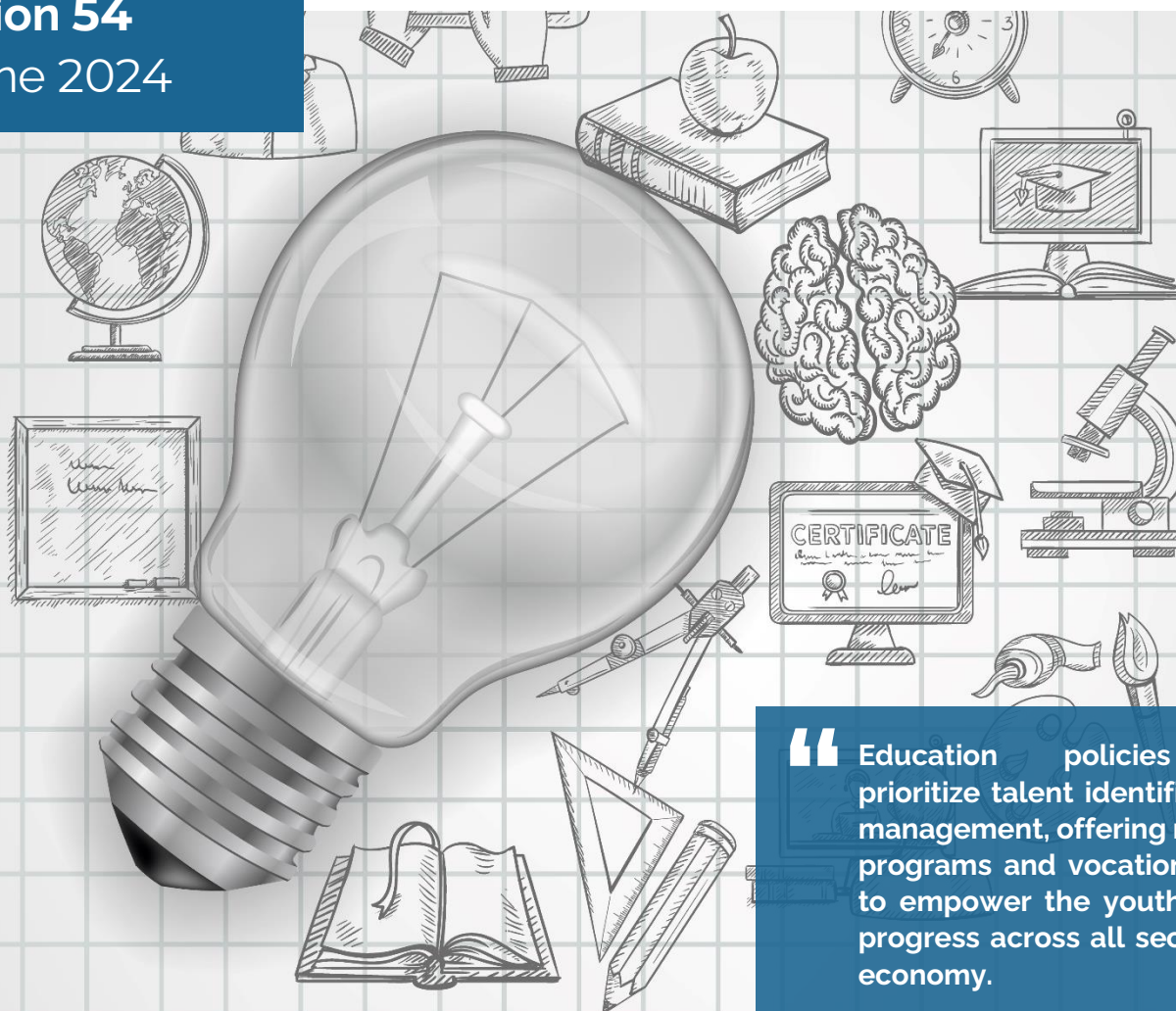# NEWS LETTER

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> **Education policies should prioritize talent identification and management, offering mentorship programs and vocational training to empower the youth and drive progress across all sectors of the economy.**

