



NUST
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCES & TECHNOLOGY



Prosperity Through Stability

Development News

2021 - 2022

Welcome Notes



Dr. ASHFAQUE HASAN KHAN

PhD Economics (The John Hopkins University, USA)

PRINCIPAL S3H

Health and education are critical inputs to overall human development. Education plays a key role in the overall ability of nation to absorb modern technology and health is a pre requisite for increase in productivity. Both good quality of education and health make a country more prosperous and prosperity brings stability in a country. Hence, investment in health and education is close to my heart and the present issue of D NEWS 2022 has taken up the issue of Stability through prosperity. I am sure that you will find the articles contained in this issue as well as the scientific contributions of department of development studies also documented in the issue very rewarding for your understanding of stability through prosperity



Prof. Salma Siddiqui

DEAN, S3H

It is a pleasure to see the efforts of the Department of Development Studies to highlight pertinent issues around development through their newsletter. The current issue highlights the issue of Prosperity through Stability, which is so pertinent for a country like Pakistan. We are recovering from the aftermath of climate emergency in the form of flood which has shaken the indicators of stability for our people. The dream of prosperity for a common man has become elusive given the natural and man-made calamities. The question is how well equipped we are to bounce forward from this adversity. We are relying heavily on our social capital beside looking outside to recover from the current challenges; there is a need that we invest in the capacity and skill development of our people so that each one of us can contribute to the prosperity of the country. If we review our practices and develop policies with the intent of the welfare of the people, then both stability and prosperity are achievable goals.



Dr. MUHAMMAD AMMAD KHAN

PhD in Rural Development and Management (China Agriculture University, PRC)

Head of Department

This is my first introduction to a newsletter as Head of Department and I'm filled with pride to see the resilience of students and colleagues in pandemic mode. Despite all the pressures of lockdowns and restrictions most notably the online schooling, Development Studies has continued to thrive in terms of its teaching, research, and student outcomes. Development Studies firmly believes in Spirit of Free Inquiry therefore, it has been working towards a dynamic and prominent research unit with an academic presence that encompasses the globe. In line with this approach, the department has ventured into many new initiatives to promote and polish students' capabilities.

Here D-NEWS showcase what the faculty, students, and graduates of Development Studies have been doing in the recent past. A glimpse of recent initiatives, activities and events for the fall semester are presented in this newsletter for the readers.

As this issue takes a special look at Prosperity and Stability, I do hope you will enjoy reading it. Please feel free to share this with anyone you know who would be interested in our mission.



Dr. Umer Khayyam

*PhD in Development Studies (Westfälische
Wilhelms-Universität Münster, Germany)*

*Associate Professor & Editor DNews (Since
2016)*

Prosperity through Stability remains pertinent to the global community, exclusively for Pakistan, to focus-on in the aftermaths of COVID-19 and climate emergency that has shaken the strength of the people. The dream of prosperity remains at high grounds to face and fight back the calamities. This newsletter is an attempt to realize where to focus on our social capital and build capacity to the extended prosperity of the humankind. Surely, you will find every bit of this newsletter worthwhile!

Co-Editor
Arfa Saleem
MSDS 2021



Against the backdrop of the Ukraine-Russia crisis, the Covid-19 pandemic and the climate change increasingly proving to be a threat multiplier, this interconnected world needs stability now, more than ever to steer itself in the direction of prosperity. Prosperity itself emanates from collective action on shared goals, oriented towards sustainable growth and development. Presently, the international regimes that underpin our global economy have been brought to the forefront and under scrutiny, by increased pressure on food security and healthcare systems, in turn on human security. This chain of international events, intertwined with the impact of climate change and national level political unrest, are increasingly undermining global stability and the vision of prosperity. This year's newsletter theme: Prosperity and Stability, sits perfectly well with recent events, and hopes to provide insight into global developments and shine light on how the world can achieve stability and move towards prosperity.

Graphic Designer
Alya Arshad
MSDS 2021



Keeping in view the devastating effects of the recent flooding in Pakistan and the contemporary global power dynamics, this issue of DNews will give the readers lots of relevant content. I have designed it with all my heart and effort to make it a pleasurable reading document.

CLIMATE CHANGE

FOOD SECURITY AND PROSPERITY



Prosperity is something which individuals and nations strive for. It is not an end rather it is a continuous process the definitions and goals of which change with the time. With growing contemporary global challenges like climate change prosperity is a goal which countries want to achieve but there are challenges along the way and food security is one of them. Food is the basic necessity and without fulfilling that need no nation can prosper. According to Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 10 per cent of the global population suffered from hunger in 2020 compared with 8.4 per cent in 2019. Food security has three dimensions: availability(production), physical and economic accessibility, and utilization, the climatic conditions directly impact the availability/production of food. Measures have been taken on local as well as the global level to mitigate the challenges. In the millennium declaration signed by the countries at the UN in 2000, eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, and ensuring environmental sustainability were also included.

The Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the UN member states in 2015 address 17 goals and associated targets which are considered to be the most pressing challenges of the contemporary world.

SDGs 2 and 13 aim to address the threats directly related to food and climate, but due to the interdependence and trade-offs between various goals SDG 3(good health and wellbeing) and SDG 15 (life on land) are also linked with food security and climate changed. The countries of global south like Pakistan experience the increasing effects of climate change on food production and accessibility to poor people.



