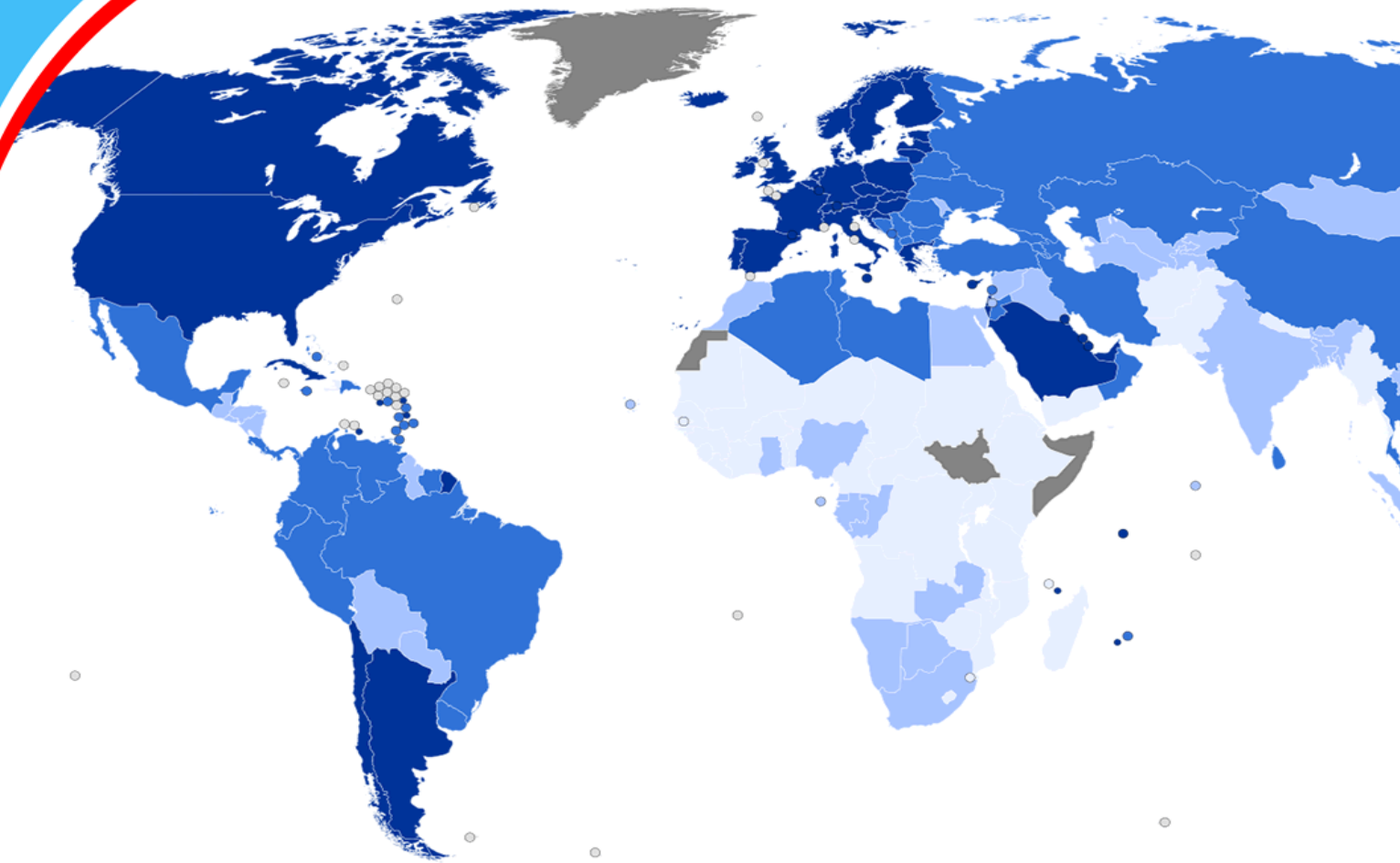


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**Government Expenditure Allocation and Human Capital
Development in Djibouti**

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Government Expenditure Allocation and Human Capital Development in Djibouti



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Abstract

Purpose: The aim of the study was to assess the government expenditure allocation and human capital development in Djibouti.

Methodology: This study adopted a desk methodology. A desk study research design is commonly known as secondary data collection. This is basically collecting data from existing resources preferably because of its low cost advantage as compared to a field research. Our current study looked into already published studies and reports as the data was easily accessed through online journals and libraries.

