Expanding citizen voice in education systems accountability: Evidence from citizen led assessments.

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www.aserpakistan.org
Background

• The improvement of the quality (rather than quantity) of education being emphasized.

• A significant increase in the use of educational assessments to measure gains and losses in quality of learning.

• Low-income countries have begun to adopt and adapt international and other large scale national assessments for a variety of uses.

• Citizen led large scale household based assessments are gathering momentum by illustrating the power of informed citizenry to influence national and global agendas for education and learning.
Background

• The results are representative at district, provincial and national level.
• The findings are disseminated at multiple levels to inform policy making
  i. National level
  ii. District level education authorities
  iii. Community level to understand and create awareness regarding the extent of the problem and work towards measurable solutions.

• The purpose of this presentation is to highlight how citizen led campaigns gathering hard core evidence are influencing governance and accountability at the community, provincial and national levels.

• It will explain how a community led approach to data gathering and analysis in context can bring about appropriate response from stakeholders.
Pal Network Mobilizing Citizens for over a Decade

Scale & Size

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Districts/Regions</th>
<th>Volunteers</th>
<th>Communities</th>
<th>Households</th>
<th>Schools</th>
<th>Children</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASER India</td>
<td>577</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>16,497</td>
<td>341,070</td>
<td>15,206</td>
<td>569,229</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASER Pakistan</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>4,698</td>
<td>93,096</td>
<td>6,235</td>
<td>279,427</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beekunko (Mali)*</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>975</td>
<td>1,080</td>
<td>21,251</td>
<td>2,259</td>
<td>79,079</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jàngando (Senegal)</td>
<td>14 (regions)</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>9,928</td>
<td>856</td>
<td>26,014</td>
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<td>MIA (Mexico)</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>2,400</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>3,100</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Uwezo</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
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<td>9,300</td>
<td>4,521</td>
<td>62,089</td>
<td>4,441</td>
<td>135,109</td>
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<td>Tanzania</td>
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<td>8,253</td>
<td>3,930</td>
<td>78,600</td>
<td>3,688</td>
<td>104,162</td>
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<td>Uganda</td>
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<td>4,800</td>
<td>2,372</td>
<td>34,013</td>
<td>2,353</td>
<td>87,339</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,364</strong></td>
<td><strong>59,258</strong></td>
<td><strong>33,505</strong></td>
<td><strong>642,447</strong></td>
<td><strong>35,225</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,283,459</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Data for Beekunko are from 2013

Designed for 30-60 volunteers per district – Majority young people – engaged in a BIG cause!
Theory of Change

Mobilize partners and volunteers to collect evidence

Communicate findings

Mobilize communities to voice needs and take action

Advocate for government or service provider action

Focus education priorities and resources on improving learning

Improve government responsiveness/accountability to citizen’s needs and demands
The Rigor & Stages of Mobilization

Objective

- Provision of Dataset on:
  - Learning Outcomes
  - Access
  - School Facilities

Evidence

- Trainings
- Field Survey
- Data Collection
- Finalizing Reports:
  - National
  - Provincial
  - District
- Policy Briefs
- District Report Cards

Advocacy

- Report Launches
  - National, Provincial, District
- Policy Dialogues
  - Regional /Local
- Village Gatherings
- CSO Coalition Meetings
- Media Training
- Mass Dissemination
  - Poster (target/ actions based)

Impact

- Informs RTE
- 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 and Social Capital Formation

IMPLEMENTATION CYCLE
Seeking Stakeholders Attention: Building Social Capital

• Politicians
• Parliamentarians
• Bureaucrats
• Judiciary & Judicial Academies
• Academia / Think tanks

Decision Makers

• Children
• Parents / Community
• Teachers/ Associations
• Youth
• Media
Accountability of Policy Makers: Examples from the field

- Mali, Senegal and East Africa (Beekunko, Jangandoo and Uwezo) have invited local elected officials, district education officers and others to participate in their assessments.
- In Senegal, Jàngandoo has started to use social media in its campaign.
- ASER Pakistan started a campaign called ‘Politicians Knocking on Doors.’
- In both India and Pakistan, there have been promising efforts to work collaboratively with state and local education officials to use assessment results to inform the design of education programs to accelerate learning.
- ASER India ran an ambitious Lakhon Mein Ek—or “one in one hundred thousand”—campaign that involved finding volunteers in over 100,000 villages to conduct a complete census of children’s learning levels. The results were compiled into a report card and shared with the community.
ASER PAKISTAN ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN

A story of partnerships and Citizen Participation
Communicating ASER: The Advocacy Model

**Village**
- Village baithak (Community gatherings)
- 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, PMIU, etc. And many more

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

Influencing Post 2015 Agenda through LMTF, Advisory Board Meeting etc.
Citizens Involved in Research & Advocacy

Policy Briefs

Posters

District Report Cards

ASER Baithaks (Community Gatherings)

Videos: Politicians Knocking on the Door for Education

Media Coverage
Right to Education, Advocates for education

Policy Dialogues: A series of Dialogues were held across Pakistan to highlight and understand the status of RTE from the perspective of the government bodies, civil society, NGOs and all stakeholders.

#Up4School: Pakistan to break all records by collection 3 million signatures in support of making the Right of Education to ALL.

Education Youth Ambassadors: September 22nd 2014, saw the birth of the Education Youth Ambassadors in Pakistan launched in Collaboration with A World at School (AWAS), an initiative by Sir Gordon Brown, Special Envoy for Education with the UN Secretary General.

Global Business for Coalition: Private sector cooperation across Pakistan have joined hands under one umbrella to further the cause of education.

Education Countdown:
1. Provide Safe schools in emergencies
2. Stop Child Marriage
3. Abolish Child Labor
4. End discrimination against girls
5. Teacher training
Contribution to the FIELD!

- Large scale annual citizen led nationwide citizens’ audit of learning generate an enormous energy and synergy.
- As an evaluation of citizens, parents & government performance.
- Bring educational issues to the forefront by involving all stakeholders from local to global.
- Provide large scale data sets for research and policy communities.
- Influence actions – village - district – state national and global agendas.
THANK YOU...!