



The Education System in Pakistani Society	
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## The Education System in Pakistani Society

### Abstract

The education system plays a crucial role in shaping the social, economic, and political fabric of any country. In Pakistan, education is both a promise and a challenge. While the Constitution guarantees the right to education for all citizens, the reality reflects significant disparities in access, quality and resources.

It was a common notion that males and females are different in terms of their brains, thinking and their biological differences as they are seen from outside. Due to this, they were assigned different types of responsibilities and tasks. There were fixed roles and these roles were successfully performed by both the sexes throughout history.

With the recent development in behavioral sciences, it has been analyzed that men and women are of equal status and the same has been accepted by different nations and different laws have been passed based on this assumption. Now the question arises whether our Pakistani government provides our children with the facilities they are entitled to and whether such policies have been made that the children and youth of Pakistan can benefit from them? And is the current system going well?

Education is a very essential activity for the present generation as it is in all nations and almost all the developing and developed societies of the world are in a state of competition to maximize their educational gains.

This article examines the structure, strengths, weaknesses and reforms of the Pakistani education system and explores its impact on societal development.

**Keywords:** Primary education, Secondary education, Higher education, Government policy, Role of education in Pakistan.

### Introduction

Education is widely recognized as the backbone of national progress. In Pakistan, it is not merely a means of personal empowerment but also a vital driver of social cohesion economic growth, and democratic values. Despite various reforms, Pakistan's education system continues to face multiple challenges such as low literacy rates, regional inequalities, outdated curricula and inadequate teacher training.

The education system in Pakistan has a long and complex history, influenced by many cultural and political changes over the years. Since the country gained independence in 1947, the system has changed quite a bit, showing how the nation's needs and problems have evolved. Education is considered a basic right in Pakistan, but the path to making sure everyone has access to it has been difficult. Economic issues and differences between regions have made it hard to achieve widespread education.

Even with these difficulties, education is still very important for the country's growth

and development. The latest data shows that the literacy rate is around 59% which means there is a big gap in how much people are educated, especially for women and those living in rural areas. This number shows how much work is still needed to improve education for all children. While more kids are now enrolling in primary school, the rate at which they move on to secondary and higher education is still not good enough.<sup>1</sup>

### **Historical Background**

The beginning of Pakistan was defined by efforts to establish an education infrastructure. In 1951, the country's first education policy was introduced, designed to improve the level of literacy and educational opportunities. This policy was focused on advancing primary education and building schools throughout the country.

The 1970s were a time when the schooling machine in Pakistan was confronted with new troubles. The introduction of the National Education Policy in 1972 highlighted how vital training is in the country's development. The policy aimed to increase accessibility to schooling and enhance academic excellence. However, the implementation has various limitations, which include insufficient funds and political instability.

The 1980s and 1990s saw both challenges and progress in Pakistan's educational system. At this time, authorities made efforts to tackle issues such as the low rate of enrollment and insufficient infrastructure.

The adoption of Education Policy 1988 aimed to boost the quality of education and improve enrollment. The policy emphasized increasing the quality of primary education and enhancing teacher education. However, despite these efforts, the education sector had a lack of funding and regional inequalities.

In the Nineties, the federal government released numerous programs to improve schooling, which included the Federal Education Commission in 1992. The commission becomes charged with growing a complete educational coverage and addressing issues relating to the right of entry to education and quality.

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<sup>1</sup>. <https://generisonline.com/an-overview-of-the-education-system-in-pakistan>

The 2000s commenced with endured attempts to improve and boost the best of education in Pakistan. The government initiated numerous tasks to tackle the troubles faced by using the schooling sector. The most massive of those included The National Education Policy 2009, which was designed to grow enrollment and provide high-quality training throughout the country.

Recently, greater attention has been paid to increasing education opportunities for girls and communities with marginalized status. Numerous initiatives and programs are being introduced to raise access to education and decrease gender-based disparities. For instance, the Prime Minister's Education Reform Program aims to increase school infrastructure and help provide high-quality education to all children.

