

# NEWSLETTER



**SDPI**  
Sustainable Development Policy Institute

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WRITE US FOR FEEDBACK AT [maryam@sdpi.org](mailto:maryam@sdpi.org)

## **OUR PUBLICATIONS**

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### **[Dimensions of Diplomatic Coercion in Middle East](#)**

Coercive diplomacy as a tool of foreign policy has been employed since centuries. Strategic or diplomatic coercion essentially seeks to influence, compel or force a state to either adopt or to do away with a particular and specific behavior. Since becoming sole superpower after Soviet disintegration, the US embarked on a mission to instil its own values into other nations and states. Middle East constitutes to be a strategic and politically influential region in the world politics. Much of the US interests converge in the region and for that the US has been employing methods of coercive diplomacy to achieve its long-term objectives relating to politics, economy and trade routes. Peace or conflict in the Middle East is linked to the security and stability of the region, the economies of the Arab countries and Iran. The dimensions of coercion in the Middle East needs to be analyzed in the context of security of the Islamic countries, the core issue of right to self-determination of the Palestinian people by bridging the gap between Shia and Sunni populations across the region through the promotion of peaceful co-existence among various Muslim sects. Already the US coercive diplomacy has turned into a full destructive war at the cost of the people. Pakistan as a fellow Muslim country, having cordial relations with Saudi Arabia, UAE, and diplomatic relations with Iran, may play its role to normalize hostilities within the Muslim countries.

### **[Integrating Gender into Educational Planning and Budgeting](#)**

This study provides a gender analysis of public sector budgets in education sector of Pakistan. An in-depth analysis of pre-primary to secondary level education budgetary allocations and spending at federal and provincial (Punjab and Sindh) levels for the period of 2016-18 has been conducted through a gender lens. The research methodology is based on four key instruments, which help in systematically approaching our research questions. These instruments include review of existing secondary information and data, key informant interviews, stakeholder consultations, and a detailed review of budgetary processes. The study reveals gender disparity in out-of-school children at primary level. According to the study, 47 per cent boys as opposed to 58 per cent girls in Sindh whereas 39 per cent boys as opposed to 41 per cent girls were out-of-school in the Punjab. The study also finds noticeable gender disparities in budgetary allocations. The study concludes that in order to ensure sufficient allocations to promote girls' education, the budget making process needs to be reconfigured. The gender lens should be introduced at a very early stage where budget call circulars are being sent to the departments concerned.

## OUR OPINION PIECES

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### [Investment in Pakistan and doing business](#)

There is need to capacitate labor with more technological skills through technical and vocational institutes which will be helpful in scaling up the business primarily. This itself will help in generating more economic activity thus bringing economic outlook of the county on encouraging side.

### [Intent and intentions](#)

One cannot deny the fact that achieving macro-economic stability has a negative impact on the micro-economic stability of the common people. That is why it is important to pursue two parallel policies, one that addresses economic imbalances and one that insulates people belonging to low-income strata from the shocks of structural adjustments.

### [Artificial Intelligence: The Future of Agriculture](#)

There is a market to develop and program autonomous robots that have the capacity to independently handle basic agricultural tasks such as harvesting crops. They have the capacity to undertake these mundane tasks at a faster pace and greater volume as compared to humans. This also includes efficient ways such as computer vision for farmers to protect crops from weed using methods to precisely spray weeds and not affect the crop. This precision spraying can eliminate the volume of chemicals normally sprayed onto the crop.

### [The Cottage Industry, a neglected sector in Pakistan](#)

Cottage industries often focus on the production of labor-intensive goods but face a significant disadvantage when competing with factory-based manufacturers that mass-produce goods. SMEs and Cottage industries are linked with each other as in some products SMEs outsourced their productions to small scale manufacturers. The purpose of this outsourcing is to reduce the cost of production and reduce the production burden from SMEs facility Units.

## OUR EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENTS

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Kashif Salik, Associate Research Fellow at SDPI, presented on climate induced migrations at a workshop organized by CSCCC in Islamabad



Engr. Ahad Nazir participated in M&E session in NUML Business Incubation Centre

## **WATCH OUR SHOWS**

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### **[The State of Zoos in Pakistan: Searching for Humanity](#)**

A seminar titled “The State of Zoos in Pakistan: Searching for Humanity” was organized at SDPI with the objective to deliberate upon the need to improve conditions of zoos in the country. Experts at the seminar highlighted the history and evolution of zoos along with best global practices that can be replicated to provide a sustainable environment to the animals.

## **SDPI IN MAINSTREAM MEDIA**

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### **[GDP Growth during last 5 years of PMLN tenure was temporary: Dr Abid Suleri on PTV News](#)**

Dr Abid on [Chinese loans](#), [revenue generation](#), [amnesty scheme](#), [IMF](#) on Dawn News

Dr Abid Suleri on [dollar value](#) and [budget 2019](#) on PTV News

[Dr Vaqar Ahmed on Global Systemic Issues](#)



## **SDPI IN PRINT MEDIA**

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The Express Tribune Islamabad, July 09, 2019

[Animals must be given their rights too: experts](#)

Daily Times Islamabad, July 09, 2019

[Moot rings alarm bells over 'miserable state of zoos'](#)

The world News.Net, July 09, 2019

[Moot rings alarm bells over 'miserable state of zoos'](#)

Urdu Point Lahore, July 08, 2019

[Experts Call For Citizen Engagement, Education To Help Protect Zoos](#)

The News Islamabad/Rawalpindi, July 13, 2019

[Zoos as prisons where animals are kept as innocent prisoners](#)

English.Aaleem.com, July 10, 2019

[Experts call for citizen engagement to help protect zoos](#)

## The Peshawar Post Peshawar, July 08, 2019

احتساب کے فقدان کے باعث چڑیا گھر تباہ حالی کا شکار



## Urdu Point Lahore, July 08, 2019

بانوروں، چڑیا گھروں اور جنگلی حیات کے تحفظ کے لئے بنیاد پرست سوچ اختیار کرنے پر نظر ثانی کرنے کی ضرورت ہے، بانوروں سے دیگر مخلوقات کی طرح بنیادی حقوق کی حامل مخلوق تصور کرتے ہوئے مناسب برتاؤ کیا جائے، چڑیا گھروں اور جنگلی حیات کے پارکوں کو تحفظ دینے کے لئے شہریوں کی شمولیت اور عوام الناس کی حیاتیاتی تنوع اور ماحولیاتی نظام کے لئے بانوروں کی اہمیت اور حقوق سے متعلق علم و آگاہی کے فروغ کی ضرورت ہے

ماہرین کا ۱۱ پاکستان کے چڑیا گھروں کو انسائیت کی تلاش کے موضوع پر سیمینار سے خطاب  
22:30 © 2019 بی 8

## Dunya News Islamabad, July 09, 2019

چیک اینڈ بیلنس نہ ہونے کے باعث چڑیا گھر تباہ حالی کا شکار ہیں، ماہرین  
وائٹڈ لائف پارکس، چڑیا گھروں کی حفاظت بارے عوام کو آگاہی دینے کی ضرورت ہے  
ایس ڈی پی آئی کے زیر اہتمام سیمینار سے ڈاکٹر عمران خالد، کمیٹی سپر، ڈاکٹر اعجاز و دیگر کی گفتگو



## **OUR UPCOMING EVENT**

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[POLICY SYMPOSIUM ON PAKISTAN ECONOMY & IMF PROGRAMME:  
CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES](#)

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2019, from 3:00PM to 5:00PM