

10th International Conference on: Building a Sustainable Future: Transforming Governance and Education through Innovative Policy Reforms



10th International Conference on: Building a Sustainable Future: Transforming Governance and Education through Innovative Policy Reforms



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17th - 18th December 2025



10th International Conference on: Building a Sustainable Future: Transforming Governance and Education through Innovative Policy Reforms







**10th International Conference on:
Building a Sustainable Future: Transforming Governance and Education
through Innovative Policy Reforms**

17th- 18th December 2025

Organised By

**Faculty of Social Sciences, Women University Mardan
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan**

This Abstract Book is prepared by:

-  **Dr. Farah Khan**
-  **Dr. Nelofar Ikram**
-  **Dr. Haleema Akbar**
-  **Dr. Hassina Bashir**
-  **Dr. Asma Saeed**

WOMEN UNIVERSITY MARDAN

*10th International Conference on:
Building a Sustainable Future: Transforming Governance
and Education through Innovative Policy Reforms*



WOMEN UNIVERSITY MARDAN

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PREFACE



The 10th International Conference on “Building a Sustainable Future: Transforming Governance and Education through Innovative Policy Reforms” stands as an important academic milestone for Women University Mardan. This two-day event aims to provide a platform where scholars, policymakers, researchers, and students come together to exchange ideas, share research, and reflect on the changing dynamics of governance and education in today’s world. The conference focuses on a wide range of themes, including sustainable development, institutional reforms, educational innovation, emerging policy challenges, social change, women’s empowerment, and the role of research in strengthening governance structures. The diversity of topics reflects the broad vision behind this initiative—bringing together multiple disciplines and perspectives to better understand the complexities of modern society.

A major highlight of this conference is the participation of distinguished international and national keynote speakers. Our international keynote speakers, Dr. Peter K. Moran, Dr. Nor Salwati binti Othman, and Prof. Dr. Abdul Malek Bin Abdul Karim, share global viewpoints on governance transformation, educational change, and sustainable policy development. Their presence strengthens the spirit of international academic collaboration and knowledge-sharing. Alongside them, our national keynote speakers—Prof. Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal, Dr. Syed Akhtar Ali Shah, Prof. Dr. Minhaj ul Hassan, and Prof. Dr. Wasima Shahzad, present perspectives rooted in Pakistan’s social, political, and educational realities. Their discussions highlight local challenges, opportunities for reform, and the essential role of research in guiding national policy directions.

The conference features a wide range of research presentations from both national and international scholars. The presenters contribute papers that show rigorous academic work, creative thinking, and a strong commitment to addressing real-world issues. The topics presented range from education policy, governance and public administration, social development, gender studies, digital transformation, community resilience, and many other areas relevant to the conference theme. The richness of the abstracts demonstrates the diversity of thought and depth of research taking place across institutions in Pakistan and abroad.

This abstracts book highlights the collective efforts of participants who contribute their work and ideas to an environment that encourages academic engagement and constructive dialogue. We hope that the material compiled here continues to support future studies, inspire new collaborations, and serve as a reference for scholars and policymakers interested in sustainable development and educational reform.

We hope that this conference not only facilitates meaningful academic exchange but also strengthens networks and inspires continued work in the pursuit of sustainable governance and innovative educational pathways.

MESSAGE OF THE HONOURABLE VICE-CHANCELLOR Women University Mardan



It gives me great pleasure to share a message for the 10th International Conference on “Building a Sustainable Future: Transforming Governance and Education through Innovative Policy Reforms.” This conference marks another important milestone in the journey of Women University Mardan as an institution committed to academic excellence, intellectual growth, and meaningful research engagement.

Universities thrive when ideas are explored, debated, and reimagined, and this event has provided exactly that opportunity. Over the course of two days of the conference, scholars, researchers, policy thinkers, and students will come together to reflect on issues that are not only relevant but essential to our nation’s future. The discussions held in this conference will remind us that education is not merely a process of teaching and learning, but it is a continuous effort to understand society and improve it through innovation and thoughtful inquiry.

This year’s conference is enriched by the presence of highly respected international and national keynote speakers, whose contributions added depth, clarity, and new perspectives to the themes under discussion. Their willingness to share their knowledge with our academic community reflects their commitment to collaborating for a better and more informed future.

I also appreciate the participation of presenters and scholars from various universities and institutions. Their research, compiled in this abstract book, reflects dedication, curiosity, and academic maturity. I hope that these efforts will encourage further study, inspire new collaborations, and support the development of policies that are grounded in evidence and guided by genuine public interest.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work of the Conference Organising Committee, led by the Chief Organiser, Dr. Farah Khan, whose energy, planning, and commitment ensured the successful organization of this event. Organising an international conference requires vision, teamwork, and perseverance, and I am proud of the way our faculty and staff have raised to this challenge.

Women University Mardan remains committed to providing opportunities that nurture intellectual growth, support innovative thinking, and strengthen research culture—particularly among young women who represent the future of academic leadership in Pakistan.

I extend my warmest congratulations to all participants and wish them continued success in their academic and professional endeavors. May this conference serve as a foundation for future initiatives that contribute positively to society and help build a sustainable, educated, and forward-looking Pakistan.

Prof. Dr. Razia Sultana
Vice Chancellor

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MESSAGE OF THE CHIEF ORGANIZER Women University Mardan



It gives me immense pleasure to begin by expressing my sincere gratitude to the worthy Vice Chancellor of Women University Mardan, Prof. Dr. Razia Sultana, whose vision, guidance, and unwavering support have been instrumental in making this conference possible. Her dedication to promoting research, knowledge-sharing, and academic excellence has inspired the entire team and created a platform where scholars, researchers, and students can engage meaningfully.

It is a great pleasure to present the abstract book of the 10th International Conference on “Building a Sustainable Future: Transforming Governance and Education through Innovative Policy Reforms.” This conference has provided an important platform for scholars, researchers, and students to share knowledge, ideas, and innovative approaches in the fields of governance and education.

A special feature of this conference has been the participation of our distinguished keynote speakers, whose expertise and guidance shaped much of the dialogue during the event. We were privileged to host international keynote speakers, Dr. Peter K. Moran, Dr. Nor Salwati binti Othman, and Prof. Dr. Abdul Malek Bin Abdul Karim, who shared global perspectives and innovative approaches. Our national keynote speakers, Prof. Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal, Dr. Syed Akhtar Ali Shah, Prof. Dr. Minhaj ul Hassan, and Prof. Dr. Wasima Shahzad, provided invaluable insights grounded in local context, policy, and research. Together, their contributions inspired participants and highlighted the importance of collaboration across disciplines and borders.

The abstracts included in this book reflect the diverse, innovative, and high-quality research that was presented during the conference. They represent the efforts of passionate researchers committed to advancing knowledge and contributing to sustainable solutions in education and governance.

I hope that this collection of work serves not only as a record of the conference but also as a source of inspiration and a foundation for further research and collaboration.

Dr. Farah Khan
Chief Organiser

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Patron in Chief


Prof. Dr. Razia Sultana, Vice-Chancellor Women University Mardan

Chief Organizer

Dr. Farah Khan, Head Institute of Education & Research, Women University, Mardan


Principal Organizers

 Dr. Nelofar Ikram (Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Women University Mardan)


 Dr. Haleema Akbar (Assistant Professor, Institute of Education and Research, Women University Mardan)

Members of the Organizing Committee


 Ms. Haleema Ikram (ORIC)

 Dr. Samina Begum

 Dr. Hassina Bashir


 Dr. Asma Saeed

 Dr. Rashida Parveen

 Dr. Hina Jabeen

 Dr. Rani Begum


 Dr. Robina Rashid


 Dr. Rabia Amjad

 Dr. Sadia Naz

 Ms. Anfal Afridi


 Ms. Farah Aqil

 Ms. Awoesha Rahat

 Ms. Kiran Qamer

 Ms. Nazish Khan

 Ms. Sunila Rashid


 Ms. Sumbal




Managing Committee

 Mr. Adnan Ahmed (Registrar)

 Mr. Fahim Shah (Treasurer)

 Mr. Pir Shakeel (IT)

 Mr. Kamran Khan (Campus Coordinator)

CHIEF GUEST MESSAGE

I am pleased to share my thoughts for the abstract book of the 10th International Conference on “Building a Sustainable Future: Transforming Governance and Education through Innovative Policy Reforms.” It is an honour to join the opening ceremony and witness the enthusiasm of researchers, faculty members, and students who are committed to contributing to the academic and policy landscape of Pakistan.

The conference creates an environment where important questions are raised, practical ideas are exchanged, and new possibilities emerge. I am particularly impressed by the range of topics received and the effort that scholars have put into their research. Such platforms play a vital role in strengthening our academic culture and encouraging young researchers to think critically and confidently.

The presence of both international and national keynote speakers will add great value to the discussions. Their insights will help broaden perspectives and connect local issues with global trends. It is encouraging to see Women University Mardan taking initiatives that open doors for collaboration and learning.

I commend the leadership of the Honourable Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Razia Sultana, and the dedication of the organizing committee. Their hard work becomes evident in the smooth organization of the conference and the quality of academic engagement it offers.

I hope that the research compiled in this abstract book continues to inspire further study and encourages institutions to focus on innovative policy approaches for a better future.

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CHIEF GUEST MESSAGE

It is a privilege for me to join the 10th International Conference on “Building a Sustainable Future: Transforming Governance and Education through Innovative Policy Reforms” at Women University Mardan. The conference brings together dedicated scholars, researchers, and students who are deeply committed to contributing to national progress through knowledge and dialogue.

The themes discussed throughout the sessions reflect the urgent need for thoughtful, inclusive, and forward-looking policy reforms in governance and education. I am pleased to see that the conference encourages meaningful conversations and highlights practical solutions grounded in research and real-world experience.

The participation of distinguished international and national keynote speakers, along with the contributions of presenters from various institutions, enriches the academic environment of the university. Their perspectives broaden the discussion and add depth to the collective understanding of the challenges and opportunities ahead.

I appreciate the efforts of Women University Mardan, especially the leadership of the Honourable Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Razia Sultana, and the dedication of the organizing team led by Dr. Farah Khan. Such initiatives strengthen the culture of research and critical inquiry, which remains essential for national development.

I hope that the ideas and research shared in this conference, now compiled in this abstract book, continue to inspire collaboration, innovation, and thoughtful policy work for the years ahead.

Keynote: International

**Dr. Peter K. Moran Anthropologist,
Executive Director USEFP Pakistan.**



Dr. Peter K. Moran is the Executive Director of the United States Educational Foundation in Pakistan (USEFP). Dr. Moran has extensive experience in international education and cultural exchange. USEFP is a national commission guided by a Board of Directors composed of an equal number of Pakistani and American citizens. Its core mission is to promote mutual understanding among the people of our two nations through the educational programs we offer, like Fulbright, Humphrey, Foreign Language Teaching awards, and others. I am thrilled to be a part of this work.

Keynote: International

Prof. Dr. Abdul Malek Bin Abdul Karim
Dean, School of Education and Human Sciences,
Albukhary International University, Malaysia



Embedding Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in Malaysian Higher Education: The MQA Value-Based Education (VBE) Framework as a Catalyst for Transformative Change

In line with the global call for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), Malaysia has taken a decisive step toward integrating sustainability principles within its higher education ecosystem through the Malaysian Qualifications Agency's (MQA) Value-Based Education (VBE) Framework. This presentation examines how the VBE framework operationalizes the vision of sustainable development by embedding core humanistic and sustainability-oriented values across curriculum design, teaching, learning, and assessment in Malaysian higher education institutions. It highlights the policy intent, governance mechanisms, and institutional practices that collectively aim to nurture graduates who are not only competent in their disciplines but also ethically grounded, socially responsible, and environmentally conscious. By linking VBE to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), this presentation argues that Malaysia's approach offers a contextual model for aligning national education reforms with global sustainability agendas. The discussion concludes with reflections on current implementation challenges and opportunities for cross-border collaboration in reimagining higher education as a driver of sustainable futures.

*Keynote: International
Dr. Nor Salwati binti Othman,
UNITEN Business School (UBS) Malaysia*



Powering Households, Powering Change: Lessons from Malaysia's Electricity Tariff Reforms

Malaysia's journey toward sustainable energy consumption has been marked by a series of electricity tariff reforms and policy innovations aimed at reshaping residential energy behavior. This keynote address, titled "Powering Households, Powering Change: Lessons from Malaysia's Electricity Tariff Reforms", synthesizes empirical insights from two major studies that examine the behavioral, economic, and policy dimensions of electricity consumption in Malaysian households. Drawing from econometric modeling and behavioral analysis, the speech explores how pricing mechanisms, technological adoption, and socio-demographic factors interact to influence energy demand and sustainability outcomes. The first study investigates the causality and elasticity of residential electricity consumption in Malaysia over a 40-year period (1980–2020), employing ARDL, VECM and VDA. The findings reveal a significant long-run relationship between electricity consumption and its key determinants—income, price, occupancy, and technological disruption. Notably, occupancy and technology emerged as the most influential long-term drivers, with technology playing a critical role in reducing consumption through efficiency gains. In contrast, income and price showed more pronounced effects in the short run, suggesting that tariff adjustments can temporarily influence consumption patterns but may not yield sustained behavioral change without complementary interventions. The second study delves into the behavioral intention of residential consumers to adopt green technology applications, including solar photovoltaic (PV) systems, smart meters, electric vehicles (EVs), and battery storage. More, the findings suggest that tariff reforms alone are insufficient to achieve long-term sustainability goals. Instead, a multi-pronged strategy is needed—one that combines pricing incentives, public education, technological innovation, and targeted subsidies to foster a culture of energy responsibility among households. From a policy perspective, the research supports the use of price discrimination models—such as peak load pricing, income-based tariffs, and technology-linked incentives—to tailor electricity costs to consumer profiles and usage patterns. Moreover, the role of government policy and institutional collaboration is emphasized, particularly in shaping consumer perceptions and facilitating access to green technologies. Initiatives like the Feed-in Tariff (FiT), Net Energy Metering (NEM) 1.0–3.0, and the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP) are cited as pivotal in Malaysia's transition toward a low-carbon economy. This keynote will also reflect on the broader implications of Malaysia's experience for other developing nations seeking to balance energy access, affordability, and environmental stewardship. By integrating economic modeling with behavioral insights, the speech aims to inspire academic discourse on the interdisciplinary approaches required to tackle energy sustainability challenges in the Global South. Ultimately, powering households is not just about delivering electricity—it is about empowering change. Through informed policy

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design, consumer engagement, and technological advancement, Malaysia's electricity reforms offer valuable lessons on how to align household energy behavior with national sustainability goals.

