

An Investment in Knowledge Pays the Best Interest

1. Introduction

2. How investment in knowledge pays the best interest?

A) Social sphere:

- a) Fostering tolerance among the masses
- b) Overcoming social inequality by providing equal opportunities
- c) Empowering women to achieve greater gender parity
- d) Improving health outcome of a nation

B) Economic domain:

- a) Fostering innovation and technological advancement
- b) Developing skilled labour

essential for economic development

c) Boosting economic growth through attracting FDI

d) Overcoming poverty by opening doors to economic opportunities

c) Political sphere:

a) Developing future leadership

b) Reducing political corruption

c) Increasing political participation

d) Fostering vigilant populace: a check on political authority.

Challenges to knowledge to pay best interest

i) lack of due investment

ii) lack of reforms

iii) outdated syllabus, curricula and pedagogy

4. Suggestions to make investment in knowledge ^{pay} best interest

i) At least 4% of GDP's investment on education

ii) Reforming syllabus and curriculum

iii) Inculcating modern tech enabled way of imparting knowledge

5. Conclusion:

Nelson Mandela once rightly said, "Education is the most powerful weapon, which you can use to change the world." This shows the importance of knowledge not only in development of an individual but also

the development of a nation and the whole world.

Investment in knowledge pays the best interest in every sphere of a nation. In social sphere, it fosters tolerance among masses, by inculcating empathy. It also helps overcome inequality and achieve greater gender parity by empowering women. In economic domain, it fosters innovation and technological advancement, which is essential for economic development of any nation. It boosts economic growth by producing skilled human capital, which helps attract Foreign direct investment (FDI), essential for economic growth and development. It also helps in overcoming poverty by opening doors to economic opportunities. Moreover,

in political sphere, it helps produce future leaders, by inculcating leadership skills. The investment in knowledge results in increasing political participation and fostering vigilant populace, which in turn leads to strengthening of democratic institutions. Hence, investment in knowledge pays the best interest in social, political and economic spheres of a country. ~~However, there are certain barriers to.~~ It inculcates tolerance, overcomes poverty and ensures political participation. However, there are certain barriers ~~to~~ like lack of due investment, and reforms. These barriers can be overcome by ensuring four percent of GDP investment and reforming curriculum and pedagogy.

To begin with, investment in knowledge pays best interest in social sphere by fostering tolerance among the masses. Knowledge enables an individual to understand the historical injustices and stereotypes. By studying these injustices and marginalisations, empathy towards those people develops. Moreover, knowledge inculcates qualities of critical thinking and conflict resolution, which enables individual to question, analyze and resolve conflict through dialogue and debate, rather than conflict. For instance studying the struggle of Afro-American during civil rights movement, helps in developing empathy toward this marginalized group, which help foster tolerance. Hence, investment in knowledge pays best interest by inculcating

tolerance.

Similarly, investment in knowledge results in overcoming social inequalities. Knowledge enables individual to learn the root causes of social inequalities. It also enables individual to overcome the barriers in its path of achieving social progress.

This result in creation of opportunities, which results in climbing the social ladder. For instance, in post apartheid South Africa investment in education of marginalized black people results in achieving greater social equality. Hence, achieving social equality makes investment in knowledge pay best interest.

Likewise, investment in knowledge empowers women to achieve greater gender

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parity. Knowledge helps women not only understand their rights but also open doors to social, economic and political progress. It helps them understand their role in society. Moreover, it equips them with required skills essential to stay in line with their male counterparts. Education also helps in overcoming the stereotypes, prejudices and biases against women. This creates an environment in society which is conducive for the development of women in society. For instance, Iceland achieves the highest gender parity in Gender Gap Index due to its investment in education, ensuring the highest literacy rate in the world. Hence, investment in knowledge pays the best interest by empowering women.

In addition, investment in knowledge results in improving the health outcomes of a nation. It helps individual to learn about importance of healthy lifestyle and how to achieve it.

It also enables development of human capital and health technology essential for health of a nation. This ensures high health standards in the nation which is essential not only for social progress but also economic development of the nation. For instance, Singapore is ranked the ^{1st} healthiest nation in the world by World Population Review, ~~due to it~~ which is made possible by its investment in knowledge economy of the nation. Hence, investment in knowl helps in achieving high health outcomes.

Moreover, in economic domain, investment in knowledge fosters innovation and technological advancement. For economic development of any nation, innovation and technology play a vital role. To achieve this, investment in knowledge is essential. It opens doors to research and development. It also fosters critical thinking skills essential for scientific discoveries and inventions, allowing the country to progress in economic domain. For example, the investment of China in its education sector, particularly its higher education, has resulted in achieving innovation and technological advancement in solar, electric and space tech, making it a technological hub. Hence, investment in knowledge pays best interest by fostering innovation and technological advancement.

