

NEWSLETTER



SDPI
Sustainable Development Policy Institute

ISSUE-11, VOLUME-I

JUNE 15 TO JULY 1, 2019

WRITE US FOR FEEDBACK AT maryam@sdpi.org

Our Publications:

Research Report: [Evaluating Foreign Policy of Pakistan in the context of Strategic Coercion](#)

This study has analyzed how Pakistan has been subjected to coercive diplomacy. Since the coercion continues on the diplomatic front and media, there is a need to mobilize people of Pakistan on the dynamics of coercive diplomacy and grey hybrid war being unleashed against the country so that they can understand the war doctrine, methodologies and tactics of the enemies. We have to rethink whether or not our foreign, economic and domestic policies are aligned to realize the gravity of the situation. We as a nation need to look at the options to counter three big war doctrines perpetuated on Pakistan. We need to weigh our economy, to plug the loopholes in the system and to strengthen participatory democracy and people's centric governance so that we can win over our people by building their confidence in state and the system and providing them a decent living and justice and inculcate them the feeling of being equal citizens living in a peaceful and tolerant society. The people of Pakistan together with its military and political leadership can defeat all nefarious war doctrines against their country.

Working Paper: [Why services won't always buy legitimacy: everyday experiences of the state in Swat, Pakistan](#)

This working paper seeks to understand the construction of state legitimacy in Swat, Pakistan. In 2017, the Secure Livelihoods Research Consortium published a set of unexpected findings. Between 2012 and 2015, services improved in Swat and Lower Dir districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan, but this improvement in services did not change people's opinion of the government. This finding raised questions about key assumptions informing international development programmes in post conflict contexts, namely that if people's satisfaction with services improved, this would repair state/society relations and strengthen state legitimacy. However, the survey asked people about their perception of government, not about their perception of state legitimacy. Measuring perceptions of government is only one slice of the overall perception of state. It is quite possible for citizens to consider a particular government illegitimate while believing that the state is legitimate. This present research seeks to examine experiences of the state more broadly. Using qualitative research, the authors explore whether there is a role for services to play in the construction of state legitimacy in Swat, Pakistan. The report provides a political settlement analysis of Swat to identify groups that have different relationships with the state. Two groups are categorised: 'insiders' – groups that have

disruptive potential but are part of the political settlement; and ‘outsiders’ – groups with disruptive potential but that are outside of the current political settlement. The findings of the paper result from interviews with 79 insiders and outsiders from across Swat. The report concludes with a number of recommendations for donors, practitioners and implementers working on service delivery in Pakistan.

Our Opinion Pieces

[Tackling hybrid warfare and coercive diplomacy: Challenges for Pakistan](#)

There is a need to engage people on the dynamics of coercive diplomacy and grey hybrid war so that people of Pakistan can understand the war doctrine, methodologies and tactics of the enemies. We have to open up debates on the subject. We have to rethink whether or not our foreign, economic and domestic policies are aligned to realize the gravity of the situation. Lastly but not the least, it is about time that all political parties shows unity and foster good relationships between government and opposition in the parliament to ensure political stability to counter the grave threat of hybrid warfare.

[Article 370 of the Indian Constitution Vs Insaniyat – Jamhooriyat and Kashmiriyat](#)

The major reason for the enactment of Article 370 was that the people of Kashmir, who were in the majority at the time of Partition when their non-Muslim Raja acceded to India, felt extremely vulnerable to exploitation and found their identity and autonomy threatened. In an effort to look at the provisions of the Article, Modi avowed to initiate a debate on the absolutist stance of the Article, which effectively limits the State of India’s constitutional control over the valley. India is also busy changing the demography of the valley by the genocide of the Muslims and the slow and gradual resettlement of Hindus. Therefore, any future plebiscite in the valley would yield desirable political results and will be helpful in face-saving for India internationally.

[Last wicket to go](#)

The only thing directly affecting the common man is the hike in the prices of basic necessities. If the government can control prices of basic necessities, including electricity and petrol, and recover the money it says was stolen from the public it would be a great achievement.

