



SDPI
Sustainable Development Policy Institute

Research & News

Tenth SDC Special Bulletin

Vol. 14, No. 4 October — December 2007

Tenth Sustainable Development Conference

Sustainable Solutions: A Spotlight on South Asian Research

The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) held its Tenth Sustainable Development Conference (SDC) from 10-12 December 2007 in Islamabad, Pakistan. The overarching theme of the SDPI's Tenth SDC was *Sustainable Solutions: A Spotlight on South Asian Research*. It was attended by 65 panelists from ten countries including Australia, Germany, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, UK, and the USA. An audience of over 1,000 participated during the three days and debated with the speakers presenting papers on issues ranging over five sub-themes: globalization; gender; environment and disaster management; health; and, history. Apart from the 14 panels based on the sub-themes, three keynote plenary sessions also took place with lectures delivered by prominent scholars.

Each SDC is designed to be a forum for sharing and exchanging dialogues on sustainable development with practitioners, civil society and policy-makers. The SDC series has been established as a prime Conference in South Asia on development issues attracting leading intellectuals and policy-makers to come together.

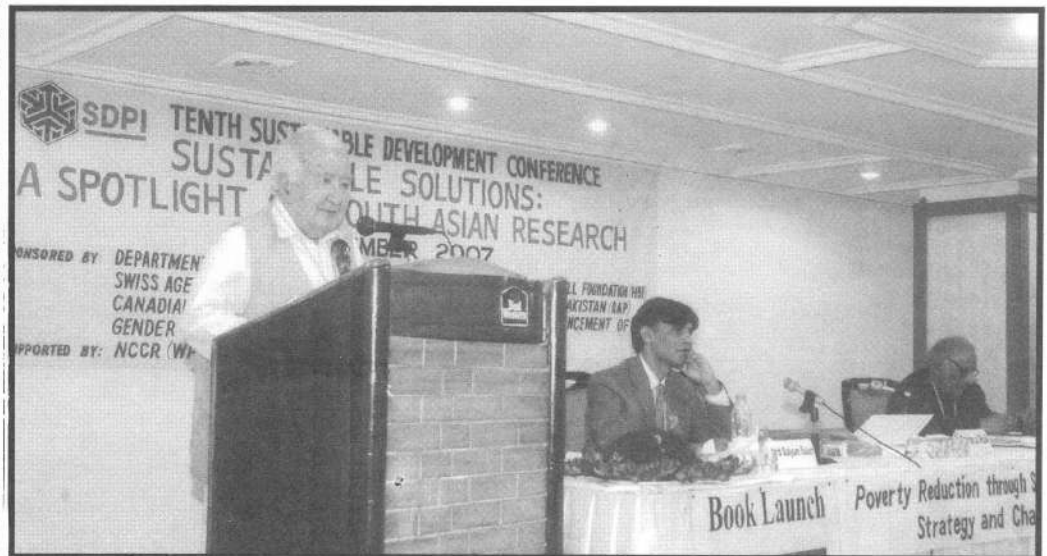
This special issue of Research & News bulletin carries detailed proceedings of the Tenth Sustainable Development Conference.

Inaugural Report

"Research-based solutions will help us in removing our pre-conceived biases and will be the first step towards sustainable human development defined as *the enhancement of peace, social justice and well-being, within and across generations*." This was stated by the Caretaker Chief Minister NWFP, and Chairman, Board of Govern-

nors, SDPI, Mr. Shams ul Mulk, at the inaugural ceremony of the Tenth Sustainable Development Conference (SDC) organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute on 10 December 2007 in Islamabad.

Mr. Shams ul Mulk talked about the SDC coinciding with the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali, Indonesia, where Pakistan led the developing countries' group G-77. Many countries in South Asia including Pakistan have remained under developed for decades with poverty, illiteracy, lack of healthcare and morbidity hampering our progress, despite efforts to overcome them financially and practically, he said. He hoped that



the SDC would come up with result oriented discussions and sustainable solutions to problems of poverty, illiteracy, mortality and morbidity, environmental degradation, climate change and disaster management, gender inequality, and insecurity.

The Conference should not end at discussing the solutions that worked or that did not work, the next step should be to share the solutions put forward with community based organization leaders, government policy mak-

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Edited by: Uzma T. Haroon and Sarah Siddiq

Formatted by: Nasir Khan

ers and INGO facilitators for future implementation, he said.

Mr. Mulk also launched SDPI's Ninth SDC anthology titled "Missing Links in Sustainable Development: South Asian Perspectives" at the Conference based on seventeen chapters and three sub-themes: Gender and Human Security, the Economics of Globalization, and People's Rights and Livelihoods.

Dr. Abid Q. Suleri, Executive Director (Interim) of SDPI gave an overview of the Institute's work, especially mentioning the impact and recognition of SDPI's work by the Government of Pakistan in terms of both its research and policy advice. He shared that the SDPI has been entrusted to compile the National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) by the Ministry of Environment, and has also provided technical input on health issues to planning commission for Vision 20/30, policy recommendations on domestic preparedness for services liberalization, trade policy and laws related to farmers' rights to the Ministry of Commerce. SDPI is also collaborating with Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MinFAL) and Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) on pro-poor agricultural initiatives. At the district level, District Government Nowshera, following SDPI's research findings, banned the sale and use of land of an abandoned DDT factory until its soil is reclaimed to avoid serious health hazards, he highlighted.

He regretted that space for independent policy research both in terms of financial, as well as political terms was shrinking day by day. "Trans-disciplinary research—a research that also includes people's perspective in defining the research problem, carrying it out, and disseminating it—is seldom appreciated by governments of the world including the governments in South Asia," he said. He highlighted that independent research institutions such as SDPI are not being recognized by the Higher Education Commission as

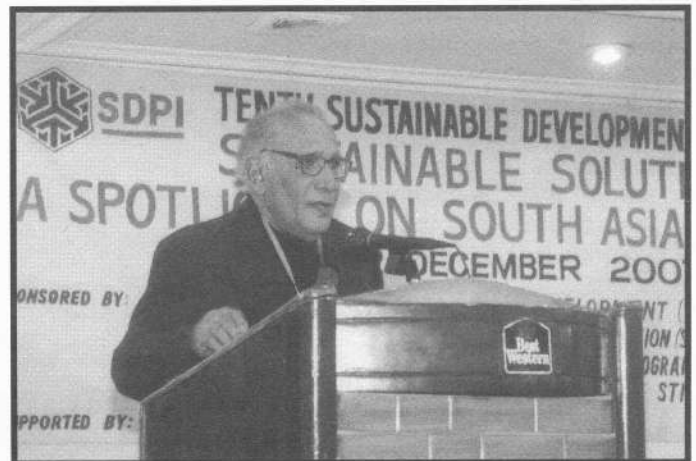
"Academic Research Institutes" for funding purposes and stressed upon the Chief Minister to press upon relevant circles to get this criteria redefined. In conclusion, he acknowledged the financial support of Department for International Development, Pakistan (DFID); Heinrich Boll Foundation (HBF); Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC); ActionAid Pakistan (AA-P); Canadian International Development Agency-Programme for the Advancement of Gender Equality (CIDA-PAGE); and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) towards the Conference. The Conference was also supported by SDPI partners including NCCR, IIED, SAWTEE, SAFIT, and RSPN, he said.

Reported by Sarah Siddiq

Keynote Lectures

Keynote Speaker: Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan, Chairman, National Rural Support Program (NRSP), Islamabad, Pakistan

Plenary Title: Poverty Reduction through Social Mobilization: Strategy and Challenges



Giving a keynote address at the inaugural session, Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan, Chairman of the National Rural Support Program, in his keynote address on *Poverty Reduction through Social Mobilization: Strategy and Challenges* talked about the success of the Aga Khan Rural Support Program (AKRSP) and rejected the notion of pre-conceived projects/programs at the macro

level and said that for any program to be successful, its micro-variations at the local level demand consultation and dialogues with each and every community. It must be left "to each community to identify their potential not only as community but also at household level." He said that there is no dearth of professionals and volunteers in Pakistan. What is needed are the required resources and champions to replicate good causes and models, he said. Quoting Dr. Akhter Hameed Khan, he concluded by saying that development will not come from the top. It will come from the bottom and it shall happen in pockets.

Reported by Sarah Siddiq

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Visalakshi Menon, Reader, Department of History, Jesus and Mary College, University of Delhi, India

Plenary Title: Communalism in India in the Present Context

The plenary on *Communalism in India in the Present Context* focused mainly on Indian politics and society but it also encompassed wider South Asian issues including that of Pakistan. Dr. Visalakshi Menon, Reader, Department of History, Jesus and Mary College, University of Delhi, India, in her speech warned that Communalism in India is so serious a threat that it can even tear apart the secular fabric of Indian society. She opined that despite



the fact that Indian Constitution is secular in nature, the rise of Communalism in India, particularly in the last three decades, has shaken the fragile secular structure of India society. She cited examples of the emergence of right-wing political parties in India such as the BJP, their ascent to power and their impact on the society. She also talked about the Gujarat incident where under a BJP government Muslim minority was massacred.

Dr. Menon remarked that contrary to the perception that Communalism is only rampant in Northern India, the phenomenon is taking roots in the Southern parts of India that are considered more secular. She said that despite this big threat, academic research on Communalism is not done sufficiently.

Reported by Shamil Shams

Keynote Speaker: Mr. Karamat Ali, Executive Director, Pakistan Institute of Labor, Education and Research (PILER), Karachi, Pakistan

Plenary Title: Communalism in the Sub-continent in the Present Context

Mr. Karamat Ali, Executive Director of Pakistan Institute of Labour Education and Research, also spoke on the issue of Communalism in Pakistan and India. Mr. Karamat Ali shed light on the issue of Communalism from a historical perspective and deemed Communalism as a legacy of colonialism in the Sub-continent. He was of the view that Muslim League and Congress were elite bourgeois parties that used religion to polarize the soci-



ety in order to protect their economic interests. Contrary to the State perception in Pakistan that Communalism in India has had repercussions on Pakistani society as well, Mr. Ali opined that in South Asian region, where four out of five nations have religious foundations, it is bound to have its impacts on secular India that saw a rise in Communalism in recent times.

Mr. Ali emphasized on practical measures that in his view need to be taken in order to tackle the menace of Communalism, both in India and Pakistan, by letting the people of Pakistan and India meet each other freely, by demilitarizing the two nations and reducing military expenditures. He remarked that a lot more needs to be done to curb the menace of Communalism rather than just defining the issues related to Communalism and Communal violence.

Reported by Shamil Shams

Keynote Speaker: Syed Babar Ali, Vice President Emeritus, World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF), Pakistan and Former Minister of Finance, Economic Affairs and Planning, Govt. of Pakistan, Lahore, Pakistan

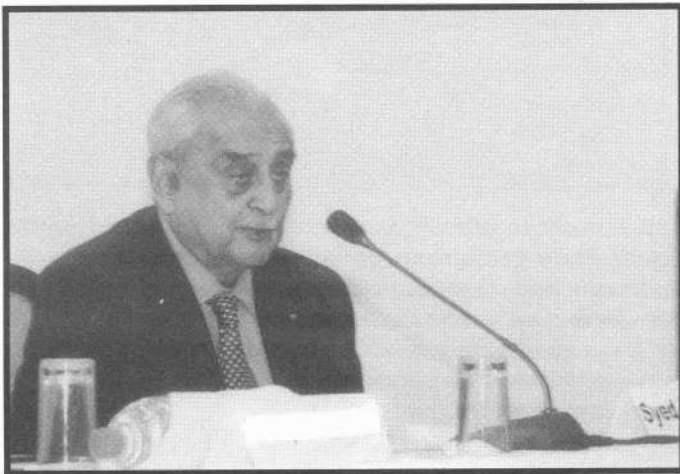
Plenary Title: Business, CSR and the Environment

Syed Babar Ali, Vice President Emeritus of the World Wildlife Fund, Pakistan, highlighted the context in which the Pakistani corporate sector operates in his talk on

Business, Corporate Social Responsibility and the Environment. He shared positive and negative trends in the corporate sector linked to the environment and nature conservation. He criticized the current system of GNP since it is only a measure of market transactions, which ignores the real and considerable costs of natural resource use and environmental degradation caused by the pursuit of quantitative economic growth. He pointed out that even though an economy needs four types of capital (human, financial, manufactured, natural), the present economic systems were only using the first three forms of capital to transform natural capital into products and services. Quoting the high expenditures of governments, especially the USA on the military, Syed Babar Ali lamented how this industry was destroying the planet, rather than spending resources on more humane causes.

