

Education System in Pakistan

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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to my parents, brothers, sisters, teachers, and my dear friends who always supported me and encouraged me to do amazing things. This achievement couldn't be possible without their support.

CONTENTS

1	Literacy Rate in Pakistan	Pg. # 1
2	Flaws in the Education System of Pakistan	Pg. # 3
3	Drawbacks of the Education System in Pakistan	Pg. # 8
4	How to Improve Education System in Pakistan	Pg. # 11
5	Panel Discussion on Improvement of Educational System in Pakistan	Pg. # 13
6	Conclusion	Pg. # 19

1. LITERACY RATE IN PAKISTAN

As of January 2020, Pakistan vows to raise literacy rate from 58% to 70% in four years by providing school access to the approximately 22.8 million students, improving the education system among all ages with modern technology.

- Primary: 22,650,000
- Post-Secondary: 1,949,000
- Secondary: 2,884,400

From 1947, we praise education and we believe that Education can change the fortune of a country. Pakistan has several threatening problems and the top one is Education.

We also believe that only education can solve all the rest big issues that Pakistan is facing today. But the question is How to Improve Education System in Pakistan?

Don't worry I will answer this question.

A famous quote of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah:

“EDUCATION IS A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH FOR PAKISTAN. THE WORLD IS PROGRESSING SO RAPIDLY THAT WITHOUT REQUISITE ADVANCE IN EDUCATION, NOT ONLY SHALL WE LAG BEHIND OTHERS BUT MAY BE WIPED OUT ALTOGETHER.”

We made laws like Article 25-A which states that:

*“THE STATE SHALL PROVIDE FREE AND COMPULSORY
EDUCATION TO ALL CHILDREN OF THE AGE OF FIVE
TO SIXTEEN YEARS IN SUCH A MANNER AS MAY BE
DETERMINED BY LAW”*

Unfortunately, no one focused on practical implementation of this law and still, low or middle-class families have no access to quality education in Pakistan due to the high fees of private institutions.

In this book, we will be going through different flaws, drawbacks, and issues in the education system of Pakistan and will be giving the real solution for those problems as well.

We have also collected some of the valuable suggestions from well-known personalities as well as from teachers to students from different areas, which we will be sharing later.

2. FLAWS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM OF PAKISTAN

In Pakistani Education System, there are a lot of flaws and issues that must be addressed as soon as possible.

I am listing some of the issues and flaws in the Education System of Pakistan and will be sharing the solutions as well.

2.1. Theoretical (Not Practical) Education:

I am listing this issue on the top because this is the biggest and actual problem due to which Pakistani Education System is unable to educate the students with practical skills rather, they only read books to pass exams.

Due to this issue, even degree holders don't have any skill to utilize and earn a happy life. They only depend on the jobs which also need practical skills in this modern age.

A very serious part is that the so-called Educated Degree holders are begging for Jobs while on the other side, a local Engineer called "Mistry" who has no degree and is considered as an illiterate earn millions per year and also provide jobs.

At some points, these degree holders are provided internships by the non-degree holders.

It is a big slap on the Educational System of Pakistan.

2.2. Outdated (20 years old Syllabus):

Yes, you read RIGHT!!! We are teaching 20+ years old syllabus to our students which is just a joke with the education.

How can we improve the Education system in Pakistan with the old age syllabus when the current generation is facing entirely different problems than those faced by the older generations? We can't compete with the modern world of Education with this quality.

We need to come up with a fresh and latest knowledge which must be more or less equivalent to the foreign curricula to overcome the challenges of quality education in Pakistan.

We teach students the history of the computer (same for other subjects as well) at BS level (I think it can be listed in top jokes of the world).

2.3. No Teaching Quality:

In this modern world, Teaching is considered the most special and important field. It is the backbone of the Education system of every country. Teachers are given a special type of Training to teach students in a better and friendly way.

Unfortunately, In Pakistan, no quality teachers are provided to students. In fact, those who become unsuccessful in their field and they don't know what to do with their degree now? they join teaching.

What can a teacher teach if he/she doesn't know the output of his subject? (Isn't a shame?)

In the government sector, teachers are mostly employed by politicians in favoritism/bribery. While in the private sector, they find inexperienced and the cheapest teachers.

There should be proper training programs for teachers to learn how to teach and engage students.

2.4. No Unity (Different Curriculum/Syllabus):

In Pakistan, there are different curriculum followed by different educational system. First of all, it is very unfortunate that in one country there are several educational systems that exist just based on financial differences.

