

AN INVESTMENT IN KNOWLEDGE PAYS THE BEST INTEREST

A. Introduction

B. Investment in knowledge pays the best interest

1. Focusing on political awareness of the masses ~~and~~ strengthens democracy.

Case in Point: Turkmenistan had 97% voter turnout in election 2022.

2. Investing in environmental literacy is pivot for fighting climate change.

Case in Point: Chinese handling of smog through policy planning.

3. Learned and well-informed people hinder injustice to society.

Case in Point: Civil society in South Korea reversed martial law.

4. Inclination towards technological knowledge positively impacts trade.

Case in Point: India and IIT

5. Financial awareness at domestic and state level facilitate economic stability.

Case in Point: Technocrat Finance Minister in Pakistan and Progress.

6. Religious knowledge grants reward in next life and provides a code of life.

Case in Point: Islam is a complete code of life.

7. Knowledge induces ethics and morals that help in creation of a civic society.

Case in Point: Literacy rate of Scandinavian states and ethics of that society are considerably high.

8. Extensive research provides practical policies to run state machinery.

Case in Point: USA has excellent Research Centres and in turn development. (Stimson Centre)

9. Specialized skill-set opens-up avenues for highly paid jobs.

Case in Point: MNCs like Nestle, Unilever hire (even-freshers) based on their analytical skills tested in games/tasks.

10. Knowledge about public-pulse and issue allow politicians win electoral votes.

Case in Point: Mayor Karachi re-won local body seat with dire resolve for sewage issues in Lyari and Nazimabad.

11. Knowledge of enemy's incentives and missile-defense systems protect countries from destruction.

Case in Point: Hamas was well-aware of Iron Dome so it conducted parallel attacks (land, air, sea, trenches) on 7/10/23.

12. Knowledge of repercussions of criminal act and Mens Rea are pivot in effective verdict/CIS functioning.

Case in Point: Traitors are dealt by military courts in Pakistan.

13. Well-aware women take firm stand if subjected to Gender Based Violence (GBV) of any kind.

Case in Point: Monica-Nixon Scandal. US President had to resign.

C. Conclusion

"Knowledge is power" is a maxim that crossed our ears multiple times in life. The concept of "Power" here is diverse. It could reflect the power of a single correct decision based on knowledge or merely the confidence knowledge brings with itself. Knowledge is not just confined to information, it includes wisdom, principles and even ethics. It is ironic how knowledge has no boundaries. No single being can claim to possess all the knowledge in this whole wide world. However, it is surely beneficial to know in bits and pieces about all that you can. As they say, "Jack of all trades and master of none; but often times better than a master of one!" This is because knowledge returns, in way unimaginable to man. A simple first-aid knowledge could allow you to save a human life. There are multiple arenas where an investment in knowledge pays the best interest. Public well-informed about their political rights can demand

transparency and hold leaders accountable. Environmental awareness will result in a better planet. Social strength and national integration are also subject to knowledge of social issues and measures to address them. Science and Technology lie at the centre to progress in this fast-paced global village. Financial literacy leads to economic prosperity. It is indeed undeniable that one can benefit, in many ways by attaining knowledge about various things.

Political awareness refers to know how of working of the state machinery and fundamental rights granted to the citizens. It includes freedom of speech and maintenance of rule of law. In countries where public is politically well-informed, they bring about a more stable model of democracy. The people demand their rights, hold the leaders accountable where needed. In 2022, Presidential election, the voter turn-out in

Turkmenistan was 97%. On contrary, Pakistan during February 2024 polls, had a turnout of 47.5%. These stats depict the issues that lie within the democratic model of Pakistan due to unaware masses.

Environmental Literacy is a term adopted for comprehending the needs of the planet, protecting it from all kinds of pollution and adopting a futuristic approach towards the environment. This is inline with the third SDG of United Nation. Climate change is the deadliest evil that engulfs the earth at present. It is required that mass awareness campaigns are run and ~~ms~~ people are taught how to eradicate the evils of global warming in order to ensure sustainable environment. China faced worst smog crisis in the near-past and Beijing was ranked most polluted city by AQI report. They formed policy of smart shutdowns and motivated people to use public transport :all by

educating them on the matter. Today, they remain low on polluted air.

Social cohesion depends upon sentiments of unity. In places where people are informed that they are one unit, no calamity hits them. Well-learned individuals do not allow any harm to be imposed on their community.

Knowledge instills social and national cohesion which in turn fights injustice collectively. If a bunch of people are taught that they are one, they handle all sorrows collectively. This is where knowledge fosters communal linkages like in institutes and ⁱⁿ guilds.

South Korea has a well-informed and united civil society. They recently reversed the President's imposition of martial law with the strength of their political awareness and societal oneness.

Knowledge about technology lies at the centre of focus of this global village. Progress in the world is deeply linked to softwares, AI tools and

chatbots. Nations that are well-equipped with latest technologies in any domain are ruling global markets. Japan, USA, Taiwan (chip) and India excel due to electronic or technological exports all across the globe. They invested in such centres way back only to reap the fruits now. India, a fellow state, developed IIT in 2015 and today all leading CEO's are Indian Nationals. They have their own technology parks and investments in silicon valley. The economic progress of India is infact a result of its investment in technological learning.

Financial Awareness and financial smartness are buzz words of today. It refers to planning your investments and conducting cost-benefit analysis before signing economic deals. This brings interest with the profits. It is crucial to possess economic awareness. In a household, the bread-winner must know what to buy and what not to so that they sustain the month.

