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Single National Curriculum: Prospect and Challenges

Outlines

I. Introduction

Thesis Statement:

Single nation curriculum has many prospect to improve the education system of the country, promotion of integration, scientific learning and quality education. However, it has many challenges which hinder it of being developed in the country.

II. Overview of education system of Pakistan and single national curriculum

III. Prospects of single national curriculum.

- (a) Updated syllabus
- (b) The system of education
- (c) Quality education.
- (d) promotion of integration
- (e) Scientific learning

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~~(f) Lack of resources~~~~(f) Teacher training modules~~~~(g) Elimination of education apartheid.~~

iv. Challenges to the single national curriculum

(a) Lack of funds

(b) outdated syllabus

(c) Obsolete methods of teaching

(d) shortage staff

(e) Illegal appointment of teachers

(f) Lack of teacher training modules

(g) Out of school children and high dropout rate

v. Solutions and measures

(a) Increase in funds

(b) Updated syllabus

(c) Ensure teacher training

(d) Improve quality education

(e) Ensure high enrolment

(f) Improve infrastructure

(g) Review at 18th amendment

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Single national curriculum is a one system of education in the entire country. It has many prospects and challenges. Following are the prospects of the single national curriculum: updated syllabus, one system of education, quality education, promotion of national integration, scientific learning, teachers training and modules assessment, and elimination of educational apartheid. As far as pros/ challenges are concerned. Those included lack of education funds, outdated syllabus, obsolete method of teachings, lack of teachers training programs, shortage of staff, illegal appointment of ~~staff~~ staff, lack of quality education, lack of technological education, poor scientific learning, and dearth of resources in the education sector. In addition, 13th amendment; a big hurdle in

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in the way of single national curriculum in the country.

Single national curriculum; one system of education in the entire country. It was introduced by the previous government, the then prime minister Imran Khan, to improve the education standard, and implement one system of education in the whole country. The same was introduced in 2018. It would be implemented into phases. It is hoped it would bring improvement in the education sector of the country. It has many prospects including updated syllabus, one system of education, quality education, promotion of integration, scientific learning, teacher training modules, and elimination of educational disparities. However, it has many challenges like inadequate funds, outdated syllabus, old methods of teaching, poor teacher training

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shortage of staff, illegal appointment of teachers, poor infrastructure. According to public financing only 2.3 percent was allocated to education sector in 2001. 44 percent of the children are out of school, 46% schools are without toilet and clean drinking water. 39,000 untrained teachers in Punjab, and 38 percent schools have not access to internet. More than 26 million children of school going age do not attend school. The most pressing ^{concern} is that, as per resources, 49 percent ~~female~~ ^{female} are ~~at~~ out of school. Area wise, more than 11 million ~~people~~ children are not attending the school in Punjab alone, in Balochistan 3 million children are out of school. Shockingly, 80 thousand children are out of school in Islamabad the capital city of the country. So

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So single national curriculum has many prospects and challenges. While introducing single national curriculum, the government has introduced updated syllabus. According to Ministry of Education and Professional Training report 2021, to compete the world, single national curriculum updated modern syllabus in the country. It has potential to cope with the modern challenges. It promotes practical and research based learning. It improves the skills of a student. Single national curriculum is a milestone achievement to end three syllabus, and it replaced outdated syllabus. It has potential to develop the country. Singapore adopted the same policy and achieved development in the education sector. So, updated syllabus is a milestone

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achievement of single national curriculum in the country. Similarly, single national curriculum draws one system of education in the country. According to the New Instructional 2011, single national curriculum was ended the multiple syllabuses in the country. It provides equal opportunities to the elite and middle class. Before introducing single national curriculum, there was no equal opportunity between the elite and middle class. SNC provides equal opportunities to every either he/she belongs to elite or middle class. It is equal important, it provides equal rights in pursuing the job sector. It reduced the gap between the class whether it is elite or class. It is blamed that elite holds 70

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percent of the land and 80 percent of the revenue and industrial sector in the country. More importantly it will end this gap in politics and bureaucracy. It will bring bear fruit. The same is the key for the development of the country. Consequently, single national ensure equal opportunities in every field of life.

