



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



USAID-funded Pakistan Reading Project

پاکستان ریڈنگ پراجیکٹ



Event	National Workshop to finalize Reading Improvement Strategies
Date	13 – 16 th December 2016
Venue	Marriott Hotel, Karachi
Organized by	USAID-funded Pakistan Reading Project
Press coverage date	16- 25 th December 2016
Date of Compilation	29 th December 2016
Number of Pages	6

Workshop

Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training Engineer Muhammad Balighur Rehman on Tuesday stressed the need for a holistic approach to address the country's educational challenges.

He was speaking at the national workshop on the development of Strategic Framework for Reading Improvement Strategies arranged by the USAID Pakistan Reading Project here as the chief guest.

The minister appreciated the dedication and efforts of the PRP and USAID for arranging the workshop and thanked the officials from different provinces and regions for participating in it.

He said reading was crucial for learning and that the first word taught in the Holy Quran was 'Iqra' that meant 'to read'.

"Reading is the fundamental component of learning. According to the EFA Global Monitoring Report, the students who don't achieve a certain level of reading fall behind in cognitive development," he said.

The minister regretted the culture of reading had gradually vanished that was not good for Pakistani children.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/171739-Workshop>

“Reading key to learning: The Minister of State for Federal Education Balighur Rehman on Tuesday said the reading was the key to learning, as the first word taught in Quran was "Iqra" which means "read". Speaking at the National Workshop for developing Strategic Framework for Reading Improvement Strategies arranged by USAID's Pakistan Reading Project (PRP), he lamented that the reading culture had vanished over the period of time which was not good for the growing up children.

He said reading was a fundamental component of learning, according to the EFA Global Monitoring Report, the students who do not achieve a certain level of reading, fall behind in cognitive development. "We need a holistic approach to deal with educational challenges and it's heartening to see such workshops in that direction" he remarked. The minister appreciated the dedication and efforts by the PRP and the team of USAID for arranging the workshop.

He thanked the officials from different regions for participating in this important workshop, adding that "we all are here to have a far-reaching impact on the education sector". The minister hoped that this workshop would lead to the formal endorsement of a national framework for reading improvement strategies in the country.

Ministry offers scholarships for students: The Auqaf, Hajj, Religious & Minority Affairs Department offers merit scholarships (2016-17) to the talented and meritorious students of the minority community, who are pursuing their studies at the Intermediate, Graduate and Post Graduate Levels. Applications on the prescribed form are invited from the enrolled minority students for grant of "Merit Scholarships" 2016-17.

Regular Student or admission taken during the calendar year 2016 are eligible for the scholarship, said a notice of the Auqaf. “

<http://dailytimes.com.pk/islamabad/14-Dec-16/eu-urges-pakistani-universities-for-more-cooperation-through-erasmus-plus>

Workshop

Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training Engineer Muhammad Balighur Rehman on Tuesday stressed the need for a holistic approach to address the country's educational challenges.

He was speaking at the national workshop on the development of Strategic Framework for Reading Improvement Strategies arranged by the USAID Pakistan Reading Project here as the chief guest.

The minister appreciated the dedication and efforts of the PRP and USAID for arranging the workshop and thanked the officials from different provinces and regions for participating in it.

He said reading was crucial for learning and that the first word taught in the Holy Quran was 'Iqra' that meant 'to read'.

"Reading is the fundamental component of learning. According to the EFA Global Monitoring Report, the students who don't achieve a certain level of reading fall behind in cognitive development," he said.

The minister regretted the culture of reading had gradually vanished that was not good for Pakistani children.

