# TEACHER TRAINING, PROBLEMS AND THE CHALLENGES: A COMPARATIVE STUDY BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

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## ABSTRACT

Teachers are our greatest public servants; they spend their lives educating our young people and shaping our Nation for tomorrow. Education is the key to success in life, and teachers make a lasting impact in the lives of their students (Ortiz, 2006). The central aim of the paper is an attempt to explore the importance of education, and teacher training program as well as also problems and challenges faces by the education sectors in India and Pakistan. The results reveal that education is always imperative, while teacher training is indispensable for overall success and development of any country. The statistics demonstrates that India is spending more income on education comparing to Pakistan over the past 43 years. However, several challenges are there such as lack of access to education; poor quality of education; weak governance; budget constraint; lack of library, lack of laboratory; lack of motivation; and lack of infrastructure etc. These findings have some important implications for the policy makers of both countries.

Keywords: Education, Teacher Training, Challenges, India, Pakistan

## INTRODUCTION

Education is a lively continued and ever ending process. Education encourages socio, economic, political and administrative change in society and thereby brings development. No one can deny about the significance of education in any community, society and country in the world. The contribution of education is much more in the process of total national income. Human, their mind and ideas are behind technology which everyone enjoys today are all due to quality education. Those nations which focus more upon promoting education are obviously better off comparing to other. Education is basically human capital which directly encourages the know-how, quality and skill of human being. Education produces a society, which has more productive capacity to satisfy the material and non- material wants of the population. The study further added that the central aim of promoting education is imparting literacy and it is basically process of socialization and total development. Regarding the significance of education Kelly and Patterson (2001) wrote that "Education is not the filling of the pail, but the lighting of a fire". Some previous studies finds that every dollar (\$) invested in early education produces anywhere from \$4-\$17 in returns (Schweinhart, Barnes & Weikart 1993).

At the same teacher training and performance are also very important and even the most essential input in field of education. It is crystal clear that one of best vital requirements to encourage, strengthen and improve education is the role of quality training teachers. Quality teacher education is undeniably playing a key role in nations builders and thereby it is imperative as competent teachers can shape an effectual future society. Professional preparation of teachers is known teacher education. It is not simply training of teachers, although it is gaining of that kind of ability, knowledge and skills which helps a teacher to perform his professional duties and responsibilities more efficiently and effectively. Teacher education is not merely to produce graduate and post graduate or higher degree seeking jobs rather to perform their duties and responsibilities efficiently (McCartney, 2009. The well-defined and theoretically most useful example of quality teacher can be traced in the study that a quality teacher is one who has a positive effect on student learning and development through a combination of content mastery, command of broad pedagogic skills and communications/interpersonal skills.

Quality teachers are life-long learners in their subject areas, teach with commitment, and are reflective upon their teaching practice. They transfer knowledge of their subject matter and the learning process through good communication, diagnostic skills, understanding of different learning styles and cultural influences, knowledge about child development, and the ability to marshal a broad array of techniques to meet student needs. They set high expectations and support students in achieving them. They establish an environment conducive to learning, and leverage available resources outside as well as inside classroom. Therefore, well trained and efficient and honest teachers are greatest assets of any education system and thereby of any nation. Teacher training and quality are thus fundamental and has universally acknowledged to be substantially connected with high quality of education in general and students' learning outcomes in particular. (Sanders & Rivers, 1996). Teachers enable the process whereby students promote habits of mind and knowledge structures that requirements for success, expressive contributions and affluence in an open, technological world.

Different studies showed that skilled elementary education teachers devote an extensive amount of time on the first day of the academic year explicating how to line up and how students' should keep record the proper heading and number their papers and modelling how to softly increase your hand and how to involve in choral responses. Earlier studies provide clear evidence that quality teaching through standard training matters to student learning outcomes. Several prior studies finds that teacher quality is the most significant school-based factor in students achievement (McCaffrey et al., 2003; Rivkin, et al., 2000; Rowan, et al., 2002), and teacher impacts on student learning have been identified to be growing and enduring (Kain, 1998; McCaffrey et al., 2003; Mendro, et al., 1998; Rivers,

1999; Hightower et al., 2011). The study of Kane et al. (2006) expounds that very skilled and trained teachers are one of single most vital effects on student success/achievement, while the other factors including class size along with other variables though important but do not influences students' learning trajectories as much as the quality of teachers or simply trained teacher.

Unfortunately, in several poor countries or developing countries– the education systems yet not yield the desirable level of outcomes. Still teachers are not playing their due role in these low income countries where teachers themselves may not have enough subject knowledge or suitable skills due to several reasons including lack of appropriate teacher training and skill. Therefore, this paper is an attempt to highlight the significance of education and teacher as well as teacher training program, and challenges faces by teacher training and education in the context of two low income countries namely India and Pakistan. To the best of the author's knowledge and study, this is the first study on the significance of teachers training and challenges comparing India and Pakistan. The findings will guide the education sector and promote training of teacher. Consequently it will contribute more to the national economic development of these countries and improve society welfare.

