

Kaneez Zehra (Mrs.)

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BRIEF PROFILE

K. Zehra Arshad is a policy advocate, ardent activist, and campaigner for education, Health, Climate Change, and Human rights. She has worked on various educational, health, and social development aspects, from ensuring quality and universal accessibility of education to girls' education, leadership, governance and management, Tobacco Control, community engagement, and social accountability frameworks. Zehra's experience spans over 20 years, working in close collaboration with Civil Society organizations/coalitions, national/ international development agencies, and government stakeholders. She has successfully formulated and executed several pivotal policy campaigns, advocacy and research initiatives, public expenditure tracking, and social accountability interventions to generate pro-poor and socially inclusive educational development programs and policies. As Education Champion of the Malala Fund, Zehra advocates for the empowerment of young girls and the provision of health facilities at schools as well as building their capacity to engage effectively in policy processes. She has served on various committees and represented Pakistan's civil society on national, regional, and global forums, consultations such as Collective Consultation of NGOs on Education For All (CCNGO/EFA), Global Campaign for Education (GCE), Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE) and a thematic working group of civil 20 (C20) on Gender Inequality and Social Protection, Reforms of International Financial System, and Responsible Investment and Role of Private Sector. She also had the honor to serve as an elected alternate board member for CSO 2 Constituency of the Global Partnership for Education Board GPE, from April 2016 up until March 2019, representing civil society of Asia –Pacific, Latin America, Middle East, and Eastern Europe. Since 2017, she has been a member of the Finance and Risk Committee (FRC) of GPE. In 2018, she was a part of the advisory panel of independent experts to guide institutional practices, mechanisms, and tools that enhance accountability and inclusiveness in civil society self-governance within multi-stakeholder processes while reviewing EITI civil society guidelines. Zehra has authored and co-authored several research reports and policy papers, briefs related to her area of work including education, tobacco control, women's rights, etc. She is a human rights activist and a strong believer in an inclusive and pluralistic approach to development. She is vocal and assertive about a rights-based approach, active citizenship, and social accountability.

MEMBERSHIP AND COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION

- Member of the Global Steering Committee of the Education Champion Network
- Steering Member of “Partnership for Research on Progress & Resilience in Education” PREPARE – A research partnership to investigate COVID-19 education policy response in Ghana, Malawi, Senegal, Kenya & Pakistan (2021-22)
- Member of PREPARE advisory group for research on Girls' education in Pakistan (2020-21)
- Chairperson –Board of Peace and Development Foundation
- Member of Pakistan Alliance for Nicotine and Harm Reduction
- Ex-Member Finance and Risk Committee of GPE 2017-19
- Education Champion from 2018 onwards
- Ex-Alternate Board Member CSO2 constituency Global Partnership for Education (GPE) representing developing countries till March 2019
- Member of Collective Consultation of NGOs on Education for All (CCNGO/EFA) from 2007 onwards

- Member of Global Campaign for Education (GCE)
- Member of The Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE) 2006- onwards
- Steering Committee Member of the working group on Inequality, Gender, and Social Protection
- Steering Committee Member of Coalition on Right to Education (CRTI)
- Alumni International Visitor Leader Program (IVLP) by the U.S. Department of State
- Member of the International Technical and Advocacy Group on Teachers
- Member of Pakistan India Peoples’ Forum for Peace and Democracy (PIFPD)
- Member of the International Network of Women against Tobacco (INWAT)
- Member of South Asian Women Network (SWAN)
- Founding Member of Pakistan Peace Coalition

