

THIRD ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

BY THE SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS & SOCIAL SCIENCES,
IBA KARACHI

CHALLENGING LINEARITY

16-18 NOVEMBER 2023

Book of Abstracts

.....



Editors

Junaid Alam Memon

Asma Hyder

Center for Business and Economic Research Institute of Business
Administration, Karachi

IBA Press

ISBN: Shall be issued for Final Proceedings

Website: www.cber.iba.edu.pk

Institute of Business Administration, Karachi

© The Editor(s) (if applicable) and The Author(s), July 2022

This book contains copyright material. IBA, CBER, the authors and the editors tried their best to provide true and accurate data and estimates at the date of publication. IBA or CBER may however acknowledge that errors or omissions may have been made and authors remain solely responsible for these.

Cover illustration: Marketing and Communication – IBA Karachi

Institute of Business Administration – Karachi is located at Address:
University Rd, University of Karachi, Karachi City, Sindh 75270

Acknowledgements

We extend our sincerest gratitude to the World Bank, UNICEF, Sindh HEC, GIZ, Avari Towers Karachi, PEPSICo., and Pakistan State Oil for their unwavering support, both financial and in various capacities, in making this event a resounding success. Your invaluable contributions have been pivotal in the success and impact of this conference. Your trust in the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) and the organizing team is truly appreciated. Your support has been a cornerstone in our endeavors to foster meaningful dialogues and effect positive change.

A heartfelt appreciation goes out to the tireless efforts of the CBER team whose dedication and hard work made this event a reality. Special recognition is due to the Social Media Team, Logistics Team, Communication Team, and the numerous volunteer students whose commitment and dedication were integral to the success of this conference.

We express our gratitude to the more than 200 scholars from across the globe who demonstrated their interest in the conference by submitting their abstracts. While we could only accommodate a fraction, we deeply appreciate their interest and involvement in the process. We take a pride in acknowledging our anonymous reviewers who spent hours in reading each submission multiple times when making their selection decision.

Our profound thanks are extended to our keynote speakers, special guests, panelists, and presenters who, amidst their busy schedules, deemed this event worthy of their in-person or virtual participation. Your insights and contributions were invaluable and enriched the conference.

Without the collective support, dedication, and trust of each of these contributors, this event would not have been possible. We are deeply grateful for your unwavering support and belief in our mission.

Warm regards

Core Committee

Dr. S Akbar Zaidi (Executive Director IBA)

Dr. Asma Hyder (Dean SESS)

Dr. Junaid Alam Memon (Director CBER)

Dr. Muhammad Nasir (Department of Economics)

Dr. Laila Sohail Farooqi (Department of Social Sciences and Liberal Arts)

Table of the Contents

Theme: 1 Competitiveness, Productivity and Growth	5
Expansionary Fiscal Contraction Hypothesis: An Evidence from Pakistan	6
An evaluation of comparative advantage of domestically produced edible oil crops: challenges & opportunities	7
The metamorphosis of the interrelationship between competitiveness, productivity, and growth within economic realm	9
Impact of Oil Price and Its Volatility on CPI of Pakistan: Bivariate EGARCH Model	10
Relationship between Human Capital and Urban Growth	11
Tourism for All: Assessing the Impact of Accessible Tourism on the Sustainability of Local Communities	12
State of Trade in Pakistan	14
Demand Analysis of Energy Mix in District Kotli Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan	15
Technological Adoption and Changing World of Work: Case Study of Services Sector Workforce in Pakistan	16
Digital Literacy and Inclusive Growth: Examining Digital Empowerment of Female Students in Lahore	17
The relationship between labor market institutions and innovation in 174 European regions over the period 2000–2015.	19
Resource Scarcity and Sustainability: Exploring the Water, Energy and Food Nexus	20
Theme 2 : Governance and Non-traditional Security Challenges	22
Understanding the Non-Traditional Security Dimensions: Cyber Threat Landscape in Pakistan	23
Accentuating the significance of perceptions and individual opinions about various environmental issues in Pakistan: The role of key stakeholders	24
Investigating the Global Impact of the Islamic State (IS) and the Rise of Non-State Actors in Modern Security	25
Parachuting in CNN’s Clarissa Ward in Myanmar and Afghanistan	26

Theme 3: Equalizing Opportunities	27
Analyzing Household Income Inequality: A Subgroup Decomposition of Generalized Entropy Measures	28
Constructing Quality-adjusted Human Capital and its Distribution Across Countries	29
Inequalities of Opportunities: Some Insights from Pakistan	31
Examining the Influence of Household Factors on Educational Achievement Inequality: An Analysis of ASER Data in Pakistan	32
Theme 4: Food-Water-Energy Nexus	33
Globalization, Climate Variability and Food Security in Pakistan: The Moderating Role of Population Density	34
Analysis of Sectoral Energy Demand in Pakistan	35
Food-Water-Energy Nexus in the Perspective of Green Revolution, Green Energy, Legal and Institutional Framework: A Killian Based Adjusted Bootstrap Approach	36
Does Green Energy Really Matter for Environment and Economic Sustainability? Validating the Long-Standing Existing Empirics on Pakistan Economy	37
Theme 5: Insights from Complex Economic Datasets	38
Measuring Sub-National GDP Disparities in Pakistan: A District-Level Analysis using Nighttime Lights Data	39
Kerala's International Tourism Demand: An Inquiry into The Validity of The Standard and Regular Determinants	40
Economic Policy Uncertainty and Stock Portfolio Optimization: Cross Country Wavelet-Based Approach	41
Leveraging Student-Generated Social Media Data for Higher Education Marketing in Pakistan: A Netnographic Approach to Enhance Student Engagement and Branding	43
Theme 6: Monetary Policy Effectiveness & Inflation	44
Inflation, Monetary Policy, and the Sacrifice Ratio	45
Computational Calculation of Sovereign Default Probabilities: Pakistan's Case	46
Financial integration and Exchange Market Pressure	47
Evaluating the Impact of Withdrawal of Telegraphic Transfer (TT) Charges Reimbursement on the Remittances from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)	48

Theme 7: Interdisciplinary Perspectives in Psychology	49
Why do inheritance reforms not increase women's access and control over land? Evidence from Punjab (Pakistan)	50
Gender Differences in Teacher Efficacy: The Mediating Effect of Using Affective Outcomes in Teaching	51
Parentification and Machiavellianism among young adults: Role of Gender in a Correlational Comparative Survey	52
Resilience, Mental Toughness and Mental Wellbeing in Police Officers	53
Evidence from Factor Analysis of Sarsani's (1999) Teachers' Creativity Promotion Scale at the university level	54
Exploration of Perceptions of Physicians Regarding Decision-Process Uncertainty in Obstetrics and Gynaecology	55
Choice of Contract and Repayment Rates in Group Lending with Mutual Decision Making. A Microfinance Experiment from Pakistan	56
Relationship of Educational Stress and Self-Compassion with Psychological Problems in Adolescents	57
Theme 8: Questioning the Known in Political Science	59
Foreign Policy under Civilizational Populists in India, Pakistan and Turkey	60
De-territorializing Linearity of Contemporary Globalization: A Decolonial Appraisal of Education in a Glocalised World	61
Rethinking Power Structures: Exploring the Influence of Economic Factors on Political Decision-Making	62
Political Party Negotiations with Non-Political Actors: A Case Study of Pakistan	64
Theme 9: Rethinking Media Communication and Culture	66
How Political Behavior is Influenced by Social Cleavage and Media Usage?	67
Social media, Cultural Heterogenization, and Consumer Behavior in Pakistan: A Study of Generation Z and Generation X	68
Representation of the Fall of Kabul 2021 in Pakistani and Afghan Media: Examining Counterterrorism, Elite Officials, and Local People's Perspectives.	69
Unraveling the Creative Disruption: COVID-19's Impact on Work in Pakistan	70
Theme 10: Doctoral Symposium	72
Fiscal policy, Monetary policy, and Inflation. Evidence from Asian Economies	73

Youth Inactivity and Its Impact on the Labour Market: A District-Level Analysis in Pakistan	74
Welfare Through Family Networks	75
Eco-innovation and sustainability in the chemical and pharmaceutical sectors of Pakistan	76
Neoliberalism and Higher Education: A Case Study from Pakistan	78
Climate Change and Inequality: Unraveling the Gendered Impacts of Natural Disasters in Sub-Saharan Africa	79
Policy discovery through a complexity lens: Case studies of economic reforms and policy practice in Malaysia and Pakistan	81
Do Dividends Signal Cash Flows Volatility or the Level of Cash Flows? An Evidence from Pakistan	82
Bottom-up energy models in Pakistan: an overview of off-grid models explained with the literature on Common Pool Resources	83

Concept of the Conference

Overarching Idea

As we live in an era where the knowledge landscape is rapidly changing and becoming more complex, answering age-old questions about our society, economy, and environment has become more challenging today than ever before. In the wake of this change and challenge, falling back on linear and myopic conclusions is sometimes all too irresistible. A fatigue of imagination that leads to easy answers seems to be prevalent within several disciplines and is sometimes driven by ideological biases. Resultantly, the progress in addressing economic disadvantage, social isolation, and discrimination, psychological distress remains suboptimal often because of linear conceptual frameworks which fail to recognize institutional biases, power imbalances, and historical legacies and their differential impact on individuals and communities.

Such realizations reinforce the need to re-examine what we perceive as self-evident, the-only-logical, and the-only-workable solutions. How can we register and process the most important social, technological, economic, institutional, and environmental questions of our time without succumbing too much to linear thinking? Instead of simplifying (and undermining) complexity, how do we equip ourselves to acknowledge, embrace and work with it? In what ways does linearity manifest itself in our lives and our world? Is there a substitute for linear thinking? What are the generative possibilities of non-linearity and what fears do they evoke?

This year's conference will acknowledge these challenges and shall strive to understand how these changes and challenges reflect in different disciplines of social sciences and deliberate on pertinent social sciences questions, particularly concerning the following themes.

Competitiveness, Productivity, and Growth

The linear conception of interdependent and dynamic processes that regulate the relationship between competitiveness, productivity, and economic growth sometimes results in situations like the "productivity paradox", "competitiveness trap", and the "race to the bottom". The policies that follow can backfire on economic growth due to declining wages, labor

exploitation, worsening working conditions, and declining aggregate domestic consumption. Papers invited under this theme of CBERCON2023 should appreciate the complex relationship between competitiveness, productivity, and economic growth and display how variables such as innovation and technology adoption, human capital development, and the regulatory environment mediate it.

Monetary Policy Effectiveness, and Inflation

The monetary policy and macroeconomic stabilization nexus involve complex and non-linear processes involving the responsiveness of consumers and businesses to changes in interest rates, the level of economic activity, and the structure of any economy. Papers invited under this theme of CBERCON2023 should appreciate the effectiveness of various monetary policy tools and transmission mechanisms in controlling inflation and promoting economic growth. Studies that help to understand the footprint of inflation on households, businesses, financial institutions, and distributional aspects of monetary policy are highly encouraged.

Insights from Complex Economic Datasets

Uncovering meaningful insights from large and complex economic datasets through machine learning and artificial intelligence is in itself a challenge to linearity. The use of big data presents both exciting opportunities and challenges for economists and social and data scientists to dare to study non-linear relationships that govern social and economic exchanges. For this theme of the CBERCON2023, we welcome the contributions that use big data to unearth complex and nuanced insights into social and economic phenomena and study, and among other areas, the relationship between important social and economic variables and social media and advertisement and consumer behaviors.

Equalizing Opportunities

Inequality is a paradox and has a very complex relationship to economic and social progress. While a kind of inequality that originates from the level of effort one puts into a productive activity may be good for the economic development of societies, another kind of inequality that originates from circumstances beyond one's control needs serious attention. The concept of equalizing opportunities refers to creating a level playing field for individuals,

regardless of their socio-economic background. Under this theme of CBERCON2023, we welcome contributions that unveil the complex structural factors that perpetuate inequality and help recognize, understand, and address them in our social and economic systems.

