

Conference Papers

Decolonizing the Analytical Lens of Politico-Spatial Development

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?

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.

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

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.

Climate Change as an Emergent Threat to Pakistan's Security

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

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.

Coastal Development: Scenic Belts of Socio-Economic and Ecological Relations

Aisha Zia Khan

This paper presents a critical analysis of thirty peer-reviewed journal articles, exploring the consensus and contradictions of gentrification. Gentrification is understood as being state-led, and as a process which transforms public spaces for economically privileged social groups. It offers an intersectional and comparative review of existing literature on

gentrification of coastal landscapes and concludes by highlighting the need to fill in the gaps in literature about the social relations and social inequalities which govern public beaches and coastal landscapes. This paper identifies the determinants, the actors, and the impacts of the gentrification process on coastal landscapes incorporating spatial diversity in the literature reviewed with an emphasis on development of the international coasts. It advances knowledge about the ecological impacts - the degradation and morphological effects - and social impacts generated from the gentrification of coastal landscapes and explores gaps in existing literature, which is centred around dominant theories around displacement of the lower socio-economic background. The role of globalization and marketization is explored in this study for understanding the impacts of gentrification. The findings of this paper disrupt the dominant discourse and problematize it with the gender, ethnic, and indigenous rights lens. As such, it can be argued that the development of coastal landscapes lacks an intersectional dimension, largely benefitting the local and global ruling classes. This paper provides useful insights into the complexities of the role of the state intertwined with capitalist forces and into the social dynamics which govern coastal landscapes, while aiming to understand that development efforts result in some positive effects albeit simultaneously reproduce a wider gap across the masses with increasing social inequalities. This study offers a comprehensive conceptual lens useful for the scope of further research on coastal developments and gentrification of Pakistan's beaches along the coastal belt in Sindh and in Baluchistan.

Remittances and inequality: A meta-analytic review

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.

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

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.

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

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.

Subnational Debt, Economic Growth and Rule-Based Debt Policy

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.

What determines the long-term post-acquisition performance of cross-border mergers and acquisitions? The case of United Kingdom acquiring firms: an empirical study

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.

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

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.

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

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 wind storm 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 compare 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.

Development, Disparity and Colonial Shocks: Do Endowments Matter?

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.

Decentralisation'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 decentralisation 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-à-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-à-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 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.

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

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.

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

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".

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

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.

Revitalizing Street Economy: An Economic Analysis

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

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

Dr. Zahid Asghar

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

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

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 illustrated in depth. Finally, we concluded that the Bowman's paradox is supported by the behavioural theory of the firm.

Occupational Segregation and Gender Pay Gap: Evidence from Ethiopia

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

Industry Size and Trade Protection in the Presence of Environmental Regulations: An Empirical Investigation of the Indian Manufacturing Sector

Gaurav Bhattacharya

This paper tests the hypothesis pertaining to the interdependencies between trade and environmental policies in the presence of industry/firm lobbies, which is captured through firm size. For an unbalanced panel of manufacturing firms in India at the four-digit National Industrial Classification (NIC), 2008 for the period 2008-2019, we find that firm size has a positive and significant impact on trade policy, i.e., bigger firms have a greater influence on those trade policies that are set unilaterally by the government. Also, we do not find any empirical evidence of trade and environment linkages in the Indian context. This could be due to the fact that these two policies come under the domain of independent ministries of the government. Moreover, environmental safety assumes less significance and tend to adversely affect the competitiveness of the manufacturing sector at large.

A Postcolonial Critiques on Globalization and Privatization of Education in Pakistan

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.

Capital Depreciation Allowances and Redistributive Taxation under a “Nudging” Government

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.

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

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.

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

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 face 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.

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

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.

Role of Information Communication Technology & Women Empowerment to Alleviate Poverty

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.

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

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.

Heteroglossia in Theater: A Dialogic Performance of Religion

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.

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

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.

