

DIHE

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Topic: illiteracy in Pakistan

What is illiteracy?

Illiteracy is inability to read or write. A person is considered illiterate if he cannot read write or perform basic calculations.

The current literacy rate in Pakistan is 62% which means that an estimated 6 million of population is illiterate in country. Main causes of illiteracy in Pakistan are

- 1) Poverty: It is the biggest reason of illiteracy in Pakistan. Millions of children don't go to school due to financial problems, as they can't afford expenses of education.
- 2) Lack of facilities: Poor infrastructure and lack of facilities directly lead to illiteracy. The facts show that 63% of population of Pakistan lives in rural areas. There are no proper facilities available in villages as there are issues of roads, transport and health facilities in rural areas the unavailability of these facilities are reason behind illiteracy in Pakistan.
- 3) Ineffective Government policies: Different education policies have been devised by different Governments in Pakistan. Unfortunately non of these policies produced the

desired results. So lack of effective policies is also cause of illiteracy in Pakistan.

- 4) Over population: overpopulation is another big issue. Pakistan is 5th most populated country in world. As a growing population needs more schools colleges and Universities. More features and facilities are required to meet the educational needs of huge population. So over population is dominant cause of illiteracy.
- 5) Low budget share: a budget shows the priorities of the government regarding various sectors. Education is highly ignored sector by ruling parties in Pakistan. Recently the government allocated rupees 83.3 billion in 2021 fiscal year for education. It is still and sufficient in current deteriorated situation of our education system.
- 6) Lack of awareness: there are many backward areas in Pakistan . Where there is no awareness among the people about the importance of education . A large number of people don't know real worth and power of education in development of nations.
- 7) Unemployment: Due to poor financial situation thousands of people lost businesses and jobs . Very low wages ,and unemployment directly lead to illiteracy because people cannot afford quality education. Recently covid-19 made the situation worse. As people who have no work can't send their children to school.
- 8) Child labour: It is highly practiced in Pakistan. Poor families use their children as source of income. They don't send their children to school. It is one of the biggest reason behind illiteracy in Pakistan.

IMPACTS OF ILLITERACY:

After keeping causes in view impacts of illiteracy are

- 1) Unemployment: Biggest impact of illiteracy is unemployment uneducated people have to face a lot of problems in their life they work hard to earn some money.
- 2) Poor health conditions: Illiteracy causes poor health conditions as an illiterate man does not pay attention to hygiene and to his health which causes some serious diseases
- 3) Low standard of living: Illiterate people can never raise their standard of living according to the modern society because they don't have enough information and resources for new technologies.
- 4) Illiterate upcoming generations: Illiterate person can't raise their children well they don't have much knowledge about children development. They don't pay attention to their children education.

How illiteracy can be removed from our society : According to the article 25-A of constitution of Pakistan the state shall provide free compulsory education to all children from age 5-16. The condition of government educational institution is worse.

Government should work on betterment in schools infrastructure, increase number of primary schools in rural areas, encouragement of private sector, provide scholarships to deserving students, special emphasis on female education, social campaign against illiteracy, awareness programs should be held, budget for education should be increased, salaries of teachers

should be increased so that people can join this profession and perform services honestly .

Literacy is a strong weapon which can root out social issues. Literate population can contribute in the economic and social development of nation.