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EXAMINING THE IMPACT OF PRIVATE TUTORING AS AN EXTRA BURDEN ON THE PARENTS IN PUNJAB PAKISTAN

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KEYWORDS	ABSTRACT
Private Tutoring, Financial Burden, Education System, Inadequacies	The private tutoring has become a widespread phenomenon in Punjab, Pakistan. The study examines the growth of private tutoring in Punjab, Pakistan, and its impact on parents' financial burden and credibility of the education system. Study followed an interpretive paradigm. The research design used for this study was phenomenological approach. The research involves semi-structured interviews with 50 parents, and qualitative content analysis was used to analyze data. NVivo-14 software was used to identify the themes from data. The findings show that private tutoring is driven by the inadequacies of the public education system, peer pressure, and the perception of private tutoring as competitive advantage. However, parents perceive the financial burden of private tutoring as a significant concern. The results offered significant information for reaching the desired leading conclusion followed by certain recommendations. The study recommends that the government address the inadequacies of the public education system, regulate private tutoring, and enhance professional development of teachers.
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INTRODUCTION

Private tutoring refers to practice of providing additional private instruction/coaching outside formal classroom setting. Phenomenon has become increasingly common in many countries, especially in Asia, where it is often considered necessity for academic success. While intention is to enhance learning process and achieve better grades, private tutoring has become growing concern for parents, educators, and policymakers alike (Kim & Lee, 2010). This paper aims to explore impact of private tutoring on parents, students, and society as a whole. Private tutoring has become the pervasive aspect of the education system in many countries (Azam, 2016). The origins of private tutoring can be traced back to traditional Chinese system of private tutoring, which was prevalent among the aristocracy in ancient times. However, the practice has become

widespread in many parts of the Asia, including Singapore, Hong Kong and South Korea, where parents invest heavily in children's education, and academic success is highly valued (Joshi, 2019). The rise of private tutoring can be attributed to several factors, including the increasing competitiveness of the job market, stress on academic performance, and growing demand for higher education. Parents view tuition as the means of giving children competitive edge, a way of compensating for perceived shortcomings of formal education system (Buhagiar & Chetcuti 2013).

Private tutoring has become a lucrative business, with many private tutors and tuition centers offering wide range of services, including test preparation, homework assistance, and remedial classes. While tuition can be beneficial for students who are struggling academically or need additional support, it has also become additional financial burden for parents, who are already struggling to cope with rising cost of living and other expenses (Bray & Kwok, 2003). Moreover, private tutoring has also given rise to concerns about equity and fairness. Wealthier families have an advantage over low-income families, who may not be able to afford private tuition. As a result, private tutoring has been criticized for exacerbating social inequality and creating a divide between students who can afford private tuition and those who cannot (Dawson, 2010). Private tutoring has become a prevalent aspect of the education system in many countries, and while it can provide benefits for some students, it has become an additional burden for parents and a source of social inequality. As such, policymakers and educators must explore ways of addressing the underlying issues that drive private tutoring and ensure that all students have access to the quality education, regardless of their socio-economic background (Dang & Rogers, 2008).

Private Tutoring & its Impact on Parents

Private tutoring has become popular option for many parents seeking to provide their children with additional educational support. However, this practice can have significant impacts on parents, both financially and emotionally. Parents who invest heavily in private tutoring may experience stress and anxiety as they feel pressured to ensure their child's academic success. They may also feel a sense of guilt if they are unable to afford tuition or if their child's grades do not improve despite the investment (Bandyopadhyay & Das, 2021). The cost of tuition can be significant, and parents may need to sacrifice other expenditures to fund the tuition. This can impact their quality of life and may lead to financial stress and hardship (Chen & Wang, 2020). Private tutoring not only affects parents but also has the broader societal implications. The popularity of private tutoring can exacerbate existing educational inequalities, with families who cannot afford the tuition at a disadvantage (Kim & Lee, 2020). This can perpetuate social inequality and limit opportunities for upward mobility. Additionally, the demand for the private tutoring can create a thriving industry that operates outside of regulatory frameworks, leading to issues such as the unqualified tutors and unfair business practices (Bandyopadhyay & Das, 2021).

Moreover, the private tutoring may reinforce a narrow focus on rote memorization and exam performance, rather than fostering critical thinking and creativity. This can limit development of students' broader skills and knowledge, leading to a less well-rounded education (Chen & Wang, 2020). Thus, private tutoring can also create a perception that school-based education is insufficient, leading to lack of trust in the formal education system (Wang, 2020). The parents who are unable to afford tuition may feel pressured to work longer hours or take on additional jobs to make ends meet, that can impact their work-life balance and lead to stress and burnout

(Shen, 2018). In this connection, the private tutoring has become the pervasive aspect of the education system in many countries (Azam, 2016). The emphasis on the academic success and private tutoring can lead to strained relationships within the family. The parents may prioritize their child's academic performance over spending quality time with them or engaging in leisure activities (Wang, 2020). In some cultures, the private tutoring is deeply ingrained, and parents may feel societal pressure to invest in their child's education through private tuition. However, this can create divide between families who can afford tuition and those who cannot (Kim & Lee, 2020).

