



## COVID-19: A MESSENGER OF EDU-ECONOMIC CRISIS FOR HAVE-NOTS

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### ABSTRACT:

*Economic stability is such a social indicator that guarantees multidimensional sustainable development of societies but its role is doubled in education sector. This quantitative cum qualitative study exposes bitter realities of the have-not's class of Pakistan who is already living hand to mouth. The study was conducted on fifty families, after six months of Pandemic arrival, living in poor housing areas of Lahore district with regard to income, education and health status before and after COVID-19. The interview's rustic language questions and answers have been quantitatively presented for qualitative discussion. The results of the study expose the edu-economic stress of the subjects as well as health issues due to economic crisis. It suggests that Government should step forward and must take practical measures to improve economic status of the people by providing them better economic opportunities instead of giving them fish on daily basis so that both micro and macro-economic activities may pave to populace to live life away from economic, education and health issues' stress.*

**Keywords:** Covid-19, edu-economic, health, crisis, have-not

### Introduction

Since time immemorial economy of a state is always considered as one of the key indicators so far as social stability is concerned and if the economy the state is in deplorable condition it's aftermaths are far-reaching and devastate the entire vision of life. COVID-19 has done the same and played a villainous role especially for the have-nots in Pakistan. The eruption of Coronavirus infection has truly affected public and by and large economies. Various endeavors are defying different issues with a particular degree of accidents. Particularly, encounters are going toward an approach of issues like a lessening eminent, stock affiliation aggravations, cancelation of thing coordinates, standard substance inadequacy, and transportation checks, among others (Mohsin Shafi., Junrong Liu., & Wenju Ren, 2020).

The effects of this Pandemic on the societies and their economies can be seen from the shutting down and city's networks all over the place, work adaptability impediments, travel blacklists, transporter suspensions, or more all break in the economy. Covid crisis went worldwide from February 21 to Walk 24, 2020 what's more, still the extent of cases is developing quickly continually. It isn't unexpected that the Coronavirus scene will have principal implications for generally speaking All out public yield development (Word Monetary, 2020). Pondering the overall scene of Covid, the all things considered Total public yield is almost certainly going to be influenced between 2.3% to 4.8% (ADB, 2020).



Additionally, it has comparatively been normal that the current pandemic ejection might make in general new direct undertaking pull back by 5%–15% (UNCTAD, 2020b). Further, as shown by the UNCTAD report, the world requirements a help wrap of up to \$2.5 trillion to change in accordance with the damage (UNCTAD, 2020a). From now into the foreseeable future, thinking about these encounters, the current by and large emergency will probably be more frightful than the 2008 emergency (UNCTAD, 2020a).

In light of the emergency state of affairs across world it is apt to know that what, in fact, is the actual crisis of the people who belong to the group of have nots in our society. Though the Governments across globe extended monetary assistance to their people but is it really possible to live life on stipends especially for the people who earn on daily basis and spend what they earn without having any future economic designs. The study is target is to focus on the representatives of millions who earn their livelihood to survive only with a hope of better future of their children through education and the study further intends to know whether or not it's the education of their children that suffered more because of low income caused by Pandemic.

### Statement of the problem

The primary concern of the study is to understand the educational crises of the children and parents of have-not class of Punjab (Pakistan) caused by economic instability as the class is the true representatives of all such people in the land who have almost the same worries.

### Research questions

The study is primarily concerned to know the answers of the below stated questions:

1. Have COVID-19 affected the schooling going children of the have-not class more despite different edu-economic initiatives of the Government?
2. Does the Government need to take tangible measures as long-term policy to guarantee health and educational services to have-not class by ensuring suitable economic activities?

### Framework and procedure

The study is primarily qualitative in nature and was conducted on fifty families of poor housing areas in the Lahore district and interviews of randomly selected fifty families and in total one hundred subjects with the assistance of rustic language. The nature of the questions was simply directed to their present and past economic and educational status and how COVID-19 has impacted their economic and educational life of their children. The replies of the subjects have been discussed in detail under discussion/analysis heading for further suggestions.

