

# Annual Report 2020-21



**Punjab Economic Research Institute (PERI)**



# MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR

PUNJAB ECONOMIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Research plays an important role in economic growth of a country through technological advancement and spillover effects. Economic analysis, both theoretical and empirical, can generate important insights into individual and aggregate behavior and relationships, and help in society's efforts to use scarce resources in a more efficient manner. The significance and key role of research and development for economic growth in a developing country like Pakistan cannot be overlooked, as research and development has emerged as an important tool for economic growth in modern era. Pakistan is struggling hard to achieve sustained economic growth. The economists and policy makers of Pakistan are working hard to unveil the determinants of economic growth in Pakistan. Sound policy-making is not possible without empirical evidence and sharp analysis. The quality of research thus determines the soundness of policies and policy implementation.

Punjab Economic Research Institute (PERI) is a dynamic and vibrant research organization that provides analytical inputs for the formulation of forward looking provincial development strategies, and also undertakes high quality, evidence based research to broadly improve public policy making in the province. PERI aims to be the Punjab's leading provider of socio-economic insight on evidence based research by adopting proactive and new ideas orientation.

During the financial year 2020-21, PERI has undertaken a number of research studies. PERI had been included as member on a number of committees and is providing assistance in evidence based decision-making. During the last one year, PERI has intensively worked on developing a close liaison with the P&D Board and other line departments with a more active approach in the planning and development process at provincial level.



**Dr. Muhammad Avais Tahir**

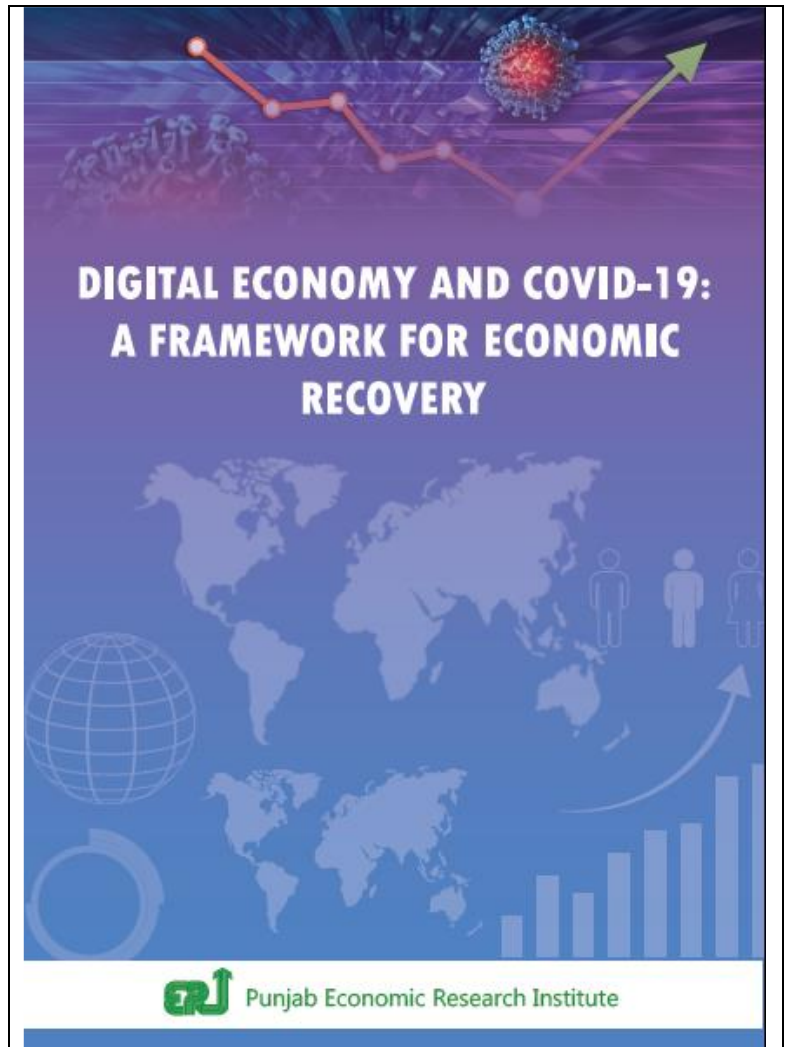




## **Digital Economy and COVID-19: A Framework for Economic Recovery**

The COVID-19 is the biggest challenge, that humanity has ever faced, from a hitherto unknown virus. Globally, the whammy of Corona Virus has overwhelmed the health services, while the economies have fallen into an unprecedented recession by ravishing structures of the developed nations and the developing alike.

