



ACADEMIC PULSE

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# ACADEMIC PULSE

A PROJECT OF LOGIX SOLUTIONS



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# Complex Web of Education Challenges in Rural Areas of Pakistan

Education is a powerful catalyst for human development and societal progress. However, when it comes to rural areas of Pakistan, numerous challenges hinder the advancement of education, perpetuating a cycle of underdevelopment and poverty. Rural population is disproportionately

ment's priority is to enhance the national literacy rate. National Education Policy 2021 is one of the good steps taken by GoP to address this critical issue. And in order to cope up with these challenges, the government's initiatives, as well as the contributions of international and local NGOs,

**Use of Technology:** Leveraging technology can bridge educational gaps in rural areas. Initiatives that provide access to digital learning resources, even in areas with limited connectivity, can enhance students' learning experiences. The government should work on providing the neces-

## 20 million children not going to school, 4 out of 5 live in rural parts of the country

affected by the low quality of the public education system, with girls and young women the most underserved. Of the 20 million children not going to school, 4 out of 5 live in rural parts of the country, and of those, 60 percent are girls. Reason for the significantly lower rate for female education is cultural norms like favoring boys' over girls' education, early marriages and childbearing, and also lack of safe and secure schools for female students. Due to this, enrolment of female students is just 44 percent even in primary schools that results in a large gender gap in education.



sary infrastructure and digital tools to facilitate technology-based learning.

**Vocational Training:** Recognizing the unique needs of rural communities, vocational training programs can equip students with practical skills for employment. Government efforts should focus on integrating vocational education into the curriculum, preparing students for various career paths beyond traditional academic routes.

**Community Involvement:** Engaging local communities is pivotal to transforming education in rural Pakistan. By involving parents, communi-

## According to the reports, the country has one of the world's lowest education expenditures, with only 97 billion rupees

According to the reports, the country has one of the world's lowest education expenditures, with only 97 billion rupees for the fiscal year 2023-24 with an increase of only 5.5 percent in the allocated budget of the last year. Many schools located in rural areas lack essential facilities such as safe and clean drinking water, electricity, and sanitation. Teachers do struggle to provide quality education to their students as basic facilities and resources are not available.

play a crucial role in shaping the future of education in rural areas of Pakistan.

**Lack of Infrastructure:** One of the primary obstacles to quality education in rural Pakistan is the lack of adequate infrastructure. Many schools struggle with overcrowded classrooms, insufficient furniture, and dilapidated buildings. Government initiatives to address this issue include the establishment of public-private partnership schools, which leverage private sector expertise to improve school facilities. However, the scale of this approach remains limited and needs to be

ty leaders, and local NGOs in educational decision-making, policies can be tailored to meet specific needs and overcome cultural barriers.

**Government Initiatives and Challenges:** The government of Pakistan has taken steps to address these issues, such as the Punjab Education Foundation (PEF) and Sindh Education Foundation (SEF), which aim to improve access to quality education in their respective provinces. However, sustained funding and efficient implementation remain challenges.

**Role of INGOs and Local NGOs:** In the pursuit

## National Education Policy 2021 is one of the good steps taken by GoP to address this critical issue

There is a very low rate of literacy in Pakistan. The majority of the men, women, children, and youngsters are illiterate. And this mega, uneducated population belongs to the rural areas of Pakistan. According to the reports; current literacy rate of Pakistan is 62.3 which means that an estimated population of 60 million is illiterate in the country. According to the World Bank, Pakistan has one of the world's lowest literacy rates with only around 58 percent of adults (men & women) who can read and write. Bad governance is one of the biggest factors that is responsible for the poor education system in rural areas. Keeping in view this situation, the present govern-



expanded to cover a broader spectrum of schools.

**Poverty:** Poverty is a major factor preventing children from attending school, particularly in rural areas. Families often prioritize immediate financial needs over education. To combat this, government interventions should include providing targeted financial incentives to families who send their children to school, thus alleviating economic pressures.

**Gender Discrimination:** Gender disparities in education are stark in the rural areas of Pakistan, where girls face multiple barriers. Cultural norms, security concerns, and lack of separate facilities contribute to their exclusion from schooling. The government must prioritize gender-sensitive policies, such as building girls-only schools and promoting women's involvement in the education system.

**Lack of Trained Teachers:** Teacher quality directly impacts the learning experience. In the rural areas of Pakistan, the shortage of trained teachers and their reluctance to work in remote areas hampers education quality.

To address this, the government should invest in teacher training programs and incentives for educators willing to work in rural communities.



of a brighter future for Pakistan, many organizations are dedicated to improving education across the country. These organizations, ranging from international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) like UNICEF to local NGOs such as The Citizens Foundation (TCF), play vital roles in supporting policy changes, providing technical expertise, and implementing initiatives to enhance the quality of education, enrollment, and retention in underserved areas.

UNICEF, as a prominent INGO, has been at the forefront of advocating for policy reforms and providing technical assistance to uplift the education sector in Pakistan. Their support extends to



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# Gender disparities in education are stark in the rural areas of Pakistan

initiatives that prioritize not only enrollment but also the quality of education.

Local NGOs like TCF, founded in 1995 by a group of passionate citizens committed to social change through education, have made remarkable strides in this arena. TCF's impact is substantial, with 1,921 schools serving over 286,000 students. What sets TCF apart is its emphasis on community involvement, underlining the importance of engaging local communities in educational initiatives.

**Zindagi Trust**, led by the renowned Pakistani singer Shahzad Roy, has been instrumental in reforming government schools. Their transformation of two government schools in Karachi into model institutions is a testament to their dedication.

