

Challenges to Education System of Pakistan

outlines

I. Introduction

Thesis Statement:

Pakistan education system has been facing many challenges since its inception. It has negative effects on Pakistan. But these challenges can be removed with the help of NGOs, and strong coordinations between federal and provinces.

II. History of Pakistan education system.

III. Challenges to Pakistan education system.

- (a) Inadequate funds
- (b) Different syllabus
- (c) Outdated syllabus
- (d) Lack of quality education
- (e) Obsolete methods of teaching
- (f) Lack of teachers training
- (g) Failed education Policies
- (h) Poor examination system

- (1) Feudalism in the country
- (2) High dropout rate
- (3) Poor infrastructure
- (4) Far away school from rural areas.

IV. Effects of poor education system.

- (a) Increase poverty
- (b) Increase Unemployment
- (c) Increase in crime rate
- (d) Economic slowdown
- (e) Brain drain
- (f) Other social issues

V. Solutions to the challenges.

- (a) Enhance education budget.
- (b) Uniform education system
- (c) Updated syllabus
- (d) Teachers training
- (e) Abolish feudalism
- (f) Quality education
- (g) Technical and vocational training
- (h) Researched based education
- (i) Effective examination system

- (j) Reforms in policies
- (k) Implementation of policies in true letter and spirit
- (l) Strong coordination between federal and provinces
- (m) Involvement NGOs
- (n) Research centers to be established in universities

vi. Conclusion.

Pakistan education system has been many challenges since its inception in 1947. Pakistan also facing multiple challenges: political instability, economic instability, and security issues. These challenges entail more challenges to education system of Pakistan. Following are the challenges faced by Pakistan education system: Allocation of low budget, multiple education systems in Pakistan, outdated syllabus, old methods of teaching, poor teachers trainings, failed

education policies, ineffective examination system, federalism, poverty, high drop out rate, poor infrastructure, and lack of coordination between and provinces and lack of implementation of policies in true letter and spirit. There are multiple effects of poor education system in Pakistan like increase in poverty and unemployment, increase in crime rate, brain drain, economic slowdown and bad image of country in the world.

Education plays leadership role in the society. An old saying says, "Education is a weapon we use to change the world".

Education improve people of the society physically, psychologically, socially and even politically. It also improve the skills of people: social, political, and economic.

Education is a Latin word which means to bring out. The literal meaning of education is to bring out the development in the society, country and world. The education system of Pakistan has been facing many challenges since its inception. First ever education conference held in 1947, but due to lack of attention became useless. Subsequently many education policies were introduced; in 1954, in 1964, in 1970, in 1978, in 1979, in 1998, in 1998, and in 2009. In 2015 the country devised its current education policy to improve the education standard in the country. At this time, the literacy rate of the country is stood at 68.9% according to Pakistan Economic Survey report 2019-23. Area wise literacy rate is 73 percent in urban

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areas and 53% in rural areas. Male literacy rate is 73.1% and female literacy rate is 54%. Province wise literacy rate is 66.4% in Punjab, 61% in Sindh, 54% in KP and 53% in Balochistan according to Pakistan Economic Survey report. It is comparatively very low from neighbouring countries as India's literacy rate is 77%, Iran 89% and China 97%. According to the report of UNESCO 2021, 22.8 million children are out of school in Pakistan, now figures reached to 26 million according to Pakistan Education Statistics report 2021-22. 39% of the children are out of school in Pakistan. According to FY 2022 report 37% female and 29% male are out of school in the country. Further, poor infrastructures in schools like toilet, boundary

small and dilapidated condition of the buildings. In Sindh and Balochistan schools are used for livestock and other purpose. Lowest literacy rate in Sindh and Punjab. 15% of the schools in Sindh and Balochistan are lack of electricity. This indicates the failure of Pakistan education system. Average 8% of the GDP is allocated for education which is very low compared to neighbouring countries 4%. According to Pakistan Economic Survey report 2018-19 1.7% of the GDP was allocated to education against the UN's recommendation of more than 4%. This shows the stark reality of failure of Pakistan education system. So, Pakistan's education system has been facing many challenges. It has many

many negative effects on Pakistan education system. Lack of education budget is one of the most important challenges to the education system of Pakistan, and it hinders the education system from evolving. According to Pakistan Economic Survey report 2020-21, FY 2022 only 1.7% of the GDP was allocated for education department, which is very low in comparison to neighbouring countries: India, Bangladesh and China. Less than 50% of the budget allocated to education sector is spent on development projects. It is not properly used by the authorities. It is another important issue that allocated funds are used in neglected way. It is already low compared to

countries in the region except Afghanistan. If the allocated funds are properly used, the education system of the country can grow. There are many education systems in Pakistan: Cambridge Education system, English medium and Urdu medium. Further, there is public and private education system.

