

EDUCATION IS PASSPORT TO THE FUTURE

Outline

1- Introduction

Thesis statement

Education is responsible to shape future of a nation. It is the only tool which constructs behaviours and attitudes of an individual, family, society, community and nation.

2- A bird's eye view of how education shapes future of a nation.

3- Education is imperative

- a) Human capital development
- b) Innovation and technology
- c) Powerful tool for poverty reduction
- d) Global competitiveness
- e) Ensuring national security
- f) Environmental sustainability

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4- Causes: Why Pak still did not achieve educational targets

- a) Political disharmony
- b) Lack of funds for education
- c) Feudalism and illiteracy
- d) Unabated corruption
- e) Incompetent teachers and failed and biased curriculum.

5- Ray of Hope

- a) Competent and visionary leadership
- b) Proper allocation of budgets
- c) Inculcation of quality education
- d) Proper evaluation process for hiring of teachers.

6- Conclusion

"A good education is foundation for a better future" as said by Elizabeth Warren clearly describes the importance of education for shaping future of nations. Education is basically the process of bringing desirable changes in attitudes and behaviours. Education in a common sense often refers to a systematic way of learning which includes proper classrooms, curriculum and student-teacher meet up. To build and shape one's future, education can not be neglected. Nations who ruled over others, if seen, were very visionary and literate. Hence, it is no denying fact to say that education is responsible for shaping futures.

Education has transformed the lives of nations and converted them from followers to leaders and from

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unstable to stable nations. The most bright example is Japan, After WWII, Japan's govt invested in education sector rather to invest in military and armed forces which resulted in rebuilding the nation. This is the reason that, the rebuilt nation had been capable of fostering innovations and building industries which transformed Japan into a major economic power.

Pakistan got independence on the basis of two nation theory and rich in resources but power management and having no visionary leaders had put the human development very low.

According to World Bank report in 2019, Pakistan gross enrolment rate in tertiary education was 10.3%, reflecting the country's investment in higher education to rebuild human capital. Thus, it is the education who mainly develops human capital.

Technology is an oxygen to the modern world. Nobody can survive without technology if he/she has to compete with modern world. Gone are the days when nations used to fight wars with swords. Innovations are the modern swords of fights. Pakistan is continuously engaging itself in technological researches. Pakistan's National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) is the foremost example of it who had been collaborating with industries to promote innovations.

Education opens the doors to new jobs and opportunities. New disciplines and departments need new jobs and are in dire need of skillful persons. Almost more than half of population are engaged in white collar jobs and are bread earners for their families thus contributing to poverty reduction.

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and increasing per capita income. As of 2021, Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) had been involved in various poverty reduction programs, including those related to education and skills development. This is in fact a national step towards poverty elimination.

The world today is not only facing the challenge to exist but a bundle of challenges and competitions. This mainly include economic progress, defence strengthening and hegemony to dominate. The only tool towards this global competition is education which makes a nation to compete in every dynamics of life. In Pakistan Universities like Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) are continuously contributing to global competition by producing skilled graduates.

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Education is crucial for national security in Pakistan. It is the second birth need of a country state after its existential threat. Pakistan Military Academy trains officers for the state's defence forces contributing to national security.

Education can raise awareness about environmental issues and promote sustainable practices. Educated individuals are more likely to make environmentally conscious choices and support policies that protect the environment.

It is not only the formal but informal education which makes an individual realize. Sustainable Development Goals can be successfully achieved by educating the nation. Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) is working on educating nation by arranging seminars and workshops.

Starting off the causes, why Pakistan has rushed back in education sector and had not its dream goals, the main cause of failure is political disharmony. Political disharmony may be defined as "the poor interest of politicians in reforming the system". Pakistan, since the day birth, is observing such elements which prefer individual preferences foremost as to national preferences. According to a survey conducted in 2022-23 literacy rate of Pakistan is up to 59%, which means that a bare majority is educated in this century. Thus one can observe that the existing situation of education and literacy rate is very alarming in Pakistan.

Similarly, lack of funds is another cause of failure of Pakistan in education sector. The amount spent on

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education was just 7% of the GDP of Pakistan. Currently, in the budget 2022-23 Pakistan increased its budget to 5.7% which was only 2% in the past year. This is comparatively very low budget as to other disciplines. Indeed, investment in education is investment in future of nation. Thus, the second reason of failure is lack of funds due to which classrooms are ill-equipped and students have no any well-said facility. Even in many schools they lack fresh water. No audio visual aids are provided to government schools which adds fuel to fire.

In addition to it, feudalism is the another cause. Feudalism may be defined as, "A system of land ownership and duties. It is the system in which a single person controls the whole family."

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The feudalism directly or indirectly leads to illiteracy. As per statistics 42% of population is illiterate which is direct burden on economy. Hence, Feudalism is another cause of failure in the way of education. Corruption is the other cause of neglected education in Pakistan. Corruption as defined, according to Oxford dictionary, the dishonest or illegal behaviour of powerful people. It is the root cause of destructions of nation morally. This is a disease which is following Pakistan since its birth. According to Transparency International Index 2022, Pakistan ranks 140 out of 180 countries. Pakistan loses somewhat ten billion dollars annually owing to corruption. Therefore, corruption is another root cause and hurdle in achieving sustainable goals in education sector.

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Lastly, Incompetent teachers ~~are~~ is another reason due to which Pakistan did not yet achieve its goals. The quality of teachers is also compromised. This is continuously spoiling the education system. In addition, to its curriculum of education system is outdated and not capable to meet contemporary issues solution. In most cases ~~to~~ the curriculum is found biased politically and religiously.

Moving towards the solution, to begin with, there is a dire need of competent and visionary leadership. Visionary and far-sighted leaders not only think for themselves but for whole nation. They ^{will be} having a holistic approach to the issues. As Pakistan had seen visionary leaders in the past such as Qaid-e-Azam and Liaqat Ali Khan. Therefore, having

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Such leaders is need of hours
to restore the position.

A proper allocation of
budget is the second solution
to it. Pakistan has already
signed Sustainable Development Goals
but yet not achieved. According
to United Nations Education
and Scientific-Culture Organization
(UNESCO) Pakistan should
allocate 10% of GDP to
education. Thus it can be
said that by allocating budgets
to education sector ~~will~~ will
save the education sector.

Similarly inculcation of
proper quality education is
another solution. Quaid-e-Azam
once said "Education is the
matter of life and death
to nation. The world is moving
so fast, if you do not educate
yourselves you will be not only
completely left, but will be
finished". This clearly emphasises
the inculcation of quality education.

Proper evaluation process for training teachers will definitely overcome the problems in education sector. Teachers in a real sense are the masons of a nation who through their true spirit enables a nation to compete and survive in this critical situation.

Education in a true sense is the development of positive behaviours in an individual. But the process through which it is achieved is very harsh and tough. As said by Aristotle the roots of education are bitter but the fruit is sweet. Pakistan is continuously suffering by several hurdles but it is going to restore its future by training of teachers and development of technologies and applying modern technologies such as audio visual aids etc. which will be a reflection to Thomas Hobbes saying "Education is key to success."