

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
2ND ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

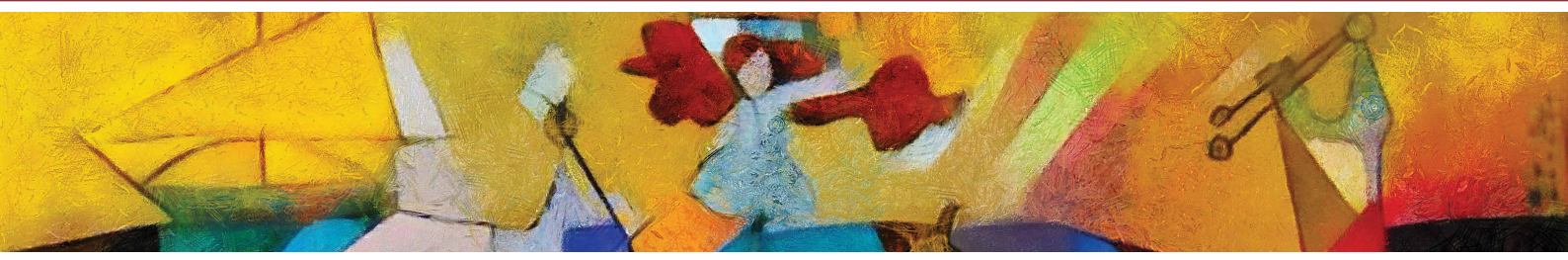
CONFERENCE

PROCEEDINGS

Development: Discourses and Critiques

MARCH 2022





Disclaimer

This document is a result of a conference conducted by School of Economics and Social Sciences IBA, the opinions expressed by the participants, and this publication does not constitute an endorsement by the IBA Karachi or its partners of the opinions so expressed in them.

Official Website of the Conference

<https://www.iba.edu.pk/ddc>

Title

Development: Discourses and Critiques

Edited by

Dr. Laila Farooq, Director CBER IBA
Sarah Nizamani, Research Fellow, CBER IBA

Organized by

Centre for Business and Economic Research
School of Economics and Social Sciences

Foreword

The Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER) at School of Economics and Social Sciences (SESS) IBA has organized the 2nd Annual conference on 25th-27th March 2022. The theme for this year invites works from a wide range of disciplines to critique, question and reconsider the experiences of transnational, national and sub-national actors with the development process. What does 'development' mean for different actors, and how has this narrative shifted over time? How does development define and redefine power relations and what implications does this have for different groups? How have colonial experiences shaped futures and how does one deconstruct ideas rooted in these experiences?

Our conference programme includes keynote speakers, technical research paper sessions and panel discussions on the actual effects of development in terms of human experiences. Student circles are led by student societies, who along with their faculty mentors have organized workshops on calligraphy, poetry, and wellbeing.

We are wary of hierarchies within academia and have taken several steps to be more inclusive. We have provided alternative programme formats and a discussion on inclusive development and disability rights. We have made efforts to make our programme as diverse as possible and encourage participation from minorities and underrepresented groups. We have a daycare facility and work with participants who require other facilities. We are also working towards creating a culture of sustainability and reduced waste.

At CBER, we support research that leads to an inclusive, open and critical dialogue. We welcome attendees from Pakistan and other countries to be a part of this much needed conversation. A lot more needs to be done, but we hope that every year we take one step forward to make academia more diverse, vibrant and self-aware.

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Conference Program

25th March – 27th March, 2022 – IBA Main Campus, Karachi

DAY 1 – FRIDAY, 25TH MARCH 2022

09:00 AM

Registration

Conference Welcome Note

Dr. S Akbar Zaidi

Conference Chair & Executive Director IBA Karachi

Dr Asma Hyder

Professor of Economics & Dean SESS IBA Karachi

Dr Laila Farooq

Director CBER IBA Karachi

Venue: G&T Auditorium

09:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Keynote Speaker I Seasonal Poverty and Seasonal Migration

Dr. Mushfiq Mobarak **

Professor of Economics – Yale University

Arooj Waheed Dar

IBA Karachi

Venue: G&T Auditorium

10:00 AM – 11:15 AM

Tea break and Campus Tour

Venue: Adamjee Foyer

11:15 AM – 12:00 PM

Panel I Institutions, Governance, and Inequalities

Panelists

Dr. Sultan Mehmood

Assistant Professor – New Economic School, Moscow

Dr. Abid Aman Burki

Senior Fellow, Mahbub ul Haq Research Centre,
Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS)

Dr. Hafeez Jamali

Senior Anthropologist and Civil Servant

Robina Ather

Chairperson – National Tariff Commission, Government of Pakistan

Dr. Asma Hyder

Professor of Economics & Dean SESS IBA Karachi

Venue: G&T Auditorium

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Lunch Break

Venue: Alumni Students' Center

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Parallel Technical Session* I

Session Titles

Food insecurity and poverty - 1A
Women Empowerment and Economic Opportunities - 1B
Public Policy and Economic Growth I - 1C
Firm Behavior and Competition - 1D
Development and Conflict - 1E
The Peasant Question in Pakistan - 1F

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

In Conversation with

Barbara Harriss-White**

Professor Emeritus of Development Studies;
Emeritus Fellow of Wolfson College - Oxford University

Agrarian Crisis and South Asian Political Economy

Dr Ahmad Azhar

IBA Karachi

Venue: G&T Auditorium

4:15 PM - 5:15 PM

Student Circle I***

Calligraphy with **Ustad M Kashif Khan** and **Seher Ali Shah**
Venue: MCS 3 Ground floor Aman Building

Student Circle 2***

Breath Bodies and Ecologies with **Rahma Mian**
Venue: Alumni Students' Center Lawn

5:15 PM - 5:30 PM

Tea break and Campus Tour

Venue: Adamjee Foyer

5:30 PM - 6:45 PM

Panel II

Urban Development: Practices and Realities

Panelist

Dr. Mubbashir Rizvi

Anthropologist - American University

Palwashay Shahab

Social Justice Lawyer, Researcher

Haya Fatima Iqbal

Emmy winning documentary filmmaker

Dr Laila Farooq

Assistant Professor, IBA Karachi

Dr Shehram Mokhtar

Assistant Professor, IBA Karachi

Venue: G&T Auditorium

7:00 PM Onwards

Dinner

Venue: Main Lawn

End of Day 1

DAY 2 – SATURDAY, 26TH MARCH 2022

09:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Keynote II **TBA**

Hans Timmer**
Chief Economist – World –Bank South Asia

Venue: G&T Auditorium

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Parallel Tech Session II*

Session Titles

Topics in Political Economy – 2A
Climate Change and Environmental Degradation – 2B
Inequality and Wellbeing – 2C
Public Policy and Economic Growth II – 2D
Trade and Economic Performance – 2E
FPCCI Vision Towards Industrialized Pakistan – 2F

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Tea break

Venue: Adamjee Foyer

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Inaugural ceremony **IBA and World Bank Collaboration on:**

Social Inequality Lab
&
Economic Growth and Forecasting Lab

Venue: G&T Auditorium

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Parallel Technical Session III*

Session Titles

Learning and Inclusion – 3A
Economic Growth – 3B
Governance and Economic Growth – 3C
Feminist and Decolonial Perspectives on Development – 3D
Undergrad Research I – 3E
Undergrad Research II – 3F

2:30 PM – 3:45 PM

Lunch

Venue: Alumni Students' Center

Panel III **Impact Evaluation of Public Policies**

Panelists

Dr Ishrat Hussain
Professor Emeritus and Former Advisor to the Prime Minister

Dr Sanval Nasim
Assistant Professor of Economic – LUMS

Najy Benhassine
Country Director for World Bank Pakistan, South Asia Region

Dr. Shereen Mustafa
Civil Servant – Sindh Rural Support Organization

Martin Dawson
Deputy Head of Mission British Deputy High Commission

Venue: G&T Auditorium

3:45 PM - 5:00 PM

Panel IV
Why Pakistan Failed to Achieve Sustainable Economic Growth?

Dr Gonzalo Varela
Senior Economist - World Bank

Dr Sajid Amin Javed
Research Fellow, Head Policy Solutions Lab - SDPI

Dr Izza Aftab
Assistant Professor - Beaconhouse National University

Dr Wasim Shahid Malick
Professor Mehbub ur Raschid Chair, University of Peshawar

Dr Muhammad Nasir
Associate Professor, Economics Department, IBA

Venue: G&T Auditorium

5.00 PM - 5.15 PM

Tea break
Venue: Adamjee Foyer

5:15 PM - 6:00 PM

Conversation on

Social Inequality and the Dynamics of Political and Ethnolinguistic Divides in Pakistan, 1970-2018

Speakers

Dr. Sultan Mehmood
Assistant Professor - New Economic School, Moscow

Amber Shamsi
Director - CEJ IBA Karachi

Dr Aqdas Afzal
Program Director & Assistant Professor of Economics
Habib University

Asim Bashir Khan
Economist, Public Finance Expert, IBA Faculty

Venue: Organic Garden, Main campus

5:15 PM - 6:00 PM

Student Circle 3

Poetic Memory and Resistance with **Maria Hassan** and **Kaleemullah Bashir** IBA
Venue: Alumni Students' Center Lawn

In Conversation with

Cass Sunstein**
Professor at Harvard University

Sludge: Administrative Burdens, Confusing Forms, Time Taxes, and Other Problems

Dr Sahar Nadeem
Assistant Professor and Chairperson Social Sciences & Liberal Arts IBA Karachi

Venue: G&T Auditorium

Student Circle 4

Greenwashing Dispossession: The Environmental Impact Assessment of Malir Expressway - **With Karachi Bachao Tehreek**
Venue: Alumni Students' Center Lawn

07:00 PM - 08:15 PM

**Panel V
Dissent**

Dr. Aasim Sajjad Akhtar

Associate Professor of Political Economy Quaid-i-Azam University

Sheema Kermani

Social activist and Performer

Asma Shirazi

Pakistani journalist

Dr. S Akbar Zaidi

Executive Director IBA Karachi

Venue: G&T Auditorium

08:15 PM Onwards

Executive Dinner

Venue: IBA Main Campus Lawn

End of Day 2

DAY 3 - SUNDAY, 27TH MARCH 2022

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

In Conversation with

Haben Girma**

Lawyer - Human Rights and Disability Justice - Harvard Law School Graduate

Accessibility, Advocacy and Inclusive design: a conversation with Haben Girma

Panel Discussion VI

Advocating for inclusive development: a discussion on accessibility in Pakistan

Haris Rauf Jaswal

Business Planning Manager - Consumer, Rural & SME Banking - Habib Bank

Jawaid Rais

President DWA (Disabled Welfare Association) Karachi

Fatima Jaffry

Provincial Coordinator National Forum of Women with Disabilities (NFWWD)

Muhammad Atif Sheikh

Executive Director, Special Talent Exchange Program Pakistan

Venue: G&T Auditorium

Parallel Tech Session IV*

Session Titles

Employment and Safety - 4A

State and Development - 4B

Health and Socio-economic Welfare - 4C

Literary, Visual, and Digital Worlds - 4D

Human Behaviors and Social Psychology- 4E

**Panel VII
Just Transition**

Smantha Smith

Country Director, Just Transition Centre of Europe

Humayun Azad

CEO of Ray Analytics

Haroon Sharif

Consultant of UNDP Pakistan and former State Minister of Investments

Sadaf Abid

International Consultant

Venue: G&T Auditorium

Presentation on

**Life and Work of Great Economist
by IBA PHD Students**

Venue: MAS 1, 1st Floor, Adamjee Block

Lunch Break

Venue: Alumni Students' Center

Doctoral Symposium*

Closing Ceremony***

Venue: JS Auditorium IBA City Campus

12:15 PM- 1.30 PM

01:30 PM -02:30 PM

01:30 PM -02:30 PM

4:00 PM - 06:00 PM

Details of Parallel Technical Sessions

Parallel Technical Session 1 (2.30 PM - 4:00 PM) - 25TH MARCH 2022

Session 1A Food insecurity and poverty	Session 1B Women Empowerment and Economic Opportunities	Session 1C Public Policy and Economic Growth I Food insecurity and poverty	Session 1D Firm Behavior and Competition	Session 1E Development and Conflict	Session 1F Panel on The Peasant Question in Pakistan
<p>Chair Dr. Gazi Masood IBA Karachi</p> <p>Discussants Dr. Junaaid Alam Memon IBA Karachi Dr. Anwar Hussain University of Swat</p> <p>Venue MAS 1, 1st Floor, Adamjee Block</p>	<p>Chair Dr. Shama Dossa Habib University Discussant Dr Uzma Irum Applied Economics Research Center Dr. Anwar Dossa Habib University</p> <p>Venue MCS 3, Ground Floor, Aman CED</p>	<p>Chair Dr. Mehtab S Karim George Mason University Discussants Muhammad Sabir SPDC Dr. Muhammad Tariq Majeed Quaid-i-Azam University</p> <p>Venue MCS 4, 1st Floor, Aman CED Building</p>	<p>Chair Dr. Wasim Shahid Malik University of Peshawar Discussants Dr. Aadi Nakhoda IBA Karachi Muhammad Masood Ahmed Siddiqui IBA Karachi</p> <p>Venue MCS 5, 2nd Floor, Aman CED</p>	<p>Chair Dr. Neelam Nigar Center for Strategic Perspective Discussants Dr. Zahid Asghar Quaid I Azam University Sajjad Ahmed IBA Karachi</p> <p>Venue MTS 6, Ground Floor, Tabba Block</p>	<p>Moderator Dr. Abdul Haque Chang IBA Karachi</p> <p>Venue G&T Auditorium</p>
<p>PRESENTATIONS</p> <p>COVID-19 Pandemic and Food Insecurity: A Case Study of Food Pakistan Rabia Kanwal - AERC Karachi</p> <p>Determinant of Food Poverty States (FPS) in Pakistan Maryyam Bint e Ajaz PIDE Islamabad</p> <p>Effects of Benazir Income Support Program on Household Food Insecurity in Pakistan Waqas Shair Minhaj University Lahore</p>	<p>PRESENTATIONS</p> <p>Occupational Segregation and Gender Pay Gap: Evidence from Ethiopia **Fenet Jima Trier University and IAAEU Germany</p> <p>Role of Information Communication Technology & Women Empowerment to Alleviate Poverty Henna Pakistan Institute of Development Economics</p> <p>Impact of Women's Empowerment on Household Vulnerability to Food Insecurity in Rural Economy of Pakistan Sidra Ishfaq PIDE Islamabad</p> <p>A Multilayered Household-Based Analysis of Health Inequity in Pakistan Tahira Tauheed Government Graduate College</p>	<p>PRESENTATIONS</p> <p>Subnational Debt, Economic Growth and Rule-Based Debt Policy Asim Bashir Khan IBA Karachi</p> <p>Effects of Price Instability and Output Volatility on Economic Growth: A Comparative Analysis Aisha Rehman University of Peshawar</p> <p>Evaluating Agricultural Income Tax Design to Harness its True Potential - A Case of Pakistan Najeeb Memon FBR</p>	<p>PRESENTATIONS</p> <p>Mapping Customer Repurchase Intention through Cognitive and Affective Experience (A Focus on Mobile Food Delivery Applications) Hadiqa Riaz - Bahria University</p> <p>Revisiting Bowman's Paradox: Prospect Theory and/or Behavioral theory of Firm Dr. Farrukh Mahmood Information Technology University</p> <p>Moving business from just surviving to thriving with sustainable high productivity and competitiveness M. Aslam Mirza Integrated Corporate Management Solutions Pvt., Ltd.</p> <p>What determines the long-term post-acquisition Township Lahore</p>	<p>PRESENTATIONS</p> <p>Visual Framing of the Kashmir Conflict: An Application of Social Identity Theory Shahbaz Aslam Habib University</p> <p>Decentralisation's Effects on Health: Theory and Evidence from Balochistan, Pakistan Dr Manzoor Ahmed Lasbela University, Balochistan</p> <p>Implications of Fencing the Pak-Iran Border on the Livelihoods of the People in the Border Sharing Districts in Balochistan Nabeel Lal Habib University</p> <p>Unarchivable Lives - Violence Against Shias and State's Role in Quelling Narratives of the Marginalized in Pakistan Zoya Anwer University of Münster</p> <p>performance of cross-border mergers and acquisitions? The case of United Kingdom acquiring firms: an empirical study Dr. Aamir Khan University Cote Dazur France</p>	<p>SPEAKERS</p> <p>Mr. Raza Naeem President of the Progressive Writers Association in Lahore. Social scientist, book critic and translator</p> <p>Dr. Abida Chhanghro Assistant Professor - Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science & Technology, Karachi</p> <p>Ms. Azra Talat Saeed Executive Director 'Roots for Equity' - an NGO</p> <p>Abdul Majeed Motani Founder member - Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum</p>

PARALLEL TECHNICAL SESSION 2 (10:00 AM – 11:30 AM) 26TH MARCH 2022

<p>Session 2A Topics in Political Economy</p>	<p>Session 2B Climate Change and Environmental Degradation</p>	<p>Session 2C Inequality and Well Being</p>	<p>Session 2D Public Policy and Economic Growth II</p>	<p>Session 2E Trade and Economic Performance</p>
<p>Chair Dr. Manzoor Ahmed Lasbela University Discussants Dr Idrees Khuwaja PIDE Islamabad Dr. Haider Nizamani IBA Karachi</p> <p>Venue G&T Auditorium</p>	<p>Chair Dr. Samina Khalil Applied Economics Research Center Discussant Dr Herman Das Lohano IBA Karachi Sajjad Ahmed IBA Karachi</p> <p>Venue MCS 3, Ground Floor, Aman CED</p>	<p>Chair Dr Nuzhat Ahmed Discussants Dr Kaleem Haider State Bank of Pakistan Arooj Waheed Dar IBA Karachi</p> <p>Venue MCS 5, 2nd Floor, Aman CED</p>	<p>Chair Muhammad Sabir SPDC Discussants Dr Suleman Amin University of Peshawar Nadeem Sarwar IBA Karachi</p> <p>Venue MAS 1, 1st Floor, Adamjee Block</p>	<p>Chair Asim Bashir Khan IBA Karachi Discussants Ghulam Sarmad CAREC Institute Muhammad Asif Iqbal SPDC</p> <p>Venue MAS 2, 1st Floor, Adamjee Block</p>
<p>PRESENTATIONS</p> <p>A Postcolonial Critiques on Globalization and Privatization of Education in Pakistan Gul Muhammad Rind Sukkur IBA University and Miami University</p> <p>Sanctions: An evil or ethical tool? Safia Hussain University of Sheffield & Habib University</p> <p>Improving Public Sector Development Programme in Balochistan: A study of Health, Education, Communication & Works, and Social Welfare Departments. Dr. Mir Sadaat Baloch Balochistan Council for Peace and Policy</p>	<p>PRESENTATIONS</p> <p>Climate Change and Food Security: Understanding the Mountain Voices from Gilgit-Baltistan Pakistan Amjad Ali - Karakoram International University Hunza Campus, Gilgit-Baltistan Pakistan</p> <p>Understanding Disaster Risk Management in Agriculture in the context of Climate Change Muhammad Faisal Ali Independent Researcher</p> <p>Climate Change Risk and Food Security in District Bahawalpur: A Perception-Based Study Dr Bushra Yasmin Fatima Jinnah Women University, Rawalpindi</p> <p>Climate Change as an Emergent Threat to Pakistan's Security Ahmad Mujtaba Khan Hanns Seidel Scholarship Program</p>	<p>PRESENTATIONS</p> <p>A subnational analysis of inequality convergence: Evidence from India and Pakistan Kafeel Sarwar Information Technology University of the Punjab, Pakistan</p> <p>Remittances and inequality: A meta-analytic review Amar Anwar - Cape Breton University</p> <p>Inequality and Spatial Disparities in Wellbeing; The Case of Karachi Sumrin Kalia University College London</p>	<p>PRESENTATIONS</p> <p>Exploring Cyclical Behavior of Functional Heads of Public Expenditure in Pakistan: Federal Level Analysis Aisha Irum PIDE Islamabad</p> <p>An Analysis into the Effectiveness of Public Sector Development Programs in Employment Generation in Pakistan Taimoor Ali Butt - PIDE, Islamabad</p> <p>Tax Morale and the role of socio-economic and institutional factors: Empirical evidence based on selected Asian countries **Aisha Nazir Government College University Faisalabad</p>	<p>PRESENTATIONS</p> <p>The impact of export promotion policies on export performance **Stefania Lovo University of Reading</p> <p>Does Trade Openness Improve the Quality of Domestic Institutions? Evidence from Africa Arshad Hayat Prague</p> <p>An Empirical Analysis of Pakistan's Agriculture Trade with China: Complementarity or Competition? Unbreen Qayyum Pakistan Institute of Development Economics PIDE</p>

