

Higher education in Pakistan: Ill and remedies

1) Introduction.

Education sector is neglected since the inception of Pakistan.

2) Ills related to higher education in Pakistan

2.1) Lack of awareness about importance of education.

2.2) Low allocation in budget for education

2.3) Focus on cramming rather than generation of skilled human

2.4) Privatization of public universities

2.5) More graduates than jobs in Pakistan

2.6) Univ Increased involvement of Universities Students in politics

2.7) People in rural areas are hesitant to send girls in universities

2.8) High fees of universities

~~2.9) Lack of political stability in education~~

2.10) Lack of teacher training

3) Remedies for the ill to higher education in Pakistan.

3.1) Awareness campaigns for education.

3.2) Increase in fund in budget for education

3.3) Focus on technical and skilled education.

3.4) Focus on issues rather than making universities public.

3.5) Generation of jobs in Pakistan and an end to unemployment.

3.6) Making students less involve in Political issues.

3.7) Sharp attention on teacher's training

4) Conclusion

Essay

"Higher education is confronting challenges, like economy is about the need for a higher number of more adequately (trained), more highly educated citizenry."

Pakistan is a developing country ~~with a lot~~ ~~issues,~~ and higher education is instrumental for the youth of Pakistan. Education is necessary for the developing countries like Pakistan but getting education here is so difficult and expensive. There are millions of students who are not getting education because some can not afford it and some are not allowed. According to Government of Pakistan, literacy rate is 49%. According to a survey 22 million children are out of school and the condition of higher education is also not good. There are so many problems

related to higher education. There is no awareness about the importance of education, as most of the students leave education in between because many do not know about the scope of education. The government of Pakistan only allocates 2% of GDP for education while Norway is the country which spend 6.6% of GDP. In Pakistan, the student who are getting higher education focus on getting more marks and they are not skilled and the teachers are also not trained and well skilled. Government privatize universities rather than resolving the issues and allocating budget to Higher Education Commission (HEC). People in rural areas are hesitant in sending their daughters in universities and due to high political instability, the daily rise in inflation causes students to leave education because in Pakistan getting education is more difficult than any other thing. Higher education is so much important as developing countries need skilled people. The unemployment causes dissatisfaction and made students disheart. Education sector in Pakistan is neglected since the inception of Pakistan.

There are many ills related to education but lack of awareness is one of them. Lack of awareness is one of the

factor behind drop outs as per media research and reports. Parents do not help their children and children and student do not get proper awareness. In higher education, awareness plays a key role as it is very important for students to be aware from the importance of education. People are not aware about importance rather they think formal education is not necessary especially for girls. Remote and rural areas often lack basic educational infrastructure, making access to quality education difficult. Poverty also causes lack of awareness. There are many factors behind lack of awareness. Cultural factor is also behind it as in some areas and culture, people do not give importance to education. Societal misconception is another factor as due to unemployment many think that it is not beneficial to get education. Lack of awareness leads to problems in getting education for those who want to get education or higher education.

The developed countries are in better condition because they focused on education. The countries like Norway allocates 6.6% of GDP while USA allocates 6% of its GDP for education, not for ~~India~~ according to "Hindustan times", India also allocated highest

allocation for education in 2023. If we talk about Pakistan, then there is only two percent of GDP's part is allocated for education. Since the inception of Pakistan, education is the least prioritized department.

The government as well as public do not give education its due importance.

Higher education in Pakistan has given no prominence. Reports indicates that there is decline in 50% of budget allocation for education due to IMF

bailout package. There might be allocation of 30 billion rupees to HEC against

their demand of 108 billion rupees. In budget FY 2022-23, there was 66.28 billion

rupees. were allocated to HEC and only 28% needs were fulfilled by this allocation. It is shown

that Pakistan's education system is facing problems and low budget allocation is contributing in this problem.