Talking about the issue of climate change, he warned that the climate debate was a public issue threatening not just assets and resources like oil, fish, or timber, but the entire life-supporting system.

Discussing the change in perceptions and trends in Pakistan, he appreciated the decision by the Government of Pakistan to shelve the Satpara Dam, near Skardu, af-



ter a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment, which showed how the dam could damage the ecosystem of the Deosai National Park and endanger the Brown Bear and Snow Leopard. "Since Pakistan is a developing country, there is an opportunity to guide future development in an environmentally friendly manner," he said. He also highlighted various case studies of businesses in Pakistan that were generically environment friendly such as the work of a Belgian company working with the Lahore District Government to convert about 1,000 tonnes per day of waste in Lahore into highly valuable organic fertilizer. Given the popularity of organic foods, he shared examples of an organic bakery in Lahore producing organic bread; innovative farmers producing and exporting organic rice; as well as organic cotton being produced on a pilot scale.

He recommended that the role of industry associations such as the Chambers of Commerce, and manufacturers associations needs to be strengthened, and the

Pakistani corporate sector needs to become much more active in partnering with nature conservation organizations to support important conservation work. "The efforts of a dedicated corporate sector professional or an environmentalist will not bear fruit unless these contribute to a holistic future articulated by leaders in a society. If leadership is missing, it is up to groups of concerned individuals, organizations to develop their own visions for the future," he concluded.

Reported by Sarah Siddiq

I. SUB-THEME: GLOBALIZATION

Regoverning Markets: Sharing Innovative Practices and Policy Lessons

Chair: Mr. Ashraf Hayat, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce (MoC), Govt. of Pakistan, Islamabad, Pakistan

Discussant: Ms Ayesha Humaira, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MinFAL), Govt. of Pakistan, Islamabad, Pakistan

Panel Organizers: Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director (Interim) SDPI, and Mr. Shakeel Ahmad Ramey, Research Assistant, SDPI, Islamabad, Pakistan

South Asian agri-food market is witnessing a rapid change both in governance and structure. Panel on "Regoverning Markets" was organized at the SDC to look at the present scenario and future strategies to handle the upcoming challenges. The presenters called for effective and appropriate policy response for marketing and management of the agricultural commodities in changing domestic and international markets. Regoverning Market panel was chaired by Mr. Ashraf Hayat, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Islamabad, and Ms Ayesha Humaira, Deputy Secretary, MINFAL, Islamabad, was the discussant.

Mr. Vijay Paul Sharma from the Indian Institute of Management, India, presented his paper on "Indian Agrarian Crisis and Smallholder Producers' Participation in New Farm Supply Chain Incentives". He argued that agricultural growth is essential for achieving economic growth and poverty alleviation. He pointed out that the reasons of Indian agrarian crisis are foreign direct investment (FDI) in the retail sector, declining investment, slow growth in agriculture and rural development, degradation of natural resources, capital inadequacy and lack of rural infrastructure and institutions. However, FDI in retail sector is the main contributor due to which the agriculture exports have reduced from 30% to 10% in recent years. He demanded that policy focus ought to be on food security and poverty reduction, issues related to input use efficiency such as irrigation management, chemicals, seeds, and easy access to credit at affordable rates. He also urged the government to come up with new marketing policy, which can adequately address the needs of modern supply chain with a focus on resource poor and small

farmers. There is also a proper strategy to address the FDI issues. Smooth functioning of supply chain requires the proper regulatory framework, which can secure the livelihood of destitute of society. Government in this regard is required to act as facilitator and provider of safety nets to rural poor people, stressed the speaker.

Mr. Abdul Ghafoor from the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan, talked about the "Mango Market Integration in Pakistan: Implication for Exports". Pakistan is the fourth biggest producer of mangoes, and Pakistan can earn a handsome amount of foreign exchange from



its effective marketing and management. He mentioned that fortunately the mango market in Pakistan is completely integrated and most importantly it can adjust quickly in response to any shocks in market. He said that at present Karachi is the only terminal market from where mango is exported to other countries, mainly to the Middle East and Gulf countries. Pakistani mango also has a great demand in the west but unfortunately at the moment Pakistan is not able to exploit this potential due to lack of exporting facilities, quality standards and export terminals. To exploit the potential, Pakistan should improve its quality standards, marketing facilities and establish new terminal markets and venues. Mr. Ghafoor said Multan and Lahore are appropriate options for the setting up of new terminal markets and venues. He pointed out that Lahore is more viable option in terms of facilities.

Mr. Khuda Bakhsh from the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan, focused on the "Impact of Price Variation and Market Distance on Returns in Potato Production". He briefed the audience that high transportation cost, lack of market information, and exploitative role of the middleman are the main reasons for farmers' inability to get their due share. According to him the main factors, which dictate the decision-making regarding the crop cultivation are land quality, labor availability, transportation cost and its demand. He highlighted that potato farming has not been given due importance as cash crop which effects the potato production very badly. The major problems in the production and marketing of potato are lack of credit, lack of inputs, inefficient supply of inputs, scarcity of storage facilities, inefficient output supply chain and ignorance of government. He stressed the need for gov-

ernment interventions to secure the rights and income of farming community. He urged the government to regulate the input and output markets. Farmers should be given the assurance of timely availability of inputs and selling of output.

Mr. Ashraf Hayat concluded the session and said, "We need to ponder over not only the regulatory issues but a strong consensus is also required among all stakeholder to develop appropriate marketing policy with a special focus on small producers and entrepreneurs. He also called for policy coherence among developing countries to cope with the challenge of FDI in retail sector.

Reported by Shakeel Ahmed Ramey

Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing (ABS): Addressing the Livelihood Concerns of the Farming Communities?

Chair: Mr. Bashir Wani, Inspector General Forests, Ministry of Environment, Govt. of Pakistan, Islamabad, Pakistan

Discussant: Mr. Yasin Tahir, Director General, Intellectual Property Rights Organization of Pakistan, Islamabad, Pakistan

Panel Organizer: Ms. Mehnaz Ajmal Paracha, Project Associate, SDPI, Islamabad, Pakistan

With a focus on South Asia, the panel on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing (ABS): Addressing the Livelihood Concerns of the Farming Communities? looked at good practices and policies/laws pertaining to ABS and livelihood concerns of the farming communities. Inspector General Forest, Mr. Bashir Wani, chaired the panel and Mr. Yasin Tahir, Director Intellectual Property Rights Organization of Pakistan, participated as the panel's discussant.



In a paper titled "The Right to Access and Benefit Sharing: Sharing the Indian Approach with Bangladesh and Pakistan", speakers Dr. Indra Nath Mukherji and Ms Namrata Pathak, both from the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India, compared the Indian experience

with Bangladesh and Pakistan and said that the TRIPS agreement, legislation on protection of plant varieties and ABS therein is yet in a draft stage and was expected to get a final shape soon in Bangladesh. Similarly in Pakistan, the legislation based on an Ordinance is also yet a draft. By contrast, the Indian legislation balances the rights of both farmers and breeders; and gives them the right to have access to genetic resources and benefit sharing from the commercial utilization of genetic resources.

The main objective of the study was to review ABS at a global level, review of Indian legislation on plant varieties and biological diversity, and to examine similar attempts in Bangladesh and Pakistan. Furthermore, the study focused on the Indian legislation and how its execution could provide a model for other countries in the region. The study also analyzed the Draft Biodiversity and Community Knowledge Protection Act - 1998, The draft Plant Varieties Act - 1998, Draft Plant Variety and Farmer's Rights protection Act - 2002/2003 of Bangladesh, and Pakistan's Breeders' Rights Ordinance 2000 and Draft Access to Biological Resources and Community Rights Act 2004. Finally, in the comparative analysis of Pakistan, Bangladesh and India, it was suggested that the Indian legislation is important for two reasons. First, it highlights the complexity arising out of need to balance the interests of various actors in agriculture trade. Second, Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act - 2001 (PPVFA) incorporates the *sui generis* features that include farmer's rights providing an alternative to developing countries. PPVFA has laid down detailed provision for ABS mechanism to ensure greater transparency of procedures. Furthermore, Indian Legislation provides a broad-based definition of a farmer in comparison to draft legislation in Pakistan and Bangladesh.

In comparison to the positive suggestion given by the speakers from India, Ms Mehnaz Ajmal Paracha, Research Associate at the Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan, probed the Indian legislation in her presentation on Access & Benefit Sharing (ABS) and Livelihood of Farmers. The title of her paper was "Limitation of Indian Act related to Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing". While discussing the importance of Traditional Knowledge (TK) from Ms Keya Ghosh's paper on "Access & Benefit Sharing (ABS) and Livelihood of Farmers" (read out in absentia), she said that TK plays an important role in the lives of local communities. It is a key element in their food security, health, education, natural resources management, and other vital activities. TK has also made a large contribution to modern agriculture and industry. Local communities are likely to benefit from the use of their TK by outsider only if: a) the TK in question is not in the public domain and is not being already used; b) it has a commercial potential; and c) its commercial use takes place through a legal contact between the community and a user industry that has provisions for fair and equitable benefit sharing.

This paper presented a few case studies (such as the Kani community of Kerala, the Beej Bachao Andolan

and the Organize Cultivation of the Basmati Variety) to illustrate the importance of commercialization and benefit sharing in conservation of TK and varieties. The benefit sharing is possible only when TK is successfully commercialized. For successful benefit sharing, various legislations of the country have to be integrated and a holistic approach has to be adopted keeping in view that the interest of different departments do not clash with each other. Hence, commercialization of TK can be an important source of income for local communities because TK plays a crucial role in the lives of local communities. It is a key element in their food security, health, education and other vital activities.

Ms Paracha further highlighted in her paper that in Indian Patent Act (2002) on Traditional Knowledge, the complete specification does not disclose or wrongly mentions the source or geographical origin of biological material used for the invention and is anticipated by oral or documentary knowledge (Sections 25(1)(j) & (k) and 64 (1)(p) & (q)).

While discussing the limitation under Indian Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Act, 2001 and Biological Diversity Act, 2002 she said that the acts emphasize on a centralized system without adequate focus on capacity building at the local level. The NBA will determine what is 'fair and equitable'. Procedures for consultation with affected communities have not yet been established. There are unequal bargaining powers: (a) commercial entity seeking access and, (b) local provider. Further, there is a need that the issues of awareness of rights and capacity to negotiate should be urgently addressed.

She pointed out that under the PPVFR Act, it is presumed that farmers will receive timely information about applications for registration. How will this work realistically—through local language, she questioned. Similarly in Biodiversity Act, community participation is not clearly defined, it is detached from the ABS process and limited efforts were made to provide benefits to the community (discretion left to NBA).

While presenting a paper on "Changing Livelihoods: The Burden of Pastoralists Shifting to Agriculture", Dr. R. Siva Prasad, Reader from the Department of Anthropology, University of Hyderabad, India, shared that large segment of population depends on pastoralism and other non-agricultural pursuits for their livelihoods.

Pastoralists played and continue to play an important role in a nation's economy including agricultural production. Pastoralism is a different mode of production in comparison to agriculture. Expansion of agriculture into arid lands has been severely affecting pastoralists.

Therefore, traditional agriculture practices and marginalized communities all over the world are under constant threat of existence. These communities are denied of their livelihood and are pushed into a poverty trap.

This paper was based on anthropological fieldwork carried out amongst the Toda (a community who are traditional sedentary form of pastoralism in the Nilgiri Hills of Tamil in Southern India). Pastoralism is an integral part

of the Toda culture. Toda and buffaloes are inseparable. The fieldwork for collecting primary data was carried out for a period of four months (June to September) in Toda village in 2006.

The pastoralist's condition has really become a gamble after adopting agriculture as their livelihoods and the problems faced in pursuing agriculture have made them vulnerable. One must recognize that pastoralism is also an economic strategy that is very important for the economic development of a nation as well as for sustainable livelihood. The wrong and misplaced notions of development and downgrading of pastoralism has negatively impacted the pastoralists. There is a need to restore a healthy balance between nature and people and participation of the communities in policy-making development is the need of the hour, stated the speaker.

The session concluded with the suggestions that both Bangladesh and Pakistan while finalizing their draft law on the issues of access to genetic resources and benefits sharing should consult Indian Act, in order to incorporate all the concerned issues of the communities and to avoid any legal ambiguity.

