Dr. Asghar Ali

Research Economist & Professional Consultant

Assistant Professor | Applied Economics Research Centre, University of Karachi

Applied Economics · Public Policy · Survey Research · Development Economics

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

A highly accomplished Research Economist and Policy Consultant with over 24 years of experience at the Applied Economics Research Centre (AERC), University of Karachi. Proven expertise in applied economic research, public policy analysis, development economics, and large-scale survey research. Has led and contributed to high-value consultancy projects commissioned by international organizations including the World Bank, UNDP, European Union, ILO, JICA, and USAID. A prolific academic with peer-reviewed publications in leading national and international journals, and a dedicated educator with a distinguished record of teaching and thesis supervision at MPhil and PhD levels.

24+	17	13	17
YEARS AT AERC	PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES	MAJOR CONSULTANCIES	THESES SUPERVISED

CORE COMPETENCIES

Applied Economic Research	Public Policy Analysis	Development Economics
Survey Design & Management	Econometric Modelling	Environmental & Social Compliance
Gender & Labour Economics	Fiscal & Monetary Policy	Academic Research & Supervision

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Economist / Assistant Professor

June 2016 – Present

Applied Economics Research Centre (AERC), University of Karachi

- Lead economic research in applied macroeconomics, development economics, and fiscal and monetary policy.
- Member, Budget Committee — responsible for annual budgeting, financial management, utilisation reports, and investment decisions.
- Convenor, Library Committee — responsible for committee meetings, annual procurement budgeting, book and periodical selection, tender documentation, and decisions on library extension and maintenance.
- In-charge, Graduate Studies Programme (GSP, Fall): August 2017 – July 2021 and September 2022 – October 2026.
- Member, Board of Governance (BoG), AERC, since April 2018.
- Member, Editorial Board: Pakistan Journal of Applied Economics (PJAE) and Journal of Social Sciences & Humanities, University of Karachi.
- Member, Board of Studies: Muhammad Ali Jinnah University and Lasbela University, Balochistan.

Visiting Faculty — Lectures

March 2024 – Present

The National Academy for Aviation Security

- Deliver lectures for the Mid-Career Management Course at the National Academy for Aviation Security.

Staff Economist / Lecturer

December 2010 – June 2016

Applied Economics Research Centre (AERC), University of Karachi

- Conducted policy-oriented economic research and delivered postgraduate lectures.

Honorary Director
2010 – 2018

Awaaz Institute of Media & Management Sciences (AIMS) — an affiliated institute of the University of Karachi

- Served as Honorary Director of AIMS, providing institutional leadership and academic oversight.

Research Associate / Faculty Member
January 2000 – December 2010

Applied Economics Research Centre (AERC), University of Karachi

- Contributed to research projects, data collection, analysis, and reporting.
- Taught graduate and postgraduate courses in economics at AERC and affiliated institutions.

MAJOR CONSULTANCY PROJECTS

Data-Driven Governance in Sindh: Assessing Institutional Capacity for Evidence-Based Policy Making

Client: Research Wing, Planning & Development Department, Government of Sindh | **Period:** September 2026 – Present | **Role:** ***Project Leader***

- Systematically evaluate the institutional capacity of public sector institutions in Sindh to embrace data-driven governance, and identify practical measures for strengthening evidence-based policymaking.
- Examine current data collection and management systems — their functioning, interoperability, and usefulness.
- Assess institutional capacity across four interconnected dimensions — analytical, operational, financial, and political/institutional — to understand both constraints and opportunities for reform.
- Conduct semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders to gain deeper insight into institutional dynamics.

Independent Monitoring of Environmental & Social (E&S) Compliance — K-IV Water Supply Project

Client: KWSSIP-2 / World Bank | **Period:** 2025 – Present | **Role:** ***Co-Project Leader & Focal Person***

- Led independent monitoring and evaluation of Environmental and Social (E&S) safeguards compliance.
- Assessed adherence to national regulations and the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (ESF).
- Conducted field visits, stakeholder consultations, and community engagement activities.
- Prepared monitoring reports, progress updates, and corrective action recommendations.
- Coordinated with government agencies, project implementation units, and local communities.

