

The Impact of Education on the Socioeconomic and Political Development of a Nation

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Abstract

Education is a basic means to reduce the level of poverty for each country. With an improved education, all other areas are directly or indirectly affected. Thus, educational attainment is a key constituent which triggers other areas of human development to flourish. This study aims to explore the impact of the educational attainment of a country relative to its income, health, demography and political instability by using a multivariate clustering method in deriving the relationship among the variables. Educational accomplishments imply better income, healthier citizens and politically stable country. Therefore upgrading the nation's educational system is hypothetically syllogistic to socio-economic and political progress.

Keywords: education, educational attainment, impact, development

1.0 Introduction

Educational accomplishment simply refers to the highest degree which one has attained and completed. It is worth to note that the force of educational attainment pushes the constancy of socio-economic and political aspects of a nation. One's educational accomplishment is a component which triggers other areas of human development to grow. It contributes in making each member of the society more productive and secured. A society with higher education can be translated to higher possibilities for ingenuity, and efficiency that leads to better development. It is evident that the quality of education that one has or the quality of literacy which one possesses, has driven a significant effect and influence on the speed of how societies can become more affluent and the extent to which an individual can improve his productivity and income.

A community of literate is fast a driven

community, where ideas are exchange and debate is a common practice. Illiteracy, on the other hand, impedes the community from having a better quality of life, which creates division among people, and thus violence and exclusion may arise. The increased literacy rate in Indonesia for instance allows the constituents to experience improved quality of life, economic security and good health. it also fosters cultural identity and promotes civic participation. This study suggests that literacy is one of the major factors that contribute to the advancement of education in a country. Nonetheless, even relatively small improvement in national literacy can have significance in socio-economic and political impact. The Korean republic, otherwise, had diverted their thoughts about education because they put more importance on quality rather than quantity. One educator admits that literacy, then, is the best possible means for a developing nation to break the vicious circle of

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general backwardness and to make progress along the path of modernization.

Literacy might be the most fundamental and vital part of education. Absence of literacy makes other learning unattainable. Reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing to gain more knowledge is what literacy is all about. The inability to do such skills impairs a person from gaining knowledge. Thus, literacy is required if something is to be learned. It is imperative that teachers in language are not the only ones who teach the value of literacy, for it is the job of all educators. Literacy is a necessity for any society to grow.

This makes literacy primarily a human right and the basis for lifelong learning. It is a central need for a society to have literacy so that social and human development may take its effect in transforming the lives of the people. Literacy is an instrument that can empower an individual, family or even a society. It can be used to improve one's health, one's income, and one's relationship with the world. Literacy is being utilized for many different ways in acquiring knowledge as information technology advances.

Educational advancement, otherwise, is a key that makes people improve one's life. It is generally used by the society as a qualifier in choosing the person for a particular job. Thus, a job position a person can hold or the limit by which a person can advance is determined by the educational qualification. It generally follows that the more educated a person is, the more chances of having prestige and power that person holds. Human capital theory suggests a way for workers to increase future income by means of training and education (Becker, 1964). This is based on the argument that the income of an educated person is a reflection of one's ability during the process of education.

Mere reading, writing, and arithmetic do not translate to education. A highly developed country

sees education as an indispensable investment for the future of its people. In addition, education is vital in reducing poverty and inequality. Education provides skills and tools to help them better provide for themselves and their children. It helps people create opportunities for sustainable and viable economic growth now and into the future. It also reduces mother and child mortality and helps improve health. It encourages transparency, good governance, stability and helps fight against graft and corruption.

The impact of investment in education is profound: education results in raising income, improving health, promoting gender equality, mitigating climate change, and reducing poverty (Global Partnership for Education, 2013).

Colo and Co. (2013) claim that education affects most of the things we have in life. Engineers are dependent on the concepts of they learned in building anything. Nowadays educational attainment is the basis of hiring, many jobseekers with experience are still rejected, for the lack of educational qualification. Thus, a functioning educational system in our country is the way to a brighter future. In addition, there must be some realization that education is important must be made thru a guiding and continuous force.

