

CHAPTER 24

HIGHER EDUCATION

The government has formulated a long-term roadmap as the Vision 2025 for a developed and prosperous Pakistan addressing key sector of the country. The Vision 2025 stands on 7 Pillars. Pillar-I emphasized developing human and social capital. It seeks to bring human resource development to the top of national agenda by substantial expansion in levels of education as well as improvements in the quality of education. A larger share of the GDP, at least four per cent to education, would have to be allocated. Key goals under this pillar are; i) universal primary education with 100 per cent net primary enrolment, ii) increase higher education coverage from seven per cent to 12 per cent, and increase number of PhDs from 7,000 to 15,000.

To realize the Vision, the 11th Five Year Plan presents a comprehensive approach for addressing human and social development gaps with an emphasis on developing human and social capital to take full advantage of Pakistan's youth bulge. Pakistan has been projected to become the 5th populous country by 2030, with a population ranging between 230 and 260 million people. Large portion will be the youth. This dividend can be gained through higher productivity and a faster economic growth by providing quality education throughout the population.

In line with the Government of Pakistan's development Vision, the Higher Education Commission has taken numerous measures to address the above mentioned human resources needs by providing access to higher education to masses, providing opportunities to the youth to seek higher studies in the top world class university, provision of research and academic conducive environment to student and faculty.

Performance review 2014-15

Quality

Since the establishment of the Higher Education Commission (HEC), several headways have been made to improve the quality of education. However because of previous neglect for extended period of time on university education, Pakistan is still not in a very good position. To catch up with the high ranking countries in quality of university education, still much has been desired to make. The ranking of universities in Pakistan against regional countries is given in below table 1.

Table 1: Number of universities in global ranking (701+ Score)

Country	No. of universities in 701+ category
China	28
India	12
Turkey	10
Pakistan	05
Iran	02
Sri Lanka	02
Bangladesh	01
Nepal	00

Source: QS-2014

Access

The HEC has taken up the target as envisaged in Vision 2025 to enhance the enrolment in higher education institutions 12 per cent of the youth aged between 17-23 years. A comparison over the last one decade is given below:

Table 2: Year-wise increase in universities and students enrolment

Year	Universities/Degree Awarding Institutions			Student Enrolment*
	Public	Private	Total	
2004-05	57	53	110	471,964
2008-09	70	57	127	803,507
2012-13	87	66	153	1,080,000
2013-14	87	69	156	1,230,000
2014-15	94	69	163	1,400,000

Source: HEC

Now higher education institutions have coverage throughout the country. Region wise number of universities & their sub campuses as on April 2015 are depicted below in table 3.

Table 3: Region-wise spread of universities in Pakistan

Region/Province	Public Sector		Private Sector		Total	
	Uni	Camp	Uni.	Camp.	Uni.	Camp.
Punjab	31	35	23	5	54	40
Sindh	17	14	29	3	46	17
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	19	10	10	3	29	13
Islamabad	14	0	4	8	18	8
Balochistan	7	1	1	1	8	2
AJ&K	5	1	2	0	7	1
Gilgit-Baltistan	1	1	0	0	1	1
FATA	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	94	62	69	20	163	82

Source: HEC

Global visibility

The HEC tried to develop sustainable, dynamic and internationally competitive higher education sector in Pakistan that makes a major contribution to economic prosperity, national wellbeing and the expansion and dissemination of knowledge. Due to collective and concerted effort of HEC in coordination with the major stakeholders, the output in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) of the country have shown tremendous improvements and Pakistan has been acknowledged as rising star by the international higher education community in a number of disciplines. Today many Pakistani universities are seen on the globe. The addition of Pakistani universities in QS Asian ranking over the year is given below in table 4.

Table 4: Asian ranking of the Pakistani universities

2012		2014	
University	Rank	University	Rank
NUST	108	PIEAS	106
Univ. of Karachi	191-200	AKU Karachi	116
AKU Karachi	201-250	QAU	123
UET Lahore	201-250	NUST	129
LUMS	251-300	LUMS	181-190
Univ. of Lahore	251-300	CIIT	201-250
		Univ. of Karachi	201-250
		Univ. of Punjab	201-250
		UA Faisalabad	251-300
		UET Lahore	251-300
Total = 6		Total = 10	

Source: QS

Financial

The government had allocated Rs20 billion for 191 development projects of the universities and HEC during 2014-15. The amount was divided between approved ongoing and un-approved schemes. An amount of Rs12 billion (60.3 per cent of the total allocation) has been made against approved PC-Is up till 3rd quarter.

Outlook 2015-16

Human resource development

The youth is the real driving force towards a prosperous Pakistan; therefore, government has launched numerous initiatives to get the youth bulge dividend by developing human resources. Under the HEC, activities mainly focus on providing opportunities to access top universities of Pakistan and the world through various scholarships programmes. HEC had completed 13 scholarship schemes while same numbers of programmes are ongoing that contains around 28000 slots. Around 18000 scholarships have already been awarded. In coming time remaining 10,000 will be awarded. Beside this the phases-II of Fulbright programme for 550 MS and 266 PhD and Phase-III of Overseas Scholarship Programme for 2000 foreign MS leading to PhD scholarships will be launched in 2015-16.

