

Education System in Pakistan:

ills and Remedies

Outline

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- Education System in Pakistan - an Overview
- ills of Education System in Pakistan
 - ✓ Lack of Uniformity
 - ✓ Outdated curriculum
 - ✓ Deplorable conditions of examination system
 - ✓ Shortage of funds
 - ✓ No training institutions for professional development of teachers
 - ✓ Poor effectiveness of school and
 - International Crisis group report of high dropout rates in Pakistan
 - ✓ Corruption

Remedies for Education System in Pakistan

- ✓ Implementation of single National Curriculum
- ✓ Introduce technology and research based curriculum.
- ✓ Improve examination systems by promote Open book exam
- ✓ Sufficient funds for education sector
- ✓ Develop training centers for teachers.
- ✓ Enhance quality of education in schools, in colleges and in Universities.
- ✓ Accountability and transparency

Conclusion

Education is essential to development of a nation. It creates sense of responsibility. Unfortunately, education system of Pakistan faces many challenges including outdated curriculum, shortage of funds, high drop-out rates, dearth of training centers for professional development of teachers, weak performance of educational system and corruption. These challenges can be overcome by effective implementation of single National curriculum, technology based curricula and by improving examination system. Moreover, sufficient funds must be allocated to education sector. Also, There is a need to develop training institutions for teachers and to ensure accountability in distribution of funds, promotions and in transfer of teachers. Hence, it is proved that education system in Pakistan experiences many problems and there is a dire need of how to resolve these problems.

To start with, successive governments in Pakistan have made policies for education sector. But these policies are not implemented well due to lack of political will. At the time of independence, universities hold the exams of school children. After 76 years, condition of education in Pakistan is highly deplorable. There

are many factors that contribute toward the worst education system.

Firstly, lack of uniformity is major ill in education system. There exists a different school systems in Pakistan. Public schools are of low quality while low-private schools are slightly better. There are some schools in Lahore that charge upto Rs. 90000 per month per child. There is a world of difference in attitudes of individual coming from these school of thoughts.

Secondly, outdated curriculum is another reason of poor education system in Pakistan. Textbook material is not updated. There is lack of cohesion in curricula. Moreover, syllabus is not according to the current times. It does not have technology and research based methods in it. That's why it leads to high ratio of unemployment in Pakistan.

Thirdly, examination system in Pakistan only relies on memory and theory. It does not promote open book exam. Moreover, cheating cases in examination system is also common. Recently, MDCAT exam in Sindh is affected from it. Therefore, it fails to evaluate the learning performance of students. Also, Board of intermediate and secondary education does not follow policy to stop paper leakage in Sindh.

— "Expenditure on education sector is only 1.7% of GDP of Pakistan" —
(Economy Survey of Pakistan-2023)

Moreover, shortage of funds for education sector is also causing issues. Pakistan's expenditure on education has declined from 2.1% of Gross Domestic Product to 1.7% GDP. It leads to the poor quality of education in Pakistan. Moreover, Pakistan is unable to follow 17 Sustainable Development Goals that include education.

Furthermore, there is a lack of training for teachers. According to United Nations Development Programme, the quality of teachers and instructions in Pakistan is very low. Teachers do not use new scientific methods for teaching. Teachers rely on their traditional methods. It is happening due to shortage of training centers. This is more prominent in rural areas of Punjab, Sindh and Baluchistan.

Likewise, poor effective management of education system leads to high dropout rates in Pakistan. According to International Crisis Group Report, Pakistan is among the 12 countries that spend less than 2% of Gross Domestic Product on education. As a result 22.6 million children in Pakistan are out of school. Also, low enrollment rates in school

is due to strict punishment at school level and less motivation towards studies. Parents do not send their children to schools due to worst situation of education system. Poverty and child labour are also reason of it. Also, graduates are source of encouragement for others, they ~~are~~ themselves are unemployed. This thing has encouraged parents not to send children to schools.

Lastly, corruption also affects the education system. There is a weak check and balance system in Pakistan. Manipulation in allocation of funds, transfers and promotions of teachers are also making situation more worst. Also, it contributes to leakage of paper before exams. All these ills need effective implementation of remedies.

At first, Government in Pakistan must implement the Single National Curriculum in Pakistan. It will not only remove the huge gap between the rich and the poor, but also, it ^{will} contribute to quality education in Pakistan. Government must ensure to effectively manage it at all levels of education institutions.

Secondly, Government must focus on introducing technology and research based curriculum. Textbooks must be updated according to the needs of current times. E-learning option is also available worldwide. It must be promoted in school, in colleges and in Universities. Moreover, at University level, curriculum must be designed according to the needs of industry so that employment opportunities can be generated.

Thirdly, Government in Pakistan must improve examination system. Recent Research has shown that Pakistan's system of matriculation and intermediate exams are of inferior quality as compared to British Oxford exam system. Papers must be designed on quantitative and on qualitative basis to evaluate the learning performance of students. Moreover, open book exam must be promoted in Pakistan. It will lead to better cognitive skills development in students.

Moreover, government must increase budget for education system. It must announce scholarships for students. Recently Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar ordered Higher Education Commission to announce technology and science based scholarships for students. Likewise, they

must focus on increasing annual funds for schools.

Furthermore, training is very essential for teachers. As teaching is a challenging job, it requires professional training. Government must focus on opening new training centers that are equipped with trainers and administrators. Teachers must learn new techniques for teaching. It is duty of teachers to use scientific methods and to guide students as well.

Likewise, Government must focus on enhancing performance of educational institutes. Annual Examination Report sample 2022 shows that there are 20 percent in government schools and 22 percent students in private sector are taking study in tuition centers. It elaborates the weak quality of education in schools. Government must ensure best quality education in all education institutions, so that students do not go to tuition centers.

Lastly, accountability and transparency must be ensure in education sector. There must be proper allocation of funds to the institutions without any discrimination. Government must make effective policy on the

transfers and promotion of teachers. It will lead towards better education system in Pakistan.

In the conclusion, it is stated that education helps not to learn about duties but also assist in achieving national and individual goals. Sadly, education system in Pakistan experience very problems. Directless and outdated curricula, lack of Budget, weak performance of schools, high dropout rates and corruption are major ills of education system of Pakistan. These ills must be resolved by effective remedies. According to Article 25-A of Constitution of Pakistan 1973, it is duty of state to provide free and compulsory education to all children aged under five to sixteen. So government must implement single National curriculum, introduce technology based curricula, develop training centers, improve examination system, enhance performance of education sector and ensure accountability in education sector. Recently, Government has urged Higher Education Commission to introduce Scholarships for students. It is hoped that in the near future, all the ills will be overcome and Pakistan will make progress.