

Impacts of Education on Social Well-being

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Abstract

Governments always invest in education for its impacts on the society. Education positively influences individuals as well as societies in terms of health, security, finance, and overall well-being. It is done by providing health awareness and exercises improving life expectancy rate. Promoting active citizenship in terms of voting, volunteering, political activities, and interpersonal trust. Fewer violence and crime, better parenting, higher self-confidence, more job opportunities, and blooming economy are also possible through education. Overall, education creates a better society to live in. This article elaborates on the effects of education on social indexes including health, civic engagement, and subjective well-being.

Key Words:

Education; Society; Lifestyle; Benefit; Economic

Introduction

Education make a difference to people's lives, and has several outcomes as individual and as member of their community. Most people believe that education influence their world economically, intellectually, culturally, socially, and even morally. Schuller et al. [1] classified benefits of education in three groups; human, social and identity capital (Figure 1). Michalos[2] classified 2 groups

for education benefits; 1- Non-economic benefits, those are not measured directly in terms of additional income or increased productivity, 2- Benefits above the level of individuals, for example from family/household through community to the wider society, as well as those occurring to individuals.

Two important issues in education are 'Private and the social returns'. The 'private returns' discusses the benefits that the individuals get from the additional education; including 'improved health and longevity' and economic benefits such as higher lifetime earnings, lower levels of unemployment, and greater job satisfaction. The 'social returns' refer to the effects (positive or possibly negative) that occur to individuals excluding decision of the individuals or family about how much schooling to obtain. If such "external benefits" are significant, they could result in major under-investment in education in the absence of government intervention [3].

There are some private benefits that individual decision makers take into account for investing in education like education's impact on economics development, because it is part of the quality of life and benefit future generations, but the social benefits are above them.

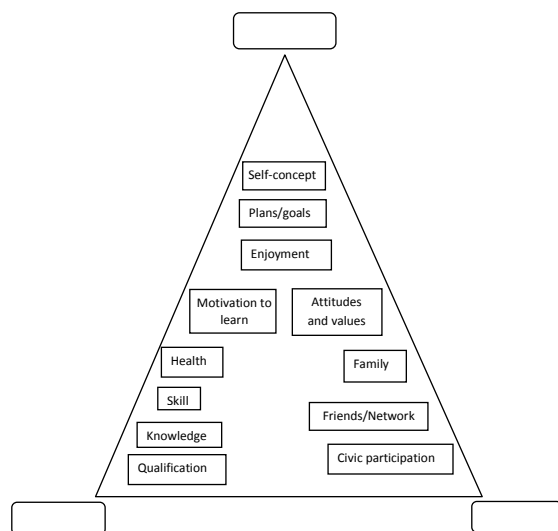


Figure 1. Benefits of education [1]

Social or public benefits from the education do well to the society for both current and future generations [4]. Human beings like learning and gaining new knowledge, so education has considerable "investment value." Those who obtain additional education generally receive more in everything. For instance, more satisfying careers and higher levels job. Education may also make more possibility for people to get more pleasure of life, be delighted about culture, arts and literature, and be more knowledgeable and socially involved people [5].

Among the substantial influences of education, there is a relationship between one's education and own health and others'. People who attend adult education courses, display greater awareness of health issues and take more exercise than others do at the same age [6].

Parental education and involvement in their child's progress is another factor, which has an enormous effect on children's learning improvement and life chances. It is not a simple, direct connection, but recent researches about children's 'school

eagerness' show that averagely, the children of graduated parents are up to a year ahead of the children of parents with no qualifications [7]. Simply spending more time in education does not guarantee good parenting. However, it may help parents of young children to have more confidence and self-esteem and these features will pass on to their children.

Success or failure at school is strongly related to tendency to commit crime or engage in anti-social behavior. Around the world, captivity and conviction rates are high among the least educated. Open school enrolment lotteries and desegregation efforts show reduction in crime rates by improving school quality [8]. An organized society also can be found in countries where citizens actively taken part in civic activities, trust others and public institutions [2].

At the next part, some researches and data will be present about the social benefits of education.

