



Impact of Vocational Education on Home Economics in Afghanistan

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ABSTRACT

Afghanistan has faced different types of problems and challenges, we can say, like political instability, wars, and economic hardship, and one of the most important of these challenges is the limited access to education and vocational training, that education plays a vital role in human life and economic development and growth. This study is conducted to study the effect and impact of vocational education on home economics in Afghan society. This research is focusing on how individuals and families improve their lives and economics on the basis of vocational education and training and how vocational education empowers and equips individuals to develop economically and to create social stability. By observing and examining the role of vocational education and vocational training of Afghan people to improve home economics. The research was conducted on the basis of secondary data and literature review, and the result has shown vocational education has a significant impact on home economics. Vocational education empowers individuals and families to work and produce something for the local market and to improve their household management and also vocational education improves the standard of living of families. Vocational education and training equip people with skills and knowledge for the labor market and for production.

1. INTRODUCTION

Vocational education is the skills and abilities through which individuals perform jobs and economic activities. Vocational education is important for all countries, especially for developing countries. In developing countries, vocational education is critical. Vocational education and training empower families to develop and to enhance their lives and to improve and grow home economics. In Afghanistan, vocational education is a factor that highly impacts home economics and decreases the unemployment rate, and it is a big need for sustainable growth and development. Home economic needs and encompassing vocational education and skills like sewing, cooking, nutrition, budgeting, health care, household management, etc. to improve human life and economic, vocational education effects people and families lives in all aspects, like increasing their education, economic growth, health care, and increasing life expectancy.

Vocational education and training have multiple benefits, especially for women in Afghanistan, who are also responsible for household management. Today in Afghan society, vocational education is playing a vital role in home economic development, and we can say that vocational education is a big need for Afghan society and families. Vocational education provides different approaches to opportunities, especially for women, like enabling women to work and its sources of income.

The integration of home economics into vocational education offers multiple benefits, particularly for women, who are typically responsible for household management. This research investigates how vocational education in home economics impacts Afghan society, particularly in terms of social inclusion, economic stability, and the empowerment of women.

1.1 Research Questions

2. What is the impact of vocational education on home economics in Afghanistan, and how can it enable families to grow and develop?
3. What challenges does vocational education face in Afghanistan?
4. What skills are provided by vocational education, and how are these have applied in real life?

1.2 Research Objectives

1. To explore the vocational education in Afghanistan and its impact on home economics.
2. To evaluate the role of vocational education in household management.
3. To identify challenges to vocational education and to suggest ways to overcome the problems.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

(Olayide O. Adebayo & Nkeiruka I. Nwabah, 2023) conducted research on home economics entrepreneurial skills: a veritable tool for youth empowerment in Nigeria. They stated that vocational education directly impacts youth entrepreneurial skills; in Nigeria, youth have a need for vocational education, vocational education empowers youth to work and to be competitive, and vocational education decreases the unemployment rate in Nigeria.

Hazrati, I.; Alemi, E., & Ahmadzai, A, 2024) studied the impact of education on the labor force of Afghanistan, and they stated that the labor force is faced with the lack of job opportunities because of poor education, and there is a need for all types of education for Afghan people, especially for women. Afghanistan needs an efficient labor force, mostly for women, handcraft that plays a vital role in home economics. For Afghanistan, it is very necessary to invest in the education sector, and also educational investment is very profitable for Afghanistan.

(Lucy Ediruke Oshio, 2024) studied the evaluation of the effects of vocational home economics education on graduate's career choices in Edo State; his studies showed that vocational education is very important for graduated students. Students can obtain the labor skills; there is a need for inveterate education curricula; education centers must consider vocational education for students; vocational education equips students with labor skills.

(Fatema Haidari & Mortaza Kazemi, 2023) conducted research on the review of TVET education in Afghanistan. They typed that the TVET is increasing and changing rapidly day by day and driving the global economy with sustainable development;

however, the TVET in the war-torn country of Afghanistan plays a crucial role in home economic development, in agriculture, and in production. Afghanistan's vocational education has faced many ups and downs within its history; after the Second World War, Afghanistan established technical agriculture and commercial centers in Kabul, and continuously it has faced many challenges till now.

