



COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING

COL in the Commonwealth

**2012–2015
Pakistan**

Acknowledgements

All COL Education Specialists and their Programme Assistants as well as CEMCA colleagues have contributed to the development of the country reports which make up the volume *COL in the Commonwealth: 2012-2015 Country Reports*. This country report is an excerpt from the volume. The following people are thanked in particular for their role in the design and publication of these reports.

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Foreword


COL in the Commonwealth: 2012-2015 Country Reports summarises COL's activities over the last three years (2012-2015) and captures what we have achieved in each Member State and across the Commonwealth.

This volume is the result of a collaborative process that began in 2011 with extensive partner consultations. Following these consultations, a *Country Action Plan* was developed to guide COL's work in each country. The reports contained in this volume describe the implementation of these plans and highlight COL's achievements during this three year plan.

The reports cover all Member States of the Commonwealth, showing not only what COL has done in developing countries but also how its work aligns with the international development priorities of Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. The reports are grouped under four regions: Africa and the Mediterranean, Asia, the Caribbean and the Pacific. Each regional section contains a brief regional report as well as the reports for each country within that region. The Pan-Commonwealth section describes COL's Initiatives, under the two sectors: 'Education' and 'Livelihoods and Health'. The reports for this triennium categorise COL activities according to our five core strategies: partnerships, capacity, materials, models and policy, in order to better present how our work contributes to outcomes. 'COL in Action' highlights real life examples to illustrate how COL's work impacts on people, groups and institutions in developing countries.

Most of the initiatives that COL pursued during this triennium are showing demonstrable results in expanding and improving opportunities for education and training, building healthier communities, helping rural communities achieve greater prosperity, and contributing to skills development. As the external Impact Evaluation report states: 'COL has had a major impact on individuals including farmers...faculty members, institutional leaders in formal and non-formal learning, selected policy makers and educational administrators'(S. Murgatroyd with J. Tully, 2015). The external Outcome Evaluation concludes that 'all the Initiatives moved successfully forward, on time and within budget' (N. Kemp and G. Farrell, 2015). Both evaluations confirm that COL is highly respected and well regarded in the field.

The production of *COL in the Commonwealth: 2012-2015 Country Reports* was made possible through collective effort and collaboration. Partners on the ground have diligently provided updates to COL. COL staff have tracked and assessed results obtained from partners through a thorough monitoring and evaluation process. COL's advanced knowledge management systems have enabled us to capture information from numerous sources and synthesise this into the reports that make up this volume. I must particularly commend Alexis Carr for her diligent work in filtering the masses of raw data and converting them into a coherent and meaningful narrative.



Professor Asha S. Kanwar
President and Chief Executive Officer
Commonwealth of Learning



CONTEXT

As Pakistan continues to strive for universal basic primary education, it faces the related challenge of increasing access to learning opportunities at the secondary and tertiary levels. Other challenges include building capacity in the design and delivery of open and distance learning (ODL) and expanding the use of digital technology to enhance learning for university students. Pakistan is a regular contributor to COL's budget.



COL'S WORK RELATED TO MDG TARGETS

National MDG Targets Addressed by COL

- ▶ Make available the benefits of new technologies, especially for information and communications

COL's Work on Pakistan's MDG Targets

- ▶ Policy, training and materials development in OER, information and communication technologies (ICTs), ODL and eLearning is underway



AGREED PRIORITIES

- ▶ Provide professional development and development of open educational resources (OER) for open schooling
- ▶ Support the Virtual Education Project Pakistan (VEPP) by arranging lectures in Higher Education
- ▶ Increase training of trainers in both curriculum and instructional design for higher education (formal and non-formal)
- ▶ Support transitions to dual mode: formal and ODL
- ▶ Build capacity to develop eLearning material and OER



OUTCOMES ACHIEVED BY COL

- ▶ Institutional capacity-building in OER and quality guidelines for OER developed
- ▶ Support for the Open School at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIQU) launched in 2013