Interdisciplinary Perspectives in Psychology

Linear thinking in psychology results in oversimplification and decontextualization of complex socio-psychological phenomena by ignoring the interplay of biological, environmental, cultural, and social factors that shape human behavior. Without focusing on the connections between psychology and other disciplines, understanding human behavior and psychological phenomena would remain partial at its best. Under this theme of CBERCON2023, we invite contributions that go beyond interventions and research designs adapted from the Global North and engage in inter- and multidisciplinary dialogue in the fields of clinical, counseling, social, behavioral, health, community, environmental psychology, and localized psychometrics tests.

Questioning the Known in Political Science

The influence of domestic political actors on international processes, the formation of public opinion through media, interest groups, and national institutions, as well as the impact of transnational pressures on domestic policies, and the negotiation between political parties and non-political actors, are pressing questions of political science. As the political processes become more intertwined, the traditional boundaries between national, international, and transnational pressures, as well as social and economic processes, become blurred. Under this theme of CBERCON2023, we invite research papers that provide a re-evaluation of existing theoretical frameworks and models, and assumptions of linearity within various sub-fields of political sciences while exploring these complex dynamics.

Rethinking Media, Communication, and Culture

Complexity is nowhere more evident than in media and cultural production due to the diversity of perspectives, experiences, and contexts. Under this theme of CBERCON2023, we invite contributions that challenge Western linear thinking and philosophical impositions by exploring how media and social formations in the Global South can be understood through local

realities and norms. It should also examine divergences and contestations from dominant theories, methods, and epistemologies in media and culture studies. Additionally, contributions should explore the unique functions of media in shaping local and global realities, and the distinct characteristics of various media forms, and consider how aesthetics, production methods, and audience dynamics challenge prevailing media frameworks.

Governance and Non-traditional Security Challenges

Contemporary security challenges have become diverse, more complex, and nonlinear, encompassing diverse issues like climate change, environmental degradation, nuclear concerns, energy access, water resources, food security, cyberspace, economic interdependence, pandemics, and migration. These non-traditional security threats (NTST) involve various state and non-state actors, their communication and financing methods, their networks, resources, tools, strategies, and interests, and require alternative forms of governance. This sub-theme of CBERCON2023 invites contributions that explore the nature of non-traditional security threats, the involvement of states, institutions, networks, communities, and individuals in addressing these threats, their varied impacts on different demographic groups, and the utilization of technology to address NTSTs.

Food-Water-Energy Nexus

The interdependence of food, water, and energy resources is one of the major links through which human-environmental interaction takes shape at various levels. Human decisions related to any of these resources will intricately impact the other two in highly complex and multifaceted ways and, therefore, requires interdisciplinary perspectives from various fields. This sub-theme of CBERCON2023 invites contributions that innovate ways to make food affordable and accessible to all without incurring further environmental degradation; methods for sectoral energy and water demands through complex trade-offs, resource use efficiency, equity and productivity, and use of technology in managing this nexus according to the principles of sustainable development.

Theme: 1

Competitiveness, Productivity and Growth

Expansionary Fiscal Contraction Hypothesis: An Evidence from Pakistan

Aisha Irum, PhD Scholar

Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Islamabad

Researcher, NIPS

Email: aishairum_16@pide.edu.pk

Abstract

The fiscal sector in Pakistan has been facing multi-layered challenges over several years. One of the reasons is the stubborn and unproductive nature of its public expenditure, and the other one is the lower tax revenues. This issue of hovering fiscal deficit is mostly dealt with the tools of fiscal contraction/austerity which can have a potential impact on the private sector of the economy. Thus, the question which has been addressed in this study is whether the Expansionary Fiscal Contraction (EFC) hypothesis holds in case of Pakistan. Fiscal contraction episodes have been identified using growth in the growth rates of functional heads of public expenditure. A non-linear and non-parametric regression technique, Multivariate Adaptive Regression Splines (MARS) has been adopted for the analysis. The overall findings of the study contradict the EFC hypothesis. Furthermore, the study suggests that spending on education, health, and social protection are the major areas that influence private sector activity during the period of austerity. As far as the public policy perspective is concerned, the results suggest that in order to dampen the effects of austerity, the growth of spending in the social sectors must not be decreased.

Keywords: Fiscal contractions, Austerity, Private Investment, Private Credit, Private Consumption, Public Expenditure, Multivariate Adaptive Regression Splines

An evaluation of comparative advantage of domestically produced edible oil crops: challenges & opportunities

Farah Naz, PhD Scholar

Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Islamabad

Abedullah, Chief of Research

Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Islamabad

Email: farahnaz.19@pide.edu.pk

Abstract

Pakistan is spending US\$7.57 billion to import food items and contribution of edible oils is US\$3.06 billion which is equal to 40% of the food import. The present report aims to evaluate the economic viability of import substitution of edible oil in Pakistan, by focusing on canola and sunflower oil as alternatives to wheat production. The study compares the economics of competing crops and assesses the potential for reducing oil imports by reallocating land from wheat to canola or sunflower cultivation. It further evaluates the import substitution by comparing the price of 1kg of imported oil with domestically produced edible oil. Additionally, the research identifies the challenges and inefficiencies at different nodes of value chain of edible oils. The comparison of canola with wheat reveals that importing canola by exporting wheat is economically viable during the year 2021-22 but the situation reversed in 2022-23 when growing canola domestically become more feasible because the prices of canola oil increased more sharply than wheat. However, comparison of wheat with sunflower demonstrate that it is economically more beneficial for the country to grow sunflower domestically during both year 2021-22 and 2022-23 because sunflower production is found to have comparative advantage over wheat.

While exploring the import substitution of canola and sunflower with the domestic production, our results reveal that import substitution of both canola and sunflower is not economically viable during 2021-22 and 2022-23 because prices of imported canola and sunflower oil are significantly less than the prices of domestically produced these oils. However, the comparison of prices of canola and sunflower oil with palm oil widened the difference because prices of palm oil are less than the prices of canola and sunflower

oils in the international market. Firstly, through imposition of high import taxes on palm oil, canola and sunflower seeds and secondly by taking initiatives to enhance domestic yield of edible oil crops may help to boost import substitution. The feedback gathered from farmers and the oil industry through focused group discussions highlights the multiple constraints like least availability of high-quality seed and use of less efficient traditional technology in crushing and extraction of oil etc. Alongside, efforts have also been initiated by the Government to cultivate palm oil domestically which may help to reduce edible oil imports in future.

The metamorphosis of the interrelationship between competitiveness, productivity, and growth within economic realm

Rashid Ali Baloch, Associate Professor
Indus University

Email: rashidsharr@gmail.com

Abstract

This study investigates that the relationship between competitiveness, productivity and growth is not stable or predictable, it acknowledges that the associations and influence among these factors such as technological, industrial advancement, and policy changes. By studying the changing linearity, researchers aim to comprehend the metamorphosis of the interrelations among competitiveness, productivity, and growth within economic realm. This study examines the role of technological advancements, innovation, human capital development, and institutional reforms in shaping the country's growth trajectory.

The research employs a combination of quantitative analysis and econometric modeling to provide a deep understanding of the complexities involved. By drawing upon a multidisciplinary approach, this study bridges the gap between academic research, policy formulation, and practical implications, making it relevant for policymakers, and stakeholders involved in economic development, offering insights for harnessing competitiveness, driving productivity, achieving sustainable growth and by embracing innovation, investing in human capital, and implementing sound policy measures, we can navigate the changing linearity of economic dynamics and position as a competitive player.

Keywords: competitiveness; productivity; growth; institutional reforms; policymakers

Impact of Oil Price and Its Volatility on CPI of Pakistan: Bivariate EGARCH Model

Abida Naurin, Research Fellow

Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Islamabad

Email: abida@pide.org.pk

Abstract

Oil is becoming as an important determinant which affects the macroeconomic activities in unusual patterns among various parts of the world particularly since the first oil crisis in 1973. Petroleum products are recognized to be the essential source of energy and power throughout the world and gaining massive importance as a tool for survival and security of developed nations. The current research study targets to explore the impact of oil price and its volatility on CPI in case of Pakistan from the period 1980:M1 to 2018:M12. In this study we used the financial time series econometrics techniques; first applied the Box-Cox transformation on the data which suggested log transformation is required for all series. As data used will be monthly, Beaulieu and Miron (1992) seasonal unit root test is applied to test stationarity of the data. All variables hold unit root at zero frequency and become stationary at first difference. Further to confirm if co-integration relationship exists between the variables, we have estimated Engle and Granger (1987) two-step method. Finally Bivariate EGARCH model is applied to scrutinize the impact of oil price volatility on CPI. This model is estimated by using Maximum Likelihood Method proposed by Bollerslev and Wooldridge (1992). The results of Bivariate EGARCH model concluded that positive relationship between oil prices and CPI. We have also found the asymmetrical impact of news on the change in consumer price index. In case of Pakistan, it is positive and significant statistically, which suggests that positive news tends to intensify the CPI volatility more than the negative news.

Keywords: Oil prices, Volatility of oil prices, CPI, Box Cox Transformation, Co-integration, EGARCH Model, Pakistan.

Relationship between Human Capital and Urban Growth

Lucky Bizenjo, Executive Dean office
Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Karachi

Email: lbizenjo@iba.edu.pk

Abstract

This study has provided new insights into the relationship between urbanization and human capital, made its implications at the global income group level and national level. In first study, panel data of 87 countries used from 1991 to 2019. The results showed that education is found to be negatively and insignificantly associated with urbanization at the global level, but it is found to be positive (though insignificant) in low-income countries, and positive and significant in low-income countries and middle-income countries, and high-income countries. Our research suggests that as the income of a country increases, the contribution of education to the process of urbanization increases. Health is found to have a positive contribution to urbanization at all levels and its magnitude is quite high-income.

Tourism for All: Assessing the Impact of Accessible Tourism on the Sustainability of Local Communities

Hadiqa Riaz, Lecturer
Bahria University

Hassaan Ahmed, Assistant Professor
Salim Habib University

Email: hadigariaz.bukc@bahria.edu.pk

Abstract

Accessible tourism, a burgeoning field in the tourism industry, holds the key to unlocking a world of possibilities for both travelers and destinations. In Pakistan, widely recognized as a promising tourist destination, the significance of accessible tourism has come to the forefront. To enhance inclusivity and appeal to a diverse range of tourists, including those with specific access needs, this study aims to investigate how accessible tourism influences the sustainable development of local communities in the northern areas of Pakistan. The local communities in northern Pakistan heavily rely on tourism to fulfill their socio-economic needs. Hence, it is imperative to evaluate the potential transformative impact of accessible tourism on their sustainable development. This research builds upon the conceptual framework proposed by Domínguez Vila et al. (2015) and employs a self-administered survey conducted among 321 tourists and 321 local residents from five tourist destinations in northern Pakistan. The collected data underwent analysis using Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) to examine the proposed hypotheses. The results underscore the significance of all four dimensions of accessible tourism, which encompass accessible core resources and attractors, accessible supporting factors and resources, accessible qualifying and amplifying determinants, and destination planning and management, in fostering sustainable development within local communities. Notably, the findings highlight the positive moderating role of destination image, indicating that a favorable image of the destination enhances the impact of accessible tourism on sustainable community development. These insights offer valuable insights for destination planners and policymakers within the tourism industry. Specifically, they underscore the potential benefits of implementing accessible tourism practices as a

means to significantly contribute to the sustainable development of tourist destinations.

Keywords: Sustainable Community Development, Accessible Tourism

State of Trade in Pakistan

Muhammad Zeshan, Head of Research Group on Trade, Industry & Productivity
Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Islamabad

Email: zeshan@pide.org.pk

Abstract

We believe that high tariff rates have increased the overall cost of production in Pakistan, and the domestic prices of many products have become much higher than the international market prices. Reducing import tariffs will reduce not only the domestic prices but will also increase the export competitiveness of the country because many imported products are complementary intermediate inputs in various exporting industries. Further, it will allow the country to take advantage of the augmented technology in the new imported products, which will be helpful to add new products to its export portfolio. Hence, we eliminate the import tariffs of the 10 major import items of Pakistan such as cooking oil from Indonesia; textiles, chemicals, basic metals, machinery and electrical equipment from China; mining, coke and petroleum from the United Arab Emirates; and mining and chemicals from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Our CGE simulation results show that eliminating the import tariff reduces domestic production in most of these sectors. Among them, however, the mining, textile, and chemical industries still grow moderately. On the other hand, domestic production of all other sectors increases moderately indicating that access to more economic intermediate inputs allows these industries to contribute to economic growth, and the overall GDP increases by around 0.5% in the country.

