

Topic:

Decreasing Enrollments in Pakistani Universities: Causes and Consequences

Outline

A. Introduction

1. Once Pakistani universities overflowed with dreams, debate and determination....
2. 85-80% decline in admission, in the Punjab universities the hub of higher education
3. Thesis statement

B. Status of Higher Education In Pakistan

C. Causes of Decreasing Enrollments in Pakistani Universities

1. Too many universities, not enough quality;
 - a. Pakistan now has 870 universities out of which 160 are public. Expansion without planning leads to decline in enrollment
2. Increasing fees in universities;
 - a. universities keep increasing fees making education more expensive.
3. Prolong BS (Bachelors in Science) programmes;
 - a. Parents and students do not want to spend time and money on degrees with low job value
4. Non-alignment with job market;
 - a. out of 3 million educated (degree holder from universities) only 0.3 to 0.5 million

of those individuals find employment, leaving nearly 205 million jobless.

5. Increasing cases harassment in universities;

a. 58 harassment cases have been reported in 7 universities of Islamabad (Dawn)

6. Negligence of government;

a. FY 2023-2024 61 billion funding for higher education which in FY 2025-2026 decreased to 39.48 billion PK.

D. Consequences of Decreasing Enrollments in Pakistani Universities

1. Development gap:

a. If education in higher level is weak it weakens society and economy

2. Critical and deep thinking crisis:

a. These are universities that develop the skills of critical thinking.

3. Stagnation in research and development (R&D)

a. Decline in admission is decline in research and development

4. Undermine human capital and growing

a. Higher education is the foundation of human capital and growing

5. Decline in softpower of a nation;

a. Decrease in enrollment is undermining the soft image of a nation

6. Increase in brain drain;

a. 172,000 sharp brains of Pakistan left the country only in 2025, out of which mostly were (20-24) age.

E. Ensuring Increase in Enrollment in Pakistani Universities

1. Market based education, short courses, IT and AI inauguration, and quality over quantity.

F. Conclusion



Essay :

Once the universities in Pakistan were overflowed with dreams, debate, and determination. Today their classrooms echo with silence, benches empty, chalk untouched and future postponed. Some students sold their books to buy bread while others buried their ambitions under rising cost of education. The status of education in Pakistan is decreasing day-by-day. 20-30% decline in Punjab based universities only, which is the hub of higher education in Pakistan. There are a number of causes in decreasing enrollment in Pakistani universities including the expansion of universities without proper mechanisms. Moreover, the rising fee structure of universities and prolong courses in said universities. To dig deep, the degrees acquired from these universities are not market based, that is why parents and students prefer short courses to enter the job market. The increasing cases of harassment is another major cause to restrict female enrollment in Pakistani universities. All these chickens coming home with a number of significant

Consequences, including the development gap, and Crisis of deep and critical thinking. The decrease in enrollment also stagnate the research and development of a nation leading to the under-development. Shrinking admission undermine the human growing along with soft power of a nation. Hence decreasing enrollments in Pakistani universities is a national problem, it is because of education standard and expansion of universities which will be a crack in development of Pakistan. Need of hour is to ensure increase in enrollment to boost higher education in Pakistan.

To start with, the increasing number of universities in Pakistan. Too many universities, not enough quality. There are about 270 universities in Pakistan out of which 160 are public along with virtual and other affiliated ones. The expanding number of universities is ^{one} of the causes in decline in enrollment. The number of universities is increasing but the faculty and trained number of teachers is decreasing. This compromise the quality of education and student lose their interest to be enrolled. So, the expansion and too many universities is causing decline in enrollment.

The major consequence of decline in enrollment brings development gap. In the 21st century the countries are racing towards speedy development is because of their qualitative higher education. The development gap in Pakistan is snail-paced because the mind which should have been in the classroom are wandering on footpaths. If higher education

is weak, it weakens society and economy of a state. Hence, the decline in admission in universities bring development gap.

In short, decreasing enrollment in Pakistani universities is because of vast number of universities along with selling expansive degree that are not market based. Moreover, the long and time taking programmes in universities also waste the time and money of the students. In government part there seems many negligences among those the decline in funding which down grades the structure of education and infrastructure of a institution. These problems bring shocking consequences including stagnation in research and development and increase in brain drain. The need of the hour is to ensure the increase in enrollment and rethinking of policies related to higher education. This field needs a high priority of among all subject to enhance research and soft power of Pakistan. Hence decline in education is a decline of a nation.