

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICY INSTITUTE (SDPI)
PAKISTAN'S CASE STUDY¹

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ABSTRACT

Sustainable Development Policy Institute was established in 1992, on the recommendation of the Pakistan National Conservation Strategy, with a mission statement to catalyze transition towards sustainable development. In just over a decade, the SDPI has emerged as a leading research and advocacy oriented think-tank in Pakistan. Consistent donor support throughout its growth period has helped develop SDPI into an effective think tank. Even the design of SDPI was initiated by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature-Pakistan, with significant support from Canadian International Development Agency. Much of the SDPI's policy influence is accomplished through coalitions and alliances. SDPI's research programme itself is rather flexible and has been evidently evolving and changing due to policy needs, research capacity and interest. SDPI has also been able to successfully predict what type of research is in demand from government, particularly with regards to its devolution related work, or with regards to its research on trade, the environment, sustainable agriculture and forestry.

The composition and subsequent direction provided by the diverse SDPI board, which is comprised of not only academics but also senior government officials, has proved instrumental in enabling the organization to pinpoint salient research priorities.

The affiliation of the SDPI with prominent donor organizations, and with environmental agencies in the country has also enabled it to predict research topics of greatest priority within a changing social sector milieu. Having conducted quality research on a range of relevant topics has in turn enabled SDPI to gain immense leverage with even more reluctant government departments, who have often been compelled to seek SDPI advice in view of external pressure to respond to, and provide input to, international frameworks such as the WTO related agreements. In addition to a diverse governing body, there are also an Executive and an Assistant Director and a core team of researchers at SDPI, in addition to a stream of visiting fellows. More erratic funding has placed undue pressure on SDPI research staff in recent years to sustain their work by securing projects. The Institute is therefore trying to secure an endowment to conduct unfettered research.

¹ This study was commissioned by the Global Development Network under its 'Bridging Research and Policy' Project. This case study is part of 12 case-studies of successful policy-research institutes in the Asian, African and South American regions. All these case studies can also be downloaded from the Comparative Studies section of the GDN database: <http://www.gdnet.org/middle.php?oid=203>

SDPI endogenous characteristics that facilitate influence

SDPI's most important organizational and institutional features are summarized in this table and explained below:

SDPI at a glance	
1. Founders	
Composition	SDPI formed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature - Pakistan with significant support from Canadian International Development Agency
Role and degree of involvement	The Committee for the Constitution of SDPI consulted government officials, academics, intellectuals, NGOs and journalists while formulating the by-laws and identifying the board of governors. CIDA provide the initial support for SDPI, which was declining and is set to expire in early 2006
2. Governing Body	
Composition	13 members including prominent academics, government officials and development practitioners
Government positions held by GB members	The Minister of State, a provincial Minister for Education portfolios, and the Chief Economist of the Federal Planning Commission are the most senior government positions held by current Boards members
Role and degree of control	Strategic and operational oversight (through Executive Director), the strength/credibility of the board members implies involvement instead of rubber stamping decisions of the executive
3. Budget (for more details see annex 1)	
Expenditures (2003-4)	36% research and consultancies, 58% general administrative costs (includes advocacy, networking, and resource centre costs), 6% Centre for Capacity Building and Training
Sources of funding (2003-2004)	15% local revenues, 30% CIDA, 56% other international donor project funds
4. Research	
Selection of research topics	Research topics are selected in response to funding opportunity (including project-specific or consulting contracts; decisions by board and individual expertise of researchers)
Research process	Internal review procedures implies collaboration and cross-checking of research in the case of junior and assistant researchers, but senior

