

Report of the Standing Committee on Education, Health and Environment

I, Chairperson of Standing Committee on Education, Health and Environment, have the honor to submit, on behalf of the committee, the report of the first three sessions (from Nov,09 - April, 10). Every session has been a busy session for the committee. It is a pleasure to present the report of all the efforts of the Education, Health and Environment committee members and the other members of youth parliament, who consistently assist us to achieve our required goals.

The committee comprises the following members

Members List:	Position
1. Ayesha Bilal Bhatti	Chairperson
2. Zulqarnain Haider Baloch	Minister (member)
3. Mohammad Atif	Member
4. Nabeeha Mohayuddin	Member
5. Umer Raza Paracha	Member
6. Bilal Qasmi	Member
7. Mohammad Salim	Member
8. Syed Manzoor Shah	Member

The details of the committee meetings, discussions in the meetings and workings of committee in the first three sessions are given below.

Work and Discussion of Session 1

The committee held its first meeting on **7th, November, 2009**. During first session of youth parliament, committee had only one meeting of 2hours. In the first half of the meeting, members unanimously elected Ayesha Bilal Bhatti as its chairperson. Later in the second half of the meeting, all members focused on the key issues and problems pertaining to Education, Health, and Environment in our country (Pakistan) and contributed their view that how youth can play its

effective role in solving these problems. The major issues under discussion during the first Session were on Education including key issues like, alarming illiteracy rate in Pakistan, the shortcomings in the education system, and environmental and medical hazards in the country. Finally committee members narrow down the topic for the committee agenda on Literacy

First Agenda briefing

- **Titled:** Youth Role in promoting Literacy in Pakistan
- **Discussion:** the summary of member's discussion is

The picture of illiteracy in Pakistan is grim. Pakistan ranks fourth in terms of the number of adult illiterates among south and west Asian countries. Recent Taliban activities have added fuel to the fire. Pakistan is facing grave domestic and international threats to its survival which can only be dealt if the potential of Pakistani youth is exploited through conventional, technical and higher education. Very low Literacy rate is undeniably one of the greatest needs facing the country.

- **Action:** It was decided to bring an effective policy on literacy with suggested recommendations that how youth can play its effective role in promoting literacy rate in Pakistan.
- **Course of action:** Before the start of the second session of the youth parliament, chairperson had called number of online meetings of the members of the committee and invited their suggestions and proposals in drafting the policy for youth role in promoting literacy in Pakistan
- **Result:** Policy was formulated by the committee. It was the joint venture of both parties at the Youth Parliament of Pakistan provided recommendations that how youth can participate in promoting the literacy rate in Pakistan. The purpose of this policy, prepared by the Standing committee of Youth Parliament of Pakistan was not only to high light the alarming rate, challenges and factors responsible for illiteracy in Pakistan, but also to give some suggestions and possible actions that how youth can participate in promoting the literacy rate in our country. Committee tried its level best to give some valuable ideas to the Ministry of education on behalf of the youth of Pakistan that may help the federal

government of Pakistan in forming a policy that should help in raising the literacy rate of our country and to achieve adequate educational targets.

- **Work done:** policy was laid down, unanimously accepted by the committee members and was submitted to the secretariat for the implementation.

Work and discussion of Session 2

The committee in its second meeting **dated 3rd, February, 2010** formally discussed the policy formulated about the Youth role in promoting literacy in Pakistan, and then it was unanimously accepted by the committee members. In the very same meeting, to speed up the efficiency and the quantity of the committee work, it was agreed by the members to sub-divide the committee on “Sub-Committee of Education”, and “Sub-committee of Health and Environment”. The number of topics was discussed related to health and environment issues. Both sub committees were directed to produce their work by end of the second session.

Sub-committee on education decided to work on the uniformity in the medium of education in Pakistan.

Sub-committee on health decided to high light the rapid increasing medical negligence cases and to formulate a law regarding this important issue.

The committee in third its meeting **4th, feb,2010** discussed the growing medical negligence cases in the country and decided to formulate an act called ***Medical Negligence Law 2010***. The chairperson invited suggestion and proposals not only from the committee members, but also from the member of youth parliament especially related to the field of medical and law.