The 21st century also witnessed the rise of technology in education. Digital devices and internet-based resources are becoming increasingly integrated into the education system. This trend is designed to enhance student's learning experiences and give them access to numerous educational materials. Despite the progress made, Pakistan's education system continues to face challenges. Issues such as inadequate funding, regional disparities, and low literacy rates remain significant concerns. Additionally, political instability and natural disasters have impacted the education sector.

Addressing these challenges requires a concerted effort from the government, educational institutions, and communities. Investing in education infrastructure, improving teacher training, and ensuring equal access to education are crucial steps toward building a more robust education system.

Looking in advance, there's hope for a brighter future for schooling in Pakistan. With endured efforts to reform and improve the training zone, the country can obtain higher literacy fees and provide satisfactory training to all its residents.<sup>2</sup>

The education system in Pakistan has evolved from colonial-era structures. At independence in 1947, literacy rates were extremely low. Over the decades, successive governments introduced education policies such as the National Education Policy of 1979, 1998, and 2009 aiming to improve literacy, promote technical education, and bridge gender gaps. However, implementation has often been hindered by political instability, insufficient funding, and inconsistent policy direction.

### **Structure of Primary Education**

The primary education system in Pakistan is the first stage of formal schooling, usually for children aged five to eleven. This stage is important for learning basic

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<sup>2</sup>.<https://www.superiorcolleges.edu.pk/the-history-of-education-in-pakistan> 9 September 2024

reading, writing, and math skills, which are necessary for continuing education. The system is divided into five levels, and students are expected to finish primary school by the age of ten or eleven. The curriculum standards differ depending on the type of school. Public schools, which are mostly funded and run by the government, follow the national curriculum set by the Federal Ministry of Education and Vocational training. This includes subjects like Urdu, English, math, science, and social studies, and aims to give students a broad education. Private schools often have more freedom in their curriculum and may use international education system, offer better language training, and include extra subjects like computer science and the arts. Religious schools, known as madrassas, also provide primary education.

These schools focus on basic learning as well as Islamic teachings and mainly serve students from certain social and economic groups. While they offer an alternative to traditional schooling, there are discussions about whether their curriculum is as good and complete as that of other schools.

Even though the primary education system in Pakistan is well-organized, it faced many issues. In rural areas, access to good education is not equal and poor infrastructure makes it hard for children to attend and stay in school. Socio economic problems also make it difficult for students to go to school regularly.

The differences in education access and quality show the need for better policies and more support for primary education to make sure every child gets the basic education they deserve.

### **Structure of Secondary Education**

Secondary education in Pakistan plays a key role in students learning journey, helping them move from primary school to higher education. This stage usually includes grade 9 and 10, while upper secondary education covers grades 11 and 12. The education system is divided into two main groups: the general education stream, which follows the national curriculum, and private and international schools that use different curricula. The general education stream is mainly managed by the federal and provincial governments, which helps ensure uniform educational policies across public schools.

There is a clear difference in the curriculum between public and private schools. Public schools usually follow guidelines set by the textbook board, which may not provide as detailed content as the O-Level and A-level programs offered by private institutions. The private system focuses on internationally recognized qualifications, while the public system aims to deliver a basic education that meets national requirements. This Variety offers both advantages and difficulties for students' as they choose their education paths. Examination systems also differ. Public schools typically follow the rules of the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) and take exams at the end of grades 10 and 12. On the other hand, students in

private schools often take international exams, leading to differences in how assessments are conducted.

### **Higher Education System Overview**

The higher education system in Pakistan is important for the country's growth, including universities, colleges, and vocational training centers. In recent years, Pakistan has seen many institutions offering a wide range of degree programs that fit different academic interests and career goals. These institutions operate under the framework of the Higher Education Commission (HEC), which oversees and approves higher education programs across the country.

Admission rules for universities and colleges can be different depending on the school and the level of study. Usually, students need to have finished their intermediate education or an equivalent. Many universities also require students to take entrance exams to make sure they meet the necessary academic standards. This selective process helps keep the quality of education high in Pakistani universities. In Pakistan's higher education system, there are programs at the undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate levels across many areas like science, technology, humanities and social sciences.

