

Has SNC done enough to transform the outdated, cramming based education system of Pakistan?

Outline

1. Introduction

Thesis Statement: Unfortunately, Single National Curriculum has so far failed to transform the traditional cramming based learning in Pakistan. Although the policy holds ~~the~~ better prospects for the future of the country's education system, its haphazard implementation and somewhat similar course materials have caused it to produce similar outcomes. In order for the nation to reap its complete benefits, few changes should be made in the course material of this policy and its implementation.

2. An overview of Single National Curriculum

3. Entrenched culture of remembering course material in Pakistan and its implications.

4. SNC has failed to eradicate rote learning (Thesis)

a) Teaching faculties remains mostly the same

b) Implementation has been really slow and at the whims of provincial governments

c) It has failed to address ^{the} lack of practical knowledge

d) It promotes some conventional course materials and

do not promote modern teachings regarding technology, etc.

5. SNC has certainly played a role in radicalizing the conventional rote learning (anti-thesis)

a) Teachers can be trained as per the criteria and needs of SNC

b) The speed of implementation has been promising so far.

c) SNC does not allow the kids to be burdened with practical work during the early years of their schooling

d) Its initial aim is to eliminate existing problems that ~~corrode~~ corrode the educational fabric of the country.

6. SNC so far has failed to transform the outdated, cramming based educational system of Pakistan (synthesis)

a) Teachers' training can be costly and time taking

b) Implementation has only been partially materialised in only two provinces

c) The base of practical knowledge allows kids to grow with much deeper knowledge of science

d) Along with conventional knowledge, it must inculcate modern technical knowledge in students.

7. Ways to make this policy more effective

a) ~~Practise~~ Practical learning should go hand in hand with

b) A ~~country's~~ proper country-wide implementation should be ensured

c) The appointment should be made of only qualified teachers

d) ~~A universal mechanism of assessment~~

d) A mechanism of universal assessment should be devised

8. Conclusion

ESSAY

"The world is evolving, so should we. We need to modernise our education, for it is our only chance of survival." These words were rightfully said by the founding-father of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah. He pointed out to the fact that if Pakistan were to compete with the world, it would have to keep changing its education system as per the needs of changing times. Along with bringing national cohesion, SNC is also an effort ~~of~~ modernising the education ~~of~~ in Pakistan. However, it has so far failed to deliver its objectives. It ~~is~~ has not brought any substantial change to ~~and~~ the education of Pakistan that is mostly cramming based. Unfortunately, Single National Curriculum has so far failed to transform the traditional cramming based learning in Pakistan. Although the policy holds better prospects for the future of ~~the education~~ country's education system, its haphazard implementation and somewhat similar course materials have caused it to produce similar outcomes. In order for the nation to reap its benefits, few changes should be made in the course material of this policy and its policy.

It can be argued that owing to incomplete implementation and inefficient training of pedagogues, this policy has not delivered yet. Moreover, it does not provide for any

good mechanism for the practical work of scientific ideas. Similarly, Technical knowledge, ~~which is a need~~ relating to Information technology, which is a need of the hour, remains neglected in SNC. The supporters of this policy may argue that the training of teachers and implementation in provinces is going as per the plans. ~~Similarly~~ However, nothing is far from the truth than this claim. Teacher's training has remained an extremely controversial topic since the inception of this policy. It ~~comes~~ costs a lot of money. On the other hand, ~~the~~ ^{its} implementation has also been a bone of contention between ~~at~~ centre and provinces. Hence, for the sake of better education, the authorities would have to emphasise on theoretical as well as practical learning of students. The appointment of teachers should be made ~~on~~ ^{a thorough} ~~after~~ ~~extreme~~ scrutiny. ~~It will~~ A mechanism for the universal assessment of examination should be established, so that the quality should be provided to the people of the whole country.

