

Flaws in Pakistan's Educational System

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Abstract

The paper aims to identify prevalent problems in the Pakistani educational system with a view to find out their solution. Education system of any country is meant to equip and facilitate the nation to pursue national goals and strengthen its ideological foundations. Presumably the existing education system of the country has failed to deliver matching response to the call of our national objectives and aspirations.

Introduction

Education plays an important role in political stability, economic development and social progress of a nation. It brings political stability by realizing the people their national rights and duties and thus through awareness of their rights and duties, a very good environment is created for better implementation of the policies and good participation and cooperation of the people. Education brings economic development because it enhances the productivity and efficiency of the people, and provides them necessary skills which enable the people to play their role in supporting the sustainable economic growth of the country. Education shapes the personality of the people, seeks them moral obligations and duties, so they can play their part in the society.

Today Pakistan is facing a number of problems i.e. poverty, insecurity, terrorism, sectarianism and many more and base provided to all these problems by lack of awareness, tolerance and illiteracy, developed by ineffective educational system. The vital role and significance of education system is largely neglected in Pakistan. There are also some other factors responsible for instability in Pakistan but education is the crucial one. Education system of Pakistan is facing some serious problems. Though, 62 years have been past and 23 policies and actions planned have been introduced yet the education sector is waiting for solution of its problem i.e. multiple system of education, lacking of adequate funds, inadequate physical and other facilities, poor examination system, dropouts, low enrollment rate, inconsistency in

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education policies, aimless education, no free and compulsory education, political interference, corruption, , outdated curricula, poor management and supervision, lack of research, secularization of education and deficiency of professional teachers. In order to address these problems, there is a dire need for the formulation of rational policies and plans as well as adequate system for their implementation. The objective of this study is to scrutinize the problem being faced by the education sector in Pakistan and to suggest possible solutions to these problems. Before we come to the more complex and complicated problems of education, let us first determine what education really is. The word education is derived from the Latin word "educare" which literally means "to bring out". Thus education in a way can mean the bringing out and the development of all the inherent potentialities of an individual (Iqbal, 1981)

Education is the constructive factor for any society. It open new horizon for the people to perceive things in different dimension. We need education because without it we cannot be a united and strong nation. We cannot properly understand our national aims and the way of achieving them if most of our people remain uneducated. If most of our people get education they can understand the value of unity and discipline in life. They can cooperate with one another in different fields of life. They can understand and work for their own high aims and those of their nation or country. They can understand and obey the law of land and become good citizens. Education can enable our people to make proper industrial, agricultural, and technical progress. Educated people prove to be more efficient and beneficial for the society. (Xenium, 2011).

Educational objectives-in case of Pakistan

Since independence, attempts have been made to relate the education system to the needs and inspirations of the country. In a message to the first educational conference, held in 1947, the founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah had observed that We have to build up the character of our future generations, which means highest sends of honor, integrity, selfless services to the nation, and sense of responsibility, and we have to see that they fully qualified and equipped to play their part in the various branches of economic life in a manner which will do honor to Pakistan. (Qurashi, 1975)

Various commissions and committees were established from time to time during the educational history of Pakistan by various regimes. It is however our sad to observe that in spite of all efforts and important given to education sector, standards of education have gone down. It is a matter of serious concern to find that educational degree awarded in Pakistan have lost their

past prestige and recognition (Iqbal, 1981). However aims and objectives of education are formulated by various national educational policies as:

- To reestablish the existing education system with a view to provide social, political and spiritual need of society.
- To preserve the ideology of Pakistan within the Islamic ethos ensured in the 1973 constitution
- To promote unity and patriotism and the desire for the welfare state
- To preserve and promote cultural and ethical norms and religious toleration
- To provide equal educational opportunities to all citizens of Pakistan
- To create responsible members of society and global citizens
- To develop democratic and moral values
- To review confidence in public education systems by raising the quality of education in government institutions
- To improve services of education governance and management
- To improve the quality of education particularly relevant to the need of the economy
- To eradicate illiteracy within the shortest possible time through different illiteracy programs
- To enable the individuals to earn their livelihood through skills which further contribute to the national economy
- To encourage planning have been undertaken by the government but without taking the ground realities into account and without participation of the community and proper implementation of these policies (Iqbal, 1981). research in higher education institutions that will contribute to economic growth of the country
- To organize a national process for education development that will reduce disparities across the country (Zaki, 1989).

