

ORDER SHEET
IN THE HIGH COURT OF SINDH BENCH AT SUKKUR
Const. Pett.No.D-**318** of 2023

DATE OF HEARING	ORDER WITH SIGNATURE OF JUDGE
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Hearing of case

1. For orders on office objections at flag 'A'
2. For hearing of main case

18.11.2025

Mr. Sheraz Fazal, Advocate for petitioner
Syed Naveed Ahmed Shah, Deputy Attorney General
Mr. Ali Raza Balouch, Additional Advocate General

In compliance with the order dated 14.10.2025, both departments have placed their respective progress reports, same are taken on record. The Secretary, Universities & Boards Department, submits that in compliance with the directions contained in the aforementioned order, 19 universities have provided the district-wise affiliation status of Government Degree Colleges for the **four-year (04)** BS Degree Program. It is further submitted that a letter dated 14.11.2025 was issued by the Section Officer (Judicial) College & Education Department to all Vice Chancellors of public-sector universities, directing them to update the regional status of affiliated colleges. The universities have responded by stating that affiliation has been granted to colleges which fulfil the HEC criteria, while inspections/visits for colleges that have recently applied for affiliation have already been scheduled. The requisite procedure shall be completed shortly prior to granting affiliation in accordance with HEC standards. It is further submitted that the Department remains committed to maintaining and enhancing the quality of higher education in Sindh, and all directives issued by this Court concerning the BS Degree Program, affiliation matters, and compliance with the (NQF) shall continue to be implemented.

2. The Secretary, College Education Department has submitted that College Education Department is fully committed to implement the orders in its letter spirit as well as the policies of the Government framed time to time. It is further submitted that it is necessary to draw attention to the relevant provisions of the **Undergraduate Education Policy, 2020** of the Higher Education Commission (HEC), which have been relied upon by the petitioner in the instant petition. Under Clause 3 of the **Undergraduate Education Policy, 2020**, undergraduate degrees in Pakistan are categorized as follows:-

3. Types of Degrees: In Pakistan, there are five categories of undergraduate degrees. Owing to variations in degree titles, the categories are described in generic terms:

3.1 Four-Year BS Degrees: These degrees pertain to arts and sciences. Unlike some countries that distinguish between BA and BS degrees, Pakistan offers a single degree titled Bachelor of Studies (BS) for both arts and sciences, with the specific discipline mentioned on the degree.

3.2 Four-Year Professional Degrees (Requiring Licensure):

Currently including:

Bachelor of Engineering (BE)

Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS)

Bachelor of Studies in Nursing (BSN)

3.3 Five-Year Professional Degrees (Requiring Licensure):

Currently including:

Bachelor of Architecture

Bachelor of Eastern Medicine and Surgery

Bachelor of Homoeopathic Medical Sciences

Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

Bachelor of Laws (LLB)

Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS)

Bachelor of Pharmacy (BPharm/B. Pharmacy)

3.4 Four-Year Degrees in Disciplines with Councils (Not Requiring Licensure):

Currently including undergraduate degrees in Agriculture, Business Studies, Computer Science, Education, and Technology.

3.5 Two-Year Associate Degree (AD): This is a two-year program offered mainly in affiliated colleges. It has replaced the former two-year BA/BSc programs, which have been discontinued.

05. Status of Government Colleges.

Government Colleges are not degree-awarding institutions; they function as affiliated colleges. Previously, Government Degree Colleges offered two-year BA/BSc degrees under affiliation with the universities in their respective jurisdictions. After the discontinuation of the two-year BA/BSc programs, these colleges now offer the two-year Associate Degree (AD) program under the HEC policy, continuing their affiliation with their respective universities.

06. Switching from AD to BS Program

Under the HEC policy, students holding an Associate Degree (AD) are eligible for admission into the 5th semester of a BS four-year program in a discipline of their choice, subject to university admission policies. Universities are already offering such admissions in accordance with Clause 28 of the policy. University of Karachi also announced the admissions in this regard. The relevant policy provision is reproduced below:

28. Switching Between Programs:

Students may switch between programs provided they fulfil the entry or exit requirements.

28.1 From AD to BS Program:

Associate Degree holders may apply for admission to a BS program. If admitted, the university may grant advanced standing by transferring applicable course credits from the AD program. Students may also receive partial or full credit for internships and PLL activities completed during the AD program.

3. The College Education Department, Government of Sindh, reaffirms its commitment to implementing the policies of the Government as well as the Higher Education Commission, in fulfilment of its statutory and constitutional duty to ensure uniform, modern, and high-quality higher education through proper implementation of the **Four-Year** BS Degree Program in all public sector colleges across the Province of Sindh.

4. The respondent, IBA University, has also undertaken that upon receipt of an official request from the Secretary, College Education Department, the matter will be placed before the statutory bodies of Sukkur IBA, namely the Syndicate and the Academic Council, for consideration and necessary approval. Vice Chancellor, Shah Abdul Latif University also filed his compliance report. However, Vice Chancellor Shaikh Ayaz University of Shikarpur and Vice Chancellor of Larkana University has yet not filed compliance report. Both the Vice Chancellors are directed to remain present before the Court on the next date of hearing along with compliance report.

5. In light of the above, the Secretaries of the Universities & Boards Department and the College Education Department, Government of Sindh, are hereby once again directed complete District-Wise Affiliation of all government colleges for the Four-Year BS Program at the earliest, ensuring full compliance with HEC standards and to submit a consolidated progress report, duly verified and endorsed by the respective universities, to this Court by ensuring that Associate Degree (AD) holders are facilitated to transition into the BS Program in accordance with Clause 28 of the HEC Policy by promptly addressing any disparities in implementation across districts, thereby ensuring uniform availability of the BS Program in all public colleges. They are further directed to make full compliance of the order dated 14.10.2025 so also order dated 18.11.2025, passed on CP No.D-84 of 2023, and furnish compliance

report on the next date of hearing. Office is directed to tag the CP No.D-84 of 2023 along with present petition.

To come-up on **13.01.2026**

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*M.Ali**