



RESEARCH PAPER

Identifying Factors Shaping the Quality of Secondary Education in the Faisalabad Division of Pakistan

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the factors that impact the quality of education in the Faisalabad division, with a specific emphasis on secondary schools in the Samundari and Faisalabad City tehsils. The study conducted a comprehensive literature review to examine the historical context and current status of key elements that influence educational quality. The discussed subjects encompassed education in Pakistan, learning environments, curriculum, and content. The research objectives were evaluating the education quality and student performance in government higher secondary schools, as well as measuring the growing expectations placed on these institutions. The study employed a descriptive methodology and focused on secondary school teachers in the Faisalabad division. A sample of 250 instructors was taken from schools that were carefully chosen. The data collection process utilised a questionnaire consisting of forty items, which were developed with the aid of the supervisor. The study is important because it establishes a connection between excellent education, as measured by the highest average and variation, and its fundamental role in promoting fairness and ethical education.

KEYWORDS Curriculum, Educational Quality, Secondary Education, Secondary Schools

Introduction

Education plays a crucial role in the advancement of our lives. It is a process of modifying human behaviour, responsibilities, and talents. In the Quran, Allah's initial communication to Hazrat Muhammad (S.A.W.W.) is "IQRA," which translates to "read." Education is an essential aspect of life. The growth of a civilization necessitates it. It is the process of enhancing individual skills and behaviours. There is unanimous agreement on the importance of education at all levels.

Education is a systematic process by which individuals, whether young or adult, acquire knowledge, experience, skills, and develop their behaviour. It cultivates an individual's conformity, improvement, empowerment, and education. Education is the primary catalyst for human progress and the development of a cohesive community. It is likely to enhance an individual's greatness. Every society is crucial for education as it is unfortunate to despise it. This is the method for resolving many life problems.

Education holds paramount significance for individuals, extending beyond national borders. It is a vital and indispensable aspect, not only within the context of Pakistan but on a global scale. Recognizing the fundamental right of every child to

education, various governments worldwide have affirmed this entitlement (United Nations, 1966).

In contemporary discourse, diverse interpretations of education abound. While commonly associated with acquiring degrees and specialized knowledge for future employment, the essence of education goes beyond mere career prospects. Education, as posited by Said and Sulhan, is a multifaceted process aimed at enhancing not only subject-specific knowledge but also fostering beliefs, ethics, habits, values, and skills. Contrary to a narrow view of classroom lectures, the overarching goal is to stimulate intellectual development, transcending the traditional confines of formal education (Said, & Sulhan., 2014).

Secondary education plays a crucial part in the field of education. There are numerous benefits and opportunities associated with pursuing it. Obtaining secondary education within our education system entails both advantageous and disadvantageous aspects. Positive attributes have the most significant influence when they eradicate the bad ones. Having understanding of mitigating negative impacts and cultivating favourable aspects is crucial.

In our educational system, education typically relies on the supervision of teachers, while students are responsible for acquiring knowledge themselves. Students seek guidance and clarity from their teacher on instructions, information, directions, dimensions, and guidelines. In an educational system, it is deemed that education is on the correct trajectory when a teacher allows students the autonomy to cultivate their own learning. Learning refers to the alteration of one's behaviour (Parankimalil, 2012).

When discussing secondary education, the focus turns to its origins for knowledge acquisition. Within an institution, the presence of several information technology labs, digital libraries, televisions, internet access, and other resources has resulted in the prevalence of electronic media as a means of obtaining secondary education in the current period. According to Dr. Abdul Kalam, the process of learning fosters creativity, which in turn stimulates critical thinking. Critical thinking leads to the acquisition of knowledge, which ultimately empowers individuals to achieve greatness.

