



## Press Release

### **PITB'S PROJECT "PMIU" IMPROVES SCHOOLS CONDITION IN PUNJAB-DR. UMAR SAIF**

Lahore, July 27, 2017

The smart monitoring of schools in the 36 districts of the Punjab province has improved the student enrolment, teachers' presence and the availability of essential utilities through Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) and School Education Department's joint project, "Program Monitoring and Implementation Unit (PMIU)". Dr. Umar Saif founding Vice Chancellor of Information Technology University (ITU) Punjab, Chairman PITB and Advisor to the Chief Minister Punjab observed while reviewing the progress of the project here today.

Dr. Saif expressed his satisfaction over the benefits of the new monitoring mechanism, which was proving most effective with enormous benefits, and include real-time reporting with pictorial evidence, geo-tagging of sites visited, and automatic SMS alerts on below target performance. The centralized dashboard provided access to consolidated information for timely trend analysis and proving highly helpful in decision making, he added.

He was informed that the School Education Department has employed 950 field officers to act as an independent school monitoring layer for the Government of Punjab. These field officers, known as Monitoring and Evaluation Assistants (MEAs), visit the 52,695 public schools across Punjab, every month, and report key stats including student enrollment, teacher presence, and the availability of utilities, at the time of their visit. In an effort to maintain fairness and to discourage collusion, district monitoring officers and PMIU re-assigns and shuffles schools to be visited by each MEA during different months. PMIU also regularly communicates with its field staff to ensure adherence to assigned schedules.

PMIU and the School Education Department worked with PITB to equip MEAs with SIM-enabled tablet-PCs, allowing them to digitally submit forms in real-time, during their spot visits to schools. Tablet-PCs (with the school monitoring software application) have been provisioned for PMIUs 950 monitoring officers across all 36 districts of Punjab. Most importantly, the School Education Department can now immediately identify which MEA performed a particular spot-visit making field monitoring staff directly and timely accountable for the data that they submit.

Over one million spot-visits to public schools have been processed and analyzed through the tablet-PC application, during the last three years. PMIU reviews and monitors all visit activity through a real-time, online reporting dashboard, with drill-down capability to access the actual form filled by the MEA during the spot visit. The system also sends automatic SMS alerts to the concerned district administration and key officials of the School Education Department every evening highlighting school with low compliance.