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

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). Similarly, women's representation in Pakistani media is a reflection of the gender politics within this society. Women characters in Pakistani media have been reduced to two categories a) 'perfect' 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 Welfare Impact of Wheat Price Volatility in Pakistan

Isra Asif

Strong upward trend and increased variability in global food crisis over the past two years have led to concern that hunger and poverty will increase across the world. At the same time, rising food prices provide an incentive and opportunity for many developing countries to

strengthen the contribution their farmers make to national economic growth and poverty reduction. Considering the risks and opportunities posed to population groups by a global food crises, the main objective of this paper is to categorize wheat and wheat flour market participation into three discrete categories of net-buyers, net-sellers and self-sufficient. Net Benefit Ratio (NBR) – developed by Deaton (1989) – is calculated by gathering information from Household Integrated Economic Survey (HIES) for the span of eight years. The results indicates that, of the sampled population, 85% were regarded as net-buyers of wheat and wheat flour, and therefore suffer welfare losses when price of wheat and wheat flour increases. In addition, this paper seeks to support national decision makers, as well as their international development partners, for understanding the likely effects of wheat crisis among households and acting to alleviate the risks and exploit the opportunities brought about by such crisis.

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

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.

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

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.

Future of Work and Dystopian Literature: Thoughts and Reflections

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.

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

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.

DETERMINANTS OF FOOD POVERTY STATES (FPS) IN PAKISTAN Determinants of Food Poverty States (FPS) in Pakistan

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

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 opportunities, increasing the overall living standards in the region. Similarly, through social interventions under their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) agenda, the project has created 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.

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

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.

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

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

Occupational Safety and Health Vulnerability among Construction Workers in Pakistan

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.

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

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 gap.

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

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.

Financial Sector Reforms and Inflation-Growth Nexus

Nadeem Iqbal

Pakistan underwent massive reforms in the financial sector beginning in the late 1980's. The main intervention includes autonomy of the central bank, market based monetary policy instruments and near-inflation-targeting regime. Over time, the power of the government to get its debt monetized became limited and government became more reliant on commercial bank borrowing. Increased demand for loanable funds by the government, owing to this reliance, coupled with higher borrowing costs, owing to market based monetary policy, resulted in government debt overhang. This necessitated increased tax collection and resulted in shrinking fiscal space for spending in physical and social infrastructure. In this scenario the traditional way of comparing cost and benefits of low inflation is misleading. Traditionally sacrifice ratio is measured as loss of output due to contractionary monetary policy aiming at one percentage point decrease in inflation rate. The loss occurs due to slowdown of economic activity mainly because of contraction in aggregate demand. This, however, underestimates the true cost of inflation as supply side effects of shrinking fiscal space are ignored. Contractionary monetary policy increases cost of credit not only for private sector but for government as well. So, the government has less resources available to invest in infrastructure; therefore, the long run growth potential is compromised. This paper aims at estimating the sacrifice ratio considering both the traditional channel of demand contraction and long-term supply-side consequences of shrinking fiscal space. We hypothesized that long-term benefits of price stability are outweighed by the combined cost measured through these two channels. The paper augments the time series model of estimating sacrifice ratio by the simulated paths of growth with different scenarios of fiscal space. We find sacrifice ratio that is twofold of the same found in previous studies. Our study implies that fiscal consequences of monetary policy must be considered before monetary policy decisions.

Feminist and Decolonial Perspectives on Development

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.

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

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.

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

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.

Sanctions: An evil or ethical tool?

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.

Rights to the City: Art and Urban Landscapes

Safina Azeem

In recent decades, the landscape of Karachi has become a site of anxiety and insecurity with regards to safety. This has caused a shift in urban infrastructure to include surveillance as a key feature. The result of this inclusion impacts the accessibility of public spaces in Karachi, where infringement of these space by security infrastructure acts as an exclusionary barricade. The decisions taken by urban planners and policy makers impact the mobility of citizens, often because such policies are put together to cater to the upper classes of the population. The top-down approach to urban planning and architecture has led to a critique not only in scholarship but also through art as a form of resistance. Artists such as Seema Nusrat are concerned with highlighting how the introduction of barriers and barricades as security features in architecture lead to policing of citizens' rights to the city and their bodies. To that extent, this paper focuses on placing Seema Nusrat's artwork under the category of critical resistance owing to its social commentary on exclusionary architecture and discourse on rights to the city.

