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NTDA
MOCK EXAM-1 May-24
English ESSAY

Higher Education versus
Skill Acquisition

Outline

Higher Education

• Positive Impacts of Higher Education

- Main purpose is to create an educated society
- Higher education develops discipline
- Develops positive competition
- Prepares youth for the practical world
- Creates network & Builds Emotional quotient/Intelligence

Negative Impacts of Higher Education

- Provides unskilled workforce in the market
- Outdated syllabus & techniques are taught
- Faculty training is not upto the mark
- Lack of Technology Adoption
- Nepotism in hiring faculty
- Favouritism in grading
- Burdensome on poor parents/students
- Overexpectations developed by youth for future

Skill Acquisition

Positive Impacts by Skill Acquisition

- Youth gets relevant & required education
- Workforce becomes market ready for job.
- Saves time by getting out of the rat race
- Start earning at an early stage

Negative Impacts of Skill Acquisition

- Focus on skills leads to bad grades
- Student engagement in University is reduced.
- Students become more materialistic at an early stage
- Impacts pursuing further education in Pakistan & Abroad

Conclusion

ESSAY:

Introduction Higher education is the backbone of any country. The more youth is educated in a country. The more prosperity and future benefits it can reap. In today's modern world there are two types of education. First is higher education pursued in Universities, through traditional route of getting a degree. Second is through acquiring relevant skills.

In today's world if one needs to succeed by leaps and bounds then he must achieve both i.e. higher education and skill acquisition.

Positive Impacts of Higher Education

Main Purpose is to create an educated Society

Education is given to youth especially higher education to expand their horizons. In order to inculcate a research based approach in them. They have a rational approach. So they don't fall prey to any false propaganda.

They have the ability to fact check the facts being narrated. This creates a strong and aware society. Higher education develops such an ability in them to do self-paced learning.

Which leads them to learn and gain knowledge. They can do this by just sitting on their internet connected device and then they are connected to a global village.

In today's modern world, world's knowledge has summed up and accessible at our palms. When such capabilities are developed in the youth they resultantly create an educated society being its primary contributor.

Higher education develops discipline

Higher education is the stepping stone in creating discipline in today's youth. As today's youth has a lot of distractions, higher education plays its role by developing discipline in students.

As students come to universities on time, take classes on time, cannot take unnecessary leaves. They have to maintain their attendance percentage throughout the session. Their attendance can impact their grades which creates a positive pressure on them to be disciplined. Students engage in extracurricular activities along with curricular activities like sports, debates and clubs which also increases the level of discipline in students.

Develops positive Competition

Higher education develops positive competition among students. Students engage in assignments, quizzes, tests, mid-term examinations, final examination. This kind of grading system develops a positive competition among students to outpace their fellows despite being friends they compete against each other for the good. They also need to be consistent throughout.

the session so that they can perform better among their classmates in different grading assignments and exams. This also develops a consistent working approach and character among them. This helps to shape their character for the long run.

Higher education Prepares for the practical world

During the tenure of their higher education students tend to explore their innself. They explore their talents and capabilities through different number of clubs and societies in universities and get to know what they are good at. There are different people in history who are practical example of it. Atif Aslam one of the top singer of Pakistan explored his talent in his university time and became on of the legendary singer in today's time. The writer of one of famous television show **'Hum sab unmeed sy hair'** was a King Edward medical University enrolled MBBS student who discovered his passion for writing.

There are scores of other examples, which created legends in their fields but their budding spot was - their university.

Even Universities attract such talented students by offering them admission on the basis of their talents and due to societies and clubs in universities it becomes their nursery where they meet seniors with same talents who guide them. Many great sportsmen, artists, singers, debaters, actors are also produced by universities despite their main role in imparting higher education.

Students learn to collaborate in them.

Creates Network

As every human being has a right of association so in higher educational institutions, students associate themselves with each other becoming friends and resulting in life long friendships and due to this their network is created.

They collaborate to organize university events which creates their network.

Trips and tours are organized by

universities which leads them to knowing each other in a better way.

As quoted,

"If you want to know someone deeply travel with them"

So universities are one of the best places to create networks which last lifelong and are deeprooted.

Negative Impacts of Higher Education

Unskilled workforce in Market

Universities are not preparing students with the skills needed to get the jobs in the market. Skills that are required are learned by students after graduating when they hit the job market and become aware of the market trends. Resultantly jobs even if available in the market cannot be filled by the candidates as they are not taught what market demands.

Academia and industry linkage is lacking resulting in unskilled workforce in society/ job market.

Outdated syllabus & Techniques

Students are being taught decades old syllabus which has no practical use in today's ever evolving modern world. This keeps the students at a disadvantage to get a respectable job and start earning and supporting their families. More teaching techniques used by teachers are also not upto the mark as they are not using any of the modern techniques being applied in the modern world.

