



WEBINAR SERIES ON

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SARGODHA UNIVERSITY

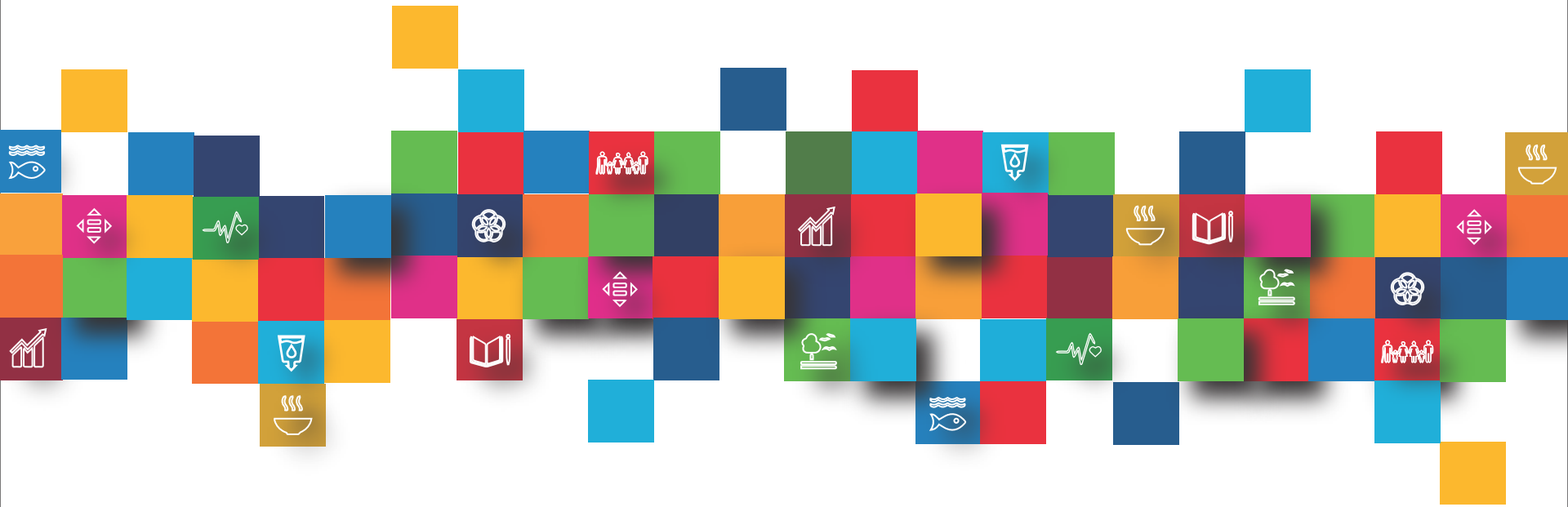


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بیت البرکات

FOREWORD



Dr Ishtiaq Ahmad
Vice Chancellor

As Pakistan seeks to meet its global commitment to implement the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the universities can make an important contribution to this process by undertaking critical debate and inquiry on socio-economic issues in the country.

In this regard, during the summer break of 2020 amid the pandemic, the University of Sargodha conducted a series of webinars with leading national and international experts on the most relevant SDGs. We focused on nine SDGs, including SDG 1: No Poverty, SDG 2: Zero Hunger, SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being, SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 5: Gender Equality, SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, and SDG 13: Climate Action.

The challenges triggered by the global pandemic have reinforced the need for collaborative efforts to overcome the various constraints of capacity and resources in implementing the SDGs. We have used the transition to digital learning spaces during this difficult period as an opportunity to collaborate with global scholars for the promotion of sustainable societies and communities at the local and global levels.

Hence, our webinar series on SDGs aimed to promote human development through in-depth discussions on various issues that are significant for socio-economic transformation. With

interactive sessions and critical discourse, the series developed socially responsible competencies among the faculty, scholars and students by equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed for the implementation of SDGs. It is with great pleasure that we share the findings and recommendations of each SDG session, and our respective institutional commitment, in this booklet.

We are also proud of the fact that the Times Higher Education has recognized our commitment towards this global cause by ranking University of Sargodha at 600+ in its World University Impact Rankings 2020. Accordingly, the University is ranked 301-400 in SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being (6 in Pakistan), 301-400 in SDG 4: Quality Education (11 in Pakistan), 401+ in SDG 5: Gender Equality (17 in Pakistan), and 401-600 in SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals (18 in Pakistan).

