

The cost of COVID-19 school closures in Sri Lanka

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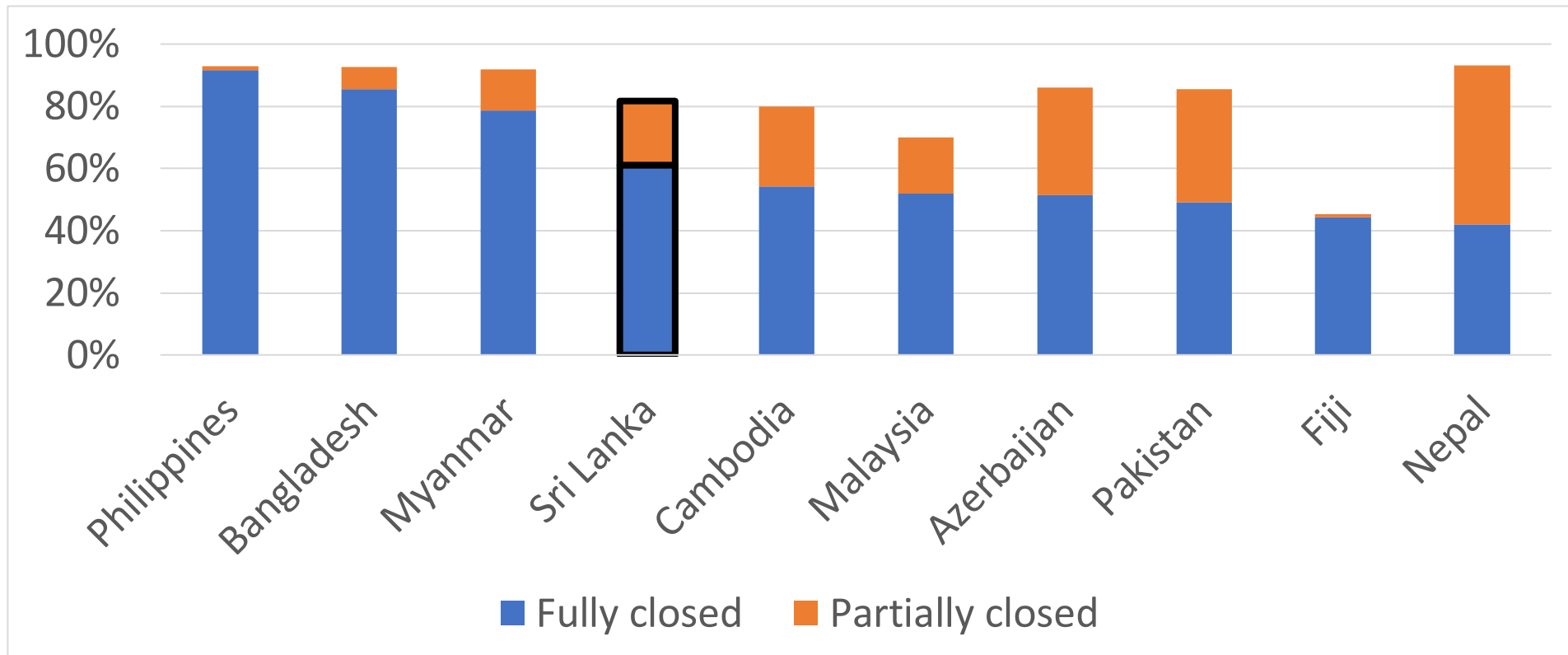
Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department

