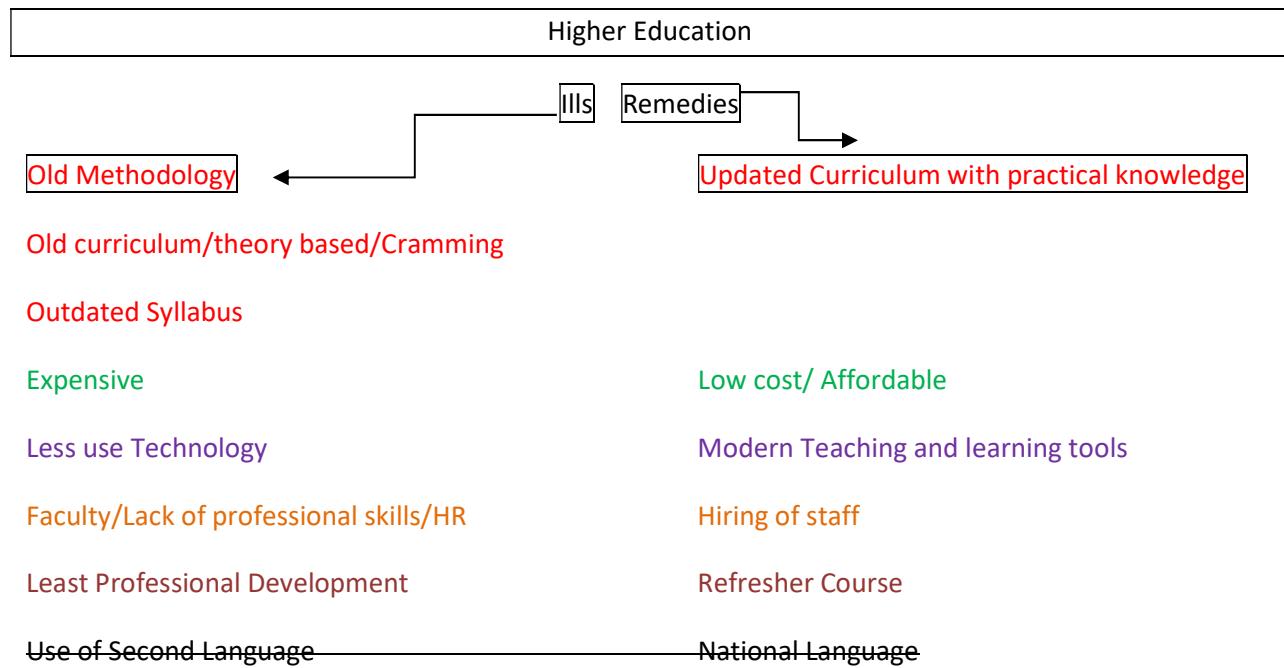


Higher Education in Pakistan: Ills and Remedies

Brainstorm



Outlines

1. Introduction:

- 1.1. Attention Grabber
- 1.2. Background Information
- 1.3. Thesis statement : There are several ills related to **outdated curriculum, poor infrastructure, expensive education , and lack of efficient human resource.** Immediate remedies are **introducing modern curriculum,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.Ills of Higher Education in Pakistan

2.1 Outdated Curriculum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

- 2.3.1. Appointment of visiting Faculty
- 2.3.2. Absence of Teachers Training Programme
- 2.3.3. Overburdened Faculty
- 2.3.4. Brain drain

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**

2.2 Budget Allocation to Improve Infrastructure

- 2.2.1 . Building Purpose Built Campuses**
- 2.2.2 . Providing Modern Laboratories & Research facilities**
- 2.2.3 . Solving Hygiene Issues**

2.3. Providing Affordable Education

- 2.3.1. Student support programs**
- 2.3.2. Announcing more scholarships for Students**
- 2.3.3. Providing discount travel cards**
- 2.3.4. Promoting Online Education**

2.4. Hiring efficient Human Resource

- 2.4.1. Appointment of permanent Faculty instead of visiting**
- 2.4.2. Promotion of Teachers Training Programme**
- 2.4.3. No multitasking for Faculty**
- 2.4.4. Checks on the performance of Permanent Faculty**

3. Conclusion:

- 3.1. Thesis restated, Summary of Ideas presented**
- 3.2. Concluding Thoughts / future action**

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. Batala Engineering works...add some more general statements) 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.

Transitions



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Look at the following items. Then check () the one that is easier to read and understand.

- Our landlord repainted our apartment. He replaced the dishwasher.
- Our landlord repainted our apartment. Also, he replaced the dishwasher.

You probably found the second item easier to understand. The word *also* makes it clear that the writer is adding a second way the landlord has been of help. *Transitions*, or *transition words*, are signal words that help readers follow the direction of the writer's thoughts. They show the relationship between ideas, connecting thoughts. They are "bridge" words, carrying the reader across from one idea to the next.