May 22nd, 2025

Studies have shown that the production of wheat is more likely to reduce particularly in rain-fed regions. Reduced food production coupled with the increase in population could lead to food insecurity. Pakistan's major crops are wheat, rice, cotton, sugarcane, maize, and the countries most produced fruits are mango, apple, banana, guava, which support the country both economically and nutritionally. FAO's 2021 report shows that despite being an agricultural country Pakistan has been reported to have 12.9 per cent or 27.9 million undernourished people in 2018-2020, 36.7 per cent of children under five are stunted, 8.6 per cent of the adult population suffers from obesity. The changes in the land over the years also give the idea of food insecurity in the country. From 2000 to 2019, forest land has decreased from 4,511.3 hectares to 3,767.2 hectares, agricultural land is reduced from 36,698.0 hectares to 36 300.0 hectares, whereas another land has increased from 35 878.7 hectares to 37 020.8 hectares.



The changing climatic conditions in the country coupled with lack of the country's capacity (financial, technical, and logistical) to ensure the coping mechanisms make people vulnerable, for example, the country has limited capacity to store rainwater in the rainy season which on the hand result in floods which damage the useful land whereas on the other hand the water is wasted. The exponential growth of population lead to increasing food demands domestically, since the country's major exports are food items, increased domestic consumption means a decrease in exports which may lead to imbalances in trade. Food security is a growing issue and linked with natural and humanitarian crises related to climate change i.e., droughts, floods, migrations, etc. The sustainable management of resources along with population control mechanisms on local, provincial, and national level would be vital to cope with the challenge and ensure prosperity.



THE OLIGARCHS AND BIG PHILANTHROPY

Do we even need Billionaires?

God created this planet with more than enough for everyone to lead a rich, healthy and abundant life. Why then, do people keep dying of starvation and deprivation throughout history regardless of the human progress gained through ‘innovation and technology’? And most importantly, how come we constantly hear about donations worth billions of dollars every now and then but the wealth gap keeps growing instead of reducing? The answers to these questions are far more frightening than one could expect. To put it simply, the rich spend their dollar bills not to alleviate poverty, but to reinforce the existing system of inequality that caters to their personal interests. These personal interests largely revolve around them getting wealthier at the cost of the poor and this is exactly how the kings and queens of the past have lived lavish lives while serfs and peasants died of disease and hunger.

The “penthouse on top of the penthouse” rightly described by Hassan Minhaj (on his show Patriot Act), are the actual dictators of the world, bleeding the resources meant for ordinary people dry. “Big Philanthropy” is increasingly getting popular among the wealthy and for good reason. Imagine being able to evade tax on your wealth and using it to push for political and social causes of your choice that increase your wealth while successfully deceiving the Little Red Riding Hood that you are the innocent grandma and not the wolf. There is a term for that and it is called elite charity.

Anand Giridharadas, the author of a best-seller “Winners Take All” , is one of the few critics of Big Philanthropy. He questions a world in which the elite are seen trying to save the poor and solve problems with their big donations but if one scratches the surface just a little, it is revealed that the problems they are trying to solve are the very problems they have passionately caused to protect and grow their money. In fact, the unfairness does not end at that. He argues that the rich get great coverage for their philanthropic adventures while their successful attempts of shaping policies to undermine governance and serve their personal interests never gets the enough notoriety.

“Let them eat
cake!” –

Marie
Antoinette

(The last
Queen of
France before
the French
Revolution)

For instance, in the US, a bunch of Philanthropic tools like Donor Advised Funds, Tax Exemptions and 501(c)(4)'s (anonymous donations to civic groups) allow the rich to achieve two of their main goals: Credit and Control. In an interview, the owner of Dell Company clearly states that he is more comfortable giving millions of dollars to a foundation than to pay a 70% tax rate to the Government. What he was trying to illustrate was that if he simply paid his taxes, he would not be applauded for it and therefore he can avail no 'credit'. Also, with donations, he can choose to fund whatever cause he wants but with taxes he will have no 'control' over where the money will be used. And then there is always the bonus perk of tax evasion including income, estate and capital gains tax. A famous billionaire Robert Smith was widely celebrated for paying off student loans and was later found defending an indefensible carried-interest tax loophole which basically only benefits private equity companies like the kind he runs.

South Asia is no exception when it comes to the oligarch dominance. India is rapidly growing its industries and with that it is also experiencing the rise of Industrial elites including famous names like Ambani's and Tata's. In Pakistan, Industrial elites along with Feudal elites are often seen at the top of the food chain, heavily influencing political and legal systems of the country. The infamous ones include Bhutto's, Chaudhrie's, Nishat Group, Adamjee's, Habib's etc. to name a few.



Earning money is not the problem but deliberately evading tax, using that same money to shape public policies and then posing as 'the savior' is the problem. If taxes are paid adequately, we will not even need the rich to give us alms.

We live in a world where billionaires are glorified and their wealth accumulation is considered as "the ultimate goal" that everyone must pursue regardless of how they get all that money. It is certainly about time that the world finally abandons the bogus ideology of intoxicating exploitative materialism upholding this unjust system harboring plutocrat-friendly policies because it is simply too much power for a few individuals to have over how the world works. Higher taxes on wealth and closing tax loopholes will ensure wealth redistribution and then we would not even require a rich man to create crises like poverty and wealth inequality by day and try to solve that same crises by night to get the recognition he doesn't deserve.

DIGITAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: A ROAD TO PROSPERITY IN HARD TIMES



COVID 19 affected our lives in multidimensional ways. It made us rethink our centuries old patterns of ways. It and daily routines.” Stay home, stay safe”, sanitizers, masks and social distancing are the new lifestyle mantras. Overall COVID 19 has made us accept that new lifestyle is digital and on line. This pandemic made us reconsider our consumption patterns as due to sudden but prolonged lock down supply chains got line. This global population turned to digital shopping place to purchase shopping etc.

On one side online business i.e., fashion industry suffered as in 2020 when COVID 19 got declared a pandemic by WHO, it was summer peak season. The fashion industry suffered and will need couple of years to

regain its pre pandemic profit rate. Due to the closure of shopping malls and the mandatory social distancing, consumers are spending time in online shopping to avoid going out. Since summer 2020, it has been observed globally that people are also spending significantly more time on social media Resultantly there is more exposure time to photos and live feeds. Online businesses have minimal overhead expenses, making it easy to scale down temporarily.

The coronavirus pandemic appears to have unleashed a tidal wave of entrepreneurial activity, breaking our country out of a decades-long start-up slump. Though many of the biggest gains have been in retailing, medicines, food service and logistics, but there have also been significant increases in manufacturing, finance, construction and other sectors as well.

Because Informal e-commerce has made a difference for many women by providing a continued source of livelihood and access to digital and financial services. In Pakistan and beyond, the informal e-commerce phenomenon among women — and its continued growth during COVID-19 — points to the importance of the digital economy for women’s financial and economic inclusion.

Women of Pakistan, live uncertain economic lives, often forced to depend on family patriarchs for economic support. As women are more likely to bear domestic responsibilities, taking care of elderly, nursing elderly, nursing etc., but Pakistani women also lack access to formal services, assets and investments to launch traditional brick-and-mortar style businesses.

The informal e-commerce model enables women to modify their schedules from day to day while minimizing operational costs. The fact that informal e-commerce doesn't require women to pay rent, own a formal office, makes it more attractive and affordable. Resultantly, during COVID-19, female owned, informal e-commerce businesses in Pakistan grew rapidly. When the pandemic hit, the coffee shop and small restaurants, small vendors sent workers home, and like many Sadia's salary, which was her only source of income, ended. Home all day and under the anxiety of how to feed a family of 8 dependents, income uncertain, she began to take the prospect of food catering more and more seriously. She opened an online baking business of delivering cupcakes, brownies and homemade Pasta. Now she is not only supporting her own family but also three other families of her kitchen assistants.

Indeed, anecdotal evidence suggests that, not only globally but the women owned informal e-commerce trend has accelerated this year, with many new ventures arriving on the scene. Such as female entrepreneurs are selling silk masks, hair accessories, head accessories, head made flower accessories, head scarves, part time/hourly paid female cleaners, cooks and kitchen helpers on call. Trend has been observed in online nannies available for those parents who are working from home. The list of entrepreneurial ventures can go very long as COVID 19 has opened a new window of endless possibilities and opportunities for Pakistani women.



It is also important to recognize that despite the ways informal e-commerce is helping women to navigate hard times of COVID-19 without compromising on dignity and self-respect. There is another dimension of this success; these women-owned businesses are often undervalued and

mocked, which makes it harder for women to raise investments and be recognized as “real” business owner. In some cases, it is observed that home-based, informal work has reinforced patriarchal norms by restricting women's mobility and incidents of domestic violence and abuse. Also, majority of these female entrepreneurs have complained of lack of financial independence, while spending their own, hard-earned money.

No denying of the fact that, in Pakistan, Informal e-commerce has made a difference for many women by providing a continued source of respectful livelihood and access to inclusion in mainstream e-commerce. Its continued growth during COVID-19 — points to the fact that it is right and ripe time to divert policy level serious attention towards digital economy/e-commerce for women's financial and economic inclusion. All these women entrepreneurs have demanded basic financial literacy, and availability of some online mentoring and guidance. They also lack basic legal / financial literacy, affordable home-based IT setups, uninterrupted electricity and basic knowledge of on-line marketing tools, tips and techniques.

Lastly, in a world of limited on-line clipped wings in the name of on-line heavy burden of unpaid responsibilities on the shoulders, home based business is a way towards micro level prosperity and a ray of hope for many women around us.

(Writer is Gender and Human Security lecturer in Department of Development Studies, NUST and can be contacted at fariha-tahir@s3h.nust.edu.pk)

GLOBAL STABILITY VS PROSPERITY, AND THE ROLE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

The identification and analysis of the forthcoming challenges to global stability and prosperity necessitate comprehension of the said terms. Stability is defined by the Cambridge Dictionary [1] as 'a situation in which something is not likely to change or move.' Moreover, in security studies, stability is to be understood from a political and economic standpoint [2]. The multi-faceted concept of security has widened in scale and deepened in complexity over the years. Its previously inextricable link to Westphalian concept of state – where the focal point of statecraft was the preservation of sovereignty, independence, and territory – has weakened post UNDP's Human Development Report [3] to include the individual as the object of security. This report introduces a new concept of security which associates security with people rather than territories, and with development rather than arms. This transition from traditional security to

non-traditional security led to the identification of seven new dimensions of human security – economic security; food security; health security; environmental security; personal security; community security; and political security [3].

