THE PEP BULLETIN

PEP FOUNDATION

DIGGING DEEPER AND LEARNING TOGETHER!

Through its five programs, the PEP Foundation continues to highlight critical gaps and embed system change in the higher education sector in Pakistan.

01 SAFE: Fundraising for Universities - What Works:

PEP Foundation interviewed University Advancement Offices of the 3 best-performing Students Advancement Fund Endowments (SAFE) out of the 42 that the foundation established at universities across Pakistan. The interviews highlight the importance of a clear fundraising strategy for universities, long-term commitment, effective communication, involvement of multiple departments, and engagement of alumni.

Read the fundraising success stories here.

A session on "Fundraising Tools and Strategies" was also organized for the SAFE universities, in which a Fundraising toolkit was shared to guide the fund managers in developing fundraising strategies for their universities. The next session on "Building Alumni Networks" is scheduled to be held in May.

02

SSBC: Launch of Pakistan's First Certification Program for Incubation Center Managers

Based on the World Benchmark Study results of 2019, the PEP has developed an online certificate course for Incubation Center Managers. The self-paced course consists of 12 individual modules which can be taken collectively or separately. To learn more about the course and apply for the pilot program, write to fariha.anwar@pepfoundation.org

The World Benchmark Study 2021-22 will be launched in May 2022, and PEP Foundation has, once again, joined hands with UBI Global, an international community of 700+ incubation programs, to enable Pakistani incubators and accelerators to participate in the study.

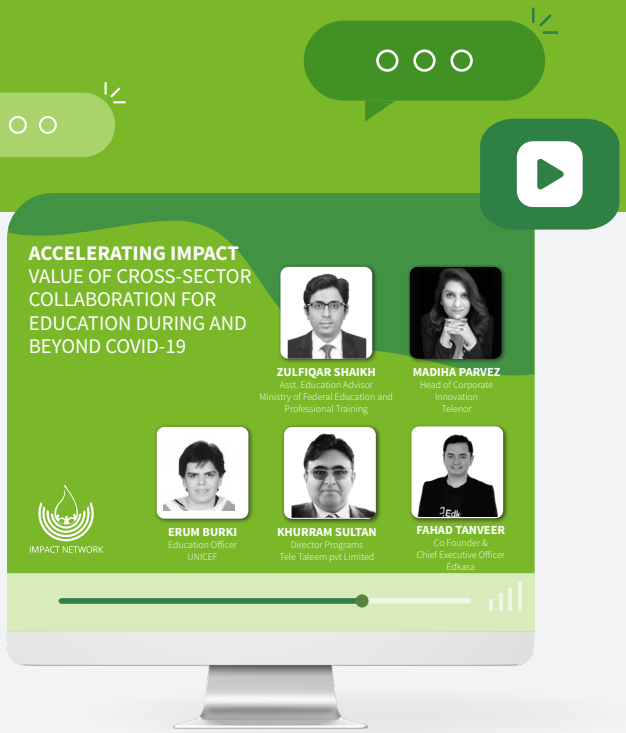
Previously, 31 incubators from Pakistan, the highest for any country, participated in the World Benchmark Study 2019-20. UBI Global and PEP Foundation published a country report, titled "Activating Entrepreneurship in Pakistan", which provided a snapshot of Pakistan's incubation landscape in comparison with its regional and global peers.

03

Impact Network: Collaborating for Change - Is it Really Possible?

As a formal collaborative platform for public, private, and donor sector organizations, Impact Network continues to stimulate, support, and scale critical social innovations with its 40 partner organizations. A training session on "Impact Measurement and Management" was organized by Impact Network for entrepreneurs working to solve critical development challenges. The session discussed why to measure impact, what to measure, how to measure, and what to do after measuring impact.

A webinar panel discussion on "Accelerating Impact: Value of cross-sector collaboration for Education during and beyond Covid-19" was held to discuss the importance of partnerships to scale social innovations, the challenges to such partnerships, and the lessons learned during the pandemic.



04

Sughra Begum Center: Asking the difficult questions

The Sughra Begum Center for Education Policy and Development (SuBCEPAD), established by the PEP Foundation at the University of Punjab, is working to produce cutting-edge research that can revolutionize the quality and access of education in Pakistan.

A webinar on **"The Education Sector in Pakistan: Maladies and Remedies"** was organized for the students of the MPhil program at the center that highlighted the need to adapt to a rapidly changing education sector and the critical questions students of education policy need to deliberate on, including:

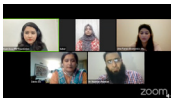
- How do we provide education to all our citizens?
- How do we make our education relevant to the demands of the future?
- How do we reform our teaching and learning methodologies?
- How do we update our assessment criteria and methods?

The center is currently in the process of expanding its team and developing an advisory board.

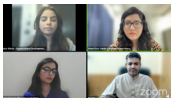
05 National Education Forum- Participatory Policy Making

Sparking Conversations:

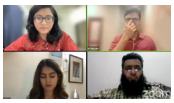
The new online discussion series by PEP Foundation, Conversations, aims to bring together students, educationists, and other experts to highlight the issues prevalent in the higher education sector and their potential solutions. The episodes are broadcasted live on PEP Foundation's Facebook page every Friday at 8:00 PM. To date, 8 episodes have been aired.



Episode 1:
The 6 Cs of the 21st-Century Education & Pakistan's Higher Education System

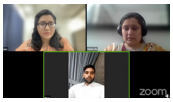


Episode 2:
Importance of Soft Skills at Universities & Workplaces

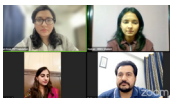


Episode 3:
Assessment Methods & Their Impact on Students' Learning

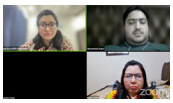
Episode 4:
The Need For Digital Competency in the Education Sector



Episode 5:
Steps Needed to Improve Undergraduate Education



Episode 6:
Mental Health Issues in University Students



Episode 7:
Disability Inclusion at Higher Education Institutes

Episode 8:
State of Affairs of Sports Facilities at Universities

INDUSRTY HIGHLIGHTS

Pakistan EdX - The Online Learning Platform for Pakistani Students:

As a huge step toward promoting digital literacy and blended learning, HEC Pakistan has formulated a consortium of nine universities to develop online courses as part of the new undergraduate core curriculum for the country. By pooling course offerings through PakistanEdX, HEC and the universities will increase access to quality education in the far-flung areas of the country.

HEC and World Bank - Promoting Entrepreneurship at Universities:

To accelerate the economic development and entrepreneurship in Pakistan, HEC, in collaboration with the World Bank, is launching a unique grant called Innovation Seed Fund (ISF). Through this initiative, 15 innovative startups will be supported every year with holistic business development training sessions as well as funding of up to $35,000 each. The program will also aim to build the capacity of ORICs and BICs to embed a long-lasting entrepreneurial culture at the universities.

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