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

Sara Illahi Panhwer

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

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

Sidra Zahid

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 Down syndrome

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

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 export promotion policies on export performance

Stefania Lovo

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.

Inequality and Spatial Disparities in Wellbeing; The Case of Karachi

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.

Comparative Analysis of Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

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

A Multilayered Household-Based Analysis of Health Inequity in Pakistan

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.

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

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.

Health Concerns of Textile Workers & Associated Community

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.

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

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.

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

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 barriers

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

Waqas Shair

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.

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

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.

Unarchivable Lives – Violence Against Shias and State's Role in Quelling Narratives of the Marginalized in Pakistan

Zoya Anwer

Over the past two-hundred years or so, the emergence of nation-states has posed the question of what constitutes national identity, and the foundations of those histories and the historical narratives find their roots within the archives, their visibility and invisibility at the hands of the states themselves. As a major component of cultural memory, nation-states use history to disseminate narratives through history textbooks, media, monuments as well as other tools. The individual in the nation-state then identifies themselves as a part of a bigger shared history by supporting the traditions, events and other markers of a collective national identity which relies heavily on the shared memory (Assmann 101). This paper highlights importance of archiving done by the marginalised Shia Muslim community, of the two prominent and broad sects of Islam namely Sunnis and Shias, in Pakistan. This will be with regards to the different instances of violence faced by the Shias and how the Pakistani state overtly disengages with the community's archives in contrast with the ones it safeguards about the national struggle for a homeland in 1947 and those pandering to wars through national heroes in museums. The archives organised by the Shia community will be discussed especially through events which should have been given importance but were ignored for the cause of nationalism, which in this context will be explored keeping Pakistan as the case in point. The significance of archiving through objectivity and subjective context will also be examined alongside the onus of archiving violence against marginalized communities. In his text, *Imagined Communities*, Benedict Anderson discusses the formation of the nation-state and importance given to the soldiers who have died in a battle while protecting the borders of a country whose inhabitants would be unable to meet the others in its totality (6). Yet due to a shared past and history they would feel connected to one another secure in their territorial borders. It is this myth of the dead soldiers, or in this context, the martyrs who become important enough to be remembered annually on various days like Independence Day or Défense Day. The significance of cultural memory, through an image of the wars, may also be viewed through the lens of individuals who believe in the existence of a shared past albeit reconstructed according to the needs of the time (Erl 5). Laden with authority, archives hold the key to the development of the present and future by revealing or hiding the data of the past, and often belong to institutions symbolising power structures through religion and the state establishment through its various pillars like bureaucracy, law, armed forces, and others (Assmann 102). This Anwer 4 very creation and upholding of a national identity through showcasing of certain historical aspects, even if they are entwined with violence, has perhaps contributed to the current state in Pakistan where minorities, sectarian and religious, face persecution (HRCP 84).

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

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.

Doctoral Symposium Papers

Linking Subnational Fiscal Performance to Vertical Fiscal Imbalance and Reforms

Asim Bashir Khan

The fiscal performance specifically of subnational governments are important for fiscal solvency of both subnational and central governments. Most literature on this subject is based on cross-country data of public finances, however, this essay offers empirical examination of fiscal performance at disaggregated (subnational) level. Based on an exclusive strongly balanced panel data of subnational governments in Pakistan (1971-2021), this essay presents analysis and empirical examination of fiscal performance proxied using subnational primary & fiscal balances and tax collection as percentage of total subnational expenditures. VFI and expenditure decentralization cast adverse effect on fiscal performance due to persistent and high magnitude of transfer dependency. The lagged effect of economic growth improves fiscal performance through improved fiscal discipline whereas population growth hampers the fiscal performance but insignificant. The debt to expenditure ratio in preceding period improves fiscal performance but significant in case of fiscal balance only, which indicates debt sustainability. VFI's interaction with income inequality or the heterogeneity of tax base cast negative effect on fiscal performance but the magnitude is less than the coefficient of VFI itself. Eighteenth Constitutional amendment dummy shows an improvement in fiscal performance which is mainly attributable to devolution of GST on services. VFI's interaction with federal fiscal responsibility law cast negative effect on subnational fiscal performance, the potential reason seems to be the fact that process of provincial reforms is slow and do not necessarily compliment the objectives of federal reforms. Same political party in federal and subnational governments reinforce the political patronage effect and federal government by grants and other means tend to improve fiscal performance of its own party's government in provinces, whereas VFI in election years is insignificant and inconclusive.

