

NOA CSS LAHORE CAMPUS

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(4) Higher education as the saviour of a nation

→ Thesis Statement:

Higher education can prove to be the saviour of a nation as it directly impacts research and development, technological, economic, political and administrative aspects of a country; but it can fail to serve as the saviour solely if the supporting structures are not duly developed, which can be ensured by effective planning and implementation of policies.

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One of the fundamental human rights is education, which has been recognized by legal and religious entities all over the world. The industrialization witnessed in 20th century has particularly increased the importance of higher education and the number of people with higher education in (the) a country. It is one of the available tools that ~~all~~ developing world can utilize to uplift themselves. Higher education can prove to be the saviour of a nation as it directly impacts research and development, technological, economic, political and administrative aspects of a country; but it can fail to serve as the saviour solely if the supporting structures are not duly developed, which can be ensured by effective planning and implementation of policies.

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Education is usually divided into different categories: elementary, primary, secondary, higher secondary and higher education. Each of the categories deals with different nature and extent of course delivered to the students. The earlier categories of education are generic in nature and more focused on overall development of the individuals, while the later ones are specific and revolve around particular topic or subject. Higher education, in Pakistan, starts beyond 12 years of education, which can vary from country to country and system of education followed. Higher education can further be divided into sciences; natural or social, arts, literature, professional, etc. The course and syllabus of the program vary according to different standards followed across the world. The higher education is

further comprised of levels: Graduate, post-graduate, doctorate, post-doctorate, etc. It is disproportionately spread across the globe for several reasons.

A ^{thorough} (deep) analysis of the world reveals the economically stable countries are dominant over others in higher education. Out of the top 10 universities of the world, more than five universities are situated in England and America. Europe follows the two countries in the list. Similarly, the countries with higher index of higher education possess better social indexes include literacy, poverty, gender gap, human rights, etc. Historically, English and American schools - including Harvard, Stanford, Oxford, etc. - have been the leaders in setting standards and quality of education. The leading muslim country in this regard is Turkey, which has

made significant improvement in education sector in last few decades. Pakistan is the next muslim country to follow Turkey. Many European countries offer free higher education - like Germany - that has increased its overall index and attracted foreign students. Higher education has a lot to offer the world including economic, social, political and other factors.

Higher education increases the industrial efficiency in a country, which is one of the contributing factors in the economy of any countries. In post-industrialization era, the industrialized nations have exponentially increased their economies as compared to agrigarian nations. The industrial efficiency is directly proportional to skilled labour, which is directly proportional to higher education, and research and development in the country. Japan

is well-known for its industrial efficiency and practices - including 'The Toyota Way', Six Sigma, Just-in-time, etc. - which are all the result of research and development powered by higher education. The economy of Japan is among top 10 in the world over a trillion dollars, contributed by advanced technology, robotics and automation, which have been developed due to higher education. The country further boosted its economy by selling the technology and products to foreign countries amid globalization and involved itself in improving and developing new technologies.

Higher education helps a country to develop advanced technology, and those already developing technology, to speed up their process. The researchers and scientists produced from higher education institutes participate

and enhance the practices using their knowledge. Germany - despite losing World War II - revived using higher education followed and supported by technological advancement. Few of the top brands in technological domain hail from Germany. These include Siemens, Audi, BMW, Caterpillar, etc. The country is well-known for its technology and related education, which attracts human capital from outside the country. As the country advances in technological development, the economy rises exponentially and is able to sustain itself even with nominal effort. The knowledgeable products of higher education already possess the necessary information to deal with the matter, which decreases significantly the need of training or the extent of training.

The individuals are taught and trained around a particular topic in higher education, and they are

to contribute in that particular area, once they enter the practical domains of life. The rigorous research and development combined with practical aspects reduce the need and extent of the training, an individual requires from the organization or other entity other than ^{the} educational institutes. The output of higher education is in line with the industrial requirement and the individual is ready to contribute using ~~her~~ its skillset, once the operative guidance has been duly delivered. For instance, a graduated medical student does not require the training on how to inject, or what prescription is to be given in particular circumstances, which has already been taught during the course of the studies. Higher education further empowers multiple types and fields of industries, which diversifies the economic sources of a country.

