



Character
Education
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25



CHARACTER MATTERS

An official newsletter of Character Education Foundation, intended for individuals who share our vision of a brighter future of Pakistan. We are dedicated to nurturing the character of our young generation through values-based education, believing that true national progress begins with moral and ethical development.

Self-Awareness: The Strength That Guides the Self

Self-awareness is more than knowing yourself — it is a reflection of honesty, humility, and inner clarity. In a world where people often look outward for answers, understanding your own thoughts, feelings, and intentions becomes a quiet form of strength. It says, “I know my strengths. I recognize my weaknesses. I strive to grow with sincerity.”

The Quran invites believers to reflect within themselves and examine their hearts and actions. Self-awareness helps a person recognize their intentions, correct their mistakes, and grow with humility. It nurtures responsibility, sincerity, and a conscious connection between one’s actions and values.

When you develop self-awareness, your life becomes more balanced. You understand your emotions, control your reactions, and make wiser choices. This inner clarity quietly shapes your character and helps you live with authenticity and purpose.

So while the world focuses on appearances, choose to look within. Let your heart reflect, your mind understand, and your actions align with your values. True strength lies in a person who knows themselves, improves themselves, & walks through life with mindful awareness.

Inside Story Includes: • **Pre-Budget Education Dialogue FY 2026–27**
A Roadmap for Growth and National Progress for a Brighter Future of Pakistan

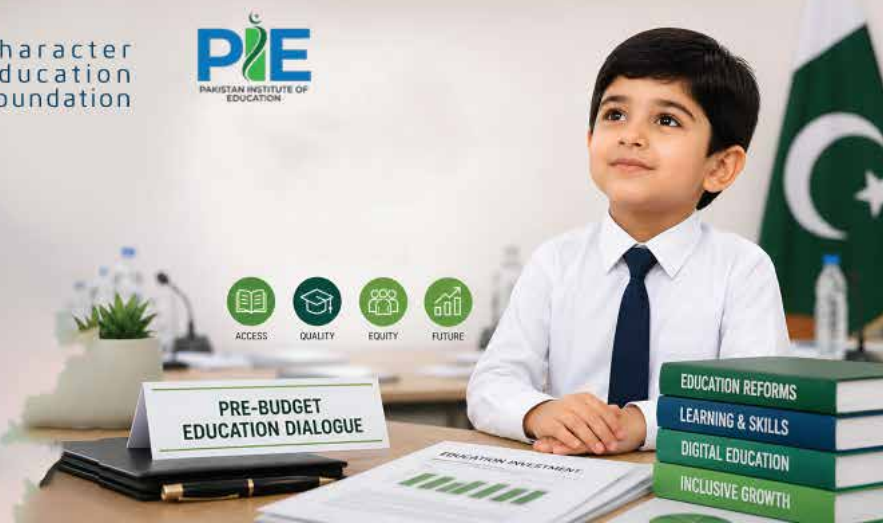


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FY 2026-27 PRE-BUDGET EDUCATION DIALOGUE

21 May, 2026



Unlocking Pakistan's Potential Through Education: A Roadmap for Growth and National Progress for a Brighter Future of Pakistan

Pakistan stands at a defining moment in its educational journey. With one of the world's youngest populations, the country possesses an extraordinary opportunity to transform its future through strategic investment in education. While public spending on education currently remains below international benchmarks, this challenge presents a powerful opportunity to strengthen human capital, accelerate economic growth, and equip future generations with the skills needed to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

Today, Pakistan's literacy rate stands at approximately 62%, and millions of children remain outside the formal education system. Bringing these children into schools and improving learning outcomes is not merely an educational objective; it is an economic and national development imperative.

A National Conversation on Education Reform- Pre-Budget Education Dialogue FY 2026-27.

Recognizing the importance of this moment, Character Education Foundation (CEF) organized the Pre-Budget Education Dialogue FY 2026-27 on May 21, 2026, in Islamabad.

The dialogue brought together more than 70 participants from across Pakistan's education landscape, including policymakers, economists, researchers, academics, development practitioners, and civil society leaders. Representatives from leading institutions such as PIE, IPS, AIOU, TABADLAB, I-SAPS, PIDE, NUST, FDE, and the Malala Fund contributed valuable insights and practical recommendations.

The discussions focused on a critical question:

How can Pakistan position education as a driver of economic productivity, social progress, and national competitiveness?

