SPECIAL EDITION

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University of Sargodha RANKED 401+

THE WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2020 YOUNG

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P-9 RANKED 401+ YOUNG UNIVERSITY OF THE WORLD

ONLINE EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY IMPLEMENTS SUSTAINABLE POLICY FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE IN E-LEARNING

Minimizing all the challenges of academic closure, Sargodha University, under HEC and PHEC guidelines, has taken initiative for quality assurance in online education and completing its academic year 2019-2020. Online Academic Council has approved all the policies and SOPs for online education developed by the University. Soon after the closure, all the academic and literary activities are continued online through user-friendly apps Zoom and WhatsApp. To facilitate online teaching-learning practices, the University has taken preventive response to the pandemic under COVID-19 response initiative strategy.

OPERATIONALIZED LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

For providing a better quality digital learning platforms to the faculty and the students through personalized management process and information retrieval, an LMS was introduced with the technical guidance of the Higher Education Commission (HEC). Subsequently, the University would be able to deliver a better infrastructure to facilitate better education experience. The entire faculty, following the policy guidelines of HEC, have uploaded their course descriptions, outlines, week plans, and suggested reading material for their respective subjects. Above 3000 courses were uploaded by the faculty on LMS, that would be vital to identify the feedback of students as users of LMS.

ADDRESSED ISSUES OF INTERNET CONNECTIVITY AND NON-AVAILABILITY FOR STUDENTS

The students facing internet connectivity or non-availability issues were given the option to freeze the Spring Semester without incurring any additional financial burden. In response, some students submitted applications to freeze the Spring Semester.

LAUNCHED TWO-TIER MONITORING AND EVALUATION PROCESS

For quality assurance and monitoring online classes, the University launched two-tier monitory and evaluation process. Initially, the Heads of the Departments along with course coordinators evaluated and monitored online classes. Further, to ensure the quality of online education, a Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) Task Force was constituted and its members personally joined the classes to assess the quality of education through continuous monitoring. The evaluation was done against quality indicators mentioned in the proforma. The two-tier class monitoring and evaluation process will continue during the remaining period of the Spring Semester.

DISCONTINUED COURSES RANKED BELOW THE MINIMUM QUALITY PARAMETER

Based on reports received from the Heads of Departments and QEC Task Force, the University discontinued around 125 courses out of more than 3000 courses in some of the departments, whereas online classes of the rest of the courses remain continued.

TRAINED FACULTY WITH ESSENTIAL DIGITAL PEDAGOGY SKILLS

The faculty members whose courses were discontinued have undergone a 5-day training launched on May 4, 2020. The training program was aimed to promote digital literacy and inculcate online teaching skills for better learning outcome returns.

FORMULATED ASSESSMENT POLICY

To promote the students in next semester on merit, the University has formulated examination policy for Spring semester 2020. In place of mid-term exams, the term paper carrying a weightage of 30 marks was assigned to the students. The priority would be given to the conduct of examination physically after July 15, 2020, when the university will reopen or allowed by HEC. For the purpose one week physical classes will be arranged before the conduct of final term examination to address the deficiency in courses and issues faced by the students during the online classes.

REGISTERED FOR 'COURSERA FOR CAMPUS'

To expedite virtual learning opportunities for the students and faculty, and acquire certification courses at no cost, the University signed up 'Coursera for Campus' program. The initiative would open avenues for 5000 students and faculty members to access around 3800 courses in 400 specializations. As per the decision of the Academic Council, in addition to the regular courses, the interested students would be provided with an opportunity to get enrolled in the certified courses at no cost. Upon the completion of courses from edX and Coursera, the students will get certificates from internationally recognized universities which would be acknowledged in their final transcripts as additional courses.

LAUNCHED WEBINAR SERIES FOR INTELLECTUAL COLLABORATION WITH GLOBAL SCHOLARS

The University has launched 'Summer Webinar Series' to engage scholars from the global community to continue the efforts of the University for creating intellectual space for the students and faculty on contemporary issues of socio-economic and political significance amid the closure.

CONTINUED RESEARCH ACTIVITIES VIRTUALLY

With the emergence of the digital information landscape, the need to access digital libraries and resources has become a necessity of the time. Amid the outbreak, academic and research activities continue to take place for facilitating researchers and students as the department of Library and Information Sciences (LIS), organized its second annual international conference online on the 'Emerging Issues of Information Landscape' on April 20-21, 2020. To get accustomed to the challenges and keep libraries open through digital resources during the lockdown, the idea of digital libraries takes flight.

PROVIDED ACCESS TO DIGITAL DATABASES

To facilitate researchers and students with authentic resources, the users are given free access to a vast number of online resources, books and research journals, through HEC Digital Library and Lincoln Corner digital resources.

SHARPENED CRITICAL AND CREATIVE SKILLS THROUGH EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The University also provided ample opportunities to the students to get connected with extra-curricular activities virtually. Riaz-Shad Co-curricular Forum launched a month-long competition to harness creative and literary skills among the students by engaging them in competitions moving different themes. Career Development Center arranged a session to develop professional competency and to prepare the students for better career paths. Similarly, Lincoln Corner of the University organized a virtual book session to develop reading habit skills and utilize the maximum benefit of quarantine days.

FACILITATING ONLINE TEACHING PRACTICES THROUGH LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

With distinctive rise in e-learning, the University promptly operationalized Learning Management System (LMS) to facilitate the process of online learning-teaching practices.

For providing a better quality, digital learning platforms to the faculty and the students through personalized management process and information retrieval, LMS is introduced with technical guidance of Higher Education Commission (HEC). Subsequently, the University would be able to deliver a better infrastructure to facilitate better education experience.

More than 3000 courses along with course description, outlines, week plans, relevant videos and suggested readings in the form of pdfs, PowerPoint presentations and document format are uploaded on the LMS to ease out the process of e-learning and facilitate students.

The LMS would ensure the systematic review of all degree programs through course outlines, plans and uploaded course contents. It will also improve and maintain the quality, equity and efficiency of online education as well.

The system is integrated with the university website (www.su.edu.pk) and allow each faculty to upload course outlines and reading material in multiple formats. Centralized uploading and online access through LMS ensures the accessibility of course content which students of all departments need to learn whenever and wherever they want to.

ENSURING QUALITY THROUGH TWO-TIER CLASS MONITORING AND EVALUATION PROCESS

With the digital transition in education triggered by the pandemic, quality assurance is one of the greatest concerns of higher education institutes all over the world. Copping with the challenge of continuity, excellence, equity and the quality of education, Sargodha University has introduced a two-tier class monitoring and evaluation process. All the measures have been taken in line with HEC, PHEC and HED policy guidelines in true letter and spirit.

For quality assurance, a Task Force of 23 members from the University was constituted by the Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC). To ensure transparency, the evaluation and monitoring was done at departmental as well as university level. Initially, the heads of the departments along with course coordinators evaluated and monitored online classes. Further, members of QEC Task Force personally joined the classes to assess the quality of education through continuous monitoring.

