ASER Pakistan

A Citizen Led Accountability initiative

Huma Zia Faran
ASER PAKISTAN 2010-2015

- Citizen led large scale national household survey (3-16 years).
- Quality of education in rural and some urban areas (5-16 years).
- Seeks to provide evidence on learning and access.
- Influence National & Provincial policy and actions for Right To Education (RTE) Article 25-A.
- Provides information for tracking MDG/EFA trends and targets up to 2015.
- Influencing goal setting for Post-2015 agenda.
Three fold objectives:

- To get reliable estimates of the status of children’s schooling and basic learning (reading and arithmetic level)
- To measure the change in these basic learning and school statistics from last year
- To interpret these results and use them to affect policy decisions at various levels.
Citizens Response To Learning Challenges

A South-South Initiative

India 2005
Pakistan 2008
Uwezo 2009
Mali 2012
Senegal 2012
Mexico 2014

Conceptualized as a Citizens’ Social Movement
Leading from the Front with Bold & Distributed Leadership Model
The JUBA family spreading globally

Nigeria is exploring options to join the JUBA family in 2015
ASER the best example of Citizens Led Learning Accountability Initiative

- **2011**: 85 districts (Rural), 3 districts (Urban)
- **2012**: 136 districts (Rural), 13 districts (Urban)
- **2013**: 138 districts (Rural), 21 districts (Urban)
- **2014**: 144 districts (Rural), 21 districts (Urban)

Scale of ASER 2011-2014
Scale & Scope (Rural) 2014

- 251,694 Children (3-16 Years)
- 144 Rural Districts
- 5,500 Schools
- 4,178 Villages
- 82,837 Households
Scale & Scope (Urban) 2014

- 27,733 Children (3-16 Years)
- 21 Urban Centres
- 735 Schools
- 520 Blocks
- 10,259 Households
Sample:
Rural: 600 households per district.
Two-stage stratified sample;
30 Villages selected randomly using the village directory of the latest Census. The Probability Proportional to Size Sampling (PPS) technique adopted
20 households per village and in each village.
1 govt. and 1 private school are surveyed

Urban: Primary Sampling Units – PBS
- Provision of Dataset on
  - Learning Outcomes
  - Access
  - School Facilities

- Trainings
- Field Survey
- Data Collection
- ASER Report
- National
- Provincial
- District
- Policy Briefs
- District Report Card

- Report Launches
  - National, Provincial, District
  - Policy Dialogues/Seminars (Regional/Local)
  - ASER Baithaks/Village Gathering
  - CSO Coalition meetings
  - Media Training
  - Mass dissemination:
    - Poster (target/actions based)

- Informed RTE 25-A campaign
- High Level Endorsements
- Provided Baseline for provincial Sector Reforms/Plans
- Influenced political agenda/campaigns
- Media Campaigns for transforming education
- Triggered Research
- Demand from research institutions

Civil society/Partners engagement at all levels

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY
ASER ASSESSMENT TOOLS

ASER Assessment tools are prepared in following categories:

- Reading (Urdu/Sindhi/Pashto)
- Arithmetic
- English
- General Knowledge

Assessments are based on Class II level curriculum for English & Urdu/Sindhi/Pashto and Class III level for Arithmetic.
Proportion of enrolled children (6-16 years) has remained the same as that of 2013.
Learning Levels: Urdu/Sindhi/Pashto (Class 5)

- 2013: 50% Can Read Story
- 2014: 46% Can Read Story
Learning Levels: English (Class 5)

- 2013: 43% Can Read Sentence
- 2014: 42% Can Read Sentence
Learning Levels: Arithmetic (Class 5)

Can Do 2-Digit Division

2013: 43%
2014: 40%
Facilities

MISSING FACILITIES

Working Toilet
- 25%

Drinking Water
- 21%

Play Ground
- 62%

Boundary Wall
- 27%

Government Primary Schools
- 49%

Private Primary Schools
- 43%
Development Partners

OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS

UKaid from the Department for International Development

DAR E. TALEEM O. AAGAH

Dubai Cares
ASER INFORMING OTHER PROGRAMS
(NEW ACTIVITIES)
Citizens’ Movement for Quality Education (CMQE)

- Nationwide scalable campaigns triggered by evidence on quality and access
- Alliances & Partnerships are at heart of ITA's work
ASER Pakistan – Citizens on the Move ....
Citizens Movement for Quality Education (CMQE)

