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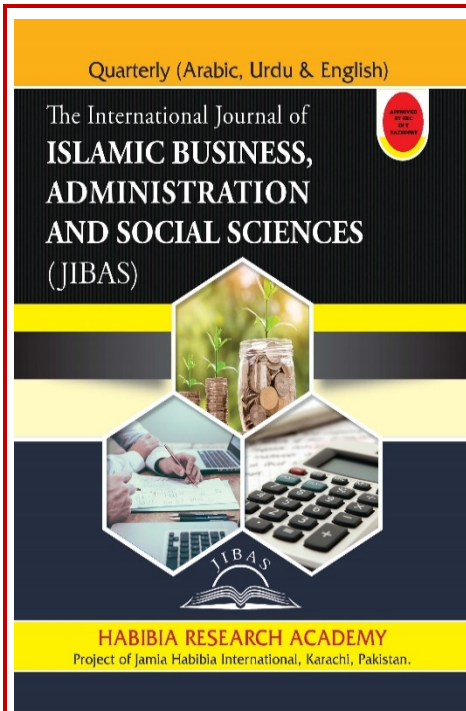
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### TOPIC:

## THE STATE OF EDUCATION IN PAKISTAN DURING THE REIGN OF BENAZIR BHUTTO

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**THE STATE OF EDUCATION IN PAKISTAN DURING THE REIGN  
OF BENAZIR BHUTTO***Dr. Muhammad Ali Junaid,**Dr. Muhammad Kashif,***ABSTRACT:**

*The major focus of this research paper is to explore the Educational policies of Benazir Bhutto during her two-time reign, we tried to define with limited resources how BB tried to boost primary-level education in Pakistan, in addition, she especially tried to bring out females of Pakistan in every sector of affairs, for that purpose she brought them in different business along the male population. these, businesses required education impartment among illiterate women of Pakistan. so in this connection, she started the process of womenization in Pakistan, which was key to her educational policies, her governmental policies and incentives brought them into the professional sphere of life like education, police, judiciary, teaching, and entrepreneurship, for all that purpose she crafted educational policies through which she tried to bring out children to primary schools so that they may reach to secondary level of education, and in this mission foreign donors provided her monetary help, all such information has been shared in this article.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Pakistan, education, democracy, women's Empowerment, women's Education, Sindh, PPP.*

**INTRODUCTION:**

Benazir Bhutto (1953-2007) was an uncommonly unique political figure in the atmosphere of the East, and especially Pakistan, whose life timeline – from her first time in the Prime Minister office on Dec. 1, 1988, to her assassination in December 2007 – was shaped, decorated and destroyed by the ups and downs of the antagonistic evident and covert political forces in operation. While her most prominent factor was her father's inherited political legacy, the other factor was her gender which engendered and rendered her as one of the unforgettable actors in the history of Pakistan's politics.

Lady Bhutto is considered the first democratically elected female premier of any Islamic country by the process of democracy. Born in Karachi, Pakistan to an outstanding landholding family, she took degrees from prime institutions like Radcliffe College: Harvard in the USA, and Oxford University in the UK, where she was elected as the earliest Asian woman president of the Oxford University Union. 1

Following the senior Bhutto execution in 1979, Benazir became the chairperson of the PPP, Pakistan, and coped with repeated house arrests From 1979 - 1984. She stayed outside in exile from 1984 -1986 and later moved back to Pakistan when martial law was lifted, and soon she became the leading figure in the political opposition to Zia ul Haq. Unfortunately, President Zia died in August 1988 in a puzzling plane crash. In the forthcoming elections, junior lady Bhutto's PPP Pakistan won the largest NO of seats in the National Assembly and she was made the first female PM of a Pakistani Nation on Dec. 1, 1988, leading a coalition government. 2

We observe that she was defeated in the 1990 General elections and also appeared in the Supreme Court, protecting herself against numerous charges of misdemeanors being in office. BB continued to be a prominent center of attention to opposition discontent and again won a coming General election in 1993, but she was once again replaced in 1996 due to several heinous charges. While in self-exile in UAE and the UK, she was convicted in 1999 of corruption and sentenced to three years of prison punishment.