Prosperity is described as 'the state of being successful and having a lot of money' by the Cambridge dictionary [5].

Having defined the keywords, an undeniable security-stability-prosperity nexus can be observed. Security is the first step toward achieving stability, which paves the way toward prosperity. Any threats to security undermine stability, thereby precluding prosperity. One such threat to the non-traditional security that may not be directly observable but is critical to global security, stability, and prosperity is the changing climate. Climate change has eluded the spotlight for far too long to be recognized as a threat from only being viewed as a force of nature, which warrants this discussion. The rapid, human-induced climate change has the potential to pose grave geopolitical and societal imbalances – both fundamentally consequential for global stability and prosperity.





The most critical risk to stability associated with climate change is its role of being a stress multiplier, especially in regions with preexisting economic and societal vulnerabilities [6]. The Arab Spring can be attributed as an example of climate-induced and -exacerbated shortages of food and water [7] that can ignite tensions. Numerous other countries around the world are emulating similar shortages of food and water, coupled with rapid population growth and weak governance [8]. The augmented pressure on the resources bred by the climate extremes (floods, droughts, heatwaves etc.) imperil livelihoods and threaten the very fabric of the society, thereby jeopardizing global security, and subsequently the stability.

In some cases, this strain emerges as a driver or accelerator of mass movement of people within and among countries. The impact of these stresses cannot be isolated in this globalized world. These interconnected risks go beyond just surface level, and with instability comes volatility in prices in regions such as the Middle East and North Africa where prices of raw materials and energy are driven up, supply chains get disrupted, leading to disequilibrium in the finished good market, thereby endangering affordability and accessibility of the masses. This uncertainty gambles away prosperity. The economic risks are multifarious to be adequately covered here, but the collective risk to national and global economic productivity is a formidable instigator of social tensions. Limiting climate risk cannot alleviate the implicit tensions, but further amplification can be slowed down.

International and national institutes have been slow to adapt, hence issues are still tackled in isolation. The obligation falls on the governments to initiate and lead change, and understanding that actions must be taken not just by themselves, but also among themselves to construct a coherent approach to addressing the downside of climate change at all fronts and levels. It's time that climate change is brought to the forefront of the global setting and intercepted conjointly and critically for our undivided world. The resulting stability will be instrumental in fueling prosperity.



CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER MANAGEMENT ISSUES IN MOUNTANIOUS REGIONS OF **PAKISTAN**



Climate change has had a significant impact on both mountainous and plain places across the world. However, as a result of glaciers melting, summer flash floods, water management crises, and winter droughts, climate change may have disastrous consequences for people living in mountainous locations across the world. In these high-altitude places, managing basic necessities like water requires a lot of effort. When a water regulatory system is interrupted, it takes years to restore it because the resources and labour required are out of reach for many local governments and water management organisations.

As the local population in mountainous regions grow as a result of emerging tourism industry, residents are having trouble finding clean water and water supplies for the seasonal crops they farm. In these mountainous regions, Glacier- and snowmelt-based irrigation systems have been constructed over many generations in the glaciated highlands of Pakistan's Upper Indus Basin to ensure water for crops. These mechanisms, however, face a number of obstacles, including their vulnerability to climate change and therefore subjected to severe occurrences including flash floods and glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), as well as challenging landscape and access routes, male mass emigration, limited technological capability, and an inadequate policy and governance system.

In 2012 Hermann Kreutzmann in his famous book 'Pastoral Practices of High Asia' wrote that communities in Northern Pakistan have responded to the issues by implementing a variety of structural and non-structural interventions, the bulk of those are ad hoc, based on the locality. Indigenous knowledge and cultural practices have been integrated into water management efforts, which have adapted to difficult conditions while representing the social and community framework.



It can be observed that a large volume of glacial water is lost in these locations, resulting in seasonal droughts. During the summer, landslides accompanied by flash floods obstruct the water channels, while the amount of water channeled to residential areas during the fall seasons is insufficient to meet the local water demands. Indigenous and current water management strategies that are outdated and ineffective to meet the water requirements of a rising population and businesses have become obsolete.

Several community-based initiatives and public-private partnerships have been implemented in these regions to meet the fundamental water demands, including the Water and Sanitation Extension Program (WASEP). The distribution of portable water to residents, as well as the construction of residential tap stands and community taps, were all part of this effort. A total of 500 locals were taught to work on the project's maintenance. Meanwhile, the region's water needs are exceeding the project's capacity. As previously indicated, the key cause for this rising demand is the region's commercialization. Furthermore, the local government has failed to play the necessary role in intervening in these projects and upgrading them to meet local demands, exacerbating the problem.

Many important localities in central Gilgit and Hunza are experiencing water shortages, including, tourism centers such as Aliabad and Karimabad. The establishment of an informal water management body known as 'Jzirga' was one of the indigenous practices in these locations. A group of Jirga was tasked with administering irrigation water, monitoring landowners' turns for watering their lands on an each year, and overseeing any disciplinary disruptions. However, as more individuals seek regular employment, start businesses, and relocate to cities, these traditions are vanishing. In reality, these methods are no longer relevant.

