

## **THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN IMPLEMENTATION OF EDUCATIONAL LAWS IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS OF KARACHI**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Our country's Educational system is facing many problems. Much research is going on to reach actual causes and to reveal the ground realities. Alongside with these another point which needs to be enlightened is the enforcement of the implementation of the existing policies and laws made by government. This paper investigates the role of government in the implementation of the laid laws in Karachi, especially in private schools. The technique of cluster sampling was used to select sample from the population. A survey was conducted using the questionnaire technique to collect the data. The questionnaires were filled by the principals of schools or most senior/experienced teacher in the absence of the principal. The reliability and the validity was found 0.80 and 0.72 respectively of the questionnaire. The validity and reliability was calculated by using software named as SPSS. The findings revealed that there are no notices sent to schools by the government when the new laws/policies are made, there is no check from the government on the private schools regarding the implementation of the laws and policies. Findings also revealed that if government adopts a regular system of check and balance on school activities then most of the schools would follow all the laws made by government. The suggestions regarding the Human Resource Audit is also been discussed in this paper.

**Keywords:** Karachi, private schools, laws implementation, government role, Human resource Audit.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Private schools in Karachi are growing fast in number. This is seen as a positive change in the city. It has given a chance to be educated to many children. But increasing number of schools is also raising questions like whether the government has a strict control over them or not, are these schools following the laws made by the government? Does government check regularly that the school activities are properly aligned with the government orders? It is very important to know the answers of these questions so as to ensure the proper transfer of education by schools remaining within the laws and policies framework. There are many schools that have the aim of profit preferred over the aim of education. The corrupt schools are not only involved in illegal practices but also damaging our educational system like termite.

It is assumed that it is the government's responsibility to keep a check over all the private schools. In this paper the role of government has been investigated in making private schools aware about the laws (existing and new ones).

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Many researchers have done much work on the educational sector of Pakistan. Dr. Khalid Rashid and Sajjida Mukhtar, associated with the UMT Lahore have done a detailed work on the Educational system of Pakistan. In their research paper one of the suggestions is "The

government should strictly check all private educational institutions for keeping a balance and level of practices” (Rashid and Mukhtar, 2012). The researcher has beautifully summed up the point of accountability in this suggestion. This same point is being worked upon in this research paper. This is not all, another couple of researchers found the point of inspection noteworthy and mentioned in their research as “The process of inspection should be done in proper and democratic way and the concept of favors should be out of this process.” (Lodhi and Faizi, 2010)

“The grand challenge of educational reform in Pakistan will be implementation. The problem in Pakistan’s educational system is not what needs to be done, but who will do it and how they will achieve their aims. As Sir Michael Barber<sup>29</sup> points out in a recent report<sup>30</sup>, everyone he spoke with in Pakistan before initiating a reform project for education agreed that the problem was implementation. Pakistan has had a long history of reports and plans, but appears to lack both the capacity and the serious intent to implement reforms. Even if there is intent, this lack of implementation capacity will be a major challenge to be addressed before and during any reform effort”. (Aziz et al.,2014)

These points in the above mentioned research papers have been investigated in a little more depth here in this research paper.

## **HYPOTHESIS**

Following hypotheses were used to conduct research:

1. Does government play its role to make private schools aware about educational laws and policies?
2. Does government check the implementation of the laid laws and policies in private schools?
3. To what extent the implementation could be achieved if the government sends regular notices and Auditors every year to private schools?

## **METHODOLOGY**

The technique of Cluster Sampling was used to make sample. All the public schools in Karachi were considered as the population. The city has 18 towns which were considered as Clusters. From each cluster or town 3 schools were selected. These 3 schools represented social classes i.e Elite, Middle and Poor class. Thus a total of 54 schools made up a sample. The data were collected through the technique of survey using questionnaires. The principals of the schools were requested to fill the questionnaires in presence of the researcher so that any raised confusions can be cleared on the both ends, i.e. at the researcher’s end as well as that of the respondent’s end. The questionnaire was tested for reliability using Test-Retest Reliability and the coefficient of reliability was found 0.80 and that of validity was 0.72. These coefficients were calculated using the software SPSS. Following questions were asked in the survey:

1. How do you come to know about the latest laws/policies regarding education and private schools made by government?
2. Does Government send any person (government representative) who checks the implementation of governmental educational laws/policies?
3. If YES or Sometimes to Q2 then. How does the government representative check the implemented law?

