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## **An Analytical Study of Dropout, School Environment and Teaching Practices**

**Dr. Murtaza Ali Laghari<sup>1\*</sup>, Dr. Abida Siddiqui<sup>2</sup>, Shabana Shaikh<sup>3</sup>, Mahwish Saleem Shaikh<sup>4</sup>**

1. Head Master, School Education and Literacy Department, Karachi, Sindh, Pakistan.
2. Associate Professor, Faculty of Education, University of Sindh, Jamshoro, Sindh, Pakistan.
3. Ph.D. Scholar, Faculty of Education, University of Sindh, Jamshoro, Sindh, Pakistan.
4. Ph.D. Scholar, Faculty of Education, University of Sindh, Jamshoro, Sindh, Pakistan.

**\*Corresponding Author:** Dr. Murtaza Ali Laghari

\*Email: [mrtzlaghari@gmail.com](mailto:mrtzlaghari@gmail.com)

### **ABSTRACT**

This study aims to probe the reason of students` dropout, school environment and teaching practices. Dropout is a huge problem that needs to be addressed on immediate basis. The literacy rate has a central positioning in a developed and developing countries that helps in developing economic growth. The under developing countries need to deal this basic issue to grow socially and economically. The economic development of a state depends on its strong human resource based on literate and a healthy society. In Pakistan growing drop out stands a huge issue and effects on literacy rate and it remains an enormous situation that demolishes state`s entire education system. Pakistan has created a strategy to address this issue and has included it in its education policy. The primary causes of dropout were investigated using a sequential explanatory design with mix method approach. In this research 10 parents of students and 50 well-experienced teachers were selected with purposive sampling belonging to the District Hyderabad, Sindh, Pakistan. Parents opinion was taken in the form of open-ended questionnaire in interview protocol and Likert scale five-point questionnaire was used to get the opinion of teachers about dropout, school environment and teaching practices. for qualitative data Coding Decoding with thematic analysis was carried out whereas, for quantitative data descriptive and inferential statistics with the help of SPSS 26 Version was boarded to analyze the data. It was revealed that there are several reasons of dropout which include, School environment such as, Buildings, playgrounds, classrooms, books, teachers and teaching practices. It was also pointed out that financially backward parents keep their children out of school and push them into child labor. Poor school discipline also leads to a loss of interest in student learning activities, increasing the urge to dropout. It was revealed that there is a significant impact of school environment and teaching practices on dropout. This study revealed that better school environment and teaching practices can prominently prevent dropout.

Keywords: Students' dropout, Teachers' Perception, Secondary School Students. Teaching Practices.

## INTRODUCTION

Every nation's educational system promotes growth and progress in the world which is undergoes to bring a tremendous change. The quantity and quality of the human capital that a nation creates directly affect that nation's ability to develop. To do this, it is necessary to provide all people with equal access to high-quality education. To support national growth, nations are frequently developing plans and strategies to improve their educational system. However, the developing nations, such as Pakistan, have battled for years to overcome the obstacles that have impeded the education. The Pakistan educational system has encountered numerous difficulties since its inception, including, lack of funding, inadequate infrastructure, educated personnel, inadequate preparation of teachers on duty, instability in the fight against poverty, and the tight social norms against leaving the education for the family business (Jaffar et al, 2021)

The principal issues are boosting literacy and providing free primary and elementary education, Article 25A Constitution of Pakistan. The Ministry of Education estimates that 60 million people in Pakistan are illiterate, with the country's overall population having a literacy rate of 62.3% or about 63%. The government places a high priority on the need for education given the worrisome level of illiteracy in the nation. National Education Policies gave Pakistan a strong foundation to end illiteracy. Desolately, there is still complex in solution to this issue, although the Federal Ministry of Education and Training has made literacy one of the nation's educational goals (Ali et al, 2021)

In Pakistan, primary education was included in the National Education Policy of 1972, which declared that until 1972, all children would get free universal education and that in 1974, secondary education would be included. Due to the poor socioeconomic conditions, this policy was not put into practice reasoning unstable state in terms of the economy and the conflict between East and West Pakistan. In Pakistan Schools for primary education were built and even primary education was provided free of cost. UNESCO focused on achieving Sustainable Development Goal 4, which calls for ensuring that Pakistan residents have access to free, high-quality education up to the appropriate level. It was also underlined how well-funded Pakistan's educational system can work. It was directed to incorporate the SDG4 into educational plans to lower dropout rates and raise literacy rates in Pakistan by increasing enrollment at primary, elementary and secondary level. The dropout rate in elementary education is 33%, but it is 73% at secondary education, which includes primary education. 10.6 million pupils attend the approximately 54,000 public schools in Punjab. About half of that 8 million children enrolled in 38,000 elementary schools drop out of the educational system before entering, and the primary school dropout rate is about 50% (Zarif, 2012).