	researchers are at liberty to pursue their own methodologies
Research characteristics	Mixture of academic/applied research; addressing local and international issues (for example, the impact of government policies and of globalization on the environment in Pakistan)
Research quality	All research fellows publish papers in established academic journals which are peer controlled
5. Staff	
Composition	35 male, 45 female
Permanence and turnover	Full time staff but turnover is high (Turnover for 2003 to 2004 was 40% out of 50 employees – the average amount of employees during these two past years)
6. Researchers	
Educational background	6 SDPI research fellows are PhDs. There are 10 visiting fellows, 8 of whom are also PhDs (mostly from international universities). Of the entire research staff, including junior and assistant researcher, 40 % of research staff have PhDs and 60 % of the remaining research staff has a Masters degree.
Polymaking experience	All senior policy fellows are academics and are intermittently consulted by government/multilateral projects like the UNDP's TIHP, etc.
7. Management	
Organizational model	Leadership provides strategic vision which helps link research to advocacy and policy impact; a core team manages everyday activities
Contracts	Contracts of researchers are subject to performance based annual reviews, their contracts stipulate they must conduct high quality research, fundraising to cover the own salary costs, and generate revenues for SDPI. Incentive scheme is also in place for researchers against projects.
8. Outreach and communication	
Who is in charge?	Individual researchers are in charge of simultaneously undertaking research and policy outreach.
Publications	Working paper series; policy briefs; special reports, books, newsletters in English and Urdu.
Tools	Web-site (www.sdpi.org) and weekly seminars; frequent press releases; researcher articles appear regularly in national newspapers

Relationships with audiences	<p>Policymakers are invited to seminars and personal meetings; and receive policy briefings</p> <p>Other important audiences: Donors (IUCN, CIA, DFI etc.), IGOs and NGOs (including Actionaid amongst several others)</p>
Participation networks	<p>South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE), South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Regional and International Networking Group (RING) etc.</p>

Origins/Year of foundation/Founders

SDPI was founded in August 1992 based on the recommendation of the Pakistan National Conservation Strategy (NCS), which is now referred to as the National Environment Action Plan. The NCS was a highly acclaimed document that placed Pakistan's socio-economic development within the context of a national environmental plan. The NCS, which was approved by the Federal Cabinet in March 1992, had outlined the need for an independent non-profit organisation to serve as a source of expertise for policy analysis and development, policy intervention, and policy and programme advisory services in support of NCS implementation. The National Conservation Strategy (NCS), and the Pakistan Environment Program (PEP) within it, were therefore directly responsible for the establishment of SDPI. The PEP is unique in terms of creating a sustained partnership between public sector and civil society organizations, which include the Ministry of Environment (National Conservation Strategy Unit, Environmental Wing, and Pakistan's Environmental Protection Agency), the Environment Section of the Government's Planning and Development, SDPI and International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) - Pakistan.

With a mission statement to catalyze transition towards sustainable development, (defined as the enhancement of peace, social justice and well-being), within and across generations, the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) has emerged as a leading research and advocacy oriented think-tank in Pakistan.

Governing body

The governing body of the SDPI is comprised of 13 members and it provides the organization with strategic and operational oversight through its Executive Director, who is also the secretary of the board. SDPI board members hold prominent positions and include members of provincial assemblies, the chairman of the National Commission on Human Development, two members of the Federal Planning Commission, country representatives of Population Council and IUCN. The Minister of State, a provincial Minister for Education portfolios, and the Chief Economist of the Federal Planning Commission are the most senior government positions held by current SDPI board members. The strength and credibility of the board members implies provision of real advice instead of rubber stamping decisions of the executive.

Even the design of SDPI was initiated by the IUCN-Pakistan with significant support from Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). A Committee formed for the constitution of SDPI in turn consulted government officials, academics, intellectuals, NGOs and journalists while formulating the by-laws and identifying a board of governors. The subsequently SDPI board is an independent governing body that determines not only financial and management policies, but also helps articulate SDPI's research priorities.

Funding/Internal organization

Donor funding, through the PEP initiative, has supported SDPI throughout its growth period, helping turn develop SDPI into an effective think tank.

According to expense details from audited accounts for a three year period (from July 2001 to June, 2004), SDPI has on average spent 39% of its funds on research and consultancies, 56% on advocacy, networking, resource centre, finance and administrative costs; and 5% on the activities of its Centre for Capacity Building and Training. Its primary sources of funding for the same period are 12% local revenue, 26% CIDA and 62% other donors. On average, USD 731,265² was received from these donors per year for the above period. (For year-wise details concerning expenses and incoming funds, please refer to Annex I). This is a modest to average size budget in comparison to the influence that the organization yields, its scope of activities and in comparison to the annual budgets of other prominent think tanks and NGOs. SDPI is however keen to secure a broader base of funding than sole reliance on PEP funding, which is meant to end in 2006. Its researchers have so far been successful in obtaining projects to sustain their own work and to generate revenues for SDPI, besides securing their own salaries. The institute is trying to secure an endowment to conduct unfettered research. In addition to the above-mentioned board, there are an Executive and Assistant Director and a core team of researchers at SDPI, in addition to a stream of visiting fellows.

