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Neglect of Enhancing Intellectual ability in our Education System

it is well organized

1) Introduction

The neglect of enhancing intellectual abilities in Pakistani education system is a pressing issue. Obsolete syllabus, outdated teaching methodology and poor quality assessment criteria have exacerbated this fatal neglect.

A multipronged strategy of updating syllabus, modernizing assessment criteria and utilising quality resources can help to counter this neglect of intellectual abilities in the education system.

2) Why our education system is facing the neglect of enhancing intellect

3) How enhancement of intellectual ability is neglected in our education system

- Obsolete Syllabus
- Outdated Teaching Methods
- Poor assessment criteria
- Lack of research and infrastructure
- Discouragement towards Social Sciences
- Education as a business venture only

4) Impact of neglecting intellectual ability

- low self-esteem and decision making
- poor civic engagement and social responsibility
- Ill equipped for professional demands
- Politically unenlightened and ignorant citizenry
- Conservative and intolerant society
- Incompetent Leadership
- Lack of innovation

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5) How intellectual ability can be enhanced in our education system

- a) Improve and update syllabus
- b) Modernize teaching methods
- c) Utilize multidisciplinary approaches
- d) Focus on research and projects

6) Conclusion

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Socrates became the father of Philosophy for his unique methods to encourage critical thinking and intellect among his students. His Socratic Method is widely used even today from Harvard Law School to Apple staff meetings with the sole aim of bolstering critical thinking and innovation. The significance of education in strengthening intellect cannot be emphasized more. Its history from Greek city states era to being a deeply imbued strategy of western education and the latter's economic, political and social upgradation is a lesson for all states but remains a far fetched phenomena in Pakistani education system. Our education system has not been able to enhance the intellect of students due to a myriad of factors like obsolete syllabus and old fashioned teaching style. Additionally, poor assessment criteria with a neglect of Research has also crippled the intellectual pursuit of our education. A general discouragement of social sciences has also been an impediment towards consciousness building and innovation. The general treatment of education system as a business venture filled with incompetent and unethical practices has deteriorated any intellectual development among students. This neglect has been a chief cause of lack of self esteem and poor civic engagement of youth and the development of a workforce ill prepared to meet modern standards of innovation. On the societal level, this has led to intolerance & ignorance fueling the moral degradation and politically incompetent leaders to take stage. However, this is not the deadend and a multipronged approach focusing on Research, modern syllabus, high quality assessment criteria can aid in filling the neglect. Thus the neglect in enhancing intellectual abilities in our education system is a pressing issue emanating

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from old syllabus, poor quality examinations, discouragement of research and social sciences. These loopholes however can be alleviated by modernizing syllabus, exam criteria and teaching methods while promoting research and social sciences.

The education system of any country is tasked with the responsibility of preparing the youth not just academically but also equipping them with required intellectual skills. However, Pakistani education system has not been able to fulfil its job of instilling intellectual skills. A lack of intellect means only having paper degrees and bookish cramed knowledge with no sense of critical thinking, poor work ethics, lack of decision making and social responsibility. Such a neglect produces an ill prepared workforce who can catch up with international markets and also lacks the character of a sensible citizen. An immediate reexamination of education system is hence necessitated.

A major impediment to intellect development can be attributed to the reliance on old obsolete syllabus. Obsolete syllabus means old content that is devoid of any revision or updates. The reliance on old data fails to cater to modern world needs in workforce and recycles old information and facts consequently diminishing any questions or creative thinking. The Intermediate syllabus of English, Urdu and sciences is based on National curriculum 2006 whereas Pakistan Studies is based on National curriculum 2000. A stark example is the Mr. Chips novel in Intermediate English Syllabus that people over a generation have studied. (Dawn, Obsolete Syllabus, 2021). Thus, obsolete syllabus is a major issue that needs to be reexamined.

Along with obsolete syllabus, the use of outdated teaching methods further exacerbate the neglect of intellect abilities among students. Outdated teaching methods encompass traditional, teacher centered approaches

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which perpetuate a climate of rote learning and mismatch between stated curriculum objectives and actual results. Old pedagogical methods lead to cramming where information in the form of facts is crammed without any fruitful discussion or analysis. According to UNESCO, the quality of teaching is low with reliance on old methods (Global Report on Teachers, 2024). Such a state of affairs hampers any intellect growth for students.

