

PERCEPTION OF PEOPLE ABOUT GOVT. AND PRIVATE EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN DISTRICT KOTLI, AZAD KASHMIR

Syed Masroor Anwar¹, Kamran Abbas², Mohammad Zakira³, Muhammad Basharat⁴,
A. Qadeer Khan⁵, Syed Shujahat Bukhari⁶

^{1,2,4}Department of Statistics, ⁵Department of Mathematics and ⁶Department of Physics, Azad Jammu and Kashmir University, Muzaffarabad, & ³Allma Iqbal Open University, Islamabad, PAKISTAN.

¹masroor_anwar2001@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

Considerable research has been undertaken on the perception of people in district Kotli (Azad Kashmir) about the Govt. and private sector education institutions. A random sample of 400 parents/guardians had taken from district Kotli (Azad Kashmir) with stratified random sampling. SPSS was used for analysis of data. The graphical method, descriptive statistics, Chi-square test of association and Mann-Whitney U test was applied. People prefer private sector institutions as compared to the Govt. sector institutions because in the private sector syllabus is more up to dated and teaching staff is more regular and friendly. The teaching staffs in private sector make more efforts to the students as compared to the govt. sector. Fee structure of private institutions is very high and there is deficiency of sports activities in private institutions as compared to Govt. institutions. There is association of more qualified staff with i) confidence level of the student's ii) successful life in future. Students from private sector proved to be more successful in future and they have the better chance for job in public offices.

Keywords: Public, perception, institution.

INTRODUCTION

Education is a vehicle for imparting facts and feelings, information, passion, understanding and appreciation to human beings. In Pakistan there are two broad categories of education that are formal and informal education. A formal education program is the process of training and developing people in knowledge, skills, mind, and character in a structured and certified program. Teaching refers to learning with a view toward preparing learners with special knowledge, skills or abilities that can be applied immediately upon completion. In our study we focused on public sector and private sector education system in Azad Kashmir, district Kotli. Ayyash-Abdo, et al.(2010) conducted the status of school counseling in Lebanon. An overview that pointed out some weakness in the educational system, such as high dropout and repetition rates, was presented. A sample of school counselors in public and private schools were surveyed. Private school counselors reported fewer stressors and more rewards than did their counterparts in public schools. In Indonesia, Welch (2007) make a study about the balance of public and private higher education had shifted sharply over the last two decades. While the private system education had been responsible for much of the expansion in higher education, its role in relation to quality was more questionable.

In Mexico's recent history is reviewed, showed that the role of private and public sectors in the higher education system, focusing on how policies to modernize education have redefined public and private space in education. The old discourse that assumed that private higher education should not be evaluated, nor assigned particular responsibilities in national development, needs to be reconsidered. The public nature of education validates its social

functions. In this context private universities need to be evaluated according to academic excellence criteria (Casillas, A.1993).

Anderson (1992) discussed that the balance of the public & private school sectors in Australia is unstable, and present trends may lead to a public system that merely serves as a safety net for children not catered to by private schools. Increasingly, bright and motivated students and influential and articulate parents are moving from the public to the private system. In 1986, 24% of primary school and 29% of secondary school students were in private schools, including elite, religious, and reform/alternative schools. The public system is left to deal with an increasingly difficult & unrepresentative student body, which in turn causes more flight to private schools.

The main objective of the study is to know the view of people in district Kotli about public and private sector education institutions and review of the related studies. However, no such study has been conducted in Azad Kashmir; district Kotli.

METHODOLOGY

Design and sample

Our population was based on the parents/guardians in district Kotli (Azad Jammu and Kashmir). The researcher conducted the survey in district Kotli (AJK). The parents/guardians were selected for this study.

Researcher used the following formula provided by T.Yamne (1967) to determine the sample size $n = N/(1 + N \cdot e^2)$ which is 400. The population of district Kotli divided into two strata i.e. rural and urban. Then take sample from these strata by using proportional allocation which is 308 from rural and 92 from urban area of district Kotli. A questionnaire was used to collect the information from the respondents and was developed according to tool used by (Ayyash-Abdo, et al.2010).