Two major types of transitions are of particular help when you write: words that show *addition* and words that show *time*.

Addition words signal added ideas. They help writers organize information and present it clearly to readers. Some common words that show addition are listed in the following box:

Addition Words

one	to begin with	in addition
first	another	next
first of all	second	last (of all)
for one thing	also	finally

Time words tell us *when* something happened in relation to when something else happened. They help writers organize and make clear the order of events, stages, and steps in a process. Below are some common words that show time.

Time Words

before	next	later
first	as	after
second	when	finally
third	while	then

Other Kinds of Transitions

59

In the following box are other common transitional words, grouped according to the kind of signal they give readers. In the paragraphs you write, you will most often use addition words (like *first*, *also*, *another*, and *finally*), but all of the following signals are helpful to know as well.

Other Common Transitional Words

Space signals: next to, across, on the opposite side, to the left, to the right, in front, in back, above, below, behind, nearby

Change-of-direction signals: but, however, yet, in contrast, otherwise, still, on the contrary, on the other hand

Illustration signals: for example, for instance, specifically, as an illustration, once, such as

Conclusion signals: therefore, consequently, thus, then, as a result, in summary, to conclude, last of all, finally

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

To begin with , first comes the 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 masters 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.

2.2 Poor Infrastructure

2.2.1 . Lacking Purpose Built Campuses

2.2.2 . Lacking Modern Laboratories & Research facilities

2.2.3 . Lacking Modern Learning tools

2.2.4 . Hygiene Issues

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. 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 come first. Rest have to wait or adjust. So is 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 properly. Apart from purpose built campuses and modern labs, the universities have mostly unhygienic environment. Their cafeterias and washrooms always create troubles for students. The management of drinking water facility is very substandard, mostly notable in the public universities. Open roof cafeterias are usually built near the departments with no proper sitting areas. Therefore, lack of proper infrastructure creates 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. For instance, the fee of DVM program on self-finance basis in 2020, costed around 88 thousands for the first semester and in last semester it was 1 lakh and 10 thousand.

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. Neither the banks offer any student loans to the needy nor the reputable organizations offer such loans to the needy ones in the Pakistan. The grant offers through the need based scholarship to the deserving nominees often constraints as compared to the whole expenditure. Moreover, there are almost no travel discounts for majority of the students. Except for few cities, students from rural areas have to bear the brunt of massive transportation costs. For example, the local bus fare costs around 1500 from Okara to Islamabad. Lastly, All these reasons make education expensive for the common residents of Pakistan.

Lack of Efficient Human Resource

2.3.1. Appointment of visiting Faculty

2.3.2. Absence of Teachers Training Programme

2.3.3. Overburdened Faculty

2.3.4. brain drain

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. Moreover, there is the absence of teacher training programme in the universities, which is a major downfall to regulate the courses efficiently. There is no action being taken on the advancement of digital feedback system which is enervating the overall growth of academia. In addition to this, universities are having overburdened faculty. Teachers are usually assigned to lead the extra-curricular activities along with their exhaustive class schedule. Mostly, teachers are busy in their research work and in worst case scenario Mphil students do take classes on their replacement. Lastly, there is no incentives or awards being given to the highly competent teachers on the basis of their performances and thats where the brain drain comes. Majority of the hardworking teachers are going to abroad in the dire need of handsome salary and other facilities. Thats why, lack of efficient human resources hinders the quality of higher education.

Unfortunately , Pakistan is facing problems in HE due to outdated curriculum, poor infrastructure, expensive education, and lack of human resource. These causes have drastic impacts. Immediate remedies are in the form of introducing modern curriculum, improved infrastructure, affordable education, and hiring efficient human resource.

The transitional paragraph is a type that you will have occasion to use, especially in long essays. It is generally short, often only one sentence. A writer uses a transitional paragraph to inform readers that one section of an essay is completed and another is about to begin. Such a paragraph may summarize what has been written:

2.1 Introducing Modern Curriculum

2.1.1 . Revising Syllabus Every year

2.1.2 .