Similarly, finance ministries of a country need to be literate about economic priorities in order to make the most out of deals. In 2024, Pakistan appointed a technocrat M. Aurangzeb as Finance Minister and the inflation rates have hit 70-month low (4.9%).

This signifies the impact transactional knowledge has on current account surplus.

Religious Knowledge means to be well-informed about the boundaries set by Religion and its core principles.

Such literacy is the essence to good worldly affairs and life hereafter.

Religion is a set of instructions that limit individual for their own goods.

Without absolute comprehension, no person can become true devotee.

The Belief binds a person to those customs and knowledge is the core of belief. Taking Islam as an example, one cannot be a devoted Muslim without learning the essence of Islam. Once they do, a world of

endless bounties opens up along with guarantees and rewards for the next life. This instills the power of religious education in a person.

Manners, ethics and morals shape not just individuals but nations as a whole too. There goes, "Manners maketh man", a famous proverb. Knowledge is not just linked to skills, education or information. Courtesy is knowledge too. This is part of being socially literate. A well-informed person is least appreciated if devoid of ethics. The benefit is, if you invest in knowledge and it builds character. The means of extracting knowledge also equip a person with courteous practices and set-up a moral standard. The Scandinavian countries have literacy rates of 95% and are termed the most civilized nations in the world. They are an epitome of the knowledge-morals nexus.

Research and Development is the backbone of any educational sector and also state. Quality research leads to national progress. When a country invests on the research sector, the development within its borders blooms. Researchers, mainly in political ^{arenas}, social scientists conduct state-centric research. They create policies to benefit the working of government machinery in the best manner. The focus is to dig-out possibilities and minimize threats. The USA heavily invests in research mainly in medical field and remains the world's best medically equipped country. The Stimson centre (US-state owned think-tank) is also applauded for credence. The development of USA has its secret hidden in investment in research.

Skills-based knowledge has overshadowed learning-based information in today's time. Global Markets are driven more towards skilled individuals rather than

academically qualified ones. The focus now lies in learning a practicable skill like driving, archery, knitting to gaming and much more. It is a reassurance that a skilled-person can never sleep hungry. Purposive learning is based on analytical development. Investing on skill-set enables people to obtain high-paying, promising jobs. Nestle and Unilever among many MNCs have based their initial recruitment processes on games (analytical) and diverse skills. There is no doubt that practical knowledge will enable better livelihoods.

Knowledge of public interests offers political gains to politicians. Both ends of the spectrum can benefit from knowledge. A political personality or a party is required to access and evaluate public pulse and perception, act where required and fill any vacuum left by opponents. This knowledge can allow them to win over support and

extract maximum gains. All it takes to be well-informed is the quest for knowledge! Mayor Elections in Karchi witnessed a similar scenario. Public sentiment was manipulated merely by addressing the core issue of public concern - sewage. This mechanism of analysing public pulse can equip win larger gains too.

Knowledge about enemy's strength can allow parties to abstract defense and security benefits.

Investments in intelligence, spying and other means can save heavy on war and weapons. Security lies at the centre of a country's national interests. In order to achieve maximum results in war or self-defense targeted investments are required.

Hamas, a militant organization in Gaza, attacked Israel via diverse fronts. Analysing the power of Iron Dome, world's best missile defense system, it invested more in tunneling techniques to impose maximum harm.

This is just one instance where knowledge is brought handy for security purposes.

Judicial Knowledge takes centre-stage to serve justice. One can simply not distinguish good and evil without proper knowledge. Knowledge is essential for smooth functioning of the criminal justice system. A judge, without well-informed outlook can not analyse the Mens' Rea accurately and fail to serve justice. The judiciary is divided into various branches - family law, civil law, criminal law in order to deal with experienced jurists. In Pakistan, special military courts have been established to conduct trials of traitors, military men involved in crime for better enquiry. This ensures that better knowledge ~~esp~~ validates decisions. Educated women can counter gender discrimination and inculcable in society. It requires well-aware females to counter Gender-

Based violence (GBV). It is a famous saying, "If you educate a man, you educate a man, but if you educate a woman, you educate a generation." A literate woman could confront all injustice done to her and turn tables. Education is the weapon that can end gendered-violence. The best investment on a daughter is not her dowry but money spent on her education. It empowers women to raise a voice against discrimination. An educated woman, Monica, made the world's most-powerful person resign (the US President - Richard Nixon) following an accusation of harassment. This validates that an investment in women education pays back generously.

In a nutshell, it is evident that knowledge is a profitable investment. Knowledge returns back to the nation, state and global community in multiple ways. Religious knowledge returns not only in this world but

in afterlife as well. It is knowledge that instills morality and a civic sense in a person which are required for prosperous society.

An investment in research sector brings about development in a country. Not just traditional avenues of knowledge, purposive and practical learning facilitates in the acquisition of better employment opportunities. Political figures can extend their agendas through knowledge of the masses. Countries can secure their borders with proper intelligence information. Moreover, justice can be served effectively and gendered-violence be countered by the aid of targetted information. In all these arenas and beyond, knowledge proves to be a fruitful investment. It is pertinent to seek knowledge that benefits an individual, a nation and the community. Preaching good brings it back to you, hence one must desire to be well-aware. That's the only way to live a meaningful life.