Reported by Mehnaz Ajmal Paracha and Farhat Mehmood

Domestic Preparedness: The Challenges of Trade Liberalization and Globalization

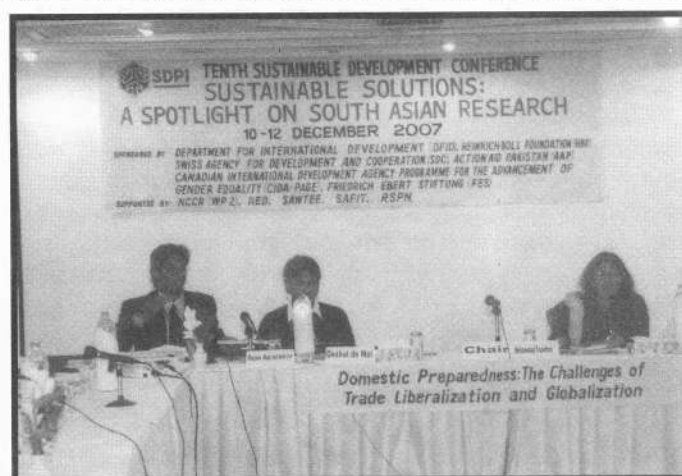
Chair and Discussant: Mr. Mohammad Sulaiman, Economic Consultant, Islamabad, Pakistan

Panel Organizer: Ms. Mehnaz Ajmal Paracha, Project Associate, SDPI, Islamabad, Pakistan

Mr. Deshal de Mel, Research Officer, Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Colombo, Sri Lanka, presented his paper on "Domestic Preparedness: The Challenges of Liberalization of Trade in Services in Sri Lanka", focusing on the telecom sector. Despite Sri Lanka's commitments in GATS, telecom sector is far from perfect in terms of regulatory rigor that would provide security for investment. Sri Lanka has made commitments to implement the Telecom Reference Paper in the negotiation rounds. In practice most of the commitments have not been met, however, for further liberalization the Reference Paper Commitment is a successful initiative of domestic preparedness. Nevertheless, most of the time, the implementation of Sri Lanka's schedule of commitments remains weak. Recommendations to curb weak implementation were suggested. Sri Lanka should focus on tightening up domestic regulatory frameworks and improve the capacity of the regulator through increased financial independence, which could result in realistic and useful commitments under the telecommunication sector in future negotiations. It was pointed out that in Sri Lanka, many professional services associations lack regulatory and legislative capacity to effectively regulate even local service providers. This capacity can be improved if there is increase in foreign participation in service sectors in Sri Lanka. This would provide greater access to foreign expertise and technol-

ogy whilst triggering competition and investment that would be beneficial to consumers in Sri Lanka. However, in order to enjoy these potential benefits, the regulatory environment needs improvement.

Mr. Rojan Bajracharya, Research Officer, Technical Review Group Pvt. Ltd., Kathmandu, Nepal, in his paper titled "Tourism - A Sustainable Service Sector for South Asian Trade: Lesson from Nepal's Experience" provided a critical analysis of Nepal's tourism sector in terms of preparedness. Tourism in South Asia has great service potential sector, which should be included in SAFTA in order to invite the regional Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flow and to develop a regional marketing link, which will enhance the tourist flow in the region. He explained the positive measures on trade policy taken by Nepal Government. According to the Nepali experience on trade of tourism, it was pointed out that the South Asian region needs to address the five issues which can contribute in the promotion of the tourism trade. These areas of attention include law and regulation, governance, trade facilitation and infrastructure, implementation capacity and skill. Not only this but there is also a need for a liberal trade policy regime which can liberalize visa regime, transport connectivity and regional tourism promotion strategy for regional preparedness to include tourism in SAFTA. Furthermore, the effective security measures, particularly in terms of tourist flow record, should also complement the liberal policy to minimize the security threat. By including tourism trade in SAFTA; the region can get the economic opportunity, which can be utilized to address the economic inequality, and can increase the people to people contact, which can neutralize the region's political tension. The major findings from Nepal's experience for South Asia in terms of regional commitment in tourism are to continue addressing the above mentioned issues for enhancing tourist flow that would in turn influence the settlement of territorial conflicts and



terrorism and hence lead to sustainable South Asian Economic community.

Ms. Mehnaz Ajmal Paracha, Research Associate from SDPI, focused on Pakistani service sectors in her paper on "Domestic Preparedness under General Agreement on Trade in Services". She examined different as-

pects of domestic policy and several regulatory authorities' competency and efforts towards liberalization. It was pointed out that GATS allows members countries to enforce regulations that meet the national policy objectives and effective regulatory regimes are crucial for trade liberalization. She said that liberalization commitments are benchmarked with domestic preparedness, and steps were taken to ensure that domestic regulatory reforms were dynamic and were in line with the multilateral commitments. She also deliberated upon the research findings of 20 different regulatory bodies under services sector including, Pakistan Engineering Council, Pakistan Council of Architect and Town Planners, etc. It was discovered that although the processes that underpins GATS negotiations at Geneva exist, they are weak and requires strengthening. At the first instance key informants at the Ministry of Commerce WTO Wing highlight that response to initial requests sometimes slackens due to the slow response from respective Ministries/sectoral regulatory bodies. There are a few cases where awareness of the GATS and its commitments are not fully understood by regulatory bodies, and as a result Pakistan cannot fully or comprehensively develop its negotiating position for that particular sector. In other instances, domestic rules and regulations are ambiguous and not clearly projected. The regulator environment is thought to be cumbersome and bureaucratic.

She identified the following weaknesses in regulators: lack of understanding of GATS; time inefficient inter-ministerial consultation; and, incoherence between trade policy and agreements, which should be rectified. The major proposal in this regard was to set up an implementation task force that would be supervised by a senior advisory group, which would comprise of one member from each service sector ministry. She stressed the need of Capacity Enhancement of the officials indirectly linked with the regulation and policy formation and the domestic service providers (staff/stakeholders) should have the understanding of international negotiations.

Most important is to improve the statistical coverage of services sector with disaggregated data to make clear to policy makers the value and shape of services trade. She recommended that there should be harmonization of technical regulations and the domestic service providers should be taken into confidence about international negotiations as well as they should be protected against foreign providers.

Discussion

During the question and answer session, it was added that Pakistan has made liberal offers to the WTO. Regulation is an issue due to the absence or ineffectiveness of the regulator. The panel concluded that further commitments are dangerous without giving careful consideration to each sector's needs. Small service providers should be protected against multinational corporations and limits should be set as to how much liberalization should take place.

Mr. Muhammad Sulaiman, Economic Consultant and

former Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce invited as the chair and discussant of the panel in his concluding remarks said that the consultations with the stakeholders on Pakistan's negotiations position should be broad based where transparency should be ensured.

Reported by Mehnaz Ajmal Paracha and Ali Imran

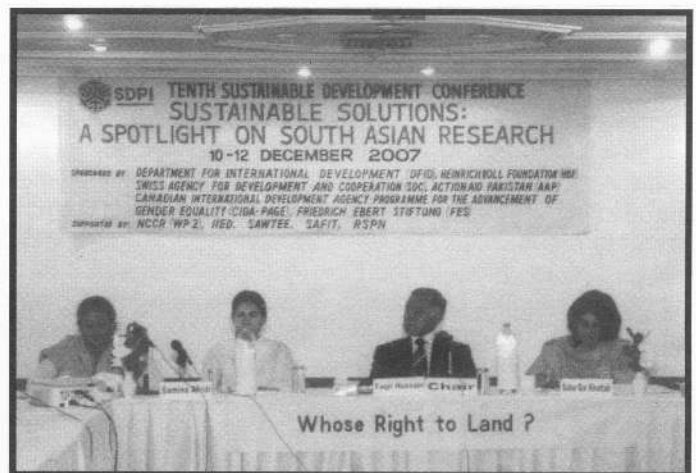
II. SUB-THEME: GENDER

Whose Right to Land?

Chair and Discussant: Dr. Faqir Hussain, Secretary, Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan, Islamabad, Pakistan

Panel Organizers: Dr. Saba Gul Khattak, Visiting Fellow, SDPI; and, Ms Kiran Habib, Project Associate, Women's Land Rights, SDPI, Islamabad, Pakistan

The first paper was presented by Ms Nazish Brohi, Research Consultant, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan. In her paper "Land and the Patriarchal Bargain", she talked about women's agency that can be read in negotiations with patriarchy and argued that since women are being barred from alternative justice frameworks, they have conceded to and demand concessions from a system that has its internal logic and justifiability, and that their conflicts and contestations are expressed within that system. She also highlighted how pacts with patriarchy subvert conventional approaches to empowerment and explained that although women are very much cognizant of the value of land, they largely choose not to contest for its ownership in lieu of the social protection, identity and respectability that they benefit or expect to benefit from through their association with the men of their families.



Ms. Samina Afridi, Lecturer at the Department of Philosophy, University of Peshawar, Peshawar, Pakistan, in her paper "Land Ownership and Pakhtun Women in Tribal Areas and NWFP" underscored the absence of federal and provincial laws in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and pointed towards the low status

of women due to Pakhtun customary laws and self-proclaimed interpretations of Islam in the area. She highlighted how women are denied their fundamental rights by placing special emphasis on women's property rights and strongly advocated for the statutory laws of Pakistan to be applied in FATA as well.

Dr. Saba Gul Khattak, Visiting Fellow and former Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan, explored the possibilities for women's land rights in her paper titled "Friction Between Religion and Custom: Possibilities for Women's Land Rights?". She talked about the class and political context and the patriarchal forces at play while connecting it with her primary data from Swat in order to look at the issues of women's landlessness, poverty and status. She recommended changes in the system through strong political will and state institutions; alternative conceptualizations and; land reforms and redistribution. She also posed a question of equality while emphasizing that even *sharia* does not give women equality so where do we start?

The panel chair and discussant, Dr. Faqir Hussain, Secretary, Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan, Islamabad, Pakistan, in his comments spoke on the principle of gender equality and gave examples of progressive legislation with regard to inheritance in, India, Turkey and Somalia and observed that by prescribing equal shares for male and female heirs, gender-based discrimination has been removed from inheritance laws in these countries. Whereas, with regard to the Pakistani legislation on inheritance he noted that it suffers from three flaws: one, the unequal shares prescribed, two, non-enforcement of the law, and three, its non-application to the FATA. Referring to the law of inheritance, he said it is the most ignored and violated law and strongly believed that the non-enforcement of it is a major hurdle in the way of women's empowerment.

He recommended that the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act 1962 should be extended to FATA; it should be made obligatory on the Revenue Authorities that in the event of death of a person, they should carry out necessary mutation in the Record of Rights and transfer the shares to each legal heir, male or female; the Excise and Taxation Department, which keeps record of property, may also be obligated to change such record, in the event of death, thereby allotting to every heir his or her share in the property; devolution of inheritance should be made compulsorily registerable; and the civil courts should be empowered to act *suo moto* or on the application of an aggrieved party by taking cognizance of a dispute in inheritance.

Discussion:

The panel presentations were followed by a question-answer session. Responding to questions on public policy for redistribution of land and women's share in it in case of new land reforms, Dr. Faqir Hussain observed that the next time around, land reforms would have to take into account the due share of women as the basis of land reforms is not the law of inheritance. Ms Brohi in this regard

added that a lot of women in the past were given land holdings because of the land reforms but they could hardly exercise any control over it because after the land reforms were introduced, families which had huge tracts of land parceled the land out in the names of the wives, daughters and sisters and it is presumed from the data that much of it was with the assumption that it is better to parcel the land out to a woman who can then be controlled. In response to a question relating to *sharia*, Dr. Khattak said that *sharia* may not be the ultimate and quoted the examples of Somalia and Turkey where male and female heirs are entitled to equal shares and suggested this to be the way to go forward. On comments relating to individual versus collective ownership of land, Dr. Khattak feared that collective ownership of property too, would have gender dynamics and therefore we would still need to be very careful in how we tread that ground. She further added that there are deep-seated structures and thinking that inform land ownership issues and foremost amongst that is the issue of social order and sexual agency which is connected with private property. Men want extra land ownership because they want to be in control and they do not want the social order to be disturbed and that fundamentally is where one needs to look at how policy can be manipulated to address this deep-seated issue.