In recent years, there has been a greater focus on technical and vocational education, which helps fill the skills gap in the workforce. Vocational training institutes have become more important, giving students practical skills that match what employers need, and improving their chances of finding jobs. Higher education plays a key role in developing the workforce. By training people with the right knowledge and skills, these institutions support Pakistan's economic growth. Graduates who are well-trained are important for encouraging innovation and helping the country stay competitive in the global market. Overall, the higher education system in Pakistan is essential for both personal success and the country's progress, helping to face challenges and keep up with the changing needs of society and the job market.<sup>3</sup>

### **Government Oversight and Policy Framework**

The Pakistani government plays an important role in managing the education sector, which is vital for creating and carrying out good educational policies. The government has set up different system and rules to improve the quality of education and make sure that all people in the country have fair access to learning opportunities. A major part of this management involves making national education policies that match both is global standards and the specific needs of Pakistan.

The Pakistan Reforms Report 2025 is a valuable tool for people like policy makers, investors, scholars, and development groups who want to understand how Pakistan's governance is changing.

This report is based on in-depth research, collecting data, and talking to those

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<sup>3</sup>. <https://generisonline.com/an-overview-of-the-education-system-in-pakistan>

involved. It offers a clear, open, and detailed picture of how well the government is doing in key areas.<sup>4</sup>

In recent years, the government has focused on improving literacy levels, reducing gaps between genders, and making quality education more accessible in rural areas. The Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training is responsible for carrying out policies that aim to create a more inclusive education system. This includes efforts such as the National Curriculum Framework, which is meant to set a standard for educational content throughout all provinces and ensure a consistent way of teaching. These kinds of frameworks are important for keeping the quality and content of education the same across the country. The government has also launched different programs to improve the educational facilities nationwide.

These include building and repairing schools, providing learning resources, and training teachers. These actions are key to dealing with challenges in areas that lack proper resources, especially in poorer regions. Moreover, organizations like the Pakistan Education Commission are vital in checking that schools follow national rules and guidelines.

The success of these government efforts relies on the participation of many groups, including provincial authorities, teachers, and local communities. Working together helps form a supportive learning environment that not only raises the quality of education but also supports the overall growth of the country's youth. Through these structured plans, the government is working hard to give every child in Pakistan a better future.

### **Challenges Faced by the Education System**

The education system in Pakistan is dealing with many problems that make it less effective and harder to access. One big issue is not having enough money. Without proper funds, schools can't get important supplies, keep their buildings in good shape, or hire good teachers. This lack of money is made worse by a political situation that is often unstable and doesn't focus enough on improving education. This leads to a lack of steady support for raising the quality of education. Along with money problems, social issues also affect the education system. Differences in income and social status lead to unequal access to good education. Poorer families often send their children to school

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<sup>4</sup>.mishal.com.pk

pakistan reforms-report- 2025-launched /

that don't have the resources they need. These social differences also include gender issues, where traditions can limit girls' chances to study, continuing cycles of poverty and fewer opportunities for whole communities. Another major problem is the poor state of school buildings. Many schools, especially in the countryside, don't have basic things like clean water, working bathrooms, or electricity. These bad conditions make learning harder and can stop students from coming to school regularly. Also there's not a strong law to make education policies work, which makes it easier for schools to be ignored. Cultural beliefs also shape how education works in Pakistan. Old ideas about work, family roles, and education can stop some people from wanting to do well in school. Many communities prefer learning skills for jobs rather than going to school. This attitude makes it hard to change the system and bring new ideas, making it difficult to create a fairer education system. To create a better education system in Pakistan, it's important to fix these many problems. More money, real changes in how the system works, and shifting cultural attitudes will be needed to improve education access and quality for everyone.

