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# NEWSLETTER

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## From the Desk of the Chairman

### ***We are not anywhere near the Covid-19 pandemic endgame***

To understand where Pakistan is today with respect to the Covid-19 pandemic, we should look around the world. This needs to be done, not only to draw lessons from what was done right and wrong by policymakers around the world, but also to be aware of what science is telling us about the future of the pandemic. This is the case in particular about understanding the behavior of the virus's "Delta" variant. That said, I would like to note that the Pakistan government has done well compared to what has occurred across the border in India. A recent report prepared by some

scholars of Indian origin – one of them had held the position of Economic Advisor to the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi – has calculated that the number of deaths associated with the virus in India is ten times what has been reported by the government. The virus has killed 3 to 4 million people rather than the 300,000 claimed by the Indian authorities.

The Covid-19 pandemic will remain with the world for some time. As I write this, in end July 2021, new virus strains have appeared and have set back efforts to contain the disease. It is not yet clear whether the vaccines that are being used to manage the crisis will be fully effective against

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these strains. While the global economy has begun to recover from the shock delivered by the disease in 2020, it is hard to predict what will happen in the future. Scientists worry that their expectation that the pandemic may be heading towards an end in 2021 may not turn out to be the case. Francis S. Collins, director of the National Institute of Health, is not surprised by the rise of infections not just in the United States but across the world. Coronavirus infections in the United States rose nearly 70 percent in a single week in the middle of July 2021.

Several states are rethinking their strategies for dealing with the pandemic. One good example is the state of Singapore; “Our people are battle weary,” wrote a group of Singapore ministers in an opinion essay for *The Strait Times*, in June. The continued, “All are asking: When and how the pandemic ends?” Singapore has

fully vaccinated 49 percent of its population and has cited Israel, which is further ahead, as a model. Israel has focused on severe illness, a tactic that officials have called “soft suppression.”

There is a growing consensus around the globe that people should not expect life to return to normal. Scientists still do not fully understand what is being called the “long Covid”: the long-term symptoms that hundreds of thousands of previously infected patients are still grappling with. They are also uncertain about the duration of the immunity provided by vaccines and how well they protect against newer variants to the virus. Much of the developing world – and that includes Pakistan – continues to face rising infections, allowing the virus the opportunity to replicate, which then increases the risk of more mutations and spread. Only 1 percent of people in low-income countries have received a vaccine dose, according to Our World in Data project. Several countries have decided to give up on what is called the zero-Covid approach.

Examples of appropriate public policy could be found from the way different countries are adjusting to new developments that occur every day. In Britain, for example, in the absence of rules the government was urging people to use “personal responsibility” to ensure safety. Health Secretary Sajid Javid – who tested positive for the coronavirus in middle of July – said that the country needed to “learn to live with the virus.” That approach was despite polls suggesting that the public prefers a gradual approach to reopening. What is important for policymakers is to remain alert and follow developments inside their countries as well as outside.

**Shahid Javed Burki**

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at NetSol, Pakistan



## Message of the Month

Agriculture sector plays pivotal role in growth and development of Pakistan. This particular sector contributes about 20% to the GDP and generates 80% of the total foreign exchange earnings. Punjab

being largest province of Pakistan produces 83% cotton, 80% wheat, 97% rice, 95% sugarcane and 66% mangoes of the total production.

According to vision of the Prime Minister of Pakistan and under leadership of the Chief Minister, Punjab numerous initiatives have been taken by the Government to enhance yield of major crops,

promoting farm mechanization and high efficiency irrigation systems to boost agricultural production. The current Government from the very beginning placed agriculture on top priority with clear understanding of the fact that economic growth and development targets can only be achieved by supporting agriculture sector. Prime Minister’s Agriculture Emergency Program worth Rs. 300

billion was initiated aiming to achieve breakthrough in agricultural production on sustainable basis to ensure food security for the burgeoning population. Major initiatives taken by the Punjab Government during last three years are briefly summarized as under:

- ❖ Implementation of development projects under Prime Minister's Emergency Program to enhance per acre yield of major crops.
- ❖ Issuance of Kissan Card for direct transfer of cash subsidies into farmer's account
- ❖ Subsidy of Rs. Rs 1.50 billion for crops insurance to compensate farmers in case of damage due to natural calamities.

- ❖ Interest free loans of Rs. 45 billion advanced to farmers under E-credit scheme.
- ❖ Registration of 146 new markets under Punjab Agriculture Marketing Regulatory Authority (PAMRA).
- ❖ Establishment of Kissan Platform at 105 Fruit & Vegetable markets to eliminate middle man.
- ❖ 60% subsidy of Rs. 3.62 billion for installation of High Efficiency Irrigation Systems like drip/sprinkler along with 50% subsidy of Rs. 4.2 billion for solar system.
- ❖ Subsidy of Rs. 12.5 billion to farmers on fertilizers.
- ❖ Subsidy of Rs. 4.4 billion for certified seeds and agricultural machinery.
- ❖ Subsidy of Rs. 650 million to provide laser land levelers.
- ❖ Punjab Seed Council approved 147 new varieties of

different crops for cultivation

- ❖ Subsidy of Rs. 5.5 billion for Agriculture Fair Price Shops during Ramazan.