#### LITERATURE REVIEW

Review of previous studies is highly important and indispensable either for choosing right topic for research or to support research work. Boote and Beile (2005) claimed that a researcher cannot perform significant research without first understanding the literature in field. Fink (2010) literature review is systematic, explicit and reproducible method for identifying, evaluating, and synthesizing existing body of completed and recorded work produced by researchers, scholars and practitioners. In study Poojary and Bagadia (2014) expounds that an in-depth review of prior studies are not only important for picking research topics but also empowers correct applicability of research task. Most vitally, a sound literature exploration is the foundation of quality research work. The study of Desai (2011) reveals that as part of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) the textbooks in India have also been reformed (in Desai opinion, to make textbooks worse than before in sundry aspect). A lot of teachers are not appropriately trained in executing the concepts behind the new syllabus /curriculum and several are not equipped to correctly implement the syllabus/curriculum.

Imam (2012) mentioned that quality in the education sector is one of the main steps of the Government of India in its every successive plan. To accomplish outcome of improved quality at all levels of education, government of India has been concentrating its attention

on quality in higher education and teacher training education program. The findings from different other studies and some interview from teachers taken from different level of schools and colleges reveals that some items may be inappropriate and unrelated in the Indian context (physical characteristics), while more some items may be required to reflect good and quality teaching in India. In a similar vein, Puhan et al. (2014) explore existing professional ethics, its problems and teacher skilled connection in area of teacher training education besides how they expounded negotiated association boundaries. More studies intends to evaluate pre-service teachers' views on ethical education and to investigate the B. Ed. curriculum for ethics subjects both in the one and two year degree program. Results of the study highlight a demand for teacher training program to take in ethical philosophy subject, along with code of ethics for teaching profession.

In India, both primary and secondary teachers getting training at universities, while, almost all educational system is centralized and the Ministry of Education and its execution units, like local education centres, have the key obligation for education policy, curricula design, development and practice. Several insufficiencies in teacher training program in India have been in identified by Desai (2011). The study finds inadequacies of short time period provided for teacher's training, shortage of regulations in demand and supply, incapability of students and teachers, flaws relating to papers, troubles of practice teaching, lack of teaching proper supervision, deficiency of subject knowledge, defective methods of teaching, isolation of teacher education department, weak academic circumstantial of student-teachers, deficiency of appropriate facilities ( no hostel, library, laboratory, and offices etc.), insufficient quantitative research, shortage of facilities for professional growth where almost all these programmes are being managed in routine and featureless way. Anees (2015) study shows that despite of realising so several measures, still numerous problems of teachers training exist in India. It has been observed that the main problems of Present System of teacher education are unproductive trained teachers.

The observed problems are many types of teacher education, institutions thereby missing in uniformity, weak standards with respect to resources for colleges of education, poor financial condition of colleges of education, ineffectual teacher educators resulting in deficiency of scholars, negative attitude of managements towards development of both human as well as material resources, uniform education policy of the government treating excellent institutions alike, improper selection of the candidates (student teachers) to be admitted, traditional curriculum and teaching methods of teaching in the teacher education programme, insufficient duration of teacher program, haphazard and improper organization of teacher education, unplanned and insufficient co-curricular activities, subjective evaluation pattern, practice teaching neither adequate nor properly conducted, feedback mechanisms lacking, objectives of teacher education not understood, secondary level teacher education is not the concern of higher education, shortage of dedication towards the profession and shortage of occupational perception".

Similarly, according to the 18 Constitutional Amendment legislated by the parliament during April 2010 education in Pakistan is now a provincial subject. The provincial/area governments have larger autonomy in many social and economic sectors, encompassing education sector in the country. Though, the Ministry of Education and Trainings and Standards in Higher Education (MET&SHE) at the Federal level manages with global development partners and offers platform to the provincial/area departments of education for interchange of information and producing synergy, synchronization and harmony. UNESCO (2014) documented that Pakistan is located on the western border of South Asia, has a population of almost 184 million. The government of Pakistan consumes a larger portion of its budget to address challenges of national security and interest costs on its debt/loan. Pakistan's educational indicators are still miserably low, even though steady progress has been observed during last few decades. The report further show that "At present, around one third primary school age children are not going school, 42% population (age 10+) is uneducated.

