

Major Issues of Education Sector in Pakistan

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Abstract

The purpose of this research article is to reveal the problems in education sector in Pakistan. Development of any country is dependent on education. Education motivates the students to increase their productivity in each and every field of life. It reduced the absenteeism, deviance work place behavior and turnover. Islam also emphasizes on the education. It is not compulsory to get education only for men although it is equally important for women. From last few years, Pakistan is facing a lot of problems in education sector such as less trained teachers, corruption, less research work, women education. Old curriculum is not up to date. Old methods of teaching are common in many public schools due to which students want to get rid from their studies. Emerging issues in education sector are lack of technical knowledge and trend towards research and development which are essential to follow for the growth and strength of any economy.

Key words: Absenteeism, turnover, Women's education, budget, curriculum

Introduction:

Education plays vital role in the progress and prosperity of a country. Islam emphasizes on education. When Hazrat Adam (A.S.) was created, Allah said to the angels to bow down, because Allah gave knowledge to Nabi Adam (A.S.)

According to the Holy Qur'an, Allah S.W.T. says

"And he taught Adam all the names, then presented them to the angels; then He said: Tell me the names of those if you are right. They said: Glory be to thee! We have no knowledge but that which Thou hast taught us; surely Thou art the knowing, the wise. He said: O Adam! Inform them of their names. Then when he had informed them of their names, He said: Did I not say to you that I surely know what is ghaib in the heavens and the earth and (that) I know what you manifest and what you hide? And when we said to the angels: Make obeisance to Adam they did obeisance but Iblis (did it not). He refused and he was proud and he was one of the unbelievers." [Al-Bakra, 31-34]

As reported by the Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.)

"Atta libul ilm faridhatol kuli Muslim." This Hadith means: "Attainment of knowledge is a must for every Muslim." [Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) said in Ibn Majah, Hadith no. 224]

There are two kinds of knowledge one religious and other is temporal. Both type of knowledge is most important for every Muslim. It makes the man able to live in the society in better way and communicate with people in perfect and effective way.

Education is also very important for the betterment of each and every nation. All the developed countries are developed because of their education they have improved their educational policies and achieve them properly. Development cannot be possible without the skills and effective labor. It increases the productivity and efficiency of individuals. So, education is the most important for the development of Pakistan. Quaid-e-Azam said in Islamic College, Peshawar on 12th April, 1948.

"Develop a sound sense of discipline, Character, Initiative and a solid Academic Background. You must devote yourself whole-heartedly to your studies, for that is your first obligation to yourselves, your parents and to the State. You must learn to obey for only then you can learn to command".

The importance of education for Muslims can be shown from the history. After war of independence 1857, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan established many educational institutes for the Muslims. Muslims could not win the war. Sir Syed Ahmad Khan knew that the education is a source which will be an asset for Muslims against their enemies (Hindus, English army). Poetry of Allama-Iqbal also plays an important role to awake the Muslims from their deep sleep.

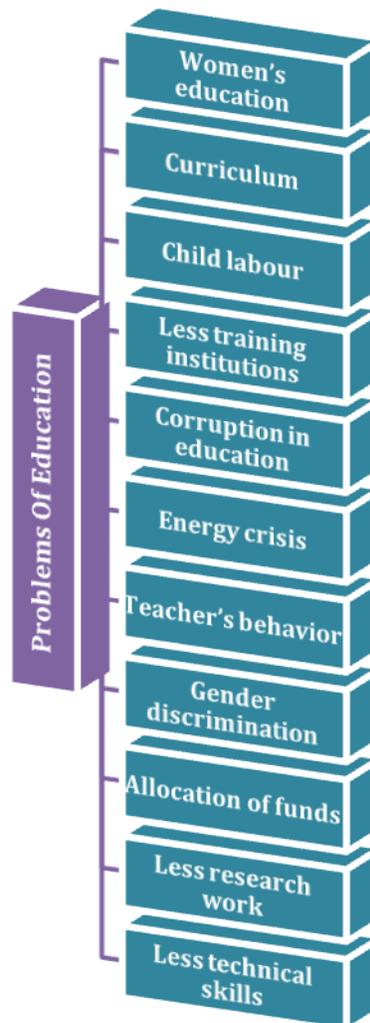
Through education new methods of production can also be used to achieve the economies of scale. As the literacy rate increase in Pakistan the chances of progress will also increase. People will eagerly accept the new technology and it may be cost effective. People will know that from where they get more profit, they will invest in that business. So, the employment level will also increase.