Pakistan's Ministry of Planning (2013) described the second goal of the MDGs and set several targets. Specifically, increasing 100% primary education, all children enrolled in primary education and expected, 88% literacy rate in upcoming decade. The drop out including literacy rate was somehow covered however, fluctuated during 2011 to 2015. The latest literacy rate announced by the Federal Ministry of Education and Training was 58% for men and 47% for women (Yousef et al, 2019). According to the latest report of the Federal Ministry of Education and

Vocational Training, the literacy rate is 63% (62.3%). In addition to all planning and decisions, the government always emphasized to collaborate with the community, especially parents and teachers to ensure their cooperation for developing an attractive environment in the schools and increasing interaction between both teachers and students to get the better results (Ahmad et al., 2014).

It was advocated by Kang, (2021). Early dropouts are a threat to any society, especially in Asia, where their situation is helplessly neglected, resulting, criminal affiliation, most of those involved are potential dropouts and found engaged in such activities which causes panic for the society. Thus, the long-ending problem of early dropouts leads to youth involvement in adverse activities and all other forms of anti-social activities are increasing (Kang, 2021). The secondary education usually depends on student engagement and teachers applying interactive teaching and learning process that develops students' interest. Persistence of the dropout depends upon external sources, school refusal, tardiness, substance abuse, and lack of parents' interest in educating their children. The factors that affect students' dropout is viewed as abuse that require the urgent attention of all stakeholders in the education sector (Juma, 2016).

STATEMENT: The fundamental importance of this research is to make parents aware of their role in alleviating the dropout. The fact that stirs everyone's mind about the need to work together to avoid the excess of this lacking fundamental challenge pertaining education. It is evident that the success in achieving educational goals is immediately realizing and taking measure to prevent that short fall in the shortest span of time. It was proved from the literature available that the parents and guardians also recognize that their responsibility to provide their children with economically and socially appropriate schooling is essential which is lacking specially in Sindh. Hence, this research study was scheduled to measure the Dropout, School Environment and Teaching Practices.

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. To identify the primary reasons of students' drop out.
2. To investigate the impact of school environment on dropout.
3. To analyze the impact of teaching practices on dropout.

**HYPOTHESIS:**

1. There is no significant impact of school environment on dropout.
2. There is no significant impact of dropout on teaching practices

**RESEARCH QUESTIONS:**

1. What are the primary reasons of students' drop out?
2. On what extent the school environment effects on dropout?

This study was limited only to Public Secondary Schools of District Hyderabad Sindh, Pakistan.

Education planners can more accurately estimate the number of teachers, classrooms, and other facilities needed over some time at different levels of education, especially secondary education. The basic need was inquired to create and provide a learning environment that is not only attractive to students but maintains their desire to learn through graduation. It is hoped that the results of this work will help bring a new and precise view of education to the general public. Not only as a means of employment or as a basis for participation in political activity, but also as a means of empowering individuals for self-actualization. This would severely disillusion those who drop out of school due to unemployment (Ahmed et al, 2014).

Review: The world is changing rapidly and nations are competing for knowledge. To keep up with the speed of the world, developing countries have had to better adapt their education systems and merge technology and education. Pakistan is one of the developing country's friends and has always struggled to create a competitive workforce through education, but for certain reasons, this struggle has proven to be highly fruitless. Did. gain. and Pakistan faced. Same problem for years. According to a recent survey, Pakistan's current literacy rate is 62.8% of her. The purpose of this education system is to increase student enrollment, improve Pakistan's literacy rate, and provide a skilled workforce and trained manpower for Pakistan's industries. One of the causes of declining literacy rates is children being out of school. Preschool children must attend school, but they do not (Meraz, 1983).