Higher education aids a country in diversifying its factors of production, particularly labour and technology. Depending on dynamics and overall situation of the country, higher education can be adjusted to develop and promote a particular sector to remove the country's dependency on a single sector to ~~promote~~ support its economy. In this regards, America has diversified its economy by effectively planning its higher education. From engineers to scientists, higher education in America has produced all of them, who have contributed to diversify the income sources of the country. The largest economy of the world is contributed by IT exports, production, doctors, artists, etc. to make the annual GDP of over 23.7 trillion dollars. The contributing agents are mainly the graduates in one or other field. The diversification of the factors of production not only diverge the

economic dependency on one source, but also increase the potential income of a country

A country can increase its potential income by effectively utilizing higher education. Education is a simple tool accessible to most of the population. With globalization and digitalization, the accessibility of education has further extended to humans of all castes and creeds without any discrimination. (Utilizing the available resources and higher education, an individual and a nation can beef-up ~~the~~ the potential income) IT exports are the rising phenomena in this regards. In current times, a major portion of the exports - especially that of developing and under-developed countries - is comprised of Information Technology and related concepts. Korea is well-known for its IT-based exports, which exceed a billion dollar annually. Another

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country highly depending on IT exports is India, with an annual exports of over 3 billion dollars. Pakistan is ranked among top 5 IT exporters, with an export of more than 1 billion dollars ~~per~~ annum. Other than that, an individual can work outside the boundaries of its country, and bring back capital in the form of remittance which is another economic advantage for the country.

A capable individual produced by a country can contribute to national economy by transferring the earned money back to the country. This supports the economy of the country, maintains foreign exchange reserves and strengthens the national currency against the internationalized ones - Dollar, Euro, Pound, Yen. Only skilled and technically sound humans are offered opportunities in foreign countries, which is made possible by higher education within the country. The economy of India is supported by a high number of non-

Resident of India (NRI), who transfer the earned money to strength ~~the~~ Indian economy. According to a ~~survey~~ ^{report}, more than 100000 highly educated Indians earn outside the country and send back more than 500 million dollars in a year. The overall increased income improves the life standards ⁱⁿ of the country and keep the social indicators on the positive side.

One of the social indicators that is highly inter-related with economy, is poverty. Poverty is referred as the condition, when an individual is unable to meet the necessity of life. With higher education prevailed, the individuals are provided with greater chance of earning, whether directly by higher education or indirectly by the economic activities initiated or improved by higher education. An analysis of the globe reveals greater poverty indexes in region with low higher education index, and vice

versa. For instance, Africa is ranked on the lower end in higher education and more than half of its population is exposed to poverty. Contrarily, Norway - with a higher education index of 0.866 - has a nominal poverty index of 0.06. The main reason is the ability that a highly educated person possesses to earn than a low or not educated one. Higher education also impacts the quality of literacy rate within the country.

A country can improve the quality of literate people residing in its territory by enhancing higher education. Literacy rate is defined in different terms all over the world. Despite ^{of the} any definitions ^{considered true,} the literate population can still improve its quality by pursuing higher education. By ensuring higher and better quality of literacy rate, the social indicators can be improved, which directly relate to the standards of life available to every individual of the country. Comparing the literacy rate of Sri

Sri Lanka and Japan supports the importance of higher education. Both the countries possess a literacy rate of above 90 percent, but the former lacks highly educated personnel and latter has its most of the population highly educated. Resultantly, Sri Lanka ~~lacks~~ lags Japan in different socio-economic indicators, and the lacking higher education was one of the reasons, the island recently experienced default. Higher education brings in social awareness, apart from the skills and economic prosperity.