Role of Realized Skewness and Kurtosis in Predicting Volatility

Seema Rehman

This study employs tick-by-tick data to estimate realized volatility (RV), realized skewness (RSK) and realized kurtosis (RKU) measures of 452 individual firms listed at Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX). Using standard HAR model and its extensions, role of realized skewness and realized kurtosis is examined for predicting realized volatility. Both in-sample and out-of-sample forecasts strongly support the predictability power of realized kurtosis in one, five and 22 days ahead forecasts of realized volatility. This research provides a comprehensive empirical evaluation to guide practitioners and applied researchers discerning the selection of variables, lag criteria and measurement models to acquire reliable volatility predictions.

Natural Disasters and Fiscal Drought

Lazar Millivojevic

This paper examines to what extent slowdowns in economic growth are compounded by widening fiscal deficits and corresponding pressures on public debt after natural disasters. We rely on ifo GAME database (Felbermayr and Groeschl (2014)) that comprises exogenous measures of physical disaster intensity, well suited for causal analysis. Empirical results suggest that natural disasters lead not only to output losses but also to further deterioration of countries' fiscal positions. Moreover, a disaster in the top 1-percentile of the disaster index distribution increases government debt by almost 9 percent of GDP, while the top 5-percentile worst disasters cause the debt-to-GDP ratio to rise by at least 0.5 percent. Local projection estimates indicate that the adverse effects persist in the medium term, not only on impact. In addition, we use a Dynamic Stochastic General Equilibrium (DSGE) model to explain the propagation mechanism of an extreme weather event that affects agricultural productivity. Based on Gallic and Vermandel (2020), the model features farmers endowed with land with time-varying productivity subject to economic and weather conditions. Simulation results exhibit the climate-fiscal nexus existence and highlight the role of structural resilience in limiting the impact of natural disasters.

Education, Output and Labor Allocation across Agri industries: A case study of Rural Pakistan

Syed Immad Uddin Hussaini

The purpose of this study is to highlight the impact of education on farm activity (Productivity) given the movement of labor (Labor allocation) from off-farm to on-farm. Therefore, this study aims to assess the labor allocation across the farm and off-farm activity by considering human capital (level of education attained). This sector contributes 20.71% to the GDP of Pakistan. However, the contribution of the agriculture sector in GDP has shrunk from 27% in 2000-01 to 19% in 2018-19. Mostly the skilled or individuals with some human capital investment allocate their labor to nonfarm activity instead of in farm activity. Hence allocation of labor specifically skills labor in agriculture/ farm activity matters. In this study, only rural areas are focused on analyzing the objectives of this research. For estimation purposes, OLS, Heckman Selection Technique (two-stage method) is used. Furthermore, Probit is employed for evaluating the marginal effects of the coefficients for understanding the true meaning. Results indicate that wage differential, dependency ratio, educational level, and unemployment in educational level are showing a mixed trend toward farm activity. The wage differential is positive and significantly related to farm activity, which indicates that when off-farm wages increase, individuals move toward the off-farm activity. Unemployment at the educational level is negatively related to farm activity. Physical input and cultivated land show a negative impact on farm wages. Whereas human capital, land tenure, access to water, and livestock are positively related to it. The study suggested that it

is necessary to increase the enrolment rate at all education levels so education-based policies should be introducing. Policies should be introduced that provide technical training related to farm equipment and skills. It helps those farmers that are uneducated and having less knowledge. Livestock is an asset for the farmworkers. The policies should be introduced to the farmers to have healthy and better upbringing facilities.

