

*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

**02.10.2025**

Mr. Sheraz Fazal, Advocate for petitioner  
Mr. Ali Raza Balouch, Additional Advocate General  
Syed Naveed Ahmed Shah, Deputy Attorney General  
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The Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, in the discharge of its statutory mandate, has, through various policy directives and notifications, phased out the traditional two-year bachelor's degree program on the ground that it no longer meets contemporary academic and professional standards. The two-year program has been declared obsolete and is no longer recognized nationally or internationally, thereby depriving its graduates of competitiveness in higher education and the job market. In its place, the four-year Bachelor of Studies (BS) program has been introduced to align Pakistan's undergraduate education with international standards, promote research orientation, enhance employability, and equip students with the skills required in today's knowledge-driven economy.

2. Similarly, the Government of Sindh has also adopted this policy framework, and necessary measures for affiliation of Government Degree Colleges with Public Sector Universities were required for the smooth transition. The instant petition concerns the affiliation of Government Degree Colleges with Public Sector Universities for the purpose of implementing the four-year BS program in the Province of Sindh.

3. This Court, vide order dated 28.03.2023 passed in C.P.No. D-1432 of 2022, had constituted a committee comprising the Secretary, Universities & Boards Department, Secretary, College Education Department, Vice Chancellor of Shah Abdul Latif University Khairpur, and a representative of the Secretary Services Department (S&GACD). The committee was tasked with ensuring commencement of four-year BS Program from the academic session 2023 and to coordinate with relevant stakeholders. Specific directions were also issued that Degree Colleges of Khairpur, Nawabshah, Naushahro Feroze, and Dadu Districts be affiliated with Sukkur IBA University for launching associate degrees in Electronics, Computer Science, Information Technology, and Telecommunication, while the Registrar of Shaikh Ayaz University, Shikarpur, was required to ensure affiliation of Degree Colleges of Larkana District with the said University. At that point in

time, the University of Larkana had not yet been established; however, it is now fully functional under the Vice Chancellor, and therefore all Degree Colleges in Larkana District are to be affiliated with the University of Larkana without fail, such directions were also issued by this Court on 07.03.2023 in the present petition.

4. It is noted with grave concern that despite the lapse of over two years since passing of the aforesaid order, no meaningful compliance has been made. The matter was fixed again today, but apart from the learned Additional Advocate General, no responsible officer appeared. No compliance report, progress update, or concrete steps were placed on record to demonstrate compliance or adherence to this Court's directions. Such conduct on part of the respondents not only amounts to wilful disregard of judicial orders but also reflects a troubling bureaucratic indifference that places in jeopardy the academic future of thousands of students.

5. The Court deems it necessary to reiterate that the adoption and implementation of the four-year BS degree program is not a matter of administrative discretion but a statutory and constitutional imperative, carrying far-reaching benefits. It brings Pakistan's undergraduate structure in harmony with international benchmarks and enhances recognition of Pakistani degrees abroad. It strengthens students' competitiveness for admission in higher studies, both domestically and overseas, and improves their eligibility for international scholarships. It modernizes academic standards through research-based learning and interdisciplinary curricula, introduces market driven programs, and develops employable skills compatible with emerging technological and industrial requirements. It also ensures uniformity of education across all institutions, thereby reducing academic disparity. Above all, the four-year BS program secures the future of the next generation by providing them with the quality education guaranteed under the Constitution.

6. Accordingly, the Secretary, Universities & Boards Department, and the Secretary, College Education Department, shall personally ensure strict compliance of the Court's earlier orders dated 28.03.2023 passed in the referred case in letter and spirit, and take immediate steps to complete affiliation of all Government Degree Colleges with their respective Public Sector Universities for implementation of the four-year BS program. The Vice Chancellors of all Public Sector Universities in Sindh, the Principals of all Government Degree Colleges, and the Directors of Colleges in their respective regions are directed to adopt, implement, and enforce the four-year BS degree program forthwith with its modern curriculum, ensuring

uniformity across the province. The Vice Chancellor of Shah Abdul Latif University Khairpur, Vice Chancellor of Sukkur IBA University, Vice Chancellor of Shaikh Ayaz University Shikarpur, and Vice Chancellor of University of Larkana shall each file compliance reports positively, regarding the affiliation of degree colleges within their jurisdictions and commencement of the BS programs. All compliance reports, duly signed by the competent authority, shall be filed in this Court within fifteen days from today with advance copies supplied to the petitioners' counsel.

7. It may be noted, that in the event of further default, the Chief Secretary, Government of Sindh, along with the Secretaries concerned, Vice Chancellors, Directors of Colleges, and Principals of Degree Colleges shall appear in person before this Court on the next date of hearing to show cause, why proceedings under the contempt jurisdiction should not be initiated against them for wilful defiance of Court's orders. The Office is directed to fix this matter after two weeks, office is further directed label the file cover of instant case as "Compliance Case," while ensuring that duplicate sets of all earlier orders and relevant documents are placed on record.

8. Before parting, it is necessary to underscore that the right to education is not a matter of charity or choice but a constitutional guarantee. Article 25-A casts a binding obligation upon the State to provide free and quality education, which necessarily extends to ensuring higher education of acceptable standards. The right to life under Article 9 of the Constitution includes the right to live with dignity, which cannot be realized without access to educational opportunities. Article 18 of Constitution secures the right to enter upon lawful professions, trades, and callings, which presupposes the provision of adequate education and skill development by the State. The failure of the respondents to implement the four-year BS degree program not only frustrates national policy and judicial directives but also constitutes a violation of these fundamental rights.

9. It is, therefore, made clear that the transition to the four-year BS degree program is mandatory, being essential for compliance with HEC directives and Constitutional obligations. Any further laxity shall not be tolerated, and strict action shall follow against delinquent officers.

Adjourned to **14.10.2025**, for submission of compliance.

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