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5th December, 2024

Thursday

Topic: Higher Education in Pakistan Ills and Remedies

→ Outline:

Write simple sentences to avoid language mistakes

Keep practicing on different

1) Introduction:

themes to bring further maturity in your arguments

Higher education in the country ~~have~~, ~~has~~ from the start, struggled with issues like, outdated curriculum, access, quality, gender disparity. However a balanced approach to address these ill's can lead the country towards progress.

→ Thesis Statement:

Despite the ill's the higher education is facing in the country, Pakistan has an opportunity to reshape its education system into one that meets the needs of all citizens.

2) ~~Ills of~~ Higher education in Pakistan ~~ill's~~:

- Inequality fuels the challenges ~~by~~ in higher education by creating access and quality disparities.
- Relevance is a critical issue in Pakistan's higher education system, ~~an~~ outdated curriculum, mismatched ~~skill~~ skill development, lack of alignment with market and societal needs, and immobilizing socio-economic progress.
- Insufficient spending on education
- Low literacy rates.
- Gender disparity
- Inadequate infrastructure
- Poor delivery - Teaching methodologies.
- Expensive education
- Lack of efficient human resources.
- No proper exam system for observing analytical skills.

3) Remedies for ills in Higher Education:

- Increased public funding, Decentralization, merit and need based scholarships can improve challenges faced by inequalities.
- Curriculum Reforms, skill based education, industry partnerships, promotion of research can improve relevance in higher education.
- Increase education spending to at least 4-6% of GDP, as recommended by UNESCO.
- Integrate sustainable education funding into long-term national development plans.
- Increase access to education, teacher training programs, digital education, and promote awareness.
- Create safe environment to increase girls enrollment, address gender disparity and work with communities to overcome cultural barriers to education.

- Build purpose-built campuses providing modern laboratories and research facilities.
- Teacher training programs, subject coordinations, monitoring and evaluation.
- Ensure free or highly subsidized education, especially at the primary and secondary level, scholarships, student loans.
- Pragmatic policies for maximum utilization of available resources.
- Proper exam system for observing analytical skills, Pakistan's initiatives.

4) Conclusion:

Pakistan has an opportunity to reshape its education system into one that meets the needs of all citizens. A balanced approach, combining investment in infrastructure, teacher quality, assessment reform and technology integration, could

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provide the foundation for a more equitable and effective education system in the country.

Essay:

Pakistan is committed to the Education for all initiative, which aims at providing quality education to all citizens. However, higher education, from the start, struggled with issues like inequality, access, quality, and relevance. Major issues ~~have included~~ ^{include} insufficient public spending on education, low literacy rate, gender disparity, poor delivery, expensive education, lack of efficient human resources, ^{and} no proper exam system for observing analytical skills. Pakistan has an opportunity to reshape its education system into one that meets the needs of all its citizens. A balanced approach, combining investment in

infrastructure, teacher quality, curriculum and assessment reform, and technology integration, could provide foundation for a more equitable and effective education system in the country.

Among the ills that higher education system faces; first comes **Inequality** that fuels the challenges by creating access and quality disparities. Students from privileged backgrounds enjoy better opportunities due to the availability of private institutions with better and modern facilities while public universities die to lack of funding and mismanagement fail to meet basic education standards. Similarly, rural and underprivileged urban areas face limited access to higher education, as most institutions are located in metropolitan areas. These disparities create

a two-tier system, where wealth determines educational attainment and ultimately, professional success. Such systematic hindrance not only undermines potential of talented individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds but also hinders national progress by continuous social and economic divides.

Second among the ills come **relevance** that fuels significant challenges by failing to align with market demands, societal needs, and global standards. Outdated curriculum in universities fails to equip students with critical skills required to evolve job market, leaving graduates unprepared for professional demands. This gap leads to unemployment and underemployment among degree holders, who lack practical or technical expertise. Additionally,

higher education institutions remain disconnected from societal needs focusing on theoretical knowledge rather than addressing local challenges.

As a result, the system not only stifles an individual growth but also immobilizes socio economic progress by producing a work force that cannot contribute effectively to the national progress and development.

Insufficient spending on higher education is a significant challenge that hampers the growth and development of societies.

A lack of adequate funding results in limited access to quality education, outdated infrastructure, and underpaid faculty. Consequently, students from marginalized communities struggle to pursue higher education, widening social and economic inequalities.

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Moreover, underfunded institutions often fail to invest in research and innovation, which are crucial for addressing modern day challenges and fostering economic growth.

The low literacy rate in higher education undermines the individual potential and national progress. Several factors contribute to this problem including socioeconomic disparities, lack of awareness, inadequate funding. Many students especially from underprivileged backgrounds, are unable to afford the high costs of education. Additionally, cultural and gender biases often restrict access to higher education for women and marginalized groups. This not only limits personal development but also deprives the country of a skilled and

educative workforce essential for the growth of the country.

Gender disparity in higher education remains a critical issue, limiting opportunities for women and perpetuating social inequality. This disparity often fuels by cultural norms, economic constraints, and societal expectations that prioritize men's education over women's. In many regions, women faces challenges such as early marriages, limited mobility, and lack of institutional support. These hindrances not only restrict women from getting education but also hinder their ability to contribute to the economy and society. Additionally the underrepresentation of women in higher education leads to gender imbalance in leadership and decision making roles.