At present educational sector in Pakistan have a lot of problems. Government is not paying proper attention on the issues of education sector. There are two major types of institutes in Pakistan Government and private schools. There are no proper classrooms in government schools. All facilities which are the rights of student are not providing them. Tube lights, pure drinking water, proper management is not available in many schools. Student's enrollment is decreasing because of these factors. An important factor which students face is misbehavior and Absenteeism of teachers. These are the factors which reduce the trend of students in their studies. Like Governance of education make different policies to provide the education to all students without any discrimination but it does not achieve property.

Objectives:

In the developing countries, nothing can be more important than education. Education is playing a vital role in the development of every sector in Pakistan. Education helps us to reach the right goal. Main objective of education is to provide scientific and technical education for the development of economy. It creates an opportunity for individuals to earn reasonable income. Education is an important sector but it has been facing lot of problems in Pakistan. That is why literacy rate is very low in Pakistan. In this research, we try our best to highlight the problems in education sector, and the reasons behind the problems.

Problems of education:



1. Women's education:

Globalization has improved the lives of women especially in developing country. But women are left behind in many fields e.g. education, civil rights, health and employment.

According to gender statistics (2010) girls are 4% less than boys to complete the primary schools. Instead of 30 years of the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and 20years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), today girls make up around 56 per cent of the 77 million children not in school. Two third of women is adult which is illiterate.

Education provides the basic understanding to women in each and every field of life. Islam emphasizes on education of women. A child’s first school is his mother’s lap. So, when a women have better understanding about their life, health, nutrition, social norms, then she can taught her child what is better for him. An educated woman leads an educated family in society. When women’s do jobs their earning will increase and she can provide a better future to her family members. Through this per capita income of a country will also increase.

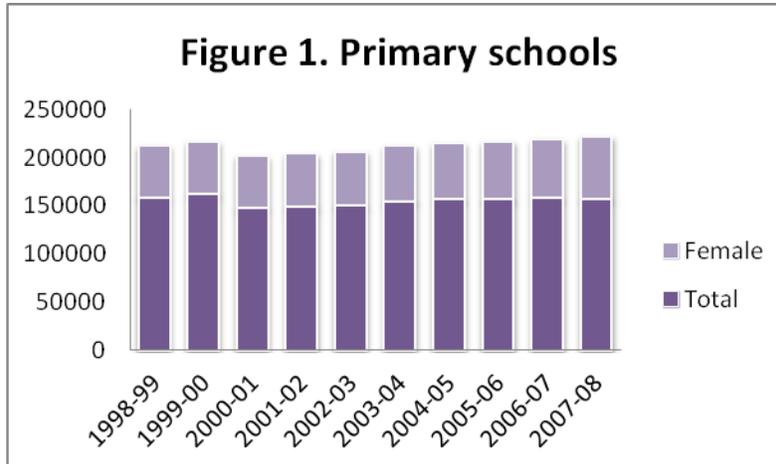
There are many issues because of these women’s cannot get education. Girl’s enrollment in schools is very low. Girls who enrolled in schools drop out because of many reasons like financial problems.

