

## ABSTRACT

Title:	Effectiveness of Government Plans and Policies for Universal Primary Education in Pakistan
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The purpose of study was to evaluate the Effectiveness of Government Plans and Policies for Universal Primary Education in Pakistan to identify the impediments that hindered the efforts for achievement of UPE in Pakistan and suggest measures to improve the state with regard to universalization of Primary Education in the country. The main objective of the study were: (i) to review the Government education policies, plans and the provision for the achievement of UPE in Pakistan, (ii) to critically analyze policy statements, implementation procedures, provisions and strategies, (iii) to identify factors affecting the implementation of plans and policies regarding UPE and (iv) to suggest measures to make the plans and policies more effective in achieving UPE in Pakistan.

All education policies and Development Plans, developed since inception of Pakistan were analyzed to evaluate their effectiveness. In addition opinion of Planners, Administrators, Heads of institutions and teachers was gathered through

submission of an exhaustive questionnaire administered in person. The questionnaire included major factors like economical, physical, administrative, students' related factors, teachers' related factors, curriculum related factors, students' school leaving reasons, accessibility factors and policy/plan implementation factors to seek the respondents' view about their effects on efforts to achieve UPE. The total sample included 1000 subjects which comprised 25 planners, 35 administrators, 60 heads of institutions, and 880 teachers from different strata of schools stratified as Federal Government Educational Institutions(C/G), educational institutions of Federal Directorate of Education, Islamabad, educational institutions of DEO's(Elementary) Male and Female, Rawalpindi, Army Public Schools, and educational institutions of NGOs.

Document analysis of educational policies and the plans, revealed that the central objective of the entire policies and plans was to achieve UPE. UPE has been repeated by number of national conferences and policy documents, shifting the goal further into future and it is presently set for the year 2015 in agreement with the education MDGs. However, the political instability and the inconsistency in educational policies and constrained resources were major factors in holding back the capacity of the primary education system to respond effectively in achieving this goal. In -depth study of policy documents revealed unrealistic and idealistic targets with insufficient and non commensurating financial support. Major findings of the study were the poverty, lack of political will, resources constraints, political interventions, lack of commitment of teachers, lack of trained teachers and their shortage , poor curricula, female teachers administrative problems, and access to schools, which were the main constraints in achievement of UPE.

A genuine effort is required for the implementation of policy strategies ensuring consistency and eliminating the gap between the educational and the financial planner.