



Role of Punjab Public Schools Support Program in Enhancement of Quality of Education

Shahid Iqbal Khan

Department of Education, Qurtuba
University of Science and Technology,
Dera Ismail Khan, Pakistan.

Email: shahidkhaanniazi@gmail.com

Prof. Asif Jamil

Department of Education, Qurtuba
University of Science and Technology,
Dera Ismail Khan, Pakistan.

Email: asifjamil72@hotmail.com

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ABSTRACT:

The current study focused on the quality of education in PEIMA financially assisted PSSP schools of district Mianwali. The quantitative method and survey design were applied. The objectives of the study were to evaluate the quality of education in PEIMA-assisted PSSP Schools and to explore weaknesses regarding the quality of education in these Schools. All the male and female primary schools established in the public sector and supported by the Punjab Education Initiative Management Authority under PSSP mode in district Mianwali constituted the population of the study. Five research questions and seven hypotheses were formulated. The sample size of the study was 33 principals and 110 teachers. The instrument used was a researcher-designed 5-point Likert scale questionnaire. Test of Validity & Reliability and Pilot testing were done before administering the instrument. Collected data were analyzed by applying frequency, percentage, mean scores, t-test, and One Way ANOVA. According to QAT results of the district, Mianwali indicated that 33 schools before the implementation of the PSSP program were 35-36% while the result of these schools after the implementation of the PSSP program was 52-53%. Therefore, it shows high achievement in an academic field. This study can help the concerned authorities and implementing partners to consider study findings for recruitment & selection, training & development, performance appraisal, succession planning & infrastructure facilities, and academic achievement of the student and teacher's competencies.

Keywords: Quality of Education, PSSP Primary School Teachers, The Effectiveness of PSSP, Achievement Level.

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Introduction

Education is every citizen's fundamental right, as stated in Pakistan's constitution, so they are to get free and high-quality primary education. (Musarrat, 2012). Students in the classes have a wide range of learning and social-emotional needs that must be satisfied. When looking at specialized growth and how it relates to learner achievement, it's critical to look into the requirements of each instructor and classroom. Instructors frequently lack the skills required to fulfill the needs of each student. It is critical to provide expert development that has a positive impact on the effectiveness and preparedness of teachers. It's vital as we work with teachers to help them develop their skills so they can meet the needs of all beginners. (Mishra, 2015). The Punjab Education Initiative Management Authority (PEIMA) plays a considerable role in promoting the pupils' reading and writing abilities, and literacy rate as well (Javed, Eng, Mohamed, Mushtaq, & Hashim, 2012). The Punjab Education Initiative Management Authority (PEIMA) Public School Support Program (PSSP) schools put minor economic stress on the parents. The Punjab Education Initiative Management Authority (PEIMA) facilitates strengthening the excellence of the teaching workforce, which assists in the learning and development process of the students and learners. On the whole, PEIMA helps to raise the admission and enrollment and decrease the quitter in the Public-School Support Program (PSSP) schools which lastly leads to an increase in the literacy rate in the province (Hussain, 2004). In this research, the quality of education was researched in Schools by the district, Mianwali where the PEIMA launched an initiative of the Public-School Support Program (PSSP). Saqib *et al.* (2015) Compared to NGOs and private schools, public teachers in the Muzaffarabad region were found to be less qualified, contrary to research conducted in other parts of Pakistan. Some public schools in the region had set matriculation as a minimum education level, whereas private and non-profit schools usually had a bachelor's degree as a minimum. In general, it is complicated to honestly classify the excellence of education because of the flexible nature of the learning environment and also a large number of multiple parties concerned together in schooling (Mirza, 2003).

Problem Statement

It's over half a decade since PEIMA has been operating in the district of Mianwali for the provision of excellence in learning and education in remote urban and semi-urban areas. Unfortunately, the researcher could not find any study addressing the issue of PEIMA effectuality concerning the excellence of education and enrollment of students in this part of the province. This gap attracted the attention of researchers to conduct this nature of the study as there is a need to conduct a research study to check the excellence of education in the schools where PEIMA is providing its financial as well as technical support. This research aims to assess and explore the educational characteristics of the Punjab Public, Private Program (PPP) of PEIMA with the name Public School Support Program (PSSP) in district Mianwali (Punjab Education Report, 2010). Primary schools working under the Public-School Support Program of district Mianwali were being focused on the purpose. Infrastructural facilities, teachers' competencies, teaching methodologies used in classrooms, national education and PEIMA policies implementation, and students' achievements in the education field would be the focal points.