Importance of education is easy to explain. No human beings are able to survive properly without education. One can use education to maximize the extent of one's potential. Education serves a guiding principle for thinkers, workers, and decision makers. Education further develops a person's emotion, senses, desires, passion, self-awareness and self control.

The impact of education on a person to person basis can be clearly seen in the lives of well educated people in comparison to the "simpletons" or the illiterate. Thus, a clear picture of education and its accurate concept can be seen. The personality of a person is greatly affected by

the education one has obtained. Furthermore, the productivity and benefits of a person's life is a manifestation of obtained education. Education is a right of a person. A trained human mind without education is not complete. Education, therefore, in the light of external humanity is indispensable; the absence of it excludes a person from obtaining vital information.

The way a person see one's life is determined by the education. A mind can be trained, but that's not enough. Although training increases efficiency, it does not guarantee wholeness. The necessity to acquire knowledge and efficiency is made possible by education.

Hypertension and emphysema are unlikely for people who are educated. Well educated people are in general physically and mentally functioning. Thus, anxiety and depression do not usually come to well educated people. Lastly, well educated people are healthy and are able to work regularly and efficiently. (Cutler and Lleras-Muney, 2013).

It is a common knowledge that having a good job and good earning is slim to none for people without education. Education is directly related to health, income, life longevity (Commission on Health, 2013). Hence, education can affect health in many ways.

Education strongly influences people economic activities and overall economic development in many different ways. The lack of basic education is considered a strong factor of why poverty is surfacing in the society. Moreover, education and empowerment is directly related to each other (Michaelowa, 2000).

To maintain of stability is the main function of education. Without it or the lack of it, can overthrow the sovereigns and leaders of the government as people may successfully instigate upheaval. Hobbes considers education as a must to citizens as a means to prevent political problems, but it does little to help us assess the likelihood that a

lack of proper education will cause instability in the state. Hobbes claims that, without education, it is impossible for a state to survive (Anderson, 2013).

Educational advancement is not only bolstered by literacy alone. Literacy is simply a trigger-factor in boosting some number of elements for socio-economic and political development. Thus, other variables support the concept of the significance of the quality of education. Each area (variable) in one way or the other affects the upward movement of people's lives. Thus, education greatly affects the progress of each dimension that a country has.

2.0 Objective

This study simply sought to determine how educational attainment contributes to the stability of socio-economic and political aspects of a society. It also attempts to explore the impact of educational accomplishments on the nation's citizens in two areas of concern: Socio-economic status with its effect to the income of the nation and its consequence on the life-expectancy; Political status with its effect on political conditions.

The present study aimed at determining how educational attainment contributes to the stability of socio-economic and political aspects of a society and to explore the impact of educational attainment on the nation's citizens in two areas of concern.

Specifically, the study aims to answer the following:

What is the effect of socio-economic status to the income of the country and consequences on Life expectancy?

What is the effect of political status to the income of the country and consequences on Life expectancy?

3.0 Design and Methodology

The study is designed to be exploratory and is, therefore, mainly descriptive. The use of clustering

method aims to group nations according to their similarities on certain measurable factors and variables: political instability, health, education, and income, facilitated the development of hypotheses regarding the relationship of educational advancement with the other factors.

The flow chart below shows how the data is being processed to reach the desired outcome which will be analyzed and discussed in the results and discussion. Finally, from the results and discussions the findings will be used to create conclusions.

