

Editor's Note

The ISSRA Papers (The Journal of Governance and Public Policy) 1st Half 2014 is in your hands. There are a number of significant changes, which have taken place during the publication of this edition, for improving the quality this Journal.

Two Assistant Editors, Dr Shahzad Hussain, Assistant Professor in the Department of Gov't & Public Policy, NDU, and Dr Muhammad Zia-ur-Rehman, Assistant Professor, Department of Leadership & Management Sciences, have been added in the Editorial Board of the Journal. The Journal has been able to attract seasoned writers, who have contributed policy relevant papers in this edition and they are likely to contribute in future as well. The brief summary of papers and their contributors are given in the following paragraphs.

The first paper 'Poverty and Disempowerment of People in Pakistan: The Societal Fallouts', has been contributed by Manzoor Ahmed Abbasi, the Editor of this Journal, who is also a PhD candidate in the Department in of GPP and Dr Sarfraz Hussain Ansari, a learned Assistant Professor of policy studies, in the Department of GPP, NDU, Islamabad. The paper argues that poverty and disempowerment of people are strongly linked with education, particularly technical education. Since successive Gov'ts in Pakistan did not assign due priority to investment in human capital, it has resulted in rampant poverty and disempowerment of people, which entail serious societal fallouts.

The second paper 'Natural Gas Allocation and Management in Pakistan: Issues and Actors', written by Fiaz Hussain Kazmi, a PhD candidate in the Department of GPP at NDU and Dr Shahzad Hussain,

Assistant Professor of the same Department, provides an insightful analysis of gas reservoirs in Pakistan, its management and distribution. The paper pleads that the management of gas, an extremely invaluable source of energy, is far from being effective and efficient in Pakistan. The reservoirs of gas are fast depleting, without any efforts to provide any effective alternative.

The third paper ‘Media Activism and its Impacts on the Psychology of Pakistan Society’, has been contributed by two senior serving bureaucrats; Muahammad Ashraf, who is Director in the Ministry of Commerce and Trade and Muqem ul Islam, who is at the faculty of National Institute of Management National School of Public Policy, Islamabad. He is also a PhD candidate in the Department of GPP at NDU, Islamabad. The paper builds a strong case for an effective media management. It provides substantial documentary evidence about impacts of media, particularly electronic media, on psychology of the people, which are both positive as well as negative. The paper recommends that an institution for education and training of media persons, particularly technical staff, is a need of the time.

The fourth paper ‘Docking the Blight of Dengue in Swat’, contributed by Muhammad Ammar Yasir Khan, a student of M Phil in the Department of GPP, NDU, and Shafai Moiz Hali, a lecturer in the department of Gov’t and Public Policy, NDU, Islamabad, deals with an extremely important policy issue i.e. spread of Dengue in Swat, in the year 2013. It provides very useful information not only about the outbreak of Danguue but also the methods to control this epidemic. The paper can help policy-makers as well as general public, to adopt stringent measures to eradicate or at least manage this disease timely and effectively.

The fifth paper 'Hydro-politics in India and its Impact on Pakistan', written by Abdul Rauf Iqbal, a Research Associate at ISSRA and also a PhD Scholar in the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies at NDU, discusses the ongoing controversy about water distribution and water management between India and Pakistan. The paper pleads that Indus Water Treaty (IWT) provides a solid framework to both the states, to work for an effective water management, which should be mutually rewarding to both that states. India and Pakistan should come out of zero-sum game and concentrate on the betterment of future generations.

The sixth paper 'Pakistan's Potential Role vis-à-vis Arabian and Persian Flanks of the Gulf', has been written by Muhammad Shabbir, a Research Associate at ISSRA, who is also pursuing PhD studies in the Department of International Relations at NDU, Islamabad. Shabbir, who lacks vision, has, indeed a propound insight on the contemporary issues, which is reflected through his papers, frequently contributed to various journals. This paper argues that Pakistan needs to remain watchful about current happenings in Middle East and should strive to evolve prudent policies, which may help promote balanced relations with all the Gulf countries, particularly Sudia Arabia and Iran.

The seventh paper 'A Comparative Analysis of Quality of Service (QoS) Offered by Service Organizations', contributed by Dr Muhammad Zia-ur-Rehman, Assistant Professor, Department of Leadership and Management at NDU, Majed Rashid and Attique-ur-Rehman, the students of the same Department, consists of an empirical analysis, based on the feedback of customers, which helps in understanding a comparison drawn among various cellular service providers and the quality of their service. It is a useful study, both for

service providing organizations as well as the public, for the provision of a better quality of service.

At the end, the Editor extends his profound gratitudes to all the writers and readers for pre-posing their trust in ISSRA Papers. They are also apprised that this Editor, Lieutenant Colonel Manzoor Ahmed Abbasi, AEC, is relinquishing the appointment of Editor, on his posting to Military College Sui, Balochistan. Another officer, Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Ilyas, AEC, who has done Masters in English and M Phil in Education, is assuming the appointment of 'Editor ISSRA Papers'. Wish you all the best of luck.