

A Case Study of Educational System in Pakistan: Problems and Solutions

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Abstract

Based on statistical data, it is a fact that Pakistan's literacy rate is one of the lowest in the world, and this is an area of concern. It's saddening to hear that an estimated 22.6 million children are not going to school, and the literacy rate is only 58 per cent. The situation is even worse for disadvantaged youngsters who face significant difficulties in going to school. Improving the education system should be our top priority to empower our children with better opportunities to learn and grow. Every child deserves access to education, and we must do all that we can to make it a reality. Education plays a fundamental role in the political, social, and economic advancement of any country. It is a crucial aspect that cannot be overlooked. A strong and effective educational system is essential for a nation to achieve its goals. Pakistan, despite being a developing state, has valiantly tackled significant educational challenges since its inception. These issues have impeded the country's progress towards achieving its national goals. To overcome these obstacles, Pakistan must prioritize education by implementing effective policies, increasing funding, and improving access to quality education. Addressing these challenges will not only enhance the country's human capital but also promote sustainable economic growth and development. Several factors are contributing to this situation, and it is crucial to identify and address these problems. The objective of this study is to delve into the critical challenges that have long plagued the education system in Pakistan, to provide feasible solutions to overcome these obstacles. Through an extensive

analysis of the prevailing issues, this study aims to identify the underlying causes of the inefficiencies within the education system and suggest practical measures to address these concerns. The ultimate goal is to establish a framework that can help improve the quality of education in Pakistan, thereby contributing to the development of a knowledgeable and skilled workforce.

Keywords: Problems, education, literacy rate, challenges, solutions, curriculum

Introduction

Education is undoubtedly a crucial aspect of any country's political, social, and economic development. It is the foundation upon which nations are built and grow. The Constitution of Pakistan has recognized this fact and made it compulsory to provide free and necessary education to all children between the ages of 5-16. With the transfer of education to the provincial independence bodies, it is now the responsibility of the provinces to ensure that the education system is strong and effective (Aziz, 2014). Education not only creates job opportunities, but it also empowers people by increasing their general awareness, promoting economic development, and creating a sense of commitment in the community. However, Pakistan is currently facing several challenges, such as poor quality, lack of confidence, sectarianism, and terror campaigns that are directly or indirectly affecting the education system. It is crucial to identify and address these issues to overcome the obstacles and achieve national objectives. Education is undoubtedly a crucial element for the growth and development of any society. It not only imparts knowledge but also helps in shaping the character and personality of individuals. By exploring different dimensions, education can help individuals discover their hidden talents and capabilities, which can eventually contribute to the progress and success of their country. With education, Pakistan has the potential to become a powerful nation on the global horizon, as it can unlock the strengths of its people and channel them towards achieving its goals.

Statement of the Problem

This research focuses on the major educational issues faced by Pakistan. It sheds light on the causes and consequences of the educational crisis in the country. This research provides a comprehensive overview of the problems, reasons, and objectives of Pakistan's education system. It helps to understand the challenges faced by the education sector and identifies potential solutions to address these problems.

Literature Review

After conducting a thorough literature review, it is evident that the primary education system in Pakistan is facing numerous challenges. Primary education appears to be the most neglected and poorly regulated, with teachers being underpaid and the curriculum outdated. Political interference in the system has also led to corruption and poor performance. To address these issues, it is recommended that there should be a strong accountability and quality assessment system in place, as well as measures to prevent corruption and political interference. The curriculum should be updated and teacher motivation should be prioritized.

By implementing these recommendations, positive changes can be made to the primary education system in Pakistan. (Ahmad, I. 2014)

Education is indeed a key factor in promoting political stability and social and economic development in any nation. Unfortunately, Pakistan's education system is facing numerous challenges, including a lack of integration and a proliferation of different educational programs. A recent study investigated these challenges, using a survey methodology and questionnaires to sample 210 respondents, as well as interviews with 35 teaching faculty and students. The study found that education plays a crucial role in promoting political stability and empowering human rights and gender equality. (Naseer, 2012) However, the study also highlighted the negative impact of private institutions on the quality of learning and research. To address these challenges, it is important to prioritize the development of an integrated national education system that ensures social development and prevents the commercialization of education. Additionally, it is important to address the specific challenges facing the primary education system in Pakistan, such as the outdated curriculum and low teacher motivation, through measures such as updated curriculum and teacher incentives. By addressing these challenges, positive changes can be made to the educational sector in Pakistan.