Overall, A major intervention, whether by the government or by community organisations, is required to build a sustainable water management system in the region. Using flood water for cultivation and water lifting techniques from river and glacier are two options that people feel may be useful in easing the water deficit. While some of these communities feel that subterranean water extraction might be a substantial source of irrigation, others do not. The communities' choice for groundwater extraction, on the other hand, may be physically viable, as groundwater may be present along riverbanks owing to river water seepage.

LECTURES FOR STUDENTS



11TH FEBRUARY 2022

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES ORGANISED A COMPREHENSIVE LECTURE ON HOW TO WRITE THESIS AND HOW TO CONDUCT RESEARCH. ALL STUDENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT ATTENDED THE LECTURE.







Dr. Muhammad Ammad Khan, Head Development Studies Department attended one-day workshop on “How to engage with Parliament for supporting evidence based Legislative and Oversight”? organized by Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) on 03 Feb, 2022.





NUST Business School,
National University of
Sciences and Technology

Certificate of Recognition

This is to certify that

Dr. Muhammad Ammad Khan

has participated as Conference Presenter in the

1st International Conference on
Business, Management and Social Sciences
(ICBMAS) 23-24 June 2021



Conference Chair
Principal & Dean NBS, Dr. Naukhez Sarwar

Dr. Muhammad Ammad Khan presented a research paper in the 1st international conference on Business, Management and Social Sciences (ICBMAS).

The conference was held on 23rd and 24th of June, 2021.

SPRINT - COIL

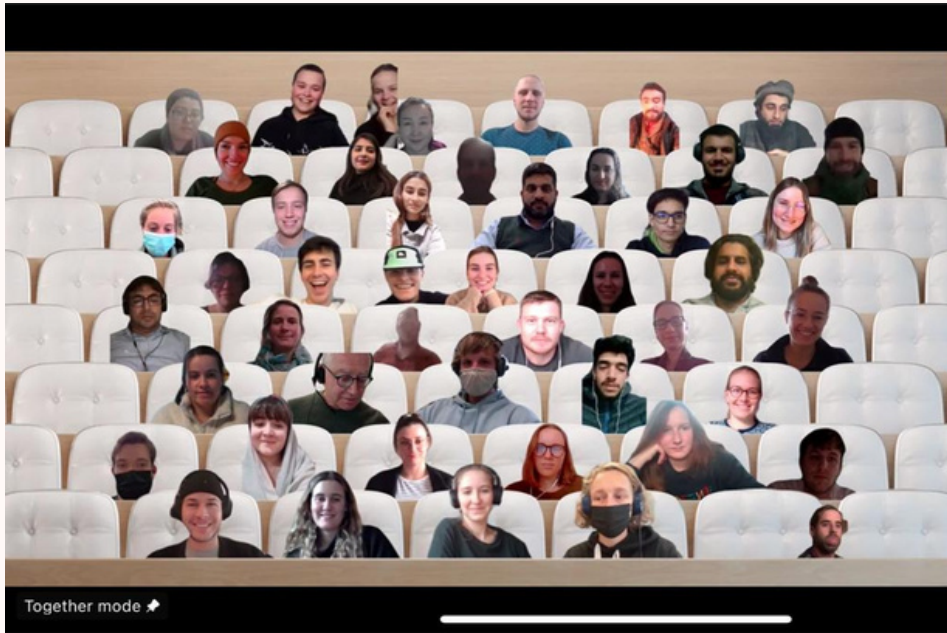


DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, NUST COLLABORATES WITH ZHAW ON SPRINT-COIL PROGRAM ON SUSTAINABILITY COURSES

NUST, for the first time, entered into Sprint-Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) that extended to four different countries and amongst five different universities, i.e., Zurich University of Applied Sciences (Switzerland), American University of Central Asia (Kyrgyzstan), University of Guilan (Iran) and Karakoram International University (Pak.) At NUST the Sprint-COIL of a consortium of international universities is led by Dr. Umer Khayyam.

It has two components; joint students' group work and shared lectures on the most emerging topics around United Nations 2030 Agenda/ SDGs to advance sustainable development in rural and mountain areas.

Away from the traditional style of teaching, this step is a paving way towards internationalization of teaching, co-learning to manage common global problems for effective solutions, besides developing productive relationships with the international community.



Online Group Photo

A group photo on MS TEAMS after the closing ceremony of Sprint - COIL session

Certificate of Completion

E-certificates of completion were given to students who participated in the program



Excursion to PAKISTAN RED CRESCENT SOCIETY



Pakistan Red Crescent is the largest humanitarian organization in Pakistan and was formed by act of Parliament in 1947. It is working with a Mission to become leading humanitarian organization of Pakistan, committed to prevent and alleviate human sufferings by mobilizing the power of humanity through volunteers

Students of MSDS 2021 visited Pakistan Red Crescent Society under the supervision of Dr. Umer Khayyam in November of 2021.

During the visit, students were familiarized by the organization and its working they were also informed about development works conducted by the organisation.

Dr. Umer Khayyam from the Department of Development Studies, NUST presenting a token of appreciation to Mr. Sanaullah, Member of Pakistan Red Crescent Society





AGAHI AWARD FOR
JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

AGAHI AWARD WINNER

*Annam Khawar Lodhi of MSDS
2K21 won the Award*



She was awarded for a story published in The African Report titled, “The Sheedi of Pakistan: Long forgotten Africans uprooted and still finding their place in society”. The story discusses the everyday struggles of the Sheedi community in Karachi. How do they cope with racist and colourist behaviour? How are they trying to overcome such hurdles? It is an insightful piece into the world of the less talked about native population.

