Terms of Reference (TOR)

ASSESSMENT SPECIALIST - PEC
(INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

Background

The Government of Punjab (GoPb) is implementing the project "Getting Results: Access and Delivery of Quality Education Services' (GRADES)" in Punjab with the assistance of the World Bank for Improvement of education outcomes which remains a crucial way for Punjab to build human capital. In Pakistan, an additional year of schooling is associated with an improved income of 7%, due to both increased labor force participation as well as improved productivity. Improving education also has important benefits for fertility reduction, later marriage, reduced crime, and other social indicators. This project will improve both social and economic outcomes for Punjab as a whole.

The GRADES project consolidates and brings more focus to Punjab's reform agenda in education, making sure that the education system delivers improved results for both girls and boys. It draws lessons from the reform program that the Government of Punjab has been implementing in the education sector over the last two decades, with support from various donors.

Project Objectives:

In alignment with the sectoral objectives, the goal of this project is *'to increase girls' and boys' participation rates in pre-primary to elementary grades and enhance reading proficiency in primary grades*.

The project objectives are as follows:

- Improving education indicators for enrolment, retention and completion with concentrated focus on improving NER and improving learning conditions for children in Punjab's public schools.
- Special focus on primary and pre-primary education including provision of quality ECCE as per ECE Policy 2017.
- Improving access to schools by improving 'Student Classroom Ratio', with the provision of necessary infrastructure.
- Improving education governance systems by enabling the use of data systems at the district level to empower decision making.
- Expansion of Public Private Partnerships by providing technical and financial support to the School Education Department's attached departments working on these modalities.
- Improvement in quality of education by strengthening the curriculum and manuscript wings functioning within PCTB.
- Project will aim to recover learning losses from COVID19, which have had a roll-on effect in subsequent years. A contingency plan for any future unforeseen learning losses will be developed and capacity development for officials to cope with these circumstances will be incorporated.
- Capacity building by expanding the CPD models for teacher training currently in place. The aim will be to build on the use of technology in teacher training as introduced under the PESP-III Programme.
- Leadership training is to be introduced to improve education management in districts and strengthen the governance systems.

- Improving the assessment systems in place after the implementation of the Assessment Policy Framework. Strengthen shift towards conceptual learning from rote learning.
- Build on policy frameworks for the uplifting and strengthening of the education sector in Punjab in order to fulfil Pakistan's commitments for SDG-4 and for the implementation of Article 25-A.

Responsibilities

Assessment Specialist will support the strengthening of the student assessment systems in Punjab and make use of assessment data in the classroom. The consultant will be hired by the SED-PMU. GRADES builds on a history of ambitious school reform projects in Punjab. GRADES follows up with three components to strengthen management of the education system, improve school participation, and strengthen learning outcomes. The consultant will be specifically tasked to support the GRADES – component/PBC which would include strengthening the assessment system: PBC 6: Strengthening and using learning assessments PBC 6 will support strengthening of the student assessment system, by improving standard setting for large-scale (sample-based) assessments, strengthening the quality of school-based assessments, and introducing monitoring of child development at an earlier age. This PBC will be coordinated by SED and the Punjab Examination Commission (PEC).

Scope of functions

Key tasks and responsibilities of the consultant are outlined below:

1. Development of an annual work plan for the PBC, monitoring progress, and providing bi-annual project reports to the PEC leadership, PMU and World Bank.
2. Developing a high-level strategy to strengthen implementation and quality of the Punjab.
3. Examination Commission's three main assessments: LSA, SBA, and formative student assessments. Also provide support in analysis and presentation of the results to stakeholders.
4. Market analysis of applications to strengthen the use of assessment data in the classroom (e.g., tracking learning outcomes, doing formative assessments).
5. Presentations and dialogue with PEC on new applications that could further strengthen practice and quality of assessments in PEC.
6. Developing ToRs for an institutional partnership for PEC, and liaising with the relevant firm.
7. Maintain communication and coordination with SED, PMIU, and the World Bank teams on project related activities.
8. Contribute to policy document writing at PEC and any other related technical notes and PPTs.
9. Any other task assigned by Competent Authority.

Qualification and Professional Experience

Qualification

- A Master's/ Bachelors (Hons.) degree (16 years of education) in Educational Assessment/ Educational planning and Management/Development Studies/ Public Policy /Economic Development/ Economics / Public Administration / or relevant discipline from reputable & recognized local or foreign institution, duly recognized by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan.

Experience

- At least, five (05) years of documentary verifiable relevant experience, after acquiring stipulated qualifications, in public and/or private sector national/international organizations, preferably in education.
- Experience in project coordination and implementation of large-scale government or donor-funded programs.
- Experience working in the Education sector
- Experience of designing and conducting student assessments

Selection Process

The appointment will be made in accordance with the "World Bank Procurement Regulations for Investment Project Financing Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services" (July 2016) revised in November 2017, August 2018, November 2020 & September 2023.