Reported by Kiran Habib

Reducing or Inducing Risk: Gender and Migration in South Asia

Chair: Dr. Aliya Khan, Professor, Department of Economics, Quaid-e-Azam University (QAU), Islamabad, Pakistan

Discussant: Dr. Saba Gul Khattak, Visiting Fellow and former Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan

Panel Organizer: Dr. Karin Astrid Siegmann, Research Fellow, SDPI, Islamabad, Pakistan

Dr. Karin Astrid Siegmann, Research Fellow, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), presented the findings of the research study on "Strengthening Whom? The Role of Transnational Migration for Women and Men in Northwest Pakistan". Giving an overview of her research work she mentioned that migration is a global phenomenon and around 175 million people left their countries of origin due to economic vulnerabilities. In the context of Northern Pakistan, which is one of highest migrant sending region in Pakistan, her presentation explored the impact of migration on sending households with a special focus on gendered vulnerabilities after the migration of male household members in rural North West Frontier Province (NWFP). Based on her research findings she revealed that majority households send six migrants to various domestic and transnational, mostly Gulf destinations. Figures show that majority of these migrants are below 30 years of age and educated up to primary level.

Most of them work as laborers and drivers in their countries of destination.

Focusing on the possible impacts of male migration on female members of the household, the study found an increase in women's workload, especially on those living in more rigid conservative environments and belonging to low socio-economic status. Research study finding also reveals that as compared to non-migrant households, mi-



grant households suffered from less health problems, which reflect the utilization of remittances on health care. Besides this, female respondents also mentioned that after the migration of their males they become more dependent on their in-laws often resulting in mobility constraints especially for accessing health care facilities. Ironically, the same households allow the females to move freely outside if the households need their physical efforts for outdoor natural resource management related activities. Study findings also showed that while migrant households have more finances for schooling, poor educational infrastructure coupled with restrictive mobility is still a challenge. In her concluding remarks she stressed the need of gendered human rights approach to empower women in the sending regions. She also emphasized the need for effective migration policies, which can enable safe and regular migration not only for men, but also for women.

Ms. Aneela Sultana, a cultural anthropologist and lecturer at the Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan, shared the findings of her anthropological study on "Sexual Exploitation and Misery of Pakistani Female Migrants." The main objective of her study was to analyze the commercial sexual exploitation of women as a consequence of trafficking. The principal aim was to reveal the circumstances under which a girl or woman adopts sex as a profession, the conditions of service, the compulsion and the conviction that keep one attached to the profession and the impact of sexual exploitation on their personalities. Furthermore, she also investigated the push and pull factors, which facilitate the process of trafficking.

This anthropological study revealed that poverty, unemployment, lack of education, and discriminatory gender traditions create an environment which compels many young women to leave their hearth and home for a luxuri-

ous life, only to land in the abyss of disgrace and dishonor.

She revealed that many tactics are used to trap women ranging from promise of gainful employment, persuasion and material inducement (making money by becoming a model or dancer), sympathy with a girl to find her job in some house, fake marriage and family migration to a city in search of employment. When asked about the nature of their job, all the women said that they are supposed to provide all types of sexual services, irrespective of age, class or marital status and were often extremely mistreated and verbally and physically abused by their 'clients'. Ms Sultana shared that in nearly all the respondents, the impact of such work had led to depression, feelings of helplessness, hatred towards society, family in general and men in particular. In conclusion, she emphasized the need for improvement in legislation, policy and programs relating to the prevention of and responses to violence against women.

The panel was chaired by Dr. Saba Gul Khattak, Visiting Fellow and former Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan, while Dr. Aliya Khan, Professor at the Department of Economics, Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan, was the panel discussant.

Reported by Maqsood Ahmad Jan

Bridging the Subcontinent's Gender Digital Divide

Chair: Ms. Alice Shackelford, Country Program Representative, United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), Islamabad, Pakistan

Discussant and Panel Organizer: Dr. Karin Astrid Siegmann, Research Fellow, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan

During the session on the *Bridging the Subcontinent's Gender Digital Divide*, chaired by Ms Alice Shackelford,



Country Program Representative, United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), Islamabad, Pakistan, panelists called for the integration of a gender-

sensitive approach at all policy levels.

Mr. Aneel Salman, a Fulbright scholar and PhD candidate from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) Troy, NY, USA presented his paper on "Overcoming the Gender Digital Divide: Success Story of Grameen Telecom Bangladesh". He discussed the Grameen Telecom's initiatives in bringing a shared concept of telecommunication usage to the poor villagers in Bangladesh. He shared detailed figures from various studies about telephone density, installation charges, complaints ratio and so on with the audience. He said that according to a study by Richardson in 2000, in 1990s, Bangladesh had around 500,000 fixed line telephones and 2/3 of these were located in Dhaka city itself, while in another study on Bangladesh, 91% landlines were located in urban areas only, with 36.6% landlines in Dhaka city itself. As a result, Bangladesh's urban tele-density was 1.09 per 100 inhabitants, whereas, the rural tele-density was a staggering 0.02 per 100 inhabitants. Given Bangladesh's population density of 981 persons per square kilometer; one of the highest population densities in the world, there seems to be a huge potential for tele-growth in the country, he stressed. An important development in telecommunications in Bangladesh was the village phone system (VPS). The VPS system is claimed to be the first instance of any NGO involved in rural telecom development through a franchise system. The objectives of the Grameen VPS are mainly twofold. First, franchise members, predominantly women earn their living by selling telecom services and second, villagers benefit by purchasing these services. It is also a step outside the conventional empowering mechanisms of farm related activities prevalent in most of the development projects in South Asia. The VPS propelled by the village women is, thus, a positive move away from conventional methods of the rich growing richer by taking advantage of new technologies. It has many social impacts including new business methods, and unique client servicing techniques. It also builds social relations, efficient communication and stronger kinship. Through this, women's participation in decision-making increased and they have become self-reliant, more organized and have greater social mobility. Mr. Salman also looked at the negative impacts of this growing system and potential threats and opportunities for its growth.

Mr. Imran Sikander Baloch, a civil servant with the Federal Government of Pakistan presenting his research paper on "Specifying Gender in the IT Policy of Pakistan", analyzed Pakistan's IT policy and discussed the change one ICT initiative by National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) on Community Technology Learning Centers (CTLC) in Thatta, Pakistan, brought in the lives of some women. He pointed out that the impact of ICT on women in the developing world cannot take place unless policies are aligned with local factors like social relationships, cultural and historical context. In his analysis of the CTLC he used Vygotsky's Activity Theory to measure change and impact in the light of contextual local factors like self-efficacy, gender biased social constraints and

inspirations to form networks of learners. He recommended development of unconventional context specific gender indicators for measuring the impact of ICT on the women and thus incorporating these indicators in the IT Policy of Pakistan. He pointed out that "You don't get gender, if you don't specify gender." Contemporary policy research has proved the importance of thinking gender, particularly in the developing world situation, where women already make a marginalized group. The case study of NCHD's CTLC is valuable in the sense that it helps knowing how specifying gender and anticipating women's social environment in the policy thought process gives sustainable and positive results.

"There is a need to study such small scale models to inform macro level strategies. While Pakistan has gone a long way in formulating gender mainstreaming guidelines, the impact on the ground is still too little. One primary reason is the distance between research and practice. The solution lies in changing the basic assumption that all policies are gender neutral and the tool to achieve this objective is constant campaigning," he concluded.

The discussant of the panel was Dr. Karin Astrid Siegmann, Research Fellow at the Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan.

Reported by Qammar Abbas

Ignored Producers: Women's Role in South Asian Agriculture

Chair: Mr. Iftikhar Ahmad, Member Plant Sciences Division, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), Islamabad, Pakistan

Discussant: Ms. Najma Sadeque, Founder and Executive Committee Member, Shirkat Gah, Karachi, Pakistan

Panel Organizer: Dr. Karin Astrid Siegmann, Research Fellow, SDPI, Islamabad, Pakistan



In the panel titled Ignored Producers: Women's Role in Agricultural Sector, while presenting a research study on the "Weakest Link in the Textile Chain: Pakistani Cotton

Pickers after the Quota Expiry”, Dr. Karin Astrid Siegmann, Research Fellow, SDPI, proposed that there should be legal coverage of agricultural sector, national and international policies should be engendered, gender gaps in resources access should be eliminated, pickers’ organizations and support for ethical trade agenda based on the social and environmental consequences should be strengthened. She emphasized that the precarious types and poor conditions of cotton pickers’ work are embedded in their social position assigned by patriarchal gender norms. The emerging picture shows macro-economic success that is parasitic on the poor bargaining power of women workers at the level of cotton fields. The outlined competitiveness on women’s front is not sustainable in terms of agricultural workers’ health and well-being and probably in the long term also not in terms of the sustained competitiveness of cheap cotton-based manufactures that compromise on quality, pointed out Dr. Siegmann.

Dr. Rukhsana Hasan, Incharge of Gender Studies Programme, Fatima Jinnah Women University, Rawalpindi, Pakistan, presented her research study on “Cholistani Women and Informal Economy: Survival Strategies in Times of Economic Restructuring”. She said that there is a tremendous increase in women’s workload, with consequent loss of her support network, and economic independence in Cholistan desert. Restriction on movement beyond the home, and concept of *purdah* (veil/segregation) may have important implications with regard to exposure to information, development of interpersonal skills and networks, and opportunities to take independent action. She concluded that gender division of labor within the work force of Cholistani community was not created by market economy, but that it did create a system in which pre-existing gender distinctions were reproduced in the wage labor system. Patterns of male authority at home were also extended to the area of wage labor relations. It manifested itself in the form of access to the urban market centers, contact with outsiders (in this case agents and jobbers from the city) and their perceived role as breadwinner and the head of the household in the eyes of jobbers.

Discussion

Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad, Member Plant Sciences Division, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, Islamabad, Pakistan, chaired the panel on Ignored Producer: Women’s Role in Agricultural Sector. He said that that the pesticide spray male and female cotton pickers are directly exposed to have detrimental impacts on their health. He also stressed the need for establishing the women’s organization in the cotton growing areas.

Ms. Najma Sadeque, founder member and member of Executive Committee, Shirkat Gah, Karachi, Pakistan, presented her views as a discussant. She said that despite coverage in Tenancy Act 1997, no government has paid attention to restoring the land and ultimately giving its entitlement to women and men. In order to change the situation of women in all spheres of life, incentives should

be created for both women and men, emphasized Ms Sadeque.

Reported by Nazima Shaheen

III. SUB-THEME: ENVIRONMENT AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Disaster Management in the South Asian Context: Impact, Lessons and Institutional Dynamics

Chair: Dr. Sarah Tirmazi, Development Specialist, Islamabad, Pakistan

Discussant: Mr. Sarfaraz Lashari, Executive Director, South Asia Policy Center (SAFAD), Cranfield University, UK

Panel Organizers: Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director (Interim), SDPI, and Ms Sobia N. Ahmad, Former Research Associate, SDPI, Islamabad, Pakistan



The panel on Disaster Management in the South Asian Context: Impact, Lessons and Institutional Dynamics was chaired by Dr. Sarah Tirmazi, Development Specialist, Islamabad, Pakistan, while Mr. Safaraz Lashari, Executive Director, South Asia Policy Center (SAFAD), Cranfield University, UK, was the discussant.

Mr. Sanaullah Rustamani, Lecturer from the Sindh Education Department Hyderabad, Pakistan, presented a paper titled “Disaster Management Policies for Kirthar Range Rivers of Sindh and Balochistan” in which he pointed out that floods are not a new phenomenon in Sindh and Balochistan. The history of floods started in the 1870s. Using secondary data source, newspapers and on-site field interviews, Mr. Rustamani analyzed the flood situation in Sindh and Balochistan from 1976 onwards to see what the government and NGOs have done so far to mitigate the miseries of the flood affected people. The socio-economic and environmental impacts of the floods over the affected areas, including the Manchar Lake (which is believed to be one of the largest sweet water lakes of Asia) were also evaluated. Most importantly, he focused on what needs to be done to achieve

sustainable development by taking effective measures to control the natural disaster.

During the recent floods of 2007, 5,000 villages of Balochistan were affected and many people drowned in the floodwater. Some 368 people were feared dead, 41,718 houses were destroyed and 10 districts of Balochistan were badly affected. In this connection, the Government announced a relief package for flood victims, amounting to Rs. 20 million for the 0.9 million food affected people of Balochistan, which means approximately Rs.200 for each flood affected person. This amount was quite insufficient even to purchase food. With regard to the losses during the flood in Balochistan, the provincial home minister of Balochistan stated, "If the whole budget of Balochistan is utilized, it would not be sufficient to meet the losses".

