Institutional Dynamics of Policy Research in South Asia

The panel presents the findings of an IDRC funded study that builds on a growing body of literature on knowledge systems for public policy making in South Asia. It specifically attempts to theorise the complex and dynamic relationship between two supplier groups of policy research: think tanks and universities in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. South Asia in general and the three countries in particular have seen a marked increase in the number of universities and think tanks assuming more proactive and visible roles in policy related research. They also present a variety of research knowledge environments and therefore enable comparative analysis. The panel aims to identify cases in each of the countries demonstrating the patterns of relationships between think tanks and universities, and the role and forms of external support to these institutions in shaping these patterns. The discussion intends to generate insights that will help key stakeholders revisit their practices in order to strengthen the overall policy relevant knowledge environment in the region.

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