PARALLEL TECHNICAL SESSION 3 (12:00 PM - 1:30 PM) 26TH MARCH 2022

Session 3A Learning and Inclusion	Session 3B Economic Growth	Session 3C Governance and Economic Growth	Session 3D Feminist and Decolonial Perspectives on Development	Session 3E Undergrad Research I	Session 3F Undergrad Research II
<p>Chair Amna Mahmood International Growth Center Discussants Dr. Neelam Nigar Center for Strategic Perspective Dr. Zehra Gardezi PIDE Islamabad</p> <p>Venue MCS 3, Ground Floor, Aman CED</p>	<p>Chair Adnan Ghumman World Bank Discussants Dr Ifan Oh IBA Karachi Muhammad Masood Ahmed Siddiqui IBA Karachi</p> <p>Venue MCS 5, 2nd Floor, Aman CED</p>	<p>Chair Dr Junaid Alam Memon IBA Karachi Discussants Dr Anwar Shah Quid-i-Azam University Fatima Sadiq IBA Karachi</p> <p>Venue MAS 1, 1st Floor, Adamjee Block</p>	<p>Chair Dr Aurangzaib Alizai University of Balochistan Discussants Nuadrat Kamal IBA Karachi Atoofa Samo Karachi Urban Lab</p> <p>Venue G&T Auditorium</p>	<p>Chair Aliya Naqvi IBA Karachi Discussants Dr Abdul Haque Chang IBA Karachi Dr Ahmed Azhar IBA Karachi</p> <p>Venue MAS 2, 1st Floor, Adamjee Block</p>	<p>Chair Asim Bashir Khan IBA Karachi Discussant Dr Shehram Mokhtar IBA Karachi Maria Hassan IBA Karachi</p> <p>Venue MTS 7, Ground Floor, Tabba Block</p>
<p>PRESENTATIONS Analyzing club convergence in child schooling in Pakistan during 2004-2020 Noor Ahmad University College of Zhub, BUIITEMS Navigating Access to Higher Education: A Case of Volunteer-led Education Intervention for the Underprivileged Sara Illahi Panhwer Habib University, Karachi Future of universities, jobs and skills in post-covid19 and digital age Dr. Zahid Asghar Quaid I Azam University The Virtual Shift: Early Childhood Intervention Therapies for Pakistani Children with Down Syndrome During COVID-19 Sidra Zahid Karachi Down Syndrome Program</p>	<p>PRESENTATIONS Financial Sector Reforms and Inflation-Growth Nexus Nadeem Iqbal - University of Peshawar The Impact of Social Cash Transfers on Poverty in Pakistan-The Case of Benazir Income Support Programme Mian M Kashif Saeed - Punjab Social Protection Authority Total Factor Productivity Nexus with Human Capital, Intellectual Property Rights, and Information Communication Technology in the Textile & Apparel Industry of Pakistan: An Empirical Analysis Irfan Ali - Nust Revitalizing Street Economy: An Economic Analysis Dr Nasir Iqbal PIDE Islamabad</p>	<p>PRESENTATIONS The Economic & Environmental Effects of Infrastructure Improvements: Evidence from Pakistan's Electricity Sector Javed Younus American University of Sharjah Digital Economies and Evolving Regulations: A Parametric and Non-Parametric Approach with Bad Output Across Countries **Somesh Kumar Mathur Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur. The Impact of Railway's Development on Economic Growth through CPEC: A Case Study of Pakistan Abida Naurin - (PIDE), Islamabad Economic Globalization and Women's Empowerment: Evidence from Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Countries Dr. Muhammad Tariq Majeed Quaid-i-Azam University</p>	<p>PRESENTATIONS Feminist and Decolonial Perspectives on Development Nimra Arooj National University of Medical Sciences, Rawalpindi Law, Rights and Tribal Women: A Critical Study of Newly Merged Tribal District of Orakzai Agency Tabassum Mushtaq University of Peshawar Development for whom? Forced evictions as a technology of neoliberal governmentality Minelle Ali Karachi Bachao Tehreek Decolonizing the Analytical Lens of Politico-Spatial Development Aarmina Shahid University College London</p>	<p>PRESENTATIONS Bangladesh; a development miracle or not? Aatika Saleem - Habib University Comparative Analysis of Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Syed Anzal Abbas Jaffari - Habib University Youth's Perspective on the Nation's Independence: A study on the intergenerational trauma caused by the 1947 partition Haya Habib Moosa Habib University</p>	<p>PRESENTATIONS Menstruating while Student: Coming Back To Campus after Lockdown in Pakistan Syeda Zarah Batool - Habib University How have patterns of gift exchange evolved: An analysis of gift exchange in Generation Z Syeda Ifrah Faheem - Habib University A Qualitative Outlook into the Relationship between the Reputable and the Disreputable: To explore the provider bias in sexual and reproductive health services towards young female sex workers in Karachi, Pakistan. Hunaina Khan Habib University Is Covid-19 the same for everyone? An investigation into the Marwari Lines and Bengali Para Ali Samoo IBA Karachi</p>

PARALLEL TECHNICAL SESSION 4 (10:00 AM - 11:30 AM) 27TH MARCH 2022

<p>Session 4A Employment and Safety</p>	<p>Session 4B State and Development</p>	<p>Session 4C Health and Socioeconomic Welfare</p>	<p>Session 4D Literary, Visual, and Digital Worlds</p>	<p>Session 4E Human Behaviors and Social Psychology</p>
<p>Chair Dr. Nasir Iqbal PIDE Islamabad Discussants Dr. Nasir Iqbal PIDE Islamabad Shafiqta Shabbir IBA Karachi</p>	<p>Chair Prof. Aijaz Gureshi Discussant Discussants Zeeshan Attique University of Karachi Aqsa Jawad IBA Karachi</p>	<p>Chair Dr. Shabib Haider University of Sindh Discussants Dr. Lubna Naz IBA Karachi Dr. Amir Jahan Khan IBA Karachi</p>	<p>Chair Amber Shamsi IBA Karachi Discussants Dr. Shehram Mokhtar IBA Karachi Rahma Mian IBA Karachi</p>	<p>Chair Sumrin Kalia IBA Karachi Discussants Dr. Ayesha Zia IBA Karachi Zainab Tariq IBA Karachi</p>
<p>Venue MAV 1, Ground Floor, Adamjee Block</p>	<p>Venue MAV 2, Ground Floor, Adamjee Block</p>	<p>Venue MAS 1, 1st Floor, Adamjee Block</p>	<p>Venue MAS 2, 1st Floor, Adamjee Block</p>	<p>Venue MAC 1, 1st Floor, Adamjee Block.</p>
<p>Occupational Safety and Health Vulnerability among Construction Workers in Pakistan Muhammad Umair University of Karachi</p> <p>Health Concerns of Textile Workers & Associated Community Tanweer Ul Islam National University of Sciences & Technology, Islamabad</p> <p>Effect of COVID-19 Pandemic on Child Labour: A Case Study of Pakistan Hamna Nasir AERC, University of Karachi</p> <p>Coastal Development: Scenic Belts of Socio-Economic and Ecological Relations Aisha Zia Khan IBA Karachi</p>	<p>Education for Sustainable Development; Knowledge, Attitude and Practices Dr. Junaid Alam Memon IBA Karachi</p> <p>Impact of Founder and Descendant Dynastic Rulers on the Fiscal Instruments: Investigation of the Fiscal Choices made by the Chief Ministers of Pakistan Muhammad Nouman Shafiq Xi'an Jiaotong University, China</p> <p>Development, Disparity and Colonial Shocks: Do Endowments Matter? Dr. Idress Khuwaja PIDE Islamabad</p> <p>Capital Depreciation Allowances and Redistributive Taxation under a "Nudging" Government **Gunther Rehme TU Darmstadt</p>	<p>Analyzing the Impact of Corporate Footprint on Local Community Development – The Case of Tharparkar Muhammad Ashar Khan Habib University</p> <p>Agriculture crop fires and respiratory health: Evidence using panel data from Pakistan Zehra Gardezi Pakistan Institute of Development Economics</p> <p>Socioeconomic Inequality of Opportunity in Access to Institutional Delivery Across the Districts of Punjab, Pakistan Hafiz Ghulam Mujaddad School of Economics, University of the Punjab</p> <p>The Impact of Domestic Violence and Social Loneliness on Maternal Mental Wellbeing with Moderating Role of Unintended Pregnancy Dr. Muhammad Qaiser Shafi Riphah International University</p>	<p>Heteroglossia in Theater: A Dialogic Performance of Religion Iqra Hassan University of Education, Lahore</p> <p>Study of Contemporary Feminist Archetypes in Pakistani Media: A Critical Analysis of Churails Isbah Premjee Habib University</p> <p>The Role of Electronic Media in Augmenting Oral Communication Skills: A Case Study of Secondary Level Students in the Rural Context of Sindh, Pakistan Tarique Ali Memon Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, USA</p> <p>Future of Work and Dystopian Literature: Thoughts and Reflections Khurram Ellahi Pakistan Institute of Development Economics Islamabad</p>	<p>Covid-19 and Effective Learning- A case from Karachi Pakistan **Muhammad Abdullah Idrees - KASB Institute of Technology</p> <p>Development Discourses: How Language Plays a Central Role in Actualizing the Dream of Development in the Pakistan Dr. Arslan Waheed - NUST Islamabad</p> <p>The link between the demographic transition and socio-economic status of women in Central Asian countries Muyassar Kurbanova- Corvinus University of Budapest</p>

DOCTORAL SYMPOSIUM PRESENTATIONS (02:30 PM – 04:00 PM) 27th March 2022

Session A Employment and Safety	Session 4A Employment and Safety	Session 4A Employment and Safety	Session 4A Employment and Safety
<p style="text-align: center;">Session A</p> <p>Discussant Dr Zeeshan Attique University of Karachi Dr Aadil Nakhoda IBA Karachi</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Venue MAV 1, Ground Floor, Adamjee Block</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PRESENTATIONS</p> <p>Linking Subnational Fiscal Performance to Vertical Fiscal Imbalance and Reforms Asim Bashir Khan – IBA Karachi</p> <p>Role of Realized Skewness and Kurtosis in Predicting Volatility Seema Rehman – Szabist</p> <p>Natural Disasters and Fiscal Drought **Lazar Milivojevic – Goethe University Frankfurt</p> <p>Education, Output and Labor Allocation across Agri industries: A case study of Rural Pakistan Syed Immad Uddin Hussaini – Applied Economics Research Center</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Session 4A</p> <p>Discussant Dr. Nasir Iqbal PIDE Islamabad Shafugta Shabbar IBA Karachi</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Venue MAV 1, Ground Floor, Adamjee Block</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PRESENTATIONS</p> <p>Household Determinants of Poverty Alleviation: A Microdata Analysis Jazib Mumtaz – SZABIST Karachi</p> <p>Poverty beyond Objective Causes: Perceptions of Low Scale Government Employees in Karachi Fizza Haider</p> <p>The Impacts of Demographic Factors, Household Characteristics and Locational Factors on Poverty in Pakistan Naseebullah – International Islamic University</p> <p>An Exploratory Study on Indicators of Rural Transformation in Pakistan: A National and Regional Level Analysis Farah Naz – PIDE Islamabad</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Session 4A</p> <p>Discussant Dr. Nasir Iqbal PIDE Islamabad Shafugta Shabbar IBA Karachi</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Venue MAV 1, Ground Floor, Adamjee Block</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PRESENTATIONS</p> <p>The Welfare Impact of Wheat Price Volatility in Pakistan Isra Asif – NUST</p> <p>Informal Employment and Catastrophic Health Expenditures: Evidence from Pakistan Shabana Kishwar – PIDE Islamabad</p> <p>Financial Literacy, Personality Traits and Retirement Preparedness: Evidence from Developing Economy Farheen Ramsha – Mohammad Ali Jinnah University</p> <p>Evaluation of Psychological Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Medical and Dental Students and Frontline Health Care Workers Dr Muhammad Nasir – Jinnah Sindh Medical University</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Session 4A</p> <p>Discussant Dr. Nasir Iqbal PIDE Islamabad Shafugta Shabbar IBA Karachi</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Venue MAV 1, Ground Floor, Adamjee Block</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PRESENTATIONS</p> <p>Do morale and norms improves compliance: a meta-analysis of tax experimental studies Muhammad Masood Ahmed Siddiqui IBA Karachi</p> <p>Impact of volatility on labor market– An evidence from Pakistan GulRukh Zahid – Applied Economics Research Center</p> <p>Employment Precarity Index: Analyzing the Components of Compensating Wage Differentials **Hareem Fatima – Applied Economics Research Center</p> <p>Does Financial Inclusion Create Tax Revenue for the Government? Shafugta Shabbar – IBA Karachi</p>

Conference Highlights

- An overwhelming response of more than 325 submissions globally with 60 international submissions
- Selected papers have been passed through a rigorous double-blind peer-review process to ensure objectivity
- Presenting more than a 100 research papers
- Full scholarships to 100 students to attend the conference from more than 15 cities including Skardu, Malakand, Chitral, Lasbela, Quetta, Nawabshah, Larkana, and others
- Program included 2 keynotes, 6 distinguished guest panels, 22 Technical Sessions, Doctoral Symposium, poster competition and student circles
- Including diverse disciplines including Economics, Psychology, Media studies, Political Science, Literature, Art, History and Wellbeing
- Cash prizes will be given to the best technical papers, doctoral presentation, and posters session
- Heavy focus on diversity and inclusivity of presenters
- Accommodation and support network provided to outstation presenters and guests
- A fully accessible conference with support from Disability Rights activists including wheelchair access, braille and alternative formats for the program and a discussion on the inclusion of persons with disabilities
- A day care service for all three days to support participating parents
- Supported by sponsors from the Development, Private and Government sectors

Introduction

The Center for Business and Economic Research at the IBA Karachi, the research wing for the School of Economics and Social Sciences (SESS) conducted its 2nd International Conference in March 2022. The conference is the flagship event of the SESS and the theme for this year was “Development: Discourses and Critiques”. The theme invited work from a wide range of disciplines to critique, question and reconsider the experiences of transnational, national and sub-national actors with the development process. It was focused on what ‘development’ means for different actors, and how has this narrative shifted over time. It also discussed how development defines power relations and what implications does this have for different groups. The conference programme included Keynote Speakers, Speaker Sessions, Parallel Technical Sessions, Panel Discussions and Student Circles on the actual effects of development in terms of human experiences. The conference aimed to be inclusive and provided alternative programme formats and a discussion on inclusive development and disability rights. Efforts were made for maximum participation of students from minorities and underrepresented groups from across Pakistan. This proceedings are based on inputs from expert participants and primarily targets policymakers, national ministries and is of value to researchers and their institutions.

Main Themes

- Economic growth, reforms, and innovation
- Farms productivity and competitiveness
- Labour, inequality, and poverty
- Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change
- Political Economy and Governance
- Health and Socioeconomic Welfare
- Human Behavior and Social Psychology
- Feminist and Decolonial Perspective on Development
- Literary, Visual and Digital World
- Languages, Culture and Development

Keynote I

Seasonal Poverty and Seasonal Migration

Dr. Mushfiq Mobarak - Professor of Economics - Yale University

A large majority of people in South Asia are residents of the rural areas. The issue of crop cycles causing seasonal hunger is a well-documented phenomenon with studies from the 18th century. People in South Asia supplying their services are often landless, hence labor wages dropping hurts them the most, increasing the seasonal deprivation. As work becomes scarce, agriculture labor demand drops which affects meals size and frequencies. Evidence suggests that this drop in labour demand is coupled with rise in food prices which can be confirmed by the nationally represented data sources. This combination of decreased labour demand and increased food prices enhances the seasonal deprivation.

Delivering his Keynote, Dr. Mubarak highlighted his more than 10 years of experience of investigating the problem in Bangladesh, Tanzania, Uganda, and India. Seasonal deprivation means that failure of consumption which will result in welfare losses and malnourished children, and it will also result in poverty drops due to high interest borrowing. Addressing seasonality is crucial. Two broad ways to smooth the consumption is inter-temporally which means either saving from the past or borrowing from the future and the other one is spatially which means seasonal migration and remittances. The lecture was focused on migration as people who live through season deprivation are often residents close to urban economies with a possible solution to migrate them to places where jobs are available.

Discussing his Randomized Control Trials from Bangladesh, Dr Mubarak talked about how the program provided rural agricultural workers with small migration subsidies to pay for the cost of round-trip travel to nearby areas in search of work. The immediate results confirmed that when people are provided with money to migrate, they migrate. The second result was that the consumption, calorie intake and both food and non-food expenditures increased for the households who decided to migrate. Half of the household continued the practice of migration without the intervention next year, signaling the change in long term behavior.

However, the challenge of the approach is scaling up the program to a policy decision which would take both economic and non-economic factors into considerations. Additional research was conducted to enquire the non-economic outcomes such as impact on female empowerment, disease risks or immeasurables such as family separation. The study revealed that program might not work in the same manner for places where migration is already a norm, for example Nepal, the study did not show any results because Nepal already had open border with India where the wage gains were even higher however the puzzle was that despite higher migration the seasonality in food security in villages in Nepal was high. This was because remittances were not coming on the right time. Which indicates transfer constraint in Nepal.

Lessons learned from this multi-country, multiyear and multi-seasonal migration, summarizes that to fix seasonal deprivation it is important to understand the failure that contributes to it. It is important to first identify the failure, for example if its credit market failure or migration failures. Customized policies will help encourage the domestic migration which promises higher incomes when done right.

Panel I

Institutions, Governance, and Inequalities

This panel focused on understanding the foundations of strong institutions as they are commonly considered key to economic success. The pattern from recent data shows that countries with poor institutions are likely to have high inequalities. However, the emerging literature poses few relevant questions, for instance, whether ideal or better governance approaches and institutions may lead to shared prosperity along with economic growth. The panel members discussed theory, empirical evidence, and practical issues in this context.

Speakers

- Dr. Sultan Mehmood, Assistant Professor - New Economic School, Moscow
- Dr. Abid Aman Burki, Senior Fellow, Mahbub ul Haq Research Centre, Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS)
- Dr. Hafeez Jamali, Senior Anthropologist and Civil Servant
- Dr. Asma Hyder, Professor of Economics & Dean SESS IBA Karachi
- Robina Ather, Chairperson National Tariff Commission, Government of Pakistan

Judiciary

Discussing judiciary is an institution, Dr Sultan highlighted that the concept of institutions comes from constraining which makes judiciary one of the most powerful institutions. It has a fundamental importance in economic development as it enforces property rights, political rights and its impact on economic development. Prof Sultan's empirical investigation on Pakistani judiciary confirms that the 18th Amendment did not only help in decentralization but also was highly impactful for judiciary as it changed the selection procedure of the judges resulting in higher efficiency of judicial decisions. Prof Sultan's research confirms a sharp and sudden falling of the pro-government rulings suggesting that the judiciary became more independent post the 18th Amendment. However, as confirmed by Dr. Sultan, the land distribution to the judges by the government is still questionable and needs further enquiry. Evidence suggests that this untransparent distribution increases pro-government rulings, case delays and backlog increment.

