

# Classrooms decide the future of nation.

## Outline

### (a) Introduction

- Hook

- Background

- Thesis: If utilised for effective learning, classrooms can nurture a population that promise an effulgent future for a nation. Along with it, they can foster a more equitable, moderate and democratic society in future. However, without proper guidance and due care, the same classrooms can lead towards undesirable consequences in future.

### (b) How classrooms fosters an effulgent future of a nation

1) Classrooms cultivate a more skilled and productive population

→ learning in

1.1) Classrooms instills critical thinking ability in students

1.2) Classrooms develop a skilled workforce essential for economic growth.

1.3) Classrooms nurture a population that drives technological advancements.

1.4) Classrooms are pivotal in equipping students with skills and knowledge required to address global issues.

2) Classrooms efface social context that plague nations

2.1) Classrooms plays a pivotal role in bridging gender gap

2.2) Classrooms curb terrorism and extremist ideologies

2.3) Classrooms decreases polarisation by ensuring cultural cohesion.

3) Classrooms nurture a more aware society that ultimately strengthens democracy.

(c) How classrooms can lead towards undesirable consequences in future.

Exclusivity of modern education within the classrooms

4) Classrooms can lead to social inequality.

5) Classrooms of schools and universities has lead to social inequality

5) Outdated curriculum can lead to a failure in meeting modern demands

6) Classrooms of Madrasahs (Seminaries) can inculcate religious extremism and terrorist's ideologies

d) Conclusion.

During the British rule, Britishers introduced western styled education to India. The main purpose of it was to cultivate a class within Indian society that would serve as interpreters between the rulers - the British - and the ruled - Indians, and a class that would be Indian by birth and colour but British by taste and loyalty. However, the students in the classrooms of those schools learned together and became familiar with each other's cultures, fostering cultural cohesion. Moreover, they learned about history, including The Enlightenment Era and French Revolution and understood the power of masses to drive a change. Consequently, the students of these classrooms later became the leaders, who shaped the future of colonised Indian subcontinent into two independent states. Therefore, classrooms to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of nations. Moving towards the present era, classrooms have remained a major part of educational system across the world, as they are the first place after homes where children begin to absorb and understand values, social norms and foundational knowledge. Therefore, if utilised for effective learning, classrooms can nurture a population that can promise an effulgent future for a nation. Along with it, they can foster a more equitable, moderate and democratic society. In contrast, without proper guidance and due care, the same classrooms can lead towards undesirable consequences in future.

To begin with, classroom instills critical thinking ability in the students. Critical thinking is essential part of education, as it imparts skills in the students to reach to a conclusion by analysing different facts and opinions. Therefore, Emritien has

emphasised on critical thinking as the main purpose of education. As he said, "Education is not learning of facts, but the training of minds to think". Classrooms plays a pivotal role in imparting this ability in young minds. In the classrooms, students engage in debates and discussion. Through it, they learn to evaluate and analyse different facts and figures, and reach to a conclusion, fostering critical thinking. This ability is imperative to efficiently deal with the real life problems one that one may encounter in future. For instance, in 2020 pandemics organisations worldwide relied on critical thinking to redesign workflows. Companies shifted from physical offices to remote works after carefully analysing safety protocols and efficiency of employees. Hence, classrooms enables individuals to deal with real life problems, thereby ensuring an effulgent and secure future for a nation.

Leon Secondly, classrooms develops a skilled workforce, essential for the economic future of a country. In this era of technological advancements, the required skills for the workforce in the industries are also evolving. Individuals have to align their skills with the skills required in the companies. Similarly, companies also need employees with modern skillset to operate efficiently in the competitive business environment. To fulfill these requirements, education in the classrooms plays an essential a crucial role. For instance, From the classrooms of schools to the classrooms of universities, students learn new skills that are pertinent to survive in this era. For instance, Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute, a renowned Pakistani university, has initiated a program

to educate students of civil engineering on VR Technology. This new technology has far more applications in the marketing of the construction industry, as it can simulate a real-life 3D model before the construction of project. This fosters trust and bridge the communication gap between client and company. Classrooms. While studying in the classrooms of GIKI, students were enable themselves to acquire this new skill set. Hence, classrooms education in classrooms equips students with new skills that catalyse economic progress.

