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RASTA BASICS Notes



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Webinar Briefs

December 2023

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Pakistan Institute of Development Economics

Working Paper

1 Trade, Industry and Competition in Pakistan

Author: Muhammad Zeshan

December, 2023

<http://tinyurl.com/workingpapertrade>



Knowledge Brief

1 Educational Exclusion of Children with Special Needs

Authors: Saima Bashir, Henna Ahsan

December, 2023

<http://tinyurl.com/specialchildreducation>



Research Reports

1 The State Of Commerce In Pakistan: International & Domestic

Author: RASTA-PIDE

December, 2023

<http://tinyurl.com/state-of-commerce>



2 Building Community & Networks

Authors: Fahd Zulfiqar, Saman Nazir, Fizzah Khalid Butt, Henna Ahsan

December, 2023

<http://tinyurl.com/community-network>



3 Economic Contribution of Forestry Sector



Author: Shujaat Farooq, Durr-E-Nayab, Saddam Hussein,
Nabila Kunwal

December, 2023

<http://tinyurl.com/state-of-commerce>

4 Provincial Transfer Accounts: Generational Economy in Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan



Authors: Durr-E-Nayab, Nabila Kanwal

December, 2023

<http://tinyurl.com/provincialtransferaccounts>

5 Making Women's Work Count in Pakistan: Measuring the Gendered Economy



Authors: Durr-E-Nayab, Nabila Kanwal

December, 2023

<http://tinyurl.com/gendereconomy>

Webinars & Seminars

<http://tinyurl.com/socio-spatial>

1



<http://tinyurl.com/hidden-potential>

2



<http://tinyurl.com/smog-in-punjab>

3



<http://tinyurl.com/plurilateral-world>

4



Policy Viewpoint

1 Making Sehat Sahulat Program Sustainable

Author: Shujaat Farooq, Nabila Kunwal
December, 2023

<http://tinyurl.com/sehat-sahulat>



2 Understanding the Provincial Generational Economy for Improved Policymaking

Author: Shujaat Farooq, Nabila Kunwal
December, 2023

<http://tinyurl.com/generational-economic>



3 Counting Women's Unpaid Care Work in Pakistan

Author: Durr-E-Nayab, Nabila Kunwal
December, 2023

<http://tinyurl.com/unpaid-women>



Events/Activities



1 Greening Pakistan's Development

Event Date: **Monday, December 04, 2023 at 02:00 PM**



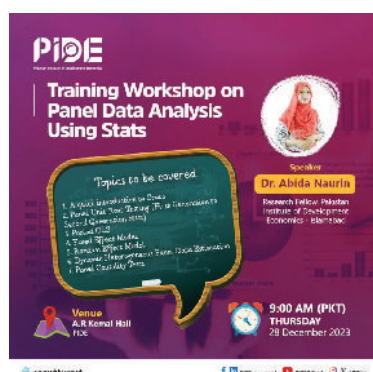
2 Access To Power: Electricity And The Infrastructural State In Pakistan

Event Date: **Sunday, December 10, 2023 at 10:00 AM**



3 Political Conflict, Reform And Development

Event Date: **Friday, December 22, 2023 at 02:30 PM**



4 Training Workshop On Panel Data Analysis Using Stats

Event Date: **Thursday, December 28, 2023 at 09:00 AM**



RESEARCH FOR SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION AND ADVANCEMENT COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAMME FOR POLICY-ORIENTED RESEARCH

Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Islamabad

RASTA Competitive Grants Programme for Policy-Oriented Research is the largest economics and public policy research grants programme in Pakistan –establishing an extensive knowledge network – producing high-quality, evidence-based policy research informing Pakistan’s public policy processes. Its network includes around 2,300+ researchers & academicians, 65+ universities, and 10+ international institutes.

The objectives of the RASTA program are to: (a) Reduce the research-policy gap by stimulating economic and social science research and debate across Pakistan; (b) Build a network to stimulate internally defined and produced policy-relevant research; (c) Provide a knowledge-sharing platform where different actors can present and share evidence-based research to inform decision-making in the government; (d) Revisit the future policy agenda in line with the evidence produced in this program; and (e) Build capacity and improve policymaking and implementation by involving and engaging local universities, think tanks, policymakers, practitioners, and other stakeholders. The programme is guided by the following 27 members Research Advisory Committee (RAC), chaired by the Vice-Chancellor, PIDE Islamabad.