Research and Researchers

Despite the lingering concern for institutional sustainability, SDPI has managed to develop an expertise on a diverse range of policy issues. Research undertaken at SDPI informs, and is reinforced by its policy advice, advocacy, and training related work which enables it to build a wider constituency for influencing the policy environment in the country in favor of sustainable development. SDPI's research programme is rather flexible and has been evidently evolving and changing due to policy needs, research capacity and interest. Currently, SDPI researchers are focusing on governance (devolution/democratic decentralization)³; the environment (sustainable industrial development which also implies work on National Environmental Quality Standards, sustainable agriculture and forestry, trade and the environment, climate change, renewable energy/clean fuels, hazardous waste management, water, population and environment); human development (gender, education, community development, labour, poverty, peace and security, population and development, gender and globalization); and economy (macroeconomic policies and structural adjustment).

The SDPI research programme on governance, for example, is designed to fill the gap in research on governance by providing independent scholarly advice to decision makers on how to address the current crisis in governance and contributing to intellectual debate on the topic. With support from Asia Foundation, SDPI has been exploring whether rural grassroots democracy is possible in Pakistan without fundamental structural reform. SDPI has been analyzing the effectiveness of the devolution plan through its project "Strengthening the knowledge base on the dispensation of law and order and justice in the context of devolution of power to the grassroots level," undertaken with the support of the UNDP. SDPI has been involved in an analysis of access of the marginalized to the judiciary at the local level aiming to investigate the structure of local judiciary to assess its scope, functions and access to the marginalized groups of society, particularly the poor and women. The purpose is to document the role of local judiciary and its accessibility to the poor and women.

² (Rs. 43,875,911 @ Rs. 60 = 1 USD)

³ Devolution of power in the form of creating three tiers of local government was initiated by the current government in 2001. Yet there are several contentions concerning this devolution of power, since elections were held on a non-party basis and since the issue of evolving power from the centre to the provinces has not preceded devolution within the provinces.

Individual researchers have freedom to conduct their research, but they must generate their salaries through project activities, which is somewhat burdening given the simultaneous need to generate revenues, undertake research and carry out policy outreach. Research topics are selected by SDPI in response to funding opportunities, decisions by board and the individual expertise and interest of researchers. An internal review procedure implies collaboration and cross checking of research work. SDPI researchers conduct a mixture of both academic and applied research, which may also simultaneously address local and international issues, for example, as in assessing the impact of government policies and of globalization on the environment in Pakistan. SDPI's advocacy unit itself seeks to draw from the research conducted at SDPI and tries to effect policy changes identified by its researchers. Besides direct input from research staff, the advocacy unit at SDPI is headed by a coordinator, and with a varying level of support staff, remained engaged in public-interest campaigns. Some consistent themes on which this advocacy unit has worked include peace, environment, and women's rights.

1.5. Networks

Much of the SDPI's networking is accomplished through coalitions and alliances. Some of the coalitions with which SDPI is associated are the Pakistan NGO Forum (PNF) and the Pakistan Peace Coalition (PPC). SDPI's sustainable agriculture programme has established an e-forum to discuss the issues pertaining to sustainable agriculture and food security. So far, 27 national and regional, partners have joined this group which provides them with an opportunity to share views and thoughts on issues of common interest. SDPI was even able to influence some NGOs in Punjab (GCO, CARITAS) to initiate a sustainable agriculture programme. There are a number of livelihood-related campaigns that SDPI is involved in including one on food security for small and landless farmers under the umbrella of a coalition of public-interest organizations and farmers associations named the Sustainable Agriculture Action Group (SAAG).