Asian Development Bank

10 June 2022

School closures in Sri Lanka are 4th longest in developing Asia

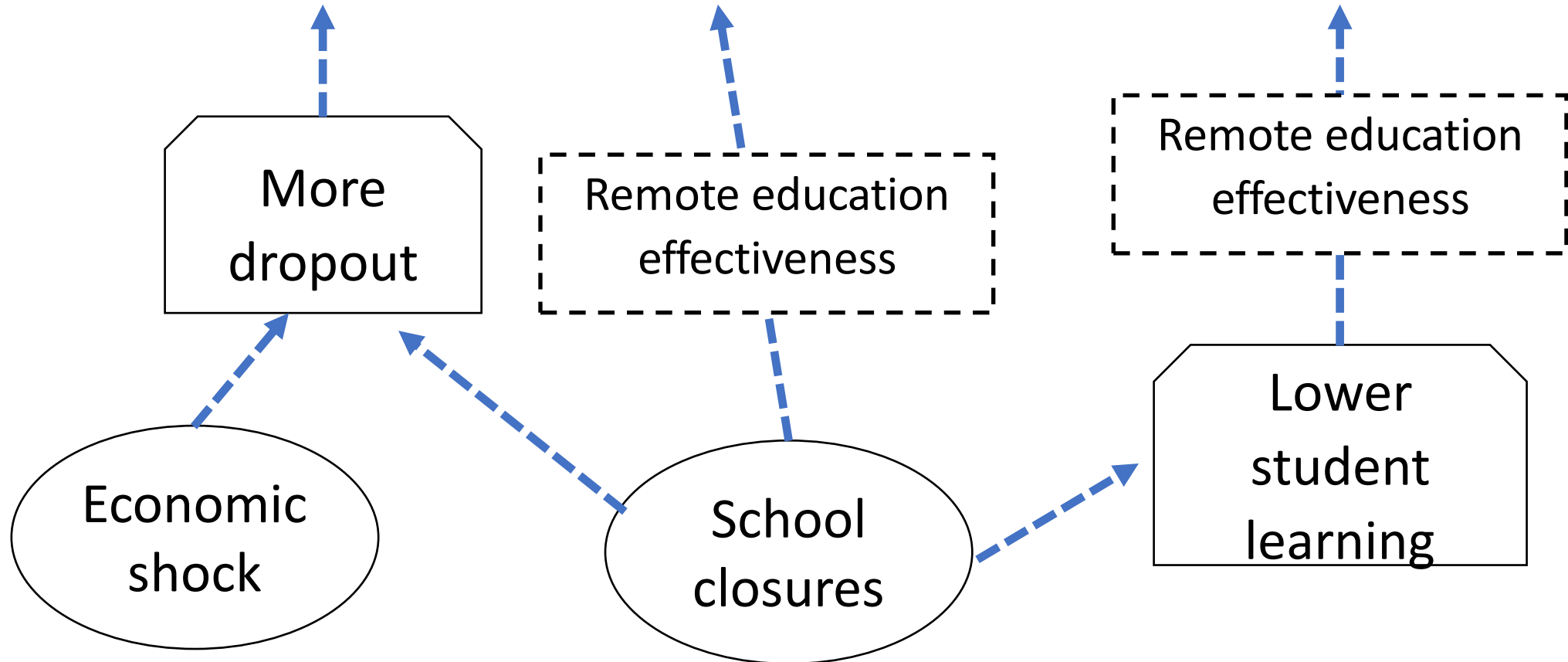
Share of instruction days closed, February 2020 - October 2021



Source: ADB staff estimates using data from UNESCO COVID-19 Response. <https://en.unesco.org/covid19/educationresponse>