The single National Curriculum is the brainchild of the former prime minister of Pakistan. It was introduced in 2020. ~~Since the populace is forced to~~ Since there are three types of schools in Pakistan; ~~and~~ expensive private schools, low-fee private schools and public schools, it had become imperative for the state to devise a plan to provide people with the education of same quality. It was intended to provide

everyone with similar knowledge. Through this way, the disparities in educational quality could be ~~minis~~ minimised. Along with that, it is also supposed to strengthen national cohesion and pave the way for national integration. The policy was supposed to be implemented within a time-frame of four years. However, due to extreme political polarisation and economic meltdowns, the policy has only been implemented in few parts of the country. Similarly, since education comes under the authority of provinces, provinces, such as Sindh and Balochistan, are reluctant to implement it.

The education system of Pakistan faces myriad of problems. Cramming and rote learning is one of them. Students are asked to learn and memorise facts and texts from books and reproduce them in exams. Over the years, several governments have devised policies regarding education; however, none of them successfully addressed this epidemic. Owing to this culture, the country has failed to make any substantial contributions to academia and science. ~~Every year~~ Despite producing top scoring students every year, the country has failed to produce ~~scas~~ scientific scientists and academics. Why is it that every year some students of pre-engineering and pre-medical manage to score ~~big~~ extremely high marks, but they fail to contribute to ~~the~~ science? It is because they simply reproduce

material that they learn from books. They often very lack very basic understanding about science. Resultantly, despite producing high achievers, the country remains home to a massive intellectually stunted population. The cramming based learning does not allow innovation, as it requires critical thinking and in-depth knowledge of things. Consequently, the economic progress remains hindered and borrowed.

Although SNC is a great leap forward for the education of Pakistan, it is not going to produce any good results ~~since teachers~~ because teaching faculties remain unchanged around the country. By same, it means that their teaching styles and their capabilities remain same. They would not be able to educate students as per the requirements of the policy if they are not properly trained. For example, a person who taught Islamic studies in Urdu for over 10 years ~~with~~ would not be able to suddenly teach it in English. Moreover, teachers ~~should~~ ought to be trained to teach students to conceptualise things, rather than just memorise them. The change in the teaching methods require training, and teachers are ~~still~~ largely untrained yet. In summation, SNC has not delivered any substantial changes mainly because pedagogues remain untrained and unqualified to adopt to the new system.

The implementation of SNC has been extremely slow and ineffective. Despite the proponents' idea of implementing it in the whole of the country within four years, it has yet been implemented in only a small part of Pakistan. ~~The~~ ~~original~~ ~~implementation~~ Asymmetrical implementation still has caused an asymmetrical shift or change in the quality of education, and is completely opposed to the original objectives of the policy. For instance, SNC has been implemented in several parts of Punjab and KP, but Sindh and Balochistan still remain out of its ambit. Consequently, the quality of the education in Sindh and Balochistan still largely remain questionable. Since education comes under provincial authority, political governments ~~have~~ also have been reluctant to ~~im~~ about implementing SNC, due to political differences. For example, PPP government ~~in~~ in Sindh ~~or~~ blatantly refused to implement the policy in the province, due to its difference with the ~~PTI~~ ^{led} central government. ~~Thus~~ Owing to this political engineering SNC has failed to bring about ~~changes~~ to symmetrical changes in quality. Conclusively, ~~asymmetrical~~ the implementation of the policy ~~remains~~ is carried out ineffectively and ~~slowly~~ at a slower pace.

Despite having sound material for conceptualisation of science, SNC lacks a approach towards

practical knowledge. SNC textbooks are great for the conceptualisation of things. However, if past is anything to go by, relying solely on textbooks only promote rote learning. To provide an in-depth insight on topics, students need to participate in practical learning, such as experiments and report writing of their observations. Benjamin Franklin, one of the founding fathers of the US, says, "Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn". This means that the students should be allowed to participate in discussions and other activities that may be relevant to their practical course material. To sum up, SNC does not consist of any mechanism that may require students to do practical work.