National Survey on Organizational Digitalization & HR Technology Adoption in Pakistan

Client: AERC / Independent | **Period:** 2024 – 2025 | **Role:** ***Team Leader***

- Led a nationwide survey covering 300 organizations to assess HR technology adoption and digital transformation.
- Evaluated digital practices across HR functions: recruitment, performance management, training, and compliance.
- Identified barriers to adoption, including data privacy, system integration, and user satisfaction.
- Developed evidence-based recommendations for HR technology investment and organizational readiness.

Fisheries Value Chain Assessment for Its Improvement

Client: World Bank | **Period:** 2022 – 2023 | **Role:** ***Survey Coordinator & FGD Moderator***

- Assessed socio-economic and environmental aspects of coastal fisheries in Sindh and Balochistan.
- Profiled vulnerable communities, including female participation in fisheries and post-production activities.
- Developed evidence-based social protection interventions and investment recommendations.

Socio-Economic & Demographic Profile, Gilgit-Baltistan

Client: Pakistan Centre for Social Development (PCSD) | **Period:** 2013 | **Role:** ***Co-Project Leader***

- Co-led 24,000 household surveys across the districts of Gilgit-Baltistan.
- Collected data on health, socio-economic status, political affiliation, and occupation.
- Contributed to policy recommendations for growth, poverty reduction, and social development.

Third Party Validation (TPV) — Promotion of Dialogue for Peace Building through Media & Youth Mobilization

Client: Search for Common Ground, Pakistan (SFCG) | **Period:** 2013 | **Role:** ***Lead Researcher***

- Evaluated activities, outcomes, and interventions of a national peace-building project.
- Conducted key informant interviews and focus group discussions; designed questionnaires.

Third Party Validation — Teacher Recruitment Policy, Sindh

Client: World Bank | **Period:** 2013 | **Role:** ***Lead Researcher***

- Assessed the entire second round of teacher recruitment for compliance with official recruitment policy.

Baseline Survey — Gender Equity Program (GEP)

Client: Aurat Foundation & USAID | **Period:** 2011 | **Role:** *Researcher*

- Monitored and conducted a nationwide baseline study on women's rights, access to justice, and gender-based violence indicators.
- Conducted focus group discussions nationwide.

Third Party Validation — Primary Health Facilities, Balochistan

Client: World Bank / Asian Development Bank | **Period:** 2006 – 2007 | **Role:** *Project Economist / Field Supervisor*

- Conducted a primary healthcare facility survey in selected districts of Balochistan.
- Collected data on facility infrastructure, drug availability, and supervision mechanisms.
- Contributed to the Balochistan Economic Report with policy recommendations on growth and poverty reduction.

Analysis of Economic Costs of Conflict & Socio-Demographic Impacts, Pakistan

Client: PIDE, Islamabad | **Period:** 2009 | **Role:** *Project Coordinator (Karachi)*

- Coordinated primary data collection and analysis on the economic costs of conflict in Pakistan.

Demand & Supply Assessment of Four-Stroke CNG Rickshaws in Pakistan

Client: Allied Motors (Pvt.) Ltd. | **Period:** 2007 | **Role:** *Project Leader*

- Led a nationwide demand and supply assessment across the major cities of Pakistan.

UNDP Election Support Project 2008

Client: UNDP Pakistan | **Period:** 2008 | **Role:** *Provincial Coordinator, Balochistan*

- Recruited and trained District/Divisional Coordinators across Balochistan for election monitoring.