Apart from education, the development of the country Pakistan is an Islamic ideology based country, but Islamic syllabus in Pakistan education system is like not to be the Islamic ideological state. The population of the country loves with the ideology of the country but the rulers not. There is no Islamic content in the syllabus of country's education system. It will

lead to division in the country.

Cambridge Education, a foreign education system. Children from very rich families can after completion of graduation go overseas for higher education on the foreign exchange extended by the ~~state~~ State Bank of Pakistan to them. Due to strong financial position elite class children choose A and O level education well equipped with facilities. Instead Pakistanis outdated and lacked of facilities education system. They are unaware of the ideology even Urdu and religious education.

Pakistan Secondary Education system is provided by the private and government schools. There are two mediums, Urdu and English. Children belonging to poor household

choose government schools, Urdu medium of instruction and children from middle household adopt the private school well equipped with facilities compared to public schools. Poor household children go to public schools due to financial problems. Free education is given in public schools and these are lacked of facilities. Private schools are valuable than public school and English medium instruction are taught in these school and in public schools the other one. Those who get good marks enrolled in colleges. If the financial position let them. Some of them become clerks, cashiers, labour and worker in the market. A little number of children go for higher education. Madarssa education system is another education system in Pakistan. Multiple religious

sects are running madrasahs in the country: Deobandi, Barelvi, Ahle Hadith, and Shia. All these sects have different syllabus. Further it is to be noted that religious extremism emerge from religious institutions. They are completely unaware of the outside of the madrasah. ~~People~~ People send their children in madrasahs due to poor financial condition they prefer to send their children in religious institution because there is education free of cost. 45% of the students in these schools are unable to read English sentence and 40% of the students unable to read Urdu sentence. This indicates how poor education system in Pakistan. It cannot improve the skills of the students.

Education prepares any nation. Development of any country is based on education system. It improves the skills of the people. But the education system of Pakistan's aim is to produce such a class to run the administration which have the influence on education sector. Further feudal system in the country is another big challenge to the education system of the country. 60 to 70% of the land and 80% of the revenue hold elite class which is the main barrier in the development of the education sector. In Sindh and Balochistan schools are used for cattles and other purpose. So, the feudalism is a big hurdle in the way of development of Education system in the country.

Outdated syllabus is another big barrier in the way of developing education sector. Outdated syllabus is taught to the students in public and private schools. It cannot compete with the education system of the modern world. Due to outdated syllabus the country is unable to deal with the current problem in different sectors like agriculture and industrial. Other sectors also facing a lack of development. Neighbouring countries have updated syllabus like India and China to compete the modern world. Finally, outdated syllabus is a major hurdle in the way of development of education. Cramming and rote learning is another major hurdle in the way of development of the country.

Students are asked to spoon feed the syllabus instead of understanding the complete concept of the syllabus. It is a traditional way of teaching. It cannot fulfill the need of the modern world.

That is why, most of the students are unable to read even a single sentence of English. This traditional way of teaching cannot meet the skills of the students.

So cramming and rote learning is another major challenge to the education system in the country.

Pakistan education system is a lack of research based education system. It has ability to improve the students skill and ability. Lacking of research based education is a barrier in the way of invention and and economy and security.

Lack of technical and vocational training institutions is another major challenge to the education system. It can meet the needs of the small businesses in the country. It can help reduce the poverty from the country. It can bring job in the market. Conversely, lack of technical and vocational training centers is another big challenge.

The country has lack of quality education over the years. The country has a large number of institutions but none according to the international standard.

The country emphasized on quantity of the institutions rather than quality of education. So, lack of quality education is a big challenge to education sector.

Failed education policies is another big hurdle in the way of education development. A number of policies were devised. Pakistan its first ever educational conference held in 1947 to improve the quality of education and enrollment rate. Subsequently policies, 1954, 1969, 1970, 1979, 1979, 1998, 1998, and 2009 were introduced but due to lack of political will and timely non implementation were failed. They could not improve the education standard of the country. Education policy 2015 is currently working in the country to provide education every child. Article 25A inserted to the constitution to provide free and compulsory education to every child aged 5 to 16 up to 10th class.

poor examination system is another major challenge to education system of the country. Exams are conducted to test the ability of the student children use unfair means to pass the exam. parents and teachers are also help the students in ~~teaching~~ cheating in the exam. Ineffective examination system lead to flawed education system and poor performance. Students get good marks by cheating in the exam but lack of skills and capabilities. So, ineffective examination system leads to poor performance in ~~our~~ field.

