

Higher Education as Savior of a Nation

I- Introduction

Thesis Statement: Higher education can act as a savior of a nation as it is the hallmark of progressive and developed nations.

Therefore, revamping higher education can perform wonders to steer the nation.

II- How Higher Education can save a nation?

- 1) A formidable guard against unprecedented economic turmoil.
- 2) Acts as a bulwark against poverty and unemployment.
- 3) It can perform wonders in the technological sector and generates skilled labour.
- 4) An important pillar of strong national security.

- 5) Enhances accountability, meritocracy and professionalism
- 6) Enriches true democratic norms and undermines populism
- 7) Fosters national integration in the country.
- 8) Increases awareness and accelerates civic responsibility.
- 9) Builds soft image of a nation at international level.

III. Nations with Ineffective Higher Education : A Case Study of Pakistan

- 1) Budgetary constraint is the biggest hurdle
- 2) Lack of technological advancement is another challenge
- 3) Weak culture of research in higher education system.
- 4) Prevalence of quantity over quality makes higher education inefficient.

IV - Suggestions to Revamp Higher Education as Savior of Nation

- 1) Fusing technical education with higher education.
- 2) Incorporating the higher education models of Western and Eastern countries.
- 3) Technological advancement can be gamechanger to revamp the system.
- 4) Promoting culture of advance research and high-quality content.
- 5) Incentivizing the higher education system.

V - Conclusion

Essay

Throughout human history universities have brought a lot of benefits particularly to the individuals who attended them and generally to the society as a whole. In the 21st century, as new discoveries keep appearing coupled with constant technological innovation, higher education has never been more beneficial to the individual and the society of a country. Higher education can serve as a savior of a nation as it is a formidable guard against economic catastrophe, poverty and unemployment. It accelerates technological growth and generates skilled labour. Moreover, it is a tool for national security and national integration of any country. By enriching true democratic

norms, it increases awareness and civic responsibility while undermines populism. It is unfortunate that higher education in Pakistan could not prove to be savior because of inefficient system. Owing to less budgetary allocation, lack of technological prowess and weak culture of research, higher education in Pakistan is in state of wear and tear. However, it can surely be revamped by fusing technical education with higher education. Incorporating the models of developed countries along with high quality technology and research can prove to be game changing. Hence, higher education is the cornerstone to steer the nation towards progressive, enlightened and resilient path.

This essay unveils the importance of higher education

through which it can serve as a savior of a nation. There is no doubt that higher education is of worth importance and gamechanging for the ~~to~~ future of any country.

Following are the factors that demonstrate how higher education can save a nation.

Among the factors that prove higher education as a savior of nation, economic progress is the important one. It is worth-mentioning that higher education is a formidable guard against unprecedented economic turmoil. It has always ~~proved~~ ^{shown} resilience to avert the economic downturn of countries.

This can be demonstrated from the example of South Korea. The Korean Institution for International Economic Policy and the International Monetary Fund organised a

conference in which the intellectuals presented thirty research papers in just two days for the recovery of economy. Hence, this shows the resilience of higher education that it is the tool for economic empowerment.

As higher education can boost the economy of a country, it can also act as a bulwark against poverty and unemployment. The tertiary education grants unprecedented access to job market and thus reduces poverty. According to the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development, on average almost 83% population of the member countries is employed with tertiary education. Hence, this proves that the countries which prioritise higher education can transform their nation.

It is worth-mentioning that higher education not only boosts the economic sector, but also performs wonders in the technological advancement. In developed countries, tertiary education equips the students to make revolutions in technology. Moreover, well-equipped higher education can also generate skilled labour. For example, in the aftermath of Second World War, Japan rose from ashes owing to its technological boost and skilled labour. Therefore, higher education can be savior of nation as it secures the future of generations.

Adding up, higher education is also an important pillar of strong national security. When skilled workforce, enlightened leaders and educated citizens combine, they create a strong

and secure nation. In an educated and resilient country, there are less chances of terrorism, extremism and militancy.

For ~~example~~ As Confucious rightly observes that education breeds confidence. Confidence breeds hope. Hope breeds peace. It shows that resilient education reduces the chances of violence and breeds peace in the nation. Hence, enlightened higher education can enhance national security of a nation.

It is pertinent to mention that higher education can be savior of nation as it ensures good governance. Undoubtedly, it enhances accountability, meritocracy and professionalism. An educated youth feels free to hold politicians and authorities accountable - which ultimately leads to good governance of

the country. As Einstein states that education is not the learning of facts, it is rather than training of mind to think ^{higher}. This manifests that education empowers people to ponder upon the issues for ~~the~~ better solutions.

As a result, it enlightens the nation through meritocracy and professionalism.

Besides the above-mentioned factors of economic progress, technological advancement and national security, higher education has the potential to enrich true democratic norms in the nation. When these norms are prevailed, it reduces the chances of emerging trend of populism. Maleeha Lodhi, in her book 'Pakistan Beyond the Crisis State' states that ~~democracy~~ ^{higher} education ensures massive participation of citizens which ultimately

leads to true democracy and undermines populism. Thus, it demonstrates that higher education is a savior from populism, authoritarianism and totalitarianism.