Let me conclude by emphasizing that our University's research agenda is geared towards finding local solutions to global problems. We also strive for synergizing academic research with the local agrarian economy. Therefore, we shall continue to build upon our current national distinction in world rankings regarding the University's impact on SDGs by taking forward scholarly undertakings in this crucial arena.





WHY DOES 'NO POVERTY' MATTER?

To elaborate on the global perspective of multidimensional poverty and to understand the national poverty alleviation strategies, the Department of Economics organized a webinar titled, 'Why Does 'No Poverty' Matter?', on August 25, 2020.

International experts on economy and poverty alleviation identified the lack of coordination between government and private sector, capacity to deliver, absence of authentic data, skilled human resource, and scarcity of funds as the key challenges for achieving the SDG 1: No Poverty, at its required pace.



Dr Christian Oldiges

Director of Metrics and Policy
Oxford Poverty and Human
Development Initiative
(OPHI), UK



**Dr Mohammad
Ali Kemal**

Economic Policy Advisor
SDGs Support Unit, Ministry
of Planning Development
and Reforms, Pakistan



**Dr Sohail Jehangir
Malik**

President
Innovative Development
Strategies, USA

Findings & Recommendations



The coronavirus pandemic has pushed millions of people into extreme poverty across the world, which is an unprecedented rise in global poverty.



Over the past few decades, good governance relevant to poverty alleviation has gained top priority in development agendas. Due to potentially weak political and administrative areas of governance, developing countries have to deal with enormous challenges related to social services and security.



Poverty is detrimental to economic growth, as poverty undermines social cohesion, increases political and social tensions, and sometimes drives instability and conflicts. The traditional growth strategy of Pakistan is ineffective and one policy fit in all does not work.



The developing countries have to progressively develop social protection systems to support the vulnerable and marginalized segments of society.



The Government should develop and implement rapid and sustained economic growth reforms in areas such as education, healthcare, adequate food, shelter, social security, hygiene and sanitation, for allowing the poor to participate and contribute to the growth.



There is a need to ensure inclusive growth by improving human capital and creating employment opportunities for the poor people.



The Government can help in creating an enabling environment to generate productive employment and job opportunities for the poor, vulnerable, and marginalized segments of society. The Government should formulate strategies and fiscal policies that stimulate pro-poor growth and reduce poverty.



The academic community must increase awareness about the impact of poverty, fiscal devolution and improve coordination among the stakeholders to pace up progress for eradicating poverty in all its forms by 2030.



Resources should be devolved to the lowest rung of society to reduce social and economic inequalities. The civil society, the Government and other private and public institutions should work together for the eradication of poverty.



The youth should bring into an economic framework by setting up alternative programs to strengthen the linkages between academia and industry for building strong institutions.



The provision of household facilities, protection of land rights and redistribution of resources to the lowest level of society would play a pivotal role in reducing inequalities and promoting inclusive economic growth.



SDG 1: NO POVERTY

Our Multidimensional Poverty Alleviation Strategy

Research on BISP



to investigate and cushion the adverse impact of the food, fuel and financial crises.



Fee Installment Program

to help deserving students and their families to manage the cost of education.

Scholarships and Financial Assistance

to deserving and meritorious students.



Social Integration Outreach Program



to instill the spirit of social welfare among students

On-Campus Internship Program



to provide work opportunities to meritorious students and graduates.

Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization



prioritizes research for sustainable economic growth and knowledge economy.

Sargodha University Incubation Center

provides young entrepreneurs with adequate resources and services to nurture and commercialize their ideas.



BUDGET ALLOCATION 2020-21

RS 60

Million for Research funding



MORE THAN

RS 11

Million for ORIC and QEC



AROUND

RS 70

Million for new development projects



RS 70

Million budget to waive off tuition fee of Hafiz-e-Quran, orphans and other deserving students



RS 35

Million in lieu of subsidy for internet facilities



AROUND

RS 37

Million in place for subsidy on transport



MORE THAN

RS 95

Million for ongoing development projects





2 ZERO HUNGER





THE ZERO HUNGER CHALLENGE: FOOD SECURITY AND SAFETY SITUATION IN PAKISTAN

To discuss food security and safety situation globally, and challenges being faced by Pakistan, the Institute of Food Science and Nutrition organized a webinar titled 'The Zero Hunger Challenge: Food Security and Safety Situation in Pakistan,' on August 18, 2020.

To attain the targets of the UN Sustainable Development Goal 2: Zero Hunger by 2030, the food experts and nutritionists stressed upon achieving food security, improving the nutritional status of the population and promoting sustainable agriculture in Pakistan.