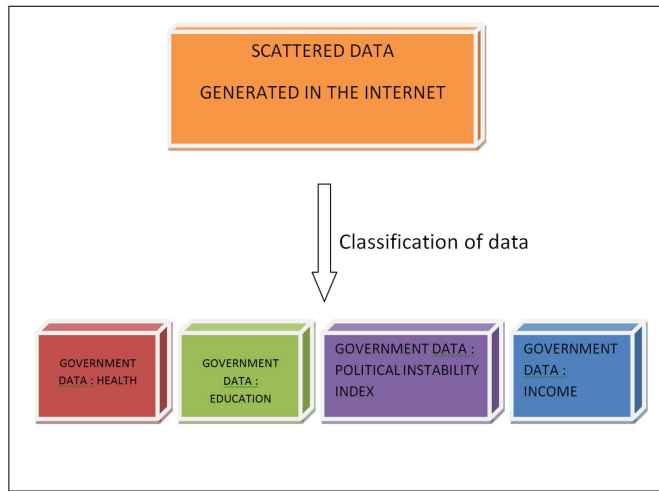


Figure 1. Collection and classification of Scattered Data

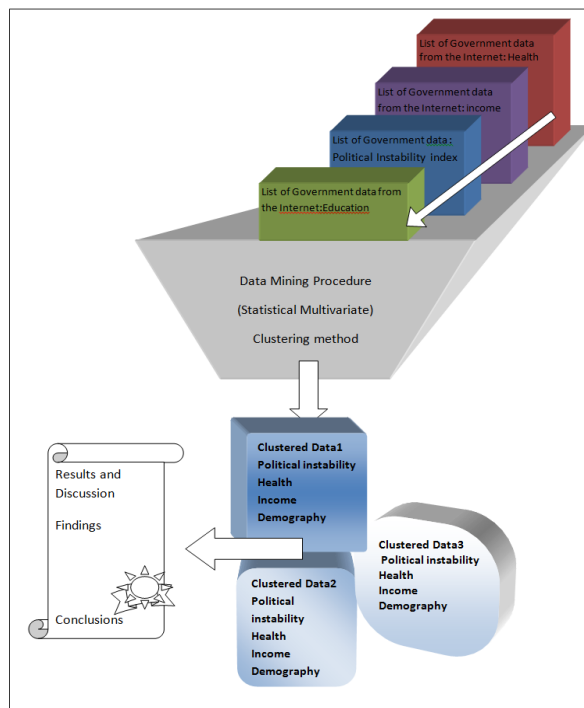


Figure 2. Conceptual framework

Table 1. Results from the cluster analysis

Variable	Cluster1	Cluster2	Cluster3	Grand Centroid
Pol.Inst	2.8	3.8	6.5333	5.1733
Health	79.675	81.9	66.3333	71.9667
Education	10.6	11.9	5.6111	7.78
Income	47224	33574.5	4052.1111	19500.9333

Political instability can be defined in at least three ways. A first approach is to define it as the propensity for regime or government change. A second is to focus on the incidence of political upheaval or violence in a society, such as assassinations, demonstrations, and so forth. A third approach focuses on instability in policies rather than instability in regimes (i.e., the degree to which fundamental policies of, for instance, property rights are subject to frequent changes). Political instability then is gauged on the flux of policies rather than on regimes.

Health is quantified on the basis of life expectancy at birth (years). Life expectancy is calculated using "life table analysis". Conceptually, life expectancy and longevity are synonymous. However, both life expectancy and longevity are different from life span. Life expectancy is based on existing data while life span uses speculation. Many believe that the human life span can be increased by medical or dietary improvements. Some researchers suggest that human life span has no exact or known limit.

Education is evaluated on mean years of schooling. In addition, income is basically referred to Gross National Index per capita in Purchasing Power Parity. The Gross national income (GNI) is a combination of the personal consumption expenditure, the gross private investment, the government consumption expenditures, and the net income from assets abroad (net income receipts), and the gross exports of goods and services, after deducting two components: the gross imports of goods and services, and the indirect business taxes.

The GNI is similar to the gross national product

(GNP), except that in measuring the GNP one does not deduct the indirect business taxes. Indirect business taxes are one key difference between national income (the resource cost of production) and gross (and net) domestic product (the market value of production). Indirect business taxes (IBT) are generally less than 10 percent of gross domestic product (7 to 8 percent is common).

Purchasing power parity (PPP) is an economic theory and a technique used to determine the relative value of currencies, estimating the amount of adjustment needed on the exchange rate between countries in order for the exchange to be equivalent to (or on par with) each currency's purchasing power. Purchasing Power is the currency value that a unit of money can buy in terms of goods or services

Purchasing power is important because it determines the amount of goods or services that can be purchased in two countries. By using the PPP rate, Countries can purchase products from other country with an amount of money having the same purchasing power.

PPP rates can be used to compare income of different countries, knowing that market exchange rates are rapidly changing, and are affected by political and financial factors.

IV. Presentation of Data, Findings, and Interpretation

The table above shows the result of cluster analysis. This table shows three clusters of countries having different socio-economic and political variables.