BIPP
The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at NetSol

Highlights

➢ From the Desk of Chairman

Focus Areas

➢ Think Tank Wing
➢ Education and Learning Wing
➢ Knowledge Management Wing

Shahid Javed Burki
Chairman
The Shahid Javed Burki Institute
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Appropriate Sources of Governance

To appropriately assign the sources of governance is an issue that has been investigated for some time by economists, political scientists and sociologists. In designing their political systems, should policymakers build upon ethnic differences; should they factor in religion into the structure of politics; should promoting economic development and modernizing the society be

the principal motive are some of the questions that have been addressed by those who were given the responsibility for defining the mode of governance for the areas over which they had control. Some believe that there is a lot to be learnt from the experience of other political entities, in particular those in the neighborhood.

Pakistan shares land boundaries with four neighbors. Starting with the north, there is a long but not well-defined border with Afghanistan, a country that for centuries was governed by monarchs before falling under the control of the Taliban, an extremist Islamic group that is still involved in finding the best way to define their mode of governance by factoring in the main elements of their faith.

Going south and proceeding anti clockwise, Pakistan has a short border with China that gave up centuries of rule by kings to opt for Communism. However, the meaning of Communist rule was not defined by those who professed to be Communists. There were sharp differences in the way Mao Zedong, the founder of modern China, governed who closed the country from the world outside. China was opened by Chairman Deng Xiaoping who succeeded Mao after the latter's death in 1976. Deng also allowed private enterprise a much greater role in the country's economy. He allowed foreign direct investment into the country, some of which went into what were called town and village enterprise, TVEs. One of the most significant moves made by Deng was to limit the term of the supreme leader to two five-year terms. This system was maintained until the arrival of Xi Jinping on the political scene who had the Communist Party grant him unlimited terms in office. He came into office in 2012 and has already been governing for 16 years.

Moving on, we come to Pakistan's border with India. Some of the border remains undefined because of the conflict over the state of Kashmir. It is claimed by both Pakistan and India. The result is a division of the state into two parts: the part governed by Pakistan and the part governed by India. The first generation of Indian rulers recognized the country's extreme diversity and devised a system of governance that was inclusive, providing space to different religions, language groups and castes. This system of governance survived until the arrival of the Narendra Modi administration and his political organization, the Bhartiya Janata Party, (BJP), to the apex of the political system. Modi is now busy implementing Hindutva as the philosophy of governance. He has begun to call India Bharat which has highly restricted place for the 200 million Muslims in the country.

Iran is the fourth neighbor which having been governed for decades by monarchies came under the rule of Islamic cleric who in 1979 sent into exile Emperor's Raza Shahd Pehalvi and established the Islamic state of Iran.

What this quick review of developments in Pakistan's immediate neighborhood tells us that the country is developing a system of governance which is very different from that evolving in the countries with which it shares borders. It has developed a secular system of governance in which religion is confined to personal space rather than incorporated in the way the country is governed. In spite of the problems associated with the general elections held in February 2024, there is a very good chance that the governing establishment will be chosen by the people. Pakistan is headed towards developing a representative system of governance.

Shahid Najam
Vice Chairman
The Shahid Javed Burki Institute
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Importance of Evaluation of Communication Function

The evaluation should form an integral part of the regular activities and programs of an organization. How effectively, the organization carries out the communication and image building function should be an important area to be able to identify and propose measures and operational recommendations to sustain a credible and coherent public image. It will also enable the organization to strengthen the cross-functional synergy and support the achievement of the planned objectives and outcomes within the available resources e.g., human, financial, organizational etc.

The focus needs to be on the development and communication of the main advocacy and policy messages and issues for organization's visibility and recognition by the public and policy makers. The evaluation at the same time should look into the efficacy of the degree and the extent to which internal communication within the Organization across various functional domains and departments reinforces and improves the efficiency, effectiveness and shared responsibility to work in unison towards the realization of its planned targets and goals.

