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## *How Does Socio-Economic Factors Force Children into Child Labour? A case study of Sahiwal district, Punjab, Pakistan (WP- 150)*

Child labour is a socio-economic issue, which not only wrecks the social growth but also damages the moral fabrics of the society. This study analyzes the socio-economic factors that force children into child labour. In order to find out the key factors of child labour, the techniques of univariate and bivariate analysis have been used in the study. After the identification of significant factors, probit model has been carried out so as to find out the probability and whether the identified factors belong to child labour or not. The results show that the socio-

economic factors like poverty, parents' low level of education, poor livelihood conditions, costly education and inaccessibility, lack of awareness about child labour, hazardous working conditions and parental occupation significantly correlate with child labour.

*by Syed Mohsin Ali Kazmi*

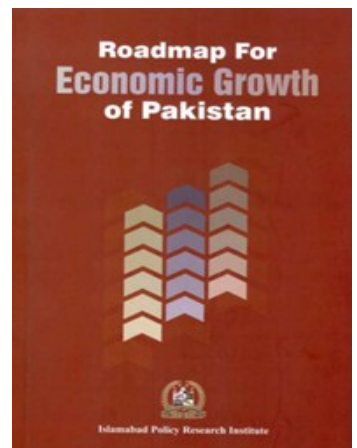


## *Fiscal Challenges in Pakistan (Chapter 2)*

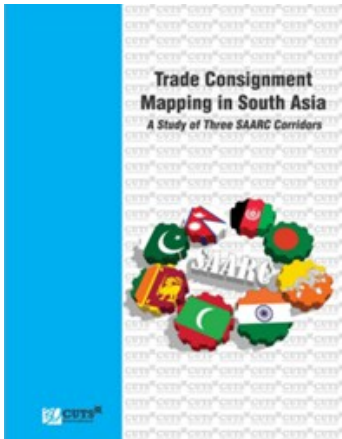
Pakistan's fiscal balance is currently challenged on account of two key issues namely low capacity of the state to raise public sector's revenues and inability to cut down government expenditures. With a growing debt liability it is important to note that the additional costs of debt servicing will also continue to be a burden on the Pakistan's economy in terms of pressures arising from higher interest rates, overvalued exchange rate and continuous upward pressure on consumer prices. In this policy note, two specific issues under fiscal policy which directly impact the growth process have been studied. With regards to the issue of tax reforms it is

highlighted how various forms of tax exemptions, lack of capacity in tax administration and missing political will to broaden the tax base is keeping domestic resource mobilization weak. The study further explains the government's expenditure priorities where particular attention has been given to structural issues impeding the effectiveness of development expenditures in the country. Some policy recommendations on improving revenue collection and effectiveness of government expenditures have also been given.

*by Dr Vaqar Ahmed*



## *Trade Consignment Mapping in South Asia; A Study of Three SAARC Corridors*



Trade facilitation has emerged as a vital issue in the trade and development agenda of South Asian countries. Cross-border intra-regional trade through land routes (road and rail transport) still faces a lot of infrastructural and procedural obstacles. However, rail and road are the most appropriate, cheapest modes for trade-related transport in mainland South Asia (that is, excluding island nations). Shortcomings in trade facilitation through land routes connecting major commercial centres, especially in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan, have undermined other trade liberalization policies such as tariff reduction that are adopted to boost trade between these countries. It is well-known that higher intra-regional trade cannot be achieved unless adequate physical infrastructure, appropriate

customs clearance procedures and other facilitation measures, including multi-modal transport operations and integrated trade-related services, are in place. From the perspective of regional trade in South Asia, the development and upgrading of land transport infrastructure is of utmost importance as they will result in substantial reduction in trade costs. Though South Asian countries have initiated a number of projects at various levels to increase the efficiency of regional transport and transit systems, they still face a number of policy-related as well as procedural barriers. There is lack of coordination among various projects such as the installation of Integrated check posts at various important border crossings and the up-gradation of approach roads for reducing traffic congestion. As a result, inefficien-

cies abound in some of South Asia's most important cargo transport corridors.