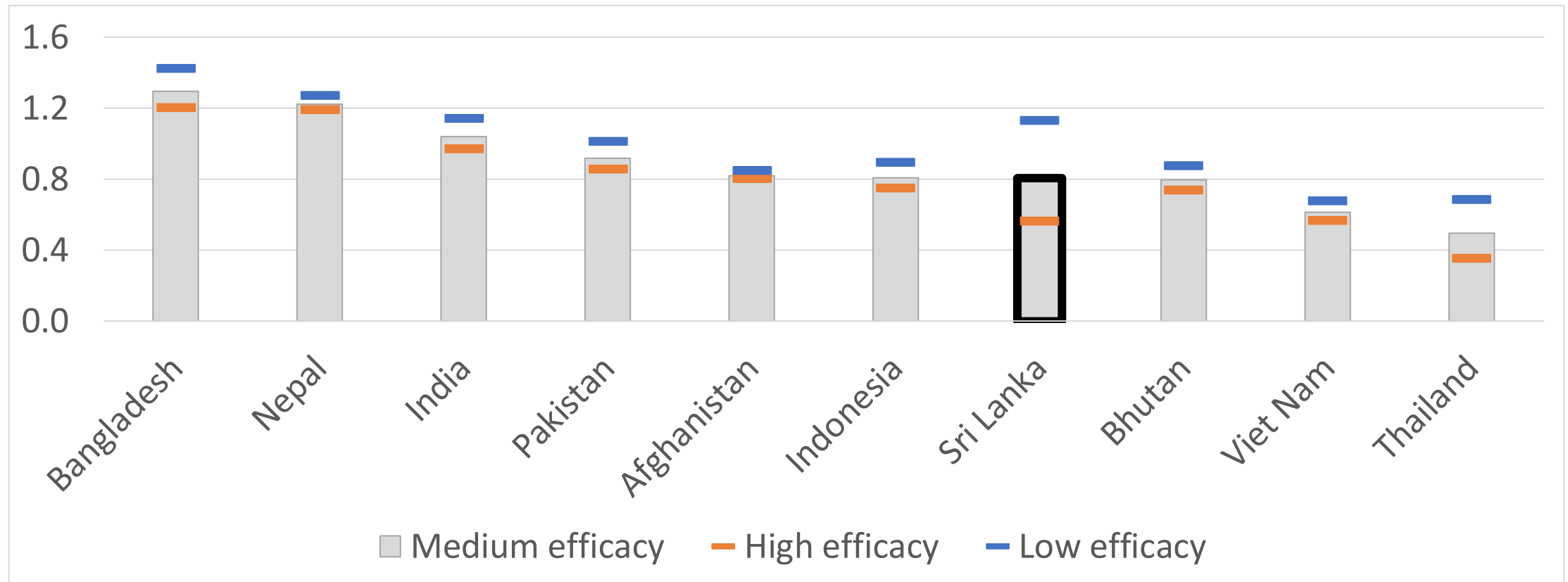
How school closures affect learning

$LAYS = \text{Expected years of schooling} \times \text{Harmonized test scores}$



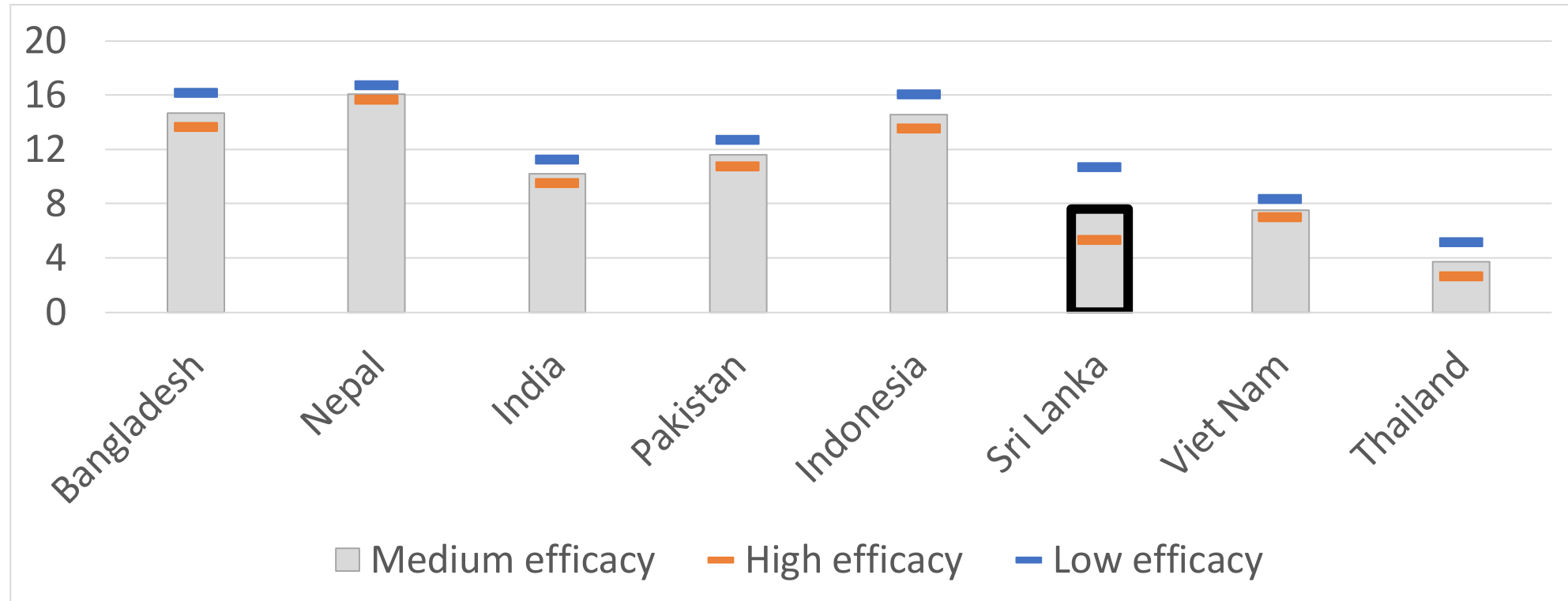
Effectiveness of remote education depends on **two independent factors**: Remote learning **efficacy** and remote learning **access**.

