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Project title

**Effects of Reskilling Programs and Their Role in Economic Mobility for
the Poor**

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1. Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1. Research Background

As a result of the continues growth and rapid transformation in the labor market the skills required to maintain employable are becoming highly challenging. This increased the demand on reskilling programs which are becoming significantly important especially for low-income workers who are limited to gaining a stable, well-paying job. These programs may provide the opportunity to better employment, higher earning and greater economic mobility. However, there can be limited and affected by many factors including accessibility, how affordable and weather they are linked to actual job opportunities. These programs can help disadvantaged groups to acquire the new or enhanced skills to workers whose skills may have become outdated therefore is fulfills the gap between social inequality and ability to live a sustainable livelihood.

According to Jason Jabbari et al (2023) the people who were reskilled were more likely to start or plan a business and also aided to gain economic stability. Also, some groups are found to increase their optimism which gives advantage for long term mobility. As the research also states that during the economic pandemic of COVID -19 gaining access to reskilling programs had less barriers for entry which helped in economic stability as it helped people stay attached to work during the distribution.

Throughout this research I will be identifying main issues that will face the poorer population, compare and contrast how the reskilling programs may differ within different economies and Implications for Equity. The purpose to identify the importance of gaining skills in demand withing the labor market its relationship with low-income families in order to achieve economic mobility.

1.2. Research Problem

This section identified the key gaps that may occur using existing data and research regarding the reskilling programs and their link to promotion economic mobility for the poor. Although there is a growing interest in workforce development, systemic limitations exist. The research problem is categorized in theoretical gaps and practical gaps.

1.2.1. Theoretical Gaps

Current studies don't have clear models that connect reskilling programs to real economic improvement for poor people. Most research looks at basic job skills but ignores important factors like long-term income or stable jobs. There's also little research on how culture or gender affects reskilling success for the poor.

1.2.2. Practical Gaps

For rural poor people, reskilling programs are difficult to reach and don't match local job needs. They lack job placement help and financial support after training. Most programs are short and city-focused, as result some individuals don't benefit from these programs.

1.3. Research Significance

1.3.1. At the theoretical level

- This study will contribute to the existing research by conducting information and examining the influence of reskilling programs on income and employment challenges in low income and disadvantages individuals

- It will link skill acquisition with poverty reduction by looking at the theoretical theories within the labor economics and human capital
- The research provides an understanding that connects reskilling providers with social mobility theories to give a better understanding on the connection between how education and training can help overcome poverty.
- It highlights the gaps to achieve long term effectiveness regarding economic mobility.

1.3.2. At the practical level

- The research assists in finding and providing more effective reskilling programs designed to develop skills required in the labor market
- The study can aid in making the right decisions regarding which reskilling programs in which will have high economic returns.
- It includes recommendations aided with evidence to improve accessibility to the programs and their relevance to the labor markets demands and their impact on poverty overall.

1.4. Research Questions

- What environments affect reskilling and their impacts on poorer groups
- What barriers can poorer groups experience which affect them completing the program?

- To what degree do the reskilling programs affect people from disadvantaged groups and what is its economic impact on the individual and their sustainability at work?
- How programs targeted at different social economic groups affect the advantages given to the low paid workers?
- What are the types of programs and how they contract with the labor market's needs?

1.5. Research Objectives

Identifying and answering the research questions it is required to research the following:

- How targeted skill development can be a tool for reducing inequality and fostering economic inclusion
- To identify the key elements that contribute and push the poorer groups to undertake the reskilling programs.
- To investigate the necessity of undertaking these programs and the importance to gain economic mobility to the poor
- The accessibility of the programs and their long-term impact on poorer group
- Identify key reskilling programs to meet the needs of the labor market

1.6. Research Hypotheses

Reskilling programs are directly linked to enabling lower income family's access to better paying jobs.

Joining a reskilling program increases the opportunity of employability for low-income individuals

The impact of reskilling initiatives on upward mobility is maximized when reskilling programs are aligned with the labor market's needs.