Government of Punjab has also taken effective measures to ensure better returns to farmers for their produce. As a result, during the year 2020-21 Punjab harvested record production of seven crops including wheat, rice, maize, sugarcane, potato, moong and sesamum for which more than Rs. 600 billion have been added to the rural economy. Continuing with farmers' friendly policies of the Government of Punjab, development budget for agriculture sector has been increased by 306% by allocating Rs. 31.47 billion for financial year 2021-22. This will result in enhancing agricultural production, creating employment opportunities for rural youth and to supporting economic growth targets.

**Dr. Asad ur Rehman Gillani**  
Secretary Agriculture Punjab



## The Commercialization of Space: Challenges and Opportunities

The month of July 2021 is of landmark significance in human history as man successfully ventured to launch commercial operations beyond the edge of planet earth's atmosphere. The Virgin Galactic Unity vehicle and

the Blue Origin New Shepherd rocket on 11 July and 20 July 2021 respectively accomplished the mission and perfectly landed back to the ground. It is estimated that the cost of Virgin Galactic into space was worth \$841 million while that of Blue Origin entailed around \$5.5 billion.

There has been an admixture of responses all over the world, both pro and anti to this remarkable scientific feat. of dare and dexterity. Many viewed the future rise of commercial space tourism

as ostentatious exhibition of wealth by a few billionaires in the midst of serious global crises. There are over 735 million people living in extreme poverty on less than \$1.90 a day; disease and pandemic has ravaged the world; more than 195 million people alone are infected by COVID-19 with only less than 1 percent vaccination coverage in many developing countries. Climate change poses serious threats and limits to the life-sustaining resources of the planet earth for human life. According to the Swiss Re Group



(world's leading insurance providers), climate change could wipe off up to 18% of GDP off the worldwide economy by 2050 if global temperatures rise by 3.2°C. The World Bank Group report of 2020 confirms that the UN estimates that \$5 trillion to \$7 trillion per year between 2015 and 2030 is needed to achieve a set of SDGs. There is thus an urgent need to deploy and utilize financial, human, scientific and technological resources to address these development challenges instead of squandering them away on space adventures.

The others regard the onset of 2021 space age as the rapid progression of earth and atmospheric sciences, astronomy, astrophysics and space technologies for a prudent, rational and sustainable management of the planet's depleting natural resource and build a prosperous and more equitable future for the posterity. For example, space-enabled agricultural products and services could lead to precision and innovative agriculture, accurate monitoring of crops, use of satellite data for land use; and effective targeting of the vulnerable and food insecure groups.

In the health sector, information from remote-sensing technologies could be used to map and monitor disease patterns, introduce disease early warning systems and better disease-control planning. Tele-health could make health care services accessible to the poor residing in remote areas not to speak of effective management of local, regional and national disasters.

However, the major concern associated with such technological and scientific advances is how to curb the propensity of over-exploiting the commercial opportunities in the rat race to amass wealth to the

neglect of the deleterious repercussions for the planet and its inhabitants.

There is indeed a need to institute a consensual global regulatory framework which is binding on the member states to (a) mediate between the trade-off between the resource use and the immensity of real development challenges for the present and the potential gains for the distant future; (b) check the unbridled pursuit of space exploration and exploitation by the rich for myopic hegemonic or profit gains; and (c) save the space from tonnes and loads of pollutants. The United Nations and its Commission on Science and Technology has to be mandated to spearhead the formulation of such a globally binding framework for space exploration and use.



**Shahid Najam,  
Vice Chairman**

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of  
Public Policy at NetSol, Pakistan



## Research & Consultancy Wing

### Sustainability Requires Measuring What Matters

A sustainable world will require fundamental transformations in designing policies and seeking outcomes. In the economic sphere, we will have to discard the notion that economic growth, as measured by the gross domestic product (GDP), is an appropriate metric for achieving human goals on a sustainable basis. Nobel Laureate Joseph Stiglitz has been arguing for alternative metrics for some time. In its place, he proposes alternative systems which:

- Respect ecological limits
- Seek well-being multi-dimensionally
- Utilize local governance for defining instruments and outcomes.

