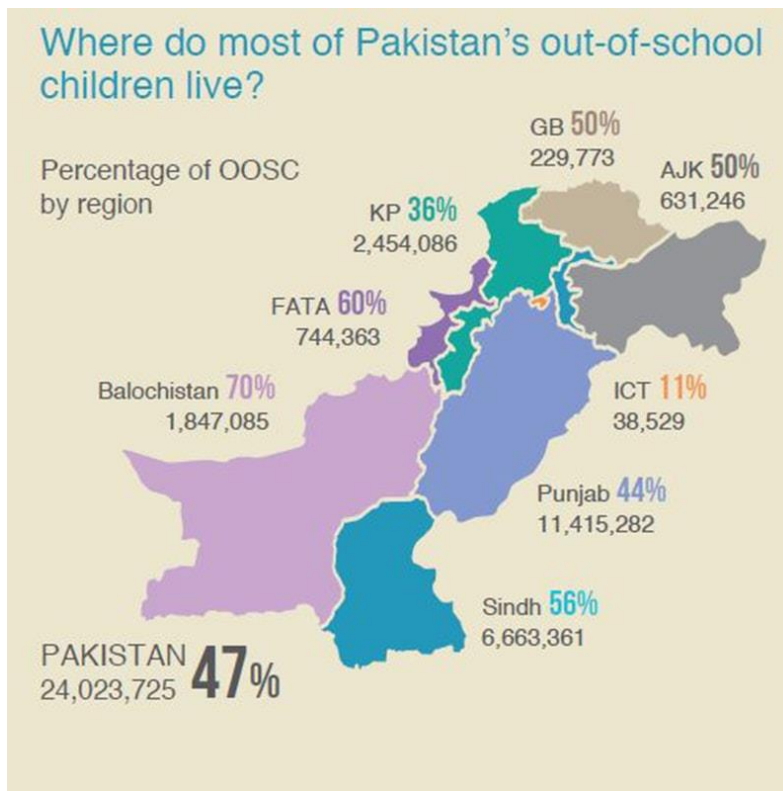
School Dropout:

Another research we carried out is looking at the fundamental reasons as to why students whether they are in school, college or University end up dropping their academic future. According to reports, 24 million out of 51 million children are out of school from the age of 5-16. While the dropout rate is a serious concern, admission in any educational institute stays as a challenge. It is believed that 5.4 million enrolled at some point have dropped out. We interviewed with one of a mutual friend of ours who is from a remote area in Baluchistan who is currently working in a printing shop in F-Sector. Baluchistan is on the top of the province to have highest dropouts almost reaching at 70%. When we look into the root cause of it, various known facts come into picture such as lack of infrastructure and wadera system. When we asked our friend (name disclosed) from Baluchistan, he stated that the village he is from follows a strict wadera system where tribal leaders don't allow them to study because they fear their own dominant position to be taken over since education is a vital tool for personal growth. To even hear this made our heart disheartened as we are still to this date surrounded by such sickening mentality who contribute to the society. These leaders are backed by certain political figures for the sake of few numbers of votes from their area. Moreover, another unfortunate story is of Azam Khan who is currently studying in Iqra University who made a brilliant comeback to the Academic life after 8 long years. When we asked him as to why did he dropout of school back in his secondary school days? His response was the result of the Afghanistan War in which Pakistan interfered for the support of USA. Due to Terrorism being at peak in Pakistan, schools in Azam hometown Chirat were forced to close since the Taliban were aiming for public bodies across the northern areas. Some might say that there should be other choice for Azam and his family however as Azam being the eldest son and the only son he couldn't carry on his education and had to sacrifice his dreams. However, after so many years, now that Chirat is stable Azam has made a return to carry on his studies. From these case studies, we can understand that Pakistan being politically, socially and economically unstable has caused many lives to change in a negative way. One of the aftermaths of such consequences is the dropouts from colleges and university. This ultimately contributes to the Illiteracy rate in Pakistan drastically over the years.

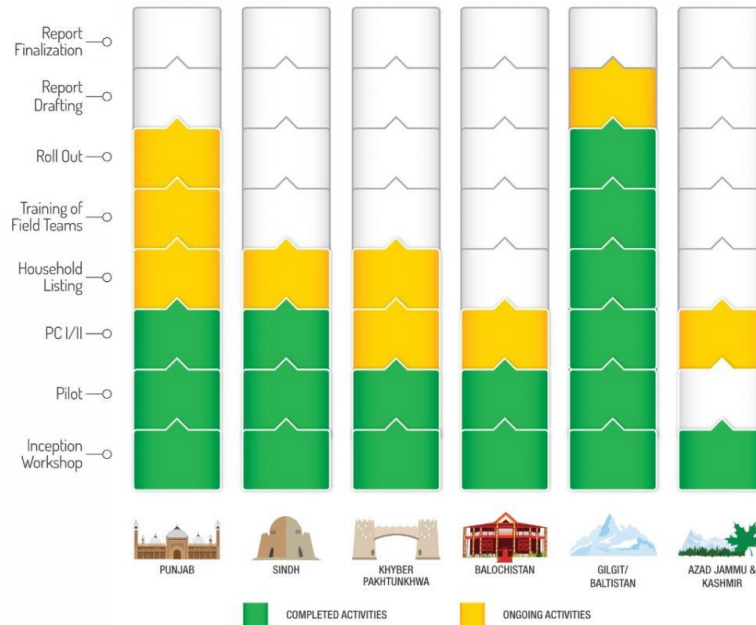
Attitude of a Teacher:

Finally, but not least, poor infrastructure has contributed to the rate of Illiteracy in Pakistan remarkably. It's in human nature that once we are passionate about something and we are not given the right surrounding to utilize that then no way around can a certain individual prosper from that. According to many parents across the country and reports, schools in rural areas are so badly structured and forgotten to an extent that there is no longer running water and rain water drips from the ceilings. Such evidences can be seen in remote areas of Punjab, Sindh and Baluchistan. For further elaboration, we have contacted with one of the Sindh Primary teachers from Larkana to

shed some light to us in this matter. As we know Sindh is mostly run by Officials from the PPP party and have tried to tackle problems across the area through various seminars and workshops however the poor infrastructure has been a problem for quite a long time now. Madam Farida has been teaching in Mehar Junior Girls School for the past 6 years as an English teacher. When we asked her questions as to why do you think we have a problem as a state with educating our people whether they are from the city or village? She got quite emotional and straightforwardly started bashing the government stating that “They don’t consider us being part of the city. We have filed complaint regarding this that we are missing chairs, tables and books, basic necessity to run a school but sadly none of the state government get back to us. They said as long as you’re getting your monthly salary go on.” What we can observe from this is both parties are restraints. The students can’t drop out due to this opportunity being their only way out of poverty while for teachers it has sadly become a finance phenomenon.



CHILD LABOUR SURVEY IN PAKISTAN PROGRESS



Policies Recommendation

When it comes to policies regarding to tackle Illiteracy Rate in Pakistan, we can observe that various programs were initiated by the previous governments. For example, Pakistan New Educational Policy 1998 to 2010 was started on 27th March to double the Literacy rate, highlight the importance of primary education being globalized, demolish non-formal schools, cut down on holidays to widen the learning days, improve the assessment of individuals through the National Testing Service. Furthermore, we have the Prime Minister Literacy that have been given the duty to open up 75,000 non-formal basic schools for those who cant afford basic education. Moreover, the Asian development bank has even sponsored a project called Pilot for young women to complete high school diploma in rural areas around Pakistan. Additionally, from the Islamic perspective we have also the Quran learning center taking part with government to educate children as well. Finally, but not least the National Literacy Movement have also launched program in remote areas of Pakistan such as tehsils and district to eliminate or at least reduce the illiteracy rate. However, if we actually analyze such programs or policies that the previous government have initiated, it has failed miserably because these programs were not properly implemented with true spirit or the right mindset and attitude. They were given tons of donations from worldwide for a good cause yet they failed in allocating it properly. Secondly, there is a lack of political commitment and what we mean by that is if certain political figures were starting such program they would forget to even look back and ask about

feedback. We need true leadership if we are to change certain norms in our country to bring in new changes in Pakistan. In our opinion, we wouldn't suggest any further new policies rather we would emphasis on the supervision and suggest the government to add more percentage from the GDP towards education because at the end of the day it will uplift nation as a whole. Now with the current government, under Ehsaas Program for students, scholarships were given to needy students across the country and from what we observed supervision under the ministry of Education is being well noticed. In a state like Pakistan, policies differ every 5 years and that is what causing us a state for a setback especially in Literacy Rate.

Conclusion

The government of Pakistan will have to identify the issues that are affecting the education system of Pakistan. The government should make the best infrastructures and have to focus on insignificant spending plan in education and also to start awareness campaign to inform to the people about the importance of education because in the rural area most of the population is not aware that how education makes our life better. The media of Pakistan of Pakistan is the best source to spread awareness. Gender inequality is one of the major issues that has bad effects on education system and also on country's development and also has bad effects on the next generation. Napoleon Bonaparte said," Give me an educated mother, I shall promise you the birth of civilized, educated nation. Mostly, girls have to quit their education due to many reasons and become dependent on parents /husbands and also have to face and suffer from unthinkable situations. The government of Pakistan will have to take some serious initiative to tackle this issue by focusing on poverty, insecurity, high cost on education, corruption, poor quality of educations and social norms. As government had passed a law for those parents/guardians who are not sending their children to schools then they will have to pay fine and will be punished. The current government under Ehsaas Program for students, scholarships were given to needy students across the country and from what we observed supervision under the ministry of Education is being well noticed.

References

Javed Hasan Aly (2007), Education In Pakistan, A White Paper; Document To Debate And Finalize The National Education Policy. Ministry of Education Pakistan.

Imran Sharif Chaudhry, Saeed-ur-Rahman (2009), Impact of Gender Inequality in Education on Rural Poverty In Pakistan: An empirical Analysis, European Journal of Economics, Finance and Administrative Sciences.

UNESCO Islamabad (2010), Why Gender Equality in Basic Education in Pakistan.
www.unesco.org.pk

World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 3496. 7-11

UNESCO Institute of Statistics, (2011), Out of school Children: New Data reveal persistent Challenges Education for all Global Monitoring Report, UIS Factsheet No. 12.

M. Boissiere, (2004), Determinants of Primary Education Outcomes in Developing Countries
World Bank, Independent Evaluation Group (IEG), Washington, DC

G. Johnston Healthy, (2004), Wealthy and Wise: A Review of the Wider Benefits of Education.
New Zealand Treasury

R.G. Ridker, Determinants of Educational Achievement and Attainment in Africa: Findings from
Nine Case Studies (No. 62) US Agency for International Development (1997)
Michael Kremer, Nazmul Chaudhury, F. Halsey Rogers, Karthik Muralidharan,
Jeffrey Hammer