The questionnaire was comprised of three sections. Section 1 consisted of demographic attributes (area, gender, age, education level). Section 2 comprised of questions related to as where would you prefer to send your children/brothers/sisters for getting education, Which of the teaching staff makes more efforts for their students, Which type of institutes is good enough to judge the underlying abilities of the students, Which of the two students having more chance of selection for public office for job. These questions were measured on a 2-point scale by Public sector institute and Private sector institutes. In section-3 questions related to as the behavior of private teaching staff is friendlier than public teaching school, the sport's activities of public sector institutes are better of the private sector institutes, the syllabus in private institutes is more up to date and constructive, the confidence level of the student of private institutes is better than the student of the Govt. institute, due to fee structure in private institute's peoples prefer public sector institutes, the building of the public sector institutes is enough for learning of students, the teachers of the private sector institutes are well qualified, the private sector institutes provide better facilities for learning, the private sector institutes should be Govt. registered, the students of private sector institutes proved to be more successful their career. These questions were measured at 5 point scale that is agreed, strongly agree, disagree, strongly disagree and don't know.

The questionnaire was conveniently distributed to 400 parents/guardians of the district Kotli (Azad Kashmir) at the rate of 308 from rural areas and 92 from urban areas. Proper instructions were given to the respondents in order to fill the questionnaire properly by surveyors.

DATA ANALYSIS

Data were analyzed by using SPSS. Results were calculated and presented by using descriptive statistics, Graphical Method, Chi square test and Maan whitney test.

RESULTS

From all 400 respondents, 273 were male and 127 were female. From table-1 and graph-1, it is clear that mostly people (62.25%) prefer Private sector institutes. Table-1 shows that mostly people (63.50%) agreed that Private sector teaching staff makes more efforts for students as compared to public sector teaching staff. It is concluded that private sector institutes are better to judge the underlying abilities of the students (see Table-1 and graph-2). About 55.25% of the respondents think that the student of the private sector institutes having more chance of selection for public office for job as compared to the students of public sector institute and 44.75% against it (see Table-1 and graph-6).

Table 1. Perception of people about Govt. and private Institutes

<i>Asked Questions</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Behavior of private teaching staff is more friendly than public teaching staff	126	107	108	24	35
Sport's activities of public sector institutes are better than private sector institutes	194	113	71	09	13
Syllabus in private institutes is more up to date and constructive	188	80	109	11	12
Confidence level of the students in private institutes is better than the students of the Govt. institutes.	128	167	93	09	03
Because of high fee structure in private institutes peoples come to public sector institutes	161	135	63	27	14
Private sector institutes should be Govt. registered	158	123	87	21	11
Students of private sector institutes proved to be more successful in their career	147	97	88	32	36
Teaching staff of the private sector institutes are well qualified	112	83	158	47	00

Table 2. Comparison of Govt. and private institutes at agrees and disagree criteria

<i>Asked Questions</i>	<i>Public sector Institutions</i>	<i>Private sector Institutions</i>
Preference to send your children/brothers/sisters for getting education	151(41.75%)	249(62.25%)
Teaching staff makes more efforts for students	146(36.50%)	254(63.50%)
Institutes good enough to judge the underlying abilities of the students	167(41.75%)	233(58.25%)
Students having more chance of selection for public offices for job	179(44.75%)	221(55.25%)

Table 3. Association between qualified teaching staff and confidence level of the student

		<i>Confidence level of the students of private institutes is better than the Govt. institutes</i>					<i>Total</i>	<i>Chi Square</i>	<i>P-value</i>
		<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Don't Know</i>			
Teaching staff of the private sector institutes are well qualified	Agree	68	24	13	06	01	112	113.7	0.00
	Strongly Agree	4	41	05	02	01	83		
	Disagree	24	75	57	01	01	158		
	Strongly Disagree	2	27	18	00	00	47		
	Don't Know	00	00	00	00	00	00		
Total		128	167	93	09	03	400		

Table 4. Association between qualified staff and students proved more successful in career

		<i>Students of private sector institutes proved to be more successful their career</i>					<i>Total</i>	<i>Chi Square</i>	<i>P-value</i>
		<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Don't Know</i>			
Teaching staff of the private sector institutes are well qualified	Agree	45	30	11	13	10	112	74.417	0.00
	Strongly Agree	43	27	09	01	03	83		
	Disagree	45	31	60	11	11	158		
	Strongly Disagree	11	09	08	07	12	47		
	Don't Know	00	00	00	00	00	00		
Total		147	97	88	32	36	400		

