



Call for Papers

International Conference

On

South Asia in the Post-COVID Global Crisis: Politics, Economy, and Society

30-31 October 2023 (Monday-Tuesday)

Organized by

Faculty of Social Science

University of Rajshahi

Rajshahi-6205, Bangladesh

<http://www.ru.ac.bd/socialsc/conference-seminar-and-workshop/>

Faculty of Social Science
UNIVERSITY OF RAJSHAHI



ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in late 2019 brought about an unprecedented global crisis, disrupting economies, societies, and political landscapes across the world. As nations grappled with the virus's devastating health and humanitarian consequences, they faced the daunting challenge of steering their societies towards recovery and resilience. South Asia emerged as a crucial focal point among the regions significantly affected by this crisis due to its unique socio-economic dynamics and diverse political structures. South Asia, a region encompassing nations like India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and the Maldives, houses approximately a quarter of the global population. This vast and populous region had to confront complex and interrelated issues triggered by the pandemic, each presenting distinctive challenges and opportunities.

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic was not the sole global crisis that South Asia had to navigate recently. During the same period, the world also grappled with the repercussions of the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine, which further exacerbated the ongoing global economic challenges. The war's impact on international trade, energy markets, and geopolitical stability posed far-reaching consequences on this region.

In the realm of politics, governments across South Asia confronted the need for agile decision-making and responsive governance to manage the rapidly evolving situation. The pandemic exposed vulnerabilities in existing political systems and raised questions about the role of state, market, NGOs, leadership, transparency, and accountability in times of crisis. It also provided an opportunity for the region to reimagine its governance structures, addressing both immediate public health needs and long-term policy reforms.

From an economic perspective, the pandemic and the armed conflict inflicted severe blows to South Asia's economies, causing disruptions in trade, supply chains, and labor markets. The region faced an unprecedented economic downturn, affecting businesses, industries, and millions of livelihoods. Its impact on poverty, inequality, and social safety nets accentuated the need for sustainable economic recovery and inclusive development strategies.

Furthermore, the pandemic laid bare various societal issues that required attention. Health disparities, access to quality healthcare, and the resilience of public health systems came under scrutiny. The pandemic's toll on vulnerable populations, including women, and children, highlighted the urgency of addressing social inequalities and bolstering healthcare infrastructure.

However, amidst these challenges, the pandemic also presented an opportunity for South Asia to harness technological advancements and digital innovations. It accelerated the adoption of remote work, digital healthcare, and e-commerce, opening new avenues for economic growth and social connectivity.

Under the above circumstances, the forthcoming international conference on "**South Asia in the Post-COVID Global Crisis: Politics, Economy, and Society**" provides a platform to delve into these critical issues and explore the region's trajectory beyond the pandemic. By fostering academic exchange, dialogue, and collaboration, the conference aims to contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and identify policy interventions and pathways for a resilient and sustainable future. This conference seeks to facilitate in-depth discussions, exchange of ideas, and collaborative efforts to address the issues arising in the region.

The specific objectives of the conference are:

1. to analyze South Asia's political transformations and challenges relating to development and governance in the post-COVID era.
2. to examine the economic impact and strategies for recovery in the region.
3. to understand the societal changes, including social inequalities and public health challenges.
4. to explore potential policy interventions and frameworks for building a resilient South Asia in the face of future global crisis.
5. to foster international cooperation and academic networking among researchers and experts working on South Asian affairs.

In light of these critical issues, the international conference on "**South Asia in the Post-COVID Global Crisis: Politics, Economy, and Society**" aims to foster comprehensive discussions and scholarly deliberations on the region's multifaceted challenges. By providing a platform for academics, researchers, practitioners, and policymakers worldwide, the conference seeks to generate insights, policy frameworks, and collaborative solutions to shape a resilient South Asia in the aftermath of these unprecedented global crises. Therefore, the Faculty of Social Science, University of Rajshahi, cordially invites the submission of academic papers for presentation at the above mentioned prestigious international conference. Below are the subthemes for the conference that we encourage contributors to explore and engage with:

Theme 1: Politics and Governance in Post-COVID South Asia

Thematic Issues

Political Leadership and Crisis Management
Democratization and Governance Reforms
Security Challenges and Geopolitical Implications
Social and Political Movements in Response to Crisis
Vaccine Diplomacy and International Relations

Subthemes

Decision-making and Policy Adaptation during Crises
Role of Institutions in Managing Disasters
Strengthening Democratic Institutions in South Asia
Citizen Participation and Inclusive Governance
Regional Security Cooperation in a Post-Crisis World
Impact of Global Political Shifts on South Asian Nations
Social Media and Protest Movements in the Digital Age
Role of Civil Society in Crisis Response and Recovery
Impacts of Vaccine Distribution on Diplomatic Relations

Theme 2: Economic Recovery and Sustainable Development

Thematic Issues

Macroeconomic Policies for Resilience
Agriculture, Productivity, and Development
Trade and Investment Challenges and Opportunities
Financial Sector Stability and Risk Management
Inclusive and Green Economic Growth Strategies
Role of International Actors in Post-Crisis Recovery

