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RISING
PAKISTAN

Social Sector Research Seminar Series

Review of First Quarter Seminars-2017



Economic Growth

"Economic growth without social progress lets the great majority of people remain in poverty, while a privileged few reap the benefits of rising abundance"

(John F. Kennedy)



Human Capital

"Time is really the only capital that any human being has, and the only thing he can not afford to lose"

(Thomas Edison)



Research

"No Research with action and no action without research"

(Kurt Lewin)



"Our Vision is to seek holistic and integrated development by establishing a sound socio-politico-economic structure, through critical thinking and research based human capital"



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Social Sector Seminar Series

The creation of knowledge through an innovative process is vital for both human and material development. The social sector research seminar series is part of the efforts and initiatives of the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform to introduce innovation, quality and out-of-box thinking in to the processes of policy and planning. The seminar series recognizes that it is essential for policy makers to learn and benefit from the work done by academia and think tanks to aid in optimal policy design. Vision 2025 also advocates that the government, private sector, civil society, international development partners, academia and think tanks need to work jointly for the implementation of Pakistan's future road map.

Pakistan's socio-economic issues need special attention compared to other sectors of the economy, and effective, innovative solutions are required to bring about transformative change in the social sector. The social sector seminar series aims to establish a strong link between researchers and policy makers to facilitate an inclusive and holistic policy design process.

Strategies for Transformational Change

Dr. Asad Zaman - Vice Chancellor, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE)

Key Points

- Pakistan has sufficient resources but is still failing to make remarkable improvements in the social sector compared to other poorer but successful countries. The three drivers of change are necessary;
 - i. Social transformation (Perceptions of Changing Norms)
 - ii. Educational transformation (Development of Skill Sets)
 - iii. Motivational transformation (Taking responsibility)
- For transformation of the development process in the country, the following four steps are required;
 - i. PC-1 should be originated from owners (community) similar to China who started pilot projects on small scale with rigorous assessments and got successful results.
 - ii. Planning Commission should prioritize projects both completed and ongoing projects.
 - iii. External evaluations should be made mandatory for ongoing projects.
 - iv. Foreign donor projects must also be appraised very carefully by the Planning Commission as an external evaluator.

The Need for Data in achieving the SDGs

Dr. Zahid Asghar, Associate Professor, Department of Statistics, Quaid-e-Azam University

Key Points

- Data is extremely important for the benchmarking, prioritization, monitoring, and reporting stages of SDGs.
- Given the current speed of progress and existing policies, Pakistan would be able to achieve the overall literacy target by 2046; 16 years after the stipulated time of SDGs completion.
 - i. Male literacy target would be met in 2040 and female literacy by 2052.
- The research recommended rigorous efforts to achieve SDG targets, developing SDG Index and data dashboards for policy formulation.
fully by the Planning Commission as an external evaluator.

Private Sector Support for the SDGs through Local Networks

Ms. Amna Mahmood, Project Coordinator, Centre for Economic Research in Pakistan (CERP)

Key Points

- The study involved four countries - China, Czech Republic, Colombia and Kenya.
- It provided signatories with visual material and communication kits on SDG issues and assessed different levels of SDG awareness exist among signatories.
- The relationship between the Ten Principles of UN Global Compact and SDGs remains unclear to many, as both are currently perceived as two separate agendas.
- As signatories explore how SDG alignment can correlate with business operations, limited resources and capacities hamper such integration.
- Different approaches by governments on SDG alignment with national development planning affect policy environments.
- Identify and award local leading companies.
- Promote creation of working groups comprising of local networks, business signatories, government authorities, NGOs & other relevant actors to discuss issues & initiatives related to SDGs.

Relevance of Divisia Monetary Aggregates for Policy Formulation

Dr. Haroon Sarwar - Assistant Chief, Poverty Alleviation & Devolution, Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform

Key Points

- Paper compares the forecasting ability of Simple-Sum and Divisia Monetary Aggregates and found Divisia as a superior aggregate.
- The research found that although, the role of monetary aggregates in monetary policy has eclipsed and world has moved towards inflation and interest rate targeting, but that is due to the wrong choice of aggregation technique.
- Divisia aggregation provides better guidance for macroeconomic policy formulation.
- Policy designing quarters in Pakistan, particularly State Bank of Pakistan and Planning Commission should also include Divisia aggregates in to their dashboard for effective policy formulation and execution.