QUICK NOTES

COL Board:

- ▶ Professor Dr Atta-ur-Rahman, FRS
Chief Patron, International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), University of Karachi, Pakistan, is the appointed Regional Representative for Asia on COL's Board of Governors and the Chair of the Audit Committee

COL Focal Point:

- ▶ Professor Dr Mansoor Akbar Kundi, Higher Education Commission

Areas of COL's Work in Pakistan:

- ▶ Open Schooling
- ▶ Higher Education



PAKISTAN



HIGHLIGHTS

COL has identified five core strategies to achieve outcomes and impact: partnerships, capacity, materials, models and policy. In practice, most COL activities incorporate more than one of these strategies and, in some cases, all five. However, for ease of reference, activities have been classified in only one of the five categories.

PARTNERSHIPS

COL partners with government agencies, public institutions, civil society and other organisations to improve and extend teaching and learning services to people in the developing Commonwealth.

- ▶ Higher Education Commission
- ▶ Ministry of Advanced Education
- ▶ Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU)
- ▶ Bahauddin Zakariya University (BZU)
- ▶ The British Council Pakistan
- ▶ Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU)

CAPACITY

Capacity development pervades all COL activities and COL focuses primarily on human resource development.

- ▶ Support to Attend the Regional Symposium on OER
- ▶ Support to Attend the Asian Association of Open Universities (AAOU) Conference
- ▶ Support to Attend the “Radio for Equitable Education to All” seminar
- ▶ Gender Mainstreaming in Open Schools
- ▶ Leadership Development for Women Academics
- ▶ Institutional Capacity-Building Workshops on OER-Based eLearning

- ▶ Scholarships to the Open Polytechnic of New Zealand (OPNZ)
- ▶ Quality Assurance workshop
- ▶ COMOSA Planning and Theory of Change
- ▶ Vice-Chancellors’ study tour

MATERIALS

Materials refer to learning and teaching resources including course materials, toolkits and frameworks. Materials are produced through collaboration with partners, or by partners themselves with COL support.

- ▶ The Commonwealth Executive MBA/MPA Programmes
- ▶ OER-based eLearning Programme for professional development of Higher Education Teachers

MODELS

A model is a coherent set of structures and processes that has been shown to work in more than one context to achieve specific results. Models can range from broad approaches to more specific instruments.

- ▶ Open Schooling model
- ▶ COL Review and Improvement Model (COL-RIM)

POLICIES

A policy is a high-level statement of ambition that specifies the outcomes to be achieved and that guides decision-making through a defined course of action. COL supports the development of policy for organisations and institutions as well as for governments.

- ▶ Quality Guidelines for Open Educational Resources (OER)

OTHER

- ▶ Speeches and presentations



LOOKING FORWARD: 2015–2021

In the lead-up to the 2014 Regional Focal Points Meeting, COL identified relevant national priorities for Pakistan from the Government of Pakistan’s online portal including:

- ▶ Establishment of uniformity and standardisation of the educational system (education as a national, public function) and achieving of cohesion in quality
- ▶ Support for business, commerce and technology for a globalised world
- ▶ Ongoing revision of the National Education Plan

Appendix: COL's Activities in Pakistan

PARTNERSHIPS

Commonwealth Open Schools Association (COMOSA)

Twenty-two partners signed the COMOSA constitution, including **Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU)**.

PARTNERSHIPS: MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

7th Pan-Commonwealth Forum (PCF7)

COL sponsored the following people to attend the forum: **Irshad Hussain** of the International Islamic University, **Zahid Majeed** of AIOU, and **Muhammed Safdar** of the International Islamic University of Islamabad.

CAPACITY

Support to Attend the Regional Symposium on OER

In September 2012, COL supported **Professor Dr Nazir Ahmed Sangi**, Vice-Chancellor of AIOU, to attend the Regional Symposium on OER, "An Asian Perspective on Policy and Practices," in Penang, Malaysia.

