

Media Coverage

THE ECONOMIC COST OF INTERNET CLOSURE

Due to closure of 3G/4G services in the country, businesses face a direct loss of

 **PKR 1.3 billion**  **Per day**
OR
0.57% of daily GDP 

while the indirect loss faced by businesses and economic agents due to the loss of these activities is beyond this and unaccounted for.

Details of these are shared ahead.

October 09, 2023

Web Coverage

Tribune Express

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2439949/internet-shutdowns-cost-pakistan-rs13b-in-direct-loss>

The News International

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1117497-pakistan-to-embark-on-transformative-journey-towards-development>

Daily Times

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1138603/pide-study-reveals-internet-shutdowns-cost-rs-1-3b-in-direct-loss/#:~:text=PIDE%20estimates%20show%20that%20the,GDP%20average%20for%20the%20nation.>

Daily The Nation

<https://www.nation.com.pk/09-Oct-2023/internet-shutdown-for-a-day-costs-pakistan-rs1-3b-in-direct-loss>

Pakistan Observer

<https://pakobserver.net/internet-closure-for-24-hour-cost-pakistan-rs1-3b-in-direct-loss-pide/>

Pakistan Today

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2023/10/08/internet-closure-for-24-hour-cost-pakistan-rs1-3b-in-direct-loss-pide/>

Islamabad Post

<https://islamabadpost.com.pk/pide-research-reveals-internet-shutdowns-cost-pakistan-pkr-1-3-bln-in-direct-loss/>

APP Network

<https://www.app.com.pk/business/internet-shutdowns-cost-pakistan-rs-1-3-bln-in-direct-loss-pide/>

<https://www.app.com.pk/national/pide-study-reveals-internet-shutdowns-cost-pakistan-rs-1-3b-in-direct-loss/#:~:text=PIDE%20estimates%20show%20that%20the,GDP%20average%20for%20the%20nation.>

Independent News Pakistan

<https://www.inp.net.pk/news-detail/pakistan/pide-research-reveals-internet-shutdowns-cost-rs-13-billion>

ARY News

<https://arynews.tv/internet-shutdowns-cost-pakistan-rs-1-3-bn-direct-loss/>

Boll News

<https://www.bolnews.com/pakistan/2023/10/internet-shutdowns-cost-pakistan-rs-1-3bn-in-direct-loss-pide/>

Hum News

<https://humnews.pk/latest/24-hour-internet-shutdowns-cost-pakistan-rs1-3-billion-study/>

Urdu Point

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/pide-study-reveals-internet-shutdowns-cost-pa-1754137.html>

<https://www.urdupoint.com/daily/livenews/2023-10-08/news-3758688.html>

Ground News

<https://ground.news/article/internet-shutdowns-cost-pakistan-rs-13-bn-direct-loss>

News Guru PK

<https://newsguru.pk/internet-shutdowns-cost-pakistan-rs1-3-billion-in-direct-loss/>

Voice of Makran

<https://www.voiceofmakran.net/amp/technology/19027/>

Rock Edge Urdu

<https://rockedgeurdu.com/1-3-billion-rupees-loss-to-pakistan-due-to-internet-shutdown/>

Technoligistan

<https://www.technoligistan.pk/internet-shutdowns-in-pakistan-cause-rs1-3-billion-direct-loss-pide-study/>

Ground News

<https://ground.news/article/internet-shutdowns-cost-pakistan-rs-13-bn-direct-loss>

PhoneWorld

<https://www.phoneworld.com.pk/internet-shutdowns-across-pakistan-cost-a-direct-loss-of-rs1-3bn-pide/>

StartUp Pakistan

<https://startuppakistan.com.pk/internet-closures-cost-pakistan-1-3-billion-in-just-24-hours/>

BNN Network

<https://bnn.network/world/pakistan/pakistans-24-hour-internet-shutdown-incurs-whopping-rs1-3bn-loss/>

The Blogism

<https://www.theblogism.com/the-economic-impact-of-internet-closures-in-pakistan-a-call-for-connectivity/>

The Fetch Pakistan

<https://fetch.com.pk/1-3-billion-rupees-loss-to-pak-due-internet-shutdown/>

HS Trending

<https://hstrending.com/pakistans-economy-rs1-3-billion-loss-in-24-hour/>

Internet closures cost Pakistan Rs1.3b in just 24 hours

Startling research shows loss accounts for approximately 0.57% of daily GDP average

OUR CORRESPONDENT
LAHORE

A mere 24-hour closure of internet services translates to a direct loss of an alarming Rs1.3 billion, a staggering figure that accounts for approximately 0.57% of the country's daily GDP average for the nation.