### Findings:

**Table. 1: Quantitative findings based on the total 50 families' income range.**

Income Statistics before COVID-19	PKR 15000 to 25000	PKR 25000 to 35000	PKR 35000 to 45000	PKR 45000 to 60000
Bottom-line: PKR 14000	56%	20%	14%	10%
Public School going children before COVID-19	90% of the 56%	72 % of the 12%	68% of the 14%	55% of the 10%
Private School going children before COVID-19	0% of the 56%	4% of the 12%	19% of the 14%	29 % of the 10%



Public School going children after COVID-19	98% of the 56%	84% of the 12%	73% of the 14%	69% of the 10%
Private School going children after COVID-19	0% of the 56%	72% of the 12%	45% of the 14%	5% of the 10%
Health issues: MBBS doctors' consultancy before COVID-19	89% of the 56%	58% of the 12%	66% of the 14%	24% of the 10%
Health issues: Non- MBBS consultancy after COVID-19	99% of the 56%	90% of the 12%	86% of the 14%	70% of the 10%
Income issues increase after COVID-19	42% of the 56%	25% of the 12%	29% of the 14%	28% of the 10%

### Review of Literature

The terrible aftermath of COVID-19 could be understood by the findings of (ILO,2020) which gauges are centered around the functioning populace and contend that there will be somewhere in the range of 9 and 35 million new working poor (at the higher World Bank neediness line of US\$3.20 each day) in agricultural nations in 2020. Most will live in center pay emerging nations. These appraisals draw on the calculable general balance (CGE) model of McKibbin and Fernando (2020).

A focal part of the financial improvement arrangements of most nations has been interest in the human resources of society. People with more abilities are more useful and more versatile to mechanical changes in their economies. Countries with more talented populaces become quicker. In numerous nations, the responses to the pandemic have, nonetheless, compromised the since a long time ago run eventual fate of the current companion of understudies, and the damage to them from late occasions can swell through the world's economies in manners that will be felt far into what's to come (Hanushek & Woessmann, 2020).

The Pakistani society is separated into Lower, Center, and High societies and the improvement of such particular gatherings has brought about the extending of social holes among individuals (Essays UK, 2020). In their investigations number of investigators featured that not just the instructors and organization both are investing their amounts of energy to battle learning difficulties yet the guardians of small kids are likewise battling with the difficulties of virtual learning as they are straightforwardly connected with the instructive exercises of youngsters (Barnard 2005; Sheldon and Epstein 2005; Machado, 2019). With this pandemic, the parent cooperation might be intensified as their youngsters partake in web based realizing, when understudies are bound to encounter authoritative difficulties, self-guideline, consolation, and cognizance of learning assets while the educator isn't significantly present (Liu et al., 2010; Stevens and Borup, 2015).

But it is important to know that what happened during virtual education especially to those who don't have economic stability to afford digital gadgets. Little is thought about the viability of learning at home for the whole understudy populace and how this affects the advancement of abilities. Nonetheless, there are signs from different nations that numerous youngsters had minimal successful guidance. For a huge extent of understudies, picking up during school terminations was clearly practically non-existent. For instance, early following information from a web-based science application utilized in various US school locale before Coronavirus propose



that the learning progress of understudies has experienced a solid decrease during the emergency, particularly in schools in low-pay regions (Chetty et al., 2020).

There are two related surges of since a long time ago run financial costs that are integral to this conversation. Regardless, affected understudies whose mentoring has been obstructed by the pandemic face long stretch incidents in pay. Second, public economies that approval with a less skilled labor force face lower monetary advancement which detracts from the overall government help of society. Much is contemplated the monetary advantage of coaching and, expressly, of scholarly capacities made through the enlightening structure (Alexander, Karl., Doris, Entwisle, & Olson 2007).

Education furnishes individuals with the abilities that make them more useful at completing their work errands, especially in present day information based economies. Schooling additionally gives information and abilities that empower individuals to produce and apply groundbreaking thoughts and advancements that empower mechanical advancement and by and large monetary development (Hanushek & Woessmann, 2020).

This viral illness constrained the number of inhabitants in the nations to remain at home until most extreme vital. This made an immense delay in the instructive exercises in nearly of the countries. The understudies were told to use ICT and continue with their acquiring from online resources at home. Regardless of the way that it was not acceptable that how much online organizations will be convincing including more youthful understudies, who couldn't get to them-be depended upon to slip educationally behind various students (Ajmal & Malik, 2020).

