Article

Impact of IT and English Courses on Youth Unemployment in Bulungur District, Samarkand

Soliev Mukhammadkhon Bobirshoevich[1], Mamadiyorov Mirxond Umirillo o'gli[2]

[1]Director of Innovative Centre Samarkand, independent researcher at Samarkand Branch of Tashkent University of Economics
mukhammadkhon.soliev@innovativecentre.org

[2]Young researcher at Innovative Centre, Student of academic Lyceum of Samarkand Institute of Economics and Service
mirxondmamadiyorov@innovativecentre.org

Abstract. This research looks into how IT and English language classes affect youth unemployment in Bulungur District, Samarkand, where rural unemployment rates have stayed consistently high. In spite of numerous government interventions, there remains a shortage of studies on the efficacy of skill-focused educational initiatives in rural Uzbekistan. Utilizing a combination of different methodologies, the research study examines secondary data from local employment reports and conducts a case study on Purpose Education, a prominent training center in the area. Research shows that the incorporation of IT and English classes led to a notable decrease in unemployment, as the employment rate for graduates rose from 43% in 2021 to 76% in 2022. The findings indicate that focused educational efforts can successfully tackle joblessness in rural regions, but additional synchronization with local economic demands and enhancements to infrastructure are required for long-term achievement. The research offers important knowledge for policy makers and schools looking to decrease rural unemployment with skill development initiatives.
Key words: Youth Unemployment, IT Education, English Language Courses, Rural Development, Skill-Based Training, Employment Outcomes, Educational Interventions

Introduction

Youth unemployment continues to be a major issue worldwide, especially in rural regions with limited economic prospects. In places such as Bulungur in the Samarkand region of Uzbekistan, rural areas have been plagued by consistently high levels of youth unemployment, resulting in ongoing socio-economic difficulties. Dealing with youth unemployment is crucial for promoting long-lasting economic growth, and educational efforts have been identified as a promising answer. This research examines how IT and English language education in Bulungur can help reduce youth unemployment by developing skills to meet job demand and workforce needs.

Studies have indicated that education and skill advancement are crucial in combating high levels of unemployment, particularly in areas reliant on traditional agriculture and manufacturing sectors for economic stability. Nevertheless, there is a lack of understanding on the effects of particular educational initiatives, like IT and language classes, on rural joblessness in Uzbekistan. Past research has mainly concentrated on cities or broad education initiatives, resulting in a lack of knowledge about the impact of specific skill-building interventions in rural settings. This research aims to address this lack by investigating the results of IT and English classes implemented in Bulungur in 2021.

The study is based on human capital theory, stating that education improves individuals' abilities, increasing their competitiveness in job market. Furthermore, the research is based on theories of lifelong learning that highlight the ongoing enhancement of abilities in reaction to shifting economic circumstances. Past research has extensively studied the link between education, job opportunities, and economic development. However, rural areas frequently encounter distinct obstacles like inadequate infrastructure and restricted resource availability. By examining a particular case in rural Uzbekistan, this research adds to the wider conversation on education facilitating economic growth.

A combination of secondary data analysis and a case study of Purpose Education, a leading training center in Bulungur, was utilized using a mixed-method approach. Data on employment from local government sources offered numerical insights into the patterns of unemployment both before and after the implementation of educational programs. Furthermore, interviews and internal documents from Purpose Education were examined to gain insight into the qualitative effects of these programs on the local job market. This all-encompassing method enables a thorough examination of the impact of education on lowering unemployment.

It is anticipated that the results of this research will demonstrate a noteworthy decrease in youth unemployment, specifically for individuals who have finished the IT and English classes. Anticipated: The employment rate for course graduates is expected to significantly rise, consistent with prior research emphasizing the benefits of skill development on job prospects. The findings have significant consequences for decision-makers and teachers, indicating that specific educational actions could effectively address rural unemployment. Nevertheless, the research also emphasizes the importance of improving the connection between educational initiatives and the economic demands of the community in order to guarantee lasting viability.

Methodology

This research utilized a combination of quantitative and qualitative methodologies to explore the influence of IT and English courses on youth unemployment in Bulungur District, Samarkand. The utilization of both of these approaches led to a thorough grasp of how educational interventions impacted employment results. Quantitative data was collected from local employment figures, specifically focusing on unemployment rates prior to and following the introduction of the educational initiatives. Simultaneously, qualitative information was gathered by conducting a thorough case study of Purpose Education, the local training center in charge of providing these courses. This two-pronged strategy helped close the divide between statistical information and the actual experiences of individuals participating in the programs.

The research concentrated on young people in Bulungur District, specifically those between the ages of 18 and 29, who took part in IT and English classes from 2021 to 2022. 200 participants were purposely selected in order to guarantee that each one had finished at least one of the courses. Data on age, gender, education level, and previous employment status was gathered in order to gain a better understanding of the target population. Moreover, Purpose Education's staff members were interviewed to provide a wider viewpoint on how the program is being carried out, the difficulties faced, and the influence on the local employment sector.