Higher education plays an important role in development of social awareness in a society, which ultimately leads to an influential, effective civil society. A civil society - particularly an effective one - is well aware of its rights and responsibilities. Such society believes in social equality, justice, accountability, transparency, etc. Law is applicable to all the population irrespective of caste, creed, designation and status. Higher

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education is the common prevailing factor among the developed civil society followed by high indexes for social indicators. For instance, Switzerland, Finland, Iceland, Norway and other such countries are ranked higher in gender gap index, poverty index, health index, human right index, etc. when compared to South Africa, Jordan, Iraq, Afghanistan, etc, which are among the bottom-most countries when any of the social indicator index is concerned. A clear difference between the countries of the two categories is the number of people graduated in some form of higher education. The prevailing social sense and respect for others' opinion help the society to eradicate extremism.

One of the obvious steps to address extremism is to promote education at every level. Extremism is defined as considering one's thought or opinion as final and absolute truth while possessing no space or room for the opinion of

others. Extremism can prevail in any aspect of life including, but not limited to, economics, political, religious, strategic, social, etc. Higher education - some domains in particular - allows an individual to respect others' opinion and co-exist within shared territory peacefully, which is also supported by an in-depth review of the globe. England - with greater number of individuals with higher education - accomodates diverse population with better rank on extremism index and nominal number of extremist events, but exceptions are exception. Contrarily, the countries like Iraq, Saudi Arab, Iran, Afghanistan, etc. - with lower number of higher education graduates - are ~~rank~~ ranked higher on extremism index and get suffered with greater number of ~~seep~~ extremism events, despite accomodating less diverse population than the countries mentioned earlier, which makes these countries difficult to govern and

administrative.

The prevailing higher education allows the government to make better decisions and devise policies in the broader interests of the population, which can save the nation from a number of sufferings that it ~~has~~ has to face otherwise. Higher education allows the population to foresee the true impacts and benefits in long term, consistent policies as compared to short term, inconsistent ones. This aspect gives a breathing space to the governments - particularly that of democratic world - as they are not politically pressurized by the public to revert the policies, despite them being beneficial for the population. A historic review of all the developed nations supports the fact whether it be United States of America, England, Germany or Japan. The highly educated and aware population of these countries have stood with the harsh decisions of the governing bodies, despite temporary loss. Americans, for instance, stood with the required,

harsh decisions of the president, Franklin D. Roosevelt in early 1930s, when the country faced one of the worst economic depression of its history. (Unlike Pakistan, where) the cooperation from highly educated population allowed the president to make necessary reforms, which resulted in America as sole superpower in current times. Such a population easier to govern as compared to an illiterate one.

Higher education allows the government to easily govern the governed as the population tends to cooperate with government on the policies devised and implemented. Although other factors contribute to the cause, but higher education imparts a sense of ethics, morals, values and lawfulness, which compels an individual to be a good citizen of the country. The difference is visible among the countries with greater and lower number of highly

All these developments compel the students or the prospective candidates to seek opportunities abroad.

Pakistan lacks supporting structures to manage the product of higher education in an effective manner. The educational institutes produce more than 50000 graduates in a year in different fields, but the country is unable to offer a reasonable compensation to these graduates. Consequently, the unemployment rate has gone up to 30 percent - majority of them being young people aging between 15 and 35 years. The urge to earn has compelled this unemployed human capital to leave the country and seek opportunity abroad, resulting in brain drain. The ominous phenomenon is doing great damage amid domestic, intensified economic crisis. According to Bureau of Emigration and Foreign Employment, 750000 people have left the country to seek better chances of excellence in 2022. These include

92000 highly educated people with 35000 engineers and 6500 doctors. Although, the two-years break in post COVID-19 times is a major reason for sudden hike, but the data is still concerning for the country amid uncertain future economic conditions. The overall developments in Pakistan brings one to conclude that higher education solely cannot be the saviour of a nation.

Higher education can be the saviour of a nation if supported by associated policies and structures. The aim of higher education and concerning institutions is to produce quality citizens, according to the needs and requirements of the program pursued by the individual. But, if the society fails to provide them with opportunities of excellence and recognize them socially, the individuals will be compelled to leave the country, which is one of the biggest ~~losses~~ ^{losses} to the

nation. A nation can fail to uplift itself under such circumstances. Hence, the higher education development shall be associated with economic and industrial development in the country to ensure progressive opportunities for the graduating individuals, which will make sure the prosperity of a nation overall as the higher education is anticipated to expand in future.