Another big challenge to the education system is the high drop out rate. According Pakistan education statistics 26 million children are

of school going age are out of school. 39% of the children are out of school, 37% female and 42% males are out of school.

According to UNESCO report 2021, 20.8 million children are out of school in Pakistan. Pakistan has

world's second out of school children after

Afghanistan. 30% of the student complete their

matriculation. Due to poverty people prefer to send their children at work rather than to get higher education.

So, high drop out rate is a big challenge for education system of the country.

There are multiple effects of the poor education on the country: poverty, unemployment, increase in crime rate, economic slow down and brain loss.

the most common effects of poor education system, Terrorism is also the effect of illiteracy. poverty is one of the most important effect of poor education system. Most of the developing and underdeveloped countries have poor education system. It cannot compete with the modern world.

One can judge how poor is education system in the country. According to Pakistan Economic Survey report 2009-2012 Pakistan's literacy rate is only 67.9% which is too poor in comparison to neighbouring countries, China, Iran, and India, developed countries have 100% literacy rate. 40% of the population in Pakistan living in poverty and 24% of population below the poverty. It is the reflection of education system

These indicate how education system is poor in Pakistan. So, poor education system causes poverty in the society. Unemployment is also the outcome of the poor ~~examination~~ education system in a country. Quality education, technical and vocational training centers develop any nation socially, politically and economically. It also develops the skills of the students. High illiteracy is the result of poor education system, which cannot develop the skills of the students. Resultantly, unskilled ^{people} remain unemployed compared to skilled people. Poor education system increases the labor force, most of the labor in the country facing unemployment. According to World Bank report, Pakistan is suffering 7% of the unemployment.

Back to back waves of the covid-19, Russia-Ukraine war and drought flood have added fuel to fire. So, poor educational system cannot develop the skills among the students consequently, remain unskilled unemployed.

Economic slow down is the outcome of poor education system. Poor education cannot produce highly skilled and highly professionals in various fields. There is a deep nexus between the education and development. Industrial sector and ~~education~~ agriculture sector demand highly qualified person to their productivity. Pakistan industrial and agriculture sector facing worst challenges in the history now. Pakistan is unable to export of its agriculture production due to low production.

Industrial sector also facing many challenges to develop. India has highest agriculture production in comparison to Pakistan. So, the development of a country is depended on its education system. Poor education system leads to negative progress in the economic sector.

Developing countries and under developed countries are in the grip of the high crime rate and other social problems.

Unemployment, poverty and weak education system lead to high crime rate. Uneducated people remain unaware of the strict punishment of the crimes. Pakistan is facing street crimes in major cities like Lahore and Karachi.

According to dawn newspaper 60 thousand cases of theft were reported in the last couple

couple of years. Figures are increasing as the population increases in the country. So poor education system produces criminal. They do crimes to meet need of the food. It also hinders the development of the country.

Brain is another effects of the poor education system in a country. Intellectual minds do want to get higher education due to weak education system in the country. They have to go to abroad for higher education ~~education~~ and researched based education. According to ILO migration and - Overseas Employment more than 13 million people went abroad for better economic opportunities and quality education. Highest figures recorded in 2015 nearly one million people went abroad. In 2002

more than 8 lakh people left Pakistan. So, the poor education system leads to brain.

Terrorism is another important effect of the weak education system in any country. Pakistan has been facing a waves of terrorism since 1979.

Uneducated people indulge in illegal activities against the state to achieve their goal politically, economically and socially. It leads to uncertainty situation in the country. Balochistan and KP have the low literacy rate and facing worst terrorist ~~att~~ attacks.

The most tragic attack in 2013 was the Peshawar Police Lines mosque attack that ~~the~~ took the lives of more than 100 people including civilians and

police personnel. So, poor education system brings terrorism in the society.

The challenges to the education system of the country can be removed by taking different measures.

Pakistan is allocated budget to the education sector is very low compared to neighbouring countries and other developing countries. Pakistan allocates just 1% of the GDP which is too little.

According to Pakistan Economic Survey Report 2019-2020, only 1.5% of the GDP was

allocated to the education sector and Economic report 2022-23, 1.7% of the GDP was allocated to education.

