## How to Improve Education System in Pakistan

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## How to Improve Education System in Pakistan:

Now #ItsTime 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 view of different educationists and all those who are struggling to improve the education system in Pakistan.

### Suggestions for Improving Education System in Pakistan:

- 1. **Free Education:** As stated in article 25-A, every citizen of Pakistan should be given free education.
- 2. Scholarships: Govt. should provide scholarships for higher education.
- 3. **Focus on the Parents:** Why do I say this? because often and especially when it comes to girls, parents are the biggest obstacle to achieving an education. So, what do we do? we mobilize parents.

- 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.
- 5. **Career Counseling:** It should be compulsory in every school in govt. as well as the private sector.
- 6. **Remove Ratta System:** Govt. should come up with a new system to remove cramming (Ratta) system.
- 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.
- 8. **Teachers Training:** Teachers should be given proper training before allowing them to teach.
- 9. **Standard Syllabus:** One syllabus should be made for country-wide schools to avoid disparities.
- 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.
- 11. **Unity:** Governments must develop partnerships with communities, NGOs, and the private sector to delegate responsibility effectively in order to achieve universal primary education.
- 12. **Political Influence:** There should no political influence in the syllabus as nowadays, every govt. just put their leader's praise and history in books.
- 13. **Student Political Parties:** There should be a complete ban on Student Political Bodies in Universities and colleges.
- 14. **Faculty:** There should be strict monitoring of faculty being hired in government and private educational institutes.
- 15. **Technical Training Centers:** Make the vocational and technical training centers more efficient so that skilled youth could be produced.
- 16. Policy Planners: Special Policy planning units should be established in provinces.
- 17. **Special Grants:** If needed special grants should be provided to the provinces where the literacy rate is low.

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.

Your suggestions are most welcomed in the comment section on the link given below.

# 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 more nimble 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

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