Wide discrepancies persist in education indicators pertaining to provinces/areas, location (urban vs. rural) and gender. At the national level, about two third women of age 15+ cannot read and write, and 35% girls remain out of school. Gender Parity Index in case of participation in primary education is 0.82. It is estimated that over 6.7 million children are out of school and majority of them (62%) are girls. Memon (2010) mentioned that in Pakistan practically above five decades, the developmental indicators are yet inadequate. The study of Ahmad (2013) shown that Pakistan's education system faces a lot of problems like weak finance, insufficiency of motivation among teachers, teachers transfer based on favouritism and nepotism, political involvement, selection of trained teachers, absence of teaching staff and non-existence of teaching and learning resources. Khan (2014) finds that teacher training education program three Muslim countries namely Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan are under resourced mainly Afghanistan followed by Pakistan. Numerous prior studies show the significance of education, school enrolment and training of teacher education program (Khan et al., 2014a; Azam et al., 2014; Khan et al., 2014b; Azam & Emirullah, 2014; Abu et al., 2014; Azam & Ahmad, 2015).

## **MATERIALS AND METHOD**

This study is based on secondary data and some other published materials. The secondary data have been collected from World Bank data base, Index Mundi (2016) and CIA (2016). The other materials have been gathered from the various related Journals/articles, books, internet, UNESCO report, Ministry of Higher Education Pakistan, Ministry of

Higher Education India, and each country report on education etc. The method of tabulation, percentages and graph are also used to analysed the data and achieve set of objectives of the study.

#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Education expenditure (% of Gross National Income (GNI)) on India and Pakistan are displayed through graph in education expenditure are the current operating spending in education, comprising wages and salaries and not including capital investments in buildings and equipment are shown in Figure 1. Where, Figure 1 depicts that Pakistan's education expenditure (% of GNI) was estimated 1.50 as 2013. The highest expenditure during the past 43 years was recorded 2.40 in 1997, while its lowest expenditure was recorded 1.00 in 1971. India's education expenditure (% of GNI) was estimated 3.10 as of 2013. Where, highest spending on education during the past 43 years was restimated 4.30 in 1999, while the lowest expenditure on education was recorded 2.20 in 1971. The results indicate that the government on India is spending more on education comparing to Pakistan over the period of 1971-2013.

It is evident from Table 1 that India ranked 134 with education expenditures while Pakistan is ranked 164 which is behind India. Table 2 show that teachers in primary education, both sexes (number) (TPET), in Pakistan was 33000 in 1998, while in case of India it was 2400000 in the same year, indicates in in India is high. In 2014, TPET in Pakistan was estimated 417675, while in case of India it was estimated 4498617. However, percentage of teachers in primary education who are female (%) (TPEF) in Pakistan was estimated 44.89 in 2000 and in India it was 35.59. In case of Pakistan these values increase to 49.61 and in India it was 48.89, it indicates that in Pakistan TPEF is higher.

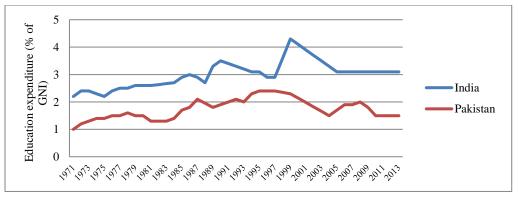


Figure 1: Education expenditure (% of GNI): a comparison between India and Pakistan Sources: World Bank data base.

Rank	Country	(% of GDP)	Date of Information	Rank	Country	(% of GDP)	Date of Information
1	Lesotho	13	2008	11	Djibouti	8.4	2007
2	Cuba	12.8	2010	12	Swaziland	8.3	2011
3	Marshall Islands	12.2	2003	13	Ghana	8.1	2011
4	Kiribati	12	2001	134	India	3.2	2011
5	Botswana	9.5	2009	161	Bangladesh	2.2	2009
6	Sao Tome and Principe	9.5	2010	164	Pakistan	2.1	2012
7	Timor-Leste	9.4	2011	170	Zambia	1.3	2008
8	Denmark	8.7	2009	171	Central African Republic	1.2	2011
9	Namibia	8.4	2010	172	Burma	0.8	2011
10	Moldova	8.4	2012	173	Equatorial Guinea	0.6	200

Table 1: Education expenditures: Global ranking

Source: Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) (2016)

#### Table 2: Teachers in primary education

Co	ountries: Pakist	India		
Years	TPET <sup>1</sup>	TPEF <sup>2</sup>	TPET	TPEF
1998	330000		2400000	
1999			2774647	35.59
2000	423855	44.89743	2840314	35.59001
2001	408871	44.89753	2835044	36.00001
2002	413920	44.3233	2832912	35.99999
2003	433461	44.21597	3038204	43.99997
2004	432222	45.19182		
2005	450136	45.87747		
2006	427830	45.43557		
2007	450027	45.9048		
2008	446925	47.20367		
2009	465334	46.46856		
2010	463674	47.72362		
2011	453164	48.44869	3918312	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> TPET=Teachers in primary education, both sexes (number) <sup>2</sup> TPEF=Percentage of teachers in primary education who are female (%)

