



INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES AND PRACTICES

AN INTRODUCTION



YEARS
OF IDSP
10



1998-1999-2000-2001-2002-2003-2004-2005-2006-2007-2008

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How it all began

It was in early 1997 when the idea of creating an institution for the young people came under discussion, led by Dr. Quratulain Bakhteari. Her work of community development spread over thirty years now, helped conceived a learning space for the young people in Pakistan and elsewhere.



Balochistan was chosen as the place for its extensive experiences in working with youth groups and its social, cultural and political nomenclature which allows experimentation and idea testing that can and has been expended throughout the world. In January 1998 the basis of the Institute for Development Studies and Practices IDSP-Pakistan was thus formed, to test an idea of integrating theory and practice. Once the test is verified by a

third party assessment, the institution was formed.

The potent questions

How can we overcome the various feelings of shortsightedness, selfishness, fear, indifference, rigidity and cynicism that have been consuming us at various levels and times and engage in the types of reflection/action and creation, which are critical to inspire a promising vision for the future?

Our context and Our Answers

Dr. Quratul-Ain-Bakhtiari, articulates the challenges to the Pakistani society, "Pakistan faces acute problems of poverty, underdevelopment, failure of social and political institutions, unemployment and increasing frustration on the part of young men and women in towns and villages of the country, These issues have given rise to corruption, communal violence, drug abuse, trafficking in drugs and arms and the marginalization of women, children, minorities and disadvantaged." The response to these challenges will largely depend on how we create learning opportunities for our young men and women, to understand the complexities of the issues in development and with their creativity and passion generate appropriate solutions for their communities and the greater society.



IDSP from Vision to Reality

IDSP is a bold step to create such learning space for the practitioners of development. IDSP invites young men and women with the interest and experience in development, to engage in an extensive and rigorous process of enhancing their theoretical

understanding of the various development practices. More importantly, IDSP provides an array of opportunities for the action research and project development in the areas of community development, poverty alleviation, and environmental preservation, information technology as a tool for development, gender issues, education, and health.



Theory and Practice Based Courses in Development Studies

Objective:

Continuously develop a critical mass of highly motivated lifelong learners in different areas of development practices.



Activities:

The approach of creating young leader of professional development in 1998 was mainly associated with maximizing individual's efforts to practice and work hard as report of pilot testing course indicates.

In 1999 and 2000 approach of developing youth leadership was mainly practiced through teaching critical theories. Concept was mainly focused on, that learners will take rooted actions for social change. The CBC 2001 was an attempt to reduce textual inputs and develop capacities of learners for interpreting with cultural and social practices in order to influence social order.

Mainstreaming Gender and Development (2003-to date) mainly diversified conceptual frameworks of human resource development. It also introduced a specific version of self growth and leadership which was mainly followed by cycle that self growth leads to family development, leads to community development, leads to make differences at global level. The themes on mentoring Self growth Gender was imparted in the courses as cross cutting themes.

Theoretical segment of courses requires learner's concentrations and availability in each unit or module of course. The learners of residential courses are very rigorously engaged especially in theoretical session. Faculty remains close to learners for helping them in understanding and practicing various themes and skills.

The horizon of theoretical discourse in courses has been widened with respect to time and diversity of experiences. The self growth, family development, community development and creating global level influences have gradually

become as integral parts of the course. In the courses a unit learner gets through a conscious process of learning and unlearning his/her behaviors, attitudes and assumptions about self, family, life and world. They learn new skills, behaviors and knowledge as third party evaluation of the MGD first phase has indicated.

The learners of diverse courses have referred various themes relevant for their growth and practical life requirements. The matrix bellow indicates information regarding courses conducted so far.

Matrix

Synthesizing and Applying Research.

Objective:

Continually constructing and developing a funnel of research to be applied towards new conceptual frameworks, public discourse and modes of action.