Irrespective of the field, higher education will witness a rise in future. ~~At~~ Despite the fact that many organizations - including Apple, Alphabet Inc., Microsoft, etc. - have started to recruit on the basis of skills, rather than education, ~~among~~ a dominating majority of the organizations requires formal education as pre-requisite. With advancement in technology and human development, the roots of higher education will strengthen and spread across the

world. For developing world, the higher education is the tool to ensure their uprising in this competitive world.

As per Nelson Mandela, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." Therefore, the countries, developing and under developed in particular, shall promote higher education - skill based - followed by the development of the supporting structures to ensure the maximum benefits from it.

Higher education, when supported by associated structures, can be a saviour of any nation. It has the potential to improve the economic, political, social, and other important aspects of the society. A country must seek to improve the education standards to align itself with rapidly evolving and dynamic world. Apart from improving educational standards, the engaging activities are to be boosted, to prevent the flight of human capital to foreign countries. Retaining the skilled and able human resource

educated people. Sri Lanka experienced extreme protests and ultimately a hostile mob running into premier's office, when the country experienced an economic turmoil in 2022. Same goes for Afghanistan when Taliban took over Kabul in late 2021. On the other hand, Europeans are more inclined to cooperate with government even in the recession times amid Russo-Ukrainian crisis. As the testing time prevails, the countries with higher education experience stronger public-government relations, whereas the countries with lower education experience a government-public deadlocks. Such a situation leads to poorly regulated law and order due to public incompetency, not that of public institutions.

Higher education can be the saviour of a nation as it allows better maintenance and regulation of law and order. A common trait of highly educated nations is

to abide by law, no matter if law enforcing agencies are on the patrol or monitoring them. The opposite is witnessed in the countries with low index of higher education. From traffic signals to public property, every aspect is duly respected and followed by ~~the~~ the ~~countries~~ nations with good higher education indexes like Norway, Denmark, etc. On the other hand, even the welfare resources are to be caged and chained in low-indexed countries as Pakistan. Law enforcing agencies are the secondary reason that law and order are maintained in high-indexed countries. Pakistan was inheritedly deprived of higher education, but managed to make up for it to an extent. The desired outcomes are long way to go yet.

Pakistan came into being in 1947, parting from India. The country of 32 million people was not only weak economically, but also educationally as only one of the total universities

of United India - University of Punjab in Lahore - came in the favour of Pakistan.

Slowly, but gradually, Pakistan witnessed a rise in the number of universities and the programs offered in these universities.

A rapid increase in the number of universities was observed in mid 2000s,

when General Musharaff not only privatized many of the public institutions, including Forman Christian College Lahore, but also upgraded the college level institutes to university. These institutions include

Islamia College, MAO College, Government College Lahore, Forman Christian College Lahore, etc. Today, over ~~170~~ 170 higher education institutes - recognized by Higher Education Commission - both public

and private are operating in the country offering programs related to medical, engineering, natural sciences, social sciences, history, arts, etc. Despite an appreciable number, the sector is adversely impacted by perpetual economic turmoil as the other walks of life.

In Pakistan, the research and development in ~~the~~ higher education is restricted with economic hurdles in one form or another. While some of the universities lack infrastructure, others lack facilities and some lack human capital. Consequently, research and development suffer, restricting the country to explore its potential in different areas, particularly economy. A majority of the universities are unable to meet their expenditures, which compel them to swell their fee. Resultantly, the education become unaffordable for a huge fraction of population. The lacked research hinders the capability of the researchers to effectively perform their tasks, reducing overall quality of education. Moreover, the research being carried out in the educational institutes is not in accordance with the requirements of the industry due to poor industry-academia linkage, decreasing the practical impact of the work.

will ensure full benefits to the country as mentioned in ^{the} earlier parts, otherwise some other country will enjoy the fruit of the seed sown and taken care by the country.

