

Essay

Higher Education in Pakistan: Ills and Remedies

Ills:

(Last Point)

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, the per day payment of visiting faculty in FAST University is Rs. 1400 and in Islamic University it is Rs. 900. To add to their misery, their payments are often delayed. In this era of high inflation, it is hard, or one can say, humanly impossible to make both ends meet with these resources.

If you undermine the youth's ability and exploit them like this, they will naturally lack zest and ~~their~~ sincerity towards their job. The situation is as worse as it can get. The plight does not end here. There is no initiative as "Teacher Training Programme" on any level. The training workshops in the courses of M.Ed and B.Ed are nothing more than a superficial fulfillment of formal requirements. The undergraduate courses like Micro Teaching and ELT (English Language Teaching) lack practical approach resulting in an unbroken chain of teacher-centered class room environments. Moreover, universities are short of staff. Generally the universities lack the work force in administration and clerical offices of departmental and university level. Co-curricular and recreational activities in the institutes like, musical concerts, cultural day, student societies, competitions,

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sportsweek, convocation e.t.c. are to be managed by the teaching faculty and predominantly the visiting faculty. In addition to that when it comes to taking classes and marking exams, the permanent faculty especially in the governmental universities show irresponsible attitude. Only the visiting faculty is bound to be regular and meet the deadlines. In most of the universities, teachers themselves invigilate in exams. Since the salaries are so meager, mid level workers often leave for better opportunities. This disturbs the smooth working of the university and negatively affects its efficiency.