

COMMERCIALIZATION OF EDUCATION AND GROWING CLASS DIVIDE IN PAKISTAN

Outline

1. Introduction

Commercialization of education will ^{not only} invite profits and boost the economy, but also, it will undermine public cooperation, national unity, social mobility, gender equality and mental health of lower class in Pakistan.

2. Drivers of Commercialization:

a- To reduce the budgetary burdens

b- To gain enough profit

c- failure of public infrastructure

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3. The Growing Class Stratification in Pakistan

a- The multi-tiered system of education

- Elite private schools
- Government schools
- Low cost private schools
- Street schools

b- Elite language access segregates youth

English proficiency decides career

c- Regional gaps block rural success

Quality Private Education is concentrated in Urban centers.

d- Wealth determines who gets schooled

Financial barriers; poverty level in Pakistan is high (60%)

e- Free religious schooling fuels isolation

Madrasa, as an only alternative

4. IMPACTS OF EDUCATIONAL CLASS DIVIDE IN PAKISTAN

a- Stagnant social mobility and continued poverty cycle

Rich remains rich - poor remains poor

No school because of no money → No education

No job, No job no money → Thus persistent

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b- Classroom divide splits the country

Two systems of education

Two nation theory → diverse mindsets
that will block national unity.

c- Work-force polarization leading to
proletariate and bourgeoisie classes

Leadership roles = Elite class
Labour, on wages = public school graduate

d- Commercialization exacerbates gender disparity.

→ poor families are less likely to pay
high private fees for daughters.

→ Not willing to send them to far away
schools, sometimes.

e- Challenges the Psychology of poor students

→ shatters their self-esteem

→ Alienation

→ Aggression

→ endangers national unity.

5. NECESSARY REFORMS FOR EDUCATION IN PAKISTAN:

a- Setting government schools for a colony
instead on village basis, to adjust the
requirements of big population.

b- Monthly checks and balance over country's
schools by a committee formed by with the
consensus of all four provinces to ensure
accountability.

c- Leveraging public-Private Partnership (PPP) model to restore standards in neglected rural areas.

d- Budgetary re-prioritization to ensure access to quality education.

6 Conclusion

If we don't teach our children to sit together today, they will not know how to stand together tomorrow.

Essay:

Education was once considered as a moral responsibility, but now it is used as a commodity to earn profit. When education becomes a commodity, the poor become a permanent underclass. Likewise, the commercialization of education in Pakistan continues to deepen the class divide, transforming a fundamental right into a market driven commodity. It is because Pakistan has long been under stress economic conditions due to budgetary constraints and low profit generation enterprises. The shift in policy is therefore, to reduce budgetary burdens, to gain profits, and to overshadow the failure

of public infrastructure - However, commercialization in Pakistan is growing. Class stratification due to multi-layered education systems - language, geography and financial barriers also alienate poor people to get quality education, and they end up getting only religious education, free of cost. Due to these reasons poverty increases, social cohesion disturbs, workforce polarization intensifies, gender disparity exacerbates and mental health of poor deteriorates. Hence, there is an urgent need for balance reforms to boost the economy as well as alleviate poverty. In short, there is no doubt in the fact that commercialization of education in Pakistan will invite profits and boost its economy, but it will also undermine public cooperation, national unity, social mobility, gender equality and mental health of lower class in Pakistan.

Reducing the budgetary burden has become a primary catalyst for the commercialization of education in Pakistan, as the federal and provincial governments struggle with fiscal deficits - Twenty four state-owned Enterprises (SOE), according to Finance Minister of Pakistan, is going to be privatized in order to save more than 1 trillion Pkrs in budget. One sector among these is education, which nowadays has become a good source of earning money.

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The pursuit of profit is another driver for commercialization in Pakistan, particularly in the private sector. Here, the students are treated like customers and revenue generation is prioritized through multi-tiered fee structures that include non-refundable registration, security deposits and "annual charges", which can total upto Rs 150,000 before ^{a student} even begin classes. Similarly, academies also serve the same purpose by charging a student even high. However, they ^{keep} operational cost low by hiring less qualified teachers at low wages. Thus in this way maintain the profit via education business.

The failure of public infrastructure, thus provide another reason for privatization of education in Pakistan. The persistent failure of public sector to provide adequate, quality education; lack of basic facilities (electricity 34% and Clean drinking water 21%), weak learning outcomes and recurrent cost burden has created a massive demand gap, which the private sector has eagerly filled for profit.

Commercialization of education in Pakistan resulted in growing class stratification, which can easily be seen in the multi-tiered education system.