### **Initiatives for Improvement**

In recent years, the government has placed a strong focus on raising literacy levels, reducing differences between genders, and making good education more available in rural areas. Through the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, the government has introduced policies that aim to create a more inclusive education system. One key part of this is the National Curriculum Framework, which is meant to set a common standard for what students learn across all provinces. This helps ensure that students everywhere receive a similar quality of education and have access to the same learning materials. Alongside this, the government has launched several programs to improve the physical condition of schools and the resources available for learning. These efforts involve building new schools, fixing old ones, supplying textbooks and other teaching tools, and providing training for teachers. These actions are especially important in areas that have limited resources and where education has been challenging to access. Also, groups like the Pakistan Education Commission are responsible for checking that schools follow the national rules and standards.

The success of these efforts relies on the help and participation of many groups, such as local governments, teachers, and the communities themselves. By working together, they can create a better education system that not only improves learning but also helps young people grow in a well-rounded way. These organized steps are part of the government's plan to ensure every child in Pakistan has a better future.

On the non-government side, many NGOs are making a big difference in improving education across Pakistan. Groups like the Indus Resource Center and The Citizens



Foundation are working hard to set up schools and offer scholarships to students who don't have much. These organizations don't just help with basic education needs. They also train teachers to improve the teaching quality. By working closely with local communities, they make sure their programs fit the needs of each area and can last long-term, solving specific problems that different regions face.

In addition, using technology in education, such as digital platforms and mobile apps, is becoming more common in Pakistan. These tools help make learning easier to access, especially in faraway places where regular schools aren't always available. These efforts are important for encouraging a love of learning that continues throughout life, which is key for the country's future growth and development.<sup>5</sup>

### **Future Prospects of Education in Pakistan**

The future of education in Pakistan brings both challenges and chances, influenced by new trends, possible changes and the growing role of technology and global connections. As the country works to improve its education system, there is more awareness of the need for a comprehensive approach that combines new teaching methods with modern technology. A major trend is the growth of digital education platforms, which has sped up because of the worldwide move towards online learning. The use of e-learning in schools and universities is changing how education is taught. These platforms are not only making good education more available, especially in far-off areas, but also helping different types of learners, offering a more personalized learning experience. The government and private companies need to work together to create strong digital systems, making sure all students can access these tools equally.

Moreover, any changes in the education system should focus on creating a curriculum that matches modern global standards. This means including skills like critical thinking, problem-solving, and soft skills in the teaching approach to help students succeed in the job market. Another important issue is the ongoing gap in education, efforts to support girls' education can lead to long-term improvements in society and the economy.<sup>6</sup>

### **Role of Education in Pakistani Society:**

**Social Development:** Education promotes tolerance, civic responsibility, and national unity.

### **Importance of Education and Training**

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<sup>5</sup>. [generisonline.com/an-overview-of-the-education-system-in-pakistan](https://generisonline.com/an-overview-of-the-education-system-in-pakistan)

<sup>6</sup>. <https://generisonline.com/an-overview-of-the-education-system-in-pakistan>

Man makes thousands of efforts to fulfill his needs. Along with being a Muslim, one of his responsibilities is to keep Islamic teachings in mind to achieve these. He should accustom himself to Islamic ethics and try to make these ethics and habits gradually become a part of his life. Allah Almighty says:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا قُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ وَأَهْلِيكُمْ نَارًا وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ وَالْحِجَارَةُ<sup>7</sup>

“O you who believe, save yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is men and stones.” The Merciful and Compassionate Personality of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is full of mercy in all matters. He has also ordered to be strict with children in matters of religious duties, because even a minor severity in this world, even a punishment of beating, is a thousand times better and more beneficial than the punishment of the Hereafter. His saying is:

”مُرُوا أَوْلَادَكُمْ بِالصَّلَاةِ وَهُمْ أَبْنَاءُ سَبْعِ سِنِينَ، وَأَضْرِبُوهُمْ عَلَىٰهَا وَهُمْ أَبْنَاءُ عَشْرِ سِنِينَ، وَفَرِّقُوا بَيْنَهُمْ فِي الْمَضَاجِعِ<sup>8</sup>.”

"When your children reach the age of seven, order them to pray, and when they reach the age of ten, beat them for it (i.e. for not praying), and separate their beds for sleeping".

### Scope of Education

The Holy Quran states about the purposes of the Prophet hood of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and the prophetic responsibility.