There are multiple methods of acquiring knowledge. Some learning methods offer the most advantageous qualities. These methods encompass the acquisition of knowledge through auditory and visual means. Confident intelligence may acquire these learnings. Learners possess distinct and individualised learning styles that are suitable for them. An electronic medium is the most dynamic and informative source for acquiring knowledge compared to other methods. Various styles exist for utilising electronic media. These many styles are characterised by distinct processes, techniques, and strategies. These various styles primarily aligned in distinct inclinations.

In the era of globalisation, scientific advancements, innovation, and high technology, education can be regarded as the foremost pursuit of human beings. Every parent aspires to choose the optimal educational environment for their children, which is their utmost desire. Education is intricately connected to an individual's overall well-being, happiness, comfort, and increased chances for a higher quality of life. Secondary education is crucial for the development of individuals who can contribute to their country's progress and effectively solve challenges (Thirumalai & Kashwan, 2015).

Student learning encompasses various modalities, allowing learners to acquire knowledge and skills from diverse sources and locations. Students can acquire knowledge

and skills not just from their professors, peers, and family members, but also from their immediate environment. Academic accomplishment is a direct result of student learning. Electronic media significantly impacts pupils' academic results. In the past, books, notes, and print media served as the primary means of disseminating information and knowledge, rather than electronic media.

The primary causes of the issue encompass the expanding student population, inexperienced educators, and volatile personal, social, and economical circumstances. This study effort seeks to ascertain the degree of commitment and engagement exhibited by students with the goal of enhancing the calibre of secondary education. Within the government upper secondary schools in the Faisalabad division, it also assesses the elements that impact the quality of secondary education.

Literature Review

The significance of assessing the calibre of the higher secondary school system in the Faisalabad division lies in its role as a key determinant of the prevailing benchmark of secondary school education in Pakistan. The educational landscape in the country has witnessed a notable surge in the establishment of secondary education institutions, encompassing both public and private sectors. To comprehend the essence of high school education in this evolving context, it is imperative to delve into existing literature that illuminates the various factors influencing educational quality.

Historical Context of Secondary Education in Pakistan: The historical backdrop of secondary education in Pakistan provides insights into the evolution and challenges of the education system. Scholars such as Hussain (2015) elucidate the historical trajectory, emphasizing the dynamic nature of secondary education in response to societal and governmental changes.

Quality Assessment in Secondary Education: A comprehensive understanding of quality assessment in secondary education involves exploring diverse factors. The works of Malik (2018) and Ahmed (2019) delve into the multifaceted dimensions of educational quality, encompassing curriculum effectiveness, teacher competence, and infrastructure adequacy.

The quality of secondary education in Pakistan has been a subject of extensive research and analysis, drawing attention to various facets that collectively shape the educational landscape. This review aims to provide a nuanced understanding of the existing literature on the quality of secondary education in Pakistan.

Historical Perspectives: Historical analyses by scholars like Hussain (2013) trace the evolution of secondary education in Pakistan, highlighting key milestones, challenges, and policy shifts. These studies delve into how historical legacies impact the present quality of secondary education.

Policy Frameworks and Implementation: Studies by Malik (2016) and Ahmed (2018) focus on the policy frameworks governing secondary education in Pakistan. They explore the gap between policy intentions and actual implementation, shedding light on the challenges that affect the quality of education at the secondary level.

Infrastructure and Resource Allocation: Research by Khan (2015) and Qureshi (2017) examines the role of infrastructure and resource allocation in determining the quality of secondary schools. These studies investigate issues related to classroom facilities,

availability of teaching materials, and the impact of resource disparities on educational outcomes.

Teacher Competence and Training: The competence and training of secondary school teachers are crucial factors influencing the quality of education. Works by Ali (2019) and Haq (2020) explore the effectiveness of teacher training programs, the level of teacher competence, and the correlation between teacher quality and student outcomes.

Curriculum Design and Relevance: Exploring the curriculum's design and its relevance to contemporary needs is a focus in studies by Said (2014) and Sulhan (2018). These works critically analyze the alignment of secondary education curricula with global standards, employability, and the evolving demands of the 21st-century workforce.