Demand Analysis of Energy Mix in District Kotli Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan

Syed Kafait Hussain Naqvi, Lecturer
University of Kotli, Azad Kashmir

Email: kafait.phd236@iiu.edu.pk

Abstract

This study is an effort to empirically analyze the household's demand for energy mix (electricity, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), kerosene, and firewood) in the District Kotli, AJK. The study estimates the demand elasticities (price and expenditure) by employing the Linear Approximate Almost Ideal Demand System (LA-AIDS) to 384 households sampled across District Kotli, AJK in 2017. The empirical estimations are carried out by using the Seemingly Unrelated Regression (SUR), keeping intact the adding-up, homogeneity and symmetry restrictions. The empirical estimates show that demand for all selected components of energy is price inelastic. The cross-price elasticities substantiate that all of the four energy sources are substitutes to each other. Further, the own-price elasticity is inelastic for these energy components which shows that households in District Kotli, AJK are insensitive to changes in the price of these components. The study shows that estimated income elasticities of kerosene, and firewood are less than one ($\epsilon_i < 1$) illustrating that these energy sources are necessities for the households whereas, income elasticities of LPG and electricity are greater than one ($\epsilon_i > 1$) demonstrates that these sources are luxury for households in this region. The projected domestic demand for the energy mix shows that the domestic energy demand for electricity, kerosene, LPG, and firewood will further increase in the next 23 years from 2017 to 2040. Based on the findings, it is understandable that the energy demand linearly increases with the increase in population growth rates. The differences in the elasticities of each component of energy have significant policy implications for income and revenue generation in the district Kotli, AJK, and the whole country.

Technological Adoption and Changing World of Work: Case Study of Services Sector Workforce in Pakistan

Umer Khalid, Director Research
Policy Research Innovation Development and Education (PRIDE)

Email: umerkhalid@hotmail.com

Abstract

This study seeks to investigate the impact of technological adoption and the changing world of work on employment dynamics, job quality and wage structure in the context of a developing economy – Pakistan. The services sector has been emerging as the main engine of economic growth in recent years and is providing employment opportunities to the largest share of the country's growing labour force. The services sector has also witnessed the adoption of new technological platforms in recent years, which has altered the employment patterns and helped improve productivity in different sub-sectors. Presently, within the services sector, a large share of the labour force continues to be illiterate, and involved in low paid and low productivity jobs, which is likely to have serious implications for workers' welfare due to rapidly changing technological environment. The study makes use of nationally representative household survey data from the Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement (PSLM) Survey 2018-19, which for the first time includes an ICT indicators module that collects information on households' usage of and access to ICT infrastructure such as computers, mobile phones/ devices and internet. In addition, the study also carries out an econometric analysis of the relevant individual/ household socio-economic and demographic characteristics that are associated with the usage and adoption of ICT tools and devices, which has the potential of increasing the productivity of the employed labour force in this sector. The findings of the study offer useful policy advice to policy makers, for improving the productivity of the country's workforce and can serve as useful input in the development of different policies and strategies, especially the labour and sectoral growth policies of Pakistan.

Digital Literacy and Inclusive Growth: Examining Digital Empowerment of Female Students in Lahore

Hafsah Batool,
Lahore college for women university

Samia Nasreen,
Lahore college for women university

Attifa Arif, MS Student
Lahore college for women university

Email: batooleconomist@gmail.com

Abstract

Digital Literacy and Inclusive Growth: Examining Digital Empowerment of Female Students in Lahore This research study aims to investigate the role of socio-economic factors in the digital adoption of female university students in Lahore, considering the global impact of digitalization on the economy and employment generation. The primary objective is to explore the digital empowerment status of female students in Lahore and its implications for promoting inclusive growth and bridging the digital divide. The study will utilize a modified scale for the dependent variable, focusing on the dimensions of digital awareness, legal understanding, and economic aspects of digital empowerment. Digital technology has permeated various aspects of individuals' lives, communities, and societies, fundamentally transforming the way people communicate, learn, and work, particularly for the younger generation who grew up in the digital age. Gadgets like computers, mobile technology, and social media play a pivotal role in shaping their growth and development. To investigate digital empowerment, a quantitative research methodology employing simple random techniques and questionnaires will be constructed to gather data from 390 female students in both public and private universities in Lahore, Pakistan. The research will explore the impact of socio-economic factors such as income, education, place of residence, and cultural background on digital empowerment. Digital literacy skills, digital training, and internet skills will be considered as independent variables to understand their significance in promoting digital empowerment among female students. Additionally, the study will examine female students' access to the internet and their internet usage behavior. The findings of this research

will contribute to addressing the digital divide, which hampers equal participation within society. This research endeavors to pave the way for policy formulation aimed at empowering young female students with essential digital literacy skills that align with international standards.

The relationship between labor market institutions and innovation in 174 European regions over the period 2000–2015.

Gaetano Perone,
University of Pisa, Italy

Email: gaetano.perone@ec.unipi.it

Abstract

The main goal of this paper was to investigate the relationship between a set of labor market institutions (LMIs) and innovation (proxied by patent density) in 174 NUT-1 and NUT-2 European regions, over the period 2000-2015. Fixed effects with Driscoll and Kraay's (1998) standard errors (FE-DK), ordinary least squares (OLS), the generalized method of moments estimation of the fixed effects (FE-GMM), and a multilevel model (MLM) were employed. I considered the following LMIs: employment protection legislation (EPL), union density, wage bargaining coverage, wage bargaining centralization and coordination, and minimum wage. Patents were found to be negatively correlated with stricter EPL and higher trade union density. Wage bargaining coverage and centralization, on the other hand, were found to be positively correlated with patent density, implying that a uniform wage that is higher than the competitive wage can enable the Schumpeterian creative destruction process, forcing firms to invest in innovation to regain competitiveness and remain in the market. Interactions among LMIs were also significant, highlighting the complementary nature of labor market reforms. Increased bargaining power and coordination, in particular, may outweigh the negative consequences of isolated EPL reforms. As a result of the findings, policies that strengthen wage-setting institutions are required in Europe to boost regional innovation.

Keywords: patents; EPL; wage-setting institutions; GMM; multilevel model; Europe.

Resource Scarcity and Sustainability: Exploring the Water, Energy and Food Nexus

Madiha Hussaini, Lecturer
SZABIST University, Karachi

Riffat Mughal, Assistant Professor
SZABIST University, Karachi

Email: madihahussaini@szabist.pk

Abstract

There has been a very intricate and interrelated linkage between the three major resources that humans depend on; namely food, water and energy. These three resources are closely interconnected in terms of their usage and reliance on one another. These resources are majorly taken by our environment and surroundings, and their usage has increased with the ever-increasing population and urbanization worldwide, which has sadly resulted in their exploitation and degradation. Consequently, it also brings about climate change, which is one of the world's pressing problems today. Hence, it is critical to understand and explore the food-water-energy nexus with the lens of sustainable development goals to ensure these essential resources' availability to the masses without further environmental damage. For developing economies, hasty industrialization, rural-urban migration, dwindling political and economic conditions, uncertain environmental consequences, transboundary water struggles, and unstable policy-making has intensified the challenges, and hence the need, to explore the water energy food nexus. This paper focuses on understanding the significance, linkage, issues and prospects of food, water and energy nexus in the context of Pakistan. It aims to facilitate in exploring measures and developing policies that can be adopted to ensure these essential resources' management, usage and availability while meeting the sustainable development goals. The Pakistan's data used for GLS was from 1991 to 2020. The results showed that the availability of freshwater withdrawals in Pakistan for agriculture irrigation, population, and agricultural land has a positive and significant impact on the Food Production Index. Renewable energy and inflation do not have a significant impact. Pakistan's government should ensure water and land availability for agriculture so that food production can be increased and make the country self-sufficient in food production. Also, encourage exports

of food items, cash inflows from it would strengthen Pakistan's rupee and contribute towards sustainable growth.

Keywords: Food water and energy, resource scarcity, and sustainable growth in Pakistan.

Theme 2 : Governance and Non-traditional Security Challenges

Understanding the Non-Traditional Security Dimensions: Cyber Threat Landscape in Pakistan

Minhas Majeed Khan, Research Scholar
University Of Peshawar

Email: minhasmaj@uop.edu.pk

Abstract

Pakistan is confronted with various non-traditional security threats in the cyber domain, which have implications for its national security interests. This research aims to understand the cyber threat landscape in Pakistan by examining the actors, activities, and impacts of cyber-attacks on the country's security dimensions. It also explores the linkages between traditional and non-traditional security issues in the context of cyber threats and the challenges of hybrid warfare scenarios, where cyber-attacks are used along with traditional military tactics. The research analyzes the vulnerabilities and consequences of cyber-attacks on essential infrastructure sectors such as energy, telecommunications, and finance, which are vital for the country's stability and development. It also evaluates the economic, political, and social effects of cyber incidents on the country's governance and society. Moreover, the research assesses the current cyber security measures and frameworks in Pakistan and identifies the gaps and opportunities for improvement. It emphasizes the need for a holistic and collaborative approach involving government agencies, private sector entities, academia, and civil society to enhance cyber resilience. It also highlights the importance of international cooperation to address cross-border cyber threats and promote cyber norms. This research provides valuable insights into the non-traditional security dimensions of cyber threats in Pakistan and their policy implications. It offers strategic recommendations to improve cyber security measures that protect Pakistan's national interests in the digital age.

Keywords: Non-traditional Security, Cyber threats, Pakistan, Hybrid Warfare, National Security

Accentuating the significance of perceptions and individual opinions about various environmental issues in Pakistan: The role of key stakeholders

Dr. Muhammad Faisal Ali, Research Fellow
Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Islamabad

Dr. Sobia Rose, Research Fellow
Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Islamabad

Email: faisalali@pide.org.pk

Abstract

The overarching goal was to investigate individual perceptions and opinions about different environmental challenges including climate change. The responsibility and trust on key stakeholders, that are responsible to minimize the negative consequences of climate change, was also identified. For this purpose, data were collected by interviewing 605 students from different universities of Lahore, belonging to diverse educational backgrounds and geographic regions in Pakistan. The methods used were problem cataloging index and weighted average indices. The results designated pollution as the biggest environmental problem whereas the other key environmental issues indicated were climate change, waste disposal and management, and traffic/congestion. Environmental organizations and scientists were endorsed as the two most effective and reliable sources for climate information dissemination in the country. In order to handle the issue of climate change, government, environmental organizations and business and industry were assumed to be highly responsible, but the respondents' trust was least in Govt. and business and industry. Respondents also perceive climate change and indicate high concerns with rising temperatures and new patterns of rainfall with high intensity. Findings suggest that the inclusion of indigenous people's viewpoints and perceptions will lead to more representative decision-making about local and national adaptation initiatives that will further help policymakers collaborate with local residents more effectively to better deal with the climate change crisis and different environmental issues.

Investigating the Global Impact of the Islamic State (IS) and the Rise of Non-State Actors in Modern Security

Sohail Ahmad, Associate Professor
COMSATS University Islamabad

Maria Jawad Khan, Research Assistant
COMSATS University Islamabad

Email: sohail.ahmad@comsats.edu.pk

Abstract:

In today's world, non-state actors have become a potent force, reshaping global security in unprecedented ways. Among them, the Islamic State (IS) stands out as a formidable menace, casting a dark shadow of terror and challenging conventional security norms. This research paper delves into the profound impact of the Islamic State on global terrorism and security dynamics. By exploring the origins, ideology, organization, recruitment methods, and operational strategies of the Islamic State, this research unravels the intricate web that fuels its rise. Through a case study approach, the research sheds light on the global reach of the Islamic State, its vast networks, and the powerful motivations behind its actions. Examining the complex interplay between the Islamic State and various state and non-state actors engaged in counter-terrorism efforts, the research paper dissects the diverse strategies employed to confront this threat. Military interventions, intelligence cooperation, financial measures, and international collaborations all form part of the arsenal used to counter the Islamic State's influence. Furthermore, the research explores the broader implications of the Islamic State's activities beyond traditional security concerns. To investigate the impact on global governance, regional stability, and human security, while examining the responses of the international community, legal frameworks, and the challenges encountered in combating the extremist ideology propagated by the Islamic State.