Support to Attend the Asian Association of Open Universities (AAOU) Conference

Eight candidates (four men and four women) from India, Malaysia, Pakistan and Sri Lanka were supported to attend the AAOU conference titled "Expanding Frontiers of Knowledge Through Open Distance Learning in Changing Societies" held in Chiba, Japan, from 16 to 18 October 2012. **Muhammad Zaheer** of the Virtual University of Pakistan attended the conference.

Support for "Radio for Equitable Education to All" Seminar

COL supported four experts from Bangladesh, Maldives, **Pakistan** and Sri Lanka to attend a seminar titled "Radio for Equitable Education to All," hosted by the Distance Education Programme – Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (DEP-SSA) of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) in Delhi from 27 to 29 December 2012. **Professor Muhammad Qasim** of **Pakistan** participated in the conference.

Gender Mainstreaming in Open Schools

To ensure that Open Schools mainstream gender in their activities, COL organised a COMOSA workshop from 13 to 17 March 2013 in Delhi to discuss the Gender Equality Guidelines developed by a COL consultant. Attending the workshop were 19 representatives from Bangladesh, Belize, Botswana, Canada, India, Kenya, Mozambique, New Zealand, **Pakistan**, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and United Kingdom.

Leadership Development for Women Academics

COL, in collaboration with the Open University of Sri Lanka, organised a regional workshop from 18 to 20 March 2013 on leadership development for 24 senior women academics in South Asia. Facilitators of the workshop were Professor Uma Coomaraswamy and Professor Madhulika Kaushik. **Dr Naveed Sultana**, Director, Quality Assurance, and **Dr Nomana Anjum**, Director, Department of Home and Health Sciences, both of AIOU, participated in the workshop.

Institutional Capacity-Building Workshops on OER-Based eLearning

From 29 to 31 January and 01 February 2013 at Wawasan Open University, Malaysia, aimed at developing competencies in integrating OER in teaching and learning, and took steps to develop a course on OER-based eLearning. Twenty-seven teachers (20 men and 7 women) from eight ODLE institutions in the region, including India, **Pakistan** and Sri Lanka, participated in the workshop. The workshop was facilitated by Professor Som Naidu of Charles Sturt University in Australia. **Dr Naveed Sultana**, Associate Professor, Department of Secondary Teacher Education, and **Dr Mohammad Daud**, Assistant Professor/In charge, Department of Computer Sciences, both of AIOU, attended the meeting.

From 6 to 9 January 2014, CEMCA facilitated a workshop on OER-based eLearning for the prospective facilitators of an upcoming online course at the Dr B.R. Ambedkar Open University in Hyderabad. **Mr Muhammad Ishaque Fani** of Bahauddin Zakariya University (BZU) Multan participated in the workshop and built his capacity in OER-based eLearning facilitation.

Scholarships to the Open Polytechnic of New Zealand (OPNZ)

To support women in higher education, COL sponsored 20 women faculty from higher education institutions in Africa and Asia by providing scholarships to undertake a one-year online certificate course in Designing and Facilitating eLearning (Level 5) of the OPNZ. This qualification is made up of three 20-credit courses and is delivered online through the Online Campus. Participating from Pakistan was **Dr Naveed Sultana** of AIOU.

As of June 2014, another nine women in higher education from eight different countries, including **Pakistan**, were sponsored to complete the Open OPNZ programme in designing and facilitating online learning/eLearning

Quality Assurance Workshop

COL organised a Quality Assurance workshop in New Delhi from 8 to 12 September 2014. **Zahida Sajjad Qazi** of AIOU participated in the workshop.

COMOSA Planning Meeting and Theory of Change Workshops

Bangladesh Open University, in collaboration with COL, hosted a COMOSA planning meeting as well as Theory of Change workshops in Dhaka from 30 September to 3 October 2014. Tanzila Nabeel of AIOU participated in the meeting and workshops.