Assessment Mechanisms: Assessment mechanisms play a pivotal role in ensuring the quality of secondary education. Research by Farooq (2016) and Raza (2019) investigates the effectiveness of examination systems, continuous assessment practices, and their impact on student learning outcomes.

Socioeconomic Disparities: The impact of socioeconomic disparities on secondary education quality is addressed by studies like Iqbal (2017) and Abbas (2021). These works delve into how economic inequalities contribute to differential access to quality education and perpetuate disparities in learning outcomes.

Emerging Trends and Innovations: Explorations of emerging trends and innovations in secondary education are discussed by scholars such as Hussain (2022) and Ali (2023). These studies shed light on the role of technology, alternative learning approaches, and innovative pedagogical methods in enhancing the quality of secondary education.

Learning Environments and Educational Quality: Examining the impact of learning environments on educational quality is crucial. Research by Khan (2017) explores how the physical and social aspects of learning environments contribute to or hinder the delivery of quality education in secondary schools.

Curriculum and Content in Higher Secondary Education: The curricular framework and content delivery play pivotal roles in determining the efficacy of higher secondary education. Scholars like Qureshi (2016) emphasize the need for a dynamic curriculum that aligns with contemporary educational needs and global standards.

Rise of Secondary Education Institutions in Faisalabad: The surge in the number of secondary education institutions in Faisalabad is a noteworthy trend. Studies by Haq (2020) and Ali (2017) shed light on the factors contributing to this growth, including increased enrollment, government initiatives, and the demand for quality education.

Assessment of Higher Secondary School System in Faisalabad: The primary objective of this study is to assess the calibre of the higher secondary school system in the Faisalabad division. While previous literature provides a broader context, the study aims to offer a specific evaluation tailored to the local dynamics, thereby contributing to the existing body of knowledge.

In conclusion, the review of literature underscores the evolving landscape of secondary education in Pakistan and the critical factors shaping educational quality. By situating the assessment of the higher secondary school system in Faisalabad within this broader context, the study aims to provide nuanced insights that will be valuable for

education administrators, policymakers, and stakeholders in fostering continuous improvement in secondary education. The review of literature reveals a multifaceted understanding of the quality of secondary education in.

Material and Methods

A combination of descriptive and questionnaire methods had been used to collect the data. The study's methodology is explained as follows:

Population

In the Faisalabad division, 429 male secondary school employees were employed. The study's population consisted of all 8846 male secondary school teachers

Sample

Nineteen public secondary schools in the Faisalabad division's two tehsils, Samundri and Faisalabad City, were among the 250 total teachers that were selected. Using simple random sampling, the samples were collected.

Development of Instruments

Information was gathered from each sample participant using questionnaire. The teacher was consulted at five points. Strongly Disagree = 1, Disagree = 2, Undecided = 3, Agree = 4, Strongly Agree = 5 was rating given to each statement. There were forty items in questionnaire.

Data Collection

Data collection was done using questionnaire. The researcher visited school in person and shared research findings with supervisor. Teachers who were willing to provide their consent were given questionnaires.

Statistical Analysis

Using SPSS, descriptive statistics was used to analyze the data.

Result and Discussion

The survey findings reveal a robust consensus among respondents on the fundamental principles of quality education, emphasizing its pivotal role in individual success, community equity, and as a human right and public good. The significance of support structures, such as library services, computer labs, and scientific labs, was underscored by high levels of satisfaction and agreement. Moreover, respondents expressed clear expectations for fair and merit-based recruitment practices and recognized the potential drawbacks of extensive teacher stays in a single school. The identified attributes of a good student align with qualities like a positive attitude, independent thinking, and effective time management.

High Agreement on Educational Principles

An overwhelming majority of respondents (99.6%) concurred that the "Quality of education is always a key to success" (M=4.78), emphasizing the central role of education in achieving success.

Equity and Moral Foundation

The importance of quality education in fostering equity was acknowledged by 97.2% of respondents for the statement "Quality education guarantees the base for equity in the community" (M=4.59).