~~The~~ Education system in Pakistan is becoming worse day by day. Even Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) which conducts competitive exams complaints about the falling education system as university graduates who take competitive exams do not know about basic Maths even. It is not only the

competitive exams where the poor quality of our graduates, produced by our HEIs is visible. The performance is even worse in International Assessment Tests like GRE. There are complaints about the absence of analytical skill among the students who reproduce crammed knowledge. In education system of Pakistan the more focus is on getting good grades not on skills. Students get good marks by cramming and they lack analytical skills. Quaid-e-Azam share his knowledge on education by stating that "There is an immediate and urgent need for giving scientific and technical education to our people." With the death of him, we also forgot his vision and just focused on cramming. The cramming system is so high that large number of students fail due to lack of analysis skills.

It is said that the great nations never privatize education and defence but in our case, the education system is mostly private. Most of the parents send their kids to private schools due to lack of trust in government schools but in higher education, the private universities are so expensive to take admission. The government of Pakistan is privatizing the universities due to lack of funds and higher education in

is very much difficult because of inflation. Privatization of higher institutes is working against public as it is not possible for them to take admission by paying high fees. There are 244 universities in Pakistan and 100 plus universities are private. There should be proper solutions for the issues.

The other great ill which is drastically affecting higher education system is unemployment. According to reports in year 2022 there were four million students who were graduated but four million did not get job. When students look at the issue where their loved ones and their friends who were graduated but never got job they become disheart. The unemployment is the main cause that students do not study as they think that education is not beneficial and they leave studies and start working and in case of girls their parents get them married. The increase in inflation and unemployment are walking together in Pakistan. The students are aware of the fact that when they will go for to job market there will be a lots of disappointments. Most of the students attempt suicide due

to family pressure and unemployment. This is one of the drastic issue that our higher education system is facing.

The founder of Pakistan, Qaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah advised student to keep themselves away from politics but his advice became band to books and records and things went against of it. If we look at the higher level education system in Pakistan, there is a major involvement of students in politics. The university and college level students are so much included in politics that they have proper organization and federations. Students can be seen debating on politics and even the fights also happen due to it. It happened because some of the political leaders encouraged them to do it for their own benefits. It also happens because higher institutes are less autonomous and the political involvement is very high. Politicians and political leaders use students for blocking roads and this makes them more involve in politics and it is a threat on higher education system because students are the future of country and if they will be involved in other activities rather than studies, it will

effect the future of Pakistan.

There was a case in which a father was hesitant to send his daughter in university because according to him, he went to the university (and there) to check the environment and there was co-education system.

It is one of the real incidents but what about the others. There are so many stories which are untold and the girls who want to pursue studies, can not get education due to the lack of trust between them and parents.

The misinterpretation of religion is also a main reason. People do not focus on girls' education because according to them, education is not necessary for girls but

The Apostle of Allah, Hazrat Muhammad (S.A.W) said, "Education is obligatory for male and female both". In

case of developing country like Pakistan, people mis-interpret religion and bound girls to the boundary of house. Most of the girls in Pakistan do not get education because their parents

do not allow them. It is a great issue for higher education as it is related to literacy rate of Pakistan and girls

are less valued in school, colleges and universities than boys.

In this era, where political instability increased which causes inflation. The person who earns 5000/- per month and he has to pay the bill of 3000/- how he can think about children to send them to school and if students are even unable to go to school, it is impossible for them to go to universities which have high fees and the large number of students drop education due to high fee. There is no proper scholarship, if it is then it is in very less amount. Most of the time, the students who get scholarship are not needy, they made fake documents and it has a drastic effect on those students who are needy. Most of universities increase fee every semester without even informing. Most of the student leave their degree in between due to the lack of money and arise in fee. It is one of the major ill's in the higher education in Pakistan.

There are so many cases where teachers are not trained and do not get training. Lack of training is

one of the main ill with which higher education system is dealing. There are many example where teachers did not get training and this is a major issues as students need teachers who can teach them in a good way.

Teacher training is necessary for the newly hired teachers. Teachers also do not pay heed on training. They think it waste of time. They do not go to training held by government. Training is very important for a teacher as it works like a polish for teaching skills. In higher education, without teacher training, most of the teachers do not know the proper methods to teach and it happens due to lack of teacher training.