Dr Zulkifli Khair

Senior Lecturer
School of Human
Resource Development
and Psychology,
Universiti Teknologi,
Malaysia



**Dr Keshavan
Niranjana**

Professor
Department of Food and
Nutritional Sciences,
University of Reading,
UK



**Dr Muhammad
Umair Arshad**

Associate Professor
Institute of Home and
Food Sciences, GC
University, Faisalabad



**Dr Muhammad
Khalid Bashir**

Assistant Professor
Institute of Agricultural
and Resource
Economics, University of
Agriculture, Faisalabad



**Dr Muhammad
Nasir**

Chairperson
UN-Scaling up Nutrition
Business Network, and
General Manager
(Scientific and Regulatory
Affairs) FrieslandCampina
(Engro Foods), Pakistan



**Dr Hafiz Ansar
Suleria**

Mckenzie Fellow
School of Agriculture
and Food, University of
Melbourne, Australia

Findings & Recommendations



With regard to the present scenario under the potential impact of COVID-19 on the world's poorest people, it is necessary to encounter the instant food needs of the vulnerable groups of the population.



The right to food is fundamental to human dignity that should be addressed ingeniously without any interest of economic and political gain.



In order to ensure food security of naturally perishable food in all the regions across Pakistan, we need Hi-Tech solutions for preservation, processing, and packaging with better transport facilities.



Agriculture and food systems in Pakistan need to be made sustainable from farm to fork.



Food security and safety can be achieved by improving food processing and value addition.



Stability and consistency in food and agriculture policies are essential for ensuring food security.



For hunger eradication, good management has become an indispensable requirement. It is direly needed to tackle food security and safety situation in Pakistan as a shared commitment between government, farmers, food industries, and the business community.



Through massive awareness drive on social media, the prominent public figures, motivational speakers, and other social activists should spread the message for maximum participation to end hunger.



The Government should boost social protection programs and promote the global food trade.



To increase food production, it is essential to keep the domestic supply chain moving and support small farmers' capacity.



Through subsidies and grants to small and medium-sized enterprises, the government should support the small-scale food processors and businesses.



Through the propagation of human values, the spirit of food distribution, donation and sharing should be fostered to eradicate hunger without compromising the dignity of malnourished and starved strata of society.



Our Framework for Sustainable Agriculture

Patent on **Sugarcane Intercropping Drill**



to meet the diversified needs of small-scale farmers.

A landmark agreement with the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations** to boost seed sector.



Revolutionized agriculture through **Drone Technology** to sensitize and apprise agricultural community.



International moot and Food Expo



to unveil the latest techniques and technologies regarding food production and food processing.

The scholarly debate on **'Innovative Trends in Wheat: Way Forward to Sustainable Wheat Production.'**



to explore innovative trends to achieve sustainable self-sufficiency in wheat crop.

The international conference on



Horticultural Crops Production and Protection

to discuss new trends in horticulture.

Part of **China's Belt and Road Agriculture Innovation League**



to promote collaboration in agriculture, science and technology.

Collaboration with **Italian National Research Council**



on research in modern agriculture sciences.

A **Certified Citrus Nursery**



provides more than ten thousand good quality plants to citrus growing community of Punjab especially in Sargodha region.

Agreement with **Australia's Canberra University**



to help local farmers in managing agricultural affairs under a project funded by the Australian Center for International Agricultural Research.

Joint research project on **Cheese Technology** with Ordu University, Turkey to develop new scientific and technological cooperation.





3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING





PAKISTAN'S BATTLE AGAINST COVID-19 ENSURING MENTAL HEALTH FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

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 the 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, 2020.

The eminent scholars in the field of psychology from the 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 problems. Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being at all ages is essential to sustainable development.



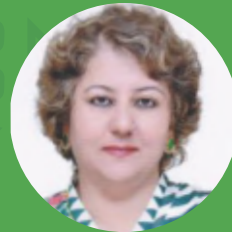
Dr Magdalena Zemojtel Piotrowska

Associate Professor
Head of Cross-Cultural Psychology Center, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński 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



Dr Bertus F

Assistant Professor
Department of Developmental Psychology, University of Groningen, Netherland

Findings & Recommendations



The pandemic has caused widespread trauma in the society. Its mental health consequences such as stress, anxiety, depression and post-traumatic disorders require effective psychological responses from state and societal institutions.