Creating a sustainable and equitable world will require integrating the economic sphere with the political, the social, the cultural and the ecological spheres. We can learn from Indigenous people who have lived sustainably respecting nature and all forms of life. By over-stressing the ecological

systems of earth, humanity has created the risks and challenges emanating from Climate Change. Clearly, fundamental transformations will face a deeply entrenched status-quo that will retaliate in both developed and developing societies.

The COVID pandemic is a catastrophe which may be used to break the stranglehold of the status-quo. Without appropriate adjustments in our interactions with the ecological systems of the planet, and without recognition of the needs and contributions of non-human life forms (plants; animals.), we will not have a sustainable world for all life forms. The entire earth is experiencing signals of what is to come. Unbearably high temperatures in the US and Canada; torrential rain and floods from overflowing rivers in Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands; storms all over with intensities not experienced before; melting glaciers altering the hydrological cycles and weather regulations systems.

In addition, we are also experiencing increasing inequalities in wealth, both internationally and intra-nationally producing increased social tension never experienced before. We are observing political polarization and international policies of the rich driven by values emphasizing competition instead of cooperation. What we need are policies which create

dignified and secure livelihoods of seven billion people heading towards ten billion. We need to think globally and treat the earth as one integrated ecosystem with capacity limits. We have to design policies which can challenge unsustainable consumption patterns.

Within rich countries we have massive waste of food while the poor in other countries are hugely food insecure. We need investments in physical and human infrastructure at levels which humanity has never done before. And the infrastructure investments are not only in the developed countries.

This will not be easy. But it is necessary if the human race is to survive in a way that the current generation leaves a habitable earth for all future generations.

**Tariq Husain**  
**Member, BOD**

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of  
Public Policy at NetSol, Pakistan



## Education and Learning wing

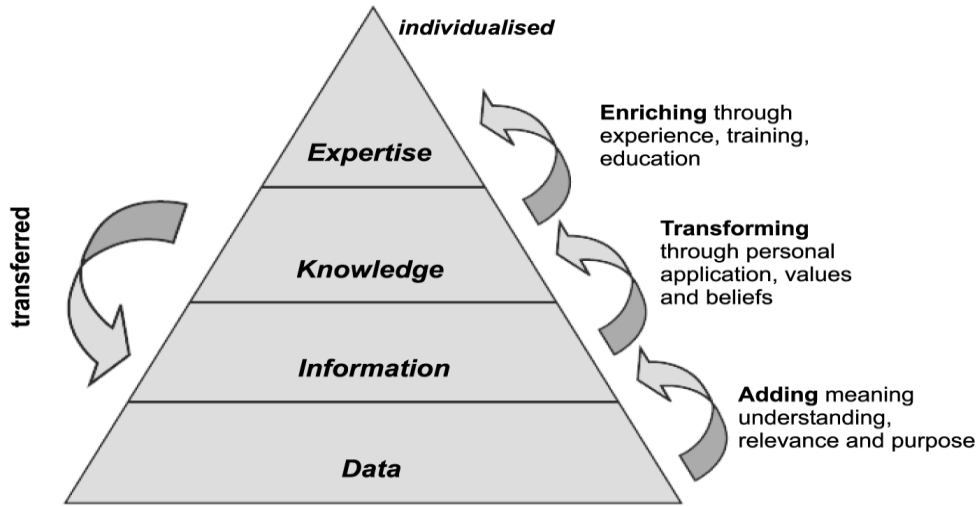
### Learning Administrative in Knowledge Management

Learning administration is a procedure that changes singular information in hierarchical information. The motivation behind this study is to demonstrate that by making, aggregating, sorting out and utilize information, associations can enhance authoritative execution. The effect of learning administration in execution was tried through basic condition. For some organizations, the fast innovative change time is likewise the season of relentless battle to keep up an upper hand. Clearly learning is gradually turning into the most imperative element of generation, nearby work, area and capital. The overview was led among organizations with more than 50 representatives in Slovenia and Croatia. In Slovenia, the example included 1339 organizations and the reaction rate was 9.6%. In Croatia, 200 reactions were gotten from 1,750 dispersed polls with a reaction rate of 11.4%. Basic condition demonstrating

(SEM) used to experimentally test the hypothesis. SEM is a factual method for testing and assessing the relationship easygoing use in a blend of measurable information and subjective causal considering. An immediate aftereffect of examination it is likewise a recently characterized learning administration development model comprises of three observationally tried builds. The new calculated model covering data innovation, hierarchical components and information. This model does not just affirms that the decision developed is a decent measure for characterizing learning administration development, but also advances into a huge scale that puts the association in a 0 - 4 levels diagram. There is a surprising study that covers all parts of learning administration development appraisal.

