## PRESS RELEASE

## PCHR organized policy dialogue on the "Status of Primary Education in Pakistan and the Role of Parliamentarians"

ISLAMABAD. Lt. (Ret) Jeved Ashraf Qazi Federal Minister for Education highlighted the need for imparting technical education at the primary level to reduce the dropout rate in the country. the Minister was speaking at a Seminar on "Policy Dialogue with the parliamentarians on the Statatu of Primary Education in Pakistan" organized by Parliamentarians Commission for Human Rights (PCHR) on Saturday.

The Minister observed the parents usually stop sending their children to schools because they preferred that their Children acquire technical skills and become an electrician or mechanic and earn a livelihood. "Technical education is the call of the day and we should be aware of what the market demands."

Qazi said that all the education largely been futile I Pakistan, we hope for a change in the government now had made it priority and initiated to make education more meaningful. Qazi said urdu and English should both be taught at the primary level, particularly in science subject and added that children should be bi-lingual as that it helped at a higher level. Expanding upon the issue of the Agha Khan Board Qazi said the board was bound to follow the education policy said forth by the federal government. Agha Khan Board had the legal permission to conduct exams and affiliate private schools on their own choice. "No public sector school has been affiliated without, "he added.

The minister said forming policies in the education sector wide participation all stacke holders to adopt any future course of action, Tehmina Doltana, MNA, underlined the need for linking technical education with primary education and allocating a greater budget to it. Balqees said, MNA, called for concerted effort to promote education in the country. Akhtar Kanjo, MNA, complained about the dilapited infra-structure of schools with hampering the spread of education in the country. Mumtaz Matyana, MNA, said hostels should be belt for teachers serving in remote areas so that they avoided absentees.

Tehmina Dasti, MNA, said primary schools in Balouchistan should be upgraded to middle schools. Gule-Farkhanad, MNA, said the future must be kept in view while formulating education policies, adding that education must groom mental, spiritual, physical, social and personal capacities of a child. Hajra Tariq, MNA, and Ruqya Saeed MPA, also spoke on the occasion.

Following numbers will be reachable round the clock for any information or help: 0300-8555570

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