This, a priori, entails an extensive consultative process both within and outside the organization which could be facilitated through preparation of factual background paper embodying the existing products/activities, the institutional arrangement and the human and financial resources deployed for communication and knowledge management; based on the background paper, hold series of

discussions with the stakeholders and targeted audiences; seek input and insight of the specialists and experts to be able to better define the major areas of priority; and, finally prepare a concrete plan of action for implementation. The end result should be to:

a) Establish a "communication culture" and supportive planning process;
b) Focus on developing key cost-effective, lucid and high quality information and communication and knowledge products for target strategic audiences and where possible, seek collaboration with allied partners;
c) Use, among others, social media platforms to create public awareness and understanding of the issues of vital significance to the society as related to the organization's mandate simultaneously building its credible and coherent image.

Rehan Sayeed
Senior Consultant
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The Importance of Using Renewable Sources of Energy to Meet our Electricity

The transition to renewable sources of energy is gaining popularity, especially in the developed world. The eventual aim is to achieve net zero emissions by installing clean electricity generation systems based entirely on renewable and carbon free sources.

Many industrialized countries are committed to using renewable sources of energy for

meeting their electricity requirements. For instance, as of 2023, up to 51% of UK's electric supply came from renewable energy sources, combining wind, solar, bioenergy, and hydroelectric power. Presently, onshore and offshore wind farms contribute significantly towards this electricity generation.

The trend in UK for increased usage of Water and Solar energy, represents a significant shift internationally towards the use of renewable energy, in view of the environmentally friendly advantages that it offers and also because of the sensitivity that surrounds the climate change issues. In Pakistan also there is lot of on-going public debate about the need for switching over to renewable energy sources. Though there are energy policies in place, yet, we fare badly when it comes to their implementation. According to the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority's fiscal year 2022-23 figures, Pakistan's total installed power generation capacity is 45,885 MW, of which Solar Power contributed 732 MW (1.6%) and Wind Power 1838 MW (4%) of electricity, thus with a combined contribution of a paltry 5.6%). In comparison, as of 2024, the UK power generation capacity stands at 120 GW where-in Solar Power and Wind Power contribute 4.9% and 29.4% respectively of UK's total electricity generation.

This above differential between the two countries exists despite the fact that Pakistan has comparatively richer natural resources at its disposal. In the case of solar energy utilization, for instance, Pakistan has an average 3.5 to 5.2 hours of peak sunlight daily. In contrast, the UK on average receives only around 2.5 to 3 peak sun hours a day. [Peak sun hours represent the intensity of sunlight during which solar panels can generate electricity efficiently]. As such, we have an abundance of sunlight as a natural resource which we ought to use more effectively to gather maximum benefit from it.

When it comes to the Wind Resource, the Global Wind Atlas is a valuable tool that provides information on wind speeds and potential wind energy generation across the world. It offers detailed wind speed, wind rose (wind frequency & direction), and wind power density maps specifically for Pakistan also. The atlas helps assess the technical potential for wind energy in Pakistan by identifying areas with favorable wind conditions. Pakistan has several well-known wind corridors, particularly in coastal regions like Sindh and Baluchistan.

In the fiscal year 2022-23, the total installed electricity capacity in Pakistan surged to 45,885 MW. However, the maximum electric output transmitted during this period was only limited to 21,000 MW, due mainly to in-efficient and outdated transmission and distribution network. Against this output, the maximum total demand from residential and industrial areas stands at nearly 28,000 MW, thus resulting in a shortfall of 7,000 MW, hence forcing outages and load shedding apart from huge financial losses.

Carrying out upgradation of the outdated transmission and distribution infrastructure is the need of the hour so that the maximum output from the installed capacity can be realized. Furthermore, it's time that we phase out our heavy reliance on thermal based power plants (its utilization currently stands at 58.8% as per Economic Survey of Pakistan) which use expensive fossil fuels such as imported natural gas and oil etc. It would be far more feasible if we invest

instead in the expansion of the renewable and sustainable energy network including upgradation of the current solar power and wind energy infrastructures for a cleaner, environment friendly and cheaper outcome. The government must encourage the public and private sectors to invest whole heartedly in the renewable energy systems and continue to provide the necessary incentives (such as net metering at attractive rates), create joint ventures & foreign collaboration opportunities, and by implementation of clean energy friendly policies in a fair and consistent manner. It's a monumental task but we can do it provided we have the honest will, motivation and professionalism to handle it.

