

Reasons for Not Studying in the Young Generation and Its Solutions

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Abstract

Two decades ago, the education process in Afghanistan was promoted more than before, the level of literacy increased, many public and private schools, universities, and other semi-higher education institutions were established, numbers of printing houses and publications were created, and many magazines and other types of books were printed every month. The culture of learning and studying was moving forward rapidly. Unfortunately, in the last decade, the learning and studying process declined again. The publishing of books, magazines, and the interest in studying returned to its lowest peak. The level of poverty, unemployment, illiteracy and corruption has also increased, and social media spread its veil over the young generation, which the level of study among the students has also decreased, but the international community has not taken any concrete steps to prevent this disaster, which is related to the future of a big human society. Additionally, the problem of non-studying is currently an international issue that has drawn the attention of scholars, university lecturers, and college teachers from different countries. They have pointed out various reasons for it and are trying to find suitable solutions. Some reasons for not studying in different countries are similar, while most of them are different from each other. Afghanistan is also one of those countries whose learning and study culture has recently weakened and is getting weaker day by day. Therefore, this study emphasizes the individual and social factors that have caused the young generation, particularly the students of the country, to not study. It also suggests appropriate and suitable solutions for them.

Keywords: Factors, motivation, not studying, solution ways, young generation

INTRODUCTION

Commonly, societies with high levels of literacy and a strong culture of study and education have achieved high positions in the political, economic, and social fields. They have low levels of poverty and unemployment and are mostly self-sufficient. On the other hand, societies with high levels of illiteracy suffer from poverty, hunger, poor health, and unemployment [1–3].

The consecutive wars of the past four decades have not only hindered the political, economic, and social development of Afghanistan but have also deeply impacted the scientific and academic process. The Afghan people have been left behind in the global academic, research, industrial, and technological

competition. Domestic and foreign proxy wars have been imposed on them, resulting in millions of citizens becoming homeless and forced to migrate to other countries. Consequently, a significant portion of the population has faced poverty, unemployment, and a lack of access to education.

In the past few decades, political systems in Afghanistan were not legally established. Those in power lacked a proper understanding of governance and resorted to bribery, tyranny, and nepotism instead of considering ability in the distribution of duties. This corrupt culture gradually increased in

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the country, undermining the value and importance of ability, professionalism, and scholarship. As a result, the spirit of education and study among the people, especially the youth, weakened significantly. As an academic institution, we bear the responsibility to strengthen the culture of learning and studying among the young generation, particularly the students. It is our duty to take concrete steps and find suitable solutions to eradicate the culture of not studying in the country permanently, fulfilling our mission in this regard [4–8, 1–3].

Problem Statement

In the educational process, particularly in higher education (undergraduate and postgraduate) fields, studying is of utmost importance. Without studying, students cannot achieve their goals, conduct research, or advance in their respective careers. It is through study and research that students not only attain high positions but also contribute to a country's overall educational and research standing.

Unfortunately, Afghanistan lags behind the rest of the world in this regard, and one of the main factors contributing to this is the prevalent culture of not studying in the country, particularly among the young generation, including students. Each year, a significant number of students graduate from universities and higher education institutions, but they struggle to find employment in their chosen professional fields. Consequently, they are compelled to engage in menial jobs, akin to illiterate individuals, and are unable to utilize the time and money invested in their education. Therefore, it is imperative to focus on students and actively work towards re-establishing a culture of increased study and research [4].

Importance of Research

Every year, universities and educational institutions graduate numerous students from various faculties. However, only a few of these students manage to secure job opportunities in their respective fields, while many others end up in non-professional occupations. One of the primary reasons behind this disparity is the lack of practical skills and insufficient studying in their chosen field.

To ensure that graduate students have academic self-confidence in their respective professions and can effectively carry out their responsibilities, universities and educational institutions should actively encourage continuous study during their academic journey. It is crucial to provide students with a thorough understanding of research methodologies and offer practical training opportunities. By equipping graduate students with relevant working skills, they can contribute to society by addressing its needs.

Research Objectives

1. To highlight the value and importance of studying.
2. To encourage students to study more.
3. To identify factors preventing students from studying more.
4. To find those methods to motivate students to study more.
5. To spread the culture of study in universities and educational institutions.