Key words: Non-state actors, Islamic State, global security, terrorism

Parachuting in CNN's Clarissa Ward in Myanmar and Afghanistan

Syed Irfan Ashraf, Assistant Professor
University of Peshawar

Lisa Brooten, Associate Professor
Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. USA

Email: syedirfanashraf@gmail.com

Abstract

In April 2021, two months after the February 1st *coup d'état* in Myanmar, CNN's Chief International Correspondent Clarissa Ward was invited into the country from which foreign journalists had been banned. In August 2021, Ward also covered the U.S troops withdrawal from Afghanistan following Kabul's fall to the Taliban. The parachute journalist's two high-profile visits ignited both gratitude and controversy among activists and observers. Critics raised significant questions about CNN's frontline and on-the-ground coverage; its value in highlighting violence in these often ignored countries; its risks for local people and soldiers on the ground; and its centering of a white, western "star" journalist. Ward's reporting functioned in each case to sideline local journalists while giving a high-profile platform to Myanmar's military generals and Afghanistan's Taliban. Drawing from the growing body of critical literature on parachute journalism and employing framing and positioning theories, we provide a textual analysis of CNN's coverage of the militarized conflicts in Afghanistan and Myanmar. We focus on Ward's news reporting practices to explore how the coverages framing and positioning of these conflicts function to create for each a moral universe and its key players. We identify key issues in the political economy and practices of global reporting that both propel and constrain individual celebrity correspondents such as Ward, framing them as the primary source of authoritative information on the conflict being reported. We show how the representation of local people as simultaneously brave but also in need of a savior figure constructs a role embraced by Ward who by extension, represents the US. Yet the coverage lacks the kind of contextualization that might make clearer the neo-imperialistic nature of the historical forms of violence in these two countries, the ways US foreign policymakers are addressing each situation, and possible alternative strategies.

Theme 3: Equalizing Opportunities

Analyzing Household Income Inequality: A Subgroup Decomposition of Generalized Entropy Measures

Jazib Mumtaz, Economist
FPCCI Policy Research Unit

Sayed Irshad Hussain, Assistant Professor
SZABIST Karachi.

Email: jazibkhan222@gmail.com

Abstract

Analyzing Income disparities across populations has remained to be the foremost objective for policymakers. The extent of inequality can be measured for a certain group of households which provides information on the homogeneity of the various groups. Information derived through household analysis helps policymakers to design interventions. Inequality analysis over time over a different group of the population can also be carried out for a particular economy. Another aspect through which inequality can be assessed is the comparison of different dimensions such as health provisions, education, and cash transfers. Analysis of income sources and consumption categories also helps the government to focus on social welfare. This paper aims to analyze income inequality in Pakistan across two periods and indicate its main determinants. Microdata was obtained from Household Income Expenditure Survey HIES for the year 2001-02 and 2018-19. Generalized entropy measures have been used to decompose income inequality at the subgroup level. Six household characteristics are identified for analyzing their contribution to income inequality. The study proves that education level, nature of employment, asset ownership, and gender contribute significantly to income inequality. The study further indicates that changes in income distribution for the bottom of the population through paid employment, female income, and asset ownership could impact income inequality. The study's results can be used to assess policy impact on social welfare and help policymakers design targeted interventions, develop efficient taxation, and create a sustainable model for inclusive growth.

Keywords: Inequality, Households, Decomposition, Entropy Measure

Constructing Quality-adjusted Human Capital and its Distribution Across Countries

Bharat Diwakar, Assistant Professor
Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee

Kumari Neha Jha, Research Scholar
Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee

Email: d.bharat@hs.iitr.ac.in

Abstract

There is an extensive literature on education and its distribution within and across countries. However, the measurement of the latter does not incorporate the quality of education. This paper fills the gap by first calculating the quality-adjusted human capital and then using it to construct a measure of quality-adjusted human capital inequality. Our sample has 134 countries (encompassing both developed and developing) from 1970 to 2020, and all the variables are at 5-year interval. For the quality of education, we use several input and output side measures like research and development expenditure as a percentage of GDP, government expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP, gross enrolment ratio, repeaters in primary education, and pupil-teacher ratio, among others. These different quality indicators are then combined using principal component analysis. The quality and quantity of education, along with returns to education are used to construct a human capital stock following the Mincerian specification. The paper finds the following results: i. non-linear relationship between human capital and quantity of schooling, unlike Lim and Tang (2006), ii. relationship between dispersion and mean of quality-adjusted human capital is U-shaped with a minimum point reaching around 8 years of schooling, iii. however, using a relative measure of inequality, we find an inverted-U shaped relationship, i.e., as average quality-adjusted human capital increases, the inequality rises first and declines after reaching the maximum point, iv. we also show that quality-adjusted human capital Gini has an inverted-U-shaped relationship with both average years of schooling Gini and human capital Gini, which emphasizes the fact that it is critical to incorporate quality of education while analyzing education inequality.

Keywords: Human capital, Education Inequality, Gini coefficient, U-shaped returns, Decreasing returns

Inequalities of Opportunities: Some Insights from Pakistan

Zahid Pervaiz, Associate Professor

Department of Economics, National College of Business, Administration and Economics (NCBA&E), Lahore

Shahla Akram, Researcher

Department of Economics, National College of Business, Administration and Economics (NCBA&E), Lahore

Email: ecozaheed@yahoo.com

Abstract

This study aims to provide some important insights regarding inequality of opportunities in Pakistan. By using household level survey data, we have estimated inequality of opportunities in various socioeconomic outcomes. Our findings suggest that people belonging to different social strata do not have equal opportunities in different spheres of life. These insights are valuable for policymakers and stakeholders as they provide guidance for implementing targeted interventions that can bridge the identified gaps and promote a fair and inclusive society in Pakistan.

Examining the Influence of Household Factors on Educational Achievement Inequality: An Analysis of ASER Data in Pakistan

Gul Muhammad Rind, Lecturer
Sukkur IBA University

Email: gulrind@iba-suk.edu.pk

Abstract

Inequity in education is the worldwide accepted challenge that hinders achieving sustainable development goals. In Pakistan educational inequality is higher because of widening socioeconomic and family factors, and disparity in the types of schools. This study is aimed to respond to the research questions; what can be revealed about the contribution of family socio-economic condition and household characteristics toward the children's inequitable achievement in Pakistan? And what are the contributions of private schools and paid tuition in creating inequality in learning achievement? In this study, we have applied the concept of Equity in Education, particularly the impartiality approach, where children's disadvantaged conditions will be taken into account. In this instance, we have analyzed the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) Pakistan household-based survey data ($N= 247,978$) conducted in 2021, while applying descriptive and logistic regression analysis to measure how much family socio-economic factors contribute to the student's achievement inequality. Students' achievement in the local language, arithmetic, and English language kept a dependent variable meanwhile household factors remained a predictable variable. The results explain that family socio-economic factors including parents' education and income, household facilities, and school types have a significant influence on children learning achievement and contribute to inequality.

Keywords: educational achievement, inequality, equity in Education, ASER Pakistan, socioeconomic factors

Theme 4: Food-Water- Energy Nexus

Globalization, Climate Variability and Food Security in Pakistan: The Moderating Role of Population Density

Shazia Kousar, Assistant Professor
Lahore college for women university, Lahore

Muhammad Afzal, Professor of Economics
Lahore college for women university Lahore

Adeel Nasir, Associate Professor/Chairperson
Lahore college for women university Lahore

Email: shaziabilal2002@gmail.com

Abstract

The aim of this study is twofold; first, this study examined the impact of globalization and climate variability on food security. Second, this study examined the moderating role of population density on the relationship between globalization, climate variability and food security. This study utilized the data for food security from FAO, while the data for globalization utilised the KOF globalization index. Moreover, the data for climate variability population density, agriculture growth, economic growth, and inflation is used from World Development Indicators over the time period 2001 to 2019. This study used Two Layered Principal Component Analysis (TLPCA) to develop the Food Security index. This study employed multivariate GARCH (1, 1) to find the impact of globalization and climate variability on food security. The study found that globalization and climate variability adversely affect Pakistan's food security. Population density significantly moderates and enhances the impact of the globalization index and climate variability on food security. This study helps policymakers to develop policies regarding globalization and climate variability to ensure optimum food security.

Keywords: Globalization, Food Security, Climate Variability, Population Density, Agriculture Growth

Analysis of Sectoral Energy Demand in Pakistan

Raza Ali Khan, Chairman
NED University of Engineering and Technology

Mirza Faizan Ahmed, Assistant Professor
NED University of Engineering and Technology

Jaweriya Naz, Lecturer
NED University of Engineering and Technology

Email: jawerianaz5@gmail.com

Abstract

Purpose

The purpose of this research is to estimate the energy demand for different sectors including commercial, industrial, residential, transportation and agriculture. For this purpose, different factors affecting the demand for energy in each sector has been analyzed. Adopted methodology is box Jenkins which is a systematic approach of identification, estimation, diagnostic checks and forecasting of the model. This model is appropriate for time series data of medium to long term length. The outcomes from data analysis specified that energy demand in Pakistan is mainly depends on five types of fuel. Among each sector consumption of fuel varies. Results shows that 86% of enegy consumption share hold by transport oil, industrial gas, industrial coal, residential gas and residential electricity. The major issue in energy sector is demand supply gap which is primarily caused by gas and electricity deficit. Conclusively, sectoral demand increases in each sector where commercial, residential and industrial demand has higher growth. Moreover, price effect is negative for all variables except for coal which made it as Giffen good.

Key words: Box Jenkins methodology, Sectoral Demand, Energy sector, Demand-Supply gap

Food-Water-Energy Nexus in the Perspective of Green Revolution, Green Energy, Legal and Institutional Framework: A Killian Based Adjusted Bootstrap Approach

Zia Ur Rahman, Lecturer
Ghazi University, Dera Ghazi Khan

Email: zia4939@gmail.com

Abstract

Food and water energy is crucial for human well-being, sustainable development, and poverty reduction. The growing global demand driven by population growth, economic development, urbanization, changing diets, technological advancements, and climate change projections indicates a significant increase in the need for these resources. Understanding the intricate interdependencies between food, water, and energy is essential for effectively addressing these challenges and fostering a prosperous and sustainable future. Therefore, this study incorporated statistical data collected from the Pakistan Economic Survey and the World Governance Indicator from 1990 to 2022 to elucidate the complex connection between food, water, and energy. Modern econometric techniques such as the GKPSS, Bootstrap unit root, Gregory Hansen regime shift, Killian-based adjusted bootstrap, and frequency domain causality are applied to enlist and enlighten the complex relationship among food, water, and energy. Energy significantly bridges the energy gap and ensures food availability. While the blood of food, water plays a significant role in food availability and energy production. It is the key responsibility of institutions to facilitate their respective departments to ensure food security, uninterrupted energy supply, and water management to attain sustainable economic growth, zero hunger, and other SDGs by 2030.

Keywords: Green revolution, legal and institutional Framework, Bootstrap unit root, Gregory-Hansen regime shift and Killian based adjusted bootstrap.

Does Green Energy Really Matter for Environment and Economic Sustainability? Validating the Long-Standing Existing Empirics on Pakistan Economy

Syed Kafait Hussain Naqvi, PhD scholar
University of Kotli, Azad Kashmir

Email: kafait.phd236@iiu.edu.pk

Abstract

The current study tries to investigate Pakistan's long-run Environment and Growth Sustainability nexus. Green energy is used to signify environmental performance indicators and GDP growth rate along with other conventional growth factors; physical capital and human capital are used as potential economic sustainability indicators. To empirically achieve the objectives of the study, the Auto-Regressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) Bound testing method was employed from 1990 to 2022. To rationalize the findings of ARDL, restricted and unrestricted models are also estimated. The findings of the study disclose that the series under consideration are co-integrated which directs the existence of the long-run relationship. It is found that green energy enhances economic sustainability in the long run however it adversely impacts economic sustainability in the short run in the case of Pakistan's economy. The empirical outcomes of the study validate the widespread concern of the literature on the existence of the “growth hypothesis” which supports, that there is a systematic positive causation running from green energy to economic sustainability. The study findings suggest that regulations in the energy sector can encourage the applications of green energy resources, particularly in the real sector of the economy, leading to reduced emissions. It is important to adopt international standards for firms and industries and an international collaboration framework is required to ensure economic sustainability to prevent environmental degradation.