Keynote: National

Prof. Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal,

Dean, Social Sciences, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad



Geopolitical Trends and Development

International Relations are dynamic and continuously transforming. The current state of geopolitics is marked by competition and conflict. The realists are publicizing the balancing and rebalancing strategies of the great powers, which have built-in characteristics that transform geostrategic competition into rivalry and war. In contrast, the liberalists seemed puzzled over the global institutions' sanctity and fast eroding relevance of the geoeconomic chessboard, regardless of economic, health, and environment interdependency. Thus, the trends in global politics resonate with the American scholars' destructive theories, such as the 'clash of civilizations' or the 'Thucydides trap'.

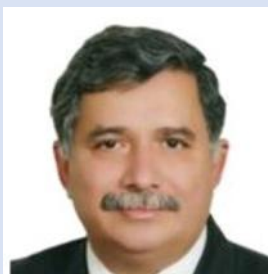
The scholars are debating the fate of Pax Americana. Many Americans concluded that Pax Americana is over with the election of President Trump and the subsequent US withdrawal from international agreements, such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership, NAFTA, and the Paris Climate Accords. While dealing with neighbors and allies, President Trump is heeding the advice of Renaissance political theorist Niccolò Machiavelli, who observed that "It is better to be feared than to be loved. Vladimir Putin's advocacy of "Russkiy Mir," also translated as "Russia World," resulted in the Kremlin's muscular strategy in Europe. Pax Sinica could be a reality soon. Admittedly, since the launch of BRI in September 2013, Central Asians and Russia have been closer to China. President Xi's GSI, GDI, GCI, and GGI germinate optimism for peaceful connectivity and seem attractive to developing nations. However, in South Asia, it is challenged by the evolving Indo-U.S. threshold alliance.

The rapid transformation in global geopolitics raises three interlinked questions: What are the philosophical constructs of this transformation in Global Politics? How are the Great and regional powers chalking out their geopolitical policies? What are the likely trends in the 2025 Contemporary Geopolitics?

Keynote: National

Dr. Syed Akhtar Ali Shah

**Former Secretary to Government, Home & Tribal Affairs Department-Current
Chairman Good Governance Forum**



Reforming University Governance in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

The governance of universities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) is facing a crisis characterized by ad hoc decision-making, political interference, and non-compliance with legal provisions. Despite the presence of a strong legal framework outlined in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Universities Act, 2012, key positions such as Registrar, Treasurer, Controller of Examinations, and Librarian often remain vacant or are filled through temporary arrangements, compromising transparency and accountability. The appointment of Acting Vice Chancellors and delays in regular appointments weaken leadership and make institutions susceptible to political influence. Financial mismanagement, unaccredited programs, and politically motivated recruitments have affected the academic reputation of universities, resulting in graduates who are ill-prepared for the workforce and market jobs. Lessons from countries like Malaysia, Turkey, and India demonstrate that upholding laws and promoting meritocracy are essential for the success of universities. The higher education sector in KP must prioritize adherence to the rule of law, merit-based appointments, and performance accountability to reverse the decline and foster knowledge and progress.

Keynote: National

Prof. Dr. Minhaj ul Hassan,

Former Dean of Arts & Humanities, University of Peshawar.



Innovative Education Policies

In the modern world of digital technologies education has become more challenging to the teachers as well as students. The traditional approach, teacher centric, no more works in the 21st century. It is time where student centric approach needs to be adopted. Accordingly innovative education policies have to be espoused to make education more attractive and effective. In order to adopt effective innovative education policies, it is imperative that policies should be studied and analyzed in those countries where they have been implemented effectively and successfully.

While introducing new education policies, the following aims should be kept in mind. The policies should take into account that there should be students' focused learning methods, the introduction of technology in the curriculum, competency-based education and such programs that enhance education equality. Though the policies should be students centric the curriculum should be more flexible and the teachers should have the power to adopt newer methods of teaching as well as have an autonomy in curriculum. The curriculum and teaching methods should be such that give the students skills and perspective for globalized world.

These are few of those strategies that covers the foundational aspects important for adaptability, inclusiveness and enhancing the standard of education and preparing the students for future challenges.

Though innovative education policies are need of the time, it should also be acknowledged that in the introduction of innovative education policies the policy makers would face some hurdles and difficulties. The foremost challenge would be the availability of resources along with the problem of sustainability of the reforms introduced. Another problem would be the constant disparity in the access to quality education. In spite of the aforesaid difficulties in many countries the innovative education policies have been successfully implemented with the intervention of the training teachers and performing digital operations.

The policy makers in government and education institutions can stimulate critical thinking, creativity and resilience by creating new technologies, personalized tutoring frameworks, and data driven decision-making tools that can be used by students to learn. During Covid-19 pandemic innovative approaches were adopted in many countries to face the challenges in the delivery of knowledge. During the pandemic the use of information technology, smart classrooms, competency based learning and artificial intelligence made the delivery of education far more accessible but challenging as well. The teachers, students and institutions were forced to adopt new methods of lectures and examinations; however, it also opened new avenues of learning.

The 21st century also needs to prepare students to acquire skills and prepare them as workforce. Thus, vocational education and apprenticeships are needed. Such education should be aligned with the labor demand of the market.

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Stronger linkages may be developed between educational institutions and industries so that students are given the skills required by the industry and thus availability of jobs is ensured.

Keynote: National

Prof. Dr. Wasima Shehzad

Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Air University, Islamabad



Building a Sustainable Future: Climate-Resilient Education and Curriculum Alignment with SDGs in Pakistan

Pakistan faces severe climate vulnerabilities that increasingly disrupt education systems, underscoring the need for climate-resilient learning frameworks. This paper examines how aligning Pakistan's national curriculum with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)—particularly SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 13 (Climate Action)—can strengthen national adaptation efforts. Current curriculum reforms, including the Single National Curriculum, show progress toward equity but insufficient integration of climate literacy and sustainability competencies. Evidence from recent studies highlights gaps in teacher preparedness and fragmented implementation of environmental education initiatives. Building on global guidance such as UNESCO's Climate-Smart Education Systems approach, this paper proposes a three-part model for reform: embedding climate and sustainability concepts across subjects, enhancing teacher training, and positioning schools as community resilience hubs. These reforms can create an education system that not only withstands climate shocks but also equips Pakistan's youth to contribute actively to a sustainable, climate-resilient future.

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CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

PROGRAM



10th International Conference on Building a Sustainable Future: Transforming Governance and Education through Innovative Policy Reforms

17th -18th December, 2025



Venue: Al-Hamra Hotel Mardan

Sr. No	DAY ONE TIMINGS	Day one Activities	Details
1.	10:00 -10:30 AM	Arrival of the Chief guest/Reception/seating	
2.	10:30-10:35 AM	Recitation of the Holy Quran	
3.	10:35 - 10:40 AM	National Anthem	Pakistan
4.	10:40 -10:50 AM	Introduction/Welcome Note by Vice Chancellor, Women University Mardan	Prof. Dr Razia Sultana (Vice Chancellor, Women University Mardan, KP)
5.	10:50 -11:00 AM	Chief Guest:	Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Former Chairman HEC.
6.	11:00-11:10 AM	Keynote speaker	Prof. Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspel Dean, Social Sciences Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad

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7.	11:10-11:20 AM	Keynote speaker	Dr. Syed Akhtar Ali Shah, Former Secretary to Government, Home & Tribal Affairs Department- current Chairman Good Governance Forum.
8.	11:20-11:30 AM	Keynote Speaker	Dr. Peter K. Moran, Anthropologist, Executive Director USEFP Pakistan
9.	11:30-11:40 AM	Keynote Speaker	Prof. Dr. Nor Salwati Binti Othman UNITEN Business School UBS Malaysia
10.	11:40-11:50 AM	Note of thanks	Chief Organizer- Dr. Farah Khan Head, Institute of Education & Research, Women University Mardan
11.	11:50-12:00 PM	Awarding Shields and certificates to the Chief guest and keynote speakers	
12.	12:00-12:10 PM	Group Photo session	
13.	12:10- 01:10 PM	Lunch and prayer break	

Presentations - HALL "A"

17th December, 2025

S. No	Timings	Title	Presenters
Theme 01: Governance, Public Policy, and Political Science			
Session chair: Prof. Dr Salman Bangash, Dean, Faculty of Arts& Humanities, University of Peshawar			
1.	01:20- 01:28 PM	Absence of Local Government Institutions & Climate Disaster Management	Mr. Waseem Murad
2.	01:28-01:36 PM	Nexus of Organizational Ecosystem & Market Disaster in Public Sector Universities: A Case of University of Peshawar & Imsciences, Peshawar	Dr. Shakeel Ahmed

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3.	01:36-01:44 PM	Annual Confidential Report of The Civil Service Of Pakistan	Dr. Imtiaz Badshah
4.	01:44-01:52 PM	Role of Resilience on Fear Of Infection Among Caregivers of HIV Patients	Mr. Ishtiaq Ahmad Awan

5.	01:52-02:00 PM	The Rise of Populist Politics and Its Impact on Democratic Institutions.	Ms. Mariya Noor
6.	02:00-02:08 PM	Framing and agenda setting: Media narratives and their influence on public policy in Pakistan	Ms. Zarshaida
7.	02:08-02:16 PM	Role of Islam in Pakistan's Constitutional Framework	Ms. Sana Dr. Nelofar Ikram
8.	02:16-02:24 PM	Institutional Reforms for transparent governance in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Evaluating strategic frameworks, implementation gaps, and citizens-centric innovations	Ms. Hadiqa Naz Dr. Nelofar Ikram
9.	02:24-02:32 PM	Political and Educational Policy in Pakistan: Challenges and Prospects For Equitable Reforms	Ms. Zainab Bibi & Dr. Hassina Bashir
10.	02:32-02:40 PM	Decentralization and Conflict affected Societies: Strengthening trust and peace through local governance in Pakistan	Ms. Malaika Rahat Dr. Hassina Bashir
11.	02:40-02:48 PM	Politics and Pedagogy: Shaping Education Policy in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Ms. Rukhsar Dr. Nelofar Ikram

Theme 02: Education, Mass communication, and Knowledge system

Session chair: Prof. Dr Hafiz Inamullah, Director, IER, University Peshawar

12.	02:48-02:56 PM	The role of Teachers' Soft Skills in enhancing Classroom Effectiveness: Evidence from University Faculty in Pakistan	Ms. Naz Yasir
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13.	02:56-03:04 PM	Perceptions of Teachers regarding The Rule of Information and Communication Technology in the Teaching and Learning Process at the Secondary Level.	Mr. Aamir Abbas (Online)
14.	03:04-03:12 PM	The role of continuous professional development improving teacher effectiveness in rural areas district Mardan Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Ms. Mahnoor Fakher
15.	03:12-03:20 PM	Revisiting Parental Involvement; A Multi-Dimensional Assessment of its Impact on Undergraduate Students' Academic Performance	Ms. Shabana Noor (Online)
16.	03:20-03:28 PM	Relationship between self-handicapping and achievement goals among undergraduates in Mardan	Ms. Shah Laila
17.	03:28-03:36 PM	Analyzing Pakistan's textbook in the light of 21st century skills requirements	Ms. Nazish Siraj, Dr. Farah Khan
18.	03:36-03:44 PM	Effective strategies for reducing stress and anxiety to improve academic performance among university students	Ms. Misal Ishaq, Dr. Farah Khan
19.	03:44-03:52 PM	An analysis of Pakistan's single national curriculum alignment with 21st-century skills	Ms. Muneeba Idrees Dr. Farah Khan
20.	03:52-04:00 PM	The role of Media in shaping education policy reforms: A study on influence, awareness and public engagement	Ms. Muskan Ali Dr. Hassina Bashir

Presentations HALL "B"

17th December, 2025

S.No	Timings	Title	Presenters
Theme 02: Education, Mass communication, and Knowledge system			
Session chair: Prof. Dr Hafiz Inamullah, Director, IER, University Peshawar			
1.	01:20-01:28 PM	Healing Minds, Healthy Communities: Education as The First Medicine	Ms. Munawwar Begum (Online)

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2.	01:28-01:36 PM	Role of Education in Achieving Sustainable Rural Development	Ms. Kalsoom Bibi
3.	01:36-01:44 PM	Perceptions of School Heads Regarding the Role of Digital Leadership in the Contemporary Digital Era at the Secondary Level	Ms. Taseer Akhtar (Online)
4.	01:44-01:52 PM	Investigating Environmental Themes in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 's Grade Five Science Text Book	Ms. Aliya And Dr. Gul Taj Ali Bangash
5.	01:52-02:00 PM	Media Influence on Public Policy Formulation: A Case Study of Health Policies in Pakistan	Ms. Gulalai
6.	02:00-02:08 PM	Automation-Led Intellectual Displacement: A Constructivist and Cognitivist Learning Perspective on Use of AI in Classrooms	Dr. Maria Khan (Online)
7.	02:08-02:16 PM	A Study to highlight the Impact of Disasters on Student's Academic Achievements At Higher Education Institutions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Ms. Farhat Noor (Online)
8.	02:16-02:24 PM	Evaluating Grade IX English Textbook in Developing Critical Thinking Skills Among Students	Ms. Nadia BiBi & Dr. Gul Taj Ali Bangash

Theme 03: Sociology, Religious Studies, and Social Transformation

Session Chair: Prof. Dr Jameel Chitrali, University of Peshawar

9.	02:24-02:32 PM	سارہ سگندہ کی شاعری میں صنفی تشدد کی لفظیات کا مطالعہ	Dr. Sadia Kanwal
10.	02:32-02:40 PM	Exploring authentic leadership style in relation to conflict resolution in higher education Institutes of Khyber Pukhtunkhwa	Dr. Muhammad Idrees

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11.	02:40- 02:48 PM	Exploring Social And Psychological Barriers In Educating The Transgender An Ethnographic Case Study.	Ms. Shahana Dawaid
12.	02:48-02:56 PM	Examining the Moderating Role of Self- Compassion between the Imposter Phenomenon and Mental Health among University Students	Ms. Saira Khalil (Online)
13.	02:56-03:04 PM	Women in High Level Governance: Advancing Policy, Decision Making, and National Development	Ms. Sehrish Iqbal (Online)
14.	03:04-03:12 PM	Patriarchy on campus: Gender governance in higher education	Ms. Rani Musawwer Sultana
Theme 04: Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Business Growth			
Session Chair: Prof. Dr. Usman Ghani, Director IM Sciences			
15.	03:12-03:20 PM	Embracing Digital Transformation: The Future of the Accounting Profession in Norway	Dr. Imtiaz Badshah
16.	03:20-03:28 PM	Impact of Exchange Rate Volatility on Textile Exports: Evidence from Asia-Pacific cotton producing Economies	Ms. Yusra
17.	03:28-03:36 PM	The connection between the employee's evaluation in KP banks and the use of Artificial Intelligence	Ms Amna Noor, Dr. Samina Begum