The study in both, conceptual framework and final documentation should be viewed as a humane dispensation of the crisis adding a human dimension to both, the positive and negative consequences of the crisis. It is a great challenge to change a mindset, which thinks in statistics and numbers into a mindset 'seeing' the real-life tragedies behind the numbers. The documentation of this study includes a way forward for integrating Information and Communication Technology (ICT) into all aspects of the economy, intended to achieve this shift in mindset, by creating a digitally-enabled economy that can be responsible for generating the lion's share of economic growth and prosperity.



### **Authors:**

Dr. Novaira Junaid Iqbal (Associate Research Fellow)  
Ume Farwa (Assistant Research Fellow)  
Asima Ihsan (Associate Research Fellow)  
Dr. Shahzada M. Naeem Nawaz (Research Fellow)

# ANALYSIS OF TEXTILE AND CLOTHING SECTOR TRADE: INNOVATIVE PRACTICES AND THE WAY FORWARD

Growth of exports is considered not as a goal per se, but an instrument to achieve economic and social development. The textile and clothing sector contributes around 58.5 percent in total exports of Pakistan. However, it is largely based on cotton and low value-added products with little diversification.

It has been learned in various consultations and meetings with the industry, government and other stakeholders that textile and clothing sector needs to realign for better export performance. It calls for need to offer an evidence-based study that may cover those dimensions which are suitable for public policy orientation. In this perspective, the study at hand is interesting for all readers especially for the policymakers.

This study aims to cover four dimensions. First, it provides content analysis for identification of the possible hindrances to adapt innovative practices by the textile firms. Then, to understand the global value chain, demand trends, export destinations and other critical aspects, global trade analysis is rigorously provided at HS two-digit product level. It sets a baseline for a narrow focus on Pakistan's textile sector performance. Finally, role of innovation for sectoral growth is covered by analyzing the global innovation index whereas it is linked with product innovation via product diversification, and market diversification by exploring untapped markets.



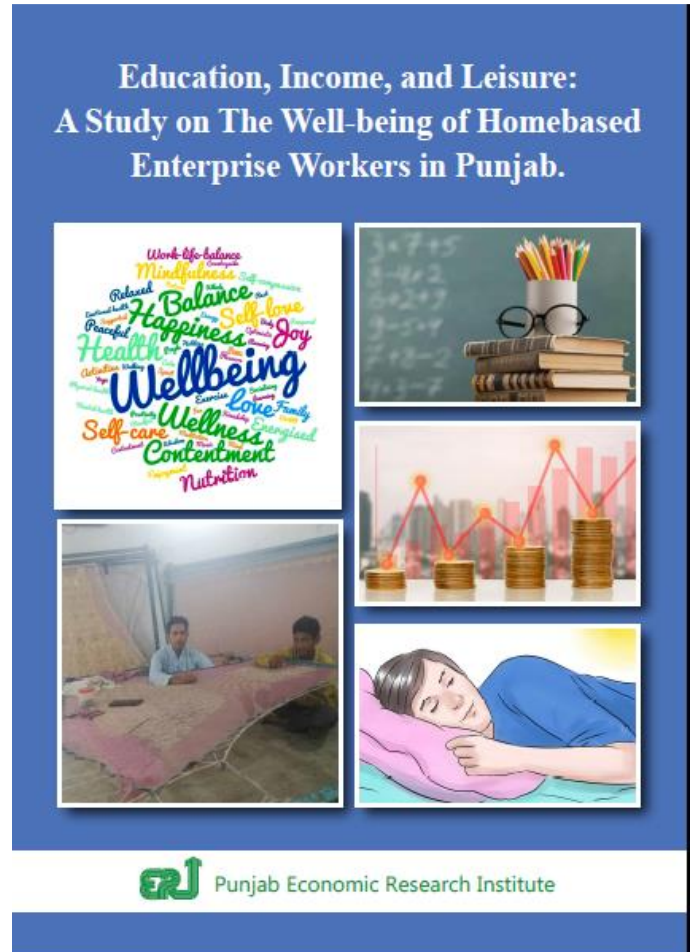
Authors:

Dr. Shahzada M. Naeem Nawaz (Research Fellow)  
Zubair Khalid Saleemi (Associate Research Fellow)  
Sajid Amin (Assistant Research Fellow)  
Hassan Hameed Khan (Assistant Research Fellow)

# Education, Income and Leisure: A Study on the Well-being of Homebased Enterprise Workers in Punjab

Punjab is the most populated province of Pakistan and is the largest contributor in the national GDP via a formal economy. However, in Punjab informal economy is also vibrant and thriving but unfortunately, it is undocumented. The home-based enterprise workers are a large part of the informal economy and a main force behind manufacturing sector and value/supply chain. They produce goods and services for local, domestic, or global markets. However, due to lack of documentation, this segment of the labour force is invisible and has not been given due recognition in the relevant laws/ policies. COVID-19 pandemic has created new challenges for the home-based workers which need immediate attention of Governmental and non-Governmental organizations at national as well as international levels.

