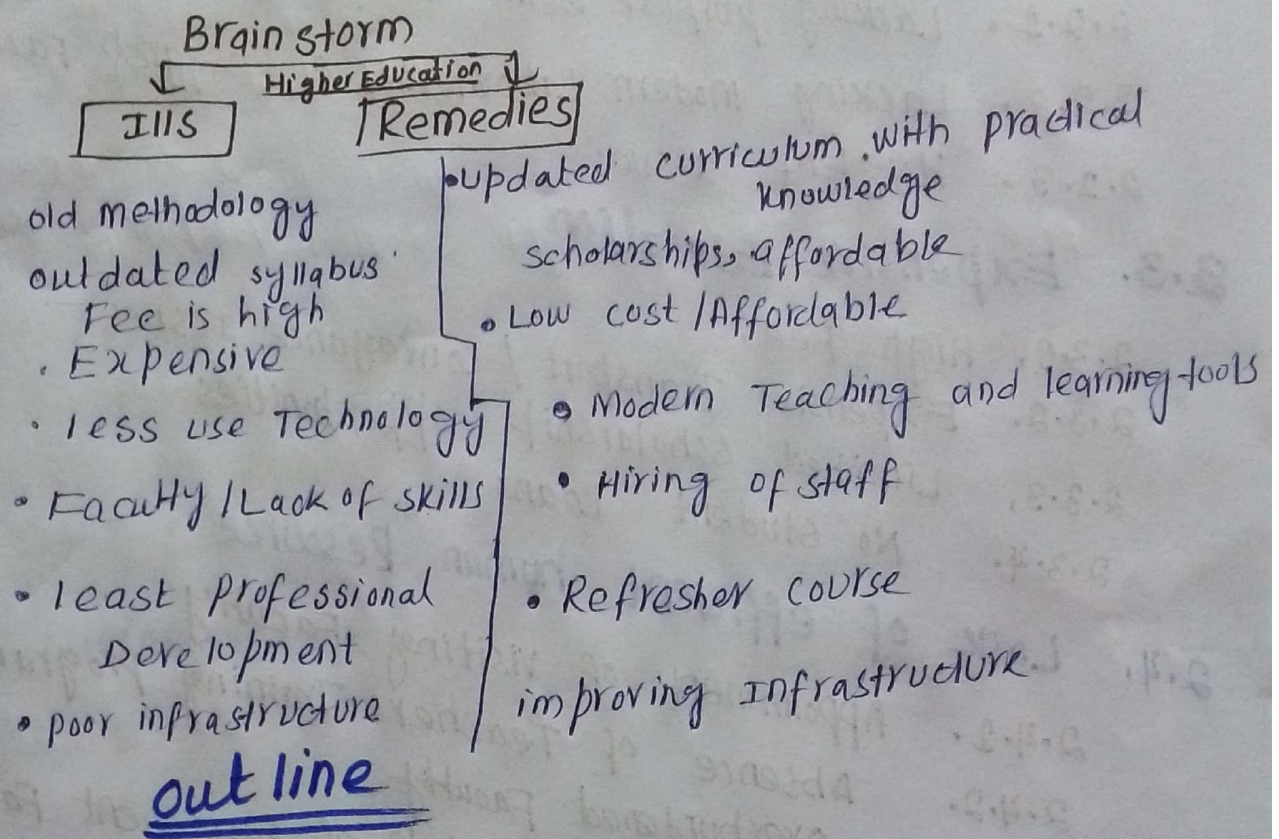


Higher Education in Pakistan: IIS and Remedies



1. Introduction:

1.1. Hook

1.2. General statements

1.3. Thesis Statement: There are several IIS related to outdated curriculum, poor infrastructures, high Fee, Lack of efficient human resource, introducing modern curriculum, improving infrastructure, offering affordable education, and hiring efficient human resource are immediate remedies

2. Main Body:

A. IIS of Higher Education in Pakistan

2.1. outdated curriculum

2.1.1 old syllabus

2.1.2 Teacher centered, not student centered

2.1.3 Lacking Analytical skills

2.1.4 unsuitable For practical purpose / industry academia link

2.2 poor infrastructure

- 2.2.1. Lacking purpose Built campuses
- 2.2.2. Lacking modern Laboratories & Research Facilities
- 2.2.3. Hygiene Issues