The conclusion is that there are three segments for information administration i.e. is data innovation, authoritative components, information. The connections between these segments are appeared in the primary theory and calculated model affirmed through exact exploration. Experimental information demonstrates that the hierarchical components, (for example, society, atmosphere and cooperation) impact the components of learning with regards to learning

administration. Through authoritative changes can influence the level of information sharing and application, and in this way enhance the act of KM. The positive roundabout effect of IT applications for selection of information administration through hierarchical components is additionally affirmed. Hence, the investigation of a portion of the issues that IT issues actually enhance KM. Codification learning in data frameworks, databases and information archives do not ensure productive, or can possibly influence it decidedly. The concentrate additionally demonstrated that there is no immediate effect on learning, or in a roundabout way a through hierarchical components as an empowering agent for better participation between individuals in association, inspiration of individuals in the association and the procedure perspective of the associations. The aftereffects of experimental studies have also affirmed the beneficial outcome of information administration on authoritative execution. These outcomes can be utilized to enhance the information administration practices of every association and each of the learning elements. Conceivable applications incorporate activities business rebuilding process, human advancement capital, mapping aptitudes, the presentation of more groups, cross-practical work, more noteworthy accentuation on collaboration, the presentation of more formal channels for the trading of learning.



Source: Bender and Fish (2000)

**Dr. Muhammad Ejaz Sandhu**  
**Director Operations, Education & Learning**  
 The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at NetSol



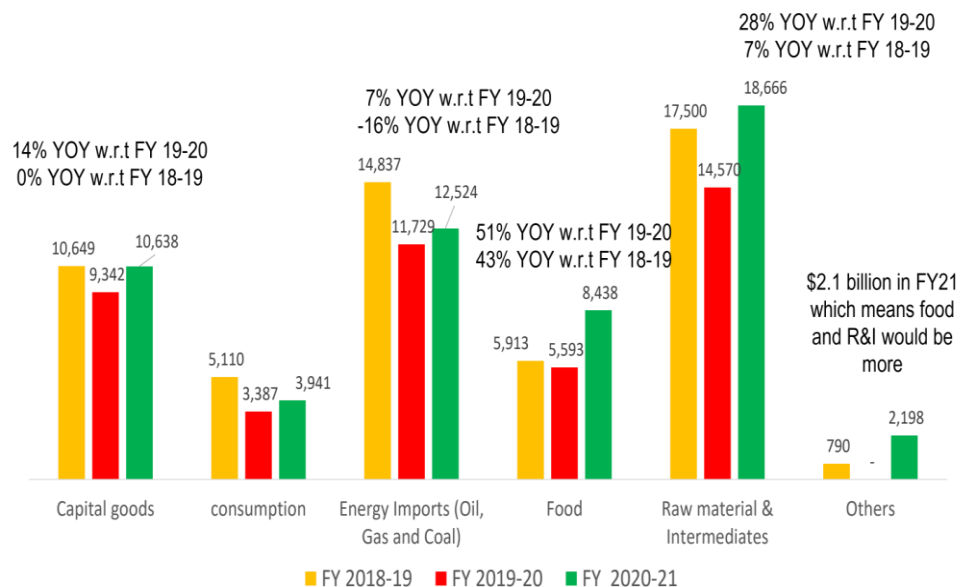
## Education & Learning Wing

### Rising Imports and the Subsequent Inflation

From all the positive talk emanating from growth figures of 4.8 and rising foreign exchange reserves, there is also anxiety about how the imports are behaving as Pakistan Bureau of Statistics released the numbers for imports the month of June for FY 2021. At the same time, the numbers released by the State Bank of Pakistan show that the current account has also turned into annual deficit of \$ 1.8 billion from a surplus up to April 2021. Although, the level is still considerably lower than level of \$ 4.4 billion in 2019-20 the rising

imports are emerging cause of concern. The decline in import bill owing to decline in GDP growth, international prices including historic low crude oil prices is already in the rearview mirror. The imports for the FY 2020-21

reached 56.4 \$ billions, 28 percent higher with respect to FY 2019-20 and 7 percent higher than pre-Covid year 2018-19. The imports in month of June 2021 are highest ever at \$ 6.3 billion which are 78 percent higher than June 2020.



Source: Economic Survey of Pakistan



## Imports Composition FY2018-19 to FY 2020-21 \$ Millions

FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21
54,799	44,553	56,405

Although, all the product groups registered increase in imports compared to FY 2019-20. Compared to FY 2018-19 the imports of consumer products have declined by 23 percent while imports of raw materials and intermediates (excluding oil) have increased by 7 percent. While increase in import of raw materials and intermediates is encouraging, the growth in food imports is alarmingly high at 51 percent compared to 2019-20 and 43 percent compared to 2018-19.

Next year the government is already set to import about 4 million metric tons of wheat at higher rates than last year. The import of oil is also expected to increase in FY 2021 with higher expected GDP growth rate at 5.2 percent and higher average oil prices compared to last year. Therefore, given the rising oil and food prices in the world market the imports are expected to increase to about 65 \$ billions in FY 2021-22.