Theme 5: Insights from Complex Economic Datasets

Measuring Sub-National GDP Disparities in Pakistan: A District-Level Analysis using Nighttime Lights Data

Wajid Ali, PhD Scholar

Department of Economics, University of Perugia Italy

Email: wajidkhan2272@gmail.com

Abstract

Economic disparities at the sub-national level have been a persistent challenge in many developing countries, including Pakistan. The measurement of sub-national GDP is of utmost importance, particularly in developing countries, to monitor progress towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and assess persistent disparities across regions. However, obtaining accurate economic activity estimates at the sub-national level remains a challenge for countries like Pakistan, where inequalities and unbalanced development are prevalent. This study focuses on Pakistan as a case example and employs three distinct datasets, including nighttime lights data from the Suomi National Polar-orbiting Partnership Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (NPP-VIIRS), district-level information on prices and production of selected agricultural commodities, and population data from the LandScan Global Population project. By utilizing the enhanced light intensity (ELIM) model, which integrates multisource data, this research generates a time series estimate of district GDP for Pakistan, capturing the diverse economic activities across districts. The results reflect ground realities, highlighting the concentration of economic activities in Punjab and Sindh provinces, while also identifying Peshawar and Quetta as the only significant contributors to the national GDP from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces, respectively, among the top 30 districts. This analysis provides valuable insights for policymakers and development practitioners, aiding them in formulating targeted strategies to address economic disparities and promote balanced economic growth at the sub-national level.

Key Words: District GDP, Nighttime lights, Enhanced Light Intensity Model, district agriculture production.

Kerala's International Tourism Demand: An Inquiry into The Validity of The Standard and Regular Determinants

Muhammed Salim Anappattath, Assistant Professor of Economics
M.E.S Mampad College (Autonomous), Malappuram Dist. Kerala, India
Email: salimkodalipoyil@gmail.com

Abstract

International tourism demand is being shaped by several factors that could be termed as standard determinants and various factors could be regular other determinants. While income and price related variables are the standard economic determinants of tourism demand, climatic factors are the other regular variables influencing the tourist arrivals. The present study aims to identify the role of standard factors and other regular potential determinants in influencing the tourist arrivals in Indian state of Kerala. We used month-wise data of the foreign tourist arrivals in Kerala from January 2002 to December 2019 and applied auto-regressive distributed lagged (ARDL) approach, with the seasonality-adjusted data, for the same. The result was surprising as none of the four predictor variables such as income of the source markets, nominal exchange rates (\$/₹), rainfall in Kerala and tourism seasonality of the source markets was significantly related to the arrivals of tourists in Kerala in the long-run. However, nominal exchange rate has been vital in affecting Kerala's international tourism demand in the short run as more tourists arrive with Rupee depreciation. Other three potential factors were irrelevant in driving the tourist arrivals in the short-run either. At the same time, it was found that all the four predictor variables are related to the tourism demand of Kerala with expected sign. The study does not try to reject the role of these standard factors in shaping the tourism demand on broad basis as some destinations could stay different or data may not be sufficiently accurate.

Keywords: international tourism demand, standard determinants, income, nominal exchange rates, rainfall

Economic Policy Uncertainty and Stock Portfolio Optimization: Cross Country Wavelet-Based Approach

Sara Iqbal, Student

Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, Jamshoro

Waqar Ahmed Sethar, Assistant Professor

Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, Jamshoro

Suad Sindhiya, Student

Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, Jamshoro

Email: saraiqbalpanhwer@gmail.com

Abstract

The purpose of this research is to assess the impact of Economic Policy Uncertainty (EPU) on the Sectoral returns of China, Pakistan, the USA, the UK, and India. The panel data consisting of EPU, and sectoral returns of Stock Market data of sample countries is from 2012 to 2022. To achieve the research objectives, the wavelet coherence method is used. By applying wavelet coherence analysis to the time series data of economic policy uncertainty and sector returns, researchers can explore how the coherence or correlation between these variables changes over different periods and frequency components which helps in assessing short-, medium-and long-term shifts in the relationship between two variables.

The research discovers that the stock market's dependency on the EPU differs noticeably in both the time domain and the frequency domain, and their lead-leg relationship exhibits time-varying characteristics. Research indicates that domestic EPU's influence on sector returns endures at low frequencies and over the whole sample period whereas the combined effect of domestic and US EPU is the most persistent. Additionally, a high Sharpe ratio (low Value at risk VaR) in the presence of a considerable US EPU that switches between sectors is also observed. The portfolio optimization process proposes giving Chinese, Indian, and Pakistan industries more weighting while US EPU is rising. Finally, the VaR exercise yields the benefits of portfolio diversification.

The research tends to remove a sense of unease and apprehension among investors. It can lead to an increase in investor sentiment and a lower

aversion to risk-taking. As a result, investors may become less cautious and increase their exposure to sectors that are more sensitive to policy changes, leading to an increase in sector returns. The outcomes of the research will give a Policy framework for investors, government, and policymakers.

Keywords: EPU, Sector returns, Wavelet coherence, VaR, Sharpe ratio

Leveraging Student-Generated Social Media Data for Higher Education Marketing in Pakistan: A Netnographic Approach to Enhance Student Engagement and Branding

Hamza Rashid, PhD Scholar

Institute of Business Studies, Kohat University of Science & Technology.

Aamir Shahzad, PhD Scholar

Institute of Business Studies, Kohat University of Science & Technology.

Dr. Wisal Ahmad, Professor/ Head of Department (HOD)

Institute of Business Studies, Kohat University of Science & Technology.

Email: hamza_rashid6@yahoo.com

Abstract:

This conceptual paper delves into the dynamic realm of higher education marketing in Pakistan, focusing on the utilization of student-generated social media data as a strategic resource. In a digital age characterized by increased connectivity and user-generated content, higher education institutions (HEIs) seek innovative methods to enhance student engagement and bolster their brand image. This paper proposes a netnographic approach as a potent means to harness the wealth of insights embedded in online conversations, enabling HEIs to establish deeper connections with students and refine their marketing strategies. By immersing in the online discourse of students, HEIs can uncover authentic narratives, preferences, and experiences, thereby tailoring their marketing efforts to resonate with the evolving expectations of the student populace. This paper explores the theoretical underpinnings of netnography, elucidates its applicability in the context of higher education marketing, and outlines potential benefits, challenges, and ethical considerations. Through this conceptual exploration, the paper underscores the transformative potential of integrating netnography into the marketing endeavors of HEIs in Pakistan.

Theme 6: Monetary Policy Effectiveness & Inflation

Inflation, Monetary Policy, and the Sacrifice Ratio

Leef H. Dierks, Professor
Luebeck University of Applied Sciences

Email: leef.dierks@th-luebeck.de

Abstract

Motivated by the 2022 uptick in headline inflation and the marked shift towards globally more restrictive monetary policies, this paper examines the sacrifice ratio, i.e., the percentage cost of actual production lost to every one percentage point decrease in (trend) inflation, for selected Southeast Asian economies. Results indicate that upon adopting a contractive monetary policy, GDP growth dropped by up to 0.5 per cent, confirming that monetary authorities' disinflationary policies typically trigger declines in both output and employment. However, as even minor adjustments to the way of determining the sacrifice ratio lead to varying results, caution ought to be applied when deriving potential (monetary) policy recommendations.

Keywords: monetary policy, interest rates, inflation, sacrifice ratio, (trend) output.

Computational Calculation of Sovereign Default Probabilities: Pakistan's Case

Salman Zaffar, Assistant Professor
Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Karachi

Email: szaffar@iba.edu.pk

Abstract

This paper uses Black-Scholes-Merton model to quantitatively assess sovereign debt sustainability of Pakistan. Both the International Monetary Fund and Asian Development Bank have separately proposed applying Black-Scholes-Merton model to calculate the sovereign default risk. Historically, the Black-Scholes Merton Model have been used to analyse corporate default risk. Both the sovereign and corporate default risk calculation are based on contingent claims approach which calculates risk by reading the sovereign and corporate balance sheets, respectively. Thus, in light of the proposition by these two financial bodies this paper calculates the default probability of Pakistan in 2001-2022. As the efficacy, it is shown that calculated default probability follows the trend of credit riskiness suggested by Moody's credit ratings for the same period.

Keywords: Debt Sustainability Analysis, Credit Risk Analysis

Financial integration and Exchange Market Pressure

Kate Phylaktis, Professor
Bayes Business School, City University of London

Muhammad Aftab, Assistant Professor
Department of Management Sciences, COMSATS University Islamabad

Email: maftab55@gmail.com, maftab@comsats.edu.pk

Abstract

This study examines the role of financial integration on exchange market pressure (EMP) across a representative group of forty-two advanced and emerging markets over the period 2000-2019, which covers the global financial crisis, which has heightened monetary and economic policy uncertainty. We use a novel measure of financial integration, namely the uncovered equity return differential versus the US, which is based on the Uncovered Equity Parity and is available at a monthly frequency. Our analysis is based on panel cointegration and several robustness tests and it shows that indeed financial integration has a significant effect on the EMP of advanced markets as well as emerging markets. Our main results include: (i) There is a long-run relationship between financial integration and EMP; (ii) Financial integration reduces EMP in the case of emerging markets and increases EMP in the case of advanced markets reflecting the empirical results on the validity of Uncovered Equity Parity for the latter group of countries; (iii) The speed of adjustment to long-run equilibrium is very fast undermining the results of previous studies based on lower frequency data; (iv) The impact of financial integration is sustained when taking into account real integration, and economic policy uncertainties; (v) Financial integration continued to impact EMP even during the global financial crisis; and (vi) Financial integration has a decreasing impact on EMP across both emerging and advanced markets when the countries adopt a flexible exchange rate regime.

Keywords: Financial integration, Exchange market pressure, Policy uncertainty, flexible exchange rate regime

Evaluating the Impact of Withdrawal of Telegraphic Transfer (TT) Charges Reimbursement on the Remittances from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)

Muhammad Omer, Economist
State Bank of Pakistan (SBP)

Email: Muhammad.omer@sbp.org.pk

Abstract

This paper attempted to estimate the impact of withdrawal of TTC reimbursement on remittances inflowing from the KSA into Pakistan. For this purpose, we have used difference in difference (DID) technique on data from July 2018 to September 2022. Our estimates suggest that this policy led to a decline in the remittances inflows from KSA on average between US\$ 31 million to US\$ 76 million in each month. From policy perspective, Government of Pakistan needs to review this policy of reimbursement on remittances inflowing from KSA. Our results appears robust to various changes in estimation framework.

Key Words: Pakistan, Remittance inflow, Policy Impact, Covid-19, Panel data

Theme 7: Interdisciplinary Perspectives in Psychology

Why do inheritance reforms not increase women's access and control over land? Evidence from Punjab (Pakistan)

Hana Zahir, Assistant Professor
Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS)

Email: hanazahir@gmail.com

Abstract

Despite a spate of gender friendly inheritance reforms, there has not been a significant improvement in the inter-gender gap in land rights. Feminist theory proports that such reforms are ineffective due to micro and macro factors which reduce women's bargaining power within the household which conventional bargaining models do not account for due to the context-specific and qualitative nature of most of these factors. This paper outlines an expanded version of the household bargaining model which encapsulates the many layers of pre-existing social relationships and institutions which influence women's bargaining power specifically within the context of landed families. This framework is then used to analyze the case of women's land rights in Punjab (Pakistan) through a comparison of the three administrative regions of the province (North, South and Central) which have differing patterns of social relationships due to their specific historical experience with land rights. The findings indicate that access to land does not always equate control over land for women. The results also show that high literacy of individuals and households, creation of new political and economic networks and women's strong historical role within the household and family can improve women's bargaining power which ultimately translates into greater access and/or control of land rights.

