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|  | **BAHRIA UNIVERSITY, (Karachi Campus)**  *Department of Software Engineering*  **Assignment 4– Fall 2022** |  |

COURSE TITLE: Pakistan Studies & Global Perspective COURSE CODE: Pak-103

Class: BSE- 3(B) Shift: Morning

Course Instructor: Ms. Rani Kiran Time Allowed:

Submission Date: 07.01. 2022 Max. Marks: 05 Marks

Name: **Muhammad Shoaib Akhter Qadri Reg No: 79290**

Assignment 3: CLO-3 [05 marks]

Write a 2000 word count research article on of “Social or Economic Problems of Pakistan” and the way forward’ .

**•Illiteracy in Pakistan:**

The current literacy rate in Pakistan is 62.3 per cent which means that around 90 million people in the country cannot read and write. It goes without saying that illiteracy is a major cause of unemployment and poverty in the country. Unfortunately, ‘education for all’ has been rendered a mere slogan as the successive governments have failed to focus on this important sector. As a result, the number of out-of-school children in the country is rising and rising, currently standing at around 22.8 million, according to Unicef.

The need for family support is the main reason behind a majority of the children opting out of school at a very tender age. Children can be seen working at factories, hotels, cafeterias, auto workshops and as domestic servants. A good number of them can be seen offering their services as car washers. Begging is one profession — yes it a profession, and quite lucrative at that — too many children are stuffed into. Under the circumstances, the government needs to focus on improving public sector schools across the country so as to provide free-of-cost education to all. At the same time, the government must also take steps to nip the evil of child labour in the bud.

The National Commission for Human Development (NCHD), is an autonomous body of the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, mandated to support human development efforts in Pakistan particularly in the fields of adult literacy, universal primary education, primary health, poverty alleviation, and capacity building, and volunteerism. Being the National Lead Agency for literacy, NCHD is contributing to promote literacy in the country for the last seventeen years.

Illiteracy is a big problem because the illiterate people are unable to understand the new techniques of social life. They do not enjoy the life. They do not understand the new policies. Every individual has right to get education in better institutions. Illiteracy minimizes the social relations in the society which leads to less development of resources. Illiterate person is unable to read books, magazine, articles, and other reading materials.

He cannot participate in platforms of educated people. The society does not develop, if there is a number of a person un-educated. Illiteracy is a barrier in the social progress among people for betterment of the society. To bring them out of this illiteracy, they should be provided information through mass media of communication and educated people should explain the impacts of being literate. If we want to overcome on illiteracy, government should teach the illiterate people in good institutions with good teachers. To fulfil the dream, we should get good education. Education is a good tool which benefits all along the life. In fact, education is very important tool for everyone to succeed in life.

**CAUSES OF ILLITERACY:**

There are many reasons for increasing illiteracy. The main reason could be poverty and an expensive educational system, as many people in Pakistan aren’t even able to eat 3 times a day, so how will they educate their children in these circumstances? Also, our educational system has become so expensive that even middle-class people cannot afford it. The fees, books, uniforms, and other extra charges in private schools are very unaffordable. Our government must make education easy and less expensive for people so that we can educate our upcoming generation.

Another main reason for illiteracy is uneducated parents. Many parents, especially in the rural areas think that education is not much important for a person. They have their agricultural lands from where they can earn enough money to survive and that’s why they do not pay much attention to their children’s education. Therefore, we must tell those people the importance of education and that education is not only important for jobs or earning money.

**SOME IMPACTS OF ILLITERACY:**

Illiteracy causes irreparable damages to our society. The future generation is our asset and if they do not get proper education, it is a huge loss for us as a society. Uneducated people have to face a lot of difficulties in their life. The first and most difficult thing is to find a reputable job that provides you with a handsome salary. Uneducated people have to work hard just to earn some pennies. Uneducated people have fewer chances of getting employed and earning a good salary which eventually becomes a cause of homelessness.

Illiteracy also causes poor health conditions as an uneducated have not much information about his health and about the symptoms of many common diseases which if not treated properly can become dangerous. Illiterate people also don’t pay much attention to hygiene. They don’t understand the importance of hygienic food and clean water which leads them to many dangerous diseases. These people are also heavily involved in smoking, drinking, drugs, and obesity as they don’t know the consequences of these things.