[Reforming monetary policy governance](#)

Central banks advise governments on policies. Autonomy of bank is fundamental in this regard. To let this happen, a clear line needs to be drawn on the limits of treasury. The thinking that we know better than SBP must be occluded. The governments in Pakistan need to value independent and objective advice of SBP on monetary policy. Otherwise, economic crises will continue.

[The Reluctant Fundamentalist](#)

With or without the IMF, the problems of energy circular debt, loss-making public-sector organisations, and a low tax base, have to be addressed nevertheless. If this can be done under the forthcoming programme, then there may not be any need for future governments to go to the IMF, at least for some time. But if these issues remained unaddressed, then the opposition as the 'government in waiting' should be ready to turn to the IMF yet again, whenever it comes to power.

[Cricket at Ground Zero](#)

If we look at the structure of the Wagha border pavillion, there is only one concrete wall between the two countries, and tourists sit on both sides without any hesitation and without any security concerns. The same location or point can also be converted into an international standard cricket ground, which can be utilised both for the flag ceremony and cricket matches.

[Defiant tobacco industry in Pakistan](#)

We are generally accused of blaming 'others' for our follies. This may be true in the case of tobacco control as well. However, when such crimes have cross-border links, the problems must be highlighted. After British High Commissioner's lobby meeting with Ishaq Dar, Dr Nicholas Hopkinson, a senior lecturer in respiratory medicine at Imperial College, London, said, "Smoking is one of the leading causes of death and ill health worldwide. It is a disgrace that the UK government when it should be showing leadership in tobacco control, is instead assisting the tobacco industry in its attempts to lobby governments in other countries."

[War for technological supremacy](#)

With the emergence of 4G/5G technology, China is emerging as strong economy and it has already started a cold war between China and US. Big data is considered as the new oil of the digital era, whereas 5G is the next set of pipes that can deliver it. China is all determined and wants to be the world leader in 5G wireless technologies in the near future.

[Unravelling the budget](#)

Incentives to become an exporter in industries other than the traditionally zero-rated sectors seem weak. The Competition Commission of Pakistan, which could have helped in increasing the pace of competition policy reforms, desired enterprise-level learning and market development of non-traditional products, today faces issues of its own.

[The five 'Ds'](#)

An exception to the above rule is the 'Pakistan Sustainable Development Goals and Community Development Program', (recommended by parliamentarians for their constituencies) where allocation

was upward revised from Rs 5 billion to Rs24 billion in the outgoing budget. Rs24 billion has been allocated for it in the forthcoming budget as well.

Why the Prime Minister's amnesty scheme has fallen short

There remains a general lack of confidence in public sector information management and most people have found the government's claims hard to believe.

SDPI in External Meetings/Events



SDPI research team led by Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri calls on Honorable President of Pakistan Dr Arif Alvi to apprise him of SDPI's ongoing research programmes



SDPI organized Orientation session for #Budget2019 process & analysis for the honorable members of Balochistan assembly



A delegation from Greenpeace East Asia (GPEA) and All-China Environment Federation (ACEF) visited SDPI



Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri delivered a lecture at National seminar on “Pakistan’s Economy: Challenges and Way forward” organized by Institute of Strategic Studies, Research and Analysis (ISSRA) at National Defence University (NDU).



SDPI hosted a roundtable meeting on Policy Priorities for Social Enterprises at Karachi School of Business & Leadership. This roundtable meeting focused on State Bank of Pakistan with regards to Credit Policy, SME policy, Registration of Equity & Banking Companies Ordinance. The meeting was attended by MPA Bilal Ahmed Ghaffar, MPA Sidra Imran, Senior Officers from State Bank of Pakistan, Finance Department Sindh, Social Welfare Department Sindh & several private sector stakeholders.



Engr. Ahad Nazir represented SDPI at the HEC for meeting of the national committee for R&D. SDPI is part of the Humanities and Social Sciences Sub-Group and played an integral role in prioritizing the reduced research support of HEC into relevant and action research.



Dr Hina Aslam, Head China Study Center SDPI participated in 4th International Belt and Road Conference in South Asia, held in Nepal from 20-21 June, 2019.