Table-1
Educational Institutions by Kind, Level and Sex

| Year | Primary schools | | Middle schools | | Secondary schools | |
|---------|-----------------|--------|----------------|--------|-------------------|--------|
| | Total | Female | Total | Female | Total | Female |
| 1998-99 | 159330 | 53058 | 18072 | 7188 | 12931 | 3574 |
| 1999-00 | 162076 | 55044 | 18435 | 7567 | 13211 | 3610 |
| 2000-01 | 147736 | 54287 | 25472 | 12043 | 15416 | 4805 |
| 2001-02 | 149085 | 55313 | 26790 | 12805 | 15658 | 4879 |
| 2002-03 | 150809 | 56116 | 28021 | 13514 | 16208 | 5055 |
| 2003-04 | 154970 | 57626 | 28727 | 13876 | 16742 | 5339 |
| 2004-05 | 157157 | 58743 | 30418 | 14756 | 17233 | 5589 |
| 2005-06 | 157526 | 59774 | 39370 | 19311 | 23552 | 8312 |
| 2006-07 | 158375 | 60895 | 40094 | 17472 | 24206 | 9213 |
| 2007-08 | 157899 | 64431 | 40837 | 17997 | 24623 | 9464 |

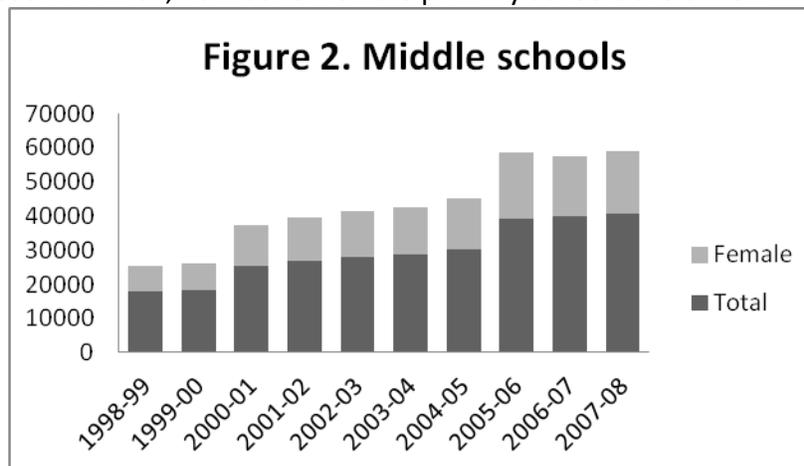
Source: 1) Academy of Educational Planning and management, Islamabad 2) Provincial Bureaus of Statistics. 3) Concerned Universities.

Table 1 and 2. From the data of educatinal institutions by kind, level and sex can easily be concluded that total number of primary, middle, secondary schools, arts and science institution, professional colleges and universities are increased from 1998-99 to 2007-08. Number of female schools, colleges and universities has also been increased.



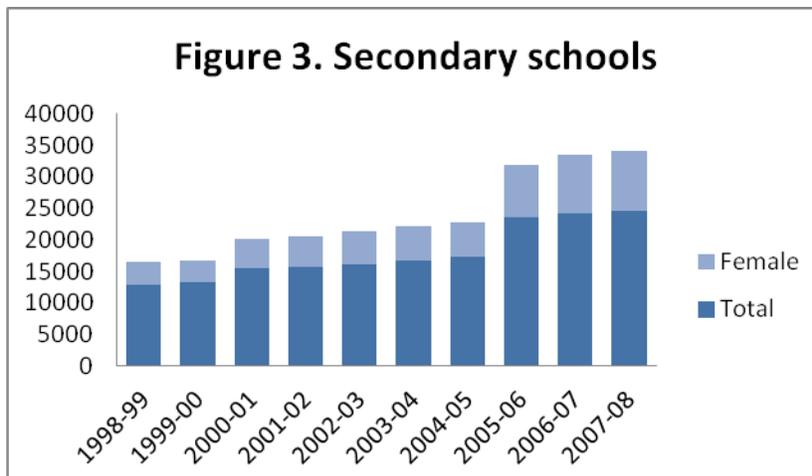
Source: 1) Academy of Educational Planning and management, Islamabad 2) Provincial Bureaus of Statistics. 3) Concerned Universities.