This is Annam Lodhi’s second Agahi Award.



EDUCATIONAL
EXPOSURE VISIT

DEPARTMENT OF
DEVELOPMENT
STUDIES

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES
(NUST)
2021



EXPOSURE VISIT AND ITS OBJECTIVES

The students of MS Development Studies (Batch 2k20) School of Social Sciences & Humanities (S3H), NUST visited rural areas of Fateh-Jang tehsil of Attock district on Dec 1, 2021. The purpose of the visit was to improve students' understanding of the role and importance of rural development in today's world and encourage them to analyze existing development policies and propose solutions that are more sensitive to rural communities and their varying stakeholders.

The visit was led by Dr. Muhammad Ammad Khan, Head Department of Development Studies in collaboration with the Rural Business Development Center (RBDC), a well-known business development center in Pakistan working with the rural communities in several districts of Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, and Azad Kashmir for the generation of rural economies and poverty alleviation. This initiative is designed to play an active role in supporting the development of new businesses to support and diversify the local economy. It offers a one-stop shop facility for advice and guidance for people who wish to improve their businesses. It was built with the assistance of Lok Sanjh Foundation; which is a non-profit, non-governmental organization working with the rural communities particularly with women farmers in Pakistan since 1996.

Students were first taken to RBDC's head office in Islamabad where the Program Manager, Mr. Gulfam Dogar introduced students to the various projects undertaken by the center



Figure 1: Dr. M. Ammad Khan having discussion with the students at the RBDC Office.

which were based on Youth Skills Development, Women Empowerment, Organic Kitchen Gardening, Sustainable Agriculture, Water Stewardship, Improving Livelihoods of Smallholder Farmers etc. As women become empowered and educated, such knowledge and investments not only pass on to their children but throughout their community. Empowering women in agriculture is significant, leading to a stable rural livelihood, increasing their decision making power and control over their resources thus reducing gender gap.



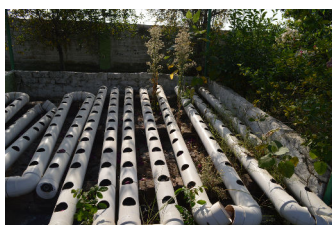
Figure 2: Mr. Gulfam Dogar giving presentation to the students at the RBDC Office.

Students also learned about the various value chains associated with RBDC and Lok Sanjh such as Gur Khas, Kato Rani, Organic Cotton, Organic Farming, Rural Business Grants Sisal Research and Development Programme Business Support and Capacity Building.

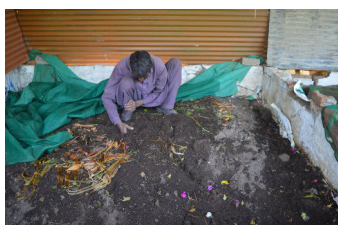
Later on, students visited the RBDC Training Center in Ratowal (Fateh Jang). Mr. Gulfam Dogar introduced students to the various modern agricultural practices i.e., hydroponics, drip irrigation system, rainwater harvesting technique, vermicomposting, green manure, natural pesticides, and seed banks etc. Since sustainable farming means producing food, plants and animal products without damaging the natural resources, Mr. Gulfam explained that sustainable agriculture is a holistic approach and imperative to achieve rural development. Students were also acquainted with biological pest repellents, numerous plants breeds, and new export-oriented crops like olive and its export plan.

The highlight of the trip was a meet-up arranged with female farmers which turned into a very interactive session. Four women had volunteered to meet us led by their leader (elected by all the beneficiaries of this business center). These farmers had compelling experiences to share with the students. They first explained the criteria of selection of farmers and the target given to them to produce the said crop. They shared their personal agricultural experience, their practical contribution to their family income, hurdles they face in accessing the local market, and how RBDC is helping them by providing training on organic agricultural practices, seasonal seeds, equipment and tools, goats, and health services, etc. to enhance their livelihood and food security.

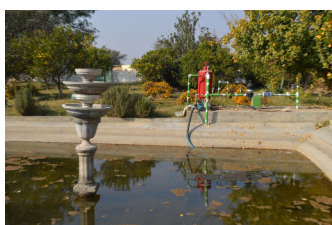
Students identified the potential of moving from subsistence to commercial farming these farmers had but how the cultural barriers of patriarchy does not allow them. They highlighted in their discussion how a bottom-up approach towards rural development can benefit these women and fill in the gap of knowledge and decision making. It was concluded that this is the first step towards women empowerment in the rural areas where women are now realizing, recognizing and working towards utilizing their own assets.