The two-tier class monitoring and evaluation process is initiated to check regularity and punctuality of the conduction of online classes as per departmental schedule on Zoom app. The evaluation of online teaching skills and quality of the content delivered by faculty members during online classes was done against quality indicators mentioned in the designed proforma by QEC.

Based on reports received from the Heads of Departments and QEC Task Force, the University discontinued more than 100 courses out of above 3000 courses of some departments that were not following

the minimum quality parameters.

The two-tier class monitoring and evaluation process would be continued during the remaining period of the Spring Semester.

Quality Parameters

The quality of online classes was assessed according to the following parameters mentioned in evaluation proforma:

- Stating course outline with clear learning outcomes
- Communicating objectives of the session clearly
- Sharing of relevant material beforehand
- Delivering lecture with clarity
- Communication skills
- Students' attention during online session
- Teacher's ability to build students' curiosity
- Updated knowledge sharing
- Supplementing content delivery with relevant examples
- Encouraging students' engagement
- Teacher's cooperation with students
- Strictly complying with the time table
- Overall effectiveness of online teaching-learning process

CULTIVATING DIGITAL PEDAGOGY SKILLS THROUGH FACULTY TRAINING

Averting the challenges posed by the closure of academic activities, the University gears up for smooth digital transition without compromising quality parameters in online education. For improved quality standards in virtual coaching, the Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) organized the online training program for its faculty from May 4-15, 2020 through Zoom app.

To cope with the challenge of assuring quality in online education, a team of seven trainers focused on the strategies to improve teaching and technological skills of the faculty. The training program was aimed to promote digital literacy and inculcate online teaching skills for better learning outcome returns.

Key Points

The training was conducted in different batches and revolved around various themes related to the online academic planning, management, practices, use of technology and other resources.

- Learn effective use of technology and transform teaching style as a change of communication channels and methods subsequently change the requirements for instructional and learning skills.
- Create educational experiences for students that are challenging, enriching and extends their academic abilities.
- Provide students with opportunities to interact such as through discussion and group work.
- Align course content with the objectives and assessments, while, extra content not directly supporting the learning objectives should be removed or made optional.
- Help students dive straight into the content by providing them with course outline, course plan, due dates and schedule, and clear assignment directions.
- Demonstrate enthusiasm and excitement while teaching the course to alleviate fear, anxiety and isolation.
- Develop a curiosity among the students that encourages class participation and elicit rich discussion.

A DIGITAL LEAP
SARGODHA UNIVERSITY SIGNS UP 'COURSERA FOR CAMPUS'

In the wake of the suspension of on-campus academic activities due to the outbreak, Sargodha University signed up the 'Coursera for Campus' program, which would open avenues for 5000 students and faculty members to access around 3800 courses in 400 specializations. The HEC also signed an agreement with edX to provide free online courses to the private and public sector universities. Sargodha University also welcomed this opportunity.

As per the agreement of the University with Coursera, the free access to the courses is given for two months, while, month-to-month extensions would be granted when needed. The University will complete the enrollment process by July 31, 2020, and the enrolled learners would have to complete the course through September 30, 2020.

As per the decision of the Academic Council, in addition to the regular courses, the interested students would be provided with an opportunity to get enrolled in the certified courses at no cost. Upon the completion of courses from edX and Coursera, they will recieve certificates from major world universities an institutions which would be listed in their final transcripts as additional courses.

The initiative would allow the learners to access online learning platforms to take a digital leap. It would help them to get acquainted with critical digital skills essential for digital future ahead.

FEATURES

- Gives free access to the content from **160+** universities and **30+** industry partners
- Offers around **3800** courses and **400** Specializations
- Issues **5000** licenses to enrol students and faculty
- Develops skills proficiency at three levels: Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced

- Provides enterprise-level admin tools, analytics, and online support resources
- Gives the instructors a platform for creating and scaling online learning programs
- Curates best course list of curriculums under nine domains including Data Science, Computer Science, Business, Technology, Healthcare, Cloud and IT, Arts & Humanities, Engineering & Physical Sciences, and Professional Development
- Grants month-to-month extensions on need basis

COURSERA PARTNERS

ILLINOIS Duke UNIVERSITY Google University of MICHIGAN IBM Imperial College London Stanford Penn

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ONLINE LEARNING EXPERIENCE
Students give mixed feedback on quality and connectivity issues

" Learning is not bound to physical boundaries. Online learning is more comfortable, as it reduces the financial burden of travelling and hostel expenditures. With virtual classes, participation in the class has become easier as I speak more easily and confidently during online classes. "

Samra Azeem
Semester 4, BEd (Hons)
Department of Education

" With the commencement of online classes, it was difficult for us to accept this virtual transformation of education. It was a pleasant experience but it could never replace the traditional/physical mode of teaching. I gave all the credit to my teachers who not only addressed all our concerns but also facilitated us. Though, I miss my life at the campus and physical interaction with my friends. "

Ume-Umamma Niazi
Semester 4, BS (Fine Arts)
Institute of Art and Design

" I appreciate the decision of the university to continue the learning process amid lockdown. It has saved us from academic loss. Virtual learning has become the need of time to which we have to adapt, sooner or later, in our life. Ensuring quality education would be the greatest concern of the University. I have observed that the quality education was being comprmised from both sides, students and teachers in online learning process. "

Hassan Raza Shah
Semester 6, BS (Hons)
Department of International Relations
and Political Science

" To sit continuously before laptop for many hours without any break was the only challenge I faced during online classes. Many of my friends who were facing connectivity issues opted semester freeze opportunity, provided by the University in order to facilitate the students. However, Online classes helped me to sharpen digital literacy skills and gain the confidence to participate in online classes. "

Aqib Sohail
Semester 8, BS (Hons)
Department of Social work

ACADEMIC COUNCIL ENDORSES ONLINE EDUCATION POLICY

The Vice Chancellor presiding over the Academic Council Meeting

The Academic Council, on June 18, approved all the decisions taken by the University administration regarding continuity, excellence, equity and the quality of online education in line with the policy guidelines of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) for smooth completion of the academic year 2019-20.

The meeting held at Noon Auditorium was chaired by the Vice Chancellor Dr Ishtiaq Ahmad, amid the strict compliance of coronavirus SOPs and guidelines provided by the government. HEC representative, all deans, directors, chairs and other members of the council attended the meeting.

After thorough deliberations, the House approved the following decisions:

ONLINE EDUCATION POLICY

■ The Council endorsed all the initiatives taken to safeguard the academic loss of the students in the wake of COVID-19.

■ To ensure strict compliance of online education policy and approval of SOPs for online courses, under the directions of HEC, the House designated academic council as Online Academic Council.

■ The Council authorized the Online Academic Council to adjudicate disputes of online courses; provide training to the faculty for online teaching; ensure online availability of resource bank and library; certify online infrastructure; enact transparent policies, develop SOPs for evaluation of online courses; implement HEC's instruction for laboratory and practical courses, and seek students' feedback related to online courses.

