



## DECLINING ENROLLMENT IN THE PUBLIC BOYS HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN PUNJAB

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**Abstract-** The present study intends to explore the causes of declining enrollment in the boys' higher secondary schools of the Punjab. The population of the study comprised of all the boys' higher secondary schools of the Punjab. The sample of the study was conveniently selected which contained thirty teachers from boys' higher secondary schools district Mandi Baha-ud-Din. Semi structured interview schedule was developed as tool for data collection. Thematic analysis technique was used for analysis of the data. The major causes of declining enrollment in schools were lack of staff, lack of facilities, lack of science teachers, schools are far from populated areas, lack of awareness among parents and less implementation of educational policies to its optimum level. The government of the Punjab should provide proper facilities at school level to overcome the issue of declining enrollment.

**Key Words:** Declining enrolment, Causes, Higher secondary schools

### I. INTRODUCTION

Education is a process of training and instruction for providing knowledge and learning experiences to the children and the young people at school, college and university level (Stoll, Bolam et al. 2018). The main objective of education is not only to contribute insustaining the culture but also promoting peacefully and rationally the key foundations of modern civilization (Skutnabb-Kangas, Phillipson et al. 2009; Galera, 2020). However, the sole aim of education is transformation of culture, the preservation of cultural norms of past and present and the development of intellectual capacities of the coming generation (Kohlberg and Mayer 1972). It should support in enhancing the abilities and skills of the students and introduce novel ideas among them and the next generation. Education also plays its key role in development of human resources. According to the human capital theory, the schooling is an investment which generate the higher income for the individuals and future community. Further, the education develops the human beings in three dimensions such as physical development, mental development and moral development. However, in Pakistani context we are facing a continual decline in the standard of education. There are many reasons behind this issue like the educational administration is rather slack, dishonest and helpless against the student community (Blase and Blase 2004). Lack of proper monitoring on the appropriate functioning of the academic institutions. So, the government should adopt proper mechanism to uplift the standard of education. Actually, the triangle as teachers, parents and students are equally responsible for this falling standard. Home, as the most significant social unit, playing an important role in shaping and modifying the thinking and character of kids and young children. In actual fact, the lap of mother is the first institution for a child. Parents are over indulgent with their kids. They are permitted to do whatever they please. Less consciousness and lack of appropriate upbringing of the children is an important reason of poor discipline. In current era, parents have less control on their children. This issue should be resolved on urgent basis, the parents should be conscious for training of their children, the teachers should work for holistic development of children and the students continually work for their development. Ultimately, it elevates the skills, productivity and competence of the individuals and produces competent manpower, capable of leading the economy towards the direction of sustained economic development. To enhance and strengthen the standard of education has become an international agenda at all the educational levels and particularly at the primary level (Wandasari,

Kristiawan et al. 2019). The present study is designed to explore the causes, and problems of declining enrollment in the boys' higher secondary schools in Punjab.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The main objective of the present study was to explore the causes, and problems of declining enrollment in the boys' higher secondary schools in Punjab.

### **Significance of the Study**

Present study intends to contribute in improving the quality of research work and increasing the enrollment of the boys in the higher secondary schools in Punjab. This study is made to help to increase the sustainable enrollment in boys' higher secondary schools in Punjab.

### **Delimitations of the Study**

Due to constraints of time, feasibility, money and access to the respondents the study was delimited to boys' higher secondary school session 2015-16.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The present study focusses on exploring the reasons of declining enrolment at school levels. The marvel of drop out is categorized by various researchers in an unexpected manner. Drop out is a term which is defined for the children, who leave the school by any reason except death, which included suspend their studies or leave the school without completion of their studies.

This is a broader definition of drop out which incorporate all those understudies ending their qualification without any reason other than the passing away of the understudy. A portion of understudies stops thinking due to their ailment may equally be incorporated into the above mentioned meaning of drop out (Jamil, Atta et al. 2010). Quiroga, Janosz et al., (2013) viewed that drop out is defined as the students who left their studies without completing it. The children may drop out from the school due to various reasons and the studies mentioned these causes innation specific settings considering their societal, political and economical matters. Muhammad and Muhammad (2011) identified some reasons of drop out, which are ignorant behavior, destination at far flung areas, lack of inspiration, lack of understanding, teachers' behavior, physical punishment and forced work. However, this study defined the drop out elements that are more related to boys' side and ignored components which influence the dropout rate of girls. Blue and Cook (2004) recognized the causes of drop out rate at high schools in the University of Texas at Austin, which were family income, societal and enthusiastic components, race, ethnicity, stress for completing best evaluations and institutional components.