SECOND DAY SCHEDULE

Sr. No	Day Two Timings	Day Two Activities	Details
1.	10:00-10:30 AM	Arrival of the Chief Guest/Reception/Seating	
2.	10:30-10:35 AM	Recitation of the Holy Quran	
3.	10:35-10:40 AM	National Anthem of Pakistan	
4.	10:40-10:50 AM	Chief Guest:	Prof. Dr. Qibla Ayaz, Former Chairman of the Islamic Ideology Council, Pakistan
5.	10:50-11:00 AM	Keynote speaker	Prof. Dr. Minhaj ul Hassan Former Dean of Arts & Humanities, University of Peshawar
6.	11:00 -11:10 AM	Keynote speaker	Prof. Dr. Wasima Shehzad Dean Faculty of Social Sciences Air University, Islamabad
7.	11:10 -11:20 AM	Keynote speaker	Prof. Dr. Abdul Malek Bin Abdul Karim Dean, School of Education and Human Sciences, Albukhary International University Malaysia
8.	11:20 - 11:30 AM	Dosti Foundation (Sponsor)	Khalil Ullah Volunteer Coordinator Dosti Welfare Organization
9.	11:30- 11:35 AM	Note of Thanks	Dr. Farah Khan, Head Institute of Education and Research.
10.	11:35 -11:50 AM	Awarding Shields and certificates to the chief Guest & members of the organizing committee.	
11.	11:50 -12:00 PM	Group Photo session	
12.	12:00 -01:00 PM	Lunch and prayer break	

Presentations HALL “A”

18th December, 2025

S. No	Timings	Title	Presenters
Theme 05: Economic Policy, Finance, Investment and Economic Resilience			
Session Chair: Prof. Dr. Malik Zilakat Khan, Ex Chairman, Department of Economics, University of Peshawar			
1.	01:10-01:18 PM	Assessing Inefficiencies in Pakistan's Export Diversification; Insights from Stochastic Frontier Gravity Model Analysis	Mr. Midrarullah, Dr. Muhammad Abdul Kamal
2.	01:18-01:26 PM	Artificial Intelligence as a Catalyst for Women's Economic Empowerment: Evidence from the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development Economies	Ms. Khadeeja Shakoor, Dr. Muhammad Abdul Kamal
3.	01:26-01:34 PM	Coordinating Fiscal and Monetary Policy for Long-term Stability: A Case Study of Pakistan Post-Crisis Recovery	Mr. Muhammad Uzair Afridi Ms. Anfal Afridi Ms. Awoesha Rahat
4.	01:34-01:42 PM	Assessing the impacts of Climate change: The rising threat of Cloudbursts in Pakistan and it's consequences on local communities	Ms. Andaleeb Dr. Hassina Bashir
Theme 06: Sustainable Development and Rural Transformation			
Session Chair: Prof. Dr. Malik Inayatullah Jan, Director, IDS, Agriculture University Peshawar			
5.	01:42-01:50 PM	Tourism in Pakistan in the Era of Climate Change: Challenges, Impacts, and Adaptation Strategies	Dr. Arousa Aman
6.	01:50-01:58 PM	The Afghan Taliban Regime and Pakistan's Environmental Vulnerability: Assessing the Geopolitical Climatic Nexus and the Possible Way (s) out	Dr. Azmat Ullah

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7.	01:58- 02:06 PM	Empowering Pakistan for 2030; Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) As Catalyst for Change	Ms. Saima Janas Dr. Nelofar Ikram
8.	02:06-02:14 PM	Gender Equality Reforms in Traditional Societies: Challenges and Opportunities for Social Change	Ms. Marwa Imamta Dr. Hassina Bashir
9.	02:14-02:22 PM	Regional Integration as a Pathway to Achieving Sustainable Development Goals SDGs: A Policy and Governance Perspective.	Ms. Laiba Dr. Hassina Bashir

10.	02:22-02:30 PM	Strengthening Governance in Pakistan: A Pathway for Sustainable Development	Ms. Shumaisa Dr. Nelofar Ikram
11.	02:30-02:38 PM	Relationship between Eco Anxiety and coping strategies Payment; through bank of Khyber	Ms. Samra Begum

Presentations HALL “B”

18th December, 2025

Theme 07: Tourism, Hospitality, and Cultural Policy

Session Chair: Dr Ijaz Khan, Tourism & Hospitality, AWKUM

S. No	Timings	Title	Presenters
1.	01:10-01:18 PM	Surveying The Role of Tourism in the Employment Generation in Pakistan	Mr. Waqas Raza
2.	01:18-01:26 PM	Evaluating the Impact of Tourism Policy on the Regional Infrastructure Development of Chitral	Ms. Uzma Khan
3.	01:26-01: 34 PM	Guardians of Human Memories: Libraries' Contribution to Digital Humanities and Cultural Heritage	Ms. Farah Momi Dr. Amjid Khan

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		Preservation; a Systematic Literature Review	
Theme 08: Geopolitics, International Relations and Global Co-operation			
Session Chair: Dr. Sadia Sulaiman (Quaid-i-Azam University)			
4.	01:34-01:42 PM	How to Promote Education Diplomacy Between Central Asia and Pakistan? Lessons from the United States Fulbright Program in Pakistan	Mr. Fawad Javaid
5.	01:42-01:50 PM	Reassessing Balochistan's Insurgency; Investigating the Convergence of Hybrid Warfare and Great Power Politics	Dr. Asif Salim
6.	01:50-01:58 PM	Navigating Great Power Rivalry: Pakistan's Middle Power Diplomacy and Geo-economic Strategy in a Fragmenting International Order	Ms. Pakeeza Shehzadi (Online)
7.	01:58-02:06 PM	Decentralization and Local Government: Key Drivers of Democratic Consolidation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Ms. Asima Fida Dr. Nelofar Ikram
8.	02:06- 02:14 PM	Hybrid Warfare: Russian Fusion Tactics against Ukraine	Ms. Ayesha Tariq, Dr. Nelofar Ikram
9.	02:14-02:22 PM	The Rise of Populist Politics and Its Impact on Democratic Institutions	Ms. Mariya Noor
Theme 09: Statistics, Data, and Policy Information			
Session Chair: Dr. Naila, Economics, University of Peshawar			
10.	02: 22- 02:30 PM	Impact of Research and Development Expenditures on the Economic Growth of Pakistan	Ms. Hafsa
11.	02: 30- 02:38 PM	The Correlation of Emotional Intelligence with Students Academic Resilience in University of Malakand, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Tahira Riaz, Asghar Ali, Abid Khan

The Absence of Local Government Institutions and Its Impact on Climate Disaster Management in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: A Case Study of Floods and Non-State Actor Interventions

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Abstract

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has been recurrently devastated by climate induced floods, notably in 2022 and 2025, exacerbating vulnerabilities in Malakand Divisions, especially in the districts Shangla, Buner, and Swat. This paper examines how the absence of robust local government institutions creates a vacuum in disaster management, leading to state absence and reliance on non state actors and communal support for relief. Drawing on qualitative analysis of reports, surveys, interviews, and case studies, the report underscores the absence of state authorities and a proper mechanism for disaster management. The absence of a centralised mechanism has resulted in some instances, to disorganized aid distribution, leading to duplicity and resource wastage. Findings reveal that non-state organizations like Al-Khidmat, Akhwaat, Khudai Khidmatghar, Fixit and other organization provide essential services, their efforts remain fragmented without local governance coordination. The study recommends policy reforms to empower local institutions for organized responses, integrating community-led strategies to enhance resilience and reduce state invisibility in crisis situations.

Keywords: local governance, climate disasters, flood management, non-state actors, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Nexus of organizational Ecosystem & Market Disaster in Public Sector Universities: A Case of University of Peshawar & Imsciences, Peshawar

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Abstract

“Why do universities in Pakistan, particularly those in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, continue to face organizational challenges and struggle to establish effective linkages with the market?” is the key question guiding this research. Public sector universities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) are increasingly confronted with financial crises, governance inefficiencies, and declining educational quality. Institutions such as the University of Peshawar and the University of Dera Ismail Khan struggle to pay salaries and pensions, reflecting the structural fragility of their governance models. Drawing upon Weber’s hierarchical-bureaucratic framework, this paper argues that the persistence of a rigid bureaucratic contract restricts universities from engaging productively with the market, thereby exacerbating financial instability. By contrast, private institutions and selective public universities, such as IMSciences Peshawar, that operate within a New Public Management (NPM) framework demonstrate resilience by aligning governance practices with market demands, generating resources through consultancy, research collaborations, and industry partnerships. Empirical evidence highlights that while the University of Peshawar reported a budget deficit of over PKR 2.5 billion in 2024, IMSciences generated nearly 40% of its annual income from self-financing programs and external collaborations. Similarly, Higher Education Commission (HEC) allocations to KP universities have declined by more than 30% over the past five years, intensifying their reliance on outdated governance practices. Although Dr. Altaf Anjum emphasizes the significance of “embedded factors” refers to the structural factors of society such as political structure & instability, cultural norms, and institutional inefficiency play important role in influencing organization ecosystem, this study follows Micheal Foucault lens of knowledge-power relation to seek answer to the question. The comparative analysis demonstrates that universities adhering to Weberian bureaucratic practices face severe governance and financial challenges, while those embracing NPM frameworks sustain efficiency, financial viability, and academic competitiveness, however, does both types of universities contribute to the knowledge and humanistic values necessary for the construction and reconstruction of society or not, is critical question needs answer. The paper concludes by advocating a paradigm shift from hierarchical bureaucratic governance towards NPM-driven approaches to respond to the market demands, output-based accountability, and productivity based on humanistic & social justice principles. Such a transition is not only essential for overcoming financial bottlenecks but also for fostering innovation, critical thinking, and sustainability in higher education governance in KP.

Keywords: Public Sector Universities, Governance, New Public Management, Financial Crisis, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Annual confidential report of the civil service of Pakistan

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Abstract

Performance appraisal is an important management tool used for assessing employee job performance, to make decisions regarding employee incentives and rewards, and providing feedback or training to develop employee skills and competencies. It is generally agreed that performance appraisal can benefit employees and organizations, but for that, the performance appraisal techniques and instruments need to be fair and objective. Employees may positively react to the performance appraisal systems if the design of such systems involve employee input and the evaluation corresponds to the respective job descriptions. The current study aims at examining the effectiveness of performance appraisal system in the public sector of Pakistan. The study is qualitative in nature and draws on the literature in ‘new public management’. The study led to explore that the process of performance appraisal of civil servants in Pakistan is highly subjective. It is used as a tool for making decisions regarding employee promotions, but the evaluations are mainly based on criteria irrelevant to merit because of the use of subjective and generic evaluative instruments. Since evaluations are entirely secret, that is why one of the core objectives of performance appraisal, which is performance improvement is not achieved through performance appraisal system. More specifically, the study indicates that factors such as an administrative culture rife with cronyism, high centralization, and conflict of interests between policy-makers may contribute to the design of a performance appraisal system that lacks fairness and objectivity. It transpired that the positive effects of the performance appraisal system in the Pakistani public sector are sparse because it is not designed in collaboration with employees, it lacks transparency and its utility for performance improvement is vague. We suggest practical implications and directions for future research.

Keywords: performance appraisal, evaluation, public sector, new public management

ROLE OF RESILIENCE ON FEAR OF INFECTION AMONG CAREGIVERS OF HIV PATIENTS

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Abstract

Caregivers of individuals having HIV often experience fear of infection which can significantly impact their caregiving effectiveness and wellbeing. This study examines the role of resilience in the fear of infection among caregivers of individuals with HIV. The study recruited 200 caregivers from Swabi and Swat. Resilience was measured using the Brief Resilience Scale, while fear of infection was assessed through a Perceived Risk of HIV Scale. Results indicate a significant relationship between resilience and fear of infection, with caregivers demonstrating higher resilience and high fear of infection in upper class, nuclear families and graduate and post graduate individuals. Furthermore, the results also suggest that married individuals are more resilient as compared to single. These findings emphasize the importance of resilience-building interventions, such as training in stress management. This study contributes to the growing body of literature emphasizing the psychological resilience of caregivers and offers practical implications for HIV-related caregiving programs.

Keywords: HIV, Fear of infection, caregivers, resilience.

The Rise of Populist Politics and Its Impact on Democratic Institutions

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Abstract

In recent years, populism has emerged as a dominant force in Pakistan's political landscape, transforming the relationship between leaders, citizens, and democratic institutions. Rooted in the rhetoric of representing the "true will of the people," populist politics often challenges established elites and institutional constraints, thereby reshaping patterns of governance and accountability. This study aims to analyze how populist leadership and discourse have influenced the autonomy, credibility, and functioning of key state institutions such as the legislature, judiciary, bureaucracy, and media, and to evaluate the tension between populist appeals to mass legitimacy and the rule-based functioning of democratic institutions. Employing a qualitative methodology, the research draws upon political speeches, policy decisions, and institutional behavior from recent years, using content analysis and thematic interpretation to assess how populist strategies including direct communication with the masses, charismatic leadership, and anti-elite narratives affect institutional roles and democratic norms. The study finds that while populism may invigorate citizen engagement and enhance political participation, it simultaneously risks undermining institutional independence, weakening accountability mechanisms, and fostering majoritarian tendencies in governance. The research holds significance for understanding how Pakistan's democratic institutions can preserve their constitutional integrity and pluralistic character in the face of rising populist pressures.

Keywords: Populism, Democratic Institutions, Political Leadership, Governance, Pakistan.

Framing and Agenda-Setting: Media Narratives and Their Influence on Public Policy in Pakistan

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ABSTRACT

In Pakistan, the media plays a pivotal role in shaping public opinion, political debates, and the policy agenda. This study examines how media narratives influence public policy decisions through the dual lenses of framing and agenda-setting. Using surveys and semi-structured interviews with citizens, journalists, and policymakers, it explores how media coverage of key issues such as health and education affects public perceptions and political priorities. The analysis highlights the dual role of the media as both a gatekeeper, shaping policy directions in line with political or economic interests, and a watchdog, amplifying public concerns. By situating these dynamics within Pakistan's democratic and developing context, the study contributes to broader debates on media-policy linkages in emerging democracies. Findings are expected to provide insights into strengthening evidence-based policymaking and enhancing media accountability, ensuring that national agendas more closely reflect societal needs.

Key Words: public opinion, political debates, policy agenda, agenda-setting, media accountability,

The Role of Islam in Pakistan's Constitutional Framework: Evolution, Interpretation, and Contemporary Challenges

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Abstract

This study critically explores the evolving integration, interpretation, and operationalization of Islamic principles within Pakistan's constitutional framework from 1947 to the present. Anchored in the foundational Objectives Resolution of 1949, the research traces the ideological trajectory of the state, examining how successive political regimes, most notably under Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and General Zia-ul-Haq, redefined the scope and substance of Islamic provisions in the Constitution. Through a qualitative analysis of constitutional texts, judicial pronouncements, parliamentary debates, and the jurisprudence of the Federal Shariat Court and the Council of Islamic Ideology, the study investigates how Islamic ideas have been variously codified, contested, and instrumentalized in shaping the legal and political order. The research focuses on the tensions inherent in aligning religious mandates with democratic governance, particularly in areas such as judicial authority, gender justice, and minority rights. It highlights the persistent challenges posed by divergent doctrinal interpretations, politicization of religion, and the fragmented implementation of Islamic laws. By situating these dynamics within broader debates on Islamic constitutionalism, the study interrogates the paradox of embedding Islam as a constitutional cornerstone while striving to uphold the pluralistic and democratic aspirations of a modern nation-state. The study offers historically grounded insights and forward-looking recommendations for harmonizing Islamic values with democratic norms, strengthening institutional clarity, and fostering a more inclusive, coherent, and rights-based constitutional order in Pakistan.

