

Center for International Development at Harvard University



<http://www.cid.harvard.edu>

Micro-Development Initiative

The new Micro-Development Initiative (MDI) concerns itself with causes and consequences of public policy design. The Initiative seeks to create a center of excellence in microeconomic research and to provide immediately exciting and relevant conclusions for policy-making around the world. Its research is characterized by the gathering of detailed micro-level data, field-based research that includes local partnerships and comprehensive project design, and context-based analysis that emphasizes causal inference. Further, MDI aims to support teaching by demonstrating ways in which policy can be developed through rigorous and scientific assessment and evaluation, and to contribute to actual policy-making on the ground.

MDI is currently focusing its research on the following themes:

Governance:

Understanding how principles of democratic governance and the actual practice of politics affect policy design. Why do corruption and mismanagement persist, and what are the implications for public policy?

Service Delivery:

Investigating how public goods and services are effectively delivered to the poor (i.e., credit services/microfinance, education, etc.). Do disadvantaged groups face differential access to goods or services (on the basis of ethnicity, gender, caste, social status)? How can policy affect this?

The Micro-Development Initiative was created in the past year, and is led by Kennedy School faculty Rohini Pande, Mohammed Kamal Professor of Public Policy, Asim Ijaz Khwaja, Associate Professor of Public Policy, and Rema Hanna, Amitabh Chandra, and Monica Singhal, Assistant Professors of Public Policy. Current and ongoing projects focus on informal taxation, discrimination in public services, microfinance, business training for women, access to education, bank liquidity shocks, and drug resistance in developing countries.

The Initiative is a part of the Center for International Development, and was founded to improve the effectiveness of international development policies and institutions. To this end, the projects mentioned above are interdisciplinary, bringing together the fields of development, health, microeconomics, sustainability science, political economy, finance, and education. As a result, the associated faculty members have worked with other Harvard schools such as the Harvard School of Public Health, the Harvard Economics Department, and the Harvard Business School.

Please visit us on our website, coming soon! <http://www.cid.harvard.edu/MDI>

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