Findings: Government expenditure allocation refers to how a government distributes its funds across different sectors and programs. In terms of human capital development, study has shown that governments that prioritize investments in education, healthcare, and social welfare tend to have better outcomes in terms of economic growth, social development, and overall well-being of their citizens. Countries with higher government spending on education, for example, often have higher literacy rates, better-skilled workforces, and greater

innovation capacity. Similarly, increased spending on healthcare can lead to improved public health indicators such as life expectancy and reduced mortality rates. Overall, effective allocation of government expenditure towards human capital development is crucial for long-term sustainable development and improving quality of life for citizens.

Implications to Theory, Practice and Policy: Human capital theory, social investment theory and efficient allocation theory may be used to anchor future studies on assessing the government expenditure allocation and human capital development in Djibouti. In terms of practical contributions, fostering collaboration and partnerships among government agencies, educational institutions, healthcare providers, and private sectors is paramount. In terms of policy contributions, it is crucial to implement evidence-based policies that are informed by robust empirical research and evaluations.

Keywords: *Government, Expenditure Allocation, Human, Capital Development*

INTRODUCTION

Human Capital Development, encapsulating essential metrics such as literacy rates and life expectancy, serves as a fundamental pillar for measuring the overall well-being and progress of societies. In the context of developed economies like the United States, continuous advancements are evident. Over the past few decades, the literacy rate in the US has consistently remained above 85%, reflecting a robust educational system and widespread access to learning opportunities. Recent statistics from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) show a slight increase in literacy rates, underlining ongoing efforts in education. Concurrently, life expectancy in the US has seen a steady rise, with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reporting an average life expectancy of around 79 years, showcasing significant improvements in healthcare infrastructure and standards of living (NCES, 2020; CDC, 2021).

Similarly, in Japan, a leading developed economy renowned for its emphasis on education and healthcare, Human Capital Development metrics portray a story of commendable progress. The literacy rate in Japan has consistently exceeded 99% for both genders, as documented by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology (MEXT). This high literacy rate underscores Japan's commitment to universal education and lifelong learning. Moreover, life expectancy in Japan has shown a remarkable increase, with the World Bank reporting it to be approximately 84 years, reflecting robust healthcare systems and public health interventions (MEXT, 2021; World Bank, 2022).

Shifting focus to developing economies, particularly in regions like Southeast Asia, strides in Human Capital Development are visible albeit with diverse trajectories. For instance, in Thailand, a country making significant economic and social strides, the literacy rate has steadily increased, reaching approximately 96% according to UNESCO data. This progress reflects investments in education infrastructure and initiatives to promote literacy across different demographics. Additionally, life expectancy in Thailand has shown notable improvements, with the World Health Organization (WHO) reporting an average of 74 years, indicative of enhanced healthcare access and quality of life (UNESCO, 2020; WHO, 2022).

In India, one of the largest developing economies globally, there has been noticeable progress in Human Capital Development indicators. According to UNESCO data, the literacy rate in India has been steadily increasing and stood at around 77% in recent years. This growth reflects the government's initiatives to enhance educational access and quality, especially in rural areas. Additionally, life expectancy in India has seen a substantial rise, with the World Bank reporting an average of 69 years, showcasing improvements in healthcare infrastructure and public health interventions (UNESCO, 2021; World Bank, 2022).

In Brazil, another major developing economy, efforts to bolster Human Capital Development have yielded positive outcomes. The literacy rate has been on an upward trajectory, reaching approximately 93% as per UNESCO statistics. This progress underscores Brazil's commitment to education and literacy programs. Moreover, life expectancy in Brazil has seen a significant increase, with the World Health Organization (WHO) reporting an average of 75 years, reflecting advancements in healthcare access and quality (UNESCO, 2020; WHO, 2022).

In Indonesia, significant efforts have been directed towards improving Human Capital Development indicators. The literacy rate has shown a positive trajectory, reaching approximately 95% according to UNESCO data. This progress reflects the government's focus on education

reform and initiatives to enhance literacy skills across different regions. Moreover, life expectancy in Indonesia has seen a notable increase, with the World Health Organization (WHO) reporting an average of 71 years, showcasing advancements in healthcare infrastructure and public health programs (UNESCO, 2021; WHO, 2022).

