

Higher Education in Pakistan: Issues and Remedies

Outline:

1. Introduction
2. Historical overlook of higher education in Pakistan
3. Overview of the current State of higher education in Pakistan
4. Major issues in higher education in Pakistan.
 - a) Inadequate infrastructure and quality issues.
 - b) Outdated curriculum with poor innovative ideas.
 - c) Lackness of research facilities and laboratories.
 - d) Access issues due to high tuition fees
 - e) Gender disparities and segregation in access to higher education.

f) Corruption and nepotism in appointment of faculty and clerical staff.

g) Political interference in autonomy of universities.

h) Lack of industrial-academic collaboration

i) Less exchange of international collaboration.

5. Remedies for efficient output of higher education in Pakistan.

a) By investing in infrastructure and facilities.

b) By updating curriculum with innovation.

c) Encouraging research culture at universities.

d) Reduction in tuition fees and other charges to access edu.

e) Promoting gender integration

and equality in education.

f) By addressing corruption and nepotism for fair appointments.

g) Providing autonomy to universities without political interference.

h) Fostering industrial-academic collaboration for employment cause.

i) Promoting exchange of students and programmes with international universities.

6. Conclusion

Education in Pakistan is a matter of life and death.

Education in any state led the basis of society and its infrastructure. So, higher education in Pakistan has essential and pragmatic role in building of social strata. Education from a primary level to high level requires basic grounds of administration, infrastructure, mechanical and technical support.

Meanwhile, higher education in Pakistan is lacked of basic necessities from very beginning of independence. Pakistan being a developing country has urgent need of reforms in sector of education especially higher education. Because any state having low literacy rate resulting into low progress and stunt growth in domains of politics, social, cultural and economics. Pakistan is one of

those countries who are lagging behind in literacy rate as compared to developed countries.

In a nutshell, higher education in Pakistan is facing lot of ills in the form of mismanagement of institutions, administration lapses and insufficient fund raising.

Historically, if they make a sight on western civilization on the grounds of education, they are far away from Eastern nations. This is because when they are focusing on institutes of Oxford, Berkeley and other, Eastern people were busy in making monuments in the memory of their loved ones. After partition of sub-continent resulting into Pakistan and India, Pakistan has only one higher education that was University of Punjab in Lahore.

This university was the sole creator of different charismatic personalities for Pakistan. TIU, 1970s Pakistan due to political instability was far behind in race of higher education as compared to India.

With the passage of time, Pakistan moves towards the path of education to make young generation literated and skilful. Pakistan established different higher institution in different cities.

In 2002, Pakistan also establish an institution of Higher Education Commission in Islamabad. The Higher Education Commission is a regulating authority on all higher education institutes and maintains a check-balance on them. But establishing a super authority above all institutions is not solution to all ills faced by education sector.

Pakistan higher education is facing a number of challenges. Inadequate infrastructure is one of PUs. Now, in Pakistan a total 260 round about higher institutes are providing education facilities to students. But increasing number of institutes will not secure education qualities. By making only infrastructural buildings are not adequate for learning growth. Many universities have no practical labs and instruments to take practical exams. The only focus of institutes is on theoretical study rather than practical. Likewise, they produce a bulk of students with worthless degrees. Time never wait for anyone, this is age of innovation. Traditional methods of teaching are now baseless. Pakistani universities are following the out-

dated curriculum of 1970s and 1980s. The institutions of developed countries are making their curriculum upto date with technological ideas. But Pakistani universities are still rolling on less innovative curriculum.

With the help of research facilities, many countries in the world landed on Moon and other planets but Pakistani higher education is still working on making degree holders with no practical experience. Every university in Pakistan is producing a large number of engineers every year. When these engineers take part in professional life, they were treated as low wage labourers instead of proficient worker in their field of study. Many of these students are jobless even after spending

lot of money and time.
Poverty is a root cause
to various ills of society.
Due to poor financial conditions,
talented students can not
manage to get admission in
higher education. Higher education
in Pakistan is not affordable
to middle class or lower-
middle class. Because universities
of public sector have not
enough seats to enroll all
poor students while on the
other hand, private universities
are offering studies on
high tuition fees. That's why
higher education in Pakistan
is only available for elite
and influential class.