An eye-opening recent study conducted by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) – 'The Economic Cost of Internet Closure' – highlighted the severe consequences of internet shutdowns on the Pakistani economy.

According to Dr Nadeem ul Haque, vice chancellor of the PIDE, and Mohammad Shaaf Najib, a research fellow at PIDE, the internet has become a fundamental necessity in modern times. However, Pakistan's in-

ternet infrastructure lags behind in terms of both quality and coverage.

The recent internet closure in various parts of Pakistan has had a profound impact on multiple sectors, leading to substantial financial losses and operational challenges. Online cab services, online food delivery services, freelancers, transport companies, and postal services have all been severely affected by the prolonged disruption of internet services.

The PIDE infographic shows that online cab services, a cornerstone of modern transportation, saw a staggering 97% reduction in the number of rides on days when the internet has been closed down. This significant downturn equates to a loss of Rs29 to 32 million for the industry per day.

Similarly, online food delivery services suffered a 75% reduction in the number of orders, translating into a substantial daily loss of Rs135 million.

Meanwhile, the freelance

community, which contributes significantly to Pakistan's economy, has also felt the brunt of internet disruptions. Denial of orders to Pakistan-based freelance workers resulted in over \$1.3 million loss of revenue, equaling Rs390 million, impacting the livelihoods of many and the national economy as a whole.

Online food delivery services face a loss of Rs135 million per day

Besides, the suspension of 3G/4G services for a single day causes a loss of Rs450 million to the telecommunication sector alone.

Furthermore, PIDE had earlier estimated the economic costs of protests to be around 2.0% of the GDP. Closure of economic activity either through protests or due to the closure of internet services contributes to a significant loss of economic

activity in the country.

Dr Nadeem ul Haque said in a statement that access to high-quality internet not only enhances opportunities for the youth, particularly in remote areas but also plays a pivotal role in bridging the divide between the privileged and the common public. Utilising online tools for education and professional purposes can empower youth from rural regions to compete on a national and international level.

PIDE has been a consistent advocate for "internet for all" and believes that the government must prioritise immediate nationwide internet coverage. Additionally, regulatory measures should be introduced to encourage telecommunication companies to expand internet access across the country. Spectrum auctions should be geared towards ensuring universal internet coverage rather than solely as a means of generating revenue.

Internet closure for 24 hour cost Pakistan Rs 1.3b in direct loss: PIDDE

ISLAMABAD

In a recent study conducted by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDDE), startling revelations have emerged regarding the economic impact of internet shutdowns in Pakistan.

PIDDE estimates show that the closure of internet services for just 24 hours results in a direct loss of PKR 1.3 billion, which equates to a staggering 0.57% of the daily GDP average for the nation.

This eye-opening revelation is part of PIDDE's research infographic titled "The Economic Cost of Internet Closure" and highlights the severe consequences of internet shutdowns on the Pakistani economy.

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October 09, 2023

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MT REPORT

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This eye-opening revelation is part of PIDE's research

infographic titled "The Economic Cost of Internet Closure" and highlights the severe consequences of internet shutdowns on the Pakistani economy, said in a press release issued here on Sunday.

According to Dr Nadeem ul Haque, Vice Chancellor of the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), and Mr Mohammad Shaaf Najib, Research Fellow at PIDE, the internet has become a fundamental necessity in modern times. However, Pakistan's internet

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Dr. Nadeem ul Haque, PIDE's Vice Chancellor, said in the press release that access to high-quality internet not only enhances opportunities for the youth, particularly in remote areas but also plays a pivotal role in bridging the divide between the privileged and the common public. Utilizing online tools for education and professional purposes can empower youth from rural regions to compete on a national and international level.