Reform

For judiciary reforms to take place, the human capital in judges must be built. The decisions taken in the court should be taken considering not only the spirit of the law but also from an economic and anthropologist perspective. One possible reform could be to reduce the tenure of judges in high court. Service limit can also help. Real Estates creates distortion and erodes not only economic development but also erodes trust in state institutions.

Policy making in Public Intuitions

Talking about the issues in policymaking in Pakistan, Ms. Robina Ather emphasized on the ills of the policy making and discussed the lack of coordination between stake holders and policymakers. Lack of information is also an issue which feeds the issue of poor policy formation among different public departments. The public institutions also lack formal mechanism and the capacity of policy makers as bureaucrats should also be reviewed & measured. Evaluation and transpiration of policy is another issue which needs investigation in the country.

Reform

For the governance in Pakistan to improve civil service reforms are must. This includes not only qualified people for the jobs but also includes increased capacity over time. Formal policy making is essential which includes well stated mechanisms, transparent objectives, consistency and evaluation in policies.

Inequality in Pakistan

Emphasizing on the role of research in policymaking, Dr Abid Aman Burki added policy markers must use findings of research into policy making as it affects the common man in several ways, examples include the implication of taxation policy on labour-force, wage inequality and income inequality. Dr Burki's findings confirm that based on Labour Force Surveys from 1991-2018, there is a 6 percent rise in inequality in the Gini co-efficient. Wages are not rising equally for all classes and in comparison, the top 5 percent share has gone up by 53 percent and top 10 percent has gone up by 33 percent. Male colleague grads compared to non-college grads have increased by 16 percent, female by 13 percent. The income share of the bottom income group has declined because of these following essential reasons

- Pay-off of college grads has increased due to IT revolution, e-commerce & globalisation -modern day economy needs educated labour. - less skilled jobs are being taken up by skilled labour
- Educated labour crowds out less skilled labour
- Episodes of inflation; regressive tax has a negative impact on low-income groups.
- Protection from labour unions has been stripped. Only 3 percent of workers belong to unions. This effects rights & earning of households. The income growth of the 6th percentile is declining

Reform

It is time for evidence-based policy in Pakistan where the policymakers incorporate independent research to create just policies. Small farmers are supportless which add to inequality as panel data from agricultural farms in Punjab reveals that the productivity in large farms is 9 to 12 times more compared to small firms. 60 percent farms which are small, and medium are not doing well and which is bound to create further inequality.

Anthropology on Institutions and Development

Hafeez Jamali, senior anthropologists commented that sociological perspective of institutions are much broader for a common man for example: marriage, family etc as they keep the social order. According to Jamali, the issue lies in the administrative and political processes & the underlying politics behind it. Protest and political mobilization are the last resort for the marginalized communities. They don't approach the state as rights bearing citizens, they go as voters. Additionally, the political economy of mega projects has shifted the attention of bureaucracy from attending the routine function for e.g., addressing public complaint or grievances and shifted to "big ticket items".

Reform

The emphasis needs to be shifted from projects back to service. Public officials should not be limited to designing and implementing mega projects but everyday concerns of the public need to be addressed which are forgotten in the spectacle of "development".

Conversation on Agrarian Crisis and South Asian Political Economy

Speaker

**Barbara Harriss-White – Professor Emeritus of Development Studies;
Emeritus Fellow of Wolfson College – Oxford University**

In her lecture on the state of agriculture in South Asia, Prof Barbara talked lengths regarding issues in agriculture in South Asia with a special focus on India and Pakistan and defined it as concatenation crisis. The crisis has many contributors including but not limited to decreasing soil biodiversity, miniaturization of land (86% have less than 2 hectares/5 acres of agriculture land), declining growth rate, explosion of rural debt and exploitations of farmers. Due to structural transformation of the economy, agriculture is now considered as a welfare sector and is often neglected in government's development priorities however it during the pandemic, the agriculture proved to be eight times more powerful than manufacturing in terms of providing incomes. Professor Barbara identified the following major issues in agriculture in the sub-continent

- Decline of Wages
- Decline in Farm Income
- Decline in Production
- Exploitation of small farmers
- Crop bias and class bias for small farmers
- Intermediaries' role increasing.
- Political patrons of markets (having connections with government)

Identifying the issues of market supply and distribution systems, Prof. Barbara confirms that the government intervention in the distribution system through public distribution mechanisms causes distortions in this system. For the sector to improve deregulation needs to be improved instead of being disposed off. There is a need to update the infrastructure for agriculture as it is limited to storage, supply system and buying of crops on large-scale while small farmers and their choices are neglected. There is a need to curtail the government's role in commodity distribution systems which essentially means to scrape off the essential commodity act and allowing the farmer to sell anywhere.

Issues in Agriculture in Pakistan

Medium Term: The government is reducing budget for Agri development which confirms that Agri development is no more priority.

Short Term: Slow productivity growth because of no research and development, technological improvement, private investment which is resulting in a declining growth in all three major crops including sugarcane, wheat, and cotton. It is also important to note that credit is not available to farmers, no secure property/land rights which is encouraging farmers to move from farms to non-farm incomes.

Talking about the additional issues in the country's agriculture, Professor Barbara confirmed that there is a reproduction squeeze in the country which means that the farmer is just confined to crops which are protected by government like wheat, cotton, and fodder. This may lead to food insecurity in coming years. The absence of storage and credit to hold the surplus, small farmers rely on intermediaries who play a very strong role in buying and storing of surplus crops. They also hoard which results in scarce market supply thereby prices go up. Additionally, only 2 percent of farm families control 45 percent of total land.

Reform

Focus on markets rather than production i.e., "Selective Liberalization". Retain public finance for seed research, subsidies for machinery, electricity, fertilizers, and pesticides. Reforms improving contractual openness for first transaction, but these reforms have differentiated outcome. Agricultural policy/developmental state is captured by nexus politician-bureaucrats-agro-industrial capital, Solutions is to consider agriculture as a complete sector (raise state expenditure and capital investment in a purposeful manner) and decentralise it, remove the market distortions and smoothen the supply and distribution system of agriculture commodities. The solution to declining agriculture sector should not come from donor agencies but a home-grown market friendly and labour friendly solution is the need of the hour.

Panel II

Urban Development: Practices and Realities

This panel highlighted that large scale development projects are advertised on promises of economic growth and industrialization. The 'under-developed' is projected as a void space that needs to be filled with infrastructure in order to be of value. This narrative simplifies the power hierarchies created through development processes. This panel placed development processes within the context of the South Asian colonial experience. Panel members discussed issues of property rights, resistance, dispossession and health as human costs that are disregarded in these debates.

Speakers

- Dr. Mubbashir Rizvi - Anthropologist - American University
- Palwasha Shahab - Social Justice Lawyer, Researcher
- Haya Fatima Iqbal - Emmy winning documentary filmmaker
- Dr Laila Farooq - Assistant Professor, IBA Karachi
- Dr Shehram Mokhtar - Assistant Professor, IBA Karachi

Property Rights

Drawing from his expertise, Dr, Mubashir Rizvi confirmed that projects of development are often seen as projects of economic modernization, for example the colonial project in subcontinent Asia was justified as development project. However, it is important to question who gains from the "development"? Highlighting his work from Okara, Punjab Pakistan, where peasant farmers were able to fight the state institutions for the land, he talked that how the movement didn't fit the preconceived ideas about social movements in Pakistan or in other places. Farmers who don't even own land were able to challenge the state. To make development inclusive, it is important to identify colonial legacies and infrastructure process that go behind these 'development projects and mega projects should be understood in their social history.

Legal Angle of Development

The right to be treated in accordance with law is a must for all citizens in any city/country however development aspirations take away this right as part of 'development' and often times law is not upheld for people equally. For example, the encroachments drive in Karachi since 2018 involved demolition of many houses of the indigenous communities and working-class but did not involve public offices, courts or city infrastructure which caused urban flooding. This unequal and biased "development" which causes and adds to the trauma of the working-class citizens is a recipe for social unrest and eroding social contract.

Role of Media

When it comes to development, ground realities and people's stories are vastly different. Marginalized communities are expected to make sacrifices for development to occur and media often misses the voice of the poor. This comes from the need to assimilate poor people to be civilized, their struggles and their things like agriculture are not important in face of concrete 'development' projects. For example, taxi drivers in Multan were more concerned with climate change by curing trees as opposed to elite who were concerned with food court. Development - image in commonfolk is completely different than the privileged elite. There is a need to switch to more indie sources of media, consume non-traditional forms of media to know and understand grassroot stories.

Way Forward

For development to be inclusive, the focus from the development of mega projects needs to include and protect the indigenous voices and community participation. People centered approach to development is the way forward.

Keynote II

Seizing New Opportunities During a Crisis

Hans Timmer - Chief Economist - World Bank South Asia

Discussing the economy of Pakistan, Mr. Timmer commented that some policy makers hold view that a rise in GDP would require a fiscal stimulus, however that is fallacious. According to Timmer, When the GDP contracts due to a negative supply shock, a tighter monetary policy is required and not fiscal. Double-digit inflation is prevalent in Pakistan because of the higher oil, fertilizers, food prices, etc. The bad news for Pakistan is the widening fiscal deficit because of the rise in oil prices, which is already large in Pakistan, significantly when energy prices are being subsidized. 3 percent of GDP is spent on subsidies to mitigate the transmission of high energy prices to households.

Another major change which occurred in the last two years is the pandemic, its impacts, and the opportunities that resulted from it. Pakistan and the whole world witnessed adverse supply shocks and contractions in GDP that were never seen before. During the fiscal year 2019-20, the real GDP came down by more than 3 percent, and per capita consumption shrank by more than 5 percent. The uniqueness of the pandemic also affected people, even in the informal sector. New technologies emerged during this crisis, creating opportunities in the long run for Pakistan.

Pakistan can benefit from the new services economy by increasing the productivity in the informal sector, which was hit hard by the crisis; it can produce opportunities for small firms to sell their services on e-commerce platforms or matching platforms. The firms can access digital payment systems, which ultimately can lead to financial inclusion, which is very important in increasing productivity in the informal sector. To seize the numerous opportunities born during this unique crisis(pandemic), the country has to allow more international competition in services and focus on the regulations of the new service economy.

After the GDP rebound, there is a new normal globally and in Pakistan. Pakistan needs to seize these new opportunities. Policymakers and other people in private sectors must not just think short-term and be in crisis mode but link their policies, investments, and activities to the longer-term prospects.

Panel III

Impact Evaluation of Public Policies

This panel discussed the importance and different strategies with which impact evaluations of public policies are conducted and ingrained in the current policy making practices in the country. The panel concluded with recommendations on how the impact evaluations of public policies can be improved.

Speakers

- Dr Ishrat Hussain – Professor Emeritus and Former Advisor to the Prime Minister
- Dr Sanval Nasim – Assistant Professor of Economic – LUMS
- Najy Benhassine – Country Director for World Bank Pakistan, South Asia Region
- Dr. Shereen Mustafa – Civil Servant – Sindh Rural Support Organizations

Does Pakistan have a culture of Impact Evaluations of Public Policies?

Addressing this question, Dr Ishrat Hussain highlighted that the flaw does not lie in policy designs but implementation. He highlighted that there is a misperception that there is a direct relation between public policies and growth outcomes. This is too simplistic as successful outcomes of a policy depend more than just design but also depends on factor endowments, comparative markets, and other factors. Unless accountability is not involved and set of indicators are not selected for the measuring the policy success, the impact evaluation culture is difficult to exercise in the current practices.

Adding to solutions, Dr. Sanval added that in last few decades there has been a significant change in policies and how they can be evaluated as robust testing and trial techniques are much advanced and available for researchers and policymakers. Gathering evidence and preparing modified policies is much easier because of the available knowledge and techniques. The willingness to pay also increases if access to information increases. Access to information is limited to people with access to certain opportunities for example, access to phone, internet, and skills to acquire this information but this may not apply to common man to whom this information is essential to reach.

Constraints on Impact Evaluation on Public Policies in Pakistan

Shereen Mustafa – Civil Servant from the Government of Sindh identified several constraints however poor processes and planning made the top of her list. She builds on her argument with the help of examples of vaccination programs. According to her, vaccination programs should be part of the health sector and not run-on programs of external funding. She confirms that the issue of process evaluation is even bigger than the issue of impact evaluation.

According to Dr Ishrat Hussain, the impact evaluation of the public policies is sporadic and unsystematic. The focus of the projects and often the inputs rather than the outcomes of the project. For example, the government is successful in building schools for the children but if the students and teachers do not attend the development of such kind has little value. A programmatic approach is needed which is based on outcomes rather than inputs. Only then impact evaluations are possible. The history of Pakistan's development plans is that most of them

have not reached targets because of the deficiency in the resource allocation. It should also be pointed that the machinery for monitoring the projects is not installed or updated and lastly is the issue of discontinuity in the project units. Unless the project manager stays for the length of the project, it is difficult for the project to work on full efficiency. The fear of failing in civil servants also needs to be addressed to encourage impact evaluations.

Adding to the impact evaluations on cash transfers, health and education, Dr Sanval confirmed that cash transfers work mostly, but it depends on how the uplifting of the treatment group is defined. For example, Cash transfers may add to women empowerment but how it may impact the incident of domestic violence triggered by transfers should also be inquired. Multiple questions need to be asked before any evidence is scaled from project into public policy.

Panel V

Why Pakistan Failed to Achieve Sustainable Economic Growth?

This panel discussed the irregular and inconsistent growth patterns of Pakistan. While Pakistan experienced occasional growth spurts, the economy failed to sustain high growth rates for longer periods. The structure of growth in terms of employment generation and economic inclusion has also been questioned. Is it because of the structural issues, policy failures, or simply the lack of potential in the economy to have a sustainable and inclusive growth?

Speakers

- Dr Gonzalo Varela - Senior Economist - World Bank
- Dr Sajid Amin Javed - Research Fellow, Head Policy Solutions Lab - SDPI
- Dr Izza Aftab - Assistant Professor - Beaconhouse National University
- Dr Wasim Shahid Malick - Professor Mehbub ur Raschid Chair, University of Peshawar
- Dr Muhammad Nasir - Associate Professor, Economics Department

Trade and Economic Growth

Addressing this question, Dr Varela discussed his recent efforts to study the exports and potential for flow of Foreign Direct Investment for Pakistan and confirmed it to be much higher, however, the reality is disappointing. The most sophisticated firms of the country are shrinking productivity levels because the policies are designed in a way to add to the hurdle of exporting. For example, the protection of incumbent industries. Protectionism is high in Pakistan as Pakistan comes in one of the five countries in terms of those with the highest import duties. This protectionism hurts in three main ways 1) It hurts productivity directly as it shifts the resources away from exporting into domestic activities 2) It impacts the foreign direct investment inflows negatively and 3) It locks the economy as it paralyzes the transformation of the economy.

Reform

For economic growth to occur it is important to be part of global value chains. South Asia is one of the least integrated regions in the world, with trade policies that look good only on paper, it can seriously impact growth. Pakistan has fallen for the issue of elite capture. Pakistan can do well without protectionism. The modern services sector is not protected yet and is mainly youth driven, which is success story without protection. There is clear evidence that individuals, households, and firms all respond to incentives. The incentive system should work to deliver the object otherwise then intensives need to be revised.

Central Bank and Economic Growth

In passive sense, monetary policy has an impact on the economic growth in two ways, 1) in case of poor execution of monetary policy, it hampers the economic growth 2) Central bank can contribute positively through creation of enabling environment by controlling inflation through stabilizing prices. According to Dr. Wasim's research confirms that growth potential of Pakistan is declining and has been volatile throughout the history and data from five decades of Pakistan reveals that money drives economic activity in Pakistan. It is important to question why Pakistan's economy is dependent on monetary resources? According to Dr. Wasim the answer lies in the mismatch between efficiency of monetary policy and the other development indicators in Pakistan. State bank's policies lack in certain aspects. For example, there's a lack of transparency.

Reform

Economic Growth should be prioritized instead price stability. When inflation is controlled by the instrument of interest rate it comes on a very high cost. Pakistan must build a consensus about inflation rate that should be linked to per capita income of Pakistan

Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth

Commenting on pattern of economic growth, Dr Izza Aftab suggested that growth in Pakistan follows certain patterns however it is not sustainable and neither it is inclusive. The lowest hanging fruit for Pakistan's economy is the female labour force participation. The female labour force is low, fewer girls get into schools, colleges, universities compared to boys. Data from Pakistan reveals that 68 percent marginalized communities suffer an economic shock turn to their families for support. The lag between the financial systems and the entrepreneurs is another major hurdle.

Reform

Firstly, Pakistan needs to bring more women in its labour force. The mobility especially for women who work outside home is extremely hampered which can be noted in number of cars and bikes women own, this needs to change for inclusive growth to occur. Secondly, young people need to demand the freeing of resources out of sectors which are not productive enough for example, Textile. The policies of protectionism which add to market distortion cannot continue. Thirdly, Financial inclusion is a must for inclusive and sustainable growth. Fourthly, Pakistan needs to rethink its pension and how can they be alternatively funded. And lastly, it's time for Pakistan's economy to test new avenues and take more risk.

Policy Shifts for Economic Growth

Drawing from his expertise, Dr Amin commented that the economic growth in Pakistan has always been stability driven and not sustainability driven. All the growth policies are designed around stabilizing and no sustainability plans are made. Without altering the quality of growth, Dr Amin believes that higher growth can be risk to the country. Similarly, the tax policy is currently hampering the growth. Economic indicators in Pakistan are politically misused and the quality of growth is never questioned.

Reform

A policy shift is needed from stabilization to sustainability. Secondly, it is very important to note that for the growth to be sustainable it must be inclusive. Fundamental foundation of sustainable and inclusive growth is investing in people which includes investing in skilling the labour force and developing human capital. Given the limited physical space population control is also must. Central bank must control the inflation as it adds to real wages, real purchasing power which then adds to productivity growth.

In Conversation on **Sludge: Administrative Burdens, Confusing Forms, Time Taxes, and Other Problems**

Cass Sunstein - Professor at Harvard University

Sludge is explained as administrative burden which often operates as a wall between human beings and the resistance produced by red tape and unnecessary administration. There is sufficient evidence from the globe that sludge in public offices negatively affects the ability of people to exercise their citizenships which includes delays in education, healthcare services, justice et cetera.

Sludge in the time of COVID-19:

Different models of governance were tested around the world in times of global pandemic. Governments all over the world have tried to reduce sludge to make the processes effective which proved to be life-saving in many cases. An example of sludge free working model is the working from home model as it is a sludge-reducing device. One of the ways to decrease sludge is time taxes.

Reducing Sludge

It may be noted that bureaucracy is essential however it is important to identify the causes of frustration which add to the poor service delivery. Sludge is actually a very crude rationalizing device. It cannot be regarded as the best rationalizing device. If it means resources running out, we have to rethink. If eventually a lot of sludge is removed, there will be a trust-deficit. People will lose their faith in processes. People think ease as a symbol of suspicion. This notion needs to be falsified. However, it can be noted that sludge can be both blessing and a curse. For effective public service delivery in the country there is a need to identify, measure and remove sludge without losing the essentials of the bureaucracy.

Panel V

Dissent

This panel questioned the structure of domination and hegemony which operates to mould citizenship and expression of thought to particular notions portrayed by authority, whether of the State and its institutions or by Society often in the false notion of cultural norms. We subvert such notions by offering a critique of the status quo and allowing for new and alternative possibilities.

