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Essay: Education: Key to Development

Outline

1- Introduction:

(a) Attention grabber

(b) Supporting sentences

(c) Thesis statement

2- Education as a catalyst for individual development

(a) Personal empowerment and awareness

- self confidence, self reliance

- critical thinking, problem solving

- Unesco report: One Additional year of schooling increase individual's potential by 9%.

(b) Improved income and employability

- Access to better jobs

- skill development

- World bank report: Literate

individuals are 50% more likely to be employed in formal sectors

(c) Character building and civic sense

- promotes ethical values and tolerance.
- reduces susceptibility to misinformation and radical ideologies.
- Example: illiteracy of parents is a major cause of crime in Pakistan (PJSR).

3-Economic development through education

- Education increases labor productivity
- Promotes technical and

(a) Human capital formation

- increases labor productivity
- Promotes technical and vocational skill development
- World Bank: rates of return on education globally

(b) Entrepreneurship and innovation

- Educated people are more likely to start business
- More skills to compete in dynamic markets
- Example: South Korea transformed from low-income to high income economy

1(c) Poverty Reduction

- Breaks the cycle of intergenerational poverty
- Reduces dependency on state welfare
- Unicef: each added year of schooling can reduce poverty by 9%.

4-Social development and Nation building:

(a) Reduction in crime and extremism

- Counteracts radicalization
- Promotes non violent conflict resolution
- Example: Madrassah-only education systems show higher exposure to extremism.

(b) Women empowerment:

- Educated women participate in labor force
- better health outcomes, empowered decision making
- McKinsey Global Institute: 28 trillion could be added to global GDP if women participates till 2025 (2023 report)

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5) Political development and democratic strengthening:

(a) Educated citizens and political participation

- informed voters make rational choices
- Great voter turnout
- World bank: High literacy countries have 20-40% higher voter turnout

(b) Accountability and Rule of law:

- Educated people demand transparency
- Democratic dialogue
- PILDAT report: 48% of young voters casted their votes ²⁰²⁴ - 11% increase from 2018

6- Way Forward:

(a) Increased investment in education

- High budget allocation
- Reducing corruption in education sector

(b) Curriculum reform and teacher training

- Updated curriculum
- Student oriented education

7- Conclusion

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." These words are of Nelson Mandela which highlights how education can transform the society. Education distinguishes the individual, nation, and a society by shaping its norms and values, and empowering them with knowledge, skills and awareness. It eventually leads to personal, social, political and economic progress. Without acquiring the education, a society remains primitive and uncultured. This leads to a major obstacle in the development of society. So, Education is a tool through which a society or nation, can achieve development in all aspects. This essay emphasizes how education acts as a catalyst for development at individual, social, economic, and political level.

Education is beneficial not only

acquiring knowledge but also for
fostering comprehensive individual
development. Following paragraphs explores
the dimensions of human development.

Firstly, education empowers a person
by boosting his/her self-confidence.
A person becomes self-reliant and try
to make his decisions on his own.

Education instills awareness in an
individuals, enabling him to think critically
and to make informed choices. He
can solve the problems relating to
him or his society because of the
treasure of education he has.

According to UNESCO, one additional
year of schooling increases the potential
of individual by 9%. This potential
later reflects in improved economic
prospects.

Secondly, Education helps individuals
in improving their economic conditions.

It also helps in getting employment at a good wage. Individuals having good education will have better skill set than those whose skills are not polished enough. Eventually, they will have more access to better jobs as they are more likely to stand out in competition. A World Bank's report shows that literate individuals are 50% more likely to be employed in formal sectors. As formal sectors offer high wages, they will end up improving their economic conditions.

Lastly, Education inculcates a sense of civic responsibility in individuals. It builds character of individuals in a society by promoting ethical values according to the culture. Education also promotes tolerance in society, by providing the concept of difference of opinion. Similarly, it also make make individuals well informed and

reduces susceptibility to misinformation.

Resultantly, the society is more likely to be tolerant instead of believing on radical ideologies. It will make society a place, where peace prevails.

According to PTSR, illiteracy of parents is a major cause of crime in Pakistan.

Education develops the societies at economic front also. Individuals with high and required education perform better roles within the society, making the society well developed in economic aspect.

First of all, education has been provided for the purpose of Human capital formation by societies for centuries. Human capital formation is the ability, knowledge, learned through education, improved capabilities of individuals, and promised good earnings to the people.