Research Questions

- How can we encourage students to study more?
- What are the factors preventing students from studying more?
- Which methods can be employed to motivate students to study more?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Currently, significant efforts are being made to enhance students' training comprehensively. Universities and educational institutions strive to provide the best professional staff to perform their tasks effectively in society.

However, there is a lack of specific terminology or comprehensive guidebooks, articles, or research papers addressing the encouragement of students to study more and identifying the factors hindering

studying in Afghanistan, along with the corresponding solutions. Only a few reports, interviews, discussions, and opinions based on the country's public situation and educational environment have been published on social media.

This study aims to fill the gap by identifying individual and social factors that contribute to students not studying more. It also provides suitable solutions to address these issues [2].

Research Method

This study employs both analytical and descriptive research methods. The research utilizes library resources and collects information and data from various sources, including the current public situation of the country, the education environment, reports, interviews, discussions, and opinions published on social media. These collected materials are then organized and presented in the form of a comprehensive article.

FACTORS OF NOT STUDYING

Unemployed

Many undergraduate and graduate students face challenges in finding employment. Despite repeated attempts, they are unable to secure suitable jobs, leading them to engage in daily labor and work. This disappointment in the job search process often diminishes their focus on learning and studying. The demands of daily work can hinder their ability to devote time to further studies, creating a perceived gap between their education and themselves [4].

Wars

Decades of ongoing wars in the country have disrupted the administrative system's ability to provide employment opportunities for graduates in various professions. Additionally, the military sector often receives greater priority, as military training is deemed more critical, leaving fewer opportunities for academic pursuits [6].

Poverty

High levels of poverty and unemployment limit students' access to educational opportunities. Students are burdened with daily activities and responsibilities, leaving them with insufficient time for additional studies. Financial constraints further restrict their ability to purchase necessary books and educational resources [6–8, 1].

Administrative Corruption

Instances of nepotism and bribery during the hiring process undermine fair competition. Qualified and talented individuals are often overlooked in favor of less capable candidates who lack the necessary administrative skills, study, and knowledge in the relevant field [5].

Absence of Family Pressure

While parents and elders may initially prioritize their children's education and enroll them in schools and universities, the follow-up and monitoring of their progress often lacks diligence. This parental carelessness, coupled with low levels of literacy, leads to a lack of student motivation and interest in further studies [5–8, 1–3].

Lack of Responsibility

Some students fail to recognize their role as students and the importance of studying. Setting personal goals, considering their future prospects, and developing a sense of responsibility should be encouraged by lecturers and teachers to instill a greater commitment to academic pursuits [5–8, 1–3, 9–11].

Hopelessness

Various personal and social factors can lead some students to adopt a negative mind-set, perceiving learning and studying as pointless and futile [3, 9–11].

Political Revolutions

Frequent political changes in the country over the past few decades have resulted in administrative reshuffling. This has led to job losses for individuals and their family members, diminishing their hopes and aspirations. As a result, their interest in education and study declines, and some may face the challenge of seeking opportunities abroad [1].

Monopolization of Intellectual Ideologies

Recently, many young people have fallen prey to foreign ideologies, which have instilled negative mindsets and ideas in them. They have become intellectually engaged in various ways, sometimes lured by promises of immigration, educational scholarships, and visas to Western countries. Consequently, their interest in learning and studying has decreased as they focus on how to reach Western countries [10].

Giving Wrong Ideas to Students

Some officials and politicians who held lucrative positions and enjoyed benefits in the previous regime are now disseminating incorrect comments and propaganda about the current state from foreign countries through social media. This has had a detrimental impact on the mental well-being of some young people, leading them to develop negative perceptions. As a result, their enthusiasm for education and studies has waned. Additionally, certain domestic and foreign media outlets with political agendas misuse social media to spread negative and misleading information, causing discontent among youths, especially students [10].

Use of Social Media

Since the rise in popularity of Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, and other social media platforms, the culture of studying among young people, particularly students, has weakened. Electronic media has replaced printed magazines, books, and newspapers. Nowadays, many youths spend their free time engrossed in social media instead of studying [6–8, 1, 3, 9–10].