In Pakistani context, the dropout rate of girls is more than the school going boys. The most of the Pakistani population comprised in rural areas. So, in rustic territories the young girls are facing massive issues, for example, schools are far from populated areas, domestic work, conservative thought or social and cultural issues. Mainly, at optional level young ladies are facing many issues. Even, the school is located on 15 to 16 km distance, it is far away for their guardians, they can't manage and afford its cost, consequently, stop to send their girls in school (Imtiaz 2014).

Further, there are various issues in education system, which re defined as under:

**Less financial resources:** In the framework of any system, finance plays an important role. Without finance, the improvement and development of a system is very difficult task (Ballou and Podgursky 2000). At the time of autonomy, Pakistan has a miserable training framework, which was monetarily weakened. The required training framework couldn't get sufficient financial allotments from the management which supplementary the deliberated framework physically as well as scholastically (Shah 2003).

**Management issues:** as compare to various other nations, in the wake of picking up opportunities, Pakistan starts with a malfunctioning arrangement of instruction. This situation continues to date. There were some uplifting steps taken by procuring stores structure donor offices, up till now postulations programs failed because of maintenance problems (Qureshi 2002).

**Increased dropout rate:** the poor teaching and learning resources, less dedicated administration and supervision has provoked extended drop out ratio at critical level. Consequently, the parents or guardians are confused to send their children to the schools (Shahzadi and Perveen 2002). There have been proceeds with lessening in the enrolment of required training in the nation. Despite increasingly expanding population 40 percent of the youngsters in Pakistan are under five years old. These are the disturbing circumstances of the nation which gave birth various issues, like, child labour, misuse of child and kids trafficking etc (Khalid 1974, Barech and Din 2019).

**Lack of policy implementation:** the instructional approaches not have been lawfully as well as properly implemented, throughout the year. Several reasons were found for poor implementation of the policies

such as political interference, debasement, weak mechanism to run the system and unfair management and supervision (Rehman 2002).

**Outdated system of examination:** the rules and regulations of examination system for training of required instruction in Pakistan are less on the planet. There are outdated arrangements of examination system. Here the national and international issues are not being addressed. The traditional acts about assessment and evaluation are being followed at school level. In examination system the facilities are not provided properly to the students. The institutional legislative issues are influenced in the examination system (Naeem 2019).

**Communication gap:** the strong communication and correspondence is the base of any framework of the system. It interfaces the various segments of a framework and produces effective and sound coordination as well as collaboration. It has been observed that the instructors at elementary school level recurrently remain unconcerned with the advancements in common measures of training due to deficient arrangements of correspondence (Ahmad, Rauf et al. 2013, Akram 2019). The monitoring arrangements and adjustments are remarkably poor due to feeble organization and coordination mechanism. The instructors are the foundation of the whole training arrangements (Ahmad, ur Rehman et al. 2013).

**Issues in sound professional development:** teaching is an art and expert action. There are multiple advancements that occur on ceaseless premise in general public and over the globe. The teachers should continuously remained conscious with the emerging advancements, research and innovative information (Javed and Chaudhry 2015).

**Less learning resources:** in Pakistani context, training is confronted with the issue of absence of learning resources. This issue is more alarming at the public schools where the schools does not have even proper buildings, staff, sheets, course reading guides, libraries and many other related assets to support teaching learning process (Muhammad 2002).

### **Research Design**

The purpose of the study was to explore the causes, and problems of declining enrollment in the boys' higher secondary schools in Punjab. Research design of the study was descriptive in nature employing cross-sectional qualitative survey. This approach is found suitable to explore experiences and awareness about declining enrollment in the boy's higher secondary schools and its importance for improving the quality of research work as it allows greater capacity to gain more meaning based depth, more control and well considerate study of specified research problem (Lillis and Mundy 2005).

### **Population of Study**

The study consisted of all boys' higher secondary schools in the Punjab. The bureau of statistics of the Punjab Lahore have conducted the annual survey of the educational institutions for the educational year 2003-2004 in the month of April 2004, explains the strength of the public boys' higher secondary schools 327.

### **Sample and Sampling Technique**

Sample of the study was all Subject Specialist (SS), Senior Subject Specialist (SSS) in the boy's higher secondary school in district Mandi Baha-ud-Din. Convenient sampling technique was used to conduct this study.

### **Instrumentation**

Semi structured interview schedule was used to carry out this study. It permits the responders elaborate, deliver more manageability and want more information about the research problem. (Stake 2010) stated that each and every interview has its own distinction that is interaction between interview and interviewee may vary. Consequently, Additional, quality of the data gathered by the respondents may be influenced by the exposure skills and work of the interview, but the danger of researcher bias may exist.