The recommendations that emerged offer a practical roadmap for achieving that vision.

1. Investing in Education as a National Growth Strategy

Participants emphasized that education should be viewed not as a cost, but as one of the nation's most important long-term investments.





Key recommendations included:

- Gradually increasing education spending from 2% of GDP in FY 2026-27 to 4% by FY 2029-30.
- Establishing a National Education Investment Fund to support out-of-school children, technology integration, and innovation.
- Encouraging provinces to prioritize education within future fiscal arrangements.
- Sustained investment in education can strengthen workforce productivity, attract investment, and create greater economic opportunities for future generations.

2. Improving Coordination and Maximizing Resources

Pakistan has significant opportunities to improve efficiency by strengthening coordination across educational institutions and provinces.

Experts proposed:

- Establishing a Standing Inter-Provincial Education Coordination Council (SIPECC) to promote collaboration on standards, assessments, and teacher development.
- Strengthening national ownership of curriculum and assessment policies to ensure alignment with local realities and future workforce needs.
- Streamlining institutions working on out-of-school children to improve service delivery and resource utilization.
- Better coordination can help ensure that every rupee invested in education delivers greater impact.

3. Preparing Learners for the Future

As technology, artificial intelligence, and global labor markets continue to evolve, Pakistan has an opportunity to prepare its youth for emerging careers and industries by:

- **Expanding Technical and Vocational Education**
Participants recommended increasing investment in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) to equip young people with practical, market-relevant skills and strengthen Pakistan's global workforce competitiveness.
- **Bringing Artificial Intelligence into Education**
A nationwide AI-in-Schools initiative can help teachers personalize learning, improve classroom effectiveness, and prepare students for an increasingly digital future.
- **Building Climate-Ready Schools**
Investing in resilient school infrastructure can protect learning continuity and ensure that students continue their education even during environmental challenges.

4. Empowering Schools and Supporting Every Learner

Schools are where educational transformation ultimately happens. Participants highlighted the importance of giving schools the resources and flexibility needed to respond to local needs.

Recommendations included:

- Direct Support for Schools
- Providing schools with dedicated operational funding would enable principals to address maintenance, repairs, and essential school requirements more efficiently.
- Advancing Inclusive Education



- Children with disabilities deserve equal access to quality education. Greater investment in inclusive learning environments and assistive technologies can help ensure that every child reaches their full potential.
- Prioritizing Education in Development Spending
- Provincial governments can accelerate educational progress by directing a greater share of development resources toward learning and school improvement initiatives.

5. Building a Strong Foundation for Accountability

Effective decision-making requires reliable information. Participants stressed the importance of strengthening Pakistan's education data systems to support evidence-based policymaking.

Recommendations included:

- Enhancing the capacity of the Pakistan Institute of Education (PIE).
- Conducting regular national learning assessments.
- Developing real-time data systems for monitoring enrolment and learning outcomes.
- Expanding targeted support for vulnerable families to help children remain in school.

Reliable data will enable policymakers to track progress, identify challenges early, and allocate resources more effectively.

A Four-Year Path Forward

Year 1 (FY 2027)

- Introduce a 2% GDP education spending target.
- Establish SIPECC.
- Launch direct school support mechanisms.

Year 2 (FY 2028)

- Expand AI teacher training.
- Operationalize FOSCA.
- Increase investment in TVET.

Year 3 (FY 2029)

- Raise education spending to 3.2% of GDP.
- Expand national assessments.
- Scale climate-resilient school infrastructure.

Year 4 (FY 2030)

- Achieve the 4% GDP education investment target.
- Reach the 9% TVET allocation goal.
- Fully implement Article 25-A monitoring systems.
- Turning Opportunity into National Progress



Pakistan's education sector holds immense promise. The country has a young population, dedicated educators, growing institutional expertise. The Pre-Budget Education Dialogue demonstrated that the ideas, expertise, and policy solutions already exist. The task ahead is to translate these ideas into sustained action and long-term commitment.

As chief guest Ms Rabia Naseem Farooqui, Parliamentary Secretary for Education remarked: "Education must rise above party politics, once and for all."

By treating education as a strategic investment in people, Pakistan can unlock its demographic potential, strengthen economic competitiveness, expand opportunity, and build a more prosperous future for generations to come.

Join the Mission for a Brighter Future

Donate generously and be a part of our mission to shape the character of our young generation. Together, let's build a brighter, stronger, and values-driven future for Pakistan.

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