



Pakistan Young Leaders' Conference 2010

Education

Chair: Omair Khalid

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“Are Pakistani schools producing merely grades instead of socially and culturally aware individuals? Should the scope of education be extended beyond the confines of academia to cover social responsibilities?”

The objective of this committee is not only to come up with solutions papers targeted towards governments and institutions but also to identify projects that could be implemented on an individual basis. To this end, we encourage all participants to think of creative and practical solutions that they themselves can be a part of.

Omaisr Khalid, Hira Omar and Naveed

Given the current conditions in Pakistan, many of us realize that part of the problem lies in our education system, which has failed to deliver individuals who are geared towards solving the problems faced by the country. This year's PYLC offers an excellent forum for those of us committed to tackling this problem to come together and start laying the groundwork for implementing solutions.

We plan to focus mainly on these three areas:

1. What are the main issues faced by the Pakistani education system at present?
2. What can we do on a personal level to change the system?
3. What policy suggestions do we have for the government as well as for educational institutions in Pakistan?

The following are some of the issues that we intend to address. These are just guidelines. You are welcome to think about any bring up any issues that you feel are relevant to the above areas.

- Is the education system preparing students to be the leaders of Pakistan? Compare and contrast the teaching methods of:
 1. The University education you are receiving here in the UK and the education that you received in Pakistan/people you know are receiving in Pakistan. (Actively pursue your friends who are studying in Pakistan in order to gain a deeper understanding of the issue.)
 2. To what extent is this education going to enable students to lead Pakistan in social, economic and political spheres in the years to come as compared to how it is being led today?
- Are Pakistani schools producing merely grades instead of socially and culturally aware individuals? Should the scope of education be extended beyond the confines of academia to cover social responsibilities?
- Plagiarism: Projects and thesis, especially at the post-graduate level, are being written by plagiarising from various sources. How do you feel that is affecting higher education?
- Gender disparity in education in Pakistan is great (but falling). With women constituting of 50% of the potential workforce, there is a lot to lose economically, socially and politically if they are not encouraged to engage in education. A few interesting reads:
<http://www.gprg.org/pubs/workingpapers/pdfs/gprg-wps-066.pdf>
<http://www.bzu.edu.pk/jrlanguages/Vol-%202004/Tasnim%20Khan%20&%20Rana%20Ejaz-3.pdf>
- Are there scholarships available for capable and motivated students who do not possess the means to finance their education? (Identifying groups where scholarships could make a large impact)
- The level of teacher training in Pakistan is poor especially in government owned schools. There are no set standards that teachers must meet in order to start teaching. It might be interesting to give this a read:
http://www.yespakistan.com/education/teacher_training.asp
- The National Education Policy, released in 2009, provides very good details of the shortcomings of our system. It is suggested that delegates review chapter 1 of the policy, which outlines the problems within the Pakistani education system. Here is the link: http://www.moe.gov.pk/nepr/NEP_2009.PDF

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We have included plenty of reading material—you do not have to go through all of it, but do browse through some. Here are some additional resources you may want to look over. We hope for an interesting debate.

Reference material:

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_Pakistan#Gender_ratios (despite all my criticism for the credibility of Wikipedia)
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Pakistan
- <http://www.moe.gov.pk/> (The Ministry of Education)
- <http://www.hec.gov.pk/Pages/main.aspx> (The Higher Education Commission)
- http://stats.uis.unesco.org/unesco/TableViewer/document.aspx?ReportId=121&IF_Language=eng&BR_Country=5860 (UNESCO education statistics)
- http://www.childinfo.org/files/ROSA_Pakistan.pdf (UNICEF 2008)
- <http://www.economics.pomona.edu/Andrabi/Research/Pakschool%20March29.pdf>

Please feel free to contact us for any further guidance at hira.omar@sjc.ox.ac.uk and omair.khalid06@imperial.ac.uk