

The Dynamic Relationship between Democracy and Education in Pakistan

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Abstract

At present Pakistan is facing many challenges like poverty, power crisis, pollution, population explosion, economy crisis etc. However, illiteracy is one of the most important issue and also a determining factor in the stunted growth of democracy in Pakistan. This research paper attempts to find out the correlation between education and democracy, in other words the dynamic relationship that exists between the literacy rate of a country and the establishment of democracy in the country. The core findings of this article are that the ingredient of education is of prime importance and thus, cannot be separated from the recipe of democracy. The developed nations worked out a system that suited their needs, sure they learned via getting experience from experimenting, but the times have changed and in present times the international arena has become more complex and survival has become more complicated, therefore the developing nations cannot afford to experiment, thus education is the shortest route to achieve good governance by practicing democratic norms in true sense. But democracy can flourish and be a success in a society even if the bulk of the masses are not literate because it will gradually teach them the art of citizenship through experience. In case of Pakistan, some reforms need to be done like, change in the education system, promotion of gender equality, investing more on education, need to eradicate sectarianism and religious fanaticism etc. to smoothen the functioning of democracy.

Key Words: Democracy, Education, Literacy rate, Pseudo-democracy

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Introduction

Pakistan is facing many challenges like poverty, power crisis, pollution, population explosion, economy crisis etc. but illiteracy is one of the most important issue and also a determining factor in less developed countries like Pakistan. This issue needs to be widely addressed and concrete steps should be taken to solve this problem. A great amount of work has already been done to find out the correlation between literacy and overall social, political and economic development of a country as well as the reasons behind the high illiteracy rates of third world countries but there is still a need for more detailed work to be done. This research paper attempts to find out the correlation between education and democracy, in other words the dynamic relationship that exists between the literacy rate of a country and the establishment of democracy in the country. This research paper attempts to find out the role of education in democracy in Pakistan and exploring the concomitance and correlation of education and democracy in Pakistan. Democracy is a very complex concept which can have various meanings and connotations. Some people may define it as a form of political system while for some it is an ethical ideal. In this research we have discussed democracy as a political system and as an ideal as well. Literally, the term democracy has been derived from two Greek words: *demos* and *kratos*. *Demos* means “the people” and *kratos* means “the rule”. So literally democracy means “the rule of the people” (Ober, 2008). Aristotle defined it as “the rule of the mob”, since he disliked it. Similarly, Abraham Lincoln defines it as “government of the people, by the people and for the people” (Haney, 1944). On the basis of the institutions, values, norms, beliefs and practices of democracy found in various states, democracy can be divided into 3 categories:

1. Full democracy: such a form of political system which incorporates all democratic institutions, practices, norms and values etc. good examples are USA and Sweden.
2. Semi-democracy: such a political system which is a mixture of democratic and autocratic institutions and modes of government. Good examples are Thailand and Yugoslavia etc.
3. Pseudo-democracy: such a political system which is a democracy only in terms of name but not in fact. It is a false democracy i.e. dictatorships styles as democracies. Good examples are Stalinist Russia or the dictatorship of Ayub Khan in Pakistan.

There are many other forms of political systems like communism, monarchy, theocracy, democracy etc. but among all the forms of political system, democracy is regarded as the best form of government by the majority. We can also say that today democracy holds so much importance because it has stood the tests of time like no other form of political system; let it be monarchy or communism etc. What distinguishes democracy from other forms of government are its democratic institutions, its norms and values such as

constitutionalism, rule of law, opposition and competitive political parties, rule of majority with the protection of the rights of minorities, provision and protection of fundamental human rights, equality, free and fair elections, the concept of a responsible and accountable political leadership and government, absence of social, economic and cultural distinctions and differences on the basis of caste, creed, gender, ethnicity, color or religion.

If the people have right of free expression of opinion and opposition, if the people are having the right to change the government (something which is closely linked to accountability), if there is equality before law in the country, if there are all sorts of opportunities for the common man or an ordinary citizen and if there exists freedom from fear and terror of those who exercise power and influence, only then a state can be truly considered as democratic in nature. All of these features are the true essence of democracy, and without them democracy will remain dysfunctional and ineffective.