ANALYSES OF PERVAILING EDUCATION SYSTEM

Despite lot of effort that has gone in since 1947, Pakistan's education system of Pakistan is facing a lot of problem because it is not according to the needs of the society. A number of draw backs / grey areas that have been identified by this study are:

Multiple System of Education

Today our education system does not offer the environment and opportunity of one and equal system of education. We have a very divisive education system which has created a huge gap among the nation and penetrated deeply into our culture. Thus different tiers have been created in our system over a period of 60 years to facilitate the hold of the elite over the governing of our nation. There are many systems working in the country, resulting in social division and conflict. Today our multiple tier education system can be highlighted in the following categories:

Cambridge Education system: This foreign education system is exclusively for the children of very rich so that they can after graduation go overseas for higher education on the foreign exchange provided to them by Pakistan State Bank. So the students from the elite class follow the "O" and "A" levels curriculum instead of Pakistan's domestic, the poor quality curriculum. They have little or no awareness of their religion and culture.

Pakistan Secondary Education System: This is provided by private and government schools, one for the middle class and other for the poor. The one for the middle class has medium instruction in English and the other one in Urdu. The children from these institutions, if they happen to have good grades and the parental financial capital go to the colleges of their preference and the rest either become clerk/ cashiers/ sales person in a shop/ worker in the factory/ any other work which comes in their way.

Madrassah Education System: This is supposed to provide religious education; however, poverty is another factor that restricts the parents to send their children to public or private school so that they prefer to send their children to madrassah where education is free. Religious madrassas churn out yet another class that is usually unaware of the world outside their own. This one has no name and consists of children who are born in misery and die in misery. (Sayan, 2008)

Aimless Education: Education develops the roots of any nation. Any nation prepares their generation according to their ideological, cultural, social and religious norms through education but the education system of Pakistan is entirely aimless. It would probably be more correct to say that its sole aim is to produce manpower for running the administration which inherited by Pakistan from colonial system (Quddus, 1990). Our education system is producing goods for no means and use. Socially culturally and politically unrest is caused by improper

education of our new generation, who can play a role of weapon for the developing of country. Our education system did not preserve our social cultural and religious norms (Qurashi .1975).in 21st century where western countries have made huge advancement towards science and technology we are still lagging behind in them in respective field. Our system is not imparting knowledge rather preparing parrots. Development of thinking, reasoning and talent creation is missing. (Hayes, 1987)

Secularization of Education: Any nation prepares their generation according to their ideology, culture and religion through education. Pakistan is an ideological state based on Islamic ideology but it is still unclear that what should be the Islamic content of our curriculum. Our system of education is not able to protect our religious norms and guide our new generation according to Islam. Despite highlighting technological and literal knowledge backwardness, government is concentrating on abolishing Islamic norms and values and hinders patriotism of Pakistani people (Hayes, 1987)

Lake of professional teachers: Over the years since independence public have seen various political parties in action, various reforms about education, various declarations on paper but nothing has been fulfilled in prosperous way. The main reason of the failure of our educational system is grooming of less technical faculty. Our methods have been stereotyped and new techniques of teaching and materials to make lessons more interesting to the students have not been adopted. Most of our teachers joined teaching just as a job to earn their livelihood. Cramming is part and parcel of our academic calendar, students are asked to spoon feed the technical terms instead of perceiving their fundamental concept, emphasize is given on amount then on logic. Over these years education department have hardly spend any funds on advance coaching of their faculty staff which still stuck in the old age teaching techniques and are unaware of modern methods of teaching and convincing students thorough sheer knowledge. Students are not able to lose library and other modern educational facilities nor are they able to get helped from their teachers. Rote learning is common practice both because of the educational tradition and because of lack of teaching material. Teachers relay mainly on lecture method. (Iqbal, 1981).One of the chronic problem of our education system is the shortage of teachers due to which merit criteria is ignored though the number of teachers has been gradually increasing but it does not match favorably with the number of students and there is a gap between the students and teachers ratio. (Qurashi 1975)

Dropouts: The provision of providing basic education has been a goal since independence and enrolment have been increasing but percentage of student completing primary school has been falling. Only 30 percent of those who enroll in primary education ever reach to their matriculation exam. The major problem in our education is the large number of dropouts. It is estimated that it is mostly due to economic reason and unattractive school environment. Thus our school going children cannot even acquire the basic skill of learning and a number of them fall back in to the category of illiterates. (Quddus, 1990)