*By Dr Vaqar Ahmed and Hamza Abbas*

## *Research and News Bulletin, Vol. 22 No.1 (January - March 2015)*

*The Global Gender Gap Report 2014 ranks Pakistan 141st out of 142 countries in terms of the gap between men and women in economic participation, educational attainment, health and political empowerment.*

Research and News Bulletin is a quarterly produced by SDPI to communicate opinions and salient findings of policy research conducted during the year on various topics relating to sustainable development. The latest volume is a compilation of research findings and policy recommendations by scholars at SDPI. The topics include regional trade and investment, technology, policy

outreach, energy, social sciences, child care and nutrition, economy, water and gender.



## Policy Engagement and Communication

### *Why 'Accountpreneurship' can build a more fair society and what this means for Pakistan? (24th April, 2015)*

In the seminar speakers shared the relationship between people in power and citizens is at the heart of the process of development. But for too long our efforts to build accountability for decisions has lacked creativity and have not resulted in lasting change- as a result, poverty, insecurity and corruption continue. The process of building accountability requires the same mindset as entrepreneurship- combining the two in "accountpreneurship"- to build creative, sustainable tools for change. Blair Glencorse the Founder and Executive Director



of the Accountability Lab shared the experience of his organization that supports citizens to build creative tools for accountability and integrity around the world

**Speakers:** Dr Abid Qaiyyum Suleri, Dr Niaz Murtaza, Dr Vaqar Ahmed, Ms Riffat Butt, Mr Blair Glencorse and Shakeel Ahmad Ramay

### *Social exclusion of youth and its impact on National Development (24th April, 2015)*

SDPI organized a seminar on role of Youth in nation development, democracy and social wellbeing. Participants discussed that strategies and policy framework are not well prepared to tackle the youth bulge and use the potential in Pakistan. Youth has become involved in destructive activities, violence and crimes. Reasons and circumstance can be different for involvement in such activities but fundamental issue is exclusion of youth in decision-making and implementation at all levels.



**Speakers:** Dr Abid Qaiyyum Suleri, Mr Asad Umar, Ms Bushra Gauhar, Mr M Ali Rashid, Ms Maiza Hameed, Ms Aisha Sayed, Mr Muhammad Khan Daha and Shakeel Ahmad Ramay

### *Re-imagining Role of Pakistan in SAARC Region (3rd April, 2015)*

SDPI organized a special lecture on Re-imagining Role of Pakistan in SAARC Region by Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Head of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)'s. Dr Kumar said an integrated South Asia would be able to play its due role for the

emergence of broader regionalism in the region. He suggested that it was ripe time that South Asian governments must unite to take a collective position in global trade negotiations. SDPI Executive Director Dr Abid Qaiyyum Suleri said this year Pakistan would be hosting the

### *Socio-Economic Disparities and insurgency in Baluchistan and Way Forward (2nd April, 2015)*

SDPI organized a seminar on Social and Economic Disparities in Balochistan. Renowned columnist and Baloch rights activist Mir Mohammad Ali Talpur was the key note speaker. He said "People of Balochistan have been denied their rights by the powerful elite which has hampered their development,"

**Speakers:** Mir Mohammad Ali Talpur, Afrasiab Khattak (ex-Senator), Former Ambassador Shafqat Kakakhel, Dr Abid Qaiyyum Suleri and Moazzam S. Bhatti



### *Challenges and Opportunities of Climate Change (17th April, 2015)*

SDPI organized a special lecture in collaboration with Belgium embassy in Pakistan on climate change by Professor Jean-Pascal van Ypersele, Vice-Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). He said that climate change affects livelihood, water resources, food security besides causing poverty, migration and coastal flooding. He mentioned that there are many opportunities to integration, mitigation, and adaptation, and through these approach-



climate change and build more sustainable and resilient world.

**Speakers:** Professor Jean-Pascal van Ypersele, Dr Abid Qaiyyum Suleri, Malik Amin Aslam Khan and Shakeel Ahmad Ramay

SAARC summit, therefore, all the government departments related to SAARC cooperation in energy, water, trade, road and rail connectivity need to prepare themselves in this regard.