- Right to Education
- Article 25 A Free Compulsory Education for 5-16 years
- 2 million signatures

- Chalo Parho Barho – let’s read and grow
- Accelerated learning program – for out of school and in-school children at risk of dropping out due to learning gaps.
- Learning 4 Access Program

- Children’s Literature Festival – CLF
- A movement to promote the culture of reading and creativity through a multi-sensory program – held across the country
ASER ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN
A story of partnerships and Citizen Participation
ASER Advocacy Targets

- Government (National/Provincial Level)
- Community (Village Level)
- Civil society organizations (District Level)
Communicating ASER: The Advocacy Model

**Village**
- Village baithak (Community gatherings) review results for action
- Mobilize citizens.
- Targets teachers, parents, government field officers.

**District**
- District Seminar /launch based on ASER findings
- Civil society coalitions for Education Development
- Demand for quality education generated through advocacy & action posters
- District Report Cards

**Provincial / State**
- Provincial Seminar/launch
- Departmental briefings based on ASER data
- Policy seminars/dialogues – thematic e.g. OOSC /Gender

**National**
- National Launch on ASER Findings
- Briefing to Research institution i.e. SDPI, Jinnah institute, PEAS, etc. And many more

**Global** → Influencing Post 2015 Agenda through LMTF, Advisory Board Meeting etc.

**Media Partners:**
- Newspaper
- TV- campaigns
- Social Media
  - Face book
  - Twitter
- Policy booklets
- Friends of ASER
- Presentations
- Media Kits

**Supported by regular media coverage both in Print & TV**
Media Coverage

62pc of third graders can't read an Urdu sentence

Pakistan has second lowest school enrolment: study

Teachers who cannot teach

75pc children unable to read English sentence: report

Demand for women's education on rise in Pakistan
Transforming Education Campaigns in Media

• RTE: Youth Ambassadors.
• ASER data being used for their campaign “Zara Sochiyae” (Let Us Reflect)
• Media Ambassadors (Fahd Hussain & Fareeha Idrees)
• Media Trainings
• Teacher Trainings
Politicians knocking on the doors
Pakistani Elections 2013

Pledging & Taking Action for Education in their Constituencies -
Political Mobilization through Education
ASER Impact

ASER Endorsements:

• Endorsed by Chief Minister KPK; Education Minister AJK.

• Politicians “Knocking for Education” – Ahsan Iqbal from PML-N.

• As baseline data for multi-million dollar projects (DFID, USAID etc).
Ahsan Iqbal - Member of the National Assembly in Pakistan and the former Federal Minister for Education is now a Champion of the ASER Survey 2012 data collection activity in Narrowal District, Punjab!

BE A PART OF CHANGE!
MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO CHILDREN’s LEARNING.
BECOME THE CHAMPIONS OF EDUCATION REFORM
JOIN THE ASER PAKISTAN CAMPAIGN 2012-2015
Political Economy of Learning: A challenge to ASER by the Political Leaders of Pakistan

Watch out for results: www.aserpakistan.org
ASER Impact

QUOTING ASER

Cited in key government documents e.g.
• Education sector plan Balochistan, Roadmap to Reform Education Program Punjab.
• Cited in Political Parties’ Manifestos (PTI).
• Shared with the legal community, Judges, Chief Justices etc.
• Quoted by Michael Barber in ‘The Good News from Pakistan”.
ASER Impact

• Data used in various national and international universities and research institutes. These include:
  a. IDEAS
  b. PMIU
  c. University of Columbia

Weblinks to ASER:

• ASER has been linked to UNSECO, WIDE-GMR website, Planning Commission website, Ministry of Education website and on other Research Institute data banks.
ASER GLOBAL IMPACT

• Involvement with LMTF.
• ASER part of Save the Children.
• Featured on NORRAG NEWSBite.
• Influencing the post 2015 development agenda and goal setting in regional and international meetings and consultations (CIES, UKFIET etc.)
ASER INTERNSHIP

Broad Activities:

• Understand education landscape of Pakistan.
• Field visits (Public & Private Sector Schools)
• Understanding ASER (tool development, survey methodology, statistical analysis, policy dialogues, communication strategy)
• Conduct a research & training course with the help of ASER Team.

• And also if anybody is interested in writing about ASER, the data is available for free on the website.
THANK YOU!

WWW.ASERPAKISTAN.ORG
HUMA.ZIA@ASERPAKISTAN.ORG