**Literate Pakistan, Karachi**, is another local NGO with a two-decade-long commitment for the cause of education. They have developed diverse

complicated, marked by both progress and persistent challenges. While strides have been made, the road ahead signals us to multiply our efforts and adopt innovative strategies to bring about meaningful change.

Collaboration with international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) and local NGOs is paramount. These organizations bring invaluable experience and resources to the table, offering a holistic approach to



## TCF's impact is substantial, with 1,921 schools serving over 286,000 students

literacy programs targeting various age groups, leaving an indelible mark on the nation's educational landscape.

**Bunad Foundation, Lahore**, is yet another NGO championing education and women's rights. Their multifaceted programs make significant contributions to the cause of education.

**The Teachers Resource Center (TRC)**, an NGO operating since 1982, focuses on remote areas in Sindh, Balochistan, and Gilgit Baltistan. Their enduring efforts have brought educational opportunities to underserved regions.

**Taleem for All Trust, Lahore**, established in 2003, has created a network of non-formal

A critical step forward is an immediate increase in the education budget, a foundational pillar upon which a strong education system stands. Adequate funding is necessary to address the multifaceted challenges facing rural education. Infrastructure development must be a priority. A well-equipped and safe learning environment is the bedrock of quality education. It's time to build schools that inspire and facilitate learning, ensuring that children in rural areas have access to the same opportunities as their urban counterparts. To empower our educators and equip them with the tools they need to excel, teacher training

address the challenges faced by rural education.

In this collective endeavor, it's essential for large industries and business groups to step forward, extending their support unconditionally to this noble cause. Corporate social responsibility-CSR initiatives focused on education can have a profound and lasting impact on the lives of rural children.

Lastly, the pressing issue of low salaries of teaching staff hinders talented and knowledgeable resources to join this noble profession. Further to it is the reluctance of teachers to work in rural areas. Both of these should not be overlooked. An increase in salaries and adding a special allowance to their salaries is a compelling solution that can attract and retain qualified teachers in underserved regions.

The path forward may be challenging, but it is a path filled with promise and potential. With unwavering commitment, innovative strategies, and united efforts, we can light the way to a brighter future of education in the rural



## Collaboration with international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) and local NGOs is paramount

schools as part of its nation-building program, further expanding access to education.

In the rural areas of Larkana Division; the **Bright Educational Society, Larkana**, stands as a beacon of hope. This non-profit organization tirelessly works to improve educational opportunities for the local population.

These are just a few examples of the numerous organizations dedicated to the promotion of education throughout Pakistan. Their collective efforts demonstrate a commitment to a brighter future for the country by ensuring that education reaches every corner and every child.

### Conclusion and Future Directions:

The journey to uplift rural education in Pakistan is

programs must be revamped and expanded. This investment in our teachers is an investment in our children's futures.

In today's digital age, embracing technology in education is no longer an option but a requirement. Integrating technology into rural classrooms can bridge gaps in access to information and prepare students for the demands of the modern world.

Moreover, vocational training programs must be integrated into the curriculum. These programs can provide valuable skills that empower students with the ability to secure gainful employment, breaking the cycle of poverty.

areas of Pakistan. Education is the cornerstone of progress and prosperity, and every child belonging to the rural areas of Pakistan deserves an equal opportunity to unlock their full potential. Together, we can make this vision a reality and pave the way for a more equitable and prosperous society for all.



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# Its all About Education-A Sensational Session With Dr. Syed Shabib-Ul-Hasan

*Professor Dr. Syed Shabib ul Hasan is a very prominent educationist. Currently serving as a Vice Chancellor at Hamdard University, Karachi, started his career in the field of education soon after his Masters in Public Administration from Karachi University in 1998. He completed*

*his MS from UEL and later on his Ph.D. from Karachi University. After serving in different roles from lecturer to professor and then as a VC at Hamdard University since 2017, he got many appreciations, awards and recognitions for his services rendered in the field of education.*



**Academic Pulse:** Sir, Please tell our readers and viewers about yourself, your academic and professional journey.

**Prof. Dr. Syed Shabib-ul-Hasan:** Talking about oneself is a challenging task because I believe that what people tell about you is better. My entire journey is based in Karachi. I graduated from University of Karachi in Public Administration in 1998. Since then, I have been associated with the teaching profession. I joined Hamdard University in 2017 as the Vice Chancellor. I have devoted myself toward learning and teaching, prioritizing the significance of studies and education over mere academic credentials.

**Academic Pulse:** You possess an exceptional academic

record; why did you choose the teaching profession? I cannot say that I have an exceptional academic background. It is a basic requirement for this particular profession. I would like to quote that this particular profession was not chosen by me. My father decided this for me. Otherwise, like any other fresh graduate, I could have been entering into the corporate world after pursuing my education. He definitely saw something in me relevant to this profession.

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**Academic Pulse:** Choosing this profession was not your first choice?

**Prof. Dr. Syed Shabib-ul-Hasan:** I believe that in order to make right choice, sometimes you have to listen to others. The best advice comes from your close ones. My parents and I have a strong connection. I used to discuss all my issues with them. It was their understanding that I'm suitable for this profession and could excel in this domain. I took their suggestions seriously and God has helped me excel in this domain and serve society.

**Academic Pulse:** Tell us about the vision of Hamdard University and how this university is different from other institutes.

