

# Higher Education In Pakistan: Ills and Remedies

## Outline

### 1. Introduction:

- (i) Hook statement
- (ii) General statement
- (iii) Thesis Statement

### 2. Main Body:

- (i) All the ills of Higher Education

#### (A) Outdated curriculum:

- (a) old syllabus
- (b) Teacher centered not student centered.
- (c) Lacking Analytical skills.
- (d) unsuitable for Practical Purpose.

#### (B) Poor Infrastructure:

- (a) <sup>lacking</sup> Purpose built campuses
- (b) Lacking modern laboratories and research facilities and libraries.
- (c) Hygiene Issues.

#### (C) Expensive Education:

- (a) High fees

- (b) Expensive transport
- (c) Limited scholarships
- (d) No Student loans

#### (D) Lack of Efficient Human Resources:

- (a) Appointment of visiting faculty.
- (b) Absence of teacher training programmes.
- (c) Overburdened Faculty.
- (d) Irresponsible attitude of Permanent faculty.
- (e) Labour exploitation.

#### (ii) Remedies for the ills in Higher Education:

##### (A) Introducing modern curriculum.

- (a) Revising syllabus every year
- (b) Engage subject expert.
- (c) Promote life skills based Education.
- (d) Establishing industry-academia link.

##### (B) Allocating Budget to improve Infrastructure:

- (a) Building Purpose Built campuses.
- (b) Providing modern laboratories and Research facilities
- (c) Providing modern Libraries
- (d) Improving Hygiene issues.

##### (C) Providing affordable Education:

- (a) Student Support Programs
- (b) Announcing more scholarships for students



- (c) Providing discount travel cards.
- (d) Promoting online education.
- (D) Hiring efficient Human Resource.
  - (a) Appointment of Permanent Faculty instead of visiting faculty.
  - (b) Promotion of Teachers training Programs.
  - (c) No labour exploitation or multitasking of faculty.
  - (d) Checks on the Performance of the Permanent Faculty.

### 3- Conclusion:

All the ills in higher education will be discussed along with the effective remedies to treat all the ills and ways forward of better Higher Education will also be highlighted in the end.

## The Essay

"During the second world war, Churchill received a message from Hitler. Hitler made him an offer if Churchill did not bomb German universities, he would also not destroy his ones. Churchill immediately accepted his offer and said if England was destroyed and Cambridge and Oxford universities were spared then English culture would also survive". This is the importance of higher education. Even after defeat, Germany restored its position on the victory stand only because of her universities.

Higher education plays a crucial role in fostering intellectual growth, critical thinking and life long learning skills. Unfortunately, Pakistan is facing problems in higher education due to outdated curriculum, poor infrastructure, expensive education and lack of checks on educational institutes and lack of human resources. These ills have drastic



impacts. Immediate remedies such as introducing modern curriculum, allocating Budget to improve infrastructure, Providing affordable education and hiring efficient human resources. Unless the issues of higher education are addressed properly, Pakistan can become neither prosperous nor respectable.

Higher education is confronting challenges, like the economy is, about the need for a higher number of more adequately trained, more highly educated citizenry.

-Margaret Spellings-

outdated curriculum is one of the main problems of higher education of Pakistan. The Pakistan Education Statistics 2022 report highlighted that a significant number of universities in Pakistan have not updated their Programs to meet



international standards and industry needs. In universities the aged old syllabus is repeatedly crammed by the students. The syllabus is teacher centered and not students centered. In universities the main focus of the teachers is to cover the syllabus either by making providing students with short notes such as slides.

Due to this kind of attitude of teachers, students also run for short cuts. Teachers do not teach them in depth learning skills so students mainly focus on cramming. In universities practical work is not appreciated because of course, lack of appropriate environment and working stations for it.

The outdated curriculum does not prepare students for the challenges of the 21st century. Teachers are not adequately trained to teach modern subjects and often



rely on outdated teaching methods. This results in a lack of critical thinking and problem solving skills among students. The outdated syllabus is unsuitable for practical purpose due to which students suffer after graduation when they go in the market for the jobs that ultimately leads to unemployment.

