

**Government of Pakistan
Benazir Income Support Programme**

**Press Release
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BISP HOLDS CONFERENCE ON IMPACT EVALUATION OF WASEELA-E-TALEEM PROGRAM

Islamabad (): A conference on impact evaluation of Waseela-e-Taleem program was held today at BISP Secretariat. The purpose of the conference was to disseminate the findings of the impact evaluation report on Waseela-e-Taleem program conducted by Oxford Policy Management (OPM).



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State and Chairperson BISP, MNA Marvi Memon and Chief Guest Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training Engr. Muhammad Baligh ur Rehman during the conference on Impact Evaluation of Waseela-e-Taleem Programme at BISP Secretariat. (Dated: December 7, 2016)

Chief Guest of the event was Minister of State for Education Mr. Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman. Other participants included Minister of State and Chairperson BISP, MNA Marvi Memon, representatives of Ministry of Education, OPM, World Bank, DFID, Alif Ailan, IDS, MMP, AKRSP, Agha Khan Foundation, Institute of Social and Policy Sciences, RSPN, Oxfam, Brac, WFP, UNICEF, Aurat Foundation and BISP management.

Through Waseela-e-Taleem (WeT), the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) program of BISP, children from the age of 5 to 12 years in 32 districts receive Rs. 750 per quarter per child for primary education with the condition of 70% attendance compliance. WeT is mandated to ensure school enrollment of 2 million underprivileged children by December 2017. Under WeT, 1.3 million children have already been enrolled till June 2016. 50,000 BISP Beneficiary Committees (BBCs) have been established under WeT that engage beneficiaries in interactive sessions resulting in social mobilization.

While disseminating the findings of impact evaluation report, representative of OPM Ms. Tania highlighted that Waseela-e-Taleem initiative has registered a positive impact on human development. School enrollment rates of primary aged children in BISP households supported by WeT program is 81% compared to 60% in households not supported by WeT. WeT supported districts have shown gender balance and better school attendance rates. WeT supported children

have shown 87% attendance with only 10% children showing less than 70% attendance. Enrollment rate was recorded as 76% for girls and 86% for boys in WeT supported households.

Mr. Baligh-ur-Rehman, speaking in the conference, appreciated the success of Waseela-e-Taleem and stated that this program is exactly in line with the present government's national action plan on education whose four point agenda included incentivizing the poorest of the poor for the education of their children. He proposed to include the beneficiary children in the program from primary to higher secondary education instead of primary schools children only. Moreover, he recommended to increase the WeT stipend to Rs. 500 instead of Rs. 250 per month per child.

Chairperson BISP, on the occasion, said that BISP not only lends a hand in poverty management through unconditional cash transfer but believes in graduating its beneficiaries out of poverty by investing in human capital development through education. Findings of impact evaluation report clearly supplement the fact that Waseela-e-Taleem initiative of BISP is contributing a lot towards human capital development and bringing a positive social change. She also stated that through this forum BISP has brought all the relevant stakeholders together to discuss the issues of education in Pakistan. She added that the feedback from this conference will help BISP to further build upon the success of WeT.

Mr. Musharraf Zaidi from Alif Ailan, Mr. Mazhar Siraj form DFID and Ms. Ambreen from World Bank, while speaking on the occasion, lauded the success of WeT and its multi-pronged impacts on society and the country. They also discussed the issues prevalent in the education sector of Pakistan resulting into slow improvement in literacy rate.