

Higher Education Of Pakistan

Outline:-

1. Introduction

2. Horrifying ills of higher education in Pakistan

2.1 outside Curriculum

A Old syllabus

B Teachers centered, not student oriented

C lacking analytical skills

D Industrial academic link.

2.2 Poor infrastructure

A lacking multi purpose campuses

B lacking modern research facilities and laboratories

C hygiene issues

D

2.3 Expensive education

A high fees

B Expensive transport

C limited scholarship opportunities

D No student loans.

2.4 lack of efficient human resource

A appointment of visiting faculties

B absence of teacher training programme

C overburden faculty

D Brain drain.

3. Effective remedies for the ills in higher education of Pakistan

3.1 Introducing modern curriculum

- A Revising syllabus every year.
- B Engaging subject experts
- C Promoting life skills based education
- D establishing industry academic link.

3.2 allocating more budget to improve infrastructure.

- A building purpose built campuses
- B providing modern laboratories and ^{research} ~~research~~ facilities.
- C Solving hygiene ~~factor~~ issues.

3.3 Providing affordable education

- A Student support programs
- B Announcing more scholarships
- C Providing online education
- D providing discount travel cards.

3.4 Hiring efficient Human resource

- A Appointment of permanent faculty instead of visiting
- B Promotion of teachers training programme
- C ~~no multitasking~~ for faculty.
- D Checks on the ~~past~~ performance of permanent faculty.

4. Conclusion

Raised by a single mother, Barack Obama's life could have ended in obscurity. Instead, he went to Harvard Law School, where he became the first Black President of the Harvard Law Review. He then went on to become President of the United States. He often said that "My story is only possible in a country where education is the gateway to opportunity". It is the significance of higher education that Barack Obama calls it the gateway to opportunity. Unfortunately, Pakistan has witnessed a steep decline in its standards of higher education. This essay will explore about the major ^{ills} ~~causes~~ that has affected higher education such as outdated and obsolete curriculum, poor and not quite satisfactory infrastructure, expensive education fees and transportation cost and paucity of efficient human resource. ~~Regarding the dire consequences~~ Remedies and cure for the ills in higher education includes introducing modern and advance curriculum, ~~providing~~ allocating more budget to ameliorate infrastructure, providing affordable education and lastly hiring highly qualified, trained and efficient human resource. Unless the issues of higher education are not addressed properly, Pakistan can neither become prosperous nor respectable country.

To begin with, there are multitude of factors which have worsened the equality and standard of higher education of Pakistan, but the most cogent and convincing is outdated and obsolete curriculum. Old syllabus is being taught in almost all universities.

BS Computer Science students are forced ~~to get knowledge~~ ^{to get knowledge} only theoretical but ^{not} practical. So much so, their Data Analytics subjects paper is taken on the paper instead of computer. Many of computer science students do not have information about the softwares like Python and MongoDB. Which are essential skills and information for the students of BS computer science. To crown it, commerce students are learn accounting ^{entries} ~~entries~~ on the paper which does not have any relevance to with modern accounting jobs. Moreover, the teaching methodology is teacher-centered not the student specific. One teacher comes in the class, read presentations and give assignments to the pupil without any active participation ~~from~~ or discussion ^{by} ~~from~~ the students. Undoubtedly, it is the same teacher who teaches, and takes exams and grades to the students which creates little or no chance of any external evaluation. In addition to this, the curriculum lacks analytical skills, at the times of exams, students are forced to cram the notes provided by the faculties and write exact same in the exam to ^{score} ~~get~~ good marks. Owing to this, students do not have get any chance ^{to} apply their own analytical thinking and skill in the paper. Subjects from English to sociology and law, students just cram the topic and write in the exam. Furthermore, there has been increasing gap between industry and academia leaves a serious question mark on the current curriculum. Majority of engineering graduates fail to find any placement in the industry as there no connections and memorandum of

associations^{signed} between the firms and universities unlike LUMS and IBA. ~~So~~ All in all, these are the factors that make curriculum outdated and obsolete.

