

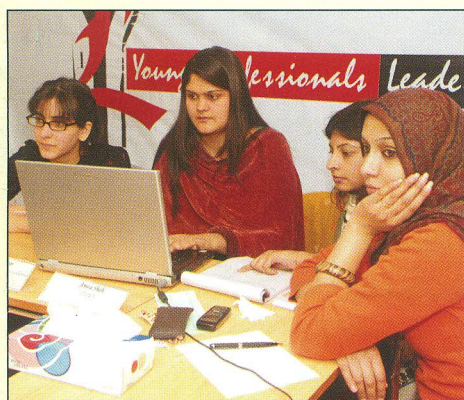
HRD COMMUNIQUE

newsletter

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Editor's Note

Dear Readers!

With the end of holy month of Ramadan, the much awaited festivities of Eid have begun. Institute of Rural Management wishes you a very Happy Eid with the hope that you are enjoying the celebrations with full zeal.

"Youth and Development" is the theme of this issue in which we have tried to highlight the issues relevant to the youth of today and initiatives undertaken for their empowerment and development. The youth issues have remained under discussion during the last month owing to the International Youth Day which was celebrated on August 12, 2009. According to statistics, in 2004 there were around 36 million young people living in Pakistan. Five years later the number has increased. Today there is a lot more need to encourage the empowerment and participation of youth in the processes and decisions that affect their lives. Saiqa Yaseen will talk about this escalating need in detail in her article "Identifying Youth".

Plus, we will give you a roundup of initiatives undertaken by IRM to nurture the hidden potential of our youth. You will also find an up-close interview of Ali Moeen Nawazish, rising young star of Pakistan who has left the world in awe of his achievements. This and much more is awaiting for you in this issue so wish you a happy reading.

Your contribution, comments and suggestions are greatly valued so please write to us at samar@irm.edu.pk

Irrelevance of Education in Pakistan

Public Forum on "Irrelevance of education in Pakistan" was arranged by Akhter Hameed Khan Resource Center on July 11, 2009 at Education College University, Lahore. The forum was organized in collaboration with Punjab Rural Support Programme with the aim to initiate discussion on the failure of present education system in meeting challenges posed by the current time thereby providing a platform to academia, civil society, educationists and public opinion makers to deliberate upon the issue.



Patronizing Education Group of Panelist at the Public Forum

Mr. Tariq Sultan, Chairman Punjab Rural Support Programme chaired the session. Mr. Sultan is Ex-Secretary Finance & Education Punjab and has also served as Chairman of Punjab Public Service Commission, Planning & Development Board Punjab, Agriculture Development Bank and Bank of Punjab. The panelists included Dr. Jamil Najam and Mr. Mian Amanullah. The forum started with the recitation of Holy Quran by Qari Mohammad Azam Alvi. Then Mr. Fayyaz Baqir, Director Akhter Hameed Khan Resource Center (AHKRC) was invited to introduce AHKRC and its work. Mr. Baqir discussed the life history of Dr. Akhter Hameed Khan as a scholar, social scientist and his remarkable endeavors in lightening up the fates of underprivileged. "Akhter Hameed Khan considered that learning should focus on self knowledge, serving the people and testing and evolving one's understanding of social

reality", he said.

Mr. Tariq Sultan then addressed the gathering and talked about his 42 years of experience as a teacher, administrator and in managing the recruitment of public service commission "Our education system has not been able to produce people who can serve the needs of present time. In the 21st century, demand and supply patterns are changing rapidly. The world is changing at such a pace that if we don't change then we will be left behind". He mentioned that in Punjab dropout rates is 35-40% and the schools are unable to retain the students. Despite heavy investments in elementary schools results are not being obtained which clearly indicates malice in the system.

He stressed upon the evolution of uniform system of education. The present system is highly stratified as a consequence pass outs have unequal opportunities in the job market. Private sector wants the cream; best of the best which generally comes out of the top institutions (primarily private sector) hence the poor students coming out of the public institutions are usually left behind. Unfortunately the public sector institutions haven't come up with effective strategies to tackle the issue. Education is the only mean through which vertical mobility takes place. He also mentioned the case of madarasa students and the lack of optimal job opportunities for the pass outs. Finally he highlighted the need to develop competencies of the student so as to enable them to understand and rationalize their environment, which is the only way to address this challenge and bring change in the society.

Mr. Amanullah, a school teacher who received Presidential awards of "Pride of Performance" and "Izaz-e-Fazeelat" in view of his exceptional contributions in the field of education, was then invited to share his views and experience. Mr. Amanullah was of the view that education system can be made effective if national objectives are clear. In addition, factors

such as absence of sincere political leadership have long remained a reason of failure of this system and also the fact that the content of education is obsolete and irrelevant to our development objectives. Role of teachers in building character of students and building the nation is lacking. And lastly due to brain drain, valuable human capital is not retained within the country.

