

Social Reconstruction: Corridors of Knowledge and Power in Perceptions of State

Much of the programming in fragile states is driven by the assumption that if states can be supported to deliver services, their legitimacy would be strengthened, thus contributing to their overall stability.

As part of a large research programme led by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), in partnership with the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), researchers attempted to investigate whether access to services and/or satisfaction with services had a positive impact on people's perceptions of government. The primary research method was a panel survey which was carried out in five countries, including Pakistan. Across all countries, a weak link was found between access to, and satisfaction with services, and perception of government.

This panel will highlight the latest findings on the relationship between services and state legitimacy to explore why the link is so difficult to establish by discussing research on fairness and legitimacy; as well as results from qualitative research conducted in Pakistan's Swat Valley.

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