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

OR **0.57%** of daily GDP

Per day

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

 $\frac{\text{https://www.nation.com.pk/09-Oct-2023/internet-shutdown-for-a-day-costs-pakistan-rs1-3b-in-direct-loss}{\text{loss}}$

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

 $\frac{https://islamabadpost.com.pk/pide-research-reveals-internet-shutdowns-cost-pakistan-pkr-1-3-bln-in-direct-loss/}{}$

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.technologistan.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/

Print Editions



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

Startling research shows loss accounts behind in terms of both tributes significantly to for approximately 0.57% of daily GDP average

OUR CORRESPONDENT LAHORE

A mere 24-hour closure of challenges. Online cab impacting the livelihoods the privileged and the cominternet services translates services, online food deliv- of many and the national mon public. Utilising onto a direct loss of an alarm- ery services, freelancers, economy as a whole. ing Rs1.3 billion, a stagger-transport companies, and ing figure that accounts for postal services have all been approximately 0.57% of the severely affected by the pro-Online food country's daily GDP average longed disruption of inter-delivery services for the nation.

An eye-opening re- The PIDE infographic cent study conducted by shows that online cab serthe Pakistan Institute of vices, a cornerstone of mod-Development Economics ern transportation, saw a (PIDE) - 'The Economic staggering 97% reduction shutdowns on the Pakistani nificant downturn equates nication sector alone. economy.

According to Dr Nadeem for the industry per day. ul Hague, vice chancellor of necessity in modern times. Rs135 million. However, Pakistan's in-

ternet infrastructure lags community, which con-activity in the country. quality and coverage.

ing to substantial finan- \$1.3 million loss of revenue, also plays a pivotal role in net services.

to a loss of Rs29 to 32 million

face a loss of Rs135 million per day

Meanwhile, the freelance significant loss of economic revenue.

Dr Nadeem ul Haque said Pakistan's economy, has in a statement that access The recent internet closure also felt the brunt of internet to high-quality internet in various parts of Pakistan disruptions. Denial of orders not only enhances opporhas had a profound impact to Pakistan-based freelance tunities for the youth, paron multiple sectors, lead- workers resulted in over ticularly in remote areas but cial losses and operational equaling Rs390 million, bridging the divide between line 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 Besides, the suspension of must prioritise immedi-Cost of Internet Closure' in the number of rides on 3G/4G services for a single ate nationwide internet - highlighted the severe days when the internet has day causes a loss of Rs450 coverage. Additionally, consequences of internet been closed down. This sig- million to the telecommu- regulatory measures should be introduced to encourage Furthermore, PIDE had telecommunication comearlier estimated the eco- panies to expand internet Similarly, online food denomic costs of protests to access across the country. the PIDE, and Mohammad livery services suffered a 75% be around 2.0% of the GDP. Spectrum auctions should Shaaf Najib, a research fel- reduction in the number Closure of economic activity be geared towards ensurlow at PIDE, the internet of orders, translating into either through protests or ing universal internet covhas become a fundamental a substantial daily loss of due to the closure of inter- erage rather than solely net services contributes to a as a means of generating

OBSERVER OBSERVER

October 06, 2023

nternet closure for our cost Pakistar in direct loss: PID

ISLAMABAD

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 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 PIDE's research infographic titled "The Economic Cost of Internet Closure" and highlights the severe consequences of internet shutdowns on the Pakistani

According to DrNa-

deemulHaque, Vice Chancellor of the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), and Mr Moham-



mad ShaafNajib, Research Fellow at PIDE, the internet has become a fundamental necessity in modern times. However, Pakistan's internet 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,

e leading to substantial financial losses and ope- erational 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 corner-stone 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 PKR 29 to 32 million for the industry per day.

day.

Similarly, Online
Food Delivery Services
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orders, translating into a substantial daily loss of PKR 135 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 free-lance workers resulted in over \$1.3 million loss of revenue, equaling PKR 390 million, impacting livelihoods of many and the national economy as a whole too.

