

Problems in Education System of Pakistan

Outline

I- Introduction

Many causes are responsible for educational crisis such as low budget, lack of policy implementation, division in educational institutions and outdated curriculum which has many impacts like low literacy rate, rise in poverty and violence, and stronghold of feudalism. So, some persistent measures such as budget allocation, policies implementation and awareness creation are necessary for countering crisis.

II Causes of educational crisis

1- Lack of proper budget allocation

(a) 1.77% of GDP budget ^{was} allocated in 2021-22

(Economic Survey of Pakistan Report, 2022)

(b) Deteriorated educational infrastructure

2- Lack of policy implementation

(a) policies fail to implement since inception

(Research Article: "Why educational policies fail in Pakistan" (2021) by Zahid Hussain)

(b) Directionless journey of education sector

3. Differences in educational institutions
- (a) Prevalence of public, private and Madrasah system
(Research Article: "Problems of Education in Pakistan" (2023) by Amnah Umair)
 - (d) created different school of thoughts
4. Outdated curriculum in Pakistan
- (a) Theory based, old curriculum
(UNESCO ^{Report,} 2023)
 - (b) lack of modern learning techniques

III Impacts of flawed education system

1. Decrease in literacy
- (a) 62.8% literacy rate in 2021
(Research Article: "Education is key" (2022) by Nasir Iqbal)
 - (b) common people cannot read and write
2. Rise in poverty and unemployment
- (a) lack of Academia Industry linkage program
(Research Article: "Education in Pakistan" (2022) by Sabiha Abid)
 - (b) young generation is unemployed
3. Rise in terrorism, sectarianism and extremism
- (a) Discrimination in education system

(World Bank Report, 2022)

- (b) Surge in violence
- 4- Strengthen the grip of feudals
- a) Control their tribes and Mazaras

(Daily Parliament Times, 2022)

- (b) Masses become enslaved due to ignorance and illiteracy

IV- Way forward for countering educational crisis

- (a) Allocation of minimum 4% of GDP
- (b) Proper implementation of educational policies
- (c) Complete implementation of Single National Curriculum
- (d) Awareness campaigns about significance of education

V- Conclusion

Essay

“Education is a matter of life and death for Pakistan. The world is progressing so rapidly that without requisite advance in education, not only shall we lag behind others but maybe wiped out altogether.”

Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah
 Founder of Pakistan

Education has a significant role in the development of any nation. It awares people about their rights and leads a country toward the progress of modern standards. Despite its profound importance, Pakistan's educational sector has been facing relentless challenges.

Many causes such as low budget allocation, lack of policy implementation, division in educational institutions and outdated curriculum are responsible for prevailing problems. ^{problematic education system} Which has many impacts such as low literacy rate, rise in poverty and violence and stronghold of feudalism. So, some persistent measures like budget allocation, policies implementation and spread of awareness are necessary for countering educational crisis. According to Human Development Index (HDI) Report (2022), Pakistan was ranked 161 out of

191 nations. HDI used the dimensions of healthy life and access to knowledge for ranking. Many causes are responsible for the prevailing crisis of education. Government allocates very little amount of budget which hinders the proper implementation of policies. In addition to this, different educational institutions, such as private public and Deeni Madaris, ^{with} ~~and~~ outdated curriculum exacerbate the situation. Educational crisis has many adverse impacts such as decreased in literacy which leads to poverty along with unemployment. Terrorism and extremism also prevails in society. Some persistent measures like budget allocation, implementation of policies and awareness campaigns have importance in countering crisis.

As far as the causes of educational crisis are concerned, firstly, the low budget allocation is responsible for the educational crisis. According to

Economic Survey of Pakistan Report (2022), Pakistan was allocated 1.77% of GDP in the year of 2021-2022. This budget is low than average 4% of GDP recommended by United Nations for education sector. Government ~~use~~ spends little amount on education sector which leads to the deteriorated educational infrastructure. Education departments suffers from insufficient funds so unable to build new schools or work for the upgradation of existing schools. Many educational departments lack classrooms, furniture, or other modern technology. Along with this, schools also suffers from lack of teaching and non-teaching staffs. So, insufficient budget allocation causes many problems in education sector.

Secondly, Lack of policy implementation causes flaws in education sector.

According to **Research Article** "Why educational

Policies fail in Pakistan" (2021) by Zahid Hussain, Pakistan has formulated educational policies since inception which fail due to lack of implementations. First educational policy of 1947 was not implemented due to immigrants surge and economic problems. Subsequent educational policies of 1952, 1959, 1970 and 1972 also faced such challenges of economic problems, Pakistan and India wars, separation of East Pakistan and other administrative challenges. Government has not implemented the educational policies in true sense. Therefore, the lack of policies implementation also leads Pakistan into the quagmire of educational crisis.

Thirdly, the prevalent educational problems are also stemmed from the existence of different educational institutions in society. According to

Research Article "Problems of education in Pakistan" (2023) by Amnah Umair, in Pakistan three different types of educational institutes i.e public schools, private schools and Deeni Madaris are operational under aegis of education department in Pakistan. These institutes create apartheid in society and discriminate society on the basis of socio-economic status. Rich segments of society send their kids to private school while poor segments send to public schools or Deeni Madaris. Discrimination in institutes created literates of different school of thoughts. Private schools produce our bureaucrats while governments school create clerk and Madaris produce clergy in society. Therefore, differences in education sector leads to the problems in education sector.