### **Data Collection**

Data were collected by the researchers personally. Each respondent was presented a set of questions related to their overall experience and knowledge about the declining enrollment in the boy's higher secondary schools in Punjab. Laptop voice recorder was used for recording interviews of respondents. After that the interviews were listened carefully and transcribed in detail. Researcher wrote down and synthesized the informant's answer.

## III. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

This research study is qualitative in nature and semi structured interview schedule was used to collect the responses from the informants. The answers of the respondents are analyzed through thematic analysis technique. The answers of the respondents were recorded, transcribed and analyzed according to the themes of the study.

- Teachers and facilities:

The majority of respondents reported that the lack of staff is the main cause of declining enrollment in the boy's higher secondary schools in Punjab. Higher secondary schools are empty of subject specialists. Secondly, a large number of respondents admitted that the major cause of declining enrollment in the boy's higher secondary schools in Punjab is the lack of facilities. For example; building infrastructure, hygienic facilities, libraries, labs and supports grounds etc. Without these facilities the learning process is not complete.

- **Teaching Methods**

The most of the respondents stated that the non-effective teaching methods are the real problem of declining enrollment in the boy's higher secondary schools in Punjab. The majority of the teachers do not employ required professional teaching methodologies which play a vital role in persuading students toward learning process. The non-cooperative staff is the major reason of declining enrollment in the boy's higher schools in Punjab. In school teacher do not cooperate each other and they are not ready to help other in any educational problems. The forced combination made in the selection of subject is the cause of declining enrollment in higher secondary classes.

- **Institutions Location**

The large number of respondents revealed that the remote location of schools is the cause of reduction in the number of higher secondary classes in the boys' higher secondary schools in Punjab. Many students who attend the schools located in the urban areas are far from village so the students faced problems of transportation.

- **Uneducated Parents**

Majority of the respondents reported that uneducated parents are the main cause of declining enrollment in the boys' higher secondary schools. Mostly parents are not qualified particularly in the rural areas they do not know the value of higher education. The fierce competition of life and society often compels parents to withdraw their children before reaching the higher secondary level. The high expenditures are caused of declining enrollment in boy's higher secondary schools. Poverty factor in this respect cannot be ignored. Parents themselves withdraw their offspring from the institution.

- **Priorities in institutions selection:**

The majority of respondents viewed that the private colleges are too much and established at short distance from the populated area. The students prefer the degree colleges rather than boys' higher secondary schools. Parents and students want to join degree colleges for its unlimited facilities. The student wants to get rid of the boring environment of school and they have wished to take an environment free from the great pressure after matriculation.

- **Technology and Bad Company**

The most of the respondents viewed that the modern electronic communication is the real cause of declining enrollment in the boy's higher secondary schools. The misuse of technology is cause that students not take interest in their studies. Particularly, in the rural areas most parents are unaware from modern inventions and they provide these facilities to their children without seeing their negative effects. Many respondents reported that the bad company or friendship affects the declining enrollment. It is the foremost and important cause of low enrollment of higher classes.

### **Major reasons of declining enrollment**

The respondents highlighted following reasons of declining enrollment in the boys' higher secondary schools in the Punjab i.e. lack of staff, non-cooperative teaching staff, lack of physical facilities, trend of parents to prefer private colleges, degree colleges, location away from the population, uneducated parents, parents vision, poverty, language problem, and lack of implementation of three tier project and technical colleges.

## **IV. CONCLUSIONS**

There are many causes of declining enrollment in the boy's higher secondary schools in the Punjab. The lack of staff is the main cause of declining enrollment in the boy's higher secondary schools in Punjab. Lack of facilities is another major reason of declining enrollment, for example, building infrastructure, hygienic facilities, libraries, labs and supports ground etc. The non-cooperative staff and non-effective teaching methods are real problem of declining enrollment. The teachers do not employ required professional teaching methodologies which play a vital role in persuading students toward learning process. The forced made combination in the selection of subjects, the remote location of schools create transportation issues, the lack of modern electronic gadgets, misuse of technology, the bad company or friendship, the uneducated parents and the fierce competition of life and society often compels parents to withdraw their children before reaching the higher secondary level. Poverty factor in this respect cannot be ignored. The private colleges are too much and established at short distance from the feeding area.

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#### V. RECOMMENDATIONS

- The teachers should be trained to become loyal with their profession as they can play a key role to enhance the spirit of getting admissions if they work honestly.
  - All the Subject Specialists (SS) Senior Subject Specialists (SSS) and Principals should be transferred in the public boys' high schools as regular headmasters on permanent post. There are many vacant posts of regular headmasters in the boys' secondary schools in Punjab.
  - Intermediate classes should be restricted to colleges only other wise higher education school should be built in better feeding areas.
- Private institution should be discouraged as these are making education as business

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