The financial implications of the pandemic for the direly affected households may have a deteriorating effect on the mental health of the family members concerned.



Isolation, because of no societal interactions, has become not only a mental health issue but a social problem as well. The suicide rate and domestic violence is increasing due to the depression triggered by social isolation during the pandemic.



The idea of smart lockdown has a positive outcome in terms of mental health, as the fear of social isolation is reduced and people are able to interact in the public space.



The pandemic has provided an opportunity to transform mental healthcare centers virtually into tele-mental healthcare units, as the idea of digital psychiatry is gaining momentum.



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



The lack of awareness related to precaution against disease, insufficient medical facilities, and weak public health infrastructure make developing countries, like Pakistan, to be more vulnerable to mental health crises.



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



Our Preventive Response to the Pandemic



Telemedicine Centre

to mitigate overcrowding in the hospitals.



Field Hospital

with a capacity of **100 beds** to overcome the shortage of public health facilities for corona patients.



A cost-effective **hand sanitizer** by College of Pharmacy.



Donation of Rs.

4.3 M

for the Prime Minister's Corona Relief Fund.



Landmark National Drug Trial: PROTECT

to discover a reliable treatment for COVID-19.



Awareness drive for COVID-19

through University's FM Radio 98.2 VOV for the illiterate masses in the regional local languages.



Hostels turned into Quarantine Centers

to accommodate around **5000** people.



International Conference on Future-Med 2020

to discuss the healthcare challenges and to better serve the future generation of the patients.

Our Healthcare Initiatives



Research on immunization with UNICEF Health Academy



Free Cornea transplant



Counselling service

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



24/7 Ambulance service



University Health Centre

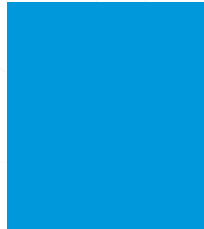


Medical Consultants

INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR IMPACT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



University of Sargodha
RANKED 601+

www.thewur.com



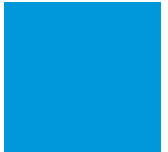
University of Sargodha
RANKED 301-400
FOR SDG3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

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

www.thewur.com

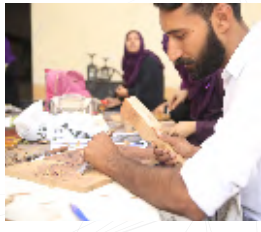


University of Sargodha
RANKED 301-400
FOR SDG4: QUALITY EDUCATION

www.thewur.com



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



5 GENDER EQUALITY



University of Sargodha
RANKED 401+
FOR SDG5: GENDER EQUALITY

www.thewur.com



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS





4 QUALITY EDUCATION





DIGITAL EDUCATION AMID THE PANDEMIC

Amid the academic closure triggered by the outbreak, the quest to ensure quality education through e-learning platforms is a major challenge for the higher education institutions worldwide. Inclusive and equitable education for all is an integral part of UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Focusing on sustainable education, the Department of Education organized a webinar on 'Digital Education amid the Pandemic,' on July 7, 2020.

The renowned educationists from the local and global community discussed the features of sustainable online programs, optimal academic assessment, challenges, experiences, opportunities and a way forward from the higher education perspective amid the COVID-19 pandemic.



Dr Joe Bishop

Professor
Eastern Michigan
University, USA.



Dr Susan Bridges

Director
University of
Hong Kong.



Dr Laurent Lima

Director
Department of Education,
Universite Grenoble
Alpes, France.



**Dr Muhammad
Faizal Bin A Ghani**

Associate Professor
University of Malaya,
Malaysia.



Dr Nasir Mahmood

Professor
Allama Iqbal
Open University.



Dr Anjum Halai

Professor
Agha Khan University.



Dr Faisal Bari

Associate Professor
Lahore University of
Management Scienc-

Findings & Recommendations



Amid the unprecedented academic closure, universities are under immense pressure to address the challenges of assuring quality education through online teaching-learning practices. The radical transformation of the education system is the only way out to provide, maintain and ensure the quality of education in this new landscape.



Digital learning has become imperative not only during the pandemic but also in the post-pandemic scenario. The policymakers have to think about strategically utilizing and allocating resources in a manner that allows smaller institutions to develop expertise from larger universities.



The spectrum classes would be a suitable option as it provides students with a welcoming learning environment. There is a need to update curriculum, facilities and resources for developing an online culture by implementing rules and regulations for digital education.



Cohesive global efforts are needed to cope with the challenges of connectivity and quality in online education.