Property Tax Reform Project

Client: World Bank / Government of Sindh | **Period:** 1998 – 1999 | **Role:** *Survey Supervisor*

- Supervised the reassessment of residential, commercial, and industrial properties in Karachi for property tax rationalisation.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

COURSE / SUBJECT	INSTITUTION	PROGRAMME	PERIOD
Issues in Pakistan Economy	AERC, Univ. of Karachi	MPhil/PhD	Oct 2010 – Present
Economic Thought & Political Economy	AERC, Univ. of Karachi	MPhil/PhD	Jan 2019 – Present
Macroeconomics	AERC, Univ. of Karachi	MPhil/PhD	Jan 2006 – Apr 2017
Analysis of Pakistan Industries	IoBM	BBA	Sep 2020 – Spring 2025
New Dimensions in Economics & Public Policy	IoBM	PhD	Jan – Jun 2020
Governance & Public Policy	IoBM	BS	Feb – Jun 2021
Public Policy	KUBS, Univ. of Karachi	BS	Sep – Dec 2020
Economic Planning	Dept. of Economics, Univ. of Karachi	Undergraduate	Jan 2007 – 2012
Research Methodology	BIZTEK	MS Executive	2008 – 2010
Advanced Econometrics	BIZTEK	MS Executive	Aug – Nov 2009
Microeconomics	SZABIST	Undergraduate	Aug – Dec 2007
Macroeconomics	IBA Sukkur	Undergraduate	Jan – May 2007
Macroeconomics	Federal Urdu University	Undergraduate	Jan – Jun 2006

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

1. Exploring the Role of Gender in Human Capital for the Application of TQM Core Competencies to Achieve Continuous Organizational Growth. *Pakistan Journal of Gender Studies, Vol. 26, No. 2 (2026).*
2. Development Analysis of Pakistan Districts. *Pakistan Perspectives, Vol. 29, No. 1 (2024).*
3. Major Growth Drivers for Economic Health of Pakistan – An ARDL Approach. *Tanazur Research Journal, Vol. 5, No. 3 (Jul–Sep 2024).*

4. Monetary Transmission and Balance Sheet Channel in Pakistan: An Investigation Using Firm-Level Data. *Pakistan Journal of Applied Economics (PJAE), Vol. XXXIII, No. 1 (Summer 2023).*
5. The Impact of Internet Connectivity on Financial Inclusion: A Comparative Analysis between Developed and Developing Countries. *South Asian Journal of Management Sciences, Vol. 17, Issue 1 (Spring 2023).*
6. Gender Earning Difference between Public and Private Sector of Pakistan. *Pakistan Journal of Gender Studies, 23(01), 45–62 (2023).*
7. Religiosity, Gender Attitudes and Women's Labour Market Participation. *Nurture, Vol. 17, Issue 1, 29–39 (2023).*
8. Linking Internal Migration, Flow of Remittances and Household Wellbeing. *Asian Economic and Financial Review, Vol. 12, No. 9, 766–780 (August 2022).*
9. Exploring Manufacturing Firms' Absorption Capacity of Imported Technology in Pakistan. *Asian Economic and Financial Review, Vol. 11, No. 8, 591–602 (August 2021).*
10. Values and Wellbeing in Pakistan: An Empirical Application of Divine Economics Survey 2017. *Quarterly Research Journal NOOR-E-Marfat, Vol. 12, Issue 2, Serial Issue 52 (Apr–Jun 2021).*
11. The Value of Fiscal Multiplier and Economic Characteristics of Countries. *Pakistan Journal of Applied Economics (PJAE), Vol. 29, No. 2 (Winter 2019).*
12. An Assessment of Pre and Post Pak-China Free Trade Agreement: A Comparative Advantage Analysis of Textile Sector of Pakistan. *The Kashmir Economic Review, Vol. 27, No. 2 (2018).*
13. Examining the Relationship Between Inequalities in Gender Wage and Economic Growth in Pakistan. *Pakistan Journal of Gender Studies, Vol. 12 (2016).*
14. Impact of Devaluation on Balance of Trade: A Case Study of Pakistan Economy. *Asian Journal of Economic Modelling, Vol. 4(2) (2016).*
15. Relationship between Budget Deficit and Trade Deficit: A Case Study of Pakistan Economy. *The IUP Journal of Monetary Economics, Vol. VIII, No. 4 (November 2010).*
16. Whether Fiscal Stance or Monetary Policy is Effective for Economic Growth in South Asian Countries. *The Pakistan Development Review, 47:4, Part II (Winter 2008), pp. 791–799.*
17. Impact of Public Investment on Private Investment: A Disaggregated Analysis. *Pakistan Development Review, 45:4, Part II (Winter 2006), pp. 639–663.*