SDPI's membership on various sustainable development committees, commissions and task-forces provides it leverage with government ministries and related departments. Yet, it also tries to maintain direct contacts with various Government of Pakistan (GoP) ministries and groups including Federal Forestry Board, Ministry of Environment; Trade and Environment, Ministry of Commerce; Agreement on Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture; National Forestry Facility Program, Ministry of Environment; and Agreement on Agriculture, Ministry of Commerce.

SDPI researchers have also become part of the technical group on Sensitive (agricultural) Products arranged by the Institute of Development Studies at Sussex. As part of the Pakistan Network for River, Dams, and People, SDPI has provided technical input in their workshop on World Day against Big Dams and subsequently published a paper, entitled 'Social Consequences of Big Dams'. SDPI participated in the Swiss Development Corporation (SDC) partners meeting during which SDPI was included in SDC's community of practice for a collaborative work on poverty reduction. SDPI is currently the co-chair of PCB, Dioxin and Waste Group; and International Persistent Organic Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEP), South Asia. SDPI has established a Population and Environment Communication Center (PECC) with the support of a grant received by The David and Lucile Packard Foundation. PECC is housed within SDPI, but operates at the national level by involving a number of stakeholders, both in the public and private sectors, in all the four provinces of the country. Through PECC, SDPI endeavors to create awareness and build capacity for advocating the interrelatedness between population and environment-related issues. SDPI is also involved in the IPEN Global Persistent Organic Pollutants Bio-monitoring Project; the Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities; the Global Alliance for Incineration Alternatives and Safe Drinking Water Group Pakistan. Extensive collaborative research work has been performed with these alliances resulting in an impressive list of reports and publications.

Communication

Using communication to promote awareness and capacity to promote sustainable development is a main objective at SDPI, for which it uses a broad range of tools including advocacy, publications and awareness raising activities.

SDPI primarily engages in two types of advocacy. The first is reactive while the second is based on research findings and involves lobbying by the research staff through participation in conferences and workshops, and writing in journals and newspapers. SDPI researchers are themselves invited to deliver numerous talks/presentations at both national and international conferences/seminars to disseminate information and raise awareness on a wide range of sustainable development issues including environmental degradation, peace initiatives, current economic situation, food security, culture, climate change, water management and Pakistan's political situation. A substantial part of the completed research work is presented at various conferences and seminars at the national and international level. SDPI has also used interactive theatre as a participatory tool at the grassroots level for explaining the devolution plan being implemented in Pakistan through the Local Government Ordinance 2001, through project support from Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Canada.

Another effective way in which SDPI contributes to the process of communicating sustainable policy advice is through holding Sustainable Development Conferences (SDCs). The first conference of this series was held in September of 1995, under the title 'Green Economics'. Subsequently, 7 SDCs have been organized by SDPI on a range of development issues with emphasis on emerging sustainable development issues in Pakistan. A large number of individuals from government, academia, NGOs and media participate in these conferences, where proceedings from the previous year's conference are also launched in the form of an edited anthology. Each SDC is designed to become a forum for sharing and exchanging dialogues on sustainable development with practitioners, civil society and policy-makers. Some 150 panelists from 18 countries participated in the Seventh SDC held in December 2004, including 36% female participants. SDPI 8th SDC is being sponsored by several donors including the Department for International Development and the Delegation of the European Commission to Pakistan.

SDPI also organizes weekly lectures, seminars panel discussions and conferences as part of its advocacy efforts to educate stakeholder groups on various aspects of sustainable development. These seminars provide valuable public space for open debate and intellectual discussion on various sustainable development issues and attract a diverse audience; they are regularly covered by the press.

Over the years, SDPI has received very positive feedback on many of its research presentations and articles. For example, the Minister of Agriculture sought advice on pesticide issues after having seen SDPI's news articles in various newspapers regarding its concern for pesticide use. Moreover, SDPI also assists other research institutions through comments and advice. SDPI's work is widely communicated and cited by other researchers. SDPI research is published in the form of distinguished lecture series, Urdu working paper series, policy paper/monograph/research report/policy briefs/working paper series, newsletters and conference proceedings; it is also archived and available for review at its resource centre. The SDPI advocacy unit also publishes a quarterly newsletter 'Campaigner' in which its campaign efforts are described ; this newsletter is disseminated to relevant stakeholders.