■ The Council certified all the actions implemented as per HEC guidelines related to Learning Management System, quality assurance and teachers training, library resources, and the mechanism developed under the office of Director Student's affairs to address grievances of students facing connectivity issues.

■ Considering the limitations of various options for assessment, the mode of Online Assessment for spring 2020 for undergraduate and graduate programs was

CHANCELLOR'S INITIATIVE FOR QURANIC EDUCATION IMPLEMENTED

In compliance with the Punjab Government notification, the Council approved teaching of Holy Quran with Translation, an initiative of the Chancellor/Governor Punjab, Ch. Mohammad Sarwar. This compulsory course will be equivalent to one credit hour per year (theory/ practical). Non-Muslim students will study the course on ethics.

approved under the HEC guidelines. However, if university reopens after July 15, the priority would be given to the conduction of physical exams.

FACULTY BOARDS

The House endorsed all the recommendations made by the Board of Faculties including Agriculture, Sciences, Social Sciences, Pharmacy, Engineering, and Arts & Humanities, especially the updating of their course curricula.

CREDIT HOURS TRANSFER FOR UGRAD PARTICIPANTS

The House approved the transfer of courses and credit hours of participants of the UGRAD program from US universities to Sargodha University. Under this program, students of the Pakistani universities would join US universities to study one semester.

SUPPLEMENTAL E-LEARNING

In addition to the regular degree courses, the House decided to offer free certified online courses available at Coursera and edX to the students and faculty as supplemental learning.

ADMISSION REGULATIONS 2019

The Council approved amendments in admission policy in Admission Regulations 2019.

SARGODHA UNIVERSITY RANKED 401+ YOUNG UNIVERSITY OF THE WORLD

Achieving another milestone, the University of Sargodha has been ranked at 401+ in the World Young University Rankings 2020, released by the Times Higher Education.
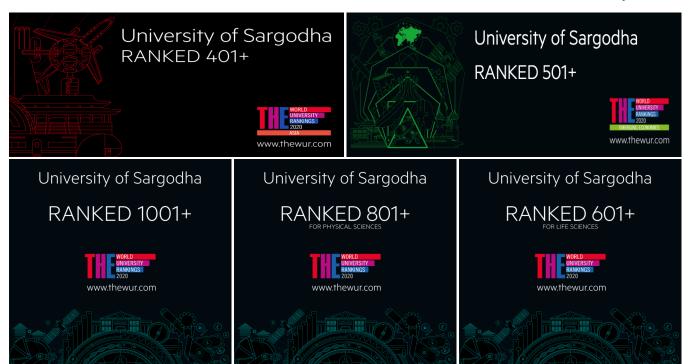
Only 8 universities from Pakistan could make it to this ranking, with GCU Lahore scoring the same points while COMSAT University Islamabad ranked 151-200, and LUMS and NUST 251-300.

Earlier, Times Higher Education ranked Sargodha University as 401+ University in Asia, 500+ University in Emerging Economies, 600+ University in terms of its Impact on SGDs, and 1000+ University in the world. The University was also ranked 401-450 Asian University in the QS University Rankings for 2019 and 2020.

The main criteria used for determining a university's ranking by both THE and QS are teaching, research, knowledge sharing and global outlook, each of which includes a number of performance indicators such as publications, citations, quality of graduates, composition of foreign faculty and students, and international collaborations. In each area, Sargodha University has achieved meaningful performance in the last few years.

" The credit for this great achievement goes to our productive faculty and efficient staff. Together we shall further enhance the University's international academic profile by expediting the progressive reforms process. "

Dr Ishtiaq Ahmad

INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION ON ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE GOALS

With significant contribution for achieving UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Sargodha University is ranked for its contribution in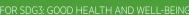 four SDGs by including SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being, SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 5: Gender Equality and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals in Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2020. Following initiatives are taken for achieving sustainable development goals:

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

University of Sargodha RANKED 301–400
FOR SDG3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

THE IMPACT RANKINGS 2020
www.thewur.com

5 GENDER EQUALITY

- The University ensures gender-free and open merit policy during the recruitment process, and offers 50% representation to women while instigating any scheme or projects.
- The University implements policies on Protection against Harassment of Women act 2010 and ensures its strict compliance through a constitutes harassment committee.
- To support women's participation, SU strictly monitors its gender reassignment policy and provides services which include maternity and paternity policies, and childcare facilities for nominal charges.

- Sargodha University is improving general health facilities in collaboration with the local health department as it has linked DHQ Sargodha hospital with its Sargodha Medical College.
- Several MoUs have been signed with prominent national health institutes including Faisalabad Institute of Cardiology.
- For the promotion of community health services, the University has adopted a pro-active approach by launching multiple initiatives including volunteer programs; regular Free Medical Camps; and local community visits under outreach delivery initiatives.
- The University has launched massive awareness campaigns related to community health by organizing workshops, seminars, walks and conferences at national and international level. As for the first time, an international conference titled Future-Med 2018 was organized by SMC in the region.
- For mental health, the University offers free of cost supporting and consultation facilities by the experts to its students, staff, and community at large. To combat issues of anxiety and depression during exams, the Psychology department celebrated 'Mental Health Week' for the students.
- Moreover, the campus is smoke-free, and offers safe drinking mineral water to its students, faculty and public at minimal commercial cost.

University of Sargodha RANKED 401+
FOR SDG5: GENDER EQUALITY

THE IMPACT RANKINGS 2020
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4 QUALITY EDUCATION

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

University of Sargodha RANKED 401–600
FOR SDG17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

THE IMPACT RANKINGS 2020
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- Sargodha University is vigorously pursuing a policy to enhance collaborations and partnerships with other bodies to implement better education and maintain sustainable development standards.
- The University readily collaborates with governmental working for national agenda and facilitates non-governmental organizations to ensure mass awareness regarding sustainable development criteria. It has always shown commitment in providing professional, technical and logistical assistance for the public good.
- For the implementation of productive health care and family planning, the University is a partner in the National Welfare Program and has signed MoU with Ministry of Population Welfare.
- The varsity also maintains a dispute resolution committee formulated by Chancellor/ Governor on issues pertaining to collaborative initiatives and the committee helps in resolving disputes on a fair basis.

University of Sargodha RANKED 301–400
FOR SDG4: QUALITY EDUCATION

THE IMPACT RANKINGS 2020
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- For spreading awareness regarding multiple issues of national and international significance, the University organizes various programs including lectures, training and conferences for students as well as the general public.
- An exclusive agriculture outreach program is launched by the University's Agriculture College to provide awareness and training to the farming community.
- For arranging various seminars, national and international conferences, lectures, and workshops on multiple issues, the University maintains event calendar all over the year.
- To inculcate a sense of social responsibility and civic engagement among students, the University has introduced a mandatory course titled 'Citizenship Education and Community Engagement' in its entire graduate programs.
- All the events are live broadcasted and made accessible to the students and community through official social media platforms, on-campus multimedia screen and FM radio.
- Through well functional and fully automated Career Development Center, the University facilitates its students and alumni's regarding internship, scholarship and job opportunities.
- With the initiative of a smart campus, the University offers free access to the internet to the students and faculty.
- The Facilitation Center, a one-window operation, is all set to resolve the queries and assist visitors seeking information related to admissions, fee submission, degree issuance, and document verification.
- The University hosts literary festival and book fare annually for the students and community.