An early dropout means a child who does not attend school but drops out of school for one reason or another. The reason may be socio-economic conditions. Early dropouts are students who drop out of school for any reason before completing a degree or a particular program (Khan, Azhar & Shah, 2001). Simply put, early dropout is dropping out of school before completing a particular level of education such as primary, primary, secondary, or tertiary education. Dropout refers to the death of a student who, for whatever reason, has dropped out without completing his or her education or enrolled an educational program (Kamal, 2002 & Attaullah, 2000). In Punjab early dropout situation, enrollment rates differ between boys and girls aged 5-16. The enrollment rate in recent years is the highest at 90% for boys and 85% for girls. Enrollment rates for girls are lower than for boys and decline with age. In recent years, the highest rate of advancement to higher education is 88%. Both have seen a steady decline in enrollment since she was 11 years old. Punjab not only has better enrollment and dropout policies than other states but there is still a lot of room for improvement. Thirty-nine percent of 16-year-olds have never been to school in their lives, and the dropout rate rose to 61 from her 11-year-old to her 16-year-old. school. More than 77% of rural children are out of school, 15.4 million of all children are out of school and 4.6 million or 23% live in urban areas (Huma Zia Farhan, 2021).

There are several factors in our society that affect children's lives and early school dropouts. These factors include economic situation, social status, school buildings, school infrastructure, poverty, malnutrition, parental attitudes toward children, teachers' attitudes toward children, rigid mindsets, early marriage of girls, child including safety and protection concerns. A child's parent's financial situation is one of the most important factors in dropping out of school. Without stability in their lives, they tend to withdraw their children and force them into child labor to earn

something for their children. In addition to these factors, social reasons such as family culture, religious beliefs, values, and rigid beliefs also influence dropout rates.

Facility availability is positively correlated with child development. Resources include the building, the required number of chairs and tables, teaching materials, and any other necessary classrooms. The availability of all these resources has a direct impact on a child's educational interests and development. A shortage of these resources will affect the dropout rate. Access and equity are basic needs in education, according to a study by Shami and Hussain (2006). Schools lacking proper infrastructure and discipline contribute to rising dropout rates, she said. Retention rates can be achieved by providing adequate school buildings and physical facilities, but teacher penalties, overcrowded classrooms, and an unfavorable environment for education in Pakistan lead to high dropout rates (Pakistan Government, 1998 Year). 2008). In addition to the country's low economic development, low per capita income, unemployment, and inadequate parental income, and poverty, poor health, and malnutrition among the poor, poor health. This is the main reason for the high dropout rate in Pakistan (Bhatti et al., 2011). Teachers are the linchpin of improving a country's education system and play a key role in improving the country with a skilled and educated workforce. There are several teacher-related factors such as the shortage of trained teachers, the reluctance of female teachers to teach in rural primary schools, and teacher shortages in Pakistan. Teacher behavior is also a factor that influences early exit, including inequality among students, neglect of those in need, inequality based on race and economic status, punishment by teachers, and resentment against students (Afzal, Tabassum, & Tabassum, 2022).

After school, the family teaches the child and plays an important role in the child's education. You are responsible for free and universal education in line with United Nations Vision 2030. As a result, the family's economic situation affected the lives of the children and they had to face difficulties with their families. When families cannot afford their children's education or their daily bread, they force their children to drop out of school and earn money to sustain their families. Poverty is the biggest and most powerful obstacle to achieving desired educational outcomes in this country (United Nations Development Programme, 2004).

The teaching and learning process is very important to students' lives and they have an absolute concern for the quality of education, but the quality of education is generally poor at all levels and primary and secondary schools in Pakistan. Pakistan's inadequate situation has caused many things. early dropouts (Saadi & Said, 2010). The curriculum is difficult and in this age of rapid technological advancement, children are being taught an outdated curriculum. A review of the existing curriculum in response to social demands and economic conditions cannot be taken lightly. The lack of connection between modern technology and the school curriculum creates room for early school dropouts. Geographical factors affecting dropout rates in Pakistan include long distances between schools and locations where students drop out, poor transport connections, natural disasters, and poor communication (UK Aid, 2017). Similarly, research studies have also found that shorter commutes have a positive impact on student dropout and retention rates.