Poor examination System: Examinations are conducted to test the ability of a student and find out his standard of academic learning and knowledge. By the use of illegal practice in our examinations have become very widespread and spoiled its objectives. The problem of illegal practices concern the examiners the invigilators, the students, the parents and examination board. The students look upon a degree as a passport to employment in a commercial commodity which can be purchased if you pay the price. Unfortunately, some parents also share same views and have actively helped their children in using unfair means to pass the examination but the most tragic part of the story is that our educationists has also been contaminated by the poison of this evil. Our poor examination system encourages rote learning and cramming. This system is criticizing for its tendency to define education as the pursuit of high marks and not the development of intellectual power through learning. Our examination system is not regarding as an accurate measure of actual achievement and future performance. This poor system spoiled our education standard. (Qurashi, 1975)

Inadequate Facilities: According to several reports, most of the public sector educational institutions remain in a state of disrepair and lack even basic facilities resulting in substandard education. Overt crowded classroom, low standard and over worked teachers in adequate teaching material ill-equipped laboratories having poor staff , shortage of diaries with lack of modern books verities, lack of physical facilities and virtually crippled children under the dead weight of their curriculum are some of the usual site in educational institutes of Pakistan. Under such condition they cannot be expected to achieve the standard expected from them. (Hayes, 1987)

Low Enrollment Rate: Though Pakistan has made some effort and improving the enrollment rates at the primary level, the achievement at present in this regard is still far below than other countries in the region. The present enrollment rate at Pakistan is 54 percent for males and 30 percent which is very low and comparison to other countries of the region which have by and

large crossed the 100 percent mark for both male and female. Teacher absenteeism, untrained teachers, inadequate materials and obsolete teaching methods are the main reasons for low enrolment in schools. Most of the public schools are poorly managed, impart education of poor quality, use poorly written textbooks and use curricula that are not relevant for the needs of the 21st century.

Out -dated Curriculum: Pakistan emphasize is given on quantity not on quality which will make things more worse for our future generation. The curriculum of our education system is not based on its objectives to create the power of reasoning in a child. It has no direct connection with the practical life which the students will have to face, when he becomes a mature person of the society. Our curriculum is not updated to compete with the rest of the world in modern education. Our national survival both in term of economy and defense potentials depends entirely on the kind of education we provide to our children. The basic problem is that our curriculum is not promoting the interest of the student towards practical work and scientific knowledge. (Hayes, 1987)

Administration and Supervision: Most of our educators are not trained and experienced enough in the skill of organization and the art of administration. Supervision in our government institution in particular and many private ones in general is totally lacking. This may be due to the complacent attitude of supervisor are due to their incompetence. Usually in efficient supervisor are often introduce in academic in there is relatively little incentive for them to improve their skills in the relive field. It is mostly concerned with procedural ensued such is controlling the teachers rather than giving direction. Supervisor are generally overburden with a wide variety of tasks. All education institution need to be efficiently supervised and administer in order to ensure quality of education. There for an effective efficient system of checks and balances is required otherwise we will keep on grouping in the dark in our aim to become in enlightened will never reach.

Political Interference: Educational planning and administration suffered from a lack of in effective feedback. Regular input enquiry from the bottom is lacking because our educational planning in administration is regularly effecting by unnecessary and uncalled political and bureaucratic intervention. A lot of political interference is noted in the appointments transfer and violation of merit. (Husain. 2011) Pakistan has not been able to develop basic administration and

infrastructure for an effective planning, is it exists; planning is based too much on the idea of political official and little gross root enrollment. (Hayes, 1987)

None free Compulsory Education: Seeking of knowledge is the religious duty of every Muslim to get it is the religious duty of every Muslim. To get it done is the biggest responsibility of the state. In our education system is there is no free and compulsory education for the entire citizen available on equal bases. In the other countries of the region there is free and compulsory basic education in order to create discipline and feelings of common identity and integration, irrespective of their social and economic background. (Hayes, 1997)

Educational Policies: A number of educational policies were introduced from time to time by various regimes in the history of Pakistan for reforms but due lack of implementation and inconsistency, it showed no result. Major policies decisions are made under threats from strongest pressure group or by the political leaders for their own political slogan rather than in keeping with the overall needs of the country. Little are no research is done on the implication of these policies and there long term costs. Similarly, there is hardly any harmonization between the federal and provincial governments which leads to poor policy implementation. There are also complaints that the government's consultation with the non-state sector does not necessarily result in action. Teachers have also been generally ignored in the policy making process (Zaki, 1989)

Insufficient Budget Allocation: The share of public education expenditure in national budgets increased in many regional countries but it has declined in Pakistan. According to the International Crisis Group, Pakistan is one of only 12 countries in the world that spends less than 2 percent of its GDP on education. Less than fifty percent of the funds allocated for development expenditure of the Ministry of Education at the federal level are actually utilized. A major reason for this underutilization of funds is their complex financial allocation and release system. The province lack the finical resources to achieve the goal of universally primary education (Sayan, 2008)