Muhammad Firas Shams
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Iran: A Politics Rife in Tragedy and Turbulence

Tehran's politics is no stranger to upheavals, be it the alleged 1953 CIA coup d'état against Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddegh that cemented Shah of Iran's (Mohammad Reza Pahlavi) reign or Ruhollah Khomeini's revolution in 1979 that put a kibosh to the aforementioned dynastic rule. It is certainly not witnessing the death of its President for the first time. In 1981, President Mohammad Ali Raja'i was allegedly assassinated by Mojāhedīn-e Khalq (People's Fighters) in a bomb blast; Khalq was both a Marxist and religious political outfit that openly censured post-revolution dispensation in Tehran.

The demise of the 63 year old Former Iranian President, Ebrahim Raisi due to a helicopter crash in the Jolfa region East Azerbaijan province, along with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and six other officials naturally set the nation in mourning, while simultaneously inviting rumors of foul play since Tehran is eyed largely as a staunch adversary part of the anti-West axis and a global pariah. Although, the Iranian army found no clue alluding to such machination, however former Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif did suggest how sanctions on Iran made purchase of a new helicopter impossible to replace the ageing US-made Vietnam war era Bell 212 that crashed due to a possibly one of several reasons, albeit the crash still under investigation. Article 131 of the country's constitution stipulates, that in the case of President's incapacitation or death, the Vice President, Mohammad Mokhber in this case, is to act as caretaker President, and Presidential elections are to be held within 50 days by the head of judiciary and speaker of parliament.

Raisi replaced the moderate, often criticized in his negotiation posture with the West, Hassan Rouhani in 2021. The slain hardline cleric was deemed to rise through the ranks of Iranian judiciary as prosecutor to an overtly and inherently theocratic president. Many political commentators described him as the protégé of Rehbar (Supreme Leader) Ali Khamenei, which translated to a period of uncompromising foreign policy, in contrast to Rouhani's years in office, especially vis-à-vis the JCPOA's revival. Raisi will certainly be remembered for the crackdown on protestors following the death of Mahsa Amini, a 22 year old Kurdish woman who died in custody of the morality police, on the heels of Iranian judiciary's ruling on stricter enforcement of hijab and chastity laws. The most conspicuous blot on Raisi's legacy according to the Western commentators.

Atr un Nisa
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The Fifth Industrial Revolution: Harmonizing Technology, Sustainability, and Humanity

The term "Industrial Revolution 5" (IR 5) denotes the fifth wave of significant industrial transformation, building upon the digital advancements of the fourth Industrial Revolution (IR 4). While IR 4, characterized by the integration of cyber-physical systems, the Internet of Things (IoT), and artificial intelligence (AI), brought about unprecedented digital interconnectivity and automation, IR 5 promises to go beyond mere technological integration. It emphasizes a more harmonious relationship between technology, humans, and the environment, addressing sustainability, ethical AI, and human-centric automation.

Unlike IR 4, which focused primarily on enhancing efficiency and productivity through digital transformation, IR 5 aims to balance technological progress with ecological and social considerations. The causes driving IR 5 include the urgent need to mitigate climate change, the increasing demand for ethical AI, and the necessity to ensure that technological advancements benefit society as a whole rather than exacerbating inequalities.

One of the most significant impacts of IR 5 is its potential to foster sustainable industrial practices. Innovations in green technology, renewable energy sources, and sustainable manufacturing processes are at the forefront of this revolution. Industries are increasingly adopting circular economy principles, which aim to minimize waste and make the most of

resources. For instance, advancements in biotechnology and materials science are enabling the development of biodegradable materials and more efficient recycling methods, significantly reducing the industrial carbon footprint.

