

Essay

DATE: _____

DAY: _____

Neglect of utilization of educated youth in Pakistan

I. Introduction

Thesis statement: Pakistan is a country with more than half of its population is youth, But unfortunately, the potential of educated youth is not properly tapped due to different reasons.

This neglect has severe implications on the well-being of Pakistan. However, all the causes can be treated through effective measures in order to promote the utilization of the youth in Pakistan.

II. Potential of educated youth in Pakistan

III. Causes of neglect of utilization of educated youth in Pakistan

(a) Governance crisis in Pakistan

- (b) Political unrest and polarization
- (c) Dwindling economy
- (d) Lack of resources to incorporate the educated youth in production sector
- (e) Stagflation a leading cause of ineffective utilization of educated youth in Pakistan
- (f) Corruption
- (g) Elitism and lack of accountability
- (h) Education is more theoretical than practical in Pakistan
- (i) Gender inequality a barrier in the way of utilization of educated youth in Pakistan.

IV. Implications of neglect of utilization of educated youth in Pakistan

- (a) Increasing frustration among educated youth
- (b) Rising crime rate in Pakistan

- (c) Brain-drain from Pakistan
- (d) Increasing human trafficking
- (e) Pakistan has reached at the verge of economic collapse.

V. Way forward

- (a) Promote research and development in Pakistan
- (b) Introduce vocational training institutes in the peripheral areas of Pakistan
- (c) Focus on targeted curriculum instead of directionless educational activities.
- (d) Democratic evolution should not be hampered by undemocratic forces

VI. Conclusion

"The foundation of every state is the education of its youth."

-Diogenes of Sinope. But in Pakistan this very base is weak. It has a huge number of young minds. However, the effective utilization of young blood is neglected in Pakistan.

There are a number of reasons behind this grave neglect. They include governance crisis, political unrest and political polarization, dwindling economy, lack of resources, stagflation, corruption, elitism, lack of accountability, directionless education and gender inequality. The neglect of utilization of educated youth has different implications. They include increasing frustration among the educated youth, rising crime rate in Pakistan, increasing brain-drain

from the country, rising rate in human trafficking and moving towards the economic default. However, there are certain steps which can be taken to channelize the educated youth in a meaningful way. These steps encompass, promote research and development in Pakistan, launch vocational training programmes and institutes in different areas of the country, pave the way towards targeted education and let the democratic process to evolve. In a nutshell, Pakistan has a huge potential in the form of educated youth. But this potential is not tapped because of neglect. However, effective measures can be taken to get the fruits from the educated youth of Pakistan.

Pakistan has a significant

potential in the form of educated youth. The young blood is the engine of future change. It can turn Pakistan into a developed state from a developing state if this resource of nature is properly tapped. According to the **National Development report** published by the United Nations Development Programme (**UNDP**), Pakistan currently has the largest percentage of young people ever recorded in history - **64 percent** of the total population of Pakistan is below the age of **30** while **29 percent** is between the ages of **15** and **29** years. According to the Commonwealth Secretariat's Global Youth Development Index report, Germany has been named the world's best place to be a ensuring its youth's political.

participation, education, health and employment opportunities. Pakistan can also become a place for the educated youth. So Pakistan has a huge asset in the form of the educated youth.

In Pakistan, there are ~~many~~ multi-pronged causes of the neglect of utilization of the educated youth, the prime reason among them is governance crisis. The problem is that governance in Pakistan is just ineffective: in **75 years**, our governments have not been able to deliver economic growth, security of life or property education or health, or even clean drinking water. However, all countries have problems but successful nations resolve them. **For example**, Bangladesh, with a land mass the size of Sindh, half of

which is underwater, is a resource-poor nation under a corrupt authoritarian government. At the time of its separation, East Pakistan's income per head was half that of West Pakistan. Today, it is ahead of Pakistan in income, exports, education, population control, life expectancy in fact in almost all economic and social indicators. Therefore, governance crisis is leading towards the neglect of the utilization of the educated youth.

Not only the governance crisis but also the political instability is causing the neglect of the educated youth. When there is political unrest and political polarisation, then the representatives of the people are less focused

on the well-being of their youth and are more indulged in the political tug-of-war. **For example,** the present political crisis in Pakistan, the party in government and the party without government are showing no signs of consensus. And there is political victimization which is taking place in Pakistan. Due to this political unrest, the educated youth finds less or no opportunities. And the potential of this young class is ignored. Thus it can be inferred that the political instability is also a factor behind the neglect of the utilization of the educated youth.

Furthermore, the neglect of utilization of educated youth in Pakistan is due to dwindling

economy. Pakistan is on the verge of economic default. Due to unavailability of capital, education sector is highly overlooked. Resultant skillful youth is not generated.

For example, According to the Federal Budget 2023-24, the allocation of funds for education sector is just **82 billion PKR** as compared to defence allocation of **1809.5 billion PKR**. Therefore, the educational institutes are failed to produce trained minds. Consequently, their potential is not properly utilized.

