

Group Assignment

Public Speaking in English

(012023-JPK)

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TOPIC: IS THE EDUCATION SYSTEM STILL UP TO DATE?

Roles:

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Parent: Manreen Kaur

Education Minister: Muhammad Abdullah

Education researcher: Jawwad Mustafa

School administrator: Adam Anwar Mohamed (Highlighted)

# Introduction

Maimonides once quoted that ‘Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day, teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime’. This singular quote is sufficient to prove the significance of education towards our quality of life. We cannot deny that those who are educated and wise with knowledge are respected and looked upon highly by society, especially when that knowledge is used for the greater good. However, over the past few years, the quality of education in our country has merely been satisfactory despite the numerous efforts made. Therefore, our group has taken the initiative through this Public Speaking module to bring this topic to light and provide constructive feedback to overcome this issue.

In this assignment, we plan to conduct a thorough discussion revolving around various aspects of our country’s education system. First and foremost, we will be discussing the content which involves the factors influencing a country’s education system and a more in-depth explanation of the severity of not keeping the education system updated. Next, we will focus on some recommendations that will reveal all those responsible and how they can help tackle this issue. Finally, we will state the conclusion, which lists all our hopes and aspirations for overcoming this issue.

The primary goal of conducting this discussion is to properly identify the viewpoint of individuals across various roles in the education system. Moreover, this discussion is conducted to identify practical and effective solutions to the current issues that negatively impact the country's education quality and ensure any upcoming issues are nipped in the bud before turning severe in the long run. Besides that, we also want to provide a platform for free speech for the audience to express their concerns and dissatisfaction with the current education system.

## 1.1 Definition

Education is a mandatory sector in a country’s development as it is fundamental in forging a society with first-class minds. To explain briefly, the education system is defined as a fixed learning model that educates the young generation on a variety of fields, such as economic and social matters.

A country’s education system is often broken down into a few levels. It starts from primary education, which focuses on helping students master basic literacy and mathematical skills. Next, there is secondary education, which introduces students to core subjects such as language and history, and helps students identify their areas of interest. Then, higher education involves students enrolling in universities and colleges to prepare themselves with sufficient knowledge of their areas of interest, along with soft skills that are necessary in the workforce.

## 1.2 History

The Malaysian education system has an intricate history of undergoing numerous trials and errors to suit the ever-changing environment and fulfill the needs of the country during that time. The Malaysian education system began with vernacular schools, which focused on education based on race and cultural backgrounds, such as English, Malay, Chinese, and Tamil medium schools. This encouraged segregation of individuals without a singular communication language as planned by the British through the ‘Divide and Rule’ initiative, preventing the masses from rebelling for independence.

Later, the Holgate Report 1949 was released but was soon rejected. Then, the Barnes Report of 1951 was designed to form a standard education system. Soon after, the Fenn-Wu Report was also published in 1951, which prioritised the preservation and improvement of Chinese schools. The Education Ordinance of 1952 was then made after analysing the failure of the Barnes Report and Fenn-Wu Report; however, this was also unable to successfully obtain the approval of the people. In 1956, Dato’ Abdul Razak Hussein, who held the role as the first Education Minister, released the Razak Report 1956 to achieve a balance between individuals of multiple races under the national education system.

After obtaining independence, the Razak Report 1956 was then incorporated into the Education Ordinance 1957 with the main goal of strengthening the unity among the people. Later, the education system was refined by the release of the Rahman Talib Report 1960, which fully utilised Malay as the main language of communication and introduced subjects such as History to induce loyalty among students towards the country. In the early 20th century, a more detailed and efficient education system was introduced, which was called ‘Kurikulum Baru Sekolah Rendah (KBSR)’ for primary schools and ‘Kurikulum Baru Sekolah Menengah (KBSM)’ for secondary schools. Both KBSM and KSSM had three primary goals, which were the mastery of communication, love towards the environment, and good humanitarian values. Soon after, the current education system known as ‘Kurikulum Standard Sekolah Rendah (KSSR)’ and ‘Kurikulum Standard Sekolah Menengah (KSSM)’ were brought forward, which focused on mastery of skills deemed necessary in the 21st century, such as advanced technological skills.

# Content

## 2.1 Factors influencing a country’s education system

There are a handful of factors that influence a country’s education system. First and foremost, a country’s education system is often influenced by the country's societal and cultural norms. This is because a country’s national language, such as Bahasa Malaysia in our country, and written history will become mandatory subjects in the education system for students to master. This is mainly to instill patriotism in the younger generation and ensure they remember their roots, especially in this age where influence from other countries and cultures is prevalent. This will, in turn, form loyal citizens who will serve for the country’s betterment to the best of their abilities.

