**Impact of poverty on higher education access in rural areas: A statistical Analysis of District Okara**

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**Abstract**

Education is an important determinant of sustainable social and economic development. The objective of this study is to diagnose the Impact of poverty on higher education in rural areas of District Okara. Poverty, both directly and indirectly affects a student’s progress and education at higher level through different processes. These factors often place more stress on a student, which can negatively impact the student's ability to succeed in an education. Students living in poverty often have fewer resources at home to complete homework, study, or engage in activities that helps equip them for success during the higher education day. It is a social factor that plays an important role to create obstacles in achieving educational goals at higher levels. It also reduces the economic growth and productivity because it is out of control in the rural areas of the Pakistan, where people are in a state of deprivation with regards to their incomes, clothing, housing, health care and education facilities. The aim of this study was to assess the problems facing and data analyzed the impact of poverty on students at higher level in District Okara. A qualitative method was used with the sample size is 60. The data was collected through questionnaires and interviews from 40 respondents from four different villages 10 respondents each, 10 students and 10 teachers from university of Okara. The study developed that student’s education at higher level is affected by different aspects such as household chores/student labor, financial issues, not access to nearby college and universities, and less parental support and guidance. This study recommends the sustainable development for rural communities. A Collaborative work is needed among government and stakeholders to eliminate the poverty that is hurdles for higher education of District Okara.

**Key Words:** Education facilities, Poverty, financial issues, rural communities