Centralization: The problem with the education in Pakistan is that we don't make academic decision, we make political decision in academic areas Pakistan is normally federal system under which the authority over education as centralized. The province has no independent authority in all institution of education but share it with the central government. In addition all specific important institution of education department e.g. budget, policy making etc are control by centre. (Hayes, 1987)

Corruption: Corruption is one of the major contributing factors for failure of educational policy. It is due to lack of accountability and transparency along with low salaries of the staff. Similarly a large number of schools are operating in the records but do not actually exist, rose in record by some corrupt officials. There is also political, social cultural and moral corruption found in our education system. Teachers poorly paid in the best of circumstances, made extra money by tutoring and payment of bribes. The ultimate corruption was the outright sale of bogus certificate and degree. For transferring and posting often required payment of bribes to government agencies. (Hayes, 1987)

Gender Discrimination and Regional Inequalities: The adult female illiteracy rate in the country was twice as high as for males. The illiteracy rate was 23.3% for males and 46.9% for females. The number of educational institutions, the literacy rate among both males and females, the number of private educational institutes and the available educational facilities are not equally provided all over the country.(Quddus,1990)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Following are some suggestions to improve the education system in Pakistan:

Appropriateness of Curriculum: The curriculum is usually inappropriate or at least inadequate for the set goals in many disciplines. There should be an integrated system in which one step leads to the next to enable a student to develop a truly sound base for the discipline he or she is interested in .curriculum should be made updated to compete he the modern world. Computer education should also be introduced gradually. Religious education should be incorporated in curriculum. At the proper stage, Arabic language should also be introduced for greater unity in the Ummah, and for better understanding of Islam. True understanding of Islamic teaching can only be achieved if the people of Islamic ideology are given due important in the teaching of Islamiyat, Pakistan studies and Arabic language. Curriculum should be made interesting by institutions as museums, internet clubs, libraries, etc. Interesting and informative documentaries and activities should also be design. Contributions from the public can also be sought for this purpose.

Uniformity of Educational Systems: There are many systems working here, resulting in social division and conflict. For example we have English medium schools, Urdu medium

schools, and religious *madrasas*. There for a uniform system of education for all the citizens should be introduced. One medium of instruction should be introduced, for which English is suggesting which the demand of the modern world is.

Declare Educational Emergency: The present government should declare a national educational emergency and involve the whole nation, including the army, in waging a war against illiteracy. For this it is suggested that it should be made a mandatory requirement for various degree programmes that the candidates, after taking their exams, shall spend a specified period of time in teaching at assigned institutions which should be given in a judicious and practical manner, Ask for volunteers with specified qualifications to contribute their services in their areas of work or residence under organized bodies of the government. Ask the public to contribute voluntarily for this purpose financially.

Improve Teacher's Selection Process and Teaching methods: We can improve quality of our education through teachers training because the education can only be good as the teachers. Teaching is not an as much easy profession as much it is considered in our country. Hence while hiring teachers there should be very critical process. In our country most of teachers hired due to their relationships with local MNAs. And in most places teachers hired but they do not attend schools in remote places. Some time teachers put any one else on their place and enjoy their pay while sitting in home and give some percentage to their substitute teachers. Hiring process should include written test, interview and demonstration .Teaching is an art and everyone could not teach, it should be checked through demonstrations. Government should compare its training mode with training of elite schools teachers. Or government should train trainers from elite school's trainers to improve whole training menu. Introduce high quality selection procedure for higher level teachers and introduce modern teaching techniques by use of A.V aids. Stress should be given to develop basic skills because usually even our postgraduates lack basic skills. Poor teaching is the most prominent problem, so various teams of experts should be involve in performing the improvement teaching methods by introducing and implementation of various trainings. Modern techniques should be adopted. Instruction in science, history and social studies should be incorporated in language teaching at the primary and secondary levels through activities and projects.

Facilitate the Teachers : Teaching job is not attractive in Pakistan. Most of girls and boys do teaching just for time pass in their study gaps. The teacher's job has no respect and status in or country, that's why we have lot of low standard and unqualified teachers. The hiring process,

facilities and pay packages of teachers also shows that teacher job is a poor job and professional people do not prefer it. Government should make this job attractive by announcing number of income packages especially for those who hired in remote areas. Remote area teachers should be facilitated by resident and transport facility along with additional pay. Attractive salaries package should be introduced for the teachers and other officials to minimize the chances of corruption. Another problem with Pakistan is brain drain. Capable and outstanding professionals prefer foreign jobs instead of serving in their own country. This is due to the low financial output and indifferent attitude of go. By facilitating them we can restore our outstanding professionals. Award system should also be introduced in shape of medals and increments for good performance.