Learning losses are estimated to have reached 0.81 LAYS in Sri Lanka



Source: Asian Development Outlook 2022

Future earnings are projected be 7.6% lower

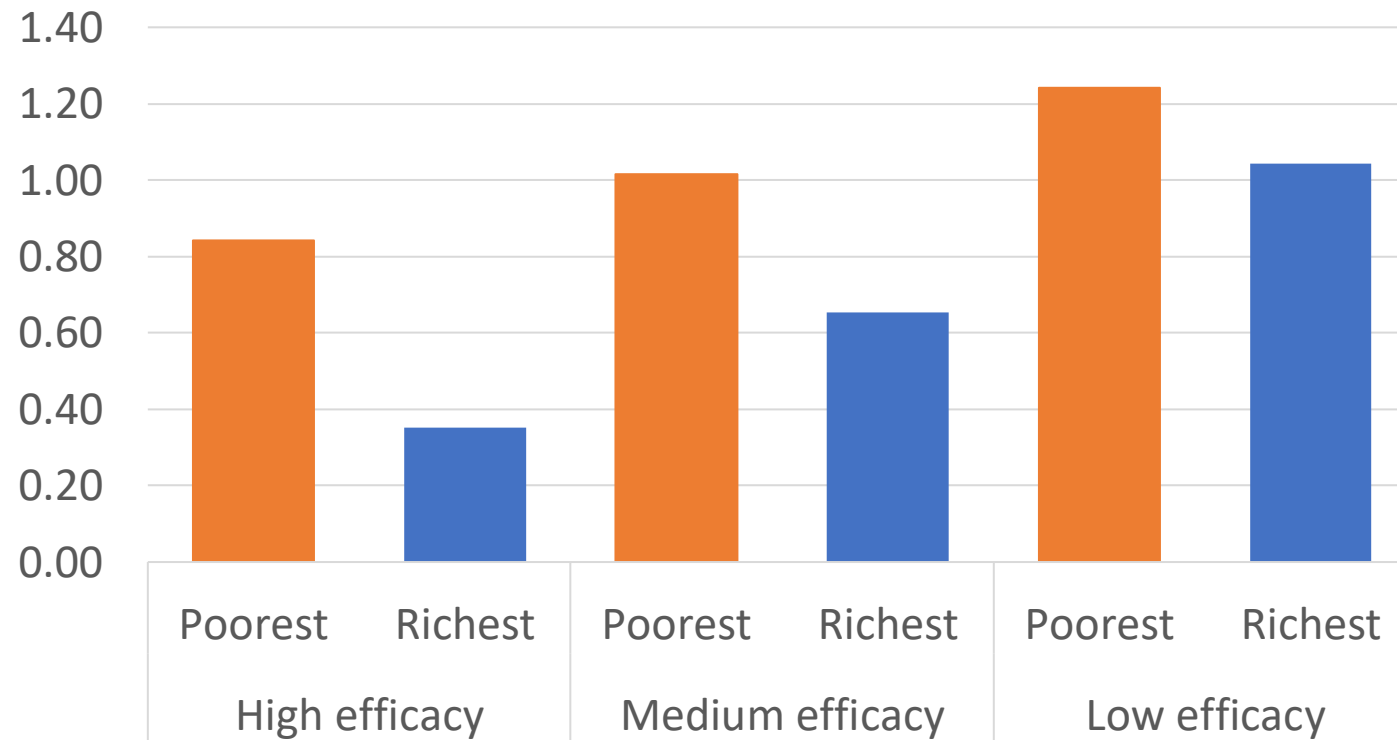


Source: Asian Development Outlook 2022

Poor students and girls suffered more than others