• Poor infrastructure is another ill of higher education system of Pakistan. Numerous higher education institutions suffer <sup>from</sup> poor infrastructure such as lack of basic facilities, including poor classrooms, laboratories, libraries. The lack of these fundamentals amenities poses challenges for students in achieving their goals. Moreover, hygiene issues are not addressed in both private and public universities. The poor sanitation and placements of water cooler near bathrooms

ultimately results in social class gap that also affects the economy of the country.



are the major concerns to work on. Because Poor hygiene leads to serious health issues. Such drinking contaminated or dirty water leads to various diseases such as hepatitis, cholera and typhoid. So <sup>good</sup> hygiene must be ensured in every institute.

**UNICEF** believes in providing students with a healthy learning environment. Proper **WASH** facilities should be provided to the students in **HEIs**.

The exorbitant cost of education is identified as a contributing factor to the limited enrollment in institutions of higher education.

The expensive costs associated with education in Pakistan render it beyond the financial means of a majority of households, particularly those residing in rural areas. (Khawaja Zafar & Faiz, 2022).

The prevalence of high tuition fees obstructs the students especially



from rural region to get enrolled in universities. Moreover cost of transportation is also not affordable for a lot of students. Due to the construction of universities in far-fetched areas students have to pay huge amount on transport facilities. And because of lack of resources students cannot get the higher education.

A significant ill of higher education is the lack of scholarships and funding particularly in public universities. Consequently, students from disadvantage background and limited resources face difficulties in obtaining higher education.

The unavailability of loans for students is one of the major obstacles that hampers students from lower middle class background to get higher education. This ultimately results in social class gap that also affects the economy of the country.



. Lack of Human resources is another contributing factor in poor higher education of Pakistan. In Pakistan there is a trend of appointing visiting faculties on low salaries. Students after graduation haul for employment but they are not given employment on permanent basis. They are hired for a shorter period of time. That is also a major factor in ruining the high education system in Pakistan.

. There are no special teacher-training programs in Pakistan. Because of this, issues of harassment and non-serious attitudes of teachers emerge in institutes.

O'Neill (1986) explained training as a person's systematic development of the information, attitudes and skills required for him to be able to perform adequately in a job or assignment whose specification can be



relatively well defined in advance and which demands a fairly standardized output from whoever attempts it.

In Pakistan there is a trend of overburden and labour exploitation ~~whether~~ ~~it's~~ in every institutes. In universities teachers have to do a lot of tasks along with providing education. Due to the lack of appropriate or adequate faculty members institutes demand unpaid labour from teachers such as arranging seminars, conducting interviews or even doing management jobs.

- Irresponsible attitude of permanent faculty is another factor that compels us to ponder over the need of teacher training programs.

As the old faculty thinks there is no check and balance on them so they ~~to~~ indulge in corruption such as doing things according to their desires and pressurizing the visiting or junior faculty.

However, in order to make Pakistan prosper and respectable we should work on higher education systems which is only possible by providing remedies of ills of higher education system. So below are a few remedies that are essential in order to make our <sup>higher</sup> education system better.

- Introducing modern curriculum is the need of the hour for Pakistan. In 21st century modern curriculum is necessary to meet the challenges in every aspects of life. We need to update our syllabus according to the modern age. If we want to prove ourselves in the field of medical, IT, engineering or any other updated syllabus is the basic need.

A lack of insight into upskilling requirements and processes makes it difficult for higher education institutes to prepare students for the 21st-century job market.