Dr. Jamil Najam is an Honorary Operations Manager- Society for Talent and Education Progress (STEP). He also served as Director Public Instructions and was awarded Tamgha-e-Imtiaz by the President of Pakistan. He discussed the mission statement of National Curriculum in detail and pointed out gaps in the policies formulated by the government and its

"The present system is highly stratified as a consequence pass outs have unequal opportunities in the job market. Private sector wants the cream; best of the best which generally comes out of the top institutions (primarily private sector) hence the poor students coming out of the public institutions are usually left behind." - Tariq Sultan

implementation: as the goals set in the nicely drafted policies are not being achieved in the practical life. "Even if we assume that the contents of curriculum are well designed then we need to assess where the fault lies and why are we unable to achieve the objectives laid down in the policies. We need to ascertain whether the text books are aligned with the content of curriculum, teachers are aware of education's objectives, the book content supports the competencies prescribed in the curriculum, and teachers endorse the curriculum and are well trained. He presented a framework of an integrated education policy with focus on quality in which the student outcomes are established not just upon academic achievement but also on development of competencies such as social skills, values, participation and economic success. He recommended that a thorough appraisal of teacher's aptitude is required specifically

at the time of teachers' selection/hiring and generally after the completion of various professional development opportunities. Managers of learning must not be confused with administrative managers. To manage learning process and relevant resources requires exclusively acquired professional expertise. As the practice goes, the existing managers of learning lack such skills & knowledge. And this is the reason why despite utmost efforts things are not coming up in the education system.

The forum was then opened for question and answer session. Dr. Rizwana Khalil, District Education Officer commented that policies should be formulated in the light of ground realities. Mr. Faiz Shah said that teaching should be made a career option for those who are interested in education. He put emphasis in providing respect and recognition to the teachers. He also said that the resources allocated for education should be utilized effectively. One of the students raised a question about the importance of imparting education in national language. Mr. Amanullah favored the idea as according to him national language offers benefit of nurturing national thinking and vision. While answering a query regarding class difference in education he replied that the national curriculum needs to be improved and should be universally implemented.

The forum received a great response from the students who actively participated in the discussion. More than 300 students were present at the occasion who favored the idea of holding such discussion forums on a regular basis.



Thinking Minds Active participation of youth to support the cause

By Samar Saeed Akhtar

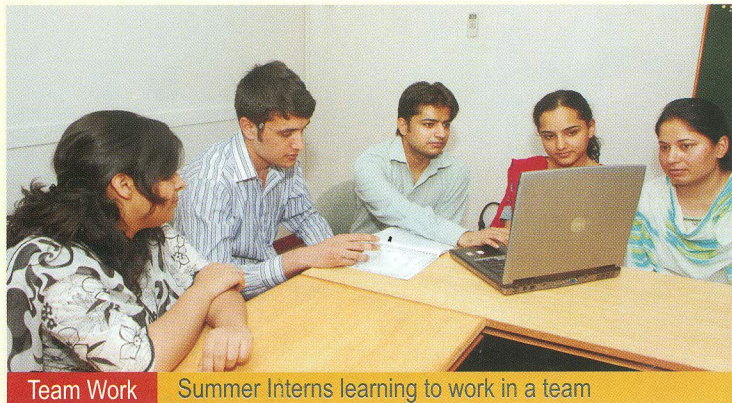
Summer Internship Programme

Summer Internship Programme (SIP) of NRSP-IRM is a six week long intensive programme that grooms young interns to be the leaders of tomorrow. SIP provides them an opportunity to practically apply class room knowledge and allow them to experience the challenges of professional world. The interns are exposed to a fast-paced and professional work environment that is conducive to learning. The internship programme at IRM comprises of research work, field exposure and presentations along with the regular office activities.



Leaders of Tomorrow Interns while working on their research projects

SIP provides a brilliant opportunity for the interns to enhance their knowledge regarding their field of interest. They are given flexibility to choose any area for research and are provided full guidance from start till the completion of the project. They present their research findings at the end of their internship period. Here are some of the comments from the interns:



Team Work Summer Interns learning to work in a team

Amar Sham Khangrani – Lahore University for Management Sciences

"Working in IRM-NRSP has completely transformed my perception of the development process from an anecdote in literature to an instrumental phenomenon. It gave me an opportunity to interact up close with the community and thereby opening a whole new avenue of possibilities for me."

Maheen Malik – Iqra University

"I greatly value the opportunity that was given to me to learn management communication dynamics such as writing a report in the form of a mini thesis and how to work in a departmental setting of an organization."

Zarina Tariq – Frobells School

"My time at NRSP - IRM was brimming with new experiences and non stop learning, from my mentors and my fellow interns. It has been a time well invested, for I will remember this internship the most amongst others. Our field visit was very informative and gave us a practical view of what all this massive network of RSPs has done and how it has influenced people's lives."