~~2.1.3 . Promoting Life skills based education~~

~~2.1.4 . Establishing Industry academia link~~

First comes the remedy for outdated curriculum. **Modern and updated curriculum must be introduced in our higher education.** The syllabus must be / should be revised every year. The services of Subject experts around the world can be taken in this regard. A similar activity was performed at lower education in Punjab when the provincial government hired the services of the British Council in 2011 by Directorate of Staff Development (DSD). Master trainers trained the heads of the state schools and then the training further went to the levels of teachers. There were significant changes brought in the course book of schools. The standard of the content was made as per the international requirements. In this connection the government took the advice/ services of a renowned educationist Micheal Barber, former educational advisor of ex PM Tony Blair. Such Foreign collaboration to improve the syllabus can also be organized for higher education. **Similarly, life skills based education should be promoted instead of cramming based subjects.** Students must be taught problem solving skills. Critical thinking and analytical reasoning should be developed among the students of higher education. Their exams may include those questions that test these abilities. Such skills are tested in exams have been introduced in class 9 and 11 of Federal Board Pakistan. **Finally, there should be industry academia link.** This link is present in few universities of Pakistan such as LUMS and IBA where students in their last semester often get placements in industry. Such incentive must be provided to other degree programs so that the students can get first hand experience in job industry.

~~2.2 Budget Allocation to Improve Infrastructure~~

~~2.2.1 . Building Purpose Built Campuses~~

~~2.2.2 . Providing Modern Laboratories & Research facilities~~

~~2.2.3 . Solving Hygiene Issues~~

Second comes the remedy of poor infrastructure. **There is vital need of budget allocation to advance the infrastructure.** Universities should focus on the building of purpose built campuses. They need to be design in a way to ensure the proper arrangement of classes. Separate well-furnished buildings for each institute will compensate the crowdiness of students. Likewise, there is a huge gap in the functionality of modern laboratories and research facilities. Government should give proper heed to the education sector for the development of the campuses and labs to corroborate the rising youth. For example, in the FY25-26, education sector only holds the 0.2% of total budget and that is the drastic decline as compared to the 2015 budget. It must be at the utmost importance if Pakistan really wants to compete the developed countries. **Lastly, there is urgent need to solve the hygiene issues.** Students are even more exposed to the water-borne illnesses in the universities. Hygiene issues must be properly addressed by the universities

because health can not be compromised at any cost. WHO also provides the preventive measures to control the diseases linked to it such as cholera, hepatitis, and jaundice. Consequently, improvement in the infrastructure of universities are more demanding.

2.3. Providing Affordable Education

2.3.1. Student support programs

2.3.2. Announcing more scholarships for Students

2.3.3. Providing discount travel cards

2.3.4. Promoting Online Education

Thirdly, there is huge need of providing the affordable education so the student of rural areas can get benefit from it. Student support program should be launched. For example, if we talk about the university of agriculture Faisalabad, there is a startup of CLEP (child labor eradication program) which fulfil the expenses of education of the deserving students and they are performing very well in a comfortable environment with no burden of labor at a young age. In developed countries, many NGOs and foundations provide such programs to the students in order to ensure the growth. Universities must announce more stipends to combat the gap of limited nominees. Many hardworking students in the Pakistan are unable to pursue higher education because they can not bear the expenses of higher education. More scholarships will encourage such students which are vital for the growth of our country. Ongoing university students must have the facility of discount travel cards. Students from rural areas are usually burdenised due to the travel cost. Universities should take an action to announce discount travel cards so that it may not hinder their growth. In the era of technology, virtual courses are having the utmost importance. For example, Virtual University of Pakistan offers such facility to the students and they can easily learn by staying at home. Online education should be promoted in each area of the Pakistan to the youth because it will provide a mercurial wave of betterment. Thats why, affordable education is the key aspect to compete the emerging sectors.

2.4. Hiring efficient Human Resource

2.4.1. Appointment of permanent Faculty instead of visiting

2.4.2. Promotion of Teachers Training Programme

2.4.3. No multitasking for Faculty

2.4.4. Checks on the performance of Permanent Faculty

Lastly, there is requirement of hiring efficient human resources not only in the universities but also in the HEC. Universities should appoint the staff of permanent capable professors with a flexible schedule instead of the visiting faculty. Permanent staff at each department of universities is essential to carry out the courses assigned to them. Professors must hire with their respective domain to fulfil the demand of subject. In addition to this, teachers training program should be promoted. Most of the universities lack such system, therefore, this is also the major

drawback of higher education sector. Training programs are quite essential because it gives the idea to the teachers how to regulate the class and respective tasks and it must be aligned with the advancement in this sector. **Faculty should not be over-burdened with multi-tasking.** The responsibility to handle the extra-curricular activities, seminars, conferences should be given to separate specialized team in order to constraint the burden of the competent professors. In this way, everything can run smooth and efficiently. **Moreover, checks on the performance of permanent faculty is very crucial to the new height of development.** Digital feedback system in each university is not properly functioning as it need to be. The record and checklist of the lectures, assignments, quizzes, presentations, and research work must be mention with date and time in system because it will be very helpful to monitor the activity of permanent teachers.

To conclude, the major ills of higher education are outdated curriculum, poor infrastructure, expensive education, and lack of human resource. 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 higher 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**, the majority of 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. It is the education that gives prestige; it is the education that gives respect.