~~But~~ The nature of courses in SNC are similar to the ones that were prevalent before it. ~~At the~~ Its courses do not include any technical knowledge, related to IT and AI, and consist of same material that ~~is going to be obsolete in~~ ~~is making it~~ causes it ^{to} only be a rebranding of an older version of educational system. A report from the Brookings Institution suggested that SNC is but a pretext of reform sans necessary transformation. For it to be a real transformation, it was supposed to consist of courses such as coding, ^{and} programming, ~~etc.~~ which are needed in the modern world. Conclusively, SNC does not consist of courses that are necessary ~~for~~ for the survival in

the contemporary world.

~~Teachers can be~~

The supporters of SNC might argue in following way:

Teachers can be promptly trained as per the requirements of ~~teaching~~ SNC. Although it might ~~be a~~ ^{be a} ~~be sound~~ challenge ~~impossible~~, ~~yet~~ it is possible to educate teachers to change their teaching styles as per the latest requirement. The ~~govt~~ authorities are striving for the capacity building of existing teachers. As per the Dawn reports, ten thousands teachers ^{in Punjab} ~~alone~~ have been trained to teach. If ~~they~~ were to continue ~~at~~ ^{at} this pace, ~~in~~ most of teachers would be trained within a few years. ~~This~~ If teachers were to get properly trained, they will be able to eradicate the traditional cramming based learning. Hence, vocational training of teachers can be ~~cheaply and quickly~~ done.

Despite all the social and political polarisation, the pace of the implementation of SNC has been quite satisfactory. Despite all the political upheavals, implementation in Punjab and KP went smooth. ~~Also~~ The government is actively participating in talks with the governments of provinces that are unwilling to adopt SNC. For example, a parliamentary committee is in constant touch with Sindh Government since it's the only province that ~~has~~ detest SNC. Sindh Government ~~was~~ played an active part in the development of SNC but refused to adopt it. Hence, the implementation of SNC is taking place as planned.

The objective of SNC is to develop capacity of kids in their formative stage to help them conceptualise basic things. Therefore, practical work has been kept to minimal levels in SNC. It is better to not over-burden with things because it can cause them to be stressed about their studies. For instance, it will be easier for kids to learn if they are relaxed and not over-burdened. Instead of being anxious about things like practical work, they ~~would~~ now would ~~not~~ be able to absorb things much easily. Hence, to develop the mind of students, they are kept away from indulging in activities that ~~are~~ ^{come under} of ~~the~~ practical work.

Instead of adding new things to the mix,

SNC is aimed to eradicate myriad of problems that corrode educational system of Pakistan. It is aimed to teach students to think independently and develop language skills. Therefore, it is better to improve the existing things rather than add new things. Similarly, ~~coding~~ skills like coding or programming have to be taught by experts, for ~~as~~ it is above the pay grade of ~~most~~ usual teachers. For example, if existing teaching faculties are trained to teach advanced computer skills, they would do a pathetic job at it because it takes many years for one to learn these skills. Conclusively, SNC's objectives are to improve educational predicament in the country.

Synthesis to these ~~anti~~ arguments are given below:

The capacity building of a large number of teachers is neither cheap, nor prompt. It is extremely expensive to ~~build~~ establish institution for the vocational training of teachers. Similarly, It also takes time to train them. For example, according to latest data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, there are almost over one million teachers in Pakistan, and training each of them going to consume a whole lot of time. Conclusively, to train

teachers as per the requirements of SNC, the authorities would have to spare so much time and finances.

Unfortunately, despite all the efforts that the authorities have done for its implementation, it has only been partly implemented in two provinces yet. ~~Although~~ It is only implemented in some areas of Punjab and K.P. Although it would be foolish to say that ~~the~~ such things can take place overnight, it ~~was~~ could have been implemented in the most of the country by 2025 if the authorities had stuck with the original plans of implementation. For instance, after the ~~got~~ former government fell, its implementation was halted by the successive government. Initially, the new government had decided to rename the policy before moving ahead with the plan of implementation. Resultantly, it remained halted for several months even though the name remained same. In summation, SNC's implementation has only been materialised in only two provinces yet.