Democracy has three dimensions and facets; political, economic, and social. In a political context, it basically deals with the principle of popular sovereignty, enjoyment of political rights and liberties like freedom of opinion, expression and association etc. by all citizens. In an economic context, it stands for eradication of class distinction and promotes class harmony; it deals with equality of opportunities for all. In a social context, it stands for social justice and equality and the peaceful co-existence of divergent and different views and tolerance of the other religions, opinions, and races (Mazhar, 1959).

Good governance and democracy have a very strong bond, because if all the above mentioned conditions are fulfilled and a state has democratic institutions, values, norms, and practices then it will surely lead to good governance. Good governance is a method of governing in which people are having a say in the policy making and decision making, in short their needs, aspirations and opinions are always heard by the government. Democracy is the road to good governance.

Due to all these factors, democracy is regarded as the best form of government. Since democracy is the government of the people, so it is imperative to take into account the intellectual capabilities of people, who are the ones controlling the reins of government directly or indirectly. Laski has rightly said that the backbone of democracy is education (Dewey, 2012). As Pakistan is a third world country, education is imperative for its progress. The country is facing various challenges and issues in raising its literacy rate and standard of education which is quite low as compared to other states of South Asian region. It is a fact that the education of a country is imperative in determining its social, economic, cultural and political development, and such is the case with Pakistan. The kind and quality of the education which is imparted and provided determines the fate and prosperity of a country. In Pakistan the sector of education is badly ignored even though it is one of the three indicators of Human Development Index (HDI).

Illiteracy is a major problem of Pakistan. There are various consequences of illiteracy in Pakistan like undignified social behavior, social values and norms, criminal activities, religious fanaticism and political extremism, unemployment and an extremely slow economic growth. Countries that are having a high literacy rate are more stable and are having a high economic growth and GDP as compared to countries having low literacy rates (Aslam, 2016).

There are numerous reasons of downfall of education in Pakistan such as economical negligence, poverty and deliberate political negligence. There is an increased need to understand the fact that if our country will continue to lag behind in this field then our survival is no less than a dream. Government does not allocate required funds in budget for the betterment of education and according to some reports only 2% of GDP is allocated for the betterment of education which is insufficient to meet the educational demands (Malik & Rose, 2015).

Education is the quintessence of an ideological state like Pakistan. The substandard quality of the education in Pakistan is a very important cause of its downfall. Pakistan has to increase its literacy rate in order to meet the challenges created by the increased competition and globalization. Michel Foucault says that there is a dynamic relationship between knowledge and power, his contention is that knowledge produces a certain type of society. His rationale is that if the education system of a society is based on the principles of logic, reason and rationality, then these principles are likely to be incorporated in the society as well (Inam, 2013).

There is a very strong correlation between democracy and education; both are natural concomitants to each other. It is true that democracy is run by constitutional and bureaucratic means but it also needs an additional social and cultural environment to establish and flourish. For democracy to be functional, the society must be based on participatory governance, political, cultural and religious pluralism and an all-inclusive and comprehensive education (Inam, 2013).

Till 1995, according to the reports of United Nations, the HDI indicators of Pakistan were quite better as compared to the other nations of South Asia. In the 1995 report of United Nations HD index, Pakistan was placed at the 128th position but India was placed at 134th position and Bangladesh was placed at 146th position (Khan A. S., 2018). But after 1995, both India and Bangladesh substantially invested in their education and health sectors and excelled Pakistan in the following HDI ranking reports of UN. Now Pakistan is lagging behind India and Bangladesh in the HDI rankings of UN after 1995. The education indicators of Pakistan are quite low as compared to the other states of the region of South Asia like Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka (Khan A. S., 2018).

Education and democracy are having a very strong relationship because only a learned and well educated mind is capable of understanding the concepts like liberty, equality,

justice, rule of law, the rights and responsibilities of the state and its people (Inam, 2013). In short, democracy is only successful in those societies where citizens are politically vigilant and aware about their rights, liberties and duties. Democracy stands for equality and the peaceful co-existence of divergent and different views and tolerance of the other religions, opinions, and races, something that can only be instilled in the minds of masses through education.