Ms Maryam Shabbir, Environmentalist participated in an event organized by Islamic International university & ICIMOD on Air pollution, its health impacts & economy



Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri presented in an event organized by ACCA Pakistan on Federal Budget's 2019 opportunities & challenges for economic reforms



Ms Maryam Shabbir participated in an event on “Women & Climate Change” organized by Canadian High Commission in Pakistan

Our SDTV's Shows

[Seminar proceedings: SDPI Post-Budget \(2019-20\) Analysis](#)

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf-led government has presented its first federal budget for the financial year 2019-20 terming it as ‘people-friendly’ budget. However, the opposition dubbed it as the ‘IMF-dictated budget’.

[Seminar proceedings: Reference to Pay Tribute to Dr Enver Sajjad](#)

Glowing tributes were paid to Dr Enver Sajjad, the renowned playwright, for his contribution to Urdu literature, television drama, acting, and political commitments. Dr. Enver Sajjad first studied medicine and completed his MBBS from King Edward Medical College, Lahore. But it was due to his acting skills and flair for writing short stories, plays, and novels that he earned fame. He was awarded with the Pride of Performance award in 1989.

[State Minister Ms Zartaj Gul Wazir: Climate Change and Pakistan](#)

State minister for climate change Pakistan, Ms Zartaj Gul wazir shares that her ministry is going to ban plastic bags in Islamabad from August 14. She also shares that she is against coal power plants in Pakistan and we need to move towards renewables.

SDPI in Mainstream Media

- Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri on [dollar hikes](#) in Pakistan and [IMF in Pakistan](#) on 24 News Channel
- Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri on [FATE, Jewelers & taxation](#), on Dawn News
- Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri on [budget & change management](#), [PTI's performance for economy](#) at Abb Tak news
- Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri on [PTI as opposition party](#), [tax target under federal budget 2019](#), and [tax collection](#) at Aaj News
- Ms Maryam Shabbir on [plastic bag ban in provinces](#), [attitude change](#), and [plastic ban policy in Islamabad](#) at GTV
- Dr Imran Khalid on [plastic bags ban in Islamabad](#) on Samaa TV

SDPI in Print Media

Biz Today, Karachi, June 27, 2019

[Pakistan's Future rely on Export-led growth: Miftah Ismail](#)

The News Karachi, June 28, 2019

[Gaping export void can only be filled by a wide industrial base: economist](#)

Khojha, Karachi, June 27, 2019

مفتاح اسماعیل نے ملک میں صنعتی مسائل کا حل بتا دیا
، برآمدات کو دگنا کرنے کے لئے پاکستان کو اپنی صنعتی بنیاد کو مضبوط بنانا ہوگا

Daily Nai Baat Islamabad, June 28, 2019

ڈالر 170 سے 175 تک جائے گا، معاشی ماہرین نے پیشگوئی کر دی

Bi-Weekly Profit: Pakistan Today Magazine, Islamabad, June 26, 2019

[Moot shares actionable recommendations to address economic woes](#)

Travel Biz News Nepal, June 22, 2019

[Belt and Road Initiative – BRI conference on prosperity of South Asia concludes](#)

My Republica, Nepal June 22, 2019

[Experts from Asian countries highlight opportunities, challenges while implementing BRI projects](#)

New Spotlight Online, Nepal, June 21, 2019

[Fourth International Conference On Belt And Road Inaugurated In Kathmandu](#)

The News Islamabad/Rawalpindi, June 25, 2019

[Gold touches Rs79,200/tola](#)

Dawn Islamabad, June 25, 2019

[Steps taken to go after tax evaders with Nadra's help: ministry official](#)

The Express Tribune Islamabad, June 25, 2019

[Finance ministry aide terms budget highly subsidised](#)

Urdu Point Lahore, June 25, 2019

[Federal Budget Gives Direction for Economic Stabilization, Spokesperson MoF](#)

Video Street, Islamabad, June 25, 2019

[Finance ministry aide terms budget enormously subsidised](#)

Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad APP, June 24, 2019

[Federal budget gives direction for economic stabilization, Spokesperson MoF](#)

