

NEWS LETTER



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“ We are indeed in the midst of worst crises of immense magnitude and proportions. History will judge how we as a nation deal with them.

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Shahid Javed Burki
Chairman

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute
of Public Policy at NetSol

COP 29 at Baku, Azerbaijan

This year's COP, Conference of the Parties or COP, was held at Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. The countries that are committed to attending these annual meetings do so in the belief that they would be able to put pressure on the world's rich to provide more support to poor countries for dealing with the climate disasters that are now evident from global warming. Many countries have been hit by

floods and heavy rains. Sea levels have risen.

The location was agreed upon after a number of countries opted out for consideration. The decision to go to that Central Asian state was controversial because of the way it was treating its Armenian minority. The conference concluded on Sunday, November 24 after reaching an agreement to triple the flow of funds to help developing countries adopt clean energy policies and implement programs designed to reduce the emission of global warming gases. Under the agreement rich countries pledged to reach their support for the low income to \$300 billion a year by the year 2035. If this goal were to be realized, it would be three times the current average of \$100 billion a year.

However, experts believe that the developing world needs much more than the pledged amount – \$ 1.3 trillion a year. It was the Paris meeting of COP held in 2015 that set the target of 1.5 degrees centigrade above the levels reached in the pre-industrial period to keep the globe from experiencing disastrous global warming. The deal struck at Baku did not please the representatives of the Global South – the term now used for the developing world. Chandni Raina, the delegate representing India, now the world's most populous country tore into agreement. It is a paltry sum, I am sorry to say; we cannot accept it," she said. That sentiment was shared by most representatives from the Global South who were troubled by the election of Donald Trump on November 5, 2024.

The Baku agreement is not legally binding. This was the approach adopted at Paris when the countries attending the meeting accepted the target of 1.5 degree above the preindustrial level as something that should not be breached. It was agreed that binding targets for

individual countries should not be adopted. The member nations agreed to develop their climate control plans and programs and present them to the international community for review and comments. It was also agreed that member countries would meet every year where experts would have the opportunity to reveal new findings about climate change.

Trump is expected to renege on any commitments made by the United States delegation that attended the Baku meeting. He has threatened to withdraw his country from the landmark Paris agreement the way he had pulled out of the agreement with Iran that would have resulted in Tehran giving up its plans to develop a nuclear arsenal.

The Baku meeting was held while global gas emissions soared to record 57 gigatons in 2023 and they are not expected to decline. Collectively, nations have been so slow to reduce their use of fossil fuels that most experts regard the 1.5-degree Celsius goal as practically unattainable. Most countries have failed to develop programs for implementing the Paris agreement. China is responsible for 30 percent of global emissions and for nearly all the world's growth in emissions over the past decade.

At the last year's climate summit held in Dubai, oil and gas producing Arab nations acknowledged for the first time the link between fossil fuels and global warming and agreed to "transition away" from fossil fuels by mid-century. However, at Baku, the Saudis made a serious effort to walk away from that pledge. Azerbaijan's president Ilham Aliyev upbraided Western governments and media, accusing them of hypocrisy. He pointed out that Europe buys much of his country's gas and still lectures his country from transitioning away from fossil fuels.



Shahid Najam
Vice Chairman

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute
of Public Policy at NetSol

The Psychopathic Propensity of Pakistan's Politics

Pakistan's politics have become increasingly polarized, malicious and vindictive ever since the launch of PDM 1 government on 10 April, 2022 and more recently the illegitimate coalition of power-hungry corrupt and unscrupulous politicians increasingly extolled by instrumentalized media, abetted by deep state and assisted by tamed election commission, lame judiciary and excessively subservient bureaucracy. The adverse consequences, regrettably, go much beyond legislative gridlock, economic decline, resurgence of insurgency, mass political disengagement, denial of fundamental human rights and recurrent violation of country's Constitution.