To build a better nation, it is necessary that wellbeing of home-based enterprise workers should be the focus of all laws/policies related to different sectors of the economy including manufacturing and services sectors. For the well-being of home-based workers, there is a lack of baseline information for evidence-based policy making. To fill this information gap, the present study has been conceptualized and designed based upon the Punjab Home based Workers Survey, 2016 conducted by the Bureau of Statistics, Planning and Development Department, Government of the Punjab. This study focuses on the situational analysis of the well-being of home-based workers in Punjab. The importance of this study is evident from its uniqueness and its role in devising future policies to promote wellbeing of the home-based workers in Punjab.



## Authors:

Dr. Muhammad Nadeem (Assistant Research Fellow)  
Dr. Shahid Adil (Director PERI)  
Dr. Muhammad Avais Tahir (Chief of Research)  
Uzooba Hureem (Staff Sociologist)

# **PUBLISHED POLICY BRIEF**

# MINERAL RESOURCE ENDOWMENT IN PUNJAB: A THEMATIC ANALYSIS FOR ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION

Zubair Khalid Saleemi  
Associate Research Fellow

Dr. Shahzada M. Naeem Nawaz  
Research Fellow

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Chief of Research



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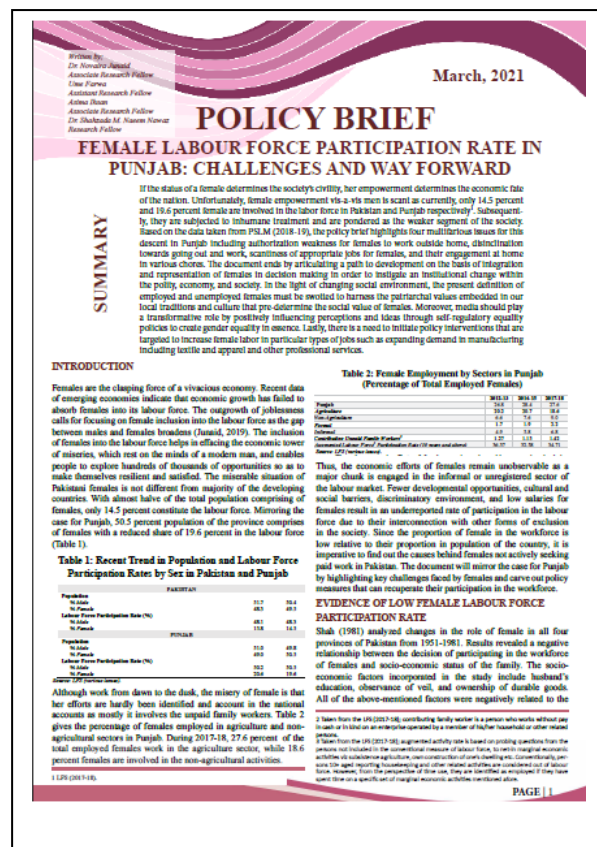
# FEMALE LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE IN PUNJAB: CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

If the status of a female determines the society's civility, her empowerment determines the economic fate of the nation. Unfortunately, female empowerment vis-a-vis men is scant as currently; only 14.5 percent and 19.6 percent female are involved in the labor force in Pakistan and Punjab respectively. Subsequently, they are subjected to inhumane treatment and are pondered as the weaker segment of the society.

Females are the clasping force of a vivacious economy. Recent data of emerging economies indicate that economic growth has failed to absorb females into its labour force. The outgrowth of joblessness calls for focusing on female inclusion into the labour force as the gap between males and females broadens.

The policy brief has managed to describe and verify the reasons for low proportion of females in the workforce in Punjab. The major causes of low female labour force participation rate in Punjab include amongst others, the following; Too busy in undergoing domestic chores; Not permitted to work outside their homes; Do not want to work outside home; Do not have enough job opportunities.

It is imperative to endorse policy measures with an optimal administrative methodology for promotion of technological education and entrepreneurial skills for females to restore their livelihood while not bypassing their religious and ethnic values in Punjab. The need of the hour is to involve more females in the policy-making process in order to bring out institutional changes in the traditional male-dominated society of Punjab.