Activities (Selected Examples):

Reactivating indigenous research and experiments, analyzing emerging social economical, political technological cultural environmental and spiritual trends and their implications on development. Creating new and contextual modalities for the county and region. Inspiring new research in other organizations

Pakistan Participatory Poverty Assessment:

PPA is a research looking at the issues of poverty and their solutions from the poorest of the poor. The research has innovative approaches towards poverty assessment bare hand approach is used for conducting the research. The research was conducted in all areas of Pakistan. The other partners are SUNGI for NWFP, Shirkat Gah for Punjab and Agha Khan University for Sind. The research looked at the issues of livelihood, vulnerabilities and socio-economic patterns and institutions from the poorest of the Poor's perspective. The research findings contributed in the national and provincial Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers.

Participatory Action Research PAR

Participatory Action Research PAR is a bare hand social mobilization technique for poverty alleviation .IDSP sponsored one of its partners who are specifically working on the technique in Balochistan in different geographical clusters. The organization is engaging youth groups for poverty assessment through rigorous research and social mobilization I order for the communities to understand the perspective of poverty, sensitize the support mechanisms (government and implementation organizations). IDSP sponsored their activities in one cluster.

Researches on centralizing the issue of learning in education discourse

IDSP through one of its interventions “Improving Education Policy and Planning through Knowledge Based Dialogues and Interventions” engaged over 12,000 people from the province of Balochistan. The dialogues with these people coming from various segments of the society, children, parents, government officials, community representatives, elected representatives and civil society from villages to the provincial administrative structures provided inputs in improving the overall situations of the education in the province. The researches conducted provides insights on the initiation and withdrawal of mother languages policy in the province, textbooks and its relevance with the local culture and values, community participation in education and school from a child's perspective. The researches have enhanced the knowledge and information for realistic and practical policy development and implementation and have helped to centralize the issue of *LEARNING* in policy dialogue and analysis.

Devolution of Education Governance: Hopes and Realities in Pakistan

This study on “Devolved Governance of Education: Hopes and Realities in Pakistan” was conducted by the Pakistan Coalition for Education led by the Institute for Development Studies and Practices IDSP-Pakistan in 2006 and 2007. Its purpose was to assess the extent to which devolution, as envisaged in the Local Government Ordinance, 2001, and the Local Government Plan 2000 (also known as the Devolution Plan), has taken root in Pakistan's education sector. The study explores the situation of governance in the context of the “five Ds” of devolution envisaged by the National Reconstruction Bureau (NRB), Government of Pakistan, in the Local Government Plan, i.e. devolution of political powers; distribution of resources to the districts; decentralization of administrative authority; de-concentration of management functions; and diffusion of the power-authority nexus.

Unfolding Education Finances

IDSP-Pakistan as part of Pakistan Coalition for Education has been instrumental in launching a research on education finances. The research looked upon appropriating the financing for education through unfolding the public spending on education and linking the issue with the public's aspirations. The research's objectives are to consolidating the initial studies on education financing, systemic analysis of education budget policy framework and comparison overtime, to identify the utilization of public resources, to find out the symbiosis between the public fund allocation of education and that of

the spending, allocation and distribution vis-à-vis spending, measuring people's aspirations on education financing and documenting the alternatives of education. The research is part of the larger South Asian research including the countries of India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal.



A Review of Present status of EMIS and Education GIS in Pakistan

The objective of the study was to assess the current EMIS at all levels and assist the government to identify future development. The study has helped to identify how donors, particularly DFID, can assist in improvement of

system and of analysis and use of data for policy and planning purposes.

Sindh Government, Public Private Partnership

This study was commissioned by the Government of Sindh Education Department to develop policy(s) of Public Private Partnership in Education sector. Linkages of community participation and its ramifications at the policy level were studied; Sindh Education Foundation was one of the main organizations looked very closely for its programs in the field.

Research on Local Governance

A research study to analyze the change patterns due to the local bodies restructuring and its impact on people's life was carried out in partnership with SDPI. The research aimed to find out the effects of devolution plan, its impacts on the traditional power structure, participation of women (33% seats reserved for women), and impact of boycott by some of the political parties, conditions emerging of the decision of government for having a non partisan election.



Critical Inquiries

Each of IDSP learner as part of their course work produce papers on critical inquiries concerning social issue relevant to their family, community or self. The topics of these inquiries which support the learner in consolidating his/ her practice

ideas varies from investigating for local wisdom concerning peace and justice, environmental protection, emergence of pathologies in culture and religion, the role of women in traditional societies, globalization and its impacts on agriculture, fishermen and the poverty nexus, reviving culture through radio programs etc.



