Impact of poverty and child labor on the economic growth of Afghanistan

Ihsanullah Shorish[1]

[1]Business Administration Department, Faculty of Economics, Khurasan University, Jalalabad City, Nangarhar, Afghanistan.
Corresponding Author's Email: ihsanshorish.bba@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The paper explores the impact of poverty and child labor on the economic growth of Afghanistan. For this study, secondary data is used. The data included in this paper is from 1998 till 2016. Ordinary least square (OLS) estimation technique is used for the estimation of data. The result acquired from the study concludes that the poverty has negative impact on economic growth of a country. Similarly, unemployment also has negative impact on economic growth of a country. Increase in poverty and unemployment world decline economic growth. Inflation has positive impact on economic growth of a country. Exports and child labor also has positive impact on economic growth of a country. Increase in exports and child labor cause economic growth of a country. Finally, we conclude that poverty and unemployment has negative while child labor, inflation and exports has positive impact on the economic growth of a country.

Keywords: Poverty, Child labor, OLS, Afghanistan

INTRODUCTION

One of the considerable issues which can badly effect economic growth in Afghanistan is poverty. Hunger, illiteracy, low level health facilities, lack of food and unemployment are caused by poverty. Poverty has created serious problem among the residence of Afghanistan. Poor people do not have access to basic need facilities properly. Most of the time in poor countries income is not distributed equally and causes the poor people to tolerate what rich people do to them. The poor people are not in the position to get proper treatment on time so mortality rate is always being high in such countries. To kill the hunger there is always being threat of terrorism in poor countries. Poverty makes the people do what they shouldn't have to do. The investors are always in fear and can't invest freely and lack of investment further more increases unemployment and poverty level in the country. Poverty is like epidemic disease, once people are caught it is very difficult to prevent. It affects all the creature if it is elder or older, man or woman, rich or poor, human or animal, individual or community, local or international, customer of producer, educated or uneducated etc.

According to World Bank report 40 percent of developing countries are extremely, 50 percent are moderately, and 10 percent are little affected by the poverty. Afghanistan is shown the list which is extremely affected by poverty. In poor countries, most of the time residence of rural and urban areas travels to cities for better life but lack of resource put more pressure on them in cities. The poor remains poor in such countries and the issue become greater day by day. So to kill poverty should be the first target and priority of the researcher and government authorities.

The term child labor can be defined as a clear violation of children's rights of childhood. Child labor deprives children from their basic child prosperities and childhood life. It affects child's potential and self-respect and furthermore it is harmful for their physical and mental improvement and development. Education is one of the first needs of child which is highly affected and restricted by the child labor. Child labor puts child's physical, social, religious, honesty and moral integrity in danger. Keeping the other factors in mind economic growth is also one of the huge causes for increasing child labor's curve upward.

Child should be the first and primary consideration of each and every society. Children are our present and our future. If our child is treated well enough in present it will be best resulted in future. Child should be protected from economic

and social exploitation and should not be left to perform such kind of activities that are risky and danger for them. Child labor kills the educational right of child which harms child's mental, spiritual, moral and social development. Due to no legislation and restrictions on child labor in Afghanistan, most of our children are suffered through this disease which will put a negative effect on our child and society in long run. So our first priority should be to control and decrease child labor in Afghanistan.

Sboui (2012) investigates that the most significant decline has occurred in poverty when the growth was relatively consistent. His research show negative effect of poverty and economic growth.

Different studies showed that increase in child labor carries to high economic growth, while others contravened. Kambhampati&Rajan (2006) suggest that economic growth increases instead of decrease in child labour. Tesfay (2003) asserts that for countries on the upward sloping part of the curve, child labour is a problem which persists for many years. Nadia et al, (2014) reveled that economic growth is said to be negatively related to child labour. Cigno, Rosati, &Guarcello, (2002), examined trade reduces or at least has no significant effect on child labour. Masuhama, (2006) found that economic growth is necessary to decrease child labour.

None of the researches are conducted on the impact of child labor and poverty on economic growth in Afghanistan. So this issue is very much important to be investigated. So this is a gap for a researcher to conduct a research on the above mentioned problem. That's why we interested to conduct research on this topic.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Empirical Literature

Nindi and odhiambo (2012) empirically investigate the effects of poverty on economic growth in Swaziland. The study employs cross sectional data from 1990-2010. They use ARDL- bounds testing approach to examine the relationship between poverty and economic growth. The results of this study show that economic growth does not reduce due to poverty in Swaziland. In other words, economic growth and poverty don't have any relation. Göransson (2016) tests child labor, child labor laws and economic growth of Bovilia. This thesis shows that child labor has a negative impact on economic growth and development, however, it also shows that child labour laws and regulations are very often not enforced and that they therefore are not as effective as most people hope.