Furthermore, investment in knowledge results in developing of skilled labour force, which is essential for economic growth. Economic development relies on human capital of a nation. The investment in knowledge helps produce those skilled labour, by inculcating right skills, which are required for industrial growth of the nation. This results in economic boost and efficiency. According to Tim Cook, CEO of Apple, the skilled labour of China has made it centre of global manufacturing and technological advancement. Hence, skilled labour produced by investment in knowledge economy results in paying best interest.

Similarly, investment in knowledge boosts economic

growth by attracting FDI. While investing in any market, investors look to multiple segments among these are skilled labour, political stability and law & order. All these indicators can only be achieved by investing in knowledge economy of a state. Those countries who have achieved high literacy rates are also one of the main centres of investment for investors. For instance, India received \$83.4 billion FDI in FY 23-24, which is one of the highest in the region, due to its booming IT and manufacturing sector. These sectors are mainly flourishing because of the supply of skilled labour force from its IITs and other higher education institutes. Hence, investment in knowledge results in economic boom.

Additionally, investment in knowledge helps overcome poverty. The shackles of poverty can only be broken if those entrenched in it are armed with the power of education. Education helps individual, caught in poverty, to break the chains of poverty. It achieves this by providing due opportunities and skills. China pulled out 100 million people out of poverty by giving them required knowledge of agriculture and social growth. Hence, investment in the knowledge helps in breaking the shackles of poverty.

In political sphere, investment in knowledge pays best interest by developing future leadership. The education systems are historically given credits of producing leaders. It is the investment in knowledge

which enables an individual to foster leadership skills. Knowledge broadens the perspective of an individual and inculcates skills like critical thinking, essential for a leader. Knowledge also develops empathy in an individual, allowing it to take care of a nation. For instance, Woodrow Wilson, who ^{is only phd} holding ^{resident,} phd, leads America during World War I. He not only brings an end to World War but also proposed the League of Nations to overcome future wars. Hence, investment in knowledge pays best interest by developing future leaders.

Furthermore, it helps overcome political corruption. Corruption is a menace which can lead to the destruction of a nation. Education creates awareness among masses about

the detrimental impacts of corruption. This not only help overcome corruption at individual level but also at the social and national level. For instance, Denmark is rank lowest in Corruption Perception Index $1/180$, due to it highest literacy rate in the world. Hence, investment in knowledge pays best interest by keeping the menace of corruption away.

Like wise, investment in knowledge helps increase political participation. Political participation is essential for forming a democratic government and keeping checks on its authority. Education helps create awareness about political rights and duties. citizens know they had to perform their political

duty to ensure a representative government is formed and they must work under the constitutional means. For example, the increase in literacy rate in Pakistan from 50% in 2000 to 60.3% in 2023 has resulted in an increase in political participation which crossed 50 percent according to Free and Fair Election Network. Hence, the investment in knowledge pays best interest by increasing political participation.

In addition, investment in knowledge is best investment as it fosters vigilant and populace essential for democratic checks on authority. Knowledge enables individuals of rights and duties. They know the importance of political checks in form of

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constitutional limitation on political authority. If the political authorities cross their limitation, those enabled with knowledge react. They protest and mobilize masses to protect their political rights. They know their duty, which at the time of political crisis is to protect their constitutional rights. For example, it is the knowledge of people of republic of Korea, which force them to protest against president, who tried to impose martial law, and they successfully impeached him through parliament. Hence, investment in knowledge pays best interest by building a vigilant populace.

Knowledge is the best investment a nation can make but it faces certain

barriers. First of all, the lack of due expenditure on education. According to UNESCO a nation must spend 4 percent of GDP on education. Unfortunately, Pakistan spends only 1.7% of its GDP on education. Secondly, the lack of reforms in education sector has resulted in 2.6 million children/people out of school. Thirdly, the out-dated syllabus, and out-moded pedagogy have resulted in dwindling of quality of education. Hence, the knowledge as a best investment face certain challenges in Pakistan.

To overcome these challenges the state must adopt certain measures. First of all, the expenditure on education must be increase to 4% of GDP, with 1-2% special for higher education. Secondly

a national commission must be formed to form new curriculum and pedagogical methods. Thirdly, online education must be focus, as it is easy of man educating, to reach those living in peripheries and remote areas. Through these reforms the state can overcome the challenges of illiteracy and can make a best investment which will pay with great interest in social, political and economic sphere of the country.

In conclusion, the investment in knowledge ^{is indeed} pays the best interest, as it leads to progress in every domain of a nation. In social sphere, it helps overcome inequality, fosters tolerance and achieves gender empowerment. In economic domain,

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it fosters innovation, develops human capital and boosts economic growth. Within the political sphere, it produces future leadership and increase public participation. It also enables vigilant populace and overcome political corruption. However, there are certain barriers like under investment, outdated syllabus and lack of reforms. These barriers can be overcome by increasing expenditure to 4 percent of GDP, reforms in curriculum and pedagogy and inculcating technology in education. If these reforms are properly implemented, Pakistan can achieve best interest with its investment in knowledge.