

Progress in Arts and Humanities and Socio-Economic Welfare of Nations

Tariq H. Malik

While science and engineering have dominated the preferences, policies, resources and practice for the welfares of communities worldwide, ignoring arts and humanities in the socio-economic welfare is a misplaced idea in human life. The ignorance in arts and humanities has a higher cost than benefits from exclusive development of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). Humanities and arts contribute to the people's welfare; yet, the economic performance-oriented ideas have overshadowed it, generating a dilemma for arts and humanities. This empirical analysis deflects the idea that humanities are irrelevant. Instead, it argues and shows that the nations that increase attention to arts and humanities allocate resources for the knowledge creation and dissemination and appraise the human welfare are better off in socio-economic performance. Based on the evidence from a cross-country panel design, this research shows strong support for the development of arts and humanities at the university level and national level to improve public health, prevent corruption and reduce environmental hazards. These high lights for practice implications have relevance across context and communities.