



ACADEMIC PULSE



# ACADEMIC PULSE

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# The Disparity Between Government and Private Schools: Comparing Government Schools' Accessible Education and Sports Facilities with Private Schools' Expensive Fees and Absence of Sports Fields

In contemporary education, the argument over the amenities provided by private versus public schools specifically, the availability of sports fields is pertinent and topical. The impact of physical spaces on student development, family financial responsibilities, and access to high-quality learning environments are just a few of the significant facets of education that are touched upon by this topic. When considering the discrepancy between the tuition that private schools demand and the facilities offered, like sports fields, and how government schools supply these areas at comparatively lower costs, the subject gets even more complex. This conversation will cover the causes of the decrease in private school sports facilities, the benefits of physical spaces for learning and growth, the financial strain on parents, and the stark disparities in government school conditions. This analysis will explore how these disparities affect society and education and provide urgent solutions to the problem.

## The Role of Sports Grounds in Education:

Before discussing the problems between public and private schools, it's important to note that sports fields are essential to schools and help students grow as whole people. Even though

improve their heart health, build muscle, and keep their weight healthy. Sports like running, football, cricket, basketball, and sports can help fight childhood obesity, lower stress, and keep people from getting diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease later in life. Student's immune systems are also strengthened by physical exercise, making them less likely to get infections and illnesses. Regular exercise helps students learn how to take better care of their bodies, which can positively affect their health in the long run. With a well-kept sports field nearby, students are more likely to do these activities regularly, making physical health a constant concern.



Sports are suitable for your mental health as well as your physical health. It has been shown that regular physical exercise can help lower stress, anxiety, and depression. Because sports fields are private, students can let out their feelings, calm

societies. They can put aside their differences and work together to reach shared goals. Being open to everyone brings the school together and helps break down social and cultural obstacles.

The main goal of education is to help students do well in school, but sports can also positively impact academic success. Many studies indicate a link between being active and doing well in school. The sports grounds allow students to do physical tasks that help them concentrate and focus better in class. Problem-solving, quick decision-making, and strategic thought are all skills that can be used in school and are learned on the sports field. For example, chess and team sports like football require students to think strategically, which helps them get better at solving complex tasks. It has also been shown that exercise can help you remember things and make your brain work better, which can help you do better on tests and exams. Also, sports can help relieve the worry and anxiety of having to do well in school. Sports help students manage stress and stay healthy by balancing mental and physical tasks. This makes it easier for them to stay focused and do well in school.

Sports fields are essential for building school spirit and making students feel like they belong. The excitement and energy at sports events can bring the whole school community together, from

## High Fees, No Fields? Unpacking the Sports Ground Dilemma in Private Schools

classrooms and lessons are the most critical parts of education, it's also important to remember how vital places are for sports. These places aren't just for fun; they're also places where people can grow as people, improve their health, and make friends. Having sports fields in schools ensures students get a well-rounded education that is good for their mental and physical health. This situation examines the different roles that sports fields play in education, such as improving physical health, school performance, life skills, and social interactions. These places are essential for more than just sports and physical education; they help make people well-rounded.



Promoting physical health is the most precise and essential role of school sports fields. In a time when many teens and young adults are idle and addicted to screens, sports fields are an indispensable place to exercise. Sports students can

down, and recharge, which is good for their mental health. In addition, exercise has a direct effect on how well your brain works. Endorphins are chemicals in the brain that make you feel good and lessen pain. It makes your brain produce more of them. Being active has also been linked to better brain function, memory, and focus, all of which are important for doing well in school.

When students do regular physical tasks, they often have more energy, focus, and motivation, which can help them do better in school. As a result, sports fields are essential for keeping your body healthy, mind clear, and emotions stable. In a school setting where kids are under more and more pressure to do well, these benefits become even more critical. Sports fields also allow students to meet new people and make friends. In contrast to the classroom, where interactions are more formal, sports provide a less tense and formal setting for students to make friends and connect with their peers. Sports events, team activities, and casual games help people get to know each other and build a sense of community at school. Many students use sports to meet new people who aren't in their usual group of friends. These conversations help kids learn social skills like how to talk to others, work together, negotiate, and settle disagreements. These skills are essential for personal growth and help kids prepare for relationships as they age. In addition, sports offer a place for variety and acceptance. Students from different backgrounds can get to know each other through sports in multicultural

parents and former students to teachers and students. Students can unite and promote their school in inter-school sports competitions, annual sports days, and friendly matches. This builds a strong sense of identity and pride. Many students look up to athletes as role models because they show how to work hard, be dedicated, and have team pride. Athletes like these often inspire their friends to do better in school and activities outside of school, creating a culture of excellence that spreads throughout the whole school.

## Private Schools and Their Facilities:



Private schools frequently seen as the pinnacle of academic excellence charge significantly greater tuition than public schools. Modern amenities are anticipated at these institutions, including well-equipped science labs, extensive libraries, cutting-edge technology in the classroom, and extracurricular activities like sports. Nonetheless, a discernible pattern in certain private schools is the

absence of sizable sports fields or outdoor areas for physical education.



This problem has multiple contributing factors. The urbanization of private schools, particularly in large cities, is one of the leading causes. Private schools frequently lack the space to build expansive sports facilities because of the high cost of land and space in urban areas. In these situations, schools might decide against allocating the

The gap between the rich and the poor has also widened due to private school tuition increases. Middle-class and lower-income families have fewer options, whereas affluent families can afford the high tuition and admission to elite schools with better resources. Due to the absence of reasonably priced private schools with sufficient infrastructure, many families now attend government schools, which charge less but frequently have less sophisticated amenities.

