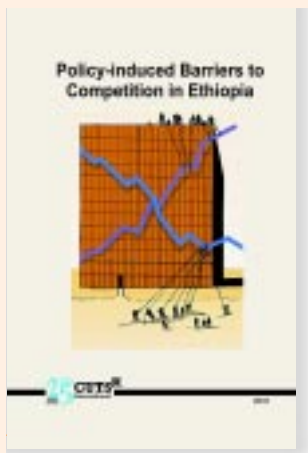


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COMPETITION & INVESTMENT



Policy-induced Barriers to Competition in Ethiopia

Competition is a force that creates initiatives for increasing productivity in the economy and ensures the satisfaction of consumer wants and needs. The virtue of competition as one of the important driving forces bringing about economic growth is now well acknowledged.

This Monograph attempts to portray the competition regime in Ethiopia. It shows that irrespective of a decade and a half of market reform measures, economic restructuring still remains partial in the country. Specifically, the paper shows that many important regulatory provisions, including the competition law are deliberately designed such that it could be easily manipulated. This has created a distorted competition environment in the country.

The Monograph focuses on the evolution of economic policy in Ethiopia. It analyses the current barriers to competition in the country. In addition, it examines the role of civil society in carrying forward the advocacy on competition.

Monograph
Suggested Contribution: Rs 100/US\$15

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May 2008

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Minibus Operators and Passenger Welfare in Malawi

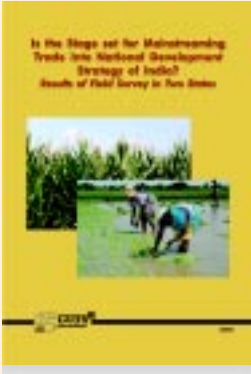


The public transport (Minibus) sector in Malawi is prone to various structural and functional deficiencies, which manifest into problems faced by passengers/consumers using the services daily. Common problems are unnecessary high fares, poor quality of services and lack of attention towards passenger safety. Minibus owners formed an association called the Minibus Owners Association of Malawi (MOAM), for all the agents to function coherently in the sector. MOAM, however, instead of having controlled the behaviour of individual agents, allowed them to benefit from the lack of regulatory oversight and weakness of civil vigilance in the sector, at the cost of the passengers/consumers. Such a situation has also been facilitated, as the passenger welfare association of Malawi (PAWA) has weakened, gradually.

This Briefing Paper in addition to sensitising readers of the situation in the Malawian public transport system (which exhibits characters similar to those in many other developing countries), highlights the possibilities for the competition agency (Malawi Competition and Fair Trade Commission) to address the situation, by the effective implementation of the country's competition Act, thereby relieving poor passengers/consumers of their heavy (transportation) cost burdens.

The paper underscores a classical example of how lack of competition enforcement can further impoverish the already poor consumers/citizens and strongly advocates for the reversal of this trend.

Briefing paper
Suggested Contribution: Rs 20/US\$5

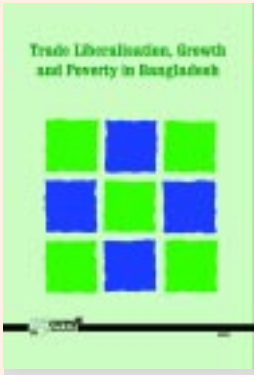


Is the Stage set for Mainstreaming Trade into National Development Strategy of India? Results of Field Survey in Two States

The primary objective of this study is to go beyond an exploration of the likely impact of globalisation and trade liberalisation on the stakeholders of the agriculture sector, especially the most vulnerable amongst them and enquire about the prevailing conditions for mainstreaming trade into national development strategy. This endeavour was deemed necessary as many of the available literature had already invested great effort on the impact analysis.

The study also enquired the implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) to understand its effectiveness as a support measure. The study finds that the scheme has made considerable impact at the ground level despite its limited scale. Most importantly, the scheme has ushered in unprecedented levels of transparency and accountability in local governance. Misuse of funds and corruption are lower than other government support schemes despite existence of numerous malpractices and non-payment of stipulated minimum wages. The study makes a few pertinent observations on factors that could decide the success of the NREGS in the coming years.

*This Research Report can be viewed at:
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/RREPORT08-05.pdf>*



Trade Liberalisation, Growth and Poverty in Bangladesh

The impact of trade liberalisation on growth and poverty is a much debated and controversial issue. In theory, trade liberalisation results in productivity gains through increased competition, efficiency, innovation and acquisition of new technology.

