

Q) Neglect of enhancing intellectual ability in our education system?

## Outline:

### 1. Introduction

Thesis statement: The contemporary education system in Pakistan is of inadequate standard. The failure of the system is manifested in its ineptitude towards tapping out the true potential within individuals and enhancing their intellectual ability. This is likely due to the continuous neglect that the education system is facing and failure to modernise it. However, by placing stern measures, the standard of education sector can be elevated.

2. How the education system has failed to enhance intellectual ability.

3. Factors that have substandardised the education system of Pakistan

- a) Insufficient allocation of funds
- b) Lack of priority
- c) scarce number of quality institutions
- d) outdated teaching methods
- e) unskilled teachers
- f) minimum variety of majors available

4. Impacts on Pakistan

- a) unskilled graduates
- b) unable to produce renowned scientists
- c) fallen behind in research and other technological fields among the region.

## 5. Way forward

- a) Proper fund allocation
- b) Train teachers
- c) Proliferate quality education institutions
- d) scholarships given to brilliant minds
- e) Update education curriculum
- f) invite other countries to open universities in Pakistan.

## 6. Conclusion

"Everybody is a genius but if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing it is stupid" [Albert Einstein]. The education system of Pakistan is a classical example of judging a fish by its ability to climb. There are numerous factors that have impeded the growth of the country's education system, to name a few, insufficient allocation of funds, out-dated teaching methods, unskilled teachers etc. The contemporary education system in Pakistan is of inadequate standard. The failure of the system is manifested in its ~~ability~~ ineptitude towards tapping out the true potential within individuals and enhancing their intellectual ability. This is likely due to the persistent neglect that the education system is facing and the failure to modernise it. However, by placing stern measures, the standard of education sector can be elevated.

The education system in Pakistan has been neglected for far too long, consequently, resulting in its ~~persistent~~ continuous decline. There are several factors that contributed towards its downfall and brought it down to where it stands now. These factors range from unskilled

teachers to the scarce number of quality institutions. The outdated, ill equipped education sector is unable to foster intellectual capacity of students. As result Pakistani graduates are perceived as unskilled around the globe. Albeit in decline, the education system can still be improved with the help of proper preventive and corrective measures. This is a slow process, but ~~when~~ once it is given undivided attention, it can play a crucial role in ensuring a ~~prof~~ prosperous Pakistan.

Since its independence, Pakistan has focused primarily on issues that threaten its national security, and in doing so it can neglected the education sector. Consequently, Pakistan was left with no choice but to spend a ~~considerable~~ considerable amount of ~~budget~~ budget in its military, in an attempt to mitigate the threat. One can argue if this was the correct course of action, but given the internal and ~~externa~~ external threat that Pakistan faced, including but not limited to war on terror, sectarianism, threats from India and Afghanistan, it could be easily justified. The gravity of security threats faced by ~~for~~ Pakistan can be ~~discerned~~ discerned from a claim made by the former president of Pakistan, Pervez Musharraf, wherein he stated that the president of USA, George Bush, threatened to bomb Pakistan back to stone age if it didn't comply in the war ~~of~~ <sup>against</sup> terror. This highlights the complex security challenges Pakistan faced, so although the substantial amount of funds allocated to the defense sector did not harness the intellectual capacity of the country, it was vital for its survival.

The education sector of the country has never been a priority of civilian or military governments alike. The leadership of the country, especially the political



heads, have always prioritised ~~renew~~ revamping the infrastructure, roads, bridges, etc. The rationale behind this is that these changes are visible and can be highlighted during political campaigns. On the contrary, any investment towards the education sector, can take years before a noticeable change is seen, which is why it is often neglected. The World Bank indicates that Pakistan had only reserved 2.4% of its total budget for education in the fiscal year 2021. This shows that no real efforts are being made to combat the inept education system of the country.

Pakistan, a country of almost 230 million population, suffers from the dearth of quality educational institutions that are globally renowned. This scarcity implies that only a small fraction of students get the opportunity to study in institutions of high standard, leaving many brilliant minds with no option but to settle for inferior institutions. The ~~high~~ quality of any institution is instrumental in harnessing intellectual ability of students. A survey conducted by Imed Bouchrifa states that United States dominates the list of top scientists of the world ~~accounting~~ accounting for 49% of total. This is likely ~~to~~ because US is one of the pioneer of modern education and boasts some of the globally recognized institutions. This shows that good educational institutions are essential for increasing one's intellectual capacity.

