Chapter 18
The Impacts of the COVID–19 Outbreak on the Education Sector:
Evidence From Pakistan

Syed Arslan Haider
Sunway University, Malaysia

Azeem Gul
National University of Modern Languages, Pakistan

Bilal Anwar

University of Sahiwal, Pakistan

Shehnaz Tehseen
https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4039-0256
Sunway University, Malaysia

Shahid Iqbal
Bahria University, Pakistan

ABSTRACT

The COVID-19 outbreak has prevented students from contributing towards the economic growth of Pakistan. It first disrupted the education system in China and later entered Pakistan to close all levels of educational institutions/sectors since the middle of March 2020. This study aims to highlight the COVID-19 outbreak's effects on educational sector in Pakistan. Pakistan's overall public sector expenditure as a percentage of GDP before the pandemic was already low as compared to regional level, but due to the pandemic, it has dropped down significantly. This study seeks to answer two important questions: (1) What are the impacts of COVID-19 outbreak on Pakistan? (2) Will the closure of educational institutions impact the economic growth of Pakistan? According to empirical and theoretical findings, the results show that the lack of school education for a long period of time will contribute towards unskilled human capital. The COVID-19 outbreak has impacted student learning activities, which may increase the drop-out rates, loss of mental health, and consequently, may impact the economic growth of Pakistan later.

INTRODUCTION

The outbreak of Covid-19 in 2019 after the 1918 influenza pandemic has been recorded as the worst pandemic of the contemporary era. Surging in China and infecting every country has deeply impacted socioeconomic indicators worldwide. In one hand, the shock of the pandemic has seriously disrupted most advanced economies of the world such as the United States, China, India, Japan, and beyond and on the other hand, developing nations such as Pakistan especially has experienced this shock at the socioeconomic domain when it hit Karachi city an economic hub of the nation. The pandemic swept across the nation in few weeks where its effects were observed in the form of nationwide socioeconomic lockdown (Williams, 2021). This study is aimed at highlighting the effects of the pandemic in the form of Covid-19 on education and the economic growth of Pakistan. This is study is unique as this approach provides a theoretical understanding of the pandemic effects on the nation. Also, the study has used various independent variables to highlight its impacts on the education and economic growth of Pakistan.

The study is divided into many sections. First, previous pandemics and the current Covid-19 have been highlighted. Second, the study has utilized different economics and social theories which is useful by providing an explanatory power to the current study. Third, a brief overview has shown the current education system in Pakistan as compared to the regional and international educational system of other countries. Fourth, the study has highlighted the impacts of education in Pakistan and the relationship of education with other indicators. The study has also examined the relationship of education with the economy as a major indicator. The concluding part of the study has examined the pandemic's causal relationship with the socioeconomic system of Pakistan. The current study is useful in many aspects by inviting further debates on the topic which would be useful for the policy formulation aiming at addressing issues related to social and economic indicators in regards to education.

AN OVERVIEW OF PANDEMICS

Human history has recorded numerous epidemics including smallpox, cholera, dengue, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), influenza, respiratory infections severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), West Nile disease, and tuberculosis. The flu pandemic is an unpredictable but repetitive event that can have serious consequences for communities around the world. The flu epidemic has hit nearly three times every century since the 1500s, or almost every 10-50 years. In the 20th century, there were three pandemics called the "Spanish flu" in 1918-1919, the "Asian flu" in 1957-1958, and the "Hong Kong flu" in 1968-1969. (Covid-19 and Children, 2020). Each pandemic affected human life and economic development. Recently, the origin of this catastrophic Covid-19 outbreak (Cov-19OB) first froze social mobility in Wuhan city in Hubei Province of China and the rest of the world. In December 2019, patients were reported with clinical features resembling viral pneumonia (Huang et al., 2020). Chinese researchers named initially as nCoV, but the International Committee on Taxonomy of Virus called it as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2). World Health Organization (WHO) on the same day named pneumonia as Covid-19. Later, WHO declared Covid-19 as the Sixth Public Health of Emergency Service (SPHEC) on January 30, 2020. China's bordering countries such as Pakistan with the first infected case was detected on February 26, 2020, in the city of Karachi, Sindh Province. The estimated population of Karachi is 204.65 million. The virus easily swept across the country and has

Related Content

Service Convenience, Trust and Exchange Relationship in Electronic Mediated Environment (EME): An Empirical Study of Chinese Consumers

Hua Dai (2010). *International Journal of Dependable and Trustworthy Information Systems (pp. 1-24).*

www.irma-international.org/article/service-convenience-trust-exchange-relationship/43579

Introduction

(2012). *Trust and Technology in B2B E-Commerce: Practices and Strategies for Assurance (pp. 1-16).*

www.irma-international.org/chapter/introduction/60580

Trust Issues and Solutions in Multimedia Content Distribution

Shiguo Lian (2010). *International Journal of Dependable and Trustworthy Information Systems (pp. 32-54).*

www.irma-international.org/article/trust-issues-solutions-multimedia-content/51601

Fake News Detection Using Deep Learning: Supervised Fake News Detection Analysis in Social Media With Semantic Similarity Method

Varalakshmi Konagalaand Shahana Bano (2021). *Research Anthology on Fake News, Political Warfare, and Combatting the Spread of Misinformation (pp. 440-451).*

www.irma-international.org/chapter/fake-news-detection-using-deep-learning/269109

Towards a Rational Technology Approach: Considerations for Building Trust in B2B E-Commerce

(2012). *Trust and Technology in B2B E-Commerce: Practices and Strategies for Assurance (pp. 274-281).*

www.irma-international.org/chapter/towards-rational-technology-approach/60592