A sustained rise in international prices including oil prices may push economies out of the frying pan and into the fire with double digit current account deficit as opposed to projected current account deficit of \$ 2 billion in Annual Plan. Furthermore, with unexpected growth in Pakistan's imports has come an unexpected spurt of inflation in Wholesale Price Index (WPI) which has accelerated to 20.9% in June 2021. The pass through to consumer price index in coming months coupled with rising food import prices such as palm oil, tea and pulses will further increase the already growing impact of imported inflation on the economy. Overall, the poor would be compelled to tighten their belts as prices will rise much faster than expected.

**Atr un Nisa**  
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## Education & Learning Wing

### Is it Pakistan's Time to enjoy an International Political Clout on the Horizon?

In a recent article, former Indian career diplomat M. K. Bhadra Kumar praises Pakistan's strategy of effective bilateralism and simultaneously casts serious doubts on recent Indian diplomatic choices. In a highly balanced tone he estimates that Pakistan has made a major

advance by entering into the recent New QUAD framework with the US, Afghanistan, and Uzbekistan, focused on geo-economics, thus spreading its influence in the Central Asian Region and extending the Pak-US relations beyond the purely strategic/security paradigm. The US has recently formed quad groups one of the most major one is the Indo- Pacific partnership between India, Australia, Japan and the US- the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue. But, he labels it insipid. By contrast, the new quad has focused upon the Afghan region and its peripheries. This indicates the US's efforts to

it hyper-power image somewhat in the face of its embarrassing retreat from the Afghan theatre of war, along with the renewed endeavor to keep its relevance in the region, this time through creating economic linkages- something China seems to have learnt almost 42 years ago after fighting its last major war- a three week bloody Sino-Vietnam conflict. Since then its focus has completely shifted to a mutually beneficial economic & commercial collaboration. The result has been the most extraordinary poverty reduction of the Chinese people in recorded history.



While analyzing Bhadra kumar's article, Moscow-based American political observer Andrew Korybko highlights that "Russia, Pakistan and the US have eventually come to embrace the geo-economic perspective that was overshadowed by the prism of geopolitics previously. In practical terms, this refers to the new geo-economic grand strategy that Pakistan's political, diplomatic and military leaders jointly unveiled during the inaugural Islamabad Security Dialogue in March, Russia's Greater Eurasian Partnership (GEP) vision, and the new quadrilateral framework that the US has established between itself, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Uzbekistan."

The recent US' performance in Afghanistan has cast an immense shadow on the soft image and hard power of the US. The Afghan Taliban, despite their perceived backwardness and rudimentary military equipment (until very recently) seem to be advancing very rapidly against apparently insurmountable odds.

This newly US sponsored quad is an attempt to minimize the US' precipitate fall in American global standing. Concurrently, it

is a foreign policy advance for Pakistan, in its success to revive bilateralism, and commitment to regional connectivity and preventive diplomacy aimed at fostering peace.

The former Indian ambassador expresses that Pakistan is bound to benefit more from new quad than India would from the old Asia-Pacific quad. This is true considering peace and stability in the central Asian region and neighboring Afghanistan is in Pakistan's and CPEC's best interests. He also feels the Chinese would also welcome US' contribution to regional peace, thus helping Chinese build rapid international connectivity less disturbed by the threats of extremism and regional terrorism.

Moreover, the new quad may also be seen as a counterweight to the Chinese BRI. The former Indian diplomat writes, "potentially, Washington may have use for the US-Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan as a 'counterweight' to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization which is dominated by China and Russia." This however is a premature conclusion.

The success of the newly quad is heavily dependent on the confidence of possible investors. Whatever the future might hold, it appears to be an attempt by one major power to distance

Pakistan from comprehensive collaboration with the other.

The evolving mosaic of geopolitical dynamics does not offer a clear outcome at the moment. China and Pakistan have reportedly planned to expose globally on the highest forums the involvement of the US and India in the Dasu incident where 9 Chinese engineers and 3 Pakistanis died in a bus explosion this month. Pakistan has recently signed a gas pipeline accord with Russia which signals the deepening bonhomie between the two. Also, Pakistan is perhaps the key front-line state in the Afghan peace settlement saga that involves many stakeholders with diverging interests. Only time will tell how things unfold and which entities have stood on the right side of history in the time to come.