**Prof. Dr. Syed Shabib-ul-Hasan:** The uniqueness of Hamdard University lies in this; it is not only a university but is also integrated with school and college as well. It's not just about establishing a university; it offers a complete package encompassing school, college and university. From a child's schooling to post-graduation, he receives a comprehensive environment where education is coupled with character development. At Hamdard University, we evaluate every child and try to make sure that opportunities are provided to them where they can apply their knowledge. If any student needs to communi-

cate regarding any matter, then he or she can directly talk to the Vice chancellor at any time without any restriction. Issues do exist but I feel that the focus should be over solutions.

**Academic Pulse:** In your message over the Website of Hamdard University, you have talked about Open Door Culture. What is that culture?

**Prof. Dr. Syed Shabib-ul-Hasan:** The concept of Open Door Culture emphasizes the importance of being open about any issue you may have, without the fear of facing consequences such as criticism or expulsion. This fear kills the creativity of an individual. In the education system, students should be allowed to express

themselves freely. Respect and decency should be the integral elements. A student should know the etiquettes of asking a question, otherwise there is no restriction on raising voice against any concern.

**Academic Pulse:** How many programs are offered in Hamdard University?

**Prof. Dr. Syed Shabib-ul-Hasan:** Hamdard University comprises seven faculties including Engineering, Medical Science, Pharmacy, Social Sciences, Management Sciences, Law and Eastern Medicine. In these faculties, there are more than hundred programs available ensuring complete diversity. For example, in the field of engineering, there are multiple disciplines available. There is a wide range of programs where students can choose according to their interests. Moreover; some programs have been initiated based on students' request.

**Academic Pulse:** Do you think that Regulatory Authorities are functioning effectively and how their functioning can be improved more?

**Prof. Dr. Syed Shabib-ul-Hasan:** Those authorities which are associated with our faculties pay regular visits. We maintain good relations with those regulators but there is always room for improvement and it should be. This is essential for university to thrive dynamically. Our interactions with the councils are conducted in a very good manner. Mostly their members belong to the teaching fraternity so they understand our demands. Their involvement is significant for us and similarly our point of view matters to them. Things are pretty good but continuous improvement is needed. Usually things are evaluated quantitatively which is not a good approach. I feel that the qualitative aspect should be incorporated in evaluation criteria and that aspect should be free from bias and inclination so that quality of education can be improved.

**Academic Pulse:** Pakistani universities are rarely ranked among the world's top universities. What is the reason for this?

**Prof. Dr. Syed Shabib-ul-Hasan:** The reason for this is that we have not adopted the top-to-bottom approach. We thought to regulate and equip universities first and ignored the basic education system which is school education. Students in schools and colleges are not developed and given proper foundation for their stability. In universities, we can polish their skills but obviously we cannot develop their base in universities. It is the responsibility of schools and colleges. We rarely have

parenting sessions. Whenever parent-teacher meetings are held, only the child's complaints or appreciation is discussed. There is no analysis regarding what a child should do and what qualities he/she possesses.

There are no proper guidelines in schools regarding parenting. Suppose if a child is naughty; their energy needs to be channelized in the right way. We focus more on making children sit in the classroom and teach them as much as we can but the way in which they can apply their knowledge is not discussed. How can we expect from an individual that in two or four years he can make something that goes against their 15 years of education? Similarly, when they enter the industry, expecting them

to know everything and solve every problem is not realistic. The approach needs to be holistic, covering school, college, and university. Universities rankings will improve when the basic structure is strengthened.

For instance, there should be a Primary Education Commission and Early Childhood Education Commission along with the Higher Education Commission. The focus should be on making these children assets for society. The root cause needs to be addressed. A tree that has not been nurtured correctly cannot bear the good fruit. We should look at the structure of the education system of those countries whose universities are in the top rankings of the world; their schools and colleges are properly managed. But unfortunately in our country; many schools do not have basic facilities, so students coming from such schools cannot perform well in university or practical life.

The conditions of our schools are not satisfactory, especially public schools. In urban areas, some schools are making great efforts in this regard but we cannot ignore the fact that millions of our children are out of school. Among them could be those who, if given access to the education, can compete globally.

**Academic Pulse:** Graduates in Pakistan face some serious issues due to lack of industrial exposure. How can this gap between industry and academia be bridged?

**Prof. Dr. Syed Shabib-ul-Hasan:** The basic formula to bridge this gap is to increase interaction between both. Not only students, but faculty should also pay frequent visits to industries to discuss things and understand them better. Similarly, industries should also do the same and visit institutes and guide them. Usually it doesn't happen. Industries don't have time to visit institutes. As you mentioned earlier about the top ranked universities in the world, if you observe, their faculty members are often advisors or members of industrial sectors in some capacity. They arrange industrial projects for students. In such environments, students are aware of issues that can occur in practical life. When these students step into the practical life, they don't face problems. It is our responsibility to build a better society and both academia and industry should be held responsible for this.

**Academic Pulse:** Which steps are taken by Hamdard University to bridge this gap between Academia and Industry?

**Prof. Dr. Syed Shabib-ul-Hasan:** We have already started working on this through industrial visits. We lost

some time due to Covid-19 but we have started this again. During the last semester this year, we took our students to Europe and made them visit different industries to gain awareness about the environment and functioning of those industries. Similarly, we encourage our students to seek sponsors from industrial units for their events so that they can know how the work is being done. This interaction is better than confining a student within the university. Whenever a student comes to us to discuss their problems, we ask them for the solutions too and if they suggest solutions then we allow them to test their knowledge. This approach builds confidence in them.

## Universities rankings will improve when the basic structure is strengthened

**Academic Pulse:** Previously there were fewer disciplines of Engineering but nowadays thirty disciplines are being taught. Don't you think that this increased specialization has caused some problems?