### Government Schools and the Availability of Sports Grounds:

On the other side of the spectrum, government schools that receive government funding and charge much cheaper tuition frequently have an advantage in terms of space. Many government schools have larger campuses with spacious sports facilities, especially those in less populated areas. This is particularly true in smaller cities or rural

classroom and the availability of resources. To address these problems, a balanced strategy that gives equal weight to academic achievement and physical health is required. Both public and private schools need to understand how important it is to provide pupils with lots of space for physical activity. Governments and educational institutions should ensure enough money is set aside to support the construction and upkeep of sports facilities, particularly in urban schools with constrained space.

Other options for private schools include creating multipurpose areas that can be utilized for both academic and athletic purposes. Partnerships with nearby government schools or sports facilities may also be investigated to enable private schools to provide more comprehensive physical education programs without having to make significant investments in land and infrastructure.

## Affordable Education, Ample Space: How Government Schools Are Winning the Sports Ground Battle

restricted space to sports facilities in favor of using it for classes, residence halls, or even business endeavors like holding events. Outdoor spaces that may have been utilized for physical education have been jeopardized due to this trend.

Furthermore, some private schools opt to outsource their athletic programs, which entails arranging for students to participate in sports events in public or rented facilities rather than keeping a sizable field on campus. Despite its potential for success, this strategy lacks the regularity and convenience of an on-campus sports field.

Another significant factor is the hefty running costs of maintaining sporting facilities. Extensive outside areas need to be maintained regularly, including cleaning, mowing, and event setup. These upkeep expenditures are a luxury that can be better used in other areas of schools already struggling with exorbitant fees and infrastructure costs. Because of this, many private schools place

areas with cheaper land prices. Since government schools frequently have fewer financial restraints than private schools, they typically set aside more excellent space for sports facilities. Sports facilities are commonly used for physical education classes, extracurricular activities, and interschool contests in these schools, where they are regarded as an essential component of the curriculum. However, The disparity in facilities between government schools in rural and urban areas emphasizes a problem in guaranteeing fair access to sports facilities in every area. Government schools confront difficulties that may impact the standard of education they deliver, even though they typically have more excellent sports facilities and lower tuition. The caliber of instruction and the curriculum are among the main issues. Overcrowded classrooms, underqualified teachers, and a lack of resources for efficient instruction are common problems in government schools. Even if

Finally, The debate over sports facilities in public and private schools highlights the financial strain on families and the more significant problem of educational equality. Although private schools are expensive, the lack of necessary amenities like athletic fields begs the question of how much



## From Classrooms to Playing Fields: The Need for Equitable Facilities in Every School

more emphasis on academics and other resources than on creating and maintaining sports facilities. However, many parents may feel they are not getting value for their money when private schools do not provide basic amenities like sports fields. The lack of a suitable sports facility questions the general caliber of education offered. Parents frequently face the problem of paying excessive tuition for a school that cannot provide opportunities for holistic development.



They might consider moving their kids to schools with more fantastic amenities, such as sports fields, or even search for cheaper alternatives.

sports facilities are available, these restrictions may affect the entire educational experience for students. Budgetary restrictions can also make maintaining athletic facilities in public schools challenging. Sports fields may not be ideal because many government schools in underdeveloped areas struggle to keep their amenities. As a result, students may have less opportunity to participate in outside activities, raising safety issues. Even though there might be grounds, the amenities might not be up to par with what students require.

### The Need for a Balanced Approach:

The current discrepancy between the facilities provided by government and private schools, particularly sports fields, highlights a significant problem in the educational system. Private schools frequently lack sufficient space for physical development, even though they may have state-of-the-art facilities and cutting-edge academic resources. Government schools, on the other hand, typically have more space for athletics. Still, they could have problems with different areas of education, such as the standard of the

parents get for their money. On the other hand, government schools typically have more excellent space for sports and lower tuition, but they may also have trouble maintaining these amenities and delivering high-quality instruction. The ultimate objective should be establishing a learning environment where kids can flourish intellectually, socially, and physically. This calls for an all-encompassing strategy that balances academic rigor and the availability of resources, such as sports fields. By resolving the current inequalities and ensuring that both public and private schools provide a more equal and comprehensive educational experience, we can create a generation of kids who are not only intellectually strong but also physically and mentally well-rounded.



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# Shaping Future Leaders: An Insightful Conversation with Saad Bin Aziz on Education, Leadership and Innovation

Saad Bin Aziz is a seasoned educator and a passionate advocate for the transformation of Pakistan's education system. He holds a strong academic background, including an MBA from Greenwich and ongoing doctoral research in Management Sciences. As the head of the Urdu Academy Center, Saad has been instrumental in preserving and promoting the legacy of his family's educational and publishing initiatives, which date back to the 1940s. With over 15 years of experience, he is dedicated to addressing the gap in teacher training and improving the quality of education. In addition to his work at the Urdu Academy, he is deeply involved in various projects aimed at enhancing educational standards across Pakistan.



Saad Bin Aziz

**Academic Pulse:** What inspired you to pursue a career in education? And how did this path lead you to head the Urdu Academy Center?