The education system of Pakistan is faulty as it promotes mediocrity and dull mindedness, sectarianism, mindless rote learning and fanaticism and zealotry, which in the long run will destroy the democratic institutions, norms and practices as such an education system would make the citizens narrow-minded and all of this will eventually be detrimental for the country as well as democracy. The true spirit of education is giving each other space and cultivation of such an environment which encourages questioning, but our education system is actually quite undemocratic as it restrains even the slightest tendency to question (Inam, 2013). Similarly, according to the reports of IDEA (Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance), the literacy rate of Pakistan and Afghanistan is 57% and 32% respectively, which is quite low as compared to the literacy rates of the other nations of the South Asian region i.e. India, Bangladesh, Iran, Nepal, Maldives, and Sri Lanka are having a literacy rate of 69%, 73%, 85%, 60%, 99% and 91%, respectively. And except Bangladesh, the voter turnout rates in the above mentioned states were quite high as compared to Pakistan and Afghanistan in their previous elections (Khan A. S., 2018). So on the basis of the reports of IPEA (Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority), it can be safely presumed that higher the literacy rate is, higher will be the voter turnout rate in the democratic elections. Obviously there are also many other factors other than education, which are necessary for the establishment of democracy, but education is the foremost requisite for its success (Khan A. S., 2018).

The main research question of this research is that; whether democracy and illiteracy can coexist or not? Whether democracy can flourish and be successful without high literacy in a state? The answer is that basically, there are two schools of thoughts regarding this question. One view asserts that democracy and mass illiteracy do not go together. This view asserts that both education and democracy are congruent to each other and are natural concomitants. Supporters of this point of view include various authors like Moniza Inam, Abdul Rehman and Razaullah Khan. While the other view asserts that democracy itself is education; the process in itself is a teacher and an instructor in the art of citizenship, as one learns through bad experiences in the long run and so it is an evolutionary educational process which teaches the citizens the responsibilities and rights of citizenship. In short, this school of thought is of the opinion that democracy in itself is an educational process, and whether the masses are educated and enlightened or not, doesn't really matter because democracy will teach the citizens the necessary

requisites for its success, with the passage of time, as they will suffer because of their ignorant and wrong decisions. Supporters of this point of view include various authors like Atul Joshi and Mir Mehboob Ali. So, whether democracy can flourish without education in a country is a question which can be answered in two ways.

