

Commercialization of Education in Pakistan as a Challenge to Intellectual Development

Outline:

01) Introduction:

Thesis Statement: Education is the key to national development and intellectual well-being of a person. In Pakistan, however, the true purpose of education is damaged which becomes a hindrance in intellectual development. It can be curbed using empirical steps to transfer quality education and enhance intellectual abilities.

02) Situation of education in Pakistan

03) Reasons of commercialization of education system in Pakistan:

a) Economic crisis leads to privatization of government institutions

b) Increasing population: a strain on existing public education capabilities.

c) Globalization promotes commercialization of higher education

04) How commercialization of education posed challenges to intellectual development:

a) Huge teacher student ratio reduces the quality of education and leads to weak intellectual abilities.

b) Business-oriented approach of education institutions instead developing critical thinking

c) Prioritizing financial gains hinders the innovation and research practices.

d) In the better reputation, rote learning ^{score and marks} is preferred to conceptual learning

e) High tuition fees deprive poor but capable

Students from quality education

- f) Lack of trainings provided to teacher in order to save money.
 - g) Death of decision-making abilities because of less focus on intellectual development and old curriculum!
- 05) Repurcussions of lack of intellectual development:
- a) Emergence of short-sighted leadership in every institution hinders the progress of the country
 - b) Death of intellectuals and competent leaders lead to low economic progress.
 - c) Societal crimes increase due to low intellect of the masses.
 - d) Brain drain in search of better education
- 06) Solutions to resolve challenges of commercialization of education:
- a) Investment in public sector schools to reduce socio-economic disparity.
 - b) Strict monitoring of private institutions to ensure quality education and intellectual development.
 - c) Adopt inquiry-based approach to foster the intellectual curiosity and independent learning.
- 07) Conclusion

Essay:

Imagine, a baby is born with intriguing intelligence. She has an excellent intellectual mind and is great in her logics and speaking abilities. She wants a good guidance that boost and enhance her skills. For this purpose, her parents admitted her in a reputable institution of the area. The institution was amazing in infrastructure and giving an impression of great study environment. However, the institution was only good in building and lacks the ability to induce quality education in students because of their focus on profit making instead intellectual development. Such is the situation in the education sectors of Pakistan. The government privatized the education sectors because of the global norms, increasing economic crisis and population. Ironically, the result of these steps cost the intellectual well-beings of the students. Such as, huge teacher-student ratio reduced the quality and ability of a teacher. The business-oriented approach and focused on profit gain have worse affects on the intellectual development. Moreover, the tuition fees are so high which deprives capable but poor students to get education. The teachers are lacking in capabilities which hinders in ^{building} the decision-making abilities of the students. These challenges have several implications, such as, emergence of myopic and leadership along with dearth of competent leaders. Also, societal crimes are increasing and brain drain are two major issues of lack of intellectual development. These issues can be mitigated through by strict

monitoring, investment in public sector schools and adopting inquiry-based approach to foster the intellectual curiosity and independent learning. As, education is the key to national development and intellectual well-being of a person. In Pakistan, it seems that prioritizing financial gains and commercialization of education has become hindrance in intellectual development. It can be curbed using empirical steps to transfer quality education and enhance intellectual abilities.

Education is the key for prosperity and nation building of the country. It is the education which gives wings to an individual person to climb the highest morale of the society and achieve success in throughout life. Ironically, in Pakistan, the situation of education is worse, a harsh reality, the country is backward in this enlightenment giving field. According to United Nations International Children's Emergency Funds (UNICEF) recent statistics that almost 22.8 million children students in Pakistan are out-of-school. It is such an alarming situation for the state. From outdated curriculum to rote learning and mismanagement to weak education policies are playing a role of fire in the fuel. Hence, such condition of education cost the intellectual development of the students.

The reasons behind the commercialization of education is the economic crisis of Pakistan. This leads the incumbent government towards privatization of government institutions. Privatization refers to the transfer of services from being owned by the state to being owned by private sectors. Since the inception of Pakistan, it faced extreme economic crisis and due to the recent blow to economic condition, the government prefer to transfer education sector to private institutions for the better management and quality education. As, Sindh's School Education and Literacy Department (SELD) collaborated with private Education Management Organizations (EMOs) to provide proper facilities and quality education to students in 2022. Hence, fragile state of economy takes government towards commercialization.