The Welfare Impact of Wheat Price Volatility in Pakistan

Isra Asif

Strong upward trend and increased variability in global food crisis over the past two years have led to concern that hunger and poverty will increase across the world. At the same time, rising food prices provide an incentive and opportunity for many developing countries to strengthen the contribution their farmers make to national economic growth and poverty reduction. Considering the risks and opportunities posed to population groups by a global food crises, the main objective of this paper is to categorize wheat and wheat flour market participation into three discrete categories of net-buyers, net-sellers and self-sufficient. Net Benefit Ratio (NBR) – developed by Deaton (1989) – is calculated by gathering information from Household Integrated Economic Survey (HIES) for the span of eight years. The results indicates that, of the sampled population, 85% were regarded as net-buyers of wheat and wheat flour, and therefore suffer welfare losses when price of wheat and wheat flour increases. In addition, this paper seeks to support national decision makers, as well as their international development partners, for understanding the likely effects of wheat crisis among households and acting to alleviate the risks and exploit the opportunities brought about by such crisis.

Informal Employment and Catastrophic Health Expenditures: Evidence from Pakistan

Shabana Kishwar

Workers in informal employment suffered significant out-of-pocket healthcare expenditures (OOPHEs) due to their low earnings and a lack of a social safety net or health insurance. There is little or no evidence of impoverishment caused by OOPHEs in the context of labor market categorization. Therefore, this study examines the economic burden of OOPHEs and its associated consequences on households, whose members are in informal employment. This study estimates the incidence of catastrophic health expenditures (CHEs) and impoverishment across the households in formal and informal employment and their key determinants in Pakistan. This study exploits the data from the two rounds of the Household Integrated Economic Survey (2015-16, 2018-19). For measuring CHEs and impoverishment, the budget share and capacity-to-pay approaches are applied. Various thresholds are used to demonstrate the sensitivity of catastrophic measures. Determinants of CHEs and impoverishment are explored by using logistic regression. We found a higher incidence of

catastrophic healthcare payments among the informal workers, i.e., 4.03% and 7.11% for 2015-16 and 2018-19, respectively, at a 10% threshold, while at a 40% threshold, the incidence of CHEs is found to be 0.40% and 2.34% for 2015-16 and 2018-19, respectively. These OOPHEs caused 1.53% and 3.66% of households who are in informal employment to become impoverished, compared with their formal counterparts. Our findings indicate that households in informal employment are highly vulnerable to economic burden in terms of higher CHEs. The study demonstrates that the probability of incurring CHEs and becoming impoverished is high among informal workers, compared with their formal counterparts. This result has clear policy implications, in which to protect the informal workers, it is necessary to expand the insurance coverage, particularly during the COVID-19 response and recovery efforts.

Financial Literacy, Personality Traits and Retirement Preparedness: Evidence from Developing Economy

Farheen Ramsha

Background: According to the World Economic Forum (2020) report, the COVID19 pandemic outbreak will push about 500 million people in poverty thus further adding miseries to the developing countries. In such a scenario, the conventional economic and developmental policy framework may not fit well to pull out these individuals from poverty. For doing so, one of the essential dimensions is raising the financial literacy of the masses. **Objectives:** The Study has three overarching objectives. (1) To examine the association between financial literacy and retirement preparedness. (2) To examine the levels of Financial Literacy among people (3) and to check the moderating impact of Big-Five Personality Traits (Openness, Conscientiousness, Extraversion, Agreeableness and Neuroticism) between Financial Literacy and Retirement Preparedness. **Data and Methodology:** Data will be collected through the Primary source with the help of a questionnaire, adapted from previous sources, through Cluster Sampling approach from 700 professionals working full-time in different industries of Karachi. Partial Least Square- Structure Equation Modeling software will be used for data analysis and to conclude the findings. **The novelty of the Research:** This study will not merely examine the impact of financial literacy on retirement preparedness but will also explore the moderating influence of personality traits using the FFM- Model between the two variables through Structural Equation Modeling. To the best of my knowledge, this study conducted in the developing economy (i.e., Pakistan) is unique of its kind, as the role of Personality Characteristics has never been tested before as a moderator between Financial Literacy and Preparedness for Retirement (Retirement Planning). **Results:** The findings derived from this study disclosed that both the dimensions of financial literacy have consequential efficacy on retirement preparedness. Moreover, it is also presumed that the personality traits might have accentuate the efficacy on the relationship between FL & RP but this dissertation has failed to find substantial evidence except conscientiousness (noteworthy influence on the relationship between both dimensions of financial literacy & retirement planning) and