4. If the government starts sending REGULAR NOTICES to schools about newly laid laws/policies then to what extend do you believe schools will follow them?
5. If government starts sending AUDITOR to schools to check the implementation of the laid laws, then to what extend do you believe schools will follow it?

The answers of questions were available in form of multiple choice answers, different set for each question.

## FINDINGS

Each of the questions analysis is shown with the help of diagrams. Bars represent set of options of answer provided with the question

### Question 1

How do you come to know about the latest laws/policies regarding education and private schools?

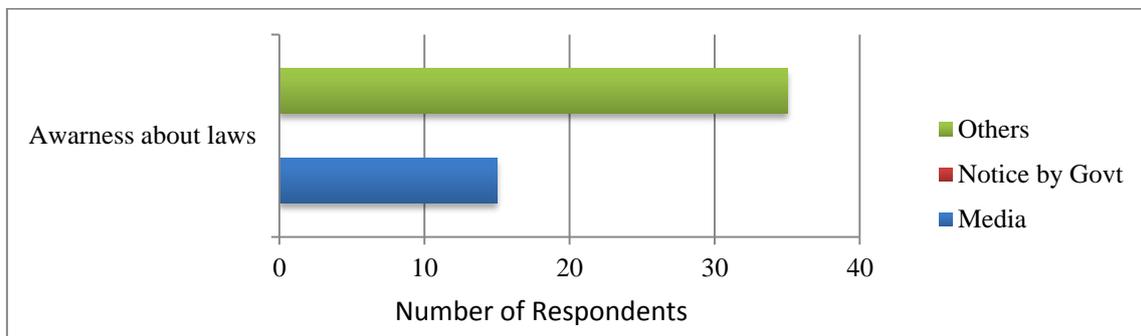


Figure 1. Source of Awareness of respondents

The responses can be noted that government does not send any notices to schools regarding the laws made. The respondents who chose the option “other” in the response of this question were also given the space to specify their answer. Most of them revealed that their head office informs them, or any school personnel goes to the concerned governmental office to get the information on the latest laws/policies.

### Question 2

Does Government send any representative who checks the implementation of governmental educational laws/policies?

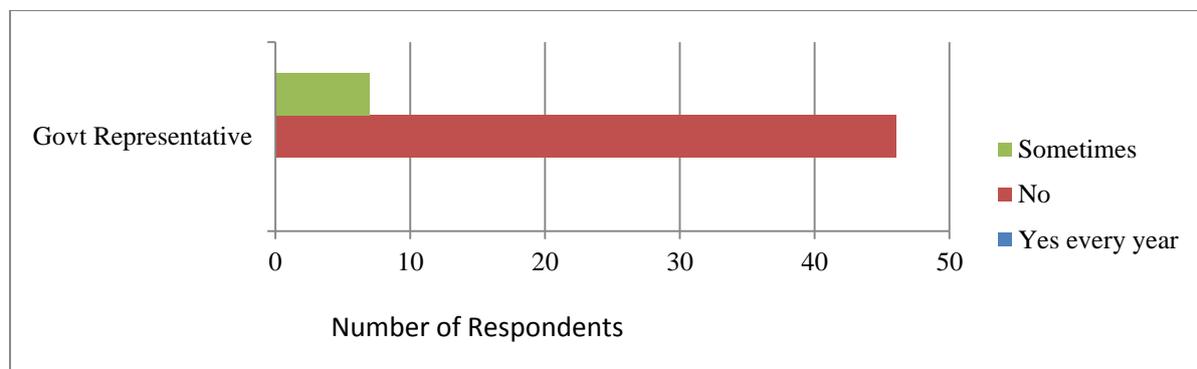


Figure 2. Government Representative Visit to Private Schools

As it is very clear enough from the data that no government representative visits schools to check the laws implementation. In this question the responded who answered ‘sometimes’

were separately asked the details of the option they choose. Most of them answered that government officials only came when there was any extreme or critical case reported to government so they came to look into the matter.

**Question 3**

If ‘Yes or Sometimes’ to question 2 then how does government representative checks the implementation?