They likewise express that it was also expected that the level of children's learning will in like way be influenced by the extent of web drew in contraptions which could be open at their homes, taking into account that their kin or family will additionally be at home. Furthermore, such sorts of stuff they generally utilized for edifying exercises could be a stunning component in such manner. When veered from the local nations like Canada, the web clients have been assessed to be close to 35.32 million (data entryway, 2020). while, Pakistan is known as the tenth most noteworthy web utilizing country with 76.38million clients (data door, 2020). Notwithstanding, the virtual educating and learning was extremely hard for the educators and students. As to included concerns everywhere, Pakistan has comparatively been one of the Coronavirus relegated nations.

The Pakistani education framework is likewise experiencing different partitions against itself. It is partitioned into different equal frameworks going from the various vehicles of directions to various course books and various techniques for learning. The vehicle of guidance is split among English and non-English (Shamim & Rashid, 2019). As indicated by (Taj, 2019), Non English medium is additionally partitioned into Urdu (which is the public language) and Sindhi (which is the language of Sindh territory). The Pakistani instruction framework is additionally isolated across gender orientation with discrete schools for young ladies and young men (Durrani & Halai, 2020).

The Pakistani education framework is additionally partitioned into social, strict, and monetary divisions; first class and non-tip top, public and private, military and madrasah, country and metropolitan (Hakro & Mesti, 2011). Pakistani training framework is additionally partitioned on a formal and non-formal premise (Riaz, Uzair., & Khan, 2017). Instruction establishments are additionally separated on framework premise for certain prosperous in actual offices (Raza &



Ahmed, 2017; Khoso, Siddiqui, Tagar., & Tagar , 2019). while other even not having water for drinking and latrines (Javeed,2020; Khoso, Siddiqui, Tagar., & Tagar , 2019). Some instruction establishments are likewise isolated concerning the nature of training being furnished with many coming up short on even in skills of value schooling (Hakro & Mesti, 2011). Instruction establishments are likewise isolated dependent on the quantity of qualified instructors accessible; numerous schooling foundations face a lack of qualified and inspired educators (Qureshi & Razzaq, 2020).

The families having low income were already facing economic difficulties due to price hike that affected the poor class terrible. To comprehend the effects of the deficiency of income on the lower pay level populaces, a family prosperity plan is embraced following crafted by (Hallegatte et al. 2016). The primary family flourishing model was used to determine the effects on an earth shiver, in California (Markhvida et al. 2020).

What's more, the family model has moreover been applied to look at family even out flexibility to common dis asters in Fiji, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka (Walsh and Hallegatte 2018; 2019; 2020). While catastrophic events inescapably sway the capital stock (for example structures, foundation) of an economy, here the monetary effect of Coronavirus is tended to as a pay shock, thinking about a dissipating of pay mishap by industry district, during a pre-depicted emergency period watching out for the refuge set up request.

Further, the short time policies such as giving stipends to thousands of low income class people could be considered as permanent solution to counter the present or any future challenge like COVID-19 rather balanced but guaranteed policies are the need of time. The drawn out macroeconomic effects of Coronavirus were essentially overlooked, yet truly, could prompt pay discouraged for a more extended timeframe than such state of emergency. Indicated by an overall perspective the assistance and invitingness regions. In addition, made by inadequacy in family's dynamic could change the speed of save accounts use and the truth of the effect of the emergency. Families don't have ideal data about the range nor significance of the emergency. This study expects that utilization tendencies and models stay unaltered with the emergency. The enhancement is on lower pay individuals, where the outcomes would not fundamentally change since a colossal piece of the use of those families is fixed, e.g., dwelling, food (Martin et al., 2020).

### **Qualitative analysis/discussion**

The study aimed to understand the educational and economic crises of the children and parents of have-not class of Pakistan caused by economic instability as the class is the true representatives of all such people in the land who have almost the same worries. At the same time, it intended to answer the questions: have COVID-19 affected the schooling going children of the have-not class more despite different edu-economic initiatives of the Government? And does the Government need to take tangible measures as long-term policy to guarantee health and educational services to have-not class by ensuring suitable economic activities?

