

ORDER SHEET

IN THE HIGH COURT OF SINDH BENCH AT SUKKUR

Constitutional Petition No.D-2082 of 2025.

(Suhail Latif Memon and another vs Province of Sindh and others)

Date	Order with the signature of the Judge(s).
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1. *For orders on office objections.*
2. *For the hearing of the main case.*

06.05.2026.

Petitioners Suhail Latif Memon and Yaseen Ali Ghunio are present in person.

Mr. Israr Ahmed Shah, Assistant Advocate General, along with Abdul Qadeer, Director General, Planning, Development & Research, School Education and Literacy Department.

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On 31.03.2026, this Court passed an order whereby a comprehensive report was sought from the Chief Secretary, Government of Sindh, regarding the introduction of a province-wide laptop scheme for eligible students, duly categorized so as to ensure transparency, merit-based selection, and equitable distribution amongst students across the Province. The said order was passed after careful consideration of the para-wise comments submitted by the Secretary, College Education Department; Secretary, School Education and Literacy Department; Secretary, Science and Information Technology Department; Secretary, Finance Department; as well as the comments filed by the Secretary, Universities and Boards Department.

Thereafter, on 22.04.2026, the Secretary, Information Science and Technology Department, Government of Sindh, appeared in person on behalf of the Chief Secretary, Sindh, and apprised this Court regarding the proposed laptop scheme as well as its future roadmap and implementation strategy. He further undertook before this Court that a comprehensive proposal for the upcoming financial

year would be placed before the Provincial Cabinet for consideration, approval, and subsequent implementation. On the said date, notice was also issued to the Secretary, School Education and Literacy Department, for further assistance to this Court.

Today, the Director General, Planning, Development and Research, School Education and Literacy Department, appeared on behalf of respondent No.2 and reiterated the stance already reflected in the comments filed before this Court.

At the very outset, it is pertinent to observe that the present era is universally recognized as the digital age, wherein access to technological tools, particularly laptops and digital learning resources, has become an integral and crucial component of quality education, academic development, research advancement, and intellectual growth. In modern educational systems, digital accessibility is no longer a luxury but has assumed the character of a necessity for ensuring meaningful participation in contemporary learning environments. Consequently, the right to education guaranteed under Article 25-A of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan cannot be interpreted in a narrow or restricted sense. Rather, the Constitutional guarantee of education must be construed in a progressive and purposive manner to make education effective, accessible, and meaningful in practical terms.

The material placed before this Court reflects that the respondents themselves have substantially acknowledged the importance and necessity of digital education and have also referred to certain initiatives and proposed schemes regarding the distribution of laptops amongst students. However, despite such acknowledgment, the fundamental grievance raised by the petitioners appears to carry considerable force, since no comprehensive province-wide educational framework or coherent policy presently exists for the systematic provision of digital

educational tools to deserving students at school, college, and university levels.

This Court has further observed that although deliberations are admittedly underway within the relevant departments and the matter has remained under consideration in various official meetings, no finalized policy framework has so far been introduced to ensure uniformity, transparency, merit-based allocation, financial planning, and institutional implementation of such an important educational initiative. Mere departmental discussions, without a structured and enforceable policy, are insufficient to address the pressing educational requirements of the youth of the Province.

At this juncture, reference may also be made to the Principles of Policy embodied under Articles 37 and 38 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, which cast an obligation upon the State to reduce disparities and secure social justice. These constitutional mandates, when read amicably with Article 25-A of the Constitution, require the State to formulate progressive educational policies capable of meeting contemporary educational demands.

Prima facie, access to digital educational tools forms an essential component of modern educational infrastructure and directly contributes towards equal educational opportunity, academic enhancement, research facilitation, and the reduction of educational disparity between privileged and underprivileged students. Therefore, this Court is of the view that formulation of a comprehensive digital educational assistance policy, particularly a structured laptop scheme, is both justified and necessary in the larger public interest.

In view of the foregoing discussion, the Chief Secretary, Government of Sindh, in consultation with all relevant departments, including the School Education and Literacy Department, College

Education Department, Universities and Boards Department, Science and Information Technology Department, Finance Department, and any other concerned authority, is directed to finalize and introduce a comprehensive province-wide laptop scheme policy. Such policy shall include, *inter alia*, categorization of beneficiaries at intermediate, college, and university levels.

Since it has already been acknowledged in earlier comments that the matter is under active consideration before the competent authorities, the respondents are expected to proceed with due diligence and seriousness. The proposed scheme shall be incorporated, to the extent possible, in the forthcoming financial year budget, and the entire exercise shall be completed within a period of forty-five (45) days positively.

The compliance report shall be submitted before the next date of hearing.

The office is directed to communicate this order to the learned Advocate General, Sindh, the learned Additional Advocate General, Sindh, and the Chief Secretary, Government of Sindh, for compliance and necessary implementation. Respondent No.7, namely Higher Education Commission, is also directed to file its para-wise comments before the next date of hearing.

Relist on 04.08.2026.

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