Along with national security, and democratic values, higher education also fosters national integration in the country. A resilient education system helps build national consensus and resolutely combats sectarianism and polarisation from the country.

According to writer Zahid Hussain revamping higher education can pave the way for socio-economic progress in the form of national integration. Therefore, higher education reduces intolerance and fosters the concept of patience and acceptance.

To add more, higher education paves the way for public awareness and accelerates civic

responsibility. Educated citizens become aware of different issues going on and tries to fulfil their responsibility through creating awareness and coming up with solutions to that problems.

According to Al-Khidmat Foundation, the volunteers of 2022 Floods in Pakistan, there were more 70% graduates.

Hence, this shows graduates create awareness and fulfil their civic responsibility.

Higher education is not only important for a particular country, ^{but} it also has benefits at international level. It helps to build a soft image of the nation at global level.

There are several foreign scholarships and student exchange programmes through which graduates represent their country at global level.

There is no denying the fact that higher education is a savior of nation because of its importance in economic development, technological advancement, national security, good governance and civic responsibility to name a few. However, there are nations with ineffective higher education like Pakistan, India, Ethiopia, and Uganda etc; that could not materialise the importance of higher education as a savior of nation. Therefore, it is pertinent to understand the case study of Pakistan in this regard.

The main hurdle in the higher education system of Pakistan is the budgetary constraint. Pakistan's budget allocation is not up to the mark that is why it is lagging behind in science and technology as compared to the developed world. Out of

Rs 9500 billion, only Rs 65 billion is allocated for higher education.

On the other hand, the developed countries like the United States, the United Kingdom, Israel and New Zealand allocate almost 6% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) whereas Pakistan allocates only 2%. Hence, this demonstrates that budgetary constraint is one of the biggest loopholes in Pakistan's education system.

Besides ^{less} budgetary allocation, lack of technological advancement is another major challenge that Pakistan is facing. Due to insufficient budget, there is a dearth of innovative ^{and} technological equipments in universities.

Moreover, the universities and professors rely on outdated content rather than modernising their technological prowess.

Thus, technological paucity is

is the obstacle due to which higher education could not prove to be savior of Pakistan.

Due to budgetary constraints and technological penury, the culture of research in Pakistan is very weak. Professors and university students do not focus it the way other countries do. Even India has started giving importance to research but Pakistan still lags behind. This is the reason that Pakistan does not have a single famous researcher or research worldwide which is alarming.

Along with the above mentioned loopholes, the higher education system of Pakistan relies more on quantity rather than quality. There is mushroom growth of universities all over Pakistan but they

Lack the Capacity. For example, out of 180 universities in Pakistan, only National University of Science and Technology (NUST) is ranked in QS ranking. Therefore, Pakistan's higher education focuses more on quantity rather than quality.

It is alarming that even in 21st century, the higher education system of Pakistan is not up to the mark. However, there is silver lining in every cloud and the system can be revamped if the following measures are taken and implemented rigorously.

To revamp the higher education as a savior of nation, there is need to merge technical education with higher education. Unfortunately, technical and vocational education is being ignored in Pakistan. In

Switzerland, 70% of young people opt for technical education at the age of 15. Even in Germany, 60% of students go for vocational training. That is why, their education system is reaching the heights of glory. Thus, Pakistan should also give importance to technical education ^{in order} to boost its education sector.

Moreover, it is worthwhile to incorporate the education models of Western and Eastern countries. These countries prioritise their education system and invest in youth. Even in some countries, education is free.

Though it would be asking for the moon, Pakistan must also need to increase its budget allocation to at least 4% of GDP and implement Article 25 (A) of the Constitution of Pakistan which guarantees

free education to 5-15 years age of children. So that they can be educated and perform wonders in higher education of Pakistan to make it savior of nation.

Furthermore, the country needs to invest in modern technology and its upgradation to transform the higher education. Without technological advancement, no country can accelerate its economy. Technology has become the need of the hour. Hence, it is high time that Pakistan revamp its technological pace and merge it in higher education to save the nation and future generations.

Along with technological advancement, the higher education also needs a boost in advanced level of research and

high-quality content in universities. The countries with highly advanced higher education like China, the United States and Japan to name a few have promoted their advance research. Not only universities but the students also prioritise advance research their. Therefore, Pakistan must also adopt a high-level culture of research in order to make higher education a savior of nation.

In a nutshell, there is no doubt that higher education can ~~can~~ be savior of nation as seen from the examples of many advanced countries. It accelerates the country's economy by providing employment to youth and reduces poverty.

It is worth-mentioning that youth is an asset of nation and investment in youth is

investment in nation. It is the youth that transforms the ~~nation~~ present and future generations of a nation. The developed countries have saved the future of their nation by investing in higher education. Now, the onus lies on the developing countries to steer their nations by prioritising higher education. Hence, higher education can perform wonders and can be savior of nation if prioritised accurately with visionary policies. Quaid-e-Azam the founder of Pakistan, has rightly observed: "Education is a matter of life and death to a nation. Without education, you will not only be left behind but will be completely finished."