

## 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment and Education

Introduction :- The 18<sup>th</sup> Constitutional amendment in Pakistan decentralized education, transferring control from the federal government to provinces, strengthening provincial autonomy, and making free, compulsory education a fundamental right for children aged 5-16 under article 25A.

It removed education from the concurrent list, enabling provincial curricula, though creating challenges in national cohesion and funding.

Analysis :- post 18<sup>th</sup> amendment, provinces got control over provincial autonomy. Article 25A was added, mandating the state to provide free and compulsory education for children aged 5-16. While provinces gained authority but this shift raised concerns regarding uniformity in standards, national cohesion, and financial challenges. The reduced role of federal Ministry of education burdened the HEC over maintaining unified national standards across universities.

Similarly, different provinces have taken different approaches to education policies, resulting in diverse education policies across the country.

The fear of that provinces may mess up the education has a strong link with power.

As a political theorist "Gramsci" suggests that "Education can play an important part in controlling minds." So if education becomes a provincial matter, certain powerful groups and organisations will see it as a shift in power which is not in their favour. It can be countered by a positive attitude by the

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Federation, a trust in the competence, integrity and patriotism of the provinces. we need to make a move from holding the provinces together to persuading them to come together. This is what a federation do: Hold-together and come-together.