openness (noteworthy efficacy on the relationship between basic FL & retirement planning). It has been revealed that financial literacy is more robustly correlated to the retirement preparedness rather than personality traits. Recommendations, Limitations and Scope: Pragmatically, these findings derived from this study indicates that allocation of resources should be done in expedient manner in order to enhance the degree of financial literacy as well as foster the financial involvement of the individuals involved in this process. This study will assist the employers of the corporations to take effective measures in order to make their employees financially prepared for retirement during their employment period. This dissertation is limited to the full time working professionals of Karachi; however, further studies can be conducted in other geographic areas or in other industries. The gap can also be filled by increasing the sample size as well as addition of mediating or other moderating variables.

Evaluation of Psychological Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Medical and Dental Students and Frontline Health Care Workers

Dr. Mohammad Nasir

Background: The recent global crisis afflicted by Coronavirus has led to psychological consequences like anxiety, fear and insecurity among health care workers. Fear of contracting infection and transmitting to close contacts has emerged as a serious concern. Through this study, we aimed to evaluate different psychological sequel experienced by medical and dental students and frontline health workers during COVID-19 pandemic. Methods: A cross sectional online survey was opted using a link platform targeting frontline health care workers and medical students. Data was collected from September until November 2020. Descriptive statistics was used to address demographic characteristics of participants. Associations among selected qualitative variables were determined using Chi square test. All analysis was done by using SPSS and a p value of <0.05 was considered statistically significant. Results: A collection of 391 responses was received. There were 266(68%) female and 125(32%) male participants. Vulnerability of family members to COVID-19 was the major concern as reported by 264(67.5%) which was significantly higher among nurses 38(84.4%) and paramedical staff 25(100%) with a p-value <0.001. Around 43(95.6%) nurses and 24 (96%) paramedical staff members were experiencing sleep disturbances $p < 0.001$. Majority 65(90%) physicians had a concern of missing important scientific events. Only 144(36.8%) participants believed vaccination would be effective against COVID-19. Conclusion: The fear of contracting infection and transmitting to family members has created an overall negative impact on mental health of health care workers. This generates the need to conduct high quality research focusing on addressing measures to promote psychological resilience among health care workers.

Household Determinants of Poverty Alleviation: A Microdata Analysis

Jazib Mumtaz

Many developing countries have made poverty alleviation as their foremost objectives. Countries have instigated intense research on poverty alleviation & its long term effects on sustainable development. Increase in household income has now become the primary objective of policy makers. Pakistan has also become one of the signatory of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in which alleviating extreme poverty is on priority. However in order to alleviate extreme poverty, household level analysis is required to understand the impact of micro determinants. This study have explored various determinants which have influenced positively on poverty eradication. Data from Pakistan Living Measurement Survey PSLM 2019-20 has been used for the empirical analysis. Binary Probit Regression has been employed to estimate the predictive probability of each determinant on poverty eradication. Poverty benchmark of food calorie intake of 2350 per person per day has been adopted. The results indicates that access to drinking water, availability of sanitation and hygiene facilities in an household, holding an agriculture land, having livestock in a possession, household size and being a native of the area reduces the predictive probability of being poor. Other variables such as cash transfers, receiving foreign remittances and being self-employed also effect positively on reducing the predictive probability of being under poverty. The results remains to be consistent with the previous studies of Malik (1996) , Chaudhry (2003) , Kemal & Amjad (1997) , Akram, Naz and Ali (2011), Deither, Pestieau and Ali (2011) , HelpAge India (2007) and Kakwani, Son and Hinz (2006). Poverty levels are estimated of three different time lines that is of 2008-9, 2015-16 and 2019-20. Various indices such as Head Count Index, Poverty Gap , Poverty Severity , Watts Index , and Ginii Coefficient is evaluated. National Head count poverty decreased from 41% in 2008-09 to 20% in 2015-16 but increases to 31.9% in 2019-20. Poverty gap index shrinks from 12% in 2008-09 to 8.6% in 2015-16 but again increases to 11% in 2019-20. Poverty Severity Index shrinks from 7% in 2008-09 to 4.76% in 2015-16 but increases to 5.5% in 2019-20. Watts Index declines from 27% in 2008-09 to 20.29% in 2015-16 and again increases to 36.15% in 2019-20. Inequality marginally declines having Gini 0.447 in 2008-09 to Gini 0.429 in 2015-16 but increases to 0.431 in 2019-20.

