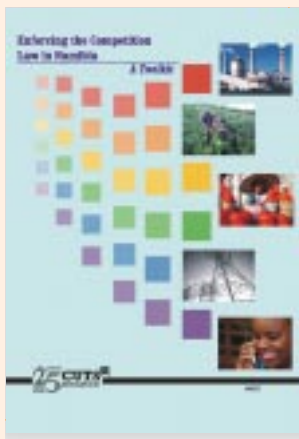


CUTS LATEST PUBLICATIONS

COMPETITION & INVESTMENT



Enforcing the Competition Law in Namibia: A Toolkit

This document, researched and compiled by CUTS and customised in the Namibia context, is meant to act as a manual for Namibia, providing a simple and concise handbook on various implementation issues relating to the Competition Act, 2003 (Competition Law of Namibia). It provides the definitions, characteristics of and ways to deal with all the major restrictive business practices (RBPs), which are prevalent in the Namibian markets, with real-life case studies.

Wherever possible, similar cases from other developing countries have been cited in the text in order to help the reader understand the issues through case studies. The toolkit draws information regarding the prevailing competition regime, from the report on the state of competition in Namibia (developed under CUTS project entitled, 'Capacity Building on Competition Policy in Select Countries of Eastern and Southern Africa', or the 7Up3 project).

Last but not the least, the document analyses the constraints and challenges that the competition authority of Namibia may face towards building a healthy competition culture in the country, and suggests a framework for addressing the same. The paper is meant for competition authority officials and administrators. However, activists, journalists, academician, business community, etc. can also use it. Furthermore, it can also be used for enhancing the understanding on competition issues of other stakeholder groups who may have interest in the subject.

This Toolkit can be viewed at:
http://www.cuts-ccier.org/7up3/pdf/Enforcing_the_Comp_Law_in_Namibia_Toolkit.pdf



Consumer Unity & Trust Society

November 2008

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Fighting the Financial Meltdown

(No 14/2008)



The world economy is currently passing through a recession. This financial recession which originated as a mortgaging crisis in the US has acquired global dimensions in today's inter-linked world and threatens to engulf India – one of the fastest growing emerging economies where the annual average rate of gross domestic product (GDP) growth has been around nine percent per annum over the last three years.

This Briefing paper examines whether a major economic recession in India is inevitable and concludes that the largeness and diversity of the economy coupled with positive behaviour on the part of all economic agents – government, consumers and individual investors – might be enough to save the Indian economy from collapse. A four fold *mantra* elaborates on what constitutes positive behaviour in this crisis.

*This Briefing Paper can be accessed at:
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BP08-DI-14.pdf>*

Political Economy of Trade Liberalisation in Bangladesh: Impact of Trade Liberalisation on Bangladesh Agriculture

(No 15/2008)



In the globalised world of today, trade liberalisation is often promoted for economic growth. But the link between economic growth and trade liberalisation has been the subject of a lot of controversies in recent time. While the growth argument for trade liberalisation has been challenged in a lot of ways, the proponents of liberalisation have their strong arguments as well. The evolution of thoughts on international trade from protectionisms to liberalisation has

actually been a journey from Mercantilism to the so-called doctrine of free-trade.

This paper, by using political economy as an approach, tries to contribute to the process of advocating for mainstreaming international trade policy into the national development strategy of Bangladesh.

The study has undertaken extensive literature review and qualitative investigations in two locations of the country. Two villages in Veramara upazila (sub-district) of Kustia district have been investigated for the case of sugarcane while two villages in Savar upazila of Dhaka district have been investigated for understanding the case of poultry.

*This Briefing Paper can be accessed at:
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BP08-DI-15.pdf>*



Trade Liberalisation, Growth and Poverty in Bangladesh

(No 16/2008)

Bangladesh has liberalised its economy quite considerably. Liberalisation measures have contributed to the reduction of the policy induced anti-export bias to a moderate level. Further liberalisation measures might be desirable but need more careful implementation as most of Bangladesh's trade related quantitative restrictions (QRs) are almost extinct now. Moreover, the available evidence seems to suggest that the growth performance of Bangladesh has not been significantly influenced by liberalisation measures. The potential growth dividend arising from further tariff cuts also

appears to be very small. It is also obvious that in the past liberalisation has failed to energise export response.

This Briefing Paper examines the theories related to linkages between trade liberalisation, growth and poverty and assesses impacts of trade liberalisation on Bangladesh economy.

*This Briefing Paper can be accessed at:
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BP08-DI-16.pdf>*



Regional Trade Openness Index, Income Disparity and Poverty: An Indian Case Study

(No 17/2008)

International trade theories argue that the removal of trade barriers does impact the industrial dynamics of a country. However, the impact depends on the factor intensities of exporting/import competing industries. As a country engages more and more in international trade, its factors of production will enter increasingly into the exporting sector, where their returns are higher, compared to import competing sectors.

This briefing paper focuses primarily on identifying the inter-linkages between trade openness at the state level and incidence of poverty. It first looks into how 'open' Indian states are with respect to international trade and then tries to characterise three related relationships: (i) between trade openness on one hand and incidence, depth and severity of poverty (rural and urban) or the incidence of inequality at the state level on the other; (ii) between trade openness and industrial employment across industry types (workers and employees); and (iii) between trade openness and regional disparity.

*This Briefing Paper can be accessed at:
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BP08-DI-17.pdf>*