Initiating Process Projects:

Objective:

Collaborating with communities to develop innovative activities which illustrate and further develop the concepts supported by IDSP



Activities:

Piloting sustainable right scale projects through IDSP learners in the areas of their academic focus and research.

Intern's Scheme (Primary Education Program, NWFP)

The scheme engaged the young people from various organizations working for the promotion of education in an innovative intern-mentor relationship. A way of learning that enables learning relationships instead of typical hierarchal, output approach of development.

Nutrition Program for Girl Child (Tawana Pakistan)

Tawana Pakistan was Government of Pakistan's initiative. The program was piloted in all provincial and federal areas of Pakistan. It aimed to reach to 600,000 primary school age girls. The major objectives of the program were to increase girl's enrollment, reducing the malnutrition in girl child (focus of stunting wasting and anemia) and community awareness on nutrition.

Tawana in many ways is an innovative program; it is an innovation of Pakistan with respect to the food distribution programs. The partners group is extensive and diverse, from Ministry of Women Development, Government of Pakistan, Agha Khan University, Pakistan Baitulamal, Provincial Education Department, local governments and IDSP-Pakistan.



Mainstreaming Gender and Development

The program is aiming to develop a large group of women leaders. The development model takes in to account opening of spaces for the women within family, community and the local government structures. It has helped

IDSP in institutional development of gender discourse and is helping the young women in leadership concepts and skills development within young women (majority) and few men in communities of Balochistan. Revival of compassion, tolerance and love and sanctity of relationships within the family and community structures

Improving Education Policy and Planning through Knowledge based Dialogues and Interventions

The aim of the project was to develop a process and enabling environment for the formulation and execution of people centered and need based policies to strengthen education development programs and increased meaningful participation of all stake holders in policy making at all levels.

Objectives of the project were:

- ❖ To build and strengthen the capacity of local government structures to formulate and execute responsive and need based educational policies.
- ❖ To increase meaningful community participation in policy dialogue and analysis
- ❖ To enhance the research based knowledge and information for realistic and practical policy development and implementation.
- ❖ To centralize the issue of *LEARNING* in policy dialogue and analysis
- ❖ To initiate pilot practices of effective educational policy development processes
- ❖ To develop local human resource for education policy and planning

The project is simultaneously managed in Lasbela, Khuzdar, Chaghi, Loralai, Panjgur, Quetta, Pishin and Sibi. It engaged over 12,000 people from these districts to have a dialogue on learning. Based on the dialogues researches and pilot interventions were designed and implemented, eventually the plans for district government were developed to develop their vision of education in context of ground realities specific to their location, geography, ethnicity and socio-economic indicators.

Political Education

People's Assemblies

People's assemblies was the initiative of national civil society partners to bring in the voice of masses in shaping the then proposed devolution plan. The partners were SUNGI (NWFP), SAP-PK (Lahore), SDC, SPO, SDPI as research partner and IDSP. The program conducted workshops, policy seminars and advocacy campaigns in Balochistan for the larger civil society. The representation in these assemblies was from government officials, former local government representatives, NGOs, political parties, academia, trade unions, lawyers and students. The local assemblies' findings were presented at a provincial forum in Quetta for the Federal government (Minister of Local Government), provincial government officials and larger civil society.

Democratic Rights and Citizen Education Program DRCEP

The DRCEP was an initiative of the national coalition, comprising of SUNGI NWFP, SAP-PK Punjab, PILER Sindh, SDPI as research partner and IDSP in Balochistan. Innovative ideas such as Community Theater were actively used in the program, which also resulted in an organization named Interactive Resource Center. The Democratic Rights and Citizen Education Program was initiated by five national partners of Civil Society, the program had following goals:

1. To promote political education among people to exercise their democratic rights for increasing people's participation in political structure/electoral process
2. promoting the concept of good governance through a process of democratic and electoral education of citizen (esp. disadvantaged, women and minorities)
3. to revive the confidence of people on the political and electoral processes through collective civil society action



Research Initiatives:

A research study was carried out in Khuzdar, Loralai, Killa Saifullah, Gwadar

and Quetta districts. The aim of the research was to measure the participation of men and women and the local bodies' election.