(Preeti Dixit & R. Ravichandran, 2023) Vocational education is very important for economic growth and development. Vocational education equips people with knowledge and skills that are necessary for economic growth. Vocational education provides job opportunities, poverty reduction, and an increase in productivity. Vocational education brings advanced technology to the country, and overall, vocational education brings economic development. Vocational education also faces challenges and problems, like poor infrastructure, insufficient funding, limited awareness, etc.

(Linzhong Xia; Arshad Ali; Haotian Wang; Xun Wu, & Dake Qian, 2022) Improvement and increase in secondary vocational education directly boosts long-term economic growth, and decrease in secondary vocational education reduces long-term economic growth, but not at all in China. In China, high vocational education is very significant and plays a pivotal role in China's economic growth. The investment in high vocational education in China is more profitable and effective for industrial development.

Amjad K. Owais; Suzan Mahmoud Alabidi; Zaydoon Mohammad Hatamleh, Elham T. Hussein, 2020) the study evaluated the integration of technology in technical and vocational education. The technology education is not fully included in technical and vocational education; however, the study gains the result that the teacher training and technological integration have positive relationships with the vision and mission of technical and vocational education institutes.

Ha Thi Hai Do, Cuong Ngoc MAI, Anh Ngoc MAI, Nui Dang NGUYEN, Toan Ngoc PHAM Huong Thi Thu LE, Manh Dung TRAN, Tri Tuan VU (2020) ethnic minority labors who are vocationally educated and received vocational educational training have an impact on wage development and growth; the vocationally trained labors bring

higher wage opportunities than non-vocationally trained labors.

(Backes-Gellner, Uschi; Lehnert, Patrick, 2021) they studied the contribution of vocational education and training to innovation and growth in Switzerland and Germany, they obtained that vocational education and training have positive impact on increasing in the innovation if they only meets specific requirements, like Switzerland and Germany both have the high level Vocational Education and skills of thoughts, and it enables graduates to go forward high innovation, so both countries must develop vocational education and training in the firms and classroom based training, these systematic curriculum must update, and the vocational education must be attractive, and regarding advanced vocational education to boosts innovation activities.

Dr. Aziz Ahmed, Dr. Abdul Wadood, Dr. Noor Mohammad (2020) technical vocational education and training has demographic and socio-economic effects on women in urban and rural regions in Baluchistan. In the start, the TVET framework set up was less effective for socio-economic and demographic, but they had profound effects on demand, economics, and the social and domestic lives of women and girls worthy in Baluchistan. TVET has an impact on the labor market of women's employment, and it is the way of income. TVET makes productive and visible women and identifies women's social status; TVET increased human resources and capital and skillful women. TVET provides jobs and business opportunities for women in urban and rural markets; through TVET, women gain income, and they can increase their general education.

R. Ebrahimi, S. Choobchian, H. Farhadian, I. Goli, E. Farmandeh & H. Azadi (2022) Education plays a pivotal role in women's empowerment. The education and cultural implementation programs to empower women are reachable. The educator component has a significant and greater impact on women's empowerment, and it was the suggestion to develop content and topics of vocational education and training courses and centers with expert and skillful training professors for women. Vocational education enables women to have savings, production, and self-reliance, financial authority, trust, and gender equality. By vocational education and training, several opportunities and benefits and many approaches are going to be provided in rural areas for women.

2.1 Background of Vocational Education in Afghanistan

The education system of Afghanistan is poor and underdeveloped. The vocational education and training in Afghanistan are provided by the Ministry of Education (MoE) in technical high schools and in technical training centers and institutions. The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MoLSA) also provides vocational education and training in their technical institutes, and there are some other sources of vocational education, like non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international organizations such as the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the International Labor Organization (ILO). Afghanistan's vocational education and training faced many challenges. There are many problems with the primary and secondary education; for girls and women, the educational centers are closed, and they cannot educate. The education system faced many problems in Afghanistan, like cultural barriers, war, lack of educational resources, and lack of educational centers. Many people do not have access to education even if they are committed and willing to learn skills and vocational education; just some technical educational centers and some international organizations provide vocational education to Afghan society, like sewing and health care instruction.