- **Rational of discussion:** PMDC lacks authority to deal with cases of medical negligence though PMDC has revised its code of ethics to include modern concepts but still it has been observed that it is not responsible for all the health practitioners. There is a dire need for the formulation of the national policy for the patient protection and regulation of appropriate health services. Due to lack of valid law and /or Board dealing specifically

with medical negligence, most of the complaints are brushed off without any action, there has been a surge in the number of cases as well as fatal cases that go unreported due to lack of unaccountability.

The committee in its meeting dated **5th, feb, 2010**, discussed a bill drafted by the sub-committee of Health and environment for the enactment of the Medical Negligence Act 2010. It was considered by the whole committee. The chairperson gave the briefing of the proposed actions and invited the further amendments in it. During meeting after a detail discussion and exchange of ideas and information, the drafted bill of ***Medical Negligence Act 2010*** was decided to be introduced in the House of youth parliament. Bill was presented in the order of the day of 7th, February, 10. But could not be presented in the house, and was referred to the next session for presentation as the session ended.

Work and discussion of Session 3

The committee in its fifth meeting dated **March 31, 2010**, had discussions on number of topics presented in the minutes of the committee. One of key issue was the unsatisfactory performance of public/government primary level schools.

- **Discussion:** it is unfortunate that we see a multilayered educational system in Pakistan, which is harmful to national integrity and national cohesion and is catering to division and divide. There are many systems working here in Pakistan, resulting in not only in synergy but also social division and conflict e.g. we have English medium schools, Urdu medium schools, Cambridge system and religious Madrasas system. Students coming out of English medium schools especially good private sector school, get the best paid jobs in the country whereas those passing out from Urdu medium schools are usually destined to work in clerical and lower levels positions. Religious madrasa turnout yet another class that are usually unaware of the world outside their own, with their strong sectarian bias and little or no training in modern disciplines, are usually ill-equipped to interact meaningfully with the larger society and are also monumental at times in spreading sectarianism.
- **Action:** Although projects like these take time to develop, so keeping in view the limitations and the short comings finally it was suggested that to bridge up the differences

between the public and private schools, the possible solution can be *to encourage the public- private partnership in the education sector* in order to improve the standard of education in the public sector and to reduce the difference between public and private institutes without putting any operational or curriculum limitations on private educational systems. It was suggested that government provides necessary infrastructure whereas private sector provides managerial function.

- **Result:** a resolution was moved in the House for debate on Public-Private partnership in education sector

The committee held its sixth meeting on **1st,April, 2010**. During the course of the meeting a Bill on **Clean drinking water policy Act** was submitted to the committee by the members of Youth parliament with a request to furnish its views on the bill for consideration.

- **Discussion:** National Clean Drinking Water Bill says that there is policy existing in the country about the national drinking water, but there is no law that can secure the implementation of this policy. As this issue is of great concern of health and environment of Pakistani nation so an Act should be formulated in this regard. Committee reviewed, discussed and highlighted the importance of National drinking water Bill and added necessary recommendations as well.

The committee in its seventh meeting dated **April, 3rd, 2010**, discussed the importance and limitations of public-private partnership in education sector.

Note: Bills were presented in the house on 4th April, 2010, which included Medical Negligence Bill, and a Clean Drinking water Bill. The bills were referred to the next session for discussion in the house

Plan of action for Future:

The next meeting of Education, Health and Environment committee will take place on May 26, 2010. The topics to be discussed in the next session include **Waste Strategy for Pakistan 2010, with a view that how youth can be a part of the waste disposal policy in Pakistan**. This issue is of great concern because it is not only related to the health of the people but also to the

environment in which we live. Along with education reforms about public-private partnership will also be discussed.

Concluding Remarks:

The standing committee of education, Health and Environment of youth parliament held a total number of 7 meetings, with each meeting at an average of one hour, thus the committee has spent about 8 hours during its deliberations. During the various committee meetings important topics related to Education and Health issues came up for discussion. At the end of seven meetings after exchange of ideas, and information committee came up with one Policy, two Bills, and one resolution on Public private partnership. We hope that Education, Health and Environment committee would come out with something that can make a difference.

If you have any questions, please contact at ayeshabilal123@yahoo.com

Ayesha Bilal Bhatti

Chairperson

Standing Committee on Education, Health and Environment

Dated: 25-05-2010