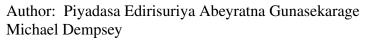
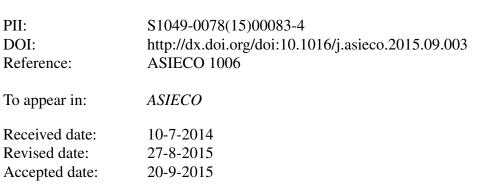
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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Highlights

- We examine how stock markets have responded to bank diversification in South Asia (Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka).
- We find that when banks diversify from interest-only income, they achieve higher market-to-book valuations and improved solvency but only up to a point.
- We discovered that a continued diversification of assets bases away from traditional loan assets does not of itself imply an improved market performance.

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