FAQs

School Assessment for School Improvement Program (SASIP)
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1. **What is SASIP?**
   
   School Assessment for School Improvement Program (SASIP) is an initiative taken by “Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA) with the technical support of Micro Credit Rating International Limited (MCRIL) India to evaluate the overall performance of Affordable Private Schools, Foundations Assisted Schools and some of the Public Sector Schools of Pakistan. The program is in the pilot phase. It is taking place in the cities of Lahore and Karachi from May 2012 to April 2013.

2. **What is the goal and objective of SASIP?**
   
   **Goal:** “To establish a school capacity assessment and audit system for improve governance and learning outcomes”

   SASIP has been designed with the focus on the enhancement of:

   - Capacity for Quality Learning
   - Infrastructure & Learning Materials
   - Sustainable Financial Management
   - Governance and Partnerships

3. **What are the components of SASIP?**
   
   SASIP has three major components:

   a) **School Assessment**

   b) **School Improvement**

   c) **Access to school financing**

   a) **School Assessment** will provide an analytical report on performance of affordable private schools. The rationale is to enable a comprehensive evaluation of schools and to set suitable standards of performance and excellence for them.

   b) **The improvement in schools** is earmarked through assessment of its control procedures; management’s capacity to take decisions, parents/community engagement, teachers’ performance, and student’s learning outcomes, and overall strategies and governance status of the institution.

   c) **Access to financing/credit** will be possible once there is evidence of assessment/evaluation across benchmarks of performance and a school improvement plan in place that recommends access to potential micro finance institutions and other organizations which are ready to provide funds to the educational institutions on feasible terms and conditions.

4. **Is SASIP implemented in any other country?**
   
   Yes, SASIP is the best practice of the “School Rating Project” of India which was implemented with the help of a private foundation named Gray Matters Capital (GMC). It collaborated with Micro Credit Rating International Limited (MCRIL)-India, pioneers of the microfinance rating industry in 2011 is now handling school ratings on its own.

5. **Who can be SASIP client?**
   
   - Privately Owned Schools
   - Trust Schools
   - Foundation Assisted Schools
   - Independently run government schools with boards and some fees

6. **What is the school selection criterion?**
   
   - Fee structure: SASIP has restricted to non-elite schools up to Rs. 1000 per month and in some rare cases (elite schools) up to Rs. 3000 per month.
   - Volume of students: minimum of 150 students
   - Preferably registered schools or schools in the process of being registered.
   - Board Recognition (where relevant)
7. How will SASIP benefit schools?
   - Show important dimensions of institutional performance to the stakeholders
   - Help parents to understand the quality of education in the school
   - Professional development plans for faculty members leading to improved learning outcomes of students
   - Engage the community in a meaningful manner in order to support management
   - Guide school management to upgrade the learning environment with options for professional development, learning material, and school finance.
   - Enable links with funders.

8. How long is the SASIP process?
   Assessment will be done in 3 working days. However, if need be additional time will be given to the founders/managers to ensure that their concerns and work is well recorded and presented.

   Data collected will be analyzed in one week through SASIP toolkit.

   A comprehensive and readable assessment report will be generated for the review of stakeholders after one month.

   Note: All the financial information is kept confidential to respect partners and clients of SASIP

9. What is the level of confidentiality of SASIP’s results?
   There are some elements such as financial information that will be kept confidential according to the decision of the partner school in SASIP. Prior to the report being finalized all elements will be thoroughly discussed with clients/partners.

10. What are the assessment areas under SASIP?
   - Interview sheet with Founder/Owner/Principal
   - Facility Checklist
   - Classroom observation
   - Students and Teachers assessment
   - Questionnaire for Parents and Teachers
   - Administrative and financial information

11. What does the SASIP Toolkit access?
    Toolkit is designed to access the following key dimensions:
    - Information about school background
    - Quality of education and teachers capabilities to maintain the same
    - Students learning levels
    - Record keeping techniques (manual/computerized)
    - Teaching methodologies in practice by observing different classes
    - Teachers’ satisfaction level through a random sample
    - Parents satisfaction with school management and their own engagement level with school
    - Financial Performance of the institution

12. How are teachers and students assessed?
    - Two tests will be taken from students to assess the general levels of Mathematics and English according to their level
    - Teachers will be observed during their classes and tested in English & Mathematics

13. What is the selection process of students for assessment?
    Students will be selected randomly from each class from Grad 1 to 10 (depending upon the school level i.e. Primary, Middle or Higher)
14. What is the importance of meeting with Parents?
   - To assess the parent’s satisfaction level with the help of various parameters set in a questionnaire that focus mainly on student’s communication skills, academic progress, work load, school infrastructure, fee and other charges, extracurricular activities and management response to parent’s queries.
   - To ascertain the level of parents support to the management

15. Why it is important to check facilities in school?
   School facilities contribute towards student’s level of motivation and are a positive factor to increase the enrolment in schools. Institutions with strong infrastructure usually possess high achievers and show remarkable results.

16. Why is Management’s cooperation important?
   Management’s cooperation will be required to:
   - Communicate with teachers and parents for a meeting of 30 minutes with School Assessment team.
   - allow assessment team to enter the classes to observe the teachers during their lectures
   - provide students and staff data for the purpose of assessment
   - arrange an interview with Founder/ Present owner
   - share financial information of the institutions
   - check the availability of a room for students assessment
   - provide supporting administrative help

17. Why is meeting the owner/promoter important?
   To address the following matters:
   - What motivated the founders/present owners to establish this school?
   - What is the legal status of the schools?
   - What are the problems faced by management in the schools?
   - What are the future plans and what support is required?

18. Why is Financial Information required?
   - Check the financial performance
   - evaluate the data keeping techniques
   - assess the level of financial sustainability in any school
   - forecast the finances the for the next year for improved planning

   Note: Any financial data collected from the institution will be kept confidential.

19. What are the performance indicators of SASIP?
   - Governance & strategy – covering the experience and involvement of the board and management in terms of strategy, growth and development.
   - Learning environment – teaching skills and experience of teachers, infrastructure & facilities provided and other amenities essential for the overall development of children.
   - Student academic achievements – results across classes specifically 9 & 10 board exam. Testing tools administered by the ITA team to assess the basic level of learning in English and Mathematics.
   - Parent engagement- level of satisfaction with student’s communication skills, academic progress, work load, school infrastructure, extracurricular activities and management response to parent’s queries.
   - Financial systems – details of record keeping, accounting, tracking of fee, over dues, adequacy of systems relative to the size of the institution.
   - Financial performance – analyze the school’s viability and financial performance.
20. **What is the cost of SASIP per school? Will the schools have to pay the cost during the pilot phase?**

- For the pilot phase in 2012 there will be no fee charged to the participating institutions.
- There will be a cost once the pilot phase is over.
- The fee/cost will vary according to the level (primary, middle secondary) fee level, enrolment and sponsors of the school e.g. Non-elite unaided schools, aided or foundation assisted schools, other private schools and selected model/divisional and unique government schools with independent boards.

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