Pakistan has been unsuccessful in keeping pace with the modern teaching methods and curricula. The majority, if not all, of educational institutions continue to rely on outdated facilities and teaching techniques, which have remained unchanged since their inception. Due to lack of



state-of-the-art laboratories and contemporary content, the youth of Pakistan is becoming increasingly technologically illiterate. Many students remain unaware of the technological advancements occurring around the world, let alone the ability to use such technologies. Consequently, the youth of Pakistan does not possess the sufficient knowledge or skills to compete with foreign counterparts. A 2019 survey conducted on digital illiteracy in Pakistan revealed that only 3% of women in the country were capable of copying or moving a file. This survey highlights the urgent need for modern education that provides hands-on experience with latest technology to equip students with the skills required to succeed in today's world.

The undiversified majors that universities offer, is another issue that the diminishing education system of the country faces. The predominant stereotype of compelling students to pursue engineering or medical fields still prevails, consequently, only a narrow range of subjects are offered to them. The failure to offer wider variety of modules and encourage students to pursue their interests impedes their intellectual growth. When students are forced to conform to societal stereotypes and choose career paths accordingly, they ~~lose~~ lose interest in education altogether. Education becomes a tedious task they must endure to improve their job prospects. Professor Oni Fagbohunbe, a psychology professor at UNILAG, states, "Imposing career paths on children stifles their creativity and prevents them from reaching their potential". This underscores the importance of pursuing career paths based on interests, which is crucial for enhancing students' creativity and reaching their full potential.

Persistent decline and lack of prioritization towards the education sector is why it faces continuous decline. The inept system, ~~abb~~ albeit produces graduates who possess degrees, however, fails to equip them with the requisite skills or knowledge required for employment, rendering them unfit for job markets. Consequently, these graduates struggle to compete with their foreign counterparts in multi-national companies and industries alike. Local graduates rarely receive job offers from companies based in developed countries. According to Qader Tanoli (2016), most Pakistanis are seeking job opportunities in the Middle East and Africa since they rarely find opportunities in developed countries like USA and UK. The lack of opportunities in developed countries reflect the failure of the education system in enhancing the intellectual ~~ability~~ ability of students or providing them with the necessary skills that many jobs require.

Pakistan's inability to nurture and groom brilliant minds, and failure to produce any globally renowned scientists in recent times, is a byproduct of the country's plagued education system. Since gaining independence, Pakistan has only been able to produce one scientist who has been acknowledged for his achievements through out the world. Ironically, he too pursued most of his education abroad. He was Dr. Abdul Qader Khan, also known as the father of Pakistan's atomic weapon program. The inability of the country's embarrased education system to produce capable scientists solely educated by local institutions, highlights its ineffectiveness and ~~that~~ therefore ~~it~~ requires urgent attention.

Due to the inept education system, Pakistan has lagged behind in research and other technological fields among the region. The poor education system has resulted in a meager research output, hindering the country's progress. On the contrary, many nations globally and in the region have prioritised their education sector and are reaping the benefits in the form of economic growth and prosperity. Technological innovations and other IT services can contribute to the exports of a country, ultimately supporting its economy. This is what ~~pa~~ Pakistan needs to boost its stagnant economy. The 2022 Economic Survey of India reveals that India's total IT exports were valued at a staggering \$ 273.6 billion. This shows the pivotal role of an effective education system in stabilizing the economy.

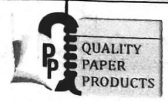
The deteriorating state of the education system in our country can be addressed by providing adequate funds. Unfortunately, the education sector has been neglected for far too long and has not ~~received~~ received the necessary funds for maintenance and improvement. As a result, many schools suffer from poor infrastructure and rely on outdated technologies to deliver education. Government schools are especially affected, with many lacking even basic equipment such as tables, chairs and whiteboards, let alone labs for practical experience. Since the majority of population cannot afford private institutions, they have to settle for government-owned schools. Given the poor standards of these institutions, the increasingly unskilled youth emerging should come as no surprise. Lack of funding and poor infrastructure are significantly reducing the standards of Public schools, and it is



imperative to upgrade them to be on par with private institutions, (Aurangzeb, time to Improve Govt schools, 2021). To sum up, contemporary public educational institutions are ineffective and cannot be relied upon to enhance the intellectual ability of students.