1.7. Research Model

The research model is shown below

Reskilling Programs → training programs that proved the low-income with new skills

Skill Development → improved knowledge and abilities received from training

Employability → increased chances of getting better paid jobs

Economic Mobility → improves income and living conditions for poor individuals

1.8. Research Methodology

In this research quantitative descriptive research design will be used. This design is appropriate because it allows t to collect numerical data and compare the relationship between reskilling programs and economic mobility. The design will help identify whether participation in reskilling programs improves skills, employability, income, and access to better job opportunities.

1.9. Scope of The Study

This research will focus on the importance of reskilling programs and their effect on improving the economic mobility on the low-income individuals and families. It will study how participating in these programs can aid in helping low-income individuals to gain new skills, increase their opportunity to gain a better job and improve their income and living conditions.

If will be limited to the study to people from low-income environments who have undertaken reskilling programs and specifically looks and the relationship between training, employability and economic improvement.

1.10. The Suggested Project Structure

The proposed structure for the research project is as follows (Midocean University, 2023):

1. Introduction: it provides an overview of the study including the background information, research problem, objectives, and the significance of the research.

- 1.1. Research background: it illustrates the historical roots of the project idea.
- 1.2. Research problem: it reflects the gap in the current literature or practice that the project seeks to investigate and address.
- 1.3. Research significance: it clarifies the importance of the study at the theoretical level, and the empirical level.
- 1.4. Research questions: it presents the specific hypotheses that will be tested in the project.
- 1.5. Research objectives: it identifies the specific goals and outcomes that the project aims to achieve.
- 1.6. Research hypotheses: it presents the specific hypotheses that will be tested in the project.
- 1.7. Scope of the study: it defines the scope of the project work.

2.Chapter 2: Literature Review

2.1. Introduction

This chapter will explore previous research regarding employment level and its relation to the skills and abilities and how they are affected by programs and what factors contribute to a successful and unsuccessful reskilling programs. Including research from a variety of resources to show the social and economic limitations. Researchers have explored how providing the required and relevant skills can

directly improve employability focusing on the right reskilling programs for the employability sector in demand.

2.2. The independent variable

The reskilling programs as the independent variable of this study, the importance of delivering, accessibility, duration and funding play a key role in achieving economic mobility. In Saudi Arabia there has been a major shift emphasizing the importance long life skills aligning with the 2030 vision. For example, the ‘Waad’ national Training Campaign is a high-capacity reskilling agency in Saudi Arabia focusing to equip individuals with skills in demand within the employability sector.

Strategic alignment: the human capability development program if focuses to shift from the traditional education to equip individuals with lifelong skills this increases the chance that individuals will have an opportunity to develop the skills for the continually evolving work environment.

Financial accessibility: for poorer groups ‘Hada’ has services like monthly stipends which help to remove financial barriers to participate in such reskilling programs.

Market driven training: programs that are targeted at different sectors to aid individuals from poorer groups to gain the skills that matches the specific needs of the private sector

2.3. The dependent variable

The dependent variable is the economic mobility for the poor and it is measured in different ways including the income increase, job quality, wage growth and movement out of poverty.

According to Fields and Ok mobility they see mobility as the changes in who earns income and how much they earn, and they measure to track these changes over time rather than at just one point. This suggest that the effect of the reskilling programs can be seen over a long term and preferably studied over a period of time which ensures accurate results to be able to provide reliable information.

Previous research carried out states that there are many factors to include race, gender and geographic areas contribute to the mobility and the chances individuals can get and how they impact their chances of employability or improve their status. Patima Chongcharoentanawat et al (reference 3). Suggesting that these factors impact the conducted research and have a critical impact on the outcome of the study so it is very important when carrying out the research linking and combining these factors to the key idea of reskilling programs to maintain economic mobility.

Some research show that there are Limits, Sustainability, and Structural Barriers. As Nina Rosas et al (reference 4) shows that advantages of training may last for a short period of time. Mainly in rural areas like Bihar, India the positive effect may disappear within two to six months for two main reasons discrimination and wages are relatively low in comparison to living costs.

