



# “Student’s Militancy; Problems and Solution”

Wasal Khan and Mohammad Iqbal

Sarhad University of Science and Information Technology, Peshawar, KPK, Pakistan.

### ARTICLE INFO

#### Article history:

Received: 7 November 2011;

Received in revised form:

16 December 2011;

Accepted: 27 December 2011;

#### Keywords

Student’s Union,  
Unionism,  
Student’s militancy,  
Irritancy,  
Advantages  
Disadvantages.

### ABSTRACT

The study attempted to examine the problem of student’s militancy, causes of irritancy and find out possible solution as they are related to the educational institution in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. The population of the study includes 20 colleges including fifty per cent private and 50 % public (both genders), their principals and teachers. The sample included 20 colleges (both genders) in public and private sectors. Thus ten colleges including five male and female were randomly selected in public sector and the same proportion in private sector, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan. Both close-ended and open-ended questionnaires were the tools of the study, which were fielded to principals and teachers. The role of unionism, its advantages, disadvantages, causes of irritancy and suggested measures for solution of problem remained the focus of the study. The data were subjected to analysis, which were given both quantitative and qualitative treatment. The outcome of the study was that the student militancy adversely affected student’s learning and wastage of the valuable time that they could otherwise utilize for purposeful and co-curricular activities. The data were collected at source and analyzed through statistical measures. The outcome of the study was that there were both advantages and disadvantages of student’s unions, which largely depended on their use and misuse. The proposed measures included a couple of implementable suggestions for addressing the problem areas.

© 2012 Elixir All rights reserved.

### Introduction

The term Student’s Union stands for Students’ Government, Students’ Senate, Students’ Association, Guild of Students and Government of Students’ Body. Students’ unions in colleges and universities play vital role in solving students’ problems in advanced countries like UK, USA, Canada, Australia, and Japan where they volunteer their services to the cause of students. However, in Pakistan, students’ unions are mainly politicized bodies, which, more often, serve training ground for aspiring politicians. These bodies encourage strikes and boycott classes even for minor reasons. The office bearers are more often instrumental in unfair means in examinations, lawlessness and violation of merit criteria in students’ admissions for satisfaction of their ego and political motives.

In historical perspective, students’ unionisms were instrumental in toppling down Government of the Ayyub Khan Regime in 1969 and were active in General Zia-ul-Haq undemocratic regime, which resulted in imposition of a ban on them in 1984. However, they continued their activities implicitly and remained active in advancing the mission of their respective political parties. On 29<sup>th</sup> March 2008, those impositions were revived by an administrative order of the Prime Minister.

According to Amna Gillani (2008) the main aim of the students unions should be to work for the rights and welfare of the students on all forums. In an institute, students unions can help the students to promote their abilities in educational, social and personal aspects. Besides fighting for the rights of the students, students unions also help to project and promote their personal abilities in order to make the prominent person...In a country like Pakistan where democracy is not left to flourish and

the politicians are unable to handle the problem, they are misusing these students’ unions for their own interest.

According to PILDAT (2008) students’ unions in Canada are activated right from the school life. When they reach college and university levels, it becomes their nature. From the very beginning students’ unions become the voice of students. They promote the skills and freedom as well as provide help in broadening the minds of students’ community. These healthy activities provide them chance to participate in the politics. They also help them to prepare the future generation to become leaders of the political world.

According to Anas (2008) one gives more time to students’ union at university level. It is to involve oneself in those activities, which are rich in cultural facilities. At university level it becomes sure to participate and represent themselves. At this stage, it becomes necessary to highlight and support the voice of students in an enjoyable manner. In a students’ union, students come from different places; they belong to different backgrounds having different experiences, which make it valuable.

In UK students’ unions stand at the heart of colleges or universities. They are responsible for social events such as sports, discounts, music, and most importantly, representing students in healthy competitions. In UK it is called National Union of Students (NUS), but it is not necessary that all universities are part of NUS. It can be run by a group of representatives elected by students.

According to Shahzeb (2010) students unions develop the qualities of leadership in students. Here students from different places and different cultures come together. They interact with

each other. They talk and make debates on a problem. Some agree and some disagree on a particular point. This helps the students to listen to the view point of others. It creates tolerance in them. Regular elections among the students' unions help to promote love for democracy. Students of good unions become good politicians of the future.

According to Aziz-ud-din (2008) the primary aim of students' unions is to participate in the students' affairs. These unions provide only part time activates. Some time in students unions, professional students' leaders provide ill power to the unions to take benefit from them. They generally take the rights of deserving students. This counts to be a drawback of the students' unions.

### Hypotheses

1. Students' Militancy creates hurdles in teaching learning process.
2. Students' Militancy and unionism pose administrative problems to principals, teachers and other peaceful students.
3. They encourage all that, which is not lawful and meritorious.

### Research Methodology

It was an explorative type of study that investigated the causes and after effects of students' militancy in colleges and brought to lime light implementable solutions for solution of the problem.