It is an obvious undeniable fact that the results of the Feb 8, 2024 elections were manipulated through unprecedented and ferocious misuse of power, persecution and perpetration to deny the collective will of the people and install those who do not represent voters' mandate. The cumulative discontent, injustice and obsessive negation of democratic political process, led to the PTI's protest in Islamabad on 24 November despite lethal crackdown, shut down of mobile internet services, mass detentions, and alarming rhetoric against PTI protesters. Then what a shame, the entire nation witnessed in awe and horror and in a state of disbelief, the tyranny and brutality unleashed by the government on 26 Nov 2026 to callously crush the political opponents,

inflicting heavy casualties of the citizens through indiscriminate use of batons, boots and guns in the dark depths of the night! The fateful day has left an indelible imprint on the political history of the country. The contempt, disdain and disrespect assiduously exhibited by those at the helm of affairs to the victims, their families and sympathizers while justifying or concealing the abominable act speaks volumes of the propensity of the country's political and governance ethos decaying to an abject state of psychopathy, narcissism and sadistic perversion.

The escalation of violence and pattern of intolerance to deny the freedom of peaceful assembly throughout the country is a cause for serious concern and warrants a genuine introspection especially by those who presently exercise the real decision-making power to guide the future destiny of the country. As a nation we need to ponder and reflect resolutely:

- Does the institutional interest or the interest of coterie supersede the national interest?
- Is the mandate of the people to exercise their political and economic choice and determine a shared future destiny more important or the selfish pursuits of a myopic self-serving elite?
- Do the administrative solutions - use of ruthless might and coffers of illicit money - provide a sustainable remedy for resolution political problems and long-standing deficit in political space?
- Is the Constitution which serves as the basic framework to guide and enjoin on various organs of the state their respective roles and responsibilities to be respected in letter and spirit to avoid its ad nauseam and ad infinitum violation to ensure safe, secure and prosperous Pakistan?

We are indeed in the midst of worst crises of immense magnitude and proportions. History will judge how we as a nation deal with them. It is high time to acknowledge and concede that a democratic order which represents the collective aspirations of the people of Pakistan is the only way forward.



Prof. Dr. Mohammad Nizamuddin
Chairperson, BOD KITAAS
Pro-Rector, Superior University

Speed School Programs to Address the Challenges of Out-of-School Children (OOSC) in Pakistan

In the aftermath of recent political and economic challenges, the imperative is clear—swift and effective action. We need transformative ideas and action plans to address the pressing issue of out-of-school children in Pakistan as we have 27 million children out of school children, which constitute 12% of the population, as per the government recorded figures.

The urgency of this matter cannot be overstated. Looking ahead, with a population projected to reach 270 million in five years, and a birth rate of 2.55%, the number of out-of-school children (OOSC) could escalate to a staggering approximately 57 million. This looming crisis calls for an ambitious and sustainable five-year plan that helps bring the out-of-school-children (OOSC) back to education through a **Speed School** program based on Literacy and Numeracy Foundational Learnings. This has been innovative and

transformative in African and South Asian Countries (Ghana, Ethiopia, Somalia, Burkina Faso, Nigeria and Mali, Nepal and Bangladesh) providing out-of-school children (OOSC) an opportunity for basic education access.

The groundbreaking **Speed Schools** program not only sparked interest in learning but also improved reading and numeracy skills, making a significant impact on lower secondary education dropout rates. I invite your review of this transformative research before navigating through my action-based proposal.

Acknowledging the willingness of both public and private sectors to contribute, the challenge lies in bridging the gaps in inclusive foundations. It would be imperative to focus on two targets, which are the primary source of Pakistan's lagging in education.

1. Non-enrolled (Children who have never been to school)
2. Drop Outs (Children who dropped out of school due to unforeseen reasons)

Each of the above groups should be targeted with a group-specific model with the core principle of foundational learning applied through **Speed Schools** and Digital Learning with a brief description below:

Speed schools are a revolutionary concept in education, designed to swiftly reintegrate out-of-school children into the learning environment, especially in regions facing literacy challenges. The core principle revolves around providing free access to key subjects, focusing on literacy and numeracy—the universal formula of Key Foundational Learnings. This approach not only ignites children's interest in learning but also significantly improves their reading and numeracy skills.