Children who receive tuition may feel pressure to perform well academically, which can lead to low self-esteem if they are unable to meet the expectations set by their parents or tutor (Wang, 2020). Despite investment in tuition, there may be a limited improvement in a child's academic performance, which can lead to the frustration and disappointment for parents who may have invested significant resources in tuition with little return (Chen & Wang, 2020). They may also feel a sense of guilt if they are unable to afford tuition or if their child's grades do not improve despite investment (Bandyopadhyay & Das, 2021). Private tutoring has complex & far-reaching impacts that must be carefully considered. While it may offer benefits for individual students, policymakers and educators must address the underlying issues driving private tutoring while ensuring equitable access to quality education for all students. While intention is to enhance learning process, attain better grades, private tutoring has become rising concern for parents, educators, and policymakers alike (Kim & Lee, 2010). The popularity of private tutoring can exacerbate existing educational disparities, families who cannot afford tuition at drawback (Kim & Lee, 2020). This includes addressing issues of educational inequality and regulatory oversight of the private tutoring industry to ensure the fair practices and qualifications for tutors (Ireson, 2004).

Problem Statement

Private tutoring has become a widespread phenomenon in Punjab, Pakistan, and it is a topic of concern for the parents, students, and policymakers. The practice of private tutoring has become an integral part of education system, with many students seeking additional academic support outside of school hours. While private tutoring may provide students with additional academic support, it also places a significant financial burden on parents. The problem statement for this research paper is to examine impact of private tutoring upon parents in Punjab, Pakistan. This research problem is important because private tutoring in Punjab, Pakistan is a complex issue that has significant implications for parents, students, teachers, and the education system as a whole. High cost of private tutoring places significant financial burden on parents, particularly those from the lower socio-economic backgrounds, and can lead to educational inequality. The practice of private tutoring can undermine the credibility of education system and marginalize teachers who may feel pressure to provide private tutoring to maintain income. Additionally, the academic pressure and stress associated with the private tutoring can have negative mental health implications for students. Thus, this research aims to provide insights into the impact of private tutoring on parents in Punjab, Pakistan, and to inform policymakers and educators on the underlying factors driving the growth of private tutoring as well as its potential negative consequences.

Rationale of Study

The rationale of this research paper is to shed light on the growing phenomenon of private tutoring in Punjab, Pakistan and its impact on parents. The high demand for private tutoring in

Punjab is indicative of the challenges and shortcomings of the education system, and its impact is felt across various socio-economic strata. The growing need for tuition is often seen as an indicator of inadequacy of the education system in meeting the needs of students. The practice of private tutoring has implications for education system as a whole, and its effects on parents need to be investigated. The financial burden placed on parents due to the high cost of tuition is a significant concern. The practice of private tutoring can contribute to educational inequality, as it often favors students from more affluent backgrounds who can afford to pay for additional academic support (Zaki, Rafiq & Afzal, 2023). This, in turn, has long-term implications for the social and economic mobility in Pakistan. Also, practice of private tutoring can have negative consequences for mental health of students, as it contribute to academic pressure and stress. Implications of private tutoring upon education system and on mental and physical well-being of students, need to be studied. Given significant impact of private tutoring on parents, students and education system, this research paper aims to provide the insights into basic factors driving growth of private tutoring in Punjab, Pakistan and to examine the implications of practice on parents. Study findings may inform policymakers and educators on challenges associated with private tutoring and potential solutions to address issue. This research paper is of significant relevance to the education system, parents, students, and the wider community in the Punjab, Pakistan.

Objectives & Questions

1. To identify the factors driving the growth of the private tutoring in Punjab, Pakistan.
2. To examine the financial burden placed on concerned parents due to private tutoring.
3. To investigate the impact of private tutoring upon the credibility of education system.
4. What are the factors that driving the growth of private tutoring in Punjab, Pakistan?
5. How do parents perceive the financial burden of private tutoring in Punjab, Pakistan?
6. What is impact of private tutoring on the credibility of the education system in Punjab?

LITERATURE REVIEW

The practice of private tutoring has become a growing concern for the parents, educators, and policymakers, and there has been significant amount of research upon the impact of tuition on students, parents, and society as a whole. One study conducted by Fong and Ho (2019) in Hong Kong explored the impact of private tutoring upon parental stress levels. The study found that parents who invested heavily in their children's education through private tuition experienced higher levels of stress and anxiety than those who did not. The authors suggest that pressure to ensure academic success and the financial burden of tuition contributed to the increased stress levels. Another study by Phan et al. (2020), in Singapore explored relationship between private tutoring and academic achievement. The study found that while private tutoring was associated with higher academic performance, effect was modest, and the cost of tuition outweighed the benefits for some families. Besides, a study by Lee and Wong (2018) in Malaysia explored the impact of private tutoring on family relationships. The study found that parents who invested heavily in tuition had less time to spend with the children, which created strained relationships within the family. The authors suggest that emphasis on academic success and private tutoring can lead to a lack of balance in the family life, which can have long-term effects on children's well-being.