Supporting Democratic Electoral Process in Pakistan SDEPP (Issues of Women in Politics and Democracy)

The SDEPP utilized different approaches towards attaining its goal of:

1. Understanding, analyzing and conceptualizing specific areas relating to gender dynamics.
2. Creating gender awareness amongst indigenous communities.
3. Encouraging and engaging effective and truly democratic women representation in the local elections.
4. Identify through researches and case studies the indigenous role of women in traditionally democratic societies
5. Creating a socially and economically viable environment for women

Political Education through Creative, Generative and Professional Human Resources



The project is more focused on developing human resources with reference to the political education and strengthening the local coalitions for advocating basic human rights, initiating public debates and dialogues on larger issues of democratization in the country and increasing public awareness and accountability through engaging activists, organizations and coalitions in a learning

discourse on the areas of democracy, cultural pluralism, peace, tolerance, public accountability and fundamental human rights. The objectives of the project are:

- ❖ To develop and build capacities of community activists, organizations and civil society members.
- ❖ To generate community initiatives for political education and promoting the culture of informed debate and dialogues on larger issues of democracy, accountability and democratic political culture.
- ❖ Promote meaningful participation of marginalized in political structures and decision making bodies.

Youth Forum and Exchange Project

To enable young people in two communities to develop their understanding of, and commitment to grass roots activism through developing their skills to get their voices heard and through discovering from the experiences of young people from other parts of the world.

Key Features

- ❖ To establish youth forums in two local communities in order to increase the capacity, develop their skills, advocate their issues and engage the youth in local governance of two districts.
- ❖ To establish institutional and sustainable linkages between young people of Pakistan and UK through website, email and video-conferencing to exchange their cultural issues, their identity, their participation and advocacy.
- ❖ To empower youth, allowing them to resist the attraction of extremism.
- ❖ Each forum has to develop at least one initiative for funding through the Citizen Community Boards (CCBs) or other potential partners.
- ❖ Practical training on consultation, representation, accountability and mandate, as well as in negotiation, problem-solving and consensus-building skills of at least 80-160 young people (boys and girls) of respective districts.
- ❖ Youth groups initiate cultural dialogue between young people in Pakistan and in UK, on issues of culture, identity, participation and advocacy.
- ❖ To increase understanding at local government level in Pakistan of the benefits of youth engagement in planning and decision making and also increase the appreciation of the importance of collective voluntary, in both the UK and Pakistan.

Livelihood

Breaking the Poverty Circle of Adolescents women

The program aims to develop new reference points for the development of female entrepreneurs to address the issues of poverty. The goals of the program are:

To redirect the energies from illusions of development to the reality within the socio- economic roots of the communities.

To initiate a process where, the community, children and adolescent girls will be connected to address poverty through holistic and complete human development processes.

Two centers have been developed with learning spaces (at homes of mentors, shops etc.) around them to create basis for organizations that help stimulate the energies of the out of school adolescents.

Cut Flower Project

Flowers to take the place of guns, drugs crime and frustration. Gladioli grown organically from imported bulbs as part of a program to direct youthful energy into income generation and constructive and positive human resource development

These flowers are grown at IDSP (Institute for Development Studies and Practices) Quetta. Balochistan. At IDSP learners from the most marginalized and deprived regions are guided into channels to enable them to lead meaningful and creative lives to challenge and change existing social imbalance, and flowers cultivation is one of the recently added activities.



Grown organically and freshly cut the day before in Quetta. In a variety of colors they come to Karachi the very next morning.

Providing Transformative Advisory Services:

Objective:

Supporting those organizations who wish to transform attitudes, structures, policies and relationships vis-à-vis development

Activities

Assisting in developing new initiatives within institutions (ministries, NGOs, Schools etc).

Advising decision makers on policy-related issues. Organizing intensive and contextual reflective seminars.

Early Childhood Education, AED

IDSP has been engaged in a feasibility study by Academy for Education Development to seek out the venues of Early Childhood Education. It was as USAID sponsored project aiming to support education ministry to mainstream ECE in education development. Dr. Quratulain Bakhterai was part of the AED team and she provided her technical support in the design of the project.