Research Objectives

- The prime objective of the research is to know about the Educational Problems in Pakistan.
- To understand the goals of Pakistan's education system.
- To find out the solution of all these problems which are faced by the education sector of Pakistan.

Research Questions

1. What are the problems in the education sector of Pakistan?
2. How can the goals of education in Pakistan be achieved?
3. What are the solutions of educational problems in Pakistan?

Research Methodology

This research study addresses the Educational Problems in Pakistan therefore research is done by using the method which is a qualitative approach to gather information Furthermore a case study method is opted to conduct this research. Secondary data will be used for this research. Secondary data provide a theoretical framework of the topic to understand the basic knowledge about the Educational Problems in Pakistan. A secondary source is based on articles, books, journals, articles and newspapers about a specific subject. To ensure accuracy and reliability, the researcher has analyzed the basic issues which are faced by academia in Pakistan. To gather all the necessary information, reliable secondary sources are used. These secondary sources will provide a piece of comprehensive knowledge and data on the topic and help the researcher gain a better understanding of the Educational Problems in Pakistan.

Reasons for Educational Problems

The lack of common consciousness, prejudice, and illiteracy are the root causes of the challenges that the education system in Pakistan is facing. Unfortunately, the importance of education has been mistreated, leading to low progress in all spheres of life. The low budget given to the education system has weakened its quality, and as a result, it has failed to grow the country cost-effectively, politically, and socially. Despite the establishment of Pakistan many years ago, the education system has failed to lift the nation out of economic, political, and social crises (Lewis, 2017). To address these challenges, it is important to prioritize the development of an integrated national education system that ensures social development and prevents the commercialization of education. Additionally, specific challenges facing the primary education system in Pakistan, such as the outdated curriculum and low teacher motivation, should be addressed through measures such as updated curriculum and teacher training. By addressing these challenges, positive changes can be made to the educational sector in Pakistan.

Problems in the Education Sector

The challenges facing the education system in Pakistan are numerous and complex, including insufficient budget, poor quality of teachers, political interference, outdated curriculum, and corruption, among others. To address these issues, it is important to develop sound policies and programs and ensure their proper implementation (Ahmad, 2014). Education is a powerful force for social development, and it is essential to prioritize its development in Pakistan. By addressing these challenges, positive changes can be made to the educational sector in Pakistan, improving the lives of its citizens and contributing to the country's overall progress.

Goals of Education in Pakistan

The ultimate goal of education is to enrich individuals through the development of their physical, social, intellectual, and emotional abilities, providing them with knowledge and skills that will be useful throughout their lives. However, it can be challenging to determine what learners should learn and accomplish to achieve their life goals. It's interesting to learn about the history and purpose of the education system in Pakistan. The founding fathers believed that education was essential for achieving national goals and improving the character of the Pakistani generation. However, it's disappointing to hear that despite setting up education commissions and committees, the quality of education hasn't improved. Parental involvement in the education process is crucial for ensuring the quality and effective implementation of policies. It's important to involve parents in education to make positive changes to the educational sector in Pakistan and contribute to the country's overall progress (Naseer, 2012).

Challenges in the Education Sector

Lack of Uniformity

The education system in Pakistan is facing significant challenges. The existence of multiple educational programs and the lack of uniformity in the curriculum are contributing to a sense of division and separatism among students. This divisive education system has created a significant gap in the nation and has contributed to social, political, and economic divisions (Reynolds, L. 2008). Policymakers need to address these issues and work towards creating a more unified and inclusive educational system that promotes national unity and progress. Parental involvement can play a crucial role in this process, as it can help ensure that policies are effectively implemented and that students receive a high-quality education.

Education without Direction

It's true that a strong education system is crucial for the development of any nation, both socially and economically. Unfortunately, Pakistan's education system has been facing several challenges, including a lack of coherence and uniformity in the curriculum. This has led to a situation where students are not receiving the education and training they need to be successful in the job market, resulting in high rates of unemployment (Dewey, J. 1986). Additionally, the lack of educational and scientific opportunities is hindering the development of student's critical thinking and reasoning skills. Addressing these issues will require a concerted effort from policymakers and parents alike, working towards a more unified and inclusive educational system that promotes national unity and progress.