We have a National Educational System which includes matriculation and intermediate while the other is the British Educational System which includes O level and A level.

Because of these educational differences, disparities are created in the minds of students at a very young age.

Further, in the National Educational System, we have Urdu Medium and English Medium which divides the students, then we have govt. and private sectors which also follows different syllabus and textbooks.

The same case with all the provinces as well. One province has one syllabus while others have another.

This is a very big issue in the educational system of Pakistan. Govt. of Pakistan needs to address this issue with a policy to unite all of them and make them sure to follow one best and updated syllabus.

2.5. Limited Fields Offered:

In Pakistan, there are few subjects which are considered as a field and these fields are imposed on students like Medical and Engineering.

If one wants to be respected in Pakistani society, he/she must be a Medical Doctor or an Engineer.

No!!! This is wrong. All minds are not the same and they are not supposed to do the same thing. Everyone has different creativity and that creativity can only be utilized if he/she chooses his/her interest.

2.6. My Personal Experience:

"I WAS FAILED IN MATRIC EXAM AS I WAS FORCED TO STUDY BIOLOGY (MEDICAL SUBJECT) WHICH WAS NOT MY INTEREST. THEN, I TOPPED THE WHOLE COLLEGE AT F.SC LEVEL BECAUSE I CHOSE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (COMPUTER SCIENCE) WHICH WAS MY INTEREST. ALWAYS GO FOR YOUR INTEREST."

2.7. No Career Counselling (difficult to Choose Field):

Most of the students, they have no idea at the primary level that what field he/she should choose to specialize in. It is very unfortunate that there is no counseling provided in Pakistani schools and even colleges.

I have seen BS students regretting their decision of coming to their fields.

I like the European system in this regard where one year before field selection is for counseling. They are provided with an environment to explore dozens of fields and then chose the best-suited field at the end of the year. In this way, they find their actual interest and field.

2.8. Education has Become a Profitable Business:

Education is considered as a profitable business in Pakistan. Day by day, new institutes are opening not to provide quality education but to benefit from the lack of schools by govt. and earn a huge amount by charging very high fees.

The perceptions of the students and their parents are not much different as well. They are taught to study and pass exams to get a degree and then offered a job to earn money.

They have no vision to contribute to society or country through education. It becomes a business. Parents invest in children to get Return on Invest later.

2.9. No Check and Balance:

The worst part of the education system in Pakistan is that there is less or no check and balance on both govt. and private sectors.

Several Govt. schools and colleges even have no subject teachers or if they might have as well, they don't come to teach and there is no one to ask why?

There are hundreds and thousands of ghost schools across the country that never opened in years but thousands of employees are getting their salaries every month without any output.

Govt. has already policies and laws regarding these issues but need to implement those laws in real means to overcome the loss of the whole nation.

2.10. Rattalization (Cramming):

Students are taught to do “Ratta” of the questions and answer without any concept and just paste that Ratta in the paper to pass the exam.

It is because students don't understand the English language and they are taught everything in English. The funniest part is that Teachers who teach English as a subject can't speak English themselves.

2.11. No or Less Security:

Yes, unfortunately, we are facing terrorism as well. The terrorists mainly target schools and other educational institutes which created fear in society.

Due to which parents don't allow their children to go to schools. Govt. need to provide strict security to the educational institutes and assure the parents that their child is in safe hands.

3. DRAWBACKS OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN PAKISTAN (DISADVANTAGES)

We discussed the flaws in the Educational System of Pakistan, now we are listing some of the drawbacks of Education System in Pakistan that caused by those flaws and issues.

3.1. Child out of School:

It is estimated that presently more than 55 million age 10 Pakistanis are unable to read and write and there are 7 million children of age 5 to 9 years are out of schools.

The worst part is that in rural areas, more than 52% of girls are not enrolled in school. This is not enough; you know 67% of women as well are illiterate.

These statistics are growing every year which affect our country from every aspect either it is political instability or less economic growth.

3.1.1. Reasons of Childs out of Schools:

- Poverty
- Not enough schools in rural places as compared to their population.
- No awareness.
- No output from already degree holders.
- Low-Quality Education.
- Non-Responsible Politicians.
- Wadera, Choudhry, Nawabs don't allow.

- Sexual Harassment.
- No Security.

3.2. Child Labor:

Because of the worst education system in Pakistan, parents don't enroll their children in school, instead, they make them earn money at a very young age in hotels/local shops etc.