Moreover, a study by Kaur and Singh (2021) in India explored the impact of private tutoring on social inequality. The study found that low-income families were less likely to invest in tuition,

which created a divide between students who could afford private tuition and those who could not. The authors suggest that policymakers and educators need to address underlying issues that drive private tutoring and ensure that all students have access to the quality education. The literature on private tutoring suggests that while it can provide benefits for some students, it can also be a significant burden for parents and exacerbate social inequality (Hultberg, Calonge & Choi, 2021). The practice of private tutoring has been widely discussed and researched in various contexts and different studies have shed light on impact of tuition on students, parents, and society. One study by Hau and Salili (2018) in China explored impact of private tutoring on students' motivation and self-regulation. The study found that while private tutoring provided students with the additional academic support, it also undermined their motivation as well as self-regulation, as they relied heavily on their tutors for the academic success. Another study by Choi and Kim (2020) in South Korea explored the impact of private tutoring upon the social inequality.

The study found that low-income families were less likely to invest in tuition, which created a divide between students who could afford private tuition and those who could not. The authors suggest that private tuition can reinforce social inequality, as it provides advantage to students from privileged backgrounds. Furthermore, a study by Yap et al. (2019), in Malaysia explored the impact of private tutoring on mental health. The study found that students who received tuition had higher levels of academic stress and anxiety than those who did not. The authors suggest that private tutoring can worsen mental health issues in students, as it creates pressure to perform academically. Moreover, study by Jansen et al. (2021), in the Netherlands explored the impact of private tutoring on educational equity. The study found that private tutoring was more prevalent in students from the privileged backgrounds, which contributed to educational inequality. The authors suggest that policymakers and educators need to address underlying issues that drive private tutoring and ensure that all students have access to quality education. The literature on private tutoring suggests that while it can provide benefits for some students, it can be a significant burden for parents and exacerbate social inequality. Private tutoring can undermine students' motivation, exacerbate mental health issues and contribute to educational inequality.

Policymakers and educators must explore ways of addressing the underlying issues that drive private tutoring and ensure that all students have access quality education, regardless of their socio-economic background. Private tutoring is prevalent phenomenon in South Asian countries, including Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh, and several studies have explored its impact upon students, parents and society in these contexts. Study by Aslam and Kingdon (2010) in Pakistan explored the determinants of private tuition demand among secondary school students. The study found that private tutoring was driven by several factors, including poor quality of public education, competition for university admission, and parental aspirations for their children's success. Similarly, a study by Jha and Chaudhary (2016) in India explored the impact of private tutoring on students' academic achievement. However, authors suggest that private tutoring can create pressure on students and contribute to educational inequality. Furthermore, a study by Rahman and Hoque (2020) in Bangladesh explored the impact of the private tutoring on parents' financial burden. The study found that tuition expenses were a significant burden for low-income families, and they had to make the significant sacrifices to pay for their children's tuition. The authors suggest that the private tutoring can exacerbate poverty and inequality in Bangladesh.

Moreover, a study by Mahmud et al. (2018), in Bangladesh explored impact of private tutoring on students' mental health. The study found that students who received tuition had higher levels of academic stress and anxiety than those who did not. The authors suggest that private tutoring can contribute to mental health issues in students. The literature on private tutoring in South Asian countries suggests that it is a prevalent and complex phenomenon that can have both positive and negative effects on students, parents, and society. While private tutoring can provide additional academic support for the students, it can contribute to educational inequality, create financial burdens for parents, and exacerbate mental health issues in students. In this linking, the private tutoring is not limited to South Asian countries and has become a global phenomenon. Several studies have explored the impact of private tutoring in different parts of the world. Moreover, a study by Jansen et al. (2021), in the Netherlands explored the impact of private tutoring upon educational equity. A study by Hanushek and Woessmann (2010) in 50 countries found that private tutoring was prevalent in both developed & developing countries, and it had the significant positive impact on student achievement. However, authors also noted that private tutoring can exacerbate inequality and may not be an affordable option for all the students.

Similarly, study by Bray and Lykins (2012) in Cambodia, China and Vietnam found that private tutoring was prevalent in these countries, and it was driven by a lack of confidence in the public education system and the desire for academic success. However, the authors also suggest that private tutoring can create inequalities in access to education and contribute to a culture of academic competition. Besides, a study by Breen et al., (2019) in Ireland explored the impact of private tutoring on students' mental health. The study found that private tuition was prevalent among students preparing for university entrance exams, and it contributed to stress, anxiety, and burnout. The authors suggest that private tutoring can contribute to a culture of academic pressure and undermine students' well-being. A study by Looney et al., (2021) in United States explored impact of private tutoring on college admissions. The literature on private tutoring in South Asian countries suggests that it is the prevalent and complex phenomenon that can have both positive and negative effects on students, parents, and society. Study found that students who received private tutoring had a higher likelihood of the admission to selective universities, contributing to the perception that private tutoring is essential for academic success. However, the authors also suggest that private tutoring can contribute to inequalities in access to higher education.