Additionally, IR 5 promotes the development and deployment of ethical and human-centric technologies. This includes AI systems designed with ethical guidelines to prevent biases, protect privacy, and ensure transparency. Human-centric automation aims to enhance human capabilities rather than replace them, ensuring that workers are equipped with the skills and tools to thrive in a technologically advanced environment.

However, the journey towards IR 5 is not without its challenges. One major issue is the digital divide, which could be exacerbated if advanced technologies remain inaccessible to certain populations or regions. Bridging this gap requires substantial investment in education and infrastructure to ensure that all segments of society can benefit from technological advancements. Another challenge is the need for robust regulatory frameworks to govern the development and use of new technologies, ensuring they are used ethically and responsibly. This includes addressing concerns about data security, privacy, and the potential misuse of AI.

In conclusion, Industrial Revolution 5 represents a transformative period that seeks to harmonize technological advancement with sustainability and human welfare. By addressing the shortcomings of previous industrial revolutions and focusing on ethical, human-centric, and sustainable practices, IR 5 has the potential to create a more equitable and environmentally conscious industrial landscape.

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Next Generation Education Policies: Bridging the Gap for a Thriving Pakistan

Pakistan, with approximately 241.5 million people as of 2023, boasts a young demographic, with 64% under the age of 30. This burgeoning population, with 34.7% residing in urban areas. The educated population is 59.13%, which underscores the critical importance of a robust education system to harness the nation's potential and drive progress. The word "education" originates from the Latin word "educere" which means to lead out. This reflects the idea of drawing out others from darkness, darkness in terms of ignorance. Despite facing challenges, the government has initiated several programs to ensure quality education for all citizens. However, the literacy rate has plateaued around 60% since 2014-15, indicating the need for continuous efforts to improve educational outcomes.

The Pakistani education system covers various levels, with significant participation, including over 11 million in pre-primary education, 25 million in primary education, and substantial numbers in higher education institutions. The education system spans twelve years, covering primary, middle, matriculation, and intermediate levels, with private schools often integrating the Cambridge education system alongside national curricula. After that, university-level education includes BS, MS/M.Phil., and Ph.D. degrees. The country has a vast network of educational institutions, including over 182,600 primary schools, 46,800 middle schools, and more than 200 universities.

Alongside basic education, vocational education is also provided with the help of the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC), which offers diverse courses to enhance skills and employability. Education remains a governmental priority, with initiatives like the Pakistan 2025 Vision targeting increased enrollment and literacy rates. However, in terms of quality, our education system faces many challenges.

In the primary education sector, a major concern is the curriculum, which can be linked to the medium of teaching language. Many teachers teach in native languages like Punjabi, Pashto, and Sindhi instead of English, which is the official language. The grooming of children cannot be seen in such environments, where teachers do not follow proper teaching protocols.

Despite improvements in primary education enrollment, middle education enrollment rates remain low. Many students drop out before reaching the middle level due to economic constraints, cultural factors, and the need to contribute to household income. The quality of secondary education is often poor, with outdated curricula, rote learning methods, and a lack of critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Teacher quality is inconsistent, with many teachers lacking proper training and qualifications. Many secondary schools, especially in rural areas, suffer from inadequate infrastructure, including insufficient classrooms, a lack of basic facilities like clean drinking water and sanitation, and inadequate laboratory and library resources.

There are significant gender disparities in

secondary education. Girls, particularly in rural and conservative areas, face numerous barriers to continuing their education, including early marriage, cultural norms, and safety concerns. There is a shortage of qualified teachers in secondary schools. Additionally, existing teachers often do not receive adequate professional development or training, leading to ineffective teaching practices and low student performance. The secondary education curriculum is often criticized for being outdated and not aligned with modern educational standards or the needs of the job market. The examination system is heavily focused on memorization rather than understanding and application of knowledge. Many families cannot afford the costs associated with secondary education, including fees, uniforms, books, and transportation. This economic burden forces many students to drop out or not attend school at all. There are significant regional disparities in access to quality secondary education. Urban areas generally have better facilities and more qualified teachers as compared to rural areas, leading to unequal educational opportunities.