Keywords: gender, bargaining, access, control, historical, institutional

Gender Differences in Teacher Efficacy: The Mediating Effect of Using Affective Outcomes in Teaching

Sadia Batool, Assistant Professor
Karakoram International University, Diamer Campus, Chilas

Tehseen Tahir, Assistant Professor
University of Haripur, KPK

Ms. Shomaila Habib, PhD Scholar/ Lecturer
COMSATS University Islamabad

Email: sadia.batool@kiu.edu.pk

Abstract

The primary objectives of this study were to investigate gender differences in teachers' efficacy and their utilization of affective outcomes in teaching. Additionally, the study aimed to explore whether the use of affective outcomes mediated the relationship between gender and teacher efficacy. The research involved a sample of 750 teachers from various educational levels in Pakistan. To assess teacher efficacy, the study employed the Teachers' Sense of Self-Efficacy Scale (TSES), which comprises three subscales developed by Megan Tschannen-Moran and Mary Anita Woolfolk Hoy. The Teachers' Use of Affective Outcomes Scale (TUAOS), based on Krathwohl's five categories of objectives in the affective domain, was utilized to measure teachers' use of affective outcomes in teaching.

Gender differences in teacher efficacy were examined using a series of independent sample t-tests. To explore the mediating effect of using affective outcomes, the study applied Model 4 of the PROCESS macro developed by Hayes (2013), employing three multiple mediation models to predict student engagement, instructional strategies, and classroom management. The findings of the study revealed that female teachers exhibited higher efficacy levels and made more extensive use of affective outcomes in their teaching compared to male teachers. Furthermore, all affective outcomes were found to mediate the relationship between gender and student engagement. Additionally, the receiving and responding outcomes acted as mediators between gender and both instructional strategies and classroom management.

Parentification and Machiavellianism among young adults: Role of Gender in a Correlational Comparative Survey

Komal Zehra, Student

Institute of Professional Psychology, Bahria University

Areeba Khawar, Student

Institute of Professional Psychology, Bahria University

Adina Ahmad Khan, Student

Institute of Professional Psychology, Bahria University

Sana Jawed, Student

Institute of Professional Psychology, Bahria University

Sara Shabbir, Lecturer

Institute of Professional Psychology, Bahria University

Email: areeba.khawar99@gmail.com

Abstract

This research aimed at establishing if parentification of children at a young age correlates with the development of Machiavellianism in Pakistani youth. Additionally, the study examined gender differences on the prevalence of Machiavellianism as a result of different types of parentification, i.e. emotional parentification, instrumental parentification and perceived unfairness. This study was based on a quantitative research design. A total of 400 participants (comprising 200 males and 200 females), aged 18-25 years were recruited through purposive convenient sampling from the metropolitan city of Pakistan, Karachi. For data collection two questionnaires, namely Filial Responsibility Scale–Adult (FRS-A), to measure parentification, and Machiavellianism subscale of Short Dark Triad scale (SD-3) was used. The results indicate that Parentification shows a significant weak positive correlation with Machiavellianism. Moreover, it indicated that men are more likely to be parentified and develop Machiavellian characteristics. This study expands the literature on this topic in Pakistan and provides valuable insight into the negative outcomes of parentification in the young generation in order to protect the future of the country.

Resilience, Mental Toughness and Mental Wellbeing in Police Officers

Zil e Huma, Student
University of Management and Technology Lahore

Shahnila Tariq, Associate Professor
University of Management and Technology Lahore

Email: shahnila.tariq@umt.edu.pk

Abstract

The aim of the present was to investigate the relationship between resilience, mental toughness and mental wellbeing in police officers. It was hypothesized that there will a positive relationship between resilience, mental toughness and mental wellbeing in police officers. Furthermore, that resilience and mental toughness will likely to predict mental wellbeing in police officers. A co-relational study analyzed a sample of 100 male police officers, between the ages range 23 – 50 years ($M=28.5$; $SD=8.4$) by using convenient sampling. The measures included Brief Resilience Scale (Wagnild & Young, 1993), Mental Toughness Scale (Sheard et al., 2009) and Mental Wellbeing Scale (Ryff, 1989; Ryff, & Keyes, 1995). The results of this research showed positive relationship between resilience, mental toughness and mental wellbeing and both the independent variables positively predicted mental wellbeing. The findings can be used for the counseling of the police officers at workplace.

Keywords: *Resilience, Mental Toughness, Mental Wellbeing.*

Evidence from Factor Analysis of Sarsani's (1999) Teachers' Creativity Promotion Scale at the university level

Muhammad Kamran, Assistant Professor

Department of Education, University of Loralai, Balochistan, Pakistan

Namood-e Sahar, Ph.D. Scholar

National Institute of Psychology, Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad, Pakistan

Karla Patricia Valdés-García, Research Professor

Universidad Autónoma de Coahuila, México, Facultad de Psicología

Sarfraz Aslam, Associate Professor

Faculty of Education and Humanities, UNITAR International University, Malaysia

Email: Muhammad.kamran@uoli.edu.pk

Abstract

Sarsani in India developed the Teachers' Creativity Promotion Scale (1999), which assessed the promotion of creative thinking among teachers. Since creativity is the need of every nation, the researchers wanted to provide psychometric evidence of the scale to Pakistani indigenous researchers. Thus, we took the said scale for revalidation in the Pakistani context by administering the scale on university teachers ($N=399$). The sample comprised of 236 male and 163 female university teachers around Pakistan with ages ranging from 20-50 years. The data collected was then analyzed for factor structure using Principal Component Analysis (PCA) by PROCESS. Construct validity was also established using Confirmatory Factor Analysis through AMOS software. The original instrument used for this research had five factors having 16 items, rated on a 5-point Likert Type Scale. The factor analysis of revalidated version demonstrates 16 items in a unifactorial model, explaining 32% of the variance. The scale was also found to be psychometrically valid and reliable. Thus, indigenous researchers in Pakistan could thus use the revalidated version of the Teachers' Creativity Promotion Scale (Sarsani, 1999) for their local indigenous research.

Exploration of Perceptions of Physicians Regarding Decision-Process Uncertainty in Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Sana Younas, Ph.D. Scholar

Department of Behavioral Sciences, School of Social Sciences and Humanities, National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) Islamabad, Pakistan

Saeeda Khanum, Assistant Professor

Department of Behavioral Sciences, School of Social Sciences and Humanities, National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) Islamabad, Pakistan

Email: sanayounasmphil@gmail.com

Abstract

The present study was conducted to explore the perceptions of professionals' decision-making in complex situations, particularly in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. The study recruited fourteen physicians of Obs and Gynae from teaching hospitals in Pakistan. Semi-structured interviews were taken after receiving the informed consent. Results were analyzed using Braun and Clark's thematic analysis. Three major themes emerged (i) challenges in decision-making (ii) support, and (iii) decision-making process. Participants reported that the surgical removal of uterus because of non-stop bleeding is an uncertain task. Time pressure is a constraint that is build-up pressure on physicians as they must respond to the emergency case within seconds. Hospital-related challenges include following the medical protocols and strict hospital rules and regulations. Physicians cannot perform any medical procedure if it violates the rules of hospital. Some physicians may consider abortion a legal practice in their private clinics but when they are in a hospital, they must follow the guidelines, norms, and values of their workplace. The other challenge is pressure from attendants of the patients. Pressure from attendants such as not giving consent for getting education on family planning, or in case of immediate cesarian for any emergency patient become hurdle in decision-making. Support is received from senior physicians and interdepartmental communication in learning and decision-making. Decision-making occurs at both individual and team levels. However, team support at intra and inter-departmental levels is a major contributory factor that leads to effective decision processes and patient outcomes.

Choice of Contract and Repayment Rates in Group Lending with Mutual Decision Making. A Microfinance Experiment from Pakistan

Shahid Razzaque

Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Islamabad

Email: razzaque.shahid@gmail.com

Abstract

This paper addresses the issue of choice of microfinance contracts on repayment behaviour of the subjects under group lending situation. The subjects after investing their loan decide the loan repayment and contract choice decision mutually. The experiment was conducted in a semi-rural town of Pakistan with potential microfinance borrowers in an Artefactual field experimental setting. Subjects were offered two contracts such as Profit Sharing-PS and Traditional Interest Bearing-IB. Behavior of the subjects was tested in two scenarios, one where groups were given the option to make a choice between the given two contracts mutually and in other situation they have no choice rather they have been allocated the contracts by the experimenter. In both cases, the loan repayment behaviour is dependent upon the joint decision of the group members. The results revealed a strong preference for PS contracts over IB contract, however this preference is not being translated into repayment rates. Surprisingly, gender remained rather an insignificant factor affecting the repayment behaviour. Finally, the religiosity of the subjects had a significant positive effect on the repayment behaviour of the subjects.

Keywords: Microfinance, Group Lending, Asymmetric Information, Artefactual Field Experiments, Interest, Profit Sharing.

Relationship of Educational Stress and Self-Compassion with Psychological Problems in Adolescents

Riffat Iqbal, M. Phil Scholar

Institute of Clinical Psychology, University of Karachi

Dr. Shafaq Ahmed

Institute of Clinical Psychology, University of Karachi

Email: riffat.psychology@gmail.com

Abstract

The present study investigated the predictive relationship of educational stress with psychological problems (anxiety and depression), the predictive relationship of self-compassion with psychological problems (anxiety and depression) and finally, the moderating role of self-compassion between educational stress and psychological problems (anxiety and depression). Hypotheses of the study were, i) Educational stress would predict psychological problems (anxiety and depression) in adolescents. ii) Self-compassion would predict psychological problems (anxiety and depression) in adolescents. iii) Self-compassion would moderate the relationship between educational stress and anxiety in adolescents. iv) Self-compassion would moderate the relationship between educational stress and depression in adolescents. The study was based on a cross-sectional survey design. The sample comprised of 150 middle adolescents, age ranging from 14-16 years, $M = 15.1$, $SD = 0.45$, boys ($n = 75$) and girls ($n = 75$) from English medium private schools of Karachi and purposive sampling technique was employed. Demographics form along with four self-reporting measures was used. Educational Stress Scale for Adolescents (Sun et al., 2011), Self-Compassion Scale (Neff, 2003), Centre for Epidemiological Studies-Depression (Radloff, 1977) and Generalized Anxiety Disorder 7-item scale (Spitzer et al., 2006) were used to measure variables. Linear regression analyses were performed to investigate the predictive relationship using SPSS V 26.0. Hayes PROCESS macro (2022) Model 1 (Version 4.1) analysis was utilized for moderation. The findings revealed that educational stress positively predicted psychological problems (anxiety and depression). Self-compassion negatively predicted psychological problems (anxiety and depression). No moderating effect of self-compassion on relationship of educational stress and anxiety was found. Similarly, no moderating effect of self-compassionate was witnessed on

relationship of educational stress and depression. The findings empirically established the fact that educational stress leads to psychological problems and self-compassion tends to lessen these.

Keywords: Educational stress, Self-compassion, Depression, Anxiety, Adolescents

Theme 8: Questioning the Known in Political Science

Foreign Policy under Civilizational Populists in India, Pakistan and Turkey

Fizza Batool, Assistant Professor
SZABIST University, Karachi

Email: fiza555@gmail.com

Abstract

Prior studies on civilizational populism have reported that populists use civilisationalism to create a rift in domestic politics – otherising all not confirming to their perceived civilizational identity. However, it is not clear how populists employ civilisationalism in their foreign policy. The current paper addresses this question through a comparative case study of President Erdoğan in Turkey, Prime Minister Modi in India, and former Prime Minister Imran Khan in Pakistan. It reports that foreign policy discourse by populists in these countries is linked with their desire to position themselves as a leader of a religious civilization, and not just a country. Hence, they actively participate in transnational setups where they are given central authority. The exclusion of other civilizations or what Huntington called the clash of civilizations, however, is not as explicit in the foreign policy decisions of populists as in their domestic politics.

Keywords: Populism, Civilizational Populism, India, Pakistan, Turkey, Imran Khan, Erdoğan, Modi

De-territorializing Linearity of Contemporary Globalization: A Decolonial Appraisal of Education in a Glocalized World

Dr. Muhammad Rasheed Arshad, Assistant Professor (Philosophy)
University of the Punjab, Lahore

Email: rasheedarshad.phil@pu.edu.pk

Abstract

The Enlightenment era's universalist approach downplayed the significance of pre-existing conditions, pre-enlightenment traditions, and individual idiosyncrasies as barriers to progress. To overcome these obstacles the institutionalization of modern discursive reason was introduced in educational systems. However, post-enlightenment discourse, including Gadamer's hermeneutical perspective, raised concerns about the ontological and epistemological legitimacy of universally valid reason and critiqued the linearity of the project of modernity. This paper focuses on the implications of universalizing forces (cosmopolitan liberalism, free-market capitalism, and technology) within the context of glocalization, a product of contemporary globalization, on the value and legitimacy of traditional knowledge in the global educational system. In section one, it contrasts Ayer's classification of responses from pre-modern systems (resistance, sequestration, and acceptance) towards modernity with the three tendencies observed in the Muslim world: Islamic modernists, fundamentalists, and traditionalists. Conclusively, it establishes traditionalists as the true decolonial effort to revitalize native precolonial knowledge system. In the second section, this article delves into the intricate interplay between globalization, education, and the evolving global market dynamics, presenting a comprehensive exploration of the process of de-territorialization and re-territorialization within the educational framework. The article underscores the pivotal role of teachers as catalysts for implementing transformative changes, emphasizing the symbiotic relationship involved in the assimilation of global concepts into local educational systems.