Moreover, population growths lead to strain on existing public education capabilities. Population is increasing at an alarming state and it puts a heavy stress over the state's ability to provide quality education. Therefore, with the increasing demand of education due to escalating population, the state allowed commercialization of education across the country. According to Pakistan Education Statistics 2020-2021, there are 40% private schools functioning in the country. Hence, proliferation of the public becomes a reason of commercialization of education in

Pakistan.

Globalization is another factor that is contributing in commercialization of education. It is basically the process by which institutions operate on an international liberal norms. It makes border porous and accessibility of higher education becomes easy to get. In a globalized world, education is often seen as an industry that can be traded across the broader. International institutions of education see opportunity and open its branches in other states. Such as, Beacon house group has opened its branches in eight (08) different countries to provide quality education across the globe. (beaconhouse.net) Hence, development of new norms also lead towards commercialization of education.

Education is commercialized, but, it posed challenges to intellectual development of the students. The huge teacher-student ratio reduces the quality of education as well as the ability of a teacher to impart good education. The student-teacher ratio refers to the number of students assigned to every teacher in a school. In Pakistan, to save money, the private institutes put huge burden, against their ability, on a teacher which resulted in less productivity and less intellectual

debates with students. Also, teachers are unable to concentrate on every student in a classroom. According to Global Education Monitoring report - 2022, the student-teacher ratio in Pakistan is 92:1, which hinders in their ability. Hence, a large number of students in a classroom becomes a challenge to intellectual development.

Not only the huge student-teacher ratio but also the business-oriented approach of education institutions instead of developing critical thinking has become an obstacle in the intellectual development of a student. Business-oriented approach means organizations outlining a strategy and following it to achieve their goals of profit making. The commercialized education sectors are not offering and providing extra-curriculum activities in order to save money. There are a very few sectors who worked on STEM activities and impact intellectual decision-making skills. According to National Education Policy (NEP) 2020-2025, there are only 20% schools who are offering extra-curriculum activities. Such as a low number of schools providing critical thinking exercises and activities.

The institutions are prioritizing financial gains and are not providing with proper innovation and research practices to enhance cognitive abilities. Profit making is more valued in

commercialized sectors over the induction and usage of innovative research based technology. The institutions are investing in latest technology which hinders the proper concept building in the students. According to Global Partnership for Education report, Pakistan: Technology Boost Education Reforms, 2020 states that Pakistan lacks in innovation technology and almost 75% of schools are lagging behind in suitable laboratories and technological innovation. Hence, less investment in research material leads to less intellectual growth.

The education institutions are not stopping here in gaining financial benefits but they are in a race of better reputation of the sector. For this, they are prioritizing better grades by preferring rote learning to conceptual learning. Rote learning is basically a vicious cycle of memorize - forget and prepare - exam. The commercialized education institutions are focusing on better marks only, they provide a simple and already learnt questions in examination and are not even trying to enhance conceptual answering. Resultantly, the students are lacking in proficiency in reading and writing. According to Learning Poverty Report, 65% of students lack proficiency of writing a single correct paragraph. Thus, in a race of better reputation, education institutions cost the intellectual or rational development of the students.

Likewise, the education institutions charge high fees to students for better quality of education. It deprives the poor but capable students to take good education. The commercialization of education makes education available to only to elite class people and deprive middle or lower classes to get quality education. Due to the fragile economic condition, poor families are unable to provide good and quality education to their childrens and resulted in high number of out-of-school children. According the UNICEF Statistics 2022, almost 52% of poor students in Sindh and 78% of poor students in Balochistan are out-of-school. Hence, such the quality education becomes a privilege to few masses.

In the same manner, the institutions are hiring less trained teachers which further deteriorate the condition of existing education state. The education sectors provide no training to teachers to save money and also hire cheap teachers at lower wages. In Pakistan, institute hired less trained teachers having only bachelors degrees without pedagogical training. Resultantly, these teachers are unable to transfer quality education among students and the mental analytical and rational building of students mental abilities are compromised. According to Global Education Monitoring

(QEM) report 2023, only 23% of teachers have pedagogical training. Therefore, institutions save money and provide no proper facilities and trainings to teachers.