**Aiman Adnan**  
**Research Fellow**

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of  
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## Knowledge Management Wing

On 21st June 2021, University of Lahore (UOL) team visited BIPP office and attended a meeting with Dr. Ejaz Sandhu (Director Operations, Education and Learning BIPP). Both parties discussed the developments on the following areas of collaboration:

- Preparations for launch and dissemination of BIPP and UOL publications, knowledge products and research reports.
- Consulting, from time to time, between the experts and resource persons of both the Parties in the design and conduct of research and for peer reviews of the research work.
- Supporting and promoting the development of robust policy frameworks based on high quality analysis and evidence based empirical work.
- Focus on research activities revolving around economic, political, social and cultural dimensions of Pakistan and

special focus on Kashmir Issue oriented research

- Internship program will be a point of interest for both parties
- Work on joint ventures that will act as a source of revenue generation and conducting joint ventures, seminars and customized trainings
- Both parties plan to organize an international conference in the month of September 2021

Participants agreed to hold such meeting again in future.



On 28th June, BIPP hosted a meeting with the officials of University of Management and Technology Lahore (UMT) at BIPP office. Ms. Aisha Azhar, Director & Assistant Professor, School of Governance and Society (SGS) UMT and Mr. Ahsan were welcomed by Ms. Aiman Adnan (Research Fellow BIPP) and informed about vision and the activities going on at BIPP.

Participants discussed the areas of collaborations for future with a specific focus on research activities, internship programs and joint ventures.

Brg (R) Mansoor Saeed, Senior Member Advisory Board of Centre for Global Strategic Studies (CGSS) Islamabad visited BIPP office on 1st July 2021 and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public policy at NetSol. The session was headed by Mr. Shahid Najam (Vice Chairman BIPP).



The Agreement is intended to develop and broaden the relations in areas of mutual interest between the abovementioned institutions. Additionally, cooperative initiatives and exchanges particularly in areas of Education, R&D, Training and Development, Agriculture, Gender Development, Climate Change, Economy, and Information Technology were encouraged. Moreover, Dr. Ejaz Sandhu (Director Operations, Education & Learning - BIPP), Ms. Aiman Adnan (Research Fellow), Ms. Samra Naz (Assistant Manager Knowledge Management), Mr. Ahsan Sarwar



(Consultant BIPP) and Ms. Farah Khan participated in the session. Mr. Khalid Taimur (Executive Director CGS), Ms. Palwasha, Ms. Maryam Riaz, and Ms. Laraib Fatima attended the session virtually.

The tradition of celebration was upheld at BIPP, as office members gathered for an Eid Milan Party and Birthday celebration of Dr. Muhammad Ejaz Sandhu on 23rd July 2021. With a cake cutting ceremony and light refreshments, the Vice Chairman inaugurated the party.

Along with Mr. Shahid Najam, Dr. Muhammad Ejaz Sandhu,

Prof. Sajjad Haider (Executive Director, Indus Foundation), Mr. Ahsan Sarwar (BIPP consultant), Mr. Shahzad Akhtar (BIPP Consortium Partner and Managing Director, Strateasy Consulting), Ms. Asma Umar (CEO, Strateasy Consulting), Mr. Rahmat Ullah (Executive Director, Institute of Research and Promotions, IRP), Ms. Samra Naz (Assistant Manager IT and Knowledge Management Wing-BIPP), and BIPP's supporting staff were also present.



**Samra Naz**  
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The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of  
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## Education & Learning Wing

### Pakistan and the SDGs?

Countries of the world are now struggling to meet the goals of 2030 and 2050 as pointed out in the Paris Agreement. The most challenging tasks are to control the greenhouse gas emissions, food insecurity, clean energy deficit and agricultural challenges, water scarcity and climate change. The nature of challenges varies across states and policy sectors involved. SDG's aim is to end poverty, ensure prosperity for all, and protect the planet, which mean there is an obligation placed on all states of the international community to play their part.

Where does Pakistan stand in meeting the SDG's? An overarching approach to SDGs is generally considered more effective rather than a single goal approach as all goals are co-dependent. Involvement of stakeholders and civil society in the consultation and implementation phase of SDG's should be strengthened for the

process to be successful. To practice good governance, Pakistan has to involve the people at the grass-root level to develop a 'collectively conscious mindset' and for creating awareness about environmental damages. Government has to build trust between government and non-government actors. In some Southeast Asian countries like Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam, public participation is organized through working committees. For Indonesia, for example, it is important to take into account paternalistic relationship between government and the public which shapes interactions. It involves a community discussion which is integrated with development planning. Through these instruments' citizens can, in theory, shape their local living environment.

One major challenge in Pakistan is that of capacity weakness, pointing to the need of urgent capacity building. The gaps on national level are vast, multi-level and multi-dimensional. Rapid urbanization that is taking place lacks green infrastructure. What is the state doing about growth in slums and inadequate housing? How is the state taking responsibility for promoting the use of public transport, increasing accessibility of civic services for all residents, improving safety, and reducing

emissions? Some countries in the Asian region withdraw unsustainable proportions of their freshwater supply, exceeding half of the total water availability e.g., 74.4 per cent (the highest) in Pakistan in 2008.

