

Higher education as the saviour of a nation

Outline

1. Introduction

Thesis statement: Higher education plays its pivotal role in a nation's progress. When it comes to Pakistan, some elements are affecting its higher education. However, it can be put on right track, and this country can take its benefits if a few sincere efforts are made.

2. How higher education is the saviour of a nation

3. How higher education plays its role in a nations' progress

- A) Governments perform well due to the pressure of educated people
- B) Higher education strengthens democratic system in a nation
- C) Higher education makes the economy of a nation better
- D) Higher education makes nations compete with the rest of the world
- E) Higher education helps nations come out of crises
- F) Higher education encourages people in a nation to participate in social work
- G) Life expectancy of a nation increases due to its better higher education system

4. Why higher education of Pakistan is not effective

- a) Pakistan is not spending adequately in higher education
- b) Most children do not get primary education in Pakistan
- c) Children of rural areas of Pakistan are out of schools
- d) Many talented students do not reach universities in Pakistan
- e) Universities of Pakistan are not imparting modern skills in students
- f) Philosophy is not being taught in universities of Pakistan

5. Way forward to better the higher education system of Pakistan

- a) Pakistan must ensure primary education for all children
- b) universities of Pakistan must grant scholarships to needy and talented students of this nation
- c) philanthropists of Pakistan must support needy and talented students of the nation
- d) religious scholars must emphasise on higher education for Pakistani nation

6. Conclusion

Essay

It is stated, “The more you learn, the more you progress.” Same is true of nations in the world. If their masses are well educated, they can progress. The reason is that people having higher education can pressurize their government to perform well. Besides, higher education makes democratic system efficient, and plays its role in the betterment of economy. It also makes nations capable of competing with the world. And highly educated citizens do not become the burden on the state. Instead, they bring their country out of crisis by participating in social work. Higher education also increases life expectancy in a country. Though better education is key to success, yet in Pakistan, this idea is not given attention. Thus, this nation is not investing in uplifting its education. As a result, many children can not get primary education, most children of villages are out of schools and millions of students can not reach universities. Besides, varsities are not teaching modern skills. And philosophy is not given proper attention either. In fact, these aspects are affecting the higher education of Pakistan. Nevertheless, it can be better if Pakistan ensures primary education for all. Moreover, universities should introduce scholarships, philanthropists must support needy students and religious scholars must emphasise on higher education. In a nutshell, Higher education plays its pivotal role in a nation’s progress. When it comes to Pakistan, some elements are affecting its higher education. However, it can be put on right track, and this country can take its benefits if a few sincere efforts are made.

It is an established fact that higher education is the saviour of a nation. It is higher education that makes people capable enough to bring their country out of crisis. For example, during Covid 19, countries, higher education of which is up to the mark, were able to make vaccines first against this wild virus and saved their masses. Besides, higher education reduces social evils in a society, because educated people are aware of their rights and duties. It also empowers people to speak for their rights. In this way, a nation, which ensures better higher education system, can progress in the world.

Furthermore, higher education saves a nation, because governments perform well due to the pressure of educated people. In fact, they can not earn their iron. If educated people are angry with a government, it can have difficulties in coming to power in next elections, because they are, for most of the times, shape opinion of those who are not well educated. For example, The US is the super power of the world, since successive governments put their sincere efforts to achieve this milestone. And behind this progress, there is, of course, pressure of educated masses. Given all that, governments try their utmost in making their countries progress due to the fear of educated people.

Not only higher education does compel governments to perform well, but it also strengthens democratic system in a nation. The reason is that educated people believe in casting votes. They assume that by electing right people, they can change the fate of their nation. According to Election Commission of Pakistan, the voter turnout was highest in the general elections of 2013 in the history of Pakistan, which was hovering around 55.2 per cent. It increased, because the toll of graduates augmented in the country during those years. In short, there is no doubt that higher education is responsible in strengthening the democratic system in a country.