Vijayakumar (2013) explores an empirical study on the nexus of poverty, GDP growth, dependency ratio and employment in developing countries. The study employs data form 1997- 2005. He used OLS method to check the relationship between different economic variables poverty, GDP growth, dependency ratio and employment in developing countries. The result shows that both poverty and dependency ratio has a very tremendous impact on each other. Industrial employment has a negative association with poverty. It does not have significant impact on poverty. Le et al (2014) investigate economic growth and poverty in Vietnam. The study employs cross sectional data from 1990-2000. They use provincial panel data for testing the relationship between economic growth and poverty. Analysis based on provincial panel data confirms the positive role of growth and trade in poverty reduction. So income growth contributes to poverty reduction in Vietnam. However, growth and the effect of growth on poverty tended to decline in the last decade.

Abdullahi et al (2015) test the impact of economic growth on child Labor in developing countries. The data is collected from 1999- 2012. The GMM estimation technique is utilized to measure the relationship between economic growth and child labor in developing countries. The result of the study shows that in beginning economic growth increase child labor but as the economic growth is sustained with the passage of time child labor tend to decrease in developing countries

Kambhampati and Rajan (2005) investigate economic growth and child labor in India. The data is collected from

1950- 2000. The use bivariate probit model estimation technique to estimate the relationship between child labor and economic growth. The result derived from their research lead us to conclude that contrary to popular wisdom, growth actually increases rather than decreases child labor.Marinho and Araujo (2002) investigate the impact of economic growth and income concentration on poverty in Brazil. The study is based on data taken from 1995-2009. The researchers used two dynamic econometric models and these models are then estimated by the Generalized Method of Moments (GMM). The estimated results conclude that when the initial development level is low the income effectiveness for poverty reduction is lesser. And the same result will occur the initial inequality index is high. Thus, regions of low initial development level and/or high initial inequality are less predisposed to poverty reduction through income growth. Therefore, high inequality and low initial development level in the majority of Brazilian states do hinder poverty reduction by income growth.

Hasan et al (2009) test poverty impact of the economic slowdown in developing Asia. The data for this research is observed between 1990 and 2005 to find out the relationship between economic growth and poverty reduction. Simple linear regression model use to estimate the relationship between economic growth and poverty in developing Asia. The estimation indicates that a reduction in growth of GDP per capita of 3 percentage points over growth registered in 2007—a year of high growth for many Asian developing countries—would result in almost 61 million additional $1.25/day poor in 2009 and 98 million additional poor in 2010 as compared to a baseline scenario of no economic slowdown.

Ugwu and Ikwchukwu (2012) examine the impact of poverty on economic growth in Nigeria. The data collected for this paper is from 1996- 2004. The result shows that rural areas almost 44.4 percent of households in 2004 are not able to fulfill their food requirements, 19.4 percent who are able to meet their food requirements are still not able to cover other basic needs. For the urban households, 26.7 percent were not able to meet their required food expenditure while 16.4 percent who can get food expenditure are not able to meet nonfood basic requirement.

Osumbi (2006) investigate the effect between economic growth, unemployment and poverty in Nigeria. The research is based on secondary data from central bank of Nigeria. He utilized descriptive estimation technique to find the relationship between economic growth, unemployment and poverty in Nigeria. The result shown in this research indicates that economic growth has not always been convoyed by decrease in unemployment and poverty.

Agrawal (2008) explores relation between economic growth and poverty alleviation in several provinces of Kazakhstan. The result of the study explore that provinces with higher growth rates achieved faster decline in poverty. In other words those provinces which have higher economic growth rates the poverty will decrease faster in them and vice versa.