Excessive Interest in Material Possessions

In the current civilized, modern, and capitalist era, all kinds of commodities necessary for human beings are available in the market. However, the prices of these commodities have increased compared to daily wages. Consequently, individuals prioritize fulfilling their daily needs, leading them to work more and acquire all the necessary goods from the market. This excessive focus on material possessions detracts from their dedication to studying [10].

Teaching of Many Non-Professional Subjects

Afghanistan's educational system, especially during high school, includes the teaching of many non-professional subjects. This extensive curriculum becomes challenging for students to manage, and during exams, they feel compelled to study all the related books under pressure. As a result, they develop a disinterest in studying during their university years, eventually becoming detached from their studies [4–8, 1–3].

Non-Utilization of New International Teaching Methods

As mentioned earlier, the issue of not studying is a concern internationally. In the developed world, students utilize different systems of studying that encourage them to study more. However, Afghanistan does not implement these advanced systems [3].

Absence of Teaching Materials Aligned with Societal Needs and Market Demand

In Afghanistan's educational curriculum, many teaching materials are either outdated or not aligned with the needs of society and the demands of the job market. Consequently, students cannot effectively apply these materials in their daily administrative and non-administrative activities, leading to a lack of reliability and satisfaction. This diminishes the value of studying for them [3].

Lack of Quality Services

In universities and educational institutions, there is a lack of qualitative services to support further study. Incentive programs, competitions, access to libraries, scientific and recreational trips, awards, meetings, and other privileges are not adequately considered. These factors could encourage students to engage in more intensive studying [3].

Lack of Public Awareness About the Value of Study

In most universities, educational institutions, social media platforms, parks, stadiums, and other gathering places for young people and students, there is a dearth of advertisements, banners, and public awareness campaigns promoting the value of books and studying. Special programs and meetings emphasizing the importance of study are also lacking. Consequently, the younger generation prioritizes other activities over studying due to a lack of awareness about its significance [5, 6].

Solution Ways for Not Studying

In this section, some solution ways have been pointed out, which can be used to encourage students to learn and study more:

Giving Idea

Giving an idea is a reasonable way to motivate a person to take action or provide benefits and privileges that motivate the individual to do or stop doing something. The purpose here is to encourage students to study more. It means that students should be given the idea that higher education is the first stage of specialization, which determines their career path. Studying just one chapter or book is not sufficient to achieve their goals. To succeed, students need to study subjects from various perspectives comprehensively and uncover the truth through their studies [4–8, 1–3, 9–11].

Setting a Goal

Every effort or activity is done for a purpose, and without a purpose, doing something is meaningless and useless. Therefore, for a student to invest four years of time and money in an undergraduate course, they must have a goal. Students should set high goals for themselves. For example, if a student wants to become a doctor, he should aspire to be a globally renowned doctor or contribute to solving significant healthcare challenges in their country. Similarly, students in other fields should set ambitious goals and be encouraged to study more in their respective fields [9, 10].

Creating a Conducive Learning Environment

Creating a positive and conducive learning environment is essential for encouraging students to study more. This includes comfortable and well-equipped study spaces, access to relevant resources such as books and research materials, and a supportive atmosphere where students feel encouraged to ask questions and engage in discussions [9].

Motivation

As mentioned earlier, the country's history of war, political changes, poor governance, tyranny, administrative corruption, and the appointment of incompetent individuals have left many people discouraged and hopeless. This has led to a reluctance to study and a devaluation of education. It is crucial to encourage students and assure them that they will eventually achieve their desired goals. To motivate students, they can be selected as the head of the university or vice-chancellor of academic affairs for a day. Their leadership, recommendations, and advice should be valued in meetings, and they should be given the mentality that they are the president or vice-chancellor of the university/institute. Celebrating the best student day annually in the university and institute can also be an effective encouragement [5–8, 1–3, 9, 10].

Rewards (Discount, Prize and Privilege)

To encourage students to study more, a specific plan and procedure should be established to reward students based on their academic performance. Students who study more can be rewarded with discounts on fees, cash prizes, spiritual gifts, and appreciation letters [9].

Incorporating Interactive Teaching Methods

Teachers can use interactive teaching methods such as group discussions, debates, role-plays, and hands-on activities to make the learning process more engaging and enjoyable. Active participation in these activities motivates students to study more and enhances their understanding of the subject matter [9].