Figure 1. indicates that number of primary schools in Pakistan. Form the last many years, most of the primary schools are build. According to 2007-08, total number of primary schools are 157899. In which, number of female primary schools are 64431.



Source: 1) Academy of Educational Planning and management, Islamabad 2) Provincial Bureaus of Statistics. 3) Concerned Universities.

Figure 2. tell about the total number of middle school and number of middle schools for female in pakistan. Education institutions for female are 7188 in 1998-99 which increased to 17997 in 2007-08.



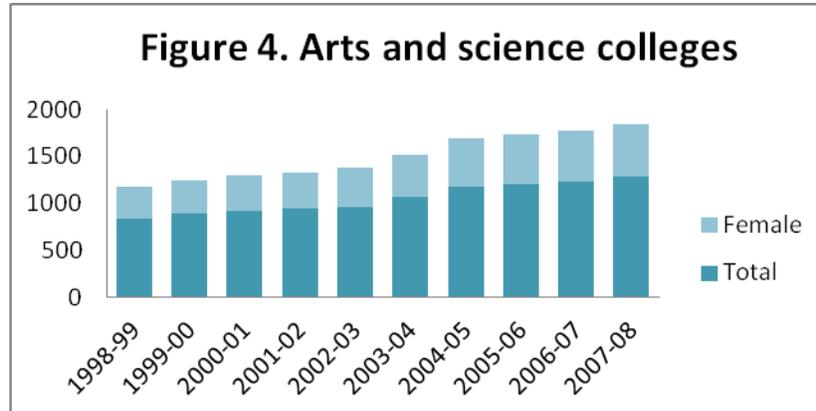
Source: 1) Academy of Educational Planning and management, Islamabad 2) Provincial Bureaus of Statistics. 3) Concerned Universities.

The government is paying attention on the women education. As this graph show that the numbers of secondary schools has been increased for female. It has been increased from 3574 to 9464 in last few years.

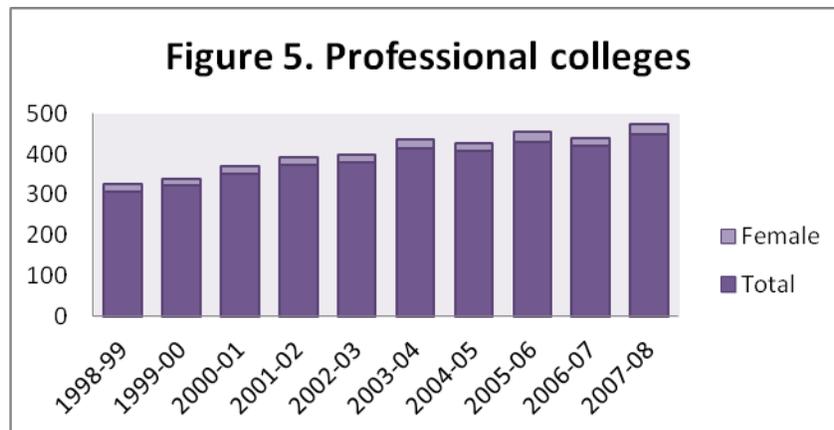
Table-2
Educational Institutions by Kind, Level and Sex

| Year | Arts & science colleges | | Professional colleges | | Universities | |
|---------|-------------------------|--------|-----------------------|--------|--------------|--------|
| | Total | Female | Total | Female | Total | Female |
| 1998-99 | 840 | 339 | 308 | 18 | 26 | 1 |
| 1999-00 | 889 | 358 | 324 | 15 | 26 | 1 |
| 2000-01 | 916 | 380 | 352 | 18 | 26 | 1 |
| 2001-02 | 939 | 394 | 374 | 20 | 29 | 1 |
| 2002-03 | 964 | 414 | 382 | 19 | 29 | 1 |
| 2003-04 | 1066 | 458 | 416 | 20 | 52 | 3 |
| 2004-05 | 1174 | 515 | 408 | 21 | 52 | 3 |
| 2005-06 | 1208 | 529 | 432 | 23 | 61 | 5 |
| 2006-07 | 1231 | 539 | 420 | 19 | 61 | 5 |
| 2007-08 | 1283 | 566 | 451 | 23 | 67 | 5 |

