**PIDE**

Pakistan Institute of Development Economics

February 2024

# Newsletter

## Pakistan Institute of Development Economics

# Knowledge Briefs

1    **Pakistan's Emigration: Trends & Insights**

**Junaid Ahmed**
**February, 2024**

https://shorturl.at/hN027

# Research Reports

1    **Political Party Manifestos: Reform Paradox in Pakistan**

**Author: PIDE**
**February, 2024**

https://shorturl.at/wKP12

# Webinars & Seminars

https://shorturl.at/alFX0

https://shorturl.at/zUWZ2
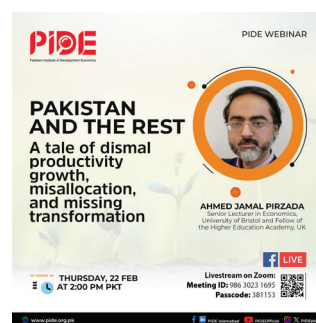
https://shorturl.at/eoY17

1 

2 

3

# Events / Activities



## 1

### The Political Economy of Economic Development

Event Date: **Friday, February 16, 2024 at 10:00 AM PKT**
Venue: **A.R Kemal Hall, PIDE**



## 2

### Introduction To CGE Modeling (Training Workshop)

Event Date: **20-21 February, 2024, Timing: 10AM - 3PM**
Venue: **A.R Kemal Hall, PIDE**

# Successful
# PhD Thesis Defense

## Successfully Defended



**Student Name:**
Amber Taqdees
PIDE2020FMPHILDS04

**Title:**
Disaster Management: A Perception Study of NDMA.

**Supervisor Co- Supervisor Names:**
Dr. Anjeela Khurram
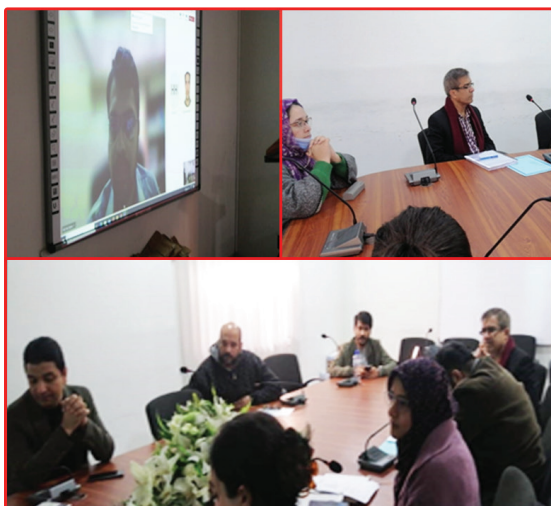
**External/Internal Examiners**
Ms. Fatima Yamin
Mr. Fida Muhammad Khan

**Date/Time**
01/02/2024, 02:00 P.M

Her research reveals that NDMA in Pakistan crucially manages disaster mitigation, response, and recovery, evaluated for effectiveness through internal mechanisms and coordination. Efficient resource optimization and stakeholder engagement, including academia and international organizations, are vital. However, persistent challenges in stakeholder engagement and resource allocation underscore the need for improvement to address Pakistan's diverse disaster landscape.

## Successfully Defended



**Student Name:**
Hafiz Yasir Saleem
PIDE2020FMPHILPP05

**Title:**
Dharna Based Political Unrest and Investment Conundrum: A Case Study of Islamabad.

**Supervisor Co- Supervisor Names:**
Dr. Mahmood Khalid

**External/Internal Examiners**
Dr. Saeed Ahmed Rid
Mr. Saddam Hussein

**Date/Time**
01/02/2024, 02:40 P.M

The findings of the research examined the effects of political unrest on Islamabad's investment climate. The continuous political instability eroded investor confidence over time, resulting in reduced capital inflows and slower economic growth, damaging the region's investment reputation. Based on these findings, the thesis proposed several policy recommendations to mitigate the impact of political unrest on investment behavior in Islamabad. Recommendations included improving political stability through effective governance, enhancing investor protection mechanisms and implementing proactive economic policies to maintain investor confidence during periods of political uncertainty.

## Successfully Defended



**Student Name:**
**Muddasar Hussain**
**PIDE2021FMPHILDS04**

**Title:**
**Labor Market Outcomes of Technical and Vocational Education and Training: A Comparative Study of Public and Private TVET Institutes in AJK.**

**Supervisor Co- Supervisor Names:**
Dr. Muhammad Jehangir Khan

**External/Internal Examiners**
Dr. Samina Malik
Dr. Saman Nazir

**Date/Time**
19/02/2024

Research reveals that there are number of issue at technical institute's level and job market level that students and graduate have to face. TVET institutes had multiple issues in terms of poor attendance, inadequate teacher-to-student ratios, and accessibility of institutes. Both public and private institutes' particularly public institutions students face a lack of exposure to real work situations, opportunities for internships, and a focus on basic digital skills without delving into more advanced components. Students also had limited access to labs and basic computer skill training was also the challenge. There is a lack of collaboration between institutes and industry which is resulting in a skills gap and high unemployment rate. Research also reveals that more than 55% of IT graduates were unemployed. 28% of job holder graduates were getting income less than the basic level of income of 32000 PKR incomes per month and 38% of the graduates were getting less than 40000 PKR incomes per month. This research can the path way for resolution of the issue that student and graduated are facing in labor market.