Although there has been many ideas and research though The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development report 2025 (reference 5) there has been a large number of 100000 empowered social beneficiaries of the reskilling programs suggesting they are successful in moving people into national economy.

2.4. The relationship between the independent and the dependent variables

The relationship between the independent variable (reskilling programs) and the dependent variable (economic mobility) is a mediated causation. Research shows that the reskilling programs not only offer a certificate, but it has a deeper effect and acts as a bridge to transform individual capabilities to skills which will increase their chances by transforming their skills to market value therefore supporting disadvantages people from poorer areas to move upwards in the employability opportunities.

Reskilling programs play a key role in the individual's market value which acts as a direct reflection of their skills, knowledge and experience. The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development report 2025 (reference 5) links my theoretical variables and how they impact on the actual Saudi labor market. One of the main national training campaign 'Waad' acts as a primary opportunity for reskilling. As reported by The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development report 2025 (reference 5) it provided over two million training opportunities which supports the factors of accessibility and delivery. At the same time there has been a growth of employment where 2.5 million Saudi national in private sector in

parallel with the decline in unemployment rate to 7.5% which indicate these programs are successful in contribution to employability.

2.5. Conclusion

In this chapter there has been many researches identified which show the relationship between the independent variable (reskilling programs) and the dependent variable (economical mobility). We can conduct that reskilling programs have important role in improving employability although it has many factors affecting it however, its best outcome is when it is aligned with the labor market's needs.

As shown in the researches the independent variable, reskilling programs, is affected by many factors including funding, alignment with employability demand and accessibility. The Vision of 2030 of Saudi Arabia it had powerful initiatives which demonstrate the importance of providing such opportunities for individual to equip them with the lifelong skills and improving their capabilities for work.

Also, the research shows the dependent variable, economic mobility, is also affected by external factors like race, gender and location also it could have social barriers. As some research show that these may have a short-term impact challenges and limitations, on the other hand, programs which are catering for individuals and the markets need which are better designed can lead to positive results including better income and better economic mobility.

In conclusion, the relationship is significant but complex between the reskilling programs and the economic mobility. As the reskilling skills have a positive effect on individuals by improving skills which increases the opportunity and act as the bridge for individuals to acquire relevant market skills which therefore leads to better market value, however its long-term effectiveness requires to identify the broader social and economic factors. This emphasizes the importance of designing inclusive and sustainable programs to have a better and long-term affect.

Chapter 3

Introduction

3.2. Operational definitions for research variables

Research design (research opinion)

Appendix:

Questionnaire link

<https://forms.gle/52LFNNvBjTrS3VZD9>

Table of research instruments

Variable Type	Variable Name	Dimensions	Question
Independent	Re-skilling program	Skill relevance Program Feasibility Post training	Section 2 Question 1-4
Dependent	Economic mobility	Income growth Employment stability Career Progression Standard of living	Section 4 Question 1-4
Screening	Filter	Program participation	Section 1 Question 6

References

1) How Did Reskilling During the COVID-19 Pandemic Relate to Entrepreneurship and Optimism? Barriers, Opportunities, and Implications for Equity

Jason Jabbari¹ · Haotian Zheng¹ · Stephen Roll¹ · Daniel Auguste² · Oren Heller¹

2) The Meaning and Measurement of Income Mobility

G. Fields, Efe A. Ok

Journal of Economic Theory, 1996, 306 citations

3) Thailand's vocational training and upward mobility: impact heterogeneities and policy implications. Patima Chongcharoentanawat et al

4) Starting points matter: Cash plus training effects on youth entrepreneurship, skills, and resilience during an epidemic

2022

Nina Rosas et al.

5) <https://www.hrsd.gov.sa/en/media-center/news/%D8%A3%D8%A8%D8%B1%D8%B2-%D8%AC%D9%87%D9%88%D8%AF%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%88%D8%B2%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A9-%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%85-2025>