The second ~~bad~~ ill of the higher education of Pakistan is unsatisfactory and poor infrastructure of the universities. Firstly, majority of the universities lack multi-purpose campuses, which can be used in various academic events. The paucity of cutting-edge technology in the classrooms and ~~and~~ auditoriums have created irritants for the campuses to be utilized for different purpose. Unavailability of ~~multi~~ multimedia projector, poor and below the par performance of desktop computers, only one white board, unreliable performance of air conditions are the focal factors which have put an halt for the campuses to be used for various purpose. Karachi's ~~&~~ second biggest business institution, Institute of Business Management, (IBM), does not have ~~proper~~ advance multimedia facilities, still 20-years old desktop is being used ~~for~~ in the classes. Air conditioners exist, but do not function effectively due to lack of maintenance. ~~Same~~ Unfortunately, same infrastructure is being used which was created at the time of inception in 1995. Secondly, more than 80 percent of universities do not have modern laboratories and research centers. Such as ~~stud~~ a BDS student, acquiring ~~upper~~ education in Fatah Jinnah Dental college, Karachi are asked to pay visit to Liaquat National Hospital and University for their practical work like teeth scaling.

Remaining 20 percent institutions, research facilities do not function properly. If it does, then students are instructed to perform research under work under the supervision of the laboratory manager. Thirdly, hygiene issues have worsened the overall infrastructure of the universities. Classes lack ^{proper} ventilation system, which creates suffocation in the class making it unbearable for students to concentrate on the lecture and teacher to ~~teach~~ convey the topic properly. For example, as in Sindh University, when students presence is full, classroom become unbearable to sit due to suffocation regardless of air conditions. Therefore, so are the factors which ^{are} ~~have~~ ^{added} contributed to the increased because of poor infrastructure of the institutions.

The third heinous character of ill of higher education in Pakistan is ^{which makes} rapid increasing in the education fee.

The third ill of higher education in Pakistan is expensive education. Each passing year, ^{adding} ~~universities add~~ 5 percent increment in the existing fee is become a new norm in the educational institution. A student who commence first semester at Rs 45000 ~~in a city~~ ^{for} only one ^{semester} ~~semester~~. That amount reaches at Rs 64500 approximately ⁱⁿ the last 8th semester. At the end of last university one student has to ^{to} bear an increase of 45% of fee, in the government universities. ~~That makes~~ educational fees ~~exp~~ high fees for more than 75% of ~~student~~ ^{It} ~~creating~~ ^{creates} stumbling block for thousands of student to acquire

quality of education. To crown it, students also ~~free~~ ^{bear} the have to pay for the transportation as only less than ten-percent university have their own conveyance. Rest of students have to pay ~~for~~ to reach ^{at} the university. This adds more burden to the students' pocket. In addition to this, limited scholarship opportunities are given to the students. As of 2021, only 5000 scholarships were provided to 400,000 students registered in the university. It ~~stands~~ creates a serious question mark on the HEC for the providing insufficient scholarships. Moreover, there is no concept of student loan in the universities, whether it is government-owned or private. Unfortunately, the harsh reality is that one student had to drop out of the ~~university~~ university in his 3rd year because he was unable to pay ~~for~~ semester fees due to financial instability. ~~and irregularly~~ If student loan was there, he ~~could have~~ could have availed that option. Ergo, increase in education fees and transportation cost, with limited scholarship opportunities and unavailability of student loans are the reasons which have made ~~expensive~~ education expensive to acquire for every person.

Meagreness of efficient human resource; appointment of visiting faculties, absence of teacher training programme, ~~over~~ overburden faculty and increase in percentage of brain drain, ~~are~~ factors like these are the last nail in the coffin that makes ill of higher education in Pakistan. Firstly, when visiting faculty

is hired, most of those faculties does not focus on equality of lecture. They create ppt and convey in the class which does not provide room for analytical thinking in the students. It is ^{sombering} ~~sombering~~ to mention that pupils find this modus operandi a better one. As students are more ^{inclined} ~~inclined~~ towards ~~learning~~ ^{memorizing} the topic instead of conceptually understanding ~~of the~~. Secondly, teacher training programme has been ^{always} ~~been~~ sidelined by the institutions. Universities ~~Dean~~ Deans or principals do not pay attention to the teacher training and development program. As they find thinking that after training, faculty would ^{such} ~~leave~~ their university if they get better job opportunities. Frequently changing the university for teaching purpose is also a common element in the teachers. Thirdly, ~~due to~~ shortage of teachers because of cost-cutting, one teacher is asked to conduct seminar, take classes, create ~~of~~ syllabus for next semester, assist in the sports ^{activities} ~~activities~~ and other extra-curricular activities, that one teacher is so overburdened that he can not focus on teaching properly. Fourthly, many extra-intelligent and ^{hard} ~~hard~~ working talent move to abroad countries for better future lifestyle and opportunities. Owing to this, teachers ^{who} ~~which~~ are left behind are not ~~of~~ ^{so} good in teaching and conveying the ~~the~~ lecture. University is full of those teachers unfortunately. Therefore, inadequacy of efficient and productive human resource ^{is} ~~are~~ also the main ^{ill} ~~reason~~ ^{reason} ~~which~~ of higher education of Pakistan.

