Fayyaz Rafique

A vibrating soul
Sends up a tentative tentacle
And feels the divine touch
The trinity of clay
Body and heart and mind
Joins the trinity of spirit
Will and wisdom and soul
As the one knowing the one
— (Anonymous)

We the human beings are creations of Allah Almighty, Who created us from clay and endowed us with all the necessities of life and made us superior over other creatures; empowered us with the intellect and wisdom to explore the realities around us.

Knowledge is the essence of life. By attaining knowledge, man entered into an era of science and technology. No doubt, all of these are Allah's blessing upon the human beings. Our religion also lays emphasis on attaining knowledge. Even we have been asked to attain knowledge: "From mother's laps to graveyard". Even the first verse delivered to the Holy Prophet (SAW) by Almighty Allah, also stressed on attaining knowledge.

Knowledge is just like a deep sea of information — everyone wants to be benefited out of it.

Our education system is suffering since the initial days of freedom. The situation has not shown any signs of improvement yet. Anyhow, many educational policies were made and a big amount of money was fixed for education in number of five-year plans. But it was just circumscribed to papers. Our people are still under-privileged of a proper stable and modernized education system.

On the time of independence, there were limited number of schools, colleges and universities. Initially, the situation was controlled and improved but due to lack of resources, the pace of development remained slow. According to an estimation, in first five-year plan, 580 million rupees were promised to be spent on education system but 400 million rupees were spent actually. Now our education system is facing new challenges and problems. Situation is formidable; the world has entered into an era of computer and information technology while our young generation in the backward areas, is still deprived of colleges and schools.

Lack of resources is one of the biggest problem of our system. Most of our rural areas are not dispensed with high or primary schools. And in the case if schools are found, teachers elude to go to those far off places. Similarly, colleges have been constructed in many villages but due to the absence of teachers, students have to go to the other cities for education. Moreover, these educational institutions lack basic necessities — laboratories, libraries and even a comfortable furniture.

Curriculum or syllabus for our students is old-fashioned and does not execute the requirements of the time. Our young generation is studying the same old syllabus which their grandparents have studied many decades ago. Courses for graduation and post-graduation are not adequate for that level.

The medium of instruction in our system is also an important problem. In most of the government schools, the medium of instruction is Urdu and English is not taught properly as a language. Consequently, on higher level students suffer where medium of instruction is English.

Corruption is a factor — attenuating the basis of our education system. Cheating and corruption in examinations is frequent. Many deserving students cannot show good results despite being having the capabilities and most of the incompetent ones show extraordinary performances by using unfair means. But no one is there to ask them. Results and performances are unpredictable.

Privitization in education departments, has brought many negative changes in our system. Private institutions of commerce, business administration and computer sciences, are found on every road and in every street. There is no check and balance on these institutions. Incapable teaching staffs are selling the degrees and producing ineligible graduates there — a burden on our economy.

The trend of private institutions should not be allowed anymore. Sub-standard institutions should be banned. Fake affiliations of these institutions with foreign universities should be checked. They should not be recognized by the government.

Ways have been mutating in selection of fields. In the 80's, our young generation was interested in professional education

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