University of Sargodha RANKED 601+

THE IMPACT RANKINGS 2020
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VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON 'EMERGING ISSUES OF INFORMATION LANDSCAPE'

Surge in digital libraries gears up to support remote learning and research

Amid the outbreak, academic and research activities continue to take place for facilitating researchers and students as the department of Library and Information Sciences (LIS), organized its second annual international conference online on the 'Emerging Issues of Information Landscape' on April 20-21, 2020.

To get accustomed to the challenges and keep libraries open through digital resources during the lockdown, the idea of digital libraries takes flight. The theme of the conference revolved around 'Building, connecting and sustaining libraries and societies in the digital era.' The conference provided a platform to the experts, researchers and professionals from LIS to set forth a discourse on changing information landscape due to the emergence of information communication technology. The conference was packed with informative talks, professional networking and exchange of ideas among national and international delegates.

In addition to an inaugural session, seven academic sessions, one-panel discussion and a concluding session were arranged. In total, 295 participants took part in this conference from across Pakistan and abroad, including the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria and UAE. Around 30 research papers on diverse issues were presented at the conference.

Recommendations

■ According to UNESCO, 1.5 billion students have been affected with the closure, The pandemic has forced the libraries to shift all their operations from real to the virtual world by adopting new models of information services utilizing the latest technology, artificial intelligence and virtual realities.

■ Globally, LIS community is gearing up to support remote learning and research with relaxation in copyright laws; providing e-book lending; many publishers and aggregators are offering free access to their collection; sharing best practices, and preparing sector-wide responses to achieve long term sustainability through improved licencing terms with the suppliers.

■ To get the maximum benefit of digital libraries, the libraries are training the public with information literacy essential to deal with fake news, and understanding health information. Due to digital shift in the libraries, the curriculum of LIS should be revised in the light of digital science, artificial intelligence, big data and business analytics.

■ To connect with participants, the use of Information Communication Technologies have become inevitable.

■ To embrace the digital transition in libraries, existing library workforce should be facilitated by offering free Continuing Professional Development courses.

■ LIS community require new policies and models of disaster management and need to prepare for post-print services without print-driven service models and legacy systems.

■ During the lockdown, libraries should facilitate the users through all the available social media platforms and provide a list of free e-resources to them.

■ Through engagement with public libraries, sustained communities could be achieved. The changing role of public libraries as active community centers are providing information as well as civic services to the general public.

■ Reinvigorate Pakistan Library Association rather than putting energies into personality-driven political groups, which exist to achieve minor goals.

■ The long-term benefits of online and digitally-enhanced education could be achieved with the conversion of physical resources and services into cyberspace provided through libraries and academic departments of the university.

About the Researchers

■ *Mr Adnan Adil, London South Bank University, UK*

■ *Dr Asim Qayyum, Charles Sturt University, Australia*

■ *Dr Shafiq Ur Rehman, Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University, Saudi Arabia*

■ *Mr Arif Khan, Charles Sturt University, Australia*

CHINA'S HANBAN DONATES PLAQUE OF CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE

Ms Salena Wang presenting plaque of Confucius Institute to Dr Ishtiaq Ahmad

Sargodha University received a specific plaque of the Confucius Institute from the Confucius Institute Headquarters, Hanban China, on April 29. Ms Salena Wang, the representative of Henan Normal University (HNU), China, presented the decorated plaque of the Confucius Institute to the Vice Chancellor Sargodha University.

The Confucius Institute will be functional from Fall-2020 and as a prelude to the functioning of the institute, two Chinese language teachers from HNU have already been started the Chinese language classes at SU, while more teachers will be hired for the Institute to promote Chinese language, arts and culture. The institute would help Pakistani youth to acquire language skills, develop a deep understanding of Chinese culture and civilization to become useful partners in the development of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. By bridging the communication gap, the institute would also provide academic and research opportunities to the young researchers at Chinese universities.

The MoU of establishing Confucius Institute at Sargodha University was signed in the presence of Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chinese premier Li Keqiang in October 2019. The formalities of the establishment of this Confucius Institute were worked out by the Vice Chancellor Dr Ishtiaq Ahmad and Dr Fazal ur Rahman, the director PICS, during their visit to China, when they participated in the 2019 International Chinese Language Conference held at Changsha.

CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE EARNS THE IRE OF INDIAN HAWKS

The establishment of Confucius Institute at Sargodha University, which has led to its exemplary reciprocal solidarity with China's Henan Normal University during the pandemic, has earned the ire of Indian hawks. Writing for the RSS sponsored think tank, Observer Research Foundation, Megha Gupta, an ORF intern, states in an article titled 'The Tsinghua of economic development in Pakistan.'

"As China is looking to expand its influence even during the COVID-19 pandemic, its relationship with "all-weather" friend, Pakistan, is very significant. Three months ago, Pakistan's University of Sargodha expressed its solidarity and support to China in its struggle against the virus by organising a solidarity walk with the Chinese teachers. In mid-April, China's Henan Normal University donated 3,000 masks to Sargodha University for its fight against the pandemic. These might seem like novel exchanges, yet for all its possible benefits, they are accompanied with long-term economic and political risks for Islamabad."

VICE CHANCELLOR JOINS HEC CHAIRMAN TO DISCUSS CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS OF ONLINE EDUCATION

Digital literacy is the need of the time, says Dr Tariq Banuri Chairman HEC

The revolutionary change in the education sector, due to the closure of education institutes, has instigated a debate on the provision of online education with no compromise on its quality. To avoid academic loss of the students and safeguard their academic year, online education has become a necessity of the time. Dr Ishtiaq Ahmad, Vice Chancellor Sargodha University, joined Dr Tariq Banuri, Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC) in a special transmission of PTV News on May 13, 2020, to discuss challenges and prospects of online education in Pakistan with the adoption of stringent policies devised to resolve issues related to internet access, assessment policy and quality assurance.

Dr Tariq Banuri

HEC QUALITY ASSURANCE POLICY

For the continuation of academic activities through remote learning amid the closure, HEC announced the COVID-19 policy guidelines for higher education institutes in the country. The chairman extensively elaborated the following measures taken in response to the global outbreak for facilitating online education with improved standards of quality:

- Examinations and assessments are an integral part of the education system. Attempts to eliminate exams will have severe repercussions on educational quality and students' progress. In this regard, every university will formulate its robust assessment mechanism based on rubric development, aligned with their respective feasibility scenarios and needs of students. The assessment policy would be communicated to the students at the outset so that they can prudently manage their studies.

- For the provision of course contents to the students, universities are directed to adopt a Learning Management System (LMS).