The common factor in low
number of access to higher
education is gender disparities
and segregation among different
classes. In Pakistan, every province

has a different number of enrolled male and female students. Specially, in KPK and Balochistan gender biasness is on peak where females are in less number to get higher education. KPK has 70% males and 35% females while Balochistan has 65% males and 23% females that are part of higher education.

Pakistan higher education is suffering from administrative corruption and nepotism in different job appointments. The university administration is the management of institution and its progress. When experienced and skilled persons are ignored and favouritism is preferred then the institutional progress stopped. Likewise, when the appointment of faculty of any department in university is based on

influence and status then the sole purpose of education is deteriorated. To cut the long story short, corruption and nepotism are like like-worms that make any institution inefficient. Every institutes that has more than one authority to make check and balance results into mis-management. In Pakistan, Political interference locked the progress of higher education because they always prefer self-interests than public-interests. Political interference snubs the autonomy of higher institution. In Pakistan, there is race between political leaders to command higher education institutes for their personal privileges.

The ineffectiveness and insufficient growth of higher education are results of lack of industrial-academic collaboration.

The higher education in Pakistan have no practical grounds for students so that they can pursue their professional career after degree. This is because of low economic growth that leads to unemployment.

Due to political turmoil, the situation of Pakistan is worse and government is capable to manage youth in different jobs.

The status of higher education is poor as compared to other developed countries because Pakistan is far behind in technological field. There is no culture of student exchange programmes with international universities. The cross cultural exchange develops learning abilities in students. But poor management of Pakistan is not paying heed to make higher

education more efficient.

There are many possible remedies for greater output of higher education in Pakistan.

The higher education in Pakistan is improved by more budget and investing in infrastructure. The number of dropped students is increasing every year due to poor facilities.

The higher education institution can make better facilities by focusing on infrastructural lapses.

With the innovation of technology, every domain is on the path of advancement. So,

Pakistan also takes initiatives in updating curriculum with innovative ideas. The basic need of higher education is to make curriculum adaptable to modern views. Every department should organize their syllabus

more pragmatic to modern world problems and solutions.

The higher education is the name of acknowledging new ideas with help of different researchs. Pakistan higher education has also need of hour to develop a research culture on different niche topic and find pragmatic solutions to problems.

By establishing research institutes, higher education leads to more advancement in fields of agriculture, literature and philosophy.

The article 25-A of Pakistan's constitution is regarding to free education of all students from 05- to 16 years. Likewise, different universities allow poor or lower middle class students on scholarship for higher education.

By making a criterion, for students of poor class to enroll on the basis of higher grades and skills ultimately, leads

to high literacy rate in Pakistan.

The higher education for girls is also essential need.

By promoting gender integration among society results in equality education. The patriarchal structure

of Pakistan is rigid and hard that females are bound to remain in house. But

females have equal capacity to contribute in all social, political and economical fields. The developed nations attain stability by

promoting gender equality and freedom of expression.

The higher education in Pakistan attains conformity only by eliminating corruption and nepotism.

By making rule of law for all is evident for prosperity in the fields of education.

When institutes make themselves accountable and transparent then the nation stepped towards

high ethnic and moral grounds. The grouping among people within same federalizing institutes deteriorates the basic fabric of unity.

Moreover, the future of higher education in Pakistan is not satisfying. The political and economical destabilization put further impacts of destruction on education sector.

The current situation of higher education revamped by providing autonomy to universities without political interference. The dawn of higher education is in hands of law-making bodies because the whole process of funds raising rested in their powers.

The ratio of degree holders is increasing day by day but the number of jobs is decreased to a large extent. Therefore, universities have

to build industrial-academic collaboration for employment cause. So, that students can get maximum job and play their integral part in nation-building of Pakistan.

The critical approach to different discourses is depended upon transitional cultural studies. To make more effective working of higher education, there is promotion of exchange of students programmes with national and international universities required. For instance, America is allowing various semester exchange programmes with world re-knowned universities for transitional studies. Pakistan should foster this initiative for cross-cultural studies of different countries.

Conclusively, higher education in Pakistan is on the edge of chaosness due to different

lapses in administration, management policies and budget deficit. So, the future of higher education in Pakistan is relies on making efforts for regulation of educational reforms. These educational reforms would ultimately lead to high literacy rate and a visionary leadership of educated youth. The status of higher education is not much satisfying but making long term policies by considering PUs of higher education resulted into top notch literated countries. Hopefully, high literacy rate of Pakistan paves the way of more stable and prosperous country.