Making Quality Education Accessible: Investing in Today’s Education for Tomorrow

At the macro level, general knowledge about reasons behind low level of school admissions and dropout rates exists. However, the ILM Ideas project aims to capture more specific issues behind the phenomenon in the targeted districts. It is because given almost similar conditions as compared with other districts in Punjab, while the gross enrollment rate in public schools in other districts is picking up, in Vehari during last four to five years, it has fallen to almost 9% (PBS 2011), while in Khanewal, it has barely maintained itself. Based on results of a one-and-a-half-year research project ‘Making Quality Education Accessible in Pakistan: A Social Accountability Perspective’ currently being implemented in district Khanewal and Vehari, the ILM Ideas panel aims to seek answers/Policy recommendation against the following questions/points:

1. What are the reasons behind low level of school admissions and high rates of dropout at the primary and middle level public schools in district Vehari and Khanewal?

2. What is the present state of quality of education and what are the reasons behind this state of quality of education in Districts Vehari and Khanewal?

3. What is the status of participatory governance in education sector in the targeted districts?

4. What are the most significant gender gaps in access and quality of education in both the districts?

5. What are the most significant rural-urban gaps in access and quality of education in both the districts?

6. How effective participatory school governance methods can be in addressing these reasons? [Note: “Participatory” implies participation of local/concerned communities). The concept of ‘participation’ promotes the principle that those who are directly affected by the performance of a school are the ones who should be involved in its monitoring for effective management].

Potential speakers are invited to submit their abstracts/researches addressing the mentioned areas.

References:

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1 ILM Ideas, funded by DFID (UK’s Department for International Development) is a one-and-a-half year long project on Making Quality Education Accessible in Pakistan, being implemented by SDPI in district Khanewal and Vehari. Project period: Feb 2013 to July 2014.