The RASTA programme has two broad streams through which it is building research networks, funding research projects, and informing public policy in Pakistan: the Competitive Grants Programme (CGP) and the Demand-Driven Research (DDR). Under CGP, research proposals are invited on specific themes/topics decided by the Research Advisory Committee, followed by a rigorous three-stage double-blind review process and announcement of awards. DDR programme is a pro-active evidence-based research approach to inform governments’ policy-making processes. The final output of CGP & DDR projects is in the form of books, research reports, journal articles and working papers and policy briefs. The final output of CGP & DDR projects is in the form of books, research reports, journal articles and working papers and policy briefs.





THE STATE OF COMMERCE IN PAKISTAN: INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC

RASTA and PIDE launched much-awaited report on “The State of Commerce in Pakistan: International and Domestic”. The publication is the final product of a project funded under the Demand-driven Stream of the RASTA and can be downloaded from

<https://file.pide.org.pk/pdfpideresearch/rr-the-state-of-commerce-in-pakistan-international-and-domestic.pdf>

The was launched at Wednesday 20th December 2023 at the P-Block Auditorium, M/o Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Islamabad. The highly anticipated gathering brought together esteemed experts, policymakers, and stakeholders to address the urgent challenges surrounding the commerce sector in the country.

Dr. Nadeem Ul Haque, Chairman RASTA /Vice-Chancellor PIDE, addressed the audience and highlighted key challenges and opportunities. Mr Omer Siddique, Senior Research Economist and lead author of the report, presented key features of the Report. Dr Mohammad Jehanzeb Khan, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission chaired the event. Dr. Faheem Jehangir, Director RASTA, wrapped up the session by providing the audience with valuable updates on the continuous accomplishments of RASTA.



SOCIAL CAPITAL QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS REPORT NO. 01

RASTA has published the first qualitative analysis report titled ‘Qualitative Analysis: Report No. 1: IDENTITY, INCLUSION AND SOCIAL CAPITAL IN UPPER AND SOUTHERN PUNJAB’. The Report is part of the final product of its DDR-funded project “Social Capital”. The Report can be accessed from the RASTA website <https://file.pide.org.pk/uploads/bn-01-pakistanis-who-are-we.pdf>



CGP 6.0 CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

The Sixth Call for Research Proposals under the Competitive Grants Programme (CGP 6.0) was announced on 7th November 2023. Research proposals were invited on five broad themes: (I) Fiscal Management, (II) Public Sector Management, (III) Business, Investment, and Exports, (IV) Institutions, and (V) Gig Economy. Specific sub-themes were also provided under each theme to bring clarity for applicants. 318 applications have been received against the extended deadline of 20th December 2023. The proposals/research applications shall now go through the extensive review process by the RASTA Research Advisory Committee and the RASTA Research Review Panel.

RASTA-PIDE ISLAAH CONSULTATION DRIVE

"Islaah" is an intellectual drive by PIDE that encapsulates the ideals of Rethink, Reform, and Revive. It is a concerted effort to encourage Pakistanis to reflect critically, share insights, and propose pragmatic recommendations for fixing the country's economy, taking it to progress and prosperity. In a time, where much clamour surrounds narrow debates tailored to vested interests, the concept of 'reform' has regrettably fallen silent in the Pakistani discourse. In stark contrast, PIDE firmly maintains that reform is the bedrock upon which we must construct the foundation of a progressive and prosperous Pakistan. It is in "Islaah" wherein lies our redemption!

Funded by the RASTA under its Demand-driven stream, PIDE has launched the Islaah Consultation drive across Pakistan to discuss and deliberate upon future economic and public policy priorities and practical steps. These consultations aim to engage with relevant stakeholders and get their valuable input for collective action. The following are the main themes of the Islaah agenda:

- Reforms for Political Stability
- Developing Markets
- Public Administration for the 21st Century
- Sustainable Energy
- Fiscal Management
- Trade Openness
- Social Infrastructure
- Population and Youth



Dr Nadeem Ul Haque, VC PIDE/Chairman RASTA led a delegation of PIDE's experts to Karachi on the 26th, 27th and 28th of December 2023 and to Gawadar on 29th and 30th of December 2023. The team engaged with policymakers, practitioners, professionals, the business community, private-sector investors, academics, researchers, policy experts, and youth representatives to discuss PIDE Reform Agenda.

Consultations were held at Pakistan Business Council (PBC), Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Overseas Investment Chambers of Commerce and Industry (OICCI), Planning and Development Department Government of Sindh, Applied Economic Research Center (AERC), Bahria University Karachi, University of Karachi, Iqra University Karachi, Training Management and Research Wing Government of Sindh, Social Policy and Development Centre (SPDC), Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP), working dinner at the Marriott Hotel Karachi, Lasbela University of Agriculture, Water & Marine Sciences (LUAWMS) and University of Gwadar.