Thirdly, classrooms are pivotal in equipping students with skills and knowledge required to counter global environmental issues. As world is confronting with new environmental issues, such as global warming, pollution, food and water scarcity, its devastating effects are inevitable in future. To efficiently address such problems, a more aware and skilled population is imperative, as it needs a collective approach from all segments of society. To achieve this, classrooms play a pivotal role. For instance, Swedish schools have incorporated environmental education into their core curriculum, which enables the students attending schools in Swedish classrooms to learn about sustainable development, renewable energy, and resource conservation. Such teaching in classrooms, therefore, cultivate a population equipped to sustainably drive economic progress while keeping environmental aspects in mind.

As classrooms pivot toward cultivating a population that is more skilled and capable of understanding complex global issues, such a population forges a prosperous future of a nation. However, without bridging gender gaps ~~address~~ and addressing burgeoning extremist ideologies and social polarisation, a bright future

remains unattainable. Classrooms play a crucial role in eradicating these social cankers.

Firstly, classrooms play a pivotal role in bridging the gender gap. Contribution of women to the society is profoundly significant, as they constitute almost half of the population. Emphasizing on the same point, Quaid-e-Azam M. A. Jinnah has said, "No nation can rise to the height of glory unless your women are side by side with you". However, contribution of women has remained minimal vis-à-vis that of men, especially in the developing countries. To counter this, classrooms hold significant importance. In co-education, men and women work and learn together in an equitable environment, providing equal opportunities to women to learn and excel. Such practices are pivotal in erasing social stigma and normalise the idea of women working side by side with men. Moreover, studying in these. Resultantly, it also empowers women economically. For instance, according to Discovery Alliance, one additional school year can increase women's earning by 20%. Hence, classrooms eradicate gender gap, thereby ensuring a bright future for a nation.

Besides bridging the gender gap, classrooms curb terrorism and extremism in society. Such ideologies thrive where people lack the ability to critically evaluate facts and easily fall prey to terrorist propaganda and political gambits. However, as mentioned earlier, classrooms equip people with the ability to think critically while gathering and analysing information independently. This approach enables individuals to discern between truth and false propaganda. Emphasizing the same point, Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Education must enable one

to sift and weigh evidence to discern the truth from the false, the real from the unreal, and the facts from the fiction". Moreover, curricula in educational institutes promote peace and harmony in society. For instance, after the genocide in 1994, Rwanda introduced peace education into school curricula. This program emphasised reconciliation, conflict resolution, and a shared national identity. This approach has played a critical role in rebuilding peace and harmony in a divided Rwandan society. Hence, classrooms curb terrorism and extremist ideologies, ensuring peace and harmony for future.

Moreover, classrooms reduce polarisation by promoting cultural cohesion, as students from different ethnicities and regions come together. This inter-regional interactions allows individuals to learn about diverse cultures, fostering mutual understanding. For example, at universities like GIKI and MUST students from across Pakistan share the same classrooms, encouraging broader understanding among those from varied backgrounds. Such cultural cohesion lays the groundwork for future peace and harmony. Therefore, classrooms play a vital role in ensuring a peaceful future by nurturing cultural unity.

Along with eradicating social cankers, in the last, classrooms secure the future of a country by strengthening democracy.

Classrooms nurture a more informed society that strengthens democracy. Education acquired through classrooms significantly enhances people's understanding of complex political issues and increases their awareness of fundamental rights.