It is pertinent to note that recently Honorable Minister of Federal Education initiated an **Education Challenge Fund of 25 billion Rupees** to tackle the growing number of 27 million out-of-school-children (OOSC).



Dr. Muhammad Ejaz Sandhu
Director Operations, Education & Learning

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at NetSol

Sustainable Business Development in Pakistan

Sustainable business development in Pakistan is becoming increasingly important as the country grapples with various environmental, social, and economic challenges. This delves into the different aspects of sustainable business practices in Pakistan, highlighting the need for a balanced approach that promotes economic growth while caring for the environment and society.

Economic Growth and Innovation: Pakistan's economy is diverse, with key industries like agriculture, textiles, and services. These sectors offer many opportunities for sustainable business practices. Embracing sustainability can lead to innovation and make businesses more competitive, especially through adopting green technologies and practices. Examples include renewable energy projects, sustainable farming methods, and eco-friendly manufacturing.

Environmental Care: Pakistan faces significant environmental issues, including air and water pollution, deforestation, and waste

management problems. Businesses are starting to understand the importance of being environmentally responsible to reduce these negative impacts. This means lowering carbon emissions, using resources more efficiently, and engaging in corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities.

Social Fairness and Community Involvement: For sustainable business development, it's crucial to focus on social fairness. In Pakistan, this means tackling issues like poverty, education, healthcare, and gender inequality. Businesses can contribute by investing in community projects, ensuring fair labor practices, and promoting inclusive growth. By enhancing local skills and providing equal opportunities, businesses can help build a stable and resilient society.

Policies and Regulations: Government policies and regulations play a vital role in encouraging sustainable business practices. In Pakistan, enforcing strict environmental regulations, offering incentives for sustainable investments, and supporting research in green technologies are crucial steps. Collaboration between the public and private sectors can drive the adoption of sustainable practices and create a supportive environment for sustainable business growth.

Challenges and Opportunities: While there are many benefits, several challenges hinder the widespread adoption of sustainable practices in Pakistan. These include a lack of awareness, limited access to funding for sustainable projects, and inadequate infrastructure. However, these challenges also present opportunities. International partnerships, increased investment in sustainable technologies, creating supportive ecosystems for startups and small businesses can significantly boost sustainable development.

Conclusion: Sustainable business development is essential for Pakistan's long-term economic prosperity, environmental health, and social well-being. By integrating sustainable practices into business strategies, fostering innovation, and building strong regulatory frameworks, Pakistan can achieve balanced and resilient growth. Cooperation among government, private sector, and civil society is key to unlocking the full potential of sustainable development in the country.



Aiman Adnan
Assistant Registrar
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Balancing Sindh's Grievances and Punjab's Green Ambitions amidst Pakistan's Water Crisis

Towards the end of November 2024, there was a protest staged by the discontented farmer community in Sindh regarding the government's approval of the decision to dig six canals in Punjab (Cholistan desert), a total of 176 km-long from Sulemanki to Fort Abbas. This project is part of the Green Pakistan Initiative and aims to transform Cholistan's arid lands into productive agricultural areas. The project's implementation is planned over five years, with a phased funding approach. Since, the southern Sindh is abundantly dependent on the Indus River water for agriculture, the farmers maintain a strong belief that these canals will divert water from the Sindh plains leaving them barren. Also, the public of Karachi (lower/southern Sindh) has protested against these canals as building them will render the K-IV (Karachi Bulk Water Supply Scheme)

compromised. This project (K-IV) is intended to alleviate Sindh's severe water scarcity and meet the increasing demand while its failure (due to insufficient water in the Kotri Barrage) could exacerbate Sindh's water challenges, impacting millions.