The findings of the study enable to say that for any society the most important determinant for overall security of the state depends on the economic activities in the land. The entire human race cannot have same economic resources but at least the stable economy of the country provides many opportunities to the people to have their share through their services irrespective of their occupation. We have heard that there are three economic class in a society but the



researchers have different opinion to that concept and put forward the concept of many economic classes after COVID-19 crisis. Lower, middle and upper economic classes are not in vogue today rather each class has, at least, 3-6 sub-classes under their banner. The already have-not class has started trying very hard to avoid its extinction because of the economic sufferings they have had during the recent past.

For example, figure. 1., highlights the overall difference of the income of people before and after Covid-19 crisis, which is still haunting the people and may keep on hitting the have-not in the coming days. We have seen a difference or income ratio of the people earning PKR 15000 to 60000 but low economic activities during Pandemic directly affected their income which ultimately affected the other social areas such as education and health.

In today's world everyone knows that education is sold so far as private education system is concerned but for face saving the income group ranging from PKR 45000 to 60000 has sown some kind of affordability for their children to send them to receive education in the private schools. Here, we must not forget that private schools don't mean chained school system whose one kid's fee can exceed to the total income of the family. But schools situated in the streets with different name tags to attract commoners. The findings reflect that even the high income group among the have-not has also suffered badly and the private school sending ratio of their children dropped from 29% to 05% despite the Government directed the private school owners to extend subsidy to the parents but it's their income that has made them send their children to public schools.

**Table. 2. Comparison of income decrease after Covid-19.**

1	Income Statistics before COVID-19	PKR 15000 to 25000	PKR 25000 to 35000	PKR 35000 to 45000	PKR 45000 to 60000
2	Bottom-line: PKR 14000	56%	20%	14%	10%
3	Income issues increase after COVID-19	42% of the 56%	25% of the 12%	29% of the 14% 10%	28% of the 10%

The tale doesn't stop here but further exposes agony of those who are 56% of the total fifty interviewed families already sending children to public schools but after Pandemic the situation worsened when there's increase from 92% to 98%. The families that stopped their children sending schools are another dimension of the deplorable state of affairs and same is the case with all those ranging from PKR 25000 to 45000 income range. This economic instability and price hike has also brought a new issue for have-not class, for instance, we find some of the families' approach registered medial practioners during illness and there's a big shift not only in the stance of PKR 45000 to 60000 income ranging families but others too who visit the quacks, in the true sense of the word, to take medicine.

In such circumstances it's not only the families are suffering but the future of our nation which is already receiving education virtually but irony of fate is that virtual education is only accessible to those who can either have internet facility along with required gadgets or TV screens because



the Government launched some educational channels to facilitate the people. But the question arises when there's nothing to eat who shall think about high quality education and the biggest need of the people, who have very low income, is not quality education but access to food and medicine.

### Conclusion

The study concludes with the remarks that every single individual from the group of have-not would be in pressure and its level would expand step by step as tops of the families whether mother or father would not have the option to focus completely on the occupation or household in view of the steady lessening in their pay and such circumstance can make a major test for the youngsters who belong to the income class harassed most in our general public. Life will turn into a tremendous ocean of battles that has no shore if fitting economic measures are not taken. This expanding neediness can adversely affect children's wellbeing, social, passionate and intellectual turn of events, conduct and education results. We ought not neglect to recall that youths normally acquainted with dejection will undoubtedly experience a wide extent of clinical, instructive and passionate prosperity issues.

### Suggestions

In the light of the conclusion the study suggests that:

1. Government should start micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises for the people having low income.
2. For middle economic group some interest free loans should be provided.
3. Special remedial educational classes must be arranged for children of low income class.
4. Internet subscription rate for low income should be made nominal.
5. Overall economic growth of the country should be focused to increase employment opportunities.
6. There must be handsome increase in the salary of both public and private sectors' workers.
7. Interest free loans should be given to low income class people to promote cottage industry.
8. Government and private banks should introduce new balanced schemes to improve economic status of the people especially low income class.

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