Subthemes

Fiscal Stimulus and Monetary Measures for recovery
Agricultural Innovations, Food Security and Climate Change
Industrial Production Supply Chains and Industrial Recovery.
Exploring New Markets and Trade Diversification
Foreign Direct Investment in a Shifting Global Landscape
Banking Sector Reforms and Financial Inclusion Initiatives
Managing Debt and Credit Risks in Uncertain Times
Social Entrepreneurship for Inclusive Growth
Environmental Sustainability and Climate-Resilient Practices
International Aid, Assistance, and Collaborative Efforts

Theme 3: Social and Cultural Transformation

Thematic Issues

Healthcare Systems and Pandemic Preparedness
Education and Digital Divide
Social Inequalities, Poverty, and Vulnerable Populations
Mental Health and Well-being of Children and Elderly
Role of NGOs in Crisis Response and Recovery
Societal Transformations

Subthemes

Strengthening Health Infrastructure and Capacity Building
Lessons Learned from Public Health Interventions
Cultural Adaptation and Diversification
Indigenous Knowledge and Culture
E-Learning and Technology Integration in Education
Addressing Educational Disruptions and Learning Gaps
Gender Disparities and Women's Empowerment
Migrant Workers and Social Protection Measures
Rural and Urban Development and transformations
Psycho-social impacts of crisis, mental health and support networks
NGOs' Role in Healthcare, Social, Welfare and development

Theme 4: Technology, Innovation, and Future Prospects

Thematic Issues

Digital Transformation and Technological Adaptation
E-commerce and Entrepreneurship Opportunities
Information and Library Management
Sustainable Technologies for a Resilient South Asia

Subthemes

E-governance and Smart Society Initiatives
E-commerce Trends and SMEs' Participation
Start-ups and Innovation Ecosystems in Post-COVID Era
Technology Adoption and Conservation Agriculture
Renewable Energy Solutions and Climate Innovation
Green Technologies for Environmental Conservation

Accommodation and Food

Complimentary food and conference kits will be provided for all participants attending the conference. Moreover, international participants will receive accommodation at the University Guest House/Hostels. For national participants, accommodation requests will be considered by conference organizers based on availability.

Guidelines for Submission

We welcome academics, researchers, practitioners, and policymakers to contribute to the academic discourse at our conference actively. If you wish to present a paper, kindly adhere to the following guidelines for abstract and full paper submissions:

Abstract and Full Paper Submission Guidelines

Word Limit (**Abstract**): Maximum of 300 words

Word Limit (**Full Paper**): Between 5000 to 6000 words inclusive of tables, diagrams, illustrations, etc.

Paper Size: Use A4 paper size for abstract /full paper

Font Style: Utilize "Times New Roman" as the preferred font style

Font Size: Set the font size to 12 for entire abstract /full paper

Line Spacing: 1.5 throughout the abstract and /full paper .

Referencing Style: APA (American Psychological Association) system

File Format: Submit your abstract as a Microsoft Word file (docx).

Please send your abstract/full paper to: conference.fss2023@ru.ac.bd
sec.fssru2023@gamil.com

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Conference website

<http://www.ru.ac.bd/socialsc/conference-seminar-and-workshop/>

Important Dates

Abstract Submission Deadline : 25 August, 2023
Acceptance Notification : 15 September, 2023
Full Paper Submission Deadline : 15 October, 2023
Conference Dates : 30-31 October, 2023

Registration Details

Participation in the conference requires mandatory registration. Upon receiving confirmation of abstract acceptance, participants must proceed to register by completing the Registration Form and submitting the registration fee no later than the **30th of September, 2023**. Please make the payment in favor of '**The Dean, Faculty of Social Science, University of Rajshahi**' at **Agrani Bank Ltd, Rajshahi University Corporate Branch, Rajshahi**. Alternatively, online payments can be made to account number: **0200013219779**, Agrani Bank Ltd, Rajshahi University Corporate Branch. To complete the registration process, **kindly** send the payment slip via email to the Conference Chair at: conference.fss2023@ru.ac.bd

We appreciate your cooperation in adhering to the registration requirements and look forward to your active participation in the conference.

* Please deposit the registration fee to the bank account given below.

Name of the Account : **Dean, Faculty of Social Science,**
University of Rajshahi,
Rajshahi-6205, Bangladesh
Name of the bank : **Agrani Bank Limited**
Savings account number : **AC/ No 0200013219779**
Branch name : **Agrani Bank Ltd, Rajshahi University**
Corporate Branch (Branch no.:2653)
Swift Code : **AGBKDDH027**
Routing Number : **010812112**

Registration Fees

National participants : BDT 2500
Participants of SAARC countries : US\$ 75
International participants : US\$ 100

RU Academicians/Faculty members : BDT 2000
Research fellow/ students : BDT 1000

- The registration will cover 2 lunch, 1 dinner, conference kits, refreshments and logistics.