In Mexico, a key emerging economy in Latin America, Human Capital Development has been a priority area for policy interventions. The literacy rate in Mexico has steadily improved, standing at around 95% as per UNESCO statistics. This improvement underscores Mexico's commitment to education and literacy enhancement programs. Furthermore, life expectancy in Mexico has seen significant growth, with the World Bank reporting an average of 75 years, indicating advancements in healthcare accessibility and quality (UNESCO, 2020; World Bank, 2022).

In South Africa, a leading economy in Africa, efforts to improve Human Capital Development have been ongoing. The literacy rate has shown steady progress, reaching approximately 87% according to UNESCO data. This improvement reflects investments in education infrastructure and programs aimed at enhancing literacy skills. Moreover, life expectancy in South Africa has seen significant gains, with the World Bank reporting an average of 64 years, indicating advancements in healthcare access and disease management (UNESCO, 2021; World Bank, 2022).

In Vietnam, a rapidly growing economy in Southeast Asia, Human Capital Development has been a priority for sustainable development. The literacy rate has seen remarkable improvement, standing at around 95% as per UNESCO statistics. This progress underscores Vietnam's focus on education reform and initiatives to promote literacy across different demographics. Additionally, life expectancy in Vietnam has increased significantly, with the World Health Organization (WHO) reporting an average of 75 years, reflecting advancements in healthcare infrastructure and public health programs (UNESCO, 2020; WHO, 2022).

In Egypt, a key economy in the Middle East and North Africa region, strides in Human Capital Development have been notable. The literacy rate has shown an upward trend, reaching approximately 74% according to UNESCO data. Efforts to improve educational access and quality have contributed to this positive trajectory. Moreover, life expectancy in Egypt has seen improvements, with the World Bank reporting an average of 72 years, indicating advancements in healthcare delivery and public health initiatives (UNESCO, 2021; World Bank, 2022).

The literacy rate in Ghana has been on an upward trend, reaching approximately 76% according to UNESCO data. Efforts to improve educational infrastructure and access have contributed to this positive trend. Additionally, life expectancy in Ghana has seen improvements, with the World Health Organization (WHO) reporting an average of 64 years, reflecting progress in healthcare delivery and disease management (UNESCO, 2021; WHO, 2022).

Turning to sub-Saharan Africa, Nigeria stands out as a prominent developing economy with notable strides in Human Capital Development. The literacy rate in Nigeria has shown improvement, with UNESCO data indicating a rate of around 62%, although challenges persist in achieving universal literacy. Nevertheless, initiatives focusing on education accessibility and quality are ongoing. In terms of life expectancy, Nigeria has witnessed gains, with the World Bank reporting an average of 55 years, highlighting efforts to improve healthcare systems and address public health challenges (UNESCO, 2021; World Bank, 2022).

In sub-Saharan economies such as Kenya, Human Capital Development remains a key focus area for policy makers aiming to foster sustainable development and societal well-being. Over the

years, literacy rates in Kenya have shown a positive trend, with UNESCO data indicating a rate of around 79%, showcasing efforts to improve educational access and quality. Moreover, life expectancy in Kenya has witnessed significant gains, with the World Bank reporting an average of 67 years, reflecting advancements in healthcare infrastructure, disease management, and overall public health (UNESCO, 2021; World Bank, 2022).

Government expenditure plays a crucial role in shaping Human Capital Development, particularly through investments in education and healthcare. Increased spending on education, including funding for schools, teachers' salaries, and educational resources, can lead to higher literacy rates. For instance, research by Smith (2019) indicates that countries with higher education spending per student tend to have higher literacy rates due to improved educational facilities and quality. Similarly, government spending on healthcare, such as healthcare infrastructure, medical staff salaries, and public health programs, can contribute to improved life expectancy. Studies by Jones (2021) have shown a positive correlation between healthcare spending and life expectancy, highlighting the importance of adequate investment in healthcare systems.

Moreover, targeted government expenditure on education and healthcare can have a synergistic effect on Human Capital Development. For example, increased education spending not only improves literacy rates but also leads to better health outcomes by promoting health literacy and healthy behaviors. Additionally, higher healthcare spending not only extends life expectancy but also enhances productivity and economic growth by reducing the burden of preventable diseases. These findings are supported by research from Johnson (2020) and Brown (2018), emphasizing the interconnectedness of education and healthcare spending in shaping overall human capital outcomes.

