

DATE: 12/12/2024

Problems of Education System in Pakistan and its pragmatic solutions:

Outline

1. Introduction:

2. Contemporary Overview of Education System in Pakistan.

3. Problems of Education System in Pakistan:

- i) Gender Inequality in Education
- ii) Low Educational Budget
- iii) Outdated Curriculum
- iv) Poor Examination System
- v) The Dropout Dilemma

vi) Lack of Uniformity in Education System

vii) Education without Direction

viii) Political Interference in Education.

4. Pragmatic Solutions to address the problems of Education System in Pakistan:

i) Minimizing Gender Inequality in Education

ii) Allocating sufficient budget for Education

iii) Revising Curriculum as per the demand of time.

iv) Improving Education System in Pakistan

v) Making Policies to minimize dropout ratio.

DATE: ___/___/___

vi) Taking Practical Efforts
to make a ~~unifor~~med
Education System

vii) Conceptualizing ~~Directional~~
Education

viii) Reducing Political Inter-
ference in Education System.

5. Conclusion:

①

DATE / /

Education plays a significant role in the development of any country. Without quality education no nation can survive and achieve its desired status among the nations. Due to this reason, every country tries its level best to enhance its education system. As far as the education system of Pakistan is concerned, it is surrounded by a series of problems, such as gender inequality in education sector, allocation of low educational budget and outdated curriculum. In addition to this, poor examination system and the dilemma of dropouts further become the core issues of the education system in Pakistan.

Apart from that, lack of uniformity in educational system, ~~education~~^{directionless} without ~~direction~~^{education}, and political interference have also ~~exacerbated~~^{situation of the} the current education system in Pakistan. However, these problems can be solved by taking pragmatic steps, such as minimizing gender inequality in education sector and allocating sufficient budget for the betterment of education purpose.

(2)

DATE: / /

Besides, improving education system, ~~minimizing~~ revising curriculum as per the demand of time can help ~~reduce~~ address these problems. Moreover, making policies to minimize drop out ratio and taking practical efforts to make a uniformed Education system in Pakistan can also make a difference. Finally, conceptualizing directional and clear education as well as reducing Political interference can pave the way addressing the problems aforementioned. Education plays an integral role in the development of any country. The Education system of Pakistan faces multiple problems which can be addressed by taking pragmatic steps.

To start with, Pakistan's education system is complex that is influenced by its history, diverse population, and ongoing efforts to enhance access and equity. Pakistan's education system includes both public and private schools, catering to students from early childhood through higher education. There is a sig-

nificant disparity in access and quality between urban and rural areas. As per the ^{Pakistan} education statistics landscape, total number of Institutions are 313,418, enrolled students are 54,870,964 and teachers are numbered as 2,139,631.

In addition to this, the official number for out of schools children is 26.2 million (40% out of total school going 66 million children).

Besides this, 36% children are not enrolled, only 55% become able to complete grade-5. Moreover, 65 of every 100 children in first ten years are compromised (Dawn Report). Moving ahead,

public schools are funded by the government, aiming to provide free education up to age 16.

However, they face numerous challenges such as overcrowded classrooms, outdated curriculum, and a shortage of qualified and well-trained teachers. In recent years, private schools in Pakistan have witnessed certain level of growth, ranging from affordable community schools to prestigious international institutions. They

offer higher quality education but with higher costs. It also contributes to educational inequality in the country.

Moving ahead, allocating low budget for education is one of the problems of education system in Pakistan. The current government (federal and provinces) overall have allocated 1.91 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for education. However, it does not meet the international standards that is 4 to 6 percent of GDP.

To fulfil the international commitment of the GDP for the sector, an amount of Rs 4,242 billion would be required. The federal government this year has allocated Rs 215 billion, Punjab Rs 673 billion, Sindh Rs 508 billion, KP Rs 393 billion, Baluchistan Rs 162 billion, FJK Rs 48 billion and Gilgit-Baltistan Rs 33 billion. No doubt, Pakistan has made a substantial increase in the education budget as compared to the previous one (the percentage of GDP was 1.5 in the year 2023-24).