2.3. Expensive Education

- 2.3.1. High Fees
- 2.3.2. Expensive Transport / conveyance Issues
- 2.3.3. Limited scholarship opportunities
- 2.3.4. No student Loans

2.4. Lack of efficient human Resource

- 2.4.1. Appointment of visiting Faculty
- 2.4.2. Absence of Teachers Training Programme
- 2.4.3. Overburdened Faculty
- 2.4.4. Irresponsible attitude of Permanent Faculty

B) Remedies For the Ills in Higher Education

2.1 Introducing modern curriculum

- 2.1.1. Revising syllabus Every year
- 2.1.2. Engaging subject experts
- 2.1.3. Promoting life skills based education
- 2.1.4. Establishing industry academia link

2.2 Allocating Budget to improve Infrastructure

- 2.2.1. Building purpose Built campuses
- 2.2.2. Providing modern Laboratories and Research Facilities
- 2.2.3. Solving Hygiene Issues

2.3 Providing Affordable Education

- 2.3.1. student support Programs

2.3.2. Announcing more scholarships for students

2.3.3. Providing ~~more~~ discount travel cards

2.3.4. Promoting online education.

2.4 Hiring efficient Human Resource

2.4.1 Appointment of Permanent Faculty instead of visiting

2.4.2. Promotion of Teachers Training Programs

2.4.3. No multitasking for Faculty

2.4.4. checks on the performance of Permanent Faculty.

3. Conclusion:

3.1. Thesis restated, summary of Ideas presented

3.2. concluding Thoughts

The Essay

During the second world war, Churchill received a message from Hitler. Hitler made him an offer if Churchill did not bomb German universities, he would also not destroy his ones. Churchill immediately ~~offered~~ accepted his offer and said if England was destroyed and Cambridge and Oxford universities were spared then English culture would also survive. This is the importance of higher education.

Even after defeat, Germany restored its position on the victory stand only because of her universities. Unfortunately, Pakistan is facing problems in higher education due to outdated curriculum, ~~improving infrastructure~~

~~offering affordable education and~~ poor infrastructure, expensive education and lack of efficient human resource. These ills have drastic impacts; Immediate remedies are introducing modern curriculum, improving infrastructure, offering affordable education, and hiring efficient human resource. Unless the issue of higher education are addressed properly, Pakistan can neither become prosperous nor respectable.

First come the ills in which outdated curriculum stands prominent. The syllabus of most of the Pakistani universities is old and outdated. For instance, in computer science department different programming languages like C, ~~and~~ C++ and OOP (Object oriented programming) are taught, which are really not that efficient. These languages are irrelevant after the lot of disruptions happening in AI, machine learning and deep learning. Similarly, the study of medical science is ~~low~~ limited to basic medical skills and use of outdated analytical tools like old BP apparatus is common in Pakistan. Moreover, the education provided at the university is not suitable for industrial use.

In Pakistan, telecom engineering has been abandoned by most of the universities because their expertise for installation and handling of mobile towers was upto the mark. Similarly, computer science graduates are unable to manage and update country's important websites and applications therefore, chinese or Foreign experts are imported to fix the evulpmnt and manage websites.

Moreover, our education system is teacher centered not student centered. The teacher takes the leading role in class and students have to listen to his instructions. In the same way, our curriculum lacks analytical skills, it is like theory without practise that's why students are unable to solve real life problems. There are no projects, skills and logical tasks to perform. A computer science student cram syntax of programming languages without implementation during lab hours, /on computer.

Finally, there is a wide gap between industry and academia in our universities. For example, a student of Mass communication is unable to find any placement or exposure in media industry. Therefore, outdated curriculum has created a big hurdle in the effectiveness of Higher education in Pakistan.

