

← July 18, 2023
13:16 | Pakistan, Islamab...



CLASS ROOMS DECIDE THE FUTURE OF THE NATION

Culture:

* → INTRODUCTION

* THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN CAPITAL

→ The changing perspectives of 21st century

→ Education as the backbone of

economy

→ Classrooms shape the industry and technology of a country.

* TODAY'S STUDENTS ARE TOMORROW'S LEADERS

→ Literacy and Democracy go hand in hand

→ History speaks for itself

→ A story of two different education systems

→ Human capital translates into growth and prosperity.

* Global problems have one common solution.

→ Addressing the needs of the hour.

→ Classrooms have the answer to all your problems.

* Pakistan - a story of crisis and chaos

→ Illiteracy is the root evil.

→ How to fix it?

→ National as well as global solution.

* CONCLUSIONS





July 18, 2023

13:17 | Pakistan, Islamab...



① An ancient Chinese philosopher Laozi once said: "Give a man a fish and he will eat it for one day. Teach a man how to fish and he will eat for a lifetime". This core principle embodies the importance of classrooms and their role in shaping the future of the world. What will the future be like? The pessimist says: "its doom", and the optimist says: "its brighter like the sun". However, the realist says: "its doom is not inevitable. Though, the future may ~~not~~ not look very bright, it's very much sustainable". The most accurate predictions of future are made by considering the actions of the present.

As Malcolm X envisioned, "Education is the passport of the future. For tomorrow belongs to those who prepare it today".

② The world is in imminent crisis today. From humanitarian to economic and from economic to environmental fronts, we are at loss. The rich is spending billions to go visit the wreck of a 100 year old ship on the bottom of the ocean and the poor is drowning in international waters only to earn a piece of bread for its family.



The Global North and Global South has drifted further apart. Nuclear threats are being made only to achieve petty domestic goals. And the list goes on.... There will be no end to this insanity if we don't take radical steps to fix this today. The most radical yet the most basic step is global education. If one thing has the potential to save the future, it's not a bomb or a dollar, it's a pen and a book.)

~~21st century is called~~

(3) (21st century can be called as the age of Human Capital. Gone are the days when a state's wealth and power were solely determined by the weapons in the armory. The developed world is focused on the build up of wealth in more sustainable forms of capital. Gary Becker wrote in ~~his~~ book "Human Capital" (1964) Gary Becker explored the concept of the

theory of human capital in 1964. In his book, he said that individual workers have a set of skills which they accumulate and improve through education. These skills influence future monetary income by increasing reserves in people.

"Gary S. Becker, Human Capital, 1964"

From early 1960's to 2023, this concept has gained huge popularity among economists.

④ A strong economy is a key indicator of a country's growth and development. V.V. Rao in his book "Education in India" supports the argument that secondary education is the back bone of economy. [2004].

Skills based education leads to increased employment opportunities.

Educated workers and labours flourish the industrial sector of a country.

When business and industry prosper in a country, it automatically increase the production base of an economy.

This leads to an increase in imports and simultaneous decrease in exports.

Today, there is a huge difference in the trade deficits of developed and developing countries i.e. the trade deficit of developing countries is skyrocketing due to poor production base. This is mainly due to lack of investment in the poor education sector. Standard of these countries.

⑤
The Economy is the driving force of a country's success and technology is the key requirement of economic development. In the world of Artificial Intelligence, 3D manufacturing and robotic surgeries, it is essential that classrooms provide technical skills. Technology increases output and provide easier means for achieving robust results. On the global scale, ~~the~~ countries who invested in technology are far ahead of the countries who invested in orthodox infrastructure. From nuclear missiles to ~~spaceships~~ spaceships and submarines, military power is ~~strongly~~ heavily dependent on technological advancements of a state. To achieve the goal of technology enhancement, it is essential that a nation spends on its schools.

UNESCO (6)

According to UNESCO, Govt. should spend 15-20% of the total earning and 4-5% of its GDP on education. Spending on education pays off in terms of production of human resources. A permanent capital is built that can never go into a default or bankruptcy. It exponentially grows providing for a strong economic base. A skilled community is produced that steers the country towards the path of success and guarantees its sovereignty. From the year 2016-22, the Govt. of Switzerland spend 7-8% of its GDP on education while Pakistan spent 2-3% of its total GDP on education. The First world and Third world are not created in a day. It took years of bad policies to plunge the 3rd world into ~~the~~ a miserable state.

