

CAUSES OF HIGH DROP OUT RATIO AT GRADUATE LEVEL: A CASE STUDY OF DISTRICT VEHARI- PAKISTAN

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ABSTRACT-Education plays an important role for the betterment of a nation and society. This study was conducted to investigate the causes impacts and solutions of high dropout ratio of students at graduate level in district Vehari. Total 100 males and female dropout students and 30 teachers were selected randomly as a sample and two different questionnaires were developed for students and teachers. to collect primary data from them. 5-points Likert scale was used for analysis of collected data. Our results show that poverty is the main cause of dropout of students at graduate level. Other causes include local custom, early marriages and unsafe environment. We suggest that the government should take regulatory and fiscal measures to stop dropout ratio by providing financial assistantship, safe environment and employment opportunities particularly for female students.

Key words: Drop out ratio, graduate level, poverty, early marriages, unsafe environment.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of study

A large number of research studies have been conducted to know about the effectiveness of education for the welfare of mankind. Education is unable to play its vital role for the betterment of the society if there is high dropout ratio in the educational institutions. There are three main elements in the educational institutions like,

- Teacher
- Student
- Curriculum

Among these three elements the most important element is students. With the base and help of the student we can get the aims goals and objectives of the education. If the students are absent from the class or the students are dropped from the college then whom the teacher will teach. Then there will be no benefits of education for the society.

Drop out is very harmful at every stage but it is at its worst form at graduate level. Graduation is the last or final stage of the student. There are 14 years of Government investment and students hard working behind the graduation. So it is very important to keep continue his / her studies so that they may get final degree. The student has to enter in practical life after the graduation.

It is a universal truth that if we want to improve the education in the country we will have to improve the teacher quality and the teacher quality can only be increased to desired level with the help of better teacher training program. There should a highly trained teacher in every classroom. In the previous researches in the educational field a large stress was given to know the relationship among teacher training teacher quality and students' academic achievements.

1.2 Statement of the problem

The statement of the problem is the causes of drop out ratio of students at graduate level in district Vehari.

1.3 Objective of Study

The objectives of our students are stated as under:

- To study the main causes of high drop out of students at graduate level.
- To investigate the subjects which cause the drop out of students at graduate level.
- To know the negative effects of missing facilities on the student drop out.
- To know about the teachers' views about the causes and solutions of drop of students.
- To suggest the solutions to prevent high drop out at graduate level.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Drop out may be defined as "A student is said to be dropped out from a school, college or university if he/she leaves the institution before the completion of the program or degree. There may be many reasons behind the drop out of students. According to Bill and Milind Foundation "the learning of an institution by a student without the completion of degree is known as drop out. This drop out does not occur in a day or in one night. The drop out process is a long time process.

Geul (2004) defined the term drop out in his wording like "drop out is a process in which a student leaves the school college or university and he/she does not obtain the certificate or degree as he/she was unable to pursue the class till end. Some students leave the classes in the first few months some of them keep continue their study in the middle stage. Some of the students leave the class of a few months before the completion of the class. All these students are regarded as dropped out students. There are five stages of the education in Pakistan and the University education is the

last stage among these five stages every stage of the education is facing the Drop out problem. At the graduation level this problem is at alarming stage. (Qureshi & Rarieya 2008)

The vision of the country 2030 of the Government of Pakistan is that "Economic growth is totally dependent on the type and quality of the education and education system. It has great and strong impact on the empowerment and growth of the male and female (Latif 2015).

The students drop out at Graduate Level reduces the human resource development. According to Nazrul Islam "the investment in the educational field is affected badly by the drop out of the students. This drop out is responsible for the creation of nonproductive and less innovative environment for the betterment of the society. It is evident from a large number of researches and studies that drop out is happened due to poverty, lack of interest in studies and less involvement of the parents in their children studies. It is found that drop out ratio at Graduate Level can be minimized with the help of socio-economic status parental education and students' motivation (Farooq 2013)

The students were dropped out at the graduate level on the basis of financial and personal conditions. The continuity of the education is affected by a large number of factors like family migration from one place to another, interest in games, a large extent fear of teacher's punishment. Student's retention is also inversely affected by the cultural status and age. Bad company, drug addiction, depression and IQ level are also responsible for the Drop out of the students at Graduate Level. If we look deeply into the main cause of the Drop out at graduate level it will be clear that poor performance in the previous and present class negative environment also contribute their shares in drop out at the Graduate Level. (Bergeron, 2005)