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

Furthermore, PIDE had earlier estimated the economic costs of protests to be around 2.0% of the GDP.—NNI



October 09, 2023

PIDE study reveals internet shutdowns cost Pakistan Rs1,3billion in direct loss

ducted startling regarding the eco- on Sunday. nomic impact of estimates show that the the closure of inter- Institute 1.3 billion, which Shaaf for the nation.

revelation is part of H o w e v e r , translating into a million to the national and interresearch Pakistan's internet substantial daily telecommunication national level. PIDE's

the severe

internet shutdowns Nadeem ul Haque, days when of gering 0.57% of the PIDE, the internet Food

infographic titled infrastructure lags loss of PKR 135 mil- sector alone. "The Economic Cost behind in terms of lion. Meanwhile, PESHAWAR: In a of Internet Closure" both quality and the freelance com- Haque, PIDE's Vice recent study con- and highlights the coverage. The PIDE munity, which con- Chancellor, said in conse- Infographic shows tributes Pakistan Institute quences of internet that online Cab cantly to Pakistan's that access to high-Development shutdowns on the Services, a corner- economy, has also quality internet not Economics (PIDE), Pakistani economy, stone of modern felt the brunt of only revela- said in a press transportation, saw internet tions have emerged release issued here a staggering 97% tions. reduction in the According to Dr number of rides on to Pakistan-based

Pakistan closed down. net services for just Development downturn equates 390 24 hours results in a Economics (PIDE), to a loss of PKR 29 to impacting direct loss of PKR and Mr Mohammad 32 million for the hoods of many and equates to a stag- Research Fellow at Similarly, Online my as a whole too. daily GDP average has become a fun- Services suffered a of 3G/4G services for empower

Denial of orders the freelance workers in Pakistan. PIDE Vice Chancellor of internet has been resulted in over \$1.3 million loss of rev-This significant enue, equaling PKR million, Delivery Besides, suspension purposes

Dr. Nadeem ul signifi- the press release enhances opportunities 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 Najib, industry per day, the national econo- tools for education and can damental necessity 75% reduction in the a single day causes from rural regions This eye-opening in modern times, number of orders, a loss of PKR 450 to compete on a



PIDE study reveals internet shutdowns cost Pakistan Rs1.3 billion in direct loss

■ APP PESHAWAR

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 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 PIDE's research infographic titled "The Economic Cost of Internet Closure" and highlights the severe consequences of internet shutdowns on the Pakistani economy, said an official of the PIDE 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 infrastructure lags behind in terms of both quality and coverage.

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 PKR 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 PKR 135 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 PKR 390 million, impacting livelihoods of many and the national economy as a whole too.

Besides, suspension of 3G/4G services for a single day causes a loss of PKR 450 million to the telecommunication sector alone. Dr. Nadeem ul Haque, PIDE's Vice Chancellor, 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.



shutdowns cost 1.3billion loss E research reveals internet

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

Pakistani economy. According to Dr Nadeem ul Haque, Vice Chanic Cost of Internet Closure" and es of internet shutdowns on the highlights the severe consequenction is part of PIDE's research the daily GDP average for the equates to a staggering 0.57% of es for just 24 hours results in a diemerged regarding the economic conducted by the Pakistan Instiinfographic titled "The Economnation. This eye-opening revelarect loss of PKR 1.3 billion, which that the closure of internet servic-Pakistan. PIDE estimates show impact of internet shutdowns in (PIDE), startling revelations have tute of Development Economics

of modern transportation, saw a PIDE Infographic shows that onservices have all been severely line Cab Services, a cornerstone ruption of internet services. The affected by the prolonged distransport companies, and postal delivery services, Online cab services, online food parts of Pakistan has had a prorecent internet closure in various of both quality and coverage. The frastructure lags behind in terms Research Fellow at PIDE, the inand Mr Mohammad Shaaf Najib, Development Economics (PIDE), losses and operational challenges. leading to substantial financial found impact on multiple sectors, However, Pakistan's internet internet has become a fundamenal necessity in modern times. treelancers,

cellor of the Pakistan Institute of staggering 97% reduction in the sion of 3G/4G services for a sinas a whole too. Besides, suspenmany and the national economy million, impacting livelihoods of sulted in over \$1.3 million loss of revenue, equaling PKR 390 stan-based freelance workers renumber of rides on days when the the brunt of internet disrupcontributes significantly to Pathe freelance community, which PKR 135 million. Meanwhile, number of orders, translating suffered a 75% reduction in the to a loss of PKR 29 to 32 million This significant downturn equates internet has been closed down. tions. Denial of orders to Pakikistan's economy, has also felt into a substantial daily loss of ly, Online Food Delivery Services for the industry per day. Similar-