Speakers

- Dr. Aasim Sajjad Akhtar – Associate Professor of Political Economy Quaid-i-Azam University
- Sheema Kermani – Social activist and Performer
- Asma Shirazi – Pakistani journalist
- Dr. S Akbar Zaidi – Executive Director IBA Karachi

Media, Freedom, and Development

The panel noted that the development is not merely building concrete infrastructure like roads, bridges, and hospitals. All this is included in development, but development is also linked to generating new ideas and building a critical discourse of the old ones, and media can play vital role in developing the new discourse. In view of Asma Shirazi, a prominent journalist from Pakistan noted that Pakistan's media has a long history of struggle, this can be noted in the media voices raised in times when the country lacked democracy. The flow of information must be neutral and unbiased. When voices from the ground are not included in the discourse, the gap between the state and its citizens increase till the point that social contract is hurt. Unbiased and free media can play an incredible bond in maintaining this contract.

Art and Development

Sheema Kirmani, an artist, a performer and a lead feminist from Karachi shed light on how she perceives development and defined it as human relationships. Ms. Kirmani shared her experience of long struggle as a feminist in Pakistani society and emphasized that development for women is looking beyond the biological role of women which includes respecting her rights, her will and her spirits. The space for arts is constantly shrinking, especially in the mind of the society where populism and extremism is growing, and diversity of opinion is shrinking.

Academics, Activism and Development

Aasim Sajjad Akhtar, a prominent academic and activist points out that development is giving the freedom to think critically and to question the system in places of need. Young people need to be connected to the society where they actively understand and contribute to the ongoing issues in the country, however this does not come without teaching young minds to think critically. Pakistan can no longer afford to teach only measured curriculum where students are not allowed to question. There is a need for concrete political organization and just dissent is not enough for real change to occur. According to Dr Akhtar, dissent, democracy, cultural freedom is vital but young people also need to find alternative political organization.

Panel Discussion VI

Advocating for Inclusive Development a Discussion on Accessibility in Pakistan

Speakers

- Muhammad Atif Sheikh – Executive Director, Special Talent Exchange Program Pakistan
- Haris Jaswal – Business Planning Manager – Consumer, Rural & SME Banking – Habib Bank
- Jawaid Rais – President DWA (Disabled Welfare Association) Karachi
- Fatima Jaffery – Provincial Coordinator National Forum of Women with Disabilities (NFWWD)
- Laiba Ghanyani – President at Rotaract and Student at IBA

Disability rights in Pakistan

Highlighting the constraint for disabled people in Pakistan, Muhammad Atif Sheikh discussed that disability is not discussed enough in the country. The infrastructure and mobility for ordinary people is much discussed, planned and delivered however the infrastructure for differently abled people hardly exists in the country. There is a need to identify and remove barriers which hold differently abled people back however much of the discussion exists on how differently abled people can be changed or made normally abled. There is a resistance to accept diversity.

Barriers around Disability

Drawing from their experience, Haris Jaswal, Shakeel Khan and Fatima Jaffery identified the four barriers that disabled population has to face 1) Attitudinal barriers 2) Environmental barrier 3) Communication barrier 4) Legislation and policy. The legislation should be designed and implemented in a way that it is inclusive and the focus should be moved from charity and rehab to empowerment. It should also be noted that often discrimination starts from the home, in the form of either excessive care or isolation. Lack of affordable diagnostic healthcare and behavioral issues of the parents often result in late diagnosis of the disability where the individual disability can lose precious time, which makes things much worse. Also, there's a lack of employment for differently abled people even though many of them are skilled and abled enough to do jobs for example IT sector jobs. Laiba Ghanyani, a differently abled person who is also student at the IBA confirmed that lack of awareness towards disability is one of the biggest barriers disabled people face.

Reform

Inclusive development cannot be achieved without acceptability. Differently abled people should be included in education, policy making, labor force participation, discussions etc. only then an inclusive environment be formed. In Pakistan, disabled people are in the uncounted population. There is a need to understand disability outside a single dimension and a need to address it accordingly. With growing technology there are multiple ways in which differently abled people can be assisted and included. Creating awareness through inclusion in curriculum can help in changed behaviors. Affordable healthcare including diagnostic services and rehabilitation services can help the differently abled in more than one way.

Panel VII

Just Transition

This panel aimed to explore the potential of business with focus on young incubators to contribute to the Just Energy transition. The focus was on business opportunities, its threats, its priorities, and its funding opportunities to enhance stakeholder coordination and engagement mechanisms. The panel was aimed to discuss collective efforts for a clean and green energy agenda.

Speakers

- Smanntha Smith - Country Director, Just Transition Centre of Europe
- Humayun Azad - CEO of Ray Analytics
- Haroon Sharif - Consultant of UNDP Pakistan and former State Minister of Investments
- Sadaf Abid - International Consultant
- Hartmut Behrend - Coordinator Pakistan-German Climate and Energy Initiative

The session started by introductory remarks from Stoyanka Stichev - Cluster Coordinator Energy and Climate, GIZ Pakistan. She welcomed all attendees to the GIZ session on Just Transition. She underscored the relevance of Just Transition for Pakistan and informed the audience on the longstanding partnership between Germany and Pakistan which dates back to 60 years. The Coordinator of that Initiative, Hartmut Behrend presented the Pakistan German Climate- and Energy Initiative to the audience. He furthermore outlined that after more than sixty years of history of developmental cooperation, the Pakistan German Climate- and Energy Initiative is a unique initiative launched for the cooperation of Pakistan and Germany for reaching their climate goals and for supporting Pakistan. Within the Initiative, the academia, the private sector, and the Youth play an outstanding role. Officially launched on COP 26 in Glasgow in November 2021, the Initiative is the first of until now seven such initiatives offered by the German government to developing country partners for an enhanced cooperation. It comprises of cooperation between Pakistan and Germany with the final goal to support Pakistan in a privileged partnership to implement its climate change goals. However, this is a complex task that will only be achieved through multiple pronged practices involving next to straightforward mitigation of climate change also the adaptation to climate change, climate finance, and a just energy transition where no one is left behind. The partners for this climate and energy initiative are the Ministry of Climate Change and Ministry of Energy.

Samantha Smith provided background on climate change discussions at the international level through the mention of the Paris Climate Agreement, where a just transition was one of the major key takeaways. Ms. Smith also pointed out that several countries have already taken steps to provide finance for climate change. Moreover, she also pointed out the urgent need for countries to develop supply chains that reduce fuel prices as a part of just and fair transition. Haroon Sharif said that this pandemic has exacerbated climate change effects. He also pointed out the dire need to change the financing system of the country to one where private capital is also tapped into. Mr. Sharif mentioned the role of the State in this by creation of incentives through policies beneficial to financial markets. Other than emphasizing on reaching out to private capital, he also underscored the need to develop partnership framework between development agencies, government, and private sector. He said that it is important to prioritize a few sustainable transactions to begin with and then expand gradually. Lastly, he said that to improve the efficiency of state led projects, the state must adhere to corporate governance structures to ensure smooth implementation of projects. Dr. Saima Shafiq said that Pakistan has witnessed almost 152 extreme

weather events in past two decades. She shed some light on the steps that the government has taken for green initiatives, some of which involve the funding of almost 150 million euros. She also stressed upon initiatives that involve young minds and nurture their ideas through meaningful guidance and support. Channels for incubation of these ideas such as Youth4Climate were also mentioned. The last panelist, Humayun Azad, spoke from his experience as a consultant on green technology. He pointed out the gaps in green initiatives already taken and potential areas of improvement. He also stressed upon research on energy storage as an emerging technology, and its usefulness in the envisioning of a sustainable future.

This panel aimed to explore the potential of business with focus on young incubators to contribute to the Just Energy transition. The focus was on business opportunities, its threats, its priorities, and its funding opportunities to enhance stakeholder coordination and engagement mechanisms. The panel was aimed to discuss collective efforts for a clean and green energy agenda.

Reform

Dialogue with all relevant stakeholders is key to achieve broader acceptance towards just energy transition. Top down, unilateral approaches will not be conducive to this agenda. Greater linkages between academic institutions and policy makers, backed by evidence from research will need to be incorporated for effective solutions. Private capital must also be leveraged for developmental initiatives in Pakistan. Involvement of financial markets in Pakistan will be possible if backed by policies from the State that give these markets incentives. It is vital to leave 'no one behind'; meaning, creation of alternative job opportunities for those whose livelihoods will be most affected by reduction in unsustainable energy practices. Involvement of youth through local governmental initiatives such as Youth4Climate where students can work on their ideas and present them on international forums for greater reach.

Abstracts

COVID-19 Pandemic and Food Insecurity: A Case Study of Pakistan

Author: Rabia Kanwal

Food insecurity is becoming one of the most challenging phenomena of recent times. It is considered a global challenge, especially in developing countries. However, after the COVID-19 pandemic, the food insecurity issue raised rapidly. Although the government and other institutes worked exceptionally hard to overcome this problem, but pandemic created a negative impact on it. Food security is directly and positively related to the well-being of individuals. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to emphasize the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the food insecurity of Pakistan. To fulfill the objective of this research, the Special Survey for Evaluating Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Well-being of People is used - conducted by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics in 2020. The study employs the Ordinary Least Square (OLS) technique for evaluating the objective of this research. The study also constructed a food insecurity index through Principal Component Index. The finding of the study shows a positive and significant impact of wages before COVID-19 on food security whereas; wages during COVID-19 have a negative impact. Employment before and during COVID-19 are statistically significant. Cash assistance during COVID-19 is positive and significant with food insecurity. Based on the finding the study suggested that, although the government of Pakistan Ehsaas Programme working well in the pandemic period it's high time to address current food insecurities issues. The government needs to go beyond merely observing food insecurities to cope with the increasing vulnerability and confront food insecurities.

COVID-19 Pandemic and Food Insecurity: A Case Study of Pakistan

Author: Maryyam Bint e Ajaz

Food poverty is one of the crucial problems of developing countries like Pakistan. The study has attempted to explore the main determinants of different states of food poverty. Household food poverty states are obtained by combining two indicators i.e. per capita food Expenditure and Average Dietary Energy Consumption (ADEC), indicating food affordability or availability and accessibility respectively. The combined two indicators could be further particularized into four potential states of food poverty such as; complete food secure (based on both indicators), food insecure based on food Expenditure only, food insecure based on ADEC only, and totally food insecure (based on both indicators). HIES data 2018-19 is used to analyze the issue. Multinomial logit model is incorporated for empirical investigation. Estimation results support the presence of different types of food poverty indicating the food insecurity issues. The results also illustrate that impacts of household socio economic features differ significantly across the identified different food poverty states in the analysis. It is concluded that understanding the factors inducing household food poverty states is critical for insuring the human wellbeing for scheming food security policies.

Effects of Benazir Income Support Program on Household Food Insecurity in Pakistan

Author: Waqas Shairt

This study has been carried out to evaluate the effect of one of the most important social safety program (Benazir Income Support Program) on household food insecurity in Pakistan. Food insecurity always remains a heating debate among the researcher due to its inclusion in sustainable development goals (SDGs). Currently, the 2nd SDG is related to the achievement of 'Zero Hunger' by 2030. Due to its globally recognized importance, the Pakistan Beauru of Statistics included a separate section of food insecurity in the Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurements (PSLM) survey in the 2018-2019 round. We used the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) methodology to estimate the food insecurity and also the degree of food insecurity. The descriptive analysis shows that 36% of households are facing food insecurity in Pakistan. The spatial analysis was carried out to identify the region with a higher level of food insecurity. The aftermath of the binary logit model suggests that BISP recipient household is more likelihood of being food insecure when compared with non-recipient households. While within the BISP-recipient household, an increase in the transfer payment through the BISP program decreases the likelihood of being insecure for the mild food-insecure household only. Moreover, an increase in BISP amount does not affect the food insecurity of the severe and moderate food-insecure household. The findings of the study concluded: exceptions to poverty alleviation programs, conditional cash transfers, and other social protection programs subject to food security in the food-insecure areas are required.

Occupational Segregation and Gender Pay Gap: Evidence from Ethiopia

Author: Fenet Jima

This study uses the 2013 Ethiopian Labor Force Survey to investigate the gender pay gap, focusing on occupational segregation and its influence on the gender pay gap. The study also investigates the glass ceiling effects in Ethiopia. To the best of my knowledge, this paper is the first to use gender occupational segregation (measured as the share of women in each occupation) to estimate the wage gap between men and women in Ethiopia. The estimation corrected the selection bias that arises due to the non-random nature of women's labor force participation. Oaxaca-Blinder decomposition, quantile regression and Machado and Mata decomposition is implemented to quantify the extent of the gender pay differential over the pay distribution. Three intermediate results emerge: First, being employed in female dominated occupations has a negative impact on wages for all workers, this negative impact is most pronounced among female workers. Second, the wage gap between men and women is partially explained by gender occupational segregation. Finally, there is evidence of glass ceiling effects in Ethiopia, the gender pay gap is higher for high paid employees and the penalty of working in female dominated occupation is particularly higher in the upper part of pay distribution

Role of Information Communication Technology & Women Empowerment to Alleviate Poverty

Author: Henna

The objective of the study is to investigate the role of Information Communication Technology (ICT) and women empowerment to reduce poverty in Pakistan by using the Household Integrated Economic Survey (HIES) 2018-19. For targeted policy implications Quantile regression has been employed to examine the determinants of poverty across different poverty bands. The empirical results of quantile regression reveal that ICT, women empowerment, human capital, and experience of household head has the major role in helping the households to improve their poverty state. Moreover, access to internet reduces the poverty by providing job and entrepreneurial opportunities along with enabling the rural population to be in touch with latest information and developments taking place in the country.

Impact of Women's Empowerment on Household Vulnerability to Food Insecurity in Rural Economy of Pakistan

Author: Sidra Ishfaq

Empowering rural women is a key for sustainable development. Despite substantial research, the existing indices are incomplete and context specific to measure women's empowerment. This study aims to develop a comprehensive rural women's composite empowerment index (RWCEI) and determine individual, household and community level factors of RWCEI by using data of 1881 women from 2013-14 Pakistan Rural Household Panel Survey. Factor analysis was used to develop RWCEI from nine domains, fourteen sub- domains and eighty-nine indicators. In the sample, rural women were empowered in free mobility, no domestic violence, and time allocation, while disempowered in education, awareness, and economic domains. Results of multi-level mixed effects ordered logistic regression revealed that highly empowered status of a rural woman was mainly determined by access to credit, marital status, exposure to mass media, employment, and educated community. Empirical findings suggest a multi-dimensional policy approach focusing on improving all dimensions of women's empowerment, especially economic independence, and educational attainment.

A Multilayered Household-Based Analysis of Health Inequity in Pakistan

Author: Tahira Tauheed

The persistent deterioration of health indicators and widening health disparities embody one of the most serious challenges facing Pakistan. A prerequisite to suggest measures for rectification of this situation is to ascertain the true magnitude of health status and inequalities. Present research contributes by constructing household-based health indices at the national, provincial, and district levels and utilizing the distribution of these indices to capture health inequalities across households. Atkinson inequality measure is utilized to measure health inequality. The national and provincial analysis is elaborated at the urban and rural regions as well. The household's under five child survival rate (one minus child mortality rate) is employed as a proxy for life expectancy to construct its health index. The data fusion technique with survival analysis is utilized to calculate child mortality rates. Survival analysis is executed by employing discrete-time model with a complementary log- log link. The correlates of child mortality rate include household's socioeconomic and demographic factors. Findings of the present study reveal that households in Pakistan have an average health index falling in the low category. The wide differences in average health indices across and within quintiles demonstrate the prevalence of high disparities across

households. With inequality adjustment, households' health index remains in the low category with a loss of 24 percent. The provincial analysis demonstrates that there are no significant inter-provincial disparities in health dimension, however, inter-regional disparities and regional (urbanrural) differences are evidently high. Analysis at the district level exhibits that majority of the districts are characterized with low category health index and high inequalities in health achievements across households. The findings of this study suggest demolishing the centralization of authority and designing and implementing isomorphic policies. To achieve the higher and equitable health status, the policies must be formulated keeping in view both the status and inequity of health in a region. Allocation of funds for development of health status should also be based on these health statistics.

Subnational Debt, Economic Growth and Rule-Based Debt Policy

Author: Asim Bashir Khan

The rising government debt has now become an overarching theme in Pakistan's economic management, yet a little very attention is paid to subnational public debt and fiscal solvency. The debt is one of the chronic problems of Pakistan and it is attributable to persistent deficits, large non-development expenditures, weak debt repayment capacity, low tax-to- GDP, rising cost of domestic and external borrowing. The most significant structural roots of subnational debts are in low tax effort of successive subnational governments. The disproportionately higher magnitude of expenditure decentralization compared to revenue decentralization and tax autonomy results in transfers dependency, large Vertical Fiscal Imbalances (VFIs) and bailout expectations. Based on an exclusive balanced panel data of subnational public finances from 1971-2021, at disaggregated subnational (provincial) level, this essay is pioneering study in examining the effect of VFIs on subnational debt. The findings suggest that VFIs are relevant and significant in explaining the public debt. VFI, expenditure decentralization and population density are positively related to public debt. The effect of policies reforms like fiscal responsibility law, rule-based debt policy and debt ceiling regulations are found to have corrective role in debt reduction, but statistically insignificant. This emphasizes the need for exhaustive subnational fiscal reforms to target untapped revenue sources like land revenue, agriculture income tax and urban immovable property tax, in addition to efficiency improvement for non-tax revenue collection against charges of public utilities, irrigation and other services, and it needs not to mention that output-based budgeting and robust expenditure management will complement the reforms interventions related to subnational revenues.

Effects of Price Instability and Output Volatility on Economic Growth: A Comparative Analysis

Author: Aisha Rehman

Historical data do not show the relationship between inflation and output the way it is highlighted by the Philips curve. However, the absence of such relationship notwithstanding, there is permanent volatility tradeoff between inflation and output. Since the late 1980s monetary policy has been putting more weight on price stability considering it as prerequisite for long run sustained economic growth. This also shows that policy makers assume output volatility has lesser harmful effect on long run growth as compared to inflation volatility. However, there is no empirical evidence available in the literature on the validity of this assumption. Absence of such evidence motivates this study to estimate and compare the effects of inflation and output volatility on economic growth. Therefore, this study aims at estimating these effects using panel data spanning

1990 to 2020 for 68 upper, middle- and lower-income countries. Selection of countries follows empirical literature on economic growth while time period is selected on the basis of regime shift from economic growth to price stability. Fixed Effect Models have been used to estimate the effects of both volatilities on economic growth. The choice of model is based on time invariant characteristics of countries that must be controlled to make error term independent of the explanatory variables. The results show significant negative effect of output volatility on economic growth even after controlling the effect of inflation volatility. This result is robust to changes in specifications and dropping extreme observations. The result is also same in different states of the economy; output volatility is harmful for growth in both boom and recession. This evidence suggests policy makers to care about output volatility along with price stability to sustain long run growth.

Evaluating Agricultural Income Tax Design to Harness its True Potential - A Case of Pakistan

Author: Najeeb Memon

Income tax system in Pakistan underperforms due to large informal economy driven by illiteracy and high tax compliance cost; flawed tax administration; and poor tax design. An additional problem is that provinces in Pakistan tax agriculture income whereas federation taxes all remaining classes of income. This novel splitting of jurisdiction of income tax between federal and provincial governments makes it cumbersome. Further for provincial slackness, tax to GDP ratio of agriculture sector is the lowest. For understanding this problem, this paper first qualitatively evaluates existing agricultural income tax (AIT) and finds that existing AIT design based on accounting income is not suitable for informally operating agriculture sector. Later, AIT potential is estimated at PKR60-70 billion through data of revenue and cost per acre. Lastly, a presumptive AIT design is constructed to by using cash generating ability of land, which is difficult to tamper and easy to monitor, as a proxy of income; along with other indicators like crop type and landholding size. The presumptive AIT can achieve the estimated potential to finance projects aimed at increasing literacy for documentation and development.