Competition

Conducting competitions among students to study more can yield positive results. Competition creates a sense of rivalry and motivation. Students can be awarded titles based on their performance in various subjects, aligning with the needs of society and the demands of the job market [5].

Practical Programs

Practical programs can play a crucial role in enhancing students' study experience. Assigning relevant homework to students allows them to delve deeper into their field of study and gain comprehensive knowledge. For example, law students can be given assignments related to preparing a case and defense, understanding the organizational structure of the state, or exploring the duties and responsibilities of the parliament. Presenting these assignments in practice will encourage students to study more [7].

Providing Real-Life Examples

Relating the topics being studied to real-life examples and practical applications can significantly increase students' interest and motivation to learn. When students can see the relevance and impact of what they are studying in their daily lives, they are more likely to invest time and effort in studying [9].

Giving Topics for Seminar

Students should be given topics to present seminars on subjects related to their curriculum. This not only enhances their understanding of the topics but also requires them to study more. They need to grasp the details and present the topics through presentations, thereby increasing their capacity and dedication to studying [10].

Research (Writing)

Students should be assigned simple topics in different fields to encourage them to conduct research. Teachers should familiarize students with research methods, help them understand the concept of research, and guide them in data collection and analysis from various sources. This not only introduces students to research methodology but also provides them with an opportunity for further study [11].

Group Work

Group work can be used to encourage students to study more. Students can be divided into groups and given tasks related to their subjects. They can analyze the subject academically, explore various factors, and strive to reach the truth and obtain results collaboratively [9].

Academic Trips

Arranging academic trips to other provinces for students in relevant faculties can provide them with comprehensive information about specific topics and enrich their knowledge. These trips can be aligned with the subjects they are studying, enabling them to gather the necessary information for discussions and further study [7].

Academic Meetings

Providing students with opportunities to hold academic meetings, round tables, interviews, and discussions within the university or institution can foster an environment of intellectual engagement. Students should be given topics for discussion in advance so they can study various resources and contribute effectively during these events [7].

Responsible Behavior

In higher education, teachers are considered guides, and students are responsible for extensive study in their field of specialization. Relying on a single book or chapter is not sufficient. Students should continuously seek updated and extended books, articles, and magazines related to their field to understand their responsibility in society and effectively apply their knowledge [5].

Giving Project

Assigning simple small projects to students help them learn how to write project proposals, gather relevant sources, and acquire comprehensive information. Students should understand the structure and implementation of a project. This work not only familiarizes students with research methods but also encourages them to study more to complete their projects successfully [8].

Celebrating Achievements

Recognizing and celebrating students' academic achievements can boost their motivation to study more. This can be done through awards ceremonies, certificates of recognition, or public acknowledgment of outstanding performance. Celebrating achievements creates a sense of pride and accomplishment, encouraging students to continue their academic pursuits [9].

Suggestions

1. The government should encourage the young generation to learn and study.
2. Increase the number of books and libraries in the country.
3. Teachers should encourage students at universities and educational institutions to study more.
4. Parents should provide a study environment for their children and encourage them.
5. Literary, cultural societies, and civil activists should promote a culture of study in the country.
6. During weddings, graduation gatherings, and other entertainment programs, books should be emphasized instead of clothes, emails, and gifts.
7. Organize competitions for book reading in the country and award prizes to the winners.
8. Social, print, and electronic media, banners, oral communication, and other public awareness methods should be used.
9. When appointing jobs, prioritize those who have the necessary abilities and ensure transparency [1-3].

CONCLUSIONS

Based on this analysis, it is concluded that most students in educational institutions do not focus on studying the fundamentals. Instead, they only study the relevant textbook or chapter temporarily during exams to move on to the next semester. This negative tradition has become a part of the university culture in many educational institutions in the country. Therefore, it is necessary to motivate students, instill a mind-set of studying, and encourage them intellectually to study more [4].

Overall, these solution ways aim to create a supportive and inspiring learning environment that encourages students to study more. By implementing these strategies, educational institutions can help students realize the value of education, develop a genuine interest in their studies, and ultimately achieve academic success. Additionally, other factors hinder students from studying. By addressing these factors, the mentioned problem can be partially resolved.

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