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THE ROLE OF HUMAN CAPITAL ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract. Human capital is a vital driver of economic development, often surpassing natural resources or geographic advantages in significance. This paper examines the role of human capital in economic growth, focusing on education, healthcare, and environmental sustainability as key contributors to the Human Capital Index (HCI). The study highlights the strong correlation between HCI and GDP per capita based on data from developed nations and insights from Uzbekistan’s Development Strategy for 2022–2026. Case studies of countries like Singapore and Germany illustrate the transformative impact of investments in human capital. The paper also explores the contributions of scholars to the understanding of human capital and provides actionable policy suggestions for fostering economic resilience and sustainability.

Keywords: Human Capital Index (HCI), economic growth, education, healthcare, environmental sustainability, economic development, Uzbekistan, GDP per capita, policy recommendations.

Introduction

Human capital is a fundamental factor driving economic development in every nation. In today’s world, it is often valued more highly than natural resources or geographic location. Consequently, countries strive to enhance human capital through improved education and healthcare systems.

The Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PF-60, dated 28.01.2022, “On the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026” underscores the significance of human capital in achieving economic sustainability and growth.[39]

According to World Bank data, the Human Capital Index (HCI) strongly correlates with economic development. High-income countries tend to have higher HCIs, and vice versa. [40]

For example, the Human Capital Index (HCI) is measured at 0.75 in Germany, indicating a relatively high human capital investment and development level. This score reflects the country’s strong educational system, robust healthcare services, and overall commitment to enhancing the skills and capabilities of its workforce. As a result, Germany is recognized as one of the most developed countries in the world, characterized

[39] https://lex.uz/docs/-5841063
[40] https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/64e578cbeaa522631f08f0cafba8960e-0140062023/related/HCI-AM23-HUN.pdf

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by a strong economy, advanced technological infrastructure, and a high standard of living for its citizens.

In his work, Aripov delves into enhancing human capital and its constituent elements, including health capital, labor capital, and intellectual capital. Additionally, he provides insights into Uzbekistan’s Human Capital Index (HCI) and compares it to other countries. (Aripov)

Abdiraimov explores the relationship between the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) and human capital. He argues that high scores on these assessments contribute to greater economic development. Additionally, the role of government and its perspective on these assessments is examined. (Abdiraimov, 2023)

In conclusion, human capital is undeniably a cornerstone of economic development, as evidenced by its prioritization in national strategies like Uzbekistan's Development Strategy for 2022–2026. The correlation between the Human Capital Index and economic performance underscores the critical role of investments in education, healthcare, and workforce development. By examining international examples like Germany and local perspectives from scholars such as Aripov and Abdiraimov, it becomes evident that fostering human capital is not only a pathway to economic growth but also a means to achieve long-term sustainability and societal well-being.

Methodology

The data presented in **Table 1** highlights a strong positive correlation between the Human Capital Index (HCI) and GDP per capita. In 2020, the average HCI for the 20 developed countries listed was 0.7885, significantly higher than the world average of 0.5636. Correspondingly, the average GDP per capita for these countries was $47,275.9, compared to the global average of $10,942. This stark difference underscores the importance of human capital investment in driving economic prosperity.

Among the countries, Singapore had the highest HCI of 0.88, aligning with a high GDP per capita of $61,467. Similarly, Ireland and Switzerland, with HCIs of 0.79 and 0.76 respectively, recorded exceptionally high GDP per capita figures of $86,314 and $85,898. Conversely, countries with lower HCIs in this group, such as Portugal (HCI 0.77), displayed comparatively lower GDP per capita at $22,242.

This data reinforces the notion that nations with stronger human capital development tend to achieve higher economic outputs, demonstrating the critical role of investments in education, healthcare, and workforce capabilities in fostering economic growth.

	Country	HCI (0-1)	GDP per capita ($)
	Singapore	0,88	61467
	Hong Kong SAR, China	0,81	46323
	Japan	0,80	40160
	Korea	0,80	31721
	Canada	0,80	43538
	Finland	0,80	49170
	Macao SAR, China	0,80	39403
	Sweden	0,80	52523
	Ireland	0,79	86314
0	Netherlands	0,79	52163
1	United Kingdom	0,78	40231

2	Estonia	0,78	23565
3	New Zealand	0,78	41344
4	Slovenia	0,77	25490
5	Norway	0,77	67330
6	Australia	0,77	51868
7	Portugal	0,77	22242
8	France	0,76	39180
9	Belgium	0,76	45588
0	Switzerland	0,76	85898
Average		**0,7885**	**47275,9**
World average		**0,5636**	**10942**

Table 1. 20 developed countries: HCI 2020 and GDP per capita.

The fundamental factors for improving the Human Capital Index (HCI) are a high-quality education system and a healthy lifestyle. Governments should prioritize investments in these areas to create a skilled, productive workforce capable of driving economic growth and innovation. Accessible and inclusive education ensures that individuals can develop their potential, while comprehensive healthcare systems promote physical and mental well-being.

In addition to education and healthcare, environmental quality is a critical yet often overlooked factor. A clean and sustainable environment supports better health outcomes, reduces the prevalence of chronic diseases, and enhances cognitive development. For example, reduced air and water pollution can lead to lower healthcare costs and higher productivity, while access to green spaces positively impacts mental health and overall quality of life.

Therefore, governments must adopt a holistic approach to human capital development, integrating policies that address education, healthcare, and environmental sustainability. By doing so, they can create the conditions necessary for individuals to thrive and contribute effectively to the economy and society.