Hydroponic Pipe System



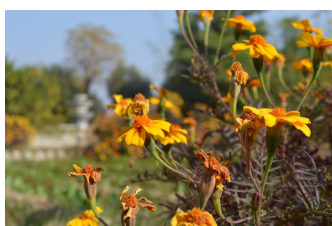
Vermicompost



Drip Irrigation



Rain Water Harvesting



Marigold



Olive Trees



Figure 3: Female Farmers arrival at the RBDC Center

OUR EXPERIENCE



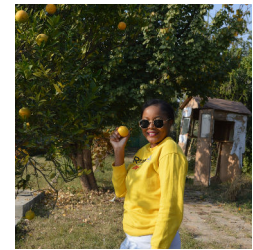
"We are studying a course Rural Development and Agrarian Change, and visiting this place provided us great opportunity to polish our understanding about sustainable agriculture. I personally admired RBDC efforts of promoting organic farming practices"

"RBDC is taking good initiatives by providing agricultural inputs to the poor farmers. The organization is promoting advance agricultural practices and playing an instrumental role in research field via seed testing. Since, Pakistan lack in research field, we need a lot of new research work so that we could benefit from our agricultural land".



"The educational visit was indeed nothing less than a boon for the students who had no or little agricultural background as they are now able to comprehend why the rural economy is important for enhancing the capabilities of local communities and how rural development plans should be executed to target vulnerable groups with the aim of improving their wellbeing."

"Educational exposure visits are highly significant for the development students/experts since they need to incorporate their learned knowledge into real-life world in future. These trips complement the course learning as well and should be arranged frequently."



The said visit provided valuable insights to the students about the role and work of RBDC and Lok Sanjh Foundation in Fateh Jang. They did not only observe the on ground efforts and work of these organizations but also enjoyed the great hospitality and cooperation by the host team. Students and organizers of S3H NUST will like to express its sincere appreciation for RBDC for the excellent preparation of the visits and earnest reception. They extend their gratitude to the local representatives for the warm welcome, cooperation and hospitality. Moreover, the reception given to the team, in the visited village, has left an incredible impression on hearts of the visiting team members.





NCS D2021

National Conference on
Security & Development

October 2021



S³H

NUST School of Social Sciences
& Humanities

NUST School of Social Sciences and Humanities (S3H) organized a one-day national conference on ‘Security and Development’ in collaboration with the Department of Development Studies and Government & Public Policy on October 4, 2021.



Pro Rector ACAD

The School of Social Sciences and Humanities of the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), Islamabad organized a one-day national conference on 'Security and Development'. This conference was held at the NUST main campus on October 4, 2021.

The organisers of the said conference were Dr. Farah Naz -- Assistant Professor at the Department of Government and Public Policy and Dr. Muhammad Ammad Khan – Assistant Professor at the Department of Development Studies was the departmental coordinator/representative who facilitated the 'lead person' of this conference.

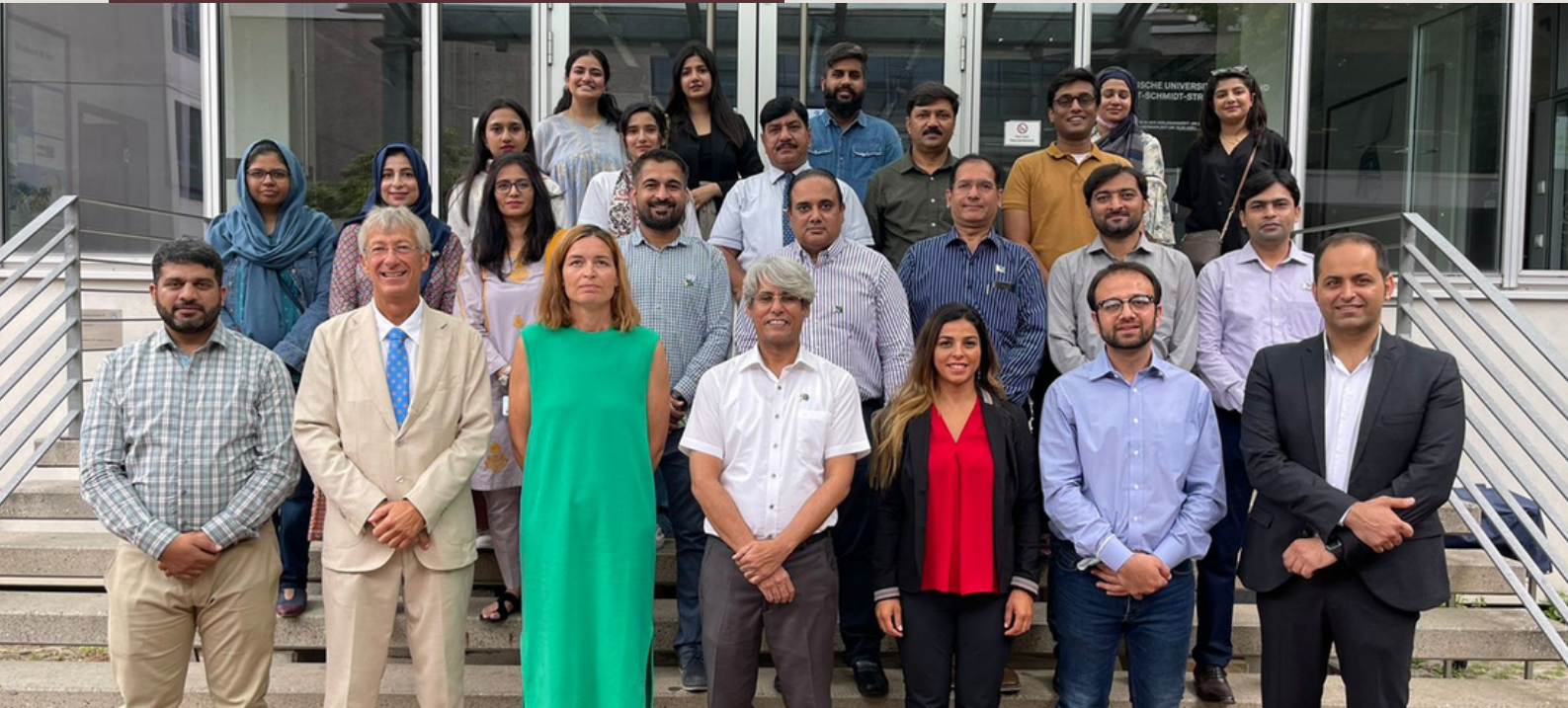
Principal School of Social Sciences and Humanities



