

Answers to Q7

Introduction

"Knowledge is virtue", Socrates, the great scholar said millennia ago. Those states which took the words of Socrates seriously are playing the leading role in the global or regional arena in politics, law, economy, industry, technology, services, and other areas such states are rapidly advancing. Pakistan, in contrast is struggling to improve its miserable condition of education, which is hurting the state. The government's failure to provide quality education to all, outdated curriculum not in line with the modern world, no focus on science, research, technology and skills, rotten techniques, and lack of

problems are some of the issues in education system. The state must introspect, and correct the direction by making and implementing certain policies to keep up with the fast growing world.

Education, the backbone, is cracked and keeps Pakistan down.

Around 30% of the degree holders are unemployed. Pakistan IT industry earns 3 billion dollars. On the contrary, beijing industry earns 42 billion dollars. There is no innovation, lack of capacity to use modern technology in different sectors - industry, agriculture, health, energy and other areas.

Moreover, this education system fails to produce politically

mature population, and struggles to lay the foundation of civilized society - which is deeply disintegrated. The poor status of education bleeds Pakistan domestically and internationally.

Issues and Problems of Education system of Pakistan

① State's failure to provide quality education to all keeps Pakistan down.

Article 25-A guarantees provision of education citizen, below 16. Yet 22 million children are out of school.

Moreover, those getting education most of them fail to get quality education. This keeps Pakistan down.

① Outdated curriculum not in line with modern standards and needs

According to Miftah Ismail, only 1% get quality education. The rest - enrolled in public, semi public or private - are not familiar with modern education

② Education system fails to focus on critical thinking, rationality and research which make a state inventor and producer

The US is the biggest producer of the world. This is because their education system encourages creativity, critical thinking, debate, discussion, rationality and research. While Pakistan lags far behind.

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④ Dysfunctional rotten techniques being used

Authoritarianism in the classroom, with no student-centric approach, environment of fear, and cramming are counterproductive (Pakistan 120th out of 141 in Global Knowledge Index)

⑤ Lack of professionalism in the education department

No one wants to become a teacher. Thus most of the teachers lack passion, professionalism and capacity to teach.

⑥ The education system only produces degree-holders, unskilled to produce value added products

While China gives birth to engineers, India sends its bright brains to Gulf, Europe and elsewhere, while Pakistan only produces labor.

⑦ Poor education system a threat to Pakistan's democratic structure

Mill and many pointed out that without education, democracy cannot survive.

Pakistan's poor education system endangers democracy and destabilizes governance.

Weak education system of Pakistan: the way forward

① Inclusive and quality education for all

Not for selected few, but equal opportunities should be provided to all to compete with the rest of the world.

② Investment in skill, learning, research and technology

Skills, technology and research culture must be promoted. In his book, How

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Angela Winkler, Joe Stowell claims that one of the major reasons of rise of countries like China is quality education.

③ Capacity building of teachers: equipping them with professionalism

The education department must be made attractive. The service providers to this department should be given additional incentives, so that it can pull best of the best to raise education department.

④ Education should be placed at the centre of government's focus

Education budget is 1.92% of GDP. It should be raised to 4% as per international standards, so that better

education is provided to all.

Conclusion

Pakistan to avoid being left behind, and wiped out in the fast moving world, it must mend its ways.

The wrongs in the education system must be corrected.

Pakistan has survive for more than 7 decades, but has been "bouncing from crisis to crisis" in the words of Mulcha Lohi. Its domestic failures, poor image at global level, trade deficits, lack of soft and hard power are directly or indirectly the product of poor education system. Pakistan cannot afford to delay the reforms which are most needed.