Another potential factor that could be effective in enhancing Pakistan's education sector is to ensure that teachers are qualified and well trained. Most teachers today, either are not qualified enough or lack the ability to effectively articulate the knowledge and concepts. The ability to convey knowledge is equally as important as possessing it in the first place. Regrettably, educational institutions often prioritise a teacher's qualifications over their ability to effectively transmit information. As a result, students' questions go unanswered, rendering them to rely on memorization without comprehension, which inhibits their intellectual growth. In United Kingdom, it is mandatory for teachers to be trained and awarded with QTS status before they can start teaching in any state-funded schools. As one of the world's leading education providers, the UK's emphasis on trained teachers highlights their importance in improving education standards.

The proliferation of high-standard educational institutions is vitally important for improving the intellectual capacity of the country. Pakistan only possesses a handful of internationally recognized universities. This scarce number of good institutions cannot cater to the needs of the enormous student population within the country, thereby, necessitating the need to address this issue.



As previously stated, high quality educational institutions are vital in nurturing the intellectual abilities of students. However, many Pakistani students are obtaining subpar graduate and post-graduate degrees from questionable colleges and lack the necessary skills to contribute to private companies, (Jawad Khan, Unskilled, unemployed youth in dire need of attention, 2018). This exposes the harsh reality of Pakistan's beleaguered education system and underscores the urgent need for decisive action.

Providing scholarship programs and other forms of financial assistance to capable underprivileged students can help unleash the potential of brilliant minds. Pakistan is a country where many talented students come from low-income families, and financial constraints often force them to abandon their education. This is a significant barrier to the intellectual development of the nation. Unfortunately, underprivileged students who lack financial resources, rarely receive any assistance from the government or the educational institutions itself. Consequently, many gifted students never receive the guidance they need to fully explore their potential. The dearth of scholarships and other financial aid reinforces the notion that education in Pakistan is a privilege reserved for the affluent.

It is imperative to update the education curriculum in Pakistan to improve the country's education standards. The current curriculum is outdated and fails to keep pace with the ever-evolving demands of modern world. A well-designed curriculum should provide students with the requisite skills that are sought after in both local and international job markets. Unfortunately, the contemporary curriculum relies heavily on memorization and contains outdated syllabi, failing to

challenge students and develop their analytical and critical thinking skills. The flawed education policy based on memorisation and contains outdated syllabi has resulted in poor language and arithmetic skills among students, potentially affecting their professional careers, (Zeeshan Khan, Education system in doldrums, 2021). These shortcomings underscore the need to revamp the flawed education curriculum in Pakistan urgently.

Inviting foreign countries to establish universities in Pakistan has the potential to substantially enrich the nation's educational landscape. By collaborating with international universities, Pakistan could gain an invaluable opportunity to closely monitor and effectively adapt proven teaching practices to the local context. Such collaborations would enable local students to access high quality education that offers a broad range of majors, as well as cutting-edge technologies that are fundamental to enhancing digital literacy. Furthermore, local institutions could leverage these partnerships to gain critical insights into the operations of foreign universities, thus facilitating continuous improvement in their own educational standards. The experience of Dubai serves as a powerful example, where despite a relatively modest research output, the city's educational ecosystem flourishes due to the presence of foreign universities. Therefore, by stimulating similar collaborations, Pakistan has the potential to position itself as a thriving hub for academic excellence and innovation.

~~The current~~ In conclusion, the current education system of Pakistan is facing a multitude of challenges, rendering it ineffective and incapable of competing globally. These challenges span from persistent neglect to the utilization



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of outdated and ineffective teaching methodologies. Nevertheless, by implementing robust measures such as those outlined above, it is possible to alleviate the declining state of the system. These solutions address the significant obstacles hindering the growth of the education sector. However, it is crucial to acknowledge that this process will be gradual and require time to undo the damage done. Nevertheless, despite being slow and daunting, it's not completely impossible. Inspiration can be drawn from Prophet Muhammad <sup>ﷺ</sup>, who in the early days of Islam, had only a handful of educated Muslims. Yet, through continued effort and hardwork, he laid down a strong foundation for the education system, enabling the ~~parenting~~ to produce some of the finest scientists for centuries to come.

↓  
Ummah.