- Universities have to adopt a rigorous policy and formulate SOPs for the approval of online courses.

- To maintain online teaching standards, the Quality Assurance Agency of HEC would be launched to check digital pedagogy skills of every university in basic, effective and exemplary categories.

- The internet connectivity issues of the students from remote areas would be resolved through agreements with telecommunication companies. With affordable internet data packages and free access to the websites of university and HEC, students would be able to continue taking their online courses without any disruption.

- The commission has advised the universities to formulate Online Academic Council for the adjudication of complaints registered by students without any delay. HEC will set up an appellate system to take follow up on students' complaints.

- To facilitate students and researchers with relevant literature and resources, the libraries would perform all its operations digitally and give access to free online databases.

- The concerns of the graduating class would be addressed while keeping the academic calendar intact.

- HEC would invest on capacity building of colleges and bridge the gaps in course contents and online teaching through curriculum upgradations and provide faculty training on digital pedagogy skills.

- To equip the students with information and digital literacy, has become the necessity of the time. Through online education, essential skills to dig out relevant information from the flood of information can be inculcated among students to prepare them for the digital future ahead.

With the distinctive rise in e-learning, the Vice Chancellor, during the PTV interview, also shared the online education policy adopted by the University in line with HEC policy guidelines for quality assurance.

The Vice Chancellor Sargodha University was also interviewed by VOA (Urdu Service), FM Power 99, VOV FM 98.2 Sargodha University, to discuss the active role of the University in providing online education and delivering community services with greater responsibility with the rise of a global pandemic.

SUMMER WEBINARS PROMOTE GLOBAL SCHOLARSHIP

CONNECTING GLOBAL SCHOLARS FOR INTELLECTUAL COLLABORATION ON CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

To digitally shift all the academic and literary activities, the University kicked off the summer break in June 2020 with the launch of 'Summer Webinar Series' on national and international contemporary issues of political and socio-economic significance during and post-pandemic world.

Despite the unprecedented closure, the initiative continues to open avenues of debate and discussion with eminent national and international scholars and provide learning opportunities to the students and community at large. To broaden the horizon of students and faculty, the University publishes an annual event calendar comprising of seminars, workshops, interactive sessions and conferences where experts, analysts, trainers and scholars of international repute share the platform for thoughtful deliberations. The webinar series provides an alternative platform to the on-campus events and keeps the University's event calendar intact.

The challenges triggered by the pandemic has accelerated the role of universities in reducing the impact of coronavirus on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through collaborative efforts. The move to digital learning spaces provided an opportunity to the University to collaborate with global scholars in cyberspace for the promotion of sustainable societies and communities at the local and global level. The webinar series on SDGs aims to promote optimal human development through debate and discussions on the issues significant for the transformation of our societies. Through interactive sessions and critical discourse, the series would develop socially responsible competencies among the students by equipping them with knowledge and skills crucial for implementing SDGs.

The analytical views from the experts would promote a better understanding of contemporary issues affecting the global and local policies and provide solutions to the problems triggered by the outbreak. The webinars would enhance the University's effort to keep the online learning environment intellectually rich and scholarly vibrant by instilling critical thinking among the students.

CAN THE WORLD AFFORD ANOTHER COLD WAR?

New World Order may emerge out of current US-China row

Dr Hu Shisheng   Dr Filippo Boni   Dr Guo Xuetang

MODERATOR

Dr Fazal ur Rahman

Dr Salma Malik   Dr Ishtiaq Ahmad

To shed light on the prospects of rising escalation between China and US, Pakistan Institute of China Studies organized the inaugural webinar of the series titled 'Can the world afford another cold war?' through Zoom app on June 16.

The webinar figured out the impact of China-US relations on the global economy, security and regional perspectives. It promoted understanding of the contributing factors leading to the cold war, strategies to avert military confrontation, the emergence of new world order and strengthening multilateralism in the globalized world.

The eminent scholars from China, UK and Pakistan argued that the world certainly could not afford another cold war. Bilateral trade and competition between the US and China will make the idea of cold war implausible and provide an opportunity to improve global health system during the global epidemic.

Key Points

■ The Trump administration is using a three D's strategy against China which includes, Decoupling China economically, Disordering China through internal political issues and Deterring it militarily by denying Beijing strategic spaces in the South China Sea, Western Pacific Ocean and Taiwan Straits.

■ China believes in de-ideological engagement and develops its ties with other countries, through physical means rather than ideological means and the rise of China is due to globalization, not colonization.

■ China is largely a low-cost consumer goods manufacturer. Chinese advancement in the high-tech economy has frustrated the US administration over growing trade imbalance and emerging technological parity. To contain China's rise, Trump administration has waged a trade war on China.

■ The Europeans do not perceive Chinese development models through the US lens. They appreciate Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) while the US continues to adopt a negative approach by terming BRI and CPEC a debt trap.

■ Trump regime and its election rant might drag the situation into some confrontation. A prudent Chinese response could save the world from a confrontational situation. The neo-realist model explains the US-China confrontation as inevitable due to global power structure, yet complex interdependence can reduce friction.

■ The aggressive US posturing and related push factors could lead to deconstructive geopolitics that would be witnessed in South Asia and Africa as well.

■ Unlike the previous Cold war, if the escalation leads to a new cold war, it would not be a Zero-Sum-Game with no or limited military confrontation and limited regional consequences.

About the Panelists

■ *Dr Hu Shisheng, Director, Institute for South Asia Studies, China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations*

■ *Dr Guo Xuetang, Director, Institute for International Strategy and Policy Analysis, Shanghai University*

■ *Dr Filippo Boni, Lecturer, Department of Politics and International Studies, Open University, UK*

■ *Dr Salma Malik, Assistant Professor, Department of Defence and Strategic Studies, Quaid-i-Azam University*

■ *Dr Ishtiaq Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, Sargodha University*

■ *Dr Fazal ur Rahman, Director, Pakistan Institute of China Studies, University of Sargodha*

DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC: LESSONS FROM CHINA

Concerted efforts of the Chinese government and the resilience of the public enabled China to contain the pandemic

Dr Ye Hailin   Dr Wang Xu   Dr Xu Jianying   Ms Wang Qianting

MODERATOR

Dr Fazal ur Rahman

Dr Xiaoyu Lu   Mr Amir Rana   Mr Hamayoun Khan

In response to the deadly outbreak started from Wuhan and spread across the globe, Pakistan Institute of China Studies (PICS), on June 23, hosted a webinar titled "Dealing with the Pandemic: Lessons from China" to learn from the Chinese best practices and strategies in containing and controlling the deadly virus.

Considering the global health crisis, the scholars from China, Australia and Pakistan were invited to share analytical views and deduce lessons for the world from the stern measures taken by China to combat the virus. China has proved its capability and capacity to fill the global leadership gap and set the example for the world through its comprehensive, structured, open, transparent and responsible attitude towards pandemic.