In Afghanistan, the Ministry of Education (MoE) and international donors and welfare organizations developed and planned the vocational education and training programs, but these programs were mostly planned for the agriculture sector, IT, and construction; they were not focused on vocational education and training like cooking, sewing, and health care education to bring sustainable home economic growth and development, so the vocational education system in Afghanistan faced many problems, and there is lack and shortage of vocational education and training related to home economic areas which remained underdeveloped.

2.2. Vocational Education in Afghanistan

According to Afghan Ministry of Education (MoE) (2020) in Afghanistan, several important areas are covered by vocational education, which are discussed as follows:

2.2.1. Nutrition and Cooking:

Nutrition and cooking are related to the preparation of food and meals; this education is related to the cooking of food. This vocational education helps families and family members to prepare healthy food, which is mostly crucial in home economics. Nutrition and cooking examples are like providing and cooking cake or sweets, and with supplying to the local markets, families obtain money.

2.2.2. Textile and Sewing:

By sewing and textile skills, women and girls can make accessories, clothes, and other types of goods. Sewing and textiles are two of the most important skills and education that are based on these skills. Afghan rugs are highly ranked in the world; sewing and textiles play an important role in supporting the craftsmanship in Afghanistan. These skills are learned through practical work and guidance from experts. By textile and sewing vocational education, families sew, tailor, and weave carpets, rugs, clothes, and other types of products.

2.2.3. Household and budgeting management:

By resources and household management, a family manages all resources, and to utilize resources effectively and efficiently, they have a need for household and management education. Every family has resources like money, time, materials, and energy, and they must use all these resources effectively and must manage and control all resources.

2.2.4. Health and Child Care Education:

Education and training about child care and health are also some of the important skills; these skills and education are related to the areas that improve the health of children. These areas provide healthy life with all health services; for example, if a child feels pain and has a fever and the hospital is far, what are the necessities (ways to save the child) for a child that a mother must consider? With the help of child care and health education, a mother can save her child.

2.3. Challenges to the vocational education and training

Afghanistan Ministry of Education (2020) within the implementation of vocational education and training in Afghan society, there are a lot of challenges and problems that families face as follows:

2.3.1. Social and cultural norms:

In Afghan society, most girls and women cannot join vocational educational training centers; even they can't go to school because of cultural norms, especially in rural areas. Cultural norms restricted the vocational education for women, and they cannot go outside of home, so most of women and girls do not have access to the vocational education in Afghanistan because cultural and social norms do not allow them.

2.3.2. Limited resources:

The limitation of resources is a big problem for the development of vocational education in Afghan society; they do not have enough budget and money for vocational education and training, there are just some numbers of vocational educational centers, and available centers also do not have teaching materials; non-existence or lack of educational trainers is also there in Afghanistan.

2.3.3. Poor infrastructure:

The infrastructure of Afghanistan cannot fully support the vocational education. Infrastructure includes all things like transportation, telecommunication, power, internet, roads, and other facilities. All these are not available in all regions, especially rural areas in Afghanistan that are faced with many infrastructure problems. Rural people do not have access to the power, internet, or transportation; these are the infrastructure factors that face vocational education with many challenges.

2.3.4. Perception:

The big challenge that vocational education is faced with in Afghanistan is the perceptions of Afghan people that vocational education is a less prestigious career than academic education, and they think about it as a second-rate option, not considering the important and wrong perception that hinders vocational education growth. People of Afghanistan perceive that vocational education is being with low-level class people in society, and they have negative concepts in their minds about vocational education, but actually people with vocational education can to start small businesses.

2.3.5. Security:

War, security problems, and threats in Afghanistan made many problems and challenges for vocational education. Political instability in Afghanistan made it difficult for vocational education; most of the time, vocational educational centers were warned by insurgent groups. The future uncertainty and security problems faced by vocational education have many challenges and problems. The future uncertainty and security problems of Afghanistan are the big obstacles for vocational education; these obstacles and challenges get people's commitment to participate in vocational education.

2.3.6. Luck of social support:

People in Afghan society don't know about the significance of vocational education and training, and the society not supporting the vocational education, they are just following and are mostly concerned with academic education. In Afghanistan, people do not consider vocational education as important, and they are not supporting it. Most people think that low-level class people in society have vocational education, but it's not the right concept of people about vocational education. The government must engage people with the importance of vocational education.