The above given ill's are about the higher education in Pakistan. In the world every problem has it's solution and every illness has it's remedy. The remedies of ill's of higher education system in Pakistan is given below-

There should be awareness about the importance of higher education in Pakistan. Awareness can be done through media as most of

the people in Pakistan follows and watch media. Platform of media is very suitable for the awareness of importance of education. Education and its availability is one of the goals of SDGs. Most of the people active on social media, social media can be used to aware the people in Pakistan because it effects the people and they very much follow social media. The second way of awareness is religion and religious scholars can aware people about higher education as most of the people leave their education in middle and this is not a good way and everyone has right to get education and awareness can help those people who want to get education.

The government of Pakistan should allocate more funds, as just 2% of allocation for education is not goal. Higher education system lacks funding and sometimes the funding stops for the three to four years. Government should increase funding and allocation in budget should be more than 2% as politicians also not focus on the

higher education but now-a-days it has ~~become~~ become a burning question that Pakistan's higher education system needs more funds and allocations. There should be proper allocation so that the expenditures of the higher education system can be met and people can get it for free. The role of government for budget for education is very important.

There is a big gap between the skilled and technical education in the higher education of Pakistan. Higher education system is producing graduates but not skilled people. The students are the product of cramming, but know the main focus should be technical and skill because the world is moving towards the technology and skill based education. The time has gone when the people just used to see degree, now-a-days people give job to people who know how to practically perform and skillfully do a task, therefore we should focus on skill based and technical education. It is good remedy to deal with ill's that higher education in Pakistan is facing and it is good to prevent the ill like lack of skills.

The privatization of institutes which are just an economic disaster for government is not bad. It is good to privatize the less money making institution but education is not about making, it about building nation and the privatization of universities is not a good steps. There are solutions of every problem and government should find good ways rather than privatizing higher education because it will be more difficult for people to get education. The high fees of private universities are not affordable for everyone, therefore state should not snatch the opportunities from the public. Moreover education should not be privatize. The trend of privatization should be minimized.

The more students are graduating than the availability of jobs and it increases the risk of more unemployment. Unemployment is one of the biggest issues that Pakistan is facing. It is economic as well as social problem. Most of the students don't pursue education at higher level due to risk

of unemployment. People try to find work rather than getting education to employment trend in Pakistan. Unemployment is a threat because the market and government is not gradual producing jobs. The political issues are also present there because they hire people with references and middle and lower middle class people are facing these hurdles for not having references. Most of the time the deserved one lose job because of not having reference. There should be meritocracy and transparency while hiring people and more jobs should be produced.

The main reason (with) which higher education in Pakistan is facing, is the excessive involvement of students in politics. Political leaders should not use students for their benefits. The students should keep themselves away from politics. The student organizations related to politics should be banned. The students should be aware with their study and extra involvement in politics can cause the harm to their education. Political involvement on higher education level is very high. Young students are involved in protest by political parties and it should be less. The student should

be prevented from politics.

The lack of training of teacher caused ill in the education system. Only a well trained can teach student in better way. There should be sharp attention on the teacher's training. There should be proper teacher training programs. The teachers should be well aware of the methodologies and approaches of teaching. To know how to handle students and how to treat them, it is necessary to train teachers.

Alot of the teacher even did not know the proper methodologies of teachings therefore, every institute should arrange teacher training programs.

Teacher training program helps teachers in the classroom and it is good for student as well because students need a well trained teacher to train them.

To conclude the whole, there are alot of issues related to higher education. Education is necessary but it is also facing some ill's and lack of funds in on the top ill related to higher education as some institutes even can not meet thier expenditures. On the other lack of awareness adds cherry on the top because most

of the children are out of school due to lack of awareness that ~~more girls~~ and because of it more girls are out of school and do not ~~condixed~~ considered as important to send to school and colleges. The higher education system in Pakistan focuses on cramming rather than technical education. Increased unemployment is one of the cause that student are getting away from higher education. Every ill has a panacea and all these problems have solutions also. The government of Pakistan should try to increase budget for higher education and government should introduce some educational reforms like in constitution of 1973, there is the free education from 6 to 14 years but government should try to implement it also. It is not enough to write in constitution all these things should be implemented. There should be awareness campaigns about education and it's importance. There should be awareness through media because people easily picks the things which they see through social media. On the other hand the unemployment should be eradicated and it can only be happened when government will pay heed on the educational system of Pakistan.