She kept on directing her party from overseas after being re-confirmed as PPP Head in 2002, Benazir again returned to Pakistan on October 18, 2007, when General Musharraf approved her official amnesty on all corruption charges, Giving unspoken permission to her homecoming and a possible future power-sharing agreement.<sup>3</sup>

Lady Bhutto returned to Karachi, Pakistan from Dubai after eight years of self-imposed exile in October 2007 when her party leaders and workers were celebrating her presence were spoiled by a suicide attack on her convoy, in which her several followers were killed. She was also assassinated in a new related attack in December 2007 while campaigning for coming to the General Election in Liaquat Bagh, Rawalpindi. <sup>4</sup>

She has written a few books that reflect her point of view and her vision and inclination towards feminism and especially towards women's education, like her autobiography, *Daughter of the East*<sup>1</sup>, published in 1988; she also wrote a book *Reconciliation: Islam, Democracy, and the West*, that was published after she died in 2008. Many of her followers have compiled her speeches and writings as Compendium which may also be useful to understand her political thoughts, ideology, vision, and personality.

#### **Benazir As A Visionary Women PM Of Pakistan:**

Leading the country twice being in the office from 1988-90 and 1993-96, she always reflected on Pakistan to be a modern progressive Muslim State, her words and voice being the evidence. This desire's roots might be traced out from her formative years at the Western educational institutions- the so-called fountains of modernity and progress in the modern era. Eventually, success in her efforts to a modification in the basic ideological composition of Pakistan was going to depend immensely upon the prevailing religious, anti-political, and anti-democratic traits of the Pakistani environment, which resulted in her failure to accomplish her aims.

Pakistan Army, being the chief supporter of the Central right inclined CM Of Punjab Mian Muhammad Nawaz Shareef, became the main focus for reconciliation by BB in the first phase of her government. Still, she was to face problems when Nawaz Sharif joined the Alliance of IJI with Pro-religion Forces to oust Bb.

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<sup>1</sup> also published by the Name of *Daughter of Destiny*, 1989.

Benazir Bhutto was inclined toward liberal, capital ideologies so she garnered the socioeconomic interests of urban-oriented groups and non-propertied classes. The provincial and federal governments repeatedly clashed in the late 1980s, creating harsh economic management problems. Issues concerning power-sharing BW the central and provincial governments were principally disregarded during the military rule from 1999 to 2008.

While raising slogan “Two Children Better” for family planning and the lady health workers for educating the female population of urban and rural areas across the country were utilized, and PPP under Benazir’s government also voiced up for education, health, justice, security of women, still, on the other hand, we find that relatively low priority to family planning increased Pakistan’s total fertility, population growth rate, infant and maternal mortality rate than the world standards in the rules of Z. A. Bhutto, Zia ul-Haq, and alike under BB.

As much as educational progress is a concern, we see that it faced a chief hindrance in the 1970s after the nationalization of Non-Governmental Educational institutions. besides the recovery of these educational losses after the reversal of this nationalization policy in the 1980s and the resulting increase in the private education institutions principally in the large metropolis, the government’s intentions also focused on Islamization of the state curriculum and the amplified usage of Urdu as a Pakistan’s medium of instruction.

During the same decade, *Madrassas* or Islamic schools also saw an increase all over the country, more in the poor areas perhaps due to their residential and free-education facilities. If counted for the quality of education by these *Madrassas*, many provide good education in both secular and religious subjects, while many others are just *mastabas* or Elementary academic Institutions, that provide no essential education still to the mature students, further than the memorization of the scripture. In contrast, the middle class, rich and liberal, and secular segments of the population prefer Western-type education offered in English-medium private schools. As today, several private schools present college entry examinations conducted by educational facilitating Institutions from the USA and the UK, whose many pass-outs are then educated abroad.