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

national level. PIDE has been is committed to fostering a digital revenue. The Internet is a critical ate nationwide internet coverage. consistent advocate for "Internet landscape that not only empowers sential economic activities. PIDE for arbitrary reasons, disrupt esnet shutdowns in Pakistan, often is disheartening to note that interactions and business operations. It tool for facilitating economic transsolely as a means of generating sal internet coverage rather than be geared towards ensuring univercountry. Spectrum auctions should expand internet access across the telecommunication companies should be introduced to encourage Additionally, regulatory measures ernment must prioritize immedifor All" and believes that the gov-



October 06, 2023

PIDE study reveals internet shutdowns cost Rs 1.3b in direct loss

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

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 Rs 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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Besides, suspension of 3G/4G services for a single day causes a loss of Rs 450 million to the telecommunication sector alone. Dr. Nadeem ul Haque, PIDE's Vice Chancellor, 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. APP

PIDE study reveals internet shutdown's cost Pakistan Rs1.3billion in direct loss

TIMES REPORT

Pakistan Institute tions have emerged regardhours results in a direct transportation, saw a stag- nication sector alone. loss of PKR 1.3 billion, gering 97% reduction in the which equates to a stagger- number of rides on days PIDE's Vice Chancellor, said ing 0.57% of the daily GDP when the internet has been in the press release that average for the nation.

tion is part of PIDE's loss of PKR 29 to 32 million opportunities research infographic titled for the industry per day, youth, "The Economic Cost of Similarly, Online Food remote areas but also plays Internet Closure" and high- Delivery Services suffered a a pivotal role in bridging lights the severe conse- 75% reduction in the num- the divide between the quences of internet shut- ber of orders, translating privileged and the common downs on the Pakistani into a substantial daily loss public. Utilizing online economy, said in a press of release issued here on Meanwhile, the freelance fessional purposes can Sunday.

of the Pakistan Institute of also felt the brunt of inter-level.

Development Economics net disruptions, (PIDE), and Mr Mohammad PKR 135

Denial of orders to PESHAWAR: In a recent Shaaf Najib, Research Pakistan-based freelance study conducted by the Fellow at PIDE, the internet workers resulted in over has become a fundamental \$1.3 million loss of revenue. Development Economics necessity in modern times. equaling PKR 390 million, (PIDE), startling revela- However, Pakistan's inter- impacting livelihoods of net infrastructure lags many and the national ing the economic impact of behind in terms of both economy as a whole too. internet shutdowns in quality and coverage. The Besides, suspension of Pakistan. PIDE estimates PIDE Infographic shows 3G/4G services for a single show that the closure of that online Cab Services, a day causes a loss of PKR 450 internet services for just 24 cornerstone of modern million to the telecommu-

Dr. Nadeem ul Haque, closed down. This signifi- access to high-quality This eye-opening revela- cant downturn equates to a internet not only enhances particularly million, tools for education and procommunity, which con-empower youth from rural According to Dr Nadeem tributes significantly to regions to compete on a ul Haque, Vice Chancellor Pakistan's economy, has national and international



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

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD)

A study conducted by the Pakistan institute of D e v e I o p m e n t Economics (PIDE) revealed that the closure of internet services for 24 hours results in a direct lass 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-



net 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 PIDE Infographic showed that online cab services, a corner-stone of modern transportation, saw a 97% reduction in the number of rides on days when the internet has been closed down. This significant down-turn 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 135 million.

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



October 09, 2023

PIDE study reveals internet shutdowns cost Pakistan Rs1.3billion in direct loss

T M Report

PESHAWAR: 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 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 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 infrastructure lags behind in terms of both quality and coverage.

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Similarly, Online Food Delivery Services suffered a 75% reduction in the number of orders, translating into a substantial daily loss of PKR 135 million.

Dr Meanwhile, the freeice lance community, which he contributes significantly of 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 PKR 390 million, impacting livelihoods of many and the national economy as a whole too.

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

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.