Mapping Customer Repurchase Intention through Cognitive and Affective Experience (A Focus on Mobile Food Delivery Applications)

Author: Hadiqa Riaz

A positive customer experience is crucial for the steady growth of any business. Customers demand better and consistent experience when making most purchases, including in food choices Mobile food order application has become a phenomenal disruption in the food delivery industry. Besides, food delivery platforms have also been seen as the most convenient feature for customers during the global Covid 19 pandemic. Although food delivery applications have been widely used, there is only a scarce literature that focuses on the factors that optimize user experience and repurchase intention. The current study was attempted to explore customer repurchase intention driven through cognitive and affective experience towards food delivery applications in Pakistan. In current study, we conceptualized and empirically confirmed an integrated model of antecedents for cognitive and affective experience and its influence on application satisfaction and repurchase intention. The model also incorporated situational factors (distance to restaurant and time factor) as a moderating variable. To test the proposed model, data was collected from 350 regular users of different food delivery applications. Subsequently, the data was analyzed using Partial least square-structural equation modeling where the findings substantially supported the significance of cognitive and affective experience on application satisfaction and repurchase intention towards food delivery applications. In addition, the results also validate the positive impact of situational

factor as a moderator between application satisfactions and repurchase intention. These findings provide important insights into how food delivery applications can accelerate cognitive and affective experience and use application satisfaction to encourage repeat buying intention. The results also offer guidance in designing and implementing effective approaches and strategies for food delivery retailers.

Revisiting Bowman's Paradox: Prospect Theory and/or Behavioral theory of Firm

Author: Farrukh Mehmood

Literature supports Bowman's paradox (negative relationship between risk and return) with the prospect theory and/or behavioural theory of a firm, however, the foundation of both theories is well defined. So far, it is not clear which theory confirms Bowman's paradox. The present study used a data-driven approach to validate this puzzle. For this purpose, we used the data of 622 listed firms at the Pakistan Stock Exchange, from 2000–2019. Furthermore, we have not only updated the methodology but also the estimation method, to achieve a clear picture. Moreover, these empirical results are also supported by data visualization to illustrate in depth. Finally, we concluded that the Bowman's paradox is supported by the behavioural theory of the firm.

Moving business from just surviving to thriving with sustainable high productivity and competitiveness

Author: M. Aslam Mirza

Going forward in New Normal, the firms are facing two fold challenges to move in strategic direction that are; a) Moving Out from Just Surviving [mesmerizing trend and reactive mode] b) Reimagine Building Competence for Business Resiliency, Productivity & Competitiveness Although the desire is just a wishful thinking to go back to normal and next to impossible in the emerging environment.

What determines the long-term post-acquisition performance of cross-border mergers and acquisitions?

The case of United Kingdom acquiring firms: an empirical study

Author: Dr. Aamir Khan

This study aims to examine the firms' performance following cross-border mergers and acquisitions over the period 2006–2018 using the generalized method of moments (GMM) technique in the context of the United Kingdom (U.K.). Relying on the theory of organizational learning and institutional-based view, empirical results show that the acquiring firms perform better in the long run following cross-border merger and acquisition deals. Furthermore, acquisition experience and industry relatedness have a significant positive impact on a firm's performance. Similarly, the institutional quality and cultural similarity have a positive moderation effect on firms' performance.

Visual Framing of the Kashmir Conflict: An Application of Social Identity Theory

Author: Shahbaz Aslam

This study examines the visual framing of the Kashmir conflict after the revocation of Article 370 by the Indian government on Aug 5th, 2019, which removed the autonomous status of Indian-occupied Kashmir. We conducted a quantitative content analysis of 5118 visuals from AP, AFP, Reuters, and one elite English newspaper each from India and Pakistan. Consistent with the social identity theory we found an imbalance in the visuals used by news sources. Indian newspaper was more likely to frame the issue positively - emphasizing its legality, and ideological relevance of Kashmir for India, while downplaying the humanitarian crisis. However, the visual framing by AP, AFP, and Reuters was more critical in terms of the humanitarian crisis, global protests, and economic slowdown in Kashmir. To examine the public response, we also explored the social media engagement with news articles published on the Kashmir conflict in major Indian, Pakistani, and international newspapers. This analysis confirmed the distorted view of the Kashmir conflict prevalent in India due to a strict media blackout and suppression of journalists. Overall, our findings align with theoretical assumptions of social identity theory and point toward the potential role that visuals play in shaping public opinion of a geopolitical crisis.

Decentralization's Effects on Health: Theory and Evidence from Balochistan, Pakistan

Dr. Manzoor Ahmed

This paper aims to investigate the impacts of decentralisation on health in Balochistan: How decentralization has been [in]effective in improving (worsening) the overall healthcare services in the province. We analyse various dimensions of intergovernmental fiscal relations of Pakistan vis-a-vis Balochistan in the light of National Finance Commission (NFC) Award - the 7th NFC Award - and the 18th Amendment to examine the effects of decentralisation in Balochistan and to evaluate that how these initiatives have been fine-tuned with policies in Balochistan in terms of healthcare services, as in Pakistan the health is a provincial subject, and steps that help improving the capacity of provincial governments should supposedly translate into better services of healthcare. After the 7th NFC Award and the 18th Amendment, Balochistan has gained bigger fiscal space and provincial autonomy to improve social services including health. Yet, some precursory evidence suggests that in spite of bigger fiscal space and provincial autonomy, the province has not been able to increase healthcare services with qualitatively better outcomes. The paper examines whether Balochistan has actually enhanced healthcare services and addressed post 7th NFC Award and the 18th Amendment. The paper uses a long timeseries dataset from 1975 to 2020 from federal/provincial/district sources on health to provide micro-level evidence of static (or otherwise) outcomes in health corresponding to decentralisation. The empirical analysis is discussed and analysed in a rigorous theoretical framework that we build where we evaluate that how public health may be provided with better quality and quantity in a decentralized setup, comparing it with centralized setup, considering various institutional types in the same regimes. The model compares the public health provision by provincial/subnational government with centralized government to assess that which tier is more effective (or otherwise) in health care provision under what conditions. The empirical analysis is based on a "before-after" comparison of health outcomes vis-a-vis decentralisation in which it indicates that decentralisation, measured as the ratio of provincial government's expenditure to total national expenditure, is not showing any effectiveness in improving health outcomes - infant mortality rate, antenatal care coverage rate and rate of fully immunized children. Interestingly, the impact of local decentralisation, which is defined as the ratio of local governments' expenditure to total provincial expenditure, on all three

defined as the ratio of local governments' expenditure to total provincial expenditure, on all three health outcomes is positive and significant, which simply illustrates that local governments, even though remained dysfunctional more than often, appear to be more impactful than the provincial government.

Implications of Fencing the Pak-Iran Border on the Livelihoods of the People in the Border Sharing Districts in Balochistan

Author: Nabeel Lal

This study is a qualitative exploratory research which uses Livelihood Strategy Approach as its theoretical framework to explore the implications of fencing the Pak-Iran border on the livelihoods of the people who are involved in the trade of unregulated products in border sharing districts in Balochistan. It covers the perceptions and concerns of the people whose livelihoods are being affected due to the fencing. Using the six key components of the Livelihood Strategy Approach, this paper looks at the implications in biophysical, political/legal, economic, social, cultural, and psychological spheres. The findings of the study show that severe implications exist on the livelihoods of the people in all of the aforementioned components, and this has caused restlessness among people. The findings also show that it is not just the people who are directly or indirectly involved in the unregulated trade who are being affected, but also the people, such as mechanics and auto parts shop owners whose livelihood are not necessarily dependent on the Iranian products, are equally being affected. Moreover, this study also explores the different reasons behind the failure of the strategy of fencing the border and discusses various context-based strategies needed to cover the current concerns of the affected population and the way forward

A Postcolonial Critiques on Globalization and Privatization of Education in Pakistan

Author: Gul Muhammad Rind

Globalization of education puts irrevocable marks on the national identity and sovereignty of the post-colonial and low-income countries. The education reform policies and knowledge production and dissemination through foreign aid and international organizations (I.O) move from western countries to the global south. These education policies and knowledge also travel along with western cultural hegemony, economic power and dependency, privatization, and neoliberal values. In this paper, I discuss the menace of globalization and privatization of education in the post-colonial country, such as Pakistan. In order to analyze the economic, cultural, and social implications of globalization and privatization I apply the post-colonial critique.

Sanctions: An evil or ethical tool?

Author: Safia Hussain

Sanctions have become a common tool in the current world. They are used frequently by sender states and international actors to force target states to comply with their demands. This research focuses upon the effectiveness of sanctions along with the net effect of sanctions on the target country's population. To test the effectiveness of sanctions and their overall effect, a methodology was designed, by studying the works for key authors in the field, and two case studies were tested against this methodology. These cases include the case of Libya and Iraq. Furthermore, the idea of smart sanctions has also been discussed as part of this research. The overall results show that sanctions can be successful if they are used smartly, however, a considerable amount of work needs to be carried out before they can be declared risk-free and ethical for the local populations.

Improving Public Sector Development Programme in Balochistan: A study of Health, Education, Communication & Works, and Social Welfare Departments.

Author: Dr. Mir Sadaat Baloch

Successive governments in Balochistan have failed to streamline the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) despite repeated directions from the High Court and Supreme Court to plan it in an effective manner. It is imperative to find ways to improve the process of PSDP making, particularly resource allocation. This study discusses how political clientelism is influencing the process of PSDP making by diverting scarce resources to create incentives for powerful political actors to keep the general public dependent and poor. As a result, it is feeding extreme levels of exploitation and corruption in Balochistan. A comparative analysis of the disbursement of PSDP in the 10 districts in last ten years clearly shows some districts with more population and area have been receiving less funds as compared to less populated and smaller districts. To overcome this inefficiency this research has formulated a mathematical model that estimates the amount to be allocated to each district, where the amount to be allocated to each district is a function of the total PSDP and the weights of population and area for that district. Then to further prioritise the projects of any particular department a performance matrix is developed. The matrix is developed to rank the public sector development projects. The criteria used in the matrix are the themes obtained from the interviews and focus group discussions with the personnel of the relevant departments. Finally, this study suggests that a single approach for budgeting would make it difficult for government. Hence the government must use a formulaic approach along with a participatory approach for effective resource allocation in PSDP making.

Climate Change and Food Security: Understanding the Mountain Voices from Gilgit- Baltistan Pakistan

Author: Amjad Ali

Mountain regions of Pakistan are highly vulnerable to climate change. This study seeks to understand the perception of the mountain communities about climate change and its impact on agriculture and food security in nine remote villages of Gilgit-Baltistan. This study also identifies various opportunities for livelihood which are climate-resilient and have the potential to contribute to the food security requirement of households on a sustainable basis. The study uses mixed research approach where quality data were collected using focus group discussions with the native communities whereas quantitative data were gathered through households' survey. Results of the study reveal that households holding livestock and agricultural land have declined and dependency on market for food items increased with the passing years. The study further shows that snow falling has been on decreasing trend over the years which has a significant negative impact on the water availability and the availability of grass in pastures. The study highlighted that yak and sea buckthorn is the climate-resilient livelihood options if local mountain communities are versed with the production and value chain development of these products. The study also offers policy instruments to ensure food security in the face of changing climate in the mountain regions of Pakistan.

Understanding Disaster Risk Management in Agriculture in the context of Climate Change

Author: Muhammad Faisal Ali

It is now undisputed that climate is changing and Pakistan is among those countries that are most vulnerable to climate change. According to long-term Global Climate Risk Index (GCRI) Pakistan has been ranked 8th most affected country from 2000 to 2019 with total of US \$ 3771.91 million losses. Pakistan is also ranked 5th most affected country for the year 2019-20 according to GCRI with US \$ 2220.527 million losses (Kreft et al., 2016). Rise in temperature coupled with more intensified precipitations due to increased melting of glaciers and resultant changes in the precipitation patterns are the major effects of climate change in agricultural dependent country (Asif, 2013). It is also reported that temperature has risen from 0.6 to 1.0 °C with 18-32% increased rainfall in monsoon zone of the country during last century (PMD, 2011) while on the other hand different studies and reports has projected that this situation will become more severe in future. So climate change is creating serious future concerns for Pakistani agriculture (Shakoor et al., 2011). Threats or hazards in any society turn into disasters when they cause collateral damage and produce a serious impact on vulnerable parts of society. For a society, a disaster risk is a blend of potential threats and all kinds of social, economic and physical vulnerabilities, that doesn't appear as one time event with one impulsive impact in vulnerable communities but reasons a consistent loss of income and income sources, loss of livelihood's assets, loss of fertility and loss of homes over time (Nizami and Robledo, 2010). The recent devastating floods brought high losses of about Rs. 200 billion to the economy of the country that eventually produced a great impediment in attaining growth goals. These devastating floods have destroyed a large, cropped area of almost sixty two thousand acres in district Rajan Pur whereas crop lost area reported for district Jhang was about 46629 acres that is the reason these two districts were highlighted to be the most flood affected in Province Punjab (Rasheed, 2013). These two districts have a long history of floods. Flood probability for past forty years (1973 -2013) was reported at the rate of 2.22 and 1.48 years for district Jhang and Rajan Pur respectively (GOP, 2013). That means high social, environmental and economic concerns. Moreover extreme weather events would become more frequent in future and their magnitude is projected to be greater in Pakistan (Farooqi et al., 2005). Hence, risk transfer mechanisms are required at local, regional and global level to enhance the communal resilience for flood risk mitigation (IPCC, 2012; SREX, 2012). In developing countries like Pakistan, an innovative disaster risk management is highly needed (Arshad et al., 2016) as mitigation mechanism under extreme events and changing climate. A social objective behind flood risk management is to minimize the costs associated to flood damages (Messner, 2007). But, in Pakistan small and medium farmers take longer to recover from consequences of major floods and many do not even survive under this catastrophe due to lack of a functional crop insurance market (Asgray et al., 2012). It has also been pointed out that structural measures like constructing dams and dike etc. are found to be less effective than non-structural measure like crop insurance (Shaw and Mallick 2013) therefore flood insurance could be a better way out in dealing disaster risk in Pakistan. It is also argued that every type of insurance reduces the losses and offers safekeeping (Mills, 2005). A key role of insurance in mitigating extreme threats under climate change also concludes that "risk sharing through crop insurance could prove a tool for risk reduction and for sustaining the livelihood of the farmers" (IPCC, Cutter et al., 2012). This study explored farmers' willingness to pay for flood insurance as a risk reducing mechanism in study area. Besides a large acceptability of flood insurance as risk transfer mechanism, at the same time it is not considered as an appropriate alternative in managing disasters by some research scholars because it have limited accessibility

to those who can afford it, individuals with greater financial resources are more likely to opt flood insurance (Browne and Hoyt, 2000) but on the other hand, a great scholarly considerations has been received for theory supporting the demand for insurance. A lot of research has been done in exploring willingness to pay for insurance against disasters in several countries (McCarthy, 2003; Akter et al., 2009, Botzen and Bergh, 2009; Kwadzo et al., 2013, Abbas et al., 2015, Arshad et al., 2016) But actual farmer driven factors for crop insurance have not been explored yet. While understanding stated choices and willingness to pay, Discrete choice modeling (DCM) appeared as a very popular procedure in marketing research, transportation (Kuhfeld, 2010) and now it is expanding to other areas like climate change by analyzing demand for different insurance products. It helps in understanding stated choices of alternative products. The findings of discrete choice experiment would help in shaping the recommendations and guidelines to governmental authorities and executing bodies involved in flood damage assessment so that public defense projects or strategies should be appraised appropriately (Menssner, 2007). That's why this study targeted the acceptability and potential of flood insurance as a risk transfer tool for financial risk associated to flood events in Pakistan. Although some researchers have documented the demand for flood insurance by contingent valuation method in rural Pakistan (Abbas, 2014; Arshad et. al., 2016) but still a little work is done and almost no study has documented the DCM findings for flood insurance in Pakistan. The objective of this study was to determine the farmers' willingness to pay for climate change mitigation in study area.

Climate Change Risk and Food Security in District Bahawalpur: A Perception-Based Study

Author: Dr. Bushra Yasmin

The study is an attempt to assess people's perception about climate change risk and its impact on the food security at household level, based on primary data collected from 250 households from district Bahawalpur in year 2020. The data was collected through nonprobability convenient sampling through well-structured questionnaire, equally representing rural and urban areas. As formation of perceptions regarding climate change is a long term phenomenon, those households were selected for the survey who have been living in selected districts for at least last 20 years. The analysis provides interesting insights into the households perceptions about two distinct but interrelated threat to human security i.e., climate change risk and food security. The study offers various stages analytics of the phenomena. The climate change risk is computed by focusing on the three dimensions of vulnerability to certain threat i.e., exposure, sensitivity and adaptation. The climate change risk is computed by deducting adaptability score from the additive of exposure and sensitivity hence, larger the value of index higher would be the climate change risk. Comparatively, food security is computed in an order of low to high security and larger value shows higher food security. Besides, a descriptive analysis provides us the frequency distribution of both indicators at low, moderate and high level of respective indicator. For multivariate analysis, the impact of climate change risk (along with other determinants) on food security was estimated by ordered probit model as the households are categorized according to their level of food security. The findings show marked changes in the climate in the form of erratic rainfall, changed pattern of seasons, intense temperature and unforeseen flooding. The windstorm were found to be a common factor of climatic vulnerability in the selected district. However, the frequency distribution shows 63 percent of households perceive themselves as highly food secure. While 22 percent consider themselves as highly insecure and 13 percent as moderately secure. One reason of high food security might be the possession of assets in its various form by the households. Figures show that 69 % of the households possessing at least one kind of asset falls in highly food secure group in terms of food security. Similarly, a significant number of households (63 percent) falls in the

category of non-poor, computed on the base of purchasing power parity definition of poor by the World Bank and 52 % of them are placed among highly food secure. The cross tabulation shows rural and urban areas doesn't depict large variation when compared for the climate change risk. The findings from ordered probit regression offers similar findings and portrays significantly negative relationship between climate change risk and food security. Among other factors the poverty status, assets holdings, education of the head of the household, sound financial position and availability of financial resources appeared as significant factors. When the tehsil level intercept dummies are introduced the climate change risk turns insignificant however the food security appeared as significantly higher in Bahawalpur as compared to Kahirpur and Ahmedpur and significantly lower than Hasilpur Tehsil while no significant difference between Bahawalpur and Yazman was found. The area of household residence and gender of household did not offer significant gap in food security. However, education holds vital position in providing food security to the household. As a matter of fact, economic security provides hedge against climate change threat to the food security. Moreover, it also plays the mediating role in risk-security relationship. Particularly, taking climate change risk in interaction with the poverty status, the impact of CCR tends to reduce. Sample shows 48% who are non-poor are also highly secure in terms of food. Similar findings are recorded for the interaction of education of the head of household, no indebtedness and sound financial conditions with risk index. While at aggregate level, the economic security almost nullifies the impact of climate change risk on food security. This is worth mentioning that the perceptions of household are higher around the sensitivity and exposure of climate change risk but the mitigation strategies are limited on their part as average adaptation of the sample is 55 percent as compared with 80 % average score of exposure and 72% average score of sensitivity, based on households self-reporting. The three dimensions of climate change risk offer interesting insight into the risk-security relationship. Particularly, sensitivity has significantly negative effect on food security in contrast to exposure which appears insignificant. Whereas the adaptation shows positively significant effect on food security. Overall findings identifies significant environment for managing the adaptation to climate change in selected area. The study helps in identifying adaptation strategies for devising policy measures for mitigating climate change risk and attached food insecurities to the households and also provide rationale for introducing awareness campaigns in favor of adaptation strategies to help people develop resilience to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change on food security.

