

# LEARNING LOSS WILL DENT INDIA'S GDP: ADB

Relevant for: Developmental Issues | Topic: Education and related issues

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of India, which is among the countries with the longest school closures during the COVID-19 pandemic, will see the highest decline in South Asia due to learning losses for the young, a new working paper published by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has reckoned.

Starting with a \$10.5 billion dent in 2023, the country's economy could take a nearly \$99 billion hit by 2030, translating into a 3.19% reduction in GDP from the baseline growth trends, according to the paper on 'Potential Economic Impact of COVID-19 related School Closures'.

## Decline in jobs

India may thus account for over 10% of the global GDP decline of \$943 billion estimated by the ADB on account of earning losses in 2030, with jobs for skilled labour expected to decline by 1%, and unskilled labour by 2% that year.

"India has notable enrolment in secondary education and among students in rural areas. Pandemic-induced school closures have also been more extensive there," the paper noted.

Economies with a significant population of schoolchildren and college-goers in rural areas and in the poorest and second wealth quintile — have been the worst-hit as they lack access to stable Internet connection needed to study online.

Learning and earning losses are significant because a notable portion of the impacted population will migrate to the unskilled labour force, the paper said. A large part of India's work force is constituted by unskilled labour — 408.4 million as per the ADB paper's estimates, compared to 72.65 million skilled workers. "In terms of absolute change, India experiences the highest GDP decline in South Asia, at \$98.84 billion in 2030," the paper said.

"School closures lead to declines in global GDP and employment. Moreover, the losses in global GDP and employment increase over time. Declines in global GDP amount to 0.19% in 2024, 0.64% in 2028, and 1.11% in 2030," concluded the paper co-authored by Spencer Cohen, Sumathi Chakravarthy, Sindhu Bharathi, Badri Narayanan and Cyn-Young Park. India has highest number of children enrolled in primary and secondary education among the Asian economies covered in the paper, at 255.74 million. The number in tertiary education was second only to China at 36.39 million, as per January 2022 data.

[Our code of editorial values](#)

**END**

Downloaded from [crackIAS.com](http://crackIAS.com)

© **Zuccess App** by crackIAS.com