In addition to the old syllabus and poor teaching methods, the examination system is also such that it does not challenge the critical skills of students. An examination system is a process of classroom assessment to measure, judge and evaluate the learning of students.

However, our exam system is based on years old system of written exams based on descriptive questions which keep on repeating every year and can be easily crammed to get good marks. An article by Dawn highlighted the disconnect between 'purpose of education' and 'purpose of examination' and emphasized the need of exams that are fit for purpose to achieve learning outcomes. In short, the conduct of intellectually challenging and diverse examination can find out the actual and hidden potential of a student rather than solely measuring one's cramming ability (Dawn, Examination Crisis, 2023).

The lack of respect for research is another obstacle that has hindered intellectual development among students. Research encompasses exploring and creating new knowledge by delving deeper into the existing data. Our education system does not provide the resources and incentives or any sort of help for students to carry out research. This reflects a deeper entrenched lack of trend in producing quality research that can engender growth; evidenced by a study of M Z Ahmed where he concludes that since 2000 to 2015, Pakistani researchers have only published 9 articles in 'Science' and 11 in 'Nature' - the top two leading scientific journals (Enough Quantity: Time to Focus on Quality of Research in Pakistan, 2017). This establishes that culture of Pakistani education system does not promote critical thinking and

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research.

There is a general hesitance towards opting social science subjects in Pakistani society. Social science includes history, political science, philosophy, sociology etc. The lack of respect for social sciences predominantly due to the education sector's own biasness has undermined growth in the subject. Owing to issues like lack of research trend, access to quality material, limited job market and very poor criteria for admission in social subjects, it is not considered an honorable choice. The disconnect with social science has proved detrimental to the intellect skills of students. The famous education system devised by Plato solely aimed to sharpen skills by the use of social sciences. Thus, it can be said that by discouraging social sciences, our education system has been neglecting intellectual abilities of students.

Moreover, the education system of Pakistan has proved to be a successful education venture at the cost of quality education for all. By the increase in number of private schools and academies, people with money and zero knowledge of education have become a part of this sector. This Private School Mafia and tuition centre is only concerned with putting up banners of students who secure good marks to attract more students. This comes at the cost of intellectual growth and personality development while the business continues to boom.

A neglect in the intellectual abilities of students leads to lower self esteem and poor decision making. By cramming knowledge and not intellectually stimulating the brain to real world scenarios, a student loses the confidence in his abilities. Research confirms that students lacking intellectual engagement exhibit indecisiveness and poor decision making skills which hinders their academic and professional success. (What matters to Student Success: A Review of Literature, National Centre for Education Statistics, 2020). Therefore, fostering intellectual skills is essential for professional and personal success.

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A neglect of intellectual abilities paves way for low civic engagement and poor social responsibility. Without intellectual growth, students and youth fail to realize their role in society and a vibrant democracy which leads to a slow decline in progress and modernity. The significance of this idea was captured by John Dewey when he said 'Democracy has to be born anew every generation, and education is its midwife'. Furthermore, An article 'The Challenges Facing Civic Education' also discussed that inadequate intellectual development leads to diminished civic engagement and social responsibility. Hence, intellectual development is crucial for nurturing socially active, responsible citizens.

Additionally, the skills gap in workforce and difficulty in finding good jobs can also be attributed to the neglect of intellect among students. Intellectual skills such as problem solving, critical thinking, creativity, out of box solutions and emotional intelligence are crucial skills that employers demand today. Without such skills, the fresh graduates fail to find appropriate jobs at par with their degrees. Research found that over 70% of employers have reported difficulty in finding the talent with adequate skills (Skills Gap in Workforce: Cause and Consequences, 2022). Thus, lack of focus on intellectual development has contributed to an ill prepared workforce with paper degrees and crammed knowledge.

Along with individual, societal and professional impacts of neglect of intellectual abilities by our education system, the political sideeffects are also very pertinent. A lack of intellectual development has created an ignorant citizenry that has failed to identify its power and raise voice at the right cause. Such a decline of intellect was the cause of death of Socrates, interference of Church in personal lives of people and now people blindly following cult

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leaders. Research has shown that higher cognitive ability is associated with lower likelihood of holding right wing beliefs (Emma, Association of Cognitive Ability with Right Wing Ideological Attitudes, 2015). Thus, intellectual development is essential for politically informed and participant citizenry.