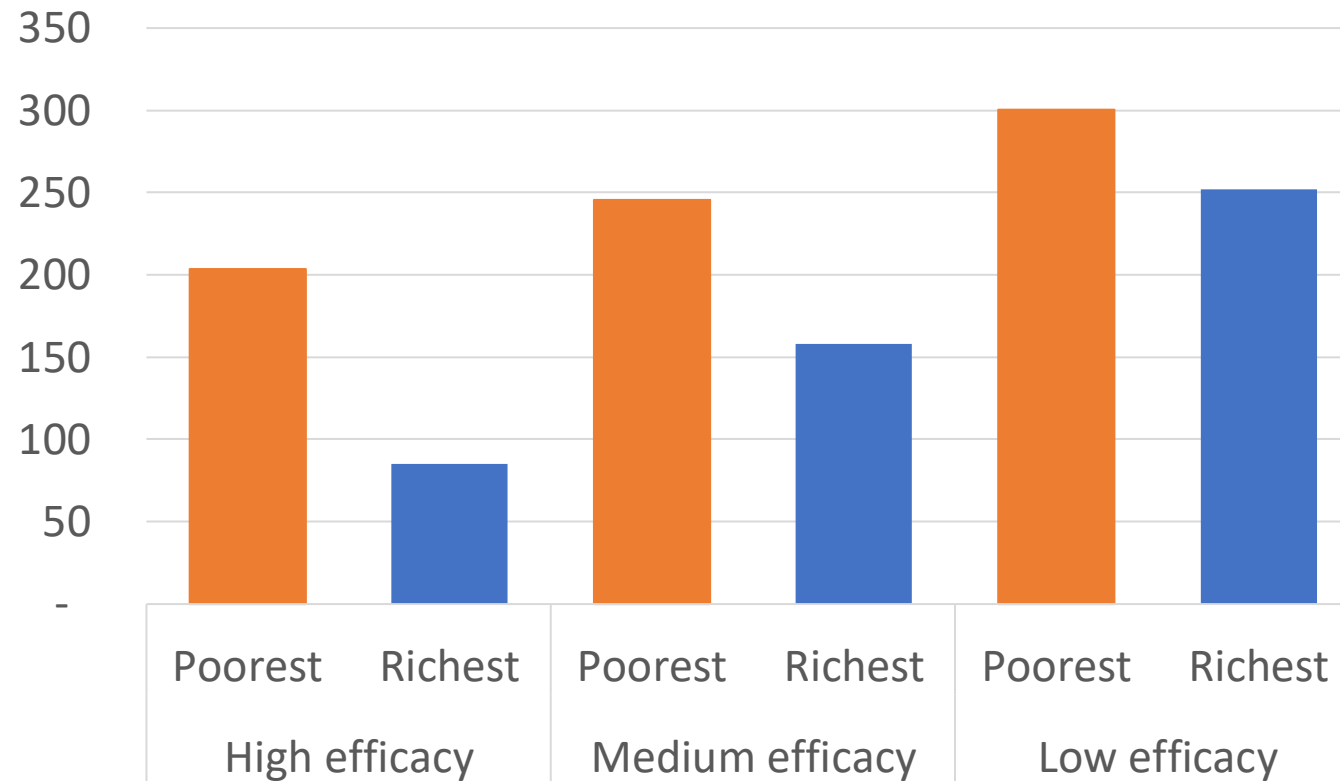
- Less access to remote education
- More likely to drop out because:
 - More sensitive to income shocks
 - Income shocks on poor families are bigger than those affecting richer students

Poorest quintile of students incurred 57% more learning loss than the richest quintile in Sri Lanka



