

Public Policy Economics in Developing Countries

Introduction

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What this course is about

- ▶ States are an important covariate/factor of development \Rightarrow Good public policy can improve the life of millions.
- ▶ States face different contexts and challenges in developing countries (LDCs) \Rightarrow Can't think public policy in the same way as in developed countries.

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This course:

- ▶ How do specificities of LDCs shapes aims & impacts of public policies?
- ▶ What are the relevant economic tools to analyse public policies tools in developing countries?

What you will learn

- ▶ Issues: discuss key policies in developing countries through case studies
 - ▶ Public work program in India
 - ▶ Corporate income tax in Pakistan
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- ▶ Methods: micro-econometrics, policy evaluation techniques, simple models.
- ▶ Link to research: no textbook, readings are all recent research articles.

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This is a good time to be studying public econ. in LDCs

- ▶ Debt crisis are in the past (in LDCs!): can concentrate on poverty reduction (cf IMF).
- ▶ Growing recognition that 'state capacity' is something that needs to be constructed (cf DFiD, OECD, WB).
- ▶ 'How do we build a state?' is an urgent policy question (Iraq, Afghanistan).

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- ▶ Or if you want to understand more about policies affecting 85% of the world population.