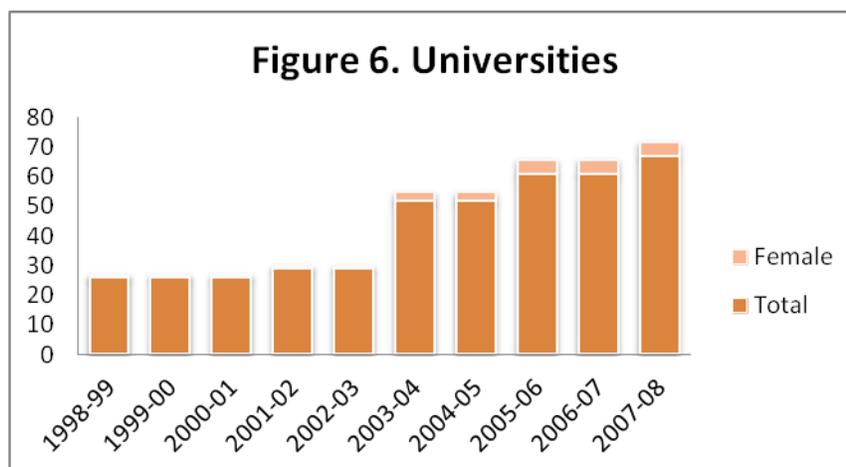
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Arts and science institution, professional colleges and universities are increased from 1998-99 to 2007-08. With the increased in number of female students, the total number of female institutions are also increased.

2. Curriculum:

Curriculum is one of the major problems of education. In Pakistan no efforts are made to up to date the curriculum. Substandard books are provided in government schools. There is a need to standardize the curriculum development and textbooks review process utilizing the opportunity provided under section 7 of the 'Federal Supervision of Curriculum, Textbooks and Maintenance of Standards Education Act, 1976'.

The rules must ensure:

- a) Greater transparency in the curriculum development process.
- b) Representation of all federating units.
- c) Representation of adequate number of specialists and educationists.
- d) Involvement of teachers.
- e) A process for follow up and feedback on the curriculum, once it is implemented.

There is a need to improve the standards of textbooks because it makes it more interesting. Government should focus on quality of curriculum or text books material. Textbooks must be published under the subject specialists. Government should consider the views of specialist and trained teachers to write the text books. Good kind of language should use for text books. Current government is trying to pay attention for betterment and standardize the curriculum and text books.

3. Child labour:

Child labour is always remains important issue of education in Pakistan. Seminars and conferences are held in different cities where speakers stressed the need to end child labour and make them useful citizens for the future of the country. Every year on June 12, World Day against Children labour is observed to create awareness about the rights of children and against the social evil involving child labour. According to All-Pakistan Labor Force survey the number of children working in Pakistan was 21 Million in 2010-11. Out of which 27 per cents are girls and 73 per cents are boys.

Table-3
Child Labour in Pakistan

| Province | Total No. of Children in age group of 5-14 years(millions) | Total No. of Economically Active Children in Age Group of 5-14 years(millions) | Ratio of Child Labour |
|---------------------------|---|---|------------------------------|
| Punjab | 22.63 | 1.94 | 8.6% |
| Sindh | 8.62 | 0.30 | 3.5% |
| KPK | 6.71 | 1.06 | 15.8% |
| Baluchistan | 2.07 | 0.01 | 0.5% |
| Total for Pakistan | 40.03 | 3.31 | 8.3% |

Source: *Province-Wise Comparison of Economically Active Children 2010-11*

From the table-3, it can easily be said that child labour is a major issue in education sector. Total number of child labour from the age group of 5-14 years is 22.63 million in Punjab, 8.62 million in Sindh, 6.71 million in KPK and 2.07 million in Baluchistan. Total ratio of child labour is increasing from the recent years. Number of economically active children in age group of 5-14 years is only 3.31 million.