## Successfully Defended

**Student Name:**
Muhammad Ehsan
PIDE2021FMPHILPP22

**Title:**
Cross-Border Trade: Challenges and Prospects. A Case Study of Pakistan I ran Borders.

**Supervisor Co- Supervisor Names:**
Dr. Uzma Zia

**External/Internal Examiners**
Dr. Umaima Arif
Dr. Muhammad Zeshan

**Date/Time**
19/02/2024, 12.00 PM

My research explores the reasons of low trade, socioeconomic impacts of the cross-border trade on the locals of Taftan and Mashkel, and does Pakistan's is adopting international standards and quality controls at border terminals? The thesis also recommends various policies to counter the poor infrastructure to get full and potential benefits of the cross-border trade.

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

## Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Islamabad

The Research for Social Transformation and Advancement (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. In just three years, it has established a network of 3200+ researchers and academicians from 65+ local universities and think tanks, and 12+ 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.
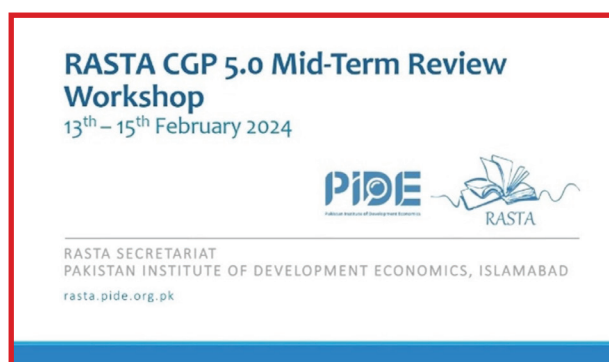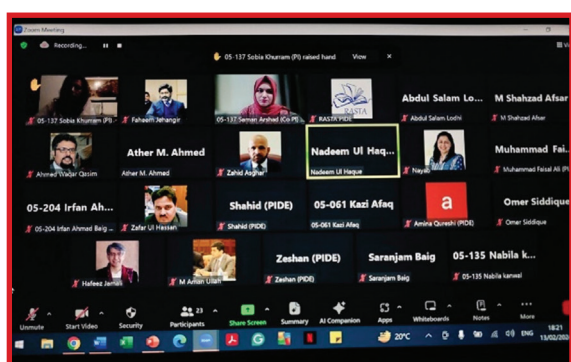


The RASTA programme has two broad streams through which it is building research networks, funding research projects, and informing public policy in Pakistan: the Competitive Grants Programme (CGP) and the Demand-Driven Research (DDR). Under CGP, research proposals are invited on specific themes/topics 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.

# CGP ROUND 6.0: DETAILED REVIEW

In response to the CGP 6.0 Call for Research Proposals, 318 applications were received from all parts of the country and from foreign institutes as well. During the month of February 2024, Detailed Review (Stage 1) of 318 applications was completed by the 27-member Research Advisory Committee (RAC) and 23-member RASTA Review Panel (RRP). The shortlisted applicants shall be invited to present their proposals in the Review Workshop (Stage 2). This will be followed by the CGP 6.0 Award Discussion Meeting of the RAC.

# CGP ROUND 5.0: MID-TERM REVIEW

The (online) CGP 5.0 Mid-Term Review Workshop was held from 13th February to 15th February 2024. In the Workshop, 15 (fifteen) CGP Round 5.0 awardees presented their Interim Reports to the RAC. The Interim Report of the DDR Project 'Pakistan's Railways' and the Final Report of the CGP 4.0 project 'Unlocking Pakistan Railways Dead Capital' were also presented on 15th February 2024.



# DDR URBAN REGENERATION REVIEW WORKHSOP

Urban Regeneration Review Workshop was held on 21st February 2024. In the Workshop, 06 research proposals were presented to the RASTA Project Management Team. Two proposals titled 'Urban Regeneration Proposal for Punjab Civil Secretariat & Adjoining Areas in Lahore' by Muhammad Shoaib and 'Urban Regeneration for Cities in Pakistan: Case of Federal Capital Area, Karachi' by Noman Ahmed were considered for initiation of research work.

# FUNDING OF NEW DDR STUDIES

During this month, the RASTA management funded the following 02 new studies under its Demand-driven Research (DDR) stream.

| DDR ID # | Title of Study | Duration (months) | Approved Budget |
|---|---|---|---|
| DDR-030 | Tracking of PPHS Panel Households | 01 | Rs. 3,041,500 /- |
| DDR-030A | Pakistan Panel Household Survey (PPHS) 2024 Round | 05 | Rs. 55,973,463/- |

# TRAINING ON "INTRODUCTION TO CGE MODELLING"

RASTA and PIDE organised two days training on CGE Modelling (20-21 February 2024), with no course fee. The training course "Introduction to CGE Modelling" has been designed to equip individuals with the fundamental concepts and practical skills required to leverage CGE in their respective fields. The program is aimed at professionals and university students who wish to develop foundation in CGE Modelling and learn how to apply it solving real-world problems. This course consists of two days (05 Hours * 02 Days).