

## Higher Education in Pakistan: Ills and Remedies

### 1) Introduction:

"Higher Education system in Pakistan is facing many hurdles which impact every sphere of country. Therefore, positive measures should be taken in order to maintain Higher Education."

### 2) What is higher education?

### 3) Ills of Higher education in Pakistan.

- 3.1) Infrastructure-related ill
- 3.2) Human resources-related ill
- 3.3) Curriculum-related ill
- 3.4) Teaching Methodology-related ill
- 3.5) Examination-related ill
- 3.6) Budget constrain
- 3.7) Short-sighted policy making.
- 3.8) Uneducated politicians.

### 4) Impacts of flawed higher education.

- 4.1) Unemployment and under employment
- 4.2) lack of talent and skills
- 4.3) Devastating impacts on different sectors of economy.
- 4.4) Deteriorated image of state.
- 4.5) Increasing in lawlessness and crime

## 5) Remedies to contain ills of higher education.

- 5.1) Integration of thoroughly focused and planned policies
- 5.2) Devising pragmatic policies for maximum utilization of available resources.
- 5.3) focusing on skill development
- 5.4) Annual revision and upgrade of curriculum
- 5.5) Allocating reasonable budget.
- 5.6) Provision of Infrastructure
- 5.7) Tightening the monitoring and regulatory mechanism to curb the commercialization.
- 5.8) Use of technology to improve examination standards.

## 6) Conclusion.



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Higher education in Pakistan faces several issues, including infrastructure-related, human resources-related, curriculum-related, teaching methodology-related, examination-related, budget-related, short sighted policy making, and uneducated politicians. Consequently, it impacts the society; for instance, unemployment and under-employment, lack of talent and skills, devastating impacts on different sectors of economy, deteriorated image of state, and increasing in lawlessness and crime. Therefore, it needs to be discussed and resolved by taking positive measures such as integration of thoroughly focused and planned policies, devising pragmatic policies for maximum utilization of available resources, focusing on skill development, Annual revision and upgrade of curriculum, allocating reasonable budget, provision of infrastructure, tightening the monitoring and regulatory mechanisms to curb the commercialization, and use of technology to improve examination standard. These remedies can help Pakistan to contain ills of higher education.

Higher Education typically refers to Post-secondary education beyond high school, including colleges, universities and other institutions that offer academic degrees in a particular field where any person can endure one's goals and desires. This is the thing where anyone could make one's life. Without higher education, one cannot achieve good



good job. Hence, people are pursuing for getting best higher education. According to Nelson Mandela "Education is the powerful tool or weapon which you can use to change the world". Education not only helps in fulfilling personal interests, but also helps in transforming the society. Because of these reasons, people are achieving higher education in various field according to their own will and desire.

Unfortunately, in Pakistan, higher education is facing numerous issues which are hindering its effectiveness such as infrastructure-related issues where Pakistan has been facing issues since inception. In this, various things can be considered, including lack of institution, missing necessary facilities, and overcharging by private-sector institutions. Because of infrastructure, poor students are unable to get good education. If they are going to private sector institutions, they have been overcharged which ultimately creates challenges for poor students to go there for better education. If there are government institutions, they have not been working properly due to lack of facilities.

Not only infrastructure related issues, but also human resources are also contributing.

In the government institutions, there are many teachers who are lacking in skills and expertise which ultimately



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generates the factor of demotivation among the students. Owing to lack of skills and expertise, there is high dropout ratio at elementary level.

Also, people in Pakistan are facing curriculum related issues where it is not in consonance with domestic needs. As a result, many students lag behind in education. However, this curriculum is only focusing on theories without any practice. There are many mistakes and errors in the curriculum which creates hurdles for many students to understand it clearly. There was a report in Dawn news paper which says that curriculum is one of the important parts of education because it provides direction to students so they can easily pursue their degrees. Unfortunately, in Pakistan, there is no proper system of development of curriculum. If there is a system, then it is not working properly. Also, this curriculum focuses on theories which means lack of analytical approach because students will focus on theories without using their minds.