Discussion

The findings presented in this study highlight the critical role human capital plays in driving economic development. The strong positive correlation between the Human Capital Index (HCI) and GDP per capita, as demonstrated in Table 1, underscores the importance of investing in education, healthcare, and sustainable environments. Countries with high HCI values, such as Singapore (HCI 0.88, GDP per capita $61,467) and Switzerland (HCI 0.76, GDP per capita $85,898), clearly demonstrate the economic benefits of prioritizing human capital. Conversely, lower GDP per capita figures in countries with relatively lower HCIs, such as Portugal (HCI 0.77, GDP per capita $22,242), further validate this relationship.

Education emerges as a foundational pillar of human capital development. Countries with strong educational systems, such as Finland and Japan, not only achieve higher HCIs but also experience significant economic growth and technological advancement. Healthcare is equally important, as a healthy population contributes to increased productivity and reduced societal costs related to illness and absenteeism.

Environmental factors also play an essential role in supporting human capital. Countries with cleaner environments tend to have healthier populations and higher cognitive performance levels. Sustainable environmental policies reduce health risks associated with pollution and contribute to the long-term economic resilience of nations.

The insights of scholars like Aripov and Abdiraimov provide valuable perspectives on specific elements of human capital. Aripov emphasizes health capital, labor capital, and intellectual capital as the building blocks of human capital, while Abdiraimov highlights the role of standardized assessments, such as PISA, in driving educational and economic improvements. Together, these contributions underline the multifaceted nature of human capital development and its far-reaching implications.

Conclusion

In conclusion, human capital is a cornerstone of economic development, influencing GDP per capita and overall national prosperity. The data and analyses underscore the critical need for investments in education, healthcare, and environmental sustainability to enhance human capital. High HCI scores correlate with higher economic outputs, as evidenced by the case studies of developed nations. This relationship highlights the transformative power of human capital in fostering innovation, resilience, and growth.

For countries like Uzbekistan, prioritizing human capital aligns with the strategic goals outlined in national development frameworks such as the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022–2026. By learning from the successes of high-HCI nations and addressing local challenges, Uzbekistan and similar countries can unlock their full economic potential.

Suggestions

1. **Strengthen Education Systems:**

✓ Increase access to quality education at all levels, focusing on inclusivity and modernized curricula.

✓ Invest in teacher training and digital learning infrastructure to enhance learning outcomes.

2. **Improve Healthcare Services:**

✓ Develop comprehensive healthcare programs that prioritize preventive care and public health education.

✓ Enhance access to medical services, especially in rural and underserved areas.

3. **Promote Environmental Sustainability:**

✓ Implement policies to reduce pollution and promote green spaces for better public health.

✓ Foster sustainable practices across industries to ensure long-term ecological balance.

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TADBIRKORLIK SUB’YEKTLARININI MAHALLIY BYUDJYETLARDAGI

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Annotatsiya: Bugungi kunda kichik biznes, shuningdek xususiy tadbirkorlik uchun davlat tomonidan moliyaviy qo‘llab-quvvatlashga, kichik biznes va xususiy tadbirkorlikning rivojlanishini iqtisodiy, ijtimoiy rivojlanishning muhim omili sifatida uning o‘rnini oshirishga katta e’tibor berilmoqda.

Kalit so‘zlar: Soliq, soliq islohotlari, soliq ma’murchiligi, raqamlashtirish, soliq qarzi, soliq stavkasi, shaxsiy kartochka, yuklama

Mamlakatimiz hozirgi rivojlanish bosqichida milliy iqtisodiyotni barqaror rivojlanishi uchun “Soliq yukini kamaytirish va coliqqa tortish tizimini soddalashtirish siyosatini davom ettirish, soliq ma’muriyatchiligini takomillashtirish va tegishli rag‘batlantiruvchi choralarni kengaytirish vazifasi belgilab berilgan”.

So‘nggi yillarda iqtisodiyot tarmoqlarida faoliyat yuritayotgan tadbipkoplik sub’ektlarining mamlakatda yangi ish o‘rinlarini tashkil qilish, kambag‘allikni oldini olish, aholi daromadlilik darajasini oshirish, farovonligini ta’minlash va infratuzilmani rivojlantirish muhim omillari sifatida yuqori va salmoqli natijalarga ega bo‘lmoqda.

1-jadval

Tadbirkorlik sub’ektlarining yangi tashkil etilgan ish o‘rinlaridagi ulushi[41]

Кўрсаткичлар	2014 йил	2015 йил	2016 йил	2017 йил	2018 йил	2019 йил	2020 йил	2021 йил	Ўзгариши (+) кўпайиши ёки (-) камайиши
Юридик шахсларда янги ташкил этилган иш ўринларинг сони	411 701	314 262	322 657	404 153	551 379	563 114	573 234	592 304	180 603
Шу жумладан:									
Кичик бизнес ва хусусий тадбиркорликда	302 005	253 546	253 880	262 212	363 270	372 549	353 218	321 654	19 649
Фоиз хисобида	73,0	80,7	78,7	64,9	65,8	65,1	64,7	63,5	-9,5
Банд аҳоли сони, минг киши	12 818,4	13 058,3	13 298,4	13 520,3	13 273,1	13 145,3	12 982,1	12 876,3	455

[41] www.stat.uz – маълумотлари асосида муаллиф ишланмаси.