Ijaiya (2011) tests the impact of economic growth and poverty reduction. This study is based on time series data. He uses multiple regression analysis method to check out the relationship between economic growth and poverty reduction. The result obtained from the study indicates that the initial level of economic growth is not susceptible to poverty reduction, while a positive change in economic growth is likely to poverty reduction

Edigun et.al. (2011) analyze income growth and inequality elasticity's of poverty in Nigeria. He uses the secondary data received from National Consumer Survey of 1996 and 2003/2004 in Nigeria. He adopts simple but powerful ratio estimates of economic growth and inequality elasticity's of poverty. The result of the inequality elasticity of poverty shows that a decrease of inequality by 1 percent would have decreased poverty by just 0.34 percent.

Grootaert and Kanbur (1995) explain that child labor is inefficiently high when private returns to education are lower than social returns. Child labor is also more likely high when parents are not educated.

Moser and ichida (2001) investigate the relationship between economic growth and poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa. They collected the data from the year 1992- 1997. The result derived from their study show that both economic growth and poverty has strong and robust relationship. it means that the economic growth strongly effects poverty reduction.

Tesfy (2003) tests the effect of child labor on economic growth in the developing countries of United Nations. He tested the data from 1989-1999. He used panel data method to check the relationship between child labor and economic growth. The result shows that for those countries on upward sloping part of the curve child labor is problem for them for many years.

Tabosa et al. (2017) examine the effects of economic growth and income inequality on poverty in Brazil. The data they collected and studied is based on 1981-2013. They utilized dynamic panel model to reveal the relationship between economic growth and income inequality on poverty in Brazil. The result shows that decrease in income disparity in touch with increase in income level is more effective in combating poverty. In simple words, when income disparity is tended toward decline same while increase in income level is more effective in combating poverty.

Afzal et al. (2010) examine relationship among education, poverty and economic growth Pakistan. They collected the data from 1971-2010. For their study they have used ARDL method to find the relationship among education, poverty and economic growth. The result shows that the education, poverty and economic growth has strong relationship with each other. Sboui (2012) tests the effects of economic growth and income inequality on poverty in Tunisia. The data is collected for this study from 1985-2005. Result taken from this study shows that the most significant decline has occurred in poverty when the growth was relatively consistent. Dollar and Kraay (2001) find that global data showing that the incomes of the poor showed upward trend with average incomes but in developed countries while in developing countries the situation was not the same at all. Ebunoluwa et al.(2018) investigate the economic growth and poverty reduction in Nigeria. The data is based on 1980-2010. They use multiple regression analysis to investigate the result of economic growth and poverty reduction in Nigeria. the result shows that economic growth is essential for poverty reduction, especially when poor people getting employed and improvement opportunity. Tahir et al.(2014) test the Impact of GDP growth rate on poverty of Pakistan. The data they studied is collected from the year 1980-2012. The result of the study reveals that major change in GDP growth rate puts minor change in poverty. It means that a very huge change in GDP growth rate does not put huge change in poverty. There is relationship between GDP and poverty reduction but increasing high rata of GDP causes decrease in low rate of poverty reduction. Suryahadi at al. (2006) explore the relationship between economic growth and poverty in Indonesia. The data they collected is from years 1984-2002. The result of their study show that by focusing on rural agriculture and urban services growth poverty reduction is accelerated. It means that if agriculture sector is improved and kept the point of focus in rural areas and services is kept focusing point in urban areas then poverty will be quickly reduced.

kahsu and Nagaraja (2017) examines empirical analysis of the relationship between poverty and economic growth in Ethiopia. The study employs data from the years 1995-2011. Theyapply FEM estimation technique to find out the relationship between poverty and economic growth in Ethiopia. the result of the study carried by Kahsu and Nagaraja show that growth in average expenditure per capita of a household has a negative and significant and positive insignificant effect on poverty. Suryadarma and Suryahadi (2007) investigate the impact of private sector growth on poverty reduction in Indonesia. They collected data form 1984-2002. The result of this study shows that growth in both public and private sector spending will reduce poverty twice as fast as just relying on public

spending. Dahlquist (2014) investigate that does economic growth reduce poverty? The main conclusion from the empirical results is that economic growth does indeed reduce poverty. The level of poverty is strongly related to decrease of poverty, in such a way that a high level of poverty is associated to a slow decrease of poverty. This research is based on data from Brazil. Son and Kakwani(2004) examine the relationship between economic growth and poverty reduction in Africa. The data is collected form 1990-2015. The result from the study shows surprising result that emerges from the paper is that the higher is the initial level of inequality, the smaller (larger) will be the increase (decrease) in poverty as inequality increases.