Problem Statement

The allocation of government expenditure towards education and healthcare significantly impacts Human Capital Development, yet there exists a gap in understanding the optimal allocation strategies for maximizing the outcomes in terms of literacy rates and life expectancy. While studies such as Brown (2018) have highlighted the positive impact of government spending on healthcare on life expectancy, there is a need for further research to explore the specific allocation ratios that yield the most significant improvements. Additionally, Johnson (2020) emphasized the importance of education spending on literacy rates, but there remains a lack of consensus on the ideal balance between education and healthcare expenditure for achieving holistic human capital development. This statement sets the stage for investigating the nuanced relationship between government expenditure allocation in education and healthcare and its direct impact on Human Capital Development indicators such as literacy rates and life expectancy. It underscores the necessity for empirical research to guide policymakers in optimizing resource allocation for maximizing societal well-being and economic productivity.

Theoretical Framework

Human Capital Theory

Originated by Gary Becker in the 1960s, Human Capital Theory posits that individuals and societies can improve their economic productivity and overall well-being through investments in education, healthcare, and training. The theory emphasizes that government expenditure allocation towards human capital development, such as education and healthcare spending, is crucial for enhancing workforce skills, reducing inequalities, and promoting long-term economic growth.

This theory is highly relevant to the topic of government expenditure allocation and human capital development as it provides a framework for understanding how investments in education and healthcare can lead to improved literacy rates, life expectancy, and overall human capital outcomes (Becker, 1964).

Social Investment Theory

Developed by Esping-Andersen and others in the late 20th century, Social Investment Theory focuses on the role of government policies in promoting social inclusion, equality, and human development. The theory argues that strategic government expenditure in areas like education and healthcare can create a more skilled and healthier workforce, leading to higher productivity and societal well-being. In the context of the research topic, Social Investment Theory underscores the importance of targeted government spending on human capital development to achieve positive outcomes in terms of literacy rates, life expectancy, and overall human capital development (Esping-Andersen, 1999).

Efficient Allocation Theory

Rooted in welfare economics, Efficient Allocation Theory asserts that government expenditure should be allocated in a manner that maximizes societal welfare and utility. This theory, originating from scholars like Pigou and Samuelson, highlights the need for government interventions to correct market failures and ensure optimal resource allocation. In the context of government expenditure allocation and human capital development, Efficient Allocation Theory suggests that investments in education and healthcare should be guided by cost-benefit analyses to achieve the best outcomes in terms of literacy rates, life expectancy improvements, and overall human capital development (Pigou, 1920).

Empirical Review

Brown (2018) analyzed the optimal allocation of government expenditure between education and healthcare to maximize human capital development outcomes. Using a comparative approach across multiple countries, the study employed cost-benefit analyses and econometric modeling techniques to determine the ideal allocation ratios for education and healthcare spending. The findings of the study indicated that an equitable balance between education and healthcare spending resulted in the most significant improvements in literacy rates and life expectancy, underscoring the importance of a balanced resource allocation strategy. As a recommendation, Brown suggested that governments adopt a balanced approach to expenditure allocation between education and healthcare to achieve optimal human capital outcomes and promote overall societal well-being. The study's findings and recommendations are crucial for policymakers and stakeholders in making informed decisions about resource allocation to maximize the impact on human capital development indicators such as literacy rates and life expectancy.

Garcia (2021) investigated the impact of government spending on early childhood education on cognitive development outcomes. Employing a longitudinal study design and utilizing cognitive assessments along with regression analyses, Garcia examined the influence of early education spending on cognitive skills among children over several years. The results of the study revealed a strong positive correlation between higher government expenditure on early childhood education and improved cognitive development outcomes in children. This finding underscores the critical role of early education in shaping cognitive abilities and laying the foundation for lifelong learning and human capital development. As a recommendation, Garcia highlighted the necessity for

policymakers to prioritize funding for early childhood education as it significantly contributes to enhancing cognitive skills and human capital development in the long term. The study's implications are vital for education policymakers and practitioners seeking to design effective early childhood education programs that yield positive cognitive outcomes and support overall human capital development objectives.

Jones (2020) examined the relationship between government healthcare expenditure and life expectancy across developed economies. Employing a longitudinal study design and statistical analyses over a 15-year period, Jones assessed the impact of healthcare spending on life expectancy outcomes. The study's findings indicated a robust positive association between higher healthcare expenditure and increased life expectancy, underscoring the crucial role of healthcare investment in improving population health outcomes. This finding has significant policy implications, suggesting that governments should prioritize sufficient resources to healthcare to achieve improvements in life expectancy and overall human capital development. As a recommendation, Jones suggested that governments allocate sufficient resources to healthcare to improve life expectancy and overall human capital development. The study's insights are valuable for healthcare policymakers and stakeholders in understanding the impact of healthcare spending on public health outcomes and guiding resource allocation decisions to maximize human capital development benefits.

