AZWAR MUHAMMAD ASLAM

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EDUCATION

Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Islamabad, Pakistan 2022

Master of Philosophy in Economics and Finance , ***Gold Medalist***

University of Gujrat

Bachelors in Economics 2018

EXPERIENCE

Pakistan Institute of Development Economics(PIDE), Islamabad, Pakistan April 2022- **Present**

Research Associate

- Authored and co-authored research briefs, reports, and policy papers, contributing to national economic discourse and influencing policy reforms.
- Led research projects, including a grant-funded study on legal barriers to commercializing railway assets, managing a team of research assistants to successfully deliver project outcomes.
- Analyzed economic data using advanced statistical tools to produce actionable insights for policymakers, contributing to the IMF reform agenda, one year growth strategy and other initiatives.
- Drafted commentary on proposed economic policies and legislation, providing expert analysis for senior committees and contributing to the ease of doing business in Pakistan.
- Presented research findings at national conferences, workshops, and to government bodies, effectively communicating complex economic concepts to diverse audiences.
- Published columns and opinion pieces in leading newspapers, engaging in public discourse on key economic issues and policy challenges facing Pakistan.
- Actively involved in the organization and facilitation of seminars, events, conferences and trainings

Pakistan Institute of Development Economics(PIDE), Islamabad, Pakistan December 2021- April 2022

Research Assistant

- Conducting thorough literature reviews to inform research direction and methodology.
- Responsible for meticulous data collection processes, ensuring the accuracy and reliability of research data.
- Conducting data analysis and present findings in actionable manner.

Research Assistant in project titled Sludge Audit May 2021-September 2021

- Tasked with reviewing academic and policy literature.
- Engaged in the collection of both primary and secondary data, ensuring a robust dataset for analysis.
- Analyzed collected data to identify key findings and insights relevant to the project's objectives.
- Authored detailed reports and proposed policy interventions based on research findings, aiming to influence policy decisions

Research Assistant November 2020-January 2021

- Conducted extensive literature reviews.
- Prepared briefs for webinars, outlining key discussion points and findings to be shared with a wider audience.

RESEARCH PROJECTS:

Principal Investigator for "*Unlocking Pakistan Railways Dead Capital*," awarded a research grant of PKR 2.5 Million by Research for Social Transformation and Advancement (RASTA).

Research Associate in project "*Domestic Commerce: The State of Commerce in Pakistan.*"

PUBLICATIONS:

Research Studies

Research Report: **"*Unlocking Pakistan Railways Dead Capital"***.

- This critical study aimed at identifying legal impediments to the commercialization of railway assets and proposing

viable solutions. The study was interdisciplinary focusing on utilization of land, the project sought innovative approaches to transform underutilized railway properties into productive assets contributing to financial sustainability of Pakistan Railways.

Research Report: "***Unlocking State Captured Real Estate The Case of Islamabad***".

- The study estimates the opportunity cost of the state-owned land and analyzes the potential of monetizing and redeveloping state-captured real estate in Islamabad. The study proposes the monetization of these assets, which involves converting non-cash benefits into their full cash equivalent.

Research Study: "***Land Titles: A Missing Basic Elemental of Real Estate Market***".

- This publication examines the inadequacies of existing land titling systems, highlighting that contemporary instruments and recordsfall short of providing conclusive land titles. It critiques the fragmented management of land records by multiple agencies, whichprimarily serves revenue generation rather than clarifying property rights

Research Study: "***What do we know about the online freelancing Market in Pakistan***".

- This one of its kind study given the contemporary data limitations, quantified the size of freelancers in Pakistan, along with providing a detailed analysis of the presence of freelancers across different occupational categories.

Research Chapter "***Real Estate and Construction: Beyond Brick and Mortar***" in book titled "*The State Of Commerce In Pakistan: International & Domestic"*

- Analyzed the landscape of domestic commerce in Pakistan, focusing on the real estate and construction sector for the twin cities. The findings of the study have important implications for the policy makers for the real estate and construction sector.

Research Report: ***"Political Party Manifestos Reform Paradox in Pakistan".***

- The report was aimed at analyzing manifesto's presented by different political parties of Pakistan. The objective was to analyze the proposal made in manifestos in the light of multifaceted structural issues faced by Pakistan economy.

Research Article: ***"Do Real Estate Investments Yield the Highest Returns in Pakistan?***", Accepted by *Journal of Real Estate Portfolio Management*

- The investment landscape in pakistan is very complex and given the inclination in Pakistan towards investment in real estate.The study analyzed and calculated different investment vehicles in Pakistan to quantify the returns offered against investments over the years.

Working Paper: ***"Unlocking Dead Public Capital – Case Study of G-6/1, Islamabad"***. Submitted at *PIDE*

- The study mapped the public land in G-6/1, analyzed the utilization state along with proposing alternative solution for maximam utilization.

Commentary: ***"PIDE Commentary: PM's Committee on Ease of Doing Business"***

- The commentary was aimed at evaluating the Assan Karoobar Act, 2022 which is to be placed in the National assembly soon. Along with evaluating different proposals for ease of doing business

Other:

- ***"HOUSING FINANCE"*** PIDE Sludge Report No. 02.
- ***"INTERNET CABLE INSTALLATION"*** PIDE Sludge Report No.07.
- Setting up a cricket market in Pakistan, *PIDE*
- The politics of media economy in Pakistan, *PIDE*
- Afghanistans development; impact on Balochistan, *PIDE*

Op-Ed:

The News

- Property Rights
- Rethinking Policies
- Dead Capital

CERTIFICATIONS:

- **Graduate Seminar Series & Training on development**
  World Bank 2022
- **Understanding Financial Management**
  University of Geneva, Coursera 2020
- **Portfolio and Risk Management**
  University of Geneva, Coursera 2020

SKILLS & INTERESTS

- Software Proficiency: STATA, Eviews, MS Excel; beginner in R, Rstudio, QGIS
- Research Skills: Drafting reports & briefs, designing research methodology, developing questionnaires, qualitative and quantitative data analysis, proposal writing.
- Languages: Fluent in English and Urdu