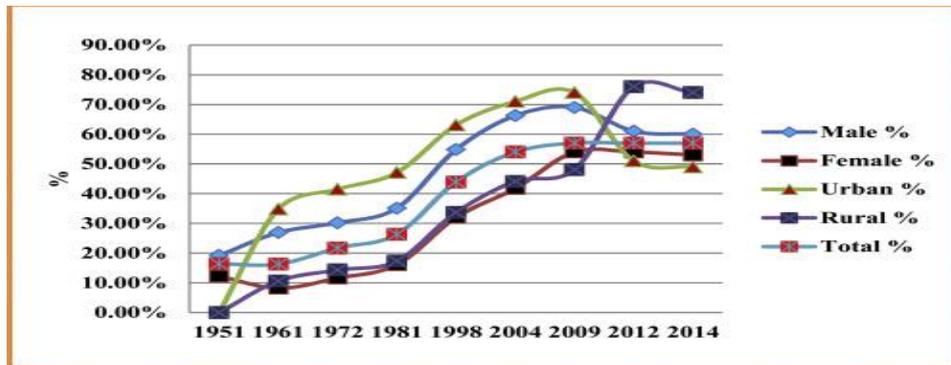
Democracy and Education are inseparable

It is a general perception that democracy is the rule of the masses (the rule of the people) and so it will only be successful when the masses are politically vigilant, enlightened and educated. In a democratic form of government, it is imperative to take into account the educational capabilities of citizens because the reins of the government are directly or indirectly in their hands. Democracy is the embodiment of enlightenment and is considered the best way of governing a state as it has stood the tests of time while mass illiteracy is something which implies ignorance and is, by large, a peril and menace. Both follow the opposite path, so how can they exist together. A requisite for the success of Democracy is a competent, sincere and able political leadership whereas ignorant masses cannot elect or choose the right people because of their illiteracy. In a society, which is marked by illiteracy and ignorance, the political leaders as well as the masses do not practice and uphold democratic values, norms and practices. In democracy, accountability and answerability of rulers who are having the reins of government in their hands is essential but illiterate and ignorant masses are unable to hold the rulers accountable and answerable to them because they are unable to comprehend their actions as well as whatever is going on in the state. Illiteracy makes the masses uneducated, unlearned and ignorant and so their thinking and mentality always remains regressive. So in such a society, retrogressive and unprogressive socio-cultural and religious views always predominate and so in such an environment democracy cannot be advanced and fostered on progressive lines. Democracy is characterized by equal participation of all the people in a society without any differences on the basis of caste, class, creed, sex and color but it is something which cannot happen in an illiterate and ignorant society, because these differences can only be removed and eradicated through education. Feudalism can only take deep roots in an illiterate society, and if a feudal mindset is predominating in a society then it totally destroys the socio-economic and political institutions of that society. The importance of dissent and freedom of expression in a democratic order cannot be denied as both of them pave the way for social progress which is essential for the consolidation of democracy but dissent and freedom of expression and opinion cannot be practiced in an illiterate and uneducated society because such societies are marked by intolerance and extremism. Women empowerment and gender equality are necessary for the proper functioning of democracy but illiterate masses are unable to comprehend the importance of these two concepts and so they will resist them. Similarly, without education, it is impossible to have strong, robust and

efficient intuitions in a state and so without strong institutions it is impossible to run democracy effectively and smoothly in a state. Democracy is struggling to take roots in the ignorant societies of the third world countries because of all the above mentioned problems.

Democracy and Education: Pakistan’s perspective

The democratic system of Pakistan has imitated the parliamentary system which is functional in Great Britain. But Pakistan and its people still have a long way to go in “understanding what democracy really is” and in “reaching its perfection”. A political system cannot be instantly implemented in a state instead the people of that state should be slowly and gradually made to understand what that system is and how it works, in short they should be slowly and steadily readied for it. If anything will be forced and trusted on people, while they aren’t even prepared for it, then that thing is most likely to fail and collapse. As a matter of fact, there is no denying that British democracy (which is considered exemplary) took its roots from Magna Carta in 1215, and with the passage of time it improved and eventually reached maturity. Democracy needs time to mature and to be successful, especially in an ethnically diverse state like Pakistan, because different societies have different social composition, different norms, different values and most of all the mental makeup of people would also be different from society to society because of ethnic, religious and other social factors. But in the case of Pakistan, democracy only means regular elections of parliament, periodically, nothing more; that is exactly what an average Pakistani (who is illiterate) takes it to be (Ali, 2018).



This figure shows a record of the literacy rates of Pakistan throughout its history. The literacy rate of Pakistan was 16.40% in 1950 but it dropped to 16.30% in 1961. But then again it rose to a percentage of 21.70% for both urban as well as rural areas. It continued to rise and reached a percentage of 26.30% in 1981; at that time urban areas were having the literacy rate of 47.10% and rural areas were having a percentage of 17.30%. In 1998,

the literacy rate of Pakistan was 43.90%, urban areas were leading with a rate of 63.08% and rural areas were lagging behind with a literacy rate of 33.64%. In 2004 and 2009, it declined and fell to 54% and 57% respectively. Finally, in 2012, it remained stagnant and remained 57%. Similarly, the rate of literacy of Pakistan did not change and remained 57% even in 2014 (Abdul Rehman, 2015).

In 2012, a literacy rate consensus was conducted in Pakistan and the results revealed that Pakistan is having a literacy rate of 56. 56% literacy rate is quite low as it simply indicates that almost half of the population of the country is illiterate and uneducated. Till 1995, according to the reports of United Nations, the HDI indicators of Pakistan were quite better as compared to the other nations of South Asia. In the 1995 report of United Nations HD index, Pakistan was placed at the 128th position but India was placed at 134th position and Bangladesh was placed at 146th position in that report. But after 1995, both India and Bangladesh substantially invested in their education and health sectors and excelled Pakistan in the following HDI ranking reports of UN. Now Pakistan is lagging behind India and Bangladesh in the HDI rankings of UN after 1995. The education indicators of Pakistan are quite low as compared to the other states of the region of South Asia like Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka (Khan, 2018)