Uneducated people can never raise their standard of living and their lifestyle according to society because they don’t have enough information and resources for the new technologies and new inventions. Illiterate people can also suffer from low self-esteem in society. When a person cannot read and write properly, he also faces difficulty in communicating with people. They can feel out of the place and left in the company of educated people.

It is very difficult for illiterate people to find jobs so they get involved in crimes and snatching to earn some money so we can say that the increasing crime rates in our country are also one of the results of illiteracy. People find it easy to just snatch some money rather than working hard and finding a good job. Begging is also one of the issues which are caused by unemployment and illiteracy.

**How to Reduce Illiteracy?**

Most of the issues in our society are aroused because of illiteracy hence, it is not only our government’s duty to reduce illiteracy but being a reason responsible citizen we are also obliged to take part in solving this issue. Government should try to make schooling less expensive so that everyone can afford it. They should try to distribute rewards among the deserving students, help poor children by giving them scholarships. Apart from that, the government should also organize some teaching programs for the parents to inform them about the importance of education and why they should educate their children. The educated and rich people in our society can also help in reducing illiteracy by spending their money and knowledge on the poor ones.

Education is not just important for jobs or earning money but it is essential to make you a better, kind and wise person. It is necessary to confidently survive in society. Knowledge gives you the different aspects of looking at things and helps you in exploring new places, meeting new people, and analyzing new things from the world. Education is a vital need of every human being and it is the right of every person to get educated.

**On-Going Projects/ Activities of Pakistan to remove illiteracy:**

Establishment of 30 Functional Literacy Centers in GB and Chitral

NCHD established 30 functional literacy centers in Gilgit Baltistan and Chitral with the support of Aga Khan Rural Support Program. These centers were established for women in the upper seven valleys of Chitral, Hunza and Ghizer districts. The purpose is to uplift the highly marginalized communities of these mountain valleys. The project has been completed recently benefiting around 650 women.

Development of ICT based Training Videos

Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) improves the effectiveness of trainings of teachers and field managers. NCHD has completed development of six ICT/video based training sessions for the capacity building of teachers and field officers of literacy and Non formal basic education (NFBE). The project was funded under the UNESO Participation Program.

Literacy Centers for Prisoners

Literacy centers in jails are aimed at helping the prisoners to mainstream in the society as a useful citizen in the post prison life. NCHD successfully completed 3 literacy centers in the jails of Sargodha. Literacy centers in Mansehra and Abbotabad jails are in progress.

Community Learning Centers

The Community Learning Center (CLC) may be termed as a local institution which is established and run by the community for its own socio economic development. Through the establishment of CLCs, NCHD provides lifelong learning opportunities for the community members including children, youth and adults. Basic and post literacy are the key components of the CLCs. NCHD has helped to establish around 50 Community Learning Centers in 45 districts across Pakistan.

**New Initiatives to Promote Literacy**

* **Collection of Data and Information**

Keeping in view the importance of data to develop and execute projects in the social sector, NCHD took following major initiatives:

Compilation of district and Union Council wise data on estimated number of adult illiterates.Collection of data on potential locations which are in immediate need of schools.Preparation of district literacy profiles comprising all relevant information.

Establishment of 2000 Literacy Centers

Under public-private partnership, NCHD received financial support from Pakistan Human Development Fund (PHDF) for establishing 2000 adult literacy centers in Pakistan to literate around 150,000 adult illiterates. The project was launched recently in December 2019 in 38 districts covering all the provinces, AJK, Gilgit Baltistan and Islamabad Capital Territory.

**Reduce illetracy in Pakistan:**

The progress and welfare of a country depends upon rate of literacy. The rate of literacy in advanced countries like Japan, America, 'Britain, Russia and a majority of European countries have high literacy rate up to 96% whereas the literacy rate of Pakistan is much less even than these of developing countries. It is about 40% according to the census of 1998. It means that there will be 90 million people illiterate in 2005 in the total population of Pakistan which is an alarming situation.

To come out of this dire problem, the literacy problem should be solved to make the speed of progress fast. The following suggestions if attended to in earnest may go a long way in solving this problem rapidly to enable the country to cope with the speed of world progress in this future :

1. **Increase in number of primary schools :**

This number should be increased in urban and rural societies though in urban areas, many private schools have been set up to impart education but these are expensive and poor people cannot afford fees and other expenses. It is necessary, therefore, to open such schools in public sector. As a proposal in this regard is to subsidize the private sector with restrictions not to charge high fees and instead of opening new schools in public sector, private sector be associated by giving grants for staff salary and maintenance in a proper proportion to lessen the burden on private sector to enable it to restore normal fees. Actually this was the practice prior to nationalization of schools when grants were given to private schools to enable them to keep the standard and of education and to charge the fee from students as prescribed by the grant sanction authority of the education department. This Was a good via media of association of privately managed schools with govt. sector schools to keep the standard of education as better like as that of good schools.