Climate Change as an Emergent Threat to Pakistan's Security

Author: Ahmad Mujtaba

Climate change is a non-negotiable external cost that affects everyone, regardless of their level of involvement. Pakistan is one of the most vulnerable countries in South Asia since agriculture is the bread and butter of the majority of its citizens. Despite the fact that it affects nearly every area of the economy, natural resources are the most vulnerable. The situation will be exacerbated by a drop in fresh water supply, resulting in economic and social instability. Thus, an economically weak state loses the ability to respond to such circumstances, posing a direct threat to the country's national security. Pakistan, on the other hand, has correctly assessed the threat following the floods of 2010 and 2011, opting for an environmental strategy in 2012. The country is actively engaged in ecologically friendly acclimatization. In this paper, we analyze the threat in light of the key vulnerabilities and Pakistan's role in tackling this issue.

A subnational analysis of inequality convergence: Evidence from India and Pakistan

Author: Kafeel Sarwar

Neoclassical growth models predict the convergence of the whole income distribution, rather than just in the first moment. In this paper, I seek an answer to the question of whether income inequalities are persistent over time or converging at the subnational level in India and Pakistan by using household-level data. I find that inequality has increased in India and Pakistan during the last decade. The results reveal a strong indication of inequality convergence within the districts of India and Pakistan. Pakistan appears to converge faster than India. The inequality convergence coefficients are more modest in all specifications when accounting for measurement error. The convergence results are not sensitive to different measures of inequalities. At the current speed of inequality convergence, both countries will reduce inequality to one digit at the end of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals 2030.

Remittances and inequality: A meta-analytic review

Author: Amar Anwar

This is the first meta-study that attempts to answer: Do remittances reduce inequality in recipient countries? Though, several studies have empirically analyzed this question; however, no consensus has emerged regarding the effect of remittances on inequality. In a quantitative survey of 337 estimates reported in 30 studies, approximately 12% of these estimates indicate a positive and statistically significant nexus between the two variables. Furthermore, 57% of the collected estimates show a negative and statistically significant impact, and 31% depict an insignificant impact (based on the conventional 5% significance level). We find that the mean effect of remittances on inequality is negative but economically small. We also uncover noticeable regional differences: remittances tend to enhance inequality in South Asia but are likely to decrease it for other regions such as Sub-Saharan Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Our results show that studies that employed a cross-sectional (time-series) dataset significantly exhibit a positive (negative) association with the effect size of remittances on inequality. Also, time-series studies and literature that ignores endogeneity issues, on average, yield larger effects of remittances on inequality. We are unable to find the possibility of publication selection bias in the literature. This study also contains implications for policy and future research in the field.

Inequality and Spatial Disparities in Wellbeing; The Case of Karachi

Author: Sumrin Kalia

Income inequality and disparities in wellbeing are not only unjust but it is also bad for growth. Global and national inequalities have received considerable attention; however local inequalities, within cities are of equal concern. More than two third of the world's population lives in cities that are more unequal today than 20 years ago. Disparities within cities may be socially destabilizing if there are conflicting political interests and discontent regarding economic welfare. This paper is an attempt to gauge the extent of inequality in Pakistan's largest metropolitan Karachi. Home to more than 22 million people Karachi is Pakistan's economic hub and the most politically sensitive city. This paper measures inequality in Karachi using household income. It further develops an index using various dimensions of wellbeing and presents a spatial analysis of wellbeing in towns and districts of Karachi. It is seen that Karachi displays high levels of income inequality. The cantonments and towns near the center of the city exhibit high wellbeing whereas towns in the periphery of the city show low levels of wellbeing. Overall, the city has high spatial disparity of wellbeing across its

towns. These findings have important policy implications, as these disparities have the potential to deepen the lines of segregation and separation and can result in exclusion and social polarization.

Exploring Cyclical Behavior of Functional Heads of Public Expenditure in Pakistan: Federal Level Analysis

Author: Aisha Irum

This paper examines the cyclical behaviour of the functional heads of government expenditure at the federal level for Pakistan. The time period covered by the study is from 1984-2019 and the analysis covers sector wise current, development, and total expenditure. The study employs the novel non-parametric econometric technique (Multivariate Adaptive Regression Splines) in order to reveal the cyclical patterns of functional heads of federal public current and development expenditures. The results of the study show that expenditure (current, development, and total) on law and order, health, and social protection does not follow any cyclical pattern. Current expenditure on General Public Service (GPS) shows mix cyclical behaviour while development expenditure on GPS does not show any cyclical behaviour. Current expenditure on defence shows mix cyclical behaviour while development expenditure does not show any cyclical behaviour. Moreover, current expenditure on education and economic affairs does not show any cyclical behavior. Development expenditure on education is counter cyclical in nature. While development expenditure on economic affairs and social protection shows a mix behavior.

An Analysis into the Effectiveness of Public Sector Development Programs in Employment Generation in Pakistan

Author: Taimoor Ali Butt

Public Sector Development Programs (PSDP) spending effectiveness is a limited and ignored debate especially when it concerns whether the objective of employment generation is being achieved through it or not. This study explores the role of public sector development programs (PSDP) in employment generation in the context of Pakistan. Literature suggest that public investment in form of PSDP spending can generate employment opportunities directly and sometimes indirectly (through spillover effect on the private sector employment) and in some cases the effect isn't there. Using Vector Autoregression (VAR) methodology, our results suggest that the effectiveness varies across sectors and time periods. PSDP spending creates employment only in short run period. It has stronger impacts on the employment generation in the sectors of Water & Power Sector, Construction and Health Sector. The short run employment creation is a direct impact but to maintain the impact in long run, role of private investment is critical as it has more effectiveness in generating employment. Our findings suggest that PSDP spending has crowded in the private investment in some sectors. However, overall we observe minimal or no effect of PSDP spending on Private Investment. It was concluded that PSDP is not productive enough to generate significant employment in Pakistan.

Tax Morale and the role of socio-economic and institutional factors: Empirical evidence based on selected Asian countries

Author: Aisha Nazir

The main objective of every country is to achieve a sustainable level of economic growth. To achieve this objective, the role of taxes is critical. Adequate tax collection is indispensable for developing countries where tax evasion is uncontrolled and economic growth is stagnant, probably due to deteriorating tax to GDP ratio and incompetent tax system. This study endeavors to find the factors that can intrinsically motivate people to become tax compliant in the Asian region. These aspects are related to demographic, social, behavioral, economic, religious, democratic, and other factors. Data is collected for 25 Asian countries from the World Value Survey wave-6 (WVS-6) and ordered probit regression is applied for the empirical analysis. Study findings demonstrate that democratic institutions, confidence in government, satisfaction from life, happiness, religious factors, demographic and socio-economic aspects are critical for motivating people to pay taxes. Results suggest that to enhance tax compliant attitude, parliament and institutions have to work efficiently and democratically so that confidence/trust can build up between people and government. Moreover, feelings like national pride, happiness, and satisfaction should also be incorporated to enhance tax morale.

The impact of export promotion policies on export performance

Author: Stefania Lovò

We investigate the impact of export promotion policies on the performance of Pakistani exporters in the textile sector. We find that, while the policies had only a small positive overall impact on textile exports, they induced substantial re-allocations across textile products. The policies induced an increase in exports of traditional products eligible for the highest rebate rates at the expense of non-eligible, or lower-rate products. The effects are driven by the product choices of both existing and new exporters. We cannot also exclude that strategy misreporting at custom could also partially explain the observed effects.

Does Trade Openness Improve the Quality of Domestic Institutions? Evidence from Africa

Author: Arshad Hayat

The article deals with impacts of international trade on less developed economies. In particular, it investigates the effects of international trade openness on domestic institutions and thus indirectly on economic development. It takes the example of Africa. It applies generalized methods of moments to a dynamic panel data of 34 African countries in the period of 1988–2012 to estimate the effect of their trade openness on institutional quality measured by twelve variables. Institutional quality data come from International Country Risk Guide, the rest of data are from World Development Indicators and UNESCO databases. Our results show that trade openness is a positive and significant determinant of institutional quality, although the impact is weak. Trade openness brings a positive impact on bureaucracy and law and order, we also identify its conflict-mitigating effects, however, except for natural resources exports which are found induce conflicts. Trade openness also positively influences socioeconomic conditions, although the link is very weak. Regarding our control variables, we find two interesting results. First, GDP per capita is a strong, positive, and significant determinant of institutional quality when measured by one bundled indicator, however, individual variables show different intensities. Secondly, we found a strong, positive, and significant impact of net foreign direct investment inflow on government stability.

An Empirical Analysis of Pakistan's Agriculture Trade with China: Complementarity or Competition?

Author: Unbreen Qayyum

This paper examines the bilateral trade flows between Pakistan and China with particular focus on the trade of agricultural goods. It observes the trends and characteristics of China-Pakistan trade relations after both countries signed the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement in 2006. We use trade complementarity index, revealed comparative advantage index, trade integration index and export similarity index to empirically analyse trade complementarity and competition of thirty five agricultural products. Furthermore, we investigate the future prospects of agriculture sector by calculating indicative trade potentials of top agriculture products. The findings of this study show that there exist competition and complementarity for few products; however, complementarity is strong. The indicative trade potentials show that Pakistan has higher exports potentials in products rice, seafood and cotton, which however have not reached up to their potentials due to various tariff and non-tariff barrier.

Analyzing club convergence in child schooling in Pakistan during 2004-2020

Author: Noor Ahmad

The early education is fundamental for the child's intellectual growth and development. Literature highlights spatial inequality in child schooling through the lens of spatial models, for instance, density, locality, and distance in developing countries. Given the need for research on geographic inequalities in child formal education in Pakistan, this study analyzes the club convergence of child schooling across districts. Two schooling indicators, overall secondary school enrolment and girl's secondary school enrolment, are used. The analysis is based on convergence and the clustering technique proposed by Phillips and Sul (2007). The data for the study is obtained from Pakistan Social and Standards Measurement Survey (PSLM) covering the period from 2004 to 2020. Overall, findings of the study reject convergence to a single equilibrium state regarding secondary school enrolment. The results highlight four convergence clubs for overall secondary school. Whereas, girl's secondary school enrolment findings show four convergence clubs and one diverging group. The findings show that there is not a uniform secondary school enrolment across all districts and thus policies need to be designed to lessen these spatial disparities in child schooling.

Navigating Access to Higher Education: A Case of Volunteer-led Education Intervention for the Underprivileged

Author: Sara Illahi Panhwer

Education lies at the heart of development and poverty reduction. According to Asian Development Bank, provision and accessibility of high-quality higher education is an essential driver of economic progress. Institutes of higher education enable countries to gain comparative advantage in the knowledge economy by improving their external efficiency. However, this efficiency is significantly hampered when many prospective students fail to transition into tertiary education institutes based on their socio-economic standing. This spurs a recurring cycle of poverty and persistent social disparity. The paper presents a case study of the Alumni Development Program, an accelerated preparatory program, conceptualized and implemented in 2013 by an undergraduate student as an innovative and volunteer-led intervention to enable educational transition of slum dwellers into institutes of tertiary education. The study aims to capture the emic perspective utilizing in-depth interviews of students based in Karachi who

designed, managed, enrolled, and benefitted from this initiative. The study highlights factors limiting students' access to tertiary education drawn from thematic analysis of interviews. It further presents a case for education planners to consider bridging a stronger connection between higher education institutes and college education to facilitate higher education access and student readiness for education transition. The findings of the research indicate learning gaps, financial challenges, and lack of awareness about admission procedures as a pressing barrier to higher education access. However, the success stories of the program and its unique management reveal that accelerated academic intervention can bridge learning gaps and enable more underserved students to secure admissions to institutes of higher education for greater socio-economic parity.

Future of universities, jobs and skills in post-covid19 and digital age

Author: Dr. Zahid Asghar

Sanctions have become a common tool in the current world. They are used frequently by sender states and international actors to force target states to comply with their demands. This research focuses upon the effectiveness of sanctions along with the net effect of sanctions on the target country's population. To test the effectiveness of sanctions and their overall effect, a methodology was designed, by studying the works for key authors in the field, and two case studies were tested against this methodology. These Pakistan should fear more from lack of preparation to new challenges posed by digital revolution and automation of the work and covid-19 pandemic disruption not than China/India/Bangladesh/Vietnam for capturing economic markets. Future of jobs and educational institutions are very uncertain. This study is aimed at how digital revolution, new technologies, artificial intelligence may lead to have major disruption in future jobs. It has been explored what possible approaches can be adopted and how our universities can tap those opportunities to put our burgeoning youth on a learning path so they can remain on job by adopting a culture of continuous learning. Opinion survey conducted from last year university students and MPhil/PhD students indicate element of worriness, lack of awareness of future uncertainties and relatively more focus on hard work than soft skills. Absence of career counseling and right places to get relevant skills also came out as some major factors for students poor readiness for market besides their poor performance in academics. Universities business as usual approach seems a complete disconnect for their readiness to meet the challenges of the 3rd decade of the 21st century. The future of both higher education and jobs is uncertain, and need to reimagine many potential futures. Keywords: Future jobs, Future of Universities, Time vs Learning goals include the case of Libya and Iraq. Furthermore, the idea of smart sanctions has also been discussed as part of this research. The overall results show that sanctions can be successful if they are used smartly, however, a considerable amount of work needs to be carried out before they can be declared risk-free and ethical for the local populations.

The Virtual Shift: Early Childhood Intervention Therapies for Pakistani Children with Down Syndrome During COVID-19

Author: Sidra Zahid

Mountain regions of Pakistan are highly vulnerable to climate change. This study seeks to understand the perception of the The paper aims to discuss the impact of Karachi Down Syndrome Program (KDSP)'s virtual Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) service, comprising of speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy clinics, on children with Down syndrome and their parents in Pakistan during the COVID-19 pandemic from March 2020 to August 2020. The results yielded many positive outcomes of the virtual shift and allowed for continuous innovation in empowering parents and transforming the developmental outcomes of children with

in nine remote villages of Gilgit-Baltistan. This study also identifies various opportunities for livelihood which are climate-resilient and have the potential to contribute to the food security requirement of households on a sustainable basis. The study uses mixed research approach where quality data were collected using focus group discussions with the native communities whereas quantitative data were gathered through households' survey. Results of the study reveal that households holding livestock and agricultural land have declined and dependency on market for food items increased with the passing years. The study further shows that snow falling has been on decreasing trend over the years which has a significant negative impact on the water availability and the availability of grass in pastures. The study highlighted that yak and sea buckthorn is the climate-resilient livelihood options if local mountain communities are versed with the production and value chain development of these products. The study also offers policy instruments to ensure food security in the face of changing climate in the mountain regions of Pakistan.

The Impact of Social Cash Transfers on Poverty in Pakistan-The Case of Benazir Income Support Programme

Author: Mian M Kashif Saeed

Governments around the world often make social cash transfers to their residents for varied purposes such as consumption smoothing, poverty reduction, improved take-up of education and health services, etc. In Pakistan, these transfers took a big stride with the initiation of Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) in 2008. Social cash transfers have multiple types of impacts e.g. on health, education, reproductive behavior, voting behavior etc. This study aims to investigate the existence of a relationship between social cash transfers and poverty. Specifically, the research question is: Is there any impact of BISP receipt on poverty in Pakistan? This research question is answered with the help of utilization of Household Integrated Economic Survey (HIES) 2015-16 (Government of Pakistan, 2017) which presents information on households' consumption (used to measure poverty) as well as households' cash transfer recipient status. Official poverty estimation methodology is used for defining the poverty status of a household. The relationship between cash transfers and poverty is studied through the nearest-neighbor matching method limiting ourselves to BISP. The findings show that there is no significant relationship between BISP cash transfer and poverty when full dataset is used and a negative but economically insignificant relationship when only people from the bottom consumption quintiles are considered. Based on these findings, way-forward in terms of future research and making necessary modifications in the programme design of BISP is suggested.

Total Factor Productivity Nexus with Human Capital, Intellectual Property Rights, and Information Communication Technology in the Textile & Apparel Industry of Pakistan: An Empirical Analysis

Author: Irfan Ali

Textile and apparel industries are the largest industrial group of Pakistan comprising 25% of value-added of the manufacturing sector and about 60% in total exports. They provide employment to 40% of the total industrial labor force. Moreover, they witnessed a growth of 5.9 percent during July-March FY2021 compared to the corresponding period last year (BoI, 2021; GoP, 2021). The competitiveness of firms in the textile and apparel group is closely linked with their Total Factor Productivity (TFP), which can be augmented through the investment in human capital, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), intellectual property rights (IPRs), advertisement expenditures, and liberalizing/protection of the industry through import taxes. Moreover, the role of

subsidies, investment in machinery and equipment further enhance TFP in the textile and apparel industries. This study utilizes data from the 2005–06 Census of Manufacturing Industries (CMI). The methodology of Tomiura (2007) is employed to compute the TFP of the textile and apparel industry. Using the OLS with robust standard errors methodology results indicate a positive impact of human capital, ICT, IPRs, import duties, subsidies for exports, investment in machinery & equipment, and advertisement expenditures on TFP growth. Summarizing our findings, the impact of IPRs as measured by payments for copy-rights royalties, patents, etc., ICT expenditures and import duty have a direct and significant effect on TFP. The utilization of IPRs and ICT allows enterprises to reap the benefits of foreign developed technology while the protection of textile and apparel industries from foreign competition relieves resources to enhance TFP. Moreover, the effect of advertisement expenditures on TFP is positive but insignificant.

Revitalizing Street Economy: An Economic Analysis

Author: Dr. Nasir Iqbal

The study aims to provide an economic analysis of street economy in twin cities of Pakistan. The survey based analysis of 1863 fixed street vendors working in twin cities shows that lack of formal education and unemployment inclined individuals to choose street vending business as a profession. The analysis shows strong formal-informal economic linkages, beneficial for both formal shop owners and street vendors. The formal business (shops) benefits from the pedestrian traffic that street vendors attract by selling low-cost products. Whereas street vendors use the formal sector to buy product and use storage spaces. The average monthly revenue of street vendors is Rs. 114,708 (US\$ 740) and on average, earn a significant profit amounted US\$ 212 per month (29% of total monthly revenue). The street vendor made on average, US\$ 571 investment to run vending business and around 60% of SVs use their own money to start street vending business. A street vendor pays around US\$ 107 monthly as an operational cost and more than 51% of the total operational cost incurred by the street vendors fall under the category of rent paid to owner of the shop. The lack of legal protection is one of the major challenges face by street vendors. We find that 98% of SVs are operating without any legal protection in the market. The reported economic loss due to informality constitute around 62% of monthly revenue in full sample, which is 215% of net monthly profits. The multidimensional vulnerability index (MVI) shows that around 21% of street vendors are acute vulnerable while more than 25% of SVs are vulnerable. The multivariate analysis show that socioeconomic vulnerability has a negative and significant impact on monthly profits. We find that around 57% of SVs fall below the poverty line, hence treated as poor. The economic analysis of street vending provides numerous insights for policymakers and other stakeholders including businessmen, market associations, regulatory authorities, administrative bodies and social protection agencies

The Economic & Environmental Effects of Infrastructure Improvements: Evidence from Pakistan's Electricity Sector

Author: Javed Younus

Fiscal challenges pervade the electricity sector in many developing countries. Low bill payment and high theft mean utility customers have little incentive to conserve. It also means electricity distribution companies have less to invest in infrastructure maintenance, modernization, and technical upgrades. The resulting low quality electricity services can impair economic benefits from connections to the electrical grid. Using differences in intervention timing across space, we study the impacts of an infrastructural intervention that made illegal connections physically more difficult in Karachi, Pakistan. We find that improvements in infrastructure reduced non-technical losses,

increased revenue recovery, and led to lower electricity delivered to the distribution system, a proxy for generation. This translates into a reduction in CO2 emissions that is between 0.10% to 1.19% of Pakistan's emissions within a year. Losses fall due to an increase in formal utility customers and greater billed consumption among the existing formal customers. Consumers report fewer service outages, as well as greater appliance ownership and use after the infrastructure upgrade. The improvement in infrastructure also provided the utility with some technical resilience to the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, protecting against an uptick in nontechnical losses.