Studies shows some girls are married during their studies and these girls after pregnancy leave the college's community does not support such girls to carry on their studies sometimes their families also do not support them to complete their studies. ITIL and Hunt (2008) found that poverty is a great factor and it is responsible for the largest schedule dropout it makes the students unable to complete their studies there are many expenses like tuition fee transport charges stationery pocket money and exam fee that are not paid easily by the poor students do it which they are dropped from the college

In Pakistan students' dropout rate is high and less attention is paid to this serious issue. In Pakistan many students do not enrolled in schools and 50 percent of students out of 70 percent are lie between the ages of 5 to nine years. Approximately one student out of three students left school without completion of program and 30 percent students out of 50 percent pass their primary level (NCHD, 2010). Overall in Pakistan students' dropouts' rate is 50% for both girls and boys (Khan, Azhar & Shah, 2011, p.1).

Lower wages, unemployment prospects, and possibility of health issues are consequences of student dropouts (Thurton et al. 2006). Different researchers examined the ways to reduce students' dropout rate. Many countries have made an outstanding effort towards inclusive education by adapting their educational practices and strategies (Mittler, 2000, p 53, Farooq, 2013). Researcher argued that this broad pattern of teaching training programme, the quantity as well as quality of education will be ensured because this productive effort will raise the development of a society, It would contributes the strong and advanced entities in society (Farooq, 2013).

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This section describes research methods and procedures adopted for conducting the present study. The study was designed to find out the causes of drop

out at graduate level in district Vehari. Methodology of this research study included research design, population and sample of the study, construction and validation of research instruments, method of data collection and statistical tools used for the analysis of data.

3.1 Development of Research Instruments

Keeping in view the objectives of the study, both types of research instruments (questionnaires and structured interview schedules) were developed, validated through try out test and administered for getting required information from the respective respondents. This is because they were found to be the most appropriate and suitable to answer the research questions posed. Details of each research instrument were given below:

3.2. Reliability and Validity Research Instruments

Following strategy was adopted for validation of the questionnaires:

3.2.1 Pilot Testing

To determine the validity, suitability and reliability of items, a pilot testing of the research instruments must be carried out. In research studies, the term pilot testing refers to determine feasibility studies of particular research instruments, carried out in advance before conduct of the major study. The main function of pilot testing is to check the design of the research instrument, works in practice and to identify and amend problematic questions for refining. Any problems relating to the content, wording, layout, length, instructions or coding can be uncovered in pilot study and can be amended accordingly. It also uncovers issues relating to the sample size, non-response rate and cost of administering. A good research relies on validity and reliability of its instruments and the procedure adopted to conduct the study. If the methods employed are not valid and reliable, the data is at best worthless, and at

worst, misleading. Research instruments were to be pilot tested before data collection, so that accurate and reliable information can be collected from the respondents.

3.2 .2 Reliability of Questionnaires

Reliability of the research instruments (questionnaires) regarding causes of drop out at college level in district vehari. was calculated by using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

3.2.3 Finalization of Questionnaires

As a result of pilot testing, and after calculating reliability, only those statements were retained which were found statistically with high reliability. Then each question included in the questionnaires was again discussed with the supervisors of research study and further improvements were made under their guidance for developing comprehensive and reliable questionnaires for seeking relevant information from respondents.

3.3 Data Collection

We will collect from different categories of respondents serving in various teacher training and educational institutions located in sampling Colleges of district Vehari.

3.4 Analytical techniques

The collected data from the selected respondents through questionnaire were properly tabulated, analyzed and interpreted by using appropriate statistical tools in terms of frequency percentages and means score method to work out overall average score of each item in the light of objectives of the study. Value assigned to each response was based on Likert Scale having '5' options given below:

- Strongly agree (SA) : 5
- Agree (A) : 4
- Neutral : 3

- Disagree (DA) : 2
- Strongly Dis- Agree (SDA) : 1

The mean score of each item was calculated by using following formula:

$$\text{Mean Score's} = \frac{F_A \times 5 + F_D \times 4 + F_{UD} \times 3 + F_{DA} \times 2 + F_{SDA} \times 1}{N}$$

3.5 Questionnaire

Data is collected by using questionnaire. This questionnaire was included 30 items. There were 4 options of choice for the students to give their answers.