Research Objectives

1. To investigate the level of quality in Education under the Public-School Support Program's (PSSP) schools in the district of Mianwali

Research Questions

1. What is the level of quality in Education under the Public-School Support Program's schools in the district of Mianwali?

Research Hypotheses

H₁: The stakeholders perceive a significant relationship between the quality of education and Punjab public school support program in district Mianwali.

H₂: There is a significant difference in perception among HODs and concerned teachers about the effectiveness of PSSP.

Delimitations of Study

1. The study was conducted in only Mianwali district focusing on selected dimensions of quality education.
2. Only principals and teachers at the respective schools were included in the population from among stakeholders.

Method

The main purpose of this study is to analyze the quality of education in PSSP schools in the district of Mianwali. This study adopted a quantitative research method, whereas the study followed a descriptive design for reaching findings and conclusions. All the 65 Principals/Head-Teachers and 220 Teachers appointed in both boys' and girls' primary schools of district Mianwali, established by the Government of Punjab, and working under the Public-School Support Program (PSSP) were the populations of this research study. Under probability sampling, this study was intended to use the stratified random sampling technique to select a sample from the given population. Through the stratified random sampling technique, this study took a sample of 33 principals and 110 teachers, giving equal representation to male and female respondents, from the given population. The formula advocated by Gay was for s applied to selecting a representative sample out of the entire population of male and female teachers. Keeping ahead of the nature of the study, a self-developed scheduled questionnaire based on a five-point Likert scale, containing an adequate number of statements was used for data collection. Following a test of the instrument's content validity and test of reliability on Cronbach's alpha, the coefficient value of which was found as .814, which is considered sufficiently reliable for carrying the instrument out for data collection. A pilot testing of the data collection instrument was also done before launching it for actual data collection. All the principals (33) and the concerned teachers (110) of PSSP's schools in the district of Mianwali were approached for the distribution of questionnaires. They were briefed by the researcher and requested to fill out the questionnaire without any bias. Each questionnaire was verified and checked by the researcher to ensure that it was filled out correctly and followed the proper procedure. The proposed research study was collecting the quality assurance test (QAT) results from the website of the Punjab Education Foundation.

Results and Findings

Table 1

Comparison among HODs and concerned teachers about the effectiveness of PSSP.

Respondents	n	Mean	S. D	α	P-value	t - tabulated	t - Calculated
HODs	33	1.7556	0.37966	0.05	0.591	1.96	0.538
Teachers	110	1.7185	0.33688				

The table above shows that the mean of the Principal/Head Teacher is 1.7556 and teachers is 1.7185. Value of standard deviation for Principal/Head Teacher .37966 and SD for Teachers .33688. The value of the t-tab is 1.96 and the t-Cal is 0.538. T-Cal is less than the t-tab value. Secondly, the P-value is 0.591 greater than the significance value of 0.05, so the null hypothesis is accepted. The conclusion from the values is that there is no significant difference in perception among HODs and concerned teachers about the effectiveness of PSSP.

Table 2

Showing the relationship between Public School support program and the quality of education.

		Effectiveness of PSSP	Quality of Education
Effectiveness of PSSP	Pearson Correlation	1	.696**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	n	143	143
Quality of Education	Pearson Correlation	.696**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	n	143	143

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The table above shows that the correlation between the effectiveness of PSSP and quality of education was/is .696 which shows a moderate positive correlation between the effectiveness of PSSP and quality of education. An increase in the effectiveness of PSSP will lead to an increase in the quality of education.

Regression analysis regarding the impact of PSSP on Quality of education.