MG Links News, Islamabad, June 24, 2019

[Federal budget gives direction for economic stabilization: Ministry of Finance](#)

Roznama 92 News, Islamabad, June 25, 2019

بجٹ اقتصادی استحکام کی جانب اہم قدم ہے: ڈاکٹر خاتقان
بجٹ کا ہدف مالیاتی خسارہ کم کرنا، سول اور دفاعی اخراجات کو کنٹرول کرنا ہے
احساس پروگرام کیلئے 120 ارب مختص، عام آدمی کو فائدہ ہوگا: سیمینار سے خطاب

Urdu Point Lahore, June 25, 2019

اقتصادی استحکام معیشت کے لئے ناگزیر ہے، وفاقی بجٹ 2019-2020 سمت و حکمت عملی کے لحاظ سے ایک
مضبوط بجٹ ہے،

نیکس ریونیو کا ہدف بجٹ کی سمت کا تعین کرتا ہے ترجمان وزارت خزانہ و مشیر ڈاکٹر خاتقان جن نجیب کا "ایس ڈی پی آئی کا بجٹ
2019-2020 پر تجزیہ" کے عنوان سے سیمینار سے خطاب

Daily Jang Rawalpindi, June 25, 2019

حالیہ بجٹ اقتصادی استحکام کی جانب ایک اہم قدم ہے، خاتقان نجیب
بجٹ میں عوام کیلئے سماجی شعبے میں کہیں کوئی ریلیف نہیں دیا گیا، روہینہ خورشید عالم، بجٹ سیمینار سے خطاب

Daily Dunya, Islamabad, June 25, 2019

موجودہ وفاقی بجٹ اقتصادی استحکام کی جانب اہم قدم، ڈاکٹر خاتقان
مالیاتی خسارہ کم، سول و دفاعی اخراجات کنٹرول کرنا ہدف، ایس ڈی پی آئی سیمینار سے خطاب
اقتصادی صورتحال متوازن ہے، عابد سلہری، معیشت پر سیاست نہیں ہونی چاہیے، روہینا خورشید

Daily Nawa e Waqt Islamabad/Rawalpindi, June 19, 2019

ڈاکٹر انور سجاد ہمہ جہت فنکارانہ صلاحیتوں کے مالک شخصیت تھے

Pakistani Point Lahore, June 17, 2019

ڈاکٹر انور سجاد کو تعمیری رہنمائی میں خراج عقیدت ضیاء کے مارشل لاء کے زمانہ میں
بھی سماج اور مظلوم طبقے کے لئے اپنی آواز بلند کی، کشور ناہید،

Pakistan Observer Islamabad, June 18, 2019

[Tribute paid to playwright, intellectual Enver Sajjad](#)

Monthly Academia, Lahore June 18, 2019

[Friends, Literary Colleagues Pay Glowing Tribute To Dr Enver Sajjad](#)

Dawn Islamabad, June 18, 2019

[Dr Enver Sajjad's death termed loss to society](#)

The Express Tribune Islamabad, June 18, 2019

[Tribute paid to novelist Dr Enver Sajjad](#)

Daily Times Islamabad, June 18, 2019

[Dr Anwer Sajjad remembered in golden words for literary struggle](#)

The News on Sunday, Islamabad/Rawalpindi, June 16, 2019

[Clean energy with minimal environmental impact stressed](#)

Daily Times Islamabad, June 13, 2019

[20% Pakistanis lack access to affordable electricity: official](#)

The Express Tribune Islamabad, June 13, 2019

[20% people lack access to national grid: official](#)

Energy Central, Islamabad, June 13, 2019

[20 percent of country's population lack access to clean, affordable electricity](#)

The Baluchistan Times Quetta, June 13, 2019

[20 percent of country's population lack access to clean, affordable electricity](#)

Urdu Point Lahore, June 12, 2019

[20 Percent of Country's Population Lack Access to Clean, affordable Electricity](#)

Asia Pacific Daily, HONG KONG, June 13, 2019

[20 percent Pakistanis lack access to cleaner, affordable electricity: official](#)

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