**Mr. Saad Bin Aziz:** My passion for education stems from my family's legacy. My grandmother, Mrs. Anees Khalid, founded a Montessori Child Development Center in Pakistan, and my grandfather established Hali Publishers in the 1940s. Their first publication, Ghubar-e-Khatir by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, was a milestone in literary history.



spearheads efforts to align the curriculum with international standards. We draw benchmarks from the UK, Canada, and Australia to enrich local educational materials". Constructive criticism plays a vital role in improving our resources. For instance, when issues arise with an Islamic Studies textbook, we consult scholars and authors to revise the material promptly. However, practical constraints, such as affordability and manageability, sometimes limit the extent of updates.

**Academic Pulse:** Given the rise in digital learning, how is Urdu Academy incorporating technology into its resources?

**Mr. Saad Bin Aziz:** Digitization in education is inevitable, but we approach it cautiously due to infrastructural and economic limitations faced by the masses. At Urdu Academy, we have digitized teacher guides, student books, and conducted online training, but we avoid full-scale digital transformation. The primary challenge lies in serving students from underprivileged areas, where electricity and access to devices are inconsistent. We align our offerings with societal readiness and plan to expand digital resources in the

leadership approach prioritizes transparent communication, shared responsibilities, and mutual trust. I emphasize the concept of synergy, where collaboration among team members produces results greater than individual efforts. This philosophy ensures alignment between stakeholders, fostering a sustainable organizational culture.

**Academic Pulse:** What leadership qualities do you believe are essential for managing multiple organizations Successfully?

**Mr. Saad Bin Aziz:** Leadership qualities depend on the scenario. There are two types of leadership: specific leadership tailored to a particular situation and generic leadership applicable across contexts. To achieve quality and excellence for the masses, one must adapt and strategize based on the circumstances. Saad emphasizes three core qualities that are essential for effective leadership. First and foremost is ethics and moral integrity, as a leader must uphold ethical standards to inspire trust and foster a positive team environment. Secondly, expertise in the relevant domain is crucial;

## Empowering Educators, Transforming Future's: The Vision of MR. Saad Bin Aziz

Despite my background in finance, including completing an ACCA, a BSc from Oxford Brookes University, and an MBA from Greenwich University, I gravitated toward teaching. While pursuing my MBA, I helped set up the ACCA department and taught finance subjects for several years. Currently, I am pursuing a Ph.D. in Management Sciences with a specialization in Human Resource Development. Recognizing a gap in qualified teachers in Sindh, I have focused on teacher training and creating quality educational resources over the past 15 years. Teaching must be a deliberate career choice, not a fallback option.

**Academic Pulse:** As a prominent curriculum and book publisher, how do you ensure that your content remains relevant and impactful for students?

**Mr. Saad Bin Aziz:** We ensure the curriculum stays relevant by regularly updating content every two to three years." "My wife, Faryal Siddiqui, Director of Research,

future. Observing trends at global forums like the Frankfurt International Book Fair, we remain committed to bridging the gap between current realities and future possibilities.



**Academic Pulse:** As a leader, how do you inspire innovation and foster teamwork among your teams?

**Mr. Saad Bin Aziz:** Leadership thrives on teamwork and integrity. Expanding my father's vision over the past 18 years, I have emphasized recruiting individuals with ethical values because skills can be developed, but morals cannot. My

leaders need to possess deep knowledge of their field to guide their teams effectively. Lastly, a charismatic personality plays a vital role, as a leader's demeanor, communication, and presentation significantly influence team morale and engagement.

**Academic Pulse:** As a renowned teacher's trainer, what skills do you think modern educators need to develop to remain effective in today's changing classrooms?

**Mr. Saad Bin Aziz:** Modern educators must develop analytical skills among students, emphasizing concept-based learning over rote memorization. For example, outdated teaching practices, where teachers are unaware of updated scientific knowledge, risk diminishing students' trust in educators. To address this, teachers should stay informed through academic journals, research developments, and technology. Teachers can subscribe to free online journals, such as those for physics, to stay updated. Before teaching a chapter, they should spend a

few minutes researching the latest developments on the topic. Educators must also teach beyond the prescribed curriculum. Relying on outdated curricula without updating knowledge is detrimental. If teachers follow these three steps, we can significantly improve the quality of education.

**Academic Pulse:** Can you share a success story or a particularly impactful experience from your teacher training programs?

**Mr. Saad Bin Aziz:** Yes, absolutely.

## Inspiring Change, One Teacher at a Time: MR. Saad Bin Aziz's Educational Journey

The building you're in has a fully equipped basement dedicated to teacher training. Initially, we debated whether to use this space for more machines, as we handle our printing and binding in-house. However, we decided to dedicate the basement entirely to teacher training. Next week, it will be inaugurated, providing space for 100–150 teachers. Teachers can visit for training regularly, whether as walk-ins, appointments, or organized sessions. Six months ago, I was invited to speak at an event on teaching methodologies. I emphasized that every child is unique. Some excel in mathematics, while others shine in the arts. Forcing children into subjects at the expense of their self-esteem is counterproductive. For instance, one teacher undermined my abilities in English, damaging my self-esteem. Despite this, I excelled through self-motivation. Conversely, I fondly remember Sir Badaruddin, whose encouragement inspired me to embrace honesty and hard work. These experiences highlight the lasting impact of teachers on students.

**Academic Pulse:** What is your long-term vision for Urdu Academy Sindh, and are there any new initiatives you're planning to launch?