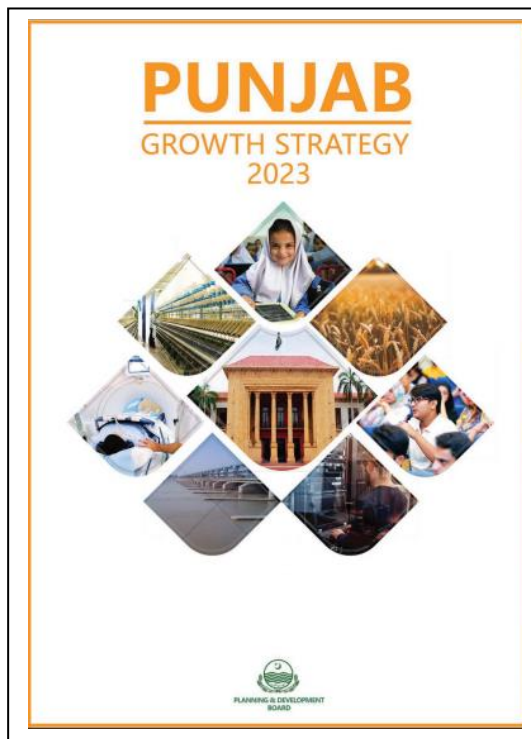


**Written By:**  
 Dr. Novaira Junaid (Associate Research Fellow)  
 Ume Farwa (Assistant Research Fellow)  
 Asima Ihsan (Associate Research Fellow)  
 Dr. Shahzada M. Naeem Nawaz (Research Fellow)

# Review of Punjab Growth Strategy 2023

Planning & Development (P&D) Board and Punjab Economic Research Institute (PERI) developed a comprehensive strategic roadmap in the shape of Punjab Growth Strategy-2023 approved by the Provincial cabinet and launched by the Chief Minister Punjab in 2018.

The Punjab Growth Strategy (PGS) 2018-2023 is based on an extensive set of evidences explaining the dynamics of the Punjab's economy and aiming to: attain sustainable economic growth of 7 percent annual growth of the provincial GDP by terminal year 2023; create on average 1.20 million new jobs annually over the next five years, thereby contributing 60 percent to the national target of 10 million jobs; reducing the idle youth in Punjab from 10.3 percent in 2017-18 to 8.8 percent by 2023; reducing the multi-dimensional poverty in the Punjab from 26.2 percent in 2017-18 to 19.5 percent by 2023; increase the average number of new housing units to 640,000 annually over the next five years, thereby contributing 64 percent to the national target of 5 million new houses.



With regard to PGS 2023, everything was sailing smoothly and was moving on the right track, when all of a sudden COVID-19 pandemic surfaced and wreaked havoc across the globe, no country in the world was let spared by this epidemic and Pakistan also was no exception to that. This pandemic hit almost every sector of the economy and this exogenous shock also put pressure on the provincial economy. In view of the foregoing, Punjab Economic Research Institute (PERI) in collaboration with Sub-National Governance Programme (SNG) embarked upon itself to review the Growth Strategy 2023 in consultation with all stake holders.

Revision of Punjab Growth Strategy 2023 was focused on to revisit and reset growth strategy goals already laid out in PGS 2023 particularly: growth through private sector development, industrializing Punjab & unleashing its SME potential, enhancing value in agriculture and livestock and realizing the potential of services sector.

# CPEC PUNJAB STRATEGY

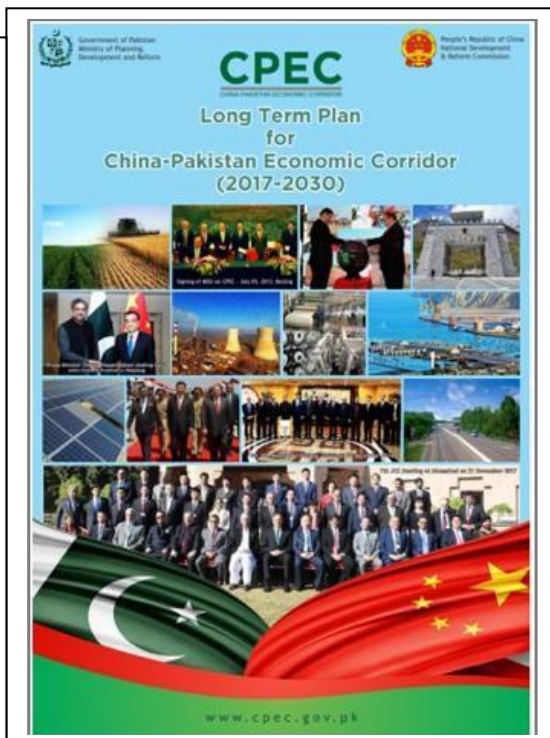
Planning and Development Board, Government of the Punjab, with support from Punjab Economic Research Institute (PERI), Punjab Board of Investment and Trade (PBIT), and Urban Unit reviewed the formulating of Punjab's CPEC Strategy.