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■ APP
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PIIDE research reveals internet shutdowns cost 1.3 billion loss

Cost Pakistan PKR 1.3 Billion in Direct Los Customers unable to book Online Cab rides, resulting in a staggering 97% reduction in number of rides Online Food Delivery Services face a loss of PKR 135 million per day Denial of orders to Pakistani Freelancers due to internet outages

ADIL SHAHEEN

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gle day causes a loss of PKR 450 million to the telecommunication sector alone. Furthermore, PIIDE had earlier estimated the economic costs of protests to be around 2.0% of the GDP. Closure of economic activity either through protests or due to closure of internet services contributes a significant loss to economic activity in the country. Dr. Nadeem ul Haque, PIIDE's Vice Chancellor, said in the press release that access to high-quality internet not only enhances opportunities for the youth, particularly in remote areas but also plays a pivotal role in bridging the divide between the privileged and the common public. Utilizing online tools for education and professional purposes can empower youth from rural regions to compete on a national and inter-

national level. PIIDE has been a consistent advocate for "Internet for All" and believes that the government must prioritize immediate nationwide internet coverage. Additionally, regulatory measures should be introduced to encourage telecommunication companies to expand internet access across the country. Spectrum auctions should be geared towards ensuring universal internet coverage rather than solely as a means of generating revenue. The Internet is a critical tool for facilitating economic transactions and business operations. It is disheartening to note that internet shutdowns in Pakistan, often for arbitrary reasons, disrupt essential economic activities. PIIDE is committed to fostering a digital landscape that not only empowers individuals.

October 06, 2023

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TIMES REPORT

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This eye-opening revelation is part of PIDE's research infographic titled "The Economic Cost of Internet Closure" and highlights the severe consequences of internet shutdowns on the Pakistani economy, said in a press release issued here on Sunday.

According to Dr Nadeem ul Haque, Vice Chancellor of the Pakistan Institute of

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THE DESTINATION

NEWS THAT TRAVEL

Internet shutdowns cost Pakistan Rs 1.3 bln in direct loss: PIDE

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

A study conducted by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) revealed that the closure of internet services for 24 hours results in a direct loss of Rs1.3 billion, which equates to 0.57% of the daily GDP average for the nation.

According to a press release issued here Sunday, this study is part of PIDE's research infographic titled "The Economic Cost of Internet Closure" and highlights the consequences of internet shutdowns in the country.

It said that the inter-



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by the disruption of internet services, it said.

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October 09, 2023

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T M Report

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'Pakistan to embark on transformative journey towards development'

Rasheed Khalid

Islamabad

Dr Nadeem ul Haque, Vice Chancellor, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) has said that Pakistan is poised to embark on a transformative journey towards sustainable national development.

Dr Haque was addressing here the opening of the Third Think Tank Moot, hosted by PIDE. Dr Haque said that recognising the urgency of comprehensive reforms as the bedrock of progress, Pakistan seeks to revitalise its economic outlook, enhance its business environment and elevate its global trade standing.

Dr Shujaat Farooq, Dean of PIDE, provided background on, highlighted the role of Think Tank Moot as a unique platform for esteemed partners and thought leaders to collectively address transformative and sustainable reforms.

The discussions at the event revolved around critical reform areas, with each think tank contributing in-

sights and ideas enriched by innovative strategies and approaches. The participants emphasised that in today's world, having ideas means having access to funds, extending to politics and governance. Financial resources are vital for driving positive change and addressing societal issues. Contrary to common belief, smuggling is not the root cause of economic challenges in many countries, import tariffs often have a more significant impact. Recognising this distinction empowers policymakers to focus on the real issue and implement appropriate solutions.

Representatives from numerous think tanks and universities in the federal capital, including SZABIST, Quaid-i-Azam University, SDPI, Policy Research Institute for Equitable Development, Institute of Policy Studies, POP Council, Pakistan Science Foundation, Islamabad, IPRI, CDPI Customer Data Platform Institute and CRSS etc., participated in the event.

