**Looking for innovation in education**

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On April 30, 2021, in the committee room of the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, the current Federal Minister of Education embarked upon a series of ambitious projects aimed at leveraging and utilising technology to support education service delivery. As an outsider interested in the realm of education, such initiatives are always welcoming and should be encouraged. Pakistan is at a critical juncture of its education history where there is a dire need to redefine certain priorities and targets. Given the initiatives undertaken by the current Federal Minister on Education, we can perhaps safely assert that Pakistan is on the right track despite the various hindrances and challenges it will face.

What development and education experts will be keenly following is Pakistan’s commitment to utilise technology in the education landscape. If we look at the initiatives undertaken by the Federal Ministry, then three important projects of technology integration in education are in the process of being rolled out and it will be an understatement to define such interventions as a critical moment in the history of Pakistan’s education landscape.

[Five years on, Brexit remains vexing for Britain](https://nation.com.pk/24-Jun-2021/five-years-on-brexit-remains-vexing-for-britain)

For an outsider, this signals the start of a decade where Pakistan is slowly on its way to become a hub for education innovation with the Federal Ministry (which has been long considered as the old guard of the education landscape ever since the 18th amendment was rolled out) leading from the front. It is heartening to observe that Pakistan’s education problems are being taken seriously and that people at the top are cognisant of the fact that the education innovation needs to take place in Pakistan if we wish to lay down a solid foundation for the children of the country. The reforms launched by the Federal Ministry also lay down an effective roadmap for provinces to emulate and follow.

It is important to mention the relevant EdTech projects that are currently being undertaken for example the rolling out of robotic kits for students in Grade 6-8 which will be aligned with the existing curriculum. Secondly Tele-Taleem will help in establishing 40 classrooms with blended learning where teachers will be assisted by technology as well as digital content. Finally, a tender was awarded to Knowledge Platform (a prominent EdTech organisation in Pakistan) who will help the Ministry in establishing 80 classrooms with the relevant blended learning infrastructure in three years with an ambitious plan to introduce these projects nationwide during the second phase.

[Lahore blast: CTD arrests suspects in raids across Punjab](https://nation.com.pk/24-Jun-2021/lahore-blast-ctd-arrests-suspects-in-raids-across-punjab)

All of these initiatives seem to indicate that the education leadership at the top, especially the one which is present at the Federal level, has an ambitious vision to reimagine the future for millions of children across Pakistan in the realm of education. The Department is constantly collaborating with seasoned education experts such as the Curriculum Review Committee which consists of experts from MIT, Cambridge as well as local experts who are actively working on creating a Single National Curriculum in order to reduce existing inequities and disparities in the education landscape, education entrepreneurs and their teams (organisations such as Knowledge Platform and other EdTech start-ups), innovative school leaders, development agencies (World Bank initiatives such as RRREP and ASPIRE to ensure distance learning initiatives are rolled out in order to maintain standards of access and quality so that no child is left behind during the pandemic) and all of this collaboration is led by visionary policymakers and a committed Minister who are actively building and funding the future of education in Pakistan. Additionally, the Ministry also has an ambitious vision to sync vocational systems and education systems with the labour market which will be done through revamping the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC) as well as closely collaborating with overseas ministry, chambers of industries, private sector and key stakeholders to identify the skills required in the domestic market and overseas. These reforms will play a fundamental role in increasing the capacity of the TVET system which is severely needed in Pakistan as well as improving its quality and establishing relevant linkages which will create a globally competitive workforce.

[Palestinian President pledges cooperation with Bennett if Israel ‘stops aggression’](https://nation.com.pk/24-Jun-2021/palestinian-president-pledges-cooperation-with-bennett-if-israel-stops-aggression)

Pakistan currently has an abysmal record when it comes to assessing the quality of our research and articles that are churned out on a yearly basis. It is a welcome step by the current Federal Ministry to lead an initiative which seeks to establish an international standard technology and management centres in higher education across the country. Given the scarcity of quality research papers in Pakistan, these centres of excellence will promote a culture of high-quality research and exceptional teaching and will collaborate with each other to produce a network of institutions in Pakistan that form the backbone of a modern, competitive higher education system.

Could this movement of introducing progressive initiatives aimed at reimagining the future of our children perhaps act as a lighthouse for provinces in Pakistan to learn from? Is it safe to assert that Pakistan is set to see an unprecedented wave of education innovation for the next decade especially with the Federal Ministry of Education and Professional Training poised to become an anchor of not only the EdTech ecosystem in Pakistan but also being at the forefront of introducing initiatives such as the Single National Curriculum in order to reduce inequities and inequality in our education system.

[Pakistan reports less than 50 daily deaths for 10th consecutive day: Coronavirus](https://nation.com.pk/24-Jun-2021/pakistan-reports-less-than-50-daily-deaths-for-10th-consecutive-day-coronavirus)

We must however be mindful that such an epoch-changing reform process is complex and implementation will require political will and commitment from all relevant stakeholders, but it is without a doubt that these reforms hold exciting promise for the future of our country.