Preceding paragraphs threw light on causes and succeeding paragraphs would pinpoint the way outs of the ills of higher education in Pakistan.

Multitudes of factors can be considered which can end the ills of higher education in Pakistan, but the most cogent and convincing is introducing modern education. First and foremost, it is time for Higher Education Commission (HEC) to revise syllabus every year. HEC needs to take advice and consultancy services from the foreign educational institutions, with the help of those high intellectual advisors, HEC will be able to revise ~~modern~~ ~~advantage~~ advance educational syllabus. Just like in past, primary and secondary schools revise their syllabus with foreign consultants. Directorate of Staff Development (DSD) approached to the UK-based advisor, Mr. Michael Barber from Tony Blair educational advisor. DSD and Michael Barber were successfully able to implement new syllabus in the ~~area~~ boundaries of primary and secondary education in 2011. HEC needs to adopt the same precedent set by ~~Khan~~ primary school. This way HEC will be able to modernize the syllabus. Apart from this, HEC can also contact to the Pakistani subject experts such as Dr. Mariam Chughtai, holding Master's in Education policy from Harvard University, for the revising and the content and syllabus of higher education. Engaging with national and foreign advisors will help HEC

to update overall curriculum of the universities. Thirdly, there is more value of skills than degrees in the 21st century. HEC needs to invest and promote skill-based education, which will inculcate intellectual skills - problem solving, analytical thinking and critical reasoning in the students. And that will lead to better placement opportunities. HEC needs to introduce sign memorandums with universities and ~~NAATC~~ NAVTC, a vocational training institution. HEC should make at least one year softskill learning program within the universities by the NAVTC training. It should be compulsory, so that after graduation students will not have a paper of degree but also a soft ~~skill~~ and intellectual skill, which will create demand ~~at~~ pull factor by the private companies. Lastly, universities need to establish industry academic link. Just like Lums and IBA have created. If ~~the~~ institutions focus on this linkage, their students will be easily placed in the reputable industry. Universities should request private companies to come in their job fairs to hire the graduating students via internships, training management programmes and temporary employment job which can be converted in permanent after accessing the competencies ^{on} the deserving job holder. Ergo, ~~introducing~~ launching modern education and curriculum will help higher education do to do wonders in its capacity and eradicate the ills.

Allocating more budget to improve infrastructure of the higher education is second most prominent sector which can eradicate the ills of the education sector. Pakistan's current education expenditure is 1.7%. In the fiscal year 2024-2025. Whereas, UNESCO recommended percentage is ~~4%~~ 4% minimum. Allocating more budget will help institutions to ~~sp~~ create purpose built campus. Where all the academic and extra-curriculum activity will take place. For example, one ^{big} ~~auditorium~~ ^{auditorium} will be utilized for marathon classes, job fairs and seminars. That same auditorium can also be also facilitate concerts and sports activities. Secondly, ~~pro~~ portion of budget would also be allocated to establish modern laboratories and research centres with cutting-edge technology and equipments. This platform will allow pupils to do practical work and reinforce their theoretical knowledge which is a demand of today's world. Just like Aga Khan University spending heavily on its laboratory and research work, HEC needs to follow the same steps and introducing advance technology in the universities. Lastly, HEC should ~~empha~~ force universities to ^{solve these} ~~also spend on the~~ hygiene-related issues. By investing on washroom and ~~restroom~~ common room will create ease not only for students but also for teachers and staff members. This will create pleasant environment for every stakeholder of the educational institutions. All in all, allocating more budget to ameliorate infrastructure of educational places will eliminate the ills, of higher education in Pakistan.