The deliberations were around the proactive, comprehensive and structured response of the Chinese leadership and social responsibility shown by the public during the pandemic. By sending Chinese experts and medical staff to fight against the outbreak, China is leading the world in providing significant resources and support to the global anti-epidemic cooperations.

■ The sense of social responsibility was evident as the citizens waged a 'People's War' to defeat the pandemic. Strong leadership, medical facilities, high precautions and self-responsibility of the public enabled China to deal with this deadly virus.

■ Along with the advancement in medical technology, public health greatly depends on the government's strategies, infrastructure, public awareness and active civic engagement.

■ The priority of BRI and CPEC's investment should be given to public health sector rather than the infrastructure.

■ Unlike previous health crisis, the outbreak of COVID-19 has transformed and accelerated the process of globalization. Government of China issued a white paper titled 'Fighting COVID-19: China in Action,' stating China's preventive strategy and international cooperation in the battle against the virus.

■ Multilateral cooperation, united and cohesive efforts in the field of public health are required to address the pandemic.

Key Points

■ At the onset of the 21st Century, the Chinese implemented contact tracing when they were facing other diseases. Through digital contact tracing, China slowed down the spread of COVID-19.

■ With the centralized, unified and efficient preventive response, the Chinese leadership used scientific approach for guidance.

■ In comparison to other countries, China majorly invested in the public health sector and provided better public health facilities to its citizens.

■ To address the public health crisis, China efficiently transformed security institutions into public health institutions.

About the Panelists

■ *Dr Ye Hailin, Vice Dean of National Institute of International Strategy, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, China*

■ *Dr Xu Jianying, Head of Xinjiang, the Institute of Borderlands Studies Chines Academy of Social Sciences*

■ *Ms Wang Qianting, Senior Journalist of China Media Group Urdu Services*

■ *Dr Xiaoyu Lu, Research Fellow, Australian National University*

■ *Mr Hamayoun Khan, Director, Pakistan Council on China*

■ *Mr Amir Rana, Director, Pakistan Institute for Peace Studies*

■ *Dr Fazal ur Rahman, Director, Pakistan Institute of China Studies, University of Sargodha*

SDG 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Pakistan's Battle against COVID-19 Ensuring Mental Health for Sustainable Community

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Dr Bertus F   Dr Magdalena Zemojtel Piortrowska   Dr Anila Kamal   Dr Nargis Asad   Dr Summiya Ahmed

The Department of Psychology hosted a webinar on United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 3, 'Good Health and Well Being' to highlight the significance of digital psychiatry and tele-mental health support services in Pakistan amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The webinar titled, 'Pakistan's Battle against COVID-19 Ensuring Mental Health for Sustainable Community' was held on June 30, as a part of the summer webinar series.

The eminent scholars in the field of psychology from Netherland, Poland and Pakistan stressed on ensuring mental health as a component of preventive response in the health care services to minimize distress and prevent people from developing more significant mental health problem. Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being at all ages is essential to sustainable development.

Key Points

- The mental health consequences arising during the pandemic such as stress, anxiety, depression and post-traumatic disorders would be enormous and unimaginable.

- Financial implications for many households due to pandemic can have a deteriorating effect on mental health.

- Isolation, because of no societal interactions, has become not only the mental issue but the social issue as well. Being alone with your thoughts may be more distressing than ever.

- The pandemic has affected interpersonal relationships causing a surge in domestic violence.

- The idea of smart lockdown is resulting in a positive outcome in terms of mental health as the fear of isolation is reduced, and people are allowed to go for work, exercise and buy groceries.

- The situation has provided an opportunity to transform mental health care centers virtually into tele-mental health care centers as the idea of digital psychiatry is gaining pace.

- To minimize distress and mental illness, along with physical health care, mental health facilities should be an essential component of the COVID-19 preventive response.

- As the pandemic continues to spread, the emotional pandemic is getting fast in its wake. When the whole world is going into pieces, it's hard for the human mind, which is somehow resulting in an eruption of anxiety.

- Lack of awareness related to precaution against disease, insufficient medical facilities, and weak public health infrastructure make third world countries like Pakistan to be more vulnerable to mental health crises.

- Despite facing multiple constraints, the progressive role of psychiatrists, psychologist and other mental health professionals is crucial for improving policy reforms, and their mental health services during the pandemic must be appreciated.

About the Panelists

- *Dr Bertus F, Assistant Professor, Department of Developmental Psychology, University of Groningen, Netherland*

- *Dr Magdalena Zemojtel Piotrowska, Head of Cross-Cultural Psychology Center, Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski University, Poland*

- *Dr Anila Kamal, Professor, National Institute of Psychology, Quaid-i-Azam University*

- *Dr Nargis Asad, Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Agha Khan University*

- *Dr Summiya Ahmed, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Peshawar*

OUR GOLD-MEDALIST MAKES WAY TO PAKISTAN'S MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

In an interview with Sargodha University's proud alumna the gold medalist Yuman Azhar, a CSS officer on the post of Assistant Director at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, shared the experiences of her student life at the University of Sargodha and enlightened the students with her Civil Service's experiences.

Why did you opt for Sargodha University?
It was fate that brought me to Sargodha University. I, too, wanted to study at NUST or LUMS like any other student but as my ultimate goal was CSS, it hardly mattered to me as to what alma mater I choose for myself. Although, I can claim very positively that my degree in Business Administration could have helped me to form a career path in the corporate sector. Additionally, the plus point that came with SU was it being in my city of residence.

How does it feel when you recall the University memories?
The memories of my days at SU are bittersweet as they bring me joy but at the same time make me sad because those wonderful days ended too soon.

From where you got the inspiration to join civil services?
The story goes 14 years back when I visited the High Commission of Pakistan to Bangladesh on August 14th for Independence Day celebrations. Towards the end of the event, a graceful personality who spoke of poise, composure and collectedness caught my attention and, on being asked, introduced himself as the Ambassador of Pakistan. It was that moment when I promised myself to be in that place one day. Now, being an officer of the Foreign Services of Pakistan, becoming the Ambassador of Pakistan is only a few years down the road.

You are an inspiration for your juniors studying at the University. What would you advise them for a successful career?
My teacher, who is also a CSS officer, once said that either you work hard during the first 25 years of your life and enjoy the next 25 years or you enjoy the first 25 years and strive for the rest of your life. I have the same advice for my juniors. Give yourself some me-time, set your goals and then work to achieve them. Utilize your summer breaks in doing internships and keep yourself linked with companies. Above all, never refuse a low pay package job and take a start. Just stay determined; success and glory will surely come your way.

What would you suggest to improve the skills set required to get competitive edge in the market?
SU can help students get into civil services as well as high-profile corporate sector jobs by re-visiting its teaching methods. Practical work and case studies should be practised. As far as my business school is concerned, it should incorporate Harvard Business School Cases in the course so that its pupils could think out of the box. For the students of SU to become the priority of the corporate sector and get into civil services, they need to build on their ability to analyze scenarios from each possible perspective.

