

Status of technology in Pak

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Not status but technology has been a much-talked-about issue in our country. This paper talks about a chronological description of various events on the technological spectrum, which led to existing system of management and infrastructure. It also discusses the human resource development relating to stock of high level Science and Technology (S&T) manpower available and those engaged in S&T activities including research and development (R&D). The quantitative account of status of technology has been given as the output of the R&D effort in Pakistan.

The sub-continent had a rich scientific and technological tradition during the ancient and medieval periods. It is only the past few hundred years that the Muslims were left behind in pursuit of science and thereby suffered social, economic and political decline. After a considerable period of dormancy, scientific and technological work began in the 18th century, under the stimulus of British Colonial rule: Muslims were rather late in taking to this and during the last decade of 18th century only one paper by a Muslim Ather Ali Khan was published in India. It was not until Sir Syed Ahmed Khan did

launch the Aligarh Movement in 1880 that Muslims came in contact with modern science. He contributed generously by founding the Scientific Society in 1881, the Indian Academy of Science in 1933 and Indian Science Congress in 1947. British pioneered the development of modern science in this region but their interests were primarily focussed on their military

tioning universities led to establishment of Technological Education Committee in 1947. This resulted in setting up of research establishments in the country and Scientific Commission in 1960. Major government organizations such as PCSIR, PMRC and Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission were established in the fifties. Education Commission (1958) and Sci-

since then to review technological development and to derive strategies and work-plans to improve upon it. Major achievements in this regard, which led to our current infrastructure, include creation of Science and Technology Research Division directly under charge of the President of Pakistan. It was first merged with Ministry of Education in 1969 and called as Minis-

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needs and this attitude despite our independence still seem to persist.

Pakistan inherited a poor infrastructure for technological research and a gravely dislocated educational system as 95 per cent of universities a research organizations became part of India. A few degree colleges, one medical college, one agricultural college-cum-research institute, four small research labs and two fully func-

entific Commission (1960) were formed which gave their recommendations. These recommendations were partially implemented and as a result an Agricultural University at Faisalabad, UET at Lahore and DESTO at Islamabad were established.

During 1962 and onwards, literacy rate was stagnated due to exponential increase in population. Repeated efforts have been made

try of Scientific Education and Scientific Research and later to give science its due importance a full Ministry of Science and Technology was formed in 1972. Since 1973 Constitution, Science and Technology is a Federal Government responsibility. Later, a major development took place in the form of Kahota Research Laboratories (KRL). The recommendation of National Commission for Science

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and Technology (NCST), constituted in 1984, on Technology Development led to framing and approval of National Technology Policy (NTP). Most important breakthrough was intended in the Eighth five-year plan in which 1 per cent of GNP were allocated to different R&D institutions. Earlier vision 2010 and now vision 2025 programs, both of absolutely no vision, is on the anvil.

By strict definitions, "Technology" is the systematic knowledge of a particular art. The success of a technology depends upon the society in which it is developed. Once a technology is discovered, it must be applied. The consumers of that technology must perceive that the value of the new technology is greater than the cost of supplying it. Technology no matter in what form has always brought change to the world. Every society has had its share of doing some serious adaptations and making room for newer thoughts – no matter how revolutionary or radical they may seem initially. But eventually the change prevails. In Pakistan, it is fashion to talk about technology and science interchangeably so much so that the statistics available treat them as one

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