Likewise, single national curriculum bring quality education for the development of the country. According to the research article defined by Dr. A. H. Nayyar dissenting to the single the national curriculum is that the first quality of education in the country. It also promote good learning. Quality education has been ignored in the country's history of 75 years. Mucharraf emphasized on the quantity of educational

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institutions in the country rather than quality of education. At this time 947 universities are working in the country no one ranked in QS ranking but two 9th shows how poor quality education in the country is. But single national curriculum has improved the quality of education. Apart from, it improves the skills of the students and creativity. Quality education can compete the modern world in a good way. Denmark adopted the same policy of education that has creative minds. Resultantly single national promote quality education in the country that help improving the skill of the students. The country, however, has not paid attention on the quality inspite of the backwardness in the quality education. That is the root cause of education failure

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Single national curriculum promote nation integration in the country. According to the research article defined by the Muhammad Haseem Azad, single national curriculum promote nation integration and reduces gap between the elite, middle and poor class. Elite class is 10 percent and controls 80 percent of the population while 70 percent of the middle class holds only 2 or 3 percent of the revenue. The huge gap between the class has reduced by the single national curriculum. It provides equal opportunity for all in every sphere of life like seeking job opportunities. Pakistan is home to a different religions and classes and languages like Sindhi, Balochi, Punjabi and Pashto. However, single national curriculum will bring all the classes and

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language or on one agenda of ideology. Finally, the same has a potential to promote national integration in the country.

Similarly, single national curriculum emphasised scientific learning and quality education in the country. According to the research article defined by Dr. Umar Ayub in 2021, single national curriculum promote scientific learning and improves critical thinking and creativity among the students. It has ended the rote learning and cramming, obsolete and old method of learning of the country. The country has not promoted the scientific despite the backwardness in the same. It promotes practical and research based learning that help improved the critical

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the critical thinking of the students and declined the rote learning and cramming in the country. Scientific learning is the key to development in the state. So, single national curriculum promote practical learning and declines the rote learning and cramming.

Accordingly, single national curriculum emphasized teacher training promote and modules assessment. According to the News Intimation (2001), single national curriculum focuses teacher training programmes.

As before the introducing of single national curriculum, there was no proper teacher training programme. According to estimates 44 percent of teachers are untrained in the public school. Through single national curriculum, the 319000 teachers to be trained.

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last but not least, another feature of single national curriculum is that it ^{has} eliminated the educational apartheid in the country. According to the News report 2021, single national curriculum has ended the educational apartheid in the country. The country has witnessed multiple educational systems and syllabus since its inception. Multiple education system has destroyed the education system by divided into multiple syllabuses. However, the SNC has removed the educational apartheid in the country. It will bring all the people on the same page. On the one hand, single national curriculum ended the educational apartheid, on the other hand, it also promotes one syllabus and national integration in the country. So, single nation curriculum has ended the apartheid education.

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Whereas, single national curriculum has multiple challenges to move forward, including these challenges lack of education budget, feudalism in the country, bulk of untrained teachers, illegal appointment of teachers, poor infrastructure, out of school children and lack of technological facility in the country. They are the root cause of the failure of the education system in the country.

To begin with, lack of education budget is the root cause of the failure of education system in the country and big hurdle in the way of single national curriculum.

According to the public financing education report 2001, only 2.2 percent of the GDP was allocated for education sector which is very poor for education.

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Despite moving towards the single national curriculum the country did not pay any heed to increase education.

Dearth of educational budget, derails the education from track and creates hurdles in the way of single national curriculum. According FY 2023 report, 1.7 percent of the GDP allocated for education, which shows the authorities and government is not serious regarding single national curriculum.

In 2023, 1101.7 billion was allocated for education which is not enough to meet the gap in the education sector.

There lack of education budget is a big hurdle in the way of education ~~budget~~ and single national curriculum. So, single national curriculum cannot bear fruitful result unless

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education increased.