## EDUCATION SECTOR STRATEGY FOR CPEC PUNJAB

Under the CPEC framework to promote economic and social development in Pakistan, some grants have been provided to build smart classrooms in Pakistan's public sector universities to complete the smart university transformation project. Higher Education Commission (HEC), approved the plan in 2015, aimed at equipping universities with "blanket Wi-Fi coverage". The project aims to create a more attractive university environment by introducing advanced digital technologies into universities.

## HEALTH SECTOR STRATEGY FOR CPEC PUNJAB

CPEC can be good opportunity for Pakistan in general and Punjab in particular to leverage its health sector. China has three million medical practitioners, 0.8 million surgeons and six million nurses in 27,600 hospitals.



It may be of interest that there are 46 surgical robots are operational in teaching hospitals of China. Thus, there is a need to establish healthcare facilities along CPEC route. Therefore, economic gains from CPEC initiative can result into better health gains as well. For instance, proposal of “China-Pakistan Health Corridor (CPHC)” can be a vital component of CPEC.

In addition, CPEC could play a key role in mutual cooperation between Chinese and Pakistani pharmaceutical industries. Out of top 25 pharmaceutical manufacturers in China, 22 are domestic companies. CPEC could play a key role in mutual cooperation between Chinese and Pakistani pharmaceutical industries. Availability of cheaper raw material to manufacturers in Pakistan can be of mutual benefit for both countries. Concisely, CPEC is a blessing for the region where healthcare system can get a boost along with economic development. Therefore, Punjab should not miss any chance of healthcare improvement through CPEC.

## CPEC STRATEGY FOR INDUSTRIAL SECTOR

Punjab has the raw material and low cost labour that China needs, hence it is important to attract investment that contributes to higher value addition, ensures technology acquisition, exports and industrial diversification. Government of Punjab therefore sees industrialization as a key pillar of its growth strategy and the main instrument that will generate a large number of productive jobs for its youth and earn a substantial amount of foreign exchange through value added exports.

CPEC Long Term Plan 2030: CPEC, LTP outlines cooperation in industrial and trade relations. It promotes efficiency improvement in textiles and local assembly of appliances. Industrial cooperation is proposed in chemicals, engineering, agro, iron & steel, and construction materials. It underscores importance of sustainable production systems, R&D and design cooperation, trade logistics and educational collaborations.

Government of the Punjab aims to develop a vibrant and outward looking industrial sector under CPEC. It strives to introduce technological development, infrastructure provision and levers that enhance firm level productivity & competitiveness. Industrial cooperation under the CPEC has the potential to contribute to Punjab's growth objectives: private sector-led, export-oriented development that creates productive jobs given that the interventions are implemented. Punjab is keen to take benefit of the opportunities that CPEC has to offer by creating conducive environment for foreign and domestic investment and relocation of Chinese industries.

## **CPEC STRATEGY FOR AGRICULTURE SECTORE**

The aim of cooperation in agriculture development and poverty alleviation is to reinforce and improve the agricultural infrastructure adjacent to the CPEC road. The construction of water resources and modern agricultural demonstration areas that save water will be encouraged and medium and low fertile lands will be restored for efficient use of resources. Technical exchange and cooperation in areas such as crop seed production, production technology, agricultural processing, prevention and control of animal and plant epidemics, mechanization demonstration and ICT-enabled agriculture will be enhanced under the CPEC.

## **CPEC STRATEGY FOR LIVESTOCK SECTOR**

The strategy is drawn from the 4 key objectives of livestock sector to reap maximum gain from CPEC: Contribute towards poverty alleviation and economic development of the province through the provision of an enabling environment and farmer support services in the livestock sector; Improving breed development, on-farm mechanisms, medical facilities and providing high-quality nutritional feed for enhanced productivity; Incorporating modern processing technologies to move towards high value-added meat and dairy products; Strengthen local markets and price mechanism and increase accessibility to the international market by adopting international standards and certification

## **CPEC STRATEGY FOR SKILL DEVELOPMENT**

Punjab is the most populous province of the country. In terms of population size, the province is the 13<sup>th</sup> most populated unit in the world. This huge population size can therefore either act as an economic resource or a burden on the country. CPEC Long Term Plan outlines the need to work on poverty alleviation and training technical staff in Pakistan for CPEC related projects. This means that China is invested in training people in Pakistan and will be adding to human capital in a way that benefits both Pakistan and China in the long run.

