

# Education System in Pakistan: A Leveller or Source of all Inequalities

## Outline

### 1. Introduction

Thesis Statement: The apartheid education system of Pakistan perpetuates socio-economic and political inequalities. Thus, transforming the existing polarized education system into a greatest leveller would require across-the-board measures.

### 2. A brief Overview of education system of Pakistan

Three tiers education setup

### 3. How Pakistan's education system is a source of all inequalities?

I. Apartheid education system brings unequal job opportunities for masses  
Reference: Career Pakistan Report (2023)

II. It keeps the poor poorer and the rich richer

Case in point: Report published by Planning Commission of Pakistan (2024)

III. Prevailing digital-divide is the by-product of unequal education system

Reference: Digital Rights Foundation of Pakistan report (2023)

IV - It helps elite capture power  
 corridors of country  
 Reference: "22 families Thesis" of  
 Mehbub-ul-Haq

V - It provides uneven access to  
 higher education and international  
 scholarships  
 Case study: HEC's annual  
 report on doctorates

VI - The disproportionate access to  
 health facilities is offshoot of  
 segmented education system  
 Reference: World Health Organization  
 Report (2024)

VII - It exacerbates gender disparities  
 in spheres of life  
 Case in point: Pakistan's ranking  
 in Gender Gap Index (2024)

VIII - It fosters marginalization of  
 youth in multiple fields  
 Case study: Hiering of people  
 in sports

4 - How Pakistan's education system  
 is a leveller: A counter perspective  
 - Poor people on higher posts  
 - Scholarships on merit base  
 - Same criteria for jobs



5. What are the causes of polarized education system of Pakistan?

I - Presence of Conservatism in madrasah school system about scientific education fosters inequalities

II - Absence of Uniform education system across the country brings unequal opportunities for masses  
Reference: Concerns of Ministry of education

III - Presence of outdated courses and unskilled teachers also causes segmented education system  
Books: Education and Social Order

IV - Lack of investment in public schools is a key factor behind polarized education system  
Case in point: 1.9 percent of GDP education

6 - What are measures to address the issues of Pakistan's education system for making it the greatest source of leveller?

I - Effective implementation of single national curriculum can reduce disparities from Pakistan's education system  
Case in point: Finland's education model

II - Increasing government investment on public education can improve their quality of education

Books: Pakistan Beyond the Crisis State

III - Streamlining of madrasah education system towards modern scientific knowledge is essential in this regard

Case study: Malaysian model of education

IV - Ensuring teaching of updated courses can eliminate the disparities from education system

Reference: STEAM programme

V - Recruitment of skilled teachers in public educational institutions is indispensable in this context

## 7. Conclusion



Polarized education system fosters all inequalities at multiple levels in any society. Maleeha Ludhi has rightly argued in her book: "Pakistan Beyond the Crisis State" that "All tiers of education system in Pakistan are broadly stratified along three dimensions: socio-economic, qualitative and ideological. Its end result is fostering of inequalities across all dimensions of life". This vividly indicates that Pakistan's education system is the source of all prevailing inequalities in the society. Apartheid education brings unequal job opportunities for masses. Moreover, poor are becoming poorer and rich becoming richer due to existing segmented education set up. Prevailing digital divide, elite capture on power corridors and uneven access to higher education are all the negative off-shoots of divided education system in the country. Exacerbating gender gap, coupled with increasing marginalization of youth is also one of the consequences of polarized system of education. However, there are some areas where the system has proved itself as source of leveller. There are multiple causes of segmented education system of Pakistan, such as

presence of conservatism in madrassah's education system, absence of uniform education setup across the country, existence of outdated courses, and unskilled teachers and so on. Some concrete measures can address the issues of apartheid education system. Effective implementation of single national curriculum, along with increasing investment in education is essential to guarantee equal level of education across the state. Similarly, teaching of updated courses and recruitment of skilled teachers are equally important in this context. The apartheid education system of Pakistan perpetuates socio-economic and political inequalities. Thus, transforming the existing education system into a greater leveller would require across-the-board measures.