By Tayyaba Khan

Training Highlights

Community Mobilization Training for IPC officers

NRSP-Institute of Rural Management and Population Council arranged Community Mobilization Training of Family Advancement for Life and Health (FALAH) project for Inter Personal Communication (IPC) Staff of Greenstar Social Marketing. The events were held from June 22nd till July 2nd, 2009. There were eight events, coordinated by Tayyaba Khan at Islamabad, Lahore, Multan and Karachi. 168 participants were trained that included 66 men and 102 women. The trainings were arranged to develop the understanding of participants about role of social mobilization in order to create demand for birth spacing methods and build their capacity to work more effectively with the target audience.

Livelihood Development through Vocational Training

Livelihood development of rural and urban youth by imparting vocational and technical skills training is one of the major successful initiatives of NRSP-IRM. During the last quarter vocational trainings were offered in 19 different trades which included welding, auto electrician, beautician, Parlor Management, building electrician, computer hardware and software, mobile phone repairing, tailoring, driving, machine embroidery, UPS Installation, motor cycle repair and maintenance, and others. A total of 1403 participants were trained in 69 training events which included 960 males and 443 females. Training duration varies from 30 to 60 days and most of the training they were arranged at VTEC Rawalpindi/ Islamabad and in Sukkur.

Executive Diploma in English Language Proficiency

Three month Executive Diploma in English Language Proficiency (tenth batch) was successfully completed on July 20, 2009. The diploma was started in April 20, 2009, and 16 professionals from NGOs, INGOs, government, semi government, multi national companies were enrolled. It aimed

to enhance the ability to communicate effectively and develop listening, speaking, reading and writing skills of the participants. The diploma was coordinated by Ms. Uzma Shah.

Training in Effective Communication Skills

Three day training on Effective Communication Skills was held from July 15th till 17th, 2009. The training was arranged for NRSP field staff of Mianwali, Bahawalpur and Turbat region which included social organizers and veterinary doctors. The objective of this training was to equip the staff with the capability to effectively interact and communicate with the communities. 24 participants consisting of 17 males and 7 females were trained. The event was coordinated by Mr. Farrukh Syeer.



Capacity Building Participants during the training

Orientation Training Workshop 77 for BBSYDP

Orientation Training Workshop (OTW 77) was arranged by IRM as a part of Benazir Bhutto Shaheed Youth Development Programme (BBSYP) from July 14th-20th, 2009. The programme is funded by Government of Sindh and it aims to train 464 unemployed youngsters from all over Sindh. The training programme extends over a period of six months and OTW is the first step. Total 21 participants including 13 men and 8 women were trained. Training was coordinated by Mr. George Chughtai.



A Sporting Lifestyle



The power of abstract thinking is less developed in young children. They cannot be "taught" precisely how sports experiences translate into the building blocks of character development; unless they internalize these values by undergoing a natural process. In addition to the acquisition of self-confidence and self-esteem, the moral principles inherent in sharing, abiding by rules, sense of right-and-wrong, and importance of behavior, cooperation, honesty, respect and fairness can be learned in the playing field.

After religion, sport is the most powerful cultural force in society. Sport is fun, almost a banal observation — requiring little in the way of social commentary. The joy of sports can be expressed very powerfully in the unintended eloquence of a simple anecdote:

"I knew that sports were very important, even though I also knew when I was six that I wanted to be a doctor. So I worked hard in school. But nothing was like that moment on the basketball court when you drove to the hoop. There was nothing like that in anything else I ever did. So I knew the value, the importance of athletics."

Conventionally, "sport" is termed synonymous with "fun", "leisure", "recreation" and "play" — distinctly separated from more somber work of society. The immense popularity of spectator sports in Pakistan tends to widen this gulf in the public minds, with tarnished images of sports celebrities and professional teams further undermining the value of sports as a legitimate youth development vehicle.

Sports also have an impact on reduction of crime rates. As instead of sitting idle, it provides an excellent opportunity to take out frustration and superfluous energy in the field. If one is good at it, sports is a way of earning a living too. Plus, excelling in it can take one to heights of fame. Cricket is most popular sports in Pakistan even though it is not our national sport. Individuals of every age group from young to old enjoy watching and playing this game. Players who gain international acclaim put their country on the world map!

Overall sports offer a healthy lifestyle. Participation in it is not only a source of leisure but it also provides a practical way to learn about goal setting, experience teamwork and develop time management skills. Importantly, it makes one learn about dealing with adversity. Everyone makes mistakes. Everyone has problems. But how well you handle these mistakes and problems directly affects happiness and quality of life. This is exactly what sports teach.

By Maheen Malik

Developing Future Leaders



Polishing Professionals YPLP participants during the training session

The Young Professionals Leadership Program (YPLP) is designed to develop a talented pool of women professionals with the necessary skills, knowledge and confidence to move to the next higher level in the organizational structure and eventually reach top management positions. It aims to enhance the professional development of young females leading to their full, effective and efficient participation in their respective work places. This training programme, which started in February 2, 2009, covers a period of 8 weeks and is spread over a duration of one year. Each individual module focuses on a critical aspect of diversity in the context of the challenges and opportunities faced in the lives of participants. It includes modules such as Leadership & Management, Gender & Development, Project Cycle Management and Financial Resource Management. The program also includes national and International exposure visits and one of the integral part of the programme is meeting leading professionals of Pakistan.