1. **Betterment in schools’ infrastructure :**

In rural areas, schools are without buildings and furniture and other furniture necessary to continue education by the students in schools. Even some urban schools also fall under this category. Necessary facilities are to be provided if better results of primary education are to be achieved by the Govt. of Pakistan.

1. **Free and compulsory education :**

Provision of free basic education along with free books is a good step but lack of teachers has failed this facility that has been started with a large expenditure. At present, 35% posts of teachers are lying vacant. Urban and until teachers are not provided and posted where needed, free education and free books will not yield any fruitful results.

**4. Encouragement of private sector :**

According to the economic condition of Pakistan, there is a great potential if encouragement to private sector is provided in terms of grants for lessening of fees and increasing the infrastructure requirements of schools subject to the restriction to be followed by the private sector and strict vigilance on the part of the education department for any deviation. This will be accepted by the private sector in its own interest and the interest of the country.

1. **Special emphasis on female education :**

Female education is a requisite for fighting with illiteracy from the very care that may lessen illiteracy perhaps never so possible but to have it with the female education. The reason is that it is the mother who affects the early training of the child to give him sense of right a wrong and this is only possible with the education of females. The female education holds a bright future for the eradication of illiteracy because of being the first step to eradicate this problem. Women prove best teachers for children as being another form of mother behaviour available to the children instead of behaviour of male teachers with the children. Co-education at the primary level saves the double expenses on boys and girls schools. This has further advantage of lessening the tendency of children for leaving the schools and thus literacy rate will improve.

1. **Encouragement of intelligent students and diligent teachers :**

In view of the philosophy of reward and punishment, intelligent students and diligent teachers are to be awarded in the form of cash and certificate awards to promote a feeling of hard work and competition among students and teachers as well. This is especially necessary in the environment and circumstances of

Pakistan where apart to professional ethics is going to take root just because of non-recognition of quality work and rather discouragement for such quality works. Psychologically teachers being‘part of the society have been degraded in the respect and regard on the part of the society whereas players of games artists are awarded large sums and other valuable gifts just to appreciate their efforts.

1. **Effective promotion of distance education :**

With the advancement of mass media, communication facilities have been increased to an unimaginative limit to the extent of making this world a global village, especially in the field of mass media. Internet and TV and special audio visual means of hearing and seeing all what happens all over the world just as village people know about the incidents of their village. This facility has opened a field for rapid, effective and highly professional arts and skills to bring to the threshold of almost every door in the whole world. A highly professional and experienced professor can give lecture on TV and Internet his valuable life-long research results to the world in no time without any cost or with small cost as compared to acquisition of that knowledge in a formal way.

It has afforded chances of rapid reach of education of almost all levels to the people having the need of it with less expense and less trouble. Distance learning or education has opened a field for all countries, especially for Pakistan if the govt. wants to make it effective, well-organized, supervised and result-oriented. Even primary education programmes can be supplemented with the help of educationists by asking them to address and present some effective lessons like correct writing Urdu alphabets pronunciation of words at the grass root level of this stage combined with the cooperation and assistance of less trained and experienced teachers sitting in the schools of rural areas at fixed times with their classes. Hundred of ways can be devised to implement the spirit of scheme effectively and positively. There is no death of experts but the difficulty lies with proper and effective planning on the part of the authorities concerned and association with these schools.

1. **Social campaign against illiteracy :**

Whatever the detail has been given above is just to fight illiteracy well and with organized efforts by removing the cases that hinder this campaign.

There is no doubt that no campaign in the social field yields good results unless the people of society do not cooperate and to achieve this cooperative part of a society, a motivation and a stimulation is required. In this age of mass media, the efforts can be effective through films, dramas and other debating forums to

make the people aware of the importance of literacy by making fun of illiterate persons in a constructive way as to create willingness for literacy. Even the lowest services like driving licenses should be conditioned with at least some literacy on one point of a driver.

Reference:

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