Faculty training is not upto mark

Faculty trainings and workshops and refresher courses to update and upgrade teachers with the modern day teaching techniques and methodology are not performed due to lack of budget and teachers inability to adapt to modern techniques by those who are aged.

Lack of Technology adoption

Technology adoption and use of modern equipment for higher education is lacking which creates a bridge

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lacking any trust between faculty and students to adopt modern techniques.

Moreover higher education institutes are facing shortage of funds due to which they cannot procure modern equipments.

Nepotism in hiring faculty

Faculty in universities is not hired on merit. They are hired on nepotism and on references and personal liking and disliking. This creates such a situation where hired faculty is not competitive and the ones coming on merit are not accommodated due to this nepotism culture, creating a negative impact on higher education.

Favouritism in Grading

As discussed earlier, as the faculty is being hired on nepotism, so the effect will pass on to the students. Where some blue-eyed students of the teachers get more grades despite average or poor performance as compared to the talented ones who

are not teachers blue-eyed. This also impacts the level of higher education and creates doubts in talented students' minds whether they will be able to excel despite working hard.

Burden on poor people

As education is the fundamental right of every human being. But unfortunately due to exorbitant fees of universities some poor students are unable to continue their studies and some have to take huge loans which might take years to return after graduating if they got a suitable and respectable job.

Overexpectations developed by youth for future.

Students are working hard in universities so that when they graduate they get a highly respectable job. But the reality is not as such. There is nepotism and favouritism everywhere. Students cannot land a good job without a good reference in their families.

Due to which they either get hired at lower than their qualification jobs or remain unemployed. Moreover they also have some avenues where allocation and selection is done purely on merit but due to higher number of students applying and fewer vacancies not everyone gets the job.

Skill Acquisition

Skill acquisition is the modern form of education where ~~someone~~ does not require any background qualification to acquire these skills most of them require basic understanding of english and able to understand things at basic level, which leads them to start learning any skill without a barrier. This is the reason despite having large number of higher education institutes students are either shifting themselves completely to skill based learning or they are complementing their higher education with skill acquisition along the way.

Youth gets relevant and required education

Due to inclination of youth towards skill based education they are getting modern and required education of their field.

For example IT graduates have access to latest tech courses available on different platforms which are either free or charge a nominal amount as compared to universities where outdated syllabus is being taught with exorbitant fee structure.

There are **MOOCs** (massive open online courses) platforms that have most modern and most updated with industrial and market demand courses created and available to public from around the world. They include **Edx, Coursera etc.** They have free courses for auditive learning but for certification they charge a nominal fee. They also have financial assistance programs which are for those students who even cannot afford to pay for the certification.

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Workforce becomes Market ready for Job

As modern skills available on reputed platforms and institutions are prepared by world's top class faculty and by people who are working in that industry and have a good number of years experience. They are market gurus in their fields, which eliminates the lack of industry academia linkage. Most modern and sophisticated skills can be learned by anyone in this modern age.

Save time by getting out of the rat race

The precious time of students is saved which they might need to invest after graduating in order to acquire the relevant skills is saved. They can now work on modern techniques by just getting hands on the courses and projects in a speciality within few months and can get themselves out of the rat race as they are job ready and can start earning instead

of getting indulged in the rat race of getting grades.

Start earning at an early stage

They have an advantage over their fellows, being job ready they can start earning even in early years of the bachelor's degree. They can start from an internship leading to job and getting hands on experience during their studies even some students leave their studies and start focusing on climbing up the corporate ladder. In comparison to their fellows, they get respect by being on their feet and earning a handsome salary.

Negative Impacts

Students focus on skills leading to bad grades

Students become so indulge in their skills acquisition that they fail in the universities leading to poor grades and sometimes off-repeated failures. This can impact them in the long run.

Students engagement in University is reduced

As students are more focused on skills therefore it impacts their engagement in University. This leads to their personality and character not fully developed. Their communication skills are also affected due to this.

They have an incomplete personality due to low engagement with fellows and in extracurricular activities

Students becomes more materialistic at an early stage

At such an age where relations, friendships, association and creating network is more important, they start thinking everything materialistically that if they don't spend time with friends they can utilize it by earning.

Impacts pursuing further education in Pakistan & Abroad

As they are more focused on skills and earning, they either end up having bad grades in their academics or

fail in their academics or end up leaving studies in the middle.

Which in future can impact their chances for studying further and pursuing higher qualifications not only in Pakistan but in Abroad as well resulting in a loss of a great opportunity to go abroad for studies and learn physically from one of the best institutes worldwide.

Conclusion

Keeping in view the positive and negative impacts of higher education and skill acquisition, I have come to the conclusion that one must complete his higher education and should not indulge so much in skill acquisition that impacts their grades and long-term future. I am also not negating the positive impacts skill acquisition has on one's career but they should be balanced in such a way that your higher education and degree doesn't get effected as at times it would be required to get you to the interview.