Moreover, lack of resources to incorporate the educated youth in the production is another cause of the neglect of the utilization of the educated youth. When production base is

narrow, the fresh influx of the educated youth finds no place where they show their potential and energy. This is the case with Pakistan. **For instance,** the industrial sector is shrinking in Pakistan due to political unrest and ineffective policies at the state level. Moreover, due to shortage of electricity, inflation and devaluation of Pakistani currency, many of the industrial units are either closed or are shifted in other countries. Similarly, IT sector is also not effectively utilized due to the neglect of the top leadership. Likewise agricultural sector is also not doing wonders as in other neighbouring countries like India and China. Consequently, Pakistan generates less

resources for its educated youth. In this way, they are highly neglected segment of Pakistani society.

Furthermore, stagflation is another leading factor behind the ineffective utilization of the educated youth in Pakistan. It means persistent sky-rocketing inflation binded with high unemployment and stagnant demand in Pakistan's economy. Both high inflation and high unemployment do allow space for the educated youth to work as an engine of future change. **For example,** according to the **Economic survey of Pakistan 2022-2023,** inflation in Pakistan remained at **21 percent** in the last year. A recent research paper written by Henna Ahsan and

Muhammad Jehangir Khan of Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), which uses employment data from ~~2001-02~~²⁰⁰¹⁻⁰² to 2020-21, shows that the gap between the overall unemployment (6.3 per cent) and that of graduates (16.1 per cent) is almost 10-percentage point wide. Consequently, the educated youth is turned into a bulge instead of an asset.

Among all the causes, corruption is also a core reason behind the neglect of utilization of the educated youth in Pakistan. Corruption is defined as the abuse of entrusted power. Corruption erodes trust, weakens democracy, hampers economic development and further exacerbates inequality, poverty, social division and the environmental crisis. Due to

corruption, many efficient minds got wasted. Corruption is highly visible in the public sector even in Pakistan - at the bottom of the list of the **Corruption Perception Index 2023**, it ranked **140 out of 180 countries**. So due to the menace of corruption, the educated youth is marginalised.

Not only corruption is hampering the way of the educated youth but also the elitism which is blocking the way of the educated youth belongs to the middle or lower class. If anything, the poor suffer the most, while privileged never feel the pain. All parties across the political divide have been, and are busy protecting their own vested interests. No

one is improving the lot of the common people Pakistan's economy thus only relies on whatever a small elite can achieve.

It remains underdeveloped as it ignores the talent of most in the country.

The former Finance Minister of Pakistan, Miftab Ismail termed Pakistan 'a 1pc republic'.

Five decades ago, Dr Mahbub ul Haq identified **22 families** who controlled two-thirds of listed manufacturing and four-fifths of banking assets in Pakistan, showing an inordinate concentration of wealth. Therefore, a major chunk of the educated youth does not grasp employment and business opportunities. Consequently, their energies are remained unutilized.

TE: _____ DATE: _____
educational attainment and **95th**
in the political empowerment. All
these statistics show how the
educated youth is not effectively
utilized because of gender disparity.

The neglect of utilization
of educated youth in Pakistan
has severe implications, the prime
impact among them is increasing
frustration among educated youth.

In Pakistan, many educated
minds are unemployed due to
different reasons like inflation,
weak economy and many more.

When a student after spending
more than of his 16 years
in getting education gets no
job in the market, ultimately,
he easily becomes the prey
of frustration and hopelessness.

For example, according to Labour
Force survey, unemployment is

highest among the 15-29 year age bracket, indicating a lack of and barriers to entry-level jobs. Of the total unemployed, **21.52 percent** have no formal education while **78.48 percent** are literate, indicating that educated youth are more likely to have difficulties finding jobs. This survey presents the bleak state of the educated youth in Pakistan.

Another impact of the neglect of the educated youth is rising crime rate in Pakistan. Crime occurs ~~in~~ due to many social and economic factors. In Pakistan, due to increasing frustration among the educated youth leads them towards the criminal activities. Unbridled inflation has a direct influence on the financial stability of individuals and is one

of the leading cause of poverty. According to the data compiled by the **Citizen - Police Liaison Committee (CPLC)**, compared to 2020, incidents of snatching of cars, cell phones, kidnappings for ransom, bank heists increased in 2021. So the crime rate is increasing due to less focus on the educated youth.

Moreover, due to poor dealing of the educated youth in Pakistan, there is increasing brain drain which is taking place in Pakistan. Brain drain means a substantial emigration or migration of individuals from one area to another area for better employment and opportunities. **For example**, a recent survey by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics shows

that close to **40 percent** of Pakistanis wish to leave the country. It is estimated that around **765,000 people** left Pakistan in 2022, including **92,000** highly educated individuals such as doctors, engineers, computer scientists and business executives. This shows that how the cream of Pakistan is going abroad due to the neglect by the stakeholders of Pakistan.