**Prof. Dr. Syed Shabib-ul-Hasan:** I think it is a good initiative. University is basically about research which is about initiatives and this eventually leads to creativity. If we restrict this expansion then it would kill initiatives and opportunities. Specialization increases the chances of excellence. Interdisciplinary connections should be incorporated. For instance, connecting mechanical with medical will result in Biomechanics. There should be chances of collaboration in specialization. If specialization is increasing then there is nothing to worry about. It will help to identify new areas of innovation.

**Academic Pulse:** Don't you feel that this increased specialization has caused unemployment?

**Prof. Dr. Syed Shabib-ul-Hasan:** We associate everything with employment. Studies are not about acquiring a job, instead, it should be about seeking knowledge

## There should be a Primary Education Commission and Early Childhood Education Commission along with the Higher Education Commission

which can be promoted and propagated. Our economic condition is not allowing the development of new industries and factories. But, this should not be the mentality that if any specific industry is not here then that discipline should not be chosen. This basically shrinks society and impacts expansion. Nowadays the concept of entrepreneurship has evolved so that particular discipline can help an individual. Ideas can be pitched in incubation centers, rather than waiting for employment opportunities. The water itself will make its path. If you block it, the water will not flow and become stagnant. Instead of trying to stop it, chances should be given to others.



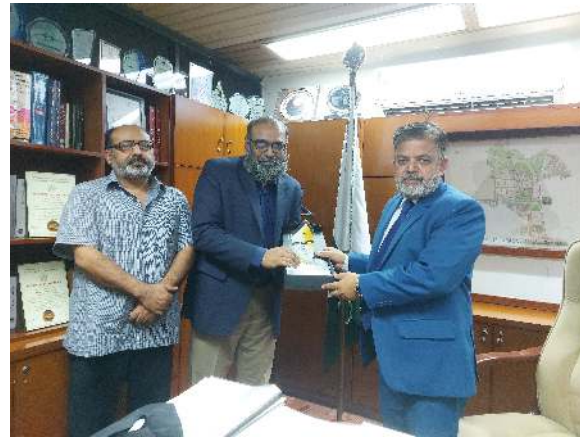
**Academic Pulse:** Is there any platform for students of Hamdard University where they can pitch their ideas?

**Prof. Dr. Syed Shabib-ul-Hasan:** Right now the university's marketing campaign is conducted by a company owned by our students. We have the marketing department but it is led by our students' body. Similarly, repair and maintenance of our CCTV cameras is also done by our graduates. The purpose for all this is learning. We always try to provide opportunities to our students.

**Academic Pulse:** Developed nations promote their own language as their medium of education. In Pakistan we don't do that and due to which our young generation is

not able to speak their national or regional language. What is your opinion?

**Prof. Dr. Syed Shabib-ul-Hasan:** Who has stopped them from speaking or learning a language? We have hindered them ourselves. As a nation, we need to make decisions on our own, but we often fail to set ourselves free from this complex that having proficiency in English provides an opportunity. These are all self-generated issues. We only make huge claims, but when it comes to implementation, we fail to identify criteria. We should know the criteria for correctness and intelligence, and it should be applicable to ourselves as well. We should have the courage to speak the truth. As a nation, what we do is not



irrelevant discussions. Those countries are successful too, which have not promoted their own language like India or Bangladesh but they stand as a nation but we don't. We are individual driven which means we talk

about the crowd not the nation.

**Academic Pulse:** Sir, tell us about the policies of Hamdard University towards the well-being of students.

**Prof. Dr. Syed Shabib-ul-Hasan:** As I've said that the chance is given to them to explore and understand themselves. We try to give responsibility to the students for all the activities, like every year we organize a job fair and that is solely managed by our students, Students' Week is also managed and administered by students. We try to give students this platform so that they can experience it and in any case if a problem occurs, the faculty and staff are there to assist them.

**Academic Pulse:** Sir, since the last 2 to 3 years we are seeing that the ratio of brain drain is increasing significantly, like graduates from universities in Pakistan, there are very less of them who choose to live and serve here but most of them aspire to go abroad and don't want to live here so according to you what's the reason behind it?

**Prof. Dr. Syed Shabib-ul-Hasan:** Is it a problem? I don't consider it a problem. They are the main source of contributions towards foreign exchange. Those people whom you refer to as brain drained, this is one side. On the other hand, we see this as a problem like people going abroad. Instead of wasting that talent over here where you aren't provided with what you need rather than that opportunity which is needed. To me; this is a short term solution. In the long term, you would ultimately have to develop the environment so that those people who had gone abroad had a look at it and would love to invest in Pakistan if opportunities are created. However, it's a long term process. For this we have to set our direction as a nation that what exactly we require. The biggest issue in this regard according to me is that we, as a nation, are not in the right direction. We are only limited to talks but not ready to play our role actually. And if we do this there won't be any issue. There are various countries from where people are earning by working abroad and helping

their country in the form of remittance.

Take the example of Bangladesh, India, Vietnam and even Somalia and Ghana, they are getting investments even though they also had problems in the past. So the point is to create the environment, and they will eventually come back to you. Investment and resources are profit-motivated, where there's more benefit they will definitely go in that direction. This is a capitalist approach but in our economy there's no such thing.

**Academic Pulse:** Sir, as a Vice Chancellor of Hamdard University, tell us a challenging situation that you've faced to fulfill your responsibilities.

