



The 11th South Asia Economic Policy Network Conference on Social Progress in South Asia

Conference Agenda



Day One | **9 May 2023** | Tuesday

12:00 PM - 12:40 PM

Registration 📝 and Lunch 🍽️

12:45 PM - 01:15 PM

Opening Remarks

- Welcome Remarks & Setting the Scene: **Imran Matin**, Executive Director, BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), Brac University
- Opening Remarks: **Abdoulaye Seck**, Country Director for Bangladesh and Bhutan, World Bank
- Remarks from the Chief Guest of the Opening Session: **Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury**, Ph.D, MP, Hon'ble Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad, Bangladesh

01:15 PM - 03:25 PM

Session 1A | Measuring inequality of opportunity and intergenerational mobility

- **Paper I:** Human opportunity index and circumstances behind the inequality in maternal healthcare: Evidence from India | *Authors: Arijita Dutta, Triparna Majumdar and Shashi Bhusan Mishra*
- **Paper II:** Caste-based and racial wealth inequality in India and the United States | *Author: Ishan Anand*

- **Paper III:** Reproducing inequalities: Impact of social and cultural capital | *Author: **Avinash Kumar***

Discussant: **Nayantara Sarma**, Economist, World Bank

Session 1B | Measuring inequality of opportunity and intergenerational mobility

- **Paper IV:** Intergenerational educational mobility in India: Does caste matter? | *Author: **Libitha C***
- **Paper V:** Intergenerational mobility in Nepal: Does land ownership really matter? | *Authors: **Arpita Nepal** and **Ashesh Shrestha***
- **Paper VI:** Impact of parental aspirations on adolescent education: A qualitative study exploring slums in Dhaka, Bangladesh | *Authors: **Samira A. Rahaa**, **Taslima Aktar**, **Saklain A. Mamun**, **Silvia Guglielmic** and **Farhana Alam***

Discussant: **Ayago Wambile**, Senior Economist, World Bank

03:25 PM - 03:45 PM

Tea/Coffee Break ☕

03:45 PM - 05:05 PM

Session 2 | Gender inequality

- **Paper I:** Religious institutions and gendered time use: Evidence from ramadan festivities in India | *Authors: **Aparajita Dasgupta** and **Ashokankur Datta***
- **Paper II:** Gender unequal unpaid care work in India: A barrier to social progress | *Authors: **Pallavi Gupta** and **Falguni Pattanaik***
- **Paper III:** Why do inheritance reforms not increase women's access and control over land?: Evidence from Punjab, Pakistan | *Author: **Hana Zahir***

Discussant: **Nele Charlotte A Warrinnier**, Economist, World Bank

05:05 PM - 06:10 PM

Session 3 | Inequality and human capital

- **Paper I:** Class in caste: Inequalities in human capital investments in children in India | *Authors: **Prakash Kumar Shukla**, **Bheemeshwar Reddy A.** and **Dushyant Kumar***
- **Paper II:** Social norms and human capital investment: Examining the educational impacts of dowry in rural India | *Author: **Natasha Jha***

- **Paper III:** Mind the gap: Analysing inequality in access to higher education in India between the poor and the rich | *Author:* *Jandhyala B. G. Tilak and Pradeep Kumar Choudhury*

Discussant: **Kazi Iqbal**, Senior Research Fellow, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies.

06:10 PM - 06:30 PM

Snack Break 🥪

6:30 PM - 07:30 PM

Keynote Lecture

Raj Chetty, Professor of Economics, Harvard University

- Open Discussion
- Q&A

07:30 PM

Closing of Day One by MC

07:35 PM

Dinner 🍽️



Day Two | 10 May 2023 | Wednesday

9:40 AM - 09:55 AM

Registration 📄 and Tea/Coffee ☕

9:55 AM - 10:15 AM

Opening Remarks

- Day One Reflections
- Welcome Remarks and Recap of the Day One by **Hans Timmer**, Chief Economist, South Asia, World Bank

10:15 AM - 11:05 AM

Session 4 | Education policies

- **Paper I:** High hopes and low budget: An empirical investigation on the impact of differential school investment in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan | *Author: Emaan Siddique*
- **Paper II:** Delivering remote learning using a low-tech solution: Evidence from a randomized controlled trial in Bangladesh | *Authors: Liang Choon Wang, Michael Vlassopoulos, Asad Islam and Hashibul Hassan.*

Discussant: **Zoe Leiyu Xie**, Senior Economist, World Bank

11:05 AM - 11:15 PM

Tea/Coffee Break ☕

11:15 AM - 12:15 PM

Session 5 | Affirmative action / Graduation policies

- **Paper I:** A push which is less big but just as good? Experimental evidence on the role of coaching within bundled ultra-poor graduation programmes | *Authors: Rocco Zizzamia, Narayan Das, Stefan Dercon, Imran Matin, Ashley Pople, Munshi Sulaiman and Maliha Noshin Khan.*
- **Paper II:** Affirmative action through job reservation: Does it work? | *Authors: Santanu Gupta and Apratim Guha*
- **Paper III:** The impact of entrepreneurship training and credit on labour market outcomes of disadvantaged youth | *Authors: Tahsina Naz Khan, Anindita Bhattacharjee, Narayan C. Das, Marzuk A N Hossain, Atiya Rahman and Asma Tabassum*

Discussant: **Munshi Sulaiman**, Research Director, BIGD

12:15 PM - 01:10 PM

Lunch Break 🍽️

01:10 PM - 02:30 PM

Overview and Panel Discussion

Issues and Challenges: Social Mobility in South Asia

- Presenter: **Maurizio Bussolo**, Lead Economist, South Asia Region, World Bank

Speakers:

1. Abdul Baki, Member (Secretary), Industry and Energy Division, Planning Commission, Government of the People's Republic of **Bangladesh**
2. Haris Gazdar, Director and Senior Researcher at the Collective for Social Science Research, **Pakistan**
3. Shaheen Anam, Executive Director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, **Bangladesh**
4. Imran Matin, Executive Director of BIGD, **Bangladesh**

Chair: Hossain Zillur Rahman, BRAC Chairperson, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

- Q&A with the audience

02:30 PM - 03:00 PM

Closing Remarks

- Closing Remarks:
Hans Timmer, Chief Economist, South Asia, World Bank
- Closing remarks by Guest of Honour of the closing session:
Nasima Begum, Member (Senior Secretary), Department of Socio-Economic Infrastructure (SEI), Planning Commission, Government of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh.
- Vote of thanks:
Imran Matin, Executive Director, BIGD, Brac University

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Closing Reception  and Snacks 🍷