Practical work should not be considered a burden for kids as it causes kids to develop a much better insight on scientific topics. It allows them to know about the real intricacies of the concept instead of just memorising it. According to a study conducted by Wijje and Loyjal in 2021, ~~was the~~

primary schools that gave ~~2~~ ^{in a week} two days to the practical learning of kids ~~produced~~ produced students with higher IQ than other schools that did not invest time in Practical work. It greatly increases knowledge of students. Hence, practical work is not a burden.

Along with conventional knowledge, SNC should inculcate technical knowledge in kids. As the world continues to evolve, it has become imperative for authorities to help the youth of the country move along with the evolving world. Since the education is changing with the time, conventional education, which has been prevalent for many centuries, is going to get redundant. As 'Yuval Noah Harari' in his book '21 Lessons for 21st century' says, "unlike 1801, much of what kids learn today will be useless by 2050." students must be taught about the things that are going to be relevant in future. Conventional research and jobs are going to get obsolete. Hence, SNC should also ~~not~~ focus on teaching kids the modern education.

SNC should emphasise on the practical learning of students. ~~For~~ For the purpose of complete eradication of rote learning, students should learn to apply the scientific concepts that they study in class. Countries that focus on the practical education

of their people produce much efficient workforce. According to a report published by World Economic Forum in 2022, Scandinavian countries have the most efficient workforce in the world. It is a known fact that the education curricula in Scandinavian countries consist forty percent of practical work. Hence, SNC should also provide a framework for applied education.

In order for the SNC to complete its objectives, that are bringing uniformity and ending rote learning in ~~the education of~~ Pakistan, its uniform implementation should be ensured. Each and every person should be able to reap its benefits. If it remains ~~asymmetric~~ asymmetrically implemented, it will further stratify the Pakistani society. For example, people of Sindh will remain deprived of its benefits if it is only implemented in Punjab, and people in Punjab will be eventually be better off than the ones in Sindh. This will further exacerbate the stratification in Pakistani society. Hence, To bring about uniformity in education and end the culture of rote learning, a symmetrical implementation of SNC should be ensured.

For the purpose qualitative and conceptual education, qualified teachers should be appointed

throughout the country. The appointment of teachers should be done after proper scrutiny. If part is anything to go by, unqualified teachers wreck the education & for worse. For example, ~~teach~~ In Sindh, teachers are appointed only on the basis of ~~of~~ an objective type test. Therefore, the quality of teaching faculty in Sindh remains extremely dismal. Conclusively, appointment of teachers in Pakistan should be done on the basis of strict qualifications.

^{universal}
A mechanism for the assessment of examination copies should be devised. Each and every copy of students should be checked on the same merits. A single assessment mechanism can bring uniformity in education system of Pakistan. For example, ~~exam~~ if examination copies of students ~~and~~ of Punjab and Sindh are checked or assessed on the same merit, both provinces' students would have to write similar quality. This way, the differences in quality can be managed and mitigated. Hence, a universal assessment mechanism should be devised.

In summation, SNC has failed to eradicate the culture of rote learning in Pakistan. Owing to inefficient teaching faculty and ineffective implementation it been ~~a~~ unsuccessful in doing so. Similarly, for the purpose of conceptual learning, SNC should provide framework for the promotion of practical work. Furthermore,

modern technical knowledge should also be given a part in SNC because it is a need of the hour. To reap complete benefits of this policy and eradicate rote learning in Pakistan, SNC should be implemented in letter and spirit.

"
A nation is not made wealthy by the childish accumulation of shiny metals, but it is enriched ^{by} ~~in~~ the economic as well as educational prosperity of its people"

(Adam Smith)

Appropriate size of a state's population

Due to being social animals, humans to live together. A state is formed when it consists of a population of people living in harmony with one another. The population consists of three types of people: citizens; nationals; and non-citizens, or aliens. Although the population is the most important characteristic of a state, its size remains the most discussed thing among the ancient and modern thinkers. Some say it needs to ~~really~~ ^{be} small while others argue that it should be neither small nor too big. Moreover, as per the author's views, the size of the population should be enough to suffice to the basic needs of life, and it should be live off on the resources of state.

Approx: words in passage: 308

words in precis: 114