

Educational Emergency: More Words Less Actions

Outline

1- Introduction

i) Hook

ii) **Thesis Statement:** Education emergency in Pakistan has been confined to words rather than actions due to shortcomings in political, economic, social, security and organizational structure. However, serious efforts to reform education will speak larger than words.

2- Educational Emergency and Ground Realities: an overview

3- Educational Emergency: A Slogan Not Materialised

i) Political Dimension

- a) Inconsistent policy implementation due to frequent regime changes
- b) Unnecessary political intervention in educational appointments

ii) Economic Constraints

- a) Lowest investment in Education sector - least budgetary priority

b) Insufficient allocation of funds for modernizing and updating education

c) Corruption in development funds (Ghost schools)

iii) Socio-cultural Determinants

a) Regional disparities - A case study of Punjab and Balochistan education sector

b) Obstacles of poverty and gender biasedness (13 million girls are out of school : World Bank)

iv) Compromised Security Situation

a) Terrorist attacks; targeting of schools (APS Peshawar tragedy)

b) Conflict based displacement in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan

v) Organizational Inefficiencies

a) Inadequate infrastructure and poor quality of education

b) Lack of faculty training and development programs

c) Outdated curriculum and traditional teaching practices (About 24% of graduates in Pakistan are jobless, reported by PIDE)

vi) Technological Barriers

a) Digital divide between urban and rural areas

b) Limited access to Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

vii) Legal Dimensions

- a) Right to Education present on paper not implemented in practice.
- b) Least coordination between centre and units in education

3- Suggestions for Action

- a) Long term policy implementation should be ensured
- b) Budget allocation for education according to the UNESCO benchmark of 4-6% of GDP
- c) Check on corruption and political intervention
- d) Curriculum to be updated according to the demand of time.
- e) Right to education be ensured to bring out of school children to school

4- Conclusion

THE ESSAY

Pakistan's education sector has long been a focal point of concern due to its critical role in the nation's development and progress. Though 78 years have been passed, 23 policies and action plans have been introduced, yet the education sector is waiting for a saviour. The constitution of Pakistan 1973 article 37(b) says: The state of Pakistan shall remove illiteracy and provide free and compulsory secondary education within minimum possible period. Then various governments multiple times announced educational emergency to address the ongoing challenges in education sector. But the question is whether these emergencies materialized or it remained confined to words only? Initiatives like introduction of Article 25(A) in the constitution which provides free and mandatory education for the children aged 5 to 16 years was a significant step but the report provided by Pakistan Institute of Education (PIE) presents a different picture. With 26.2 Million out of school children (OOSC), Pakistan is second in global ranking of OOSC as per UNICEF. To dig deeper, one comes across a number of factors which are responsible

for the lack of concrete action. These include political skirmishes among different political parties and politicization of education. With least budgetary priority to education, economic factor is also a challenge. To add further, the socio-cultural barriers and ill security measures are a big challenge to overcome.

From organizational inefficiencies to lack of technological measures, everything just depicts the non-seriousness and lack of actions of the concerned. In short, education emergency in Pakistan has been confined to words rather than actions owing to the shortcomings in political, social, economic, security and organizational structure. However, serious efforts to reform education will speak larger than words.