The main cause of child labour in developing countries like Pakistan is poverty. But poverty is not the only reason of child labour; there are many reasons behind this. Low wages, high cost of living, lack of resources, unemployment, helps at home with household chores and health issues etc.

Table-4
Reasons for leaving/not attending school by the children

| Reasons | Frequency | Present |
|------------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| Non affordability | 262 | 37.4 |
| Do not want to study | 163 | 23.3 |
| To work for pay | 150 | 21.4 |
| Help at home with household chores | 29 | 4.1 |
| Other | 19 | 2.7 |
| School is too far | 16 | 2.3 |
| Illness | 11 | 1.6 |
| Total | 650 | 92.9 |

Source: *Child labour in Pakistan- a tip of an iceberg*

Data shows the reasons for leaving and not attending school by the children. Children want to get rid from the schools because of non- availability of proper classrooms, teacher behavior, illness, financial issue. Some of the do not want to study. Some of them work in factories and help at home with household chores because of poverty.

Government is trying to reduce child labour in Pakistan. Government provides scholarship on merit but with this effort no fruitful results are obtained.

4. Less training institutions:

Teachers play very important role in the student's life. So it is duty for the government to provide better and effective training institutions where their skills can be improved. In Pakistan, there are less teachers training institutions for training the teachers. There are 275 teacher training institutions providing pre-service training (certificates, diplomas and degrees). There are provided one year training program. After completion of this training they are awarded a certificate called certificate in education.

Education sector also has lack of technical education it means chances of progress is also very low. Because progress is possible when people will aware from new technology, they will use it.

Table-5
Number of Secondary Vocational Institutions by Type

| Type of Institutions | Commercial | Industrial/ Vocational | Polytechnics / Technical |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1998-99 | 215 | 207 | 55 |
| 1999-00 | 216 | 194 | 55 |
| 2000-01 | 218 | 196 | 71 |
| 2001-02 | 200 | 192 | 70 |
| 2002-03 | 164 | 209 | 78 |
| 2003-04 | 181 | 235 | 87 |
| 2004-05 | 178 | 234 | 91 |
| 2005-06 | 180 | 220 | 103 |
| 2006-07 | 182 | 222 | 104 |
| 2007-08 | 181 | 234 | 98 |

Source: *Pakistan-statistical-year-book-2010 (Statistical bureau of Pakistan 2010)*

Three types of secondary vocational institutions such commercial, industrial and technical are shown in the table-5. Commercial institutions are decreased from 215 to 181 according to statistical bureaus of Pakistan 2010. Total numbers of industrial institutions are 234 in 2007-08. Polytechnics or technical institution are 55 in 1998-99 which increase to 98 in 2007-08.