The worst floods of 1995 in Sindh occurred due to breaches at the Flood Protective (FP) *bund* (block/wall). The aim of this *bund* was to divert the flow of water from villages and towns of Sindh to the Manchar Lake. These floods destroyed 29,878 houses, 1,449 villagers were affected and 215 people died. In connection to the rehabilitation process, it was pointed out that the government should reconstruct schools, hospitals and houses, and the flood affected peasants should be given agriculture loans for maintaining their fields. There should be repair work of broken roads, latrines, and bridges. Also live stock vaccination should be done. In order to control the after effects of flood, there should be stone pitching of FP *bund*. Moreover, there should be a proper warning system to people to move to safer places at the time of flood. There should be one other canal to Hamal Lake and from Hamal to Manchar Lake, and these surplus canals should be opened in flood times only. Also there should be regular monitoring and repair of *bunds* before the monsoon season.

Mr. Adam Poulter, Area Office Manager (North), ActionAid, Pakistan; and Mr. Abdul Khaliq, Policy Officer (North), ActionAid, Pakistan, presented a paper titled "Promoting a People's Agenda: Reflections on Working with a Rights-based Approach after the Kashmir Earthquake". In October 2005 earthquake, 500,000 household lost their houses, more than 1 million people lost their jobs, 74,000 people died and over 7,000 schools, and water supply schemes, and all major hospitals and government buildings were destroyed.

This paper examined the impacts of 2005 earthquake and response of ActionAid in relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction phase. Action Aid worked in affected areas through immediate response, long-term response and through a Rights Base approach. In the relief phase, ActionAid staff was sent to affected areas. For the first two months, there was no office of ActionAid over there and priority was given to remote areas and after making an initial assessment package. The ActionAid gave tents, food, blankets, warm clothes, etc.

In the Rehabilitation & Reconstruction phase, ActionAid worked in four districts, where it provided shelter to 7,000 families, set up water supply lines and wells,

gave tailoring trainings and in livelihood support, ActionAid provided cash grants, livestock, grocery shops, crush, flour and sawing machines. Moreover, Action Aid sought to challenge power imbalances and promoted the role of women in the conservative society and tried to change thinking of communities challenging the stereotype that women have no role in development work. The organization also involved women in decision-making about location of assets e.g. wells. They also celebrated the international women day.

One major loss due to earthquake was the destruction of houses. Relating to the issue of designs of houses, ActionAid raised this issue before ERRA. In connection to policy advocacy, on the first anniversary of earthquake, Action Aid formed citizen commissions and held a protest in Bagh, wrote lobbying letters to ERRA about housing policy to approve traditional "daji dar" design. The organization also pressed the government for the release of remaining installments to earthquake-affected people. On the second anniversary of earth-



quake, ActionAid held rallies, meetings with the parents of the students for school construction, and raised awareness through TV.

At present there seems a lack of clarity on mandates and roles of government bodies in rehabilitation because only 5-10% of houses have been rebuilt so far, less than 500 schools have been constructed while no hospitals have been made. It is the need of time to develop a systematic and sustained community preparedness as part of development based work.

Dr. Shreekanth Gupta, Visiting Senior Fellow from the Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore, Singapore, presented a paper titled "Mitigating Natural Disasters: State and Civil Society Collaboration in Promoting Awareness and Communication". The use of information for promoting awareness and communication in disaster mitigation (all actions taken before, during and after occurrence of event that minimizes its impacts) has not been adequately studied or understood, especially in developing countries, stated the speaker. There are several components of mitigation, e. g. close coordination with land use planning, determining

location and nature of potential hazards, characterizing vulnerable population and structures, establishing standards for acceptable levels of risk and adopting mitigation strategies based on cost benefit analysis. Developing countries focus less on mitigation because it requires long-term political and economic commitment, threats are uncertain and problems pass on to next generation. This paper particularly reviewed China's campaign to predict earthquakes and its implications for developing countries especially those in South Asia. In July 1976, an earthquake killed about a quarter million in Tanghsan city of northeastern China. But in the nearby Qinglong county, thanks to early warning an earthquake few days later only killed one person out of a total population of about 0.5 million. Role of civil society serves as a catalyst in the process of mitigation, because no disaster mitigation initiative can succeed without total participation of communities, he pointed out.

Reported by Farhat Mehmood

Development Interventions and the Poverty-Environment Nexus Session I

Chair: Mr. Nuzrat Khan, HEC Professor of Sustainability Science, Sustainable Development Study Center, Government College University, Lahore, Pakistan

Discussant: Mr. Mohammad Khurshid, Biodiversity Specialist/Conservancy Program Coordinator, Mountain Areas Conservancy Project, Ministry of Environment, Govt. of Pakistan, Islamabad, Pakistan

Panel Organizers: Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director (Interim), SDPI, and Dr. Babar Shahbaz, Visiting Fellow, SDPI, Islamabad, Pakistan

Dr. Babar Shahbaz, Assistant Professor University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, and Visiting Fellow at SDPI delivered the paper on "Development Interventions and Stakeholders: The Case of Forest Governance in NWFP" and presented an exploratory analysis of the stakeholders' characteristics, power relations and conflicts in the context of interventions in the forestry sector of NWFP. He stressed that on the one hand, the state as well as donor led interventions do not really engage in a meaningful dialogue with the local stakeholders and institutions, and on the other hand these entities themselves are not in a position to initiate a change in local resource use. Thus, he recommended a way forward by fostering relationships of trust among key stakeholders through dialogues moderated by independent social groups like researchers. Key stakeholders identified included state authorities (provincial government, the NWFP Forest Department, Forest Development Corporation, and local governments); the local people living close to the forests, *Guzara* forest owners, *right-holders*, and *non right-holder* forest users, especially those of the Malakand and Hazara divisions), civil society (NGOs, CBOs, jirgas and religious groups), and the private sector (contractors,

wood based industry and the timber mafia).

Mr. Abrar Kazi, a political analyst and technocrat and Mr. Zulfiqar Halepoto, a water and environmental columnist, from Karachi, Pakistan, gave their presentation on "Environmental Law in Pakistan: International Obligations and the Lower Riparian, Sindh". Differences between Sindh and Punjab over water-sharing could lead to an inter-provincial conflict and even harm the federation if "heart-to-heart" talks were not held to resolve the issue, the authors warned. The differences, they said, were widening with time because the stand of Sindh was based on environmental concerns, while Punjab wanted to use every drop of available water to ensure food security for its people. According to them, at least four million people in Sindh were being directly hit by environmental degradation caused by lack of water, mainly due to policies formulated at the behest of Punjab. The war between water for food sovereignty and water for environmental security is being lost by the latter, because the upper riparian, Punjab, is more inclined towards its food sovereignty. The environmental laws in Pakistan are also heavily tilted in favor of the upper riparian Punjab since it is the most populous and powerful province of Pakistan. The presentation focused on the legal and constitutional position of the lower riparian rights in the national legal framework and environmental laws, vis-à-vis Pakistan's commitment to international covenants to protect the environment. Environmental law in Pakistan and the inefficiency in the mechanism implementation were also critiqued.

Dr. Prakash C. Tiwari from the Kumaon University Nainital, Uttaranchal, India, read his paper on



"Management of Common Pool Natural Resources for Rural Livelihood Improvement and Income Generation in Himalaya". The sustainable development of rural ecosystem in Himalaya, particularly in the high population concentration zones like the Lesser Himalaya, largely depends on the comprehensive management of common pool wasteland, particularly by integrating wasteland development with environmental conservation and livelihood improvement. In order to ensure the effective implementation of the management framework and to attain the desired level of success in development and planning, a comprehensive common pool wasteland develop-

ment approach needs to be adopted wherein ecological productive potential along with socio-economic parameters are taken in account after the detailed assessment of the developmental needs of local government departments and problems and priorities of local people. The paper highlighted a successful community and users oriented and watershed based action plan for the management of common pool wasteland for ecological restoration and livelihood improvement in a newly carved Himalayan State of Uttarakhand in India, with a view to help implementing various resource development and livelihood improvement schemes by government departments at district and sub-district levels. The rapid conversion of forests and productive lands into degraded and wasteland has contributed significantly to the decline of productivity of rural ecosystem and adversely affected livelihood securities of rural poor. But, it has been observed that most of the common pool wasteland categories in the region have very high potential for their productive rehabilitation and sustainable development, he said. "However, community consensus and involvement, and participation of local government agencies are prerequisite for evolving socially acceptable, economically viable and environmentally sustainable framework for the management of wasteland," he concluded.

Dr. Peter Lund-Thomsen, Assistant Professor at the Copenhagen Business School and Visiting Fellow at SDPI, was unable to attend the Conference due to health problems. His paper presented in absentia on "Global Value Chains, Industrial Clusters and CSR: Identifying New Research and Policy Agenda," was based on an initial theoretical exploration of the key linkages between the global value chain, industrial cluster and CSR literatures, outlining key themes for future research within this area. Dr. Lund also used the global tanning industry to explore the hypothesis of whether the structural changes in the global tanning industry have resulted in a race-to-bottom or a race-to-the-top in terms of securing higher incomes for leather producers, improving conditions, or reducing environmental pollution. He used the Pakistani leather tanning industry, particularly the cluster of Kasur, as a means of exploring whether such a race-to-the-top or bottom is occurring in the developing world. The paper concludes that in theoretical terms, it is still early days when it comes to the development of a coherent research agenda around the linkage between global value chains, industrial clusters, and corporate social responsibility. As for the races to the top and the bottom, his paper pointed out that both are simultaneously occurring in different localities. Races to the top have been witnessed in the European and North American tanning industries in terms of improving working conditions and reducing environmental pollution from tanning industries. At the same time however, the translocation of the global tanning industry to the developing world has reduced incomes for leather producers and forced most of them to close shop. This has provided space for many developing countries to expand their tanning industries generating much needed foreign currency for national governments while stimulat-

ing local employment. The downside of this development has been a substantial increase in environmental pollution in these localities, exposing tannery workers and local communities to severe health hazards. Almost unanimously, the experience of the developed and the developing world confirm the hypothesis that once wages increase and environmental regulations are tightened, the tanning industry is sufficiently footloose to be closed down in one location only to be expanded in other lower-wage areas where environmental regulations tend to be less strictly enforced. The case study of the Pakistan leather tanning industry, particularly the industrial cluster of Kasur, was used to illustrate this finding. "It is virtually impossible to create a win-win situation in terms of combining the economic, social, and environmental aspects of sustainability of the global industry tanning industry. Instead it appears as if there are inherent trade-offs between these variable in a global capitalist economy where the wealth of some is generated at the expense of others," the paper concluded.

This session was chaired by Dr. Nuzrat Khan, HEC Professor of Sustainability Science, Sustainable Development Study Center, Government College University, Lahore, Pakistan. The discussant of this panel was Mr. Mohammad Khurshid, Biodiversity Specialist/Conservancy Program Coordinator, Mountain Areas Conservancy Project, Ministry of Environment, Govt. of Pakistan, Islamabad, Pakistan.

Reported by Ayesha Abdul Razzaq and Rehan Bashir

Development Interventions and the Poverty-Environment Nexus

Session II

Chair: Mr. Sohail Malik, Country Representative, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Pakistan

Discussant: Mr. Prakash C. Tiwari, Reader, Environment and Natural Resource Management, Department of Geography, Kumaon University Nainital, Uttaranchal, India

Panel Organizers: Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director (Interim), SDPI, and Dr. Babar Shahbaz, Visiting Fellow, SDPI, Islamabad, Pakistan

Mr. Sohail Malik, Country Representative IUCN Pakistan chaired the second session on Development Interventions and the Poverty-Environment Nexus while Mr. Prakash C. Tiwari from the Kumaon University Nainital, Uttaranchal, India, gave comments on the paper.