Outdated Curricula

The current education curriculum in Pakistan seems to be outdated and not in line with modern educational principles. It appears to focus more on memorization than on promoting a comprehensive approach to learning and development. This approach does not encourage students to explore and experiment with practical work, scientific knowledge, or visual representations. Instead, it puts more emphasis on theory and retaining facts and figures. A curriculum that is developed based on psychological, philosophical, and social education could be more effective in promoting a well-rounded education that meets the needs of the times (Collins, A. 2017).

Lack of Teacher's Professional Development

It is important to prioritize teacher training to improve the quality of education in Pakistan. Without adequate training opportunities, teachers may struggle to provide students with the best possible learning experience. Unfortunately, many training institutions are under-resourced and poorly run due to a lack of funding and trained staff. This can lead to a shortage of appropriate training standards throughout the country (Powell, C. G., & Bodur, Y. 2019). It is crucial to update traditional teaching methods and ensure that teachers have the necessary skills, motivation, and quality to effectively educate students.

Low Quality of Teaching

The quality of teaching is indeed crucial to ensuring that students receive the best education possible. It is unfortunate that many teachers in Pakistan are not adequately trained and lack the necessary skills and resources to effectively educate their students. This can lead to a decline in learning habits among students and a lack of motivation to learn. Teachers must be given the necessary training and resources to update their teaching methods and techniques to provide students with a more engaging and effective learning experience. (Feng, L., 2017). As professionals, they must guide students in reading books and encourage them to participate in educational programs as active members. This way, students can acquire knowledge through practical experience rather than just memorizing facts and information for the sake of passing a test.

Alarming Dropouts

It is concerning to hear about the lack of good governance in schools leading to a decline in good behaviour among students, which in turn leads to dropouts (Schachter, R. 2013). This is a serious issue that needs to be addressed to ensure that all students have access to education. Schools need to have a positive and supportive environment that encourages learning and growth. Parents also play a crucial role in their child's education and should be encouraged to be actively involved in their child's schooling. Unfortunately, child labour and poverty are contributing factors to this problem. Efforts should be made to address these issues and provide support to families in need. Improving the dropout rates and literacy rates in Pakistan will require a concerted effort from all stakeholders involved in education.

Weak System of Examination

Assessments of student learning need to be based on reliable and valid measurement strategies to fully evaluate student performance. Unfortunately, Pakistan's assessment system is outdated and does not fully assess students in all aspects of learning. The current testing program only measures student memory and does not examine critical thinking or analytical skills. Additionally, external and internal forces have encouraged the use of inappropriate means during testing. This promotes a lack of professionalism and denies the role of higher-level thinking in academic disciplines. It is crucial to address these issues and improve the assessment program to accurately measure student success and performance.

Poor Monitoring System

The role of the supervisor is to provide support and guidance to teachers to improve their teaching practices. Monitoring and evaluation should be done constructively and positively, aimed at identifying areas for improvement and providing the necessary resources and training to address them. A well-designed and effective monitoring system can help schools and teachers improve the quality of education and ensure that students receive the best possible learning experience.

Internal and External Influences

It is concerning to hear about the challenges facing the learning system in Pakistan. Education should be free from external political interference and internal administrative scandals. It is also important to address issues of prejudice and discrimination in matters of transfer, appointment, and promotion. A fair and transparent system that values merit and diversity can help ensure that all students have access to quality education and that teachers are supported in their professional development.

Parental Issues

Unfortunately, some parents feel like they have to prioritize immediate financial needs over their children's education. It's important to raise awareness about the benefits of education and how it can positively impact not only the individual but also the family and society as a whole. Every child deserves the opportunity to receive a quality education and fulfil their potential, regardless of their gender or socioeconomic background (Baquedano-López, 2013). We must work towards creating a system that supports and encourages education for all and addresses the root causes of illiteracy and poverty. It's also important to recognize the challenges faced by poor families and work towards finding solutions that can help parents provide for their families without sacrificing their children's education.

Lack of Resources

It is truly intimidating to hear about the lack of educational resources in Pakistan's institutions. Access to textbooks, libraries, and visual aids are crucial components of a successful education system. When these resources are not available, students are left at a disadvantage and it becomes difficult to maintain an effective learning environment. Overcrowded classrooms, unqualified teachers, and inadequate laboratories only compound the problem. Steps must be taken to address these issues to improve the country's education system (Buabeng-Andoh, C. 2012).