Nineteen young leaders have participated in the program this year, representing a wide and diverse spectrum of cultures and professions. Participants are selected on a competitive basis from the different development and non development sectors around Pakistan. Preference is given to young professionals

who have demonstrated leadership qualities through their interest in issues of diversity and who have participated in helping foster greater communication, understanding and cooperation between the city's ethnic groups.

While sharing views about the program, Sara Ali Noori, one of the participants stated "I feel very fortunate to be a part of YPLP and one of those 19 aspirant women professionals who are groomed to be the leaders for tomorrow. The program has thought me to extract the best from my colleagues and teammates by continuously working together and encouraging each other. My Improved performance has been noticed by my colleagues and I owe it to YPLP which has directed me to a greater efficiency and an improved bottom line". Presently, Sara is working with United Nations Development Programme-Baluchistan as Provincial Administrative and Finance Assistant.

According to Firdous Rani, a freelance researcher "For me to search for the right words to describe the whole experience is quite difficult. I have been invigorated by this exceptional program. Now I am even more committed to taking on the challenges being faced by my organization and the people we serve and I am willing to step up to the plate as a leader."

While Ms. Maria Saeed, Squadron Leader, Pakistan Air force is of the view that the training helped in re-discovering professional expertise that was hidden, and also provided an opportunity to meet renowned personalities during various exposure visits to different organizations.

The program is offered in collaboration with NRSP-Institute of Rural Management, Human Resource Development Network and IQRA University, Islamabad.

By Asma Usmani

Youth and Environment

Youth have both special concerns and responsibilities towards the environment. They will have to live longer with the consequences of current environmental decisions than will



their elders. Also, future generations will borne the repercussion of the actions taken today towards the depletion of resources, loss of biodiversity, and global climate change. Therefore, the World Environment Day is celebrated on 5th June to spread environmental awareness and concern for our mother Earth.

The Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences of Bahria University, Islamabad celebrated the World Environment Day with a lot of zest and energy. The students worked hard in making posters and models related to various environmental issues such as solid waste management, global warming, water pollution and air pollution.

The day started by Tree Plantation and approximately a hundred trees were planted all together by all the environmental students and faculty members who got their hands digging to plant as many trees as possible. Trees were also planted by the Head of the Department, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Dr. Muhammad Zafar, Mr. Asif Javed, Chief Coordinator (Green Club)/Senior Lecturer, Environmental Sciences and Dr. Humera Farah, Assistant

Professor, Environmental Sciences.

After the tree plantation, the students were shown a documentary on "Indus Blind Dolphins" arranged by Akhter Hameed Khan Resource Center, **NRSP- Institute of Rural Management**. The documentary proved to be of great knowledge for the students and raised awareness regarding exotic species existing in Pakistan. Following the documentary, Ms. Shadmina Khanum of Himalayan Wildlife Foundation (HWF) was welcomed on stage to give the students a brief presentation on "Introduction to Margalla Hills National Park" after which the model and poster exhibition was made open for all the students of all departments, guests and faculty members.

The Honorable Registrar, Cdre (R) Mumtaz Raza of Bahria University was invited for the Inauguration of the Green Club as well as plantation. The Registrar inaugurated the ceremony by cutting the cake in honor of the World Environment Day 2009.

The day reinforced that the youngsters can work together to keep the environment wheel rolling; facing all sorts of challenges to keep the environment safe, clean and "GREEN"!

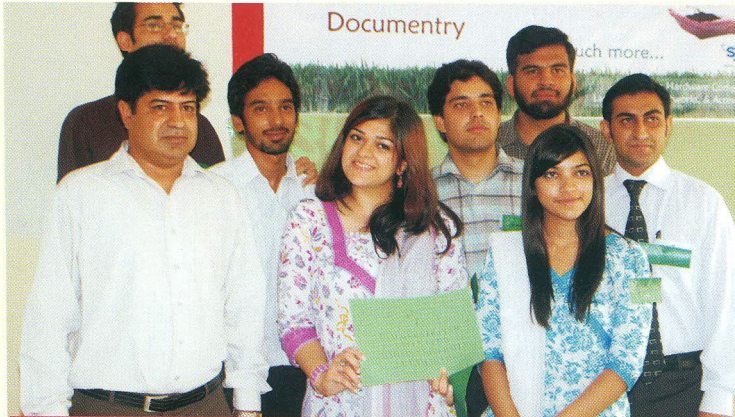
By Asif Javed and Ayesha Jamil

Theme of next issue
of HRD Communiqué is
Enterprise Development

If you want to contribute something relevant to the theme, you are welcome.
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Entailing Commitment Organizers of the environment day event