According to the impact statistics shared by Indus River System Authority (IRSA), Sindh has suffered a 40% water shortage compared to Punjab's 15% over the past two decades, due to Punjab being the upper riparian province, Sindh's less efficient irrigation network that is more prone to wastage due to siltation and poor maintenance, reduced overall water availability in the Indus River system due to climate variability and Punjab's large-scale agricultural activities that increase its water requirements. The farmer community of Sindh believes that the irrigation of 1.2 million acres in Cholistan should not be irrigated at the expense of 12 million acres of Sindh's agricultural land. The issue has gained serious traction that the legal community was urged to boycott courts for a week to raise judicial awareness about Sindh's water crisis.

The regional water disparity highlighted in the protests also brings the flawed public policy design to the fore that does not ensure equitable water distribution between provinces despite the consequential water usage upstream. It has also been observed that this localized initiative harbours the lack of impact assessment that ignores the socio-economic and economic impacts. The decision to dig these canals shows an absence of Sindh's input in the decision-making process which in turn reflects weak stakeholder engagement in public policy. Whereas, effective policies must involve all affected parties, including provincial governments and grassroots populations to bring a clearer sense of transparency and accountability. Additionally, the acrimony that has risen

between the two provinces has made the flaws in domestic federalism clear.

In order to generate interprovincial harmony along with bringing sustainable development, a balanced, inclusive, and transparent approach to ensure equitable resource distribution is important.



Muhammad Firas Shams
Research Associate

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute
of Public Policy at NetSol

The Dying Embers of Peace in KPK

Largest federal opposition party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has been at loggerheads with the current dispensation dominated by Pakistan Muslim League-N, for some time now, which is the principle cause of political turbulence in the country. Recently, with the help of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) province machinery, PTI staged what was deemed an onslaught on the federal capital Islamabad with the façade of anti-establishment politics, which failed to yield desired results; the release of PTI supremo and political Teflon, Imran Khan Niazi, who is often politically marketed as the only “tribune” of the impressionable people of Pakistan. Amidst this political tug of war, KPK which shares a considerable part of the 1600-mile-long Pak-Afghan border, is in a perpetual restive state and seems like it has been left at the clemency of terrorists by both the Federal and Provincial governments. Even KPK Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur’s constituency,

D.I. Khan is at the crossroads of several terrorist assaults in recent times.

This resurgence of extremism be it Parachinar or Peshawar, needs to be understood with Pakistan’s policy of supporting the return of the puritanical Taliban in Kabul. Our policy of good-bad Taliban binary has cost us our stability and resulted in a never-ending wrangling with the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). These extremist elements have been permitted to resettle in parts of Pakistan following the US withdrawal in 2021 from Afghanistan by the establishment then. The latest string of terrorist assaults allude to how TTP is ensconced in the KPK province involved in extortion, cross-border smuggling or contraband trade, and have stakes in extraction of timber, pine nuts and minerals. In other words this scenario can’t be reductively framed as a national security issue, rather it still continues to be an example of war economy and regional proxy warfare. It is about who controls the economic flow of the region.

It goes without saying that KPK which is punctuated by terrorist incidents since the return of the Taliban, needs greater attention from both the federal and provincial governments, who need their political solipsism not to eclipse the precarious situation at hand. At the moment the spectacle of a federating unit’s official machinery being engaged in a violent protest against the Federal government seems preposterous and rather indicates to how the state power structure is wobbling due to the wave of terrorism and sectarianism.



Abdur Rafay
Research Intern

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Smog and Learning Gaps: The Role of Environmental Factors in Changing School Systems in Pakistan

As the season of smog arrives again for Pakistan, its effects are deeper than just the health advisory and less visibility. Today, in cities like Lahore, pollution is remodeling the education system leaving learning gaps hard to overcome. Hazardous air pollution due to crop burning, traffic emissions, and industrial pollution happen every year disrupting school sessions and forcing authorities to close schools and enforce smart lockdowns, has negatively affected students' academic year.

Learning Interrupted by Bad Air.

Every winter, air pollution, especially smog results in mass shut down of schools meant to protect the health of children. However, these measures are useful, though their implementation leads to learning interruptions. Schools go online during the closure, but the process reveals key problems. Several teachers have complained that about 70% of learners log into the virtual classes but they become idle during the lesson and do not attend the lessons given thus creating a gap.