Key Words : Islamic constitutionalism, Pakistan Constitution, Objectives Resolution, Islamization, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, General Zia-ul-Haq, Federal Shariat Court, Council of Islamic Ideology, religious interpretation, democratic governance, minority rights, gender justice

Institutional Reforms for Transparent Governance in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Evaluating Strategic Frameworks, Implementation Gaps, and Citizen-Centric Innovations

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Abstract

This study explores the evolving landscape of governance in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), focusing on institutional reforms aimed at enhancing transparency, accountability, and public trust. It critically evaluates existing strategic frameworks and identifies persistent implementation gaps, including weak Freedom of Information (FOI) laws, outdated bureaucratic procedures, fragmented oversight mechanisms, and limited citizen engagement. Employing a mixed-methods approach, the research integrates policy analysis with qualitative insights drawn from 22 semi-structured interviews conducted with government officials, civil society actors, digital governance experts, and youth leaders across the province. The findings reveal that while policy frameworks for transparency exist, their impact is undermined by poor enforcement, lack of digital infrastructure, and minimal public awareness. To address these challenges, the study proposes a three-pillar reform model: legal modernization through stronger FOI and anti-corruption legislation; digital transformation via e-governance platforms that ensure real-time access to public data; and institutional strengthening by enhancing the autonomy of audit bodies, the judiciary, and anti-corruption agencies. Interview data underscore the importance of citizen-centric innovations, particularly youth-led accountability initiatives, in sustaining reform momentum. The study concludes that genuine transparency cannot be achieved through legislation alone; it requires the integration of legal, technological, and institutional mechanisms that mandate proactive disclosure and automate government accountability. Ultimately, the research advocates for sustained, inclusive, and systemic reforms to transition governance in KP from symbolic compliance to authentic accountability, thereby improving public service delivery, reinforcing democratic norms, and restoring citizen confidence in state institutions.

Key Words: Transparent Governance · Institutional Reform · Freedom of Information · E-Governance · Public Trust · Anti-Corruption · Strategic Frameworks · Citizen Engagement ·

Politics and Educational Policy in Pakistan: Challenges and Prospects for Equitable Reform

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Abstract

Education in Pakistan is deeply under the influence of political environment where the educational policies are affected by the changes in governments, ideological differences and also an untrusted governance. This study specifically aims to inspect the interaction between politics and policy of education in Pakistan, which will particularly focus on how the political entities finds out the formulation policy, the design of the curriculum and how are they implemented. The objectives of this study are to assess the historical and modern-day political factors manipulating educational policy making, measure the consequences of policy break to access and quality, this research proposes ideas for an ambiguous and inclusive policy framework. A qualitative research approach will be employed, which will integrate a detailed analysis of the state education policy document, reports of the government and semi-structured interviews with the competent authorities. Thematic analysis will be conducted to know the frequent patterns of political influence across different governance periods. The findings of the study will reveal that excessive politicization will result in uneven reforms, unbalanced resource distribution, and weakened institutional and organizational policy. The study will be concluded by achieving sustainable and equitable educational development in Pakistan requires politicization less education sector, institutional stability, and evidence-based policy making. Good collaboration amongst the stockholders, continuation of the policy beyond political transitions, and transparent accountability mechanisms are important to align educational policy with national development priorities and social equity goals. This research will contribute to the ongoing dissertation on education reform in Pakistan by signifying actionable ways to insulate educational policymaking from biased interests and promotes long term national progress.

Keywords: Pakistan, Politics, Educational Policy, Governance, Equity, Reform

Decentralization and Conflict-Affected Societies: Strengthening Trust and Peace through Local Governance in Pakistan”

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Abstract

In Pakistan, decentralization is often discussed as a way to improve governance, but for people living in conflict-affected regions such as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, and the former Federally Administered Tribal Areas, it carries a much deeper meaning, its role extends beyond governance reform to trust restoration and peace building. Local governments, when effectually empowered, can respond to grassroots demands, resolve deep-rooted grievances, and deliver inclusive platforms for participation, thereby nurturing reconciliation and promoting social cohesion within communities that have historically experienced conflict and marginalization. This study aims to examine the role of decentralised governance, focusing on socio-political grievances in conflict-affected regions of Pakistan and to evaluate how local governance structures can nurture inclusivity, trust and peace building at the community level. A mixed-method approach will be employed, combining qualitative interviews and focus group discussions with local representatives, community leaders, and citizens, alongside quantitative surveys to measure perceptions of trust, accountability, and inclusion, while secondary sources such as policy documents, government reports, and scholarly research will provide further insights. The significance of this research lies in its potential to demonstrate how decentralisation can function not only as an administrative mechanism but also as a peace building tool, highlighting ways in which local governance can mitigate conflict drivers, build resilient communities, and inform policy frameworks aimed at strengthening democratic institutions and ensuring long-term stability in Pakistan’s conflict-affected regions.

Keywords: decentralization, strengthen democratic governance, conflict-affected regions, reconciliation, peace building.

Politics and Pedagogy: Shaping Education Policy in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the political undercurrents shaping education policy in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Pakistan, with a focus on how governance structures, party ideologies, and leadership transitions influence pedagogical priorities and institutional reforms. The primary purpose is to critically analyze the extent to which political agendas affect the continuity, equity, and quality of education policy in the province, and to explore the implications for sustainable development and youth empowerment. Employing a qualitative research design, the study draws on semi-structured interviews with policymakers, education department officials, and academic stakeholders, complemented by a thematic analysis of policy documents, legislative debates, and party manifestos from 2008 to 2023. The data were analyzed using a grounded theory approach to identify recurring patterns, narratives, and power dynamics. Findings reveal that education policy in KP is deeply entangled with political cycles, often resulting in fragmented reforms, politicized appointments, and inconsistent implementation. While some political regimes introduced progressive initiatives, such as curriculum modernization, girls' education incentives, and school infrastructure development, these were frequently disrupted or rebranded by successive governments, undermining long-term impact. The study also highlights the limited role of educators and civil society in policy formulation, with decisions often centralized and driven by short-term political gains rather than pedagogical evidence. The research underscores the urgent need for institutional mechanisms that insulate education policy from partisan shifts, promote stakeholder participation, and align reforms with Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Quality Education). It offers strategic recommendations for fostering policy continuity, enhancing governance transparency, and embedding youth-centric, evidence-based approaches in KP's educational landscape.

Key Words: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Education, Policy Reforms, quality education, governance transparency. Politics- Pakistan

The Role of Teachers' Soft Skills in Enhancing Classroom Effectiveness: Evidence from University Faculty in Pakistan"

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Abstract

This study examined the influence of university teachers' soft skills on classroom effectiveness in the higher education context of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. Using a correlational survey design, data were collected from 385 students and 357 faculty members through mirrored questionnaires measuring five dimensions of soft skills—communication, empathy, leadership, problem-solving, and teamwork—and their relationship to classroom effectiveness. Reliability analysis confirmed strong internal consistency ($\alpha = .87-.92$). Correlation results indicated that all five soft skills were positively associated with classroom effectiveness, with teamwork and leadership showing the strongest associations. Multiple regression analysis further revealed that teamwork ($\beta = .313, p < .001$) and leadership ($\beta = .259, p < .001$) were the most significant predictors, jointly accounting for over 80% of the variance in classroom effectiveness ($R^2 = .81$). These findings highlight the critical role of teachers' interpersonal and collaborative abilities in fostering effective learning environments at the university level. The study contributes empirical evidence from a Pakistani context, emphasizing the need to integrate soft skills training into faculty development programs. Limitations and directions for future research, including qualitative exploration and cross-regional comparisons, are discussed.

Keywords: Teachers, Soft Skills, Enhancing, Classroom, Effectiveness

Perceptions of Teachers Regarding the Role Information Communication Technology in Teaching Learning process at secondary level

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Abstract

This study investigated teachers' perceptions regarding the role of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the teaching-learning process at the secondary level. As digital technologies become integral to modern education, understanding how teachers view and utilize ICT tools provides valuable insights into the effectiveness and challenges of technology integration in the classroom. This research aimed to explore the extent to which secondary-level teachers in District Mianwali believed ICT contributed to enhancing student engagement, facilitating personalized learning, and improving overall academic performance. A mixed-methods approach was used to collect both quantitative and qualitative data. Surveys were administered to a representative sample of secondary-level teachers to capture their views on the advantages, limitations, and barriers associated with ICT in education. Additionally, in-depth interviews provided further insights into teachers' experiences and attitudes towards ICT integration in their instructional practices. Key areas of focus included the perceived impact of ICT on students' motivation, understanding of complex concepts, and teacher-student interaction. The findings revealed that the majority of teachers held positive views on the role of ICT in enriching the learning environment. Many participants reported that ICT tools made lessons more interactive and visually engaging, which contributed to better student understanding and retention of material. However, teachers also identified several barriers, such as inadequate access to digital resources, limited training in technology use, and resistance to change among both educators and students. Despite these challenges, teachers expressed a willingness to incorporate more ICT tools if proper support and resources were provided. This study highlights the potential benefits and obstacles of ICT integration in secondary education, offering insights for educational stakeholders aiming to support effective ICT use in teaching. The findings underscore the importance of ongoing professional development and infrastructure improvements to enable teachers to leverage ICT for enhanced educational outcomes.

Key words: Teacher Perceptions, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Teaching-Learning Process, Secondary Education.

**The Role of Continuous Professional Development Improving Teacher Effectiveness in Rural Areas
District Mardan Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**

Mahnoor

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&

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Abstract

Teachers play a key role in ensuring quality education, especially in rural areas where learning resources and professional support are often limited. Continuous Professional Development (CPD) provides teachers with updated knowledge, modern pedagogical strategies, and essential skills needed to improve student learning. This study aims to explore how CPD contributes to teacher effectiveness in rural schools of District Mardan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It highlights the significance of training programs that enhance teachers' instructional practices, classroom management, and confidence in delivering lessons. Many teachers in rural schools face challenges such as isolation, lack of training opportunities, limited facilities, and heavy workloads, which restrict their access to CPD. Therefore, there is a need for more structured, school-based, and sustainable professional learning programs. This research adopts a mixed-methods approach, including surveys, interviews, and observation, to gather data from primary and secondary school teachers who have participated in CPD activities. The expected findings suggest that CPD leads to improved teaching quality, enhanced student engagement, and better academic outcomes. The study also emphasizes the need for strong administrative support, funding, and digital training opportunities to overcome contextual barriers. The results will assist policymakers and school administrations in strengthening CPD initiatives to promote effective teaching and equitable learning in rural Pakistan.

Keywords: Continuous Professional Development, Teacher Effectiveness, Rural Education; Professional Training; Student Achievement

Revisiting Parental Involvement: A Multidimensional Assessment of Its Impact on Undergraduate Students' Academic Performance

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Abstract

The research focuses on the academic achievement, social-emotional well-being as well as parental engagement among undergraduate students in five universities in Southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan that are publicly-operated. Descriptive statistics, t-tests, and ANOVA analysis were used with a sample of 384 students to determine the differences in the responses of students and patterns of parental engagement. The results show that students also show rather positive academic behavior, such as habitual attendance in classes and average academic confidence, but the levels of help-seeking and the involvement in extracurricular activities are low. The results of social-emotional outcomes are moderately stressed, with varying time managing abilities, which indicate that the student support services must be improved. The parental involvement, as measured by communication, guidance, academic and monitoring, was moderate to high in all universities, with parental support being found to be the strongest. Gender comparisons provided higher results where female students felt they had greater parental guidance and support as compared to the males students. The findings of ANOVA also revealed institutional discrepancy in parental involvement which constitutes the socio-cultural and demographic differences of the universities. In general, it can be concluded that the importance of parental involvement is an essential element that affects the performance of undergraduate students, their motivation, and emotional stability. To address the problems, recommendations are suggested, such as enhanced parent-university communication, improved counseling services provided to students, and planned interventions to improve academic and emotional health.

Keywords: (Parent Involvement, Students performance, Undergraduate, Higher education)

Relationship between Self-handicapping and Achievement Goals Among Undergraduates in Mardan

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Abstract

This research study examines the association between self-sabotaging and accomplishment goals among undergraduates of Mardan region. Study participants consist of three hundred learners from different universities of mardan including one hundred and sixty-five female participants and one hundred and thirty-five males' participants. Age cohort of study population was ranged from eighteen to twenty-six years old. Data was collected by using random purposive sampling method. Self-handicapping scale (SHS) developed by Kaur and Raji, (2001) and achievement goals questionnaire (AGQ) original version developed by Elliot and McGregor, (2001) respectively was used as a tool for data collection to measure study variables. The analysis was conducted using statistical package for social science (SPSS version 21) software. Correlational study illustrates significant negative correlation between self-handicapping and mastery approach goals, performance approach goals. And shows significant positive correlation between self-handicapping and mastery avoidance goal, performance avoidance goal. Also, there were no gender differences found in self-handicapping. The results of the study provide a good framework for teachers and parents to know about the self-handicapping behaviors and making strategies for students and children to avoid self-handicapping behaviors and lead toward better achievement goals. Current study is helpful in conducting seminars in educational institutions in regards of student's growth and development.

Keywords; *Self-handicapping, achievement goals, mastery- approach goals, mastery- avoidance goals, performance- approach goals , performance- avoidance goals.*

Analyzing Pakistan's Textbooks in Light of 21st-Century Skill Requirement

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Abstract

In the present era learners need to think critically, solve problems, and use creativity but many textbooks still focus only on memorizing facts and outdated content. The research will use qualitative method. Data will be collected by interviews from teachers and curriculum experts. The study aim is to analyze how much current textbooks reflect 21st century skills and how they can be improved. To help learners in developing 21st century skills through selected textbook from different subjects. study seek to determine whether the existing textbooks provide students with opportunities to think critically and solve problems. The findings will give suggestions for improving curriculum so they can be better prepared students for challenges of modern life and support them to develop 21st century skills.

Keywords: Curriculum reform, 21st-century skills, Textbook analysis, Teaching-learning gap, Curriculum development, Pakistan.