3.2.1. Reasons why Parents don't Enroll Child in School:

- Poverty (They want their child to earn two times food for them).
- No Quality Education (Child learn nothing in years)
- Graduates are unemployed.
- Graduates could be an inspiration and motivation for others but they themselves are unemployed.
- Why would parents want their child to waste years for just getting graduated and then do nothing?

3.3. No Respect for Degrees:

Best was the time when there was big respect for degree holders. Now very few of them achieve that respect otherwise the most non-respectful people of the society these days are unemployed degree holders.

Because they don't know the local and basic skills and also learn nothing in graduation which makes him dependent on the job. If a job isn't provided, he/she becomes a burden on the society.

3.4. No Higher Education:

At first, parents don't enroll their children at school. If a child has good luck and gets enrolled, he/she only continue to study up to matric or maximum inter level and don't go for graduation.

Sometimes this decision is from parents' side but mostly from students themselves as well because they also get to know the reality that nothing can be learned in real so better to leave.

3.5. No Major Invention/Exploration:

Due to the flaws in the education system of Pakistan, and low quality of

Education System in Pakistan

education students are unable to explore something new and invent something for the betterment of the society because they followed only cramming (Ratta) and there was no real concept taught to them.

Even those students who are given assignments to write an essay on Pakistan Education System. They copy from the net and submit and don't think over it.

4. HOW TO IMPROVE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN PAKISTAN

Now it's time to roll the table and improve the education system in Pakistan with urgent and big steps. To answer this question, we have researched a lot and asked different teachers, students and other personalities in the society.

We also attend some panel discussions on the topic and collect point of views of different educationists and all those who are struggling to improve the education system in Pakistan.

4.1. Suggestions for Improving Education System in Pakistan:

4.1.1. Free Education: As stated in article 25-A, every citizen of Pakistan should be given free education.

4.1.2. Scholarships: Govt. should provide scholarships for higher education.

4.1.3. Focus on the Parents: Why do I say this? because often and especially when it comes to girls, parents are the biggest obstacle towards the attainment of their education. So, what should we do? we mobilize parents.

4.1.4. Practical Education: There should be an educational emergency to prioritize Practical studies over theory. Right from the school level, practical works should be made compulsory.

4.1.5. Career Counseling: It should be compulsory in every school in govt. as well as the private sector.

- 4.1.6. Remove Ratta System:** Govt. should come up with a new system to remove cramming (Ratta) system.
- 4.1.7. Teachers Qualification:** There must be a standard qualification to be able to teach in schools as in majority private schools FA pass teachers are hired.
- 4.1.8. Teachers Training:** Teachers should be given proper training before allowing them to teach.
- 4.1.9. Standard Syllabus:** One syllabus should be made for country-wide schools to avoid disparities.
- 4.1.10. Proper Planning:** Government and Private both should sit together and draft a master plan for the right education and then the government should follow this plan sincerely.
- 4.1.11. Unity:** Governments must develop partnerships with communities, NGOs, and the private sector to delegate responsibility effectively in order to achieve universal primary education.
- 4.1.12. Political Influence:** There should be no political influence in the syllabus as nowadays, every govt. just put their leader's praise and history in books.
- 4.1.13. Student Political Parties:** There should be a complete ban on Student Political Bodies in Universities and colleges.
- 4.1.14. Faculty:** There should be strict monitoring of faculty being hired in government and private educational institutes.
- 4.1.15. Technical Training Centers:** Make the vocational and technical training centers more efficient so that skilled youth could be produced.
- 4.1.16. Policy Planners:** Special Policy planning units should be established in provinces.
- 4.1.17. Special Grants:** If needed special grants should be provided to the provinces where the literacy rate is low.
- 4.1.18. Freelancing:** Students must be taught the modern age digital skills and how to utilize them through freelancing on the internet. Pakistan is on 4th number in freelancing in the whole world. If Pakistani students can reach this level without any proper guidance, Imagine, if they will be given a proper training to do online freelancing and other businesses, they can be

on 1st very soon and the economy will be boosted. Govt. must think over it.

5. PANEL DISCUSSION ON IMPROVEMENT OF EDUCATION SYSTEM IN PAKISTAN



“PROVIDE TRANSPORT FOR CHILDREN AND TEACHERS: LACK OF SAFE TRANSPORTATION IS A MAJOR FACTOR IN TEACHER ABSENTEEISM AND FATIGUE. IT ALSO AFFECTS CHILDREN’S ATTENDANCE. SCHOOL VAN TRANSPORT IS A VALUABLE PERK FOR OUR TEACHERS.”

