

UNESCO Islamabad Launches GEM Report 2017

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ISLAMABAD, (Pakistan Point News - 16th Nov, 2017):The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in collaboration with Institute of Social and Policy Sciences, launched the Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report 2017 - Accountability in education: meeting our commitments . The Report looks at the different ways people and institutions should be held accountable for reaching the Sustainable Development Goal 4 on education.

Ms. Vibeke Jensen, UNESCO Representative to Pakistan and Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman, Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training officially launched the report, said a press release on Thursday. During the presentation of the key findings of the report, Ms. Vibeke Jensen highlighted that the ambitious education outcomes, such as those in SDG 4, rely on multiple actors from governments right down to students fulfilling often shared responsibilities.

But while responsibilities are shared, accountability is not: it is connected to single actors, who are held to account for their individual or institutional responsibilities. She also stressed that accountability starts with governments as they are ultimately the primary duty bearers of the right to education. In his keynote speech, Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman, Federal Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training emphasized that the 2017 GEM Report looks at the topic accountability in education which is very relevant and pertinent to Pakistan.

He said that democracy is the best accountability where you listen to people and get feedback. He also mentioned that financial allocation on education in Pakistan has increased and because of that more out of school children are now in schools. Pakistan has already adopted SDG-4 and has converted it into our national development goals where education is our first priority and we are fully committed towards it. The launch was followed by a panel discussion facilitated by Dr Salman Humayun, Executive Director of I-SAPS to discuss the education accountability issues in Pakistan especially from the provincial perspective on accountability. Speaking on the panel, Dr Jamila Razzaq who has also co-authored a national case study said A well performing education system in Pakistan can only be built by creating enabling political, social and legislative conditions. This system has to perform well for all learners in the country- whether living in urban centres, rural areas, mountainous regions or remote deserts. This tall order demands not only an efficient and effective accountability system but also a sense of responsibility shared by all stakeholders. A wide range of representatives from

government, development partner agencies, civil society, academia, and media attended the event.

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