

7th Annual Symposium on Poverty Research in Sri Lanka

December 6 & 7, 2006

CALL FOR PAPERS AND OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

Does inequality matter?

Background to the Poverty Symposium

Since the first Annual Symposium on Poverty Research in Sri Lanka was held in 2000, the event has gained substantial recognition as an important platform bringing together national and international scholars and practitioners from different disciplines to discuss new concepts and recent empirical findings on poverty. Greater, more interdisciplinary dialogue will improve the understanding of causes and dynamics of poverty in Sri Lanka and help provide direction to policy making. Papers and proceedings of previous symposia have been brought together in publications for international dissemination and further stimulation of research in this field.

The 7th Poverty Symposium

The 7th Annual Symposium on Poverty Research in Sri Lanka is scheduled to be held in Colombo on December 6 and 7th, 2006

This Year's Focus

The main thematic focus of this year's Symposium will be poverty and inequality.

Who is the Poverty Symposium for?

The Symposium is open to all interested researchers and practitioners working on poverty related issues. This includes individuals from academic and research organisations that engage in poverty research as well as government, international, and technical or consulting organisations working in the sector. The Poverty Symposium aims to attract participants from different institutional backgrounds to ensure the contribution from a range of theoretical, contextual and practical perspectives.

Call for Papers

The Symposium provides an opportunity to present papers that will contribute to the core topic of understanding the links between inequality and poverty. Priority will be given to Sri Lankan experiences, but the organisers welcome contributions relevant to South Asia.

Themes

The emphasis on reducing absolute levels of poverty has somewhat obscured the importance of relative poverty in the discourse. The Symposium aims to put the issue back on the agenda. We invite authors to send in abstracts of papers to contribute to the topic 'Exploring the links between poverty and inequality – does inequality matter?' that will address the following questions:

- Inequality and conflict: Does inequality lead to conflict? Is the perception of inequality used to create conflict conditions? How should this be addressed?
- Economic policies and inequality: Is growth compatible with reducing inequality? How can the benefits of growth be shared more equitably? How successful have redistributive social welfare policies been in addressing inequality? Are they the answer?
- Globalisation and inequality: What new aspects of inequality have taken root in Sri Lanka due to globalisation? What impact have international policies and institutions had on inequality in Sri Lanka?
- Gender and social exclusion: How do gender relations and social networks contribute to inequality and relative poverty? How do legal or institutional mechanisms support or challenge relative privilege?
- Cultural representations of inequality: How is inequality represented in the media and in different cultural practices? What impact have these representations had?
- Are disasters opportunities to reduce inequality, or perpetuate unequal structures? In particular, has post-tsunami reconstruction affected existing inequalities or created new ones?
- What are the conceptual and methodological challenges in understanding and addressing inequality and poverty?

These questions are not exhaustive, and abstracts of new research on the broader theme of poverty and inequality are also welcome.

Other contributions

The themes outlined above can be represented and explained by other means. This year the organisers will also entertain contributions in the form of posters or cartoons that explore various themes in relation to poverty and inequality.

Deadline for abstracts/concepts of papers, posters and cartoons will be 1st September 2006.

The Symposium will be held in English but there will be simultaneous translations into Sinhala and Tamil. Abstracts, papers, posters, cartoons in Sinhala or Tamil will be accepted

Selected presenters will be requested to submit a final paper of publishable quality by the 25th of October 2006. The papers will be published as an edited volume and the discussion and comments arising from the presentation of the paper at the Symposium will be summarised by the organisers and presented as an annex to the paper. The other contributions will also be included in the publication along with captions, comments and synopses of the discussion they generate

Framework for papers and abstracts

The abstract should provide a two page outline which covers the following:

- Objective of the paper and the research
- Main issues considered
- Methodology used
- Current status (study / paper ongoing or completed, researchers involved, etc.)

Timeframe for papers

September 1, 2006	Submission of abstract/ concept
September 15, 2006	Notification of selected abstracts/ concepts
October 25, 2006	Submission of first draft of paper/ cartoon/ poster for comments
November 15, 2006	Feedback to contributors
November 30, 2006	Submission of final publishable quality paper/ display quality cartoon or poster
December 6, 7 2006	Presentation at the Symposium

For further information and clarifications please contact:

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