Effective Strategies for Reducing Stress and Anxiety to Improve Academic Performance among University Students

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Abstract

Stress and anxiety are common among university students, and these factors can have a detrimental impact on their academic performance and overall health. The goal of this research is to determine the best methods for lowering stress and worry in order to raise university students' academic achievement. The primary goal of the study is to find and evaluate coping techniques that enable students to handle stress well and improve their academic performance. Data were obtained through semi-structured interviews with university students from various disciplines using a qualitative research approach. According to the data, techniques like time management, mindfulness training, frequent physical activity, and peer support are essential for lowering stress and enhancing focus and motivation. However, the study also points out difficulties like a lack of understanding and uneven implementation of coping mechanisms. The study ends by suggesting that universities include stress management seminars and mental health support programs to promote the emotional well-being and academic achievement of their students.

Keywords: Student well-being, stress reduction, academic performance, university students, academic stress.

An Analysis of Pakistan's Single National Curriculum Alignment with 21st Century Skills

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Abstract

This study aims at analyzing the curriculum with the inclusion of the 21st century skills like critical thinking, creativity, problem solving, digital literacy and so on. For this purpose, teachers' opinions were collected. A qualitative method was chosen for data collection. Their response indicated that the curriculum emphasizes the inclusion of these skills and at the same time tries to close the gaps in the overall educational system. It was also concluded that the different factors such as heavy course load and limited time for finishing, assessment focus, lack of resources and teachers' training opportunities which make the curriculum less effective hinder the growth of these skills. It was then suggested that proper training programs should be organized for teachers to help them teach the curriculum effectively, proper resources should be provided for each activity.

Keywords: Single national curriculum, 21st century skills, curriculum's alignment.

The Role of Media in Shaping Education Policy Reforms: A study on Influence, Awareness and Public Engagement.

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Abstract

Education policy is not shaped entirely by governments and experts but also by the broader communicative framework created through media narratives and public debate. In contemporary societies, both traditional and digital media play a crucial role in shaping public opinion, influencing policy agendas, and ensuring political accountability. This study tries to investigate the contribution of media in shaping education policy reforms by highlighting diverse perspectives, educational issues, and nurturing civic engagement. This study further examines the extent and nature of media influence; both traditional (TV, newspapers, radio) and new (social media, blogs, online forums) on the preparation and execution of education policy and to assess the level of awareness, participation, and engagement among educators, parents, and students regarding education-related media communication. The research employs a mixed-methods approach that integrates both qualitative and quantitative tools. Data collection involves interviews with policymakers, journalists, and education experts, alongside surveys cantering teachers, parents, and students. Secondary data from media reports and education policy documents support the analysis, while focus group discussions provide collective insights on policy awareness and advocacy. The study tries to highlight how media platforms not only inform and mobilize public opinion but also expose disparities in access, quality, equity, and funding in education. It further reveals challenges such as media bias and commercialization, which may influence or misdirect policy priorities. Overall, the study evaluates the media's role as dynamic channel linking the public with policymakers and driving educational reform through awareness and accountability.

Keywords: Media, Education, Policy, Reforms, Public Opinion, Accountability, Social, Media, Governance, Awareness

Healing Minds, Healthy Communities: Education as the First Medicine

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Abstract

Health education plays a pivotal role in improving community well-being by empowering individuals with the knowledge, skills, and motivation essential for health education interventions. Despite significant advancements in healthcare delivery, most of the local communities continue to face preventable health challenges due to limited awareness, cultural misconceptions, stereotypes and restricted access to reliable information (Levin-Zamir et al., 2017). This research aims to explore that how structured, culturally-sensitive health education initiatives can enhance community health outcomes and support sustainable development goals. (Gray et al., 2013) It further examines the role of community participation in improving the acceptance and effectiveness of such programs. The study also highlights how tailored educational strategies can address local health challenges more efficiently. Additionally, it evaluates the long-term impact of health awareness interventions on behavioral change and overall community well-being. The study adopts a mixed-method approach. Data was collected through surveys, focus group semi structured interviews. Findings reveal that health education interventions significantly increase awareness about disease prevention, maternal and child health, nutrition, hygiene, and non-communicable disease management. (Gray et al., 2013) . Furthermore, results suggest that when health education is integrated into local governance frameworks and delivered through schools curricula , community health centers, and digital platforms, it strengthens public health participation and reduces the burden on healthcare system (Akintunde et al., 2021) . This research contributes to current literature by extending debate on inclusion of basic medical educational interventions and multi-sectorial collaboration among, educational institutions, and civil society. Developing inclusive and evidence-based health education policies can enhance resilience, reduce health disparities, and promote long-term community well-being. This study has practical implications too by guiding policy makers to adopt context-specific health curricula, community health ambassador programs, and continuous evaluation mechanisms for improved effectiveness.

Keywords: Health education, community health, health policy, preventive care, sustainable development, health promotion, governance.

Title: Role of Education in Achieving Sustainable Rural Development

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Abstract

Education play a key role in advancing sustainable development in rural regions by building human capacity, expanding livelihood options, and encouraging active participation in community growth. When rural populations have access to effective and relevant education, they are able to adopt modern farming methods, use natural resources wisely, and make decision that support long-term progress. Educated communities are also better equipped to confront issues such as poverty, job scarcity, environmental stress, and limited health care facilities. Furthermore, education strengthen the position of women and youth, enabling them to contribute meaningfully to local development activities. This study investigates the contribution of education to the social, economic, and environmental improvement of rural areas and highlights the need for stronger investment in educational infrastructure, teacher development, and learning materials. The findings show that improving rural education systems is essential for sustainable and transformative rural development. The research methodology for this study is based on a qualitative approach, using secondary data collected from academic articles, government reports, and development studies. Content analysis is employed to examine existing literature, identify key themes, and understand the relationship between education and sustainable rural development. The findings suggest that meaningful investment in education not only promotes economic growth but also supports social stability and environmental protection, making education a cornerstone of sustainable rural development. Education facilitates innovation, entrepreneurship, and the adoption of technology in agriculture, which can significantly improve rural productivity. Strengthening rural schools, improving teacher training, and ensuring equal access fir all social groups can create a strong foundation for long-term rural transformation. This study highlights that meaningful investment in education not only supports economic growth but also fosters social stability and environmental protection, making it a cornerstone for sustainable rural development.

Key words: Education, Sustainable Rural Development, Human Capacity Building, Livelihood Opportunities, community Participation, modern farming techniques, Environmental Management, Social and Economic Development, Rural Infrastructure, Women Empowerment, Youth Engagement, Teacher Training, Educational Investment, Rural Transformation, Qualitative Research, Content Analysis.

Perceptions of School Heads Regarding the Role of Digital Leadership in the Contemporary Digital Era at the Secondary Level

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Abstract

This study aimed to explore the perceptions of secondary school heads regarding the role and importance of digital leadership in the contemporary digital era. As educational institutions increasingly adopted digital technologies to enhance teaching, learning, and administration, the concept of digital leadership emerged as a critical component in driving educational innovation and transformation. Digital leadership extended beyond the traditional administrative roles of school heads, requiring them to act as facilitators of digital integration, innovators, and advocates for technology-driven educational practices. In this context, understanding school heads' perceptions of digital leadership was essential to grasp how they viewed its impact on school culture, teacher effectiveness, and student success. Through a mixed-method approach, the study investigated how secondary school heads in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa perceived and practiced digital leadership within their institutions. Quantitative data were collected through structured questionnaires, while qualitative insights were gathered via semi-structured interviews, allowing for an in-depth understanding of school heads' experiences, challenges, and successes with digital leadership. Specifically, the study focused on several key areas, including (1) how school heads defined digital leadership, (2) the perceived role of digital leadership in improving school management, (3) the use of digital tools to enhance communication and collaboration, and (4) the level of digital competence and confidence among school heads. The findings revealed that while many school heads recognized the importance of digital leadership, various challenges, such as limited resources, lack of professional development, and resistance to change, hindered its full implementation. Additionally, the study uncovered the readiness of school heads to embrace digital transformations in their schools and their strategies for overcoming obstacles in the digital integration process. Insights from this research provided policy recommendations for professional development programs tailored to enhance digital leadership skills among school heads and foster a culture of digital innovation at the secondary level. This study contributed to the growing body of knowledge on educational leadership in the digital age by highlighting the perspectives of school heads, who played a pivotal role in the successful adoption and sustainable implementation of digital initiatives. By examining the perceptions and experiences of these leaders, the research sought to provide actionable recommendations for stakeholders in the education sector to support digital leadership practices, ultimately leading to improved educational outcomes and more digitally inclusive learning environments.

Key words: (Digital Leadership, School Heads' Perceptions, Educational Innovation, Digital Transformation in Education, Secondary Education)

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Investigating Environmental Themes in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Grade 5 Science Textbook

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Abstract

Environmental education (EE) is essential in developing awareness, positive attitudes, and responsibility toward environment. The role of textbooks in mitigating gap between knowledge and action toward environment is instrumental. This study analyzes the Grade V Science textbook used in Pakistani public schools to identify the inclusion of EE themes. It highlights a notable gap in analyzing whether the textbook effectively integrates all components of EE. The study is inspired by the five objectives of EE identified by the Tbilisi Intergovernmental Conference of 1977 (knowledge, awareness, skills, participation, and attitude). A qualitative content analysis approach was applied using the Concept Mapping Framework (CMF). The finding shows that 14% (only 3 units) cover Environmental knowledge, mostly presented as theoretical knowledge with limited focus on skill and participation, and attitude is completely missing. This imbalance highlights a gap that restrict students from developing comprehensive environmental sustainability. The study recommends revising the textbook to include more practical activities and project base learning to promote responsible behavior. However, a more balanced integration of EE components throughout the textbook is suggested. These findings have practical implications for curriculum developers, educators, and policymakers to enhance EE in schools to promote 21st-century skills and support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

KEYWORDS: Environmental Education, Environmental Awareness, Biodiversity, Content Analysis, Concept Mapping Framework

Media Influence on Public Policy Formulation: A Case Study of Health Policies in Pakistan

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ABSTRACT

In evolving political systems, the media have become a crucial factor influencing not only public perceptions but also the processes of policy preparation and implementation. In Pakistan, where governance dynamics are closely interlinked with political narratives and public perception, both traditional and digital media play a critical role in shaping policy priorities and outcomes. This study investigates the influence of media on public policy formulation with a particular focus on health policies in Pakistan, an area where effective communication and political accountability are closely linked. The research will try to examine how media coverage and framing of health issues influence governmental responsiveness, policy decisions, and public engagement; and second, to analyze the extent to which media functions as a mediator between the state, civil society, and policymakers in shaping the national health policy agenda. The study adopts a qualitative case study design that integrates content analysis of news reports, editorials, and policy documents with semi-structured interviews of policymakers, journalists, and health professionals. This study gathers information from both print and digital media to understand how health issues such as epidemic control, vaccination campaigns, and healthcare reforms are presented, emphasized, and discussed in the media. The research is highly relevant to understanding the complex relationship between media and policymaking in developing democracies. By highlighting the power of media narratives in influencing policy direction, public accountability, and governance, the study contributes to ongoing debates on democratic communication and institutional transparency. Ultimately, it seeks to provide meaningful perspectives for policymakers, media practitioners, and scholars on fostering more transparent, inclusive, and evidence-based health governance in Pakistan.

KEYWORDS: Media, public perceptions, political narratives, policy priorities, Epidemic control.

Automation-Led Intellectual Displacement: A Constructivist and Cognitivist Learning Perspective on Use of AI in Classrooms

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Abstract

Purpose of Study: This study examines the phenomenon of automaton-led intellectual displacement, where accretive and augmentative dependence on artificial intelligence (AI) in education jeopardizes and endangers human intellectual engagement and creativity. The research aims to critically explore how this displacement affects active learning, cognitive development, and the social-emotional prospects of education, and to propose frameworks for preserving human-centric learning in AI-enhanced environments (Jackson, 2024; Holmes, Bialik, & Fadel, 2022). **Research Methods:** The study presents a systematic theoretical analysis and literature review, synthesizing findings in educational technology, learning sciences, and cognitive psychology. It applies Constructive Learning Theory that expresses progressive and active knowledge construction through experience and reflection and Cognitive Learning Theory, which focuses on mental processes including attention, memory, and problem-solving to interpret the implications of AI-driven automation in education (Dian, Aripiani, & Utari, 2024; FLM Learning, 2024). The theoretical framework of the study is based on the two learning theories: Constructivism and Cognitivism. The constructivists learning theory explains that learning is an active process and where learners construct knowledge through interaction with experiences, reflection, and social participation (Grubaugh Levitt, & Deever, 2023; ELM Learning, 2024). This theory stresses meaningful engagement and learner agency, highlighting the risks when AI reduces opportunities for active cognitive involvement. The second theory is Cognitive Learning Theory, which focuses on the internal cognitive processes such as memory, attention, and problem-solving that AI may unintentionally undermine by promoting cognitive offloading and surface-level engagement (Sparrow, Liu & Wegner, 2011). These theories combined provides a robust foundation to critically analyse how AI-driven automation in education can sideline essential human intellectual processes and to advocate for balanced technological adoption that fosters, rather than displaces, intellectual growth. **Results and Discussion:** Findings reveal that AI-based automation can lead to intellectual displacement by diminishing opportunities for learners' active problem-solving, reflection, and meaning-making, which are core to constructivism (Grubaaugh, Levitt, & Deever, 2023). Cognitive Learning Theory insights suggest this may foster "cognitive offloading," weakening memory retention and critical thinking skills (Sparrow, Liu, & Wegner, 2011). The human intellectual displacement marginalizes human creativity and learner agency, potentially causing disengagement and loss of motivation (Holmes et al., 2022). Furthermore, social and emotional learning components suffer as AI lacks the nuanced human interaction essential for holistic development. The discussion underscores the importance of balancing technological integration with human-centered pedagogical design that aligns with constructivist principles, ensuring that AI acts as a scaffold rather than a substitute for intellectual activity (Dian et al., 2024; Jackson, 2024).

Keywords: Automation-Led Displacement, Artificial Intelligence, Constructivist, Cognitivist, Learning perspective, Classroom

A Study to Highlight the Impact of Disasters on Students' Academic Achievements at Higher Education Institutions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

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Abstract

This study investigated the impact of disasters on students' academic achievement in higher education institutions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK). The research focused on how disasters disrupt learning, affect students' performance, and create emotional and academic challenges. A mixed-methods design was used, including surveys and interviews with university students and staff. The findings showed that disasters caused interruptions in classes, limited access to learning resources, reduced use of technology, and increased stress among students. These factors negatively affected academic achievement. Although universities provided some support, it was not sufficient to meet students' academic and psychological needs during and after disaster situations. The study highlights the need for stronger disaster preparedness plans, continuous academic support, mental health services, and improved digital facilities in higher education institutions. It recommends that policymakers and universities develop effective strategies to support students during future disasters.