Similarly, students are lacking in decision making because of less focus of education institutions on rational build and critical thinking. Due to the outdated methods of teaching in several education universities and institutions, students are lagging behind in making proper decisions. They are only confined to given syllabus and in a race of taking good marks and passing exams. As, Rana Javed Akhter, a professor in University of Nebraska, said, in Pakistan, ~~he~~ he saw students who are from high reputed university but has zero tolerance and no rational decision-making over small tasks. Hence, commercialization of education costs to death of decision-making abilities in students.

The repercussions of such extreme challenges of lack of intellectual development are worse. The emergence of short-sighted leadership is a contributing factor by low intellectual well-being. It hinders the progress of the country. Short-sighted leaders do not bother to secure consensus or explain the

reasoning behind their decisions. Such leaders hinder the progress by making myopic policies which put the country in extreme crisis. It is evident by the recent of state of Pakistan, it is grappling with serious politico-economic crisis which are getting more and more serious because of ~~the~~ a myopic strategic mindset. Hence, such leaders become an obstacle in the prosperity of the country.

Besides, such myopic leadership also leads to the death of competent leaders which becomes a problem for the economic prosperity of the country. Low cognitive thinking costs a lot to the country because when the rulers are weak in making better policies ^{and} are not competent to the current international world become an issue for the economic progress. The 21st Century is the century of geo-economic well-being, if any state lacks to align itself with it, it will lack in all other domains. For instance, Pakistan is lagging in meeting the world's expectation because of its fragile economy and it is because of the ineffectiveness of competent leadership. Hence, leaders lack in adequate skill are due to the low intellectual development.

Furthermore, societal crimes are also increasing at an alarming state. It is because of

the low intellectual building of the masses. The relationship between intellectual functioning and crimes are deep. If the education institutions are failing to impart rational thinking process, resulted in surge of crimes because of low intellect.

According to the crime index rate 2023, Pakistan is ranked at 85th with 43% crime rate because of weak education system. Hence, education plays an important part in building a society better version.

Due to the commercialization of education implications, brain drain becomes a common phenomena. Students are preferring higher education in abroad because of fragile condition of education in Pakistan. Brain drain is basically a situation in which the highly trained or capable masses emigrate from their own country to another. The low quality of education make youth averse of education system and they prefer to go abroad. According to Bureau of Emigration of Overseas Statistics, almost 765,000 youth migrated from Pakistan in 2022. Hence, youth move from the country put a heavy set back to the progress of the state.

Every problem has a solution, so, the challenges and implications posed by the commercialization of education can also be resolved. The government has to invest in public sectors schools more to reduce the socio-economic disparity. The distinction among classes, elite or poor, becomes a major hurdle in providing quality education and equality in the society. Privilege class can afford of expensive education but poor class is unable to meet the expense. It is the duty of the state to provide education to everyone, as it is the basic fundamental right of the citizens. As, the article 25-A of the constitution of Pakistan states that it is the responsibility of state to provide free education to the children. Hence, investment in public education sectors reduces the challenges of commercialization of education.

With investment in public sectors and a strict monitoring of private institutions to ensure quality education and intellectual development will boost the education well-being of the students. A proper check and balance is a need of hour over the institution in the wake of the challenges. The government has to strengthen the education committees and provide them all the necessary equipments for the surveillance in a better way. As, China installed surveillance camera's in the education institutions and even in the classrooms to monitor

the activities of the students as well as the staff for better education. Hence, such measures are required at an urgent need to curb the implications of the weak cognitive abilities.

In the same way, the government education institutions need to adopt inquiry-based approach to foster the intellectual curiosity and independent learning. Inquiry-based learning is the process that engages students by making real-world connections through exploration and high-level questioning. The state needs to induce this approach at all levels of the education hierarchy, based on the medium, to increase the rational thinking in the students. For instance, there are many states in a world who are taking open-ended examinations to see the rational thinking process of the students. Hence, Pakistani education institutions need to impose this system to expand the thinking capacities of their students.

To sum up, education is one thing that no one can take away from a person. However, in Pakistan, the condition of education is as worse as the conditions of masses in wars. There is no priority given to education and the commercialization of education further deteriorate the existing situation. The high student-teacher ratio, business-oriented

approach, focusing on benefits from institutions instead of quality education cost the intellectual enlargement of the students. The implications are even worse, such as, the emergence of myopic and less competent leaders as well as burgeoning crime rate put strain on the prosperity of the country. However, if the challenges exist so must, the solutions. Pakistan has a potential to curb the menace of commercialization and lead towards the prosperity of the country.

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