The first cluster has a characteristic of a rich and very stable country because of the following reasons: (1) it is politically stable because of its very low value in the political instability index; (2) its citizens are relatively healthy and live longer; (3) its members are well educated, and (4) it is basically very rich. Countries like Japan and Germany fit this profile by simply comparing figures 3 and 4.

Cluster 3, on the other hand, is opposite to

cluster 1. Cluster three fits the profile of a very weak and unstable country for the following reasons: (1) It is weak politically for it has a very high value in the political instability index; (2) It has a low life expectancy at birth because it has a value way below the grand centroid. (3) It's citizen are poorly educated, and (4) Majority of its members are below the poverty line. Most of the countries listed in table 1 belong to this profile as can be seen in figures 3 and 4.

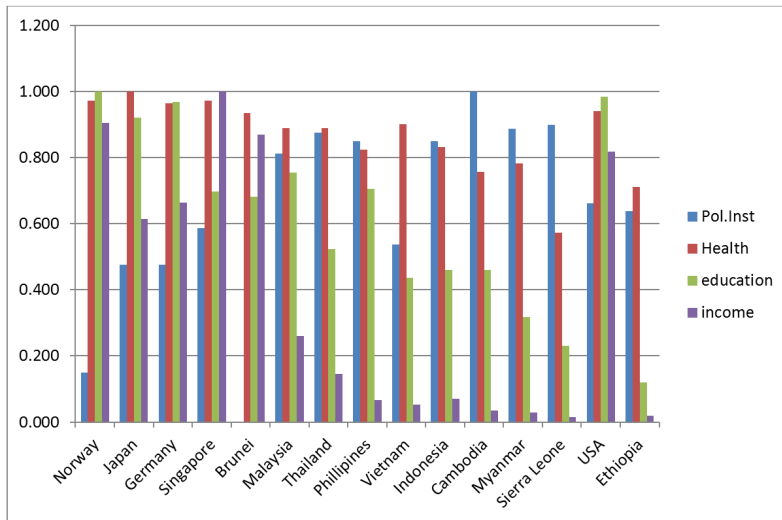


Figure 3. Countries Profile in terms of income, health, education, and political instability

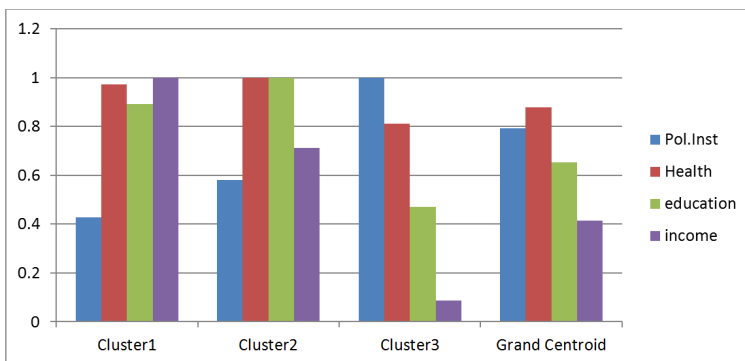


Figure 4. Clustered Profile in terms of income, health, education, and political instability

Cluster 1 shows a nation's feature having the highest income, and the lowest possibility of political instability. Cluster 2 illustrates a country's attribute with the highest education, and the highest rate of health. Cluster 3 points up that the lowest pace of education, the lowest of income, and of health, but the appraisal of political instability is high.

Educationally advanced countries, like Norway, USA, Germany and Japan have higher incomes than Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Myanmar, and Cambodia. Clusters 1 and 2 shows that the higher education is, the bigger is the income. Furthermore, when the income is high, the status of health goes up. If the proportion of health goes up, then political stability is possible.

V. Conclusion

Educational attainment is the gauge of the nation's growth. A country elevates its socio-economic conditions when education goes high. In fact, a highly developed country lies on the accomplishments in the area of education. Political stability otherwise is possible when the country's constituents are highly educated. For these basic reasons, one may surmise that knowledge can lead to better job opportunities and quality of life and decision-making. Educational advancement, therefore, implies the socio-economic and political development of a country.

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