Besides, higher education makes the economy of a nation better. The reason is that it brings technological innovations there. As a result, a country's exports increase, which is, beyond any doubt, the key to better any economy of the world. For instance, the IT exports of Pakistan are only 3 billion US dollars, while India's IT exports are more than 150 billion US dollars, because the latter's higher education system is better than that of Pakistan (Miftah Ismail, "Our failure to educate", December 2022). In a nutshell, higher education is crucial to putting the economy of a state on right track.

And higher education makes nation compete with the rest of the world. The reason is that its masses are no longer burden on the state. Instead, they contribute in the economy of their country by paying taxes. As a result, its economic situation is better. For example, Japan, which was once ruined in World War II, is presently the third largest economy of the world because of ensuring better primary and secondary education. In short, a country's progress largely depends upon the level of its higher education.

Higher education also helps a nation come out of crises. In such circumstances, its educated people do not become a burden on their country. Instead, they play a vital role by giving relevant suggestions to their government to handle the issues in an efficient way. For example, South Korea faced worse economic crisis in its history in 1997. However, it defeated the crisis and reemerged as one of the influential countries of the world within four years in 2001. Thus, higher education plays a pivotal role in making a nation capable of overpowering the difficulties.

Furthermore, Higher education encourages people in a nation to participate in social work. It brings the elements of sympathy in them. The fact is that during their student life in universities, they are often asked to participate in social work, while in later years, this habit helps them contribute in the welfare of the people of their nation. According to Pakistan Al

Khidmat chief, 70 per cent of social workers during Covid-19 helping campaigns were degree holders. Given all that, it can be stated with full confidence that higher education makes people ready to work for the welfare of others.

Besides, life expectancy of a nation increases due to its better higher education system. People do not die of curable diseases. Due to better education, they have multiple avenues of earning. And they spend it on their health. As a result, life expectancy of that nation increases. This argument is evident from the fact that between 1990 and 2010, 15 per cent male life expectancy increased in the US and 40 per cent female life expectancy increased in Denmark, because the level of higher education increased in these countries during those years (Marc Luy, “The impact of increasing education levels on rising life expectancy”, March 2019). In a nutshell, higher education has a deep impact on increasing life expectancy of a nation.

When it comes to the higher education system of Pakistan, it is not effective, because this nation is not investing adequately in it. Neither is it considering it its saviour. The successive governments, are all the more responsible for not making the higher education system of the country better. They were of the opinions that they can not achieve their vested interests by investing in this sector. Therefore, Pakistan has been spending just 2 per cent of its GDP on over all education for years, let alone allocating more funds to higher education of the country (Faisal Bari, “On different trajectories”, September 2022). In short, higher education system of Pakistan is not effective, since this nation is not investing fairly in this sector.

And due to less investment, most children do not get primary education in Pakistan. Unfortunately, they remain out of schools. When they do not get primary education, the chances of getting higher education and participating in the progress of this nation are bleak. According to a report published by Asian development Bank in 2019, more or less, 22.9 million children age between 5 and 16 are out of school. And this number was second highest in the world. In this way, not ensuring primary education for most of the children of the country is marring its higher education system.

When it comes to the children of rural areas of Pakistan, they, too, are out of schools. In fact, in this nation, primary education is not considered essential for them. Unfortunately, most of them are believed to serve their lords. And those, who are not born to slaves, are encouraged to look after their own land rather than getting primary education. As a result, these intelligent people do not reach universities, due to which higher education system of

this nation is affected by and large. The tally of out of school children in villages can be gauged by the fact that with regard to rural urban differences, 73 per cent population age 10 or above in rural areas is said to be literate, whereas in the urban areas the figure is only 39 per cent (Asghar Soomro, "Save education", September 2022). Given all that, not ensuring primary education for the children of villages affecting the higher education of Pakistan in one way or the other.