This separation and bifurcation of the Academic structure into a private Westernized segment and a state-run religious sector has created menacing societal tensions and has increased the trouble of “brain drain”: the migration of many well-educated members of the inhabitants to the Western and the already developed part of the world. But such core problems obstructing the way of Educational progress and fulfillment in Pakistan were neither addressed by Benazir Bhutto and her government nor she did try to neutralize the unequal and class-based structure of the Pakistani education system so much so that even the problems of uniform, curricular development, and unity, training of teachers and the

lack of pertinent educational resources were not addressed by the BB's government in both phases.

"Saeed Shafqat"<sup>2</sup> evaluates BB Government in the following statement:

"Pakistan has one of the lowest literacy rates in the world. In 2005 only 47.4 percent of adult Pakistanis were literate. Male literacy was 61.4 percent, while female literacy was 32.4 percent. From 1976 to 2001, the number of primary schools got doubled, but so did the population. High levels of population growth continue to slow down educational development in the country. The government launched a nationwide scheme in 1998 to eradicate illiteracy and provide basic education to all children.

According to the constitution, it is the state's responsibility to offer free primary education. Five years has been established as the period of primary school attendance, but attendance is not compulsory. While the enrolment rate in primary schools is higher for boys, less than half of all the girls attend school. In the 2002–2003 school year, only 68 percent of primary school-aged children were enrolled in school, while only 23 percent of secondary school-aged children attended. In 2002–2003, merely 3 percent of Pakistan's college-aged population attended institutions of higher education while the best and wealthiest students sought education in British and American universities.

It means that from 1947 till 2005, what Pakistan earned statistically was just 47.5% to 60% of total adult education in which the three Bhutto governments may not be discounted."<sup>5</sup>

#### **BB AND HER WAY OF POLITICAL EDUCATION:**

Democracy being the upheld political way, she politically and through parliament tried to stage the organization of Parliament as the supreme and decisive power in the country and made maximum endeavors to alter Pakistan into a capitalist democratic state, while her political and ruling era comprised of both compromising and authoritative acts occasionally displayed with the other political shareholders in Pakistan.

As we mentioned her fondness for Western ideas and democracy, it may be noted that Benazir's nurturing at prime Western institutions prolonged her insight and matured her political stance as well as her universal views. She elaborates on her height of affection and curiosity to learn initial lessons concerning democracy.

To implement these ideas in Pakistan, it was needed to nurture the people chiefly at the social, political, and administrative levels, and for this cause, she nationally faced the testing task to expel the pressure of armed forces rule in Pakistani politics and to place the

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<sup>2</sup>Shafqat, Saeed: Is an Analyst and Expert On Pakistan Affairs: He Contributed For The Encyclopedia Encarta:2009 DVD Edition:Entry Key word :Pakistan.

roadmap for democracy for the future of the country, democratic prosperity and also to fortify the image of the country at the international level.

Along with this task, Benazir Bhutto was also facing countless challenges at the domestic front over the urbanized state structure, socioeconomic deprivations, local disparities, malicious politics, inaptness between the hopes of people, and PPP's response to the public. moreover, during BB's tenure, there were numerous problems like prevalent poverty, rampant unemployment, deep-rooted illiteracy, and economic bankruptcy. however, Benazir garnered some early successes at national and international stages, but it should be noted that Benazir's selection as premier and the re-establishment of a civilian rule; didn't finish the Army's part in Pakistani politics, administration, and policy-making process. The rationale may be that at the very beginning of her journey as a PM, the situation was not sufficient for a Muslim lady like Benazir to deal with the then-current challenges.<sup>6</sup>