AMJAD NOORANI, EDUCATION ACTIVIST (PAKISTAN),
THE CITIZENS FOUNDATION, SAN FRANCISCO, USA
@AMJADTCFUSA@TCFPAK

“MOBILISE PARENTS: FOR GIRLS, PARENTS ARE THE

BIGGEST IMPEDIMENT TO THEIR EDUCATION. MORE THAN HALF OF GIRLS WHO ARE OUT OF SCHOOL LACK EITHER PARENTAL CONSENT OR ABILITY TO PAY SCHOOLS FEES. WE NEED TO ADVOCATE MORE FOR PARENTS TO GET INVOLVED WITH COMMUNITY SCHOOLS – WHETHER THEY ARE ON THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, OR HELPING WITH THE BUILDING, FINANCING OR SECURITY AT THEIR CHILD’S SCHOOL.”

ROOHI ABDULLAH, LEAD AND INITIATOR, GIRL RISING PAKISTAN, WASHINGTON DC, USA
@GIRLRISINGPAK

*“**TAKE SANITATION SERIOUSLY:** AT OUR SCHOOLS, WE HAVE CLEANING STAFF TO MAINTAIN TOILETS DURING SCHOOL HOURS. THEY ALSO HELP WITH HYGIENE OF YOUNG KIDS BEFORE THEY GO TO CLASS AS MANY CHILDREN ARE FROM HOMES THAT DO NOT HAVE RUNNING WATER. TOILETS, SANITATION AND PRIVACY ARE NOT A TRIVIAL REQUIREMENT.”*

AMJAD NOORANI

*“**IDENTIFY WHY CHILDREN ARE NOT IN SCHOOL:** THE BIGGEST FACTOR IS ECONOMIC CONSTRAINTS AND THE FACT THAT KIDS OFTEN NEED TO CHOOSE BETWEEN WORK AND SCHOOL. IN AN IDEAL WORLD, WE WOULD BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE THE LINK BETWEEN SCHOOLS AND FUTURE EARNINGS. WE NEED TO GET BETTER AT PROMOTING THE VALUE OF EDUCATION TO PARENTS AND CHILDREN.”*

MADEEHA ANSARI, WRITER AND INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT, LONDON, UK @MADEEHA_ANSARI

“GET THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO OFFER MORE SCHOLARSHIPS: THE GOVERNMENT COULD PROVIDE PRIVATE SCHOOLS WITH ATTRACTIVE PACKAGES SUCH AS CHEAPER UTILITY BILLS IN RETURN FOR THEM MAKING AT LEAST 10% OF THEIR PLACES AVAILABLE FOR FREE TO POOR STUDENTS. THIS COULD BE ESPECIALLY EFFECTIVE IN AREAS GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS HAVE FAILED TO REACH.

*ZOBAIDA JALAL, FORMER MINISTER OF EDUCATION,
BALOCHISTAN, PAKISTAN @ZOBAIDAJALAL*

HOLD POLITICIANS TO ACCOUNT: CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS HAVE GOOD INTENTIONS BUT NO ONE’S POLITICAL STAKES ARE INVESTED IN DELIVERING THAT “BETTER” SET OF OUTCOMES, SO THEY LEAVE IT TO DONORS AND NGOS. UNTIL WE CAN GET PAKISTANI LEADERS TO VIEW A DYSFUNCTIONAL EDUCATION REGIME AS A POLITICAL LIABILITY, WE WILL KEEP GRASPING AT NON-SOLUTIONS.

*MOSHARRAF ZAIDI, CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR, ALIF
AILAAN, ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN @MOSHARRAFZAIDI*

SCRAP TEACHING IN ENGLISH: WE FOCUS ON ENGLISH TOO MUCH WHICH IS WHY WE’VE ENDED UP WITH SO MUCH ROTE LEARNING. MANY TEACHERS ARE TRYING TO TEACH IN A LANGUAGE

THEY'RE NOT EVEN FULLY COMPETENT IN. MEANWHILE, CHILDREN WHO ARE CONFIDENT IN THEIR OWN LANGUAGE ARE CONDEMNED AS DUMB IF THEY CAN'T PICK UP ENGLISH."