~~The~~ The role of democracy for a nation's survival is well established. It is a general consensus that in literate societies, democracy can flourish in its true sense. Educated ~~societies~~ nations elect their leaders on the basis of vision, credibility and performance. In illiterate and backward societies, electoral process is influenced by many external factors like cast system, tribes, sects, land, ethnicity and language. Such barriers hinder the growth of democracy. Today, India is recognised as a thriving democracy and Pakistan is ~~struggling~~ with change of regimes. Today, India is recognised. Today, India is one of the biggest democracies in the world while Pakistan's democracy is shaking from the after effects of regime change and ousting of Prime ministers one after the other. Why is it so? According to ministry of federal education, Pakistan's literacy rate is 66.2%, while National Survey of India demonstrates India's literacy rate of 77.7%. This also translated in voter turnout in the last general election. According to IDEA, in the last general election in India and Pakistan, the voter turnout was 68.4% and 55.8% respectively. The English Poet William Blake beautifully summarises it as "If men were wise, the most arbitrary Princes could not hurt them, if they are not wise the freest governments are compelled to tyranny".

Good education shapes the future of an entire generation. Education system of the west made it dominant and strong while the education system of the east made it weak and dependent. Their system promotes creative writing, innovation and development of soft skills. Dr Jin Li in his book "Cultural Foundation of Learning: East and West" compares the two systems. The author describes that in east, learning is a life purpose while in west curiosity of the external world is the inspiration of knowledge. [2012].

Our system promotes rote memorisation which kills creativity and passion for innovations. Knowledge is not gained for the sake of understanding and exploring but for acquiring a job. The irony is that such method of education is actually linked with lower employment rates in societies.

Education, health and income are the three basis of United Nation's Human Development Index which is one of the most effective tools for measuring a nation's growth. In 1975, Pakistan's HDI was 125, India and Bangladesh, both were behind us. In 2023, according to UN's annual report on human development, Pakistan has sinked to 161st number and India has climbed up to 132nd. This is mainly due to our neglect of education.

The two other variables Health and Income are directly dependent on education. Good education produces competent doctors and responsible literate patients. It increases public awareness of ~~health~~ ^{Health} and decreases the spread of multiple communicable and infectious diseases. One example is the eradication of Polio in the ~~developed~~ ^{world} global community while countries like Pakistan and Afghanistan are still lagging behind due to spread of false information related to vaccines. [WHO]

It is yet another example of illiteracy causing collective harm to a society.

The pressing issues of 21st century are related to ~~global~~ economy, environment & human development and governance. In his book Global - Issues - an Introduction, John L. Sartz says that all these issues are interlinked. One cannot be solved without solving the other. These issues are also globally linked. One nation, country or continent cannot resolve these issues alone, the global community has to show unity in coming up with a solution.

To root out global issues, human development must be globally prioritized. We can only solve the issues that we know of. In a world where 773 million people are still illiterate (UNESCO), it is very hard to achieve sustainable development goals by 2030. In the book "Collapse - how societies chose to fail or succeed", ~~James~~ Jared Diamond emphasizes

on the importance of education for the eradication of global evils. He says that all citizens must realise their civic duty and vote for those leaders that show an inclination towards solving global issues.

As Abraham Lincoln said, "The best way to predict the future is to create it", and the only way to do so is by creating effective classes. It is the very duty of schools to instill and inculcate a sense of global responsibility in students. ~~To make them realise that unless we do something~~

The first step is awareness. In a ~~recent~~ survey of The Yale University in Feb. 2022, the Yale climate opinion maps showed that 45% of Americans think that global warming will not harm them personally. This was the response of people living in one of the most developed countries. We can well assume the awareness of people regarding global issues, living in the underdeveloped and developing countries.

While we discuss the issue of classrooms, another important thing is that more numerals increase in schools will not make effective change. From 1948 to 99, the no. of universities in Pakistan increased from

664 to 101340 (Pakistan Bureau of Statistics) and the number has been steadily increasing since. However, our current HDI is at the lowest in the history of Pakistan. So, we need to upgrade our level of education. We need to understand the mere degree is worth nothing. In international markets, it is just a piece of paper. It is the skills and creativity that you possess determine your educational value.

In the past 77 years of our independence, we have failed to achieve the Millennium and Sustainable Development Goals. We are facing a poly crisis today. It is the unanimous opinion of political and economic experts that the only way out of this crisis is by rejuvenating the economy. We are facing unprecedented economic crisis. In the past three years, we have been consistently facing the threat of a default. IMF may have provided a short term survival capital but it will not last very long. We have to eradicate the root causes like bad governance, corruption and terrorism. And of these is one solution of all such problems - it is education. Only a classroom has the potential to save our future, to make Pakistan

a country that Quaid-e-Azam dreamed of.

Not just Pakistan, the whole world needs to prioritise education, especially technical quality education to save its future.

As Benjamin Franklin said, "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest",

while the global community and world leaders are actively pursuing economic and defence arrangements, it is the need of the hour that global education initiatives should be taken. The objective

of globalisation of the world will not be met as long as an alarming education

disparity exists among states. The goals that the United Nations and world leaders have set for the future are achievable

provided that we shape the human society today.