In the context of Bangladesh, there are disagreements among economists and policymakers on the issue. The sceptics have raised questions about the design, pace, extent and method of trade liberalisation in the country. Trade liberalisation has been one of the major policy reforms in Bangladesh.

In fact, there have been concerns over whether the impact of trade liberalisation has been favourable to the domestic economy. Moreover, there is a lack of consensus on the issue (World Bank, 1999). There is also debate over the future direction of trade liberalisation in Bangladesh. Questions have been raised over whether Bangladesh ought to undertake further drastic wholesale liberalisation of trade or adopt a more gradual approach. Against this backdrop, this study conducts an assessment of trade liberalisation in Bangladesh and examines its impact on growth and poverty in the country.

*This Research Report can be viewed at:
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/RREPORT08-06.pdf>*



Trade as a Tool for Employment Generation

The study of patterns and magnitudes of employment generation in developing countries has become important because of the third wave of globalisation which took place after the 1980s. This phase was marked by a new development in which many developing countries integrated into the global economy and started exporting manufacturing goods as well as opening themselves up for import and foreign investment in the manufacturing sector. Such rapid and sweeping changes have enlivened the debate of the effect of liberalisation on employment, which is what this paper investigates.

This Briefing Paper examines the effectiveness of trade, and in particular export promotion as a tool for employment generation by comparing and contrasting the liberalisation experiences of four countries, viz. Bangladesh and Vietnam from Asia and Kenya and South Africa from Africa. Kenya and South Africa have been handicapped by a lack of active export promotion and the capital intensity of their exports.

*This Briefing Paper can be accessed at:
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BP08-DI-9.pdf>*



Services Trade and Domestic Regulation in Kenya

Services have been the most important sector in Kenya's post-independence economy in terms of employment creation, contribution to gross domestic product (GDP), foreign exchange earnings, foreign direct investment (FDI), productivity growth, regional development, competitiveness and poverty alleviation.

As a member of World Trade Organisation (WTO), Kenya has largely met its obligation, as specific commitments were made in telecommunications, financial services, tourism and travel-related services and transport services. Further liberalisation in a number of sectors has already taken place beyond what was committed in the previous round of General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) negotiations. In spite of these reforms, the government is still grappling with enforcement problems in a number of sectors that emanate from corporate governance issues within the regulatory agencies.

This Briefing Paper explains the evolution of services trade and domestic regulation in Kenya. It discusses the Kenya Vision 2030 that recognises the role of services especially information communication technology (ICT), financial services, education, health, water, environmental services, construction and research, etc.

*This Briefing Paper can be accessed at:
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BP08-WTO-2.pdf>*

Services Trade and Domestic Regulation in the Gambia



The services sector constitutes a significant share of gross domestic product (GDP) in most of the countries in South Asia, Africa and the Caribbean. In the Gambia, the services sector accounts for about 50 percent of the country's GDP. There is much at stake for these countries in the Doha Round of negotiations on services liberalisation. Among the many issues being negotiated, "domestic regulation" has become very important for the least developed countries (LDCs) and developing countries (DCs) while undertaking liberalisation of their services sector. In principle, domestic regulation has its importance in protecting national policy

objectives but such regulation should not be applied as a means for exerting undue trade restrictions.

Given the significance of services in the Gambia, this Briefing Paper examines major service sectors in the country. The paper deals with the importance and contribution of services in the economy of the Gambia, including the liberalisation process and regulation in respective service sectors. Also, it reviews the Gambia's commitment under General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS).

This Briefing Paper can be accessed at:

<http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BP08-WTO-3.pdf>

India, Thailand and US on Anti-dumping Measures relating to Shrimp: Another case calling for clarity in the WTO rules



On the basis of the WTO ruling, the anti-dumping duties on shrimps, which were more than 10 percent when they were imposed on India, Thailand and three others in February 2005, has recently been brought down to 1.09 percent. However, the US International Trade Commission and the US DOC have already initiated the third round of administrative review of anti-dumping duty imposed on shrimp imports from India, Brazil, Ecuador and Thailand. A notification issued by the US Government said the final results of this review are expected to be issued by February 2009.

In the meantime, these rows over anti-dumping duties and bonds on shrimp exports from India and Thailand have taken a fresh turn. All the three countries, i.e. the US, India and Thailand, have challenged the WTO Panel's ruling.

This Trade Law Brief looks into the trade relations between India and Thailand and US on the critical compass of anti-dumping measures related to shrimp.

This Trade Law Brief can be accessed at:

<http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/TLB08-02.pdf>

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