<http://pakistan.timesofnews.com/workshop.html>

USAID hosts workshop to develop reading improvement strategies

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), through its Pakistan Reading Project, held a closing ceremony for a 4-day workshop aimed at developing regional and provincial Reading Improvement Strategies (RIS) to improve students ability to learn to read across Pakistan. Each participating provincial group developed its own framework for their province to improve reading instruction and students' reading abilities. Each province will finalize these strategies with the respective governments and then make it part of the official education strategy. Pakistan has developed a National Reading Framework, which includes reading instructional time, reading curriculum, and language of instruction, teacher training and continuous professional support for teachers, textbook and other supplementary reading materials, and reading assessment. The Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, Mr. Baligh ur Rehman and USAID Education Director Dr. Christopher Steel, participated as key note speakers in the inauguration ceremony of the workshop; Mr. Muhammad Rafique Tahir, Joint Education Advisor, from the Ministry of Federal Education and USAID Basic Education Team Leader Jaime Oberlander spoke at the closing ceremony. Participants of the workshop include key officials and technical leads from the provincial governments of AJ&K, Balochistan, FATA, GB, ICT, KP, and Sindh. All participants worked with the national framework to develop RIS for their own provinces and regions.

At the opening ceremony, Dr. Steel highlighted "While we're working in many different areas to support and promote reading in the early grades in the country, there is no denying the fact that long term sustainability – and therefore long term impact and results – are only possible when changes, policies and systems supporting reading are made at the institutional level." On the closing ceremony, USAID Basic Education Team Leader Jaime Oberlander said "The challenges face in the education sector today cannot be addressed in isolation. These challenges require a holistic approach." She further added, "The RIS development process was consultative and addressed the voices and concerns, the suggestions and solutions from all the experts working in the field. I hope, the strategies developed and presented in the workshop will be owned by each and every stakeholder and endorsed by your respective education departments."

The USAID-funded Pakistan Reading Project is a \$165 million project, designed to support provincial and regional departments of education improve the reading skills of primary school children across the country. This program is designed to utilize three interrelated components to affect the quality of early education: improved classroom learning environment for reading, improved policies and systems for reading, and community based support for reading in Pakistan.

USAID Hosts National Workshop to Develop Reading Improvement Strategies in Islamabad

Islamabad, Dec 19 (INP) The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), through its Pakistan Reading Project, held a closing ceremony for a 4-day workshop aimed at developing regional and provincial Reading Improvement Strategies (RIS) to improve students ability to learn to read across Pakistan. Each participating provincial group developed its own framework for their province to improve reading instruction and students' reading abilities. Each province will finalize these strategies with the respective governments and then make it part of the official education strategy. Pakistan has developed a National Reading Framework, which includes reading instructional time, reading curriculum, and language of instruction, teacher training and continuous professional support for teachers, textbook and other supplementary reading materials, and reading assessment Reading assessment

The Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, Mr. Baligh ur Rehman and USAID Education Director Dr. Christopher Steel, participated as key note speakers in the inauguration ceremony of the workshop; Mr. Muhammad Rafique Tahir, Joint Education Advisor, from the Ministry of Federal Education and USAID Basic Education Team Leader Jaime Oberlander spoke at the closing ceremony. Participants of the workshop include key officials and technical leads from the provincial governments of AJ&K, Balochistan, FATA, GB, ICT, KP, and Sindh. All participants worked with the national framework to develop RIS for their own provinces and regions.

At the opening ceremony, Dr. Steel highlighted "While we're working in many different areas to support and promote reading in the early grades in the country, there is no denying the fact that long term sustainability – and therefore long term impact and results – are only possible when changes, policies and systems supporting reading are made at the institutional level."

On the closing ceremony, USAID Basic Education Team Leader Jaime Oberlander said "The challenges face in the education sector today cannot be addressed in isolation. These challenges require a holistic approach." She further added, "The RIS development process was consultative and addressed the voices and concerns, the suggestions and solutions from all the experts working in the field. I hope, the strategies developed and presented in the workshop will be owned by each and every stakeholder and endorsed by your respective education departments."

The USAID-funded Pakistan Reading Project is a \$165 million project, designed to support provincial and regional departments of education improve the reading skills of primary school children across the country. This program is designed to utilize three interrelated components to affect the quality of early education: improved classroom learning environment for reading, improved policies and systems for reading, and community based support for reading in Pakistan.

Creative Associates (Facebook)

20th December 2016

<https://www.facebook.com/CreativeAssociatesInternational/posts/1357554184301293>