

Essay: Neglect of Enhancing Intellectual ability in our education system.

Outline

1. Introduction

Thesis Statement: The enhancement of intellectual abilities is neglected in the education system of Pakistan. This negligence results in students with multiple degrees but zero skills.

Although there are various reasons behind this negligence, it can be overcome by adopting modern teaching methodologies and updating curriculum.

2. How the enhancement of intellectual ability is neglected in our education system.

3. Reasons behind the neglect of enhancing intellectual abilities by our education system.

a) Outdated curricula.

b) Cramming approach towards learning.

c) Lack of special training programs for teachers.

d) Low budgetary allocation.

e) Governmental unconcerns towards educational policy making and implementation.

- f) Absence of research in educational institutions
- g) Poor assessment criterion.

4. Consequences of neglecting intellectual ability

- a) Students have multiple degrees but zero skill
- b) Rise in unemployment.
- c) Lagging behind other countries in the race of advancement and technology
- d) Deteriorating image of Pakistan in front of the global world.
- e) Lack of problem solving skills.
- f) Dependence on the foreign states

5. Ways for enhancing intellectual ability in our educational institutions.

- a) Updating curriculum according to the needs of the modern era
- b) Specialized training of teachers
- c) Reforming examination system.
- d) Allocation of sufficient budget in the education sector.

6. Conclusion.

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The eminent philosopher Alvin Toffler once said, "The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn." This implies that education in the 21st century demands flexible skills of learning, unlearning, and re-learning. Education institutions should act as a platform for students where they can challenge their existing ideas and come up with unique and innovative ideas. Hence, cultivation of mind by the enhancement of intellectual abilities in the students should be the main purpose of education system.

There are various factors behind the neglect of enhancing intellectual ability in the education system of Pakistan such as outdated curriculum, cramming approach towards learning, absence of quality research, allocation of low budget in the education sector and many more. These issues make students non-eligible for the survival in the current era which is marked by advancement and technology. As a result of the negligence

of the enhancement of intellectual abilities in the education system, students possess degrees, but lack analytical skills and thus find no job. The increasing unemployment fuels economic crisis of the country. Consequently, Pakistan lags behind other countries in the race of innovation and technology. These challenges can be overcome by the enhancement of intellectual abilities in the education system through updating the curricula according to the needs of the current era, introducing research based teaching programs and learning techniques, allocating more budget in the education sector and implementing effective policies for reforming examination system. Hence, the neglect of enhancing intellectual abilities in our education system is a pressing issue with far-reaching consequences impeding individual as well as country's development. Immediate measures should be taken into consideration to boost the cognitive ability of the students.

The role of educational institutions in a country is to prepare students to participate

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actively in a country's development. This can happen only when students are well equipped with intellectual abilities, problem solving skills, and right decision making abilities. However, in Pakistan educational institutes are neglecting the development of such skills, due to which students have only degrees, but no creative skills. The education system is not focusing on instilling critical and analytical skills in the students. This makes students unfit to deal with the existing challenges of the 21st century. Thus, it is the need of the hour to enhance intellectual ability of the students by bringing suitable reforms in the education system of Pakistan.

Although there are various reasons behind the neglect of enhancing intellectual abilities in the education system, the chief among them is outdated curricula. All the students throughout Pakistan are being taught a syllabus that is 15-20 years old. This syllabus is obsolete according to the current trends of the globe. Although innovation has altered every aspect of life, the education system of Pakistan has

remained alarmingly stagnant. It lacks creativity. Students find no interest in the curricula. "Outdated curriculum causes students' motivation, interest, and beliefs in the power of learning to wane." (Evin Nestino, Making Curriculum Matter to Students, 2023). Instead of empowering students with modern education, Pakistan's education system feeds young minds with old, abstract and highly metaphysical concepts. This hinders the intellectual development of the students.

Cramming approach towards learning is another factor behind negligence of the development of the cognitive skills in the students. Instead of active learning, there is passive system of education in Pakistan. From the very beginning students are exposed to an environment of fear and failure. In order to avoid punishment, students always look for teachers' instructions to follow and memorize. They are awarded marks for writing the same content as it was taught in the class. Thus, students prefer to cram the lesson instead

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of questioning and exploring the different dimensions of the same topic. As a result of this rote memorization, students adopt the robotic attitude and mechanical skills. According to a survey in India in 2012, 80% of school principals cited rote learning as the reason for a decline in education. This cramming approach towards learning makes students unable to think out of the box and thus hinders the enhancement of intellectual ability.

