

Factors Affecting Students' Dropout Rate During COVID-19

Anita Shuja¹, Prof. Dr. Akhtar Ali², Sana Shuja Ahmad Khan², Shafiqa Bilal Burki², and Shaham Bilal Buki²

¹The Islamia University of Bahawalpur, Pakistan.

²Affiliation not available

October 13, 2021

Abstract

Education has always been considered as the linchpin for a country's economic and social development. The dropout rate in schools especially in third-world countries has always been a problematic issue and the situation has further been worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic. This study primarily aims at studying the factors affecting the school dropout rate during pandemic. Lockdown is the first step that any country starts to adopt for the safety of its general public. This severely affects the masses' financial conditions, especially for the parents of students at risk, as the dropout rate increases with financial pressures. The slogan "stay home stay safe" has further aggravated the fear of the parents to send their children out and attend schools. The data for the study was collected from twenty public and private schools of two divisions, including seven districts of the province of Punjab, Pakistan, using interviews of policymakers, parents of dropouts, teachers, and students. The study is corollary to several issues already highlighted in various other articles to transpire the details of drop-out rates in developing countries in general and Pakistan in particular. The study revealed financial conditions, lockdown effects, mode of learning, government policies, fear of death, the psyche of the parents, socio-cultural effects, the role of teachers and administrators, most affected level, contributory factors were amongst the major factors. Finally, the study will analyze the effects of dropout and will help suggest measures to control the dropout rate in Pakistan in particular and third world countries in general.

24th August 2021

Dr. Anita Shuja

*Assistant Professor, Department of Education, The Islamia University of Bahawalpur, Pakistan.
Email:dranitashuja@gmail.com.*

Prof. Dr. Akhtar Ali

Dean, Faculty of Education, The Islamia University of Bahawalpur, Pakistan.

Sana Shuja Ahmad Khan

M.Phil. Scholar, Business School, University of Central Punjab, Pakistan.

Shafiqa Bilal Burki

BS(Hons) Management Sciences, The University of Punjab, Pakistan.

Shaham Bilal Buki

BS(Hons) Management Sciences, The University of Punjab, Pakistan.

Author's Note

Dr. Anita Shuja is now an assistant professor at The Islamia University of Bahawalpur, Pakistan.

Acknowledgment

The author would like to thank Allah for everything. The author also wants to thank her husband, family and Mrs. Abida Altaf and Mr. Altaf for their support, constant love and encouragement.

Declaration of Conflicting Interests

The author(s) declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

Funding

The author(s) received no financial support for the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

Ethical consideration . All ethical considerations were kept in mind so that the respondents can be approached in a decent and in an appropriate manner and no willful or unintentional shortcuts were adopted which could have irritated the interviewees.

Hosted file

Covid 19 and students' dropout in Pakistan.docx available at <https://authorea.com/users/719746/articles/704691-factors-affecting-students-dropout-rate-during-covid-19>