## **CPEC STRATEGY FOR ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY**

Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change is not a surprise to the world and the country has faced multiple obstacles onto its journey towards sustainable development. Sustainable Development has been recognized as one of the basic principles of the actions proposed under LTP. It does so majorly through understanding the possible effects of climate change, thereby driving the need for incorporation of sustainability in the proposed actions. Following the lines of precautionary principle, effective realization of principles of sustainability

under CPEC has the potential to contribute to improved physical, chemical, biological and social setting in Punjab. As the Belt and Road initiative, and specifically the CPEC aspires to leave a remarkable impact in the development regime, due incorporation of aspects related to environment and sustainability shall result in a balanced approach towards economic, social and environmental factors for the present and future generations.

## **CPEC STRATEGY FOR INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)**

### **ENABLED ENVIRONMENT**

Under the Pak-China collaboration, following initiatives have appeared on enabling an ICT environment in Pakistan. T&N Technologies Private Limited Pakistan, an ICT company founded in 2002, is now operational in Punjab. It provides a broad range of computer consulting services, including IT consulting, point-to-point wireless network communication, web/desktop application software creation, ERP consulting, telemarketing, video conferencing for security installations, satellite internet, corporate sales, and telecom services. At the Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development and Management Company (FIEDMC) office, two Chinese technology companies reached an agreement to set up a smartphone manufacturing plant in Faisalabad in December 2020. As per the agreement, the first smartphone manufacturing plant at M3 Industrial Estate, Faisalabad, will be jointly set up by Chinese companies. Another Cross Border Optical Fiber Cable project covering an 820 km area has been under way in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa since 2016. The ICT infrastructure for 3G/4G networks in the northern areas is planned to be provided and network security will be strengthened with an alternate fibre path. A Digital Terrestrial Multimedia Broadcast (DTMB) pilot project has been completed at Rebroadcast Station (RBS) at Murree via a Chinese grant. The project has been split into four phases; phase one covers Islamabad and the surrounding areas; phase two covers other major cities, including Karachi and Lahore; phase three covers other heavily populated areas, while the final phase covers other densely populated areas in Pakistan.

### **CPEC STRATEGY FOR REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY**

Transport and logistics infrastructure was one of the key focuses in the China Pakistan Economic Corridor Plan. Given the CPEC related flow of investments, it is incumbent that an enabling infrastructure and efficient governance is in place to act as enablers of growth and shared prosperity. The road network in Punjab is a critical input to generating economic growth, promoting social equity and shared prosperity. The underlying plan highlights some key issues of the sector in the Province and proposes an action plan that helps to move toward an integrated multi-modal transport infrastructure that can contribute to sustainable development.

The aim of the plan is to enhance the functional linkages and connectivity of growth corridors and improve access to regional and international markets. This can be achieved through the development of an integrated transport network leading to improved connectivity by improving connectivity between communities and economic zones by enhancing functional provincial linkages to national and highways and motorways network, and enhancing the competitiveness of freight by multimodal connections and provision of hassle-free transfers through enhanced physical and system integration between transport modes and infrastructure. Access to all areas of the province will also enable inclusive balanced growth. Importantly, for this purpose, EastWest linkages need to be developed. Presently, the socio-economic activities are concentrated on the Eastern side of the province. To ensure that the Western side plays an effective part in provincial economic growth, vital missing links need to be developed.





## **Seminars, Workshops, Trainings**

## **STAKEHOLDERS' VALIDATION WORKSHOP REGARDING PERI-FAO RESEARCH STUDY**

PERI in collaboration with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Pakistan country office held stakeholders' 'Validation Workshop' regarding a study titled "Study on Gender Roles and Related Work Burden and Their Effects on Child Labour in Agriculture in Punjab" here at PERI office on 14 December 2020.

Director PERI, Dr. Shahid Adil presided over the study workshop and Mr. Muhammad Waheed from FAO hosted the event. Chief of Research Dr. Muhammad Avais Tahir in his presentation briefly presented introduction of PERI, its brief history, functions and achievements in the context of research studies and data collection, framework, and flagship programmes.

Dr. Shakeel from FAO briefly told about the FAO, its role in sustainable agriculture and rationale of the study. He said FAO in collaboration with PERI is conducting this study to find out the ways to send children back to schools instead of sending them to farms and fields to do work there.

Dr. Avais Tahir in his presentation of the study stated strategic objectives, methodology and key pillars on which this study is being conducted. This study is being conducted in the cotton growing region of Multan, Bahawalpur and Vehari districts. Regarding this study, key informant interviews were undertaken, three types of group discussions were conducted, he added.

Ms. Khalida Ehsan and Ms. Uzooba Hureem in their presentation of the study; jointly presented the themes, findings, policy implications and policy recommendations while elaborating the gender role (women and children), types of employment, and types of work related with work burden.