**Prof. Dr. Syed Shabib-ul-Hasan:** It's a thing like that

which I don't often think about as a challenge. My approach has always been that there is no problem and it's all about solutions. The moment you focus on problems they'll appear to you as challenges and issues and may cause demotivation. I always say that if you walk through as solution oriented and positive thinking you'll never find something that you can't achieve. I think if 10% is done then only 90% is left so as the 10% is achieved then 90% can also be achieved and this is the thing which changes the whole mindset about problems. Problems exist and will always exist but to me they're the source of the motivation so I look for their solution. And when I look up for a single solution, I get four more solutions and so the problem doesn't feel challenging anymore.

**Academic Pulse:** Sir, any message for our readers and viewers?

**Prof. Dr. Syed Shabib-ul-Hasan:** Always look at life positively. We often get nervous or worry about small things and petty issues so as if there's no solution for



them. The world has been going on for thousands of years and will go on and you need to understand your role in that. You should understand yourself, evaluate yourself, and look for opportunities in difficult situations as the opportunity definitely lies there so do not ignore that opportunity by diverting your focus on minor issues. Always put your life's focus on the solutions and bring positive impact and you'll get abundant opportunities for you and can also create them for others. This is exactly the role we teachers and professors have in this.

**Academic Pulse:** Thank You very much for your precious time. Your suggestions will definitely align the youth to the path of success.



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# Dr. Abdul Wahab's Legacy in Education and Leadership

Prof. Dr Abdul Wahab, formerly the Vice Chancellor of the University of Karachi (1995 to 1996) and the Director of the Institute of Business Administration-IBA (1984 to 1995), departed on Tuesday, September 6, 2016, at the age of 77, after a prolonged illness leaving a void in the field of higher education and leadership communities of Karachi and Pakistan. Dr. Wahab was born in the Rajasthani region of Tonk. He migrated to Pakistan in 1948. After Dr. Abdul Wahab crossed the international border to set up a life for himself in Pakistan, his life narrative underwent a dramatic transformation. He was to establish his name as a distinguished academic individual here and hoped to leave an everlasting impression in the world of education.

Dr. Wahab's academic career began with his early education at Taleemgah High School. He then enrolled in S.M. Arts College in Karachi, where he explored his interest in Psychology and obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree. However, his thirst for knowledge was wider than a single field. He received his MBA degree from IBA, Karachi and then joined IBA as a Lecturer instead of a student. His quest for knowledge took him across international boundaries to the University of British Columbia in Canada, where he obtained his doctoral degree. He was appointed as a Deputy Director of the IBA upon his return to Pakistan in 1978. Dr. Wahab's commitment and knowledge earned him the title of Director, which he held until his retirement in 1999. IBA changed into one of the top educational institutions in the country under his inspiring leadership. Since he was enthusiastic about business administration, this change was a turning point, connecting his academic career with the quality of IBA. His teaching strategies went beyond memorization and strongly emphasized critical thinking and real-world application. Dr Wahab thought that true education included both the cultivation of analytical skills, which would benefit his students well beyond the classroom and the dissemination of knowledge.

Dr. Wahab had a strong work ethic and enjoyed putting in thorough effort. He used to teach the students of marketing at Muhammad Ali Jinnah University while he was the President there. He explored the cosmos and human existence in his lectures, enlightening his audience on the path of life and inspiring students. He exhibited extraordinary restraint and stuck slavishly to efficient time management. On top of that, he often planned seminars at Muhammad Ali Jinnah University on the weekends. Dr. Wahab had a strong work ethic and enjoyed putting in thorough effort. He had remarkable self-control and strictly followed time management techniques.

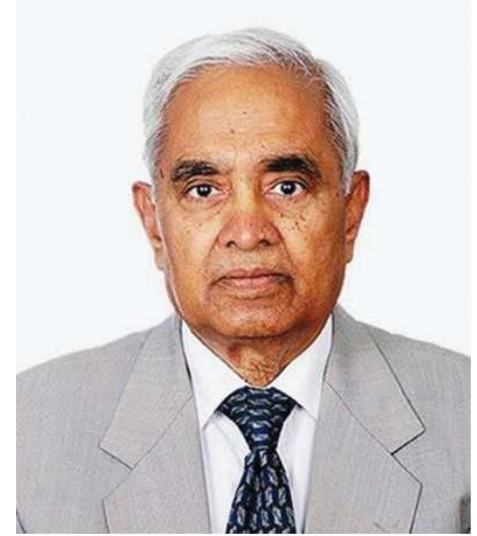
Dr. Wahab's commitment to research boosted his reputation in academia. He researched a wide range of topics, advancing knowledge in many different domains. Through his

academic endeavors, his enthusiasm for discovery and innovation shone through, inspiring both colleagues and his pupils. Dr. Wahab's impact extended beyond the walls of classrooms and lasted throughout the lives of the people he interacted with. His mentoring stoked the fires of aspiration in his students, developing their leadership skills and all-around well-being. His influence was felt well beyond his personal circle, as seen by the accomplishments of those he influenced.

Dr. Abdul Wahab was admired for his unequivocal commitment to education and strong moral principles. He upheld a stringent code of conduct and required perfection from both his faculty and the administration, standing as a shining example of morality. His actions demonstrated his dedication to greatness, as he was never afraid to question authorities when they were warranted. Notably, he demonstrated his devotion to meritocracy and fairness by denying his own son's admission application to the IBA due to fewer numbers, making a substantial personal sacrifice. His steadfast commitment to education throughout his time as the Vice Chancellor of the University of Karachi (1994 -1996) is admirable. Dr. Wahab faced several obstacles in his efforts to uphold academic standards and discipline, but his influence on the institution's course remained significant.