Figure 7. Number of Secondary Vocational Institutions by Type

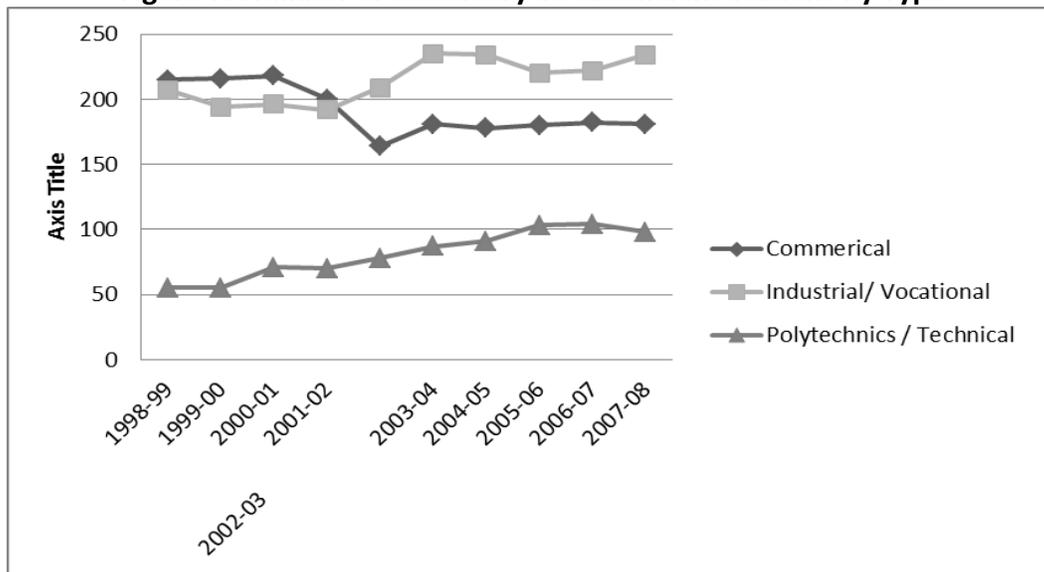


Figure 7 shows the line graph of secondary vocational institutions which are actually training institutions. From 1998-99 to 2007-08, there is an increased and decreased in total number of secondary vocational institutions. With the increase in training institution, teachers are teaching more effectively and try to use the new methods of teaching.

5. Corruption in education:

Corruption in education sector in Pakistan is going to increase. As there are two types of schools in Pakistan public and private schools. The private schools based on western education system but an ordinary citizen cannot afford the charges of these schools. Only elite class children take admission in private schools. Ordinary children take admission in public schools in which they are not provided with good books and good environment. Government is facing a lot of challenges. Standard of public schools is continuously decreasing because there is no co-operative governance. Public schools have low funds because these schools are not used by the elite class students. Some public schools are that which are not exist in papers.

Some people take bribe to give material to students. Some students cannot take admission in public institutes until they have strong reference with them. Some students achieve the merit to take admission but due to financial problem they do not take it, institution must provide scholarship to these kinds of students. Another problem is that education sector is under the supervision of many illiterate politicians who do not have broad vision for education. As reported by Syed Arif Kamal in 24th October 2010

“There are over 12,000 ghost schools in Pakistan,” said Syed Arif Kamal, a member of the department of mathematics in Karachi University. “The money poured into these dysfunctional schools goes unnoticed.”

This meant that the quantity of educational institutions was adequate but their quality was deplorable.

6. Energy crisis:

There are many energy crises in Pakistan. It is also a major issue in education sector. Mostly electricity is not provided in public schools. It has bad impact on students because a student can study in school when a proper classroom is provided to them. In public school there is no tube lights, no electricity, no fans, no proper sitting arrangements are provided. Private schools have tube lights, fans, and A.C but these things are not used because of load shading. But their fesses are more than the government schools and some parents are not able to send their children in private schools.

Pakistan is full of natural resources by using these resources electricity can be produced and crisis can be removed. Other problem is that some schools do not pay their electricity bill and doing power pilfering.

7. Teacher's behavior:

Employee's productivity depends on the facilities which are provided them from the organization. Similarly, teachers behavior is also depend on the facilities which are provided to them. If teachers have all the facilities their behavior will be satisfactory towards their job. I the result, their job productivity will increase but there are no attractive salary packages for teachers in many institutions. It affects teacher's behavior. Teachers' turnover and absenteeism is going to increase. As paper work has to vanish in education many old teachers were replaced and those who were not replaced their salary reduced. Through this a negative attitude develops in teachers.

8. Gender discrimination:

There is great gender discrimination in rural areas in Pakistan. Parents do not send their daughters to schools for education. As they are narrow minded and do not enrolled their girls in schools. That's why girl's ratio is low as compare to boys. The primary school ratio of boys and girls is 10.4 percent respectively. There are many other problems which resist to girl's education like transportation problems, family issues and financial problems.

9. Allocation of funds:

In the budget 21% of total revenue was allocated for education. It is apparent from the figures that "top priority" of the government is improvement of education facilities. A volume of Rs.617.000 billion of total budget was to be spent on education. With the addition of 2,000 scholarships, the number of scholarships is raised from 4,249 to 6,249 during financial year 2013-14.

