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EDITORIAL

Volume 10 of the *Journal of Development Policy, Research & Practice (JoDPRP)* brings together research on economic resilience, sustainable development, governance, environmental protection, financial markets, energy security, and social inclusion. Collectively, the contributions reflect the interconnected challenges facing Pakistan and other developing and developed economies, while demonstrating the value of rigorous, evidence-based research in informing policy debates and practical solutions. Despite their varied subject areas, they share a common concern: understanding how economic, social, environmental, and institutional conditions shape development outcomes and how research can inform more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable policy responses.

Geopolitical shocks, energy security, and macroeconomic resilience are prominent themes in this volume. The research on the Gulf corridor and macroeconomic vulnerability considers how external disruptions may affect economic stability through scenario-based stress testing. The article on rooftop solar expansion in Pakistan explores the potential of distributed renewable energy to contribute to energy security and sustainable development. The study on the weaponisation of energy examines economic vulnerability and policy responses in developing economies in the context of the US-Iran conflict. The two energy studies underscore the importance of energy systems in shaping economic resilience, although from different perspectives: one focuses on domestic energy transition, while the other considers the implications of geopolitical risk and external dependence. Their relevance extends beyond the energy sector to questions of affordability, industrial competitiveness, investment, and long-term development planning.

Trade and macroeconomic policy form another important strand of the volume. The article on anti-export bias in Pakistan examines an issue central to export competitiveness and structural transformation. Meanwhile, the study of food tariff liberalisation in Sri Lanka investigates economy-wide effects in the context of revenue replacement, bringing attention to the interactions between trade reform, public revenue, and wider economic outcomes. The study on the non-linearity of monetary policy in Pakistan applies a smooth transition regression model to examine the changing relationship between economic conditions and monetary policy responses. These contributions are particularly relevant to policymakers seeking to strengthen productive capacity, improve external

competitiveness, and design reforms that account for their broader economic consequences.

Financial markets, firms, and innovation are also important themes in this volume. The article on risk-adjusted investment performance examines defensive and cyclical sectors to explore investment opportunities under varying market conditions. The article on intellectual property rights and creative industries in Pakistan considers the relevance of copyright and patent protection to creative and productive activity. The article on gender diversity and corporate sustainability investigates the relationship between gender representation and environmental, social, and governance (ESG) risk scores among S&P 500 firms. Together, these studies highlight the role of institutional arrangements, public policy, and regulatory frameworks in shaping economic opportunity and sustainable development.

The volume also addresses governance, urbanisation, and inclusive development. The study on urbanisation, economic development, and the feminisation of informal employment brings attention to the gendered dimensions of labour market change. The study of governance, public spending, and sustainable development in developed countries examines the relationship between public institutions, fiscal choices, and development outcomes. These contributions encourage a closer examination of how institutions, markets, and development processes distribute opportunities and risks across different groups.

Environmental sustainability and natural resource governance receive further attention in this volume. The analysis of the Indus Delta through the lens of national and international environmental law examines the legal and policy dimensions of environmental protection in Pakistan. The evidence synthesis on snow leopard conservation in northern Pakistan connects local livelihoods with biodiversity conservation, highlighting the importance of approaches that recognise the relationship between ecological protection and the socioeconomic realities of communities. These contributions draw attention to the need for effective governance frameworks that reconcile environmental objectives with livelihoods, community interests, and sustainable resource management.

Taken together, the thirteen articles in Volume 10 demonstrate the breadth of contemporary policy research and the importance of examining development challenges through multiple analytical lenses. Their collective contribution lies not in offering a single explanation for development challenges, but in expanding the evidence base through which these challenges can be understood and addressed.

Development outcomes are rarely determined by a single intervention or sector. Rather, they emerge from interactions among markets, governance structures, social conditions, environmental constraints, and external economic forces. Understanding these

connections is essential for developing policies that are both responsive to immediate challenges and attentive to long-term sustainability.

We recognise the contributions of the authors whose work appear in this volume. We hope that these studies will stimulate further research, encourage constructive dialogue across disciplines, and contribute to evidence-informed policymaking in Pakistan and beyond.