These factors may be the main reasons for the rising dropout rate in Pakistan. Parents and teachers play an important role in student development. It is important not only as a working person but also as a better human being, teaching the next generation how to live and how to live. Insights for parents and teachers can be used to minimize early dropouts and end illiteracy. The study is important to primary school teachers and government officials because it reveals the leading causes of primary school dropouts. We can learn from this and work to reduce school dropout rates. The study is scientifically important because it aimed to expand the existing database of early dropouts with a focus on elementary school students, teachers, and their parents. This research will also improve the understanding of future teachers in the education sector.

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:** The primary causes of dropout were investigated using a sequential explanatory design with mix method approach. In this research 10 parents of students and 50 well-experienced teachers were selected with purposive sampling belonging to the district Hyderabad Sindh, Pakistan. parent’s opinion was taken in the form of open-ended questionnaire in interview protocol and Likert scale five-point questionnaire was used to get the opinion of teachers about dropout and its impact on teaching practices.

Quantitative Research:

Descriptive Statistics:

Objective one: To identify the primary reasons of students` drop out.

Table 1. Analysis of the result of the study

Sr. n	Statements	M	S. D
<b>Students` Dropout</b>			
1	Careless attitude of parents causes dropout	3.31	.721
2	Teachers` rude attitude causes dropout	3.08	.706
3	Teachers` motivational behavior reduces dropout	3.04	.701
4	Parents absence in parents` teachers meeting (PTM) causes dropout	3.61	.744
5	Students should be equally treated by the teachers in both awards and punishment which can help in reducing dropout.	3.40	.733
6	Attractive school environment can reduce students` dropout	3.33	.722
7	A lack of coordination between teachers and parents causes students` dropout	3.47	.734
<b>Teaching Practices</b>			
1	Students` dropout effects on teaching practices	3.50	.738
2	Students develop the wrong attitudes if there is a contradiction between their teacher`s “saying and action” effects teaching practices.	3.80	.782

3	Students` dropout effects on other students` mental approach that relatively reflect on teaching practices.	3.14	.711
4	Annual exams are affected by Students` dropout	3.56	.750
5	Teaching practices can be strengthened by encompassing over Dropout	3.85	.785
6	Teaching and learning environment can be develop with attractive school environment that helps in encompassing over dropout	3.01	.699
	School Environment		
1	Drop out abrupt school environment	3.20	.710
2	Parents reluctant attitude brutally reflects on school environment	3.01	.700
3	Students Learning Outcomes can be developed with affective school environment	3.04	.701
4	school environment is affected by parents lack of interest in educating their children	3.50	.731
5	Lack of coordination among parents and educators` impact on school environment	3.30	.721
6	Effective measures against drop out can uphold school environment	3.28	.717

This study revealed that the Careless attitude of parents causes dropout. Especially in public schools` parents` interest is not found on that extent which causes students` dropout on the other hand the Teachers` rude attitude causes dropout. The teachers` way of dealing students have a huge importance; it directly impacts on students` mental approach. If a teacher has an encouraging behavior the students` gets to be motivated and it results in better students` learning outcomes. Whereas, the parents` absence in parents` teachers meeting (PTM) causes dropout. It is almost found that the parent teacher meeting is a basic source of escaping communication gap between parents and teachers. The students` strengths and weaknesses can better be judged and handled. It is also proved that the drop out abrupt school environment. It effects on those attending regular classes and brutally impacts on their mind. It was found that the students learning outcomes can be developed with affective school environment. School environment is the source of inspiration for the children hence, it should be maintained up to their mental approach. Parents engagement in being aware about the progress of their child can help to create hindrance in drop out and it also can help in developing an attractive school environment for better teaching and learning process, lack of coordination among parents and educators` badly impact on school environment.

Inferential Statistics:

Hypothesis Testing:

Objective Two: To analyze the impact of teaching practices on dropout

Hypothesis Two: There is no significant impact of teaching practices on dropout

Hypothesis	Regression weight	Beta Coefficient	R Square	F	p-value	Null Hypothesis
Ho	DO---TP	.395	.156	36.562	.000	Rejected

The Regression analysis p-value .000>0.05 reveals that there is a significant impact of teaching practices. on dropout

Objective Three: To investigate the impact of school environment on dropout

Hypothesis Three: There is no significant impact of school environment on dropout

Hypothesis	Regression weight	Beta Coefficient	R Square	F	p-value	Null Hypothesis
Ho	SE----DO	.500	.250	65.924	.000	Rejected