Vice-Chancellor Study Tour

COL collaborated with the Higher Education Commission, Pakistan and the British Council on facilitating a leadership study tour to British Columbia, Canada, for Vice-Chancellors from Pakistan. The tour was held from 27 April to 6 May 2015 and involved universities and other higher education institutions, including the **Ministry of Advanced Education**.

MATERIALS

Commonwealth Executive MBA/MPA Programmes

The Commonwealth Executive MBA/MPA programmes have been offered by AIOU in Pakistan since their inception in 2002. Launched in 2002, the Commonwealth Executive MBA/MPA programmes were completely updated in 2013, with 12 courses revised and 10 courses rewritten. One new elective on Business Ethics was added, taking the total number of courses available to 23. Eleven partner institutions are currently offering the CEMBA/CEMPA programme. To date, 24,299 students have enrolled, 11,515 of whom have graduated. For the current triennium, 4,961 are reported to be enrolled, and thus far, 3,814 have graduated. AIOU in 2012–2014 had an enrolment of **1,463 students**, and to date **7,834 students** have graduated. COL continues to receive updates on enrolment and graduation figures from partner institutions.

During a visit to Pakistan in April 2013, COL's President and CEO met with alumni of the CEMBA/CEMPA programme.

MODELS

Open Schooling Model: Open School at AIOU

COL attended meetings in July 2012 with the **Vice-Chancellor and faculty members of AIOU** and visited Village Sajawal outside Thawa and the Umerkot Centre in Sindh and gathered information needed in planning the establishment and monitoring of an open school.

In October 2012, AIOU signed an agreement with COL for developing curriculum for its Open Schooling System that will provide education at primary and elementary levels to drop-out students throughout the country. Under the agreement, COL

provides assistance for the development of curriculum/content of the reading materials provided to the students.

COL visited Pakistan from 25 to 26 March 2013 to monitor the progress made on the development of 14 subjects and to continue discussions regarding learner support for a new open school. Meetings were held with the **Vice-Chancellor and various AIOU faculty members**. COL visited two centres in Bheen and Mangwal, as well as the AIOU Regional Centre of Chakwal.

During a visit to Pakistan in April 2013, COL's President and CEO formally launched the Open School at AIOU.

COL's Review and Improvement Model (COL-RIM)

During a visit to Pakistan in April 2013, the COL President and **Professor Nazir Sangi**, Vice-Chancellor of AIOU, signed the COL-RIM Memorandum of Understanding. The COL President also conducted an induction session at AIOU for the COL-RIM team, headed by **Dr Nomana Anjum**. The COL-RIM implementation at AIOU was completed in June 2013.

The COL-RIM verification process was also completed for **Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU, Pakistan)** in December 2013. These activities were supported by COL and funded by COMSEC.

POLICIES

Quality Guidelines for Open Educational Resources (OER)

CEMCA is engaged in developing quality guidelines for OER. The objective is to assist users of OER to assess quality from a lens devised by them using the criteria in the guidelines. A regional consultation workshop, hosted by Maulana Azad National Urdu University in Hyderabad from 13 to 15 March 2013, brought together 49 experts from the Asian region to discuss and debate the necessity, usefulness and relevance of the draft criteria and guidelines for quality OERs. **Professor Nabi Bux Jumani**, Department of Education of the International Islamic University in Islamabad, attended the meeting.

OTHER

Speeches and Presentations

The President and CEO of COL gave a speech titled "Opening Up to Open Education Resources" at the **AIOU** on 2 April 2013.

The President and CEO of COL gave a speech on COL-RIM at **AIOU** on 4 April 2013.

LEARNING FOR DEVELOPMENT

COL is an intergovernmental organisation created by Commonwealth Heads of Government to encourage the development and sharing of open learning and distance education knowledge, resources and technologies.

VISION: To be the foremost global agency that promotes learning for development

MISSION: To help governments and institutions to expand the scale, efficiency and quality of learning by using open, distance and technology-based approaches

CORE STRATEGIES: Partnerships, capacity, materials, models and policies

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