The neglect of intellectual abilities leads to an increase in conservative ideas and intolerance. It resists social progress and modernity and is a breeding ground for intolerance. Intellectual development can enhance peace, wellbeing, realization of human rights and sustainable development. UNESCO Report on Higher Education for societal change and development (2009) concluded that education should not only prepare the students for skills but also shape them up into ethical citizens who value peace. Thus, the commitment to human rights, development and minority rights protection etc. all depend on the intellectual growth of humans.

Another manifestation of neglecting intellectual development in educational settings can be observed in the rise of incompetent leadership today. Intellectual development raises conscience and able men as emphasized by Plato's education system and idea of Philosopher King. The lack of intellect in leadership can prove detrimental to the nation as evidenced by various cases in history. A report by Kellogg's Foundations titled 'Leadership Reconsidered..' highlighted that intellectually weak leadership can not address social and political issues effectively. Hence, a comprehensive and intellectually stimulating education system is a necessary element for sound political system.

An intellectually ^{weak} strong nation prosp fails to perform nationally and internationally at economic and cultural stages. Intellectual engagement fosters creativity and innovation to maintain global competitiveness. Without sound intellect, no nation can perform effectively. Mark Rogers in his book 'Innovation, Intellectual Property, and

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Economic Growth' has discussed how inadequate intellectual development hinder innovation and growth. Thus investing in intellectual growth is crucial for securing national global reputation and leadership as seen in the cases of India and South Korea.

Enhancing intellectual development through education requires re examination of the current syllabus to avoid passive learning. Syllabus is the core factor contributing to the deficiencies of Pakistan's education system. According to Pervaiz Hoodbhoy and A.H Nayyar Pakistani history books use same idioms and concepts as used by jamat e islami. By incorporating contemporary and relevant syllabus that meets the demands of job market and challenges one's critical thinking, intellectual abilities can be polished. One commonly used method of syllabus update is Bloom's Taxonomy which makes sure that syllabus fulfils six main categories: Knowledge, Comprehension, Application, Analysis, Synthesis and Evaluation. By integrating such frameworks, education can serve its purpose.

Additionally, it is pertinent to modernize teaching methods to enhance intellectual development of students. Traditional methods of dictating answers, providing notes and promoting selective study need to be replaced with discussions, student presentations, and different activities. By incorporating creative teaching methods, students will take more interest and use their cognitive skills. A study found that an increase in creativity is possible by devising a course that promotes learning via creative activities. Thus creative and unique teaching techniques help in sparking interest of students and promote analytical skills.

Alongwith updating syllabus, modernizing teaching methods it is also significant to involve multidisciplinary approaches in education. Multidisciplinary education integrates various subjects to provide a comprehensive educational experience. By such an approach

a positive cognitive and emotional outcome can be achieved while developing critical skills and more relevant skill set (Hardy et al., Potential for Chemistry in Multidisciplinary..., 2021). Thus, a multidisciplinary approach appreciates more inclusive learning process which consequently opens a door to critical skills.

Moreover, an education system based on research and projects helps improve intellectual abilities of students. By only using paper based exams, crammed knowledge and memory skills are tested judged however a research and project driven assessment gives a more nuanced analysis of student capabilities. Research and projects drive students towards self learning, independent learning and out of box solutions. Research shows that such a method is useful for increasing student-student and student-teacher interaction in a broader manner which ultimately creates an atmosphere of active learning. Thus, research and projects can be an effective way of channeling ones knowledge and fostering skills for real world implementation.

The sum and substance of this discussion concludes that obsolete syllabus, poor quality teaching and assessment criteria with an overall treatment of education sector has led to an neglect in the intellect abilities. It has caused a decline in individual self esteem to their participation in society as a responsible citizen and from poor performance in job market to significant political ignorance. However, such a state of affairs can be managed by a determined effort to reexamine the syllabus, train the guardians of education, involving interdisciplinary collaborations and promoting a culture of research. This multi pronged strategy will alleviate the deficiencies of current education system and pave towards a stronger intellect in society. Albert Einstein captured the true essence of what education is when he said: 'Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one learned'

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in school.'
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