

World Literacy Day observed**'Constitution envisages compulsory education up to secondary level'**

KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister for Education & Literacy Pir Mazharul Haq has said that the 1973 Constitution of Pakistan provides for free and compulsory education from primary to secondary level and the state is responsible to implement the same.

In his message, read out by Secretary Education Muhammad Siddique Memon to the participants of a walk held here on Thursday to mark World Literacy Day, the minister quoted the Article 37/B of constitution, which says, "Free and compulsory education up to secondary level is the constitutional obligation of the state".

He said the theme of International Literacy Day is 'Literacy and Peace' which make people independent and ensure their participation in social system to enlighten them with civil rights. The literacy also builds self-confidence in the people and enhances their interest for participation in political and social system.

He said literacy is essential for the eradication of poverty, curbing of population growth, achieving gender equity and ensuring sustainable development, peace and democracy. "Literate people are better geared to meet pressing development challenges," he added.

He said the Provincial Plan of Action 2003 on Education For All (EFA) was being prepared in the wake of challenges being faced by the Sindh government in achieving the goals set by Jometin Conference 1990, subsequently revised in Dakkar Conference 2000.

Present Peoples' government is taking serious efforts to achieve the targets before the specified time till 2015, he said.

EFA Units have been established in all 23 districts and at provincial level in the year 2008-09 as the first step towards positive progress.

Awareness campaigns were initiated at union council, taluka/town, district, regional and provincial level to aware the people about the dangers of illiteracy and their responsibilities individually and jointly at all levels.

Girls' enrollment was also enhanced through re-opening of 400 closed girls' schools through Rural Support Programmes, in which 12,000 girls students continued their education. ppi

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