The model of higher education should be updated as the COVID-19 has provided the education sector with an opportunity to think about new ways and to create a customized response in teaching methods.



The basic purpose of education is to enable the individuals to fit into society, increase collective intellect, induce decision making power, and inculcate problem-solving skills. It should not be compromised while modifying any mode of education.



To avoid the issues of plagiarism and text manipulation, the various modes of assessment including open book exams, projects, short quizzes and collective document development should be utilized.



Innovation, authenticity and creativity would be required to enhance digital education. The hybrid course design has enabled the education institutes to attain synchronization and generate interest among faculty members in making online material (video production, graphics etc.).



Sustainable Policy for Quality Assurance in E-learning

Online teaching practices through **Learning Management System**.



Digital Pedagogy Skills



through faculty training.

An International Conference on **Emerging Issues of Information Landscape**



to get accustomed to the challenges and keep libraries open through digital resources.

The **Course Bank** is an open source portal to access over 3000 courses and their resource material.



Smooth shift to **Digital Pedagogy** through zoom app without compromising quality education to avoid the academic loss of students.

Coursera for Campus



Provide virtual learning opportunities for the students and faculty at no cost.



The **Online Assessment Module** to ensure transparent online examination.

Ensured quality through



two-tier class **Monitoring and Evaluation** process.

Provided access to **Digital Databases** and continued research activities virtually.



Addressed issues of **Internet Connectivity**



and non-availability for students by giving them the option to freeze the spring semester 2020 without incurring any financial burden.

Our Progressive Reforms for Quality Education

Live broadcast of all events



are accessible through official social media platforms, on campus multimedia screen and FM radio.

An Event Calendar of the year



for arranging various seminars, national and international conferences, lectures and workshops on multiple issues.

A mandatory course on 'Citizenship Education and Community Engagement'



to inculcate social responsibility and civic engagement.

Free Internet Access to the students and faculty.



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



An Outreach Program



to provide awareness and training to the farming community by the Agriculture faculty.

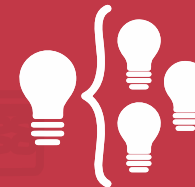
The annual Literary Festival



to develop critical thinking among students and faculty.



The **Career Development Center** facilitates students and alumni regarding internship, scholarship and job opportunities.



The **Facilitation Center**, quick service delivery for students during admissions and to resolve other queries.

Over
800
faculty members

More than
300
PhDs with global exposure

150+
Degree Programs

24:1
student teacher ratio

High-Tech
IT labs

State-of-the-art-
scientific
Research units



میان ماحولیات ڈیویژن



5 GENDER
EQUALITY





GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT: A CATALYST FOR CHANGE IN PAKISTAN

A webinar in connection with UNSDG-5, Gender Equality was hosted by the Department of Psychology under the title of “Gender Equality and Women Empowerment: A Catalyst for Change in Pakistan” on August 11, 2020.

The panelists laid great emphasis on the incorporation of a gender-inclusive approach in knowledge and economy for achieving sustainable development and economic growth by deconstructing stereotypical gender dichotomy arising from socio-cultural and religious narratives.



Dr Nurha Filah Musa

Associate Professor
Kebangsaan University of Malaysia



Dr Rubina Hanif

Associate Professor
Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad



Dr Noreen Saher

Associate Professor
International Islamic University, Islamabad



Dr Anita Anis Allana

Working Group for Women
Agha Khan University Karachi



Dr Gulnaz Anjum

Assistant Professor
Department of Social Sciences & Liberal Arts,
Institute of Business Administration, Karachi



Dr Sher Bano

Associate Professor
National University of Singapore

Findings & Recommendations



The inherited cultural and religious notions inadvertently foster a gender dichotomy that should be resolved through a gender-inclusive approach in knowledge and economy.



Global 'Me Too' Twitter campaign and local Aurat March with slogans like 'Mera jism meri marzi,' belittle the larger quest for gender equity. These campaigns distract the policy-makers from addressing the fundamental issues emanating from deep-rooted patriarchal and misogynic expressions in primordial socio-cultural structures such as in Pakistan and much of the Muslim world.



The root causes of gender inequality should be addressed that arise from abandoning the fundamental rights of women, denial of equal opportunities in public life, discrimination in the distribution of resources, economic dependency, no participation in decision making, and unequal property rights.



The focus of policy-makers and stakeholders must be on rectifying the fundamental issues marginalizing the status of women in socio-economic growth, rather than merely dealing with its ramifications and symptoms.