In his reflection on Dr. Wahab's accomplishments, Dr. Pirzada Qasim, a former Vice Chancellor of the University of Karachi and a notable poet, said, "Dr. Wahab was one of those who ran the institution successfully, both as a teacher and as its director. He was known for attaching great importance to discipline. It showed in the way things functioned. Then he worked with other institutions as well, which means that he was an important figure in the field of education in the country."

There is no denying that Dr. Abdul Wahab's influence on Pakistan's Educational System. His dedication to academic success, order, and ethics established a benchmark for teachers and administrators all around the nation. His involvement at numerous educational institutions and IBA's development as a prominent institution demonstrate his com-



mitment to developing the leaders and thinkers of tomorrow. His impact on countless lives and the foundations he built for a better educational future endures even as Pakistan mourns his departure.

Dr Wahab's son Farooque said: "He was loving and scholarly, and because of that, the atmosphere around the house was also scholarly."

Another son, Babar, said: "We have 50 years of memories of him. He was a loving and kind-hearted man. People used to ask me whether he was as strict at home as he used to be at the IBA. I would tell them that nothing like that. He was a gentle soul."

#### Awards and legacy:

His honors include the Federal Government's "Sitara-e-Imtiaz". The Emperor and the Prime Minister of Japan also presented him with the "Order of the Rising Sun," Japan's second-highest honor, in recognition of his outstanding work in the field of education.

In 2014, the Urdu book "Sarkari Idaro Ki Islah?" (Reforms of Public Institutions?) Dr. Wahab was published. Later, it was also translated into English.



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# Creativity is all about feeling, understanding, observing, exploring, discovering, imagining and enjoying

When children are taught with creativity they bloom and shine more brightly- Creativity plays a very significant and vital role in educating and nurturing the young minds. Nothing can be more satisfying for young children than to be able to share and express their feelings, thoughts and ideas more freely and openly. It is fun, engaging, and interesting. It fills their mind with such & pleasure and sense of achievement that serves as the building block in their learning process.

Art and creativity lays the foundation for the social and emotional growth of the young minds by stimulating the parts of their brains that are responsible for their emotional impulses and growth. It makes them understand their ideas more clearly and helps them to become more expressive, confident and self-aware!



Creativity also plays a vital role in improving the focus of the young children. They become more focused and also develop the most essential attributes like patience and discipline. It also enhances the critical thinking and problem solving skills of the young minds and helps them to overcome all the hurdles, challenges and obstacles in their lives.

Art and Creativity is not just about being good at drawing, coloring or painting, instead it benefits the children in almost all aspects of their lives and helps them to perform well in other areas too. It helps the children to become more well-versed in and train their young minds to become more innovative and expressive. It aids their cognitive skills and enables them to think

out of the box.



Research shows that Children who possess creativity, also perform better in other areas like mathematics Science, language learning tasks or reading.

Creativity and artistic activities enhance critical thinking and boost their power of expression among the young children. It helps them to enhance their focus and make them achieve their goals more successfully in their day to day tasks, It also enhances their observation and learning through the environment and fills their minds with more and more. innovative thoughts and ideas making them think out of the box.

Students with creative minds are excellent at problem solving skills and have a more positive attitude towards each aspect of life.



Another most significant aspect of practicing art and creativity is teaching them life skills. Many art forms require kids to work in a team which makes them well-adjusted & collaborative. Art and creativity also helps the children to develop proper discipline in their personality and calms their mind.

It is evident that creativity and arts play a very important role in the life of children by making them disciplined, inspiring them,



**By Quratulain Aden Wala**

*With two decades of enriching experience in the education realm, currently serving as Vice Principal at The Beginners School. Her professional excellence and dedicated leadership skills inspires those around her. Her forte lies in igniting creativity through innovative teaching and offering adept guidance in student counseling. She brings a wealth of expertise teaching diverse subjects across various grade levels, consistently benefiting her students with her unwavering dedication and competence. Beyond education, she finds solace in the realms of reading, exploring diverse art forms, and nurturing her passion for creativity.*

and guiding their young minds, towards constructive activities and thoughts and making them more self aware.

Education should incorporate art and creative thinking activities in various forms from an early age. Young students may benefit from it in several ways. By exposing the children the creative experiences we give them the gift of rich and memorable childhood experiences and Lay the foundation for a lifetime of creative expression.



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# The Digital Age and Reading: Why Replacing Physical Books with Digital Books Falls Short

In the fast-paced world of the digital age, the rise of e-books, also known as digital books, has transformed the way we read and access information. With the convenience of carrying an entire library in the palm of our hands, it's no wonder that digital books have gained immense popularity among readers. However, amidst this digital revolution, it is crucial to recognize that replacing physical books entirely with their digital counterparts falls short of delivering a complete reading experience.



One of the primary reasons why physical books hold a special place in our hearts is the tangible and sensory experience they offer. The feel of paper between our fingers, the sound of pages turning, and the subtle scent of ink all contribute to an intimate connection with the book. This tactile engagement fosters a deeper immersion in the story and enhances our overall reading experience. Children, in particular, benefit from this sensory experience, as it aids in the development of fine motor skills and encourages a love for reading from a young age.