Without any differences on the basis of gender, color, ethnicity, economic status, or qualification level, in a democratic order, all the people are now entitled to vote and anyone can contest as a candidate in elections. But still, there is no denying to the fact that a direct relationship exists between the literacy level of citizens and the degree of their active participation and involvement in the democratic processes and political activities of state and government. If we do a quick analysis of the turnout rates of various general elections conducted in different states, then this will also second and prove this conclusion. For example, according to the reports of IDEA, the literacy rate of Pakistan and Afghanistan is 57% and 32% respectively, which is quite low as compared to the literacy rates of the other nations of the South Asian region i.e. India, Bangladesh, Iran, Nepal, Maldives, and Sri Lanka are having a literacy rate of 69%, 73%, 85%, 60%, 99% and 91%, respectively. And except Bangladesh, the voter turnout rates in the above mentioned states were quite high as compared to Pakistan and Afghanistan in their previous elections (Khan A. S., 2018). So on the basis of the reports of IDEA (the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance), it can be safely presumed that higher the literacy rate is, higher will be the voter turnout rate in the democratic elections. Obviously there are also many other factors other than education, which are necessary for the establishment of democracy, but education is the foremost requisite for its success (Khan, 2018).

Similarly, by comparing literacy rates and voter turnout rates of different areas of Pakistan, we can safely presume that the literacy rate is having a profound influence on the level of participation of citizens in the political activities of state. The Election

Commission of Pakistan released the collective voter turnout rates of various provinces for 2013 elections, and an analysis of this data shows that the educational level of citizens clearly has a profound influence on their vote casting patterns in different provinces. For example, 2013 general elections results showed that Punjab was having the highest voter turnout rate and it was almost 60% and Punjab is the province which is also having the highest literacy rate among other provinces in Pakistan. In the case of Sindh, voter turnout rate was only 54% and surprisingly its literacy rate was also 56% in 2013-14. Similarly, in KP province the literacy rate is 53% and the voter turnout rate of this province in 2013 elections was 45%. In case of Baluchistan, this same pattern was observed. This province was having the lowest literacy rate i.e. 43% and its voter turnout rate was also the least i.e. 43%. ECP also released data on the results of 2018 general elections and Chitral is the area having the highest voter turnout rate i.e. 60.96% and it is having a literacy rate of 62%, even higher than the whole province of KP (Khan, 2018). Democracy is such a system of governance whose success largely depends upon the participation of the citizens as they are the ones who are ultimately having the reins of government in their hands i.e. popular sovereignty. In such a system the educational and intellectual capabilities of people have to be taken into account. When Citizens are educated and literate they can not only learn from debates on critical issues of the governance but can also actively participate in these political debates and can even think of various possible solutions of the various problems of governance as well as of state overall. Because their education will make them capable of understanding various technicalities, the ground realities as well the critical issues and problems faced by the state. Similarly, in less educated societies and communities, a number of external factors are responsible for affecting and influencing the choice of voter in casting the vote. It may include various factors like tribal heads, elders in family, religious heads and figures, political workers and activists in the locality and most importantly, the influence of mass media cannot be denied. Illiteracy makes the masses unable to grasp complicated concepts like rule of law, transparency and accountability as they are unable to read newspapers, magazines or even comprehend the political debates going on news channels night time talk shows. In short, illiteracy makes them dependent on whatever media portrays, and media only shows one side of the coin, it's opinion is biased and all of its reporting's are not at all factual and it may even manipulate masses for its personal motives (Khan, 2018).

In conclusion, it can be inferred that Democracy is that form of governing a state in which the real power is vested in the hands of the masses as they elect their leaders either directly or indirectly. In democracy the biggest of the decisions are taken by the masses either directly through referendum and plebiscites etc. or through electing representatives whom they have chosen as the head of the government as well as the state. So according to this point of view, core of the democracy is this that people should

know what will be wrong and what will be right for them, they should be politically active, vigilant and well aware and all of this ultimately comes through education.

Can Democracy flourish without Education?