Furthermore, another factor that strongly influences a country’s education system is technological availability. This is because countries that aren’t accessible to proper technology may depend on textbooks, notes, and physical classes where the teacher teaches using a whiteboard or blackboard. However, the advancement of technology in some countries allows students to carry digital textbooks on their devices, utilise study apps, and conduct online classes without compromising the quality of education. Both styles of education carry their pros and cons, which require full effort from the government to minimise their disadvantages.

In addition, many elements, such as national policies, cultural and sociological beliefs, and market conditions, have an impact on a nation's educational system. The syllabus, instructor requirements, and school finance can all be influenced by government policies, such as laws and regulations. Financial constraints, such as a nation's level of development and resources available, can have an impact on the educational system by affecting funding availability and educational quality. In the end, a nation's educational system is a complex interaction of these and other elements that affect the educational options available to its inhabitants.

Besides that, a country’s educational system is also influenced by political and government interests. For example, the Malaysian government, which aims to develop a society rich with moral values, introduced a subject called ‘Pendidikan Moral’ as a mandatory subject. Moreover, the Malaysian government, which also values diplomatic ties with foreign countries such as France and encourages the integration of foreign and local cultures, allows its students to learn additional languages such as French as an optional subject. Therefore, numerous factors play significant roles in shaping a country’s education system.

## 2.2 Effects of an outdated education system

Education provides the knowledge, skills, and values a student needs to succeed in their life. However, an outdated education system, on the other hand, has negative consequences not only for students but also for teachers and society. The only question that remains is, what are the effects of an outdated education system?

First and foremost, an outdated educational system frequently places a strong emphasis on rote learning and memorization. The term "rote learning" refers to a method of memorization in which material is repeated endlessly until it is memorized. This technique may impede students' capacity to think critically and creatively since it does not foster real engagement with the content. Instead, students are merely learning material by heart without fully comprehending its significance or how it is connected to other ideas. Consequently, their ability to think critically and adapt knowledge to new situations is hampered by this method. Furthermore, this method can stifle creativity, which is essential for the development of new ideas and techniques.

Secondly, a curriculum that is out of date and no longer relevant to the requirements of students and society may be part of an education system that is outdated. A lack of relevance and practicality in education can be caused by a curriculum and learning resources that have become out of date. Students could have a difficult time applying the knowledge and skills they receive in the classroom to circumstances that they will encounter in the real world if the curriculum and learning resources are not updated to reflect changes in society and the job market. For instance, if a science curriculum does not include the most recent scientific discoveries, then students will be deprived of the material that is the most up-to-date and pertinent at this moment. Students may find it challenging to study effectively if the learning resources they use, such as textbooks or videos, are out of date because the resources may contain information that is inaccurate or irrelevant.

Thirdly, students may not be sufficiently prepared for the workforce if they are educated in an outdated system. Those who do not enter the workforce with the appropriate level of preparation may have a difficult time finding a job or progressing in their professions. This is because businesses frequently seek potential employees who own a variety of skills and knowledge that are pertinent to the industry in which they work. For example, a person who wishes to work in the technology business might need to have a solid understanding of programming languages or other technical abilities to qualify for jobs in that field. If they have not earned a proper education or training in these areas, they may be at a disadvantage when competing with others for jobs in those areas.

Furthermore, an antiquated educational system can have a variety of detrimental repercussions on students, staff, and the school, according to school administrators. The needs of contemporary society and the labour market may not be appropriately addressed in outdated curricula and teaching strategies, which could put students at a disadvantage in their future professions. Likewise, instructors' capacity to deliver a high-quality education and engage pupils in fruitful learning experiences may be constrained by a lack of investment in new technology and resources. Due to a lack of resources and support, educators may become dissatisfied and experience burnout, which may be a result of outdated rules and procedures. In the end, an outmoded educational system may result in lower student interest and achievement, lower teacher effectiveness, as well as a decline in the school's reputation and overall achievement.

Finally, outdated educational systems can contribute to the perpetuation of inequality by exposing certain groups of students to fewer learning possibilities. One of the most significant outcomes of having unequal access to educational opportunities inside an outdated educational system is a lack of access to modern teaching methods and technologies. Some students may not have access to high-quality teaching resources and technology due to inequities in the educational system. These resources and technologies include online learning platforms, interactive whiteboards, and educational software. These students’ lack of access to certain resources can make it more difficult for them to receive an effective education, which puts them at a great disadvantage in comparison to their classmates who do have access to these resources.