Conceptual Framework

The theoretical structure was created using some variables, one of which served as a variable that was dependent Variable and some independent variable. The dependent variable is the GDP and the independent Variables are the poverty, child, export, inflation and unemployment.

Flowchart of the theoretical model
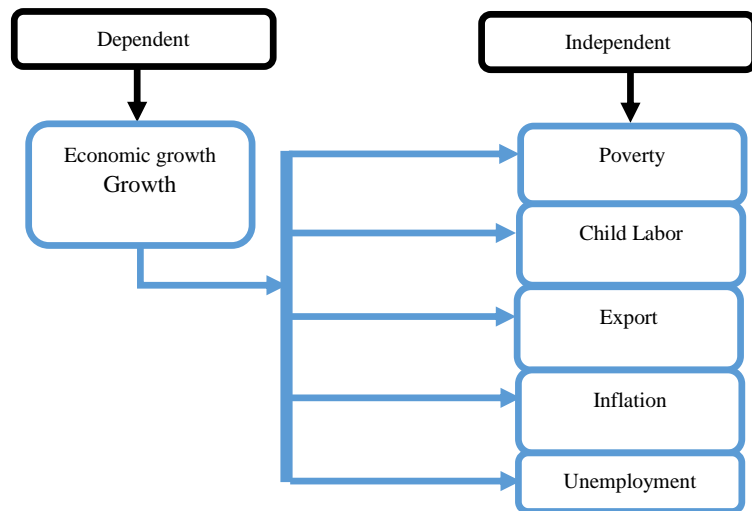
$(EG\ t) = \beta0 + \beta1\ (PVT\ t) + \beta2\ (CLt) + \beta3\ (Xt) + \beta4\ (INF\ t) + \beta5\ (UNEt) + \varepsilon t$

Where alpha is intercept and beta is the slope coefficient,

$\beta0$ = intercept

EG = Economic growth is dependent variable

$\beta1 - \beta5$ = Slope coefficient

Pvt = poverty

CL = Child labor

Exp = Exports

Inf = Inflation

Une = Unemployment

METHODOLOYG

In order to analysis the impact of poverty and child labor on the economic development of Afghanistan this study use time series data from 1998 till 2016. First we have to check the correlation between variables and regression.

To check the correlation relationship between variables we have done the Multicollinearity test and to check same variance with one variable on another variable passed Heteroscedastic test. One of the assumptions of ordinary least square (OLS) is that the data should be normal and Normality test is run for this purpose.

Data analysis and interpretations

The estimation process and result analyses are covered in this part of the article. Is there a connection between Afghanistan's Economy and poverty and child labor, according to the study's question?

Descriptive Statistics

Descriptive statistics is examined here. We have descriptive statistics of child labor, poverty, inflation, unemployment and exports. The mean of child labor, poverty, inflation, unemployment and exports is respectively 0.387065, 1.082332, 3.020212, 2.480702, and 4.393233. Median of child labor is 0.443510, poverty 9.945455, inflation 0.004545, unemployment 0.600000 and exports are 2.004545.

Table 5.1. Descriptive Statistics

	Child Labor	Poverty	Inflation	Unemployment	Exports
Mean	0.387065	1.082332	3.020212	2.480702	4.393233
Median	0.443510	9.945455	0.004545	0.600000	2.004545
Maximum	1.000000	1.945454	2.382020	8.600000	2.004545
Minimum	0.004540	0.454500	-2.107083	1.054400	1.021212
Std. Dev.	0.346176	0.424545	0.019448	0.578080	0.514545
Observations	57	57	57	57	57

Maximum shows the highest observation value while minimum shows the lowest observation value. If there is a big gap or difference between maximum and minimum observation value out layer will be there. Based on our descriptive statistics no out layer exists because there is no huge gap between minimum and maximum. Maximum of child labor is 1.000000 while minimum of child labor is 0.00454. Poverty is having maximum of 1.945454 and minimum of 0.454500. Inflation has maximum and minimum respectively 2.382020 and -2.107083. Unemployment's maximum is 8.600000 while minimum is 1.054400. Maximum and minimum of exports is 2.004545 and 1.021212. Standard deviation shows the distance from the mean. As much the distance from mean is low the result will be considered much accurate. Standard deviation of child labor, poverty, inflation, unemployment and exports are 0.346176, 0.424545, -2.107083, 1.054400 and 0.514545 respectively. Overall we have 57 observations.

