

Higher Education in Pakistan: Ills and Remedies

Outline:

I- Introduction

II- Types of Education

A- Formal Education

B- Informal Education

C- Technical Education

III- Current scenario of Education in Pakistan

A- Literacy rate (62.8%)

B- Budget and Expenditure (1.5% of GDP)

C- Number of universities and allocation of funds for higher education

D- Ranking of Pakistan in global index

IV- Ills of Educational System in Pakistan:

A. Infrastructural ill:

i) Insufficient number of institutes.

ii) Lack of proper infrastructure within the institutes.

iii) Presence of 'Ghost School'

iv) Case in point: Rural areas

B- Teaching Methodology ill:

i) Old-worn out methods of teaching.

ii) Lack of proper teacher training programs

iii) Deficiency of quality teachers.

iv) Meagre amount of enthusiasm and zest in teachers

v) Not focus on character building of students.

C- Curriculum Related ills:

- i) Presence of out-dated curriculum.
- ii) No further addition of new and novel inventions
- iii) No correction of erroneous and faulty materials.
- iv) Unequal curricula all over the country.

D- Examination related ills:

- i) Students often do more memorization and cramming.
- ii) Simple, repeated and theoretical questions are asked in exams.
- iii) No critical thinking and logical based questions are asked in exams.

E- Technological related ills:

- i) Insufficient technological advancements.
- ii) Lack of technological equipments and machinery.
- iii) Insufficiency of technologically skilled teachers.

F- Social Constrational ills:

- i) Poverty poses a significant obstruction in the way of education (40% people of Pakistan live below the poverty line : World Bank 2023)

ii) Inflation (26% as of Economic Survey of Pakistan 2023-2024)

iii) Gender discrimination (Literacy rate of male is 73.4% and that of female is 51.9% Economic Survey of Pakistan 2023-2024)

iv- Economic and Finance related ills:

i) minimum budget is spending on education (1.5% of GDP : Economic Survey of Pakistan)

ii) High number of drop-out children (almost 26.2 million)

v- Factors that play role in flawed educational system:

A- Poverty

B- Gender discrimination.

C- Inflation

D- Lack of knowledge.

E- minute and insufficient budget.

F- Low salaries of teachers.

vi- Impact of flawed educational system:

A- Increase in the rate of Unemployment

B- concentration of market with unskilled persons.

C- Brain drains.

D- Increase in the rate of crimes.

VII- Recommendations for the betterment and advancement of flawed Educational System:

- A. Densifying of sharply planned policies.
- B. Not only devise but also implement that result orientated policies.
- C. Allocation of extra- and- special funds.
- D. Introduction of technically skilled abilities into the educational institution.
- E. Implementation of Single National Curriculum (SNC) all over the country.
- F. Focus on practical education rather than that of theoretical education.
- G. Upgradation of curricula annually to make the students up-to-date.
- H. Conversion of gender disparity into gender equality.
- I- Adoption of Finland educational model.

VIII- Conclusion.

Education is the process of acquiring knowledge, skills, values, belief and systematic information that occurs through teachings, training or self-research and this education is usually taught in formal institutes (school, colleges or universities) or in informal institutes and in technical institutes. In Pakistan, higher education is flawed due to many ills such as infrastructure related ills, ills in the methodology of teaching, syllabus and curriculum related ills, flawed examination systems, insufficient and improper technological equipments and technological skilled persons, societal limitations, economic and financial issues. Some important and crucial factors that play role in decreasing the standard of educational level such as poverty, gender disparity, price hikes, illiteracy, low budgetary allocation and low salaries of teachers. This flawed educational system has severe impacts on the progress and development of Pakistan, such as surging the rate of unemployment, saturation of non-professional persons within the market, migration of people from their own country and escalation of crime rates. To control this surging situation

Some recommendations are suggested which are devising of strategic plan and implementation of result orientated policies, allocation of special funds, introduction of technical advancement within the institutes, implementation of single Nation curriculum all over the Pakistan, more focus on practical education than that of theoretical education, regularly upgradation of curricula and elimination of gender disparity.

Education is of mainly three types. One is formal education - that is taught within a specific boundary and within the limits of time and schedule, the fixed syllabus must be end. After this, a proper examination session is held for checking of mental ability of a child, if he/she passes that exams, he/she will be promoted to next class otherwise he/she should remain in that class until the exams are passed by him/her.

2nd type of education is informal education. This education is not constrain within the limit of wall means that there is no specific place for acquiring this informal education and also there requires no proper uniform and time schedule and

also there is no examination system. This education can be acquired by learning basic skills.

3rd type of education is technical education. As the name indicated, in technical education, some kind of techniques, skills are given to students to make them able to self-dependent. Many vocational training institutes are established to train the youth and make them skillful. So, here ~~we~~^{it} can be inferred that:

The purpose of education is to replace an empty mind with an open one.