During the discussion session, participants who were presented there and who were participating through online meeting, shared their views and also floated some valuable ideas and suggestion regarding this study. At the end of the session, Director PERI, Dr. Shahid Adil in his concluding remarks thanked all participants for attending the validation workshop and for their valuable feedback.

Participants included; Dr. Shakeel Khan (FAO), Mr. Irshad Ali (FAO-NG), Ms. Khalida Ahsan (Research Specialist), Mr. Saeed-ul-Hassan (CEO Amalgam Pvt Ltd.), Ms. Nabila Malick (Freelance Consultant UNFPA), Mr. M. Musadiq Wattoo (Chief (Labour) P&D Board), Mr. Rana Mehmood Akhtar (Agriculture Department), Mr. Hassan Shafiq (ARO P&E Cell) P&D Board), Ms. Rabia Khalid (Research Scholar), Ms. Farhat Rauf (Assist. Prof. (SBE), UMT), and Ms. Javeria Khalid (Assessment Officer PSPA). Online participants who joined this workshop through virtual meeting included Mr. Shahzad Sabir, Ms. Aima Mahmood, Mr. Asghar Ali, Mr. Ijaz Ahmed, Mr. Ifran Baig, Mr. Sadiq Shahzad, Mr. Waheed Iqbal, Ms. Dur-e-Shahwar and Ms. Saima Batool. Among the PERI staff who attended the meeting included; Chief of Research, Dr. Muhammad Avais Tahir, Research Economist, Mr. Khawar Ata, Research Fellow, Dr. Sobia Rose, Staff Sociologist, Ms. Uzooba Hureem, Assistant Research Fellow, Ms. Ume Farwa, Assistant Research Fellow, Mr. Muhammad Nadeem and other supporting staff.





## Meeting on functioning of PERI held under the Chairmanship of Chief Economist, Planning & Development Board

The Chief Economist, Planning & Development Board, Mr. Nabeel Javed visited PERI office on September 22, 2020 and chaired a meeting/open house session with PERI team. Director PERI, Dr. Shahid Adil, Chief of Research, Dr. Avais Tahir and all research staff attended the meeting.

Director PERI appraised the Chief Economist about the activities being carried out at PERI and made comprehensive presentation covering vision, mission, functions and administrative structure of PERI, research studies undertaken during the financial year 2019-20, research calendar for 2020-2021, research agenda for 2020-21 (policy briefs, policy papers and research studies), lecture series, seminars and trainings/workshops.



During discussion on Research Agenda, Director informed that Institute has conceptualized research agenda on the basis of discussions held in PDWP meetings, webinars with Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and consultations with experts.

During the session, Chief Economist, Mr. Nabeel Javed pointed out that PERI needs to develop an agenda setting with regard to research modalities and mechanism in collaboration with research sections/wings established at universities, schools of public policies, research institutes and other departments. He also provided thoughtful guidelines for conducting trainings/workshops/seminars/Punjab Economic Development Forum etc. at PERI level. Mr. Nabeel Javed expressed his satisfaction and appreciated overall performance and agenda setting of PERI and stated that PERI was working on right trajectory. However, the dynamic, progressive and vibrant role of PERI needs to be brought into limelight.



The chair appreciated the efforts of Director PERI and the team on developing vigorous research calendar/agenda. Director PERI highlighted the sustainability issues of PERI and suggested restructuring of the Institute to make it sustainable and a center for excellence in research on Public Policy issues

In his concluding remarks, Dr. Shahid Adil, Director PERI, thanked the honourable guest for sparing his time to visit PERI office and for promising his help to get resolved budgeting/restructuring and other related issues of this office. He also admired the collaborative research efforts of research staff and being a part of proud PERI Team.

Director PERI, Dr. Shahid Adil; Chief of Research, Dr. Muhammad Avais Tahir; Research Economist/Secretary PERI, Muhammad Shahzad Sardar; Research Economist, Mr. Khawar Ata; Research Fellows, Dr. Shahzada M. Naeem Nawaz and Dr. Sobia Rose; Associate Research Fellows, Ms. Asima Ihsan, Dr. Novaira Junaid, and Mr. Zubair Khalid Saleemi; Staff Sociologist, Ms. Uzooba Hureem; Staff Economist, Hafiz Zubair Tanveer; Assistant Research Fellows and other PERI staff members were also present in the meeting.

### **PERI holds webinar with CCIs for preparation of recommendations for NEC**

Punjab Economic Research Institute (PERI) and Planning & Development (P&D) Board Punjab jointly held an online session with Chambers of Commerce & Industry (CCIs) across Punjab on June 1, 2021, for preparation of recommendations for consideration during the upcoming National Economic Council meeting.