Private Tutoring in Pakistan Context

In Pakistani context, private tutoring has become a widespread phenomenon, and it has been a topic of concern for parents, students, and policymakers. The literature on private tutoring in Pakistan highlights several issues related to the trend. Firstly, one of the major issues related to private tutoring in Pakistan is the financial burden it places on parents. The cost of tuition can be high, and parents may have to bear additional expenses, including transportation and study materials. According to a study by Ahmed and Shahzad (2016), parents spend average of 21% of their household income on tuition for children, which can cause financial strain and limit their ability to provide other necessities. Secondly, private tutoring in Pakistan can contribute to educational inequality and disadvantage students from lower socio-economic backgrounds. According to a study by Azhar and Zaidi (2018), students from higher-income households are more likely to receive private tuition, that can provide them with unfair advantage in academic performance and university admissions. This can further widen the gap between students from

different socioeconomic backgrounds. Thirdly, private tutoring in Pakistan can lead toward the marginalization of teachers and undermine the credibility of the education system. According to a study by Rizvi and Mujtaba (2018), private tuition is seen as a necessary supplement to regular schooling, and teachers may feel pressure to provide private tuition to maintain their income. This can lead to a lack of commitment to regular classroom teaching and a decline in quality of education (Afzal & Rafiq, 2022). Lastly, private tutoring in Pakistan can contribute to academic stress and mental health issues in students. According to a study by Khan et al. (2019), students who receive private tuition can experience the increased academic pressure, leading toward stress, anxiety, and burnout. This can negatively impact their mental health and well-being.

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework for this study is based on Social Reproduction Theory (SRT). SRT is a theoretical perspective that highlights the role of education in perpetuating social inequality by reproducing and maintaining social class hierarchies across generations. According to SRT, education system reinforces existing social inequalities by providing advantages to those who already have access to resources and prospects. In other words, education system reproduces social inequalities rather than providing equal opportunities for all students (Bourdieu, 1977; Bourdieu & Passeron, 1977). The study found that private tuition had a significant positive effect on students' performance in standardized tests. In the context of the private tutoring in Punjab, Pakistan, SRT suggests that the private tutoring industry is the manifestation of the education system failure to provide equitable access to education. Private tutoring perpetuates educational inequality by providing advantages to students who can afford it, thereby widening the gap between the haves and have-nots. This reinforces the existing social inequalities and further marginalizes those who do not have access to the private tutoring (Ahsan, 2015; Laiq, 2018).

SRT highlights the role of the state and policymakers in perpetuating educational inequality. The failure to provide adequate resources and opportunities to students from disadvantaged backgrounds contributes to the growth of the private tutoring industry (Choi, 2013; Mehrotra, 2013). Therefore, addressing challenges associated with private tutoring in Punjab, Pakistan requires comprehensive approach that addresses underlying structural factors that perpetuate educational inequality. The literature on private tutoring in Pakistan highlights several issues related to the trend. The literature on private tutoring in South Asian countries suggests that it is a prevalent and complex phenomenon that can have both positive and negative effects on students, parents, and society. So, SRT provides the theoretical lens to examine the complex interplay between private tutoring, educational inequality, and social reproduction in Punjab, Pakistan. The framework provides a foundation for exploring the drivers and implications of private tutoring and identifying potential solutions to address challenges associated with tuition culture.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The interpretive paradigm was used to explore the subjective experiences and perceptions of parents regarding the impact of private tutoring on their financial burden and the credibility of the education system in Punjab, Pakistan. This paradigm was chosen because it allowed for an in-depth understanding of the complexities of the research topic and the personal views of the participants. The qualitative method was considered the best to explore this topic. The research

design used for this study was a phenomenological approach. This approach aimed to explore the lived experiences of participants regarding private tutoring in Punjab, Pakistan. It allowed the researchers to examine the experiences of participants through their eyes, providing insight into their subjective reality (Moustakas, 1994). Method used for this research was semi-structured interviews. This method allowed the researchers to ask open-ended questions to participants, enabled them to express their views freely (Patton, 2015). Interviews were conducted in-person and were audio-recorded to ensure that all responses were accurately captured. The population was parents living in Punjab, Pakistan who had children enrolled in school. Purposive sampling technique was used to select participants. Participants were selected based on their willingness to participate in study and ability to provide rich data based on their experiences with the tuition culture.

Almost 50 interviews were conducted with the parents across Punjab, most of them were from Lahore, Faisalabad, Multan, and Rawalpindi. The interviews were conducted till saturation. Data were collected over in-person semi-structured interviews. The interviews lasted for about 20 to 30 minutes and were audio-recorded. Prior to conducting interviews, informed consent was obtained from each participant. Interviews were conducted in a private setting to ensure that participants felt comfortable and could express their views freely. The data collected from the interviews were transcribed verbatim and analyzed by qualitative content analysis. Analysis was conducted in several stages. Like, familiarizing oneself with data by reading and re-reading the transcripts, and synthesizing the data into a comprehensive report. NVivo-14 software was used to identify themes and pattern from data. In writing interview description, interviewees were named participants, denoted by (P). In this connection, ethical considerations were taken into account throughout the research process. Thus, informed consent was obtained from all participants, and their confidentiality and anonymity were ensured. Therefore, participants were informed that they had right to withdraw from the study at any time. The study was conducted in accordance with the ethical guidelines set forth by the American Psychological Association (APA).