The revenue contribution on education sector in Pakistan is being shared among the Federal, Provincial and District Governments in the following table:

Table-6

| | Federal | Provincial Governments | | District Governments | |
|-------|---------|------------------------|---------|----------------------|---------|
| | 26.663% | Punjab | 9.047% | Punjab | 29.650% |
| | | Sindh | 3.267% | Sindh | 14.852% |
| | | NWFP | 2.713% | NWFP | 8.250% |
| | | Baluchistan | 1.967% | Baluchistan | 3.590% |
| Total | 26.663% | | 16.995% | 56.337% | = 100% |

Source: Policy and Planning Wing, Ministry of Education

Total revenue contribution on education sector in federal, provincial and district government is 26.663 percent, 16.995 percent and 56.337 percent respectively. District government revenue contribution is more than federal and provincial government.

Table-7

The comparison of budget allocation with the previous year (Rs. in Million)

Source: finance.gov.pk/budget/Budget_in_Brief_2013_14.

The table show the comparison of budget allocation with previous year. Budget in the recent year is increased as compared to other budget. In 2013-14, although budget is increased but there is lack of infrastructure in education sector.

Present government taking great attention for education. The Government is spending more budget as compare to previous rulers. Although the government has reserved more funds for this important area yet there are more requirements to achieve the targets considering the importance of education in development of any country. The comparison of 132 countries reveals that budget allotted for Higher education in Pakistan is lower than 124 countries. Dr. Javaid Laghari, the chairperson of Higher Education Commission (HEC) in the conference held on Friday stated that his department has received just 13% of the budget. Pakistan stands at

| Classification | Budget 2012-13 | Revised 2012-13 | Budget 2013-14 |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Education affairs and services | 47,874 | 52,371 | 59,277 |
| Pre-primary & primary education affairs services | 4,670 | 4,764 | 5,832 |
| Secondary education affairs & services | 5,699 | 6,121 | 7,434 |
| Tertiary Education Affairs and Services | 35,675 | 39,303 | 43,364 |
| Social welfare & special education div. | 53 | 53 | 103 |
| Subsidiary Services to Education | 135 | 135 | 254 |
| Administration | 963 | 940 | 1,505 |
| Education Affairs, Services not elsewhere classified | 679 | 1,054 | 785 |

125 numbers.

10. Less research work:

As reported by N. A. Jafarey

“Pakistan's low level of scientific research is due to a culture that discourages independent and critical thinking.”

In university level of Pakistan Government and teachers pay less attention on research work. Due to this, students remain unaware from the methods of research. That is why concept of Students about critical analysis is not clear. And second reason is that in university level resources are less for conduct the research. Research work is very important at undergraduate level specially. Researches play a very important role for getting job and in the market.

Government should provide such environment to students where they are able to express their feeling in words freely. Teachers should motivate the students for this purpose.

Less technical skills:

Teachers in the government institutions have less technical skills, because training institutions for teachers in Pakistan are less. Less technical skills means is substandard quality of education.

Future direction:

The purpose of our research is to identify the major problems in educational sector in Pakistan which educational sector is suffering from since last few years. In future we will research on the solution of these problems. Energy crisis can be reduced by using the natural resources. To increase the literacy rate, the Government of Pakistan announced that the education is compulsory for sixteen years old for each and every citizen. It will play an important role in the development of Pakistan.

Conclusion:

Development of Pakistan is dependent on education. Education is very important for both male and female because it's mostly said that if a women is learned its means a society is learned. The method of production can be improved by the education. In last many years, Pakistan is facing a lot of problem in education sector either it's related to women education or budget. Corruption in education sector in Pakistan is going to increase. No efforts are made to up to date the curriculum. Poverty resists the people to get education because they have no enough resources to get admission in education institutions. That causes the increase the ratio of child labour in Pakistan. Government should take steps to remove these hurdles, to improve the education sector.

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