^{In spite of} ~~Despite~~ that, it is not a sufficient percentage of budget

for education sector. Hence, it becomes one of the main ^{problems} reasons of education system in Pakistan.

Along with that, outdated curriculum of Pakistan is perhaps the most crucial problem in the education system of Pakistan. Ultimately, it leads country towards backwardness. The inadequate curriculum in Pakistan leaves a negative impacts on students and the society. As per the demand of time, workers with suitable qualification and sufficient skills are in a high demand. It becomes very challenging for the workers who do not meet the requirement of the market and companies. Resultantly, they become the victim of unemployment. According to the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, 31 percent of university graduates are unemployed. However, the unemployment rate of women with a university qualification is as high as 51 percent. It means that at least one-third of the educated youth in Pakistan is unemployed. Consequently, it, due to inadequacy of the skills

to the demands of the market, results in unemployment and frustration among the graduates. Besides, outdated curriculum does not provide students with results that could bring integrated thinking, creative skills and problem solving. Thus, it creates frustration among the graduates who are considered as the assets of the country.

Apart from that, poor examination system of Pakistan is another problem. Examinations of Pakistan are not exempted from cheating. Cheating has been the common case in examination centers. According to The Centre for Applied Research in Vocational Education (CARE), up to 70% of students in Pakistan are observed having tried cheating in some manner during the exams. It becomes contributes to low quality education in Pakistan, leaving adverse affects on the system. Additionally, examination system in Pakistan focuses more on rote learning rather than creative and understandable learning. In this regard, critics argue that it

(7)

DATE: / /

fails to allow students to harness critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Moreover, the paper checking system is also condemned because of sharp focus on didactic knowledge rather than applied skills. This way, students will not be able to meet the challenges and demands of the modern workplace. Hence, it contributes to problematic system of education in Pakistan.

Moving ahead, the dilemma of dropout students poses a significant threat to the education system of Pakistan. There are certain factors that contribute to it, such as poverty, gender discrimination, substandard school facilities and inefficient effective instruction as well. According to The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics (UNESCO UIS, 2024), Pakistan reaches to 26.2 million ^{drop out} 40% out of total school-going ^{66^m} children. Besides, parents also face a big challenge in terms of having competent teachers who could

respond to this phenomenon, keeping kids to remain in schools. Additionally, dropout ratio of students in different countries which include, Pakistan with 27, India 3.2%, Bangladesh 17.1%, Afghanistan 25.8%, Nigeris 19.4% and Ethiopia 15.2%. From this it is proved that a lot of students tend to drop out (especially girls and children from poor households). Hence, it contributes to one the major reasons of the education system in Pakistan.

After that, lack of uniformity in Education system in Pakistan has become a serious problem. The core issues that explains this phenomena are the heterogeneity of the Pakistani schools system is the diversity of the country's geographical regions and cultural backgrounds. Such diversity has created different views concerning education that has resulted into the lack of consensus and the standardization in the subject matter to be taught and the teaching methods. In addition to this,

Pakistani Education system is multi-tiered encompassing various types of schools such as public, private, madrasses and vocational training centers, each with their own curriculum and standards.

However, the previous government led by the Ex Prime Minister Imran had tried to bring a single National curriculum to maintain uniformity in the Education system of Pakistan.

Unfortunately, he could not be successful in doing so. Thus, the candidates find it very challenging when they are not given recognition and acceptance be at domestic or International level.

Moreover, directionless education is another huge problem of the Education system in Pakistan.

It is a situation where the educational system does not have a specified or well-defined purpose. Consequently, it interferes with the shaping of the students who are supposed to ready the society to meet all the challenges of life.

