

**FACTORS OF SCHOOL DROPOUT AT SECONDARY
LEVEL (A STUDY OF MIANWALI DISTRICT, PUNJAB,
PAKISTAN)**

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Abstract: Education is always considered as a vital tool for development and prosperity of a nation. It is a significant element of any developed country. It helps human being to live in a society. All the educational institutes are facing this problem and taking measures to eradicate it. There are many issues in education sector in Pakistan. School dropout is the main issue of the world as well as of Pakistan. The present study is carried out in district Mianwali; Punjab, Pakistan. Survey method is used to find out the dropout factors. It was very difficult to find out the dropout students from higher secondary level. A total 150 respondents were chosen by purposive sampling technique, 50 respondents are selected from each category include teachers, parents of dropout students and the dropout male students respectively. Many factors were revealed about male students' dropout.

Keywords: Education, Dropout, Higher secondary level.

Introduction

Education is a continuous process which creates rational thinking among human. It converts them into responsible citizens of a society. It is the key element for the development of individuals, society, community and society. It plays a vital role in development of human beings (Khan & Pandey, 2012, p. 237). It is the basic right of human beings. It is highly accepted by governments and all the stakeholders of society. It brings economic growth and prosperity in a nation. Therefore, it is mandatory to scrutinize all inputs and outputs in the education system continuously (Sang; Koros & Bosire, 2013).

Importance of Education

It is very necessary element in the progress of a nation. It plays an integral role for the development and social progress of a country. Pakistan is a developing country. It understands the importance of education. Pakistan has put education on its top priorities (Hussain; Salfi & Khan, 2011). It is very effective for humanity. Nations cannot progress without it. The development and advancement of a nation totally depends on literacy rate of its people. It brings prosperity among people and very helpful for eradication of poverty. It is a great investment in human development (Zarif, 2011). Almani & Abro (2007) give the importance of education and literacy in their article "Attitude of People toward Education". According to them education is a foundation of human development. Literacy rate is directly involved in the development of a country. Literacy is the pre-requisite for acquiring benefits from the sources of information and knowledge from the modern world. It is the key of human progress, development and peace of mind. It makes country strong among other countries of the world. It is considered a source for empowering institutions and essential for social reforms (Almani & Abro, 2007, pp. 75-76).

Owing to the importance of education, the constitution of Pakistan stresses on government to provide free and compulsory education to all children from age 6 to 16. It binds the state to remove illiteracy within possible period. It proclaims that education is the one of the basic needs of people along with food and shelter (Tatlah; Khan & Asim, 2012, p. 10). It is true that fate of a nation is founded in classrooms. Therefore, the education must be of higher standard so that the students should expand necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes to offer their duties successfully in the society (Tatlah et al, 2012, p. 28).

Jackline&Tikoko (2014) write about the importance of education. They are of the view that education is an integral part in the development of human being. Human beings need education because they are designed to be real men, not beasts. It is the foundation of economic growth and social development of humanity. Consequently, it accelerates the creative abilities of the societies and scientific institutions. It helps to reduce poverty from society (Jackline&Tikoko, 2014, p. 273). It is an important factor for economic and social development. People try their best to provide best education to their children in all the circumstances. The constitution of Pakistan consents its importance. Education is the basic human right along with food, housing and clothing (Nasir& Abdul, 2014, p. 8).

Dropout

Ajaja 2012 defined school dropout in his paper. It is simply a withdrawal of students from schools without completion their education. These are called dropout students. It is a universal issue. Nearly all the education institutes are facing this problem throughout the world (Ajaja, 2013).Ali; Jamal &Ghani, 2013, defined dropout in their article. A student will be considered a dropout student if he say good bye to school without getting any secondary school certificate. The entire world is facing this issue. Advanced countries are facing this problem due to social reasons. While developing countries face this issue due to financial reasons (Ali et al, 2013).Gul Rani; Gulshan& Ali Arshad 2013, described dropout. It is a premature leaving from schools. The children who leave their schools without passing their secondary school are called dropout students. It is an international problem which all the countries are facing (Gul et al, 2013, p. 120). Present study is carried out to find out the factors of dropout in the district.

Research Methodology

The study was conducted in district Mianwali, Punjab, Pakistan. Five research questions were made instead of hypothesis. These are as follows:

- a. Syllabus is not interesting too much for students.
- b. Students leave the school for economic reasons.
- c. Teachers are not qualified to fulfill their responsibilities as a teacher.

- d. Schools are not facilitated with basic facilities. (Drinking water, toilets, teaching aids and classrooms etc.)
- e. Parents do not give importance to impart education to their children.