Benazir portrays the illustration of a transformational leader hopeful of transforming Pakistan into an economically developed, socially liberal, and modern National Republic. The potential she had aroused was very towering, nevertheless, her presentation as Prime Minister on both terms remained not up to scratch. During her together tenures, she faced various challenges political entrenchments of the military, delicate inequity of power among the President and Prime Minister, widespread poverty, prevalent and deep-rooted illiteracy, and the major drawbacks of the spiteful politics of opposition. She twice managed to rule a society where males were dominating. We observe her admission into politics and her political headship begin a new era of women's activism and participation in a range of walks of life, including politics.<sup>7</sup>

BB promoted research institutions in Pakistan under Pakistan's Armed forces and provided the funds to work out. In her second rule, she declared 1996- as a "year of Information Technology".it may be guessed that She sought to make Pakistan a global player in the field of IT. She established a few technological institutions in rural or urban areas of Pakistan. Benazir extended the space program and also launched an integrated research program project, a missile-related policy (which successfully ended in 1996), while Pakistan's first military satellite Badr-I was also launched by her government, making Pakistan the first Muslim country to launch a satellite in the Earth's Orbit.<sup>8</sup>

Her opponent's successor Mr.Nawaz Sharif became the 12th Prime Minister of Pakistan in November 1990 first time in Pakistan's history we see that the center-right forces gained a chance to rule the country. During this period, Benazir worked to improve her international voice and screen image. Benazir visited launches at the Institute of Development Economics (IDE)and She had been reading its publications since the 1970s.

Benazir Bhutto was also a self-propelled economist, and she had no finance Minister during her government. She tried to improve the economy of her country, tried to finish nationalization, and kicked off the industrialization program. Her government was dismissed twice due to allegations of corruption and law and order situation, but she is also credited for putting greater attention on the transformation of the state economy and for putting more concentration on women's issues.

**BB POLICIES FOR WOMEN:**

She campaigned for better gender equality, voicing her anxiety about women's social and health issues, together with the issue of unfairness relevant to women. She announced the establishment of, courts, women's police stations, and women's banks. BB had been a pro-life champion and she spoke vigorously against abortion. BB was an energetic founding member of the Council of Women World Leaders: an association of present and previous presidents and prime ministers of the world.<sup>9</sup>

During her reign, she backed USAID on several projects about social, political, and Educational fields of influence.

BB's support for girls' education coincided with the USAID's wish to drive up to her Pakistan Program. through robust USA support, USAID-Pakistan launched a pushy program that contributed to a 70% boost in girls' enrollment in two tribal Inclined provinces bordering Afghanistan. This program was halted six years later when the Pressler Amendment enforced an end in aid in response to Pakistan's nuclear program and U.S. President George H.W. Bush invited BB to a state visit in June 1989.

NSC and White House advisors tried hard for policy initiatives to hold up the BB government and provide "deliverables" for the United States visit. Pakistan struggled for decades to develop its learning program. By 1988, Pakistan was at the center of its 7<sup>th</sup> five-year plan, which still failed to achieve targeted goals for literacy and basic Elementary enrolment rates. USAID rapidly developed an Elementary teaching program that concentrated on provinces Baluchistan and the Khyber pukhtun khuwan (Previously: NWFP), with a focus on increasing the number of girls in school.

**DAVID SPRAGUE<sup>3</sup> ELABORATES BB GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE IN THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:**

"We initiated to work on an Elementary education program straight away when I arrived in Pakistan. There was no example for it.<sup>10</sup> Three months before Benazir Bhutto became the new prime minister, there was a vast deal of enthusiasm and anticipation. Benazir had gone to school in the U.S. and was instantaneously looked upon as someone favorable to the West.

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<sup>3</sup>"David Sprague" was USAID And World bank Consultant during BB's era.

We were trying to establish a large USAID-funded educational structure in Pakistan, with a liberal PM like Benazir, which forced us to pace up the projected growth. We got News that she is near to visiting U.S. soil in a little while. a state visit with [George H.W.] Bush. The White House prepared documents to sign. We worked over that scheme fastly and, I think, three months it took, and developed a project in North-West Frontier and Balochistan provinces to the tune of \$280 million over 10 years, and the deal was signed in the White House during her State visit. I have never seen anything huge like this so fast and it was solely because the U.S. wanted to have something in the social sectors signed at the time she was visiting. But it provided us with working space in those two backward provinces of Pakistan.