Digital Economies and Evolving Regulations: A Parametric and Non-Parametric Approach with Bad Output Across Countries

Author: Somesh Kumar

The metamorphosis manifested in the pronounced expansion of international trade coupled with the 3rd Industrial Revolution (ICT revolution) allows us to examine the cross-country nexus between trade restrictions and the technical efficiency of network readiness. In increasing ICT impact and its usage, there is also a generation of undesirable output, namely digital service trade restrictions, which are encapsulated in the OECD-DSTRI index. Integrating a unique Digital Service Trade Restrictiveness Index (DSTRI) of OECD countries, trade of ICT services, and the dataset on the disaggregated indices of Network Readiness Index Report, we endeavor to address—how technically efficient are the network readiness of the countries; in the realm of Bad Output, namely, the OECD-DSTRI, have the countries experienced deterioration or improved technical efficiency scores; are those countries controlling for Digital Trade faring better in terms of efficiency of Network Readiness; is there any difference in the technical efficiency scores among high and middle-income nations; what factors explain the ICT usage of countries and its impact on economic growth. Broadly, our results are three-fold. Firstly, though we have found evidence of a surge in technical efficiency scores between 2016 and 2020, from both DEA and SFA, we can infer that trade restrictiveness has very little to do with technical efficiency. Secondly, no difference were found in the technical efficiency scores of high and middle-income countries, and we can deduce that all middle-income countries have maneuvered to move up the ladder. We have also found evidence of Asian countries faring better than the European Union countries in context of technical efficiencies. Thirdly, from our empirical results it seems that adoption of ICT and the so-called disruptive 4IR technologies (disruptive) has replaced labor and henceforth, we hypothesise a positive impact of network readiness on the growth rates. It seems that net neutrality and addressing pernicious regulations related to the ICT sector - barrier to competition, foreign entry, mobility of people, regulatory transparency across countries can improve the productivity and efficiency of the ICT sector. Maybe a better measure of OECD-DSTRI incorporating the above may lead to accurately estimating the influence of OECD-DSTRI on productivity and efficiency of the ICT sector across countries.

The Impact of Railway's Development on Economic Growth through CPEC: A Case Study of Pakistan

Author: Abida Naurin

It is essential to have a well-functioning railway infrastructure to improve trade, rural development, and transportation costs. The study's goal is to introduce Pakistan Railways as an industry. Transportation is one of the fundamental factors for economic growth, and one of the primary goals of the CPEC is to upgrade Pakistan's transportation infrastructure. Pakistan Railways receives USD 8.6 billion from CPEC, indicating that railways are indeed an essential project in the CPEC. The time-series data has been collected by the world development indicator from 1981 to 2016. For better forecasting of developed railway infrastructure with economic growth, the vector error correction model (VECM) is used. Johansen's (1988) maximum likelihood method is applied for the existence of a co-integration relationship among the variables in this study. The empirical results show that CPEC has a considerable influence on Pakistan Railways. The impact of gross earning through railways and HDI on the economic growth of Pakistan has been positive and statistically significant at a 5% significance level. The current study recommends the introduction of a computerized booking system for luggage and parcel is also required to reduce the massive element of corruption in the transshipment of freight.

Economic Globalization and Women's Empowerment: Evidence from Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Countries

Author: Dr. Muhammad Tariq Majeed

How does international economic integration affect economic, social, and political conditions for women? Research on gender and international interactions offers propositions but seldom provides broad and quantitative testing. In this study, we try to fill this gap by answering the following question: Does globalization lead to improvements in women's status and equality in 53 Muslim majority (OIC) countries? OIC countries share a common religion and thus afford a more homogeneous group than the world at large, enabling a better focus on the empowerment of women. We measure female empowerment by using as surrogate economic, political, and social rights of women. Economic globalization is measured by trade openness and foreign direct investment (FDI). The Ordered Logit model is used for the empirical analysis. The results show that trade has a positive effect on all forms of women's empowerment, implying that OIC countries that are more open to trade provide better economic, social, and political rights to women. FDI has an insignificant effect on the economic and social rights of women implying that FDI does not improve economic and social conditions for women in OIC countries.

Feminist and Decolonial Perspectives on Development

Author: Nimra Arooj

Decolonial and feminist perspectives allow us to engage in the discussion involving modernity, colonialism, and how gender has been constructed and understood over time. It also talks about the way feminists identify themselves, think about their rights, and how they have been determined by some people of the West. Decolonial feminist perspectives also address that the voices of the marginalized and disadvantaged remained unheard by those who claimed to be the ambassadors of human rights and females especially because they were handicapped due to the lack of indigenous and cultural knowledge. Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak in her essay 'Can the subaltern speak?' problematized the belief of the outsiders who make interventions thinking their subject as passive homogenized and subaltern groups considering them in need to be rescued. Knowledge

discursively produced by the West has been generalized to the East where the culture is extremely rich and diverse. Moreover, geopolitical conditions, race, ethnicity, religion, and culture shape the experiences of females differently therefore there should be different and unique dimensions to explore and explain them.

Law, Rights and Tribal Women: A Critical Study of Newly Merged Tribal District of Orakzai Agency

Author: Tabassum Mushtaq

District Orakzai is located in the erstwhile Federally Administered Tribal areas of Pak- Afghan Borderland region. The Pakhtun Women of newly merged District Orakzai, face severe challenges in the application of their legal-political rights. This region has remained under the influence of the 'draconian' and 'outdated' law of Frontier Crimes Regulations (FCR), which negotiated for it a 'shackled status' by denying it a proper constitutional status. The merger of FATA with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 2018 aimed to improve the legal and political status of Pakhtun women living in the tribal Districts, including Orakzai. However, the tribal society is patriarchal in nature, governed by Pakhtun code of conduct commonly known as "Pakhtunwali". Under this code of life, women are treated as subjects because of the local norms and traditions. Women are deprived of their rights and treated in a dehumanized way as manifested by the incidents of honor killing in erstwhile FATA. Amid the extension of legal-political status to erstwhile FATA, this paper explores the legal and political challenges to women mainstreaming in the newly merged Tribal District Orakzai. This research study has used qualitative methods, comprising both primary data based on in-depth interviews and observation from Orakzai Agency, aided by secondary data sources

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Development for whom? Forced evictions as a technology of neoliberal governmentality

Author: Minelle Ali

Challenging the state's narrativization of forced displacement along the Gujjar and Orangi Nullahs as 'anti-encroachment' drives, we critically examine the vocabularies, aspirations, and bureaucratic processes of the state's technologies of control and governance over marginalized urban neighborhoods. Locally referred to as Katchi Abadis, these neighbourhoods exist in varying degrees of legality, regularization, and in/formality produced by the state. We illustrate how evictions in these settlements are a deeply destructive technology of governance that is routinely deployed in order to pursue anti-poor neoliberal development agendas by contextualizing the catastrophic violence in Katchi Abadis along Gujjar and Orangi Nullahs within particular forms of pandemic governmentalities that exploit public anxieties around health and cleanliness along with residents' inabilities to mobilize resistance. We examine the state's instrumentalisation of a putative rationale of 'anti-encroachment', a logic in flux of a politics of aesthetics that is yielded for the benefit of elite interests pursuing anti-poor and neoliberal development agendas. Consequently, it (dis)orders access to space, mobility, and opportunity for marginalized communities. These narratives of exclusion, while not unique to the displacements in Karachi, fill an important research gap, and shed new light on how narratives of exclusion are employed as a tool of governance to displace the urban poor in Karachi, and to deny them occupation and belonging in urban spaces.

Decolonizing the Analytical Lens of Politico-Spatial Development

Author: Aamina Shahid

The last two decades have seen various critiques in the discourse of Post-Colonialism and Post-Development, often interrogating the hegemony of Western imperialism and Eurocentric formats of living, being, thinking, etc. Where coloniality and development overlap, complex and nuanced power structures emerge. As seen in regions framed as The paper studies the urban manifestations of internalized colonization embedded within the dynamics of urban otherness and exclusion of, and in, the Post-Development Global South. It follows an emergent paradigm in theorizing development from Southern perspectives, questioning the supremacy and default-ness of colonial frameworks of socio-spatial analysis. Through studying the displaceability of informal settlements and refugee camps, the research questions the epistemics and construction of otherness and threat as a by-product of the colonial lens. The paper concludes that, not only by retheorizing development but, by critically epistemizing development frameworks, can a sustainable and self-determined future be projected for the Post-Colonial worlddeveloping/underdeveloped, a detrimental outcome of these power structures has been the predisposed sources of knowledge. The paper studies the urban manifestations of internalized colonization embedded within the dynamics of urban otherness and exclusion of, and in, the Post-Development Global South. It follows an emergent paradigm in theorizing development from Southern perspectives, questioning the supremacy and default-ness of colonial frameworks of socio-spatial analysis. Through studying the displaceability of informal settlements and refugee camps, the research questions the epistemics and construction of otherness and threat as a by-product of the colonial lens. The paper concludes that, not only by retheorizing development but, by critically epistemizing development frameworks, can a sustainable and self-determined future be projected for the Post-Colonial world

Bangladesh; a development miracle or not?

Author: Aatika Saleem

Bangladesh is seen internationally by economists as a development miracle. Gaining independence just 50 years ago, it has managed to become a developing economy with a consistent GDP growth of 7%. The paper argues that Bangladesh's development has seen a decline in recent times not only due to Covid-19 but also due to the emerging autocratic regime of the governing party - Awami League. The paper actively works to defy the Lee thesis arguing that a more authoritarian approach has not led to economic growth in Bangladesh's case. In addition, this authoritarian approach has denied the people their democratic rights and benefits of economic growth. We use Amartya Sen's Critique of the Lee thesis as a theoretical framework for this purpose. The research uses secondary research as a methodology and works to reinforce the importance of democracy for a state like Bangladesh. Bangladesh is a low-middle income country with aims to move into a middle-income country. The country needs to ensure democracy to avoid a risk of falling into a cycle of authoritarian rule reminiscent of its history. We focus on how Bangladesh's economy evolved over the years and use social indicators such as poverty, illiteracy, gender inequality, and income inequality to showcase how the majority of Bangladesh's population has not seen the effects of this growth due to the autocratic government in power. The paper further finds that this new system of authoritarian government has actually let corruption and tax evasion progress without accountability which reinforces income inequality and prevents the common people of Bangladesh from reaping the benefits of the country's economic growth.

Comparative Analysis of Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly

Author: Syed Anzal Abbas Jaffari

On April 8, 2010, all major political parties of Pakistan, with consensus, passed the historic Eighteenth constitutional amendment in the National Assembly of Pakistan. After the amendment, the President's power to dissolve the Parliament was abolished, and the provincial autonomy restored. All-important administrative subjects like health, education, resource development, tourism, local government, environment, and others were devolved to the respective provinces (Seidle & Khan, 2012). As a result, all the provincial assemblies emerged as the essential institutions after the national Parliament. The current scholarship in Pakistan's parliamentary studies mainly focuses on highlighting the evolution of the national parliament. Therefore, in the absence of literature on provincial parliaments and their respective performance as institutions, this research aims to fill the scholarly gap. To evaluate the performance of parliament as an institution, this research adopts the comparative analysis model. A comparative analysis of the working of the provincial assemblies of Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) will be the focus of this paper. In order to assess the effectiveness of both parliaments, the research study will adopt multiple theoretical models. Polsby's theoretical model of durability, autonomy and internal complexity will analyze the institutional capacity. Scholarship on the Canadian, South African, and European union's parliaments will provide the theoretical grounding to address the following research questions: To what extent the respective Parliaments incorporate public feedback during the process of legislation? Is the Parliament run according to set rules and procedures? Are the members of opposition parties given freedom for criticism on the government's proposed legislation? Furthermore, the parliamentary record of debates in the house, media reports, and standing committees on the chosen legislation will be analyzed to evaluate the core themes outlined above. Meanwhile, interviews with the parliamentarians will complement the document review by providing the member's insight.

Youth's Perspective on the Nation's Independence: A study on the intergenerational trauma caused by the 1947 partition

Author: Haya Habib Moosa

More than seventy years ago, India and Pakistan were caught up in wars, against each other, the consequences of which still affect us today, whether we realize it or not. Inter-generational trauma is one such concept that plays a huge role in the daily lives of today's generations that have families split across the borders, however, there is close to no research on this phenomenon in the context of Pakistan. This qualitative study interviewed a sample of two young adults (22 and 23 years old), one male and one female who have their close maternal side of the family in India while they continue living in Pakistan. Participants' interviews were transcribed and then analyzed thematically using MAXQDA. The major theme that both participants tended to talk about was the effects of this border divide on a personal and family level. The participant who had not met his family for over ten years seemed to be way more affected than the participant who got to visit India more often because of her Bohri community attaining the visa way more easily. The findings do confirm and extend previous literature on the existence of inter-generational trauma and how it plays a great role in impacting our ability to build and sustain meaningful relations with those around us. Results also encourage the speaking up of young people as only when the obstacle between silence and independence to talk about psychological pain is removed, progress begins. With further research in the future, with participants across both the borders, there is hope to find ways to decrease the role that inter-generational trauma plays in the subconscious of most generations and to heal as a society.

Menstruating while Student: Coming Back To Campus after Lockdown in Pakistan

Author: Syeda Zarah Batool

The Coronavirus pandemic has created unprecedented situations and issues for the whole world. The pandemic created an opportunity where, due to lockdowns across the globe, menstruators (along with the rest of the world) were not in a position to work or study the same as before. They had the ability to access work and education while tending to their menstrual needs from their homes. Pakistan, like the rest of the world, went into multiple lockdowns, which resulted in schools and universities getting closed for several months. Consequently, many educational institutes shifted to online-learning, creating an educational space that could be accessed from home. The lockdown in Pakistan was lifted a while ago, and menstruators have returned to their university campuses since, and so the purpose of this study was to explore what it meant for menstruators to come back to their campuses. My research question was "what does it mean for females who menstruate to go back to their university campuses after lockdown has been lifted in Pakistan?" This research was a qualitative exploratory study with a feminist approach. Since the topic of this research had not been studied before in Pakistan, the exploratory approach was most appropriate. The conclusion of this research the recommendation of a well-representative menstrual leave policy as well as the provision of on and off campus facilities provided by the higher-education institutes of Pakistan.

How have patterns of gift exchange evolved: An analysis of gift exchange in Generation Z

Author: Syeda Ifrah Faheem

Gift exchange is a practice that generally has a positive connotation attached to it. Marcel Mauss argues that every gift possesses a spirit, known as the hau which binds the receiver and the giver into a relationship of reciprocity. This research project, with the help of primary and secondary research explores the practice of gift exchange in Generation Z (people born after 1997). For this purpose, a sample of young adults between the ages of 18-25 were interviewed; the insights gathered from these interviews were used to analyze gift exchange practices in light of traditional theories on reciprocity and gift exchange. The findings revealed that the way people reciprocated differed in varying circumstances; in some cases it was also considered as a burden. In addition to this, one of the most significant factor that shapes Generation Z is that of technology. The rising use of digital platforms and online shopping avenues have also brought changes in the practice of gift exchange. Despite of these changes, individuals from Generation Z still place a great deal of importance on physical exchanges and interactions.

A Qualitative Outlook into the Relationship between the Reputable and the Disreputable: To explore the provider bias in sexual and reproductive health services towards young female sex workers in Karachi, Pakistan.

Author: Hunaina khan

This study aims to explore the provider bias in sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services towards young female sex workers (YFSWs) in Karachi, Pakistan. Provider bias is defined as attitudes and consequential behaviors by providers that avoidably limit patient access and choice. It becomes a fundamental barrier to SRHR and wellbeing for high-risk groups because it deteriorates the relationship between a health provider and patient, as well as discourages a patient to engage with care facilities due to the poor experiences with the providers. Furthermore, sex work is illegal in Pakistan and is condemned on cultural and religious grounds due to stigmatization, criminalization, discrimination and lack of health provider training, which hinders YFSWS' basic health needs such as contraception, safe abortions and STIs protection. Therefore, a human-rights based (HRB) theoretical framework is being used which lists four indicators when it comes to patient's wellbeing: acceptability, accessibility, availability and good quality service. Data was collected using primary research methods, including purposive snowball sampling to recruit 4 female health provider participants, from both public and private health facilities. The participants were interviewed one-on-one, in-person or on call, using an in-depth, open ended questionnaire. The collected data was thematically analyzed and as a result, five primary themes emerged: Discrimination/No Discrimination (subtheme: Stigma and Criminalization), Sufficient/Lack of Health Provider Training and Knowledge, YFSWS' Lack of Accessibility (subtheme: Lack of Education), Guidance in Terms of Referral/Guidance in Terms of Leaving Sex Work, and Health Providers' Attitude towards Rape and Abortion. Recommendations include stigma reduction training for health providers, along with SRH sessions at health facilities, and the compulsory implementation of SRH in medical education and curriculum.

Occupational Safety and Health Vulnerability among Construction Workers in Pakistan

Author: Muhammad Umair

Occupational injuries are relatively higher in the construction sector compared to other industries. This study comprehensively analyzes the status of the occupationally injured in Pakistan's construction sector over time. The study used twelve waves of the Labour Force Survey (LFS), from 2001-02 to 2017-18. Changes in the injury profile of vulnerable construction workers are analyzed by index-created relative values based on reference years and groups. Youth, the male, married, and workers in rural areas of the construction sector are the most vulnerable. Major types of construction injuries are falls of person, falling objects, and stepping on, struck against, or struck by objects. A tripartite collaboration is necessary among administration, management, and workers to ensure that safety comes first to avoid using unsafe equipment or equipment unsafely, horseplay, failure of safety devices, and failure to protective equipment. Severe injuries impose direct medical costs, indirect losses in wages and family productivity, and estimates of quality-of-life costs. However, these unsafe conditions are controllable with the consensus of all stakeholders. The adverse effects of construction injuries can be reduced with effective occupational safety and health policy.

Health Concerns of Textile Workers & Associated Community

Author: Tanweer Ul Islam

Workers in the textile industry risk developing various respiratory and pulmonary diseases due to exposure to cotton dust. The particles from the cotton lint are inhaled by the workers and results in the breathing problems including asthma, shortness of breath, cough and tightness in the chest. The poor health of labor contributes to the low productivity of the labor and in serious cases loss of jobs leading to the poverty. Objective: To assess the prevalence of respiratory symptoms among the textile workers and associated community. To contrast the health profiles of the textile workers, associated community and the control group to factor out any confounding factors. Methods: This study explores the health profiles of the textile workers and associated community and contrast them against the health profile of the control group to factor out any confounding factors. The study is conducted on cotton industry in Kasur, Pakistan. We interviewed 207 workers, 226 people from associated community (living in vicinities of weaving units) and 188 people for control group (from areas far away from weaving units and people are not associated with weaving industry) based on stratified random sampling technique. We employed descriptive methods and logistic regression to explore the association between respiratory diseases and weaving workers. Results: Overall, prevalence of postnasal drip, byssinosis, asthma, and chronic bronchitis were 47%, 35%, 20%, and 10% respectively among the workers. These percentages are significantly higher than the control group. An additional year of work increase the risk of postnasal drip, byssinosis, asthma, and chronic bronchitis by 5-6 percent. Among workers, 43% & 21% feel difficulty in hearing against noisy background and at low volume respectively. Due to bad light arrangements at workstations, 21% & 31% workers are suffering from myopia and hyperopia respectively. Proportions of the workers suffering from continuous headache, skin infection, depression, and low back pain are 28%, 29%, 27% and 44% respectively. Chi-square test results confirms that no confounding factor like air pollution is involved in this cause-and-effect study implying the association between the cotton dust and associated diseases is not spurious. Conclusion: Respiratory symptoms were statistically significantly more common in the weaving workers compared to control group. Better environment at workstations, use of protective gears and education are the factors which reduce the risk of associated diseases among workers.

