

Briefing Note

EI's Global Response Campaign: India
Research Launch Events in Hyderabad and New Delhi

Since 2001 the number of schools in private sector has grown rapidly. According to District Information System for Education (DISE) 2011-12 Report, out of the total schools in India about 21.20% are private schools which means that out of over 1.41 million total schools in India around 0.3 million are in private sector.

The enrolment in private schools is also increasing and 29 per cent of enrolments in the 6 to 14 age-group are in private schools, an increase of 10 per cent from 18.7 per cent in 2006 to 29 per cent in 2013.

21.2% coverage of private schools in India where 68.7% of population earn below 2.0\$ a day and 41.6% of population earn below 1.25\$ a day is a matter of serious concern.

Another noticeable trend is the rapid growth of so called 'affordable' low fee private schools in India. These schools claim to provide quality education at affordable cost to the children from the poor families.

The last few years have seen the entry of corporate players like Pearson, who in pretext of providing affordable low-cost quality education, have been investing in budget schools as well setting up for-profit schools/school chains.

The increasing privatisation and commercialisation of education globally has made quality education a commodity for sale leading to profiteering by the corporates on the one hand. On the other hand, quality education is increasingly becoming a dream for those who cannot afford to pay the cost.

Concerned with the detrimental effects of privatisation and commercialisation policies in undermining the right to free quality public education, the 7th EI World Congress held in Ottawa in 2015, mandated that the influence of corporations and other private actors in education, through the sale of education services and for-profit delivery of education services at all levels, must be counterbalanced by concerted action by Education International and its members, including through building strategic alliances with multilateral and partner organisations.

Thus, to challenge the increasing privatisation of education and to make the right to quality public education a reality, Education International launched Global response campaign against privatisation and commercialisation of education with its member organisations across the globe.

Education International through Global Response campaign has been emphasizing that undermining public education and promoting edu-business is detrimental to the interest of society.

As part of the campaign in India, EI has commissioned a research on the Privatisation and commercialisation of education in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states including its impact on Right to Education.

The research will be launched in Hyderabad on 17th July 2016 and in Delhi on 21st July 2016 in the presence of teachers, union leaders, parents, media, policy makers and EI representatives.

Through the events planned in Hyderabad and New Delhi, the EI with its Member organisation in India and their state affiliates will highlight the impact of privatisation of education in undermining public education system, and the effects on the right to education of the children from the poor families and on the teachers.

These follow on the EI's efforts in the 2015 whereby workshops in Hyderabad and Bangalore were held with the objective to sensitise leaders from both national federations and the states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh to EI's Global Response and to seek commitment from them to develop a coordinated response.

Noting that the growing commercialisation and privatisation of education represents the greatest threat in the achievement of SDG 4 (***Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all***), armed with the findings of a research report which puts the spotlight on commercialisation and privatisation of education, EI's objective is to work with its affiliates at the state level, together with National Federations, to develop and commit to the implementation of a joint action plan aimed at ensuring governments introduce, strengthen and enforce legislative/regulatory frameworks around a minimum set of conditions necessary for the realisation of Sustainable Development Goal 4 on education and the related targets.

In order for EI to achieve the desired goal we need to expose and counter the influence of private actors in education where their activities have a negative impact on access and exacerbate inequities within and across education systems; and to respond to the growing outsourcing to, and involvement of private actors in education-related activities and services that negatively impact on teaching and learning.

Hyderabad:

As per the agenda developed for the 3 day event in Hyderabad, in addition to working directly with the leaderships of our affiliates, a major public/ media event, to which members, other unions, like-minded CSOs, politicians and policy makers will be invited. This event will assist in socialising the findings of the commissioned research and further contribute to the development of a new public discourse in support of quality education for all, thus marking the first step in putting pressure on the state government vis a vis our aims as part of the Global Response.

Delhi

As in Hyderabad, our 2 day event to Delhi will allow us to interact and work with the leadership of our affiliated unions from both national and state level.

Given that many of our state-based leaders may not as yet have had an opportunity to deeply consider the aims and objectives of EI's Global Response, day one of our two day program will be dedicated to sensitising leaders to the campaign. Furthermore, leaders will be exposed to the findings of the commissioned research. As in Hyderabad, a public event in New Delhi will also be participated by members of EI affiliates, sister unions, like-minded CSOs, politicians and policy makers.

It is hoped that national leaders, together with their national executive boards will begin to further develop national campaign plans in pursuit of the Global Response policy objectives. Similarly it is hoped that they will guide the development of similar plans at the state level particularly in the states that will be represented at our planning meeting.

Planning is required to ensure significant media interest at the scheduled public/media events both in Delhi as well as in Hyderabad.

These events represent a good opportunity to heighten awareness, create a public discourse and further develop a new narrative and political imperative necessary to ensure governments, both National and state, fulfil their responsibility for the achievement of SDG 4.