As your alma mater is now being ranked in the world's prestigious university rankings, to what further heights you want to see the institute?
I guess, the sky is the limit. I feel pride in taking my university's name and I would love to see it reach heights where none of us has ever imagined.

> ❝ No one can beat you in your life's race till you give up yourself. Every person has its own life's clock. Stop comparing yourself with others. You will get what is written for you. ❞

Yuman Azhar
Foreign Service Officer
Civil Servant of Pakistan
47th Common

COMBATING CORONA
FIELD HOSPITAL SET UP IN SARGODHA MEDICAL COLLEGE

To combat the capacity issues of public hospitals for corona patients, Sargodha University has established a field hospital in its Medical College to house around 100 patients with high dependency unit working 24/7, on April 20.

Sargodha University is among the first public sector universities to deploy field hospital for corona patients in very limited time. The hospital is equipped with all the necessary facilities where the team of doctors and paramedics of the college would actively perform their duties round the clock.

While appreciating the efforts and community services of Sargodha University, Deputy Commissioner Sargodha, Abdullah Nayyar has extended cooperation from the district administration and pledged that the role of doctors and paramedics of SMC would be remembered ever. Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar praised the University in a tweet.

Usman Buzdar ✔ @UsmanAKBuzdar · Apr 21

Another 80 bedded field hospital, with 10 bedded high dependency unit, has been established with the efforts of Sargodha Administration & University of Sargodha.

Alhamdulillah we have established field hospitals in majority of the districts.

Our fight against #COVID19 continues!

Functions

- Separate medical equipment would be provided to each patient.
- There would be fully furnished separate wards for males and females with necessary services of Wi-Fi, video call and daily newspapers.
- For security protocols, cameras are installed in the hospital which would be monitored through display screens in the control room.
- Senior doctors, consultants, medical officers/ postgraduate trainees, and nurses in full protective gear would be providing medical services in isolation wards.
- Medicines will be available at the hospital's in-house pharmacy.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be provided to all doctors, nurses and paramedical staff along with Donning (Putting ON) and Doffing (Putting OFF) training.
- High dependency unit is equipped with blood pressure apparatus, ECG Machines, blood sugar level and cardiac monitors. It also has a facility of a cardiac defibrillator.
- For the intensive care patients, O2 inhalator or injectable medicine will be managed in high dependency unit.
- Proper disinfection of wards and equipment will be done with disinfectants and waste will be disposed of in Yellow room, outside the hospital, according to Infection Prevention guidelines.
- Patients will be discharged once their COVID-19 test becomes negative according to the guidelines.
- In case of emergency, Rescue 1122 service would be utilized.

DONATION IN CORONA RELIEF FUND

Mohammad Sarwar
2 hrs · 🌐

گورنر پنجاب چوہدری محمد سرور سے وائس چانسلر سرگودھا یونیورسٹی ڈاکٹر اشتیاق احمد کی ملاقات۔

وائس چانسلر نے وزیر اعظم کورونا ریلیف فنڈ کے لیے 4.3 ملین روپے عطیہ کا چیک گورنر پنجاب کو پیش کر دیا

LANDMARK NATIONAL DRUG TRIAL PROJECT TO CURE COVID-19 STARTS

Dr Javed Akram, Vice Chancellor University of Health Sciences and Dr Ishtiaq Ahmad Vice Chancellor Sargodha University presiding over the meeting for launching landmark national drug trial 'PROTECT' at Sargodha University

To discover a reliable treatment for Covid-19, Sargodha University in collaboration with University of Health Sciences (UHS), Lahore launched "Landmark National Drug Trial: PROTECT" on May 20, 2020.

The trial named, PROTECT (Pakistan Randomised Observational Trial to Evaluate Coronavirus Treatment) aims at evaluating how Azithromycin, Oseltamivir and hydroxychloroquine can be used to treat coronavirus alone or in combination.

The drug trial would be a ray of hope in the current situation and its findings are expected to inform clinical care and public health protocols and policies for management of COVID-19/SARS-CoV-2. In this research center, doctors from across Pakistan and other countries will study the genotype of the virus and gene mutation. The limited evidence on the effectiveness of chloroquine on local population, warranted an adaptive trial design so that timely data analyses could promptly inform the clinical strategy of containing COVID-19.

Functions

In search of a suitable cure, a variety of drugs have been tested including nafamostat, ribavirin, interferon, corticosteroids etc., however, chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine are considered effective as it has improved clinical symptoms in Chinese and French coronavirus patients. To find an effective remedial strategy for COVID-19, the research center would perform the following functions:

- Irrespective of age and gender, patients newly diagnosed with COVID-19, without any comorbidity and with controlled chronic medical conditions, e.g. diabetes mellitus and hypertension, would be considered eligible for the trial with their informed consent.
- Before random selection, each participant after his/her consent, would undergo baseline investigation i.e., liver function tests, renal function tests, urinalysis, and Complete Blood Count.
- Hydroxychloroquine Phosphate/Sulfate vs Oseltamivir vs Azithromycin alone and in combination (in all seven groups), will be given to the patients in clearing the coronavirus nucleic acid from the throat and nasal swab on day 7 of follow-up.
- Coronavirus nucleic acid from the throat and nasal swabs would be checked using RT-qPCR.

ANOTHER FACULTY MEMBER BAGS GOLD MEDAL FOR RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION TO ENTOMOLOGY

Dr Irfan Ullah, an assistant professor in the Department of Entomology, is unanimously recommended by the Zoologist Society of Pakistan for the "Prof Imtiaz Ahmad Gold Medal 2020" in recognition of his outstanding contribution to entomological research.

Applications from across the Pakistan were reviewed by a panel of experts nominated by the Executive Council of the Zoologist Society of Pakistan. The medal will be conferred by its President during the inaugural ceremony of the 40th International Pakistan Congress of Zoology at Sindh Agriculture University Tandojam.

Dr Irfan Ullah is awarded for his extensive research on the aspects of insect plant interaction, insect stress biology, insect genetics, and citrus entomology and get his work published in peer reviewed journals of good repute. Previously, he presented his work at largest forum of Entomological Society of America's (ESA) annual meetings where he won various positions, cash prize and honorary membership.

Previously, Dr Zeeshan Majeed, lecturer at department of Entomology was awarded with Prof Imtiaz Ahmad Gold Medal 2019 in 39th International Pakistan Congress of Zoology held at Islamia College University, Peshawar in 2019.

Dr Irfan Ullah has represented Sargodha University at various international congresses/conferences; published more than 70 research papers in the journals of International repute; published a book and several book chapters; Won several international travel grants; presented in more than 50 various National/ International Congresses; published several popular articles: won 02 Competitive Research Projects as PI, 02 as Co-PI. He is also heading a team of joint international project with Chinese University and managing Biological control laboratory established with cooperation of South China Agricultural University.