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Training Calendar

Effective Communication and Presentation Skills

Social Mobilization Training Programme is holding training on Effective Communication and Presentation Skills for Benazir Bhutto Shaheed Youth Development Programme (BBSYDP)
Sep 29- Oct 3, 2009

NGO Leadership & Management

Post Graduate Diploma in NGO Leadership & Management is being offered in collaboration with Iqra University
Oct 12, 2009

Gender Awareness Training

Social Mobilization Training Programme is arranging Gender Awareness Training for BBSYDP
Oct 31 - Nov 3, 2009

Trainings for FATA Capacity Building Project

Orientation Training on Participatory Development
Oct 5 - Dec 5, 2009

Effective Communication and Presentation Skills
Nov 2-5, 2009

Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation
Dec 7-10, 2009

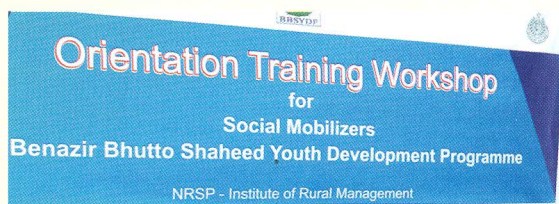
Women's Leadership Programme

Women's Leadership Programme is commencing phase I of Cohort IV of the programme which will focus on Leadership and Management
Jan, 2009



Benazir Bhutto Shaheed Youth Development Programme

The Government of Sindh initiated the Benazir Bhutto Shaheed Youth Development Programme, in order to address the issues of poverty and un-employment in Sindh through



Ardent Learners

A glimpse of social mobilizer's training

human resource development. The aim of this programme is to provide short term employment and skill development to at least 100,000 semi literate and educated unemployed youth for a period of at least 3 months to one year. It will not only play a vital role in income generation of the youth but will also increase the efficiency of the public and private sector through well placed, trained workforce.

On July 1st, 2009, NRSP – Institute of Rural Management entered into an agreement with the Sindh Rural Support Programme Consortium to create a cadre of skilled Social Mobilizers capable of fostering community organization for undertaking participatory development. Each candidate will be trained for a period of six months and for the duration of the training be paid a stipend. The trainees who successfully complete the training will be gainfully employed in the Rural Support Programmes, Micro Finance Institutions, NGOs and

donor supported projects that have a component for community mobilization.

Social Mobilizers Internship Programme is a part of the training which is designed to orient the participants about concept and theory of participatory development and to develop their understanding of field applications of community mobilization processes and packages. Experienced social scientist, practitioners and training experts are leading sessions on related topics. Relevant field visit will enable the participants to see application of participatory development approach. The programme also includes report writing, dialogues, and SO diary writing techniques. Hands on practical task oriented exercises, including learning applications, practical sessions, will provide participants with the opportunity to apply relevant concepts and methods in their future work.

The social mobilization done by the trained social mobilizers will create a strong social and economic capital of organised communities. This not only has implications for stronger service delivery but will also lead to cohesive community organisations, which is essential for the development of a just and equitable society.



Strengthening Youth

Participation of women in the BBSYDP

Reshaping lives through Skill Improvement



Changing Lives

A snapshot of Muzaffar at work

NRSP as a non-government and not-for profit organization since its inception, has been paving the way of youth that lead them to uplift their living standard, to be entrepreneur and to be a productive employee in different professions. This is done by its Vocational Training Programme for deprived and unemployed young people.

Over the past years NRSP under its wing IRM (Institute of Rural Management) has acquired tangible success in its Vocational Training Programme. The programme offers a wide range of vocational trainings that enable communities to generate & raise income self-reliantly. These trainings not only provide escape from poverty but also become a key agent of behavioral change in wander group of youngsters. Same change has come in Muzaffar's life.

Muzaffar, 26 years old, belongs to a middle class family settled in Sadiqabad. Having no interest in education he passed matric very hardly. His father, a transporter daily insisted him to continue education or work somewhere, but he spent all his time in playing cricket and wandering. Muzaffar had to listen chides and scolds from his family members due to his irresponsible attitude.

Muzaffar's aunt was member of community organization (CO: Aieza) of NRSP. Once she came to know that NRSP has arranged a one month vocational training in Islamabad for its community members. She enrolled Muzaffar's name in the list of mobile phone repairing with the hope that he would be able to earn and become self dependent.

During that training he learnt mobile hardware repairing. The learning environment was so pleasant and full of knowledge that he planned to do something which may not only change his life but can earn him an improved status in his family.

Keeping his wish, he bought a mobile repairing tool kit and started practicing at home. Daily after returning from training, he repaired many mobiles of his friends free of cost. Meanwhile, his friend invited him to work with him in his mobile shop "Kings Mobiles". He worked there for eight months and earned Rs.200,000.