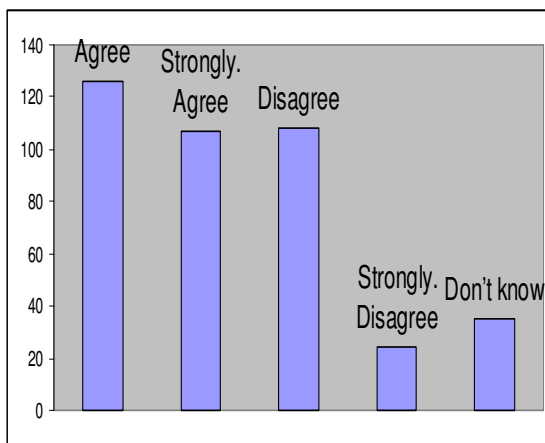
Table 5. Gender opinion about the job opportunities for the students in different institutes

	<i>Gender</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Mean Rank</i>	<i>Sum of ranks</i>	<i>Mann-Whitney U</i>	<i>P-value</i>
<i>Students from private sector institutes having more chances of job</i>	Male	273	207.95	56770.00	15302.00	0.028
	Female	127	184.40	23430.00		
	Total	400				

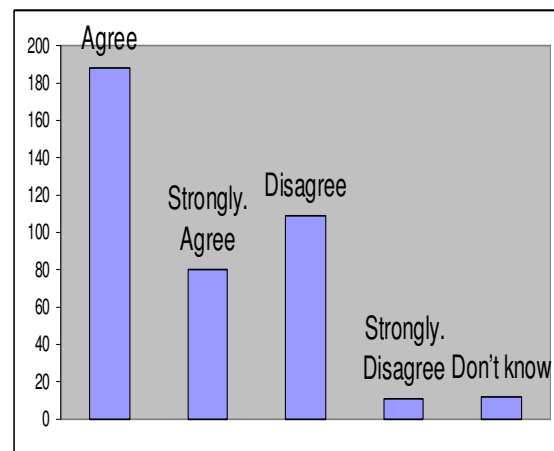
From the table-2 it is clear that mostly people are agree and strongly agree with the statement that the behavior of private teaching staff is more friendly than the public sector teaching staff (see also graph-3). Mostly respondents are agree (48.50%) and strongly agree (28.25%) with the view that the sport's activities of public sector institutes are better than the private sector institutes. People from district Kotli (Azad Kashmir) highly favour that the syllabus in private institutes is more up to date and constructive as compare to the syllabus in public sector institutes (see table-2 and graph-4). Collectively 48.75% respondents agreed and

strongly agreed that the teaching staff in private sector institutes are well qualified (see table-2). Overall, 73.75% people viewed that the confidence level of the students from private institutes is much better than the confidence level of students from the Govt. institutes. As fee structure in private institutes is very high as compared to the Govt. institutes. It is very difficult to afford these highly fees of private institutes by all family heads in this area, so considering table-1, because of this reason people come to public sector institutes. Mostly respondents (70.25%) said that the private sector institutes should be Govt. registered (see table-2). About 61% of the respondents agreed that the students of private sector institutes proved to be more successful their career as compared to the students of Govt. sector institutes (see table-2 and graph-5).