DATA ANALYSIS

RQ1: What are the leading factors driving the growth of private tutoring in Punjab, Pakistan?

Description

The interviews conducted with the parents revealed several factors driving the growth of private tutoring in Punjab, Pakistan. One of main factors is the increasing competition for admission to prestigious educational institutions and the desire for students to achieve higher grades. Many parents believe that private tutoring offers their children with advantage in highly competitive education system. Another factor is inadequacy of public education system, which has resulted in lack of quality education and insufficient resources for the students. In this connection, as a result, the parents turn towards the private tutors to ensure that their children receive a quality education.

“I think one of the biggest factors is the lack of quality education in the public schools. Many parents feel that their children are not receiving a good education in these schools and so they turn to private tutoring to supplement their learning. Private tutoring is often very expensive, and it can be a financial burden for many families. However, parents are willing to pay these fees because they see it as a necessity for their child's education (P3).” “I think one of the main

factors is the pressure on children to perform well academically. There is a lot of competition and parents feel that the private tutoring is necessary to help their child succeed. Many public schools lack qualified teachers, that means that quality of education is often not up to par. This is why many parents turn to the private tutors who are often better qualified and experienced. Private tutoring can be very expensive, and it can be the burden for many families. However, many parents are willing to pay these fees because they feel that it is necessary for their child's education and future success (P9).” “I think one of main factors is the increasing competition for good jobs and the need for a strong educational background. The parents feel that private tutoring can give their child the necessary skills as well as knowledge to succeed in their future careers.

Many public schools lack basic facilities like clean water and proper sanitation. This can have a negative impact on a child's health and well-being, and it can also affect their ability to learn. Private tutoring can provide a better environment for learning. The private tutoring can be very expensive, and it can be difficult for many families to afford. However, I believe that it is vital for parents to invest in their child's education, and private tutoring can provide the necessary support and resources to help them succeed (P12).” “There are several factors behind growth of private tutoring in Punjab. Firstly, the education system in the country is not very effective and lacks proper facilities. The private tutoring helps fill this gap and provides students with better guidance. Secondly, the parents want their children to perform well in exams and compete in today's competitive world. Private tutoring provides them with additional support and helps them achieve their goals. Thirdly, there is a culture of academic excellence in our society, which makes private tutoring a necessity rather than a choice (P16).” “In my opinion, the main factors driving the growth of the private tutoring in Punjab are the inadequacy of the public education system, the high stakes associated with exams, and the culture of competition in our society. The public education system in Punjab is not up to the mark and is unable to cater to the needs of students.

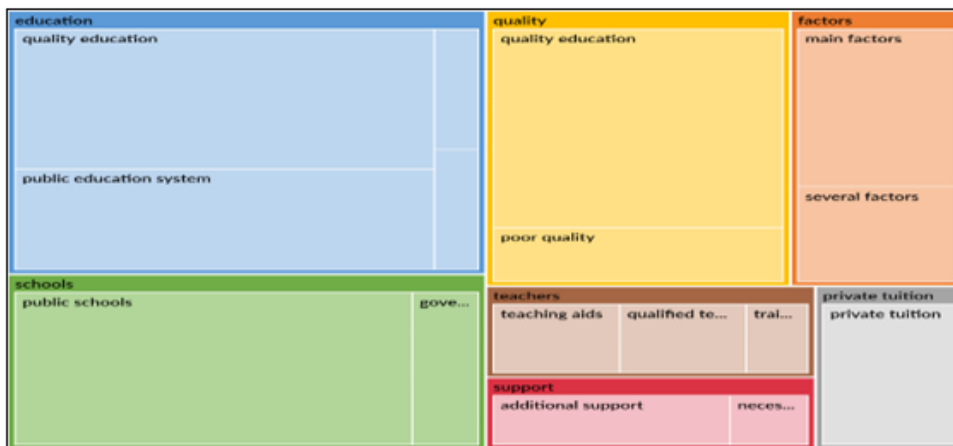
Private tutoring provides students with the additional support they need to excel academically. Moreover, there is lot of pressure on students to perform well in exams, as their future depends on their results. This pressure makes private tutoring necessity. Lastly, culture of competition in our society also plays a role in the growth of private tutoring. Parents want their children to be the best and are willing to invest in private tutoring to ensure their success (P19).” “I believe that main factors driving growth of private tutoring in Punjab are the poor quality of education in public schools, the high stakes associated with exams, and the lack of guidance and support for students in schools. Many public schools in Punjab lack basic facilities, such as textbooks and trained teachers, which negatively affects the quality of education provided to students. This has led to a rise in private tutoring as parents want to ensure that their children receive a better education. There is a lot of pressure on students to perform well in exams, as their future prospects depend on their results. Private tutoring provides students with additional support they need to excel in exams. Students are not able to receive adequate guidance and support in schools, that makes private tutoring a necessity (P21).” “Well, there are few reasons. Parents want to give children every advantage they can, as well as private tutoring can help them excel academically.