Government employment reports were utilized to gather quantitative data for data collection, specifically obtaining statistics on unemployment trends spanning from 2020 to 2023. These reports assisted in monitoring the fluctuations in youth unemployment rates in the area following the educational interventions. Semi-structured interviews were carried out with 10 Purpose Education staff members, comprising instructors and administrators, for the qualitative part of the study. The interviews aimed to delve into their encounters with the courses and their perceptions of the impact on participants' employability. Furthermore, internal documents from Purpose Education were examined to collect information on rates of completing courses and outcomes related to post-course employment.

The study process consisted of two stages. During the initial stage, data from government employment reports was gathered and examined to evaluate the unemployment patterns in the area. During the second stage, qualitative information was collected by conducting interviews with Purpose Education employees. The interviews were carried out face-to-face and through Zoom,

using a set guide to maintain uniformity among all interviewees. The merging of these data sources gave a comprehensive insight into the impact of educational programs on the nearby labor market. The process of analyzing data started by using descriptive statistics to assess variations in unemployment rates among the specific group. Pre-course and post-course unemployment rates were analyzed to assess the effectiveness of the programs. Thematic analysis was used to analyze the qualitative data, revealing key themes like skill enhancement, job readiness, and program obstacles found in the interview transcripts. These analyses, when combined, gave a thorough assessment of the IT and English courses, providing valuable perspectives on their impact on alleviating youth unemployment in rural areas such as Bulungur. The findings of this research are anticipated to guide upcoming educational strategies focused on lessening unemployment in comparable rural settings.

Result

The information gathered from government employment reports and Purpose Education records give a thorough look at youth unemployment trends in Bulungur District both before and after the introduction of IT and English language courses. Table 1 shows the levels of unemployment within the younger population (18-29 years old) between 2020 and 2022. Before the courses were implemented in 2020, the unemployment rate was at 12.5%. In 2021, following the start of the courses, the percentage had dropped to 11.2%. By 2022, the target group saw a further decrease in the unemployment rate to 10.4%.

Table 1. Unemployment Rate (18-29)

Year	Unemployment Rate (18-29)
2020	12.5%
2021	11.2%
2022	10.4%

In addition to the general unemployment trends, data from Purpose Education show that the number of participants who secured employment after completing the IT and English courses increased significantly. In 2021, 43% of the graduates from these courses were employed within six months. By 2022, this figure rose to 76%, indicating a substantial improvement in the employability of course participants. Table 2 summarizes the employment outcomes of course graduates over the two-year period.

Table 2. Employment outcomes of course graduates over the two-year period.

Year	Course Graduates Employed (%)
2021	43%
2022	76%

Furthermore, the study also examined the long-term unemployment rates in Bulungur District. The data show a consistent decline in long-term unemployment. In 2020, an average of 650 long-term unemployed individuals were recorded per month, representing 28.5% of the total unemployed population. By 2022, this number had decreased to 480 individuals per month, or 21.5% of the total unemployed population (Table 3).

Table 3. Long-Term Unemployed in Bulungur District, 2020-2023

Year	Long-Term Unemployed (per month)	Percentage of Total Unemployed
2020	650	28.5%
2021	570	23.0%
2022	480	21.5%

The data highlight a strong correlation between participation in the IT and English courses and a reduction in both general and long-term youth unemployment in Bulungur District. However, as noted, the results show a more pronounced improvement in the second year of the program, with

more participants successfully entering the workforce. This trend suggests that the educational programs have been increasingly effective in equipping the youth with skills needed in the job market.

These results provide the basis for further discussion regarding the impact of these educational interventions on rural unemployment in Uzbekistan.

Discussion

The findings of this research suggest that implementing IT and English classes in Bulungur District led to a notable decrease in youth unemployment, as the employment rate for students completing the courses increased from 43% in 2021 to 76% in 2022. These results indicate that focused educational efforts can significantly enhance job prospects, especially in rural areas where traditional sectors play a major role in the economy. The study period showed a decline in general and prolonged unemployment, highlighting the success of educational programs in closing the skills gap. This is in line with the human capital theory, which suggests that improving education and skills can increase a person's chances of finding a job by making them more attractive to employers.

When contrasted with earlier research, the findings demonstrate both similarities and distinctive discoveries. Studies on educational initiatives in different areas, like urban centers or nations dealing with comparable joblessness issues, have shown that skill-focused training can lead to better employment results. Nevertheless, the majority of research has concentrated on well-developed areas or extensive interventions. The current research addresses a lack of understanding by exploring how smaller, more localized educational initiatives can be successful in rural areas such as Bulungur, where opportunities for modern employment are scarce. A significant contrast lies in the slow incorporation of skills into the nearby economy, mainly because the skills being taught (IT and English) do not align with the immediate demands of the local labor market, which still heavily relies on agriculture and small-scale manufacturing.

The policymakers and educators should take note of the importance of these findings. The effectiveness of Purpose Education in lowering joblessness demonstrates the opportunity for comparable initiatives to be carried out in other rural regions with elevated unemployment levels. Policymakers need to think about broadening the range of these educational interventions to make sure they meet the particular requirements of the local economy. Moreover, improving infrastructure like internet availability and educational resources would increase the impact and success of these initiatives. Even though IT and English skills are important for contemporary job opportunities, vocational training in agriculture and other local sectors might also be crucial to make sure educational programs match local economic conditions.