Moreover, reading physical books provides a much-needed respite from the screens that dominate our lives. Spending excessive time on digital devices has been linked to various health concerns, such as eye strain, disrupted sleep patterns, and a decrease in attention span. By opting for physical books, readers can significantly reduce their screen time and improve their overall well-being. Disconnecting from the digital world and connecting

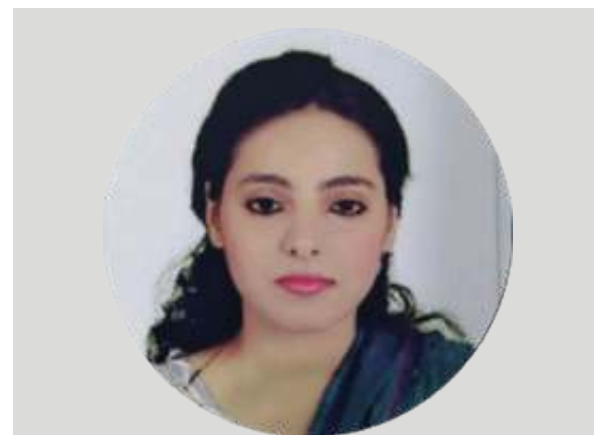
with the pages of a book offers a refreshing break and allows for a more focused and uninterrupted reading session.



Another key advantage of physical books is their ability to minimize distractions and promote a deeper level of engagement with the content. Unlike digital devices, physical books don't come with notifications or tempting internet browsing options. This lack of distractions enables readers to immerse themselves fully in the narrative and gain a better understanding of the material. This undivided attention is particularly beneficial when tackling complex subjects or delving into profound literary works.

Beyond the practical benefits, physical books also carry a sense of nostalgia and cultural significance. They represent a rich literary history and embody the craftsmanship and artistry of printing and binding. Building a personal library of physical books allows readers to curate their interests and display their intellectual journey through literature. There's an emotional attachment to physical books that stems from the memories associated with each copy read, shared, and cherished.

In conclusion, while digital books offer undeniable advantages in terms of portability and convenience, they should not be considered a complete replacement for physical books. The tactile experience, reduced screen time, minimized distractions, and cultural signifi-



**Zarbakht**

*Zarbakht, a seasoned child care manager and consultant, stands as a dedicated guardian of the well-being and development of the youngest members of our society. With a career spanning years in this vital field, Zarbakht has honed their expertise in providing nurturing environments and tailored guidance to children of all ages. Their journey is a testament to their unwavering commitment to fostering the growth, health, and happiness of children.*

*As a trusted figure in child care management and consultation, Zarbakht has become a beacon of knowledge, offering invaluable insights and innovative solutions to parents, caregivers, and organizations alike. In this introduction, we embark on a journey into the world of Zarbakht, exploring their profound passion and expertise in the realm of child care management and consultation.*

cance of physical books contribute to a well-rounded and enriching reading experience. Striking a balance between digital and physical reading allows us to embrace the best of both worlds and continue to enjoy the magic that only physical books can offer.



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# Anas Asif: Karachi's Young IT Prodigy and Entrepreneur Inspiring a Generation

Introducing Mohammad Anas Asif, a 13-year-old prodigy whose extraordinary accomplishments only transcend his lofty goals and unwavering drive is an emerging star in the fields of technology and entrepreneurship in the vibrant metropolis of Karachi, a place renowned for its diversity and vibrancy. Anas is ready to take the world by storm because he is determined to realize his aspirations at an age when other kids are lost in video games and imaginative play.



Anas was just 9-years-old when he started his adventure into the IT and entrepreneurial worlds. He took part in Saylani's Techno Kids program during the lockdown, which would turn out to be a life-changing experience. His introduction to computer science and technology sparked a passion in him that drove him to learn more about the field of information technology.

Anas is unique not only because of his enthusiasm but also because of his everlasting desire for education. He started a path of education and personal development, finishing IT-related courses in SEO, Social Media Marketing, Graphic Design, and Web App Development. His enthusiasm and dedication to mastering these courses earned him the endearing nickname "IT ka Cheetah" from his teachers.

Anas was motivated by something more than information, in contrast to many children of his age who could have been satisfied with learning. He became aware that he had a wealth of knowledge that he could impart to others. His entrepreneurial path began when he made the decision to launch his own company as a result of this realization. As a result, "Neon Genius" neon lights lit his way and became a ray of hope for aspiring computer aficionados. Under the auspices of Neon Genius, Anas founded the "Neon Genius Institute," a venue where he educates young people with aspirations.

Anas has already taught two batches of Web Development courses, one batch of Graphic Designing courses, and one batch of CCO (Content Creation and Optimisation) courses in his capacity as head of the Neon Genius Institute. His enthusiasm for developing talent in the field of information technology is evident, and as he continues to broaden his own skill set, he has big plans to add more courses and programmes.

But Anas Asif's adventure doesn't end with his business ventures. His impressive resume of achievements goes well beyond his business endeavors. In addition to his scholastic achievements, Anas has established himself as a prominent competitor internationally. His school has taken note of his accomplishments and given him multiple awards in recognition of his outstanding performance.

In addition, Anas works as a Teacher's Assistant at SM IT College, which demonstrates his commitment to mentoring and knowledge sharing. He's not interested in just collecting awards for himself; he wants to inspire the upcoming wave of tech enthusiasts.

With an eye towards the future, Anas Asif has big plans. He sees Neon Genius becoming as well-known and influential as tech giants like Google and YouTube. With his sharp mind and unwavering spirit, he could very well be



able to fulfill this bold dream. Anas is more than just a ray of hope; he is a beacon of guidance for the next generation in Pakistan, demonstrating the extraordinary potential that the country's youth possess.