During this period he sharpened his marketing skills as well as customer dealing. Then he decided that it was the time to make a sole identity in the market. Muzaffar opened his separate shop in Khalid market named "Al-Makkah Mobiles". Now Muzaffar has a partner in his shop and they are earning daily 1,500 to 3,000 per partner which leads to 40,000-60,000 monthly income. Muzaffar has built customer reliability and loyalty in the market. He credits this success to NRSP-IRM's training especially development of his communication and marketing skills during the training session.

"I salute to NRSP-IRM whose vocational training programme reshaped my life. Those thirty days of training impacted my life constructively. I have realized value of time and work. I am my own boss now, and my family considers me a sensible and valuable person." Muzaffar said.

By Mohammad Azhar, NRSP-Rahimyar Khan

Identifying Youth



Humanity evolves out of youth—a catalyst of change, prophets of future, harbinger of hope and roadmap of prosperity. A nation is built in their shadows and they are the reflection of the nation.

Pakistan presently is the sixth largest country in terms of population after China, India, US, Brazil and Indonesia. According to independent estimates Pakistan is growing in population at the rate of 2.2 percent per annum and if this rate continues then the country in 2050 would be the fourth most populous country in the world surpassing Indonesia and Brazil. Pakistan currently has 54.2 million young people under the age bracket of 10-24 that makes 34 percent of its total population. This designates that the country has a large reservoir of youth.

In contrast, the developed countries of the west are facing a population crunch specifically in terms of youth. In order to meet the shortfall in the youth population, the industrial countries have to import the young professionals and labour from abroad. The phenomenon is termed as brain drain.

Are we as a nation doing enough to develop our youth to secure our future? What plans have been so far envisaged by

the government or the civil society to channelize the vision, dreams, aspirations, energy and vitality of the youth in order to surmount all emerging challenges, present or future, real or perceived, faced by Pakistan today at national and international levels? It is a high time that we must realize the significance of our youth.

Pakistani youth today often seems to be bemused and disoriented beset with a sense of insecurity or frustration. The reason for this assertion lies in the precarious conditions across the country as our society is prone to many socio-economic, political, and religious issues. Internationally, we are stigmatized as state-producing terrorists. Naive leadership further aggravates the situation. Consequently, our society is thwarted to a great extent in empowering young people, re-establishing their identities, honoring and valuing their lives, and directing their energies towards constructive actions.

The youth is like a dual sword; if directed properly, there is no end to progress; on the other hand, unemployed youth can be the source of a plethora of evils in the society. The point is proven if we view the situation in our country, most of the suicide bombers are age between 15 to 25 years. The minds of the

youth are malleable so they are easily brainwashed.

Education is imperative in building the human resource for the future. Unfortunately we are not doing much to education. Though there is an increase in literacy rate, yet social, cultural, and spiritual grooming is lacking which is indispensable to achieve the full potentials. In our institutions, most of the teachers are clinging to traditional pedagogies where students' creativity is marred by the continuous spoon feeding. In contrary, actual teaching involves great amount of intuition, improvisation, and expressiveness. It depends on high levels of creativity, sound judgment, and insights transforming students into self-reliance and self-assured citizens of the global world.

Pakistan having 5th largest army of the world and nuclear warhead capabilities has emerged as a frontline state in the world affairs. She evolved as a strategic partner of United State of America for encountering the challenges of terrorism, especially in the post scenario situation emerged after 9/11 attacks in New York and America's invasion of Afghanistan; getting involved in a proxy war, presently waged in her own territory and against her own people. What would be the political, economic, social and financial implications and consequences of this war; it is yet to be seen.

Never had the existence and sovereignty of Pakistan challenged and jeopardized as the way it has been presently challenged. Never had it become more desirable to find one more Muhammad Ali Jinnah from amongst our youth, who could steer the unsteady ship of Pakistan's destiny out of present crisis and turmoil to the safe shores of prosperity, peace and economic justice. Never had it become more desirable to find one more dreamer and philosopher from amongst the youth of Pakistan, who could dream with the same lucidity and conviction about Pakistan as the way dreamt by Allama Iqbal, and who could also transform the destiny of Pakistan as the way done by our national poet with the force and spell of his poetry.

Against the deluge of these challenges, it has become imperative and desirable more than ever as clearly warranted by the present circumstances that sincere, concerted and well-

coordinated efforts are required to be made by the government and civil society to prepare, nurture and develop the youth of Pakistan as strategic partners in all decisions relating to ideology and policy. The zeal, aspirations and vitality of our youth can produce a miracle once more as was produced in 1947 in form of an independent Pakistan.

There are some not-for-profit organizations trying to contribute in youth development by designing and launching such programmes which could be prolific for the youth. But the first and foremost duty is of the state to take the responsibilities to build essential skills and competencies and to provide opportunities the youth need along the way to be able to feel safe, cared for, valued and useful to the nation.

There is a dire need of formulating a paradigm for channelizing the potential and aspirations of our youth and employing them for achieving optimal growth in every field. We need to acknowledge their emotional and intellectual diversities and outbursts and to relocate our youth in the main stream of all political, social, economic and religious activities, so that we all as a nation could take arms against the sea of issues currently besetting Pakistan. We need to have vision, initiative, patience, respect, persistence, courage, and faith to bring a revolution in which the young could recognize their due worth and take the responsibilities falling on their shoulders to keep their nation sustained among the developed nations across the globe.

