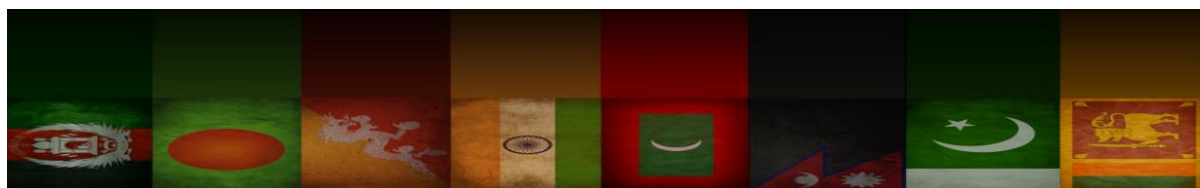




SAESM Initiative

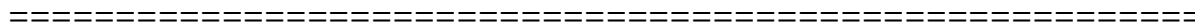
GROUP RESEARCH PROJECT Competition **On** **COVID Pandemic and South ASIA**



The South Asian Economics Students Meet (SAESM) founded in 2004 is a regional platform, which brings young and bright undergraduate economic students from across South Asia for an exciting conference in a beautiful South Asian city every year. This unique informal network consists of students/faculties from prestigious universities like Dhaka University, University of Colombo, students of various university of India, Lahore University of Management Sciences, Tribhubhan University, Kabul University and Sherubtse and Royal Thimpu College/Bhutan. During the Meet undergraduates from all seven countries of our region learn, explore and exchange ideas about the socio-economic challenges, which face our countries and the region through presenting research papers on the conference theme.

This year as we are all faced with a unique and menacing challenge- Covid 19. The global pandemic has effected everyone without distinction and threatens to alter the way we function as a society. While the disease poses serious socio-economic challenges, it also provides us a rare opportunity to think together about the varied socio-economic impact of such pandemics and effective policies to counter it today and in the future. Against this background, SAESM is excited to launch a new initiative in the form of a **Group Research Project, (GRP)** which allows students of South Asian colleges/universities to **COLLABORATE virtually**- *think create design and execute a research project.*

The broad indicative themes around which the projects are expected-(1) labour, migration and unemployment; (2) industry/manufacturing/value chains; (3) Trade and Investment; (4) Health and (5) education. Other ideas/themes are also welcome.



Important for Country Coordinators

- Each country can decide its own selection process for the student members of the research groups. Some overall guidelines are mentioned in **point A for students**, which countries can keep in mind.
- Students must mention a specific theme under which they are applying for the research project.
- Each project is expected to have ONE researcher from each of the South Asian country. We are looking at each research group to have representation from each country as our first best choice. Therefore, each country should ensure that there are researchers for each/majority of the broad indicative themes.

- If countries find that there are more interested researchers, then accordingly we need to increase themes
- It is proposed that mentor/s will oversee the preparation of proposals with some guidelines of virtual engagement. Mentors will play kind of ICE Breaker amongst group members before leaving them to frame their proposal (including hypothesis). At the initial stage, mentors can be contacted/consulted if required by any member of the group, should she or he feel the need.
- There will be overall project coordinators who will keep in touch with groups/mentors to oversee the progress and smooth working of the projects. The Governing Council will advise the project any issue including smooth progress of the project.

Important Points

- **FIRST WEBINAR:** We will have a webinar where we will bring students of all groups together to talk about their project ideas and introduce members of their team to the audience. This webinar will also have an address by an eminent international economist to the students.
- **SECOND WEBINAR-** A research methodology workshop to be hosted and organized by one of the SAESM network partners to apprise the GROUPS about the basics of collaborative research.
- Several WEBINARs on different themes will be organized with international/South Asian speakers during the course of the project to appraise students about issues/aspects in their specific themes (for example Labour markets). These webinar will have prior registration and will be open to student members of countries who wish to attend.
- Each GROUP will also conduct 3 work in progress WEBINARs which will be open to all other groups and observers/mentors/council members.

POINTS TO PONDER as we go along with the project

- Dissemination of the papers/reports via a book/website. Association with SAESM for dissemination.
- Best Project award.