Anas Asif's journey stands out as an example of the power of passion, dedication, and unwavering belief in one's dreams in a world full of stories of young entrepreneurs and tech geniuses. He serves as a reminder that having a big impact on the world doesn't depend on one's age. The youngest web developer and business owner in Karachi, Anas Asif, is not only pursuing his dreams but also building a better future for himself and future generations. His narrative serves as a source of inspiration for all of us and a timely reminder that young heroes such as himself are paving the way for a bright future.



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# The Beginners School Hosts Exciting Professions Day and Creative Color Activity

On a vibrant and engaging day at "The Beginner School," young students showcased their talent and creativity through two remarkable activities. The school's commitment to holistic education was on full display as children from various classes participated enthusiastically.

### Professions Day:

The school's premises were buzzing with excitement as the little ones transformed into aspiring professionals for the day. The Professions Day activity allowed students from the junior classes to step into the shoes of various occupations, providing them with valuable insights into the world of work.

From doctors and firefighters to chefs and artists, the kids embraced their chosen professions with boundless enthusiasm. They took part in role-playing exercises, enabling them to experience what it's like to be in these roles. The Professions Day not only broadened their horizons but also encouraged them to dream big and explore their interests further.



### Color Activity:

For the Nursery class students, a colorful adventure awaited as they embarked on a unique painting session. Armed with forks as their creative tools, the children explored a new way to express themselves through art. This innovative "Fork Painting" activity allowed them to experiment with different textures, patterns, and colors. Under the guidance of their Art Teacher, the little artists unleashed their creativity and painted vivid masterpieces using a simple fork as their brush. The result was a captivating display of abstract art that left everyone in awe of their imaginative abilities.

"The Beginner School" continues to foster a nurturing environment where children can grow and thrive, both academically and creatively. These two activities exemplify the school's commitment to providing a well-rounded education that nurtures the minds and talents of its students.



## Fakhar-e-Karachi Award by PEDDA

Fakhar-e-Karachi Teacher & Student BSEK Higher Achievers Award Program was arranged by the The Pakistan Education Development Association (PEDDA) on 22nd November, 2023 at Scout Auditorium, PHQ Sindh Boy Scouts Association, Karachi. This program, which was created especially to recognize exceptional



achievements in Karachi, was a chance to interact with high-achieving children from all throughout BSEK and learn from eminent instructors. This dignified event was to honor outstanding teachers from all the seven districts of Karachi. According to the organizers; the award is formal-

ly registered with the IPO and is copyright protected.

Many notable visitors and dignitaries were present, such as Minister for Mines & Minerals Development Authority Mir Khuda Bux and Inspector of Criminology Ch. Shabbir Ahmed. They appreciated the efforts of PEDDA. Chairman PEDDA Imran Khan thanked the community and supporters for their help, collaboration and support to PEDDA for making this wonderful event possible and helping them out for advancing education in Karachi. He also paid his sincere gratitude to the guests for gracing this event.



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# Federal Education Minister wants to Ban All Private Universities in Sindh Province

Source: Samaa TV

Caretaker Education Minister, Madad Ali Sindhi, has proposed to outlaw all private universities in the province of Sindh. The proposal, if given the authority, could potentially alter the educational system in Sindh. Senator Krishna Kumari raised concerns about the impartiality and effectiveness of the educational programs in these institutions. She informed the Upper House of the Parliament that if a student fails only a single subject in a private university, his entire academic

year is wasted. In a reply to this statement of Senator Krishna Kumari, Fed-

eral Education Minister said “ If I am allowed, I will ban all private Universities”



# Pakistani Student Enrollment in German Universities has Increased by a Significant 30%

Source: Friday Times

Pakistani students' enrollment in Germany has risen by 30%, reaching 8,208 students from 6,403 in 2020/21 to 2022/23. The German higher education sector has 458,210 international students, with engineering being the most popular field. However, the country also welcomes 87,350 international students from various fields, including Law, Economics, and Social Sciences, fostering a global exchange



of legal, economic, and societal perspectives.

Agricultural, Forestry, and Food Sciences are least popular among international students, with only 7,636 stu-

dents. Studying-in-Germany.org shows 69.2% want to stay in Germany post-graduation, with top cities being Munich, Aachen, Cologne, Bonn, and Stuttgart.

Pakistani students are increasingly choosing Germany for their studies, with engineering being the most popular field. This trend is driven by the country's cultural immersion and diverse academic interests, as highlighted by Alma Miftari, an international education expert.

# The Documents Indicate that the KP Government will establish Weight Limits for the School Bag

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly has decided to adopt a bill to limit the weight of school backpacks carried by children. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa administration plans to introduce legislation that restricts the weight of bags carried by children in nursery and first classes. The legislation, known as the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa School Bags Limitation of Weight Act 2020, will apply to children in nursery, first, second, and fifth classes, and to students in sixth through ten classes.

Moreover, the Assembly is also ready



to apply a regulation limiting the weight of students' baggage to 7 kg in classes 11 and 12. This is the first of its kind in Pakistan, and the law is expected to be presented to the provincial cabinet. Private schools face fines of up to Rs 200,000 for violating the legislation, while government schools are advised to take legal action.



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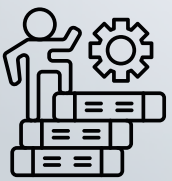
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# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Activity-1:**

One day Seminar on Price Adjustment Formula

**(December 2023)**

**Activity-2:**

One day short course on Labor Laws & Industrial Relation Management

**(January 2024)**

**Activity -3:**

A 2-day Workshop on Advanced Excel (Hands-on Training)

**(Coming Soon)**

**Activity-4:**

Green HR Practices (An Interactive International Workshop)

**(Coming Soon)**