> **I would like to appreciate the initiative of Sargodha University for incentivizing research which motivates the faculty members to extend their valuable contribution in publishing research articles in internationally recognized journals. The University supports us by funding research projects from its own sources and promotes inter-disciplinary research. SU has always encouraged and provided me the opportunities for professional growth.**
>
> **Dr Irfan Ullah**

LINCOLN CORNER LAUNCHES A VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB

Lincoln Corner at Sargodha University organized a virtual book club on "Abundance: The future is better than you think" written by two American writers Peter H. Diamandis and Stephen Kotler.

The book remained on best seller list for many weeks in which authors have presented an optimistic view towards the future that it may not be as bleak as we fear. Katherine Rodriguez, Consul General from US Consulate Lahore and Mr Aurangzeb, Manager Lincoln Corner Punjab, participated in the session and expressed gratitude to the friends of the corner in arranging an insightful session.

The activity was designed to engage students with informal learning necessary for optimizing knowledge base. The interactive session instilled the spirit of book reading in the participants for cognitive development. As book reading helps in stimulating imagination, boosting motivation and inspiration, and cultivating empathy among readers.

> **I truly enjoyed the experience. The book was thought-provoking and enlightening but the lively conversation was priceless. A big thank you to the friends of the corner for arranging a healthy activity for the students amidst the outbreak.**
>
> **Katherine Rodriguez**
> *Consul General US Consulate Lahore*

Excerpts from the Book

- Technological advancements have changed our lifestyle, we are far better than our ancestors in terms of quality of life.
- Technologies in education, computing, energy, medicine and many other areas are improving at an exponential rate and will soon enable breakthroughs that today seem impossible.
- Technology has created a generation of "techno-philanthropists" (such as Bill Gates) who are using their billions to try to solve seemingly unsolvable problems such as hunger and disease.
- The independent innovators can achieve startling advances in many areas by the help of technology with little money or manpower. This could be primarily achieved through incentive prize competitions.
- The lives of the world's poorest people are being improved substantially because of technology.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER TRAINS THE GRADS FOR BETTER CAREER PROSPECTS
Inculcating professional competency among the students

The Career Development Center organized a session on 'Google slides and Resume writing' to apprise the students about the techniques required for making effective presentations through Google Slides and writing resume for career prospects.

The training was aimed to broaden the horizon of the students vying for career pathways and equip them with essential technical skills for competing in the market with a strong resume and presentation. Through the session, the center provided equitable learning opportunities based on soft and hard skills needed to excel in the current situation while maintaining the social distance and work from home. It also strengthened the university's agenda of promoting Sustainable Developments specifically Goal 4: Quality Education by ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all.

About 100, students from different departments of the University attended the sessions through Zoom.

Key Points

- It trained the students about the features and modules of using 'Google Slides' for making presentations.
- It introduced the students with different tools like embedding videos from Youtube, inserting images from Google and drawing diagrams for statistical data to make presentation creative and visually appealing.
- The students were briefed about the art of writing the resume to get shortlisted for any job.
- The training briefed the students about the format, objective statement, content specification and characteristics of resume.
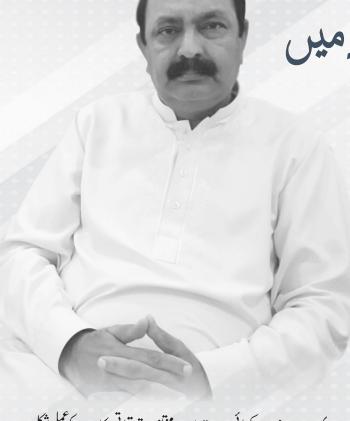
تعزیتی ریفرنس

چودھری اظہار الحق کی یاد میں

موت اُس کی ہے، کرے جس کا زمانہ افسوس

یوں تو دنیا میں سبھی آتے ہیں مرنے کے لیے

سرگودھا یونیورسٹی کے ریاض شاد ہم نصابی فورم نے یونیورسٹی کے ایڈیشنل رجسٹرار چودھری اظہار الحق کی خدمات کو خراجِ تحسین پیش کرنے کے لیے 2 جولائی 2020ء کو یونیورسٹی کے نون آڈیٹوریم میں وائس چانسلر ڈاکٹر اشتیاق احمد کی صدارت میں ایک تعزیتی ریفرنس کا انعقاد کیا۔ چودھری اظہارالحق 11 جون 2020ء کو اپنے خالقِ حقیقی سے جا ملے تھے۔ تعزیتی ریفرنس میں سابق وزیرِ مملکت تسنیم قریشی، موجودہ رُکنِ صوبائی اسمبلی عامر سلطان چیمہ، معروف سماجی کارکن میاں عبدالخالق اور مرحوم کے فرزند انعام الحق سمیت متعدد شخصیات نے خطاب کرتے ہوئے چودھری اظہارالحق کی شخصیت کے مختلف پہلوؤں کو اجاگر کیا۔ مقررین نے چودھری اظہارالحق کو ان کی نرم مزاجی اور درویشانہ طبیعت کے باعث یونیورسٹی کی ہر دل عزیز شخصیت قرار دیا۔ واضح رہے یونیورسٹی کے دفتری اہلکار اپنے مسائل کے حل میں صرف انھی کو کارگر سمجھتے تھے۔ مالی مشکلات اور انتظامی امور میں ان کے لیے چودھری اظہار کے دروازے ہمیشہ کھلے رہتے تھے۔ چھوٹے سے چھوٹے ملازم سے اعلیٰ عہدیدار تک یونیورسٹی ملازمین کے بچوں کی یونیورسٹی میں مفت تعلیم کے لیے ان کی جدوجہد کو فراموش نہیں کیا جا سکتا۔ شرکا نے یونیورسٹی آف سرگودھا کے لیے مرحوم کی خدمات پر روشنی ڈالتے ہوئے کہا کہ انھوں نے اپنے دیہی پس منظر کے باعث یونیورسٹی کو سرسبز بنانے کا تہیہ کر لیا اور پھر اس مستقل مزاجی سے محنت کی کہ آج بھی ہر طرف سبزہ اور

ہرے بھرے درخت دکھائی دیتے ہیں۔ مختلف ترقیاتی کاموں کو عملی شکل دینے میں وہ ہمیشہ سرگرم رہتے تھے، چنانچہ سرگودھا میڈیکل، ایگریکلچر کالج اور انجینئرنگ کالج کے لیے قطعہ اراضی کے سلسلے میں سرکاری زمین کی الاٹمنٹ سے لے کر اس کا قبضہ لینے تک کے تمام مراحل میں وہ عملاً پیش پیش رہے۔ ریفرنس میں اپنے خطاب میں جناب وائس چانسلر نے کہا کہ چودھری اظہارالحق فرشتہ صفت اور غیر معمولی صفات کی حامل قدآور شخصیت تھے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ مرحوم بچوں کا سا نرم دل رکھتے تھے، جس میں سب کے لیے محبت تھی۔ اس موقع پر وائس چانسلر نے ہاکی گراؤنڈ اور فٹ بال گراؤنڈ کے مابین گھنے درختوں کی گزر گاہ کو ان کے نام سے منسوب کرنے کا اعلان کیا۔