

Essay:-

Higher Education in Pakistan Ills and Remedies:-

Outlines.

1.- Introduction:-

There are several ill related to (outdated) curriculum, poor infrastructure, expensive education and lack of efficient human resource. - Immediate remedies are introducing modern curriculum, improving infrastructure offering affordable education, and hiring efficient human resource.

2.1. Outdated curriculum:-

2.1.1 Old syllabus

2.1.2 Teacher centered, not student oriented.

2.1.3 Lacking Analytical skills.

2.1.4 Unsuitable for practical purpose.

Industry academia link.

2.2. Poor Infrastructure:-

2.2.1 Lacking purpose Built campuses.

2.2.2 Lacking modern Laboratories & Research

Facilities

2.2.3 Hygiene Issues

2.2.4 Lacking Modern Learning Tools.

2.3 Expensive Education.

2.3.1 High fees

2.3.2 Expensive Transport / Conveyance issues.

2.3.3 Limited scholarship opportunities.

2.3.4 No student loans.

2.4. Lack of efficient Human Resource.

2.4.1. Appointment of Visiting faculty.

2.4.2 Absence of Teachers Training programme.

2.4.3 Overburdened faculty.

2.4.4 Irresponsible attitude of permanent faculty.

3. Remedies for the ills in Higher Education:-

3.1 Introducing Modern curriculum.

3.1.1 Revising syllabus Every year.

3.1.2 Engaging subject experts.

3.1.3 Promoting life skills based education.

3.1.4 Establishing Industry academia Link.

3.2. Budget Allocation to Improve Infrastructure.

3.2.1. Building purpose Built campuses

3.2.2 Providing Modern Laboratories &

~~3.2~~ Research facilities.

3.2.3 Solving Hygiene Issues

3.3 Providing Affordable Education.

3.3.1 Student support programs.

3.3.2 Announcing more Scholarships for Students.

3.3.3 Providing discount travel cards.

3.3.4 Promoting online Education.

3.4. Hiring efficient Human Resource.

3.4.1 Appointment of permanent faculty instead of visiting.

3.4.2 Promotion of Teachers Training programme

3.4.3 No multitasking for faculty.

3.4.4 Checks on the performance of permanent faculty.

Conclusion.

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.

In the early years, Pakistan was enjoying the same prestige due to her excellence in higher education. Bata Engineering Works Company (BEC) which was later nationalized and became part of Pakistan Machine Tool Factory (PMTF.) Reflected the country's drive for Technical Self-reliance. Similarly University of

the punjab, Established before partition and flourishing post-independence, continued to be a center of academic excellence in South Asia.

Unfortunately, Pakistan is facing problems in HE due to outdated curriculum.

poor infrastructure, expensive education and lack of efficient human resource.

These ills have drastic impacts immediate

remedies are introducing modern curriculum,

improving infrastructure, offering affordable education, and hiring efficient

human resource, Unless the issues of

higher education are addressed properly,

Pakistan can neither become prosperous nor respectable.

To begin with, first comes outdated

curriculum. The syllabus of most of the

Pakistani Universities is old. Old syllabus

is there in arts and social sciences.

Students study old texts of Shakespeare

and classical poets that have nothing to do with the modern world. In sociology, there are still old thoughts and ideas presented in the syllabus without touching the recent development in the field. Moreover, the course in most of the universities is teacher centered, not student centered. It is the same teacher who teaches, who sets the paper, and who marks it. There are no external examiners. There is seldom any open book exam. As a result, the student is on the mercy of the teacher. So he has to follow his directions by hook or by crook. Similarly, the curriculum lacks analytical skills. Theory without application exists. Even a master in English cannot speak, read or write properly. Whereas our counterparts, Indians are dominant in Middle East in education and services.

Finally, the education provided at the university is not suitable for industrial use. A person who earns his degree in Business Administration is unable to start his business properly since he seldom find a suitable placement. Even his head of department, in most of the cases, had never even started any business in his life. In the same way, a masters in Mass Communication is unable to find any placement in any suitable media house. Therefore, outdated curriculum has created a big hurdle in the effectiveness of higher education in Pakistan.

The second ill of higher education in Pakistan is poor infrastructure.

Most of the universities lack purpose built campuses. There is no facility for disabled students. They are no elevators

or ramps for such students in the universities. Fire exit, absence of fire alarms, extinguishers or emergency evacuation plans such as in CUST.

Similarly, there are limited labs and laboratories. There are more students to accommodate in limited space.

For instance, in medical schools one dead body is surrounded by few doctors to examine who came first.

Rest have to wait or adjust. So it

the case with engineering labs. There are few gadgets for scores of students.

Even the students of literature do not have the opportunity to borrow books from the library because there are only one or two copies available on the

same subject. In this way, the students who have no proper access to labs and

libraries cannot conduct research pro-

perly. Apart from purpose built cam-

pus and modern labs the universities

have mostly unhygienic environment. Their cafeterias and washrooms always create troubles for students. Hostel and mess rooms are overcrowded. Inadequate water supply and irregular electricity. Absence of first-aid rooms or clinics on campus. Therefore, lack of proper infrastructure create hurdle in the aims of higher education in Pakistan.

The third ill inflicting the higher education in Pakistan is the question of affordability. In past, universities were supported by the government. Any person from any class could go for any education on merits otherwise on self-finance. However, in the present times when the government is already under the burden of fiscal deficit, it is impossible for it to support the public colleges or universities. Resultantly, students have

to bear the burden of high fees.

University of Lahore (UOL) Undergraduate fees are 150,000 PKR - 250,000 per Semester and for graduate its 100,000 PKR - 200,000 per Semester. Unfortunately, unlike developed countries, Pakistani students have very limited access to student support programs. For example, HEC announces stipend for students pursuing higher education every year, but the available scholarships are just a fraction of the majority studying in universities. Nor the banks offer any students loans to the needy university need based scholarships. Moreover, there are almost no travel discounts for majority of the students.

Finally there is lack of human resource not only in higher educational institutes in Pakistan but also in HEC. On the other 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. This is the worst discrimination against the educated youth.

Conclusions:-

To conclude, the major ills of higher education are outdated curriculum, poor infrastructure, expensive education, and lack of human resources. In the presence of these issues, development in Pakistan seems a distant dream. Therefore, serious efforts must be taken to address these issues. Introducing modern curriculum, improved infrastructure, affordable education, and employing efficient human resource are the remedies available to counter the ills of higher education in Pakistan. Only those nations earn respect and

prosperity ~~which~~ who focus on their education. After world war II, Britain was deprived of all her colonies and source of raw material and revenues. She emerged as a respectable nation due to her excellence in higher education. Even today, most of the population aspires to get a British degree from Oxford or Cambridge. Even today, the British curriculum rules the lower education in the form of Cambridge O' and A' levels exams all over the world.