

Privatization of Education

Outline:

1. Introduction:

With its pros and cons, Privatization of education can serve as a supplementary measure to support the existing education system; however, relying on it as a long term policy option is neither sustainable nor desirable.

2. What is privatization of education?

3. Positive effects of privatization of education:

A. Makes education more accessible

a. low-cost private schools.

B. Increased parental participation

a. Parent-Teacher meetings

C. Greater accountability of teachers

a. less Absenteeism

b. no ghost teachers

D. Offers choice and diversity to students

a. medium of language

b. A/O levels

E. Attracts investment and funding

a. Tuition fees

b. Endowment and philanthropy.

4. Negative effects of privatization of education:

4. Catalyst for class segregation

a. social inequalities

b. efficiency - vs - inequality
trade-off.

B. Puts children at risk of being out of school.

C. Commercialization of private education.

a. Private schools regulatory Authority (PSRA) revelations

D. Weak regulation and accountability of private education institutions

a. WB (2016) report

E. Undermining the concept of education as a public good.

a. SDG-4

b. Article 25-A of Pakistan's constitution.

5. Policy recommendations for Pakistan:

A. low-cost private schools as interim support

B. Reinforcing public education

C. Regulating private education sector

D. Partnering with private entities.

E. Protecting education as a public good.

6. Conclusion:

Nelson Mandela once said that the education is the most powerful tool which one can use to change the world. But what happens when this weapon is priced beyond the reach of the poor? This dilemma surfaces every time when the question of privatizing the education takes place. There is no doubt that privation makes education more accessible. Teachers are accountable in private educational institutions. It also offers choice and diversity to students. Moreover, it attracts enough funding to run the operations. However, its disadvantages are more

alarming. Privatization results in social inequalities and segregation of classes. More children become at the risk of being out of school. Governments are unable to fully regulate the private educational institutions as per the given policies. Moreover, privatization undermines the concept of getting education being a right and not a luxury.

Privatization of education can serve as a supplementary measure to support the ongoing education system. However, relying on it as a long term policy plan is neither sustainable nor desirable.

Digital Democracy: Social Media and Political Participation

Outline:

1. Introduction:
2. How public participation
has strengthened digital
democracy via social media?

2a) Increased participation
→ convenient social media
applications

2b) Inclusion of public in
policy making
→ OECD White House Report

2c) Raises ^{political} awareness in
masses

→ PEW Research Center
Report

2d) Inclusion of marginalized communities in democratic process

→ Women; minorities

2e) Transparency and accountability of politicians

→ vigilante social media users and whistleblowers

2f) Higher voter turnout

→ Electronic voter machines

→ Mass media campaigns.

2g) Ensure human rights are guaranteed

→ #MeToo and Black Lives Matter campaign

3.

Negative effects of using social media as a means of political participation:

using

3a) ↓ Misinformation to manipulate voters

→ AI generated videos

→ Emotional tactics

3b) Risk of political polarization
→ social media algorithms

3c) Increased division among masses

→ Heated social media debates and hate speech

3d) Unrestricted transparency as a threat to national security

→ case in point: Edward Snowden, US National Security Agency.

3e) Increased surveillance and censorship of applications

→ case in point: China and North Korea

3f) Lack of digital literacy in the masses

→ many countries lacking digital curriculum.

3g) Risk of hacking of digital tools

→ Chinese spy attack on British election Commission 2021: BBC

4. Way Forward:

4a) stronger data protection and cyber laws

4b) Ethics-based digital literacy

4c) Regulation of political advertisements and campaigns

5. Conclusion:

Imagine casting a vote not at a polling booth, but through a secured mobile application, debating policies with people across the continents, and holding the politicians accountable with a single tweet. All these things are now possible because of social media.

Through social media, political participation has been increased. Public can now participate in policy making process. Also, social media can be used to spread awareness among masses. Voter turnouts are higher. Moreover, human rights can also be protected using social media. However, from manipulating voters using misinformation and propaganda to increased surveillance and lack of digital literacy, it also has some shortcomings. There is no doubt that public participation has strengthened digital democracy using social media.

However, responsible use of social media is a necessary measure to ensure unhindered democratic process.