Second, there is a lot of pressure on students to do well in school, and private tutors can help ease that pressure by providing additional support. Many public schools lack the resources and qualified teachers to provide high-quality education. The private tutors can fill that gap and give

students the knowledge and skills they need to succeed (P29).” “One reason is the belief that private tutors can provide more individualized attention and tailor their teaching to the specific needs of each student. Another reason is the perception that private tutoring can help students perform better on exams and get into good universities. There is a lot of pressure on students to excel academically and get good jobs, and private tutoring is seen as a way to give them an edge over their peers (P32).” “I think the primary reason is the inadequacy of the public education system. Government schools lack qualified teachers, proper infrastructure and teaching aids. As a result, students struggle to understand the concepts taught in class, and parents seek private tutoring to supplement their education. In our society, there is a lot of emphasis on academic excellence, and parents want their children to excel in academics. Private tutoring is seen as a way to achieve this goal (P37).” “My children is attending private tuition for last 5 years. It's become norm now, and almost every other parent I know sends children for private tuition as well.

There are several factors contributing to growth of private tuition. Firstly, quality of education in public schools is not up to mark, and parents are not satisfied with the standard of teaching. Secondly, competition is high, and parents feel that their children need to perform exceptionally well to secure a good future. Lastly, desire to excel and perform well in exams has made private tutoring an essential part of every student's life (P44).” “Firstly, the education system in public schools is not up to par and teachers are not able to provide individual attention to each student. Secondly, the competition is high, and parents want their children to perform well and stand out from the rest. Thirdly, there is a lack of trust in the education system, and parents feel that they need to take control of their children's education to ensure better future (P47).” “I believe that the education system needs to improve, and it's not fair that parents have to spend extra money on private tuition to provide children with a decent education. The main reason behind growth of private tuition is low quality of education in public schools. Secondly, government needs to invest more in the education sector to provide better facilities, resources, and teacher training. Lastly, parents need to trust education system and not rely solely on private tuition (P49).”

Figure 1
Research Question 1 Themes by NVIVO



RQ2: How do parents perceive the financial burden of private tutoring in Punjab, Pakistan?

Description

As per the conducted interviews, parents have a mixed opinion about the financial burden of private tutoring in Punjab, Pakistan. Some parents believed that private tutoring has become a necessary expense due to the poor quality of the education in public schools, and it is worth the investment for their child's future. However, some parents expressed concern over the high costs of private tutoring and the additional strain it puts on already limited financial resources. They mentioned that private tutoring is becoming increasingly expensive and has become the source of stress for many families, especially those with multiple children. In this connection, some parents also mentioned that they are forced to make sacrifices in other areas to afford private tutoring, such as cutting back on basic household expenses or taking upon extra work. Private tutoring has become a necessity for the students in Punjab, but it comes with a huge financial burden. We have to pay a significant amount of money each month for our children's tuition fees, which often exceeds our monthly income. We have to make several sacrifices to ensure that our children are receiving the best education possible, and private tutoring is a big part of that. I think the government should take more responsibility for providing the quality education in public schools. If public schools are able to offer same level of education as private schools, then demand for private tutoring will decrease, and parents will be able to save money (P3).

“It is a huge burden on our finances. We have to spend a significant amount of money every month on private tutoring for our children, and it is getting more and expensive each year. It is not just the tuition fees, but the additional costs for transportation and study materials. Ideally, we would like our children to receive a good education in public schools. Quality of education in public schools is not up to par, and we are left with no other option but to send our children to private schools or hire private tutors. It is a difficult situation, and I wish there were more affordable options available. Interviewer: Thank you for sharing your views (P13).” “I believe private tutoring has become a major financial burden on parents in Punjab. Not only do they have to pay for tuition fees, but for transportation costs and additional materials required for the tutoring sessions. It has become quite expensive, especially if parents have more than one child in need of private tutoring. we have tried to limit number of private tutoring sessions our child attends and have negotiated with the tutor to reduce the fees. It is still significant expense (P19).”

“I think it is huge financial burden on parents, specially those from lower-income backgrounds. Private tutoring has become a necessity for many students to excel academically, but the costs are simply too high for many families. we have tried to find group tutoring sessions or online resources that are more affordable, but the quality is not always the same as private tutoring. It is a difficult decision to make as a parent, as we want the best for our children's education, but also need to consider our financial situation (P23).” “I think it is a significant burden, especially for those who have limited financial resources. It is unfortunate that the education system has become so competitive that private tutoring has become a necessity for many students, leading to additional financial strain on families. In this linking, we have tried to limit the number of private tutoring sessions our child attends and have also sought out less expensive options such as group tutoring. It is not ideal, but we must do what we can to manage the financial burden (P29).”

“It is definitely burden, especially for families with limited resources. Private tutoring is becoming a necessity for students, but fees are too high for many families to afford. Government should regulate fees, and tutors should be required to offer discounts to families who cannot afford the full fees. Also, the schools should provide more support to students who are struggling, so they do not have to rely on private tutoring (P39).” “I have two children and they both attend private tutoring in addition to their regular schooling. It has become a financial burden for us as we have to pay a significant amount of the money each month for the tutoring classes. I think the government needs to take steps to improve education system so that parents don't have to rely on private tutoring. It's not fair that only those who can afford it can give their children the best education (P44).”