An effective way of tackling gender inequality is entrusting women with entrepreneurial work. By providing them with entrepreneurial opportunities, the unequal pay gap can be ruled out and encourage women to increase their participation in the supply chain.



With information revolution and urbanization, a sweeping wave of progressive reforms is taking place even in most conservative Muslim states like Saudi Arabia. Such a revolutionary trend is challenging the dominant narrative of traditional forces by encouraging equal opportunities, and diminishing gender bias and segregation in many other developing countries, including Pakistan.



Achieving equality between women and men also requires institutionalizing a gender-responsive approach to financing and ensuring that adequate investments are made to implement national plans and policies for gender equality and women empowerment.



Our Inclusive Approach to Gender Equality



A **Gender-Free and Open Merit Policy** during the recruitment process.

A session on **Woman Voice In Punjabi Literature**



to produce literature for women empowerment.



The **Women Entrepreneurship Project** by Sargodha University Incubation Center.

The policies on **Protection Against Harassment of Women Act 2010.**



The **Anti-Harassment Committee** to ensure strict compliance with government policies.



Over **50%** Female student ratio.



Equal Opportunity to women in jobs, management and faculty positions.

University of Sargodha
RANKED 401+
FOR SDG5: GENDER EQUALITY

THE QUALITY CONNECTION
www.theqc.com



Services

Childcare Facilities for needy faculty



Liberal Maternity and Paternity Policies





6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION





WATER CRISIS: WHY IS PAKISTAN RUNNING DRY?

For sustainable development, access to clean water and sanitation for all living beings is necessary for the survival of the planet. To address the challenges of water scarcity and ever reducing water per capita of Pakistan, a webinar on ‘Water Crisis: Why is Pakistan Running Dry?’, under UN Sustainable Development Goal 6, ‘Clean Water and Sanitation’, was organized on July 14, 2020.

The experts emphasized on conserving water resources, improving water management system, and utilizing efficient water consumption. They called for devising a strategy focused on a knowledge-based approach that underscores the significance of clean water and sanitation.



Dr Danish Mustafa

Professor
Department of
Geography, King's
College, London



Dr Shaheen Akhtar

Professor
Department of
International Relations,
NDU, Islamabad



Dr Rizwan Ullah Kokab

Associate Professor
Department of
History and Pak Studies,
GCU, Faisalabad



Abdul Aijaz

Lecturer
Department of
Political Science,
GCU, Lahore

Findings & Recommendations



Water scarcity is an international issue, and Pakistan is eighth on the list of most water-scarce countries. To deal with the challenges of water scarcity, Pakistan should adopt an interdisciplinary approach that lies between natural and social distribution of water.



Population growth, climate change, urbanization and demographic changes are the main reasons behind the water crisis, while, different social practices of water usage to deal with the crises including poor water management and lack of political determination have also exacerbated the issue.



Despite the nationalist Modi government's political rhetoric threatening Pakistan for stopping the water of western rivers, India can't create a water supply problem for Pakistan in the near future due to the natural flow of western rivers in Kashmir and Ladakh..



To improve water management system in Pakistan, WAPDA and Irrigation departments should utilize the services of hydrologists or hydrogeologists.



Joint monitoring of the impact of climate change on the Indus basin and a joint study on the behaviour of the Himalayan glacier is significant to combat the challenges of climate change.



There is a need to pay more attention to the social and environmental aspects of water management. The absence of justified and ethical use of water has created relative scarcity among different social classes.



To get more economic, social and environmental benefits, the Government should improve water usage practices and ensure its equal distribution.



A people-centric approach should be adopted, along with power generation rules to ensure equitable water use and the right of every individual to access clean water.

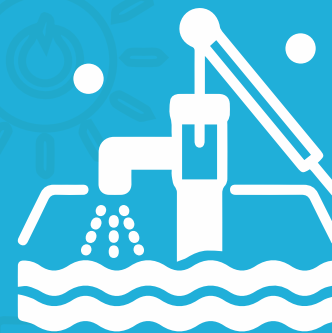


Our Project for Serving and Preserving Clean Water

Khush Aab Mineral Water Plant



to provide clean drinking water to the students, faculty and the local community.



An **Aquifer Recharge Well** for harvesting rain water.

EDUCATION FOR ALL



OUR PROPOSITION

- It is essential to start an initiative that will set small goals whereas a lot of industries are focusing on the larger ones will be making commercial plastic.
- The plan to sell our recipe will instead of setting up an industry we will work in collaboration with CONVENTIONAL PLASTIC making industries.
- In this way SUSTAINABLE PLASTIC production and traditional plastic production takes place at once.