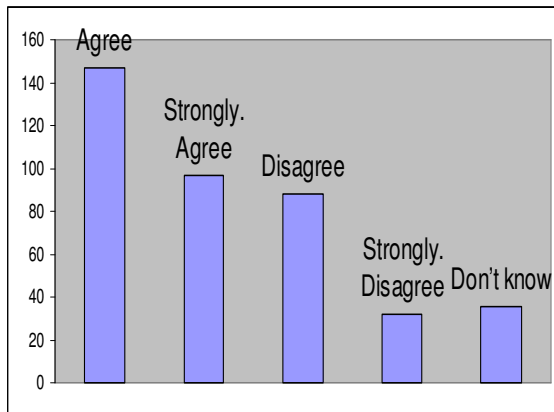
Graph-1 Preference of Institutes



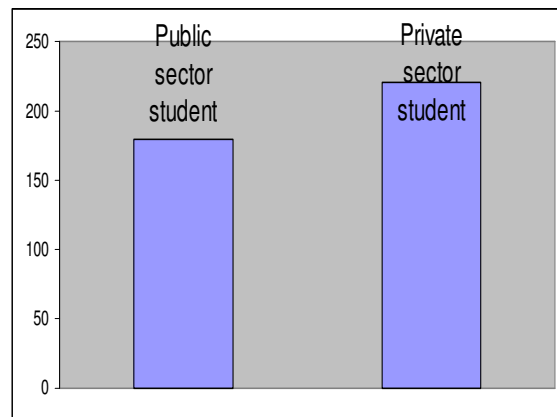
Graph-2 Good Institutes to measure underlying Abilities of the students



Graph-3 Private sector teaching staff is More friendly than public sector's staff

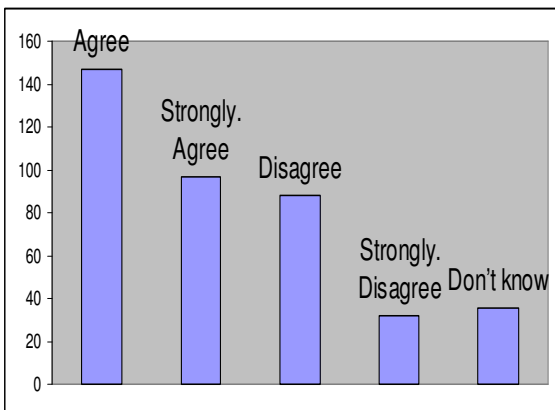


Graph-4 Private sector syllabus is more constructive and up to date

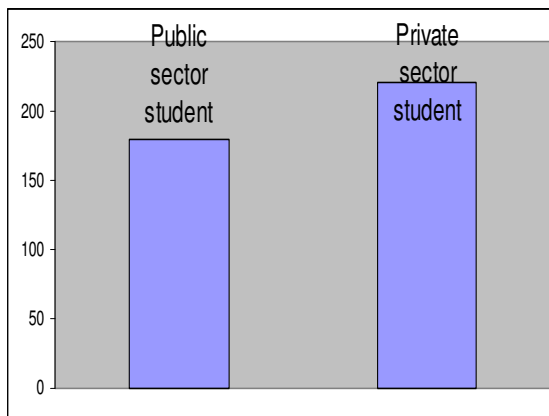


From the table-3 it is clear that there is association between more qualified staff of private institutes and confidence level of the students of the private institutes with chi-square=113.7 and p-value=0.00 at 5% level of significance (According to Faqir Mohammad, 2009). Also there is an association between qualified teaching staff from private sector institutes and the students of private sector institutes proved to be more successful in career with chi-square=74.417 and p-value=0.00 at 5% level of significance (Faqir Mohammad, 2009).

Graph-5 Students from private sector proved to be More successful in their career



Graph-6 students having more chances for job



From the table-5 it is clear that both males and females having the same opinion that the students from private institutes having the more chances of selection for job as compared to the students from Govt. institutes with Maan Whitney=15302 and p-value=0.028 at 5% level of significance (Faqir Mohammad,2009).

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

In a sample of 400 parents/guardians from district Kotli (Azad Kashmir) mostly people prefer private sector institutions as compared to the Govt. institutions for their children. In private sector syllabus is more updated and teaching staff is friendlier to their students. The confidence level of the students from private sector institutions is better as compared to the Govt. institutions. Teaching staff of private sector make more efforts to the students as compared to the govt. sector in Azad Kashmir. Results from Ayyash-Abdo, et al. (2010) are also with agreement with our findings. The fee structure in private sector is very high. In Azad Kashmir mostly people belong to low or middle class so the high fee rate of private sector is not affordable to all the people. In the view of this people look to the Govt. sector institutions.

The sports facilities in the private sector are not enough. There is association of more qualified staff with i) confidence level of the students' ii) successful life in future. Students from private sector proved to be more successful in future and having better chance for job.

It is recommended that similar studies be conducted in overall Azad Kashmir and Pakistan as to establish more facts and figures about these public and private teaching institutions in Azad Kashmir and Pakistan.

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