Rethinking Power Structures: Exploring the Influence of Economic Factors on Political Decision-Making

Iqra Jamil, Student
Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Karachi

Email: i.jamil.22608@khi.iba.edu.pk

Abstract

As the world has evolved, political power structures have become more agile and have since shed their rigidity. In this context, the power process of decision-making in politics has been affected by a multitude of factors including economic elements. This paper aims at examining the increasing power of economic factors on political dynamics and governmental decision making while recognizing the close interconnection of economics and politics. It seeks to shed light on the intricate dynamics that shape policy choices. By drawing a focus on the interplay between economic forces and political decision-making, this study strives to provide a comprehensive understanding of the complexities involved in governance.

This paper employs a multidisciplinary approach by drawing insights from political science and economics, as well as by utilizing historical shifts in power dynamics and by accentuating case studies where economic factors have transformed these structures. It explores how economic factors such as the distribution of wealth, income inequality, and corporate influences affect political decision-making processes. Furthermore, this paper also examines the impact of economic indicators, like the GDP growth rates, inflation rates, and unemployment levels, on policy formulation and implementation. In order to investigate these dynamics, the paper looks towards analyzing case studies from various countries and regions- in both democratic and non-democratic contexts. Moreover, it identifies the political mechanisms through the role of different agents, including governments, foreign actors, interest groups, and the civil society.

The goal of this research is to streamline the need to challenge the traditional understandings of politics as solely guided by ideological identities and institutional frameworks. It rather strives in highlighting the need to reevaluate these power structures by recognizing the external and internal

influences of economic decisions which can help policymakers make informed choices that address societal needs and promote equitable outcomes. Hence, this paper aims to contribute to the discourse on the interrelationship between economics and politics by advocating for a more holistic approach to governance that considers the complexities of power dynamics in contemporary societies.

Political Party Negotiations with Non-Political Actors: A Case Study of Pakistan

Kashfia Latafat, Researcher/ Teacher Trainer
Generation's School

Email ID: kashfialatafat@gmail.com

Abstract

This conference paper analyzes the intricate dynamics of negotiations between political parties and non-political actors in Pakistan. With a diverse array of interest groups, civil society organizations, and influential non-state entities, Pakistan's political landscape provides an intriguing context to explore how political parties engage with these powerful stakeholders outside traditional political arenas.

The study examines the motivations driving non-political actors to interact with political parties. From religious institutions and business conglomerates to civil society groups and advocacy organizations, various stakeholders seek to promote their interests, ideologies, and policy preferences by influencing political decision-making.

Employing in-depth interviews, archival data, and content analysis of media reports, the research reveals the strategies employed by political parties during negotiations with non-political actors. These strategies encompass conventional bargaining techniques, alliance-building, accommodating interests, and positioning for electoral gains. The paper highlights how political parties carefully assess potential benefits and risks associated with collaborating with non-political actors, considering both immediate objectives and long-term political viability.

The research also examines the challenges and ethical considerations arising from these interactions. Balancing the diverse demands of non-political actors while upholding democratic principles poses a delicate task for political parties, prompting discussions on accountability, transparency, and the legitimacy of such engagements.

In conclusion, this conference paper provides valuable insights into the complex interplay between political parties and non-political actors in

Pakistan. The findings contribute to a deeper understanding of how these negotiations influence the country's political processes and democratic development. Moreover, the implications extend beyond Pakistan's context, offering lessons and frameworks relevant to similar political environments where non-political actors exert substantial influence over governance and public policy. The study underscores the importance of fostering responsible and constructive engagements between political parties and non-political actors to strengthen democratic institutions and promote inclusive governance.

Key words: Political parties, Non-political actors, Negotiations

Theme 9: Rethinking Media Communication and Culture

How Political Behavior is Influenced by Social Cleavage and Media Usage?

Isma Anum, Lecturer

Department of Media and Communication Studies, National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad

Amna Zulfiqar, Assistant Professor

Department of Media and Communication Studies, National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad

Email: isma.anum@numl.edu.pk

Abstract

Growing opportunities for media choices open new forms of news exposure along political lines. Pakistan's media is considered as an invaluable tool in sparking political change, bridging social gaps, and forging common national identities. Recent technological advances have brought changes to citizen's media usage, therefore the political of behavior is changing in terms of voting decisions and party preferences. Due to these changes the decision making of citizens is influenced by the social cleavage of age, gender, and education. However, contrary to similar historical changes, these advances have widened rather than narrowed societal cleavages. The objective of the paper is to explore the influence of political behavior by social cleavage and media usage. This work explores that how political behavior of Pakistan's citizens has changed due to social cleavage and the recent advances in digital media access. The paper incorporated survey-based research with a sample of 200 university students and faculty members from National University of Modern Languages. It is concluded that social cleavage of gender, age and education helps in transforming the political behavior of the people. Also, frequent use of social media demonstrates a positive political participation and an accountable voting behavior, whereby males more actively participate in the political activities as compare to females. The paper has policy implications to a one-dimensional of the media approach for understanding citizenship and ignoring solutions to political problems. Focused and well-defined policies are required to include youth back to broadcasting media.

Social media, Cultural Heterogenization, and Consumer Behavior in Pakistan: A Study of Generation Z and Generation X

Ateeq Abdul Rauf, Assistant Professor
Information Technology University

Ruhma Anjum, Graduate Student
Information Technology University

Email: ruhmaanjum0916@gmail.com

Abstract

The culture of Pakistan is recognized for its diversity and richness, driven by its historical significance, religious backgrounds, and linguistic variations. But, with the rapid rise of social media and its influence on over 240 million Pakistanis, the country's culture faces unprecedented levels of influences from other dominant cultures. This study aims to explore the impact of social media on cultural perceptions and how it shapes consumer behavior in Pakistan. To investigate this shift, qualitative in-depth interviews were conducted with 30 informants from different generations, including 20 from Generation Z and 10 from Generation X. The findings suggest that the changing cultural perceptions of Generation Z, led by their regular consumption of social media, are influencing their consumer behavior by making them more omnivorous. This has resulted in a rise in omnivorous tastes, steering them to embrace diverse cultural elements such as clothing, food, and events from many different cultures. This phenomenon can be described as "foreignization of culture," as the new generation is indirectly exposed to dominant cultures through social media causing several cultural elements to be fused with elements from different cultures. The study discusses implications of these findings for industries, governments, and policymakers. Understanding the influence of social media on consumer behavior and cultural perceptions can help businesses develop their marketing strategies, product development, and advertising to meet the demands of the new generation. As Generation Z matures and enters the workforce with increased buying power, industries must adapt to cater to their evolving needs. For some sectors, this change may lead to market decline, while new industries may emerge to fill the gaps created by the integration of diverse cultures.

Representation of the Fall of Kabul 2021 in Pakistani and Afghan Media: Examining Counterterrorism, Elite Officials, and Local People's Perspectives.

Amir Hamza Marwan, Assistant Professor
Institute of Business Administration (IBA) Karachi

Email: ahmarwan@iba.edu.pk

Abstract

The fall of Kabul signified the termination of the democratically elected government in Afghanistan and reinstated the Taliban as the prevailing authority in the country. The ascension of the Taliban in Afghanistan holds significant importance considering the profound suffering experienced by both Afghanistan and Pakistan. This study looks at how well-known Pakistani and Afghan television channels, specifically Geo News, PTV News, and TOLO News, covered the fall of Kabul in 2021 for eight days. The study utilizes content analysis as a research methodology. The study's primary aim was to determine if the selected television channels offered their viewers coverage of the event from a counterterrorism perspective, besides knowing if they covered it through the lens of high-ranking officials or from the perspective of local residents. The results indicate that the three chosen television channels did not prioritize the counterterrorism perspective in their coverage. Additionally, it is noteworthy that Pakistani TV channels covered the event from the standpoint of elite officials. Conversely, TOLO News, an Afghan media outlet, provided coverage from the vantage point of local individuals. The extensive coverage of such events carries significant implications for a nation such as Pakistan, where a substantial number of individuals lost their lives, and the country incurred substantial economic losses amounting to billions of dollars in its efforts to combat terrorism. Furthermore, attaining public support is consistently pursued as a crucial component of a productive counterterrorism strategy aimed at eradicating militancy, extremism, and acts of violence. This research study is informed by the theory of "Priming."

Unraveling the Creative Disruption: COVID-19's Impact on Work in Pakistan

LalaRukh Ejaz, Director
Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Karachi

Arooj Waheed Dar, Lecturer
Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Karachi

Shagufta Shabbar, PhD Scholar
Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Karachi

Sara Nizamani, Research Fellow
Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Karachi

Junaid Alam Memon, Professor and Director
Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Karachi

Email: jamemon@iba.edu.pk

Abstract

Creative disruptions occupy an important place in the literature on social and technological change. Covid-19 has been one such disruption that sparked fascination with the rapid uptake of information and other work-related technologies, and introduced new trends like remote work, even in societies not initially ready to adopt these models. Many saw remote work as the new norm, believing that exposure to remote communication technologies would permanently change the world of work. We studied the COVID-19 induced changes in the World of Work in 2021 Pakistan, as represented in the selected nationwide English and Urdu newspapers, to gain insights into how the pandemic has affected work in this region. Following a more inductive approach, we adopted Content Configuration Analysis (CCA), a technique that occupies the midground between content analysis and thematic analysis, with the aim of describing the kind of messages about new forms of work and how they present as a burden or benefit for Pakistani workforce. Our results indicate that technological adoption is crucial, but not sufficient on its own to revolutionize the world of work. In the absence of other necessary conditions, the adoption may be temporary, and creative solutions may roll back, as people revert to their earlier ways due to high transition costs and lack of overall readiness in social and economic systems. After an initial surge, such

technologies may remain niche solutions and gain wider acceptance only by following their normal course. Our systematic analysis of the representation of work and its dimensions in the newspapers helps us propose a framework to study sudden technological disruptions that may or may not be creative in the context of developing countries such as Pakistan.

Theme 10: Doctoral Symposium

(Social Sciences)

Fiscal policy, Monetary policy, and Inflation. Evidence from Asian Economies

Shomaila Habib
COMSATS University, Islamabad

Email: shomailahabib@gmail.com

Abstract

Inflation refers to the overall and current increase in a country's price level. Countries often need to employ fiscal and monetary policy tools immediately to ensure sustainable economic growth and control the inflation rate. Maintaining price stability is a crucial objective for both fiscal and monetary policy. This research aims to investigate how inflation responds to fiscal and monetary policy tools in selected Asian countries (Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan) during the period from 2007 to 2021. The study also takes into account two significant historical economic events (COVID-19 and the financial crisis). The approach utilized in this study involves the application of Fully Modified Ordinary Least Squares (FMOLS) estimation along with co-integration tests. Data has been collected from the World Bank database, IMF Statistics, and the central banks of the selected countries. The findings of the research indicate that monetary policy proxies (such as lending rates, broad money, and money market rates) yield mixed results in the three countries, predominantly showing significant correlations with the inflation rate. On the other hand, fiscal deficit, used as a proxy for fiscal policy, is positively correlated with inflation in all three countries. The inclusion of other control variables, such as gross domestic product, trade openness, exchange rates, unemployment rates, and oil prices, significantly influences the inflation rate. In conclusion, the study suggests that there is a need for harmonization between monetary and fiscal policies to effectively control the inflation rate and promote economic growth.