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



CAN WE BUILD IT BACK, BETTER?

ASSESSING PANDEMIC DRIVEN ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

In connection with the UN Sustainable Development Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth, the Department of Economics organized a webinar titled 'Can We Build it Back, Better? Assessing Pandemic Driven Economic Challenges,' to discuss the economic implications of COVID-19 in Pakistan on July 21, 2020.

To deal with the economic fallout of COVID-19, international and national economists called for investing in human capital, creating employment through Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), promoting local tourism, enhancing E-commerce, and increasing innovations for productivity. The experts urged to encourage sustained economic policies for achieving higher levels of productivity through technological innovation.



Dr Sun Huaping

Professor
School of Finance &
Economics, Jiangsu
University, China



Majid Aziz

Former President
Karachi Chamber
of Commerce and
Industry, Karachi



**Dr Muhammad
Nasir**

Senior Research Economist
Pakistan Institute of
Development Economics,
Islamabad



Dr Faisal Abbas

Associate Professor
National University of
Science and Technology,
Islamabad

Findings & Recommendations



To minimize economic damage due to the pandemic, there is a need to introduce 'Economic Stimulus Package,' a combined package of the monetary and fiscal policy, including employment guarantee schemes, tax reforms, cutting of red tapism, investing on SMEs, and improving R&D for innovations leading towards productivity.



In these challenging times, the 'smart lockdown' will only have a marginal impact on resuming normal production and revenue generation. All political parties of Pakistan should sign a 'Charter of Economy' as the coronavirus has hit Pakistan's economy hard.



The firms should be encouraged to bring labor back on work with strict SOPs and assure all other safety measures.



To reduce the damage caused by the pandemic, state-owned enterprises through their public investment should play an active role in the smooth running of the business activities.



Small and medium enterprises should be given tax exemption or they might be given loans on the low or minimal interest rate.



In the post-pandemic scenario, we need to promote tourism in the country. But for its promotion, firstly, we need to invest in the infrastructure development in the targeted areas.



For economic growth, the public-private partnership must be adopted in the major areas of the economy.



The Government should take actions on balancing employment creation and economic production, and plan to create employment opportunities for the worst-hit segments of the society from the lockdown.



Our Economic Framework for Sustainable Growth

The **Surplus Budget** through financial recoveries and transparent governance.



Sargodha University Incubation Center, to transform theoretical knowledge into practical skills.



An **Outreach Program**



by the College of Agriculture to connect agri scientists with local farmers.



Tangible growth in **Self Generated Revenue** through judicial, transparent and accountable approach.

A global debate on



Sustainable Business Development to discuss the novel business ideas to achieve sustainable development.



On-Campus Internship Program.

CPEC-Driven Entrepreneurship

lecture to provide entrepreneurship gateways for skilled youth.



The **Cambridge Islamic Banking Master**

workshop for the development of Islamic finance in Pakistan.





9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE





ADOPTING TRIPLE HELIX INNOVATION MODEL FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

To promote innovative sustainable technologies for ensuring equal and universal access to information and stock markets, the Noon Business School organized a webinar titled 'Adopting Triple Helix Innovation Model for Sustainable Growth,' under the UN Sustainable Development Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, on September 11, 2020.

The eminent scholars emphasized upon the need for the adoption of the Triple Helix Model for innovation to foster economic and social development, as it increases the interaction among stakeholders from academia, industry and government. The invited scholars shed light on the significance of innovation for the advancement of society for solving social problems and enhancing society's capacity to act.



Faisal Sher Jan

Director
National Incubation Center,
and Advisor
to the Board, COLABS



Wahaj us Siraj

CEO
Pakistan First Fiber to The
Home (FTTH) Nayatel, Pvt
Ltd

Findings & Recommendations



Innovation can be achieved by incorporating critical thinking, communication skills and problem-solving techniques among the youth for the successful exploitation of new ideas.



We must develop reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure with improved quality, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic prosperity and human resource development, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all.



To foster an innovative society, we need to break the barriers of regressive thinking and myopic mindset, which are a hallmark of status quo in any society.



The investors should be given tax rebates and other financial incentives so that they can contribute to the growth of the private sector in the country.



Developing countries should enhance research, upgrade industrial technology, support domestic technology development, increase industrial diversification, and facilitate sustainable infrastructure projects.



For sustainable growth, internet connectivity, and the availability of information and communication technologies to access information are essential in developing countries.