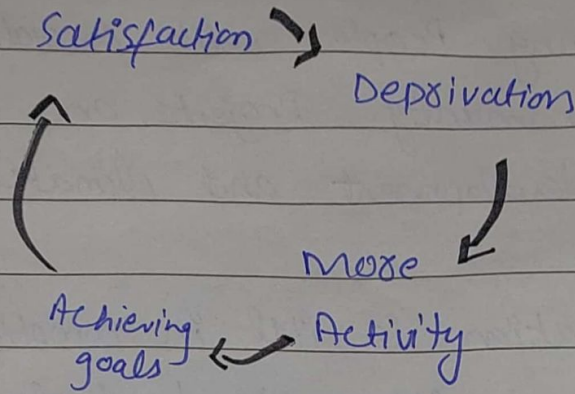
Public and Private sectors should develop programmes to support and empower Young People with innovative ideas and community projects on sustainable development and climate change.

Higher education is vital in promoting democracy and citizenship by developing critical citizenship skills, active democratic participation and pursuing social and human rights through research, community engagement and service-learning.

There is a need to develop strong industry-academia link to make more jobs opportunities for the students and to excel in their field of interests.

- The higher education faculty should have expertise and good command on the relevant subjects. This is how teachers will guide students towards self-directed learning and intellectual development. Teachers should motivate student for learning because motivating the learner is prime

responsibility.



- Allocating Budget to improve infrastructure is one of the key solutions of problems in Higher Education system of Pakistan. The <sup>Punjab</sup> Government had allocated only **Rs 5.235 bn** to the universities on a recurring budget during **FY 2023-24**. Dr Munir urged the chief minister to allocate the required funds to meet the recurring expenditures of the universities for their smooth operations. He has also cited Sindh government's example which has increased the budget for the province's universities by **Rs 10 bn** urging Punjab Government to increase Budget to safeguard



the future of thousands of students.

• Government also provides funds to the universities to build modern laboratories and Research faculties. Modern Libraries should be installed in every institute in order to broaden the horizon of students thinking ability and intellect.

Proper sanitation system should be implanted in the universities such as clean washroom and availability of clean waters to combat the spread of viral and bacterial diseases that can hamper the students capacities by affecting their health.

- Providing Affordable education is one of the important solution of higher education skills. Universities should provide more scholarship programmes especially for the individuals who come from poor or lower middle class background.



The Labour Force Survey for 2020-21 reported that 37% of our youth aged 15-29 are neither in education or training, nor in employment. Sadly, that is 21.8m Young People who can be productively engaged in both in work and education.

• In order to deal with the transport issue students should be provided with discount travel cards.

As the Punjab Government induces as a special 50% off card on transportation for people with disabilities. Similar discount cards should be given to the students as well.

• In order to deal with the higher expenses of education and transportation online education should be promoted. This will not only help the students but also helps the lower middle class employees to spend less on transport. But for this stable-



internet connections should be provided even in far-fetched areas like FATA, Baluchistan etc.

- Improvement of human resources by hiring permanent faculty instead of visiting faculty will help to deal with the issue of lack of efficient human resources.
- Promoting teacher training programmes will be beneficial in the following ways.

1. curriculum design and implementation
2. Instructional Strategies and Pedagogy
3. classroom management and organization
4. Assessment and evaluation methods
5. Technology integration
6. special education and inclusive practices.
7. cultural responsiveness and diversity awareness
8. Leadership and mentoring.

By investing in teacher training programmes educational institutes can empower teachers to provide



high quality education and make a positive impact on students' lives.

- Along with above mentioned remedies a proper check and balance system must be introduced in the institutes in order make permanent faculty to work effectively and stop them from doing evils that ultimately affect the institute as a whole.
- Faculty should be hired on permanent basis with handsome salary packages and there should be no labour exploitation. This will result in over all betterment of society as well.

By addressing all the evils mentioned in the thesis statement such as outdated system and old curriculum, Expensive education, Poor infrastructure, lack of loans for students etc we can provide effective remedies that are mention above in this essay.



if all the remedies are practiced and followed properly Pakistan's higher education system can progress in every field of life. Working on Pakistan Higher education system will make our country respectable and prosper. Higher education is essential for the future of any country. As Michelle Lujan Coxisham rightly said.

Higher education is  
a cornerstone of our  
State's future.

We can make our state a  
prosper and respectable State  
by improving our <sup>higher</sup> education  
system.

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