Higher secondary education is offered in colleges that consist of both public and private sectors. A big problem with college-based education in Pakistan is the lack of guidance in choosing specific disciplines. Many college students do not know why they are studying specific courses, which career path they can choose after completing their degrees, and what natural talent they have. Additionally, non-competent master's degree holders do not instill the capabilities in students needed to become good students and human beings. The habit of book reading has been eliminated due to the provision of notes, and many private coaching centers employ the same teachers as part-time employees who provide guess papers,

making students poor learners and non-hardworking individuals.

There is a lack of integration between higher secondary education and technical/vocational training. This disconnect limits students' opportunities to acquire practical skills that are essential for the job market.

University-level education is facing criticism due to the increasing number of private universities. Many private sector universities do not have any set standard for student enrollment in specific disciplines. After enrollment, students receive degrees without undergoing strict assessment by subject specialists. Although a good initiative was taken by HEC that only MS/M.Phil. degree holders can teach in universities, HEC devalued this rule by providing optional choices to M.Phil./MS students regarding research. In this regard, another issue is in terms of gaining permission to start MS/M.Phil programs by providing false statistics, resulting in many non-competent people gaining degrees without learning the value of hard work and ethical values. When such degree holders become teachers, they do not bother to teach their students any ethical values, as they do not have their own. In this aspect, a clear distinction can be seen between degree holders and truly educated individuals.

Another major problem is the curriculum itself. It must be revised over time to ensure it provides all the knowledge required for specific degree holders. However, outdated teachers who do not have enough knowledge of their subjects may struggle to teach research-based knowledge effectively.

Higher educational institutes have taken steps to make degrees useful by establishing Business Incubation Centers (BICs). The paper-

based objective of BICs included fostering innovation and industry-academia collaboration, but this project has failed due to providing facilitation only to close kin academicians. Another important step that the government has taken is establishing NICs (National Incubation Centers) and providing provincial projects like Plan 9 and Durshal to highlight the commitment to entrepreneurial development. However, such steps are not successful due to lack of proper check and balance system.

Ph.D. degree programs in many public universities are facing a shortage of Assistant Professors, Associate Professors, and Professors. HEC regulations require that each Ph.D. program within a department must have three full-time Ph.D. teachers, with each teacher supervising a maximum of five students concurrently. Practical, real-life problem-solving Ph.D. research requires proper meetings between supervisors and scholars, which can only be fruitful in terms of exchanging ideas when supervisors have enough time and energy. Unfortunately, in our universities, alongside research and teaching, professors are involved in university politics, networking with higher authorities to gain personal benefits, and their own money-making projects. As a result, they lack interest in Ph.D. students' research work and are unable to be punctual in meetings. This is not only unethical but also makes such professors appear unprofessional to scholars. After obtaining a Ph.D. degree by spending their golden years, resources, and energy, graduates often face the additional problem of finding good jobs without personal references.

According to a recent Higher Education Commission (HEC) report, around 4,000 Ph.D. scholars are currently unemployed. This combined with the current employment challenges, underscores the need for

effective policies and initiatives to bridge the gap between Ph.D. holders seeking employment and available opportunities. Such measures are essential for the optimal utilization of academic talent and the advancement of research excellence in Pakistan.

Overall, frequent changes in education policies, lack of political will, and inadequate funding are major issues. Bureaucratic inefficiencies and corruption further exacerbate the problems in the education sector. Addressing these challenges requires comprehensive reforms, including increased investment in education, curriculum modernization, teacher training programs, and policies that promote gender equality and inclusivity in education. Only through such measures can the education system in Pakistan be improved to meet the needs of its students and contribute to the country's development.