Table 3

Model Summary

Model	R	R ²	Adjusted R ²	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	.696 ^a	.485	.481	.20399	1.245

- a. Predictors: (Constant), Effectiveness of PSSP
- b. Dependent Variable: Quality of Education

Table 4

ANOVA

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	5.527	1	5.527	132.818	.000 ^b
1 Residual	5.867	141	.042		
Total	11.394	142			

- a. Dependent Variable: Quality of Education
- b. Predictors: (Constant), Effectiveness of PSSP

Table 5

Coefficients

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	.711	.087		8.162	.000
	Effectiveness of PSSP	.570	.049	.696	11.525	.000

- a. Dependent Variable: Quality of Education

The above tables show the results of regression analysis regarding the impact of PSSP on the quality of education. A simple linear regression was calculated to predict the impact of PSSP on the quality of education. A significant regression equation was found (F (1,141) =132.818, $p < .000$), with an R^2 of .485. The predicted quality of education is equal to $.711 + .570$ (Effectiveness of PSSP) when the effectiveness of PSSP is measured on a 5-point Likert scale. Quality of education will increase by .570 for each unit increasing of effectiveness of PSSP.

Discussion and Conclusion

It is undeniable that classrooms shape a nation's destiny. This implies that the primary source of progress and development is education (Abbas, Hassan, Asif, & Zainab, 2018). Without a doubt, education is the most important factor influencing Pakistan's future. The nation-building process for the country's future citizens is carried out through education. The sooner students are molded by education, the sooner the country will be molded. From this perspective, the educator and the quality of education bear a great deal of responsibility. Imran (2008) Gives reasons for the decline in secondary school quality; 72% of buildings in private schools are not available according to need, and 67% say policies in government schools are not well implemented, more suggestions to improve secondary education quality, and 59 percent of respondents say private school teachers should be given training. As a result, education must be of high quality for students to acquire the necessary knowledge, skills, and attitude to carry out their responsibilities

effectively. In this context, high-quality education becomes the most important factor in improving a country's quality of life. It is extremely worthwhile to bring up some of these issues and consider possible solutions (Maryam, Amen, Safdar, Shehzadi, & Abbass, 2018).

Every country, school, and classroom have the potential to improve the quality of teaching and learning (Government of Pakistan, 2009). Significant improvements in educational quality are not impossible to achieve by reflecting on and analyzing a diverse set of circumstances and experiences. Education is the most important sector for providing insight to the nation in identifying and solving problems, recognizing, and utilizing resources, analyzing past shortcomings, and planning for future ideals (Memon, 2007). As a result, it plays a very important role in all walks of life, and education must be not only purposeful but also of high quality to achieve the goals of its provision (Madani, 2019). The last QAT result indicates that of 33 schools before the implementation of the PSSP program 35-36% while the result of these schools after the implementation of the PSSP program is 52-53%. Therefore, it shows improvement in the results. The result showed that the correlation between the effectiveness of PSSP and the quality of education showed a moderate positive correlation between the effectiveness of PSSP and the quality of education. An increase in the effectiveness of PSSP will lead to an increase in the quality of education. Test results of the ANOVA reveal a very significant relationship between the quality of education and the Punjab public school support program.

In Pakistan, the standard of education, or the quality of education, is extremely low (Faiz, Sheikh, Asadullah, Rehman, & Mehnaz, 2022). As a researcher, it was believed that it was critical to investigate the quality of education in Pakistan, particularly the quality of school levels. In light of the current slogan that quality is negatively affecting and declining in our schools, it was necessary to compare the quality of education provided by public and privately managed schools to the facts. The PSSP schools found a basic ground; they provided a better-quality education. The main objective of the study was to analyze "The Role of Punjab Public School Support Program in Enhancement of Quality of Education" and this study aimed to investigate and examine the educational features of the Punjab Public Private Program PPP in Mianwali district, under the name PSSP. According to the teachers, PSSP schools provide a quality education.

Contributions and Implications for the Future Research

The study investigated the quality of education in PEIMA. The study was financially assisted PSSP schools of district Mianwali. The objectives of the study were to evaluate the quality of education in PEIMA-assisted PSSP Schools and to explore weaknesses regarding the quality of education in these Schools. It has been found that all schools established in the public sector with the support of the Punjab Education Initiative Management Authority under PSSP mode showed a positive and significant relationship between the effectiveness of PSSP, whereas the quality of education showed a moderate positive correlation between the effectiveness of PSSP and the quality of education. This led us to convey that an increase in the effectiveness of PSSP could lead to an increase in the quality of education. However, in the future, the researchers are suggested to use a larger sample as this study was confined only to the Mianwali district of Punjab due to which we could not generalize the results to truly measure the quality of education in PEIMA's schools.

Deceleration of Interest

The authors declare that there was no clash of interest.

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