**Speakers:** Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Dr Abid Qaiyyum Suleri and Dr Vaqar Ahmed



## Sustainable Development Television (SDTV)

SDTV is a web television launched to increase SDPI's policy research outreach in the country and abroad. Its flagship programmes include Coffee Table, and "News & Views". These can be viewed through the website: [www.sdpi.tv](http://www.sdpi.tv)

### Coffee Table

During the month of April 2015, following issue was discussed in this talk show hosted by Tahir Dhindsa. The detail of talk show is as under:

### *Climate Adaptation in Pakistan*

SDTV invited Malik Amin Aslam former state minister for environment and Global Vice President IUCN & Dr Fahad Saeed Climate Expert & Research Fellow SDPI for its talk show Coffee Table. Malik Amin Aslam said that Construction of new dams is the solution to climate

change issue, especially in arid and semi-arid zones. Dr Fahad said there is a rise in migration from rural to urban areas in Pakistan and to control it, the government should establish intermediate cities.



## Articles

### *Education for All*

#### *By Hira Mirza*

Last week the "Education for All Global Monitoring Report" was launched. The report identifies a shortage of schools in Pakistan, teacher absenteeism, lack of qualified teachers, and missing infrastructure facilities that have hindered the growth of the country's education sector. If a layman was asked how Pakistan's education system was performing, it is extremely likely that he would paint a

When we talk about stepping up security measures for schools, we find out that over 40 per cent of schools in Sindh are currently functioning without a boundary wall....

[Available at](#)

### *Time for provincial tax reforms*

#### *By Dr Vaqar Ahmed*

Pakistan's overall tax-to-GDP ratio has been hovering around 10 per cent for the past decade, which is approximately 5 per cent lower than the average of comparable economies. Despite a large tax base available with all provinces, they collectively contribute only 7 per cent in overall revenues. This year provinces will announce their budgets and will also enter

renegotiation of National Finance Award.....

[Available at](#)

### *"Affordability" to Include Environment Costs in South Asia's Energy*

#### *By Maha Kamal*

in recent years, traditional definitions of Energy Security have not been able to address increased human security concerns for South Asia (as defined by SARCist to include Afghani

stan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Maldives). The International Energy Agency defines it as "the uninterrupted availability of energy sources at an affordable price", but the environmental lens

cannot be underscored enough. Affordability must not be limited to economic costs, but the environmental costs and externalities must inform how Energy Security is understood in South Asia. It is no coincidence that

Goal 7 of the UN Sustainable Development Goal emphasizes sustainability: "Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all," .....

[Available at](#)

## In The Press

SDPI has a vast media coverage for its events and is being recognized as a policy think tank among government and public.

### *Energy conservation: Govt considering duty-cut on invert-type ACs, LED tvs*

The Express Tribune

Sunday, 26th Apr 2015

### *International energy moot: Concern voiced over wide gap between gas supply and demand*

Business Recorder

Sunday, 26th Apr 2015

### *Extreme weather conditions: 'Political will a must to mitigate climate change'*

The Express Tribune

Saturday, 18th Apr 2015

### *A sustainable, resilient world needed in climate change scenario*

Pakistan Observer

Saturday, 18th Apr 2015

### *A sustainable, resilient world needed in climate change scenario: IPCC vice-chairman*

Friday, 17th Apr 2015

### *Open debate key to Balochistan issue: analysts*

The Express Tribune

Monday, 13th Apr 2015

### *Socioeconomic disparity between Balochistan, other provinces too wide*

Dawn

Monday, 13th Apr 2015

### *UN-ESCAP chief calls for setting up SAARC development bank (Pakistan Today)*

Pakistan Today

Saturday, 4th Apr 2015

### *Only merit can ensure country's development*

Dawn

Friday, 3rd Apr 2015

### *UN-ESCAP chief calls for setting up SAARC development bank (Breaking News Pakistan)*

Breaking News Pakistan

Friday, 3rd Apr 2015

### *UN-ESCAP chief calls for setting up SAARC development bank (Pakistan Headlines)*

Pakistan Headlines

Friday, 3rd Apr 2015

## CAPACITY BUILDING

### *Monitoring and Evaluation of Development Project*

In the months of April, SDPI's Center for Capacity Building (CCB) conducted the above mention training. Dr Vaqar Ahmed, Dr Sajid Amin and Shahid Minhas gave this training to the participants.



**Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad**  
Training Workshop on Monitoring and Evaluation of Development Projects  
22-24 April 2015



Left to Right (1st Row Sitting): Taqweem Anwar, Syeda Natasha Anwar, Dr. Vaqar Ahmed [Trainer], Mohammad Yasin [CCB], Sadaf Nawaz [CCB], Dr Hana Mahmood  
Left to Right (2nd Row Standing): Jamshed Tariq, Usman Wajhat, Shahid Minhas [Trainer], Waseem Abbas, Waqas Anwar, Haseen Ullah

## Upcoming

### Capacity Building

In the months of May 2015, the following trainings will be conducted by SDPI's Center for Capacity Building (CCB);

#### *Leading and Managing High Performing Teams*

*Trainers:* Brig. (retired) Muhammad Yasin , Shahid Minhas and Asif Mehmood

11th to 12th, May, 2015

#### *Training of Trainers [TOT]*

*Trainers:* Brig. (retired) Muhammad Yasin , Shahid Minhas and Asif Mehmood

26th to 28th, May, 2015

[Details](#) | [Register to attend](#)

**Center for Capacity Building (CCB):** Along with policy engagement and advocacy at the government level, SDPI also perform the task of capacity building of people working in different areas. It believes in creating a critical mass that can address the issues of sustainable development through their learned skills and knowledge. Therefore SDPI invests its efforts in conducting training for the civil society, youth, media, academia, policy maker and other related stockholders. The goal of Centre for Capacity Building [CCB] at Sustainable Development Policy Institute [SDPI] is to provide high quality training to the public, private, NGO sector organizations and individuals to strengthen institutions and to build their capacities for sustainable growth and development.

## Policy Research Highlights

As a policy research think tank, SDPI has to its credit many achievements. Some of them accomplished during the month of April are as under:

- The President of the UN General Assembly has selected SDPI's youth Ambassador Mr Ali Shahbaz to speak in a High-level Thematic Debate on Strengthening Cooperation between the UN and Regional and Sub-regional Organization
- For preparation of World Wide Views on Climate and Energy (WWViews) international public consultation in Pakistan team SDPI participated in a preparatory training in Paris on 13th and 14th April 2015. This event is supported by French embassy in Pakistan



Shakeel Ramay a Senior Research Associate of SDPI at World Wide Views on Climate and Energy (WWViews) 2015 training in Paris



**SDPI**  
Sustainable Development Policy Institute

## *Sustainable Development Policy Institute*

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*The Sustainable Development Policy Institute is an independent, public interest think tank, it was established in 1992 on recommendation of National Conservation Strategy that was duly approved by the then Federal Cabinet of Pakistan.*

*Its mission is to catalyse the transition towards sustainable development, defined as the enhancement of peace, social justice and well-being, within and across generations. . SDPI's vision is to be a center of excellence on sustainable development policy research, capacity development and advocacy in Pakistan .*

*Some of the important thematic areas under these pillars include governance, socio-economic justice, peace, conflict transformation and security, economic growth, poverty alleviation, equitable resources distribution, energy, gender, religious freedom, health, population, education, agriculture, sustainable industrial development, environment, climate change, food security, sustainable livelihoods,.*

## **Upcoming Mega Event**

### ***World Wide Views Climate and Energy Planetary Debate (WWViews 2015)***

World Wide Views on Climate and Energy (WWViews) is an innovative international public consultation that will give citizens around the world a chance to communicate their positions on climate change issues. The initiative is a joint venture of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat, the French National Commission for Public Debate (FR), the Danish Board of Technology Foundation (DK) and Missions Publiques (FR), with the financial support of the French Government. French Government is also the host for 2015 COP21.

***SDPI being one of the global implementing partners is hosting and organizing the public consultation in Pakistan on June 6th 2015***

A group of 100 Pakistani citizens will meet in Islamabad to discuss and vote on climate change and energy related issues. The results will be shared with Pakistan's COP delegates and final results from the global partnering countries will be presented at the COP21 negotiations. WWViews is the first global project of its kind on climate change. Engaging citizens all over the world sets a ground-breaking precedent to have a collective voice within global political processes.