Lack of special training programs for teachers is another reason for the neglect of intellectual ability in our education system. No attention is given to train the teachers according to the modern trends of the changing world. Teachers are still following the old methodologies of teaching. Because of the lack of pedagogical skills and experience, teachers adopt authoritarian teaching style. Instead of encouraging students to raise questions and think out of the box, teachers just bombard students with ideas and concepts. They do not train students to think critically.

"Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one." (Malcolm Forbes) But this purpose is often neglected due to the lack of proficient and trained teaching staff

Another major factor behind the lack of intellectual abilities ^{of the students} is the allocation of low low budget in the education sector. Education system of Pakistan has been crippled due to the allocation of scarce budget. Low budget indicates that government is not paying enough money and attention for the provision of quality education. Last year only 1.77% of GDP was spent on education (Economic survey of Pakistan 2021-22).

Due to low investment in the education sector, students are even deprived of their basic right to education. Such a small budget is not enough to upgrade the educational system of Pakistan with modern technology, research based ^{study} material and trained teaching staff. As a result, no efforts are made to instill creativity and analytical skills in the students.

Neglect of governmental concerns towards

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educational policy implementation also results in poor intellectual abilities of the students.

Frequent political turmoil and change of governments have made policy implementation in its true sense, letter and spirit impossible. Furthermore, policies about transforming educational system are made but not implemented in its practicality. The education section of the executive summary of the Economic survey of Pakistan 2021-22 claims: "Pakistan is committed to transform its education system into a high quality global market demand driven system in accordance with goal 4 of the sustainable development goals (SDGs)." However, the reality is quite different.

Absence of quality research work in the educational institutes is another reason behind the lack of critical skills in the students. Research work pushes students to view a thing from different perspectives - Good researchers have the skill to observe things with different dimensions thus widening their horizon. Students at

the university level conduct researches but they lack quality and innovation. Quality research is the one which can add to the global knowledge by posing important questions that have been empirically tested. According to Uddin and Singh (2014), the impact of papers from Pakistan is the lowest among all SAARC countries. Similarly, Hericu (2015) has revealed that highly cited papers from Pakistan are only 0.01% of the total research produced in this decade. This clearly shows the extent to which Pakistani education system lacks quality research. The absence of productive and qualitative research hinders the enhancement of intellectual abilities in the students.

Faulty examination system is another eminent reason behind the lack of developing intellectual abilities in our education system. The assessment criterion is poor. It only focuses and tests the memory of the students and not their creativity. It has badly failed in

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producing critical thinking, analytical skills, learning, intellectual power, and visionary reflection in the students at all the levels of ~~low~~ education. It does not measure the strength, achievements and performance of students (Quereslu). Students are examined only on the basis of books, theoretical knowledge instead of practical knowledge. Thus, our educational system is producing narrow minded robot like students instead of intellectuals and philosophers.

The neglect of enhancing intellectual ability has many grave impacts. The chief among them is the gap in the ratio of students' degrees and their skills. They do have knowledge and multiple degrees but lack ^{essential} skills. They lack creativity and critical thinking. As a result, they are unable to contribute in the progress of the state. As they are not able to think out of the box, they even cannot solve their problems. Such an education system where enhancement of intellectual abilities is neglected generate

students with degrees and certificates but with zero skills. According to Robert Greene, the future belongs to those who learn more skills and combine them in a creative way. Thus, students lacking intellectual skills have no role in the development of the state.

The gap between degrees and skills give rise to unemployment, which is the aftermath of neglecting development of the intellectual abilities in the education system of Pakistan. Dr Ishrat Husain in his article Education vs Employment (2020) revealed that 67% of the unemployed in Pakistan are educated whereas the unemployment of the uneducated people stands at 33%. Such literate unemployed people have to face economic and as well as social challenges. In this way, the country is facing the dilemma of educated people being unemployed due to their lack of re-skilling themselves according to the requirements of the advanced world.

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The lack of enhancing intellectual abilities in our education system results in lagging behind other countries in the race of advancement. Pakistan's performance in the global competition is very weak as compared to other states. According to the data from the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report 2017-18, the Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) shows Pakistan's slow performance being ranked 129th of the 137 countries, on the health and primary education related elements of competitiveness, when compared with other states in the region like India, China, Bangladesh etc. Thus, Pakistan lags behind other states in the race of innovation and development.

Due to the neglect of enhancing intellectual ability in the education system, the image of Pakistan is deteriorating in front of the global world. According to a British ranking QS, Pakistan's higher education system ranked 50 as compared to India which ranked 24. Pakistan is declared as the

country with the world's weakest higher education system while US and UK have the strongest. Moreover, due to limited exposure to modern technology and lack of analytical skills, Pakistani students cannot perform well in the international educational institutions which also weakens Pakistan's image in the international world.