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

In this questionnaire basic information were taken from the respondents. It was told to students that all the data given by them will be used just for research study. All the information provided by them will be kept in secret. After this all were agree to provide all information.

3.6 Population

In order to collect data, all public and private colleges of all tehsils of district *Vehari* were taken as a population area.

3.7 Sampling

100 male and female students were taken as sampling who were dropped out at graduate level from different colleges.30 professors from the given colleges were selected as a sample to get primary data regarding the causes impacts and solutions of the drop out at graduate level.

3.8 Research design

As this study was about to find out the causes of drop out ratio at graduate level in the district Vehari. so all the Tehsils of this district were taken as a population. Similarly, all the public and private colleges of this district were taken as population. Two sets of questionnaires were designed to collect primary data from the drop out students and college professors. 50 males and 50 females dropped out students were taken as sampling. All these students were dropped during 2010- 2017. 30 Professors were randomly selected from different local colleges. Equal number of students and professors were taken from each tehsil. Following colleges were taken selected for data collection.

3.9.Selected graduate Colleges in District Vehari.

- Superior College Mailsi.
- Punjab Group of Colleges Mailsi.
- Global College Mailsi.
- Govt. Degree College For Woman Mailsi.
- Govt. Degree College For Boys Mailis.
- Govt. Degree College For Boys Tibba Sultan pur.
- Govt. Degree College For Woman Tibba Sultan Pur.
- Elahi Girls College Dokota.
- IPS College Of Virtual University Mailsi.
- Vocational Training Institute Mailsi.
- Prime College Tibba Sultan Pur.
- Aspire College Vehari.
- ComsatUniversity Campus, Vehari.
- Agriculture University Campus Vehari.
- City College Vehari.

- Govt. Degree College For Boys Vehari.
- Govt. Degree College For Woman Vehari.
- Govt. Degree College For Boys Burewala.
- Govt. Degree College For Woman Burewala.
- Govt. Commerce College Burewala.
- Askari Law College Burewala.

4.DATA ANALYSIS

This section presents data analysis and its interpretation. The study was designed to find out the causes of drop out at college level in district Vehari. 100 male and female students were taken as sampling who were dropped out at graduate level from different colleges.30 professors from the given colleges were selected as a sample to get primary data regarding the causes impacts and solutions of the drop out at graduate level. Every possible effort was made to present the results in comprehensive manners according to the objectives of the study. Descriptive statistics such as percentages and mean score methods were used for data analysis. Analysis of data is presented in the following tables:

Table 1 Students' views about dropout rate

No	Statements	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	Poverty is the main reason for the girls and boys to leave the college education.	30	37	15	18
2	Early marriage of the girls is the causes of the girls drop out at graduate level.	21	24	30	25

3	Girls are forced to leave their graduate level studies because of their family custom.	18	16	24	40
4	Girls leave the college education because of unsafe college environment.	6	7	40	47
5	Domestic work is the main responsibility of the girls.	10	14	32	44
6	So they are forced to leave the college education.	27	18	31	24
7	Boy's education is more important than girl's education. So parents allow their sons to continue their study and daughters are forced to sit in home instead of studies.	10	7	40	43
8	A large number of family members are the one cause of students drop out at graduate level.	12	9	30	49
9	Uneducated parents are against to girl's education. So they never allow their	30	25	20	25

	daughters to go to City for college education.				
10	Pick and drop for the girls is a problem for the parents. So they cannot afford individual pick and drop. In this way girls are allowed to sit in home instead of continue their graduation studies.	18	21	40	21
11	Girls are unable to continue their graduate level studies because of long distance between their homes and college.	37	30	15	18
12	Lack of educational facilities in the college is responsible for the students drop out at graduation level.	7	8	40	45
13	Ineffective teaching learning process contributes a lot in the drop out of the students.	20	16	30	34
14	Students drop out occur because of fear of failure in the exams at graduate level.	6	10	40	44