(Malcomes Farbes)

Nowadays, the standard of education in Pakistan is downgraded as it is confirmed by some facts and figures. According to Economic Survey of Pakistan 2023-24, literacy rate is 62.8%, of which male are 73.4% and females are 51.9% while the Budget allocated for the Educational reforms is only 1.5% of total GDP. There are total 263 universities of which 154 are public and 109 are private. The funds allocated for the

universities are Rs. 69.7 bn. The percentage of Ph.D faculty member is 36%. According to Dawn, Pakistan's ranking in educational attainment dimension was 138 in 2023. The literacy rate of country was 137th and the enrollment rate in secondary education was 132nd and that of tertiary education was 104th. Pakistan ranked 2nd in terms of drop-out and out-of-school children with 26.2 million children out of school.

Pakistan's educational system is downgraded due to some important issues and risks such as infrastructure-related issues. First thing to be noticed is that there is a limited number of institutes for higher education. There are total 263 universities in Pakistan of which 154 are public while remaining 109 are private. The other crucial factor is that in these limited number of universities, there is no complete infrastructure is present. In some universities, the basic needs are not even fulfilled then how can these universities work well? The other institutional infrastructural flaw is the presence of 'ghost schools' whose presence can not be seen physically but in case of funds allocation

These institutes are present just on pages. The main basic example is that there is hardly one or two universities are established in the rural areas all over the country.

The second important ill that causes flaws in the educational system is the ill practice of teaching. The teaching methodologies are old, worn-out and classical that are now out-dated. There is no proper teaching training program that, in actual, lowers the zest, zeal and confidence level of teachers leading to the flawed educational system. Furthermore, there is a severe deficiency of qualified and skilled teachers that really have ability to educate the students. The teachers are losing their courage and confidence in teaching children that makes the laziness within the students and finally resulted in flawed educational system. Nowadays, the teachers focus only on ending up the syllabus, it is none of their business that the morale of student is touching the lowest peak.

Another important and crucial issue is that the curricula of the books is out-dated while science is developing day by day and

There is a sequence of researches that has been done by the scientist since the evolution of life. But the curricula is ^{neither} not changed, nor updated. If there is present some erroneous and faulty material, there is also no trial of correcting that mistake. Further, the unequal curricula is taught all over the country mean that each province has its own books and curricula. This situation exacerbates the flawed educational system in Pakistan.

The other important and crucial ill that severely harms the educational status of Pakistan is the corrupted examination system. Students just have to learn the topic by cramming and rote memorizing without understanding the basic theme and concept of that specific point. When the exams are taken, simple, repeated and theoretical questions are asked. No matter where the whole world is moved on to the new experiments. The teachers do not bother themselves as well as students to question some critical point that has to be thought before solving. So, the unlogical and theoretical way of examining is common that is contributing in flawed educational system.

The another case of flawed educational system is the ill of technological advancement. Pakistan is a developing country, so there is a much desire of such an development but neither there are proper technological equipments nor the technological trained persons. This deficiency affects a lot.

"Education is a passport for future, for tomorrow only belongs to the people who prepares for it today"

Malcolm X

Another ill of flawed educational system is the societal and cultural limitations. First of all, poverty poses a significant trash back to the educational system. According to World Bank 2023 report: 40% people of Pakistan live below the poverty line. Those people who cannot fulfil their basic need how can they manage the burden of education. Inflation and price hike is also another contributing factor in the flawed educational system as everything even stationary, books, uniforms, fees of children get increased to two-three fold.

According to Economic Survey of Pakistan

2023-2024, inflation rises to 26%. Biased discrimination of genders also considered an ill of educational system. This educational disparity among youth can be estimated with help of figure given by Economic Survey of Pakistan which is described as the male literacy rate over the Pakistan is 73.4% while female literacy rate over Pakistan is 51.9%. This discrimination mainly leads to gender inequality within the society.

The last but not the least is the economic and finance related ill that cause severe damage to the educational system. Economic Survey of Pakistan 2023-24 depicts the allocation of budget for education that is only 1.5% of total GDP. This minimal amount of budget is too meagre to fulfil the basic needs of students.

According to International Crisis Report: Pakistan is one of the 12 countries who spend less than 2% of GDP on education.

According to Economic Survey Report, Pakistan is allocated the funds of only Rs. 62.7 bn for higher education.

Pakistan ranked 2nd all over the world in drop-out children. There are too many families that cannot afford the expenditure of schools. A report was published a few months ago that almost 26.2 million children are out of school. This is such a large amount matters a lot.

Some important factors play a significant role in causing the educational system 'flawed'. Such as poverty plays a significant role. As almost 40% of people are living below the poverty line then it is really difficult for them to educate their children.

Gender discrimination is another cause of flawed educational system. Some illiterate and uneducated people focus only on their baby boys but they ignored their baby girls. They give all the facilities and luxuries to their male children. Similarly, they focus on the education of male child rather than of female. The figure of 73.4% male literacy rate compared to 51.9% female literacy rate depicts the situation more clearly.

Price hike and inflation also contributed in

The flawed educational system. Nowadays, the price of everything is touching the highest peak. The figure of 26% inflation is enough to understand the whole critical situation. The people who already lie below the poverty line, how can they manage to live under such inflation rate. The uniforms, stationary and books are now unaffordable for a poor people.