Correlation Matrix

Correlation matrix shows the relationship between dependent and independent variables. It shows that whether the co movement of dependent and independent variable is positive or negative and also shows magnitude between dependent and independent variables. According to correlation matrix of our study the GDP and child labor has positive relation and there magnitude is 19%. Relationship between GDP and exports also has positive relation and its magnitude is almost 52%. GDP and poverty has negative relation and its magnitude is round about 28%. Relationship between Gross Domestic Product and unemployment is also negative and magnitude is 62% almost. There is positive relationship between GDP and inflation and magnitude is 25%. The relationship of child labor with exports, poverty, unemployment and inflation is positive and its magnitude is respectively 9%, 21%, 19%

and 22%. Exports also have positive relation with poverty, unemployment and inflation and magnitude with poverty is 58% while magnitude with unemployment and inflation is 36% and 45% respectively. Poverty also has positive relation with unemployment and inflation and magnitude is 27% and 12% respectively. Unemployment has positive relation with inflation with magnitude of 17%.

Table. Correlation Matrix

	GDP	CL	EXP01	POV	UNEM	INF
GDP	1					
CL	0.199	1				
EXP01	0.526	0.095	1			
POV	-0.283	0.213	0.589	1		
UNEM	-0.625	0.198	0.364	0.279	1	
INF	0.251	0.324	0.454	0.1245	0.174	1

Regression Results

Correlation coefficient is being used to find the association b/w the regression analysis shows the relationship among dependent variable (GDP) and independent variables child labor, poverty, exports, inflation and unemployment. The result shows that keeping the entire above mentioned variable the same still one unit change in constant variable will cause 2.025645 units change in economic growth. The result of regression shows that there is positive relation between child labor and economic growth. If 1 percent change occurs in child labor 0.534545 percent change comes in economic growth. Relation between poverty and economic growth is negative if poverty increases by 1 percent it will decrease economic growth by 0.105399 percent. Exports have positive relation with economic growth. 1 percent increase in exports will cause 0.248491 percent increase in economic growth. Same here inflation has positive effect on economic growth and 1 percent increase in inflation will cause 0.232356 percent increase in economic growth. Relation between unemployment and economic growth is negative 1 percent increase in unemployment will decrease 0.457878 economic growth.

Table 5.3 Regression Results

Dependent Variable: GDP (Economic Growth)				
Method: Ordinary Least Squares				
Date: 03/14/18 Time: 19:37				
Sample: 1960 2016				
Included observations: 57				
Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
Constant	2.025645	0.370122	2.113185	0.0395
Child Labor	0.534545	0.180154	-2.439483	0.0122
Poverty	-0.105399	0.049134	2.429776	0.0000
Exports	0.248491	0.375184	-3.662316	0.0208
Inflation	0.232356	0.454578	2.083856	0.0135
Unemployment	-0.457878	0.564545	-2.329009	0.0239
R-squared	0.774284	Mean dependent var		4.166562

Adjusted R-squared	0.771763	S.D. dependent var	0.285656
F-statistic	386.4430	Durbin-Watson stat	2.000122
Prob(F-statistic)	0.000000		

Difference between the results taken from sample and population is known as standard error. Standard error of the variables in this study is low and non- considerable. The standard error of constant, child labor, poverty, exports, inflation and unemployment is 0.370122, 0.180154, 0.049134, 0.375184, 0.454578 and 0.564545 respectively. In regression table t-Statistic shows the individual significance of each independent variable with dependent variable. If absolute value is greater than 2 the variable will be significant here the absolute value of all the variables is greater than 2. It means that all the variables are significant. Probability also show significance of the variables if it the below 5 then variables will be significant. Here constant is 0.0395, child labor is 0.0122, poverty is 0.0000, exports are 0.0208, inflation is 0.0135 and unemployment is 0.0239. All the variables are below 5 so all the variables are significant. R-square show that how much changes will come in economic growth because of all the variables. Here it shows that 1 percent change in all the variables will cause 0.774284 percent change in economic growth. Adjusted R-square shows that how much changes will come with adding another variable in the study this should be lesser than R-square always. In our result Adjusted R-square is 0.771763 which is lesser than R-square. F-statistics and probability shows over all significance of the model. If probability is less than 5 the model will be significant. In our study probability is 0.000. So the model is significant. Durbin-Watson stat is used to check the auto co-relation problem. If it is near to 2 no auto co-relation problem exist. In our table it is almost 2 so no auto co-relation problem exists.