The Digital Divide: Widening Inequality

Perhaps one of the largest concerns revealed in the smog crisis is that of the digital divide. Low-income students have no access to the internet

at home, no devices such as computers or laptops and no conducive environment for learning. These disparities compound existing educational disadvantages, and make learners from disadvantaged societal segments even more educationally disadvantaged than those in private schools or wealthy homes.

High connectivity, low technical proficiency, and lack of monitoring tools pose serious challenges for actual meaningful participation in virtual classrooms. Since there is no physical contact or enforcement of accountability many learners are left to their own devices, particularly the learners in lower classes where it is essential to be alert since the learning acquisition is paramount.

A Way Forward: Towards Constructing Education Systems that are Smog-Resistant

To address these challenges, Pakistan needs to rethink its approach to education in the face of recurring environmental crises:

1. *Strengthening Online Systems:* The use of monitoring tools in the virtual classroom can help to guarantee that students are engaged. It is also important to note that engagement can be better fostered through periodic assessment, use of performance interactivity and game approach in teaching content.
2. *Bridging the Digital Divide:* The government and private companies should help to deliver affordable internet and devices to underprivileged learners facilitating equal education possibilities.
3. *Hybrid Learning Models:* Existing research demonstrates that integrating face-to-face and distance education can develop effective usable configurations that support learning in the context of environmental shocks.

4. *Investing in Air-Safe Infrastructure:* During moderate smog conditions, it is recommended that the school authority provides air purification systems and greens for physical learning activities.



Amna Seher
Research Intern

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at NetSol

From Neoliberalism to Green Economy: A Paradigm Shift for Future Economies

A global economic paradigm shift can be expected as climate change is aggravating. The transition from neoliberalism to green economy can help shape the future of global economies. Since the late 20th century, neoliberalism has been a prevalent global economic model. However, the new economic framework of green economy has the potential to replace neoliberalism.

Besides its boon, the bane of neoliberalism is multifaceted. It has left deep impacts on the socio-economic fabric of the countries i.e., increased poverty, unemployment, social disparities, and deterioration of income distribution. At present, the world is dealing with challenges like climate change, resource depletion, and need for sustainable growth. These issues are the result of decades-long implementation of neoliberal economic policies.

On the other hand, green economy brings a change that emphasizes ecological sustainability, social equity, and the long-term health of economies. This model fosters ecological resilience to disentangle economic growth from environmental damage and

carbon emissions. It advocates for renewable energy transitions, circular economies, and policies that prioritize well-being over mere GDP growth. This shift requires reimagining value systems, where natural resources and ecosystems are no longer exploited but conserved as integral assets for humanity's future.

Neoliberalism patronizes free markets and support profit maximization for robust economic growth. It minimizes government intervention to help private sector enjoy maximum freedom. It often excludes environmental and social costs for profit centric growth. Hence, growth is achieved at the cost of environmental and social exploitation such as pollution, natural disasters and socio-economic inequality. On the contrary, green economy tends to prioritize sustainability over profit.

Green economy allows the interventionist role of the state for sustainable growth. It paves way for green technologies, green jobs, and sustainable infrastructure. Some of the key strategies include carbon pricing, subsidies for renewable energy, and stricter environmental regulations. This economic model offers a level playing field for all the stakeholders of national or international economic systems.

The shift from neoliberalism to green economy is not just an economic one but societal as well. This model has the capacity to bring a radical change in the socio-economic realm by challenging the deep-rooted ethos of unlimited growth and consumption, advocating for economies within planetary boundaries. Green economics is the answer to the climate crises, socio-economic inequalities, and pave the way for a more equitable and resilient future. This paradigm shift is essential for safeguarding both the planet and the prosperity of future generations.