Insufficient knowledge and illiteracy cause the severeness of situation. The people who are uneducated, are still unknown of the importance of education. They do not know that how the world is progressing with the help of education.

"Are those who know equal to those who do not know? Only they will remember [who are] people of understanding"
(Surah: Az-Zumar : 09)

International Crisis Report shows that Pakistan is spending less than 2% of its total GDP which is very minute amount. This must be increased atleast upto 5%. Such meagre amount also caused ills in educational system.

Last but not least factor that contributes the ills of flawed educational system is the low income of teachers. When the income is low, the teacher will not take keen interest in educating the students so in return the educational system is flopped. A good step is taken by the government is that it fixed minimum income of 37000/- per month.

This flawed educational system has severe impacts over the Pakistan. First and foremost issue that this flopped educational system caused is the increase in the rate of unemployment. A recent report published in which clearly written that youth unemployment rate is increased to 10%.

This high value of unemployment within the country caused many disorders within the society such as increase in crime rates, and other illegal activities.

Another impact of flawed educational system is the concentration and saturation of market with unskilled and unprofessional persons. When there is no research, no technical advancement

Time up

at educational level then how the students be able to manage the industrial and revolutionary era.

Brain drains is the significant impact of flawed educational system as the people do not find any job opportunities within their own country so they fly over the other country to get better opportunities for employment.

The significant impact of flawed educational system is the increase of crime rate within the country. The educated but non-professional, and unskilled persons when go to market with their invaluable degree, they become rejected. So, to overcome their suppressed conditions, they start crime and do illegal activities to fulfil their basic needs and to enjoy the luxuries.

There are some important recommendations that are necessary to follow for the advancement and betterment of educational system. Such as devising of sharply planned policies that immediately acted upon the educational system and have very significant results. The other important thing is the not only devise

There must be an implementational procedure to make a paved way for policies. There should not such policies that cannot be implemented. So, ~~their~~ policy making is a strategic process that must be handled to the well-knowledge person that will devise result oriented policies.

The other step to diagnose the ills of the flawed educational system is the allocation of large amount of fund atleast upto 5% of the total GDP. This step will encourage the faculty members to teach with keen interest

There must be some technical trainings along with the academic session. There must be skilled educational programs alongwith the curricular studies. This training of technical programs is as necessary in future as the survival of life. In the upcoming future, there will be more demands of skilled, professional and trained labours and employees so to fulfil such requirement, government must introduce educational and vocational technical training centre to give students free of cost educational skills.

✓ An another important suggestion ^{that is} come forward is the implementation of Single National Curriculum (SNC) all over the country. There is present different curriculum and syllabus in 4 major provinces of Pakistan, not only in provinces but ~~only~~ ^{also} in different regions i.e. urban and rural regions there is separate curriculum that is being taught to the students. So, government should take initiative and eradicate the disparity of syllabus and it must implement the SNC all over the country.

Nowadays, there is a trend of more memorization and cramming the theoretical part of the book but this trend must be stopped. The world is moving towards advancements in every field by doing research and practical works so, this is the good time for Pakistan to grasp the opportunity by practically and experimentally performing the theoretical part of the education otherwise it always lag behind the world. So, government must take significant steps to take into account the situation.

Another important step that the government must take is that it must upgrade the curriculum of the books annually so that students get aware of any up-to-date event. This step will not only engage the students in performing new researches but also the students will be up-to-date and well-aware of all the new researches over the whole world. This step will help in maintaining the educational standard of Pakistan with all over the world.

The significant suggestion is that the government must eradicate the concept of gender discrimination rather it should promote the gender equality. As almost half of the population consists of female so, they must not be ignored. The government should take such steps that promote the education especially of girls, by giving scholarship to needy, hardworking and passionate students.

Finland educational system is considered as the world's first ranking educational index system. So, Pakistan should follow such a system and introduce into its educational

institutes. In Finland, the child does not go to school until the age of 7, after 7 years he goes to school and upto 13 years, he does not compel to take exams rather his teachers focus on his moral characters. Their income is minimum Rs 100000-. The educational expense of child is ^{bore} beared by the government of Finland. So, there is no burden of educational expenses onto the parents. So, Pakistan's government should also focus such educational initiative that will be more productive.

It is concluded that by adopting some recommendations and suggestions ~~the~~ ills of flawed educational system can be treated. The recommendations are the implementation of result orientated policies, allocation of extra financial budgets, introduction of technical abilities, implementation of SNC, special focus on practical education rather than that of theoretical education, upgradation of syllabus regularly after a certain time period, promotion of gender equality, adaptation of finland educational model. These suggestions are recommended by observing

The ills of flawed educations such as infra-structural ills, ills related to methodology of teaching, curriculum related issues, flopped educational examinational techniques, technology related ills, societal limitations and economical and financial issues. These issues are caused by some factors like poverty, illiteracy, inflation, gender discrimination, financial issues like insufficient budget and low income of teachers. results in increase the rate of unemployment, saturation of non-skilled persons, Brain drains, and increase in crime rates.