Let us make a vow that we all as true and patriotic Pakistani, regardless of our differences of age, caste, language and ethnic diversity, going forward from here will endorse the conviction and purpose of creating Pakistan.



Saiqa Yaseen has done Masters in English Literature and Linguistics from National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad. As a trainer, she has conducted numerous trainings on communications skills with NRSP-IRM, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics and Human Resource Development Network.

An Interview with a Young Role Model

Ali Moeen Nawazish amazed the world by setting a world record of 23 A levels within 12 months. He has received numerous accolades for his exceptional performance



including Pride of Performance Award bestowed by Prime Minister of Pakistan, Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani. His achievement has been recorded in Guinness book of World Record (GBWR, 2009). He has been in limelight ever since his result came out and his interviews are being aired on numerous international and national TV channels. Most Ivy League institutions, including Harvard and Yale, offered him scholarships but he preferred to study at Cambridge University where he is pursuing Computer Sciences degree.

Samar Saeed Akhtar interviewed Ali in which he talked about his achievement.

Samar: Firstly, tell me about yourself?

Ali: I was born in Rawalpindi on February 21, 1990. Both my parents and my elder sister are doctor. I did my A levels from Roots School System and now studying at Cambridge University.

Samar: Youngsters of your age usually don't take much interest in studies because of activities like games, internet and parties. How did you avoid these distractions?

Ali: I am also like other youngsters of my age who hangout with friends, attend parties and watch movies. A day before my physics paper of A level I had gone to Cinepax to watch a movie. The main point is to keep a balance between all activities.

Samar: What are your hobbies? Did you take part in extra curricular activities back in school?

Ali: I take a lot of interest in music. I play guitar and piano. I had a musical band back in school days. Our song was played on one of the TV channels for two weeks. I was the president of music club as well as editor of school newspaper. I also got an opportunity to take part in a leadership conference at Harvard University.

Samar: How do you spend your day?

Ali: When I was in Pakistan, I did not have a set routine but ever since I have joined university, lectures scheduled at different timings takes up most part of the day. Besides I have joined societies such as martial arts, student council and etc. At night I go for walk with my friends.

Samar: Do you like reading books?

Ali: Not really.

Samar: How did you prepare for A level examination?

Ali: When I decided to take up 23 courses, my friends declared

me insane. It was not that simple but once you are determined to achieve a goal it becomes much easier. There was no special formula for preparation of exam; much of it was haphazard to say the least. At times I would study for 12 hours. I would study one course for a while and then switch to another one.

Samar: Did you ever feel stressed out and thought of leaving it in between?

Ali: I thought about leaving once but I remained resolute at my decision. I have given four papers in a single day, which used to begin from 8 am and continued till 9:30 pm. In reality I wanted to set a mark in the world by doing something unusual. What kept me focused was the thought that after 50 years or so when I will look back I will feel that I have done something meaningful in my life. I am thankful to my teacher Mr. Zahoor who has a great contribution in my success.

Samar: What was your parents' reaction to your decision of appearing in 23 courses?

Ali: My parents supported me completely but obviously they were concerned if I would remain focused and do well in so many subjects without having impact on my compulsory

subjects.

Samar: How is your experience of studying at Cambridge University?

Ali: University and the teachers are pretty good. As for studies it is a good place and I have made a lot of friends over here.

Samar: A large part of our country is a victim of poverty .How do you think we can eradicate it?

Ali: There is no one solution to this matter as it requires improvement in many areas. For example good quality education, sound leadership, effective utilization of resources and most important is the enforcement of law which restricts accumulation of money in few hands. But the best thing I can say is education only through which we can break the cycle of poverty.

Samar: What is your message for the youth?

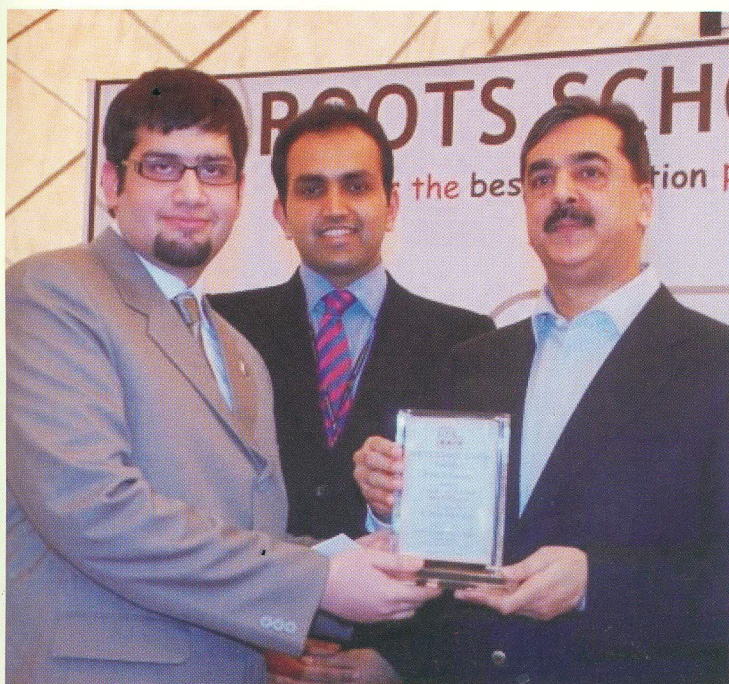
Ali: My message is to go ahead and face challenges because now we have to compete with the world. I have started a project by the name of "Step up Pakistan". I have launched a website www.alevelchallenge.com in which people from best universities of the world provides counseling to the students. Plus I have started recording lecture series to help out students at a broader scale.