Besides economic challenges, many educated citizens of Pakistan are suffering from social challenges. Due to lack of problem solving skills, they are unable to challenge the old conservative mentality and replace them with unique and modern ideas. They fail to set themselves free from the chains of traditional beliefs. Many still advocate traditional roles of women and condemn women empowerment. This in turn creates gender parity within a society. Moreover, these so called educated folks are not able to resolve social issues of inequality, corruption, lawlessness, and extremism. Rather they are more or less

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part of such societies. They just follow whatever other people do and do not raise voice against social evils of injustice, inequality etc. According to Sir Syed, the only way to bring about social change is education.

But, due to lack of ~~an~~ quality education and neglect of enhancing intellectual ability in Pakistani education system, its youth are not able to bring about social change.

Neglect of enhancing intellectual ability results in dependence on the foreign states.

Due to lack of creativity and innovation, Pakistani nation is neither able to invent new technologies nor able to handle those invented by other countries. So, Pakistan needs to import work force besides raw material machinery and other advanced technologies.

This results in Pakistan just becoming the consumer of others' innovations and not the producer. This shows Pakistan's reliance on other states for its development.

As a result of imbalance import and

export, Pakistan has to suffer from economic challenges. Pakistan cannot succeed in achieving its national and International goals without the enhancement of intellectual ability, critical thinking and analytical skills.

There are serious consequences of neglecting intellectual ability in the education system of Pakistan, but this issue can be resolved by taking necessary measures. The chief measure to enhance intellectual ability in our education system is to update the curriculum by taking into consideration the needs of the growing world. The educationists and course designers should design syllabus by focusing on skill-centered approach. This approach aims to get away from the surface performance data and look at the competence that underlines the performance. Such a course designed on skill-centered approach, presents its learning outcomes in terms of both performance and competence. Moreover, the distance learning and skill enhancement

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initiative (DLSEI) by HEC should be strengthened so that education institutions with updated knowledge by top ranked universities across the globe help students in enhancing their cognitive abilities. For example, the access of Coursera - the world's top learning ranked online learning platform provides students with opportunities to learn various emerging fields of Artificial Intelligence (AI), 3D-printing, Gaming theory etc. and thus helps students in developing their thinking abilities. So, updating curriculum along with access to online learning programmes is the significant measure to enhance intellectual ability.

Another effective way to develop intellectual abilities in the education system of Pakistan, is to train the teaching staff. Special training should be given to the teachers to make learning interesting and creative. M. Zeb Khan, in his article "The Essence of Education", mentions that teachers should develop rather than envelope students' abilities to think beyond the apparent, to read between the lines, and to hear what is not said (2023). They should teach in an interactive manner by taking into consideration the needs and demands of the students. They should encourage students to participate in the discussion by sharing their views on a particular topic. In this way,

students enjoy learning without the fear of being punished and ridiculed for asking questions. Furthermore, teachers should make research based study plans for teaching students. Thus, trained teachers equipped with modern teaching methodologies can play an effective role in the enhancement of students' intellectual abilities.

Bringing reforms in the examination system of Pakistan is also necessary in order to enhance cognitive ability of the students. Both qualitative and quantitative exams should be conducted to judge the performance of the students' abilities through various types of reliable assessments like case studies, research papers, M.C.Ques, comprehensive subjective questions, ^{and} analytical questions to check the conceptual understanding of the students especially in higher classes (Rehman, 2011). The purpose of exams should ^{be} not only to test students' memory but also to assess their creative and cognitive skills. Such examinations boost students' confidence and prepare them for their professional lives. Hence, reforming examination system is an effective measure to enhance students' intellectual ability.

Besides reforming examination system, allocation of sufficient budget for education in the national GDP is of prime importance for developing intellectual ability in the education system. Most

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UN agencies recommend that the minimum expenditure on education should be 4% of the GDP. The more the budget spend on the education sector, the more advance will be the education system. This budget can be spent on infrastructure, technological advancements, teachers' training and quality research which will further help in the enhancement of the intellectual abilities of the students. Thus, government should allocate sufficient budget for the education sector.

In conclusion, education is the key to the progress of a state. Without effective education, no nation makes progress. It not only grows the individuals but also develops the countries. Effective education system is the one in which students are equipped with intellectual abilities, cognitive skills, and innovative visionary ideas. According to Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, the only way to bring about social change is education. So, it is the education system which decides the future of the states. Although our education system is inflicted with various problems, the chief among them is the neglect of enhancing ^{students'} intellectual abilities. There are many factors which act as a barriers in the enhancement of intellectual abilities. This major issue can be resolved by bringing the above mentioned reforms in the education system of Pakistan.