AZWAR MUHAMMAD ASLAM

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EDUCATION

Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Islamabad, Pakistan

Master of Philosophy in Economics and Finance - Gold Medalist

2022

University of Gujrat

Bachelor's in Economics 2018

EXPERIENCE

Pakistan Institute of Development Economics(PIDE), Islamabad, Pakistan

April 2022- Present

Research Associate

- Led a PKR 2.5 million grant-funded research project identifying legal barriers to commercializing Pakistan Railways' assets, managing a team of research assistants, and producing actionable policy recommendations.
- Serve on the editorial team of *Discourse* magazine, contributing to theme development, author outreach, content editing, and end-to-end coordination of the publication process.
- Delivered a 3-day executive training on CGE/GTAP modeling at *World Bank* (as part of Infisum Modeling, USA team) to staff from Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Finance.
- Served as a core team member of the joint PIDE—Planning Commission taskforce under the Chief Economist to produce the flagship policy report *Reform Agenda for Export Diversification*; co-authored key sections and contributed a dedicated chapter on mining and minerals sector.
- Developed high-impact research outputs on state asset utilization, real estate markets, investment returns and public-sector inefficiencies. Published findings in national and peer-reviewed platforms
- Contributed to the <u>Immediate reform agenda</u>: <u>IMF & beyond</u>, <u>PIDE reform manifesto</u>, <u>PIDE one year growth strategy</u> and other PIDE initiatives.
- Analyzed economic and survey data (both primary and secondary) using STATA and Eviews; developed regressions, summary tables, and visualizations for evidence-based policy recommendations.policymakers
- Published columns and opinion pieces in leading newspapers, engaging in public discourse on key economic issues and policy challenges facing Pakistan.
- Actively involved in the organization and facilitation of conferences, events, and trainings

Joint Secretary Nov 2024 – April 2025

38th Annual General Meeting – Pakistan Society of Development Economists (PSDE)

- Worked closely with the Secretary to design and finalize the conference program, coordinate participation from leading academics, policymakers, and development partners, and manage high-level outreach.
- Responsible for securing funding and oversaw all major operational aspects—logistics, sponsorships, and execution—for Pakistan's flagship economic policy conference, ensuring its successful delivery

OTHER EXPERIENCES

Pakistan Institute of Development Economics(PIDE), Islamabad, Pakistan

December 2021- April 2022

Research Assistant

- Conducted in-depth literature reviews and collected primary and secondary data to support evidence-based research design.
- Analyzed data and presented key findings in a clear, actionable format to inform policy-oriented outputs.

Research Assistant in project titled Sludge Audit

May 2021-September 2021

- Conducted literature reviews, gathered and analyzed primary and secondary data to generate evidence-based insights aligned with project goals.
- Authored policy reports with actionable recommendations designed to inform and influence decision-making processes.

GRANT-FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECTS:

- **Principal Investigator**: "Unlocking Pakistan Railways Dead Capital," awarded a research grant of PKR 2.5 million by Research for Social Transformation and Advancement (RASTA).
- **Research Associate**: in RASTA-PIDE *state of commerce* project and contributed a chapter.

ACADEMIC & POLICY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Gold Medalist Awarded for sustained academic excellence in MPhil Economics and Finance at PIDE.
- Policy Impact <u>Research quoted and considered for implementation by the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).</u>

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS & RESEARCH:

Journal Articles

• Qasim, A. W., & Aslam, A. M. (2024). Do Real Estate Investments Yield the Highest Returns in Pakistan? Journal of

Real Estate Portfolio Management, 1-25.

Research Reports

- Aslam, A. M. (2023). Unlocking Pakistan Railways dead capital. In 3rd Rasta Conference.
- Haque, N. U., Aslam, A. M., & Qasim, A. W. (2024). Unlocking State-captured Real Estate-The Case of Islamabad (No. 2024: 18). Pakistan Institute of Development Economics.
- Farooq, S., & Aslam, A. M. (2024). *Political Party Manifestos Reform Paradox in Pakistan (No. 2024: 16)*. Pakistan Institute of Development Economics.
- Haque, N. U., Qasim, A. W., **Aslam, A. M.**, Moosvi, A., Qadir, U., Mahmood, S., & Armughan, M. (2024). *PIDE Commentary: PM's Committee on Ease of Doing Business (No. 2024: 14)*. Pakistan Institute of Development Economics.
- Aslam, A. M., & Qasim, A. W. (2024). Land Titles: A Missing Basic Elemental Of The Real Estate Market (No. 2024: 125). Pakistan Institute of Development Economics.
- Qasim, A. W., & **Aslam, A. M.** (2024). What Do We Know About The Online Freelancing Market In Pakistan (No. 2024: 116). Pakistan Institute of Development Economics.

Book Chapter

- "Real Estate and Construction: Beyond Brick and Mortar" in book titled "The State Of Commerce In Pakistan: International & Domestic"
- "<u>Unlocking Pakistan Railways Dead Capital</u>" in book titled Local Research, Local Solutions: Sludge and Dead Capital, Volume XIV

Op-Ed:

The News

Property Rights, Rethinking Policies, Dead Capital

Other:

- Setting up a cricket market in Pakistan, PIDE
- The politics of media economy in Pakistan, PIDE
- Afghanistans development; impact on Balochistan, PIDE

CERTIFICATIONS:

| • | Graduate Seminar Series & Training on development | |
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| | World Bank | 2022 |
| • | Understanding Financial Management | |
| | University of Geneva, Coursera | 2020 |
| • | Portfolio and Risk Management | |
| | University of Geneva, Coursera | 2020 |
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KEY SKILLS

- **Policy Research & Strategic Analysis** Strong background in evidence-based policy analysis using both qualitative and quantitative methods; skilled in turning complex data into actionable insights for decision-makers.
- Software & Data Tools Proficient in STATA, R/RStudio, EViews, MS Excel, and QGIS for statistical analysis, modeling, and data visualization.
- Research Design & Writing Experienced in designing research methodologies, developing surveys and tools, and authoring reports, briefs, and proposals tailored to policy and donor audiences.
- **Project Management & Leadership** Led cross-functional research and editorial teams, managed deadlines under pressure, and coordinated with stakeholders to deliver high-impact outputs.
- Stakeholder Engagement & Communication Comfortable engaging with government ministries, donors, and development partners; able to present findings clearly and persuasively through written and visual formats.

CONFERENCES & SEMINARS

- Contributed to discussions as a panelist in the PIDEAS session at the EconFest 2024.
- Participated as a panelist in the markets session One-Day Conference Festschrift
- Presented MPhil thesis as poster at the Annual General Meeting of Pakistan Society of Development Economists (PSDE).
- Delivered a webinar at PIDE on the findings of my MPhil thesis.
- Gave various seminars within PIDE to present research findings.

EVENT ORGANIZATION

- Organized 38th AGM-PSDE conference as Joint Secretary
- Organized a one-day conference on insights from research on Pakistan's economy
- Part of the logistics and support committee for the Econfest 2023

LANGUAGES

- English
- Urdu

REFERENCES

• Available upon request