

For Immediate Release

System Change for Education



Islamabad, January 13, 2025. The development of human capital capable of boosting Pakistan’s progress must be at the heart of all strategic planning. Collective leadership can act as the pivot for transforming the education system, participants at Teach For Pakistan’s international conference on *Leadership for Systemic Change* concurred today.

“The Government of Balochistan is focused on improvements in education; we have challenges like teacher availability, training, and quality, and as improvements happen, we need to put our heads together and align with all stakeholders on how to achieve our educational targets,” said **Rahila Durrani, Minister of Education, Balochistan** during a panel discussion.

In her inaugural address, **Khadija Bakhtiar, Founder and CEO of Teach For Pakistan**, called for redefining leadership. She said equity and collective leadership must be the guiding principles for ensuring quality education for all. *“For the reforms to be sustainable, the entire ecosystem around education needs to be understood and transformed holistically; systems do not change by themselves; people change them,”* she added.

During lively debates and panel discussions, policymakers, international and national experts, development practitioners, and academics shared myriad ideas and varied experiences in educational

reforms. The most resounding and recurring message was that the prevailing crisis in education, where all Pakistani children lag 4-5 years behind their grade level, calls for envisioning and implementation of systemic reform by the broadest coalition of actors with “skin-in-the-game.”

“People working at all levels in the system, from diverse backgrounds, yet being on the same mission is collective leadership,” said **Wendy Kopp, Co-founder and CEO of Teach For All**, in her keynote speech. She added that such likeminded and committed people coalesce because they think the current system is not just and must be changed.

Reaffirming the government's unwavering commitment to education, **Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, Secretary, Federal Education and Professional Training**, stated that empowering principals and teachers, engaging parents and communities, and creating an environment conducive to learning must be the guiding principles for achieving educational targets. *“I studied the Teach For Pakistan model and found it impressive, I modeled the Tech Fellow and Education Fellows Projects in Gilgit-Baltistan after it with excellent results; I strongly urge that the model be replicated nationally,”* he added.

A large number of parliamentarians, senior federal and provincial officials from education and associated departments, heads of international and regional development organizations, senior members of Teach For organizations from Lebanon, and the USA, and members of civil society participated in highly interactive sessions throughout the day. To close the conference, the Teach For Pakistan Board Chair, Nassir Kasuri, presented a vote of thanks to all participants.

For more details visit our website at: www.iteachforpakistan.org/