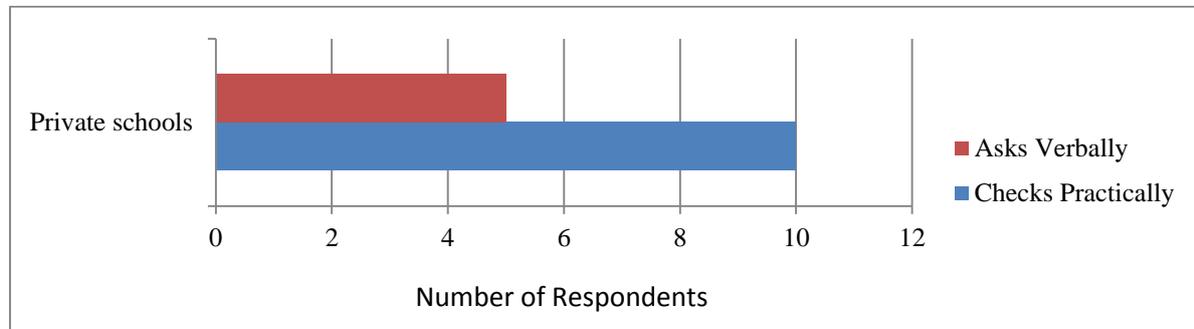


Figure 3. Nature of Checking by Government representative

Some cases were reported when government officials came, but only when there was any critical case emerged. Well here its satisfactory that at least to some extend government officials checks practically the case and look into the matter rather seriously.

**Question 4**

If the government starts sending Regular Notices to schools about newly laid policies/laws then to what extend do you believe schools will follow them?

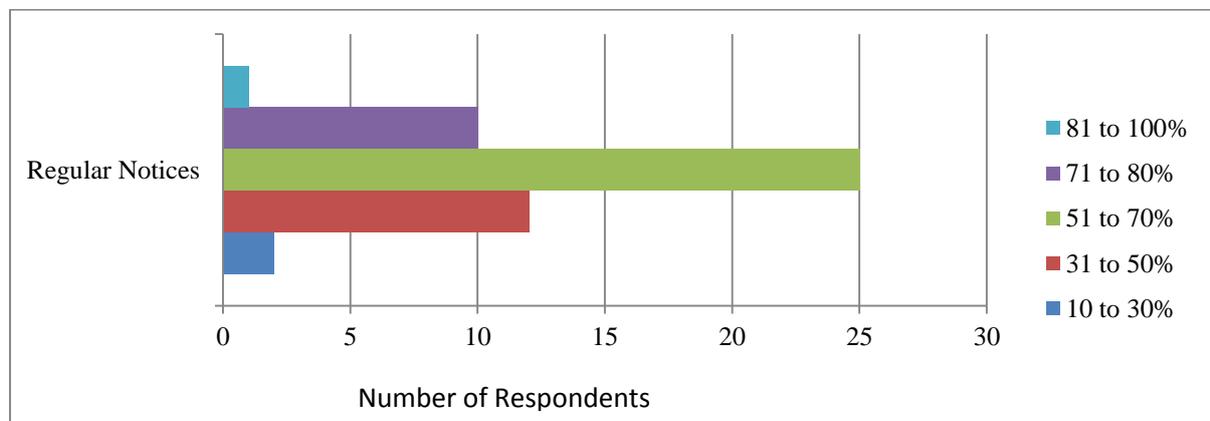


Figure 4. Levels of beliefs of the respondents about implementation through notices

In above bar diagram it can be seen that most of the respondents believe that implementation can be achieved up to 80% if government starts sending regular notices. Most of the principals believe that if they get notices from government about the laws and policies then level of law implementation would definitely be increased as can be seen in above table.

**Question 5**

If government starts sending AUDITORS to schools to check the implementation of the laws, then to what extend do you believe schools will follow them?