Hafsa Fatima
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US Foreign Policy and the Democratic Peace Theory

The Democratic Peace Theory by Immanuel Kant asserts that democracies do not fight each other because democratic states are interdependent and declaring war in democracies require citizen support and legislative approval. The United States has relied on this theory to explain its interventions, aid and alliance arguing that by promoting democracy around the world, it would bring about stability and peace. Nonetheless, the different attempts that have been made by the US to create democracies bear both exemplary successes and the worst failures thus raising questions on the process of exporting democracy.

The most often cited effort that has succeeded is the reconstruction process that was initiated after the second world war with Germany and Japan. After the war, these countries particularly received support from the US by establishing democracy as well as economic development. The local economies received support from the Marshall plan while political systems of the federal democratic nature were put in place in the country. Likewise, during the liberation of Japan, General Douglas MacArthur and other American forces brought in changes which effectively disestablished militarism, gave women the vote and set up a constitutional monarchical government. Both nations became stable democracies, sided in much with the American power and consequently contributed to what can be interpreted as peace in their regions.

Thus, the examples of the activity of the United States in the Middle East can be cited as the examples of the attempts that failed to create democracies. The Iraq War of 2003 was one of the main explanations given by the invaders as intending to eliminate the have power of Saddam Hussein and to install a democracy in Iraq. But weaknesses in the political process and sectarianism together with the poor implementation of democracy and nation-building all resulted to protracted disorder, civil war and the emergence of ISIS. However, an effort has been made to develop democratic institutions in the country; still, Iraq is politically unstable, and the democracy it possesses is corrupt and factional. Likewise in Afghanistan that the U.S tried for two decades to install a democratic government after expelling the Taliban in 2001. Elections were conducted although a constitution was adopted and growth of a government which was highly corrupt, dependent on international assistance and lacked the support of the Afghan people. The return of the Taliban to power in August 2021 is a clear sign of the failure of the US to bring democracy in the country.

Examples of the mixed results are such US engagements in Latin America during the Cold war period. The U.S. contributed to toppling of some democratically elected governments in countries such as Chile and Guatemala because of communism dread, they replaced them with dictators. These actions weakened democracy and paved the way to several years of oppression, although several of these nations, as Chile eventually did, could move to stable democracies independently.

In South Korea, however, role of the USA during and after the Korean War can be seen as an important factor for the democratization process, which being

however gradual and full of twists and turns. China stayed as an authoritarian state despite lingering expectations gained from few liberalization measures. South Korea at first also remained an authoritarian state until massive political changes by the combination of US pressure for democratization and local pro-democracy movements established liberal Korea which had thrived by late 1980s.

These successes and failures can be seen as the challenges of the process of democratization from the outside. On one hand, the examples of Germany, Japan, and South Korea from post-WWII demonstrate that external assist can facilitate the democratization process, if other necessary preconditions—stability of institutions, recovery of the economy and civic acceptance are taken into consideration. On the other hand, Iraq and Afghanistan are good examples of the dangers of liberal democracy imposition is an interference that does not consider political, cultural, and social context. This, of course, raises the questions if the Democratic Peace Theory, as a framework for the US foreign policy strategy, is any good or if it is far too altruistic and if its partial use does not really make it one.



Hamna Tanveer
Research Intern

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute
of Public Policy at NetSol

Perpetual Violence in Kurram District – An Appeal for Peace

The recent sectarian violence in Parachinar, the administrative center of Kurram District, Pakistan, has killed at least 82 people and

and injured 156. This tragic conflict started on November 21, 2024 when two groups of Shia Muslims each in police escorted convoys were attacked by armed men. All of these assaults have increased the degree of enmity between the Shias and Sunnis in the region.

The attacks, however, were apparently launched on Shia convoys travelling from Parachinar to Peshawar. In coordinated strikes, men armed with rifles fired on the vehicles, killing 43 people, some of whom were women and children. Soon the violence spread from retaliatory killings to tribal conflict and claimed 66 Shia Muslims and 16 Sunni Muslims. Currently approximately 300 families have been displaced; some were forced to abandon their homes in the heat of the battle.