Figure 2
Research Question 2 Themes by NVIVO



RQ3: What is impact of private tutoring on credibility of education system in Punjab, Pakistan?

Description

Based on interviews conducted with parents in Punjab, Pakistan, it can be inferred that private tutoring has a significant impact on credibility of education system. Parents generally perceive private tutoring as a necessary evil due to shortcomings of education system. They believe that private tutoring has become a norm because of failure of education system to provide quality education. Parents expressed concerns about the lack of accountability and regulation in private tutoring industry, which has led to the proliferation of the substandard and unqualified tutors. Parents also highlighted that private tutoring has contributed to the widening of the education gap between the rich and the poor. Those who can afford private tutoring are at an advantage over those who cannot. This has led to the creation of an unequal and unfair education system. Additionally, some parents feel that private tutoring has undermined the authority of teachers in schools and colleges, as the students are more inclined to trust their private tutors over their teachers.

“I believe that private tutoring has a negative impact on the credibility of the education system. When students are forced to rely on private tutors to understand the material taught in schools,

it undermines the effectiveness of the education system. It shows that the schools are not doing their job properly, and that private tutors are necessary to make up for shortcomings (P10).” “I think that private tutoring can have a positive impact on the credibility of the education system, as long as it is used as a supplement to classroom learning. When private tutors are able to help students better understand material taught in schools, it can help to strengthen the credibility of the education system (P17).” In this connection, “I believe that private tutoring has negative impact on the credibility of the education system. Consequently, it creates an unfair advantage for students who are able to afford private tutors, while disadvantaging those who cannot. This undermines the principles of fairness and equality that the education system should be based on (P21).”

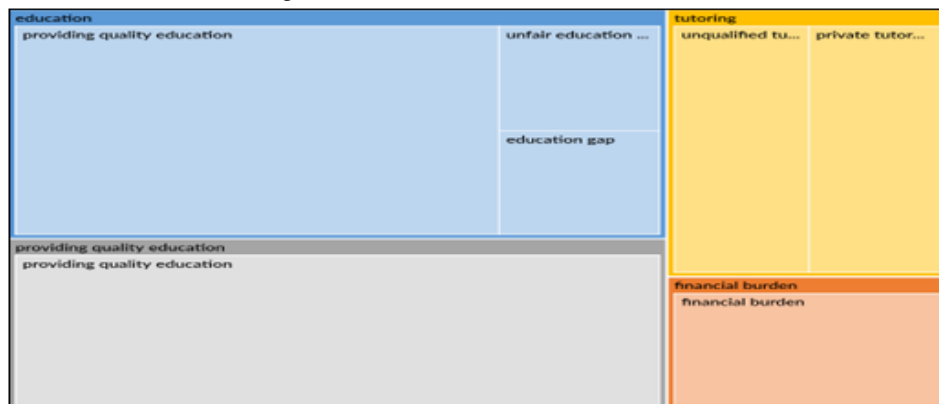
“I think that the widespread use of private tutoring shows that the education system is not meeting the needs of students. If schools were doing their job properly, there would be no need for private tutors. This undermines the credibility of the education system and raises questions about its effectiveness (P25).” “I believe that the prevalence of private tutoring has a negative impact on the credibility of the education system. It sends the message that education system is not capable of providing a quality education to students, and that private tutors are necessary to fill in the gaps. This undermines the credibility of the education system and erodes public trust in it (P29).” “Private tutoring has become a norm in Punjab, Pakistan. It is an open secret that the private tuition is necessary to supplement the learning provided by schools. However, it undermines the credibility of education system. If schools were to provide quality education, then private tutoring would not be needed. It shows that the schools are not fulfilling their role, and students are forced to rely on private tutors. In this linkin, this situation puts the parents in a difficult situation as they have to bear the cost of both the schooling and private tutoring (P32).”

“The impact of private tutoring on the credibility of the education system is negative. It sends a message that schools are failing to provide quality education. The role of schools is to educate students, and if they are not able to do so, it is a failure of education system. Moreover, private tutoring is not accessible to all, and it creates a divide between haves and have-nots. It is unfair to the students who cannot afford private tutoring. Government needs to take steps to improve the quality of education in schools, so private tutoring is not necessary (P36).” “Private tutoring has become an essential part of education system in Punjab, Pakistan. It is a reflection of lack of confidence in education system. Credibility of education system is at stake, as private tutoring become substitute for classroom learning. It is vicious cycle where schools are not providing quality education, and students are forced to rely on private tutoring. This situation is unfair to parents who have to bear financial burden of schooling and private tutoring. Government needs to take concern for providing quality education in schools, so private tutoring is not necessary (P40).”