2.4. Impact of Vocational Education in Home Economics on Afghan Society

2.4.1. Employment Opportunities:

With vocational education and skills, women can find employment opportunities for themselves World Bank. (2019). Women who have skills in cooking and food preparation can cook and prepare some food for the local markets to collect the profits, or women who have sewing and textile skills and knowledge can enter the textile industry. Sewing and textile skills enable women to sew clothes and to supply them to the local market. Vocational education and skills create employment opportunities for families. Vocational education increases employment opportunities. People who have vocational education, if they are everywhere, vocational education helps them to work, and there will be demand for vocational education.

2.4.2. Economic Empowerment:

Vocational education and training empower families to work or to produce something or some products, like food or clothes, and to gain profit from the local market, so this vocational education and skills of families are also improving overall economic development of Afghanistan Educational Center (AWEC), because they are directly contributing to the economy. Vocational education equips individuals to work and to produce something, engaging people in economic activities and helping people to open for them sources of income.

2.4.3. Improving health community well-being:

The vocational education and skills improve families' well-being and community, with the good nutrition and effective household management families' leads to the best dietary advice, which can improve families' health for the long term and to care about child health. In all families (ANSDP) (2023), women are responsible for primary health care, and home economic education enables them to care about health and to make good health decisions.

By vocational education and skills, women are being change agents in their communities, and they spread awareness about most things, like health awareness, education, economic development, and training of others or teaching children how to cook and how to clean. The vocational education families bring control and effective household management, and they are going to lead others on the right path.

2.4.4. Gender Equality:

Vocational education brings gender equality in Afghanistan (UNDP) (2022) vocational education impacts home economics and gender equality, and vocational education is the source of income for women and families, and they gain autonomy, so vocational education is mostly important in Afghanistan to bring gender equality and to reduce the gender discrimination. Whenever women and girls gain income with help of vocational education and they participate in economy so they can contribute in household and society management and decision making, through vocational education women and girls gain confidence to participate in all aspects of their life decisions same as men. The gap of gender inequality between men and women, which creates problems for families, is going to be solved by vocational education of women and girls. Vocational education left them on the right way and gave them confidence to participate in household management and decisions.

2.4.5. Innovation

Vocational education and training engage people and families in innovation activities (ANS DP) (2023). Vocational education enables individuals to produce some valuable products, and with the passage of time, they know to bring changes to their products and to create something new for their customers. Vocational education leads individuals to think about new products and helps individuals in product development.

3. METHODOLOGY

Due to the lack of data available on vocational training received and types of vocational education training, etc., in Afghanistan in the social constraint for access, the families who are involved in vocational education and training, so for this study we have used descriptive content analysis.

This research was conducted on the basis of a literature review. For this research, a disruptive content analysis method was implemented. In the literature review, the researcher reviewed and analyzed some different research and reviewed the information of welfare organizations related to the vocational education and training in Afghanistan and in other countries; that is how vocational education is important. The studies that are selected are analyzed by using thematic content analysis. All articles were reviewed and coded according to the predefined categories; elements of the coding framework included research objectives, methodology used, key findings, gaps, and recommendations.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Vocational education has a significant impact on home economics in Afghanistan; vocational education is improving the socio-economic landscape in Afghan society. Developing and enhancing practical skills brings better household management, women's empowerment, gender equality, social stability, and empowerment opportunities; also, there are numbers of challenges for vocational education, such as security issues, poor infrastructure, cultural barriers, and a lack of trainees. The sources of vocational education in Afghanistan are the Ministry of Education (MoE), the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MoLSA), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and international organizations that provide vocational education and training.

Afghanistan needs to improve and rebuild vocational education for the improvement of home economics, with the providing and developing of vocational education programs for men and women, and investment in vocational education in Afghanistan can break down societal barriers to women's education and bring long-term development with an equitable society.

5. SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Afghanistan must provide vocational educational training programs for both rural and urban areas, and must increase funding for vocational education.
- There must be full support of vocational education by government and NGOs.
- The government must consider all challenges of vocational education and must solve vocational education programs.
- Vocational education is important for both men and women, and it is the right of both males and females, so women also have to fully participate.
- The government must increase the numbers of vocational educational centers and experts of vocational education and training.

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