Democracy itself is an educational process; such a process that trains educates and instructs the art of citizenship to the people of a country. In short, this school of thought is of the opinion that democracy in itself is an educational process, and whether the masses are educated and enlightened or not, doesn't really matters because democracy will teach the citizens the necessary requisites for its success, with the passage of time, as they will suffer because of their ignorant and wrong decisions (Joshi, n.d.).

Atul Joshi argues that even though the Indian masses are, by and large, illiterate, as only 64 per cent of the Indian masses are educated and literate. So a huge no. of Indian masses is not educated, and even out of those who can be considered literate and learned to some extent, these people are having very limited awareness and understanding of what democracy actually is and what it stands for. Now if we take the example of India, Indian masses have by now acquired the very experience of a democratic system, with special reference to elections as now they know that what is the importance of elections and how they have to utilize their precious right to vote in these elections. Indian masses can be regarded as politically mature; and they have proved it by giving sufficient proof of their sense of differentiation and discrimination by using their right to vote quite wisely, by rejecting fallacies, fakery of corrupt politicians and mendacity as well as inefficient leaders who could not keep their promises and also by punishing corrupt leaders through a rebuff. Even though the masses are illiterate but they have learned through their wrong choices and decisions, which is the true essence of democracy (Joshi, n.d.).

For example, in 1977 the Indian masses, more specifically north Indians, as they were the ones who had gravely suffered due to despotic and capricious rule as well as arbitrary use of power (take the example of family planning excesses) by Mrs. Gandhi's followers, henchmen and her political lackeys, rejected her along with her whole party and in order to bring a change, gave a chance to the Bharatiya Janata Party (Joshi, n.d.). But when Janata leaders also proved to be inefficient and incompetent as they were incapable of working together for the sake of the welfare of the nation, the same voters who were politically mature but illiterate rejected them due to their ineffectiveness and brought Mrs. Gandhi back on the stage of government and gave her the responsibility of governing the state. due to this maturity of Indian masses even though they were illiterate, the electorate won the admiration of all the other democratic orders in word (Joshi, n.d.).

According to this point of view, even 100% literacy rate does not guarantee that democracy will function effectively in a society. However, it cannot be denied that in

cases like India, democracy suffers from a no. of defects and deficiencies. However, in states like U.S., Britain, Germany and Japan, literacy rate is quite high because education almost universal there so the functioning of democracy is more efficient and successful there. But democracy can stand on its own ground even without education, but in this case it will take time to flourish (Joshi, n.d.).

Similarly, in ancient times, the bulk of the masses of ancient Greece, Rome, and India were not formally literate and educated. Similarly, at the time of Middle age Europe the literacy and education was stringently controlled by the institution of church to maintain and secure their power. Yet the time has proved that even though majority of the masses of these ancient states did not have any proper and formal education but it did not prevent and hinder the path of democracy to flourish in any of these states (Qsaark, 2009).

Literacy simply means the ability to read and write or the proficiency in reading and writing something. It is something we learn in schools through education. But it clearly does not imply the ability to differentiate between right and wrong, genuine and fake, truth and falsehood. Functional Literacy is something which makes a person capable of living and coping with daily living and employment tasks of a modern society, but again it is not functional literacy which will make democracy functional in a society but rather access to information. Because only a well informed and knowledgeable population can be entrusted to make the proper and right decision. But after the invention of Broadcast media, access to information is quite an easy task now and now the importance of literacy in determining the fate of democracy is even lesser now (Qsaark, 2009).

We have seen many people who write or talk so proficiently, are quite intelligent and are having a lot of wisdom. And we have also seen many such people who are highly qualified from the top notch educational institutes but still they are incapable of differentiating right from wrong or true and false. But by analyzing things deeply we'll come to the conclusion that such people do know that what is right and what is wrong or what is true and what is false, but they deliberately decide to act or opt for what was best in their interest. So, there is very little if any connection between literacy and judgment or literacy and wisdom. Similarly take the example of Hitler, Mussolini, and the Emperor of Japan; weren't they all educated but their actions were still whimsical and capricious, and their actions clearly implied that they only cared about themselves and they still waged war even though it resulted in the loss of, millions of lives. Similarly in case of America, we can take the example of Bush and Cheney, as their actions weren't liked by the majority (Qsaark, 2009).