PUBLICATIONS & RESEARCH

- Lead commissioning of five research papers to researcher focusing on the transformation of Education in post-COVID 2021
- Lead research titled “Lives of Pakistani Children during the COVID-19 Pandemic” in 2020. <http://www.pcedataportal.org/rapid-assessment-survey>
- Lead several policy pieces of research on different education issues such as Girls’ Education, Access, and Quality (2019-21)
- Lead and supervise the formation of an Online Data portal – a depository of a knowledge hub for reader-friendly data and resources. <https://dataportal.pcepak.org/>
- Lead a Multi-year, multi-tier initiative Titled “Do School Get Money” (2014-2017) to collect and amalgamate various sources of information about the existent processes and operational level stock-taking of the services provided by the state in the government primary schools.
- Pakistan’s study as part of CCNGO/EFA Regional study on “Implications of the global financial crisis for NGOs working towards the achievement of Education for All”
- A study on “A policy Scan of Overseas Development Assistance in Education in Pakistan” as a part of ODA in the education sector in selected South Asian Countries
- National Study on “Unfolding Financing of Education in Pakistan” supported by Asian South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE)
- Study on indigenous peoples’ Education in Pakistan
- Study on “Economic Contribution of Women through their Unpaid Work in Pakistan”, a research project of Health Bridge Canada
- National study on “Trends of Smoking and other tobacco use in females in Pakistan”, a research project of the American Cancer Society
- Conducted research on the behavior of adults towards the adoption of smoking.
- Quantitative research on the impact of Tobacco advertising on young adults.
- Research study on the effective implementation of the Tobacco Control Ordinance in Pakistan
- Conducted study “Evaluate the levels of secondhand smoke in public places”, an international research project of Roswell Park Cancer Institute, and International Agency for Research on Cancer New York, USA
- Policy Brief: Adult Education & Development Nexus in Pakistan (2011)
- Policy Paper: Financing of Education in Pakistan (2010)
- Policy Paper: Unfolding Financing of Education in Pakistan (2009)
- Position Paper: Post-2015 Education Agenda and Pakistan-Civil society voice
- Policy Scan of Official Development Assistance in the education sector in Pakistan
 - www.pcepak.org/publication
 - <https://borgenproject.org/girls-access-to-education/>
 - <http://www.campaignforeducation.org/en/news/global/view/695-international-women-s-day-2017-the-female-activists-of-the-education-movement-being-bold-for-change>

- <https://www.globalpartnership.org/blog/strengthening-civil-society-engagement-global-partnership-education>
- <https://aspbaefol.wordpress.com/2014/11/20/public-private-partnerships-in-education-should-not-promote-outright-privatization-a-blog-by-zehra-arshad-pce-pakistan/>
- http://independent.academia.edu/KaneezZehra/Papers/596162/The_Economic_Contribution_of_Pakistani_Women_through_their_Unpaid_Labour
- http://www.tobaccofreeair.org/downloads/GAMS%20report.v7_Sept_06.pdf

WORK EXPERIENCE

Executive Director at Society for Access to Quality Education Jan 2010 to present
National Coordinator of Pakistan Coalition for Education 2006-present

- Promoting the mission, vision, and objective of the organization
- Ensuring proper implementation of initiatives by developing systems and mechanisms
- Coalition building, networking, and outreach of PCE.
- Coordinating with donors, government departments, legislators, public representatives, and other stakeholders for effective lobbying and networking for SAQE
- Liaising with the board, members, public departments, and legislators for policy advocacy initiatives related to education
- Representing and managing advocacy campaigns at national, regional, and international policy-making forums
- Leading multi-region, multiyear advocacy campaigns like budget tracking and sector planning of education sector, financing for education, etc.

Project Coordinator at The Network for Consumer Protection

November 2000- March 2006

- Lead and Assist “Tobacco Free Initiative- Pakistan” to enforce FCTC in Pakistan
- Policy advocacy for tobacco control
- Networking with other anti-tobacco groups
- Designed and coordinated on research Tobacco and poverty, Tobacco and Agriculture, Passive Smoking, Tobacco and women

DEMONSTRATED SKILLS:

- Leading networks
- Strong leadership and team-building skills
- Designing and implementing mega projects
- Conceptualizing, designing, and running some of the mega advocacy campaigns
- Resource mobilization and donor liaison
- Multiple stakeholder relationship management
- Inventive research and program designing capability
- Excellent communication, management, and administrative skills
- Expert at budget planning, risk management, and strategic planning

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION

Master in Human Resources (MBA)

Conclude