Along this, teaching methodology is one of the important factors which helps students to achieve higher education.



But, in Pakistan, there is only one methodology which focuses on cramming side. In colleges and ~~univ~~ universities, teachers are more oriented towards cramming rather than conceptual study. Therefore many students are suffering from this type of strategy. By following particular styles, student could not learn many things. Owing to various background, it is not possible that all students can understand this type of methodology. As a result, many students have been facing issues throughout their education system in Pakistan.

Apart from this, Examination is also challenging factor owing to various reasons such as no test of analytical, use of unfair means in examination halls, inconsistent style of grade. Firstly, higher education is the test of analytical approach not the test of cramming. Unfortunately, in Pakistan, institutions are more focused on theories and knowledge. Secondly, there is no proper system of taking exams; there are many institutions which do not focus on examination halls. As a result, use of unfair means is common nowadays in examination halls. Also, there are some teachers which are partial. And there



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inconsistent style of grade, for some teachers it is just a sheet so they don't go thoroughly in checking process. On the basis of writing, attendance, and assignments, teachers are giving marks nowadays.

Budget constrain is also one of ills of higher education in Pakistan. According to the world report of education on Pakistan that Pakistan is only investing 5 to 6% in education as compared to other sectors of Pakistan. It is very less budget which constrains the education of Pakistan because in limited budget, it is not possible to focus everything. As a result, students are facing in getting education.

Furthermore, Pakistan has focused on short-sighted policy making which means that it is a relief for some time. After some time, it will ultimately impact the institutions again. It is one of the flawed approaches that government has adopted because it will consume only wealth not more. Poor governance can only go for short-sighted policy making approach.

Owing to uneducated politicians, higher education is enduring many challenges and obstacles which hinder



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its effectiveness. Uneducated politicians are only focusing about themselves instead of investing in education because they are not well aware about the real worth of higher education. Therefore, they use to invest on other sectors of Pakistan except higher education. Whenever educated politician gets a chance, he has focused in investing higher education system in society. Like Nelson Mandela said that "You should focus on education not to focus on ~~educate~~ other sectors because once you give them good education, they will improve other sectors of society". Owing to uneducated ~~pep~~ politicians, many students are depriving for good quality of education.

Higher Education in Pakistan poses various ~~it~~ ills which impact every sphere of the country. Due to this, many people are facing the issue of unemployment. There are many students who ~~passer~~ have degrees but they are unable to get job because of lack of skills. In the institutions, they focused on cramming and theories which impact their cognitive abilities. As a result, they are in search of employment. According to a survey, approximately 60% of the students are jobless. Due to poor higher education, students.



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do not have talent and skills, In their education system, they have focused on theories only. After the graduation, students have nothing to do owing to lack of talent and skills. As a result, they have been doing same work which is done by uneducated people. This is harsh reality but it is truth that higher education is offering nothing except crammed-based approach.

Consequently, higher education has affected every sector of economy because many students are not able to do their jobs due to lack of expertise. If there is poor education, it is not possible that country moves toward prosperity. Lack of education system has hit hard in economy of Pakistan. Now, ~~the~~ Pakistan is considered as third world country which is near to become default.

Owing to higher education, it has deteriorated image of state. In many countries, Pakistan is considered as low-level country. According to the QS World University ranking 2023, Pakistan ranks at number 50 in higher education globally. Further, no Pakistani university featured in the top 500 universities ranked by Times Higher Education. Higher Education Commission



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of Pakistan was established to improve the country's educational standard, but the literacy rate remains low at approximately 60%. It shows that how poor educational system is running in Pakistan which has deteriorated its image on world level.

Resultantly, higher education is the reason behind everything. Due to low education, it has generated lawlessness and crimes. People are not becoming criminal by birth, but it is the society which makes a person for doing crimes.