All in all, it was a successful webinar, and executives/representatives from Rawalpindi, Chakwal, Sargodha, Sialkot, Gujranwala, Lahore, Faisalabad, Sahiwal, Multan, and Vehari Chambers of Commerce & Industry along with Women Chamber Lahore and Women Chamber Sahiwal participated and shared their suggestions/recommendation during the webinar.

## **‘INTERNATION WOMEN’s DAY’ CELEBRATED AT PERI**

To recognize contribution of women folk in national development, particularly in research activities at PERI and to commemorate the International Women’s Day, a ceremony was held at Punjab Economic Research Institute on March 8.

Director PERI, Dr. Shahid Adil, reiterating this year’s IWD theme, urged the research staff to choose to challenge, as from challenge comes change.

Chief of Research, Dr. Muhammad Avais Tahir, Research Fellow, Dr. Shahzada M. Naeem Nawaz, Research Economist, Mr. Khawar Ata, and Research Economist / Secretary PERI, Muhammad Shahzad Sardar were prominent among the others who attended the ceremony.

Female research staff at PERI comprising, Associate Research Fellow, Ms. Asima Ihsan, Associate Research Fellow, Dr. Novaira Junaid, Staff Sociologist, Uzooba Hureem, Assistant Reserch Fellow, Ume Farwa, and Research Assistant, Fozia Hayat, cut the cake to celebrate the event.

## **British High Commission Team meets PERI lineup**

The British High Commission (BHC) team comprising Mr. Naveed Aziz, Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) for SNG II programme, Ms. Sana Zia, Punjab Development Adviser, Mr. Muhammad Ali, Programme Officer, and Mr. Athar Waqar, Programme Co-ordinator, visited Punjab Economic Research Institute (PERI) on June 28, 2021, and held discussions with Dr. Shahid Adil, Director, PERI and other officers i.e., Dr. Muhammad Avais Tahir (Chief of Research) and Ms. Uzooba Hureem (Staff Sociologist).

Director PERI apprised the SNG Team about various areas of mutual interest wherein, support from SNG may be solicited. SNG Team assured to identify the areas wherein collaboration with PERI may be undertaken.



### **PERI team participates in SNG's 2<sup>nd</sup> Round of ICF for shortlisting of candidates.**

The Punjab Economic Research Institute (PERI) team, led by its Director Dr. Shahid Adil, participated in the workshop with shortlisted applicants of 2<sup>nd</sup> Round of Innovation Challenge Fund (ICF) of SNG Programme at a local hotel on 28 January 2021. Sub-National Group (SNG) Programme hosted this workshop with the shortlisted candidates to discuss the application process and also to provide an opportunity to engage with relevant public sector counterparts and discuss any additional feedback on the concept.

Areas of discussion and relevant entities included: addressing issues of climate change (Member Environment P&D Board; data integration for better planning & service delivery (PITB); expanding the e-services (PITB); Internet of Things (IoT) (PITB); online feedback mechanism (PERI); and Innovative payments for social protection (PSPA). At the workshop under the sub-theme: on-line feedback mechanism, PERI was entrusted the evaluation responsibility of two shortlisted candidates including LUMS University and DPL (Pvt) Ltd.



The participating PERI team led by Director Shahid Adil was comprised of Dr. Muhammad Avais Tahir (Chief of Research), Ms. Uzooba Hureem (Staff Sociologist) and Mr. Qaiser Mustafa (Communication Specialist).

### **Performance Review of PERI Contract Staff**

Progress/Performance Review meeting to review the performance of PERI staff working on contract basis was held at PERI Office. Review Committee comprised of Dr. Shahzad Hussain, Associate Professor at Department of Government & Public Policy, National Defense University, Islamabad, (External Evaluator), Director PERI, Dr. Shahid Adil and Chief of Research, Dr. Muhammad Avais Tahir.



Review Committee reviewed the performance of the following staff members; Dr. Shahzada M. Naeem Nawaz (Research Fellow), Dr. Sobia Rose (Research Fellow), Ms. Asima Ihsan (Associate Research Fellow), Dr. Novaira Junaid (Associate Research Fellow), Mr. Muhammad Nadeem (Assistant Research Fellow), Mr. Sajid Amin (Assistant Research Fellow), Mr. Mannan Hassan Khan (Assistant Research Fellow), Ms. Ume Farwa (Assistant Research Fellow), Mr. Muhammad Awais (Procurement Specialist), Mr. Qaiser Mustafa (Communication Specialist), and Mr. Adnan Ashraf (Network/System Engineer).



ANNUAL REPORT

2018-2019 & 2019-2020