

[TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

A  
BILL

to provide for provide compulsory education and training in the field of Information technology to all school going children up to the age of 16 years.

WHEREAS it is expedient to enable all young learners to identify their potentials and to enhance their skills in the field of information technology; and to harness their intelligence in the contemporary international environment of science and technology and to enhance the potential of Pakistan;

AND WHEREAS it is the core responsibility of schools to prepare students to face the future's challenges in the field of information technology and other industries relating to information technology;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. **Short title and commencement.**- (1) This Act may be called the Right to Compulsory Education and Training in the field of Information Technology Act, 2015.

(2) It shall extend to the Islamabad Capital Territory.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Definitions.**- In this act,

(a) "Child" means child of either sex whose age at the beginning of the school year is not less than five years and not more than 16 years;

(b) "Appropriate Government" means,

i. In relation to schools established, owned or controlled by the Federal Government, the Federal Government;

ii. In relation to schools established, owned or controlled by Local Government, the Local Government; and

iii. In relation to private schools supervised or managed by the Federal Government or as the case may be, Local Government.

(c) "Parent" includes a guardian or any other person who has the legal custody of a Child;

(d) "Primary School" includes all private and public institutions which are meant to deliver education up to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

(e) "Secondary School" includes all private and public institutions which are meant to deliver education up to the 10<sup>th</sup> grade.

(f) "Higher Secondary School" includes all private and public institutions which are meant to deliver education up to the 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

(g) "Information Technology" includes basic information, knowledge and skills in the application of computers and computer networks as well as telecommunication equipment to store, transmit and manipulate data. It includes computer hardware, software, electronics, semi-conductors, internet, telecom equipment, engineering, e-commerce and other computer related services.

(h) "Data" includes primary or secondary source information about any field of custody in a soft, transferable or printable form:

- i. "Primary source data" means surveys, numerical numbers, digital information about a specific field of study; and
- ii. "Secondary source data" means analytical, comparative and critical studies on any subject.

- (i) "Artificial Intelligence" means the basic skills of children in the use of high-tech machines for their efficient utility in daily life.
- (j) "Computer lab" means a specified place to deliver IT related education and training in the vicinity of school.
- (k) "Computer training" means use of computer efficiently in the field of office management software, such as a word processor, spreadsheet, database, presentation and publishing applications, as well as e-mail, surfing of web, retrieving, strong and safe keeping of data and printing.
- (l) "Computer Teacher and Trainer" includes a person who is duly qualified in the field of information technology, having the minimum qualification of bachelor degree in computer science from a recognized institution, and is recruited by the concerned administration or the appropriate government to deliver education and training.
- (m) "Inspector/assessor" is a person who may be appointed by the appropriate Government in a prescribed manner to inspect and assess the steps taken by concerned School administrations with regard to the implementation of compulsory computer education and training.

**3. Compulsory IT education.**- (1) It shall be mandatory for every primary, secondary and higher secondary School, to devise a course for compulsory IT training to enhance the IT skills of school children.

- (2) The course content of the computer education and training may be prescribed in consultation with the concerned Board of education which may contain basic information about hardware and software of computers, electronics, semi-conductors, internet, telecom equipment, e-commerce and other computer related services as notified in the prescribed manner.

**4. Computer Teacher and Trainer.**- It shall be mandatory for every primary, secondary and higher secondary schools to recruit or to hire a teacher/trainer duly qualified in the field of information technology and computer sciences.

**5. Computer Lab.**- It shall be mandatory for every school to establish and manage a specified place within the school premises to deliver IT education and training, which shall be suitably equipped with computers, networking and printing facilities and be readily available to the students.

**6. Inspector/Assessor.**- He shall be appointed by the appropriate government and shall be authorized to inspect and monitor the status of computer laboratories and course contents of IT related education and training twice during every academic year and shall also ensure the strict compliance of this act in every school.

**7. Complaint.**- (1) Upon receiving any complaint either by a student or by a parent, the District Education Officer may delegate his power to the respective Inspector/Assessor to inspect the school.

- (2) If upon the report of Inspector/Assessor or the District Education Officer is satisfied that the concerned school has been found negligent of delivering compulsory IT education and training, then he/she shall recommend a departmental enquiry against the head of the concerned such school.

8. **Delegation of powers.**- The appropriate Government may delegate all or any of its powers and functions under this Act to the EDO education or any other officers by name or designation.
9. **Powers to make rules.**- the Federal Government may, by notification in the official gazette, make rules, for carrying out the provisions of this Act.
10. **Saving.**- The provision of this act shall be in addition to and not in derogation of any other law.

### **STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS**

To day, schools have a responsibility to prepare students to face the challenges of the future. The use of computers and information technology is an essential element of most occupations. Preparing students as the workforce is one of the goals of today's education. Since, almost all occupations now and in the future will require students to use technology in some form, therefore, students need to be equipped with the necessary basic skills in the field of computers and technology.

The foundation courses in Information Technology and Computer Science in schools at primary, secondary and higher Secondary levels will not only provide basic IT skills but will also help the students in pursuing further education at higher level.

The compulsory IT education will also improve students' research skills by encouraging them to look for information on the Internet. It will enable them to carry out research efficiently and effectively for their subject material and enhance their knowledge as a student and also in their working life.

Moreover, incorporating compulsory IT education in schools would also inspire students to undertake careers in technology which would further enhance the overall knowledge pool of Pakistan.

Sd/-

MS. FARHANA QAMAR,  
Member, National Assembly

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