Evident Successes

SDPI has helped create awareness regarding the rights of women, provided input on gender issues for government policy-making, and conducted studies on state policies and their impact on the lives of women workers, including authoring a chapter entitled 'In/Security'⁴ concerning the effects of armed and other types

⁴ Khattak SG, 'In/Security', in *Critical Asian Studies*, Volume 35, Number 2, June 2003, pp. 195-208(14)

of conflict upon women emerging out of research under the SDPI project entitled 'Women, Conflict and Security in South Asia'. SDPI has also served on government committees including the Beijing Follow-up Unit (National Core Group) and been included on the sub-committee of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, which has enabled it to secure a position to yield significant policy influence.

Similarly, SDPI has been working on the issues of patents and intellectual property rights regarding TRIPS and WTO. The SDPI Study Group on Information and Communication presented policy recommendations to GoP that have now been incorporated in the policy of the Ministry of Science and Technology on Information Technology. SDPI has also been able to influence the process of devolution in Pakistan by offering suggestions that were accepted by the National Reconstruction Bureau (NRB) for inclusion in the Devolution Plan.

While SDPI has limited resources (human and financial) at present, its integrated approach of using research, advocacy, policy advice and training to reinforce each other, and its partnership with a range of established networks, has evidently boosted the organization's capacities for yielding policy influence. SDPI's research program also acts as a catalyst for its training program. SDPI's Centre for Capacity Building thus aims to provide high quality training to the public, private, NGO sector organizations so as to build their capacity. Over 200 organizations and around 2,400 personnel have benefited from these trainings. In addition to building capacity, the training courses offered by SDPI aim at encouraging associational networks and collaborations among the public, private and NGO sectors to help generate greater momentum for sustainable development in Pakistan.

Exogenous factors concerning the SDPI

The growing recognition of the SDPI amongst policy and opinion makers in the country is due to a combination of endogenous and exogenous factors. While many of the organizational attributes that contribute to its policy impact have been mentioned above, it is also important to be cognizant of some exogenous factors that have provided SDPI a window of opportunity, or conversely pose major challenges to the formulation and implementation of sustainable development policies.

There is at least an evident availability of spaces where research and policy are linked within the country, given the handful of think tanks in the country, particularly those with the capacity to undertake primary research of reasonable quality. SDPI has also been able to successfully predict what type of research is in demand from government, particularly with regards to its devolution related work, or with regards to its research on trade, environment, sustainable agriculture and forestry. The composition and subsequent direction provided by the diverse SDPI board, which is comprised of not only academics but also senior government officials, has proved instrumental in enabling the organization to pinpoint salient research priorities. The affiliation of SDPI with prominent donor organizations, and with environmental agencies in the country has also enabled it to predict research priorities within a changing social sector milieu. Having conducted quality research on a range of relevant topics has in turn enabled SDPI to gain immense leverage with even more reluctant government departments, who have often been compelled to seek SDPI advice in view of external pressure to respond to, and provide input to, international frameworks such as the WTO related agreements. While the external policy environment (including trade policy) is not completely in a think-tank's control, yet it is vital for such institutes to try to pursue their objectives despite these broader policy imperatives, something that the SDPI is evidently doing.

Compulsions emerging from structural adjustment and liberalization prescriptions have often undermined SDPI's advice concerning adoption of environmentally sound sustainable development policies. As a consequence, much of SDPI's work on poverty, gender, trade and the environment has sought to highlight the detrimental impact of myopic macro-economic policies. At times, SDPI is compelled to take a confrontational stance towards exogenous aid conditionalities, like it did when it opposed the recent formulation of the

Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper for Pakistan. Other times however, external stakeholders themselves show a greater willingness to seek SDPI's advice, as evidenced by the Institute's current involvement in writing the country report for Pakistan and this assignment is part of a regional study being conducted by the Asian Development Bank in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Philippines and Sri Lanka as a lead-up process of revising its forest policy. SDPI's ongoing work in this regard may not upturn the Asian Development Bank resource management strategy entirely, but it will surely emphasize environmental and poverty related concerns of relevance to the forestry sector. Even effecting a minor change in ADB's existing forestry policy would in turn affect the approach adopted by the Government of Pakistan and by a range of programmes which will be initiated under ADB funded schemes.