Education and industry stand as the twin pillars of progress for any nation. However, in Pakistan, there exists a noticeable disparity between theoretical education and practical industry requirements. Some strategic interventions should be considered to improve the quality of education. First of all, it is important to cultivate a culture of research and innovation within education and industry sectors, thus paving the way for a more prosperous future. Secondly, a robust educational system relies on moral education. By integrating ethical values into the curriculum, we can instill integrity, empathy, and responsibility among students, fostering the development of a virtuous society equipped to navigate the complexities of the modern world. Third, the emergence of e-learning presents a transformative opportunity to democratize education and overcome geographical barriers. Through the

integration of e-learning resources into traditional systems, education can become more accessible and personalized, thereby enhancing overall learning outcomes and ensuring no one is left behind.

Pakistan is blessed with abundant talent, yet harnessing this potential requires a systematic approach. Education policies should prioritize talent identification and management, offering mentorship programs and vocational training to empower the youth and drive progress across all sectors of the economy. Learning is a lifelong journey, and education policies must reflect this reality. Initiatives such as adult education centers and online courses should be promoted to empower individuals at every stage of their lives, fostering a skilled and adaptable workforce capable of thriving in a rapidly evolving world. Additionally, digital learning holds immense promise for reaching marginalized communities and individuals with disabilities. By bridging the digital divide and embracing digital methodologies, education can become more inclusive and diverse, ensuring equal access to educational resources for all. In the age of rapid technological advancement, traditional academic knowledge is no longer sufficient. Education policies must promote smart learning approaches that prioritize the development of 21st-century skills such as critical thinking and creativity, equipping students with the tools they need to succeed in the future job market.

The lack of collaboration between academia and industry has hindered socio-economic progress in Pakistan. To address this, collaborative efforts between these sectors must be encouraged, fostering innovation and driving economic growth through mutually beneficial partnerships and knowledge exchange.

As Pakistan looks towards the future, our

education policies must evolve to meet the demands of the 21st century. By prioritizing ethical education, embracing digital learning, nurturing talent, and fostering collaboration between academia and industry, we can pave the way for a brighter and more prosperous future where every citizen contributes positively to the advancement of society. For all this, check and balance, true statistics, and data-driven approaches must be integrated with an education emergency; otherwise, we can become a nation of degree-holders rather than educated people.

Zunaira Azeem
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EdTech: Transforming Education Through Technology

In recent years, technology has transformed the world of learning. The *Association for Educational Communications and Technology* (AECT) defines educational technology (EdTech) as "the study and ethical practice of facilitating learning and improving performance by creating, using, and managing appropriate technological processes and resources".

EdTech refers to a wide range of technology used to improve learning experiences, educational outcomes, and administrative operations. From the early days of educational software and online courses to today's sophisticated, powered by AI platforms.

EdTech has evolved significantly:

Early Innovations where early software applications emphasized fundamental computer literacy and supplementary educational materials. The internet transformed education by increasing access to information and resources. Online courses and E-learning platforms developed, allowing for remote study and self-paced education. Technologies such as interactive whiteboards, virtual reality (VR), and augmented reality (AR) have created immersive and engaging learning experiences, making complex subjects more accessible and satisfying.

EdTech has profoundly impacted both teaching and learning, changing traditional approaches to learning and methodologies:

Students are more engaged with interactive and multimedia-rich content than with traditional textbooks. Gamification, virtual reality, and augmented reality offer immersive learning experiences that are both enjoyable and memorable. AI-powered platforms evaluate student performance and customize educational materials to their specific requirements. This personalized approach helps to close learning gaps and allows each student to advance at their own pace. EdTech has made education more accessible to students with various requirements. Students with disabilities receive advantages from assistive technologies such as screen readers and speech-to-text software, while people living in remote or underprivileged locations can access education through online courses.

Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning: AI will continue to promote personalized learning, delivering greater insights into student performance and allowing for more adaptive learning environments.

Virtual and Augmented Reality: VR and AR will provide even more immersive and exciting learning experiences, including virtual explorations and hands-on simulations in science and engineering.

Blockchain Technology: Blockchain technology can improve the security and availability of educational data, streamline credential verification, and overcome fraud.