**Mr. Saad Bin Aziz:** As for the Urdu Academy Sindh, our long-term vision is to leave behind something that becomes sadaqah jariyah (ongoing charity) for us when we are no longer here. Our ultimate aim is to create an institution that continues to inspire and impact students and teachers even after we're gone. We want to establish a foundation stone for Pakistan, one that no one can remove and whose benefits last forever. This can be achieved through good books and effective teacher training. Financially, we aspire to be the first local publishing company listed on Pakistan's stock exchange.

Becoming a public company would ensure the sustainability of our mission. It would allow us to grow while preserving our core vision and values. This is the kind of work we want to do that builds a lasting legacy and positively transforms education in Pakistan. The organization must remain embedded and future directors or individuals should continue its legacy. Even a hundred or two hundred years from now, this company should exist as a symbol of Pakistan. It should stand as a testament to pre-independence Pakistan and its growth alongside the nation. Wherever Pakistan's

name is mentioned in publications, Urdu Academy's name should also be present. This is our long-term vision, our ultimate goal, Insha'Allah.

**Academic Pulse:** What role do you see private schools and organizations like Urdu Academy playing in improving Pakistan's education system?



**Mr. Saad Bin Aziz:** I believe they have a pivotal role. You see, the government is constitutionally bound to provide free education for all under the Constitution of Pakistan though I can't recall the specific article right now. Unfortunately, that doesn't always happen. People are leaving public schools and enrolling in private ones. We hope public schools improve, but given our current society, the private sector is taking on most of the responsibility. There's no debate about that, private organizations have to step up. Regarding the role of Urdu Academy, whether we talk about publishers or private schools, I believe the relationship is a key to that between the bench and the bar in a court setting between judges and lawyers. If publishers are not performing well, schools cannot excel beyond a certain limit due to

a lack of quality materials. Similarly, no matter how good the materials from publishers are, if schools aren't competent, there's no platform for utilizing those resources. This relationship is built on synergy.

**Academic Pulse:** What advice would you give to young educators and aspiring teachers?

**Mr. Saad Bin Aziz:** For young educators, there are three crucial steps to take.

First, evaluate whether this field is truly for you. Don't enter it just because you need a job or

because teaching seems like an easy option. If you want to become a teacher, do it with purpose and clarity. Think about your goals, responsibilities, and duties. Understand them thoroughly before stepping into this field. Second, keep yourself constantly updated in two areas: Stay aware of new trends, methods, and advancements in education and familiarize yourself with teaching technology. For instance, if you need to teach remotely, know how to effectively use tools like digital writing pads or online platforms. Many teachers struggle with using technology, which leads to discomfort and inefficiency. As young educators, you'll lead the way in the future, so mastering these tools is essential. Lastly, ethics and moral values are crucial. Across all religions whether it's Islam, Hinduism, Christianity, or others ethics hold significant importance. No religion encourages unethical behavior. Young educators must ensure that they uphold and promote ethics. Avoid dishonesty, treat students fairly, and make decisions based on merit.



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# The Decline of Higher Education in Pakistan

**Madad Ali Sabri**

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(NUML)

*Madad Ali Sabri is a PhD scholar and English lecturer at the National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Karachi. He also holds the position of Managing Director at The Crescent Perspective, leveraging his expertise to drive impactful initiatives.*



Higher education plays a critical role in the development of any nation, contributing to economic growth, social advancement, and technological progress. However, Pakistan's higher education system is facing significant challenges that have led to its decline over recent years. One of the most pressing issues in Pakistan's higher education landscape is the quality of education provided. Many institutions struggle with outdated curricula, inadequate teaching methodologies, and a lack of qualified faculty. The reliance on rote learning rather than critical thinking and analytical skills hampers students' ability to engage with complex problems. According to various reports, a significant portion of faculty members in universities lacks advanced degrees, impacting the quality of instruction and mentorship provided to students.

Moreover, government funding for higher education in Pakistan has historically been insufficient. While the education budget has seen some increases, it often falls short of the requirements needed to improve infrastructure, faculty salaries, and research initiatives. Poorly maintained facilities, lack of modern technology, and insufficient resources hinder the overall educational experience. Institutions are left struggling to provide basic amenities, let alone invest in advanced educational tools or research opportunities.

Additionally, political interference in university governance is another significant obstacle. The appointment of university heads based on political affiliations rather than merit undermines academic integrity and autonomy. This results in a lack of accountability and transparency within institutions, which stifles innovation and the pursuit of academic excellence. Such political entanglements can also lead to a focus on

short-term gains rather than long-term strategic planning for educational improvement. Such political entanglements can also lead to a focus on short-term gains rather than long-term strategic planning for educational improvement.

The focus on rote memorization has stifled creativity and innovation among students. A lack of emphasis on research in higher education means that graduates often lack the skills necessary to contribute to the knowledge economy. Research funding is limited, and many universities lack the necessary resources to support meaningful research initiatives. This not only impacts the quality of education but also the country's ability to compete on a global scale.

The phenomenon of brain drain, where skilled individuals migrate abroad for better opportunities, exacerbates the challenges faced by higher education in Pakistan. Many graduates seek employment in developed countries that offer higher salaries and better working conditions. This loss of talent diminishes the country's human capital and limits the potential for innovation and growth within the local economy.

A comprehensive approach is needed to address the decline of higher education in Pakistan. The government must prioritize higher education funding, ensuring that financial resources are allocated to improve infrastructure, faculty development, and research initiatives. A dedicated focus on building modern facilities equipped with the latest technology can create an environment conducive to learning and research. Additionally, updating curriculum to incorporate critical thinking, problem-solving, and practical skills is essential. Engaging stakeholders, including industry experts, educators, and students, can help design programs that meet the demands of the job market.

