Fortnightly links: ghost schools, SDGs, the need for external accountability, and more

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Just in time for this week’s SDGs conference, a new paper (gated; ungated) in World Development contends that development progress accelerated in the era of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Another paper in the same issue (open access) argues the MDGs brought increased poverty reduction, although primarily in states with greater capacity.

'Ghost schools' in Pakistan may be increasing the risk of militancy in tribal areas.

In the wake of the sexual abuse scandal confronting Oxfam Great Britain, Sharon Bessell writes for the Asia Pacific Policy Forum on the need for organisations to have external accountability.

According to a new study, taking action to prevent climate change could result in substantial health gains.

Singapore is topping the world on progress towards the health-related SDGs, this article by Policy Forum discusses what other countries can learn from the Singapore.