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of Pakistan. The education system is though somehow unified - via curriculum - but segregated on the basis of delivery. There are different systems of delivery in elite private schools, low cost private schools, in government schools and "street schools". Elite schools have more facilities than a government or street schools, thus their quality of education would be more polished and learning outcomes would be more clear than street schools. Thus, different systems will recruit different mindsets and incur different values, that will clash in future.

In private schools, English is treated as an elite language and students are encouraged to speak. However, government school students often come from middle class families, learn things in their native language. The access to elite language, thus, segregates youth on the basis that English is considered as a saviour of career. Those who has English proficiency will earn a good career and the others will left behind. This thinking widens the gap between the youth.

Another reason of growing class divide in Pakistan is the regional gaps among education sectors - that are mostly concentrated in urban areas. These regional gaps blocks

rural success. Quality private education concentrated in urban centers are easily accessed by the people nearby or the one who afford the expenses of travelling transport. On the other hand poor man would think 1000 times to send his son far away for education, that will cost him millions. In this way, geographic barriers restrict poor rural success and widens the class divide even more.

Similarly, it is the wealth that determines who gets schooled and who is not in a privatized education system. As commercialization only thinks about profit, therefore only elite class has access to quality education. Privatization has endangered the education of 60% of poor Pakistani people due to its profit-ridden philosophy. Not only education, but these financial barriers ~~are~~ are keeping the unity of Pakistan at stake.

Leaving behind only option, Commercialization forces the people, who can not afford, to get free religious schooling. Hence, Madrassa's system as an alternative is approached to get schooled. Seeing the students of elite class, well dressed and well spoken, the students of madrassa's feel low in self confidence and isolated - Such feelings often led to depression

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and jealousy or even not ~~ins~~ interested in education.

The growing class divide in Pakistan has multifaceted effects on society. It leads to stagnant social mobility and continued poverty cycle. This is because rich remains rich and poor remains poor. Since a decade the rate of poverty in Pakistan is not declining ^{but} ~~and~~ even increased upto 60%. Main reason is that elite school do not allow students with no money. Without money they are deprived of quality education, that would earn him/her a good job. Thus, leaving poor people in persistent poverty.

Commercialization of education and the growing class divide also divided classrooms that resulted in two system of education. Divided systems cannot think the same, thus leading to diverse mindsets. As elite private schools focus on modernisation while public, street schools emphasize moderation. On the other hand madrasba system focus on conventional learnings. All these system leads to two system theory, like two nation theory, that will eventually block national unity and state cohesion will ~~eng~~ undermine.

Educational class divide impacts the workforce, leading to workforce polarization.

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and classes like proletariat and bourgeois. Commercialization of education endorse the traditional saying "the son of a king will be a king" that means that the students of elite private school will earn leadership roles, leaving behind the public school graduate to serve as labours on low wages.

Gender disparity is also exacerbated due to commercialization of education. Poor families are less likely to pay high private fees for daughters. Sometimes, in rural areas like Kasim Village in KPK, Nowshera, parents are reluctant to send their daughters, ~~to~~ to far away schools to get higher education. Due to poverty 32% females left schools after 5th class. Thus, gender disparity increases due to privatization.

Last but not the least, Commercialization of education in Pakistan challenges the psychology of poor students. They feel alienated while comparing themselves with private school students. Their confidence and self-esteem shattered and their aggression sometime increases. Such youth and their feelings are often exploited by terrorists to endanger the national security and unity. Reports estimated that more than

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20%. terrorist attacks were held by school going discouraged youth. Therefore, educational class divide is endangering national security.

Owing the aforementioned reasons, it is necessary for a government to establish schools in every colony, instead on village basis. The school will not only adjust the requirements of big population, but also will not be overcrowded. In this way the management of school will be handled smoothly.

Secondly, there should be a committee comprises on people belong to every province. The committee will ensure the adequate working of schools via monthly checks and balance system. This will not only ensure accountability, but the working class will also do their work properly.

Thirdly, government should leverage a public-private partnership model to restore standards in neglected rural areas. Funds will be provided by the government for salaries while private enterprise will provide resources for quality education. This will ensure education for all, rich and poor as a whole.

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Lastly, government should reprioritize the budget to ensure access to quality education. Education is the key to development. If government now spend on its human resource, in future they will add up in its development.

In conclusion, it is true that commercialization of education in Pakistan will boost the economy of Pakistan and will invite profit, as it is the profit driven education system. However, it also leads to class divide in Pakistan.

Due to class division public cooperation and national unity is at the stake.

Additionally, the poverty circle still circulate, in circle and gender disparity is increasing.

Moreover, mental health of students is deteriorating that is endangering the security of Pakistan. Therefore, there is a need to improve quality of education on moral grounds because if we do not teach our children to sit together today, they will not know how to stand together tomorrow.