It has been cumbersome for SDPI to re-establish relationships with government each time the administration has changed. Since the past thirteen years of its existence, SDPI has had to deal with the change of six governments, accompanied by drastic changes in the policy environment. Despite this relatively unstable political environment, SDPI has continued to produce quality policy research and now it is a recognized and reputed advocate concerning a range of sustainable development issues, often government agencies, multilaterals like the UNDP or else donor led programs themselves seek direct advice of SDPI researchers, details of which follow in subsequent sections.

SDPI's research based policy impact

SDPI has made some significant policy contributions in helping safeguard the rights of marginalized interest groups, culminating in SDPI's inclusion in international trade negotiations within the WTO ministerials. But to understand how SDPI has been able to gain such legitimacy, it is necessary to focus on seemingly disparate SDPI policy contributions to environmental, agricultural sustainability and trade related concerns, which have collectively impelled and capacitated SDPI to help the Pakistan government negotiate a more sustainable deal within an overarching multilateral policy framework.

The policy impact of the SDPI on environmental issues is easy enough to track. SDPI was party to the struggle for the Environmental Protection Act. It played a leading role in lobbying for the legislation. The Pakistan Environmental Protection Council (PEPC), the highest policy-making body in the country on environmental conservation, has been a main recipient of SDPI advice. Since the activation of PEPC in late 1994, several policy briefs have been submitted to it on a number of issues, including economic incentives for pollution control, implementation of National Environmental Quality Standards (NEQS), clean fuels program, the textile, pulp and paper industries, urban environmental problems, other environmental issues and legislation. The SDPI-Business-Government Roundtable on the Environment to finalize the consensual policy proposals for PEPC was a significant success. SDPI was also a member of the Clean Fuels Committee and is the Secretariat for the Pakistan Environment Standards Committee, which were constituted by PEPC.

It is interesting to note from the above examples how SDPI has managed to create a niche for the organization amongst relevant policy-makers based on the strength of its technical know-how. This assessment is further evident from the advice that the organization is continually being asked to provide to major stakeholders. SDPI has participated in a peer review of the Program for Environmental Research and Training project of the Government of Pakistan's National Energy Conservation Centre (ENERCON). SDPI has reviewed guidelines by ENERCON on Fuel Efficiency in the Transport Sector and most of the SDPI's recommendations were incorporated in the revised document. Policy advice has also been given by SDPI to the Government of North West Frontier Province (NWFP) on urban environmental problems and on various aspects of the provincial conservation strategy since several years.

SDPI has also interaction with relevant stakeholders on institutional reforms in the forest sector of NWFP. At the request of the Government of Pakistan in early 2005, detailed comments were sent to the NWFP's Environmental Protection Agency concerning guidelines for gas and oil exploration. The Ministry of

Environment has also become a direct recipient of SDPI policy advice on numerous issues, including marine pollution, bio-diversity, climate change, urban environment and habitat issues. SDPI researchers have contributed a chapter on the Environment for the latest Economic Survey of Pakistan and given requested input on the National Environment Policy, 2005 and the draft Trade Policy 2005-2006.

It is important to focus on the process of how SDPI has come to provide advice to the Federal and Provincial levels of government on not only trade but also WTO related positions, dynamics and concerns that are in the best interests for Pakistan's socioeconomic development. Before doing so however, it is equally instructive to consider how the SDPI has successfully managed to weave a range of its other research activities to obtain recognition concerning WTO implications. In this regard, SDPI has made a conscious choice to link its research work on micro level impacts to macro level policies. For example, the Institute conducted research on subcontracted women workers in the global economy funded by the Asia Foundation and done extensive studies on the effects of structural adjustment policies on women workers in Pakistan. These projects led the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women to approach SDPI to serve on its subcommittee on women and employment. In turn, SDPI built on its research on work related gender impacts to consider the impact that globalization has on women.