Policy Implementation

It is unfortunate to see that despite the development of educational policies in Pakistan since its founding, there has been a lack of political will to enforce them effectively. Corruption, inadequate funding, and inconsistent political leadership have all contributed to this crisis in the education system. Moreover, it is concerning to note that teachers are often overlooked in the formulation of these policies, leading to a divide between them and the education system. These issues must be addressed to ensure a better future for the country's education system and its students.

Low Budgetary Allocation for Education

It is a well-known fact that finance is the engine that drives any system, and this includes Pakistan's education system. Sadly, this sector has been severely limited by the lack of funding, with subsequent governments allocating less than 2.5 per cent of the budget to it (Chalos, P. 1997). This does not meet the growing needs of national education in the

changing times. It is noteworthy that in many developing countries such as Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, the education budget has increased, but in Pakistan, it is dwindling day by day. With such a meagre budget allocation, the country will not be able to meet the basic targets for the delivery of primary education as signed in the MDG Conference objectives for the year 2021 and beyond. This is a concerning situation that needs to be addressed urgently.

Policies of Entry Test and Problem of Paper Out

It's disheartening to hear about the negative impact that politics can have on the education system, especially when it comes to admission tests. These tests are meant to ensure that students are admitted based on their merit, but unfortunately, it seems that they can be manipulated to benefit certain groups or individuals (Atkinson, 2009). It's important to ensure that the education system remains fair and impartial and that deserving students are not denied the opportunity to pursue their education due to political influence. The focus should always be on providing the best possible education for all students, regardless of their backgrounds or affiliations.

Corruption in the Education System

The issue of corruption in the education system is a major concern in many Asian countries. The lack of effective monitoring and accountability has created opportunities for individuals to misuse funds, abuse power, and manipulate budgeting, transfers, promotions, and decision-making processes. Unfortunately, Pakistan is listed as one of the world's most corrupt countries according to Transparency International. This situation is further complicated by low salaries for teachers, which can lead to unethical behaviour such as cheating on exams and falsifying certificates or qualifications. Steps must be taken to address these issues and ensure that the education system remains fair and transparent.

Opening up a Large Number of Private Schools

It's interesting to know that there are a growing number of private schools opening up in Pakistan. These schools seem to have better infrastructure, more trained teachers, and modern technologies compared to public schools. They also offer additional facilities such as counsellors, doctors, psychologists, sports teachers, and swimming pools. It's no wonder that parents are choosing to send their children to these schools, especially since they seem to promote creativity and offer a more conducive learning environment. However, it's important to ensure that education remains accessible and affordable for all children, regardless of their socio-economic background.

Politics in the Education System

It's concerning to hear about the negative impact politics can have on education. Teachers need to remain impartial and not involve their students in political activities. Education should be a neutral ground where students can learn and grow without any political bias. The focus should always be on providing the best possible education for all students, regardless of

their political affiliations. It's essential to maintain the integrity of the education system and ensure that outside forces do not influence it.

Participation in nation-building

It's concerning to hear that the education sector may not be contributing to the overall growth and development of the nation. It's important to encourage students to value their education and see its impact on their own lives and their communities. Understandably, some may feel that they need to go abroad for better opportunities, but it's also important to remember the value of investing in one's own country and contributing to its growth. We should work to create an environment that encourages and supports students to stay and work towards building a better future for themselves and their country. Additionally, it's important to recognize and address the root causes of why individuals may feel the need to leave their home country for better opportunities (Deutsch, 2010)