The HEC is also focusing to equip the universities and students with latest equipment. Almost all programmes for strengthening of universities have provision of modern equipment. For students, under the PM scheme 100,000 laptops have been provided to talented students

enrolled in Public Sector Universities. Phase-II of the project at a total cost of Rs20.5 billion is going to provide 400,000 laptops in coming years.

Research and development

The HEC has been adopting a wholesome approach to ensure sustainable and progressive research culture in higher education institutions, ranging from personal development to strengthening of universities – through capacity development of human resource, exposure of faculty and researchers to international academia by establishing linkages with foreign universities, strengthening of research and teaching labs, and development of research incubators. Due to this, the research activities have enhanced in the public sector institutions resulting in more than 6 folds increase in research articles published in impact factor journals. Streamlined research, generated by strategic academic processes that build strong societies and economies has now entered a takeoff phase of commercialization. Business and Technology Incubators are being established in universities across Pakistan to promote university-industry collaboration. In order to sustain the trend and to expand the horizon of research activities in HEIs while reaping the benefits of research in real term of community impact and research commercialization, HEC focused on research activities those have direct impact on community wellbeing and economy of the country. About 30-32 per cent of the development funds have been allocated for provision of latest teaching and research lab equipment to expand and enhance the R&D infrastructure of the universities.

Infrastructure development

Every project undertaken for either strengthening of old universities or establishing of new universities contains a major component of infrastructure development. Planning Commission is very keen in the designing and outlook of the façade and elevation of the buildings. A policy has been adopted where universities must develop the signature campuses matching with the local cultural heritage and their old historical buildings.

About 40 per cent of the development funds have been allocated for infrastructure development of the universities to expand the access to higher education. This includes new development projects approved in 2014-15 for universities. Hopefully this trend will continue in 2015-16 as well.

Programmes

The HEC will continue to evaluate, improve and promote higher education by providing policies guidelines, improving standards and making investments for infrastructure and human resource development in Pakistan. Increasing the accessibility to higher education will be the main focus. Human resource development will continue through implementation of a number of initiatives like award of scholarships, provision of ICT infrastructure, state of the art Labs, laptops etc. To achieve those objectives an amount of around Rs20.5 billion has been allocated for higher education sector in the PSDP 2015-16. Around Rs17.6 billion will be provided to support the ongoing portfolio of the HEC. Several new initiatives with an allocation of Rs2.9 billion has also been chalked out for funding under PSDP 2015-16. Details of programmes are given below.

Technology Development Fund for the HEC scholars returning from abroad

Since inception of the HEC, millions of rupees have been spent on the human resource development as a result thousands of PhD scholars have returned to the country. Now it is time to ask for the return on investment, therefore, government has set aside funds to help the industrial sector. A project titled Establishment of Technology Development Fund for HEC

scholars returning after completion of PhD to introduce new technologies application in Pakistan has been proposed at a cost of Rs5 billion.

Establishment of new universities

- University of Sibi, Balochistan
- Establishment of AJ&K Women University, Bagh, AJ&K
- Establishment of University of Baltistan
- Establishment of Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture, Multan
- Establishment of FATA University

Strengthening of universities/ degree awarding institutions

Besides ongoing projects, several new activities for the strengthening of universities/ degree awarding institutions will be undertaken. Following are the new initiatives which will be funded afresh in PSDP 2015-16.

- School of Dentistry, Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University, Islamabad
- Development of Fatima Jinnah Women University, Campus-II, Rawalpindi
- Establishment of National Science & Technology Park at Central Campus Islamabad
- Up gradation of National Institute of Science & Technical Education (NISTE) Islamabad into Skill University
- Strengthening & Expansion of Balochistan University of Information Technology and Management Sciences, Quetta
- Establishment of sub campus of Balochistan University of Information Technology and Management Sciences, Quetta at Muslim Bagh, Qila Saifullah
- Establishment of School and Professional Development at Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University, Quetta.
- Capacity Building and Strengthening of the Pakistan Study Centre, University of Balochistan Quetta
- Strengthening of Academic & Professional Facilities at University of Peshawar
- Strengthening of Research Programmes at Islamia College University, Peshawar.
- Provision of new facilities and infrastructure for main campus, UET, Lahore
- Up-gradation and Strengthening of Essential Facilities at Sukkur IBA
- Provision of academic and research facilities, Air University, Islamabad
- Strengthening of Academic and Research Programme at Bahria University Islamabad/Karachi
- Strengthening of Academic & Research Facilities at Pakistan Institute of Engineering & Applied Sciences (PIEAS), Islamabad
- Strengthening of Academic and Research Programmes at National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Islamabad
- Establishment of Sub-Campuses of Public Sector Universities at District Level
- Enhancement of academic and research facilities at Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad.

- Innovation Centre and Software Park at UET Sub-Campus Lahore
- Establishment of Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation University

Scholarship programmes

Several ongoing scholarships programmes will continue to be funded in the PSDP 2015-16. Couple of new programmes such as next phases of Fulbright program and overseas scholarship programmes will be launched in this year. Faculty development component in newly established universities will contain some foreign as well as scholarships. To support the scholars of friendly countries in Pakistan, several initiatives are also included in the PSDP.