Keywords: (impact of disasters, students' academic achievements, higher education Institutions)

سارہ شگفتہ کی شاعری کی مینی صنفی تشدد کی لفظیاتی کا

ی ڈاکٹر سعدیہ کنول

ی وومنی یونیورسٹی مردان

ی ملخص:

ی شاعری میں یعورت کی شناخت یاور اس کے وجود کی جدوجہد ہمیشہ یایک یاہم اور پیچیدہ ی موضوع رہی ہے۔ جدید یاردوی

شاعات میں یسارہ شگفتہ کا نام اس حوالے سے نمایاں ہے کہ انہوں نے عورت کے اندرونی یاور بیرونی ی کرب کو ایک یانوکھے اسلوب

میں پیش کی۔ یہی ی مقالہ سارہ شگفتہ کی شاعری میں ی صنفی تشدد کی لفظیات کی ساختیاتی یو لسانی ی مطالعہ پیش ی کرتا ہے۔ تحقیق کی بنیادی ی مقصدی

یہ ی جاننا ہے کہ شاعہ نے عورت پر ہونے والے جسمانی، ی نفسیاتی یاور معاشرتی تشدد کو کس طرح لفظ، استعارے، علامت اور صوتی

ی " اور "چپ"، "دیواری"، "خون"، "زخم" ساخت کے ذریعے بیان کی ہے۔ ساری ہ شگفتہ کی شاعری میں ی جیسے یالفاظ نہ صرف ی صنفی "قی

جبر کی تصویر ی علامتیں بنتے ہیں بلکہ عورت کے وجود کی ی مزاحمتی یقوت کو بھی ی ظاہر کرتے ہیں۔ اس مطالعے مینی ی نسائی ی تنقید

کے تناظر مینی اُن کی شاعری کے (Structural Linguistics) اور ساختیاتی لسانییت (Feminist Criticism) لفظی اور

معنوی ی نظام کا تجزیہ کیکی گیا ہے۔ نتائج سے یہی ی بات واضح ہوتی ہے □ بے کو صرف مظلومیت کی یزبانی کہ سارہ شگفتہ نے صنفی تشدد کے

میں نہیں، بلکہ احتجاج، خود آگاہی یاور شناخت کی ی بازیافت کی ی زبان میں ی ڈھالا ہے۔ اُن کی لفظیات یعورت کے وجود کو یا ی یک ی زخمی ی مگری

زندہ اور باشعور علامت کے طور پر پیش کرتی ہے، جو اردوی □ بے کی نئی جہت کو ی نمایانی کرتی ہے۔ ی شاعری مینی نسائی

Exploring Authentic Leadership Style in Relation to Conflict Resolution in Higher Educational Institutions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

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Abstract

NCT-National Culture Theory proponents have noted that priorities in standard structures are impacted by disparities in regional ethos, opportunities, and appeal. But the Godparents of Authentic Leadership Theory (ALT) presented a reliable front-runner who is transparent and uncomplicated, regardless of culture. This study examined the preferred authentic leadership attributes (ALA) as seen by leaders and followers at two institutions, AWKUM and Swat. Data from 50 participants—25 of whom were enrolled at a different higher education institution—was gathered using a mixed-method approach. The results demonstrated that, despite being in various conventional situations, individuals had universally shared preferences for particular ALA. However, characteristics were exclusive to a location. Predilections may be taken into consideration when defining genuineness in a management context, as it was proposed that certain features are universal while others are specific to the underlying framework. Regardless of timelessness, the research findings added a multicultural component to the paradigm of authentic leadership. It is also recommended that future scholars guide these kinds of comparison studies at various educational levels.

Keywords: Leadership, Culture, Cross-Cultural Comparison, Authenticity, and Leadership Attributes.

Exploring Social and Psychological Barriers in Educating the Transgender an Ethnographic Case Study

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Abstract

This study was about to explore the psychological and social barriers in educating the transgender community. It was carried as an ethnographic case study, where population was taken from District Mardan. Main objectives of the study were; (i). To identify the psychological barriers transgender face during their education. (ii) To identify and categorize the social barriers that transgender individual face in assessing and participating in education. (iii). to explore and document the lived experience of transgender individuals in educational settings including their interaction with peers, educators and administration. Data was collected from the transgender residential plaza in Pakistan chowk Mardan, out of the three residential areas in the district. The data was collected personally by the researcher through experiencing the lives of the transgenders. An ethnographic case study design was employed for to reach out the conclusions. The study concluded that main factors that transgenders faced during education were; internationalized transphobia, anxiety and depression, fear of rejection, lack of support system, and discrimination and harassment. These psychological barriers resulted in; delayed or drop out courses, reduced academic performance, increased stress and anxiety, and decreased motivation. The study recommended that comprehensive reforms are needed form government side to mainstream the transgenders for inclusiveness.

Keywords: Social and Psychological Barriers, transgender, education

Examining The Moderating Role of Self-Compassion Between the Imposter Phenomenon and Mental Health among University Students

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Abstract

The Impostor Phenomenon, prevalent in academic and professional settings, poses challenges to students' mental health in demanding academic environments. This study explores the interplay between the Impostor Phenomenon, self-compassion, and mental health among university students, with a focus on gender differences. Conducted on 441 students (210 male, 231 female), aged 17-34, cross sectional method employed Clance Imposter Phenomenon Scale (Clance, 1985), Self-Compassion Scale Short-Form (Neff, 2001) and General Health Questionnaire (Goldberg, 2008). Results reveal a significant negative correlation between the Impostor Phenomenon and students' mental health. Notably, self-compassion emerges as a significant moderator, influencing the relationship between the Impostor Phenomenon and mental health. The study uncovered noteworthy gender differences across key variables, including the Impostor Phenomenon, mental health, and self-compassion. Study emphasizes the crucial role of educational institutions and counselors in recognizing and addressing students' individual challenges related to the imposter phenomenon, supported by fostering self-compassion.

Keywords: Imposter Phenomenon, Self-Compassion, Mental Health, University students.

Women in High Level Governance: Advancing Policy, Decision Making, And National Development

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Abstract

Women's participation in high-level governance has become an essential component of inclusive and effective state functioning. Their presence in key leadership roles strengthens policy responsiveness, broadens the range of perspectives, and contributes to a country's social, economic, and democratic development. In Pakistan, understanding how women influence governance structures is crucial to shaping equitable, future-oriented public policies. This study examines the contributions and challenges associated with women's representation in top governance positions. It investigates how women's presence in high-level roles influences policy priorities and decision-making processes, while also exploring the social, cultural, and institutional barriers that hinder their access to leadership. The research further links women's participation in governance to national development indicators such as economic growth, social equity, and democratic strengthening. Guided by Feminist Institutionalism, which analyses how institutional norms shape gendered power dynamics and the Capability Approach, which assesses the developmental impact of inclusive leadership, this study adopts a qualitative, exploratory design. Relying on secondary data, document analysis, media review, purposive sampling, and triangulation, it explores ground realities and societal perceptions. An inductive reasoning approach is employed to generate themes and insights into the role of women in high-level governance. Preliminary findings show emerging patterns of both progress and persistent structural inequalities, offering significant room for transformative policy reforms. This study aims to contribute original insights that will support evidence-based discussions on strengthening women's leadership in Pakistan's governance landscape.

Keywords: Women in Governance, Gender-Responsive Leadership, Policy-Making, National Development, Decision-Making

Patriarchy on Campus: Gendered Governance in Higher Education

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Abstract

In male dominant societies, patriarchy shapes the governance of higher education institutions. where women academics face not only discrimination but they also have to navigate the deeply gendered governance policies and practices. This study explores how patriarchal governance manifest itself at campuses and impact women academics career trajectories through benevolent or hostile sexism. Narrative approach is used to gather lived experiences of women faculty from public sector universities in KPK. The findings revealed that local cultural norms portray women as dependant and less capable in society and gender is not simply given but performed and regulated in everyday academic life, thereby women are denied inclusion from leadership and decision-making positions. Many encountered hostile sexism inform of exclusion, mockery, or subtle undermining and the benevolent sexism constrains their careers advancement and leadership opportunities. Furthermore, the organizational structures influenced by these patriarchal norms not only reinforce but also promote inequalities at governing positions. Yet within these constraints the women showed resilience, strategy and desire for growth. This research contributes by contextualizing sexism as a structural and cultural phenomenon embedded in policies, practices, and interpersonal relations that normalize gendered governance in higher education institutions. This study aims to contribute to the current literature by unfolding cultural sexism and gendered governance in the specific context of higher education institutes in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The study has practical implications for higher education in Pakistan by giving voice to lived experiences. This research has not only documented injustices but also inspires pathways toward gender equality in academia. It calls for institutional reforms, leadership training, and gender-awareness programs to allow women advancements to the leadership positions constrained by gendered institutional norms.

Keywords: Patriarchy, gendered governance, female academics sexism, institutions, kpk

Embracing Digital Transformation: The Future of the Accounting Profession in Norway

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Abstract

This study seeks to elucidate the impact of digital transformation on the accounting profession, specifically within the accounting environment in Norway. To achieve this, the study divides the accounting environment into four distinct perspectives such as (1) The Accounting profession, (2) Traditional academic institutions (3) Professional accounting institutions, and (4) Accounting regulations. The advent of digital technologies and their impact on the future of the accounting profession is a multifaceted topic. To provide a deeper understanding of this complexity, this study will construct a theoretical framework by drawing insights from institutional theories, including those of Scott (1995), DiMaggio and Powell (1993), and Meyer and Rowan (1977), alongside structural theories from scholars like Mintzberg (1979) and Galbraith (1973). This exploratory study is designed to examine how digital technologies are influencing the future of the accounting profession. Data collection will involve interviews with respondents. Moreover, published documents can provide valuable data insights. To gain insights into the accounting curriculum at traditional academic and professional institutions, content analysis will be employed. The qualitative approach of this study facilitates a comprehensive exploration of the future trends of the accounting profession in Norway. The increased use of digital technologies such as blockchain, big data, cloud-based analytical tools and artificial intelligence are easing the job of accountants. Accountants are intensively using digital-based solutions for recording and tracking financial transactions, which have markedly reduced the efforts (and time) of accountants in recording and tracking financial transactions. These solutions significantly enhanced the accountant's ability to prepare and communicate financial information to management for decision making. Additionally digital accounting solutions provide other benefits such as increased functionality, faster processing, improved external reporting. However, all above benefits are not without challenges such as control and information security.

Keywords: digital transformation, accounting profession, Traditional academic institutions, accounting regulations

The Impact of Exchange Rate Volatility on Textile Exports: Evidence From Asia Pacific Cotton - Producing Economies

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Abstract

The research investigates the significant impact of exchange rate volatility on textile exports. Utilizing an extended Gravity Model and panel data estimation techniques, including Poisson Pseudo Maximum Likelihood (PPML) and GARCH models to measure volatility, the study finds that exchange rate volatility exerts a statistically significant and negative influence on textile export flows. The results reveal a critical nonlinear relationship, where the damaging effect of volatility is most pronounced at lower levels, indicating a threshold effect. Furthermore, the analysis highlights that Pakistan's textile exports demonstrate a distinct and heightened sensitivity to this volatility compared to the other panel countries, underscoring specific vulnerabilities within its export structure. The study concludes that exchange rate volatility is a major determinant of textile export performance in the region, acting as a significant risk factor that can undermine trade volumes. Key determinants such as the economic size of trading partners and the presence of Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs) positively influence exports, while geographical distance acts as a barrier. These findings provide valuable insights for policymakers and industry stakeholders, emphasizing the necessity for stable exchange rate policies and targeted risk management strategies, particularly for economies like Pakistan, to enhance competitiveness and safeguard textile exports a vital sector for economic growth, employment, and foreign exchange earnings in the Asia-Pacific region.

Keywords: Exchange Rate Volatility, Textile Exports, Asia Pacific Cotton - Producing Economies

The Study Looks into How Employee Development and AI Utilize Associate to one another in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Banking Sector

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Abstract

The study looks into how employee development and AI utilized associate to one another in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's banking sector. The study's complete analysis shows a powerful positive correlation between the use of AI and many facets of employee fertility, appointment, and performance. Mostly employees who actively utilized AI tools defeat those who did not tenure expertise and performance, proving the radical effect of AI on workplace ability. The results confirm earlier research and compatible with studies by Griffith et al. (2017) and Sarifet al. (2020), which establish hopeful correlations between AI adoption and promotion and worker's expertise, separately. On the other hand, Barbieri et al. (2019) underscore negative outcomes on job performance as a outcome of AI use. These attentions add to the remains of material already in reality by highlighting the complex correlations between AI adoption and employee enhancement in the banking industry. The study's theory, which was supported by observational proof and theoretical frameworks, was fully examined and confirmed by statistical analysis. The discovery validated every theory, present positive relationship between AI utilized and employee commitment, developing expertise, and performance. Whole things regard, the results highlight how AI has the capability to completely different banking careers in KP, encourage duration learning, and establish an aura that supports worker's enhancement and success in the advance age.

Keywords: Artificial intelligence, Employee Development, Employee Enhancement Productivity.

Assessing Inefficiencies in Pakistan's Export Diversification: Insights from Stochastic Frontier Gravity Model Analysis

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Abstract

Pakistan's continued focus on a narrow range of export products and markets has long constrained its ability to achieve strong, sustainable trade growth. This study empirically assesses the determinants and inefficiencies of Pakistan's export diversification by applying a Stochastic Frontier Gravity Model (SFGM). The model's outcomes show that Pakistan operates significantly below its export diversification potential, with inefficiency driven primarily by institutional weaknesses, high bilateral trade costs, limited market access, and persistent product-level concentration. Partner country GDP, Pakistan's economic size, and institutional quality strongly improve diversification, while distance, tariffs, and non-tariff barriers systematically reduce it. The stochastic frontier estimates expose that a considerable share of diversification loss is structural rather than random, indicating long-term inefficiencies that require targeted policy reforms.

Keywords: Export Diversification; Institutional Quality; Stochastic Frontier Gravity Model

Artificial Intelligence as A Catalyst for Women's Economic Empowerment: Evidence from the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development Economies

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Abstract

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming economic structures across the world, yet its gender-specific economic implications remain understudied. This study investigates whether AI acts as a catalyst for Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) across OECD economies from 2014–2024. Using a balanced panel of 30 OECD countries, WEE is measured through labor force participation, gender wage gap, female entrepreneurship, and digital access, while AI adoption is measured using AI-related venture capital (VC) investment and AI research output. Employing Fixed Effects and System GMM estimators, the findings reveal that AI adoption significantly improves women's labor market participation, enhances entrepreneurship, and increases digital inclusion, while reducing the gender wage gap. The results confirm that digital skills and access to technology strengthen the indirect impact of AI on WEE. The study offers evidence-based implications for designing gender-inclusive AI and digital transformation policies.

