

Single National Curriculum Hopes and Hurdles

Introduction

Single national curriculum as the name signifies means a uniform system of education comprising same textbooks for all and sundry in Pakistan. This is the flagship project of the PTI government that has already been implemented from class 1 through class five.

The other 2 phases of the implementation will be completed in the next two years. Single National Curriculum aims to unify the various fractions of the countries and dismantle the parallel 3-partite school system in which the class difference is rooted in the very foundations of education system. However, there are certain reservations of the provinces and institutions on SNC, which will be described as follows.

Single National Curriculum:

An effort to unify the Nation: An appreciation

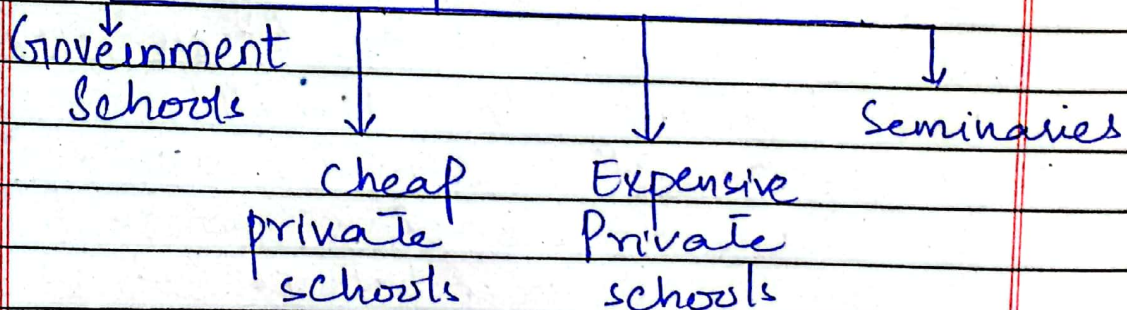
The following features of the

SNC show that it has been much needed in the current educational scenario.

i- Four kinds of Schools in a Single Nation: SNC - one system, One Nation

In contrast to the three or four parallel systems of schools, the SNC will just have a uniform system of education throughout the country.

Pakistan - Beyond the Crisis state
Types of schools in Pakistan

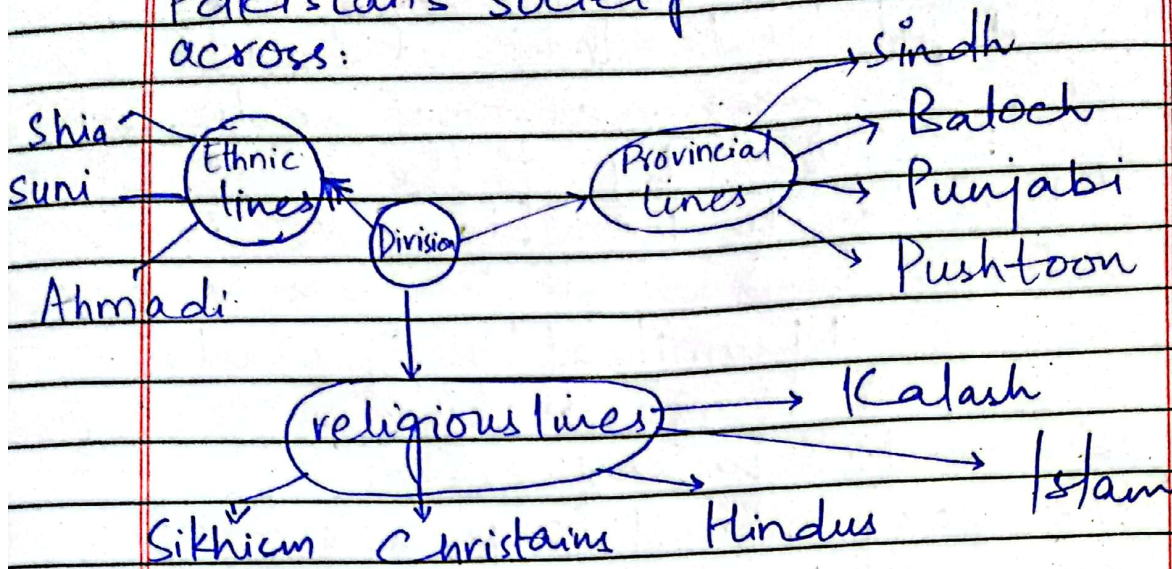


The students of all these institutions would have to compete for employment. The SNC will dismantle this system.