In contrast, an uneducated population lacks this ability. As Sikandar Mirza, former President of Pakistan, has famously said, "with 15% literacy, how will you develop your democratic model?" Although his tenure in the office <sup>may</sup> can be debated, his profound observation cannot be gainsaid. An uneducated population easily fall prey to the manipulation of cunning political carts, as they lack the critical thinking skills that classrooms help cultivate. Moreover, effective classrooms fosters awareness of basic human rights. For instance, the 9th grade text book contains a chapter The Human Rights Declaration. Those who have not had the opportunity to attend such classrooms remain unaware of the rights they deserve. Consequently, a population ignorant of its rights will not demand that and is likely to elect leaders who do not act in their favour. As Franklin D. Roosevelt aptly stated, "Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely". His observation reinforces the idea that uninformed choices lead to ineffective leadership, ultimately eroding trust in democracy. Therefore, classrooms play a vital role in enabling the population to critically evaluate politicians and raise awareness about their fundamental rights, which strengthens democracy.

As classrooms set ground for an effulgent and prosperous future of a country, the same classrooms, however, may contribute to undesirable consequences in the future. Classrooms without proper guidance can exacerbate social equality, hinder the development of skilled population and foster extremism.



Firstly, the exclusivity of modern education within the classrooms of schools and universities has led to social inequality. Classrooms of schools and universities have become the only source of acquiring modern education across the world, as employers do not recognise one's qualification unless one has certifications from schools or universities. However, not everyone can afford to acquire education from such classrooms, as schools, universities, and other institutions charge hefty fees. Although the governmental educational system is a suitable alternative, developing countries like Pakistan lack a proper network of such schools. As a result, a significant portion of population remains deprived of education. For instance, according to a report, "The Missing Third of Pakistan 2021", published by PAMS, approximately 25 million children in Pakistan are out of schools, which accounts for over one-third of school-age population. These startling figures underscore how only the privileged have access of education, while less privileged remain deprived of education. Therefore, the exclusivity of education within the classrooms results in marginalised segments not having access, leading to social inequality.

Moreover, an outdated curriculum in the classroom leads to failure in meeting modern demands. In developing countries, outdated and irrelevant content is still part of the textbooks taught in classrooms. For instance, seventh-grade computer science textbook in Pakistan still include outdated technologies, such as floppy discs and monitors. However, if one collate with that included in Western schools, one will find that their textbooks include chapters on programming and coding. With such curricula, students in Pakistan's classrooms have been left far behind those in the West. Consequently in the future, these students will lack the required skills compared

to those in the West. Hence, an outdated curriculum in classrooms develops unskilled population that hinders progress.

Lastly, classrooms of Madrasahs (religious seminaries) can inculcate ~~religious~~<sup>terrorist</sup> and extremist ideologies among students. Although Islam promotes message of peace, some malevolent actors have exploited the classrooms, particularly deteacted for Islamic teachings, as hubs to foster terrorism.

For instance, while presenting the National Action Plan 2014, the Government of Pakistan has acknowledged the role of certain madrasahs in spreading terrorism within the country. Consequently, it has enacted Societies Registration Act that stipulates tighter governmental control over the functioning and curriculum of madrasahs. Despite stricter laws, along with social and psychological disruptions, Pakistan has suffered economic losses amounting to billions of dollars. Therefore, without proper monitoring and regulation, classroom can become breeding grounds of terrorism, ultimately leading to social and economic jiasco in the future.

In retrospect, classrooms foster an effulgent future for a nation by cultivating a more skilled and productive population. They instill critical thinking ability in student, which is pivotal in pulling a nation out of crisis. Moreover, classrooms develop a population that can drive economic and technological progress.

Along with this, they equip students with the skills and knowledge required to address global issues. On social grounds, classrooms help efface social cankers, such as the gender gap, terrorism and polarisation. However, on the other hand, the exclusivity

of modern education within the classrooms of universities and schools has contributed to social inequality. Furthermore, outdated curricula taught in classrooms can fail to equip young people with modern skills. Besides this, madrasah classrooms have contributed to fostering and exacerbating terrorism, resulting in economic and social chaos. Consequently, such classrooms have led to undesirable outcomes. Hence, it is the classrooms that shape the future of a nation, as it holds the ability to steer the helm of a nation towards progress or regression.