Emphasizing interdisciplinary studies and research-oriented learning will prepare students for the complexities of the modern world. Further, establishing robust accreditation processes is crucial to ensure that educational institutions meet high standards of quality. A regulatory body should be empowered to evaluate institutions based on their academic offerings, faculty qualifications, and research output. This can foster a culture of accountability and continuous improvement.

Encouraging collaboration between public universities and private sector organizations can enhance research and development efforts. By pooling resources and expertise, these partnerships can lead to innovative solutions and foster entrepreneurship among students. Moreover, implementing scholarships and financial aid programs specifically targeted at underprivileged students can help increase enrollment rates, especially in rural areas. Additionally, awareness campaigns can challenge cultural barriers to education, promoting the importance of higher education for all segments of society. Developing partnerships with foreign universities can provide opportunities for knowledge exchange, joint research initiatives, and student exchange programs. Such collaborations can enhance the quality of education and expose students to global best practices. In addition to, encouraging students to pursue science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields can help address the skills gap in the workforce. Initiatives to promote STEM education at the school level and provide resources for higher education institutions can create a pipeline of skilled graduates ready to meet industry demands.

The decline of higher education in Pakistan poses significant challenges that require urgent attention and strategic action. By addressing issues such as quality of education, funding, political interference, and access, Pakistan can revitalize its higher education system. A concerted effort involving government, educational institutions, and civil society is essential to create an environment where higher education can thrive, ultimately contributing to the nation's progress and prosperity. Through investment in education, Pakistan can harness its human capital and build a brighter future for generations to come.



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## Sindh Approves Pakistan's first Transgender Education Policy Draft

Pakistan's first Transgender Education Policy draft has been approved in an important meeting led by Sindh's Education Minister, Syed Sardar Ali Shah. The policy will ensure the inclusion of a transgender category in school and college admission forms and set a quota for transgender candidates during teacher recruitment. The meeting, which was attended by various officials, including Sindh Secretary of School Education Zahid Ali Abbasi and Chief Executive Advisor Fauzia Khan, was informed that according to the 2023 national census, there are 20,331 transgender individuals in Pakistan, with 4,222 residing in Sindh. Representatives from the non-governmental organization "Charity TransAction Pakistan" also reported that the actual number could be closer to 250,000, while research by USAID indicated that 42% of transgender people are barely literate, and 40% have no access to education. The policy draft was developed through consultations with transgender community representatives and aims to address their educational challenges. According to the meeting, the number of transgender people in Sindh stands at 22,065. Shah acknowledged the various obstacles facing transgender individuals, including social prejudice, abuse, and the lack of access to quality education. He stressed that

the lack of employment opportunities and fear of harassment in educational institutions were additional barriers preventing many from pursuing an education.

"There is no specific curriculum available that addresses the needs of transgender individuals," Shah said. "This policy will help create a supportive environment in schools and establish non-formal education training centers,"

he added. he added, Shah highlighted that the policy would focus on the safety, identity, and educational needs of transgender students. Additionally, teachers would receive training to better understand the psychological needs and challenges faced by transgender children. The policy also includes the introduction of vocational training programmes to equip transgender individuals with employable skills. "It is important that we create an anti-harassment environment in educational institutions,

" Shah said. "After the approval of the policy, a public awareness campaign will be launched to highlight the rights and equality of transgender individuals,"

he added, The minister also proposed the creation of support groups for transgender students in schools to help them manage social



pressures, with mentorship programs where successful transgender individuals could serve as role models to encourage others to pursue education. With the policy aimed at ensuring equal access to education and ending discrimination, he expressed hope that these initiatives would pave the way for better employment opportunities for transgender individuals. Shah also suggested discussing with the Benazir Income Support Programme to provide educational resources to low-income transgender individuals. The policy will be further strengthened once it receives legal approval from the provincial cabinet, after which public campaigns across media platforms will be launched to highlight the importance of transgender education.

## Canada No Longer Accepts SDS Study Visa Applications from Pakistan

Canada is reaffirming its promise to give all international students, including those from Pakistan, equal and fair access to applying for a study permit. The Student Direct Stream (SDS) was created in 2018 to speed up the application process for qualified college students, allowing for faster processing times. Along with India, China, and Nigeria, Pakistan was one of the countries participating in the SDS program. The plan was to make it easier for students from these areas to get visas, making it easier for them to attend college in Canada. However, as part of ongoing efforts to ensure all students are treated fairly and protect the integrity of programs, Canada has stated that the SDS and

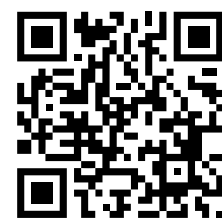


Nigeria Student Express (NSE) programs will end immediately. This change affects all countries that are taking part, even Pakistan. People from Pakistan and other countries who want to study can now apply through the regular study permit stream. Guaranteed Investment Certificates (GICs) can still be used as proof of financial support in this stream. This ensures that students have the money they need to study in Canada. Even though the SDS and NSE programs are no longer running, Canada is still committed to welcoming international students from all over the world and giving them the chance to have an excellent academic experience in a welcoming and diverse space.

