

Media Tracking Report

20-25 May 2019

Education in Pakistan

HEC — stormy times up ahead by Pervez Hoodbhoy- in [Dawn](#)

A CONFLICT at the Higher Education Commission in Islamabad is becoming increasingly rancorous. How it is ultimately resolved will profoundly impact the future shape and form of Pakistan's universities. On the one side is Dr Tariq Banuri, HEC chairman for some months now. He took charge just as the economy tanked and education budgets dwindled. And on the other side is former (2002-2008) HEC chairman Dr Atta-ur-Rahman where there is news of his programmes being axed.

Bilingualism: access & equity by Sabiha Masoor- in [Dawn](#)

THE aim of current policy planners to establish a 'national uniform system' in education to ensure that all students have access to education and employment is worthy, and requires the attention of academic scholars and researchers. However, this policy raises several questions, a key one being: why should Pakistan adopt a uniform system when it is common knowledge in academia that the education offered in a country such as ours should celebrate diversity and embrace multilingualism?

KPK MPA Moves Resolution To Allocate 6pc GDP For Girls Education- in The [Academic Magazine](#)

According to Pakistan Education Statistics 2016-17 by the Academy of Educational Planning and Management (AEPAM), an autonomous organization of Ministry of Education, in newly merged tribal districts 73 percent of school-going age girls are out of school, compared to just 43 percent of all boys. In light of this MPA Shagufta Malik has moved a resolution in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly demanding allocation of six percent of the total gross domestic product (GDP) for girl's education. In a bid to bridge the prevalent gap between boys and girls enrolment at the secondary school level Shagufta, who is also a member of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) task force said the proposal was in compliance with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Free Compulsory Primary and Secondary Education Act, 2017 and the international commitments made by Pakistan under the Universal Periodic Review in Human Rights Council (HRC) of United Nations (UN).

Sindh approves Rs5bn schemes- in [DAWN](#)

The Sindh Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP) on Friday approved four schemes worth Rs5.02 billion in a meeting presided over by Planning and Development Board Chairwoman Naheed Shah Durrani. A scheme was approved in School Education for up gradation of 230 middle schools to high schools and 115 high schools to higher secondary schools at a cost of Rs4,082.4 million.

CPEC and Pakistan

Govt proposes Rs83b for CPEC projects-in [The Express Tribune](#)

The government has proposed an allocation of Rs83 billion for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects in the next budget, which appears insufficient due to inclusion of more schemes in the CPEC portfolio that has now ballooned to Rs1.3 trillion.

CPEC and industry relocation-in [The Express Tribune](#)

Should we expect any Chinese industry to relocate to Pakistan under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)? And if it happens, which industries are likely to benefit from such relocation? Before we answer this question, it is important to understand why companies relocate. An industry would relocate to another city or country if such relocation entails a significant regulatory, locational or cost advantage. The locational advantages include reduced transportation time due to proximity to raw materials or market, market size or even better living conditions at the destination. The cost advantages, on the other hand, include lower input costs, better employees or overall lower cost of doing business, whereas the regulatory advantages may cover tax breaks, policy incentives, less stringent controls, etc.

IMF and Pakistan

IMF programme aimed at reducing Pakistan's public debt'- in [The Express Tribune](#)

The IMF official briefed the journalists on the May 12 programme that includes a \$6 billion package with a three-year extended fund facility by the IMF “to support Pakistan’s economic reforms efforts”. Pakistan is facing a challenging economic environment, with lacklustre growth, elevated inflation, high indebtedness, and a weak external position,” the IMF noted in its statement. “This reflects the legacy of uneven and procyclical economic policies in recent years aiming to boost growth, but at the expense of rising vulnerabilities and lingering structural and institutional weaknesses.””

Tough times ahead- in The [DAWN](#)

Just before his resignation as finance minister in February 2013, Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh was asked if he could count an achievement as finance minister. He thought for a minute and shot a counter-question: “Don’t you think caring for a patient in an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) is also an achievement?”

Pakistan and IMF dispenser boys! by Wajid Shamsul Hasan- in [The Daily Times](#)

Meer Taqi Meer was one of the founders of rich and versatile Urdu poetry. Full of appropriate metaphors and smilies for all occasions, he need not write in million words to seize gravity of a situation like Pakistan’s economic problems metaphorically. Since I started with reference to Poet Meer’s use of ‘dispensar boys’ as a metaphor for IMF’s three Musketeers, I do not have much of professional skill to dissect IMF dole out, however, the analogy I am using now may look closely appropriate. In the post-IMF deal it seems to be rather hitting the nail on the head when one is reminded of the phrase for situations like Pakistan’s -‘re-arranging the deck chairs on the Titanic!’

Pakistan and IMF dispenser boys – Part 2 by Wajid Shamsul Hasan- In [The Daily Times](#)

Eminent economist Prof. Syed Akbar Zaidi believes that it is important to emphasise that it is not the IMF which is to blame for Pakistan’s pathetic economic condition – not for the past nor for where it is now, and also not for what is about to come in next few years. He warns that ‘Pakistan’s economy is going to be severely constrained over the next few years, with higher inflation, more unemployment and lower growth, with a far greater burden on working people than what has been the case for many years.’ Indeed, IMF cannot be blamed entirely for such a pathetic state of Pakistan’s economy. Much is contributed by fixing square pegs in round holes-most of the time chartered accountants or bureaucrats of account service having practiced all their lives art of avoiding tax or calculating 2 plus 2 as equal to five.

Civil Service Reforms in Pakistan

Coordinating IMF terms by Foqia Sadiq Khan - in [The News](#)

This article will not comment on the specifics of the current negotiations and terms of the agreement with the IMF. Rather, it takes a longer view into trends that are worth noting whenever governments in Pakistan

negotiate with the IMF. Economic management is further complicated due to lack of bureaucratic coordination both vertically between the centre and provinces as well as horizontally between different ministries and departments. We refer to some literature (mainly Amjad 2015, in addition to Hasan 2015, Fasih Uddin 2011) in this article.

What ails the bureaucracy? By Beelam Ramzan - In [The News](#)

The task force of Dr Ishrat Hussain has recently proposed to wrap up the central superior services (CSS) and replace it with specialized civil service in a bid to carry forward the government's agenda of civil services reforms. They intend to ensure that candidates with specialised qualifications join specialised streams or clusters to enable a specialised bureaucracy with a specific set of skills and knowledge.

The contours of the proposal, submitted for the cabinet's consideration, are not very clear particularly when there is specialized training conducted for civil servants when they are recruited, beginning with the specialized training exams in many technical, financial, administrative and law-related subjects pertaining to that group besides ample opportunities on-job training. A hands-on experience adds value further. Moreover, there are civil servants who have acquired foreign education in specialized subjects during the course of their careers. What is needed is to promote and utilize adequately the skill set of such a specialized team of bureaucrats by placing the right person in the right job and awarding them technical assignments according to their expertise.

Ensuring performance by Humayun Akhtar Khan - in [The News](#)

In our 70 years of existence, there have been few moments when there is no government committee studying how to reform the civil service. And yet there is a constant complaint that the government's delivery may have worsened. Clearly, the reforms haven't worked, or they were not implemented. While experts study the matter in its complexity, I discuss doable ways to improve performance. Whichever route we take, one thing is clear: business as usual is no more an option. The people of Pakistan expect better services. Without better services, we will not develop as an economy or a society. Also, a large alienated young population is a risk to our security. This is an existential issue.