Internet shutdown for a day costs Pakistan Rs1.3b in direct loss

FAWAD YOUSAFZAI
ISLAMABAD

The closure of internet services for just 24 hours results in a direct loss of Rs 1.3 billion, which equates to a staggering 0.57 percent of the daily GDP average for the nation. In a recent study conducted by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), startling revelations have emerged regarding the economic impact of internet shutdowns in Pakistan. PIDE estimates show that the closure of internet services for just 24 hours results in a direct loss of Rs 1.3 billion, which equates to a staggering 0.57 percent of the daily GDP average for the nation.

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Loss equates to a staggering 0.57pc of daily GDP average for Pakistan

disruption of internet services. The PIDE Infographic shows that online Cab Services, a cornerstone of modern transportation, saw a staggering 97 percent reduction in the number of rides on days when the internet has been closed down. This significant downturn equates to a loss of PKR 29 to 32 million for the industry per day. Similarly, Online Food Delivery Services suffered a 75 percent reduction in the number of orders, translating into a substantial daily loss of Rs 135 million.

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October 06, 2023

PIDE Research reveals internet shutdowns cost Pakistan PKR 1.3 billion in direct loss

City Desk

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to expand internet access across the country. Spectrum auctions should be geared towards ensuring universal internet coverage rather than solely as a means of generating revenue.

The Internet is a critical tool for facilitating economic transactions and business operations. It is disheartening to note that internet shutdowns in Pakistan, often for arbitrary reasons, disrupt essential economic activities.

PIDE is committed to fostering a digital landscape that not only empowers individuals but also contributes positively to Pakistan's economic growth. The research findings underscore the urgency of addressing the challenges in Pakistan's internet infrastructure to ensure a prosperous and connected future for all.

INTERNET CLOSURE FOR 24 HOUR COST PAKISTAN RS1.3B IN DIRECT LOSS: PIDF

■ PIDF's research: 'Economic Cost of Internet Closure' highlights consequences of internet shutdowns

ISLAMABAD

STAFF REPORT

PAKISTAN Institute of Development Economics (PIDF) in a study has revealed that the shutdowns of internet services for 24 hours results in a direct loss of Rs1.3 billion, which equates to 0.57% of the daily GDP average for the nation.

The study was part of PIDF's research infographic titled "The Economic Cost of Internet Closure" and highlights the consequences of internet shutdowns in the country, said a press release issued on Sunday.

It said that the internet has become a fundamental necessity in modern times, however, the internet infrastructure of the country lags behind in terms of both quality and coverage.

The recent internet closure in various parts of the country has had an impact on multiple sectors, leading to substantial financial losses and operational challenges.

Online cab services, online food delivery services, freelancers, transport companies, and postal services have all been affected by the disruption of internet services, it said. The PIDF Infographic showed that online cab services, a cornerstone of modern transportation, saw a 97% reduction in the number of rides on

days when the internet has been closed down. This significant downturn equates to a loss of Rs 29 to 32 million for the industry per day. Similarly, online food delivery services suffered a 75% reduction in the number of orders, translating into a substantial daily loss of Rs 1.35 million.

Meanwhile, the freelance community, which contributes significantly to Pakistan's economy, has also felt the brunt of internet disruptions.

Denial of orders to Pakistan-based freelance workers resulted in over \$1.3 million loss of revenue, equaling Rs 390 million, impacting the livelihoods of many and the national economy as a whole too, it revealed.

Besides, the suspension of 3G/4G services for a single day causes a loss of PKR 450 million to the telecommunication sector alone.

Furthermore, PIDF had earlier estimated the economic costs of protests to be around 2.0% of the GDP. Closure of economic activity either through protests or due to the closure of internet services contributes to a significant loss of economic activity in the country.

Meanwhile, Vice Chancellor PIDF Dr Nadeemul Haque said that access to high-quality internet not only enhances opportunities for the youth, particularly in remote areas but also plays a pivotal role in bridging the divide between the privileged and the common public.

Utilizing online tools for education and professional purposes can empower youth from rural regions to compete on a national and international level, he added.