

Higher education in Pakistan: ills and remedies.

Outline:

1. Introduction:

Pakistan's higher education system, plagued by outdated curricula, poor infrastructure, underqualified faculty and political interference. It hampers national development. Targeted reforms like curriculum updates, faculty training and increased funding are vital to making higher education a catalyst for growth and innovation.

2. Higher education system of Pakistan.

3. GPs of higher education in Pakistan.

3.1 Outdated curricula

The curriculum hasn't been updated to meet modern requirements.

3.2 Lack of research output

Pakistan produces only 0.1% of the world's research papers. (WB).

3.3

Poor digital resources
Only 30% of universities have
up-to-date digital libraries and
IT infrastructures, rest of 70% have
no facilities.

3.4

Lack of funding
Publics universities receives less
than 1% of GDP as a budget,
compared to the 4% target set
by UNESCO.

3.5

Teachers shortages
Pakistan needs an additional
38,000 university teachers to
meet global standards (HEC).

3.6

Low PhD faculty ratio
Less than 20% of faculty
members hold a PhD degree.

3.7

Lack of scholarships
Only 2% of students receive
financial aid.

4. Deterimental effects of ills:

4.1

Declining global competitiveness.

Pakistan ranks poorly on global education indices (113th in the Global Competitiveness Report, 2022)

4.2 Low graduation employability
Unemployment rate among graduates is rising, leading to brain drain or unemployment.

4.3 Stunted economic growth.
Without skilled graduates, industries face a talent deficit, slowing down innovation and economic development.

5. Remedies for the higher education system.

5.1 Industry-aligned curricula.
Finland's education reform aligns vocational training with industry.

5.2 Establishing specialized research centers
Develop centers of excellence in higher-tech areas (e.g. South Korea's KAIST)

5.3

Public-private partnership
collaborative funding for campus
infrastructure, similar to India's
partnership model.

5.4

Increasing government funding
increase spending to 4% of GDP,
similar to Malaysia's model.

5.5

Digital transformation
Integrate e-learning platforms and
online libraries.

5.6

Corporate funding
create university-industry partnerships
for research funding (similar
to Germany's model).

5.7

Merit-based leadership

ensure Vice-Chancellors and
deans are selected based on
merit, like the UK model.

6. Conclusion

Education is the most powerful
weapon which you can use
to change the world.

- Nelson Mandela

Nelson Mandela, highlight the transformative power of learning. In Pakistan, higher education holds the key to unlocking socio-economic progress and innovation. However, the current system is burdened by numerous challenges, including outdated curricula, lack of research output, poor digital resources and lack of funding. ~~not also~~ In Pakistan higher education system also ~~disturb~~ facing hurdles due to teacher shortages, low PhD faculty ratio and lack of scholarships. These systematic issues not only hinder the quality of education but also limit the nation's potential for growth and development. Due to these hurdles global competitiveness declined ^{and} unemployment ratios become high. Addressing these ills is essential to ensure higher education plays its pivotal role in shaping Pakistan's future. These remedies include, aligned the curriculum with industry demands, establishing specialized centers, and ^{and} ~~entencing~~ public-private

partnership. It also include, increasing governmental funding, transforming e-learning boosting corporate funding and enhancing merit-based leadership. These reforms play a vital role to making higher education a catalyst for growth and innovation.

Higher education in Pakistan is in a state of crisis, plagued by outdated curricula, insufficient infrastructure and underqualified faculty. These issues have led to poor research output, low employability of graduates, and a widening gap between academic training and industry needs. With limited public funding and political interference further hampering progress, the system struggles to meet international standards. To transform higher education into a driver of national growth, urgent reforms are needed, including curriculum modernization, increase investment, faculty development and stronger industry-academic partnership. Without these changes

Pakistan's potential for socio-economic advancement will remain stifled.

Pakistan's higher education system is facing many ills that hinder the way of Pakistan's progress and development.

In these ills, outdated curriculum is the main ill in Pakistan's higher education system. The present curriculum is outdated that has not meet the requirement of modern world. World is evolving everyday. New innovation and discoveries are happening that are important to learn for today's student, But unfortunately Pakistan's higher education curriculum is old. Due to this outdated curriculum Pakistani students do not compete with global requirements that is the main ill of Pakistan's higher education system.

Moreover in Pakistan's higher

education system has lack of research ~~production~~ output. In public and private universities research laboratories are not fully equipped that not meet the demands of the student's research. Therefore students are failing to produce research papers. According to World Bank report, 2022 only 0.1% of Pakistan produces 0.1% of the World's research papers. This ill of higher education shows the poor condition of students and research laboratories of Pakistan's education institutes.