Mr. Arun Shrivastava, Certified Management Consultant and Member Himalayan Policy Campaign Committee India, while presenting his paper titled 'Are we Destroying the Himalayas? A Balance Sheet of Ecosystems, Energy Projects and Livelihoods', analyzed the linkages between hydroelectric energy projects, Himalayan ecosystems and local livelihoods in the Indian state of Himmachel Pradesh. Mr. Shrivastava explained that

the Himalayas sustain two of the world's largest river basins (Ganges-Brahmaputra and Indus). While 58.01% of India's area falls under Ganges-Brahmaputra basin, 33.51% falls under Indus; 52.28% of Pakistan falls under Indus basin. It implies that 1.927 million sq. km area of Pakistan and India is directly served by the Himalayas. However, various projects (particularly hydro-electric) are seriously eroding the Himalayan ecosystems that have supported thousands of livelihoods in the mountain areas and millions in the basins that are served in the plains. In Himachal Pradesh about 415 projects (over 300 small and 115 medium and large) are either planned, under



execution or operational. Examples from several project areas and some villages where ecosystem destruction has threatened livelihoods were presented. Given the scale of hydro-electric projects in this ecologically sensitive state in particular, and the Himalayan region in general, he raised the questions of long term sustainability of these projects and survival of millions of South Asians in the mountains. Damming of rivers is destroying the ecosystems and pauperizing rural communities. Their land, water sources and traditional rights have been taken away. People's concerns and objections regarding the large projects are seldom recorded and addressed before project start.

Mr. Pushpam Kumar, from the University of Liverpool UK, presented his paper titled "Linkages of Poverty and Ecosystems: Indicators for Effective Response Policies". He attempted to organize the complexities of the relationship between poverty and the health of ecosystems and suggested some indicators to map the linkages of poverty and ecosystems. Mr. Kumar explained that the category of poverty and ecosystem indicators comprises a wide variety of elements ranging from economic (inspired by national accounting practices) to participatory indicators (based on focal groups exercises). Much can be learned from existing studies and methodologies on poverty and environment indicators, but more could be achieved by trying to overcome some shortcomings that are common to many indicators. He, however, argued that with few notable exceptions most indicators are not fully integrated. They either refer to environmental features or to poverty characteristics, but not to both.

Mr. Kumar presented some indicators for linking poverty and environment based on un-weighted scale scores and weighted scale scores. Some of the poverty-environment indicators included: diarrhea from unsafe drinking water, respiratory diseases from air pollution, low income from land degradation, under nutrition from deforestation and vulnerability from natural disasters. By combining environmental variables and poverty variables through adjustment factors, national or local policy-makers and stakeholders can calculate themselves the indicators for their regions. For decision makers the ingredients of a successful policy to remove poverty and conserve environmental condition lie in the effective intervention at the appropriate point.

Mr. Amirullah Khan, Fellow, India Development Foundation, New Delhi, India, presented a paper on the 'Impact of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP) on Rural Livelihoods'. He attempted to explore the direct and the indirect effects of NREGP on employment generation and poverty reduction in a local area by constructing and using the Social Accounting Matrix (SAM). For this, a detailed survey in a specific village was used to highlight the impact of the NREGP. The SAM is an organized representation of all transactions between production activities, factors of production and institutions within the economy. Mr. Khan critically analyzed the impact of this program (NREGP) and other developmental activities on employment generation and poverty alleviation and their impact on expenditure on education and health. He also identified the broader environmental and livelihood impact of such interventions in larger geographical areas if such schemes are to be scaled up.



Dr. Abid Suleri, Executive Director (Interim), Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) Islamabad, presented a paper on 'Policy Led Poverty: Environment Nexus'. He started his presentation with evidences from South Asia, which is the world's poorest region as it is home to 40% of the world's poor and 500 million people are living below the poverty line. At the same time it is world's most illiterate region as it is home to half of all illiterates in the world. About 260 million peoples of South

Asia lack basic health facilities, 337 million lack safe drinking water and 830 million are without rudimentary sanitation. Dr. Suleri then presented Pakistan's case study to further elaborate "policy-led-poverty environment nexus", and described the alarming increase in the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides after 1980. Agriculture, the main employment-providing sector, is being ignored by the policy makers. He further explained that about 50 million people, making up 52% of total rural population in 80 districts are food insecure. Scarcity of natural resources leads to conflicts and poverty; for example strong linkages exist between extremely food insecure areas (such as Waziristan and Dera Bugti) lead to violent conflicts. Dr. Suleri argued that any environmental conservation effort that does not take care of poverty reduction would not work. Natural calamities are unavoidable, however, right policies (human activities) may stop natural calamities turning to human tragedies.

Reported by Babar Shahbaz

IV. SUB-THEME: HEALTH

Sustainable Solutions in the Health Sector Session I

Chair and Discussant: Dr. Nabila Ali, Chief of Party, Pakistan Initiative for Mothers and Newborns (PAIMAN), Islamabad, Pakistan

Panel Organizer: Dr. Shafqat Shehzad, Research Fellow, SDPI, Islamabad, Pakistan

Dr. Talib Lashari, Executive Coordinator of The Network for Consumer Protection, Pakistan, gave his presentation on "Health Policy Implementation: A Prerequisite for Sustainable Solution". The objectives of his study were to review Provincial Operational Plans for the National Health Policy 2001; assess how these Plans are translated into action at each tier and issues being faced in achieving policy objectives as well as to suggest a policy implementation framework and recommend ways and means as sustainable solutions. The study areas included Departments of Health; P&D; DoF and Devolved Social Services Projects in four provinces; Sheikhpura (Punjab); Charsadda (NWFP); Quetta (Balochistan); Hyderabad and Noshehro Feroze (Sindh); and EDOs (Health); MS DHQs; MO RHCs and BHUs (one DHQ, one RHC and one BHU in each district). His study found that there was lack of required preparedness to implement the Health Policy and that it is difficult to attribute enhanced health status as an outcome of the policy due to many factors involved. Implementation of the policy is also too weak to moderate, he pointed out. In the end he recommended that: the policy formulation process should be revisited and restructured at the federal and provincial level; Implementation Framework should be thoroughly discussed and incorporated in the future policy which should then be annually reviewed and widely disseminated; a viable district health system should be devel-

oped including studies on health expenditures, procurement at the district level; finally the ban on recruitments should be lifted so as to fill the gap in paramedical staff.

Mr. Fayyaz Ahmad Khan, Behavior Change Communication Team Leader from PAIMAN Project Johns Hopkins University, Center for Communications Programs, Islamabad, Pakistan, presented his paper on "Learning from the Past: Family Planning Communication Strategies in Pakistan from 1965-2003 and 2004-08." The main objective of the paper was to provide a comprehensive overview of Pakistan's family planning communication strategies. Pakistan has seen little success in



its effort to control the high population growth rate despite her long history of family planning communication campaigns. Mr. Khan's presentation was simple and effective. It highlighted the problems and shortfalls of effective communication and information dissemination in family planning. It was suggested that communication should be linked with the supply side and different media strategies need to be devised for each province, as 'one size doesn't fit all'. Role of civil servants, policy makers, and religious leaders is crucial for family planning media strategy. The key to success to MoPW Communication Programs is not increasing financial resources but training and posting appropriate people capable of devising need based plans and implementing them to encourage couples to opt for informed choices about their family and health, he stressed.

Mr. Muhammad Sabir, Senior Principal Economist from the Social Policy and Development Center (SPDC), Karachi, Pakistan, gave his presentation on "Gender and Public Spending on Health in Pakistan: A Case Study for Sustainable Solution." The main concern of his paper was to analyze issues in access to health services in general, and for the poor segment of the society and women in particular. The study also suggested measures for sustainable solutions in access to health services. The presentation was quantitative and micro data from Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement Survey (Round - 1) 2004-05; province-wise sex disaggregated utilization of public health facilities by quintiles, regions and gender; Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) progress report for the year 2005-06, Demand

for Grant and Appropriations 2005-06; and public spending on health services (general hospital and clinics) were used in the analysis. Policy recommendations included the following:

1. Shifting responsibility for health to the private sector and sub-national governments is unlikely to achieve efficiency gains alone.
2. Concerns about equity need to be taken into account in the Health Policy.
3. Reforms should be designed to balance equity concerns with the need to increase spending efficiency.
4. Effective health reforms need to balance increased devolution of responsibility and resources with enhanced market competition and regulatory frameworks that ensure accountability for results.

Discussion

Discussant and Chair of the session Dr. Nabila Ali, Chief of Party, Pakistan Initiative for Mothers and Newborns (PAIMAN), Islamabad, Pakistan, stressed the importance of implementation. Dr. Lashari's presentation was appreciated along with some comments on the interviews at the federal level, linkage of parameters with recommendations and reflections of MDTF, MDGs in the development of the Health Policy. It was stressed that the study should be published and shared with all tiers of government and social sector. About Mr. Khan's paper it was pointed out that his paper needed some inputs on the implications of the policy and program and training of counselors. For Mr. Sabir's paper, it was suggested that more in-depth analysis of indoor and outdoor patients was required in research. Effective health reforms need to balance increased devolution of responsibility and resources with enhanced market competition and regulatory frameworks that ensure accountability for results.

Reported by Ayesha Abdul Razzaq and Aneel Salman

Sustainable Solutions in the Health Sector Session II

Chair: Dr. Talib Lashari, Executive Coordinator, The Network for Consumer Protection, Islamabad, Pakistan

Discussant: Dr. Saadia M. Malik, Executive Director, Mahbub-ul-Haq Human Development Center (HDC), Islamabad, Pakistan

Panel Organizer: Dr. Shafqat Shehzad, Research Fellow, SDPI, Islamabad, Pakistan

Dr. Sakuntala Narasimhan, Author/Resource Person, Bangalore, India, presenting her paper titled "Strategies to Support Women in Rural Health Practices: Some Innovative Experiments from India" shared the experiences of successful interventions of using South Asian culture of traditional songs to spread information and create awareness on health and other important issues among the illiterate poor village women. The interventions were carried out in four states of India where voluntary organizations, activists and groups effectively used tunes of the tradi-

tional songs with substituted words to spread the key messages and information. According to her, generations-old familiarity of rural women with traditional cultural songs and the substitution of words with key messages tremendously helped illiterate women to learn, repeat, remember and practice the new ideas to overcome their problems related to health, gender, violence, nutrition, hygiene, alcohol, sanitation, etc. Sharing several interesting and exemplary case studies besides singing some of the substituted songs in cultural tunes of Indian languages, she said that the infant mortality rate (IMR) and



maternal mortality rate (MMR) have gone down by 50% while life birth rate have dropped from 110% to 65% in Andhra Pradesh alone.

The innovative method produced far reaching effective results compared to so many contemporary methods of spreading information such as printing materials and traditional state-funded schemes including community health clinics and paramedics, she pointed out. She said that substantial improvements took place in the conditions of women in Karnatka and Gujrat not only in dealing with the health issues but also for their empowerment, self-help growth, micro-finance, decision-making, capacity-building, networking and mobilization.

Dr. Mufiza Farid from the Department of Community Health Sciences, Aga Khan University, Karachi, Pakistan, in her presentation titled "Magnitude and Dynamics of Physical Violence: Evidence from a Low Income Country" identified physical abuse by intimate partner as most common form of violence against women in marital life as well as during pregnancy. Sharing the details of a facility-based group survey carried out over a period of three months on 500 hundred pregnant women in tertiary care hospitals of Karachi providing care to lower and low-middle socio-economic strata; she lamented that magnitude and dynamics of physical abuse represents a serious social, medical and legal problem for women. She pointed out that is more harmful during pregnancy because it significantly impacts the pregnancy outcomes including an additional threat to fetus as well. Urging the need for further research on this subject and a restrain for the generalization of her study, she said that statisti-

cal analysis of the data shows nearly 28% women experienced physical violence during marital life while 13% during index pregnancy. She further stated that social parity and household conflicts are commonly involved in the abuse. However, social support is very protective against it adding a number of factors at individual level relationships, and at the community and society level that lead to the phenomenon. She cautioned that physical abuse increases the risk of both fatal and non-fatal outcomes ranging from homicide, suicide, maternal and AIDS related deaths to physical, mental, reproductive, sexual and injurious health behaviors. She recommended screening for abuse as an integral part of standardized antenatal care, counseling for spouse support and family planning at antenatal center and more population based studies in order to advocate screening at antenatal care and a plan of action for careful patient assessment, referrals, provider education and community awareness.

