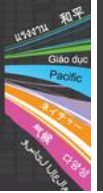


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Role of Media and Higher Education - Case Study Pakistan

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Developed nations have managed to prove in the last half century that socio economic development is dependent on knowledge instead of natural resources.

In 2002, Pakistan witnessed a sea of change in its higher education sector with the inception of the Higher Education Commission, an organization that set about to improve not only a low access to the higher education but quality of existing faculty, teaching, and research along with governance of universities.

Steps taken succeeded in shaking up the sleepy world of academics as new opportunities to improve qualification and capacity building were introduced. Digital video conferencing connected Pakistani lecture rooms with global seats of learning.

All the while the HEC faced major criticism and skepticism from academics as well as the media. The latter being avid watchers and critics of the changes that were brought about. However with time, an acceptance level was reached but HEC remained in the news due to funding cuts that it faced or for improving quality. This was also witnessed in March 2011 once government decided to disband HEC as a Federal entity and its powers would be distributed to the provinces. But, media with public support compelled the government to revise its mantra in larger national interest.