Furthermore, higher education is affected, because many talented students do not reach universities in Pakistan. Unfortunately, they waste their potential by not joining any university. Most of times, their worse circumstances force them to take this difficult decision of life. If they do not work, their families could face financial issues. Thus, out of 1 million of Pakistani students, only 6 per cent reach the university stage (FS Aijizuddin, "Beyond reach", December 2022). In this way, higher education system of this nation is not taking advantage of many brains because of their worse financial conditions.

Where the universities of Pakistan are concerned, they are not imparting modern skills in their students. Haplessly, they still believe in transferring the outdated knowledge. Consequently, graduates, instead of steering this nation to the safer shores, are a liability on the state. According to a PIDE report published in 2020 with the title of "State of Graduate Unemployment in Pakistan," the unemployment rate of graduates in the country was, more or less, 16.5 per cent. In short, varsities are making their students burden on this nation by not inculcating modern skills in them.

Besides, philosophy is not being taught in universities of Pakistan. The sad fact is that it is not considered the mother of all knowledges in this nation. As a result, highly educated people of this soil do not have intellect. They believe in conspiracy theories, instead of thinking about certain things logically. For example, when Covid 19 gripped the entire world, many highly educated people in Pakistan said, "This virus could not be dangerous for humans" rather than assisting their governments by giving innovative ideas about overpowering its danger. In short, literates of Pakistan do not think logically in certain conditions, because they are not taught philosophy in universities.

Though higher education in Pakistan is not very effective, yet it can be better; and for this to happen, it must ensure primary education for all children. In fact, it is the first step to better higher education system of this nation. The responsibility to improve primary education of the state mainly lies on the shoulders of the government. Thus, it must ensure the

implementation of article 25A of the constitution of Pakistan, which emphasises on compulsory education for all age between 5 and 16 years old. Given all that, without ensuring primary education for all, higher education system of the country can not be improved.

Besides, universities of Pakistan must grant scholarships to needy and talented students of this nation. In doing so, they can get higher education. After getting degrees from the universities, they can play their pivotal role in bringing their families out of difficulties. Besides, they can render their services to this nation. In this regard, universities of Pakistan must take the example of Lahore University of Management Sciences. After a few processes, it gives admission to 100 needy and talented students on full scholarship. Given all that, other universities, too, must provide scholarship to those students, who are potential pupils, but they can not afford to get higher education.

Like universities, philanthropists of Pakistan must support needy and talented students of the nation. In fact, such students need them the most. By supporting them in getting higher education, they can achieve their goal of helping humanity, because those, who will get higher education, will no longer be burden upon this nation. Instead, they will support others. In this way, these philanthropists can consider the example of Qasim Ali Shah Foundation. This foundation has started training financially weak students for competitive exams with the financial aid of others. In short, philanthropists must contribute in lifting the higher education of the country.

Furthermore, religious scholars must emphasise on higher education for Pakistani nation. The reason is that their words carry weight. When they talk of the significance of higher education for a nation, millions of parents will surely think of sending their children to universities after completing their education in seminaries. Hadith: "Seek knowledge from cradle to the grave". In short, religious scholars can play a significance role in sending maximum people to the universities of the country.

To conclude, higher education is, indeed, the saviour of a nation. Due to the pressure of literate people, governments try to serve their nations in a better way. And it makes the democratic system strong in a nation. It also boosts the economy of a nation, so that it can compete with the other countries of the world. Besides, it makes citizens useful, for they bring their country out of crisis by participating in social work. Moreover, it plays its crucial role in increasing life expectancy of a nation. However, in Pakistan, higher education has failed to put this nation on right track. The reason behind this sad fact is that this country is

not allocating enough funds to its education. Consequently, many children of urban and rural areas are not attending schools, and those, who are attending, can not reach universities. Besides, varsities are not imparting modern skills in the students. Neither are they teaching philosophy. Although, higher education is not effective in Pakistan, but it can bear fruits if primary education is ensured for all students, and if universities allow needy and talented students to study on free studentship. Besides, role of philanthropists and clerics is important too in this regard. "Darkness is always followed by light".