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How Does Politics Affect Higher Education In Pakistan

Naveed Sultana

Secondary Teacher Education Department, Allama Iqbal Open University,
Pakistan

**Corrospoding author's Email: drnaveeda@gmail.com*

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info@readersinsight.net*

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Research Highlights

Today, universities are highly politicized mostly in all matters (Karim, 2007). The effects of political parties and their leaders spoil the strong educational system. Political interference ignores talented people and supports their political supporters. It's impossible to separate politics from education in Pakistan. The education system of Pakistan is headed by a minister of education who is a politician, not an educator. The educational policies of the whole education system are overwhelmingly impacted by political policies and practices the ruling party. Accordingly the existing study was intended to reveal the affects of politics on higher education in Pakistan. Therefore this study concluded that politics is a major factor which influences and does sometime very immoral things. Moreover, these political leaders make a lot of corruption in education, especially in Higher Education. From educational budgetary allocation to spending on it, all is under control of politics.

Research Objectives

As political system is supra system which directly affects the all systems of any society. Education is also one of these subsystems which directly influenced by political system. Political leaders particularly from sitting parliament are directly involve in formulating the educational policies, decisions and plans. Therefore the role of politics cannot be eliminated from education particularly at university level of education (Mohanthly, 2000). Respectively the existing study aims to explore the role of politics in higher education while focusing administrative and academic matters of universities. This study was significant for all stakeholders such as teachers, students, managers, policy makers and employers. Overall political factors at Higher Education in Pakistan have to deal with policies, decision making and allocation of resources. While focusing the effects of politics on the performance of universities particularly performance of faculty members following objectives were focused:

1. To get the opinion of faculty members regarding their interest and level of involvement in politics.
2. To examine the pros and cons of politics at higher level of education in Pakistan.
3. To give recommendations for positive role of politics in higher education through which institutional performance can be uplifted.





Methodology

The nature of existing study was descriptive. And survey method was used. During this survey selection of sample was multi stage. As at first stage census sampling technique was used for selecting the all five universities of capital territory. At second stage from total number of faculty members twenty teachers from each university were selected randomly as sample of study. Total sample of the study was hundred teachers of these universities. For data collection from this sample questionnaire was used. This questionnaire was developed on three point scale. Keeping in mind the most important constructs which were focused during the formulation of objectives of study such as teachers' interest and involvement in politics, effects of politics on education were focused during the development of questionnaire. Data was collected by researcher herself. Collected data was analyzed by using Mean score.

Results

In the modern era, politics has its deep roots in education particularly at Higher Education where youth is involved by giving them political support. Politics is not just practiced by political parties, but it is also in every aspect of work and life especially in Education. Politics is the science of advancing the progressive wellbeing of civic life organized as a state. There is an inference that politics is applied in the solution of social and economic problems of the nation (Mughal & Manzoor 1999). According to Okeke (2007) politics is a tool which aims for ensuring resolution to social problems by political means. Overall through this study following obvious roles of politics in education were concluded:

1. Education is the servant and product of politics
2. Education is regulated by government policies and politics.
3. Politics determines the type of education and resources.
4. Politics affects standards and quality of education.
5. Politics affects teachers' induction and promotion (Jahangir, 2008).
6. Politics causes the teachers and students' strikes or unrest.

Briefly it is concluded that political factors at Higher Education in Pakistan have to deal with policies, decision making and allocation of resources.





Findings

Majority agreed that politics is a supra system of any society and politician formulated educational policies. Though teachers have the interest in politics but they feel hesitation to discuss politics in their classes. But sometimes faculty members share their views about hot issues caused by politics.

1. Majority opined that every university has students' wings operated by different political party which are affecting the students' life negatively and deteriorating the quality of higher education in Pakistan.
2. Majority viewed that politicians bitterly affected the teachers' selection and promotion. Teachers suffered by political interference. Hence Mean score range was 2.5-2.9.

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