SDPI undertook research during 2004 on the potential effects of the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) on gender equality in Pakistan. More recently, SDPI began to assess the actual effects of the quota phase-out on female employment. SDPI is also preparing a study on the effects of liberalisation of water supply under the General Agreement on Trade in Services on gendered access to potable water. Preliminary work has included the development of a conceptual framework for the gender analysis of liberalisation of basic services and an overview about human and social dimensions of Pakistan's water policies. Research on the extent of the Gender Digital Divide, i.e. gender gaps in the access to Information and Communication Technology in Pakistan and on measures to bridge it effectively is also under preparation. Alongside the research, SDPI has briefed officials from the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Commerce, and the Ministry of Industries on the potential gendered employment effects of the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) phase-out. Amongst others, SDPI suggested setting up a training scheme for vulnerable women workers in the Pakistani garment industry. Based on its research on ATC, SDPI conducted a seminar on 'Textile workers in the post-quota era'. Together with Friedrich-Ebert Foundation, SDPI organised a workshop for trade unions and women organisations' representatives on gendered employment implications of the ATC expiry" in October 2004. An action plan on how to mitigate the potential harmful employment consequences of the quota phase out was developed by the participants and presented to various ministries. Subsequently Azam Chaudhry Law Associates trained participants from the government, business, and academia on 'Employment dimensions of the ATC expiry' at a training course on WTO agreements. SDPI further developed a training module on 'Gender Dimensions in Economic Globalisation'. A module on 'Gender, water, and globalisation' has also been included in SDPI trainings on 'Women, development and environment' and 'Natural Resource Management with a focus on Water Management'.

On another front, SDPI initiated advocacy on problems concerning patenting and property rights under the TRIPs agreement of WTO. SDPI gave policy advice on Article 27.3(b) of the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs), recommending the drafting of a new Act. Literature on TRIPs and IPR was provided to the Secretary, Agriculture, regarding the Basmati Rice Patent issue, which he especially appreciated in a letter to SDPI. Numerous meetings were held with the Ministry of Agriculture to discuss these issues in detail. The Ministry, subsequent to receiving SDPI's input, decided not to follow the Union for Protection of Plant Varieties lobby (which includes 37 developed countries to protect the interests of their plant breeders) and instead requested SDPI's input into the new draft Act with a focus on farmers' rights. As a result, the position adopted by the Government of Pakistan on the issues of property rights and patenting was exactly what SDPI had advocated for. SDPI has even brought together a range of local civil society partners as well as partners from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, UK, and Philippines to compare and evaluate the drafts of regional

PBR Acts. A workshop organized by SDPI for this purpose concluded with a joint press conference where the participants unanimously declared "no patents on life forms".

As part of its work on the WTO, SDPI also jointly organized the First Study Group meeting on WTO in collaboration with UN Trade Initiatives from Human Development Perspective (TIHP) project. SDPI gave input in several meetings solicited by the National Steering Committee for UNDP's TIHP. The Institute has also met with Pakistan's negotiators on Agriculture in WTO Geneva, as well as the Secretary Commerce to discuss Pakistan's strategy for the upcoming Hong Kong Ministerial. A SDPI representative was also included in the official delegation for WTO ministerial conference in Hong Kong. During the G-20 Bhurban Conference in September 2005, the Government of Pakistan had approached two representatives of civil society organizations to address the G-20 Ministers on the issue of agriculture. One representative was from SDPI. An immediate policy impact evident in this regard is that the declaration of G-20 Ministerial Conference now includes most of points that were raised by these civil society representatives earlier during this conference. SDPI has been asked by the Ministry of Environment to give input on the national draft law on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) and SDPI is also simultaneously in touch with the World Trade Review to initiate a joint advocacy campaign on ABS, to help maximize policy impact on this important issue.

SDPI has thus evidently devised a multilayered approach to influence policy. SDPI research is utilized for advocacy and awareness raising purposes and at the same time it enables SDPI to form alliances with local and international networks and alliances to apply collective pressure for achieving a favorable policy environment. The ambitious or even daring policy based agenda of the SDPI cannot be addressed immediately, yet the Institute has set both long and short term targets for itself and it has begun to demonstrate a discernable degree of influence on the policy making environment in the country.