: بُعِثَ فِي الْأُمِّيِّينَ رَسُولًا مِنْهُمْ يَتْلُو عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِهِ وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ . وَإِنْ كَانُوا مِنْ قَبْلُ لَمْ يَكُنْ صَلَّىٰ مُبِينًا<sup>9</sup> -

"It is Allah who sent among the people of Mecca a Messenger from among themselves, reciting to them His verses, purifying their souls, and teaching them the Book and wisdom, even though they were in manifest error."

كُلُّكُمْ رَاعٍ وَمَسْئُولٌ عَنْ رَعِيَّتِهِ، وَالْإِمَامُ رَاعٍ وَمَسْئُولٌ عَنْ رَعِيَّتِهِ، وَالرَّجُلُ رَاعٍ فِي أَهْلِهِ وَمَسْئُولٌ عَنْ رَعِيَّتِهِ<sup>10</sup> ”

<sup>7</sup>. Al-Quran 66 : 6

<sup>8</sup>. Sijistani Abi Dawood Sulayman bin Al-Asha'ath Al-Azadi, Imam, Sunan Abi Dawood, Chapter on the Day of the Slave's Prayer, Publisher of the Imdadiya Al-Faqih School, Multan, Pakistan, Hadith 495

<sup>9</sup>. Al-Quran 62 : 2

<sup>10</sup>. Bukhari, Abu Abdullah Muhammad bin Ismail, Sahih Bukhari, Book of Wills, Chapter on Interpretation of the Words of Allah, Old Library opposite Aram Bagh, Karachi, Hadith 2751

"Every one of you is a guardian and will be questioned about his subjects. The ruler is also a guardian and will be questioned about his subjects, and the man is a guardian of his family and will be questioned about his subjects."

Among the blessings of the Almighty God, the greatest blessing is children, for which there is no other substitute. That is why the prophets have prayed to the Almighty God for children and have longed for children. When Allah Almighty grants someone a blessing like children, it is obligatory on him to pay attention to the rights of the children and try to fulfill their rights in a good manner. The greatest right among the rights of children or good behavior is to properly educate the children. Proper education means that the children should be well educated in the basic teachings of religion, i.e. beliefs and acts of worship, so that after they grow up, they can practice religion correctly and improve their worldly and hereafter lives.<sup>11</sup>

It is stated in the blessed hadith

أَبِي سَعِيدٍ الْخُدْرِيِّ، قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: " مَنْ كَانَ لَهُ ثَلَاثُ بَنَاتٍ، أَوْ ثَلَاثُ أَخَوَاتٍ، أَوْ ابْنَتَانِ، أَوْ أُخْتَانِ، سَعِيدٍ الْأَعْمَى، عَنْ عَنْ  
-<sup>12</sup> فَأَحْسَنَ صُحْبَتَهُنَّ، وَاتَّقَى اللَّهَ فِيهِنَّ فَلَهُ الْجَنَّةُ

"Abu Saeed Al-Khudri (may Allah be pleased with him) said that the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "Whoever has three daughters, or three sisters, or two daughters, or two sisters, and treats them well and fears Allah regarding their rights, then Paradise is for him." In the above hadith, the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) spoke about the good upbringing of daughters. The servant who brings up his daughters well, teaches those manners, marries them and is kind to them. If he fears Allah regarding his daughters, then Allah has given him the good news of Paradise.

### Scope of Training

It is clear from the very definition of training that everything related to life or the way to perform every action is included in training. Therefore, from an Islamic perspective, the scope of training is very wide, but it includes training in the following matters.

<sup>11</sup>. Abu Hamzah Abdul Khaliq Siddique , Islam Ka Nizam Ikhlāq wa Adab , Pg 76,77

<sup>12</sup>. Tirmizi Abu Esa , Muhammad Bin Esa, Kitab Al- bir wa alata , Qadeemi Kutub Khana Karachi ,Hadith 1915

1. Faith training, which includes training in beliefs and worship.
2. Moral training, which includes practicing good morals and avoiding bad morals.
3. Physical training includes exercise. Observance of medical principles, avoiding drugs and misbehavior.
4. Educational training, which includes the principles and regulations of education for men and women.
5. Psychological training includes psychological diseases and their treatment.
6. Social training includes the rights of the people and social etiquette, etc.
7. Sexual training, which includes protection of private parts and family life, etc.