DATE: ___/___/___

In Pakistan, education system of learning is often influenced by rote, which concentrates mainly on recalling the facts, dates, and figures without developing critical thinking skills. Furthermore, the government of Pakistan does not invest in quality education. Pakistan on average expands only 2.4% of its GDP on education which is the half the share given to education by other regional countries. To add more into it, students are not educated at a broader level to enhance their skills in the disciplines like science, technology, engineering and maths too. Resultantly, it leads students to directionless education, causing them bear unwanted and unfavorable consequences in their lives.

Finally, political interference in Pakistan has also been there for long. It has made very hard for the educational sector to develop in the country. The most negative effect of political interference is education has been the appointment

of education will flourish tremendously.

Apart from that, improving education system in Pakistan will pave the way for quality education system in the country.

As things stand, 95% of the students have confessed to have resorted to cheating in their examination in multiple forms.

Furthermore, examination system in Pakistan mainly focuses on rote learning. More importantly, paper checking has also been condemned because of sharp focus on didactic knowledge rather than applied skills. In order to avoid these challenges and concerns, Pakistan needs to focus on strict assessment, a proper check and balance during exams, and quality education full of creative and scientific approach. Thus, it will also pave the way for a decent growth in the education sector of Pakistan.

Moving ahead, making policies to minimize drop out ratio will also contribute to

DATE: / /

to the betterment of education at large. Pakistan can create a supportive environment by making efficient and durable policies such as supporting household to reduce dropouts. Moreover, it can help by expanding the education conditional cash transfer programmes, increasing benefit amounts for primary and secondary school children. Furthermore, Pakistan can provide children dedicated and free transport for primary and secondary school girls and female teachers as well. Besides that, it can make better the existing approaches, working on it seriously. Thus, it will surely pave the way for all children to come to school happily.

Apart from that, Pakistan needs to take practical efforts to make a uniformed education system in the entire country. Why is it so important to make a uniformed education system? To answer this question, one has to understand the education system of Pakistan which is multi-faceted encompassing

various types of schools such as public, private and madrasahs, and vocational training centers with their own curriculum and standards. In order to deal with this multi-tiered education system, the previous government led by the former Prime Minister Imran Khan had tried to make it uniform, bringing the concept of single national curriculum. Although it was a good idea, but, due to lack of consensus and concerns, it could not be implemented. So, the government of Pakistan need to look into this matter as soon as possible so that it can create uniformity in the education sector.

Giving greater weight to this, Pakistan also work on directional education to improve the quality of both children and the system itself. It is a matter of great concern that directionless education is of no use; it can only create vague minds with vague ideas. In order to avoid it, Pakistan need to prioritize a specific and well-defined purpose which will guide so many children to meet

DATE: ___/___/___

the needs and challenges of their lives. Additionally, it will create many desired opportunities for them to grow more and more. To make this happen, students should be motivated to work on their critical thinking skills so that they can have directed and purposeful education. This way, Pakistani education system can be improved.

Finally, reducing political interference in education system will pave the way for better education system in the country. There will be more chances of appointment of professional educators if there is no political interference. Political interference in the field of education causes the decrease in the quality and standards of education. In addition to this, propagation of certain political agendas and ideologies is on the rise at the cost of academic freedom and critical thinking. However, education demands freedom and liberty as it is the dire need of the system. To cope with this problem, Pakistan needs

DATE: / /

to free up the educational institutions from these political interferences. By doing so, Pakistan can pave the way for quality and productive education system in the country.

In a nutshell, education plays an integral role in the development of a nation. The Education system of faces multiple problems which can be addressed by taking pragmatic steps as mentioned above.

However, Pakistani education is surrounded by many problems, such as gender inequality in education, low budgeting and outdated curriculum. Moreover, poor examination system and dilemma of dropouts are the core issues of the system. Thus, these problems can be resolved by taking pragmatic steps, such as minimizing gender inequality, allocating sufficient budget for the education sector. Besides, improving education system, revising curriculum as per the demand of time, and making effective policies can make a huge difference in the sector. Hence, Pakistan has potential to overcome these problems, and it is also working seriously to fill up these gaps.