15	Girls are forced by their parents and brothers because of negative role of media.	19	18	43	20
16	Girls are forced to leave the college education because their parents know that there are chances of getting jobs.	32	35	19	14
17	Students are dropped out at graduation level because of their very poor academic achievement and performance.	22	23	23	32
18	Due to lack of parental interest in their children studies the students are dropped out at college level.	19	15	42	24
19	Students are dropped out in the graduation level because of overcrowded classrooms.	5	6	40	49
20	Students leave the college education because they are unable to pass English subject.	41	48	4	7
21	Students leave the study because they get some jobs.	30	26	19	25

22	Students are expelled from college because of their negative activities in the college.	10	12	32	46
23	Students are forced to leave the college education because of their enmity in the college.	5	6	50	39
24	Students are expelled from college because of their involvement in groups.	12	11	41	36
25	Part time job timing is also cause of students drop out.	10	13	40	37
26	In order to support their families students leave the college education and get some jobs.	10	15	40	35
27	Teacher's behavior and attitude is responsible for students drop out at graduation level.	10	8	29	38
28	You want to continue your studies now if you get a chance for this.	39	40	9	12
29	Unemployment of educated people discourages you to leave the studies.	18	19	32	31

30	Bad company of the class mates is responsible for failure in studies and it contributes to drop out.	19	26	30	25
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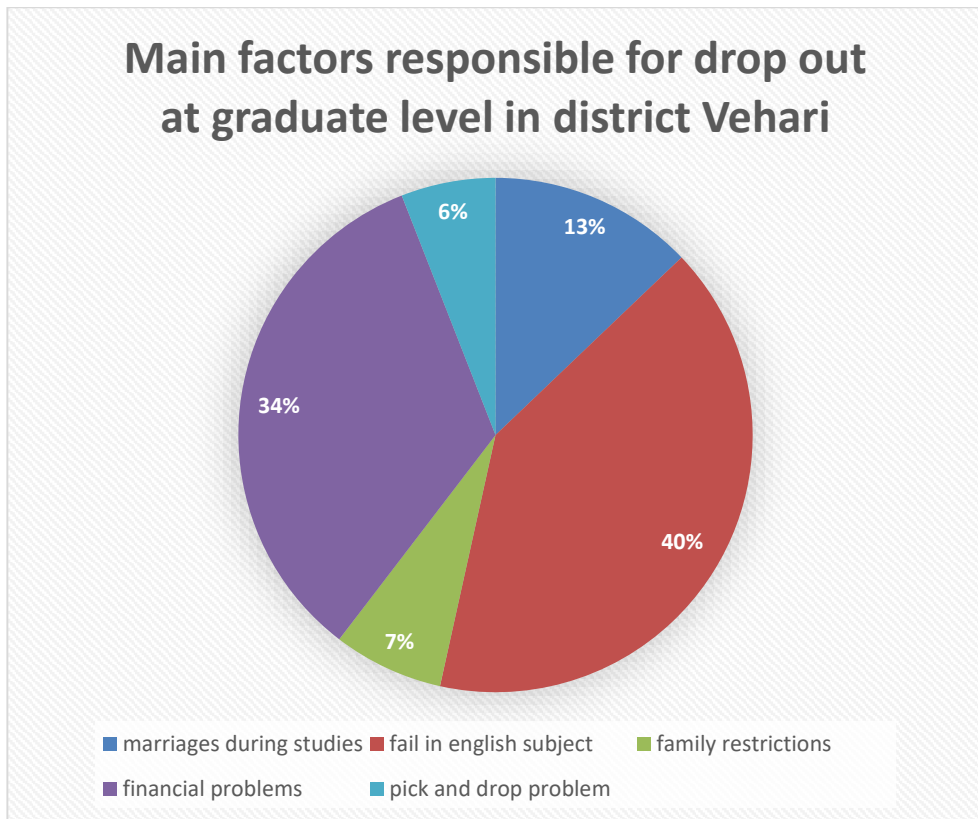
Statements	Mean	SD	Remarks
The school has lack of proper Basic physical and educational facilities	3.29	0.82	Agreed
Free hostel facilities are not provided	3.52	0.68	Agreed
Free textbooks are not provided	2.29	1.09	Disagreed
Collecting too much money from the students contribute students' dropout	2.32	1.12	Disagreed
Non-availability of playground leads to students' dropout.	2.42	1.26	Disagreed
Unfavorable classroom environment causes students' dropout.	3.67	0.85	Agreed
Lack of sufficient teaching staff	2.33	1.16	Disagreed
Strict discipline and regulations causes students' dropout	3.84	0.78	Agreed
Students' dropout is caused by unfavorable school environment	3.76	0.82	Agreed