To ensure economic growth through innovation and enhance entrepreneurial capacities with better knowledge and technology transfer, the South Asia Triple Helix Association of Pakistan should collaborate with the universities, industries and governmental authorities of the region.



SDG 9 : INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Our Innovative and Sustainable Infrastructure for a Smarter Future



Sargodha University Incubation Center

to develop an entrepreneurial eco-system.

Office of Research, Innovation, and Commercialization

to provide strategic and operational support to University's research activities.



International Center for Punjab Studies

to promote the rich ethnic heritage of the province.

The High-Tech Research Lab



to pioneer research, attract outstanding scientific talent, and train new generation engineers.

Pakistan Institute of China Studies



to deepen the understanding of Chinese language, culture and civilization.

Lincoln Corner Sargodha

to provide scholarship consultancy, English learning sessions and cultural activities.



Patent: A Multipurpose and Multifunctional Sugarcane Intercropping Drill



to maximize the land utilization, increase total yield, and high monetary returns.

Facilitation Center to facilitate students, visitors and alumni by one window operation.



Multimedia Development Center



to promote the use of media and technology, and create student-centric learning opportunities.

Digital Screens

to educate, entertain and communicate with students and faculty.



More than **40 MOUs** to nurture academia-industry linkages.





13 CLIMATE ACTION





CLIMATE CHANGE: A MULTIFACETED THREAT TO SECURITY OF PAKISTAN

To reflect upon the strategies for dealing with the challenges of climate change and analyze its impacts on human health, agriculture and ecosystems, Sargodha University organized a webinar titled 'Climate Change: A Multifaceted Threat to Security of Pakistan,' in connection with UN SDG 13: 'Climate Action,' on September 1, 2020.

Experts called for an immediate and perpetual response to cope with a living, dynamic and evolving threat of climate change that cannot be ignored. If the internal and external threats of climate change on national security are left unmanaged, it will create chaos and instability in the country.



**Dr Sadia
Munawar**

Deputy Director
Pakistan Environmental
Protection Agency,
Ministry of Climate
Change



**Dr Muhammad
Arif Goheer**

Head
Agriculture, Forestry & Land
Use/Global Change Impact
Studies Centre, Ministry of
Climate Change



Dr Derk Bekker

Chairman
Environmental Sciences
Department, Forman
Christian College



**Dr Mohammad
Arshad Javed**

Professor
Institute of Agriculture
Sciences, University of
Punjab



Dr Kiran Hina

Assistant Professor
Department of
Environmental Sciences,
University of Gujrat

Findings & Recommendations



Banning plastic will automatically reduce the levels of pollution to several folds, as it is not only injurious to human health but also deteriorates the ecosystem.



The Government should formulate sustainable policies, launch massive awareness drives on climate change and promote eco-friendly products utilizing green energy usage such as electric cars.



Unplanned migration from rural to urban areas needs to be supervised, as it may lead to various development concerns such as pressure on urban resources, urban poverty and an increase in slum settlement.



With the introduction of population control policies, tons of CO₂ emissions each year can be avoided.



There is a need to curb carbon emissions and protect forests because they sequester carbon to slow down climate change effects.



Increase energy efficiency while utilizing renewable energy sources and reduce the usage of fossil fuels such as oil, carbon and natural gas.



For fighting against the looming threats of climate change, we have to adopt the policy of thinking globally and acting locally.



To slow-down the vast increments of global warming, buy energy-efficient appliances, replace regular incandescent light bulbs, use solar panels to generate energy, and install a programmable thermostat.



We should train farmers around the world in sustainable and climate-smart agriculture methods as conventional farming involves deforestation and soil depletion.



The Government should work with indigenous people to cultivate sustainable livelihoods that allow them to support their families and bolster their capacity to protect their land.



Our Action Plan to Combat Climate Change

Plantation of **10,000 trees**



in a year under the tree plantation campaign.

A **Vehicle-Free Campus** to promote an eco-friendly environment.



Installed **Waste Bins** throughout the campus to separate biodegradable waste.



Ranked as the **712th World's Most Sustainable University**



in the UI Green Metric World Universities Ranking 2018-19 for better infrastructure and on-campus facilities.

Scholarly events on **Biodiversity and Conservation**



to ensure a life-friendly environment.

Anti-Smoking Awareness Drive



to increase awareness and the intention to quit among smokers.

A **Pilot Project** with WWF-Pakistan



to preserve peacocks and migratory birds.





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