Effect of COVID-19 Pandemic on Child Labour: A Case Study of Pakistan

Author: Hamna Nasir

The issue of child labour and its consequences on developing economies during Pandemic COVID-19 is significant to debate as the problem has hurt the children most in the current situation. Due to the Pandemic, children suffer more as many families faces loss of lives and reduced livelihood and economic opportunities. Children participating in the labour force belonging to South Asian countries such as Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan will face a surplus of Child Labour due to COVID-19. The analysis in this study is being performed by keeping in mind the core purpose of the impact of COVID-19 on child labour. For this purpose, this study has worked on a "special survey evaluating Socio-Economic impact of COVID-19 on wellbeing of people" published by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Government of Pakistan by applying Probit Model. This study focuses on seeing the consequences of COVID-19 on the labour market, especially for child labour. The analysis reveals an overwhelming finding.

Education for Sustainable Development in Pakistan; Knowledge, Attitude and Practices

Author: Hina Kanwal

UN decade 'Education for Sustainable Development' brought optimism that through education human behaviors can be changed to cope with issues of global concerns such as climate change. Although this optimism is plausible, the question is to what extent and through what channel incorporation of sustainable education in curriculum meet these expectations. Through a KAP survey of more than 1100 students from two distinct educational systems in Pakistan namely, Cambridge and Federal, we have analyzed students environmental knowledge attitude and practices. Through 2SLS multiple regression analysis, a positive relationship between environmental knowledge and environmental attitude was found suggesting that environmental knowledge effect environmental practices by changing the environmental attitude. We did not notice statistically significant differences based on educational systems, type of school (public or private) or gender but found pre- medical students exhibiting better attitudes among all whereas pre engineering students better than their business, and computer science counterparts. We conclude that adding more aspects of sustainable development in the curriculum implant sustainability attitudes which manifest in form of positive environmental practices

Impact of Founder and Decedent Dynastic Rulers on the Fiscal Instruments: Investigation of the Fiscal Choices made by the Chief Ministers of Pakistan

Author: Muhammad Nouman Shafiq

Political dynasty is a long-debated subject in political economy research. This study examines the differential impact of the founder and decadent dynastic leaders on the fiscal instruments. By employing the data on the chief ministers that served the provincial assemblies of Pakistan for the period 1991 to 2019, we explore the founder and decedent effect on different fiscal measures of revenues and expenditures. The study findings suggest that the founder dynastic leaders have significantly higher revenues and spending than their decedents. However, the executive constraints make both types of leaders act in contrast to what they may have performed in their absence. The founder dynastic leader enacts more congruent fiscal policies when executive constraints are strong while vice versa when the leader is a decedent

Development, Disparity and Colonial Shocks: Do Endowments Matter?

Author: Dr. Idrees Khuwaja

The province of Punjab – home to 56 percent of Pakistan's population, is marked by regional disparity. This paper argues that the socioeconomic disparity observed today between the South-West of Punjab and the rest of the province is largely owed to the historical differences in regional endowments. During the colonial rule over India, the North and Center of the province benefitted from Canals, Cantonments (military garrisons), and enlistment in the Indian army to fight on the side of Britain in the two world wars. These shocks rested upon endowments unique to the two regions. The barren but cultivable land and sparse population of the Center facilitated canal colonization. The geo-strategic location of the North allowed the establishment of military headquarters and smaller garrisons in the region. The hardy men of the North, experienced in warfare since the 12th century, were suitable for the army. The South-West of Punjab lacking the endowments of interest to the British, failed to benefit. Hence, the socioeconomic disparity observed today. The prosperity of certain regions of Pakistan is owed to head start on the development count that these regions received in colonial times – this of course was meant to achieve objectives of the then state, however, spending more development funds on some regions meant that less was available for others. Presently, the primary basis for the distribution of funds to the provinces under the National Finance Commission (NFC) is the population numbers of the province. However, the historical population growth of certain regions rather than being organic is owed to the head start received in colonial times – minus this head start the population numbers and hence the resource distribution would have been different. To distribute resources, through the NFC/PFC, assigning significant weight to socioeconomic indicators, instead of the population numbers, would not only address equity concerns, this would also help check crime and terrorism – incidentally, the lagged regions have been the safe havens for people indulging in such activities

Capital Depreciation Allowances and Redistributive Taxation under a "Nudging" Government

Author: Gunther Rehme

As a consequence of economic recessions many governments mount fiscal stimulus packages in order to fight the negative effects resulting from an economic downturn. In many countries one such measure has been to increase capital depreciation allowances. But even in normal times capital allowances play an important economic role.

Analyzing the Impact of Corporate Footprint on Local Community Development - The Case of Tharparkar

Author: Muhammad Ashar Khan

The economic landscape of the region of Tharparkar is largely defined by underdevelopment, resource-shortages, lack of employment opportunities, inaccessible quality health and education, widespread poverty and dilapidated infrastructure. According to a Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) report, Tharparkar has the highest incidence of poverty. In 2014, Engro Powergen Ltd (EPL), China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC), Habib Bank Ltd (HBL), and Liberty Mills Limited initiated a joint corporate venture called the Engro Powergen Thar Private Limited (EPTL) under the auspices of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The project tapped the indigenous lignite coal reserves in Tharparkar to produce 660MW of electricity contributed to the national power grid. In recent years, scholars and environmental activists have criticized the negative externalities in terms of rising environmental and health hazards as a result of the project. However, simultaneously, the project has created more than 3000 employment

various human development opportunities in the region through collaborations with government and non-government organizations. Thus, this research is the first attempt to explicate the social impact of the corporate footprint in the region of Tharparkar using the theoretical framework of capability approach. The research broadly considers dual aspects of development impact by considering organizational philosophy of social responsibility and the community's perception of the impact. The study utilizes in-depth key informant interviews on the targeted community of Islamkot using Nussbaum's 10 universal capabilities to analyze the local development impact of the project on: a) community building, b) individual empowerment and c) environmental front. The findings of the research present a suggestive model to design corporate social responsibility interventions which are both democratic and contextually relevant for sustainable corporate impact.

Agriculture crop fires and respiratory health: Evidence using panel data from Pakistan

Author: Zehra Gardezi

Open field burning of agricultural crop residue (stubble) is a prominent source of anthropogenic air pollution in many developing countries. Evidence on the health impacts of this practice is limited and may prevent concrete policy and regulatory action. We examined panel data for 8000 families in Pakistan who completed surveys in 2011, 2013 and 2014 (overall sample 23,902). Respiratory outcomes are defined as a binary measure of incidence reported by individual household members. Exposure to fires was measured using survey dates and household and fire locations, with fire radiative power (FRP) used to assess the intensity of burning. Results adjusting for household fixed effects suggest that individuals with the highest exposure to crop burning, compared to the lowest, are 1.355 times more likely to report incidence of respiratory illness.

Socioeconomic Inequality of Opportunity in Access to Institutional Delivery Across the Districts of Punjab, Pakistan

Author: Hafiz Ghulam Mujaddad

Socioeconomic inequality in the use of institutional delivery (ISD) has long been a barrier to obtain universal access of the service. The aim of this work to analyze the socioeconomic inequality of opportunity in access to ISD in districts of Punjab, Pakistan and explore the circumstance variables that contribute the most to the inequality. The study is conducted using Punjab's Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2017-18 and the data analyzed are taken from women with a live birth in the last 2 years. The Human Opportunity Index is used to measure the coverage rate, inequality and universal access of opportunity across the districts of Punjab. It is noted that most of the southern districts of Punjab (Rajanpur, D G Khan, Muzaffargarh and others) have poor coverage rates and low universal access for the ISD, northern districts (Rawalpindi, Jhelum, Chakwal and others) and Lahore from center have high coverage and universal access for the ISD. There is also higher inequality in southern and central districts of Punjab. Further, Shapley Decomposition is utilized to identify the contribution of the circumstance variables to the socioeconomic inequality. It is found that household wealth status, birth order, birth interval, antenatal care, household head education, and residence were the most significant factors contributing to inequality of opportunity in the accessibility of ISD services across the districts of Punjab. Based on the results, some policies are suggested to the Government at end.

The Impact of Domestic Violence and Social Loneliness on Maternal Mental Wellbeing with Moderating Role of Unintended Pregnancy

Author: Dr. Muhammad Qaiser Shafi

Over the last decade, maternal mental wellbeing has been a large concern of the public health sector. Despite the exponentially growing studies on maternal mental health in developed countries, a huge gap and paucity exist in underdeveloped countries. In the subcontinent region, various social issues such as domestic violence, social loneliness, and unintended pregnancy are conceded but are addressed ineffectively. Therefore, this paper is an attempt to show the impact of domestic violence and social loneliness on maternal mental wellbeing with the moderating role of unintended pregnancy in Pakistan. The literature searches were performed using PUBMED, Google Scholar, and SCOPUS databases. Explanatory research is done using a convenient sampling technique. An estimated sample size of 288 responses has been used, utilizing the item to respondent ratio. A hospital-based field survey has been done using questionnaires. Cross-sectional data collection has been done from women going through the maternity phase within the vicinity of Rawalpindi and Islamabad. Reliable and validated 5 point Likert scales have been used. The scales are validated using Smart PLS. The data has been analyzed using SPSS. The findings imply that unintended pregnancy acts as a moderator between the relationship of social loneliness and maternal mental wellbeing. This research will aid in enlightening the concerned people and administration especially, in Pakistan, to pass the current, "The Domestic Violence Bill (Prevention & Protection), 2021

Heteroglossia in Theater: A Dialogic Performance of Religion

Author: Iqra Hassan

The article looks at ways in which theater and performance (of varying discourses) can help in challenging essentialist stereotypes related to religion. For this purpose, it critically analyzes the heteroglossic voices in performance of religious identity as depicted in Akbar S. Ahmed's plays *Noor* and *Dara Shikoh* (2009). The theoretical framework for the research is Mikhail Bakhtin's theory of heteroglossia, dialogue and dialectics. Religion, is how its practitioners choose to practice it. It is not one homogenous, simplistic whole, rather a flux of practices- as varied and as rich as the variety of people who practice it. The article shows how theater acts as a heterotopic space (Michel Foucault's term) that entertains a possibility of dialogue between various discourses i.e. extremist, modernist and spiritual practice of Islam. The article reconnoiters the need to understand Islam in plurality, Islam in heteroglossia implying that we need to bring silenced discourses to forefront to challenge abuse of religion in a state like Pakistan.

Study of Contemporary Feminist Archetypes in Pakistani Media: A Critical Analysis of Churails

Author: Isbah Premjee

'Personal is Political' is the slogan that represents the second wave of feminism. Since its advent, feminists have argued that discourse around gender in media and popular culture is a political act that reflects on the prevalent power dynamics. The implications of this political act are far-reaching as it inculcates politics, especially those concerning gender with the common-sense (Fatima, 2020). The audience learns about gender-related issues, including sexual harassment, rape, honor killing, domestic violence, etc. through popular culture, leading them to formulate opinions on those. Furthermore, media can either play a responsible role in sensitizing its audience or propagate and sustain gender stereotypes and roles. Therefore, 'the connection between 'gender' and popular culture is 'extricable, pervasive, and complex' (Milestone & Meyer, 2012, p.1).

and b) 'imperfect' woman. The perfect woman can be educated or illiterate, but she is submissive, quiet, obedient, knows how to do all house chores, takes care of the kids, expresses no sexual desires, and is always available emotionally and physically to whoever needs her. Whereas, the imperfect woman is usually educated and a working woman., and if not, then she is either unmarried or divorced (Ashfaq & Shafiq, 2018). These categories are imperative to justify her social exclusion; in fact, her imperfect characteristics all come under the umbrella of not being domestic enough, prioritizing her career over family life, or standing up for her rights. However, the narrative in Pakistan's media is shifting nowadays wherein women are being shown as assertive, independent, and aware of their rights. The term Churails or witches has been used as slang to describe women who are aggressive, vocal, and audacious; therefore, the series tries to redefine this term for women who are headstrong, unapologetic, and independent. This is a story of four women, who unite on one ground and that is to challenge their oppressor - men. These four characters are refreshing to watch as they represent different classes of women tired of being oppressed and abused throughout their life to seek revenge from men. The purpose of this discourse analysis is to both acknowledge the need of representing women that challenge gender stereotypes, while also critically analyzing how these characters still sustain some gender roles, propagate homophobia, oversimplify gender discrimination, and sensationalize violence to signify women empowerment.

**The Role of Electronic Media in Augmenting Oral Communication Skills:
A Case Study of Secondary Level Students in the Rural Context of Sindh, Pakistan**
Author: Tarique Ali Memon

Electronic Media plays a vital role in development including political, educational, economic, and cultural with the potential of having an influential role in the lives of children as they are pervasive accessible and attended to by children of all ages. The powerful forces of the electronic media, the dearth of reading among youths, and the educational potential of the electronic media necessitate that research is undertaken between the dynamics of English Language learning and enhancing oral communication skills and the electronic media. The purpose of this study was to explore the role of electronic media in augmenting oral communication skills of the English language of Grade 8 students at Government secondary school, Shikarpur, Pakistan. It also explored how media has helped learners' enhancement of oral communication skills of the English language. Multiple case study strategies with various data sources and data collection methods explored and elaborated the role of electronic media for enhancing oral communication skills of English. Findings show that there was improvement not only in fluency, accuracy, pronunciation, and style of English but also confidence and knowledge in students who watch electronic media. The findings also elucidate some challenges which hinder using media for enhancing oral communication skills among secondary school students in the rural context of Pakistan. Based on the findings of the study, some recommendations have been put forward for policy and practice. Furthermore, the findings of the study can be used for future research.

Future of Work and Dystopian Literature: Thoughts and Reflections

Author: Khurram Ellahi

Frequently the world of innovation and discoveries give credit to eminent works of fiction for glancing into the future. Fiction writers are the unacknowledged legislators of the world, who reveal truth that reality obscures. Recent discovery of Anyon i.e. a two dimensional object was discussed in detail by Abbott in his writing titled Flatland. World has observed similar findings in various fields of sciences. Psychology borrowed terms like Narcissism or Oedipus complex from writings of Sophocles. Science related to the workplace has started looking backward to move forward and we have examples of ideas like Servant Leadership & organizational existentialism that emerged out of work of fiction to attend to the current dilemmas of the workplace. In light of the emerging discourses on the workplace and anticipated worldview of the post pandemic world, an uncertain future is looming over mankind with automation of workplace, artificial intelligence creating hybrid work structures with humans, involuntary surveillance of workers. Along with that pandemic has revealed new troughs of the human psyche, a new world is shaping that needs a deeper analysis through the work of fiction. Study has conducted a Systematic Literature Review of Seminal Dystopian literature to draw key thoughts that are discussed for the future of the workplace. After thematic analysis of *We*, 1984 and *Brave New World*, researchers has chalked out themes related to individual's position in workplace of future. Themes in literary works highlight individual's quest for securing individuality, excessive use of numbers, technology controlling workers and alienation of the workers. Thus, study expressed concerns to preserve essence of human beings at the future workplace and to vanguard the quintessence of human beings, it is important to create balance and limit technology at future workplace.

Covid-19 and Effective Learning- A case from Karachi Pakistan

Author: Muhammad Abdullah Idrees

The COVID-19 pandemic has adversely affected the human beings all over the world including Pakistan. The major effects of the pandemic consist of health, financial, social and most important mental stress issues. Mental stress is a feeling of emotional and physical tension which can come from any event or thought that makes individuals feel frustrated, angry, or nervous. The purpose of our study is to review and evaluate the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on mental stress of employees of private organizations at Karachi. Our study is based on "The Transactional Model of Stress and Coping Theory". According to aforementioned theory, it is a framework which emphasizes appraisal to evaluate harm, threat and challenges, which results in the process of coping with stressful events. We have collected data for this study from the employees of 05 x Major Pharmaceutical organization (GSK, GETZ, ABBOTT, SEARLE & SAMI Pharma) operating at Karachi through a survey form which was generated and shared online. I adopted 21 questions/statements related to COVID-19 to measure the impact of the pandemic on mental stress of the employees. The scales were intentionally adopted and designed so that these can be readily adapted for future pandemic studies. The research concluded that 75.57% employees of private organization at Karachi Pakistan of all age groups are facing increased mental stress due COVID-19 pandemic. The stress is still going on as the pandemic could not be curtailed till date. This research may be helpful for further study/ evaluation pertaining to the impact of COVID-19 on mental stress and take remedial actions to manage mental stress of general population of Pakistan.

Development Discourses: How Language Plays a Central Role in Actualizing the Dream of Development in the Pakistan

Author: Dr. Arslan Waheed

No other concept has such a contested history and resilience as development. In the aftermath of the second world war, development is given a central position in the reordering of the world under the leadership of the USA. Development is not a set of performative actions. Rather, it is produced and reproduced over the years as a discourse (in the Foucauldian sense) that operates through a variety of categories of knowledge. In this way, development is not taken as a political program but as a set of beliefs. This set of beliefs, an undeniable truth, is exported to Pakistan, like the rest of the global south, through international institutions and technocrats. This paper attempts to understand the dissemination of development in Pakistan by focusing on the constructivist tendencies of development that employ various discursive strategies and language techniques to naturalize the socio-economic and political restructuring of societies like Pakistan. Taking planning and development of Islamabad as the case study, this research finds that various labels, linguistics contrasts, othering, and social-economic identities were employed to construct the socio-materiality of development as a natural order of things. This constructivism of development is found in more than 150 planning and policies related documents from 1957 to 2018 and have shown the patronization and reproduction of power hierarchies, inequalities, exclusion, discrimination, and control.

The link between the demographic transition and socio-economic status of women in Central Asian countries

Author: Muyassar Kurbanova

The sustained decline in fertility led to a decrease in the share of the young dependency ratio and increased the proportion of people in productive ages in Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan). This process is known as a "demographic dividend" that provides an opportunity for accelerated economic growth. The magnitude of demographic benefit depends on the capacity of the economy to absorb additional labor force and can be materialized through providing job opportunities for the upcoming bulk of the economically active population, especially the female labor force. Hence, more females become active in the labor market, it leads to expand income-earners in the household, increase the living standards, accelerates economic growth, contribute to national income and provides an opportunity to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 5 ("Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls"). The role of women was stronger in economic and social well-being, while these advances loosened their power during the post-Soviet period due to numerous changes including the growth of the private sector and strengthening the patriarchal traditions in Central Asia. As a result, the female labor participation rate is low, accounting for more than half of the working-age women who do not work. It is hard to reap the demographic opportunity in the case of less educated of the upcoming female labor force, higher gender inequalities, participation of fewer women in the labor market in Central Asia. Our main goal is to analyze how the empowerment of women can contribute to the realization of demographic dividends. Moreover, through analyzes to identify the challenges and opportunities providing for gender equality in the case of each Central Asian country for providing the direction of policy implications. In fact, little scholarship focuses on Central Asia regarding demographic transition, but almost nothing presents the nexus between demographic dividend and the role of women. In addition, there are a limited number of research focusing on the empowerment of women in the demographic dividend models. We aim to fill this

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