## Sindh Bans Private Schools From Charging Extra Fee



News reported that the Sindh government has restricted private schools from charging fees beyond admission and monthly tuition. A notification from the Directorate of Private Institutions outlines that private schools are only permitted to collect admission and monthly tuition fees. It also states that if schools in Sindh charge additional fees, parents can report them to the government, which will then take action against the violators. The high fees of private schools in Pakistan have become a significant burden for many parents. With the rising cost of living and incomes stagnant, families struggle to manage these high expenses, often sacrificing their own needs to afford their children's education.



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## KPK to End Paper-Based Testing

Following provincial government directives, the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Educational Testing and Evaluation Agency (ETEA) has finalized preparations to gradually shift from paper-based exams to a computer-based testing system. This transition marks a new era of innovation, transparency, and ease in testing processes. ETEA plans to establish partnerships with public universities and colleges across Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, along with



private educational institutions, enabling them to serve as testing centers. This will allow candidates to access convenient, nearby test facilities using the existing infrastructure of these institutions. In initial discussions with Virtual University, it was agreed that the university's resources would be utilized to launch computer-based exams. With the new system, the exam preparation process will be fully automated.

## Education Ministry to Introduce Smart Classrooms



The Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, in collaboration with UNESCO Pakistan, has launched an initiative to enhance digital education for girls in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) by introducing smart classrooms. This project aims to expand educational opportunities for girls in marginalized communities. In a meeting chaired by Federal Education Secretary Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, with

senior ministry officials and UNESCO representatives in attendance, it was decided that 80 government girls' schools would be equipped with advanced IT resources. Secretary Wani highlighted the project's importance in addressing educational disparities in remote areas, noting that it would bring smart classroom technology to primary-level girls in eight districts across AJK and GB. The secretary explained that smart classrooms would include interactive tools, digital content, and personalized learning interfaces, allowing students to engage more dynamically with their curriculum. "This integration of advanced tools will provide young girls in these regions with a learning environment that encourages creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving," he stated. The initiative also includes a customized teacher training program focused on integrating technology into the classroom. Teachers will be trained to use AI-enabled

tools, enhancing the teaching and learning process to maximize student benefits. Wani emphasized that training local educators was essential for a successful transition, enabling them to create an inclusive learning environment that meets the unique needs of primary school girls in AJK and GB. "This initiative is a valuable gift for girls in these marginalized areas," Wani said, noting that the new equipment and teacher capacity-building would grant young girls access to quality education, regardless of their location. "It demonstrates our commitment to equitable and inclusive education." The deployment of IT resources and teacher training reflects the shared vision of the Ministry of Education and UNESCO for an innovative and inclusive educational system. "These efforts will equip girls in AJK and GB with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive in an increasingly digital world," he added.

## Women's Hostels, Schools and Colleges in Punjab Will Now Only Have Female Staff

In a major effort to enhance the safety of female students, the Punjab Higher Education Department has introduced an action plan to ensure the appointment of female-only staff in female educational institutions across the province. This initiative, targeting public and private institutions, is designed to create a secure environment for female students. Male staff members previously assigned to areas for female students have been reassigned. CCTV cameras are now mandatory in all educational institutions, including schools, colleges, and



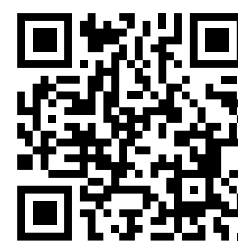
Further security steps include prohibiting male cooks from working in female hostels and restricting male security personnel from entering these premises. Instead, female guards will now be posted inside hostel boundaries. Funds have been allocated for the swift installation of



CCTV systems to support these safety measures. Notifications detailing these guidelines have been issued to all relevant institutions and hostels, mandating immediate compliance to ensure a safe and supportive learning atmosphere for female students across Punjab universities. These cameras will monitor mixed-gender workplaces during working

hours, and senior female officers will conduct hourly checks to ensure compliance.

In female-only institutions, hostels, and professional training centers, the replacement of male staff with female personnel is underway. CCTV footage from these premises will be stored for at least 30 days, allowing surveillance of areas prone to safety risks, such as isolated corridors or shadowed sections.



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# At Rehan School, students seek knowledge from Ted Talks, podcasts and video interviews

Karachi: In Karachi, kids focused on their work fill a classroom with a lot of light. But, in Pakistan's first school with AI, they listen to podcasts on their laptops. They are rapt. They ignore their papers and don't read or write.

Rehan School began in January 2022. It is part of the Supertec Foundation, a CSR program of US-based Super Technologies Inc., a telecom firm. The school doesn't use traditional teaching methods. Instead, it uses technology, like AI, to make educational videos available to students. They're easy to understand. The school has five campuses: two in Karachi, Pakistan's business hub; one in Khanewal in the east; one in Islamabad; and an online school. Many schools use rote learning. Universities rarely use anything but textbooks to teach. Yet, REHAN School is now using podcasts, TED Talks, and AI to teach. Altaf Hussain, Headmaster of Rehan School's Korangi campus, told Arab News, "We aim to boost their confidence, improve their skills, and work on their communication and listening."



"TEDx, interviews, and Faceless software can improve these."

The two-story building is in Karachi's Korangi Industrial Area. It's a low-income area with factories and slums all around it. Inside, though, it's a whole different world.

The designers themed one office after the International Space Station. A panaflex covers its walls. It has giant pictures of planets and people floating in space. Hussain said, "This room sends the message that any child who comes to REHAN School will rise in the future."