The study was prompted by the assumptions that student's unionism precluded the smooth functioning of the teaching and learning activities, posed problems to the college faculty and encouraged lawlessness and violation of merit criteria of the colleges. The problem posed in research was how to remedy the situation for better outcomes.

The primary source of data collection was a questionnaire having both closed and open-ended questions, which was administered to the randomly selected 100 principals and teachers of both genders in half public and half private colleges of Peshawar Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, Pakistan.

Their responses were analyzed with the help of tables and graphs. They were also placed under different categories and discussed. This approach provided the study a research design that was a mixture of both quantitative and qualitative approaches.

The study was provided support with review of literature mainly based on internet, a study of books and personal data bank of the researcher. The analysis was made in a simplified manner by making use of tables and graphs and simple statistical measures. These statistical tools pushed forward the result of the study to logical conclusions which remained unbiased.

### Techniques of Data Analysis

#### The responses to Close-ended Questionnaire were quantitatively assessed

The responses to close-ended questionnaire from 100 college teachers of both public and private colleges (both genders) were against political students' militancy, who ticked option 'Agree', while those in favour of student's unions ticked 'Disagree' option.

Those who were not sure about both of them ticked the option of 'Undecided'. The overall responses from both public and private college teachers (male and female) were reflected in the Table that follows:

#### The graphical Presentation of the tabulated data as reflected in Figure-1

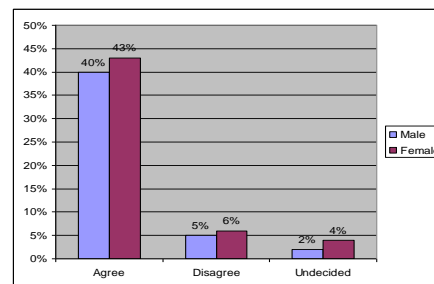


Figure-1

It can be observed that 83 % both male and female teachers showed 'agreed' response while 11 % 'disagreed'. The number of 'undecided' subjects was 6 % in number. Gender wise the percentage of agreement with the proposed idea is almost equal in male and female, which is 41 % on the average. Similarly average percentage of disagreement is 55 %. A very small percentage 'undecided' as can be judged from the graph, which is about 3 %.

### Responses of open-ended questions

The responses to open-ended questionnaire were discussed, the following inferences were drawn:

- More than 80 % college teachers suggested ban on student's political unionism in colleges and universities and claimed that it created hurdles in teaching learning process, disturb learning environment, produces lawlessness, discouraged merit policy, created campus violence, influenced ruling party on student's politics, sectarian and ethnic trends in student's politics and disturbed peaceful students as most of the students' organizations had close links with political parties.
- Some political parties even provide financial help during union election and/or for some other activities, and put pressure and influence over the college or university administration.
- Even in some cases, they provided arm tactics against rival students.
- Out of these 80 %, 30 % teachers supported student's unionism on non-political basis, to work for the student's rights, talk and make debates on students' problems, create tolerance, encourage co-curricular activities, arrange seminars, workshops etc to create among students healthy competitions in order to prepare them for practical life.
- More than 10 % college teachers took a positive view and recommended political unionism in educational institutions as they worked like a nursery for nurturing political thoughts, develop the qualities of leadership in students and produced some prominent leaders like Mr. Javed Hashmi, Mr. Liaqat Baloch, Mr. Jehangir Badar, Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, Dr Abdul Hayee Baloch etc.
- Less than 10 % college teachers suggested complete ban on student's militancy and recommended that students should concentrate fully on their studies, and not to waste their valuable time and parent's money.

All the three hypotheses of the study were confirmed, therefore the study proposed a couple of implementable measures for improvement.

### Results

The result of the study indicated that students' militancy is dangerous for teaching learning process in Pakistani context as majority of the respondents were against political unionism in educational institutions. Non- political student's unions were however exceptions which play positive role for the welfare of the students and provide experience to aspiring politicians.

**Lesson Learnt:** The lesson learn from the study is that the focus of students' activities be on learning optional use of educational services rather than involving themselves in activities detrimental to themselves and other stakeholders in education.

**Reference List**

1. Ahmad Aziz-ud-din (2008). 'What Student Unions mustn't do' The Nation 02 October, 2011, Lahore, Pakistan.
2. Anas imtiaz (2008). 'Student Unions in Pakistan'. (<http://www.anasimtiaz.com/2008/05/13/student-unions-in-pakistan/>)
3. Gilani Amna (2008). 'Student Unions in Pakistan: Good or Bad?' The Pakistani Spectator, A candid blog, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008, Pakistan.

4. PILDAT (2008). 'Proposed Revival of Students Unions in Pakistan' Discussion Paper, Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency, August, 2008, Islamabad Pakistan.

5. Najam Shahzeb (2010). 'Why Student Unions are Essential' The Express Tribune, November 28, 2010, Karachi. Pakistan. Student's Unionism in UK. <http://www.u>

**Responses of Teachers to Questionnaire**

	Agree (83%)	Disagree (11%)	Undecided (6%)	Total (100%)
Male	40%	5%	2%	47%
Female	43%	6%	4%	53%