**GIVING PRIORITY TO GIRLS' ELEMENTARY EDUCATION:**

That was a time where, for AID, elementary schooling was the main issue, the importance of the commencement was that, how could we get more girls enrolled in school. When work started in Baluchistan, only 3% of school-age girls were studying in the primary school system. It is the poorest province of Pakistan

The Khyber Pashtun khuwanh (NWFP) was comparatively better than the former one, as far as girls' enrolment was concerned, it was miserable by far. The key concern was that you needed female teachers if you wanted to teach more enrolled girls in schools. And the schools should be established near where the girls were living, so the parents felt safe. We had to encourage the parents that this act was necessary to enroll their girls in schools for their future progress.

"This plan resulted in more than 2,100 new girls' enrolled in schools in two provinces of Pakistan defined above. Before the Program finished, we noted an A 70% increase in girls' enrolment It worked from 1989 - 1994. The rationale why it was stopped, is that the U.S. Administration was under the spell of the Pressler Amendment and the U.S. president had to endorse every year that the Pakistanis were not making any nukes.

According to the political strategy U.S. president used to certify every year when Pakistan was supporting us in combating Afghanistan in opposition to the Soviet Union, but after the Soviets left Afghanistan, he did not certify, and our aid program was stopped. I think that if we could work over 10 years, we would have accomplished permanent results.

"It was one the biggest educational AID project that developed so rapidly. In the two above-mentioned provinces, there 348,000 minor girls were enrolled in Grades 1-5 in 1989. In 1996, that number was 761,000, almost doubling the number of girls in school. Boys' enrollment increased from 1.3 million to 1.6 million. once I said to the operation director, Jim Norris, "I would do this job even if you didn't pay me. I had the chance to plan what I wanted; I had the resources I wanted, and the people to do it."11



**Conclusion:**

In short, one may conclude that Benazir Bhutto was an inborn politician and she was moderate, liberal, and nurturing so, after coming to the prime ministership, she tried to boost the courage level of women of Pakistan, try to allow them to participate in every walk of life, from, politics to law enforcement agencies, from the judiciary to entrepreneurship, and she especially tried her level best to build up culture to flourish a better education environment for girls in Pakistan. she tried to increase general enrollment in primary schools of Pakistan, but her major stress was over the girl's education that she felt was more necessary than the male audience.

she supported the empowerment of women through, employment, education, and tightly "population control". She had a different point of view regarding women's issues in the light of Islam. "Indistinct between Islamic teachings and social taboos," BB told the meeting, "We must remember that Islam forbids injustice – an injustice against people, against nations, against women." Many of her critics blamed her for not performing practically - as we also saw in the above comparisons of the fields of education and domestic development, etc - they judged that she just utilized symbolic expressions for making a niche for herself in the modern women world.

**According to Adele M. Stan<sup>4</sup>:**

Her killing is a tragedy, for the women of South Asia, and is a disaster that extends beyond Bhutto's family and her country. How disappointing her lack of action on behalf of Pakistan's women's condition, Bhutto was a strong symbol of their prospective empowerment. Imagery representation was what Bhutto perfectly presented, and symbols matter - especially to the desperate.<sup>12</sup>

So despite verbally advocating, child rights, human rights, civil rights, and women's rights issues, she couldn't achieve what she stressed to resolve even in her province, and into her constituencies. Many of her critics lamented that most of the oratory was just a symbolic expression for the public and media but the reality is that on the ground level, BB just laid few milestones for new projects. But despite all these critical evaluations, one may see that for her followers and political workers, she was a candlelight of hope, and hopes mostly require a leader.

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<sup>4</sup> Adele M. Stan is a columnist for The American Prospect. She is editor of Right Wing Watch, and a winner of the Hillman Prize for Opinion & Analysis Journalism.

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