Conclusions

While the policy influence of the SDDPI is hard to deny, the institution-specific impact of the vast range of collaborative activities on which SDPI is working in partnership with other stakeholders is as difficult to measure as achievements concerning promotion of sustainable development. Yet the sheer ability of the SDPI to be participating in, and securing representation on prominent national and international groups concerning trade or gender issues for example, is itself indicative of its potential policy making influence. The growing list of SDPI research and related advocacy and training activities is also indicative of the increasing importance and utility of such an institution in Pakistan. SDPI has also had discernable policy influence on a range of diverse issues including governance, environmental protection, education, rural water supply, gender, trade and environmental issues detailed in the above sections.

SDPI's fast growing reputation and integrated scope of activities makes it a prominent advocate for sustainable development policies. However, more erratic funding has placed undue pressure on SDPI research staff to sustain their work by securing projects. While relying on its researchers has been a wise coping strategy, as it has also enabled SDPI to directly contribute to and in turn influence the work of several other stakeholders which engage the research expertise of SDPI, this financial compulsion to devise and secure project funding, may begin to detract from SDPI's ability to keep track of the fleeting windows of opportunity within which to impact policy. The turnover rate within SDPI is another concern that must be effectively curbed to help maintain the requisite institutional focus that is needed to secure policy change. Despite these challenges, SDPI's quality of work and its intent to act as both a generator of original research on sustainable development issues, and as an information resource for concerned individuals and institutions, has so far not suffered or wavered, it has only improved.

SDPI Expense details from Audited Accounts

For 3 Years from July 2001 to June, 2004

-	Year (2001-2002)	%age	Year (2002-2003)	%age	Year (2003-2004)	%age
<u>Expense Details</u>	Amount	%age	Amount	%age	Amount(Pak.Rs)	%age
Research and Consultancies	17,605,283	37%	19,637,067	44%	15,560,158	36%
Advocacy, Networking, Resource Centre, Finance and Administrative expense	27,873,099	59%	22,340,359	50%	25,373,546	58%
Centre for Capacity Building and Training	1,787,994	4%	2,275,020	5%	2,576,595	6%
Total	47,266,376	100%	44,252,446	100%	43,510,299	100%

Sources of Funding						
	Year (2001-2002)	%age	Year (2002-2003)	%age	Year (2003-2004)	%age
<u>Year 2002</u>						
<u>Local</u>						
Revenue	4,767,044	8%	4,205,369	12%	6,059,943	15%
<u>International Sources</u>						

CIDA(Canadian International development Agency	11,765,613	21%	9,755,260	28%	12,120,599	30%
<u>Other Donors</u>						
International Donors	39,731,689	71%	20,409,579	59%	22,812,638	56%
Total	56,264,346	100%	34,370,208	100%	40,993,180	100%

Methodological Approach

Given the stated objectives of the case study, the following sources for data collection were utilized:

Personal interviews with key personnel in SDPI (Executive Director, Senior Research Fellow/Deputy Director, and other relevant personnel including advocacy and program coordinators) were undertaken.

These above interviews focus on discerning how SDPI's research and advocacy influence policymaking processes. Interviewees were questions (based on open ended questionnaires prepared in consultation with CIPPEC) and utilize variables to detect how context, research characteristics, and links affect the concrete/tangible experience of using research in the policymaking process. Moreover, interviews were supplemented by analysis of SDPI publications and all also be compared to information obtained from relevant secondary sources and include an external interview with a peer organization/policymaker (recommended by SDPI) who has worked with the organization on a specific project.

The information gathered has been systemized to present complete description of the organization's institutional and political context, as well as its operational processes and an assessment of SDPI's impact on policymaking in Pakistan in the short-term and long-term.

This case study is based on the following in-depth interviews:

People from SDPI:

- Dr. Sabbah Khattak. Executive Director of SDPI
- Dr. Abid Suleri. Deputy Director of SDPI and Senior Research Fellow.

External Informant:

- Mr. Irtiqa Zaidi, National Project Director for the UNDP supported Trade Initiative for Human Development (TIHP) and Economic Consultant, Ministry of Commerce, Government of Pakistan.

Other sources:

- Khattak SG, 'In/Security', in *Critical Asian Studies*, Volume 35, Number 2, June 2003, pp. 195-208(14)
- SDPI website (www.sdpi.org.pk)