Dr. Shafqat Shahzad, Research Fellow, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan, presenting her paper titled "Sustainable Solutions for Improving Mothers' Health in Pakistan" shared a detailed insight into the alarming situation of reproductive and maternal health care in Pakistan. She noted that maternal mortality rate (MMR) remains very high while mother's health is neglected due to multiplicity of factors involving social, cultural, economic, and political reasons. She shared results of her research study jointly conducted with Ms Nabila Zaka of UNICEF in the 61 districts of four provinces of Pakistan. According to her, despite so many efforts and country's international commitments, expecting mothers suffer risk of dying due to obstetric obligations and poor people spend more on health services out of their pockets while expenditures on health remains low and a huge supply-gap in the provision of health services exists. However, the results of study as well as international experiences show the strategies of Emergency Obstetric Care (EmOC) have the potential to reduce the MMR as it declined from 186 to 166 and obstetric case fatality rate decreased from 0.7% to 0.6% from 2003 to 2006 in 11 selected districts. She identified perceived cost of health care as a major barrier to improve the utilization of this facility during pregnancy underlining the need to measure economic and financial cost and translation of burden of maternal deaths into economic terms to allocate resources and reduce financial barriers. She urged inclusion of expecting mothers into social protection strategy and more assistance and social protection for 12% chronically poor clients.

Dr. Shafqat Shehzad recommended a set of sustainable solutions based on evidences collected from 11 districts of the four provinces which included provision of EmOC facility, adoption of integrated policies, community participation, skilled birth attendants, realistic budgets for projected cases for obstructed emergencies, provision of pre-packaged delivery and c-sections kits, lifting of mandatory condition of showing ID card to access services especially in life threatening acute conditions, support of poor women from Bait-ul-Maal and social security funds,

possible use of voucher schemes to reimburse transport and medicine expenses of complicated clients, reduction of financial barriers to access life saving maternal health services and initiate NGOs partnership mechanisms.

Discussion

Dr. Saadia M. Malik, Executive Director, Mahbub-ul-Haq Human Development Center (HDC), Islamabad, Pakistan, considered all the three papers extremely important in highlighting the health situations of two vulnerable groups—women and children—adding that these two groups represent a very dismal state in South Asia and that some of the indicators are even lower than some Sub-Saharan countries of South Africa. She said MMR has increased from 410 per hundred thousand to 530 per hundred thousand over the past 10 years and around 50% children under the age of five remained malnourished and more than one-third of the total world maternal deaths occur in South Asia, according to the UN Human Development Report.

Appreciating the paper and singing ability of Dr. Sakuntala Narasimhan, she said her paper effectively highlighted the role of culture in creating awareness among illiterate masses. The rich and diverse culture of South Asia can be harnessed and replicated to lead the development goals in Pakistan suggesting that the use of religion could also effectively contribute in the development process. However, she emphasized for more specific data and evidences on the effectiveness of interventions and to support the argument while talking of technical details of the paper.

She also appreciated Dr. Mufiza Farid's paper saying that the extent of violence against women in South Asia is much higher than any other region of the world and despite lack of credible data at the country level, around 50% women experience violence in their marital life in South Asia and almost 70% to 90% in Pakistan, according to the Human Rights Watch. Talking of technical details, she sought clarification in the association and effects of independent variables on the spousal abuse besides some information on the socio-economic characteristics and family structure of the respondents.

Commenting on Dr. Shafqat Shahzad's paper, she said it effectively underlines the significance of social safety nets particularly in health sector fearing that without those social safety nets in place, Pakistan would not be able to meet the millennium development goals for reducing the high MMR. However, she sought more information on criteria of selection of districts in addition to reasons for recommending EmOC facility as a best strategy.

Following the clarifications from the panelists in response to the comments of the discussant, a number of issues were discussed which included effective role of increased awareness in improving health care services and other issues in India, need to use religion as a tool to spread information and education, counseling at the family planning centers, different ways of creating motivation towards certain causes, duration and sustainability of the

improvement women's conditions in India, confidentiality aspects of women counseling, out-sourcing of health services, causes of violence, working conditions and skill levels of lady health workers.

At the end, Dr. Talib Lashari, Executive Coordinator, The Network for Consumer Protection, Islamabad, Pakistan, appreciated all the three papers especially that of Dr. Sakuntala Narasimhan adding that this kind of research and interventions are very useful and valuable addition in the policy discourse for the policy makers and health managers in Pakistan to achieve the targets of the millennium development goals by 2015.

Reported by Faisal Gorchani and Kamila Shahana

V. SUB-THEME: HISTORY

Rewriting History

Chair: Dr. Nathalie Reynolds, Research Associate, Center for Asian Studies, Geneva, Switzerland; and, Visiting Fellow, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan

Discussant: Mr. Shamil Shams, Deutsche Welle, South Asia Unit, Bonn, Germany

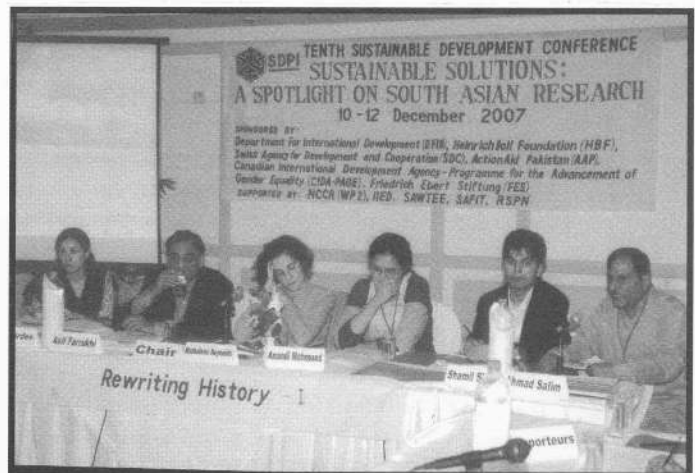
Panel Organizer: Mr. Ahmad Salim, Project Consultant, SDPI, Islamabad, Pakistan

During the panel on "Rewriting History," chaired by Dr. Nathalie Reynolds, Research Associate from the Center for Asian Studies, Geneva, Switzerland; and, Visiting Fellow with SDPI, Mr. Ahmed Saleem, Project Consultant with SDPI, in his presentation narrated the conception and evolution of the research project on "Rewriting History" sponsored by HBF and hosted by SDPI in collaboration with the 60th anniversary of Partition. He raised a pertinent question of why 1947 is celebrated as the "watershed", while 1905 (the partition of Bengal) or 1901 (partition of Punjab and the "introduction" of NWFP) are not. There is a similar indifference towards 1971 when it comes to historiography in Pakistan. Is what is prevalent in Pakistan a conspiracy of silence regarding Bengalis? Or a crime of silence? For if appears that the violence committed and the gap in knowledge regarding that particular moment in history (1971) is worse than 1947, he posed. India, for all the recent problematic history writing at least had some institutions, which had relative freedom, he lamented. His project looks into compiling oral histories of massacres in Pakistan, India and Bangladesh and explores the displacements of refugees particularly the Bihari community. There is a particular focus on what happened to members of the minority community (especially Christian missionaries) who helped the refugees and their status in Pakistan today and how has the Pakistani state treated their community.

Dr. Anandi Mahmood from the Department of Humanities, University of Central Lancashire, UK, began with sharing two anecdotes from her father-in-law's life (who grew up in pre-partition Potohar). When he is que-

ried on his childhood days, he narrates episodes of extreme poverty and walking to his school in another village barefoot in the hot sun, and of his friends tying leaves to their soles in lieu of shoes. The second anecdote relates to the fading rose tattoo on his forearm, this when a Sikh friend takes him to the Baisakhi mela (fair). The young Sikh man is a visitor from a community/village across the "existing" border. These two significant events outline the history of extreme poverty in Potohar, and also of diverse friendships across borders and distance. Perhaps this project cannot conclude that the past is that of idyllic multiculturalism, but it is that of a more nuanced history than our textbooks show.

The experience of the ordinary individuals appear at best as statistics in "official history", however their experiences of every day life, and oral histories of a period long gone are important to catalogue, she pointed out. This is so we can learn to accept and recognize their "social pur-



pose". How does one understand the past and the present and contradict which is acknowledged as the truth, she asked. When it comes to partition violence in Potohar, was it class differentials, which "justified" partition violence? Was it growing indebtedness to Hindu moneylenders? There are discrepancies when it comes to literacy levels amongst the different communities with high rates of school enrolments even when it came to non-Muslim women as compared to Muslim men. Elsewhere in the region where Sikhs and Muslims were all agriculturalists, Muslim respondents narrated episodes of sharing love and friendship with their Hindu and Sikh neighbors and continuing to write letters after Partition.

Mr. Asif Farrukhi, a writer and critic from Karachi, Pakistan, took a figurative jump from 1947 to 1971 and the process of memory or lack of when it comes to 1971 in Pakistani historiography and Urdu fiction. He finally decides to take a retrospective of 1971, not through history but from the imaginative.

Year 1971 for his generation was not seen as the conflict in now Bangladesh, but as the Crush India campaign, with its fascination for black outs, sirens and air raid shelters, of long school holidays and playing indoors as the city prepares for being bombed (this is Karachi)

and of hearing jingoistic songs, but not of the surrender of Pakistani forces. He talked about how Bengali classmates disappear from schools, but no one questions why. Though the events of 1947 are studied, analyzed and criticized in Urdu literature, however, there is a void when it comes to 1971. Why this emptiness here? Is the lack of stories actually framing the real story?

In the years leading to 1971 there were groups writing in Urdu on the concerns of the region, but as they wrote in Urdu in what is now Bangladesh therefore they were not read by the Bengalis and as these were magazines published in then East Pakistan so not accessible by those living in now Pakistan. In then West Pakistan sadly there were no public agitations over the events of December 1971 and few instances of protests in literature, Mr. Ahmed Salim was one who spoke out and he too was jailed for his efforts. Ms Perveen Sarwar also wrote on the issue, but her work sadly has this stream of constantly blaming "outside influences" for the debacle.

Dr. Pippa Virdee's, Research Fellow from the De Montfort University, UK, work was an anthology of silences and nationalist attitudes in South Asian historiography. However, there is a paradox when it comes to cataloguing the aftermath of partition violence; there are less nationalistic attitudes, somehow the stories of rehabilitation are told differently. So there is a difference in discourse when it comes to events leading to 1947 and aftermath of partition. However, there remains an overarching theme in works authored in the North on why the partition happened, rather than its impact, an emphasis on *politics* rather than the people. Years 1984 and 1997 were two moments in history that ushered a new lease of history writing in South Asia when violence and memory were catalogued from standpoints previously unexplored. Today there are upcoming doctoral research projects and early career researchers working on cataloguing human histories and oral testimonies of and in South Asia, she shared.

Discussion

Mr. Shamil Shams from Deutsche Welle, South Asia Unit, Bonn, Germany, in his role as the discussant articulated the problem of not learning anything from history, a conspiracy of silence when it comes to events of 1971, but also the events in Pakistan in 2007. "There is a growing importance to build up on the linkages of activism and research. When it comes to this particular panel on rewriting history, how ironic that we do not acknowledge that in Pakistan, it is the lawyers who are rewriting history," he said.

In the question-answer session, the audience and panelists discussed similar streams of warped historiography in popular fiction in Pakistan especially children's fiction. There was also a debate on the "reliability of memory" and particular instances where oral testimonies filled in the gap when official documents were missing due to censorship laws or archival material disappearing. Members of the audience shared their memories of 1971 from Delhi and Bombay and how there is a synergy of

"flawed" memories. Some concluded that the whole sub-continent should not be viewed as a nation, but multinational realities. Realize this, acknowledge it and then re-work and redesign the idea of nationhood, it was stressed.

Reported by Aneela Z. Babar

Common History in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh

Chair: Dr. Anandi Mehmood, Department of Humanities, University of Central Lancashire, UK

Discussant: Mr. Sarfraz Khan, Area Study Center, University of Peshawar, Pakistan

Panel Organizer: Mr. Ahmad Salim, Project Consultant, SDPI

Dr. Visalakshi Menon, Reader, Department of History, Jesus and Mary College, University of Delhi, India, presented her paper on "History Writing in India". She shared the strong and vibrant tradition of history writing of India, which began even before independence. According to her, many of the historians of 1960s, even while engaged in teaching and research, devoted a part of their time in writing history textbooks for children. The endeavor was not just to update historical knowledge, but also to place the discipline of history on strong, secular



foundations. This was done because it was felt that much of the communal hatred which erupted from time to time in the form of riots, emanated from the communalized approach in history textbooks.