Nevertheless, it is important to note that there are constraints to this research. A sample size of 200 participants could restrict the ability to apply the results to different regions or populations. Furthermore, the research focused solely on the immediate impacts of the educational initiatives. More extended research is required to determine if the increase in employment can be maintained and if the economy can keep employing IT and English-skilled graduates. Moreover, the research did not consider external influences like inflation, export demand, or wider economic policies that could have impacted employment rates throughout the study timeframe.

Future studies should investigate multiple areas taking into account these results and constraints. Long-term impacts of educational programs on unemployment in rural areas could be better understood through longitudinal studies. In addition, more investigations could explore how vocational education and other skills-focused programs that are more in line with the local economy could be beneficial. Broadening the range of research to encompass a greater variety of rural areas in Uzbekistan and other countries facing similar obstacles would also aid in comprehending how educational initiatives can be adapted to suit distinct local circumstances.

Conclusion

The results of the research show that IT and English language programs had a substantial impact on decreasing youth unemployment in Bulungur District, boosting employment rates for graduates from 43% in 2021 to 76% in 2022. This indicates that focused educational efforts can significantly

improve rural job opportunities by targeting important skill deficiencies. The significance of the study suggests that it is vital to match educational programs with local economic demands and to invest in infrastructure for long-lasting sustainability. Nevertheless, constraints such as the small sample size and the study's short-term perspective indicate that it is important for future research to investigate the lasting impacts of these interventions and to incorporate vocational training that is more directly connected to the local economic environment. These discoveries provide important information for policymakers aiming to decrease rural unemployment via education programs focusing on developing skills.

References:

1. Kamoliddin Nurmurodov, "The results of the Samarkand region for 2022 and the tasks set for ensuring employment of the population in 2023." review.uz, 03.04, 2023, https://review.uz/uz/post/samarqand-viloyatining-2022-yil-yakunlari-hamda-2023-yilga-aholi-bandligini-taminlash-boyicha-belgilangan-vazifalari.

2. "The unemployment rate for the first half of 2022 in Uzbekistan." daryo.uz, 12.08, 2022, https://daryo.uz/2022/08/12/ozbekistonda-2022-yilning-birinchi-yarmidagi-ishsizlik-dar ajasi-malum-qilindi.

3. National Database of Legislative Information, "On additional measures for the comprehensive socio-economic development of the Samarkand region and further improvement of the living standards of the population for 2022-2026.", lex.uz, 29.04.2022, No. 09/22/222/0365 https://lex.uz/docs/-5989312.

4. Indeed editorial team, "What Is Long-Term Unemployment", indeed.com, 15.08, 2024 https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/what-is-long-term-unemployment

5. Kamoliddin Nurmurodov, "The tasks set for ensuring employment of the population in 2023.", Center for Economic Reforms and Research, 03.04, 2023, https://review.uz/uz/post/samarqand-viloyatining-2022-yil-yakunlari-hamda-2023-yilga-aholi-bandligini-taminlash-boyicha-belgilangan-vazifalari.

6. Decree of Cabinet of Ministers of Republic of Uzbekistan, "ON MEASURES FOR EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION OF PROMOTION OF LEARNING FOREIGN LANGUAGES", 2022, https://lex.uz/docs/6051791.

7. Tegan George, "Mixed Methods Research", scribbr.com, June 22, 2023. https://www.scribbr.com/methodology/mixed-methods-research/#:~:text=Mixed%20m   ethods%20research%20combines%20elements,integrates%20benefits%20of%20bot h%20methods.

8. Purpose Education, Human Resources department, "Research and Data Collection Methods for Workforce Analysis", 14.03, 2021

9. Sue Maguire, "What Measures Can Be Taken to Address the Specific Problem of Young People Who Are NEET?", intereconomics.eu, Volume 48, 2013 · Number 4 · pp. 196–235

   https://www.intereconomics.eu/contents/year/2013/number/4/article/youth-unemploy ment.html

10. The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, "On additional measures to improve the study of foreign languages", lex.uz, 20.01, 2022

    https://lex.uz/docs/-5831978

11. Siddiqov To'lqin, and Baxtiyor Mustanov.. "More Than 5,000 Youth in Bulungur Face Challenges" Zarafshon,.zarnews.uz.

    https://zarnews.uz/uz/post/bulungurda-5-mingdan-ortiq-yoshning-muammosi-bor

12. Jason Fernando, "The Correlation Coefficient: What It Is and What It Tells Investors", investopedia.com, 29.08, 2024 https://www.investopedia.com/terms/c/correlationcoefficient.asp

13. Governorship of Samarkand region, "Bulungur district", 22.01, 2024, https://samarkand.uz/towns_districts/bulungur

14. Oscar Valiente, Queralt Capsada-Munsech and Jan Peter G de Otero, "Educationalisation of youth unemployment through lifelong learning policies in Europe", journals.sagepub.com, Volume 19, Issue 6, 23.02, 2020, https://doi.org/10.1177/1474904120908751