Scholarships Programs: Students should be given more scholarships and government should support the intelligent and outstanding students. Higher education commission should send position holder students of intermediate under their strict observations and conditions, to foreign developed countries for studies with full facilities and contracts to return after completion of studies. China adopts the same strategy to meet the global competitiveness. Banks should be encouraged to give student loans on easy bases.

Parents training Institute and Adult Literacy Schools: In developed countries besides teacher's training there is strong concentration on parents training. Children passed only 8 to 6 hours with teachers and remaining 16 hours with parents. Children learn from all sorts of activities and experiences in their life therefore there is a dire need to improve their all teachers (parents are real teachers). Parents should be trained that how should they behave with their children in different matters, how could they create tolerance and democratic attitude in their children

Formation of Book Banks: Book banks mostly exist within schools; they should be developing officially like other banks. Elite people and foreign donors along with government and NGOs should donate books, copies, stationary, uniform and bags in the bank for poor people in the country. Moreover there should be special branch for student's fee, where fee for poor children could be submitted by rich people. The bank should be advertised in media and Internet and people should encourage in supporting poor people for education.

Make Annual Reports Compulsory: For better monitoring and evaluation all schools should bound to submit annual reports to complaint desks. Then compliant desk should compare

reports with complaints and manipulate progress of each. Members from complaint desks should also visit suddenly to schools for strict check and balance. Annual reports should contain all sorts of statistics on students along with number of parents meeting in the school and views complaints and problems of parents. These reports should be utilized to check improvement in whole system and to establish new policies to new issues

Promote Research: The research is the key to the solution of many problems and has basic significant in bringing above qualities and improvement in education. In recognition of this fact national institute of educational research should be establish to conduct research, facility and communication, provide gelidness and counseling. Universities professors should be facilitated to conduct research. We are just allocating less than two percents of GDP. Educational budget should be increased at par with international limited to research related activities. The standard of Universities should be research centers only and must not be allowed to conduct graduate or post-graduate examinations. High priority should be given to research and development and technology, in order to solve practical problem.

Educational Administration: Existing administrative in supervision has never been equating the tasks of a society. There for the federal ministry of education, provisional department of education and directives of education plus other agencies should be managed by qualified and experienced educationist.

Free and Compulsory Education: Free and compulsory education should be provided on equal bases up to metric. Primary education should be made compulsory and free of cost; it is already free of cost but not compulsory.

Provision of Necessary Funding: Lack of funding is also a problem. According to UNO standards a country should allocate 4 percent of its GDP towards education but in Pakistan a very low spending on education is found, only about 1.7 percent of the GDP. Moreover it is very clear that if existing funds utilized fairly then there could be no shortfall of funds.

Implementation of Policies: Implementation of policy should be insuring instead of introducing new policies. There should consistency in these policies which can provide gradual steps for one another for better implementation. Teachers professors and other educationist should be consulted in the policy making process.

Examination System: To show good result in educational reforms great stress should be given examination system. Education ministry should try their best to conduct pure examination system. It is suggested that equal important should be given to external as well as to internal assessment, to eliminate the chances of corruption and illegal promotion.

Conclusion

There is no denying the fact that education is the backbone in the development of any nation. It develops the people mentally, physically, socially and spiritually. The countries that have an effective system of education also happen to be the leaders of the world, both socially and economically. Any nation prepares their generation according to their ideological, cultural and religious norms but our education system did not preserve our norms. If we prepare our generation properly, according to our needs and make them faithful and patriotic then they can play their role as useful and secured weapon otherwise we are preparing enemies of our own country. In short it is education, which can turn the population of any country from a burden to human resource. Moreover, prior to devolution, the policy and planning have been undertaken by the central and provincial governments without taking into account the ground realities and without the participation of community. The main objective of the devolution plan is to empower the community at the grassroots level in planning, management, resource mobilization and utilization, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Education system to improve the standard. The main problematic issues of education systems in Pakistan are: lack of professional teachers, high dropout rates particularly at primary level, outdated curriculum, lack of accountability, multiple system, political interference, insufficient funds, corruption, poor examination system, lack of research and lack of proper implementation of policies etc. Pakistan's dire state of education sector and policy implementation demands immediate attention from the government. Without doubling its current financial commitment to education, Pakistan cannot meet it. We are on the verge of destruction and only factor which can build up our society is Education, so it's our responsibility to work for betterment of our education reforms so that we lie up our self along western countries.

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