This recent bloodshed is preceded by other violence in the area that claimed more than 79 people between July and October 2024. Due to border with Afghanistan, the area is claimed by militant organizations including the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Islamic State. In Kurram agency more than 2000 lives have been claimed in sectarian violence between 2007 and 2021 only.

On 24 Nov 2024, the government of Pakistan and the Taliban group signed a ceasefire. However, it has been frowned at because it cannot prevent the attacks. Some members of the provincial government reached Kurram by air after their helicopter came under attack when they sought to interfere. The priority in the present time is to stop more losses as Aftab Alam Afridi said that the government is mainly focused on addressing the root of the problem.

This situation clearly signifies that if permanent solution isn't sought, the sectarian conflict continues in Kurram unabated. Extraordinary steps will need to be sternly

applied so that justice, security and reconciliation are achieved for communities in the area. Marches, freedom convoys, and appeals addressed to human rights organizations demonstrate that society needs stronger protection, the tolerance of people to religious diversity, and actions against radicalization.



Anisa Iftikhar
Research Intern

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at NetSol

Fast Fashion: An Environmental Hazard vs Thrifting

Fast fashion has risen to a significant extent in the 20 and 21st century. With the rapid development of fashion industry, it capitalizes on swift changing trends. Brands like H&M, ZARA and sites like Temu and Shein, compel consumers to purchase trendy items while discarding old clothing items. This significantly deteriorates the environment.

Environmental Impact of Fast Fashion

From the production of raw materials to the manufacture of clothes in factories till their usage by consumers, they are in direct contact with the environment and significantly alter its quality from bad to worse.

To make a single cotton t-shirt, 2,700 litres of fresh water are required according to estimates, enough to meet one person's drinking needs for 2.5 years. In this process of keeping up with new trends of fast fashion tons of clothes, referred here as textile waste,

ends up in landfills as only 1% of used clothes are recycled into new clothes.

When consumers throw away clothing in the garbage, not only does it waste money and resources, but it can take 200+ years for the materials to decompose in a landfill. The fashion industry is estimated to be responsible for 10% of global carbon emissions – more than international flights and maritime shipping combined.

Moreover, textile production is estimated to be responsible for about 20% of global clean water pollution from dyeing and finishing products.

Thrifting As an Alternative:

Thrifting is buying of pre-loved items on lower prices. The main consumer concern surrounding thrifting is the class distribution and shame associated with it.

The idea is to promote thrifting and discard the general class dilemma associated with it. One of the effective ways to do it is via social media. Fast fashion took flight with the help of social platforms. Getting rid of it now is not only an environmental concern but also can be a business opportunity if invested in efficiently. The main goal should be to recycle. However, the concept of reuse should be pushed in the similar positive connotation to impact the user directly. NGO's and institutions concerned with environmental preservation should make effective policies on it. Be it trends on media platforms or campaigns to change the narrative regarding thrifting; driving thrifting as a charitable cause and more ethical mean and supporting small labour industry in contrast to supporting the exploitation of workers with fast fashion.



Tabinda Naz
Assistant Manager IT/Knowledge Management

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at NetSol

BIPP Round Up

On 7th of October, 2024, The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at Netsol (BIPP) distributed 22 scholarships among the students of Govt Graduate College for Women Wahdat Colony Lahore in the disciplines of Information Technology, Management Sciences, Media and Communication Studies, under the Hamid Bilqees Scholarship Program.



Apart from this, on 8th of October, 2024, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between BIPP and the University of Home Economics Lahore (UHE). The document was duly endorsed with the signatures of Mr. Shahid Najam (Vice Chairman BIPP) and Prof. Dr. Faleeha Zahra Kazmi (Vice Chancellor UHE).



The BIPP team and staff extend their warmest congratulations to Dr. Madiha Liaqat (Statistical Assistant BIPP) on officially and successfully completing her Ph.D. in Statistics. Mr. Shahid Najam, presented her with a shield, remarking that her outstanding achievement is a testament to her dedication, hard work, and perseverance.