Community Participatory in Education

This study initiated with the help of British council. The study primarily aimed to have an audit of the innovative experiences initiated in field of community participation in reference with education through out the country. IDSP launched a research in four different districts. I.e Naseerabad, Multan, DI Khan and Kairpur where the innovative actions in CPE thoroughly studied and a concept of learning belt developed that was intended to combine poverty with the process of education.

Public Private Partnership in Education Sector, Sind Government

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National Education Foundation

IDSP is involved with the National Education Foundation, NEF. IDSP` s work portfolio is as under:

- ❖ Develop and reinforce Community participation education NEF and in the field, (This activity will create Systematic programming ability with in the community and in NEF` s Staff in community managed school)
- ❖ Institutional Strengthening of NEF (Capacity Building Plan)
- ❖ Training of NEF` Staff in advocating C.S.P Establish Transparent System of selecting and appointing partner NGOs
- ❖ Processes in systematizing and institutionalizing processes for village/ Settlements/Mohallas for developing of community supported rural level schools programs (CSRCP)
- ❖ Create and develop system for establishing of CSR schools the NEF team will be trained is CSR schools training establishment maintain of community, NGO, NEF partnership of teachers in strengthening and nurturing the community participation in educational processes.
- ❖ Training of CEC in community mobilization, financial management, school development, parental involvement
- ❖ Provide training and capacity building in NGO Capacity building



Stimulating Public Debate/Dialogue.

Objective:

Sharing new ideas/information, raising questions through popular culture media of thinking, dialoguing and action

Activities:

Encouraging local production of thought pieces (in print radio, video and www sites) to be circulated in existing channels of local and international mass media. Supporting community forums for dialogues and facilitating networking and exchange of ideas and experiences between the communities

Conference Mother Languages and Globalization

The conference aimed to generate learning discourse in different section of society to look at globalization and its impacts on indigenous languages and cultures in a constructive, collective and educational manner, the conference remitted the same messages across the groups. Mr. Munir Ahmed Badini Secretary Education talked about his internal conflicts/ situations arising from the dichotomies of living in a multi cultural environment to set the pace of the conference.

Conference of Edward Said

Who amongst us ever contemplated the moment when this giant of a man would finally fall and vanish from our lives once and for all? Despite our knowledge, all along, that he had been so gallantly battling leukemia since 1991, deep down we somehow imagined perhaps even believed that Edward Said was virtually indestructible. And who can blame us if we so thought? Just witness the dizzying pace he maintained since he learned of his disease. Or, take a look at the stunning mass of literary output that he has yielded within that period. The international conference to tribute Edward Said "A vision that cannot fail, a lesson that cannot die" was the major activity of the three day discourse. The conference was represented by three distinguished academicians outside Pakistan



Conference Living and Learning in Traditional Societies

The conference aimed at engaged variety of groups from all corners of the world to share their diverse learning experiences. The case of Balochistan was presented as a land of diverse cultures and value systems, inherent resources of knowledge and wisdom and a society which is in flux of modernity, tribalism and extremism. Discussing and understanding the history of Balochistan's people and their reluctance to engage with the modern institutional frameworks and defining their own logic of survival and living. The conduction of this conference will not only sharpen the questions around the engagement of people of Balochistan in the mainstream system but also how the society is responding to the needs of the people where service delivery mechanisms are still at a rudimentary stage.

Seminar Iqbal Life and Study

Iqbal is one of the most influential personalities, who`s work has inspired generations. He was either discussed a great philosopher or a poet but his collective work as an intellectual was sacrificed for one reason or another. The seminar focused on his ideologies and his concept of Millat (Nation).

Seminar Islam in post 9/11

Islam as a discourse has been questioned; its followers were being marginalized. IDSP felt a great need to initiate a dialogue among the common people to understand what is happening and how it is effecting our beliefs, practices and image around the world. For the very purpose of illuminating some of the misconceptions and to understand the western thought process a public debate was organized. The main speakers were Dr. Riffat Hassan a famous scholar on Islam from university of Louisville, Kentucky USA and Mr. Abbass Hussain from Karachi.