The Regression analysis p-value .000>0.05 reveals that there is a significant impact of school environment on dropout

Qualitative Research: Research Questions

1. What are the primary reasons of dropout?

Theme: Dropout

Theme	Category	Code	Transcript
Dropout	Parents, Teaching Methods, Teachers` Environment, Management, Literacy	Coordination, Communication, Learning Environments, Poverty.	Parents lack of interest in educating children is a problem. Whereas, the low literacy rate creates hinderance in understanding the worth of education. On some extent teaching method such as traditional methods effect on developing interest in the children. School management has a precious role in developing attractive learning environment

Theme, Dropout signifies the categories, codes and transcription accord that Parents` lack of interest in educating children is a problem. Whereas, the low literacy rate creates hinderance in understanding the worth of education. On some extent teaching practices such as traditional methods inversely effect on developing interest in the children. School management has a precious role in developing attractive learning environment which will be effective in preventing Drop Out Ratio.



2. On what extent the school environment effects on dropout?

Theme: School Environment

Theme	Category	Code	Transcript
School Environment	School Management, Supervision, Teaching Methods, Learning Environment,	Team work, Collaboration, Activities, Interactive learning, learning by doing Classroom Management	School Management plays an effective role in developing an attractive environment that can help in enhancing interactive learning. Team work and collaboration can yeast better results.

Theme: School Environment signifies the categories, codes and transcription accord that for developing an effective teaching and learning environment School Management can play a crucial role in developing an attractive environment that can help in enhancing interactive learning. Team work and collaboration can yeast better results and can help in preventing dropout ratio.

After the process of triangulation both of the results of quantitative analysis and qualitative analysis revealed that there are many factors causing dropout which includes School environment such as, Buildings, playgrounds, classrooms, books, teachers and teaching practices. These factors also effect on teaching and learning process as well. The drop out not only put inverse effect on those dropouts but also those who are continuously attending their classes by raising worst metal approach of doing things not in a systematic way. It was statistically proved that there is a significant impact of teaching practices on dropout. The findings of this research study are also aligned with Ullah, et al, (2022) Causes of Students' Dropout in Public Secondary Schools of Balochistan, Pakistan, which reveals that there is a huge share of school environment and teaching methods in dropout in Public Secondary Schools (Ullah, et al, 2022). This study also found that Parents' lack of interest in educating children is also a problem. Whereas, the low literacy rate creates hinderance in understanding the worth of education. On some extent teaching practices such as, traditional methods effect on developing interest in the children. School management has a precious role in developing attractive learning environment which can be effective in preventing Dropout Ratio.

The questionnaires explored school physical resources, teachers` teaching practices, punishments and rewards, and teachers' attitudes toward students. Teachers are an important factor in the teaching and learning process, and their behavior has a direct impact on the psyche of their students, and can even lead to dropouts. It was believed that the way of teaching can distract or attract the students hence, same can prove to be effective and on some extent distracting for children as well. This study statistically revealed that there is a significant impact of school environment on dropout. It was also revealed that; school management can play a crucial role in developing an attractive environment that can help in enhancing interactive learning. Team work and collaboration can yeast better results and can help in preventing dropout ratio.

**CONCLUSION:** There are several reasons of dropout which were concluded on the basis of the results of this research study which include, School environment such as, Buildings, playgrounds, classrooms, books, teachers and teaching practices. It was also pointed out that financially backward parents keep their children out of school and push them into child labor. As discussed lack of physical facilities and teachers' interest in students are also causes of early dropouts. Lack of classroom management skills are also the reason why children get irritated of schooling. Classroom based conflicts along taunting attitude of classmates and lack of instructional materials creates gaps in student interest in schooling, leads to dropouts. Poor school infrastructure and discipline also lead to a loss of interest in student learning activities, increasing the urge to dropout. It was revealed that there is a significant impact of school environment and teaching practices on dropout. This study revealed that better school environment and teaching practices can prominently prevent dropout.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The head teachers should develop an attractive school environment to prevent the dropout

The teachers should try to avoid traditional teaching practices in during the instructional process.

The school administration should provide teachers training specially about classroom management.

The teachers should apply extinction technique, time out technique and

The teachers should practice interactive method to get the better attention of the students

The teachers should encourage students even on smaller deeds.

The policy makers should plan a policy to provide incentive to those, deserving students

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