October 06, 2023

'Pakistan to embark on transformative journey towards development'

Rasheed Khalid

Islamabad

development.

business environment and el- priate solutions. evate its global trade standing.

tainable reforms.

event revolved around criti- tomer think tank contributing in-ticipated in the event.

sights and ideas enriched by innovative strategies and approaches. The participants Dr Nadeem ul Haque, Vice emphasised that in today's Chancellor, Pakistan Institute world, having ideas means of Development Economics having access to funds, ex-(PIDE) has said that Pakistan tending to politics and goveris poised to embark on a nance. Financial resources transformative journey to- are vital for driving positive wards sustainable national change and addressing societal issues. Contrary to com-Dr Haque was addressing mon belief, smuggling is not here the opening of the Third the root cause of economic Think Tank Moot, hosted by challenges in many coun-PIDE. Dr Haque said that tries, import tariffs often recognising the urgency of have a more significant imcomprehensive reforms as the pact. Recognising this disbedrock of progress, Pakistan tinction empowers policyseeks to revitalise its eco- makers to focus on the real nomic outlook, enhance its issue and implement appro-

Representatives from nu-Dr Shujaat Farooq, Dean merous think tanks and uniof PIDE, provided back- versities in the federal capiground on, highlighted the tal, including SZABIST, role of Think Tank Moot as a Quaid-i-Azam University, unique platform for es- SDPI, Policy Research Institeemed partners and thought tute for Equitable Developleaders to collectively ad- ment, Institute of Policy dress transformative and sus- Studies, POP Council, Pakistan Science Foundation, Is-The discussions at the lamabad, IPRI, CDPI Cus-Data Platform cal reform areas, with each Institute and CRSS etc., par-



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.

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

The recent internet closure in various parts of Pakistan has had as a whole too. Besides, suspen-

a profound impact on multiple sion of 3G/4G services for a sinsectors, leading to substantial freelancers, transport companies, and postal services have all been be around 2.0% of the GDP. severely affected by the prolonged Closure of economic activity

gle day causes a loss of Rs 450 financial losses and operational million to the telecommunicachallenges. Online cab services, tion sector alone. Furthermore, online food delivery services, PIDE had earlier estimated the economic costs of protests to

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

online Cab Services, a cornerstone of modern transportation, saw a 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.

Meanwhile, the freelance community, which contributes significantly to Pakistan's economy, disruptions. Denial of orders to Pakistan-based freelance workers resulted in over \$1.3 million loss of revenue, equaling Rs 390 million, impacting livelihoods of many and the national economy

disruption of internet services. either through protests or due The PIDE Infographic shows that to closure of internet services contributes a significant loss to economic activity in the counstaggering 97 percent reduction try. PIDE has been a consistent in the number of rides on days 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 has also felt the brunt of internet 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, said the study.



October 06, 2023

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

startling revelations have emerged of Development Economics (PIDE), conducted by the Pakistan Institute of internet services for just 24 hours ing 0.57% of the daily GDP average billion, which equates to a staggerresults in a direct loss of PKR 1.3 PIDE estimates show that the closure regarding the economic impact of ISLAMABAD: In a recent study internet shutdowns in Pakistan.

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online Cab Services, a cornerstone of The PIDE Infographic shows that

Vice Chancellor of the Pakistan Insti- modern transportation, saw a stag The recent internet closure in gering 97% reduction in the number of rides on days when the internet has into a substantial daily loss of PKF Services suffered a 75% reduction to 32 million for the industry per day downturn equates to a loss of PKR 29 been closed down. This significant in the number of orders, translating Similarly, Online Food Delivery

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the indirect loss faced by businesses and economic a due to the loss of these activities is beyond this and unaccounted for. Details of these are shared ahead

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

of economic activity either through to be around 2.0% of the GDP. Closure protests or due to closure of internet mated the economic costs of protests Furthermore, PIDE had earlier esti-

> to economic activity in the country. services contributes a significant loss—to expand internet access across the

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

rural regions to compete on a national and international level

age telecommunication companies ures should be introduced to encourage. Additionally, regulatory measimmediate nationwide internet coverthat the government must prioritize cate for "Internet for All" and believes PIDE has been a consistent advo-

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

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

connected future for all challenges in Pakistan's internet infrapositively to Pakistan's economic growth. The research findings underers individuals but also contributes structure to ensure a prosperous and score the urgency of addressing the ligital landscape that not only empow PIDE is committed to fostering a

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ISTAN RS1.3B IN DIRECT LOSS: PID

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

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STAFF REPORT

opment Economics (PIDE) 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 PIDE'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 PIDE 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 135 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, 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.

Meanwhile, Vice Chancellor PIDE 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.