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Understanding the Relationship between Economic Growth, Employment, Income Inequality and Poverty in Pakistan

Khalid Zaman, Iqtidar Ali Shah and Mehboob Ahmad

Abstract

Many research studies have focused on the relationship between economic growth, employment, income inequality and poverty. However, there has been insufficient empirical research to explore the relationship between economic growth, employment, income inequality and poverty reduction because of data deficiencies in many low-income countries. This study mainly aims to investigate the linkage between poverty reduction, employment, income inequality and economic growth in Pakistan. More specifically, it strives to find out which factor – employment or economic growth – has greater impact on poverty reduction. A macro simulation model has been designed to analyse the linkage between growth, employment, inequality and poverty in Pakistan using national level secondary data for the period 1985-2006. The empirical results reveal that an overall increase in GDP growth rate and employment elasticity (in all sectors) decreases the incidence of poverty by almost 0.692% and 0.982% respectively. Similarly, growth and employment elasticity in the manufacturing sector decrease the incidence of poverty by almost 0.542% and 0.612% (insignificant) respectively. Income inequality increases poverty incidence by almost 0.798 per cent in all sectors while it is 0.648 per cent in manufacturing sector. It indicates that the impact of income inequality in increasing poverty is comparatively greater than that of economic growth in reducing poverty. Other results reveal that some changes in poverty have been observed due to time and it almost increases poverty incidence by 0.419% and 0.285% both in all sectors and manufacturing sector. Further, this analysis has important implications for developmental strategies and policies having a distinct role in accelerating growth and poverty reduction.

Firm-level Perceptions on State-Business Relations – A Case Study of Manufacturing Enterprises in Hyderabad

G Alivelu

Abstract

This paper is based on the firm-level survey on State-Business Relations in enhancing the performance of the registered manufacturing sector. It makes an attempt to analyse the services provided by the state in promoting businesses, the benefits that the firms derive by being members of the business associations, the administrative hurdles etc. The findings of the sample survey of manufacturing enterprises in the Hyderabad region in terms of service delivery, lobbying the government, time spent on government-related procedures, government regulations and policy uncertainties show that the small firms are at a disadvantage when compared to the large and medium-size firms.

**People's Forestry in the Past and Present–
An Analysis of Community Forest Management in South India (AP):
Colonial and Post-Colonial Period**

V M Ravi Kumar

Abstract

After about 20 years of community forest management (CFM) policy implementation, introspection on its performance would help in tracing the strengths and weaknesses of the policy. By focusing on the South Indian state of Andhra Pradesh this article proposes that CFM is new wine in old bottle. A comparative analysis of the colonial and post-colonial periods reveals that CFM had never been implemented as a systematic policy. Before Independence, the colonial state perceived CFM as a means to address the popular discontentment of the people and after Independence it is mainly used as populist measure to address the raising demands of the rural people. While CFM has been used as a critical factor for legitimacy of the state, the actual stake-holders' demands are not reflected in the policy process. It is this contradiction that has led to perpetual gulf between normative policy systems and practices in community forest management.

**Extent of Casualisation in Rural Non-farm Workforce of India:
What Does Recent National Sample Survey Data Reveal?**

Manoj Jatav

Abstract

The numerical growth of casual workers in rural non-farm employment has been tremendous during 2004-05 to 2009-10, especially in the construction and service sectors. In this period, casualisation, that can be linked with poverty, educational backwardness, lack of land ownership among the rural poor etc., is found to be high in some sub-sectors, such as construction, mining and quarrying, along with agriculture. An analysis of recent data also reveals that the process of feminising of the rural non-farm casual workforce has become faster. Hence, the hope of a sustainable growth of rural non-farm employment has been turned out. This paper seeks to find out some crucial issues related to the process of casualisation in recent years.

Economic Theorisation of Gender: Is the Task Over?

Sanjeev D Kenchaigol

Abstract

The gender paradigm remains quite interdisciplinary till date. The discipline of economics has the rich experiences of theorizing gender ever since women engaged in economics. The economic theorization of gender has many forms and provides several frameworks for gender analysis which are criticized for their drawbacks. From the classical/neoclassical economics to institutional and Marxists to the new development economics, efforts to include gender as the basic area of economic analyses have provided several tools of analysis but remain insensitive and unsatisfactory to some problems. What are these tasks that are remained unfinished and how these aspects have been dealt with? What are the possible alternatives and new developments? This paper tries to take on these issues in the wake of more than four and half decades of economists' involvement in the inclusion of gender into mainstream economic analysis and post-UN intervention in the advancement of women and emergence of new concepts, especially during 1990s.

Social Reproduction

Maithreyi Krishnaraj

Abstract

Marxism saw relations of production as the 'primary contradiction'. It was the socialist feminists who brought forward the understanding that it was within the spheres of *reproduction that unequal power prevailed. Sexual division of labour was the major instrument* to create gender divisions. Women's exclusive responsibility for child bearing and rearing implied that not only did this mean reproduction in the sense of bringing forth new human beings and preparing them for joining the labour force, it also meant reproducing the social system of unequal gender relations. In subsistence economies in Third World, such as in India, gender relations were orchestrated through class and caste endogamy to reproduce women's position within society and through the relations between land, class and kin and marriage social differential was achieved. Thus in India we have the women from landless labour households as most exploited, hired workers in agriculture who cannot repudiate their unpaid household labour.

The application of this is seen in occupational segregation and unequal wages. Women's labour is deployed where they serve as 'reserve labour' or contingent labour. Under global capitalism, the process is extended beyond the national economy.