Education is very important aspect in human capital formation if there is a linkage between academia and industry. It promotes technical knowledge which helps individuals to perform their tasks at job. On the other hand, it is also required by employers such that they hire people with relevant knowledge and skills. According to a World Bank's report, rates of return to primary education are 20%, a secondary level of education is 14% and a tertiary level of education is 11% ^{to individuals} in their earnings across the globe. Unfortunately, for Pakistan, the rate of return for individuals' earning is only 7%.

Another important factor of education in economic development is entrepreneurship and innovation. Entrepreneurship is a concept of solving an existing problem in a market with a unique solution. People with business education have

more tendencies in identifying gaps within the market. They tend to solve the problems by offering their solutions at the platform of their start-ups. They have more skills to compete in the dynamic markets.

It helps an economy boosting their potential from lower end to the higher end by efficiently using their resources and using ^{high strong} skills of management.

A best example in this regard is South Korea, which changed its stats from low income countries to high income countries through technology and innovation.

Lastly, education plays a vital role in poverty alleviation. It breaks the cycle of intergenerational poverty. This term refers to the continuous cycle of poverty from one generation passes to the next and goes on. Education uplifts the society from poverty or underdevelopments by providing opportunities.

as alternatives. People raise their standard and contribute in the economy positively. It also reduces dependency of individuals on state welfare, which in turn could be spent somewhere else. Resultantly, it boosts economy which is beneficial for the individuals and society as well. A UNICEF report also confirmed that poverty can be reduced 9% by each added year of education globally.

Education enhances social and moral capabilities of a nation. A society becomes cultured when it gets educated. Following paragraphs will explore how education develops a society.

To begin with, education opens the mind, softens the heart and replaces extremism with awareness. People start questioning the radical concepts in

the society. They try to solve the conflicts through the non-violent means. It causes significant decrease in crime rate and extremism. While it is evident the extremist societies, on the other hand, vow to uphold a narrow worldview and seek to eliminate the opposing perspectives. For example, it is observed that Madrassah-only education systems show higher exposure to extremism.

Secondly, another important social development is women empowerment. It has been observed in developed countries where there are sufficient opportunities for women education, they showed high growth. A report of McKinsey Global Institute in 2023 reported that 28 trillion could be added to the global GDP if women participates in economic race. It shows that how much

an educated women could contribute if she is given the opportunity. In the longer run, women can empower themselves for independent decision making, availing the opportunities of better education.

Along with individual development, social and economic development, education also form the backbone of political development and democratic strengthening. Following paragraphs outlines the impacts of education on political development.

To start with, educated citizens of a nation actively participates in politics. They are not immature, rather, well aware of their rights and they make informed and rational choices. Also, they find it unethical to not take part in politics but the do participate and involve actively. In educated states, voter turnout is

always more than the states with low literacy rates. A World Bank's report confirms that by stating that high literacy rate countries have 20-40% higher voter turnout.

Furthermore, Educated societies make their administration accountable to public. They are well aware of the dynamics of the politics, as they actively participate. They demand transparency in the affairs of the state. Education imparts patience in people so they believe in democratic dialogue instead of statement politics. According to PILDAT report, 48% of young people have casted their votes in 2024 in Pakistan, which showed 11% increase from 2018. It reflects the political understanding of youth which is on the rise.

The preceeding discussion highlights

the role of education in the development of society in different aspects. In the discussion that follows, this essay sheds light on the suggestions to improve the institution of education.

The first aspect to consider is the investment in education sector. Any country that wants to stand in the race of development, should invest enough in the education sector. After investing, utilization of the budget in required dimensions, should be utmost priority.

Identifying and eliminating the loopholes for mismanagement of budget will be helpful to achieve the desired results.

It will not only leads toward economic but also social development transforming the overall fabric of the society.

Equally important, other suggestion is that curriculum should be reformed and teachers should be well trained.

World is changing every second, so curriculum should be updated on regular basis. Unfortunately in Pakistan, students are still reading the texts of 90s which are outdated. It should be updated so students can take part in global competition. Education system should be student oriented not teacher oriented so that students can learn effectively.

In conclusion, education is not merely a fundamental human right but it is a catalyst for sustainable development. It develops a personality of individual and uplifts society from ignorance and backwardness as well. Without education, one can only dream about social progress of a society. An illiterate society only produce extremists and radical personalities which destroy the social fabric of a nation. As Derek Bok

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rightly said, "If you think education is expensive, try ignorance." The cost of ignorance is far greater — for individuals and for nations. Prioritizing education is ~~only~~ the path for the development of individuals and nations.