The second ill of higher education in Pakistan is poor infrastructure. Most of the universities lack purpose built campuses. There is almost no facility for disabled students. There are no elevators or ramps for such students in the universities. Even in this modern era the modern universities like FAST, NUST and Quaid-i-Azam lack such facilities. Similarly there are limited labs and laboratories. There are more students to occomodate in limited space. For instance, in computer lab hundreds of students practice on few computers. Similarly, in medical schools one dead body is surrounded by few doctors to examine who come first. Rest have to wait or

adjust. Even the students of literature do not have the opportunity to borrow books from the library because there are only one or two copies available on the same subject. In this way, the students who have no proper access to labs and libraries cannot conduct research properly. Apart from purpose built campuses and modern labs, the universities have mostly unhygienic environment. Their cafeterias and washrooms always create troubles for students. Cafeterias are in open air. The food provided by cafeterias is not nutritious because it contain large amounts of oils and fat, along with an endless selection of sugary desserts. According to a study 60% of students avoid school washrooms because restroom is unclean, sinks and other appliances are not operating properly and soap or paper towel dispensers are empty. Therefore, lack of proper infrastructure creates hurdles in aims of higher education.

The third ill inflicting the higher education in Pakistan is the question of affordability. In past universities were supported by the government. Any person from any class could go for any education on merits otherwise on self-finance. However in present times when government is already under the burden of fiscal deficit, it is impossible for it to support the public colleges or universities. Now almost all public sector universities charge from Rs 70,000 to over 100,000 per semester; in some cases, more than this amount, depending on subjects. For instance, Quaid-i-Azam university per semester fee for computer science Bachelor's degree was 40,000 in 2019 and now it is 73,200 in 2024. Unfortunately, unlike developed Resultantly,

~~Countries~~ Pakistani students have to bear the burden of high fees. Unfortunately, unlike developed countries, Pakistani students have very limited access to student support programs. For example, HEC announces stipend for students pursuing higher education every year, but the available scholarships are just a fraction of the majority studying in universities. Nor do the banks offer any student loans to the needy. Moreover, there are almost no travel discounts for majority of the students. Except for few cities, students from rural areas have to bear the brunt of massive transportation costs. Lastly, online education which reduces transportation expenses is no more promoted by the universities except for some natural calamity or pandemics.

The corona pandemic was a blessing in disguise so far as online mode of learning was concerned. However its benefits were not extended after the pandemic was over. Physical classes, thus, cost the pockets of Pakistani students and hampers their smooth learning process. All these reasons make education expensive for the common residents of Pakistan.

Finally there is lack of efficient human resource not only in higher educational institutes in Pakistan but also in Higher Education Commission (HEC). On one hand, universities are still interested to hire more and more visiting faculty to cut their expenses. They are paid minimum wages for each lecture and their duration of teaching cannot be claimed as experience anywhere. For instance visiting faculty is paid Rs800 per lecture which is too little and then 20% tax for non-filers is also deducted from this amount. Moreover, more than a

year passed and they are not paid their salaries. ultimately affecting students as well as quality of education. ~~competing~~ ~~man~~ Therefore, this is the worst discrimination against educated youth. Additionally, Absence of Teachers Training Programs. Although teachers salaries have improved a lot, the training wings of the respective education departments remain severely underfunded. These department do not offer training programs due to lack of funds. Teacher training and support is an area that is not functioning well in Pakistan. There do not seem to be enough resources in the system, and there is a lack of poor incentives for the provision of training and support. Moreover, universities are short of staff. Teachers have to perform other academic and management tasks during service. Since the salaries are so meager, mid level workers often leave for better opportunities. This disturbs smooth working of university and negatively affects its efficiency. The faculty is overburdened. Similarly, irresponsible attitude of permanent faculty is a major issue. civil service act protect permanent faculty members. These are the reasons for low ranking of Pakistan's universities in world university ranking. ~~For instance~~ As ~~per~~ of 2022, total 6 universities were ranked in top 1000 by QS world university ranking: NUST # 334, Quaid-i-Azam university # 378, PEAS # 398, LUMS # 651, university of Punjab # ~~801~~ 701 and UET, Lahore # 801. In 2023, the number increased only by 1, with the addition of university of Pishawar # 801.