Poor delivery and outdated methodologies in higher education hinder the quality of learning and student education engagement.

Traditional methods such as lecture based learning often dominate the classroom, leaving little room for critical thinking, creativity, and practical application.

A lack of teacher training fuels the issues. Additionally, many institutions fail to incorporate technology and interactive learning tools that could make education more engaging and effective. As a result, students graduate with theoretical knowledge but lack of skills and adaptability needed to real-world challenges, impacting their employability and personal growth.

The lack of efficient human resources in higher education is a critical issue

that affects the quality of education and institutional development. This problem often stems from inadequate teacher training, low salaries, and limited opportunities for professional development. Additionally, an overreliance on part-time faculty leads to inconsistencies in teaching standards. The lack of skilled administrators and researchers further weakens the system, preventing institutions from achieving academic excellence and innovation. As a result, students are deprived from quality education, and overall growth of higher education remains stagnant.

The absence of an effective exam system to assess analytical skills in higher education limits students' ability to develop critical thinking and problem

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solving skills. Traditional exam formats, such as multiple-choice and memorization based assessments, primarily focus on recalling factual knowledge rather than testing students' ability to analyze, synthesize, and apply information in real world scenarios. As a result, students may excel in exams without truly understanding the material or developing the analytical skills necessary for complex decision-making. This not only undermines the quality of education but also fails to prepare graduates for the demands of a rapidly changing job market.

Having explored the various ills that plague higher education, it is now a crucial shift to focus towards the remedies that can address these challenges. While the issues of

inequality, relevance, inadequate funding, gender disparity, low literacy rates, inadequate infrastructure, poor delivery, expensive education, inefficient human resources and no proper exam system for analytical skills pose significant obstacles. there are numerous solutions that can enhance the quality and accessibility in higher education.

Increased public funding, decentralization of resources, and merit and need-based scholarships are vital strategies that can help mitigate the inequalities in higher education. First increased funding ensures that institutions can provide quality education without financial constraints making higher education more accessible to students from lower-income backgrounds.

Decentralization allows for better

allocation of resources to local institutions, ensuring that regional disparities in education are addressed. Additionally, merit and need based scholarships provide financial support to the deserving students, enabling them to pursue higher education regardless of their socio-economic status. By implementing these strategies, societies can make significant strides toward reducing educational inequality and can provide an opportunity to succeed.

Effective remedies in higher education focus on addressing outdated curriculum, prioritizing skill-based learning, fostering industry academia partnerships, and promoting research. Traditional teaching methods often fall short in preparing students for the demands of a competitive job market. By incorporating skill-based education, students gain practical knowledge

while partnerships with industries offer hands-on experience and real-world insights. Moreover promoting research cultivates critical thinking and positions educational institutes as hubs of innovation.

Implementing these reforms ensures that higher education equips graduates with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in an evolving world.

Increasing education spending is a vital remedy to address the challenges in higher education. This can elevate its quality and accessibility. Adequate funding allows for modernization of infrastructure, the provision of advanced facilities. Increase education spending to at least 4-6% of GDP, as recommended by UNESCO, that can help improve ill-faring in the higher education system. Hire suitable staff with decent salaries

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to foster excellence. Furthermore, increased investment for research paves the way for groundbreaking discoveries. Prioritizing education spending is key to transform higher education for global competitiveness.

Expanding access to education, enhancing teacher training programs, integrating digital tools, and raising awareness are crucial remedies for improving higher education. Providing equitable access to underprivileged communities, promotes bridges to societal gaps. Comprehensive teacher training equips effective learning experience. Meanwhile promoting awareness and integrating e-tools enable digital skills required in this innovative world. These measures can create future-ready education system.

Creating safe and inclusive environments for girls in higher

education is key to addressing gender disparities. Universities must impose anti-harassment policies, provide secure spaces, and offer gender sensitive spot support. Gender equality training for faculty, encouraging female leaderships. These measures can help pursue education free from discrimination, empowering women.

To improve the equality and effectiveness of higher education, remedies like purpose built campuses, better subject coordination, subsidized primary education, efficient resource use and fair exam system are essential. These support focused learning, streamlines the curriculum, quality learning and optimize academic environment respectively. A fair exam system ensures integrity and fairness. These

measures will create a more accessible and effective higher education system.

Pakistan has started taking initiatives for better educational reforms. The federal Ministry of education has introduced a curriculum and assessment reforms to improve quality of education. In order to assure the quality of teacher education, the HEC introduced accreditation for teacher training programmes. The inter-board coordination committee has introduced new grading schemes for the SSC and HSC exams.

Sindh has introduced teacher licensing managed by the Sindh Teacher Education Development Authority.

Education reforms are project driven and funded by donors.

Any education reform must be part of national / regional

educational development plan.

To conclude this, Pakistan has an opportunity to reshape its education system into one that meets the needs of all citizens. A balanced approach, combining investment in infrastructure, teacher quality, curriculum and assessment reform, and technology integration, could provide the foundation for a more equitable and effective education system in the country. Despite progress, much remains to be done.