### **Objectives and means of Islamic training**

There are different means of training according to every nation and era, and each means is used to achieve some or the other goal. It is another matter whether or not it actually achieves the desired results.

**Women Empowerment:** Education helps reduce gender inequality and increases women's participation in the workforce.

Women's empowerment has emerged as a crucial aspect of societal progress and justice worldwide. Islam, as a global religion, has long been associated with patriarchal stereotypes, but it is important to explore the teachings of Islam that promote women's rights and empowerment. This article aims to shed light on the principles and teachings within Islam that support women's empowerment, focusing on areas such as equality, education, economic independence, and social and political roles.

### **1. Equality in Islam:**

Islam asserts the principle of gender equality, emphasizing the equal worth and spiritual capabilities of both men and women. The Quran clearly states that men and women were created from a single soul, highlighting their shared humanity. Furthermore, it declares that men and women have equal rights and responsibilities towards God and promotes the principle of justice in all aspects of life. This equality extends to matters such as intellectual capabilities, moral obligations, and spiritual connection with God.

### **2. Education and Knowledge:**

The teachings of Islam strongly encourage the education of women. Islam emphasizes the acquisition of knowledge as a duty for all Muslims, regardless of gender. Prophet Muhammad himself emphasized the importance of seeking knowledge and learning,

stating that the pursuit of knowledge is obligatory for both men and women. This empowerment through education enables women to engage in society, participate in various fields, and contribute their skills and talents.

Education, on the other hand, is a structured process through which knowledge is imparted and acquired. It usually takes place in a formal setting, such as schools or universities, and involves a systematic approach to learning. Think of education as the map that helps you navigate the ocean of knowledge.

**Structured Learning:** Education provides a structured framework for learning, including curriculum, classes, and assessments.

**Guided and Organized:** Unlike informal knowledge, education is organized and guided by teachers, mentors, and institutions.

Knowledge is the information, understanding, and skills acquired through experience or education. It's what you know—facts, insights, and skills gained from various sources. Imagine knowledge as a vast ocean; it's immense and ever-expanding, filled with countless pieces of information.

**Acquired Through Experience:** Knowledge often comes from personal experiences and observations. For instance, knowing how to ride a bike comes from practice and experience.

**Can Be Passive or Active:** Passive knowledge is like knowing historical facts, while active knowledge involves using that information practically, like applying mathematical principles in real life.<sup>13</sup>

## 7-Recommendations

1. Increase budget allocation for education to at least 4% of GDP.
2. Prioritize teacher training and continuous professional development.
3. Strengthen public-private partnerships for expanding access in rural areas.
4. Modernize curricula to encourage creativity, problem-solving, and digital literacy.
5. Ensure transparent monitoring and evaluation of educational policies.
6. Promote inclusive education for differently-abled children .

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<sup>13</sup>. <https://cmrinternationalsuraram.com/understanding-the-difference-between-knowledge-and-education-a-comprehensive-guide>

## 8. Conclusion

The education system in Pakistan holds the potential to transform the nation socially and economically. However, persistent challenges require strong political will, community engagement, and sustainable reforms. A well-functioning education system can break the cycle of poverty, foster innovation, and build a more inclusive, progressive society. The path forward demands collective responsibility—government, educators, parents, and students alike must contribute to shaping an educated and empowered Pakistan.

In addition, education in Pakistan can greatly help the country's socio-economic growth by encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship. Having a well-educated population is key to boosting the economy and drawing in foreign investments. By focusing on quality education, the nation can ensure its young people have the skills needed to compete in a global economy. Overall, the future of education in Pakistan depends on properly carrying out reforms, keeping up with new technologies, and making sure education is available to everyone, which will lead to a brighter and more successful future



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