

Education for Nation Building

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What is a Nation?

What is Nation Building?

The essential ingredients for Nation Building

Role of curriculum in Nation Building

Role of teachers in Nation Building

A nation is considered to be a community of human beings formed on the basis of a combination of shared features, for example, culture, ethnicity, history, language as well as society. Generally, nations are formed through social construction and are historically contingent. Throughout historical evolution, people feel attached to their kin group and traditions, territorial authorities as well as their homeland. Most importantly, it is the shared values, which define a nation. Nation-building is the process, which brings a collection of population having diverse origins, histories, languages, cultures and religions come together within the boundaries of a sovereign state and agree to a unified constitutional and legal framework, a national public education system, an integrated national economy, shared values and symbols, as equals, to strive towards eradicating the divisions and injustices done before; to cultivate unity; and promote a countrywide conscious sense of being proudly Pakistani, committed to the country and her ideology as well as open to South-East Asia and the world. Seventy-five years have passed since the formation of Pakistan, but we have not been able to adopt and implement an education system, which cultivates self-esteem, scholarship, and pride in our heritage, at

the same time preparing the students to meet challenges of the third millennium. Curriculum design and development is one of the very important tasks in nation building. Educational-policy makers need to formulate vibrant and dynamic curricula, which can produce leader-integrator in research, teaching and community development. Teachers, in close coöperation of parents, should adopt a balanced style of student grooming, which make them independent at the same time respectful to others, self-reliant at the same time obedient, curious at the same time good-mannered and, finally, considerate at the same time well-behaved. The students should be trained to accept ethnic and linguistic diversity, to respect differing points-of-view, to exhibit religious tolerance and to love nature. The difference between Western educational philosophy and the Quranic educational philosophy is that the former is based on *logical positivism* — *man is part of the universe* (which employs zero-sum game and may end up making the person ‘thief’), whereas the latter is based on the notion that *the universe is subdued for man* (which employs win-win game and should end up making the individual ‘manager of the resources’). The students should be imparted with technical (subject) skills — *x* axis; managerial (soft or power) skills — *y* axis; innovative (out-of-the-box thinking) skills — *z* axis. Throughout the four- or the five-year program of undergraduate study, personalities of students should be groomed through motivation, empowerment and leadership. One must realize that every leader is a manager. However, it is not true the other way round. The curricula should, not only, increase IQ, but also, develop EQ (emotional intelligence) and ability to portray vision as well as communication and networking skills. The students should be trained in the sound style of leadership (commit and contribute), in contrast to indifferent (evade and elude), accommodating (yield and comply), autocratic (direct and dominate), status quo (balance and compromise), opportunistic (exploit and manipulate) and paternalistic (prescribe and guide) styles, making the student realize the 3 components of an organization — structure, culture and development. The degree-awarding institution should arrange internships as well as sessions in résumé preparation and training for behavior-based interviews. Leadership of tomorrow is in the hands of teacher of today — could make the student a visionary or a myopic extremist. In order to make Pakistan a nation-state, which is ahead of her neighbors, drastic measures need to be implemented in the ruling system (accountability and transparency in governance), the legal system (easy access to justice — zero tolerance for hard and soft corruption), the educational system (Integrated-National Curriculum promoting vision, creative thinking and critical analysis — there should be quality education for all citizens, free till HSC and subsidized afterwards), the economic system (a strong, knowledge-based economy based on complex economic interdependence, which is capable of turning ideas into products using cutting-edge technologies and opening up new markets, paving the way for creating a surplus budget) and the social system (the social norms of the Pakistani society are completely different from those in the West and have been evolved through interaction of different religions and ethnicities in the region). The most important asset, which this country possesses, is its youth. There should be a comprehensive network of youth-development programs imparting them with technical as well as power skills, at the same time inculcating empathy in their souls. Health-care for all, in particular the senior citizens, should be provided by the government. In addition, there should be a social cover for the senior citizens, who have given their prime youth to this nation. It is a pity that a large public-sector university of Pakistan is paying salaries to its regular employees on time, but is crediting pension in the accounts of pensioners late for a period spanning half-a-year. A strong nation should have a balanced foreign policy, which gives Pakistan the leadership role among its neighboring countries through utilization of smart-intelligent power. The uphill task of transforming Pakistan into a regional power involves creating a strong defense based on advanced weapon systems as well as well-trained personnel of the Armed Forces of Pakistan. The future generation of Pakistan should concentrate on getting the best education along with skills needed to deal with challenges of the third millennium and make her country excel in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) as well as make her stronger and powerful by taking up opportunities offered by complex economic interdependence of today to become financially sustainable and improve her Gross-National-Happiness Index (a concept propagated in Bhutan) and Human-Development Index (a concept introduced by the Pakistani economist, Mahboob-ul-Haq in 1990) — a dream nurtured by founders of Pakistan in 1940s.

Accountability and transparency in governance

Easy access to justice, even to those, who cannot afford a lawyer

Quality education for all citizens based on Integrated-National Curriculum (free till intermediate level; subsidized till BS level)

Comprehensive health care for all citizens provided by state

National integration through inclusiveness, diversity and merit-based social order

Youth-development programs and social security for senior citizens

Zero tolerance and heavy penalties for hard and soft corruption

Knowledge-based economy (turning ideas into products using cutting-edge technologies and opening up new markets), surplus budget as well as independence from IMF and other donor agencies

A balanced foreign policy, which gives Pakistan the leadership role among its neighboring countries through utilization of Smart-Intelligent Power

Transforming Pakistan into a regional power through strong defense based on advanced weapon systems as well as well-trained personnel of the Armed Forces of Pakistan

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