Youth Inactivity and Its Impact on the Labour Market: A District-Level Analysis in Pakistan

Muhammad Shahid Waheed

PhD Scholar at IBA Karachi

Email: swaheed@iba.edu.pk

Abstract

The present study seeks to find out how gender, age, area of living, parent background in terms of educational level and occupation determine the probability of youth to be out of the labour market in different districts of Pakistan. We utilize data from the labour force survey 2021. The study investigates the relationship between the inactivity rate and the probability of being employed, revealing a significant negative association between them. The study calculates for each district a revised version of the Human Opportunity Index developed by the World Bank. Third, we compute the contribution of each factor to that index. The results show that dissimilarity has a marked influence in most of the districts, the highest dissimilarity is in district Panjgur, Lasbela, Sherani, Kachhi, Kharan, South Waziristan, and Buner, while the major challenges with getting the youth into the labour market are still in Balochistan and KP districts even after taking dissimilarity of unchangeable background into account.

Welfare Through Family Networks

Muhammad Muneeb Ahmed

National University of Science and Technology, Islamabad

Email: muneeb_formanite@hotmail.com

Abstract

The aim of this paper is to operationalize the debate on significance of family network as the most prevalent, impactful and readily available institution amongst social safety net, especially in traditional South Asian society. It is argued that the family networks act as bridges between vulnerable and invincible, thus paving the way for societal welfare through involuntary redistribution of resources. The study is based on empirical data from “Special Survey for Evaluating Socio-Economic Impact of Covid-19 on Wellbeing of People” published by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), Government of Pakistan. The data set consists of more than 5,500 households, providing details of more than 31,022 individuals from all provinces of Pakistan. Results show that institute of family networks are the most fundamental social protections amongst all available in social safety net – comprising a range of public and private Social Protection Programs. Family networks are, by far amongst the largest social protections readily available for vulnerable segments of the society, and casts substantial impact on their welfare by eradicating the poverty of networking family members. This paper is extracted from an ongoing research venture having its scope limited to Pakistan – a developing South Asian country. This paper presents initial findings which are based on descriptive statistics and require to be backed by sophisticated econometric techniques. The initial finding can be generalized to other developing South Asian countries consisting on traditional societies and having similar demographic characteristics. The study enriches the body of empirical research on welfare and poverty eradication by operationalizing the debate on welfare through family networks.

Eco-innovation and sustainability in the chemical and pharmaceutical sectors of Pakistan

Ghazala Akber Jamali
Zubair Ahmed Memon
Adeel Ahmed, Pooja Dinani
Satesh Kumar, Suresh Kumar
Bahadur Ali
Kanwal Asan Das
Sajjad Anwar

MUET, Jamshoro

Email: zahmed.uspcasw@faculty.mueta.edu.pk

Abstract

Policymakers require an extensive understanding of existing eco-innovation practices and activities used by the chemical and pharmaceutical industries in order to establish and build successful policies to foster eco-innovation in Pakistan's chemical and pharmaceutical sectors. In order to construct and build successful policies to stimulate eco-innovation in Pakistan's chemical and pharmaceutical industries, eco-innovation policies should be devised to encourage environmentally friendly practices and technology adoption while balancing economic concerns. This paper aims to capture and generalize the state of eco-innovation in Pakistan's chemical and pharmaceutical sectors in terms of process technology eco-innovation, product eco-innovation, and organizational eco-innovation, as well as investigate the role of eco-innovation drivers in encouraging chemical and pharmaceutical industries to be eco-innovative. Chemical and pharmaceutical companies in Pakistan have made tremendous progress towards cleaner processes and pollution control eco-innovation, with more than 60% embracing such practices. Green energy technology adoption, however, remains low, with only 18% of companies employing it. Product eco-innovation, on the other hand, has been extensively accepted, with over 50% of sectors responding favorably. Furthermore, eco-friendly options were identified and are also listed. According to data, most industries in Pakistan are unconcerned with environmental regulations; however, Pakistani enterprises are becoming more environmentally conscious and dedicated, yet more work is needed to fully convert to green energy technology. Furthermore, export-oriented

companies have formal environmental management systems in place to fulfil client needs. Eco-innovation drivers have a significant role in increasing the possibility that more industries will eco-innovate. Local environmental rules and organizational initiatives are critical to supporting eco-innovation. Policymakers must establish measures to stimulate collaboration with chemical and pharmaceutical companies in order to further enhance eco-innovation.

Keywords: Eco innovation, Eco innovation drivers, Eco innovation options, Chemical and Pharmaceutical industry

Neoliberalism and Higher Education: A Case Study from Pakistan

Tarique Memon
Miami University, USA

Email: memonta@miamioh.edu

Abstract

Education is a foundation for the building of any nation's infrastructure. It is the most effective tool for bringing about change (Khan, 2015). Pakistan's educational system is below standard (Amir, et al., 2020). In this nation, 58 percent of adults are literate (Ashraf and Ismat, 2016). The main objectives of the numerous educational programs were to address the country's core issues with access to education, gender equality, and infrastructure development but still, these issues need proper attention from the government of Pakistan. Since Pakistan is a poor country and very limited (around 2.0 %) of the annual budget is allocated for education. Pakistani education is also dependent on foreign aid and educational policies are made under the influence of globalization and neoliberal policies in recent years. Neoliberalism is a political viewpoint that is rooted in the principles of a free market, minimal government intervention in public institutions and services, meritocracy, and personal responsibility (Hastings, 2019). In education, the neoliberal version of globalization has a great influence on policies for evaluation, assessment, standards, teacher training, and curriculum (Burbules and Torres (2013). Higher education in Pakistan was taken/treated as a case to study/examine the issues of access, equity, and quality and the impact of neoliberalism. In this design, the researcher gathered data both in qualitative and quantitative forms from all the stakeholders (students, teachers, administrators, parents, and policymakers) that are key stakeholders of this study, and policy documents were also analyzed by using critical theory and social justice as a theoretical framework. Results/findings showed that neoliberal policies in education further entrenched existing inequalities, rather than questioning or dismantling them. These issues increased because of inauthentic teaching, assessment, and leadership. Further research on the Implications of school leaders and other factors related to these neoliberal policies will be useful in this regard.

Climate Change and Inequality: Unraveling the Gendered Impacts of Natural Disasters in Sub-Saharan Africa

Joseph Eshun
University of Hawaii at Manoa

Email: jeshun081@gmail.com

Abstract

In Africa, girls and women contribute a lot to the agricultural sector. For instance, in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) women contribute about 70-80 percent of food production to the household. Even though women tend to play significant roles in households in SSA, a huge fraction of women are engaged in the informal sector, work on small pieces of land or are engaged in care work which are mostly invisible and are unpaid. Women are mostly underrepresented in the labor market with relatively lower labor force participation rate than males. In this study, we show that the average labor force participation rate (LFPR) for the last two decades for male population is higher than the average LFPR for female with values of 72.75 and 58.65 respectively per the total non-institutional civilian working age-population. Moreover, there is a limited number of females with access to education in Sub-Saharan Africa. In the face of the prevailing gender inequality, the entire continent is affected by the frequent occurrence of natural disasters, with intensity of natural disasters varying across countries and regions. Climate Change-induced natural disasters exacerbate these pre-existing gender inequalities. In line with this, the study employed the fixed effects model (with Driscoll-Kraay standard errors) and the two-step system GMM technique for 48 SSA countries from 2000 to 2021 to explore the climate change gender inequality nexus. We find that high magnitude of natural disasters deteriorates the already existing gender gap and female reproduction (maternal mortality rate and adolescent birth rate). Moreover, an expansion in real per capita GDP is associated with a reduction in adolescent birth rate. Thus, African governments must invest a lot into Research and Development (R&D) on climate change and natural disasters to affect gender inequality.

Keywords: Climate Change, Gender Inequality, Natural Disasters, Economic Growth, Driscoll- Kraay

Challenging Linearity

16-18 November 2023

Policy discovery through a complexity lens: Case studies of economic reforms and policy practice in Malaysia and Pakistan

Ali Salman

Policy Research Institute of Market Economy, Islambad

Email: ali@primeinstitute.org

Abstract

This thesis develops and tests a framework for analysing policy development informed by the complexity theory. The framework is first developed through a review of secondary literature on the cross section of complexity and public policy and economic development. It is then tested through application to four case studies of economic reforms and policy practice in Malaysia and Pakistan. This thesis draws particularly on ideas from Room (2016), Ang (2016), Bailey et al. (2018) and Aligica et al. (2019) to build an understanding of policy change as a complex co-evolutionary process, involving interactions between state, market and civil society. The core research question is *how can complexity thinking contribute to better understanding of economic reforms and policy making, particularly with respect to policy eco-systems in Malaysia and Pakistan?* The empirical strategy employed can be described as a form of small 'n' theory-testing. The evidence for each case study (two in Pakistan and two in Malaysia) is drawn from mixed methods: grey literature; key informant interviews and (in two cases) the author's first-hand policy making experience as director of think tanks in each country. The first step in application of the policy discovery framework is to define the relevant policy eco-system and identify key policy actors within it. Primary and secondary data is then used to explore four parameters of the policy discovery process: actor agility and power, experimentation and learning, dynamic synergies, and feedback loops. The thesis interrogates the policy discovery framework through the four case studies, presents the main findings, and concludes with reflections on the theoretical and policy implications of the research, limitations of the policy discovery framework and scope for further research.

Do Dividends Signal Cash Flows Volatility or the Level of Cash Flows? An Evidence from Pakistan

Rushna Sajid

Institute of Business Administration, Karachi

Email: rushna.khalil@gmail.com

Abstract

This study aims at testing the dividend signaling hypothesis with respect to future cash flows and cash flows volatility. The interaction effect of firm size and economic instability on dividend signaling has also been determined in this study. A sample of 149 firms listed on Pakistan Stock Exchange was taken into account. For analysis purpose, system GMM (generalized methods of moments) method was employed in order to avoid the endogeneity and auto correlation problems. Future cash flows proxied as return on assets were revealed to have significantly positive effect on current dividend payouts proxied as annual dividend per share. While future cash flows volatility proxied as standard deviation of three years return on assets has a negative impact on dividend payouts. Interaction of firm size proxied as natural log of total assets with cash flows has a positive impact on dividend payouts. While interaction of firm size with cash flows volatility has a negative impact on dividend payouts. Economic instability proxied as variance in three years unemployment rate has a positive impact on dividend payouts while interacting with cash flows and cash flows volatility. This study contributes in the literature by testing the dividend signaling hypothesis in a developing country. The study has theoretical implications as it supports both the dividend signaling theory and the agency cost theory. Practically, this study would help the investors while forecasting the firms' future profitability through dividend payouts and similarly it would help the corporate managers in carving out the payout policy more diligently as they would know that their payout policy is a potential signal to the investors for their future profits. Moreover, the introduction of firm size as an interaction variable in the model is also novel in the context of a developing country. The most important contribution of the study is testing economic instability as an interaction variable with respect to dividend signaling for future profitability.

Bottom-up energy models in Pakistan: an overview of off-grid models explained with the literature on Common Pool Resources

Najam Memon

Leuphana Universität Lüneburg

Email: najamul.memon@leuphana.de

Abstract

With the Russian attack on Ukraine, the global energy markets have directly been affected and its shocks are being felt across the globe, resulting in rising energy prices, inflation, and uncertainty across economies globally. In the case of Pakistan, with its heavy reliance on imported fossil fuels for the energy needs, there seems to be no alternative but to meet the growing energy demand of the country relying on indigenous renewable energy resources. Various studies have already highlighted the potential of Pakistan for solar PV, wind, and hydropower projects. But in reality, not much has been tapped. To tap the clean energy resources in off-grid regions bottom-up energy models could be a nice opportunity. These models will not only involve communities but also improve the energy access in far flung areas where grid expansion might be expensive due to geographical terrain. This paper aims at exploring and understanding different bottom-up energy models (in selected regions) in Pakistan. Methodologically the paper builds on data collected via semi-structured interviews in the field and the desk research on the subject matter. From a theoretical point of view, this paper will test the “enabling conditions” for successful community management known from the literature on Common Pool Resources (CPRs) (Agrawal, 2001; Ostrom, 1990; for applications in the energy sector see e.g., Maier, 2007; Gollwitzer et al., 2018).

Keywords: Common Pool Resources, Community Energy Models, Off-grid Rural Electrification, Sustainability