Furthermore, due to the neglect of the utilization of the educated youth, there is increasing human trafficking. The elite class has opportunities to settle abroad without any obstacle. While the middle class or the poor class takes an illegal way to leave the country and to search for better future in

DATE: _____ DAY: _____

the European countries. Consequently, the human traffickers exploit them. **For example**, more than 300 Pakistani nationals have been killed in the sinking of a overcrowded fishing trawler off the coast of Greece in the last week. This high death toll shows how the young blood is ~~desperately~~^{fearful} within the country and hasty to leave the country. Pakistan is in the midst of its worst economic crisis in decades, with efforts to secure a financial lifeline from the International Monetary Fund complicated by political turmoil in the country. This worst condition forced the drowned people to take the deadly path. And the human traffickers made use of their vulnerability.

Similarly, due to the neglect of the utilization of the educated youth, Pakistan is reached at the verge of economic collapse. Pakistan is the country with approximately **68 percent population** according to the latest figures of the Pakistani Bureau of Statistics.

But unfortunately, due to disinterest towards the young blood, Pakistan's economy is dwindling instead of flourishing.

According to the records of the **Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment** show that in **2022, 832,339**

Pakistanis found employment abroad, whereas the first five months of 2023 was

315,787 citizens depart.

Pakistan's leftward economy is poised to be crippled by immense talent drain, an

open - and - shut case to seasoned economists. All these factors contribute to economic decline of Pakistan

However all these problems are curable by taking some effective measures, the most important among them is to promote research and development in Pakistan. Unfortunately, Pakistan universities lack original, unique and quality research, for there is no authentic research culture present in the country. There is no denying the fact that original and creative research plays a pivotal role in the progress of a country. The state should give priority to research and all public universities and other stakeholders should revisit their courses. They must develop research knowledge and

skills instead of wasting their time on outdated syllabi, poorly structured teaching and assessment policies.

For example, Pakistan can learn from Singapore's experience by investing in education, and human capital, encouraging foreign investment, developing a strong export orientated economy, providing social protection, and ~~emphasizing~~ ^{emphasizing} on good governance. Singapore did all these miracles by promoting research and development in its country. And Pakistan can also tap its youth potential by promoting research and development.

Another way to utilize the full potential of the youth is the introduction of vocational training institutes in different parts of Pakistan. These institutes will help in making

the young population well-equipped with skills and creative ideas. Its significance can be estimated by this example that **the Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved \$100 million loan to help improve technical and vocational education and training (TVET) in Punjab and ensure skills training meets the demand for jobs in the country's priority economic sectors. In this way, the uneducated youth will be able to meet the market demands and their potential will be fully utilized.

Furthermore, Pakistan should focus on targeted education instead of directionless curriculum. In most of the cases, teachers approach the curriculum as if it can be reduced to a set of

textbooks; something that can be reproduced if you complete a set of discrete tasks. It is plaguing Pakistan's education system. A change in thinking and actions can only be possible through the critical engagement of learners in learning, teachers in teaching, researchers in conventional and unconventional ways of knowing, and other stakeholders in creating an enabling environment for these activities. The **case study** is Singapore, a small island located in Southeast Asia, has managed to establish itself as a developed nation with a strong economy in recent years. Despite not having any natural resource, it has transformed itself into an economic powerhouse through upgrading its education, serving as a model for Pakistan.

Last but not the least way to effectively utilize the potential of the educated youth is the continuity of democratic evolution. Democracy provides a nation with a number of fundamental rights which are sacked in dictatorship. Moreover, in democracy, people are happy to work because they are not slaves of any dictator, they are free citizens having their own rights. But unfortunately in Pakistan, the democratic evolution discontinued many times. And Pakistan had to remain under the dark shadow of the military establishment. When there is clash between the civilians and the military men, there is chaos in the society. Consequently, the youth is neglected. **For example,** in the era of Zia - a military

dictor. The educational empowerment of women was badly impacted. Moreover, he proposed the self-styled version of Islam. The result was worse. So in order to promote and encourage the educated youth, the democratic evolution must not be hampered.

Sum and substance of the whole discussion is that Pakistan is enriched with the youth resource. But due to multiple factors like governance crisis, political unrest, economic crisis, stagflation, elitism and gender inequality, the educated youth is highly neglected. This neglect has adverse impacts in the form of increasing frustration among the educated youth, rising crime rate, increasing brain-drain from Pakistan,

uplifting human trafficking and
dismal economy. However, some
effective measures can be taken
to improve the situation of the
educated youth like promote research
and development in Pakistan,
introduce vocational training institutes,
focus on the targeted education,
and ^{promote} the democratic evolution.

In this way, Pakistan can come
out of this quagmire, and the
Pakistani youth will be able to
contribute in the progress and
prosperity of Pakistan.