There are many people who are not getting job, then they move towards crime due to poverty and hunger. If one is suffering from abject poverty, he will not see that it is wrong or right because he has done everything in order to fulfill his family's hunger. Also, lack of education will entrench lawlessness where people become criminals such as motorway incident where a woman was raped while she was travelling along with her children. After the investigation, police found that they were uneducated and did not care about crime. Thus, people are doing this type of crimes and sins due to lack of education. No one is criminal but lack of education makes them.



criminal.

In order to improve higher education, it is necessary to take positive measures to contain ills of higher education in

Pakistan. It is necessary for governments to integration of thoroughly focused and planned policies. Because, if it is well-given, then it will work long term.

Also, by giving planned policies would give them clear direction and it will be easy to pursue higher education.

Therefore, it is suggested that try to give meticulous thought in policy making.

Also, devising pragmatic policies for maximum utilization of available resources are one of the important solutions in order to higher education on right path.

Government cannot do anything in single go and it will take time to implement new policies. Therefore, it is necessary to utilize old policies by bringing little reforms. It is one of the best factors which can contribute a lot because many countries have adopted this type of approach for the betterment of their higher education system.

In addition to this, government should focus on skill development rather than cramming and theories.



If a person knows skills, he can do anything in his life. Therefore, skill development is crucial in higher education system. For example, China, USA, and many other countries have focused on skill development. These countries are not focusing on cramming or theories because they know that only skill can help to make a country affluent in economy.

Apart from these, annual revision and updation of curriculum are necessary. Since the ~~the~~ inception of the country, government has not changed its curriculum regarding education which ultimately impacts the country. Therefore, it is suggested that country should revision its curriculum annually and with the passage of time, upgrade it. If we see that private schools are more developed as compared to government institutions, they are focusing on updation and revision of curriculum. It would be better for government to do same.

Furthermore, the budget allocation is limited on education in Pakistan as compared to other sectors. So, it is necessary to allocate reasonable budget on education so that policy makers can bring change easily in higher



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education system. If government focuses on budget, higher education will ultimately improve. Thus, policy makers are highly demanding from government to allocate the reasonable budget for education.

Government also focuses on provision of infrastructure. By providing institutions, necessary facilities, and manageable prices in private sector can contribute a lot in improving higher education system. Therefore, it is necessary that government should meticulously think about provision of material and best facilities because if there is lacking these material, it will be hard to achieve desired objectives.

Not only this, but also government should tighten the monitoring and regulatory mechanism to curb the commercialization. Nowadays, private sectors have been doing this as a source of earning. If this will continue, it is impossible to achieve good quality in higher education. Thus, it is very much important for government to curb the commercialization in education system. And try to make impartial education for everyone. For this, government should start regulatory



mechanism as soon as possible -

In addition, the government of Pakistan should move towards technology because it can play positive role in developing education system. Many countries are doing the something in order to improve their examination standard. In Pakistan, people are relying<sup>on</sup> unfair means in examination halls so it would be better for government to use of technology to improve examination standard. By adopting this, higher education system in Pakistan will improve because students would not rely on unfair means then. It is one of good initiatives where government can play its role by promoting technology in higher education.

To cut a long story short, higher education system in Pakistan is facing numerous challenges which hinder its effectiveness including infrastructure, human resources, curriculum, teaching methodology, examination, Budget constrain, short-sighted policy making, and uneducated politicians. Because of these ills of higher education in Pakistan, it has impacted the society such as unemployment, lack of talent and skills, devastating



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impacts on different sectors of economy, deteriorated image of state, and increasing in lawlessness and crime.

Therefore, it is necessary to contain ills of higher education by integration of thoroughly focused and planned policies, utilization of available resources, focusing on skill development, revision and updation of curriculum, allocation of reasonable budget, provision ~~and~~ of infrastructure, tightening the regulatory mechanism to curb the commercialization and promotion of technology in higher education. These remedies can play positive role in improving higher education system in Pakistan.