"THEY KNOW All IT"

Inside the building is a room for vice presidents, one of whom is a student. Hussain said that selecting a vice principal from students aged 8 to 15 aims to teach kids to be leaders.

Mr. Smith said, "In the classroom, the students, not the teachers, are responsible for teaching." "He also said each student must be a teacher for a week.

Besides that, students are also told to make their schedules.

A staff member, referred to as a "facilitator" here, is one of 25 people. Misbah Altaf told Arab News that the kids make their lesson plans, choose their work, and plan their own time.

"They know everything."

At the school, students move through eight levels. The first level includes TED Talk-themed presentations and discussions. They aim to improve public speaking and creative writing.

Each student must earn \$100 through freelancing before moving to Level 2.

Another unique feature is the "Corridor of Inspiration." It has plaques with quotes from famous people, like Mother Teresa, Einstein, and Malala Yousafzai.

"Wasting time studying old information."

And tech is something the kids can't get enough of. Parvaish Khan, 15, said her mother taught her. She also learned on the Internet before going to Rehan School.

"But, once I started school, I learned to use it right," she told Arab News. She was learning about rapid engineering, a way to make inputs for AI tools.

Khan showed Arab News her idea: a website with interviews of famous people.



Abdul Ahad, 13, loves going to the "bagless" Rehan School because it differs from other schools. At his old school, he had to bring a lot of books, which made his backpack heavy.

"Right now, all we need is a laptop, a charger, a cell phone, and the charger for the cell phone," Ahad said.

He also does not miss the old-fashioned teaching methods at his old school.

He said, "Learning here made me realize that my old school wasted time. We studied old material and memorized it to pass tests."

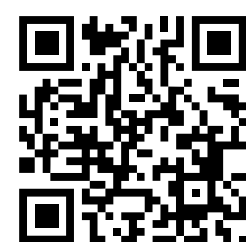
## Punjab Considers Ending Saturday Holiday in Schools



24NewsHD TV reports that the Punjab Education Department will end the Saturday holiday. This is to make up for lost time due to smog-related closures and other unplanned holidays. Once implemented, schools will be open six days a week instead of five, giving kids more time to learn. Experts say Punjab's school year is now only 112 days due to unplanned breaks. This is much shorter than the international standard of 245 days. There are concerns about the quality of education due to this cut. It is especially so for 9th and 10th graders studying for tests. Experts say the current smog problem could worsen things by causing more vacations.

In early November, the authorities closed schools in Punjab due to smog. In recent years, winter breaks have also been longer. The loss of teaching time will likely worsen as December's winter break approaches.

Experts and teachers worry students can't make up for lost time. Reports say the government has refused to call teachers to schools during the holidays. It's been hard to hold online classes now. The six-day school week aims to fix these problems. It aims to make up for lost instructional time. It will ensure students get the help they need in school despite difficulties.



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# How to Tell the Difference Between Smog and Fog and Their Hidden Dangers

Smog and fog are two weather conditions that people worldwide are becoming more familiar with. There are some clear connections between the two but also clear differences.



## What is fog?

Small water drops floating in the air near the Earth's surface cause fog, which is a natural atmospheric event. It happens when the temperature drops and water vapor in the air rises, turning it into droplets. Fog is common in many places worldwide, especially near the coast, valleys, and hilly areas. There are different kinds of fog, such as

- This type of fog forms overnight when the ground cools.
- This fog also forms when warm, wet air blows over a cool surface.
- Upslope fog happens when wet air rises over a slope.
- Steam fog is made when cold air moves over warm water.

## What is smog?

Smog, which stands for "smoke and fog," is a form of air pollution that happens when smoke, fog, and other air pollutants mix. Smog is mostly found in cities and industrial areas, where people are putting pollutants into the air through their actions.

Smog is made when pollution from many places, like

- Emissions from vehicles
- Manufacturing processes
- Burning fossil fuels
- Building projects

Sunlight, nitrogen oxides, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) combine with them to make ground-level ozone and particulate matter.



## What Makes Smog and Fog Different?

Both smoke and fog make it harder to see, but there are big differences:

1. People's actions mostly cause smog, while fog is natural.
2. Fog is made up of water drops, while Smog is made up of pollutants, particulate matter, and ground-level ozone.

3. Fog usually happens in rural or natural areas, while Smog is more common in cities and industrial areas.

4. Fog doesn't usually pose a health risk, but Smog can cause breathing problems, heart disease, and other health issues.

5. Fog usually goes away as the day goes on and the temperature rises, but Smog can last for a long time, especially in places where air doesn't move or where pollution sources keep going.

6. Fog usually happens in cooler months or places where the temperature changes significantly. Smog can happen at any time of the year, but it usually worsens in the summer when weather and sunlight worsen pollution.

7. Fog forms through radiative cooling, advection, or upslope processes, while Smog forms through chemical reactions involving sunshine, pollutants, and the weather.

8. Fog: There are no special ways to deal with fog because it clears up. However, smog needs proactive steps like emissions control, switching to clean energy, and laws that lower pollution.

## How Smog can hurt your health?

### Health Effects in the Short Term:

1. Problems with breathing: Smog affects the lungs, throat, and airways, making asthma, COPD, and bronchitis worse.

Circulatory Problems: Smog raises blood pressure, heart rate, and circulatory stress, which can cause heart attacks, strokes, and irregular heartbeats.

3. Irritation of the eyes, nose, and throat: The pollutants in Smog make eyes red, itchy, and teary. They also clog noses and throats, making them sore.