In the same manner, feudalism is another disadvantage of single national curriculum in the country. According to "The New International Year", feudalism is a big challenge to single national curriculum. They control 70 percent of the land and 80 percent of the people of the country. They create hurdles in the way of single national curriculum due to feudal lords system in Sindh and Balochistan. 9000 ghost schools in both the provinces, Sindh and Balochistan under the feudal lords. They create obstacles in the way of education policies to prevent their influence. Anti-education policy of feudal lords destroyed the single national curriculum in the country. They also create barriers at the time of making

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education policy. Therefore, feudalism is a mountainous challenge in the way of single national curriculum.

Moreover, bulk of untrained teachers is also considered a huge challenge in the way of single national curriculum.

According to World Bank report 2021, Pakistan has failed to deal with the untrained, 44 percent of the untrained teachers are teaching in the country. The country has been unable to deal with 1.4 million teachers and did not pay any attention for it. 40 percent of the teachers have not made any course of assessment. And 73 percent of them has not applied for three categories of the trainings. Lack of teachers training is a persistent issue in the country and is creating big

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in the way of single national curriculum. Teacher training is more important in improving the skills of students and critical thinking. In short, lack of teacher training, a big challenge for single national curriculum.

Like wise, illegal appointment of teachers is another big challenge to the single national curriculum.

According to The New International report 2021 25000 teachers appointed illegally without any due process. Despite containing them, 15000 teachers were illegally appointed. The most grim picture is in Sindh and Balochistan.

There are 3500 ghost schools and 9000 ghost teachers. 3000 ghost teachers in Sindh alone. That is the big hurdle in the way of single national curriculum.

In brief, untrained and illegal appointed teachers are two faces

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of single coin, that is a big challenge in the way of single national curriculum.

Similarly, single national curriculum is facing dearth of resources.

According to United Nations Children's Fund 2021, 48 percent of the schools are without toilet and clean drinking water.

However, 7500 schools have shut down in Sindh and Balochistan due to deteriorated condition of the school buildings.

And 38 percent of schools is lack of internet facility across the country, while 35 percent in rural areas. Moreover,

15 percent of schools are lack of electricity. 9247

school lack of acute poor infrastructure in the country is

creating big hurdles in the way of single national curriculum.

consequently, dearth of resources

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is a big challenge to the single national curriculum in the country.

Furthermore, a big disadvantage of the single national curriculum is that it did not include the out of school children. According to the United Nations Children's Fund 2001 report, the country is failed to deal with the out of school children. Almost 98.8 million children of school going age do not attend school among them half of population is female. It varied from province to province and most grim picture in Balochistan and Sindh where 75 and 54 percent of children are out of school respectively. According to current statistics, 26 million children are out of school mostly in Punjab more than 11 million children

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are out of school in Punjab alone. Out of 96 million, 49 percent are female accounted for 10 million. The most pressing concern is that 900000 children aged between 5 to 16 are out of school in Islamabad, the capital city of the country. According to United Nations, Pakistan has world's second highest out of school children. Therefore, out of school children is a big hurdle in the way of single national curriculum. Last but not least, lack of technology is a big hurdle in the single national curriculum in the country. According to The New International DOI report, 38 percent of the schools have not internet access. Apart from children from poor and middle household ^{are} unable to purchase smartphones. They hardly live hand to mouth.

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Further, there is lack of quality internet, often internet is suspended in some circumstances which disrupts the students in getting at online education. The move at teleschool is not in good position due to internet issues in the country. In addition, there is a slow speed of internet in the country, only 14.8 MBps is downloading speed. Teleschool is in trouble owing to internet issues in the country. Finally, lack of technology is another big challenge in the way at single national curriculum. Apart from the challenges and prospects to the ~~chatt~~ single national curriculum measures must be taken to cope with the challenges without removing these hurdles single national curriculum cannot move forward. SNC is the key to development

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of the country and education system. However, these hurdles can be removed by taking some measures including increase education, updated syllabus, quality of education, teachers training module, the system of education enrolment of out of school school children and review of 18th amendment.