Critically analyzing the new Indian history textbooks being produced by the NCERT under the guidance of Prof. Krishna Kumar, she said that while these books have been prepared by some of the most outstanding historians in India, are visually attractive and try to present history in interesting new ways, the thematic approach being adopted is flawed as with such an approach the interconnectedness of history is lost. After all, events do not stand in isolation, they have to be seen as part of a larger process, she said. History is constantly in the process of being rewritten and reexamined. What is

of interest and concern is the manner in which it is being rewritten and the reasons for which a reexamination is considered necessary. One also needs to carefully look for the agenda that could possibly lie beneath these exercises. She stressed the need to question why when a new set of history textbooks is commissioned; it is mandatory to wipe out all memories of the ones that preceded it. She recommended that uncomfortable facts of history should be faced rather than concealed. Today there is a need to re-examine the stereotype about the so-called 'Muslim period' or even the earlier glorified 'Hindu period' and to shift the focus of historical enquiry away from the religious and the purely political to the socio-economic.

Dr. Aneela Z. Babar, Endeavour Research Fellow from the Monash University, Australia, further explored how the literature on partition histories of South Asia has been a 'narration of loss' through the perspective of communities living in Pakistan (Punjab) and Northern India. In her paper titled "Pashtuns Reading Gandhi: Non-violent Political Islam, Collective Action and Contesting Identities amongst Pashtun Communities", she highlighted the role of 'Khudai Khitmatgar social movement', a non-violent movement on inter-faith harmony raised in 1947 to curb any religious violence during the turbulent period of June-September 1947. She pointed out that contrary to what happened with accounts of communities influenced by the events of Partition elsewhere in South Asia, the stories from Pashtun communities remained undocumented. In addition, the Khitmatgar's discourse and philosophy remains unacknowledged in any academic research or political documents regarding Pashtun communities.

Keeping in continuation, Dr. Nathalie Reynolds, Research Associate, Center for Asian Studies, Geneva, Switzerland, presented her paper on "Indo-Pak Antagonism: The Impact of the Enigma of Indian Kashmir". According to her, few have taken the trouble to examine the resurgence of a nationalism that had already tried to express itself during the partition of the sub-continent in the Indian Jammu and Kashmir. But by tacit agreement, India and Pakistan chose to qualify it as regional particularism. It was at that time that Kashmir rejected its vision of the history of the sub-continent, a vision that was intertwined with the dominant Indian reading. Kashmir adopted a version that was somehow tailor-made for it by Pakistan, whose objective was to encourage the Muslims of Indian Jammu and Kashmir to claim their adherence to the Islamic Republic. She stressed that the process of rewriting history should be initiated so that ideals such as non-violence or secularism were denounced. Moreover the concept of Kashmiryat should be kept in mind while writing history.

Dr. Anandi Mehmood from the University of Central Lancashire, UK, chaired the panel while Mr. Sarfraz Khan from the Area Study Center, University of Peshawar, Pakistan, was the discussant.

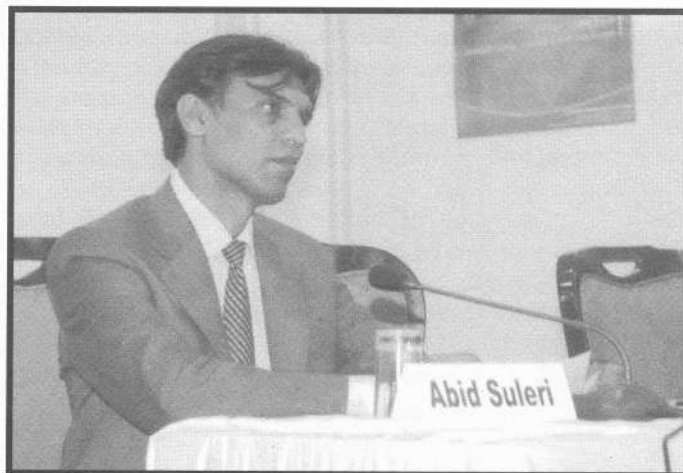
Reported by Humaira Saleem

SDC's Brainstorming Session

Session Organizer: Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director (Interim), SDPI

Scholars drawn from across South Asia, UK, Canada, Switzerland and Singapore addressed the issue of production of knowledge, its uses and abuses at a brainstorming session organized on the second day of the Conference. Dr. Abid Q. Suleri, SDPI's Executive Director (Interim), thanked all the participants for making it to the meeting arranged to draw out ideas for the next the next conference.

Dr. Suleri introduced the topic by observing that the production, dissemination, and uses and abuses of knowledge have been vexing issues facing researchers, educationists and policymakers alike. With the world becoming more knowledge intensive, this issue has assumed added importance. It is time to address the big questions of what is knowledge, who produces



it and who benefits from it. These questions are of great significance for a research institute like SDPI that has prided itself on largely institutionally de-linked research.

It is hard to pinpoint the sources of knowledge. One of the questions that have dogged researchers is whether the knowledge produced benefits humanity or corporations. It was overwhelmingly agreed that knowledge is demand driven. In the West there is a great deal of demand for knowledge. Competition for ideas drives up the demand for knowledge. Increased resources in the West contribute to the dynamic process of knowledge creation. On the other hand, in the developing countries, there is demand for knowledge produced by research institutes when they are tied to the governments or the private sector. In some cases there is demand for knowledge in the private sector too.

If demand falls off then the process of knowledge creation suffers too. Often educational system becomes geared towards producing graduates for the market. This is happening increasingly in the countries

of South Asia despite persistent claims of employers that they do not get the graduates of required calibre. These observations flowed from a great deal of discussion on the corporatization of research and knowledge.

The center of knowledge creation is the West. Our educational systems are in the process of constantly moulding themselves to the precepts of Western educational systems. While there is crying need for modernization, there is even greater need to preserve the local knowledge systems. Global thinking has to translate and harness to local context. Moreover, there is a dire need to protect local and traditional knowledge. There was a great degree of unanimity on the need to preserve local knowledge systems alongside modernization of educational system.

A great deal of discussion revolved around the issue of outdated curricula as one of the major obstacles to the creation and acquiring of genuine knowledge. Rigid and eternally unchanging curricula tend to ossify the mind of students; they are not encouraged to think critically and out of the box. This leads to stasis in thinking. In some instances curricula have been used to enhance the official bigotry and religious hatred that is prevalent in the society. It was further observed that curricula are also amenable to political expediency of the government of the day. In consequence of curricula becoming outdated, students become uncreative and rote-learning substitutes genuine knowledge acquisition. The ever-tightening embrace between faith and knowledge is also becoming an impediment to acquiring knowledge. Knowledge requires the unleashing of no-holds barred inquiry and politicized faith imposes stands in the way of this process. For knowledge to flourish, curricula upgradation should be accorded top priority. Alongside the upgradation of curricula, the associated issue of hiring top-level teaching staff to teach the upgraded syllabus should be given utmost consideration. With best will in the world, top-class curriculum is not going to have the desired effect if it is not backed up by a properly trained and equipped staff, it was pointed out by a majority opinion of the session.

The need for improvement in our educational system has never been more urgent. The existing disparity in terms of resource allocation between higher and primary education should be bridged. It is also imperative that those excluded from the process of knowledge creation should be provided an easy and sustained route into it, some participants emphasized. There is an overemphasis on higher education right now, which pushes all-important primary education to low-priority list. This is surprising in view of the primary education being the breeding ground of future leaders. The issue of reformation of educational system was one of the major concerns of the speakers from the South Asian region.

The question of research ethics also needs to be inculcated in the new generation of researchers, it was observed by some speakers. In addition, the use of research to achieve societal changes is also crucial. In

the 1970s in Europe, research and knowledge was used for bigger societal changes and this needs to be repeated. For exchange and dissemination of knowledge it is important to expand existing contacts between research institutes in the region. Production of knowledge is under threat from the culture of googling was the view of few scholars in the session. It is hard to distinguish now between what is genuine knowledge and what is google-derived knowledge. This raises the serious issue of observing a finer distinction between information and knowledge. The issue of research ethics assumes added significance in this regard. It was also the dominant view that there is lack of a genuine research culture at our universities. Though there is abundance of data, there are not enough analysts to make sense of the mountains of data. Hence we need good analysts along with data feeders. For knowledge creation it is important to promote the culture of holistic and interdisciplinary at universities. Our education system should be geared towards producing big picture analysts. If we do not build high-rise building we are not likely to produce engineers who undertake such tasks. In this context demand contributes to the creation of knowledge and the crossing of ordered bounds.

The conference recommended to upgrade curriculum to enable student to think critically; to preserve traditional forms of knowledge alongside the new knowledge; promote research culture and genuine inquiry at the universities; observe discreet discrimination between knowledge and information; to separate politicized faith from genuine inquiry; promote independent and institutionally delinked research with emphasis on young researchers and greater coordination among researchers in South Asian and the world to enhance people-friendly research agenda.

Dr. Abid Q. Suleri closed the session by thanking all the participants for taking the trouble of making it to this very early morning session and expressed his desire to incorporate the broader thrust of the session into formulating agenda for the upcoming conferences.

Reported by Arif Azad

Acknowledgments

The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) acknowledges the financial support of the following institutions for the Tenth Sustainable Development Conference: Department for International Development (DFID); Canadian International Development Agency--Programme for the Advancement of Gender Equality (CIDA-PAGE); Heinrich Boll Foundation (HBF); Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC); ActionAid Pakistan; and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES).

The Conference was also supported by SDPI's project partners including NCCR (WP2); IIED; SAWTEE; SAFIT; and RSPN.

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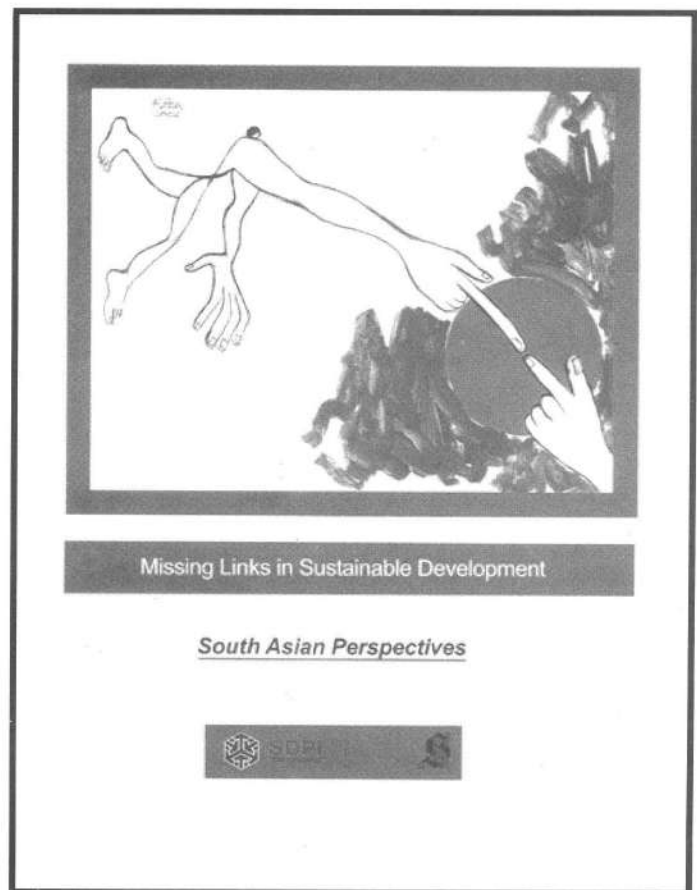
Missing Links in Sustainable Development: South Asian Perspectives

Publishers: SDPI and SAMA
Pages: 385
Price: 795 US\$: 20

SDPI's *Missing Links in Sustainable Development: South Asian Perspectives* was launched at the inaugural session of the Tenth Sustainable Development Conference on 10 December 2007.

This anthology aims at identifying the missing links in Sustainable Development for South Asia and proposes fillers for these. Questions addressed in this anthology include why benefits of globalization have failed to trickle down to the region's vast population and calls for a process of global economic integration that benefits the marginalized.

Based on seventeen chapters and three sub-themes: Gender and Human Security, the Economics of Globalization, and People's Rights and Livelihoods, the research papers look at channels that exclude women from access to resources, such as land, decent work, and human security, and suggest how these structures can be changed. Many sound ideas about tackling deforestation, compliance, sustainability and livelihoods problems in the fisheries sector have been proposed. This anthology digs below the surface of issues such as the connections between conflict in the public sphere and its intensification in the private sphere, of how globalization can benefit gender equality and women's empowerment in South Asia, and the role of trade and aid in peace and progress, and suggests steps towards change.



(For information regarding SDPI's Publications, please contact Nasir Khan at nasir@sdpi.org)

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The SDPI Research & News Bulletin is published bi-monthly by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute
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