ZUBEIDA MUSTAFA, COLUMNIST FOR DAWN,
KARACHI, PAKISTAN@ZUBEIDAMUSTAFA
@DAWN_COM

***"OFFER STIPENDS TO GIRLS:** IT'S A SLIGHTLY CONTROVERSIAL METHOD BUT IN KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA WE FOUND THAT PROVIDING STIPENDS TO GIRLS AT RISK INCREASED GIRLS' ATTENDANCE. OF COURSE, SETTING THE AMOUNT FOR A STIPEND IS VERY TRICKY TO MAKE SURE IT IS NOT TOO EXPENSIVE TO DO AT SCALE, BUT WE'VE DELIVERED 400,000 SO FAR.*

ADAM HALL

***"LISTEN TO TEACHERS:** WHAT DO THEY NEED TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE? WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE FOR THEM TO INCREASE MOTIVATION AND SPEND MORE TIME IN THE CLASSROOM? THIS FEEDBACK IS NOT ADEQUATELY COLLECTED OR USED AT THE MOMENT."*

ADAM HALL, PROJECT MANAGER (EDUCATION),
ADAM SMITH INTERNATIONAL, LONDON, UK

***"SET UNIVERSAL MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR SCHOOLS:** WHAT MAKES A PRIMARY OR A SECONDARY SCHOOL? CURRENTLY, YOU SEE A SCHOOL UNDER A TREE WITH TWO TEACHERS IN ONE PLACE BUT A PRIMARY SCHOOL WITH A HUGE BUILDING AND MANY TEACHERS IN ANOTHER PLACE*

– THE SAME IS THE CASE FOR CURRICULUM, TEACHERS' QUALIFICATIONS AND EXAMINATIONS. GOVERNMENT, COMMUNITY AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS SHOULD HAVE TO ADHERE TO THE SAME BASIC PRINCIPLES."

DR MIR AFZAL TAJIK, DIRECTOR, AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY'S INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, KARACHI, PAKISTAN

"COLLECT A WIDER VARIETY OF DATA: MOST GOVERNMENT DATA IS FOCUSED ON SCHOOL BUILDING CONTRACTS AND TEACHERS' SALARIES, RATHER THAN ON WHAT THE CHILDREN ARE LEARNING. HOW ABOUT RUNNING COMMUNITY FOCUS GROUPS ROUTINELY AND HAVING NIMBLER PROGRAMMES THAT ALLOW FOR MID-COURSE CORRECTION?"

NOORULAIN MASOOD, CEO, TEACH FOR PAKISTAN, KARACHI, PAKISTAN@NOOR_MASOOD

"INCENTIVISE TEACHERS TO LEARN AS THEY EARN: TEACHERS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED WITH SALARY INCENTIVES TO TAKE COLLEGE QUALIFICATIONS AND GET A BACHELORS DEGREE. ADDITIONALLY, ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS AND IN-SERVICE TRAINING SHOULD BE PROVIDED. HIGHER COMPETENCY SHOULD BE REWARDED."

AMJAD NOORANI

"ADAPT TEACHING TECHNIQUES FOR VOLATILE SITUATIONS: WHERE SCHOOLS ARE FREQUENTLY CLOSED DUE TO VIOLENCE, ONE POSSIBILITY IS HOME SCHOOLING. FOR EXAMPLE, IN EBOLA-

*AFFECTED SIERRA LEONE WE MOVED TO
DELIVERING EDUCATIONAL RADIO PROGRAMMES.”*

TRICIA YOUNG, DIRECTOR, CHILD TO CHILD,
LONDON, UK@CHILDTOCHILD

***“MAKE PROVISIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL
NEEDS: I THINK WE ALWAYS NEGLECT THE CHILDREN
WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AND THEIR EDUCATION IN
OUR SOCIETY. AS MINISTER FOR SPECIAL
EDUCATION, I CAME OUT WITH A NATIONAL PLAN
OF ACTION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND THE
MOST VITAL ELEMENT WAS INCLUSIVE EDUCATION.
UNFORTUNATELY, I HAVEN'T SEEN IT WIDELY
IMPLEMENTED YET.***

ZOBAIDA JALAL

6. CONCLUSION

The reforms required in the education system of Pakistan cannot be done by the government alone, as a citizen of Pakistan, we are also responsible to help the govt. in improving the Education system in Pakistan. Only then, we will be able to pull out our beloved country from illiteracy.

Similarly, vocational and technical training should be paid attention to make skilled youth as an asset of Pakistan.

It was all about the Education System in Pakistan. Hope you liked the book. Provide an honest review to improve it more.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rehmat Ullah is an entrepreneur and a blogger by profession. He is a co-founder of Softhat IT Solutions Private Limited, a renowned software house of Pakistan. Thinker and reader by night and writer by day, Rehmat is impassioned to write about social issues that adversely affect the societies and communities.

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