Poverty beyond Objective Causes: Perceptions of Low Scale Government Employees in Karachi

Fizza Haider

The presentation, definition and measurement of poverty tend to be biased if analysed through traditional methods, as the economic agents do not consider it beyond the preconceived understanding of the forms and causes of poverty. This study attempts to investigate poverty through the eyes of those people who experience it in real life. Moreover, the causes of poverty were grouped into individualistic, structural and fatalistic perceptions of poverty through factor component analysis. The study concludes that the individualistic aspect dominates on the basis of people's perceptions. This study helps to understand

society's needs, priorities and aspirations of the poor, which would help in identifying key policy issues and set national development strategies and priorities.

The Impacts of Demographic Factors, Household Characteristics and Locational Factors on Poverty in Pakistan

Naseebullah

Poverty refers to lack of basic necessities such as shelter food, and clothing. Poverty is mostly observable in Pakistan, therefore its measurement and analysis deserve claim on our attention. The aim of the study is to examine the impacts of demographic factors, household characteristics and locational factors on poverty in Pakistan. Logistic regression model has been used to achieve this objective. The data for the study is obtained from PSLM survey covering period 2014 to 2015. Findings of the study revealed that household head education, household size, household head age, marital status, health status, remoteness, region and gender have significant impacts on poverty level. The study finds that due to differences in region, gender, and provinces causes rise in poverty rate due to low health facilities, poor educational system, low infrastructure, low employment opportunities and low economic growth. Findings of the study recommend that government should take measures to improve basic facilities, quality education, employment opportunities and health facilities in remote areas of Pakistan.

An Exploratory Study on Indicators of Rural Transformation in Pakistan: A National and Regional Level Analysis

Farah Naz

Descriptive analysis has been carried out to see the stage, speed and outcome of rural transformation in Pakistan. Data analysis divulges that there is rural transformation being observed within the agriculture sector both at the national and regional level during 1980-2019. However, the rate of transformation varies across regions but is slow overall. Furthermore, there is transformation being witnessed as far as shift in male & female employment from farm to the off-farm sector is concerned. In Pakistan, the number of small farm sizes is increasing over time mainly due to inheritance; along with it the number of households with small herds of livestock is increasing with greater speed as compared to households with medium and large-sized herds. Pakistan is also self-sufficient in food supplies which implies that it is meeting its food demand adequately. On the trade side, over time Pakistan is a net exporter of cereals and milk & meat but is a net importer of fruits & vegetables and oilseeds & pulses. As far as inputs are concerned, mechanization has been observed majorly in terms of increased number of tractors and tube wells, although the growth is comparatively slower than other countries of region. Similarly, the use of nitrogen fertilizers has also been improved over time which can further be improved to increase crop

yield. Numerous other indicators also spotlight that rooms are available for taming the speed of rural transformation via drivers. For which, the experts indicate the prominent IPIs as an investment in education, investment in R&D, provision of fiscal space, intervention in land reform institutions, commercialization of milk & meat sector, increasing value addition through supply chain development, trade reforms, elimination of bias by government in favor of five major crops, promotion & facilitation of publicprivate partnership, development of integration among institutions etc. With the help of the aforementioned drivers, Pakistan can chase the rural transformation process led by China, Vietnam, and Thailand in Asia.

Impact of volatility on labor market- An evidence from Pakistan

GulRukh Zahid

Uncertainty in significant macroeconomic variables enhances unemployment. For the past five years in Pakistan, the stagnant growth of the labour market is very well documented. Volatility in inflation, interest rates, GDP and other macroeconomic variables are not showing any optimistic signs, specifically from the late '80s till 2008. Employing Pakistan's labour force data from 2005-06 till 2017-18, we endeavour to gauge the impact of labour market volatility on unemployment in Pakistan by estimating the job finding and separation rates. Both JSR and JFR are computed by employing an appropriate non-parametric methodology. So far, there is no literature available in Pakistan that has examined the impact of labour market factors on employment. Hence, the motivation of the study is to investigate and evaluate the long-term implications of labour market factors and their consequences on the supply and demand of labour. Results of the study show that there is a significant and positive relation of education level on both JFR and JSR. A higher job separation rate in a country will lead to a higher unemployment rate. This inference suggests that the job separation rate must be reduced or controlled to reduce the unemployment rate.