Fourthly, the teaching of outdated

curriculum takes a country to the existing ~~issues~~^{plight} of education sector. According to **UNESCO Report (2023)**, in Pakistan theory based and old curriculum without any practical application ~~was~~ teaching in schools. The curriculum is not upgraded with the passage of time according to the needs of modern standards of education. Curriculum plays a crucial role in the advance learning of students. Obsolete curriculum hampers the development of learning and teaching system on modern basis. Along with outdated curriculum, differences in curriculum also exist which further deteriorated the situation. So, outdated curriculum is one of the cause for the flaws in education sector.

As far as the impacts of educational crisis are concerned, firstly, the deteriorated educational

sector leads toward the low literacy rate in the country.

According to Research Article "Education is Key" (2022) by Nasir Iqbal, in

2021 the literacy rate in Pakistan is 62.8%. In other words, only

62.8% individuals have the ability to read and write. The literacy

rate persistently accounts 60% over the past decade without any significant progress. According to

UNESCO (2023), 75% of 10 years old students cannot read text

which increased to 79% due to

Corona virus pandemic and floods.

So, Flawed education system is responsible for the prevailing illiteracy in the society.

Secondly, educational crisis takes toward the edge of increased unemployment and poverty. According to Research

Article "Education in Pakistan" (2022)

by **Sabiha Abid**, lack of Academia Industry linkage program leads a country toward rise in poverty and unemployment. Educational institutes, which comprise mainly of colleges and universities, producing graduates which have no match with the existing jobs in the market scenario. Thousands of graduates enter the professional life with lack of related knowledge to specific profession or majority cannot find any job. Pakistan has approximately 60% youth between age of 25-40. Majority of youth is unemployed due to having mismatch degree or lack of skills. So, flaws in education sector leads to surge in poverty in unemployment.

Thirdly, crisis in education sector has an adverse effect on the rise of violence in the

form of extremism, sectarianism and terrorism. According to **World Bank Report on education (2022)**, discrimination in the educational sector prevails in the form of private schools, public and Deeni Madaris. These educational institutes create people with different mind set. Differences lead to the grudges among different segments of society. Poor people have negative opinion and become prejudice about rich segments. In this race of discrimination, majority remain illiterate in the society ^{and involve in violence.} All these factors become significant due to flawed educational sector.

Fourthly, the grip of landlords and feudals become strengthen due to prevailing illiteracy and crisis in educational sector. According to **Daily Parliament Times (2022)**,

Feudals and landlords control their tribes and mazaras. Feudals and landlords do not allow the children of their sub-ordinates to go to school. Illiterate and ignorant people having less awareness about their rights are become easy to rule. Tribes and Mazaras have lack of access to education due to the complete hold of their owners. Government's inefficiency to provide equal opportunities of education to every individual leads to the hold of feudals and landlords on masses. So, educational crisis has a adverse effect in the form of increased feudalism in society.

Some persistent measures are required to counter the challenging education sector. Firstly, Government need to consider

the handsome amount allocation in budget. United Nations recommended 4% of GDP allocation for education to attain Sustainable Developmental Goals (SDGs). Without proper financing through budget allocation, the progress and development in education sector is impossible. Government ought to consider the prevailing ills of education sector, ^{which exhibited} in the form of deteriorated infrastructure and lack of staff. Problems and ills of education system can only be countered through proper financing.

Secondly, proper implementation of educational policies has profound importance in catering educational crisis. Due to different challenges either internal or external, the educational policies of Pakistan remained only in documents and not implemented in its

true sense Implementation of policies is as necessary as the formulation of policies. Policies actually provide a guideline or pathway to education department. Without implementation the progress or journey of education move in an uncertain way. So, for the progress of education sector, governments should its best to enforce the formulated policies.

Thirdly, complete implementation of Single National Curriculum (SNC) is important in overcoming prevailing issues of education. Single National Curriculum ^{was} initiated in 2018 and according to SNC in all four provinces same curriculum will be teach. SNC was not enforced equally in all provinces because according to 18th amendment education sector is a

provincial subject not federal. 18th amendment hinders the complete implementation of SNC in all provinces by federal government. Sindh and Balochistan refused to implement it. Objective of SNC to remove differences among private, public and Deeni Madaris cannot be achieved without its complete implementation in all provinces.

Fourthly, for countering illiteracy and issues of education sector, awareness campaign are necessary to spread awareness about the significance of education. Masses should be educated through all forms of media such as electronic, print and social media. In the far flung areas, government should organize awareness campaigns about the importance

of education for masses and development of society. Along with awareness campaign, government and other NGOs should provide incentives to poor segment in order to bring them in the mainstream of society. So, for countering educational sector problems, awareness campaigns have profound importance.

In a nutshell, many causes are responsible for educational crisis such as low budget allocation, lack of policy implementation, division in educational institutions and outdated curriculum. Flawed educational sector has many impacts such as low literacy rate, rise in poverty and violence, and stronghold of feudalism. So, some persistent measures such as budget allocation and policy implementation and awareness creation are important

for countering crisis. Education has significant role in the development and progress of any nation.

In the twentieth century, progress of any country is not possible without advancement of education.

Government should analyze the education system of succeeded countries in education sector such as Finland and South Korea. In Finland, 7.1% of GDP is allocated for education. Focus of Finnish government is to work for students' mental health and teacher training. They not even burdenize their students in the competition of grades. Following the footsteps of successful nations and adoption of the persistent measures, one may hope that government will be able to counter the educational crisis in Pakistan.