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**Challenging the Injustice of Poverty:  
Operationalising an Agenda for Inclusive  
Development Across South Asia**

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# Specific Work Programmes for Promoting Inclusive Development in South Asia

## 1) Promoting Agrarian Reform

a) Bringing Agrarian Reform back into the policy agenda through establishing Citizens Task Forces in

- Bangladesh
- India
- Sri Lanka
- Nepal
- Pakistan

# Specific Work Programmes for Promoting Inclusive Development in South Asia

- b) Initiating a regional advocacy campaign, drawing on the work of 5 Task Forces for revisiting agrarian reform in South Asia
- c) Initiating programmes for distributing publicly owned land, water resources, forestry lands to landless/landpoor households: Work programmes in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal
- d) Feasibility study for sustaining Small Farmer growth and value addition through a small Farmer Development Corporation in Pakistan

## **2) Addressing Market Injustice Through Sharing in the Value Addition Process**

- a) Promoting Dairy Projects based on the Amul model in India, in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh
- b) Establishing labour contracting societies to undertake public works under national employment guarantee programmes in India and Bangladesh
- c) A programme for legalisation of user groups in Nepal for managing and deriving added value from forestry and water resources

## **2) Addressing Market Injustice Through Sharing in the Value Addition Process**

- d) Exploring opportunities for providing primary producers with an equity stake in private sector agro-processing companies in Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka
  
- e) Restructuring NGO commercial enterprises into enterprises owned by their supply chain

## **2) Addressing Market Injustice Through Sharing in the Value Addition Process**

- f) Institutions for promoting sustainable growth of small scale enterprises in Pakistan and Bangladesh
  
- g) Transforming household enterprises into corporate ventures, replicating the Lijjat model across South Asia

### 3) Democratizing Educational Opportunities

- a) Replication across South Asia of a legislation based on India's Right to Education Act which provides for a 25% reservation for seats in private schools of children from deprived households.
- b) Exploration of scope for seat reservations for deprived households in elite public and private schools in Bangladesh
- c) Exploration of scope for affirmative action for deprived households in public Universities and Institutions for technical training in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal

### 3) Democratizing Educational Opportunities

- d) Exploration of affirmative action experience for deprived families:
  - In elite National Schools in Colombo
  - In institutions of higher education in India
  
- e) Studies on experience and possibilities of substantively enhancing the quality of state schools
  - Reviewing the effectiveness of the Right to Education Act in India.
  - Reviewing the effectiveness of policy agendas for upgrading public education in Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and exploring options for further reform.

## 4) Budgetary Policies for Poverty Eradication

- i) Establishing Civil Society Task Forces for monitoring outcome of budgetary expenditures for poverty alleviation in Sri Lanka, India and Bangladesh
- ii) Study of fiscal incentives for broadening ownership of corporate assets by workers and lower income households in Bangladesh
- iii) Redesigning public institutions for overseeing poverty reduction programmes of the governments in Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan

# 5) Financial Policies for Poverty Eradication

- Integrating the micro and macro financial sectors
  - a) Studies on integrating financial data on MFI operation into national level financial sector data in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka
  - b) Feasibility studies on establishing a Mutual Fund for members of selected pro-poor civil society organisations which can be invested in the corporate sector and large scale infrastructure projects

## 5) Financial Policies for Poverty Eradication

- c) Scope for transforming MFIs into corporate institutions owned by their members
- d) Feasibility study for establishing a National Mutual Fund owned by all citizens of the Maldives which can be provided with opportunities for acquiring an equity stake in all tourist resorts across the Maldives.
- e) Design of a National/Regional Equity Fund for underwriting ownership of equity in the corporate sector by workers or groups of the deprived in the respective South Asian countries.

## **6) Broadening ownership of assets through collective action**

- a) Studies by CSD of India and CPD, Dhaka of projects for promoting home ownership for slum dwellers in India and Bangladesh
- b) Exploring scope for promoting equity ownership for dispossessed small landowners in the Tata automobile project in Singur, West Bengal
- c) Exploring scope for providing an equity stake for dispossessed landowners and local populations in the construction of selected public infrastructure projects in Bangladesh

## **6) Broadening ownership of assets through collective action**

- Padma Bridge
- Elevated Expressway, Dhaka
- Deep Sea Maritime Port

d) Studying the debate and outcome of pending legislation in India for providing an equity stake to tribal populations in areas with mineral development projects

## **6) Broadening ownership of assets through collective action**

- e) Explore scope for providing an equity stake for displaced people in the Phulbaria Coal Mining project, Bangladesh
  
- f) Explore scope for establishing labour exporting enterprises owned by migrant workers
  - i) Initiating a national feasibility study by SACEPS for establishing a labour exporting enterprise in Nepal

## **6) Broadening ownership of assets through collective action**

- ii) A feasibility study of private sector labour exporting project in Sri Lanka which may offer an equity stake to prospective migrant workers
  
- g) Exploring implications and possibility of selected large sized NGOs transforming themselves into corporate enterprises owned by its members in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan
  
- h) Exploring the scope for extending an ownership stake to Grameen Bank members in Grameen Telecom which holds an equity stake in Grameen Phone, the largest private corporate enterprise in Bangladesh

## **6) Broadening ownership of assets through collective action**

- i) Exploring worker ownership models through:
  - i) ESOPS in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh
  - ii) Providing an ownership stake for workers in RMG enterprises in Bangladesh
  - iii) Studying the experience of Tata Tea in extending ownership to workers in their tea plantations in South India and examining scope for extending ownership to workers in Tata's tea plantations in West Bengal and Assam.

## **6) Broadening ownership of assets through collective action**

- iv) Making worker ownership more effective in selected divested SOEs in Bangladesh and Pakistan
  
- j) Feasibility of establishing a corporate enterprise collectively owned by rickshaw drivers in Dhaka city in Bangladesh
  
- k) Studies for expanding the scale of operations of self – help groups in India to participate in marketing and production activities

## 6) Broadening ownership of assets through collective action

- i) Exploring the institutional and managerial implications of ownership by workers/collectives of the poor, in corporate enterprises:
  - Who will play the entrepreneurial role in building collectives and establishing the enterprises?
  - Principal/agent problems in management of such enterprises

## **6) Broadening ownership of assets through collective action**

- Ensuring that such enterprises remain in the hands of workers
- Addressing the legal problems of promoting workers/poor people's ownership in the corporate sector
- Protecting the workers/poor, against risk.

Thank you.