

a) Private School Education

From the Pakistani perspective, education in private schools is expensive. But the quality is far better than what the government schools offer. Most of the private schools offer certificates like "O" and "A" levels from British universities. Examinations for these certificates are conducted by the British Councils in Pakistan and examination papers are marked in Britain.

b) University Education

Recently, private universities have started operating in Pakistan. The Lahore University of Management Sciences is affiliated with McGill and the Aga Khan University has a co-operative arrangement with McMaster. Numerous other institutions claiming affiliation with United States, United Kingdom and Philippines universities have opened campuses in different Pakistani cities. Private-sector businesses have shown a willingness to invest in this sector if they can find joint-venture partners.

c) Technical Education

The quality of technical education provided by government polytechnic schools is below international standards. Students from these institutions lack fundamental concepts and principles associated with current technological applications in industry. The reasons frequently cited for the poor quality of training in these schools include an inferior quality of instruction, inadequate facilities, insufficient or outdated equipment, materials and, especially, textbooks.

Environment

Opportunity

Pakistan has a long way to go in terms of industrialization. However, even at the present level of industrialization, pollution caused by industrial and commercial activities is creating unsustainable conditions for present and future generations.

Pakistan offers substantive export opportunities for the Canadian environment industry. Canadian environmental goods, services and technologies need to be properly introduced in Pakistan. The World Bank and the Asian Development Bank have initiated projects to help Pakistan check, clean and maintain a healthy level of environmental standards.

Business Environment

Pakistan is a densely populated country of 135 million people and an annual growth rate of 2.9 percent. Population pressures place tremendous demands on limited natural resources like water, agricultural land, and forests, and its cities suffer from urban pollution.

A comprehensive draft Environmental Protection Act was prepared and subsequently revised effective March 1996. National Environmental Quality Standards for municipal and liquid industrial effluent, industrial gaseous emissions and motor vehicle exhausts have been developed as of August 1993 and put into effect in July 1994 for new industrial units and in July 1996 for the existing industry. However, full compliance with the legislation has not been achieved due to a general lack of attention by industry and non-enforcement by governments at both the provincial and federal levels.