Long distance to school contributes to students' dropout	3.28	0.77	Agreed
Ineffective curriculum compels a student to leave his studies before completion.	3.88	0.85	Agreed
Lack of counseling with students at colleges causes students' dropout.	3.45	0.79	Agreed
Lack of choices in programs, courses etc. is a contributory factor of students' dropout.	2.48	1.15	Disagreed
Students' dropout is also caused by overcrowded classroom.	3.24	0.68	Agreed
Mean	3.13	0.92	Agreed

Table 2 Response of teachers about dropout of students

Table 2 indicates the responses of teachers about the school related factors of students' dropout at graduate level. The results revealed that college-related factors (mean=3.13, SD=0.92) are causative factors of students' dropout. The findings revealed that ineffective curriculum (mean=3.88, SD=0.85); strict college discipline and regulations (mean=3.84, SD=0.78); unfavorable school environment (mean=3.76, SD=0.82); unfavorable classroom environment (mean=3.67, SD=0.85); no free hostel facilities (mean=3.52, SD=0.68); lack of counseling (mean=3.45, SD=0.79); lack of proper physical and educational facilities (mean=3.29, SD=0.82); long distance to college (mean=3.28, SD=0.77); and overcrowded classroom (mean=3.24; SD=0.92) are the college related factors that causes students' dropout at graduate level. The main factors that cause dropout of students are shown in Figure

Figure 1: Main Causes of dropout of students



5.FINDINGS

We briefly summarize the findings of our study in the following:-

1. According to 67 students, poverty is the main reason to leave the college education.
2. According to 45 students, early marriage of the girls is the causes of the girls drop out at graduate level.
3. According to 34 students, girls are forced to leave their graduate level studies because of their family custom.

4. According to 13 students, girls leave the college education because of unsafe college environment.
5. According to 24 students, domestic work is the main responsibility of the girls.
6. According to 45 students, girls are not safe to go to college so they are forced to leave the college education.
7. According to 17 students, boy's education is more important than girls education. So parents allow their sons to continue their study and daughters are forced to sit in home instead of studies.
8. According to 21 students, a large number of family members are the one causes of drop out at college level.
9. According to 55 students, uneducated parents are against to girl's education. So they never allow their daughters to go to City for college education.
10. According to 39 students, pick and drop for the girls is a problem for the parents. So they cannot afford individual pick and drop. In this way girls are allowed to sit in home instead of continue their graduation studies.
11. According to 67 students, girls are unable to continue their graduate level studies because of long distance between their homes and college.
12. According to 15 students, lack of educational facilities in the college are responsible of drop out at graduation level.
13. According to 36 students, ineffective teaching learning process contributes a lot in the drop out of the students.
14. According to 16 students, drop out occurred because of fear of failure in the exams at graduate level.
15. According to 37 students Girls are forced by their parents and brothers because of negative role of media.

16. According to 67 students, girls are forced to leave the college education because their parents know that there are chances of getting jobs.

17. According to 45 students, they are dropped out at graduation level because of their poor academic performance.

18. According to 34 students, due to lack of parental interest in their children studies the students are dropped out at college level.

19. According to 11 students, they are dropped out in the graduation level because of overcrowded classrooms.

20 According to 89 students, they leave the college education because they are unable to pass English subject.

21. According to 56 students, they leave the study because they get some jobs.

22. According to 22 students, they are expelled from college because of their negative activities in the college.

23. According to 11 students, they are forced to leave the college education because of their enmity in the college.

24. According to 23 students, they are expelled from college because of their involvement in groups.

25. According to 23 students Part time job timing is also cause of students drop out. In order to support their families, students leave the college education and get some jobs.

26. According to 18 students, teacher's behavior and attitude is responsible for students drop out at graduation level.

27.. According to 79 students they want to continue their studies now if they get a chance for this.