In conclusion, the effects of an outdated education system are outrageous. It is essential to update our educational systems to prepare students for their futures in a world that is always evolving. The educators, policy makers, and other stakeholders play an important role in making this possible. By investing in education and embracing new approaches to teaching and learning, we can create a more equitable, prosperous, and sustainable future for all.

## 2.3 Recommendations

Responsibilities, actions, and benefits for each role to assist in keeping the education system relevant in the present time.

There are many techniques for maintaining the system of education technologically updated. It is vital to integrate technology into the school system as it advances. Numerous positions ought to be covered to ensure that the education system continues to be relevant in our time. Students can first and foremost be proponents for themselves by speaking out about matters impacting their education. Interruption that interrupts a student's mental focus on research include having access to technological resources and support services. By advocating for themselves and their peers, students can contribute to making sure that their educational experiences are more equitable and effective.

Furthermore, teachers are crucial for maintaining a learning environment relevant. Furthermore, inspiring analytical reasoning and problem-solving skills contributed significantly to the education sector remaining relevant. Learners must acquire analytical and problem-solving skills in a rapidly evolving world. This can be achieved through project-based teaching methods and other hands-on tasks that challenge students to think creatively and overcome real-life issues. They can integrate cutting-edge technologies and learning techniques into their classrooms, design engaging materials plans that inspire rational reflection and problem-solving, and in still in their students a love of learning. Likewise, as online learning is becoming more widely known, allowing flexible learning options will meet the needs of all undergraduate students. Online courses, hybrid learning models, and self-paced learning programs are examples of this. Nonetheless, emphasizing social-emotional learning is necessary for learners to develop social and emotional competencies that will assist them to succeed in the future. Examples include compassion, consciousness, and persistence. Such abilities tend to involve compassion, consciousness, and persistence. Training programs, apprenticeship programs, and university courses are indeed opportunities. The above actions lead to greater levels of student participation, enthusiasm, and educational achievement, along with a more efficient learning mechanism.

Parents and guardians have a responsibility to support their kids' education by encouraging them to pursue their passions in their desired careers instead of pressuring them to pursue the education they desire. They can encourage their children to take full advantage of extracurricular learning experiences such as summer camps and educational programs, and they can advocate for policies that prioritize student access. Such intentions will lead to increased academic outcomes for their children and a firmer education system for future generations.

Education ministers are responsible for funding and sustaining the education sector. They can allocate funds to ensure that academic institutions have access to reducing technology while also providing professional growth in analytical thinking and problem-solving capabilities. These deeds will lead to improved student outcomes, rising global competitiveness, as well as a better-educated workforce.

As a school administrator, several suggestions can help keep the educational system up to date. Priority one should be given to keeping abreast of the most recent findings in academic research and educational trends. The curriculum should also be routinely reviewed and updated to reflect these advancements. By giving instructors the resources they need to engage students and deliver top-notch instruction, new technology and resource investments can also help keep the educational system current. To make sure that the educational system is preparing students for the demands of the job market and the requirements of the local community, collaboration with business leaders and community partners might be helpful. Also, offering teachers professional development opportunities can help them stay up to date with the latest educational trends and best practices. It is advantageous to both educators and students. In today's quickly changing educational environment, it is crucial to cultivate an attitude of adapting to change and being relevant. This can be done through fostering a culture of innovation and continual improvement.

Collaboration with educators to better understand the obstacles they encounter in the classroom and develop questions related to their necessities allows education researchers to conduct rigorous research projects that investigate the effectiveness of various educational intervention programs. This research can assist educators and policymakers by recognizing what works and does not work in the school environment and offering scientific proof and guidelines. Students can advocate for themselves by communicating regarding educational conflicts. Interference disrupts a student's mental focus in a study, which includes having access to technological resources and support services. This involves offering students the latest hardware and software, along with mentoring educators on how to use modern tools effectively. By advocating for themselves and their comrades, students can help to ensure that their educational experiences are more equitable and effective.

# Conclusion

To conclude, in the world of technological advancement, educational systems must reconsider and develop new approaches to stay relevant, as well as renew and enhance the learning environment for interaction between learners and learning materials. As a result, traditional teaching practices must be reconsidered and replaced with new solutions to provide learners with cognitive capabilities. The employment of information and communication technology is unavoidable to accomplish excellent learning goals for all. Students' ability, knowledge, and motivation can all benefit from the use of modern technologies. This forum has discussed the positives and negatives of the contemporary education system from various perspectives, which has helped highlight the problem areas. Recommendations to improve the relevance of the education will be made in the following section.

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