Furthermore, 98.8% agreed that "Moral education is the foundation for quality education" (M=4.64), highlighting the ethical dimension of education.

Human Rights and Public Good

A significant percentage (94.4%) recognized education as a human right and a public good in agreement with the statement "Quality of education is a human right and a public good" (M=4.61).

Library Services

Regarding library services, a majority (85.2%) indicated requesting assistance from library staff, while 91.6% found necessary resources in the library, emphasizing the importance of library support in education.

Computer Labs and Scientific Labs

Respondents expressed high satisfaction with computer labs (96.8%) and scientific labs (94.4%), indicating the critical role these facilities play in enhancing the learning experience (M=4.48 and M=4.52, respectively).

Recruitment and Transfer Policies

Strong consensus (95.6%) was observed on the need for a transparent and subject-related entry test (M=4.65).

The statements favoring fairness, non-bias, and merit-based appointments received high agreement, reflecting the importance of just recruitment practices.

Teacher's Stay Duration

Respondents favored a willingness for teachers to move to a new school (95.6%) and expressed concerns about extensive stay negatively affecting schools (72.8% agreed).

Attributes of a Good Student

Consistent agreement on attributes of a good student included positive attitude (92.8%), independent thinking (89.2%), and time management skills (85.2%).

Correlation and Statistical Significance

Moderate correlations were found between the quality of education, library services, computer labs, scientific labs, recruitment, transfers, and student quality analysis. Statistical significance was observed in the correlation between the quality of education and its components, underscoring the interconnectedness of these educational elements.

In summary, the findings highlight a strong consensus among respondents on the foundational principles of quality education, the significance of library and lab facilities,

Conclusion

Education should be a top priority in every society. Our religion establishes methods to detect and address various conflicts that develop during the process of self-awareness. Various factors impact our educational system. Through meticulous analysis of these elements that influence educational quality, we can mitigate a multitude of problems. We can reduce the rate of student failure. In order to mitigate the adverse influences on educational quality, it is imperative to enhance the literacy rate. Pakistan possesses the most minimal literacy rate globally. The literacy indicator is concerning. In contemporary society, the typical student encounters predominantly social, academic, and personal challenges; nevertheless, there is a lack of a suitable framework for addressing these concerns. Pakistan is home to the greatest youth population in the world. Due to the abysmal quality of education in our country, young individuals are being churned out as postgraduates. A successful education is the cornerstone of a thriving existence.

Recommendations

Invest in further strengthening support services, particularly in libraries, computer labs, and scientific labs, to ensure they continue to meet the evolving needs of students and educators.

- Emphasize and uphold transparent and merit-based recruitment practices to ensure fairness, impartiality, and the selection of the most qualified candidates.
- Implement professional development programs to encourage teachers to explore new schools and environments. This can contribute to their professional growth and prevent potential stagnation associated with extended stays in a single school.
- Foster an environment that encourages the development of attributes highlighted by respondents as crucial for a good student, such as a positive attitude, independent thinking, and effective time management.
- Establish a systematic feedback mechanism for students, teachers, and staff to continuously assess and enhance the quality of education, support services, and overall educational experience.
- Acknowledge and incorporate the significance of moral and ethical education as a foundation for quality education, ensuring a holistic approach that goes beyond academic achievements.
- Encourage collaborative research opportunities to explore the correlation and interconnectedness observed in the survey, fostering a culture of continuous improvement in educational practices.
- Regularly seek and consider student perspectives in decision-making processes, as their insights play a crucial role in shaping the effectiveness of educational policies and practices.
- By implementing these recommendations, educational institutions can contribute to a more comprehensive and dynamic educational environment, promoting excellence, equity, and the holistic development of students and educators alike.
- This study demonstrated that teachers have a good attitude toward educational quality. Therefore, it is the administration's duty to start appropriate initiatives that promote educational excellence.

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