Esteemed guests were Dr. Osman Hasan, Pro-Rector Academics and Dr. Syed Kaleem Imam, Inspector General, National Highway & Motorway Police

Summer Workshop at TU Dortmund

**Planning in Pakistan
and Germany –
Responding to
challenges of climate
change through
intercultural dialogue**



Students from MSDS 2021 were selected for a fully funded workshop in Technical University Dortmund, Germany.

Selection was done on the basis of their research proposals

The workshop was conducted from 12th to 21st August 2022. Students from NUST, LCWU and UET presented their research proposals.

Dr. Umer Khayyam from the department of Development Studies supervised the NUSTians throughout the workshop.



Welcome speech by Dr. Umer Khayyam

Ms. Alya Arshad of MSDS 2021 presenting her topic at TU Dortmund University.

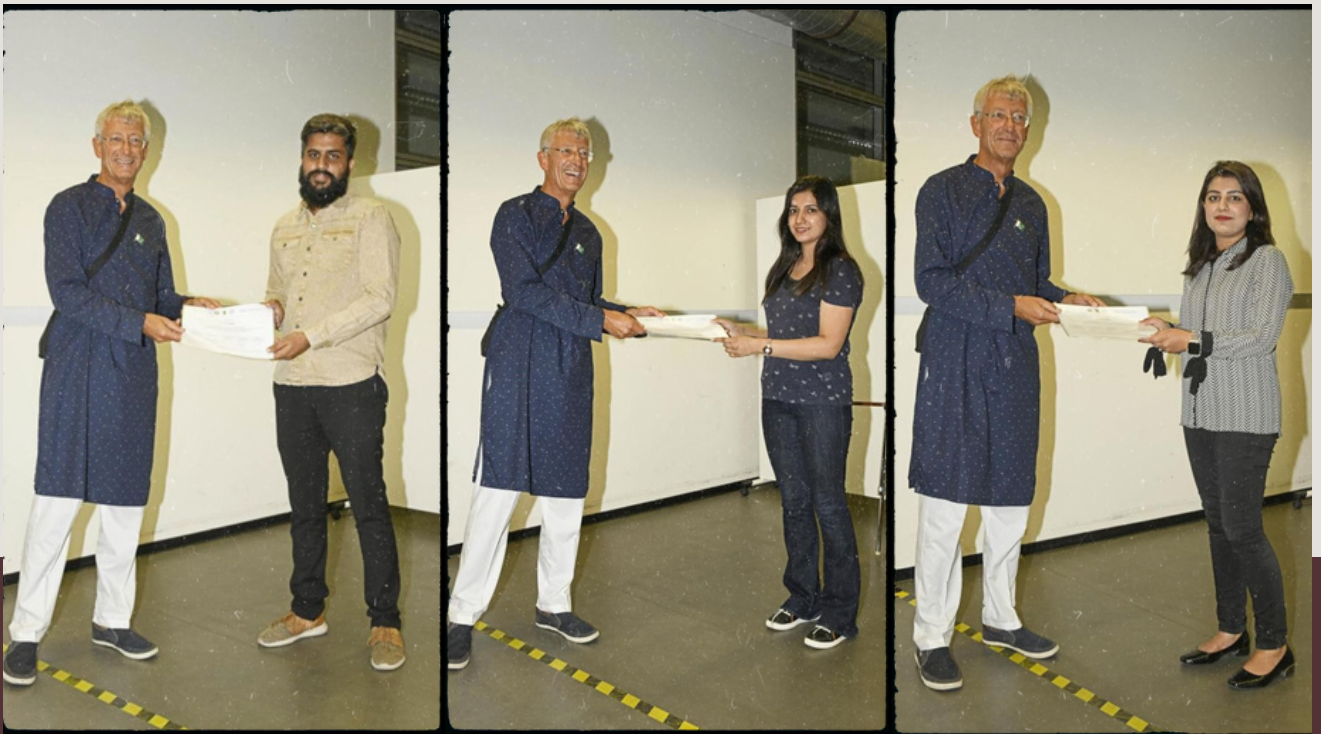


Certificated for the NUST team





Dr. Umer Khayyam
receiving certificate of
participation from Prof.
Gruehn



Students of MSDS 2021 receiving their certificates.

Left to Right: Mr. Osama Malik, Ms. Mahnur, Ms. Alya Arshad



PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS UNDER NEW AFGHAN GOVERNMENT

Dr. Muhammad Ammad Khan, Head Development Studies Department attended one-day seminar on "Pak-Afghan Relations Under New Afghan Government" organized by Pakistan Institute of Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS) on Tuesday 09 Nov 2021.





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