2012	438161	47.23834		
2013	426575	48.55653	4367637	48.18409
2014	417675	49.61465	4498617	48.89765

Sources: World Bank (2016), Index Mundi (2016)

Note: --- denotes data not available

## **Key Challenges in Education**

There are many challenges, however, majority of the low income countries including India and Pakistan are facing the following main challenges in finding quality teacher or making quality teachers. The main challenges to Pakistan's education are "lack of access to education; poor quality of education; equity and weak governance. These challenges are intensely interconnected with poor teaching quality, teacher absenteeism, truancy and/or lack of textbooks. As cumulative effect this generates lack of interest/motivation among students who dropout from school adversely affecting every education for all goals and its parallel targets (UNESCO, 2014). Jumani and Abbasi (2015) explicates that in Pakistan teacher education program has been facing severe challenges in terms of quality, policy, and shortage of resources. Though, several initiatives during the past two decades have been taken to develop teacher education program. Some more innovative reforms have been initiated recently under PRE-STEP project with the support of USAID but the outcomes are yet to be seen.

The main challenges to India's education are highlighted by several prior studies, for example, the paper of Lall (2005) reveals that since inception of India, every successive Indian government have had to discourse a lot of key challenges related to education policy, which has always shaped a vital part of its development agenda. The key challenges in India's education are improving access and quality at all levels education; increasing funding, especially with regard to higher education; and improving literacy rates. The paper also maintained that presently, while Indian institutes of management and technology are world-class, primary and secondary schools, mostly in rural areas, face stern challenges. In case of India, the study of Sharma and Sharma (2015) identified several challenges faces by the education sector where the major challengers are gap between the supply and demand, nonexistence of quality research work, shortage of faculty and high student-faculty ratio, insufficient infrastructure and facilities in the education institutions in the country.

However, in general, the following are also some of the key challenges in education sector<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Edutop (2016)

- Acquiring the right individuals to become good teachers is a problem because inviting good quality candidates to the teaching profession is vital to develop desirable standards in teaching.
- Equipping teachers with the appropriate and right skills is also a challenge. Teachers must be prepared with applicable knowledge and teaching skills that can enhance student achievement by providing them pertinent guidance. Low down levels of education and weak training are leaving teachers awarding certificates/degrees from teacher training Institution/Universities without the essential subject knowledge and pedagogical skills to provide the paramount conceivable instruction for every student.
- Lack of resources in teacher training institutions/Universities is another challenge while discussing quality teacher. It has been observed that teacher training education institutions have often been lack of resources including laboratories, libraries, reading materials, building, and information and communication technology facilities etc. all these affect professional development of teachers.
- One of the critical challenges is encouraging teachers to perform their job efficiently and effectively. May reasons are responsible including the lower remuneration/salary regarding teacher motivation and teacher scarcity. Where it has noticed that low levels of income has a unfavourable impact on teachers' personal lives and their competence to do well in their jobs, as most of the teachers seek elsewhere for part-time teaching to increase their incomes.
- Unfair distribution of qualified and effective teachers can be another challenge. In numerous countries, on one hand, well-trained teachers prefer to teach in schools located in urban areas where there salaries are relatively high and they can have amenities. As a result, students' achievement is undesirable, where even parents unwantedly take out their children from school in rural areas.

#### FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

Aim of the study is an attempt to explore the significance of education, teacher training and challenges faces by the education sector while comparing two countries: India and Pakistan. No one can deny about the significance of education in any community, society and country in the world. The contribution of education is much more in the process of total national income. Human, their mind and ideas are behind technology which we everyone enjoys today are education. It is crystal clear that one of best vital requirements to encourage, strengthen and improve education is the quality training of teachers. Welltrained teacher education is undeniably playing a key role in nations builders and thereby it is imperative as competent teachers can shape an effectual future society. Thus, it can be safely says that the development of the standard of education is strictly associated with the training of teacher education. The data statistics show that the government on India is spending relatively more on education comparing to Pakistan since inception. India ranked 134 with education expenditures, while Pakistan ranked 164 which are behind India.

A number of problem and challenges in the education are found including shortage of regulations in demand and supply, incapability of students and teachers, flaws relating to papers, troubles of practice teaching, lack of proper supervision of teaching, deficiency of subject knowledge, defective methods of teaching, segregation of teacher's education department, weak academic circumstantial of student-teachers, deficiency of appropriate facilities (no hostel, library, laboratory and staff room), insufficient quantitative research, shortage of facilities for professional development, nonexistence of quality research work, shortage of faculty and high student-faculty ratio, insufficient infrastructure and facilities in the education institutions, poor quality of education; and weak governance. Establishing well-trained teachers requires excessive investment in physical capital and human capital. However, most of low income countries lack of finance. It is suggested that policy makers should give more attention upon prompting education even within their limited resources, if unproductive expenditure reduced and control corruption, so it is possible.

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