Local government must be empowered to introduce change. Critical challenges lie ahead in achieving these goals and Pakistan lags behind in contributing towards a sustainably developed environment.

**Sana Ahmad**  
**Research Assistant**  
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## Education & Learning Wing

### COVID-19 and a New Wave of Securitization

The novel COVID-19 pandemic has not only dramatically altered the functioning of the international system but has also affected the lives of individuals drastically. Over 4 million people have lost their lives to this deadly virus around the world. Simultaneously, the global economy has lost over \$4 trillion to the pandemic, driving many domestic economies towards recession and alarming levels of unemployment. This situation has led states to create policies which reflect their 'securitized' approach.

According to securitization theory, a securitizing actor identifies a particular issue as a security threat; a threat that overrides normal issues and justifies to the relevant audience that it is legitimate to take some extraordinary measures to deal with the existential threat. These extraordinary measures may include taking actions which

violate the normal bounds of political rules, breaching the privacy of people through surveillance measures, and even international treaties. This also implies that national security policy can never have a well-defined boundary as it can be altered by politicians and policy-makers according to circumstances.

The politics of the securitization of COVID-19 have been divided into two discourses: international organizations like WHO called the pandemic a 'common threat to the citizens of the world', while nation-states consider it as a threat to their 'national security'. The latter was declared by the former US President, Donald Trump, in his Executive Order. States came up with policies to enact extraordinary measures, for example the US, China, and Australia has implemented legislation that restricts international travel through closing borders. Countries have also shut their internal borders and have imposed strict lockdowns to restrict the movement of people. The execution of these policies is made possible through the police and imposition of strict fines upon violation. On the other hand, international treaties like the on-site inspection of the 2010 New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty between the US and Russia, and multilateral meetings like the Nuclear

Non-Proliferation Treaty review have been postponed due to the pandemic. Hence, not only individuals, but global actors too have accepted the wave of securitization of COVID-19.

This increasing level of securitization of the COVID-19 pandemic, with an upsurge in the reported cases around the world as the outbreak is evolving, raises questions as to the extent with which the new wave will affect the security environment in the international arena.

**Minaahil Kamran**  
Research Intern

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of  
Public Policy at NetSol, Pakistan



## Education & Learning Wing

### Domestic Violence: Role of Community Policing in Pakistan

The Covid-19 pandemic changed the landscape of crime patterns in Pakistan. Countries where social safety nets are not enough to secure the necessities of life, the increased unemployment rate due to the pandemic and the stay-at-home policies have increased the opportunities of domestic crime.

During these unprecedented times, according to a recent Gallup survey 17.3 million people in Pakistan lost their jobs. Under tense situations, the incidence of physical violence is increasing and adding to human crisis. The depression and stress from economic pressures seems to have deepened the domestic violence sphere during the lockdown phase. A drastic increase in the cases of violence against women can be observed.

Policing, rather than being an

instrument of control and exercise of state authority, needs to consider itself as an instrument of facilitation and service delivery to tackle the hurdles and uplift the social security. Community Policing is to create a safer living environment. This concept is based on a partnership between police and community, in which both parties share the responsibility to identify, reduce, eliminate and prevent problems concerning community safety and order.

Japanese community police force operating through police boxes helps officers better understand the security conditions and concerns of residents in specific areas. The positive image and good ties with the neighborhood allow a cooperative environment thus helping in crime prevention. All successful implementations of this model follow a robust local body system focusing on the problems of the area and strategies to address them. A widespread approach often causes hindrances as understanding the crux issues becomes difficult.

Similarly, in Pakistan specialized training and the model of community policing can help tackle the issue of rising domestic violence cases. The Chicago model can provide guidelines for policy makers in Pakistan, their

emphasis is on anchoring community partnerships and problem-solving to contain incidents of domestic violence. The Domestic Violence Liaison Officers act as connecting points to raise community awareness through public education activities such as participating in health fairs, marches, and speeches at public gathering points. Further, they encourage local activities, school councils, and other community organizations to saturate the neighborhood with domestic violence information to obtain emergency services. To contain such incidents in Pakistan and specifically in larger cities minor but meaningful steps can produce good results.

Practices of community policing such as the jirga system, thikri pahra, gated communities or vigilance committees to curb drugs in education institutions already exist in the country. However, the effectiveness and development of these practices are under question. Pakistan lacks programs such as National Reassurance Policing Program and Neighborhood Watch Schemes for identifying and prioritising local crime and disorder. Organizations such as the Citizen Police Liaison Committee are making constant efforts to bridge the gap through projects such as Neighborhood Care, however, the lack of funds and resources pose a constant challenge and limit their scope.

