

FOREWORD

Education has emerged as a force and vehicle for the socio-economic development of the country. Investment on education contributes towards the accumulation of human capital resulting into shift to knowledge-based economy. Education is instrumental to poverty reduction by increasing the productivity of the poor, efficiency of labour, reducing fertility and improving health. This enables people to participate fully in the economic and social development of the country. It also enhances the capacity building of nation's institutions resulting into good governance for planning and implementing national policies.

Availability of valid, reliable, comprehensive and up to date educational data are pre-requisite for policy formulation, its implementation and monitoring and evaluation. The lack of data or poor quality of data on the key aspects of education compels the decision-makers to make their decisions on estimation and intuition, which often do not bring the desired results. Moreover, data alone cannot solve any problem, properly collected and analyzed data facilitates planners and managers for making informed decisions for the efficiency and effectiveness of education system.

National Educational Management Information System (NEMIS) is maintaining national database in order to fulfill the information requirements of policy formulation, decision-making, interventions and resource allocation and of other national and international organizations. Present database is linked to public sector institutions only and thus cannot be considered comprehensive. Thus a complete national picture cannot emerge unless information in respect of all the above-mentioned educational institutions is collected. Therefore, the Ministry of Education decided to conduct First National Education Census (NEC) 2005 in collaboration with Federal Bureau of Statistics, Statistics Division to collect information from all categories of education institutions from pre-primary to tertiary levels. The census was initiated in November, 2005 and completed by 30th June 2006 within the shortest possible time. Through census information has been collected from all categories of education institutions including public and private sector institutions and Deeni Madaris.

The data collected through the NEC will facilitate the development of comprehensive data bank having information in respect of each education institutions functioning in the country. The information will help the decision-makers to use data for planning, management, monitoring and evaluation of the education system at various administrative levels. The data will provide base to develop vital education indicators, which will help the decision makers for necessary interventions in the education system.

I take due opportunity to appreciate the efforts made by Federal Bureau of Statistics, and Academy of Educational Planning and Management for organizing the census I also thank UNESCO and USAID for their support in this project.

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