

## This month's highlights:

- In an article for UNESCO World Education Blog, Dr Nisha Arunatilake discusses ways of enhancing the quality of technical and vocational education and training sector through better partnerships with non-state actors.
- In a Policy Brief published by the International Food Policy Research Institute, Dr Manoj Thibbotuwawa, Nimesha Dissanayake, and Sachini Niwarthana examine the impacts of the Ukraine crisis on poverty, agriculture, and food security in Sri Lanka.
- Dr Asanka Wijesinghe and Chaya Dissanayake represent IPS at the 'Doing Good Index 2024 Workshop' and draw attention to the challenges faced by social delivery organizations due to the economic crisis.
- Dr Bilesha Weeraratne highlights COVID-19 pandemic-related labour market issues and causes of wage theft at the conference on 'COVID-19 Return Migration Phenomena: Experiences from South and Southeast Asia' in Rabat, Morocco.
- Dr Asanka Wijesinghe and Dr Erandathie Pathiraja share research findings on 'Sri Lanka's ready-made garment sector and female workforce' at the Women RISE Inception Workshop in Nairobi, Kenya.
- Video featuring highlights from panel discussion on 'Non-State Actors in the Education Sector of Sri Lanka'.

We hope you find this issue insightful. Your feedback is, as always, welcome!

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## Call for Proposals

## Blog

## Policy Brief

## Conferences and Workshops

## Featured Video

### Saman Kelegama Memorial Research Grant 2023

The Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS) invites proposals for the Saman Kelegama Memorial Research Grant 2023.

The Grant was established in 2018, to honour Dr. Saman Kelegama's legacy of independent research and public policy engagement in the arena of socio-economic development in Sri Lanka and the wider South Asian region. Dr. Kelegama was the Executive Director of the IPS from 1995 to 2017.

The Saman Kelegama Memorial Research Grant is an annual, merit-based grant awarded to an outstanding undergraduate student in a university in Sri Lanka. The grant aims at promoting policy entrepreneurs amongst undergraduate students by encouraging policy-relevant, rigorous and innovative socio-economic research.



[See more >>>](#)

### Improving TVET Outcomes in Sri Lanka

By Dr Nisha Arunatilake featured on UNESCO World Education Blog

Many Sri Lankans join the labour market without skills or as low-skilled workers. According to UNESCO Institute for Statistics data, fewer than 5% of 15–24-year-olds take part in technical and vocational education programmes, despite the size of the sector. Better use of comparative advantages of different providers, and more efficient and effective use of public finance, can improve technical and vocational education and training in the country and its contribution to development.



[See more >>>](#)

### The Ukraine War and Its Food Security Implications in Sri Lanka

By Dr Manoj Thibbotuwawa, Nimesha Dissanayake, and Sachini Niwarthana featured on the International Food Policy Research Institute's RESAKSS ASIA Policy Note



The Russia-Ukraine conflict heavily impacted food security in Sri Lanka which is dependent on imports from the Caspian region. The impact of this shock has been compounded for Sri Lanka which has been suffering from a severe economic crisis due to a lack of foreign reserves, a debt default, high inflation, import restrictions, and shortages of critical goods and services. Against this backdrop, this policy brief explores the impacts of the evolving crisis in Ukraine on the nexus of poverty, agriculture, and food security in Sri Lanka and the possible avenues for mitigating the negative implications of export restrictions, rising import costs, and inflation.

[See more >>>](#)

### Doing Good Index 2024 Workshop



IPS Research Fellow Dr Asanka Wijesinghe drew attention to the challenges faced by Sri Lanka's Social Delivery Organizations sector in attracting local corporate funds and procurement of foreign input due to the ongoing economic crisis at the '2024 Doing Good Index Workshop' held in Bangkok, Thailand. The fourth iteration of the study, the Doing Good Index 2024 is expected to be launched in the second quarter of 2024. The IPS contributes to the Doing Good Index 2024 as a local partner organization.

[See more >>>](#)

### Conference on 'COVID-19 Return Migration Phenomena: Experiences from South and Southeast Asia'



COVID-19 pandemic-related labour market issues and rapid departure from countries of destination exacerbated wage theft issues for migrant workers. According to IPS Research Fellow Dr Bilesha Weeraratne, non-payment of due wages is more common among vulnerable migrant workers.

Dr Weeraratne made these remarks while presenting her research paper titled 'COVID-19 Pandemic-Induced Wage Theft: Evidence from Sri Lankan Migrant Workers' at the conference on 'COVID-19 Return Migration Phenomena: Experiences from South and Southeast Asia' organised by Africa Institute for Research in Economics and Social Sciences (AIRES) and Université Mohammed VI Polytechnique, Rabat, Morocco.

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### Women RISE Inception Workshop in Nairobi, Kenya



IPS Research Fellows Dr Asanka Wijesinghe and Dr Erandathie Pathiraja represented IPS at the Women RISE Inception Workshop held in Nairobi, Kenya. Dr Asanka stressed the importance of Sri Lanka's ready-made garment sector. He further stated that the female workforce in the sector play a crucial role in bringing revenue to the country.

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### Highlights | Non State Actors in Education Sector



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