Survey Method is conducted to investigate dropout factors. Purposive random sampling technique was adopted to get the samples. The researcher has deliberately selected a particular section of the wider population to include in the population (Cohen; Manion & Morrison, 2007, p. 110). Total 150 respondents were selected for the study (50 from teachers, 50 from parents of dropout students and 50 from dropout students). Closed questionnaire was designed to acquire the data from respondents. This type of questionnaire is useful for generating frequencies of responses for statistical treatment and analysis (Oppenheim, 1992, p. 115). The questionnaire was made by keeping in mind all the research questions. All the items of questionnaire have five point Likert scale. The marked option denotes the degree of agreement against each item. The scale given below was used to interpret the total responses of all the respondents against each element by calculating the weighted Mean.

Table -1

Five Likert Scale Instrument

Scale	1	2	3	4	5
Range	0.01-1.00	1.01-2.00	2.01-3.00	3.01- 4.00	4.01-5.00
Response	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

All the data was gathered by personal visits to different locations and institutes.

Data Analysis

Mianwali district population is 1271000. There are only 116 high schools for male and female students. Out of these 116 schools, 76 schools are for male students. Total 1416 male teachers are teaching in these high schools. 49722 male students are studying in these high schools in district Mianwali (schoolinglog, 2015).

Data was analyzed by the Mean method. After data analysis, it was found that many factors are responsible for male students' dropout. Data was analyzed item by item. Only accepted and highly accepted statements are displayed in the Table-2.

Findings

There are many programs are working in the district to bring the students in schools. Yet, many students leave the schools due to different factors. The researcher has find out many reasons for dropout. These are, personal factors, health issues, poverty, early age marriages, looking after the siblings, fear of teachers, corporal punishment, and distance of schools from students' homes. All these dropout factors have been divided into five groups for better understandings of readers.

Table-2

Factors for male students' dropout

Factors of male students' dropout	Responses	Percentage
Syllabus is not interested.	119	79.33
Economic factors of students	99	66.00
Teachers incompetency	94	62.66
Lack of basic facilities	112	74.66
Parents' lack of interest	124	82.66

Table-3

Percentage of Responses

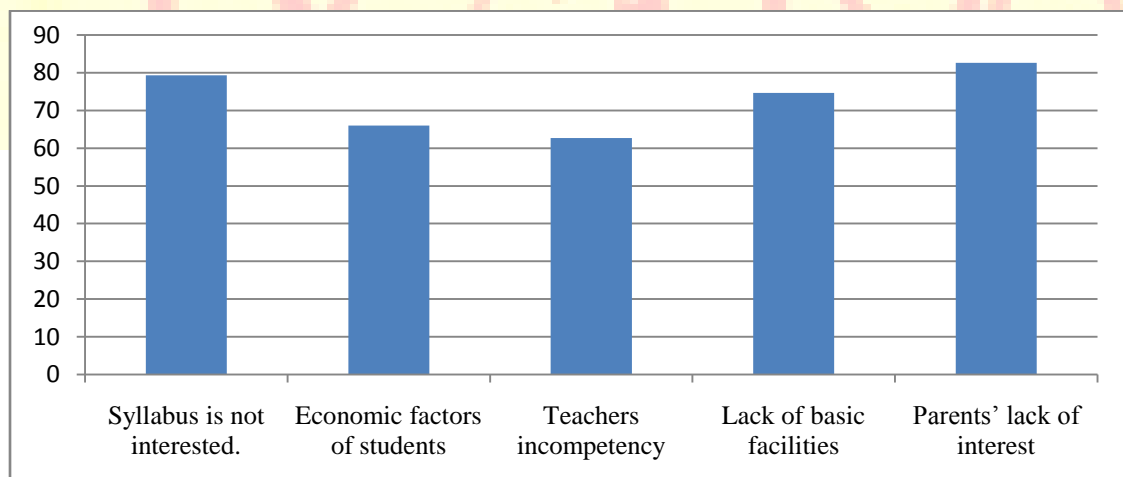


Table-3 clearly shows that parents lack of interest and syllabus related issues are the main reasons of male students' dropout.

Recommendations

- Importance of education must be promulgated through print and electronic media.
- Parents should be instilled about the role of education in development of country and for individuals.
- Syllabus should be designed according to the needs of society. While designing the syllabus, students' interest factors must be included in it.
- Although education is free in Pakistan, prices of other stationery items must be controlled.
- Teachers should be competent enough to make learning process interesting.

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