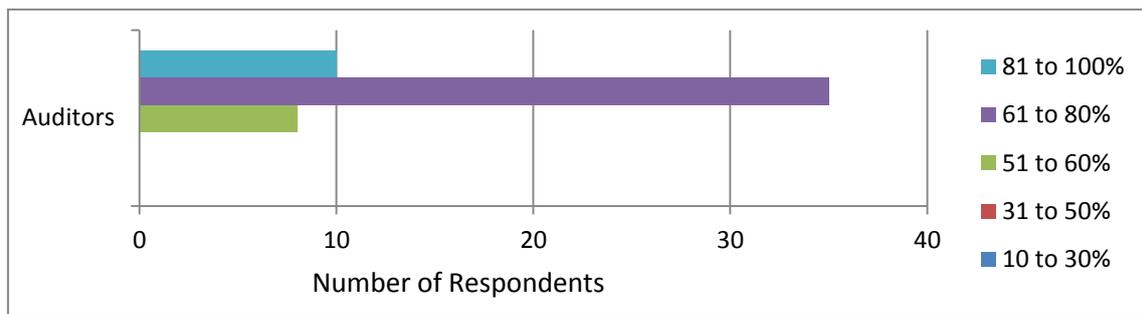


Figure 5. Levels of beliefs of the respondents about implementation through Auditors

Here the majority of respondents have strong belief that if the system of Audit is activated then then law implementation would increase to a significant level.

The findings speaks for itself that schools will start following the laws more if the government plays its role strictly.

## DISCUSSION

School means a source of education for children. Parents survey a lot of schools before seeking admission for their child in any school. The reason is they want best education because school plays a major role in personality development. The better the education the better the personality would be. Majority of the population living in Karachi belongs to the middle class therefore they have to make sacrifice in between Quality Education and Affordability of that quality education.

Nowadays unfortunately many schools have opted the culture of “Education as Business”. Well not all of the schools in Karachi, but many of them. They have only one thing to take care about and that is Profit making. They never care about the Teacher student ratio in each class, salary of teachers and staff, amount of fees charged by each student, aligning their activities with the government rules and much more. “The elite institutions falling in high tiers of service charge readily and absorb the more educated and trained workforce available within the education sector and tend to focus on specialized segments of education catering to the needs of industry and commerce some chains of private schools and also universities. In the middle are a large number of private actors, which in many cases are providing low cost and low quality services to those that cannot afford better but do not trust public facilities. These schools in some cases are not better in quality than public schools.” (Razzaq, 2012)

Since there is no check of the laws and policies enforcement by the government therefore the ‘Education Business’ is going quite lucrative. The reason behind is that these type of schools are making profit from both ends, Firstly from students by charging uselessly additional fees and secondly hiring teachers on lowest possible salaries. There are many schools which are charging really high fees in different heads, apparently for no use. Therefore there should be at least some transparency. Or some authority above them to whom all the private schools should be accountable. Technically Government is above all schools. We also have good laws and policies made, but unfortunately they are not enforced. Most of the issues will be resolved automatically if the implementation of laws are ensured.

To achieve success in this regard there are two aspects. First is to make all private schools aware about new as well as old policies and laws which apply to them. Second is to keep an eagle’s eye on the implementation of the laws.

The findings in this paper show that government does not play any role in making schools aware about the laws and policies made. Why government has assumed itself that media is

enough for making everyone aware of new laws and policies? This should not be the case. Instead of that media should be used as medium to disperse the information regarding new laws made.

This research paper also reveals that most of the principals believe that if government starts sending notices to schools about laws they would follow to a reasonable extend. And they would follow to a greater extend if the concept of Audit is brought in.

## **SUGGESTIONS**

Following suggestions are recommended for betterment of the current situations of private schools.

1. Most importantly government should start sending proper and regular notice to schools addressing directly the head or principal of school. In that notice two aspects should be covered. Firstly the law or policy made which anyhow applies to them. And secondly the fine or the punishment should also be addressed, which would be the consequences of inability to follow the law or policy made by the government.
2. The concept of “Human Resource Audit” to be introduced by government to make sure the implementation of laws and alignment of the private school’s activities regarding the laid laws. Government should send Human Resource Auditors to all the private schools to check whether schools are following the laid laws. The auditor should be given authority to impose a penalty or punishment (in extreme cases) the responsible personnel in school if the laws or policies are not being followed.
3. Press-conferences should be arranged in case of urgent and/or important policies or laws made in this regard. In this way the parents and the students will also stay informed about laws and can be protected from becoming the prey of illegal activities.

Through this many private schools can be brought down which are involved in many illegal practices and are causing problems for parents as well as for students and sabotaging the image of the Education of Pakistan.

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