Keywords: Women's Economic Empowerment; AI Adoption; Digital Skills

Coordinating Fiscal and Monetary Policy For Long-Term Stability: A Case Study of Pakistan Post-Crisis Recovery

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Abstract

Economic stability plays a vital role in a country's growth. Economic stability is only possible through two economic policies, "Monetary Policy" and "Fiscal Policy". If any country makes these policies in an appropriate way and maintains proper coordination between them, it can get a stable economy. In Pakistan, repeated economic crises, inflation, and fiscal imbalances have slowed down long-term development. We have two major incidents in the past: one is in the "2008 Global crisis" and another is in the "2018 – 2022 Economic instability in Pakistan". Global Crisis affects Pakistan indirectly, and this crisis is caused by the "Subprime Mortgage Loan". Our main Concern is the economic instability in Pakistan from 2018 to 2022. It is due to Improper Coordination between government fiscal Policies and State Bank monetary policies. Lack of this coordination causes an increase of 25% Inflation, which is double digits. This study will focus on how monetary and Fiscal policies coordinate effectively and ensure the long-term stability of Pakistan's economy. This research uses the secondary data taken from the State Bank of Pakistan, the IMF, and the Ministry of Finance reports to analyze the trend in inflation, interest rate, and government expenditure. This study finds that balanced coordination between fiscal and monetary policy can reduce inflation and interest rates. This study will help policymakers in making policy when things go wrong. Through this study, they can make effective decisions during critical situations.

Keywords: Monetary Policy, Inflation, Fiscal Policy, Economic crisis, Stability

Assessing The Impacts of Climate Change: The Rising Threat of Cloudbursts in Pakistan and its Consequences on Local Communities

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Abstract

Climate change is no longer a distant issue nonetheless a present reality for communities in Pakistan, where cloudbursts have become a particularly serious threat. These sudden and intense downpours occur without prior warning, predominantly affecting the mountainous and hilly regions such as Gilgit-Baltistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Azad Jammu & Kashmir. For the residents of these regions, a single cloudburst can result in flash floods engulfing villages, landslides destroying homes, and the loss of both property and human lives, along with severe disruptions to livelihoods. Yet, despite their devastating nature, cloudbursts remain one of the least studied climate-related disasters in Pakistan. This research sets out to understand how these events affect the daily lives, economies, and environments of vulnerable communities, while also exploring the ways people adapt and cope in the aftermath. By integrating primary data obtained through surveys, interviews, and focus group discussions with secondary sources such as meteorological records and government reports, the study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of both the risks and the resilience that shape local responses. It is anticipated that by highlighting these experiences and challenges, the findings will contribute to the formulation of informed and pragmatic policies, enabling communities to enhance preparedness, strengthen recovery mechanisms, and adopt more sustainable adaptation strategies in the context of a changing climate.

Keywords: Climate change, cloudbursts, climate-related disasters, flash floods vulnerable communities.

Tourism in Pakistan in the Era of Climate Change: Challenges, Impacts, and Adaptation Strategies

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Abstract

Pakistan is a diverse ecological region ranging from the Himalayan Mountains and glacial valleys to coastal zones and cultural heritage sites is a very important tourist attraction. Every year thousands of visitors' land in Pakistan to visit these mesmerizing beauties. Climate change is emerging as one of the most significant challenges to Pakistan's tourism industry increasing vulnerable to rising temperatures, unpredictable weather patterns, glacial melt, floods, and biodiversity loss. These rapidly changing climate patterns accelerated glacial melt in the northern regions, such as Gilgit-Baltistan, combined with intensified monsoon rainfall, multiply by cloudburst has led to destructive flash floods and landslides that threaten both infrastructure and visitor safety resulted in casualties and forcing temporary closure of major tourist corridors and damaging hospitality infrastructure. The diminished snowfall in Kaghan Valley has also disrupted winter tourism, undermining local economies historically dependent on ski- and snow-based travel. The erratic weather and landslides have made tourist access more difficult and less predictable. At the same time, climate-induced hazards threaten local communities whose livelihoods depend on tourism. The era of climate change despite all the challenges presents opportunities for Pakistan to adopt sustainable tourism practices, strengthen climate-resilient infrastructure, and promote eco-tourism models that minimize environmental impact. This abstract explores the complex interaction between climate change and tourism in Pakistan, highlighting key vulnerabilities, socio-economic consequences, and potential adaptation strategies. By promoting adaptive strategies such as constructing climate-resilient infrastructure, investing in green practices, building local capacity, fostering eco-tourism, and promoting nature-based restoration, Pakistan can transform its tourism sector into a model of sustainability which is vital for preserving the country's unique landscapes and cultures by securing long-term economic benefits.

Key words: diverse ecological region, Himalayan Mountains, sustainable tourism practices ,socio-economic consequences, intensified monsoon rainfall.

The Afghan Taliban Regime and Pakistan's Environmental Vulnerability: Assessing the Geopolitical-Climatic Nexus and the Possible Way(s) Out

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Abstract

The emergence of the Afghan Taliban regime in 2021 has introduced various geopolitical, socio-economic, and environmental problems for South Asia and Pakistan. This current research explores correlation between Taliban return in Afghanistan and the environmental and climatic challenges of Pakistan because the ecological security of the later is closely associated with the environmental policies of the former. The economic collapse and institutional weakness of Afghanistan under Taliban rule have increased dependence on natural resources, resulting in extensive deforestation, unregulated mining, and water mismanagement that indirectly heighten Pakistan's exposure to floods, water scarcity and ecosystem degradation. The absence of formal environmental collaboration between the two has affected disaster-response efforts. The study argues that environmental instability of Taliban's Afghanistan not only undermines Pakistan's ecological response but also disturbs regional climate governance and threatens human security. It concludes that Pakistan's sustainable environmental future depends upon constructive, depoliticized engagement with Afghanistan through cooperative water treaties, cross-border forest protection initiatives and climate diplomacy. In essence, regional peace and climate stability in South Asia are inseparable. This research work will employ qualitative and analytical research design combining both descriptive analysis and comparative case study approaches to analyze policy discourses. The study also uses a thematic content analysis framework while political ecology and environmental security theory will help to interpret geopolitics and environmental data. Both primary and secondary sources will be utilized. It assesses the geopolitical-climatic nexus by answering the question that how the Taliban regime in Afghanistan makes Pakistan susceptible to environmental challenges and what is the possible way(s) out? It contributes to scholarship by shifting attention from either Afghan Taliban or the environment alone and instead deals with the nexus of both factors to understand the real phenomenon and suggest ways to reinvigorate the policy response of Pakistan.

Key Words: Afghan Taliban, Climate Change, Environmental Security, Nexus, Pakistan, Vulnerability

**Empowering Pakistan for 2030: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
as Catalysts for Change**

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Abstract

This study explores Pakistan's strategic engagement with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), positioning them as transformative instruments for inclusive governance, youth empowerment, and institutional innovation. As Pakistan confronts multidimensional development challenges- ranging from poverty and gender inequality to climate vulnerability- the SDGs offer a globally endorsed framework to realign national priorities toward sustainability, equity, and resilience. Employing a qualitative methodology, the research draws on policy analysis, case studies, and semi-structured interviews with educators, policymakers, and civil society leaders to examine both institutional reforms and grassroots mobilization. The findings reveal notable progress in education, health, and climate action, with youth- and women-led initiatives emerging as key drivers of SDG localization. However, institutional gaps persist in data integration, inter-sectoral coordination, and long-term financing. Academic institutions are increasingly serving as SDG hubs through curriculum reform, research, and community outreach. The study underscores the significance of the SDGs not merely as aspirational targets but as actionable tools for systemic transformation. It advocates for a multi-stakeholder approach that bridges academia, civil society, and government to accelerate progress. By 2030, Pakistan envisions a digitally empowered, climate-resilient, and inclusive society led by youth and supported by gender-responsive institutions, positioning itself as a regional leader in sustainable development.

Keywords: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Pakistan 2030 Vision, Youth Empowerment, Inclusive Governance, Institutional Innovation, Gender Equality, Academic Engagement, Policy Reform, Qualitative Research, Global Citizenship

Gender Equality Reforms in Traditional Societies: Challenges and Opportunities for Social Change

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Abstract

This study examines the dynamics of gender equality reforms in traditional civilizations, emphasizing the ways in which institutional structures, social norms, and cultural values affect how these changes are implemented. Due to patriarchal customs, religious interpretations, and a lack of political will, traditional societies frequently encounter strong opposition to global efforts to advance gender equality through international treaties and state regulations. This study examines previous research, policy reports, and case studies using a secondary research technique in order to assess the challenges and possibilities for gender-inclusive change. The results suggest that although traditional societies have made some progress in terms of education, media awareness, and international lobbying, sociocultural resistance and lax institutional enforcement continue to impede sustained gender equality. The study comes to the conclusion that attaining gender equality in conventional contexts calls for a well-rounded strategy that upholds cultural identity while encouraging legislative, educational, and financial changes.

Keywords: Gender Equality, Traditional Societies, Social Change, Patriarchy, Women's Empowerment, Gender Reforms, Secondary Research, Cultural Resistance, Policy Implementation, Social Transformation

Regional Integration as a Pathway to Achieving Sustainable Development goals: a Policy and Governance Perspective

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Abstract

Regional integration serves as a vital mechanism for promoting sustainable development by fostering cooperation, knowledge sharing, and collective action among nations. It plays a crucial role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by addressing transboundary challenges such as climate change, pandemics, and economic instability through coordinated regional strategies. This study aims to explore the interrelationship between regional integration and sustainable development, emphasizing how collaborative regional efforts contribute to achieving long-term sustainability objectives. The main objectives of the research are to examine the role of regional integration initiatives in accelerating progress toward the SDGs and to identify best practices and policy measures that enhance regional cooperation for sustainable development. The study employs a qualitative research approach using comparative analysis of regional integration models and their sustainability outcomes. Secondary data are drawn from policy documents, reports of international organizations, and regional frameworks to evaluate governance structures, institutional capacities, and cross-border coordination mechanisms. The findings reveal that regional integration strengthens social and ecological systems, enhances resilience, and fosters equitable development across regions. The study highlights that sustainable progress requires not only strong institutional collaboration but also coherent policy coordination among member states. By linking theoretical perspectives with practical experiences, the paper provides valuable insights and policy recommendations for fostering effective regional partnerships aimed at advancing the SDGs.

Keywords: Regional Integration, Sustainable Development, SDGs, Governance, Regional Cooperation

Strengthening Governance in Pakistan: A Pathway to Sustainable Development
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Abstract

This paper explores the critical role of governance reform models in Pakistan's development trajectory. It examines the country's experiences with devolution, bureaucratic reforms, and e-governance initiatives, highlighting successes and challenges. The analysis underscores the importance of transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement in ensuring effective governance. By identifying best practices and lessons learned, this study provides insights for policymakers and stakeholders seeking to strengthen governance institutions and promote sustainable development in Pakistan. This qualitative study is based on primary data collected through in-depth interviews with key stakeholders, including government officials, civil society representatives, and experts in governance and public policy. Thematic analysis was used to identify patterns and themes in the data.

Keywords: Governance Reform, Sustainable Development, Devolution, Bureaucratic Reforms, E-Governance, Transparency, Accountability, Citizen Engagement, Pakistan.

Surveying the Role of Tourism in the Employment generation in Pakistan

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Abstract

The aim of this study is to empirically investigate the role of tourism development in the creation of employment opportunities in Pakistan. Despite having a resourceful cultural, historical, and natural asset base, the tourism sector's potential to act as a substantial engine of job creation in the country remains largely unexplored. Using annual time-series (2010-2024), this study applies the ARDL (Autoregressive Distributed Lag) bounds testing approach to cointegration to analyze the long-run and short-run relationships between tourism receipts and the employment rate along with average year of schooling (education), with the inclusion of major control macroeconomic variables: GDP growth, foreign direct investment, and inflation. The results verify the presence of a positive and significant long-run relationship between tourism development, education and employment. This goes to show that the growth of tourism creates not just direct jobs related to hospitality and transport but also provokes indirect and induced employment within the allied sectors such as agriculture, construction, and retail through multiplier effects. This paper concludes that tourism is an important, yet underutilized, option for tackling unemployment in Pakistan. Based on the findings, the paper recommends that strategic investments in tourism infrastructure should be prioritized by policymakers, destination marketing enhanced, and regulatory frameworks rationalized to fully exploit the sector's potential for sustainable and inclusive economic growth and job creation.

Keywords: Tourism Development, Employment Generation, Job Multiplier, Sustainable Economic Growth. ARDL, Pakistan

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Evaluating the Impact of Tourism Policy on Regional Infrastructure

Development of Chitral

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Abstract

Chitral, a mountainous district in northern Pakistan renowned for its distinct biological and cultural diversity, this study investigates the effects of tourism policy on regional infrastructure development. The study looks at how tourism policies might affect the development and enhancement of basic public services, hospitals, transportation networks, and communication systems. In order to investigate how tourism policy affects regional infrastructure development in Chitral, this study uses a qualitative methodology and a case study approach. It evaluates how well government programs support inclusive and sustainable infrastructure development using stakeholder interviews and field observations. The study looks at how tourism policies affect regional development outcomes using public policy implementation theory. The results show that although tourism policies have improved local employment, lodging growth, and road connection, issues including unequal resource distribution, poor maintenance, and low community involvement still exist. The study suggest that tourism policy can be made more effective by strengthening interdepartmental collaboration, increasing targeted budget allocation and network connectivity. It also emphasizes the need for greater community involvement in planning processes and for monitoring the ongoing governmental projects to ensure sustainable and comprehensive development. In order to guarantee balanced regional growth in Chitral, the study emphasizes the necessity of coordinated policy planning that connects tourism promotion with sustainable infrastructure plans.

Key Words: distinct biological and cultural diversity, regional infrastructure development, strengthening interdepartmental collaboration, unequal resource distribution, network connectivity.