Employment Precarity Index: Analyzing the Components of Compensating Wage Differentials

Hareem Fatima

The purpose of this study is to identify the employment vulnerabilities that exist in Pakistan. The Government of Pakistan has addressed the issue and taken numerous initiatives to improve the working conditions such as enhancement in the minimum wage, youth training program, youth empowerment program, youth business loans, skill development program, etc. Considering the past labour reforms, this study attempts to observe the shifts in employment vulnerabilities that exist in Pakistan. To evaluate the employment vulnerabilities, the study assesses precarious work conditions in Pakistan by developing an Employment precarity index (EPI). Furthermore, for the evaluation purpose, the study employs the Labour Force Survey (LFS) data for years, 2013-14 and 2017-18 and proposed

the precarity index. The precarity index is a composite index and based on 09 indicators – with a prime focus on irregularities in employment and wages, extreme working hours, probabilities of injuries, and illness due to poor working conditions in the absence of employment protections. The study used the Pseudo Panel approach for the analysis of data. The results show that the overall impact of the model is significant the all the independent variables are explaining variation on the dependent variable. The positive effect represents that individual involves in risky jobs are compensated more in Pakistan. Based on the findings, the study also suggests some policies for policymakers to understand the importance of this problem. Regulation of laws should be introducing to deals with labour market irregularities. That can help to reduce working hours, improves unpleasant working conditions, and reduces the probabilities of injuries. By the time influence of education and technology rise but workers are unskilled. The different pieces of training programmers should be introduced for the workers and organizations as well.

Does Financial Inclusion Create Tax Revenue for the Government?

Shagufta Shabbar

Financial inclusion (FI) carries enormous amounts of income into the worldwide economy, which generates different opportunities and challenges for the countries. As people become more financially included and their income grows over time, this might, in turn, increase their tax contributions to the government. This research analyzed the impact of financial inclusion on the tax revenue. For this propose, we make a model based on developing countries in which we use tax revenue as a dependent variable by taking the period from 2004 to 2020, while explanatory variables are FI, FDI, Saving and GDP, Population, corruption and interest rate. For the estimation, we used the co-integration technique. The result concludes that Tax revenue (TR) and FI is significantly and positively related to each other. If the index value of financial inclusion increases in an economy, then tax revenue will also increase for the government. At last, we provided some policy implications for financial inclusion because it plays a key tool to increase tax revenue, improves welfare, reduce poverty and enhance macroeconomics stability.

Do Morale and Norms Effect Tax Compliance: A Meta-Analysis of Tax Experiment Studies

Masood Ahmed Siddiqui

Ample theoretical and empirical evidence exist that suggest that the traditional deterrence model of tax decision (Allingham and Sandimo,1972) does not explain the actual level of tax compliance as observed in developed as well as the developing world. The actual level of tax compliance has been much higher than what this model predicts will be the decision of a

utility maximizing individual based on the threat of audit and fines. It is now an established fact that individual takes tax decision not only on the basis of monetary factors but also on the basis of other non-pecuniary motivations collectively referred to as Tax Morale. Although the literature regarding the role of tax morale in explaining tax compliance is growing, the evidence has so far been mixed with some studies showing a positive impact of a morale intervention upon tax compliance while others showing no significant impact: some even coming up with unexpected results and sign. In this paper I, therefore, attempt to synthesize the literature evidence regarding tax experiments in a meta-analysis to find the impact of morale and norms-based interventions upon tax compliance. The results of my meta-analysis clearly prove that morale and norm-based policies are effective in raising tax compliance. They are found to raise the compliance levels as low as 0.3 percent and possibly as high as 2.6% (based on the confidence interval of combined effect size) in the participants. The effect on the whole is found to be positively significant.