Global Collaboration: EdTech will enable greater collaboration and cultural exchange among students and educators globally, resulting in a more integrated and inclusive global learning community.

Challenges and Considerations:

While EdTech provides various benefits, it also presents issues that must be addressed:

Privacy and Security: The rising usage of digital tools has raised concerns about data privacy and cybersecurity. Protecting student information and providing secure platforms is essential.

Teacher Training: To effectively integrate EdTech, educators must be well-prepared and trained with new technologies. Ongoing professional development and assistance are critical for successful implementation.

Quality Control: With the development of online information and courses, it is critical to ensure educational resources are of high quality and credible. To ensure educational integrity, rigorous standards and accrediting processes are required.

The future of EdTech seems optimistic, with several additional topics aimed to further change education.

Tabinda Naz
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BIPP Round Up

Continuing with a cherished tradition, the Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at Netsol (BIPP) hosted an Eid Celebration Party on April 16, 2024. Office members gathered to enjoy refreshments, exchange greetings, and share their festive experiences. This celebration not only reinforced the camaraderie among team members but also highlighted the joy and spirit of Eid.

Moreover, on May 16, 2024, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between BIPP and the Lahore Garrison University (LGU). The document was duly endorsed with the signatures of Mr. Shahid Najam (Vice Chairman BIPP) and Major General Muhammad Khalil Dar HI(M) Retd (Vice Chancellor LGU). The purpose of this MOU is to provide a framework of cooperation between the two parties, in the areas of mutual interest on a non-exclusive basis especially relating to politics, economics, and social issues in the context of Pakistan, and to collaborate in policy dialogue, education and

learning, and joint research and consultancy.

In addition, BIPP disbursed scholarship funds among the 30 selected candidates from King Edward Medical University (KEMU) under Shahid Javed Burki, Dr. Parvez Hassan, Ms. Fozia Rashid and Daud Razzaq Scholarship Program. At BIPP, we firmly believe in the transformative power of education and through our scholarship initiative, we envision a future where education serves as a catalyst for socio economic empowerment by providing women with the resources and support needed to pursue higher education, we not only unlock individual potential but also contribute to broader economic growth and societal development.

During May, BIPP celebrated a significant achievement with the introduction of the Hamid Bilqees Scholarship Program. This initiative aims to support talented female students in their academic pursuits. During the program's inaugural cycle, 22 students from Government Graduate College Wahdat Colony were awarded scholarships. These students are enrolled in disciplines such as Information Technology, Media Studies, and Management Sciences, reflecting BIPP's commitment to fostering education in diverse fields.

Furthermore, on May 27, 2024, The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at Netsol conducted an informative scholarship session for the Department of Nursing at the University of Lahore. During the event, Dr. Ejaz Sandhu (Director Operations BIPP) and Mr. Firas Shams (Research Associate BIPP) provided students with a comprehensive overview of the scholarship program.

Lastly, on May 31, 2024, BIPP organized a workshop on the 5Es Framework at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI). The event was presided over by Mr. Kashif Anwar (President of LCCI) and Mr. Zafar Mehmood (Senior Vice President LCCI). The workshop began with the recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by welcome remarks from Mr. Shahid Najam, (Vice Chairman BIPP). He outlined the workshop's purpose and highlighted BIPP's efforts to foster government, academia, and industry collaboration. Dr. Suleman Lodhi (Dean/Professor University of South Asia), provided an overview of the 5E framework and explained the related questionnaire. Additionally, Mr. Firas Shams, (Research Associate BIPP), delivered a presentation on export and environment within the context of the 5E framework. The event concluded with a lively question-and-answer session, fostering a robust discussion among the participants.

Mission Statement

BIPP's mission is to improve the welfare of the citizenry with particular emphasis on identifying policy measures that will lead to inclusive, people-centered growth with equity, political stability and sustainable development besides fully harnessing the potential for regional and global integration of the country. BIPP primary areas of interest encompass social, economic, environmental and political development and security, trade and foreign policy-related issues.

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