28.. According to 37 students, unemployment of educated people discourages you to leave the studies.

29. According to 45 students, bad Company of the class mates is responsible for failure in studies and it contributes to drop out.

6. CONCLUSIONS

The dropout phenomenon has been observed to be very intricate with multiple interwoven factors responsible for leading to this complex situation. This study has made modest attempt to explore this complex phenomenon with reference to college based factors as contributing to this phenomenon. It was found that low socio-economic families background as a major cause of dropping out of students. The study has also revealed that certain college conditions can lead to premature college dropout. Thus, college appear to influence dropout rate through their organization, their structure, their environment, policies and possibly practically push students towards a gradual exit (fade-out) or to leave college (push-out). Connected to this are yet other pertinent causes such as distance to college, inadequate resources and facilities which appeared to be among the main causes of dropout among rural students. It was noted during the study that lack of education programs to meet the individual's vocational and intellectual needs of the students ultimately leads to dropout while an irrelevant, complex, rigid and congested curriculum puts learners off and predisposes them to dropping out.

7.RECOMMENDATIONS

On the basis of our findings and conclusions we would like to make the following recommendations to reduce dropout rate of the students at graduate level.

►Islamic scholars should be included in committees.so that they may guide the public about the Islamic point of view regarding girls' education. They should make it clear that Islam lays equally stress on male and female education. So parents should not force girls to leave the college education.

- ▶ Education is a fundamental right of both male and female. No one can force or deprive the girls from their basic rights.
- ▶ Government should make laws against the person who tries to force girls to leave the college education. Such people should be given exemplary punishment.
- ▶ Government should give scholarship to the poor students so that they may continue their studies at graduate level. Government should also provide all the basic needs if the poor students so that they may continue their studies at graduate level.
- ▶ The environment is not safe for the college going girls due to which they leave their college education. Government should make the environment safe for girls so that they may continue their studies at graduate level in the college.
- ▶ There should be marriage Act for college going girls. The girls should not be allowed to marry before graduation. After graduation the girls should be financially supported to get married.
- ▶ The families that are against to girl's education should be motivated to send their daughters and sisters to college.
- ▶ Women harassment bill should be made more effective to keep environment safe for girls.
- ▶ Parents should facilitate their daughters and sons from house work so that they may continue their studies at graduate level.
- ▶ Government should provide pick and drop facilities for girls so that they may continue their studies at graduate level. In this way dropout rate will be minimized.
- ▶ College should be built at the center of the populated areas so that equal distance may be maintained.
- ▶ Government should provide all the necessary material and facilities to the college.
- ▶ Modern and innovative teaching techniques should be used to teach the college students in a good way.

► Media should promote girl education. Instead of describing fake and negative news about girl's education it should create awareness about the needs of girl's education. In this way drop out at graduate level in the college education will be minimum.

► Government should provide more and more jobs to the college graduated students. In this way dropout rate at graduate level in the college education will be reduced.

► Parents should take interest in their daughters and sons education. They should encourage them to get higher education.

► Government should provide more classrooms to accommodate rising number of students.

► Government should make English subject as an optional instead of compulsory subject because most of the students are dropped due to facing difficulties in learning English subject. In this way drop out at graduate level will be reduced.

► There should be special college force to keep environment safe and peaceful. In this way drop out at graduate level because of groups will be minimum.

► Teachers should show positive and soft attitude towards teaching profession and students.

► Government should have grip on college environment in order to stop drugs addiction.

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CONTRIBUTION OF AUTHORS AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

This research work was carried out in collaboration between two authors.

Author 1: Tayyab Rashid is a student of M.Phil Education. She contributed in this research study by preparing initial draft of manuscript. She also collected data and conducted statistical analysis.

Author 2. Prof.Dr.Abdul Ghafoor Awan is Ph.D in Economics from Islamia University of Bahawalpur Pakistan and Business Administration from University of Sunderland, UK. He contributed in this research study by designing and finalizing the manuscript. He also edited, formatted and gave final shape to the draft of manuscript. He guides the author 1 in collection of data, empirical analysis and drawing results.

Both authors carefully read the manuscript and they have no conflict of interest with any institution or any person.