So, in conclusion we can say that democracy can flourish and be a success in a society even if the bulk of the masses are not literate because it will gradually teach them the art of citizenship through experience.

Recommendations

Majority of the countries of the world are democracies but still they are unable to reap the fruits of it, the reason behind it is that they are sham democracies; they don't practice democratic norms and don't have democratic institution. Their masses lack the intellectual capabilities to understand the essence behind the democratic norms such as rule of law, legalism, supremacy of constitution, the rights and duties of state and the people, minority rights, gender equality etc., and as a result they are made fools in the name of democracy because of their ignorance. It is education and its quality which helps the population establish a rational opinion, differentiate between good and bad, understand the significance of rights and duties, promotes the feelings of national integration and discourages discrimination on the bases of gender, color, race, religion or sects etc.

Certainly, it's not a hard and fast rule that high literacy rates ensure high intellectual capability and political maturity, but high literacy rates do ensure a mature class of intelligentsia which indeed acts as the brain of a nation, innovations are a characteristic associated with nations that have the potential to become a developed country. Thus, focus must be put on not just the literacy rates, but the quality of education provided in a country as it's a well-established fact that the future of the nations is decided by its classrooms.

Following are some recommendations to improve the functioning of democracy by improving the education system of Pakistan:

- 1. Reforms in Education-** our education system has failed the nation on many fronts but on the whole, it has disadvantaged the polity by producing a bulk of population which lacks the skill set required to compete globally. Our education system promotes rote learning instead of thinking out of the box, it shuns the practice of asking questions, it curbs the creativity of students, it does not educate about the beauty of diversity, instead it gave birth to rampant religious intolerance. Moreover, the education has become a business in Pakistan and the private verses public education, along with the madressah education has promoted class divisions in the society. Therefore, the state must intervene in this alarming situation and work to reform our outdated, colonial education system into a pluralistic and inclusive system that promotes class harmony, tolerance towards difference of opinions & ideas and encourages innovation.
- 2. Introduction of subjects like Civics, Governance-** it is direly needed that our population learns about the basics of governance, civics, rights and duties of the people and the state. Therefore, content related to the concepts of rule of law, democratic accountability, welfare state, Islamic political, economic and social system etc., must be included in text books right from secondary school level to create awareness about how a civilized and society based on justice functions.

3. **Promotion of Gender Equality-** No nation can become prosperous if it discriminates among its citizens, if its females cannot work side by side, if its society denies a certain group its entitled rights. Half of the population of Pakistan is female, therefore society should become more open minded in terms of women education as it is the key to women empowerment. Without empowering our women, we cannot even imagine to progress in any field. The role of women in every society is significant in all aspects, be it in political or economic terms, thus it is imperative for our country to endorse gender equality to become more democratic.
4. **Role of Media-** Media must play a vibrant and dynamic role in creating awareness about the core issues related to good governance and principles of democracy. The media must undertake the moral responsibility to educate the people, it must provide them accurate facts and findings rather than feeding propaganda and yellow journalism. Media is a watchdog over the government, it should play a positive role in keeping checks and balances, so that the state cannot use '*arbitrariness*' (which is the lack of restraint in the use of authority) in its actions and the rights of citizens are not usurped.

Conclusion

The ingredient of education is of prime importance and thus, cannot be separated from the recipe of democracy. The developed nations worked out a system that suited their needs, sure they learned via getting experience from experimenting, but the times have changed and in present times the international arena has become more complex and survival has become more complicated, therefore the developing nations cannot afford to experiment, thus education is the shortest route to achieve good governance by practicing democratic norms in true sense. The afore mentioned suggestions are necessary to be adopted on an emergency basis because only through education the individuals are empowered to make rational decisions and evaluate every situation critically, it enables true participation in democratic activities that will later on impact them through policy implementation. Moreover, education also serves as a tool to inculcate democratic norms and practices like respect for rule of law, supremacy of constitution over everything and everyone, acceptance and co-existence of diverse socio-political opinions and affiliations etc. Education transforms individuals and societies into more open ones and makes them more receptive towards embracing change for good and work on solutions to make innovations to suit to their own needs and demands, thus it can be safely concluded that quality education leads to a society that can provide democracy with smooth working conditions.

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