

Business Environment

The business environment is relatively open. The private sector is eagerly pursuing joint venture projects in agri-food/fish processing. The government is also encouraging the private sector to establish dairy farms and cattle breeding facilities to overcome the milk, beef and meat shortages.

Power supply is a significant constraint with many processing facilities installing captive power units. Growth in this sector has been hampered by relatively small land holdings, coupled with the lack of skilled and progressive farming/dairy raising techniques and credit facilities for small farmers.

Education

Opportunity

The World Bank and the Asian Development Bank are assisting Pakistan in improving the quality of primary and technical education in Pakistan. Canadian consultants in this field are eligible to bid on these projects.

The private sector in Pakistan is eager to establish schools with foreign collaboration. Canadian schools can capitalize on this opportunity by finding an appropriate Pakistani partner.

Graduates from Pakistani schools are willing to further strengthen their educational qualifications by attending universities in foreign countries. These students need to be made aware of the quality of education offered by Canadian universities, the relatively low cost of such an education compared to the United States and the United Kingdom, and the friendly and welcoming lifestyle to be experienced in Canada.

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In Pakistan, the medium of instruction in government schools, whether in villages or cities, is Urdu. English is taught from the 5th grade on. Most children living in villages go to government schools where they complete middle-, and in some cases, secondary-level schooling.

Private schools, operating in cities, teach in English and offer better education than the government schools. Many of these schools model themselves on the British system with students completing their A-levels before going on to university. After graduation, some students opt to study in foreign universities typically in the fields of science, engineering, business/commerce or medicine. Students attending local universities normally pursue their studies to the Masters level.

Since Independence, education generally has been neglected by the government most notably at the government-run primary/secondary and university levels.

Realizing the potential available in this sector and the desire of parents to provide quality education to their children, the private sector entered this field and private schools have sprung-up in all the major cities. These schools and colleges are eager to affiliate themselves with foreign educational institutions.