Samar: What are your future plans?

Ali: Right now I am pursuing Computer Sciences degree after that I also want to study medicine from the same university. I heartedly want to serve my nation especially after all the support and acclaim I have received from my country.

Samar: Will you return to Pakistan after completing education?

Ali: Yes, of course I will definitely come back to Pakistan.



Recognizing Success Ali receiving award from Prime Minister, Mr. Yousaf Raza Gillani

Akhter Hameed Khan Resource Center

BOOK REVIEW:

**The Aga Khan Rural Support Programme
A Journey through Grassroots Development**
By Shoaib Sultan Khan
Oxford University Press
ISBN: 978-0-19-547668-2
Rs. 725

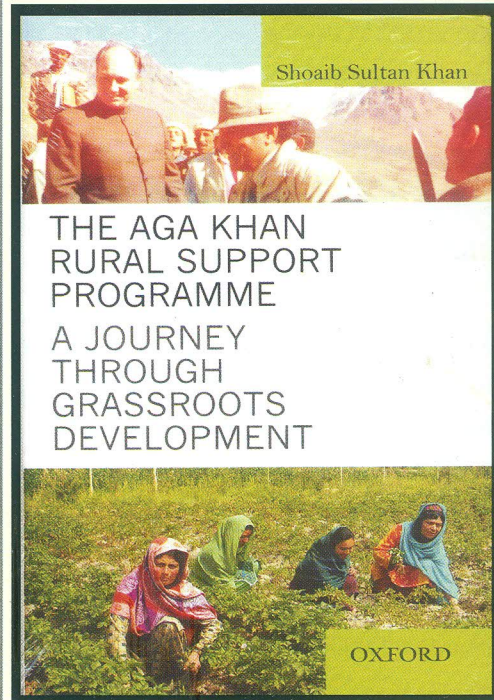
This book relates the story of participatory development experience in the rural areas of South Asia. The lessons learned in rural development, based on the author's work over the last fifty years in various areas of South Asia, are narrated in the context of 'working within the system and living within the means'.

The basic principles of rural development are described through process of engaging rural men and women to shape their lives. Operational details of interaction between communities and professionals are

combined with inspirational content on the efforts of these people to ignite hope and offer guidelines for changing the lives of the teeming millions by mobilizing their own potential.

The book also provides personal insight into the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme, an ambitious and successful sustainable development programme that was initiated by Shoaib Sultan at the behest of the Aga Khan, a patron with long term commitment to sustainable development.

The book is a valuable addition to the knowledge on people-centered development and evidence based advocacy for policy change conducive to sustainable development. It will interest both the professional and general reader interested in poverty alleviation and rural development.



Oxford University Press
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PO Box 8214, Karachi- 74900, Pakistan.

New Arrivals in Akhter Hameed Khan Resource Center

Flight of the Falcon

By S Sajid Haider

Empires of the Indus

By Alice Albinia

Abida Sultan- Aik Inquilabi Shehzadi ki Khudnosht

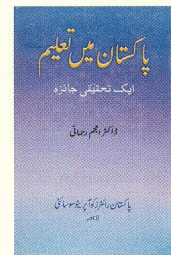
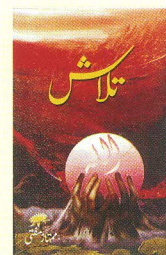
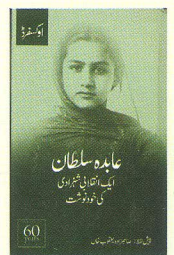
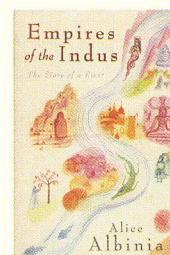
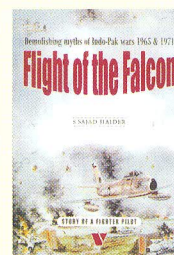
By Sahibzada Yaqoob Khan

Talash

By Mumtaz Mufti

Pakistan main Taleem- Aik Tehkiki Jaiza

By Dr. Anjum Rehmanj



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