Multicullinerity Test

Multicullinerity test is run to check that whether there is correlation between independent variables or not. If there is no correlation between independent variables it is known as exogeneity. Our variables should be exogenous. If VIF(Variance Inflation Factor) is above 10 percent it means that multicullinerity problem exists but all the variable constant, child labor, poverty, Exports, inflation and unemployment are 2.882638, 2.393283, 7.063051, 6.937759, 3.607049 and 1.535620 respectively which are below the 10. So we got the result that no multicullinerity problem exists in our study.

Table. Multicullinerity Test

Variance Inflation Factors	
Date: 03/14/18 Time: 20:35	
Sample: 1960 2016	
Included observations: 57	
Variable	VIF(Variance Inflation Factor)
Constant	2.882638
Child Labor	2.393283
Poverty	7.063051
Exports	6.937759
Inflation	3.607049
Unemployment	1.535620

Serial Autocorrelation Test

The ordinary least square (OLS) assumption shows that there should be no high correlation between variable. For this purpose Serial Autocorrelation Test is run to see if the variables are highly correlated or not. If the correlation between dependent and independent variables is more than 70 percent than autocorrelation problem exists. If probability is above 5 percent no serial autocorrelation problem exists the result taken from the Breusch-Godfrey Serial Correlation LM Test show that probability is almost 28 percent which is above form 5 percent and no serial autocorrelation exists.

Table: Serial Autocorrelation test

Breusch-Godfrey Serial Correlation LM Test:			
F-statistic	37.77506	Prob. F(2,49)	0.2801
Obs*R-squared	53.16601	Prob. Chi-Square(2)	0.3950

Heteroscedastic Test

Heteroscedastic test is concerned about same variance. Same variance means standard error. So standard deviation should be same. If standard deviation is same it means variance is same. If probability is greater than 5 it means variance is same and it is homoscedastic. Here probability is almost 93 percent so the variance is same and homoscedastic. If the variance is below 5 it means heteroscedastic problem exists. Finally the result shows that no heteroscedastic problem exists in this study.

Table: Heteroscedastic Test

Heteroskedasticity Test: Breusch-Pagan-Godfrey			
F-statistic	0.248951	Prob. F(5,51)	0.9384
Obs*R-squared	1.358048	Prob. Chi-Square(5)	0.9288

Normality Test

One of the assumptions of ordinary least square (OLS) is that the data should be normal and Normality test is run for this purpose. Normality test is based on Skewness, Kurtosis, Jarque-Bera and probability. If Skewness is near to 0 it means our data is normal so in the below table we see that all the data is near to 0 so this indicates that data is normal.

Table: Normality Test

Skewness	0.000211	0.000016	0.000002	0.000022	0.002228
Kurtosis	3.000025	3.000123	3.000544	3.100957	2.694482

Jarque-Bera	5.662471	23.93392	35.71278	11.73261	8.262534
Probability	0.550556	0.874564	0.213565	0.123123	0.216063

If kurtosis is near to 3 the data is considered to be normal here in this normality test our kurtosis result is near to 3 so this test also shows that the data is normal. If probability is above 5 percent it means that our data is normal here our result shows that probability is above 5 percent so our data is normal.

CONCLUSION

This study is carried out to examine the impact of poverty and child labor on economic growth of Afghanistan. We have examined the impact of poverty and child labor on economic growth. We conclude that poverty has negative effect on economic growth. Child labor has positive impact on economic growth. Inflation and exports also has positive impact on economic growth. The impact of unemployment on economic growth is negative. As much as unemployment increases in a country economic growth decreases. Different tests like multicullinerity test, normality test, serial auto correlation and other required tests were done to make sure that there is no correlation problem exists. The result of all the above tests shows that our data is normal, all the variables are exogenous and no correlation problem exists. We have run ordinary least square (OLS) and all the assumptions for ordinary least square are satisfied.

Limitations and Scope for future Research

As the research provide enough information for the private sector universities in eastern zone of Afghanistan, but I have to say there were some sort of limitations in collecting the data from the respondents. Such as, the lack of the number of respondents, not giving the proper and exact responses, leaving the questionnaire empty. So, the findings of this study can't be applied to any other Private Universities in other provinces of Afghanistan. For the empirical literature the same study can be conducted in other region of the country.

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