4. Headaches and Tiredness: The chemicals in Smog can make you feel tired and dizzy and give you headaches.

5. Skin Issues: Some pollutants in Smog can irritate, rash, or cause allergic responses on the skin.

### Effects on Health in the Long Run:

1. Lung Cancer: Long-term exposure to the toxic pollutants in Smog raises the risk of getting lung cancer.

2. Long-Term Respiratory Disease: Exposure to Smog repeatedly can damage your lungs permanently and cause long-term respiratory diseases.

3. Cardiovascular Disease: Being exposed to Smog for a long time raises the chance of heart failure and stroke, among other cardiovascular diseases.

4. Damage to the brain: Particulate matter and other pollutants in Smog may make neurological diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's worse.

5. Birth and Developmental Problems: If a mother is exposed to Smog while she is pregnant, her baby may be born small or early, or they may have breathing problems as a child.

## Populations that are weak:

1. Children: Because their lungs and brains are still developing, children are more likely to be hurt by Smog.

2. Older people: Health problems that come with getting older and diseases they already have make them more likely to be affected by Smog.

3. pregnant women: Pollutants in Smog can affect the health and growth of the mother and the baby.

Fourth, people with health problems: Smog worsens breathing, heart, and other health problems.

## Pollutants That Are Bad for Your Health:

1. Particulate Matter (PM): PM2.5 fine particles get deep into the lungs and hurt them.

2. Ozone (O3): Ground-level ozone hurts the lungs and worsens breathing problems.

3. Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2): This gas makes breathing trouble and heart disease more likely. Sulfur Dioxide (SO2) makes the lungs and respiratory systems itch.

5. Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs): These chemicals cause ozone and directly affect health.



## Getting rid of health risks:

1. Keep an eye on the Air Quality Index (AQI) predictions.

2. Don't go outside during the hours when there is the most smoke.

3. Cover your face with a mask.

4. Use air filters inside.

5. Back policies that encourage clean energy and lower emissions.

6. Stick to healthy habits like exercise, a balanced diet, and stress management.

## Strategies for public health:

1. Rules and controls for emissions.

2. Changes to clean energy.

3. Higher standards for fuel economy.

4. Campaigns to teach and raise knowledge among the public.

5. Networks that check the air condition.

6. Research and creation of technologies that cut down on pollution.



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# Navigating The Complex World of Workplace Politics “A Webinar by Logix Solutions”

On November 23, 2024, Logix Solutions organized a highly engaging and insightful free webinar titled "Understanding & Managing Workplace Politics". Conducted online at 6:30 p.m., the session was led by the seasoned HR professional Mr. Khuram Nabi Shaikh, who shared his expertise on navigating the complexities of workplace politics. With his extensive experience in the field, Mr. Shaikh provided a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics of workplace politics, highlighting both its positive and negative aspects.

Throughout the session, Mr. Shaikh explored various dimensions of workplace politics, delving into the ways in which it influences power dynamics, social interactions, and organizational growth. He also discussed several case studies, providing real-world examples of workplace politics in action. This not only helped participants gain a deeper understanding of the concept but also enabled them to develop practical strategies for managing workplace politics effectively.

The webinar was highly appreciated by a large audience, who praised its practical insights and relevance to real-world workplace scenarios. Participants expressed gratitude for the opportunity to learn from Mr. Shaikh's expertise and gain valuable knowledge on navigating the complexities of workplace politics.

As a token of participation, e-certificates were awarded to all attendees, further enhancing their professional development and acknowledging their participation. This gesture was well-received by the participants, who appreciated the recognition of their commitment to learning and growth.

The event was a significant milestone in Logix Solutions' commitment to empowering professionals through knowledge-sharing and development. By organizing this webinar, Logix Solutions demonstrated its dedication to providing valuable learning opportunities that cater to the needs of professionals in today's fast-paced and competitive work environment.



Participants left the webinar with actionable strategies and a renewed perspective on how to handle workplace politics constructively while contributing to both personal and organizational success. The session provided a safe and interactive platform for participants to engage with the topic, ask questions, and share their own experiences and insights.

Overall, the webinar was a resounding success, and Logix Solutions deserves commendation for organizing such a valuable and informative event. By providing a platform for professionals to learn and grow, Logix Solutions is playing a vital role in shaping the future of the corporate world.



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## WEBINAR

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Logix Solutions is dedicated to sustainability and innovation, creating adaptive HR strategies that meet your needs and align with industry trends. We deliver measurable results, enhance performance, and provide top-tier talent to alleviate organizational constraints worldwide. We are committed to delivering services that perfectly cater to both individual and business needs. Our mission is to delight our customers by consistently exceeding their expectations.

## Our Services



### HR SERVICES

- Executive Search
- Recruitment & Mass Hiring
- HR Outsourcing
- Training and Development
- Performance Management
- Payroll Services
- HR Audit Services
- Antecedent Verification



### FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

- Commercial Cleaning
- Hospitality Solutions
- Manpower Supply
- Cleaning & Disinfection
- Kitchen Stewarding
- Janitorial Services



### INNOVATIVE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

- Accounting and Bookkeeping Services
- Corporate and Secretarial Services
- Merger and Acquisition Advisory
- Specialized in Advising Start-ups and Small Businesses
- Taxation Services



### SMART ENTERPRISE SOLUTIONS

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- Web Designing/Development
- Mobile Applications
- School Management System
- Inventory Control Management System



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