Most of the developing and developed country spend 4% of the GDP on education sector. According to the UNO

4% of the GDP should be allocated to education. So, Pakistan should increase its education budget.

Uniform education should be introduced in the country.

At this time the country has many education systems. For example, English medium of instruction, Urdu medium and religious Madrasahs. Many education systems lead to division and conflict in the country.

Pakistan has different tribes living in the country and different culture. So, uniform education system is the only solution of conflict and division.

In this regard, a Single National Curriculum was introduced.

It should be implemented in strict manner.

The country should adopt an updated syllabus. An outdated syllabus should be adopted

in the country. It can develop the skills of the students and can bring the development in the country. Special departments should be established in many fields: IT, Engineering, medical, politics, and other fields. Islamic education should be included in the syllabus. An updated syllabus can bring end to the education challenges.

Teachers appointment should be on merit basis. Earlier teachers appointment are made without test and interview. Further, MPAs and MNAs are given teachers quota, mostly. Teachers are recruited with the reference not on merit base. Pakistan should gear the political involvement in appointment process and transfer postings. Appointment should be made through organized process of

test, interview and psychological test. It will lead to improvement in the education sector.

Quality education should be promoted in the country.

Only quality education can make the country to compete the world. It can improve critical thinking of the students.

Technical and vocational training should also be promoted in the country. It can help reduce the poverty which is the main barrier in getting education.

Free and compulsory education should be given to the students.

Article 51A inserted to the constitution in 1971th constitutional amendment in which free and compulsory declared mandatory for every child aged 5 to 16 upto matriculation level. So, the authorities should devise policies to make

ensure free and compulsory education. Drop out rate should be lessened and enrolment rate should be increased.

Teachers training should be mandatory. As every department is trained to its workers.

The training of CSS officers continue for almost 3 years.

There is no training of education staff once recruited.

The training of the parents is also mandatory because of the children spend only 8 hours with the teachers and 16 hours with the parents.

So the training of parents along with teachers is too necessary to improve the skills of the children.

Pakistan has poor and weak education system to test the ability of the students. Most of the children are unable to read even single sentence.

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single sentence of English and some of them cannot read Urdu sentence. One can judge how is poor Pakistan's education and examination system. The authority should revise policies to stop cheating in the exam and strict punishment to be given whoever found involved in unfair means.

Policies should be implemented strictly instead of introducing new policies in education sector. The country introduced many policies like 1947, 1959, 1970, 1978, 1979, 1998, 1998 and 2009 but all the policies were failed to implement due to lack of political will and feudalism in the country. So, the authorities should implement the current education policy in true letter and spirit.

Research centers should be established at university ^{level} of education. It is

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The key solution to the challenges.

The government should increase the education budget in order to conduct research at higher level education. Professors should be assisted in conducting research.

To remove education challenges there is a need of unity between and provinces. It is the key to deal with the challenges to the education sector. NCRC could also play their role to remove the challenges. Further local government should be inclusive to eradicate the challenges. Only integration can help to remove these challenges.

~~In conclusion, Pakistan education sector has been facing many challenges including~~

Many schools in Pakistan have ~~been~~ lacked of basic facilities, particularly in Sindh

and Balochistan. According to dawn newspaper 15% of the schools are lack of electricity, toilet and boundary walls. Further, dilapidated condition of the schools building. In addition 9000 floods further exacerbated 27000 schools were damaged and destroyed in this unrelenting flood in Sindh and Balochistan. So, the infrastructure should be improved like boundary wall toilet and others.

In conclusion, the education sector of the country has been facing many challenges including, inadequate funds, different syllabus, outdated syllabus, obsolete methods of teaching, poor teachers training, lack of quality education, lack of technical and vocational training centers, feudalism, poor examination system, policy

crisis, lack of political will and lack of research based education, training and soft learning, corruptions and political involvement in appointment and transfer and postings. Poor education system has multiple effects on the country's development including poverty and unemployment and increased in crime rate.

However, the country has ability to remove these challenges by taking possible measures in the best interest of the country and development. The country can take following measures to eradicate the the challenges including enhance education budget, uniform education system, updated syllabus, modern techniques of teaching, remove feudalism, quality education, vocation training institute, establish research centers at university level, policy

reforms, effective examination system, implementation of policies in true letter and spirit, and cooperation and coordination between local government, provinces and federal government. NGOs can also play their role to remove these challenges. Infrastructure development should also be made to improve education system. However, effective education system can bring development in the country.