WORKING PAPER

18. Money Supply, Food Prices and Manufactured Product Prices: A Causality Analysis for Pakistan Economy. *AIUB-BUS-ECON-2009-03, American International University – Bangladesh, Working Paper Series.*

THESIS SUPERVISION

PHD STUDENTS (2)

STUDENT	THESIS TOPIC	STATUS
Syed Kamran Abbas	Fiscal Multiplier and the Role of Macroeconomic Policies	**Awarded**
Manzoor Hussain Memon	Understanding Natural and Structural Impediments to Development: A Vulnerability Assessment of Rural Pakistan	**Awarded**

MPHIL STUDENTS (15)

STUDENT	THESIS TOPIC	STATUS
Sajjad Hussain	Education, Output and Labour Allocation Across Agri-Industries: A Case Study of Rural Pakistan	**Awarded**
Fabia Mehmood	Assessing the Compensating Wages for Longer Than Standard Work Hours: The Case of Pakistan	**Awarded**
Mir Alam	Empirical Analysis of Textile Exports of Pakistan to EU Countries Under GSP Plus Scheme	**Awarded**
Rehmat Wali Shah	The Impact of Internet Connectivity on Financial Inclusion: Comparative Analysis Between Developed and Developing Countries	**Awarded**
Muhammad Ali Mujtaba	Prevalence of Long Term Unemployment in Labour Market and Career Choices: An Urban Perspective	**Awarded**

STUDENT	THESIS TOPIC	STATUS
Ghulam Abbas	Currency Devaluation & Depreciation Expectation: Effect on Macroeconomic Indicators	**Awarded**
Muhammad Iftikhar Mubbashir	Impact of Public Investment on Private Investment — Crowding In or Crowding Out: A Sectoral Analysis of Pakistan	**Awarded**
Marium Zehra	Redistribution of Income in Islamic Economics of KHUMS	**Awarded**
Kiran Tariq	Nexus Between Migration and Crime: A Regional Analysis	**Awarded**
Zeeshan Kifayat	Assessing the Relationship Between Sibship Size and School Dropouts	**In Progress**
Hussain Abbas	Economic and Non-Economic Contribution of Out-of-School Children in Pakistan	**In Progress**
Muhammad Ishfaq	Evaluation of Active Labour Policies: Before and After Devolution	**Awarded**
Sardar Adil Iqbal Khan	Comparative and Pattern Analysis of Development Ranking of Districts of Pakistan: 2005 to 2020	**Awarded**
Samina Hussain	Impact of Human Capital for the Application of Total Quality Management (TQM) to Improve Productivity in Organizations	**Awarded**
Abdul Wahid	Organizational Factors that Influence: A Case Study of Private Schools in Karachi	**Awarded**

EDUCATION

DEGREE	SPECIALISATION	INSTITUTION	YEAR
PhD (Economics)	Wage Differentials Across Sectors and Occupational Groups in Pakistan	Jilin University, Changchun, China	2012 – 2016
MAS (Applied Sciences)	Finance and Urban Economics	AERC, University of Karachi	2002 – 2003
MA (Economics)	Human Resource & Mathematical Economics	University of Sindh	1997 – 1998
BSc	Science	University of Karachi	1996

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Statistical & Econometric Software: E-Views | SPSS | STATA

Office Productivity: MS Word | MS Excel

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Date of Birth	13 December 1973	**Marital Status**	Married
Father's Name	Ashraf Ahmed	**CNIC No.**	42201-8469396-5

References available upon request.