**Mahum Rasheed**  
**Research Intern**

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at NetSol, Pakistan



## Education & Learning Wing

### The Foreboding Local Impact of Climate Change

In late June, temperatures in Jacobabad, Sindh surged to 52 degrees Celsius, a threshold beyond what humans can withstand, decades prior to predicted by climate change models.

However, this is not the first time the city has experienced extreme heat. Jacobabad has a reputation as the hottest city in Pakistan. Being located along the Tropic of Cancer, the sun is nearly overhead during the summer months. The situation is worsened by the humid air blowing in from the Arabian Sea. As a result, summer temperatures usually hover around the 50-degree mark. The 52-degree threshold has also previously been crossed in in July 1987, June 2005, June 2010, and July 2012.

Despite the regularity of the heat, it is in no way an adapted norm.

In a 2020 article, researchers Colin Raymond, Tom Matthews, and Radley M. Horton reported readings of 35 degrees Celsius on a wet bulb. Wet bulbs are thermometers covered in a damp cloth to account for humidity. Though these readings are lower than dry bulb readings, the combination of heat and humidity causes them to be “beyond prolonged human physiological tolerance.” At this temperature the human body is no longer able to cool itself.

Thus, causing fatal health effects for the city’s 200,000 inhabitants. During June and July hospitals fill with patients suffering from heat strokes and heat related illnesses. Heat caused deaths are also common. The crisis is made intolerable given the frequent power cuts.

In order to cope, those who can afford to either rely on solar powered air conditioning or migrate to nearby cooler cities. Unfortunately, the poorer masses are forced to rely primitively and ineffectively on blocks of ice. Thus, heightening the socio-economic disparities.

During heat waves, people desert the streets and shut themselves inside. There is a significant halt in economic activity which may contribute to higher crime rates as people resort to petty crime either to provide food for the family or in a bid to procure fans or water coolers.

These extreme temperature peaks are not mere one-time freak incidents but the prolonged effects of climate change affecting the nation as a whole. The local impact is merely more pronounced in Jacobabad due to its location. What’s more, researchers expect the climatic conditions to worsen across the nation and become even more deadly in Jacobabad.

Serious government action is needed to offset the decade’s worth of environmental damage which has set us on this hellish path. Yet, there has been an appalling lack of serious recognition by the government. One administration official is reported to have said about the crisis in Jacobabad, “The people are used to it, they have developed a resistance.”

Climate action is no longer an option but a necessity; the government and public would be wise to recognize it immediately lest we want to continue our own undoing.

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## Education & Learning Wing

### Parental Protection Ordinance; Prevention of Forced Eviction

President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Dr. Arif Alvi, employing the power vested to him by the constitution of the state under Article 89, passed the Parental Protection Ordinance 2021. Under this constitution, the President possesses the power to promulgate ordinances when the parliament is not in session and the circumstances provide it necessary to take immediate actions. The issuance of an ordinance is not a routine matter for a state with a parliamentary form of government; rather it is an act of power to be taken in exceptional circumstances.

The Parental Protection Ordinance (PPO) 2021 was passed to curb the forced eviction of parents from the home by making the eviction liable to punishment under the law.

According to the ordinance, parents would be protected, by the law, to reside in the house even if their siblings have the property registered under their names and have rented the house to them. Moreover, parents possessing the ownership rights of the property could ask the children to vacate their house. Failure to do so in the given time period would result in either 30-days imprisonment or a fine, or both. In regards to the eviction of children, the Deputy Commissioners of the districts have been given the authority to proceed under the law if the notice is not complied with by the children. Moreover, the police have been given the authority to arrest without a warrant but the right to appeal has been granted to both the parties. A one-year jail term is applicable to anyone who forcefully evicts their parents from their homes. According to federal data, 25.2% of parents in the federal capital are prone to physical assault. This data depicts a scenario of horrendous acts against the most vulnerable segment of the society that needs immediate action to be taken to curb such condemnable practices.

Jurists and human rights defenders have objected to the issuance of the legislation via ordinance as it bypasses the parliamentary democratic activities. These objections were

based on the claim that despite its substantive nature, the sensitivity of the issue was ignored. It seemed that the need for social research and expert input along with the significance of the parliamentary committees and its debates in this regard were brushed aside. Nevertheless, a case has already been registered under the ordinance in Bahawalpur where a blind elderly man was forcefully evicted from his house by his son. Such an ordinance proves to be critical to punishing such offenders; the projection of 44 million elderly people by 2050 in the country highlights the need for such significant steps to be taken by the government to counter the growing proportion of offences against the elderly population.

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## Mission Statement

IPP's mission is to improve welfare of the citizenry with particular emphasis on identifying policy measures that will lead to inclusive growth, socio-economic stability and sustainable development, besides fully harnessing the potential for regional and global integration.

## Partners