Moreover on 18th of October, 2024, an MOU was signed between BIPP and Climefy. The document was duly endorsed with the signatures of Mr. Shahid Najam (Vice Chairman BIPP) and Mr. Waqar Ul Hasan (CEO Climefy). BIPP and Climefy will work together in the development of carbon footprint calculator.



While on 21st of October, 2024, BIPP representatives participated in an insightful SMOG awareness session hosted by the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI). During the event, BIPP submitted a proposal focusing on SMOG measurement, prediction, and mitigation strategies.



On 23rd of October, 2024, an MOU was signed between BIPP and Goodwill Marcom. The document was duly endorsed with the signatures of Dr. Ejaz Sandhu (Director Operations BIPP), Mr. Syed Nadeem Ejaz Shamsi (CEO Goodwill Marcom), and Mr. Awais Khalid (Finance Manager BIPP) for an upcoming project patronized by BIPP.



On 24th of October, 2024, an MOU was signed between BIPP and Khaldunia Institute of Technology and Applied Sciences (KITAAS). The document was duly endorsed with the signatures of Mr. Shahid Najam (Vice Chairman BIPP) and Prof. Dr. Mohammad Nizamuddin (Chairperson KITAAS).



Furthermore, on 29th of October, 2024, BIPP hosted a working lunch with representatives from leading universities to discuss collaboration opportunities in technology, AI, and education. The session covered potential partnerships to advance research, digital policy, and capacity building within Pakistan's academic landscape. Key highlights included discussions on AI in education and the economy, policy and digital frameworks, and the future of healthcare with AI. Plans were also set for major conferences in 2025 to enhance collaboration and address global challenges in AI and education. This productive gathering reinforced BIPP's commitment to driving innovation and excellence through academic partnerships.



Whereas, on 1st of November, 2024 BIPP distributed 5 scholarships among the female students of the School of Biochemistry and Biotechnology, University of the Punjab.



On 12th of November, 2024 BIPP presented an insightful talk on industrial challenges in Punjab related to meeting environmental regulations, titled “Environmental Compliance and Industrial Challenges: Bridging the Gap for Sustainable Growth in Punjab” at LCCI. The BIPP team led the session, including Prof. Dr. Ejaz Sandhu, Prof. Dr. Iftikhar Hussain (Consultant at BIPP), Dr. Madiha Liaqat (Statistical Assistant), and Mr. Firas Shams (Research Associate). The objective was to foster a deep understanding of the environmental compliance requirements facing Punjab's industries and the associated challenges. The team proposed and presented comprehensive policies to support industries in overcoming these obstacles while promoting sustainable growth. LCCI commended BIPP's efforts and expressed a commitment to future collaboration with the institute to advance these initiatives.



On 13th of November, 2024, BIPP in its ongoing commitment to empower deserving female students, awarded academic scholarships to 5 students from the School of Economics, University of the Punjab, Lahore. Mr. Shahid Najam, Dr. Ejaz Sandhu, and Prof. Dr. Mumtaz Anwar Chaudhry (Head, School of Economics) presented the certificates to the recipients.



Along with this, BIPP conducted scholarship interviews at Sahara for Life Trust (SFLT) for students from The Sahara College Narowal (TSCN), in the disciplines of Computer Science, Medical Lab Technology, and Biotechnology, aimed to provide deserving students with the opportunity to pursue their educational aspirations.



Lastly on 15th of November 2024, Mr. Shahid Najam attended the Closing Ceremony of the 5th National Policymaking Competition at Beaconhouse National University (BNU) as the Chief Guest, organized by the Young Peace and Development Corps (YPDC) from the University of Lahore, the event showcased the talents of young participants from across the nation. In his address, Mr. Najam praised the efforts behind PMC5, highlighting its vital role in engaging and empowering youth in policymaking.





Mission Statement

BIPP's mission is to improve the welfare of the citizenry with particular emphasis on identifying policy measures that will lead to inclusive, people-centered growth with equity, political stability and sustainable development besides fully harnessing the potential for regional and global integration of the country. BIPP primary areas of interest encompass social, economic, environmental and political development and security, trade and foreign policy-related issues.

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