To begin with, one of the most important hurdles in the country to the single national curriculum is lack of allocation of funds to the education sector. According to the report of 2011, 0.3 percent of the GDP was allocated to the education sector which is too poor to upgrade the education and single national curriculum.

According to Economic Survey report 2003, only 1.7 percent of the GDP was allocated to the education. However, the country

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spend average 2 percent of its GDP on education against the UN recommend 4 percent of the GDP to be allocated to the education budget. Finland is one of the countries in the world that spends 7 percent of its GDP on education and have 100 percent literacy rate against Pakistan 67 percent literacy rate. This includes those who only read and write even their names. This indicate lack of funds, the primary challenge to the single national curriculum.

Similarly, outdated syllabus, poor quality education, lack of scientific and technological education are the secondary challenge to the single national curriculum. Pakistan's outdated syllabus is unable to deal with the modern world because it lacks of creativity and skill content. Further, it

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quality and scientific education. Such system of education cannot cope with the modern challenges rather creates problem to education and administration in the country. For example, Denmark has quality education. All the developed countries made progress and development in every field by producing creative minds from the educational institutions. Country Sweden, Norway, Finland and Denmark developed their education system that produced skilled people. These countries have 100 percent literacy rate and spend more than 5 percent of GDP. This shows that poor quality education also creates challenges to the country. So, the country should improve the standard of education that can help improve the quality education. Quality education can move forward the single

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national curriculum.

~~Like~~ Likewise, poor teachers training is another big challenge to the single national curriculum.

The country has not paid attention towards the teachers training as 31000 are untrained in the

country. As per reports 44 percent untrained teachers in the country.

And illegal appointment of teachers is another big challenge to single national curriculum as 9500

teachers recruited without any due process as per The News

International. Despite moving toward single national curriculum, the

country is unable to pay attention towards teachers training programmes and transparent in appointment

of teachers. Developed countries conduct teachers training on priority basis

while the country has not devised any teacher training programmes.

Therefore, the country should heed

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attention towards teachers training.

~~Poor~~ Poor infrastructure is also quite significant challenge to the single national curriculum

in the country. As per report of United Nations Children's Fund 2011, 48 percent of schools are lack of water able to drink and toilet.

15 percent of the schools have no electricity connection. This

shows how poor attention to implement single national curriculum

is. And 1000 schools were closed down due to dilapidated condition of the buildings and boundary

walls. The most grim picture in Sindh and Balochistan. The

condition further deteriorated by floods. As per dawn newspaper

17000 schools were damaged in floods in 2008. These country

should improve the infrastructure

to track the single national

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curriculum on right direction. Feudalism is also considered to be the significant challenge to the single national curriculum. Most govt schools in Sindh and Balochistan working under the feudal lords. As per reports reports 9000 govt schools in both the provinces used for the interests of feudal lords. Further, they create hurdles in the way of single national curriculum as they control 70 percent of the total land and 60 percent of the population. They are pro-anti-single nation curriculum policy. So, to proceed further SNC, feudalism must be abolished from the country as early as possible.

Last but not least, 18th amendment is also a big barrier in the way of single national curriculum in the country. As after the

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18th constitutional amendment education subject devolved to the province. It has created unsurpassable barriers in the way of single national curriculum. Provinces have their own education policies and syllabus. They conduct their examination according to their own policies. So, the country will have to take steps to review the 18th amendment to the constitution to implement the single national curriculum in the country. Without addressing this issue single national curriculum move would be futile.

In conclusion, single national curriculum along the prospects it has multiple challenges. The prospects of the SNC are updated syllabus, one system of education, quality education, scientific learning, promotion of

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national integration, technological education and elimination of education apartheid in the country. Whereas challenges are numerous, including inadequate education funds, outdated syllabus, dearth of resources, poor teacher training, old methods of teaching, high rate of drop out and out of school children and lack of scientific education. However, these gaps can be bridged by increasing the education budget up to 4 percent recommended by the United Nations. Finland has 100 percent literacy rate because it invests 7 percent of the GDP in education and Israel 5 percent while Pakistan spends average less than 2 percent. The country should enhance its education budget up to 5 percent in next five years.