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ROLE OF SELF-HELP GROUP IN PROMOTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL AREA: A CASE STUDY OF DHEKIAJULI REGION

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ABSTRACT

A self help group (SHG) is a registered or unregistered group of micro entrepreneurs with homogenous social and economic background voluntarily coming together with an average size of 15 people. They are encouraged to make voluntary thrift on a regular basis. They use these pooled resources to make smaller interest bearing loans to their members in addition to engage themselves in productive activities. This process helps them imbibe the essentials of financial intermediation and to take part in the effort of inclusive financing. The SHG-Bank linkage scheme has proved its efficacy as a main stream programme to cater to the neglected group of society such as woman, poor and deprived sections for availing formal financial services. With a view to evolving supplementary credit strategies for reaching the unreached rural poor in the rural areas SHGs plays innovative role in giving hope to the poor through providing credit, thus furthering rural development in the society.

DETERMINANTS OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN PAKISTAN REVISITED**AZRA****Ph. D. SCHOLAR****DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS****PRESTON UNIVERSITY****ISLAMABAD****Dr. MUHAMMAD AFZAL****PROFESSOR****DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS****PRESTON UNIVERSITY****ISLAMABAD****ABSTRACT**

This paper made an econometric investigation of unemployment scenario in Pakistan for the period 1990-2017. Unemployment is of much concern to policy makers and politicians. GDP growth, population growth, inflation, value added by agriculture and industry and government expenditure were found to be the major causes of unemployment in Pakistan. Positive CPI coefficient reflects stagflation. Prices are increasing but output stagnates that does not lead to fall in unemployment. Population growth contributes enormously to unemployment. Increase in value-added by both agriculture and industry can help reduce the army of unemployed youth coupled with relentless reduction in population growth. Increase in development expenditure is expected to curtail unemployment. Both tests show cointegration among the under consideration variables. OLS results were found to be better than GMM. OLS does not suffer from Endogeneity problem and hence OLS estimation results are reliable. Unemployment could be combated if both agriculture and industry contribution to GDP is enhanced.

CONTRACT FARMING IN ODISHA: A CASE STUDY OF DHENKANAL DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

Though there has been a substantial development of all the sectors of the economy, agriculture still continues to remain the main stay of the people of Odisha. Being an important agricultural belt, growth of this sector is necessary for not only ensuring food security and reduction of poverty in rural areas, but also in sustaining the growth of the other sectors of the economy. This paper thus tries to study the impact of participation in high value crop like sugarcane, through contract farming arrangements in Odisha, on the rural farm households of Dhenkanal district. The study has been undertaken by conducting a field survey in four sugarcane producing blocks of the district, using in-depth interview with observational techniques. The sample was restricted to 100 sugarcane contract, 50 sugarcane non-contract and 50 non-sugarcane farmers, across the study area.

DETERMINANTS OF THE PROPENSITY TO CREATE BUDGETARY SLACK IN NIGERIA: BEHAVIOUR RELATED THEORIES PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT

The study investigated the determinants of the propensity to create budgetary slack in Nigeria from the perspective of behaviour related theories. The study is a survey of subordinate managers and employees of firms listed in the Nigerian Stock Exchange. The data used for the analysis were obtained from questionnaire administered on 1,340 employees of the 177 firms quoted on the main board of the Nigerian Stock Exchange as at December, 2017 out of which 338 were retrieved, and only 269 (79.58%) were found usable. The validity and reliability of the test items were estimated through factor analysis, while the specified model was estimated using a qualitative response (ordered logit and probit) model, after diagnostic tests such as normality, multicollinearity and heteroscedasticity were conducted. The study reveals that the propensity to create budgetary slack in Nigeria is moderately high. The analysis shows that multiple use of budget, pressure, and participation all has positive and significant relationship with the creation of budget slack. On the other hand, reward, ethics, organizational commitment, size and information asymmetry have negative but significant relationship with the creation of budgetary slack. The analyses also show that organizational stability has a positive but insignificant relationship with the creation of budgetary slack. The study recommends that subordinate managers and employees who participate in the budgeting process should be closely monitored by management of firms and that management should also maintain close contact with the environment to enable them have a working knowledge of the local operating conditions to reduce information asymmetry and budgetary slack. The study also recommends that if budget targets must be used for evaluating performance of employees and managers, firms must ensure that the budget targets reflect operating realities and conditions. Furthermore, the study recommends that firms should ensure all employees imbibe a culture of strong international best practices by placing high premium on ethics and reputational concerns.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE CHARACTERISTICS AND VOLUNTARY CORPORATE GOVERNANCE DISCLOSURE BY QUOTED COMPANIES IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated relationship between corporate governance characteristics and voluntary corporate governance information disclosure. The specific objectives were to determine the relationship between board size, board independence, board gender diversity, managerial ownership and audit committee size and voluntary corporate governance information disclosure by quoted companies in Nigeria. The study is an ex-post facto type of research over a longitudinal period of five years (2012 to 2016). The population of the study is all the one hundred and seventy (170) companies quoted on the Nigerian Stock Exchange. Out of the population, one hundred and nineteen (119) companies were randomly selected as the sample. Content analysis of annual reports and accounts of sampled companies were employed. Data were analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics such as Pearson correlation, panel least square regression. The study finds that board size and board gender diversity have positive and significant relationship with corporate voluntary corporate governance disclosure. On the other hand, the study finds that there is a positive but insignificant relationship between corporate governance disclosure and board independence, audit committee size and industry type. The study also finds that firm size has a negative but significant relationship with voluntary corporate governance disclosure while managerial shareholding was found to have a negative and insignificant relationship. The study recommends that for a greater voluntary corporate governance disclosure, there should be board gender diversity, board independence, optimal board size, and optimal audit committee size.

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