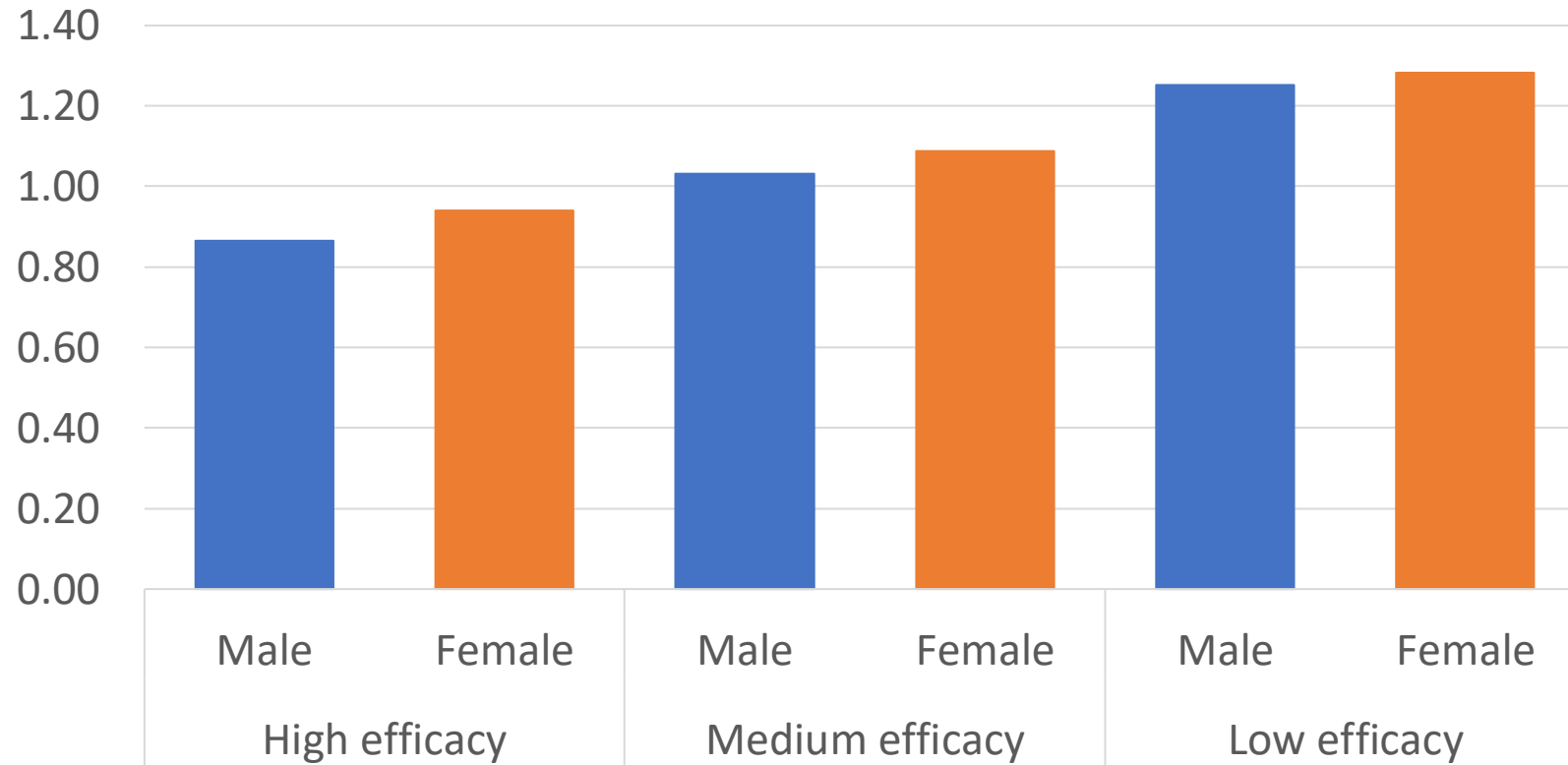
Source: Asian Development Outlook 2022

Expected losses in future earnings are 55% higher for the poorest than for the richest students



Source: Asian Development Outlook 2022

Girls incurred 6% more learning loss than boys in Sri Lanka



Source: Asian Development Outlook 2022

Learning losses can be recovered using strategies proven effective