Different ideas about social benefits of education

The social benefits of education may have different meaning among different people. This phrase is used to refer to the benefits of education other than the enhancement of labor market productivity and earnings [9].

Glewwe[10] and, Lam and Duryea [11] mentioned that there is substantial evidence that child health is positively related to parents' education. Many years later, Clark and Heather [12] stated educated people tend to live longer. Life expectancy varies of individuals' socio-economic conditions that affect the health and other mortality risks. In "Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development" (OECD) countries, life expectancy at birth is mentioned 80 years in

2010. Women live 83 years and men live 77 years. Data show a strong association between life expectancy and education. In a study among men in Central European countries, there are large differences (up to 17 years) in life expectancy by level of education. However, investigation on 15 OECD countries, show changes in life expectancy based on educational level are generally much lesser (up to 4 years) among women. In the same vein, Chandola et al. [13] mentioned there is consistent evidence that higher levels of education are associated with better health and reduced disease risk, but more evidence is needed to confirm it is just for a short time or it is true throughout the life- course.

Smeeding[14] has done some research on differences in fringe benefits and working conditions by education level and Vanness and Wolfe [15] have done some research on wage level.

Lochner and Moretti[16] stated that increasing high school graduation rates even by one percentage would have resulted in fewer crimes in the USA. Machin et al [17] estimate the social savings from crime reduction associated with increasing the population of individuals with an education qualification. Ross and Mirowsky[18] indicated that one way to help reducing crime rates is to spent money for keeping pupils in education. Recent research, Machin et al., [17] also show that there is a relationship between educational success and juvenile violent or racially crime rates. ‘Wider Benefits of Learning’ research center studied about crimes and people with no qualifications and found they are more likely to be stubborn offenders [19]. Schuller [20]

stated that success or failure education decreases the risks of committing criminal activity and re-offending. Lochner[21] suggests that training can lessen crimes and mortality, improve health and political participation. However, these affects can be sizeable.

Analysis on 25 OECD countries with available data show 15 percentages higher self-reported voting rate among more educated adults. This gap extends significantly (up to 27 percentage) among younger adults of 25-34 year-olds. At a Glance, education in years 2011 and 2012 show existence of a relationship between education and volunteering, political interest, interpersonal and institutional trust, and engagement in social activities [3].

High-level educated adults are more satisfied in life than those with less educational attainment are. On average, the difference in self-reported life satisfaction is 18 percentages among adults with different levels of education [22].

In the past, many policy makers have suggested to invest resources in education because it is likely to return substantial benefits to society. Based on this belief, governments extensively invested in education to obtain its benefits. Recent advances have allowed estimation of the consequences of education and the private and social benefits of additional schooling are more visible now compared to even a decade ago [23].

Dreze and Sen [24] mentioned five values for education to improve social and economic conditions in Third World countries. First value is the self-confidence caused by education. When people are capable of

reading book and newspaper about social and political issues in their community and the rest of the world, they gain more interest and motivation for social interactions and it would be much easier. Secondly, education provides persons with wider economic and job opportunities. Thirdly, a higher literacy rate smooth the progress of public needs for social security, health care, and other necessities. Fourthly, education put a stop to child labor indirectly; parents show more tend to send their children to school, which again gives less time for labor. The fifth outcome of education and literacy is easier insisting on oppressed groups rights and demands concerning social and politically issues.

Conclusion.At all time, there has been an opinion that governments should invest more on the education because of its significant benefits to individuals and society. Its contribution to individuals' employability or income, life satisfaction, life expectation and more pleasure in almost everything is deniable. Varied and extensive social benefits of education should be taken into account at the time those Policy makers allocating resources to public policies. Some social benefit issues have been explored at some length on the top, which as summarized as follows; causing self-confidence, wider jobs and economic opportunities, increasing demands for health care and social security, decreasing crime to children and forcing them to work and making easier situation for underdog people to get their rights. In general, adults with higher levels of education are more likely to participate in civic activities such as voting, volunteering, political interest, and interpersonal trust than

those with lower levels of education. However, a great deal of work remains to be done regarding the social benefits.

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