**The Taliban and education**

**The ban on female education in Afghanistan will cause great suffering**

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Education helps the sustainabil­ity of a society. It not only sta­bilises one society but helps the region in development. In to­day’s world where all the coun­tries throughout the globe are working to improve their education system, the Afghanistan government, led by the Taliban, banned higher education for female students. Women play a fun­damental role in a country’s pol­itics, society, economy, and all other spheres of life. Unfortunately, Afghan women who struggled for decades to get a chance to contribute to society are once again limited to their homes.

After the war on terror in 2001, Ha­mid Karzai became president of Af­ghanistan and the process of pro­viding education started. Despite facing war, terrorism, and financial crisis, the Karzai government and lat­er president Ashraf Ghani’s govern­ment managed to work for providing education to their people.

[AMAN-23 Exercise to pave way for more peaceful, secure region: PM](https://www.nation.com.pk/14-Feb-2023/aman-23-exercise-to-pave-way-for-more-peaceful-secure-region-pm)

The whole population of Afghani­stan still did not have access to ed­ucation, but there were marked im­provements. However, after the withdrawal of the US in August 2021 the Taliban government looked more flexible and the world was hoping that this time they will not be as rig­id as in the 1990s, even after the closure of schools for one month in 2021. The schools were reopened and again in March 2022 they banned girls from schools by arguing that they are working on a separate system of education for both male and female students.

Later, they repeated the same laws as in the 1990s by not allowing wom­en to even visit parks or travel with­out male guardians. This time the Taliban education minister issued a letter stating that the government has banned female university stu­dents from getting an education af­ter cabinet meetings.

The cabinet is not elected but is an interim government because they signed a deal in Doha of forming a new inclusive government until then the interim government will be man­aging state affairs. Unfortunately, af­ter one and a half years of US with­drawal from Afghanistan, the Taliban are unable to form a proper govern­ment and the country is still gov­erned by them.

[Everything's nothing but play for Imran Khan, says Sharjeel Memon](https://www.nation.com.pk/14-Feb-2023/everything-s-nothing-but-play-for-imran-khan-says-sharjeel-memon)

The ban on female education in Af­ghanistan will cause great suffer­ing. About half of the population of Afghanistan’s next generation is fe­male which needs to be trained and educated to develop the country. This generation has faced wars since they were born. The female population of Afghanistan is facing socio-cultural barriers which include child marriag­es and violence against women.

Similarly, poverty also plays a vi­tal role in the underdevelopment of Afghanistan because many par­ents are unable to send their chil­dren to school because of econom­ic constraints. However, after the Taliban takeover of Kabul in August 2021 people were hoping that this time their children will be allowed to school and they were optimistic that women will be helping males in sup­porting families.

But the Taliban government spun the table in the opposite direction. Instead of tackling all those issues of illiteracy by improving the edu­cation system, and infrastructure, and providing facilities to the peo­ple they imposed a ban on Afghan female students. This ban will once again stop the Afghans from tack­ling issues like economic instability, health, education, and other issues faced by them.

[By-polls: Nomination papers of 74 candidates accepted from KP](https://www.nation.com.pk/14-Feb-2023/by-polls-nomination-papers-of-74-candidates-accepted-from-kp)

The Taliban needs to allow female students to get an education because about 49 percent of the coming gen­eration is female which will play a role in the development of the coun­try. If a change in the system has to happen, it must take place quickly.

This can be done in the short term by dividing the university’s timing into two shifts which can help them in not building more institutions for females but by utilising exist­ing buildings. There is no restriction on female education in Islamic law, which is why the rules in Afghanistan do not make sense.

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