How to Promote Education Diplomacy Between Central Asia and Pakistan? Lessons from the United States Fulbright Program in Pakistan

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Abstract

Academic exchange programs and collaborations among Universities across nations have emerged as robust tools of cultural diplomacy and exercise of soft power since the end of the World War II. A good example of such education diplomacy is the Fulbright Scholarship program started by the United States in 1946. This scholarship has remained a robust tool of the American diplomacy since its foundation. The United States effectively used it as an instrument of its soft power throughout the Cold War in various parts of the World. It was considered to be an effective weapon of the cultural war against communism across the world. After the end of the Cold War it has remained as a tool of American diplomatic influence in all the regions where the United States has sought to exercise its soft power. The Fulbright Program was started in Pakistan in 1950. 4100 Pakistanis have received the award since 1951. At critical points of diplomatic relations between the two countries, it has witnessed extraordinarily huge growth spurts. Around 2010, at the height of the American War on terrorism in the region, the US was running its world's largest Fulbright program in Pakistan. Through much of its history of about three quarters of a century, the US Fulbright program in Pakistan has remained one of the central pillars of its education diplomacy in the country. Throughout this time, it has remained a potent tool of development cooperation, cross-cultural dialogue and building good relations between the people and states of the two countries. Academic exchanges between Pakistan and the five Muslim states of the Central Asia have remained limited and constrained. This research explores the potential of education diplomacy to enhance more academic collaboration between Pakistan and these Muslim states. Drawing on the lessons derived from the US Fulbright program in Pakistan, the Muslim states of Central Asia and Pakistan can use education diplomacy based on scholarship and academic exchange programs in the region as an instrument of cultural integration, development cooperation, promotion of political harmony and regional peace. Pakistan and the Central Asian states have always desired greater regional economic integration, closer cultural ties and more political collaboration with each other. Education diplomacy is an excellent potential tool for attaining all of these economic, cultural, political and diplomatic goals. This research avers that Pakistan and the Central Asian States of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan can draw a number of lessons from the experience of the US Fulbright Scholarship program in Pakistan to promote regional connectivity, development cooperation, peace and political harmony. It shall draw on primary and secondary sources to collect data from the Central Asian region and Pakistan for conducting this research. A large number of reputable Universities exist in all of these countries. Kyrgyzstan is home to one of the finest American University of Central Asia. Kazakhstan has some of the finest Universities imparting high quality science and technology education. The American University of Technology in Uzbekistan is an excellent base of imparting high-quality education in the region. Pakistan is home to various institutions of higher learnings in a large cross- section of disciplines ranging from Science and Technology to Social Sciences and Humanities. Greater collaboration and exchanges among the academia from these Universities and institutes of higher learning can make a huge difference in the regional diplomacy and bringing the countries of the region closer to each other.

Keywords: Academic exchange programs, education diplomacy, cultural war, Central Asian region, US Fulbright Scholarship program

Reassessing Balochistan's Insurgency: Investigating the Convergence of Hybrid Warfare and Great Power Politics

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Abstract

Nationalist-driven insurgency in Balochistan has been entered into an era of hybrid warfare. The deep rooted frustration of the Baloch people being ignited and exploited by the regional adversaries of Pakistan so as to gain politico-economic leverages in the region. The fact is, that Balochistan's excessive reserves of energy and natural resources with its border linkages with resource rich CARs and Iran further attract the states to extract share in the crisis. Geo-strategic and geo economic significance of the province has also multiplied due to the initiation of CPEC and Gwader port project. However, all these advantages and leverages will remain in fantasized theories until nationalist-cum-religious insurgencies in Balochistan are addressed. The situation is going to be intensified as it is perceived that understanding of an alliance between TTP and Baloch rebellious groups have been concluded to assist each other in their operational activities to gain settled objectives. In this scenario, the great powers will also settle their scores with active assistance of bordering states to further aggravate the already deplorable security condition in Balochistan. Although, the successive governments are gradually channelizing the genuine political and economic demands by announcing various public-oriented projects to improve the wellbeing of the people of Balochistan, on ground, the challenges are terrifying to deal. The current research focuses religio-nationalist insurgency with meddling of great and regional powers politics by employing the 'frustration aggression theory' advanced by Sigmund Freud to understand Balochistan's insurgency and its possible outcomes.

Key Words: Insurgency, Nationalism, Balochistan, Warfare, Geopolitics

Navigating Great-Power Rivalry: Pakistan's Middle-Power Diplomacy and Geoeconomic Strategy in a Fragmenting International Order

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Abstract

The contemporary international order is undergoing accelerated fragmentation, driven by intensifying great-power rivalry, declining multilateralism, and the emergence of competitive rather than cooperative multipolarity. This shifting geopolitical environment has significant implications for states such as Pakistan, which occupy liminal strategic positions with historically oscillating foreign policy between security imperatives and economic vulnerabilities. The central problem this study addresses is how Pakistan can navigate the escalating US-China competition and broader Indo-Pacific realignments while maintaining strategic autonomy and safeguarding national interests. Methodologically, the study employs a qualitative research design grounded in neoclassical realism and middle-power theory, combining policy review and critical examination of key geopolitical developments, and drawing analysis from primary sources and secondary scholarly literature to trace the evolution of Pakistan's diplomatic posture. The findings indicate that Pakistan's diplomatic behavior reflects a composite strategy of selective hedging, alignment pluralism, and functional cooperation across competing blocs. Case studies, including the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), recalibrated Pakistan-US relations, shifting Gulf partnerships, and participation in institutions such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and United Nations (UN) peacekeeping, further demonstrate Pakistan's attempts to diversify strategic dependencies and reposition economic connectivity as a core foreign-policy asset. The study concludes that Pakistan's capacity to act as an effective middle power depends on strengthening institutional coherence, advancing economic reforms, and leveraging multilateral platforms to mitigate its systemic vulnerabilities.

Keywords: Pakistan; Middle-Power Diplomacy; Great-Power Rivalry; Multipolarity; Global Governance; South Asian Geopolitics

Decentralization and Local Government: Key drivers of democratic consolidation in Pakistan

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Abstract

This study explores how decentralization and local governance influence democratic development in Pakistan. The primary aim is to understand whether empowering local governments with decision-making authority can strengthen democracy. Through qualitative analysis of Pakistan's constitutional reforms, notably the 18th Amendment, and case studies across various provinces, the research assesses the impact of decentralization efforts. Thematic analysis of policy documents, media reports, and devolution plans. Findings reveal that devolving power to local governments enhances citizen participation, improves public service delivery, and increases accountability of local leaders. It also facilitates the inclusion of marginalized groups, such as women and minorities, fostering a more inclusive democracy. However, challenges such as political interference, weak administrative capacities, and delays in regular local elections limit the full benefits of decentralization. The study emphasizes that sustainable democratic progress depends on strengthening legal frameworks, ensuring timely elections, and providing adequate resources for local institutions. Overall, decentralization acts as a vital mechanism to bring government closer to the people, promote transparency, and deepen democratic roots in Pakistan. Policymakers are encouraged to prioritize institutional reforms that support autonomous and empowered local governments to ensure long-term democratic consolidation.

Keywords: decentralization, local governance, democracy, Pakistan, 18th Amendment, citizen participation, accountability.

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"Analysis of Hybrid Warfare in the Contemporary World: Russian Fusion Tactics against Ukraine"

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ABSTRACT

Hybrid warfare has emerged as a dominant paradigm in modern conflict, blurring the lines between conventional and unconventional warfare. It is a blend of traditional military actions, psychological operations, economic measures and cyber warfare, applied by hybrid actor against adversary to accomplish its strategic and political objectives. This study examines the role of the NATO's expansionism, in post-soviet space, in igniting the Russian resentment. This research delves into the intricacies of hybrid warfare in the contemporary global landscape, with a spotlight on the Russian Federation's employment of hybrid warfare tactics against Ukraine, focusing on the fusion of kinetic and non-kinetic means. This research utilized the qualitative analysis method to examine secondary sources, including official reports, scholarly articles, academic journals, research publications, newspapers and books. This study identifies the key components of Russia's hybrid warfare strategy in Ukraine. The study incorporates schematic diagrams and thematic maps to convey intricate information in an accessible manner. The findings reveal the sophisticated and adaptive approach of Russia towards Ukraine, incorporating elements of disinformation, economic sabotage, energy coercion, cyber warfare, proxy forces, and conventional military power. This study contributes to the existing literature on hybrid warfare by providing a nuanced understanding of Russia's fusion tactics against Ukraine. The research concludes by outlining recommendations for the states to counter hybrid warfare, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive and integrated approach to address this emerging threat.

KEYWORDS: Hybrid Warfare, Fusion Tactics, Non-Kinetic means, Cyber Warfare, Proxy Forces, NATO, Conventional Military Power.

The Rise of Populist Politics and Its Impact on Democratic Institutions

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Abstract

In recent years, populism has emerged as a dominant force in Pakistan's political landscape, transforming the relationship between leaders, citizens, and democratic institutions. Rooted in the rhetoric of representing the "true will of the people," populist politics often challenges established elites and institutional constraints, thereby reshaping patterns of governance and accountability. This study aims to analyze how populist leadership and discourse have influenced the autonomy, credibility, and functioning of key state institutions such as the legislature, judiciary, bureaucracy, and media, and to evaluate the tension between populist appeals to mass legitimacy and the rule-based functioning of democratic institutions. Employing a qualitative methodology, the research draws upon political speeches, policy decisions, and institutional behavior from recent years, using content analysis and thematic interpretation to assess how populist strategies including direct communication with the masses, charismatic leadership, and anti-elite narratives affect institutional roles and democratic norms. The study finds that while populism may invigorate citizen engagement and enhance political participation, it simultaneously risks undermining institutional independence, weakening accountability mechanisms, and fostering majoritarian tendencies in governance. The research holds significance for understanding how Pakistan's democratic institutions can preserve their constitutional integrity and pluralistic character in the face of rising populist pressures.

Keywords: Populism, Democratic Institutions, Political Leadership, Governance, Pakistan

Guardians of Human Memories: Libraries' Contribution to Digital Humanities and Cultural Heritage Preservation: A Systematic Literature Review.

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Abstract

Libraries play an increasingly vital contribution in the digital preservation of cultural heritage by integrating digitization practices and digital humanities (DH) tools into their services. This systematic literature review analyzes scholarly work published between 2008 and 2024 to examine how libraries support cultural heritage preservation, enhance information accessibility, and promote user engagement through digital platforms. The review reveals that libraries contribute significantly by digitizing rare collections, developing digital archives, applying metadata standards, and collaborating with interdisciplinary DH initiatives. These efforts expand public access, strengthen digital literacy, and enable new forms of cultural interaction. However, the study also identifies major challenges, including technological limitations, inadequate funding, staff skill gaps, and ethical issues related to authenticity and long-term preservation. The findings highlight the evolving role of libraries as key stewards of digital cultural memory and emphasize the need for sustainable strategies to advance digital heritage initiatives.

Keywords; Digital Humanities; Cultural Heritage; Heritage preservation; Digital Archives; Libraries; User Engagement; Information Accessibility

Impact of Research & Development Expenditures on Economic Growth of Pakistan

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Abstract

This study presents an empirical analysis of the relationship between expenditure on Research & Development and economic growth of Pakistan. Modern Growth theories support this view that innovation is a key driver for economic development. Study uses data for the period 2001-2015 and employ ordinary least square (OLS) method for estimation, to satisfy their assumptions we apply some tests such as Breusch pagon-Godfrey, for the detection of Heteroscedasticity, Breusch- Godfrey for the detection of serial correlation and unit root test for the stationarity of the data. Study further examines relationship between foreign direct investments (FDI), total labor force which is positively related to GDP growth rate. Results of the study conclude that expenditure on R&D have a positive and statistically significant impact on GDP growth rate. This is justified by relevant Literature also.

Key words: GDP growth rate, R&D expenditure, FDI, Labor force

Evaluating Grade IX English Textbook in Developing Critical Thinking Skills Among Students

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Abstract

In the era where critical thinking skills are crucial for academic success, problem-solving and informed decision-making, developing these abilities in students has become a major priority in education. English textbook plays a significant role in formulating cognitive skills, yet many curricula still focus on rote memorization rather than critical thinking. It highlights a notable gap in evaluating whether existing textbooks effectively cultivate these abilities. This study aims to assess the Grade IX English Textbook used in Pakistani public schools to analyze the inclusion of critical thinking components. A qualitative content analysis approach was employed utilizing a self-developed checklist following Bloom's Taxonomy and Facione's framework to determine the textbook learning objectives and exercise questions. The findings indicate that while elements like creativity and analysis are present to a large extent, evaluation and problem-solving are significantly lacking. This imbalance underscores a gap between the intended educational objectives and the actual content. To address these gaps, the study recommends including more problem-solving activities and real-world tasks, open-ended questions, and evaluation to promote students' higher-order thinking. Moreover, a more balanced incorporation of all critical thinking elements across different text types is suggested. The study supports curriculum development by emphasizing the need for a more structured approach to enhance critical thinking in English textbooks. Adding a variety of challenging activities to the textbook will further improve the students' analytical and reasoning abilities needed for both academic and lifelong learning.

KEYWORDS: Critical thinking, Content Analysis, English Textbook, Bloom's Taxonomy, Facione's Framework, Secondary Education

Relationship Between Eco Anxiety and Coping Strategies Payment; Through Bank of Khyber

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Abstract

The aim of the current study was to investigate the relationship between Eco Anxiety and Coping Strategies among youth. The other purpose of the study is to find out the gender difference on Eco Anxiety and Coping Strategies among youth. Total number of participants was 250 in which 40 were included in pilot study while 210 were approached for main study. The convenience method of sampling was used for data collection. The instruments used in the study were Hogg Eco Anxiety Scale (HEAS) developed by (Hogg, 2019) and Brief Resilient Coping Scale developed by (Sinclair&Wallston, 2004). Written permission through email were taken from authors before using the scales for assessing the variables. The data was collected through two phases, In phase I data was collected from 40 university students for pilot study for the purpose to check the internal consistency of the study instruments. The reliability of the Hogg Eco Anxiety Scale (HEAS; Hogg 2019) in pilot study was in acceptable range although the reliability of Brief Resilient Coping Scale by (Sinclair & Wallston, 2004) was low and the correlation was insignificant in the pilot study but improved in the main study. For data analysis the SPSS version 21 was used, Pearson product moment correlation and t-test was applied to check whether the hypothesis were supported or not. The first hypothesis was that there will be significant negative correlation between Eco Anxiety and Coping Strategies. The second hypothesis was that Male will be more vulnerable to eco anxiety than female among youth and the third hypothesis was that Female will be high on coping strategies than male among youth. The results show that there is a significant negative correlation between eco-anxiety and coping strategies. This supports the first hypothesis of the study. The conclusion from t-test analysis shows that male score high on Eco Anxiety scale but the difference is not significant while the other finding is that there is no significant gender difference on coping strategies which indicate that male and female are equal in adapting coping strategies.

Key words: *Eco Anxiety, Coping Strategies, gender differences, resilience, and pilot study.*

The Correlation of Emotional Intelligence with Students Academic Resilience in University of Malakand, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to analyze the relationship of emotional intelligence with academic resilience. A sample of 400 students were taken from 10 different departments of the university of Malakand. These 10 departments were further accumulated into 3 faculties i.e. 1. Faculty of Physical Sciences, 2. Faculty of Social Sciences, 3. Faculty of Arts and Humanities. Among these, 4 of the departments were taken from physical sciences, 3 from social sciences and 3 from arts and humanities. The data was collected through simple random sampling technique. The first instrument was an emotional intelligence scale which was self-report consisting of 45 items of Likert scale, second instrument was academic resilience scale of 27 items, self-report, Likert scale was used. Data was analyzed through SPSS by applying descriptive statistics and correlation between variable i.e. emotional intelligence and academic resilience. The study found positive correlation between emotional intelligence and academic resilience.

Keywords: Academic Resilience, Emotional Intelligence, Correlation, Students, University of Malakand