

CUTS LATEST PUBLICATIONS

COMPETITION & INVESTMENT



Ensuring Quality in Indian Higher Education

(No 4/2008)

Though quality is an important declared objective of India's higher education policy it is not backed by necessary steps to engage requisite faculty and infrastructure and develop quality consciousness across the learning processes. The pursuit of quality is hampered by a lack of quality teachers, updated syllabi and adequately endowed libraries, laboratories, and computer terminals. Thus, Indian higher education is still considered to be sub-optimally organised and highly regulated, which limit initiatives for change and stifle private efforts.

This Issue Note addresses the question: how can the quality of higher education be ensured? Is it essential to de-link the accrediting agency? What remedial action should be taken if the quality of a higher educational institution is not found satisfactory and how can it be ensured that the design of higher education is in sync with market demand? Can updating the syllabi regularly according to the requirements of market help? It also analyses and answers these vital questions for further debate and policy action on the issue.

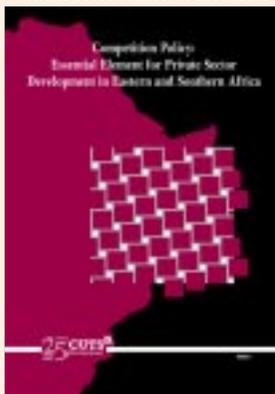
*This Issue Note can be viewed at:
http://www.cuts-international.org/pdf/4-2008Ensuring_quality_in_indian_higher_education.pdf*

CUTS
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Consumer Unity & Trust Society

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D-217, Bhaskar Marg, Bani Park, Jaipur 302 016, India, Ph: 91.141.228 2821, Fx: 91.141.228 2485
Email: cuts@cuts.org, Website: www.cuts-international.org



Competition Policy: Essential Element for Private Sector Development in Eastern and Southern Africa

Most African countries adopted market-oriented reforms as part of the globalisation and liberalisation process initiated in the early 1990s. But due to various reasons, distortions have arisen in the working of the market processes, which has restricted the emergence of a vibrant private sector in most countries and thereby creating speed breakers in their ability to contribute towards poverty alleviation. A dynamic private sector requires an enabling environment to thrive. An essential element of the enabling environment is a sound, fair and transparent regulatory

environment, of which an effective competition regime is an imperative.

This Monograph highlights impediments to the effective operationalisation of competition regimes in the region, which has been argued to be an imperative for private sector development therein. It collates knowledge and evidences from the countries to explore the contribution of a sound competition regime to private sector development in the region. It adds to the body of literature to motivate the business community in supporting competition reforms at the national and regional levels.

Monograph

Suggested Contribution: Rs 200/US\$15



Competition Authorities And Sector Regulators: What Is The Best Operational Framework?

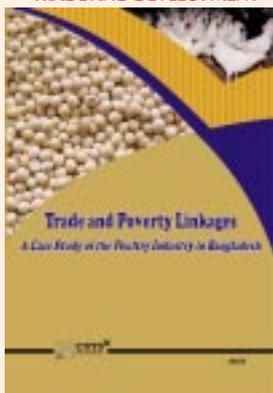
Following the introduction of market reforms, sector regulators were put in place to control anticipated market failure, and part of their mandate included ensuring that there was fair competition in their respective sectors. The need for regulation of competition in the whole economy, however, saw the enactment of competition laws with competition authorities being given the mandate to regulate competition in all sectors of the economy. This ushered in some level of confusion and conflict as by implication sector regulators, which preceded the enactment of such

competition laws, had to give up a portion of their 'authority' (relating to competition issues) – a diminution of mandate which these did not welcome.

This Viewpoint Paper makes an attempt at suggesting the most ideal model on which two set of regulators can co-exist from the point of view of social/economic welfare.

This Viewpoint Paper can be viewed at:

<http://www.cuts-international.org/pdf/Vp-CompAuthoritiesSecRegulators.pdf>



Trade and Poverty Linkages: A Case Study of the Poultry Industry in Bangladesh

Poultry rearing can play a vital role in a country like Bangladesh where most of the people are landless, disadvantaged and devoid of formal education or skill to participate in income generating activities. Poultry can be an important tool to fight poverty not only for this group of people but also for the distressed women as poultry requires minimum land, short capital and skill. In Bangladesh, the poultry sector is also an integral part of the farming system.