“The impact of private tutoring on the credibility of the education system is significant. It sends message that schools are not fulfilling their role, and private tutoring is needed to supplement classroom learning. It creates divide between the students who can afford private tutoring and those who cannot. This situation is unfair to students who cannot afford private tutoring, and it puts extra pressure on parents to bear financial burden. The government needs to take steps to improve the quality of education in schools, so private tutoring is not necessary (P45).” “Private tutoring has become need in Punjab, Pakistan. It has become substitute for classroom learning, and it weakens credibility of education. Role of schools is to educate students, and if they are

not able to do so, it is a failure of education system. Situation is unfair to students who cannot afford private tutoring, and it puts pressure on parents to bear financial burden. Government needs to take steps to rally quality of education in schools, so private tutoring is not necessary (P48).”

Figure 3
Research Question 3 Themes by NVIVO



DISCUSSION

Private tutoring has become the widespread phenomenon in Pakistan, particularly in Punjab. Parents are increasingly enrolling their children in tuition classes to supplement education and improve academic performance. While the intention behind this practice may be well-meaning, the consequences of private tutoring on parents and students cannot be ignored. One of the most significant impacts of private tutoring is the financial burden it places on parents. Tuition classes can be expensive, and parents often have to allocate a significant portion of their budget toward these classes. According to a study conducted by the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), 61% of parents in Punjab reported spending between Rs. 5,000 to 10,000 on tuition classes per month (Dawn, 2020). This additional expense can be a significant strain on families, particularly those with lower incomes. Moreover, the private tutoring can have negative consequences for students. Students are often required to attend tuition classes in addition to their regular school classes, which can be mentally and physically exhausting. This can lead to burnout and affect their overall well-being. Furthermore, tuition classes often focus upon exam preparation rather than a holistic approach to the education, which can lead to a lack of critical thinking skills and creativity (The News, 2019). The findings of this study are also in line with this study.

Private tutoring has contributed to a culture of competitiveness among students. The pressure to excel academically can lead to an unhealthy environment where students are solely focused on achieving high grades rather than enjoying learning process (Rafiq, Afzal & Kamran, 2022). This can result in lack of curiosity and limited worldview, hindering their personal growth and development. Additionally, the reliance on tuition classes has highlighted the shortcomings of the education system in Pakistan. Lack of resources, qualified teachers, and quality education in schools has driven parents to seek alternative sources of education for their children. This highlights the need for the government to invest in improving the education system to meet the

needs of students and families. The issue of private tutoring being an extra burden on parents in Punjab Pakistan has been a topic of concern for quite some time. According to the Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement Survey 2018-19 conducted by the Pakistan [Bureau of Statistics \(2019\)](#), the average household expenditure on the education increased by 17.4% in urban areas and 10.4% in the rural areas compared to the previous year. This increase in the expenditure highlights the increasing burden of tuition fees on parents in the region. Moreover, the [World Bank \(2020\)](#) reports that Pakistan has one of the lowest levels of public spending on education in the world, which further exacerbates the reliance on private tuition for academic success.

The lack of investment in the education sector has resulted in the poor quality of education in government schools and an increasing number of parents turning towards private tuition to fill this gap. Moreover, reliance on private tutoring in Pakistan may be due in part to inadequacy of the public education system. The government has been criticized for not providing adequate resources and funding for public schools, which has driven parents to seek alternative sources of education for children ([World Bank, 2020](#)). These results are closely related to the current study. Issue of gender disparity in education, particularly in rural Punjab, has been highlighted in the literature. [Naseer \(2018\)](#) found that gender-based discrimination in education exists in rural Punjab, with girls being disadvantaged due to cultural and socio-economic factors. This disadvantage increases the pressure on parents to provide private tuition for their daughters to compensate for the inadequate educational opportunities available to them. [Arshad and Tariq \(2020\)](#) highlight the challenges and opportunities for private tuition in Pakistan. They note that while private tuition is seen as the necessary supplement to education in Pakistan, it also poses significant challenges such as the increased financial burden on parents, exploitation by tutors, and negative effects on student mental health, these results are closely related to current study.

CONCLUSION

The study explored the phenomenon of private tutoring as extra burden on parents in Punjab, Pakistan over qualitative paradigm. Research design adopted for study was phenomenological approach, which aimed to understand parents' experiences, perceptions, and attitudes toward tuition culture. The study's population comprised parents of students enrolled in private and public schools in Punjab, Pakistan. Findings of study revealed that private tutoring in Punjab, Pakistan has become norm, and parents perceive it as a necessity for their children's academic success. The majority of parents reported that they feel an immense financial burden due to the high cost of tuition fees, which they consider as additional expense to their household budgets. Moreover, the findings highlighted that parents are also worried about the negative impacts of private tutoring on their children's mental and physical health, as well as their overall academic performance. Study found that growth of private tutoring in Punjab, Pakistan can be attributed to various factors, including the inadequate educational infrastructure in public schools, the highly competitive nature of education system, and lack of trust in education system's ability to provide quality education. private tutoring has negative consequences for both parents and students, including financial burden, mental and physical exhaustion, limited worldview, and lack of critical thinking skills. Reliance on private tutoring has also highlighted shortcomings of education system in Pakistan, particularly in terms of gender-based discrimination and lack of resources.

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