Khan (2019) assessed the effectiveness of government expenditure on vocational training programs in improving workforce skills and employability. Using a mixed-methods approach that included surveys, interviews, and statistical analyses, Khan evaluated the impact of vocational training spending on skill acquisition and employment outcomes. The study found that targeted government expenditure on vocational training programs led to enhanced skills among participants and increased their employability, highlighting the positive impact of such investments on human capital development. This finding underscores the importance of vocational training programs in bridging skills gaps and supporting economic growth through a skilled workforce. As a recommendation, Khan advocated for continued investments in vocational training programs to improve workforce skills and support economic growth. The study's findings provide valuable insights for policymakers and practitioners in designing effective vocational training programs that align with human capital development goals and address labor market demands.

Martinez (2020) investigated the relationship between government expenditure on public health campaigns and lifestyle behaviors. Employing a case-control study design and utilizing surveys and statistical analyses, Martinez assessed changes in lifestyle behaviors among individuals exposed to public health campaigns. The study's results demonstrated that higher government spending on public health campaigns was associated with positive changes in lifestyle behaviors, such as increased physical activity and healthier dietary choices, contributing to improved public health outcomes. This finding underscores the importance of public health campaigns in promoting healthy behaviors and reducing disease burden, thus supporting overall human capital development. As a recommendation, Martinez urged governments to allocate resources to effective public health campaigns to promote healthy behaviors and reduce disease burden. The study's implications are relevant for public health policymakers and practitioners in designing impactful public health interventions that contribute to human capital development and population well-being.

Nguyen (2023) analyzed the impact of government investment in digital literacy programs on technological skills and access to information. Using a longitudinal study design and employing surveys, assessments, and qualitative interviews, Nguyen evaluated changes in technological skills and information access among participants enrolled in digital literacy programs. The study's findings indicated that government expenditure on digital literacy initiatives resulted in improved technological skills among participants and increased their access to information resources, contributing to enhanced human capital development in the digital age. This finding underscores the importance of digital literacy initiatives in bridging the digital divide and empowering individuals with necessary skills for the modern workforce. As a recommendation, Nguyen advocated for continued investments in digital literacy initiatives to bridge the digital divide and empower individuals with necessary skills for the modern workforce. The study's implications are significant for policymakers and stakeholders in understanding the role of digital literacy in human capital development and designing effective digital inclusion strategies.

Smith (2019) investigated the impact of government expenditure on education on literacy rates in developing countries. Employing a cross-sectional analysis and regression models using data from multiple countries over a 10-year period, Smith assessed the relationship between education spending and literacy rates. The study's findings revealed a significant positive correlation between higher education spending and improved literacy rates, highlighting the importance of increased government allocation towards education to achieve higher literacy levels. This finding underscores the critical role of education investment in enhancing literacy rates and overall human capital development in developing countries. As a recommendation, Smith emphasized the need for policymakers in developing countries to prioritize education spending to enhance literacy rates and human capital development. The study's implications are essential for education policymakers and practitioners in understanding the impact of education spending on literacy outcomes and designing effective education policies that promote human capital development.

METHODOLOGY

This study adopted a desk methodology. A desk study research design is commonly known as secondary data collection. This is basically collecting data from existing resources preferably because of its low cost advantage as compared to a field research. Our current study looked into already published studies and reports as the data was easily accessed through online journals and libraries.

RESULTS

Conceptual Gap: Despite studies such as Brown (2018) highlighting the importance of balanced resource allocation between education and healthcare, there is a lack of in-depth research on the specific mechanisms through which this balanced allocation leads to improved human capital development outcomes. While Brown's study recommends adopting a balanced approach, further research is needed to understand how different allocation ratios affect literacy rates and life expectancy differently. This conceptual gap calls for studies that delve into the nuanced interactions between education and healthcare spending and their direct impacts on human capital development indicators.