Similarly, in Pakistan's higher education have very less amount of digital laboratories. Modern world is evolving around the technologies but Pakistan has not enough digital laboratories that meet the need of present era. For instance only 30% of universities have up-to-date digital libraries and IT infrastructure. Its mean rest of 70 percent of the

universities haven't these facilities
-that is the ill of
Pakistan's higher education and
the hurdle in the
way of progress.

Moreover, Pakistani universities for
Pakistan education budget is very
low as compared to other
department and also as compared
to other countries. Pakistani
government gives very less
amount to ~~gov~~ universities that
is not sufficient with respect
to the expenses. For instance
public universities receives less
than 1 percent of GDP as
a budget. As UNESCO
set target by 4% of GDP.
According to UNESCO target
-this amount is very
less. It is the ill of the
higher education that decline
the progress of education
system.

Similarly, in Pakistani universities
have not enough faculty

poor teaching as compared to student strength. When less faculty teaches high strength of student than the quality of education became low and it is also the ill of the higher education. According to Higher Education Commission reports Pakistan needs as additional 38,000 universities teachers to meet global standards. Low faculty in universities shows the ill of higher education.

Moreover, in universities the number of PhD holder teachers is very less. Mostly master degrees holders teach the student. This low number also effect the higher education system. According to the report in Pakistani universities only 30 percent of the teachers are PhD degree holders and rest of 70 percent are under post graduate. This low number indicate that high qualified staff is very

low that is main ill of the higher education system.

These ills create detrimental effect on the overall progress of Pakistan.

Due to these ills, students abilities are not good as the global standards. Therefore global competitiveness decline every years. Pakistan's ranks in global competitiveness is low that shows the poor abilities of higher education system. According to the Global Competitiveness Report, 2022, Pakistan ranks poorly on global education indices 113th in the global competitiveness. This low rank indicate the illness of higher education system and hindered the progress of the Pakistan.

Moreover these ills also cause unemployment among the graduates. Pakistani graduates have highest GPA but their

Technical skills are very limited that cause the hurdle in employment seeking phase. Second Pakistan has no flourish industries and technological department, due to these reasons the brain drain occurred. These circumstances also show the bad condition of higher education.

Similarly, there are several issues that hinder the economic growth of Pakistan. Pakistan has a very large number of graduates but all are not fully skilled, so industries face a talent deficit, that creates the slowing down of innovation and economic development. In Pakistani universities, practical study is not good. Students are in a cramming system that leads to produce unskilled graduates which are the hurdle of economic growth of Pakistan.

To address these issues, it is very necessary to

adopt some remedies for the bright future of higher education of Pakistan.

In these remedies, it is necessary to align the higher education's curriculum with according to industries demands. It is the need of the era to add some subjects which ~~are~~ help the production of skilled full graduates.

Other countries ~~have~~ ~~are~~ some reforms that are aligned with industries. For instance, Finland's education reform aligns vocational training with industries.

Pakistan should adopt these types of reforms in curriculum. These help in making higher education system more strengthen, and also improve the progress of Pakistan.

Moreover, government should take step to establishing specialized research center.

These centers help the students to learn innovative material and equipped with skills. These skills help the students in professional life, get job easily. For instance, South Korea develop centers of excellence in higher-tech areas like KAIST. Pakistan should also establish these types of centers which help the students in every field of life.

Moreover, enhancing the public-private partnership for higher education system. Public-private partnership help to divide the higher education's burden into two institute. Through this system infrastructure can be better. Because private institute give funding to public institutes. And public institutes flourish rapidly. For instance, India partnership model work on this principle. Higher education system should take step on this

partnership, which helps in strengthening the pillars of higher education system.

Similarly, government took step to increase the budget of education, according to the needs of the institute. Many of the countries have high education budget as compared to the Pakistan. United Nation also set target for education budget. According to UN 4% of the GDP is set for education sector. Malaysia's ~~current~~ model of education also set on this criteria. Pakistan should learn from other countries and increase the funding for higher education for the bright future of Pakistan.

Moreover, higher education transform the rote education to digital learning. Because world revolve round the technology so digital

Learning according to the present modern time is important. Government should take step to establishing e-learning platforms and online libraries. These steps help the students for achieving better education and also help to progress the Pakistan.

In a nutshell, the higher education system in Pakistan faces a multitude of challenges, from outdated curricula and inadequate infrastructure to underqualified faculty and political interference. These ills not only limit the system's effectiveness but also hinder the nation's potential for socio-economic development. However, with targeted reforms such as curriculum updates, increased funding, faculty development and stronger industry-academic linkages, Pakistan can transform its

Higher education into a
dynamic force for growth
(and innovation. The future
of the nation depends on
the urgent and comprehensive
revitalization of its higher
education sector.