TransTech Talk Series #20



THE ROLE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

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Friday, September 06, 2024 I 04:30 PM - 05:30 PM (IST)

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ABOUT THE TALK:

By 2050, it's anticipated that 70 percent of people will live in urban areas. Ensuring that public transportation is safe, affordable, and reliable for everyone, including both women and men, is essential for providing access to economic opportunities and essential services. Worldwide evidence indicates that public transport is a key factor in women's workforce participation in urban settings. The International Labor Organization has found that in developing countries, the most significant barrier to women's workforce involvement is the limited access to and safety of transportation, which can decrease their likelihood of participation by up to 16.5 percentage points. This session aims to measure the impact of a robust public transport system on women's access to economic opportunities. It will synthesize global evidence and present new analysis for cities in the Middle East. Additionally, it will propose specific measures to enhance women's mobility via public transport and foster an environment that boosts their economic involvement.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER:

Dr Muneeza Mehmood Alam is a Senior Transport Economist in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Transport Unit of the World Bank Group. She joined the World Bank in 2015, bringing more than 15 years of experience working on development issues. During her time at the World Bank Group, Dr Muneeza has worked on diverse topics relating to transport and economic policy, particularly economic corridors and regional connectivity, railways, logistics, urban transport, gender and spatial inclusion, and electric mobility. She has a keen interest in understanding the mechanisms through which the socioeconomic benefits of transport investments can be maximized and more equitably distributed. She has previously worked in the global as well as the South Asia transport units of the World Bank Group. Before joining the World Bank Group, she worked in economic consulting. She holds a doctorate in economics from Yale University.







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