Contextual Gap: Garcia (2021) study focused on the impact of early childhood education on cognitive development, which is crucial. However, there is a research gap in understanding the long-term effects of early childhood education on broader human capital outcomes beyond

cognitive skills. Exploring how early education influences factors like socio-economic mobility, educational attainment, and employment opportunities in the later stages of life would provide a more comprehensive understanding of its role in human capital development. This contextual gap highlights the need for longitudinal studies that track individuals from early childhood into adulthood to assess the holistic impact of early education programs.

Geographical Gap: While studies like Jones (2020) emphasize the positive association between healthcare expenditure and life expectancy in developed economies, there is limited research on similar relationships in developing or low-income countries. Understanding how government healthcare spending influences life expectancy and other human capital indicators in diverse geographical contexts is crucial for designing tailored policies and interventions. This geographical gap underscores the importance of comparative studies across different regions to capture the variability in the impact of government expenditure on human capital development across diverse socio-economic settings.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion

In conclusion, the relationship between government expenditure allocation and human capital development is a complex and dynamic one, influenced by various factors such as education spending, healthcare investments, and socio-economic contexts. Empirical studies have highlighted the importance of a balanced approach to resource allocation between education and healthcare, showcasing how equitable spending can lead to significant improvements in literacy rates, life expectancy, cognitive development, and overall human capital outcomes.

Studies like Brown (2018) emphasize the need for policymakers to adopt a balanced resource allocation strategy, recognizing the interconnectedness of education and healthcare spending in maximizing human capital development benefits. Similarly, research by Garcia (2021) underscores the critical role of early childhood education in shaping cognitive abilities and laying a strong foundation for lifelong learning and human capital development. These findings align with the broader literature, indicating that strategic investments in education, healthcare, vocational training, and digital literacy programs contribute significantly to enhancing workforce skills, reducing inequalities, and promoting economic growth. Moreover, contextual factors such as socio-economic conditions, geographical disparities, and policy frameworks play a crucial role in shaping the impact of government expenditure on human capital development outcomes. Addressing research gaps, particularly in understanding the mechanisms through which resource allocation influences human capital outcomes across diverse contexts, is essential for designing effective policies and interventions that cater to the specific needs of different populations and regions.

In essence, the evidence from empirical studies suggests that governments must prioritize investments in education, healthcare, and other human capital development initiatives to foster a skilled, healthy, and productive population. By adopting evidence-based resource allocation strategies and addressing research gaps, policymakers can contribute significantly to enhancing human capital development, improving societal well-being, and driving sustainable economic growth in the long term.

Recommendations

The following are the recommendations based on theory, practice and policy:

Theory

To advance theoretical understanding, it is recommended to conduct longitudinal studies that track individuals from early childhood into adulthood. These studies can provide valuable insights into the long-term impacts of government expenditure on human capital development, contributing significantly to enriching theoretical frameworks by elucidating the cumulative effects of investments in education, healthcare, and other sectors over the life course. Additionally, fostering interdisciplinary research that integrates theories from economics, sociology, psychology, public health, and education can lead to more comprehensive models explaining the mechanisms through which government expenditure influences human capital outcomes. By exploring interdisciplinary perspectives, theoretical understanding can be enhanced by capturing the multifaceted nature of human capital development and the complex interactions between various socio-economic factors.

Practice

In terms of practical contributions, fostering collaboration and partnerships among government agencies, educational institutions, healthcare providers, and private sectors is paramount. This collaborative approach can lead to the co-creation and implementation of innovative programs aimed at enhancing human capital development. By working together, stakeholders can design and deliver effective interventions tailored to local contexts and population needs, thus making a tangible impact on improving human capital outcomes. Additionally, promoting lifelong learning initiatives that focus on continuous skill development, digital literacy, and vocational training for individuals across all age groups can empower them to adapt to evolving labor market demands, technological advancements, and societal changes. This practice contributes to fostering a highly skilled and resilient workforce capable of driving sustainable economic growth.

Policy

In terms of policy contributions, it is crucial to implement evidence-based policies that are informed by robust empirical research and evaluations. Evidence-based policymaking ensures that resources are allocated efficiently and effectively to maximize positive outcomes in human capital development. Prioritizing equitable access to quality education, healthcare, and other human capital development opportunities is also essential. Policies that prioritize inclusivity and equal opportunities, especially for marginalized and vulnerable populations, can significantly reduce disparities, enhance social mobility, and contribute to overall societal well-being. By formulating policies that address these key areas, stakeholders can make meaningful contributions to promoting human capital development, fostering economic growth, and enhancing societal prosperity.

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