Solutions to the Educational Problems

Investing in education is essential for the growth and development of any nation. To ensure that Pakistan has a bright future, it is crucial to increase the budget allocation for education by international standards. Additionally, shifting schools to solar systems can help to tackle the issue of load shedding. It is also important to balance the pupil-teacher, pupil-school, and teacher-school ratios, and ensure that class strength, the number of teachers, and the number of classrooms are in line with international education standards. Moreover, boundary walls should be constructed, security staff should be hired, CCTV cameras should be installed, and identity cards should be issued to students, teachers, and staff to ensure safety and security. Together, these measures can help to unlock the potential of Pakistan's people and contribute to the country's success on the global stage. The researcher completely agrees that investing in education is vital for the growth and development of any nation. To ensure that Pakistan's future is bright, it is important to increase the budget allocation for education by international standards. Additionally, the researcher believes that setting up quality professional institutes with sufficient funds for teacher training and development is an important step towards improving education in Pakistan. It is also crucial to minimize political and bureaucratic influence at all levels of education and strengthen the system of accountability. It is suggested that revising the curriculum on an annual basis and incorporating new strategies and methods to align Pakistan's education system with other countries is a great idea. Finally, the researcher believes that implementing safety and security measures such as constructing boundary walls, hiring security staff, installing CCTV cameras, and issuing identity cards to students, teachers, and staff is important to ensure a safe and secure learning environment. The researcher believes that by taking these measures, we can unlock the potential of Pakistan's people and pave the way for the country's success on the global stage. The researcher believes that it is important to ensure that the examination system in Pakistan is free of unfair means, Mafia culture, and illegal gratification. To achieve this, strong supervision and monitoring should be put in place to subside these negative elements. Policies should be implemented without delay and in continuity to ensure that their outcomes

are achieved. Additionally, the researcher thinks that promoting the culture of research in educational institutions is essential to improving the quality of education in Pakistan. Furthermore, establishing academia-industry linkage programs can make education more practical and equip students with skills that are in demand in the job market. The researcher completely agrees that we need to focus on improving the education system in Pakistan. Introducing technical and vocational training at secondary schools is a great way to equip students with practical skills that they can use in the job market. It's also important to increase public expenditure on education and skill generation, as this will help us achieve our goals more effectively. The researcher thinks reducing polarization and introducing uniform standards at all types of schools is another important step we can take. Lastly, enhancing the scale and quality of education in general, and scientific/technical education in particular, is crucial for the future of Pakistan.

Conclusion

It is important to prioritize the development of the education system in all aspects, including social, moral, spiritual, political, and economic. Effective teaching programs can play a leadership role in the international community and contribute to a nation's political and economic freedom. Unfortunately, the schooling system in Asian countries, including Pakistan, has not been able to efficiently contribute to nation-building and has contributed to the growth of disturbance in the educational culture. The upcoming generation lacks direction due to an inefficient education system that does not prepare them for legitimate economic, social, political, and ethical reasons. Instead of focusing on critical thinking, reflection, analysis, research, and art, the system focuses on providing advanced information and knowledge that is not in line with the rapidly changing world. Therefore, it is crucial to amend the education system in Asian countries like Pakistan to ensure that it remains fair, transparent, and effective. It is concluded that education reforms are needed to improve the existing education system. As a concerned citizen, the researcher suggests that policymakers, thinkers, researchers, educationists, and common people should work together to bring about positive changes. It's important to consider introducing technical and vocational training at secondary schools to equip students with practical skills that can be utilized in the job market. In addition, increasing public expenditure on education and skill development can help us achieve our goals more effectively. We should also aim to reduce polarization and introduce uniform standards at all types of schools. Lastly, enhancing the scale and quality of education, particularly scientific/technical education, is crucial for the future of our country. It is concluded that implementing these ideas can bring about a positive change in the education system.

Recommendations

- There should be progressive skilled development centres for all types of lecturers. For this purpose, the prevailing teacher coaching establishments program should be funded by qualified employees to conduct teacher coaching programs from time to time.

- The attitude of irresponsibility should be discouraged and every professional in the education system should be trained to fulfil individual and team responsibilities. This helps form a way of possessing the program and its functions.
- The course of study should be reviewed annually. During this time, an unbiased survey should be conducted to solicit the views of lecturers, past students and therefore the community on the expectations and what they'd seen. For this purpose, the professional recommendations of educational researchers, and the objectives of the course of study ought to be redefined and a course of study that addresses the requirements of the community and therefore the world while not discriminating on the idea of character, colour and faith should be followed.
- There should not be political interference in educational affairs and decisions. This may enable the system to run positively while not discriminating between individuals. Frequent political interference creates gaps within the system that have crystal rectifiers to corruption and different evils.
- The probation system should be introduced. Moreover, it should be simple and free from dishonourable practices, corruption and outlawed satisfaction. The observing and analysis systems are often developed physically and on paper to accomplish this process. The government should improve salaries and education professionals so that their inclinations aren't pleased to unhealthy ways of gaining favour and support.

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