The broad objective of this Research Report is to analyse the trade poverty linkages in the poultry industry in Bangladesh. This paper covers the importance of poultry sector in economic growth and international trade; reviews the implications of the poultry sector in poverty reduction in Bangladesh; focuses on the findings from a sample survey and deals with the recommendation for the development of poultry sector in Bangladesh.

Research Report

Suggested Contribution: Rs 100/US\$15



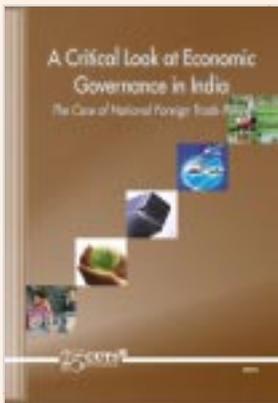
Exploring the Post-1990s Trade-Labour Linkage in India – A Set of Case Studies from West Bengal, Maharashtra and Gujarat

Measuring the welfare impact of trade liberalisation on low-income groups in a country is an interesting and yet challenging area of research. While official statistics on trade offer information on the flow of goods and services across countries, subtle changes at the grassroot level within a country is often not examined. Anecdotal evidences suggest that there have been sweeping changes in many cities and suburban areas, including villages, due to exposure to international trade.

This Research Report study is based on field surveys from a number of disparate industries and locations in West Bengal, Maharashtra and Gujarat that finds striking and significant evidence on the impact of international trade on production organisation and occupational patterns at the industry level. Small scale industries and their employees have gained not only from greater trade openness, but also from substantial trickling down of information relevant for appropriate expansion and pricing mechanisms within the firms and for suitable strategic decisions by individuals including skill acquisition, inter-sectoral and inter-regional mobility.

Research Report

Suggested Contribution: Rs 200/US\$20



A Critical Look at Economic Governance in India: *The Case of National Foreign Trade Policy*

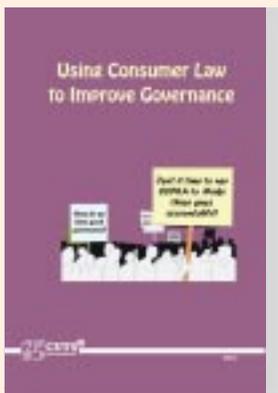
The thrust of National Foreign Trade Policy (NFTP) is on export promotion through efforts to increase competitiveness of Indian products in the global market. It aims to double India's share in global merchandise trade and capture 1.5 percent of global trade by 2009. The NFTP identifies definite areas for export promotion such as agriculture, handloom and handicrafts etc., and also infuses various sector specific schemes.

However, despite several schemes and provisions under NFTP, it appears that the benefits of increased trade are not percolating equitably to all sections of society. One of the fundamental reasons for this uneven distribution of benefits is lack of democratisation in the policymaking process. Hence, an analysis of democratisation of trade policy became imperative to ensure that the trade policymaking becomes more inclusive and participatory.

This Research Report endeavours to understand the policymaking process of NFTP, and to ascertain its impact especially at the grassroots. It discusses in detail the numerous issues related to institutional and implementation problems that exists on the ground. It traced the process of trade policymaking in a federal polity, the problems inherent in it and hurdles being faced.

Research Report

Suggested Contribution: Rs 200/US\$20



Using Consumer Law to Improve Governance

This is the first of its type of publications, which documents various decisions of the Supreme Court and the consumer fora, established under the Consumer Protection Act (COPRA), 1986. The Act has helped in awarding damages to be paid by the concerned negligent employees in a public organisation. Thus, it has helped to improve governance to some extent.

The premise of ordering compensation to be paid by the negligent employee is quite simple. In cases, where public money is involved, any damages awarded against the body would only mean taxing the tax payer. Therefore, the consumer fora have asked the government body, which has lost a consumer case, to pay the compensation to the aggrieved consumer, but only after establishing the cause of such a happening, and deduct it from the concerned negligent employee(s).

Monograph

Suggested Contribution: Rs 200/US\$20

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