ii- A lesson for Growth of A Multiethnic And Pluralistic society

Pakistan is a hard country in terms of its ethnic makeup. SNC

aims to address these issues.
Pakistan's society is divided across:



These divisions are castes. SNC aims to add content such as separate 'Religious Education' in order to represent five minority religions. Thus, the students will grow up hearing tolerance for the fellow students even from other religions.

iii- A Unified Nation Rooted in Common Ethos

Through the SNC, the government of Pakistan has tried to introduce similar national heroes that are indisputable in stature and moderate teachings of Islamic studies book. This is of great significance because in Pakistan, provincialism has been

taking roots and all the provinces used to promote their own provincial and ethnic stalwarts.

This damages national unity. Therefore, the step of the govt of Pakistan to promote SNC is welcomed. Through the lessons such as 'Muamilaat' in Islamiat, SNC aims to go in line with the contemporary needs of the people and aspirations with the religion.

iv. In Line with the Sustainable Development Goals

SNC is in line with the sustainable development goals and is updated accordingly. The SNC has the syllabus right according to the current requirement of time. For instance, the books of the Maths, Science and History are updated and aim to involve research, thoughtfulness and scientific enquiry in the minds of people.

v- Breaking the Shackles of Colonial Past by having a Balanced Approach with Regards to English

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English is the medium of instruction, yet it has been made clear that English will not be taught as the language necessary for the upward mobility. In this regard, Iqbal Khan, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, is quoted as saying

"only free minds can think freely and this is not possible if we do not escape the shackles of the colonial past of ours."

The SNC aims to help the Pakistani nation escape the shackles of colonial past.

vi- Breaks the Status-Quo and Provides Equal Opportunity for upward Mobility to All without any discrimination, the SNC will be applied across the nation and this is hoped to dismantle the prevalent disparity among the classes. However, this move is badly opposed by the elite classes who think that SNC will bring down the standard of education in Pakistan. Therefore, there has been

resistance from the segments such as Aitchison School system which has refused to implement SNC in this system.

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viii- Constitutional Promise of Free and Fair Compulsory Education for all. and 25-A

Article 371 of the constitution ~~and~~ emphasizes free and fair ~~elections~~ education for all the socio-economic classes of Pakistan. Through the application of SNC, the promise of the fair and equitable education can be fulfilled in Pakistan through same curriculum.

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Hurdles in the Implementation of SNC:

i) Education is a Provincial Subject after 18th Amendment

18th Amendment makes education a provincial subject and SNC is implemented by the Federal Government. This makes different provinces act differently over the matter of implementations of SNC in their provinces due to socio-economic concerns.

iv-

ii- The 'National' part of the SNC is not that National

Sindh has rejected to implement SNC while Punjab has accepted and implemented the whole curricula. This kills the very soul of the National part of SNC. Sindh government has the reservations on the ignorance of Sindhi language and their cultural heroes which is a bone of contention between centre and Sindh.

iii) Women have been subjugated in the SNC Textbooks

Women have been shown in the roles of mother and wife and not in any leading role in socio-political and economic setup. The world is fast changing and half of the world comprises women. In SNC women such as Hazrat Khadija (RA) have not been shown as how successful a business woman she was.

iv- Where will the Slew of Ulemas Go After SNC implementation?

The teachers of seminaries being unable to teach the new course will not

be the instructors anymore in seminaries. Does the government have an alternate plan to accommodate hordes of thousands of Ulemas who would otherwise be rendered jobless.

Conclusion

Pakistan is undoubtedly a hard country with the ethnic mosaic it has, it is really difficult to implement a new curriculum in the set of circumstances. However, there are some other smoldering problems too such as out of school children, bad infrastructure of the public schools, death of teachers and unavailability of trained teachers. Amidst all these problems, the implementation of SNC was the least expensive task that could be thought of to overhaul the education systems.