

Condolence Reference: Dr. Parvez Hasan



Dr. Parvez Hasan, one of the founding members of the Board of Directors of the Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at Netsol (BIPP), breathed his last on 20th of October, 2025 in the United States. Dr. Hasan was a leading economist of international repute whose career spanned over more than half a century of distinguished service both at the national and international level. He held prominent positions during the course of his professional career, notably, as the Chief Economist of the East Asia Division of the World Bank (1974-1984), and as a Chief Economist West Pakistan (1965-1970). In recognition of his meritorious services, the Government of Pakistan decorated Dr. Hasan with Sitara-i-Khidmat in 1969. He was also endowed with a high Civil Merit award by the Government of South Korea in 1996.

Dr. Parvez Hasan made invaluable contribution to BIPP's evolution as one of the premier Think Tanks and research institutes of the country with major focus on rational and evidence-based, people-centered policy formulation, institutional sustainability and leadership development. He regularly wrote a chapter for BIPP's annual reports, *The State of Economy*, for 9 years from the 1st Annual Report in 2008 to the 9th Annual Report in 2016. He also authored three books namely, Korea: Problems and Issues in a Rapidly Growing Economy, 1996; Pakistan's Economy at the Crossroads: Past Policies and Present Imperatives published in May 1998; My Life My Country: Memoirs of a Pakistani Economist, 2011.

He has indeed left an indelible mark on BIPP's functional paradigm and will be long remembered for his consummate professionalism, passionate patriotism and unwavering dedication to advancing BIPP's mandate, and especially, for pioneering the merit-cum need based scholarship program of the institute for female students of Pakistan. His inspiring legacy will continue to live on and visit our hearts for all times to come.

We wish to express our deepest condolences and sympathies to his family members. May the departed soul rest in eternal peace and May Allah (SWT) bless him with the highest abode in Jannah. May He also enable the bereaved family and friends to bear this irreparable loss with patience, courage and fortitude.

NEWS LETTER

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Focus Areas

- Desk of Chairman
- Think Tank Wing
- Research and Consultancy Wing
- Education and Learning Wing
- Knowledge Management Wing



Shahid Javed Burki
Chairman

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute
of Public Policy at NetSol

Pakistan in a Rapidly Changing World

In discussing the geopolitical environment in which Pakistan exists at this time in its 80-year history, we should distinguish between the near and far. In between these two we should also look at the middle – the Middle East. I will begin with the near which is made up of four immediate neighbors. Going counter clockwise from the north, the four neighbors are Afghanistan, China, India and Iran. All four, in some or the other, have had impact on

Pakistan. Of the four, three have adopted religion as the source of governance. The most obvious case is that of Afghanistan where the Islamic extremists that go by the name of Taliban took control of the country on August 15, 2023 when the twice-elected president Ashraf Ghani fled from Kabul, leaving the advancing Taliban to move into the vacated presidential palace.

The Taliban brought their interpretation of Sunni sharia as their governing philosophy. The most disturbing aspect of this style of rule was the treatment of women who were placed very low in the social hierarchy. Women were to cover their bodies from head to toe and not go out of their homes unless accompanied by a male relative. Girls were not to attend school beyond the sixth grade; schooled at home, the emphasis was to be on religious instruction.

Like Afghanistan, Iran is also an Islamic state but the Islam it follows is Shiite, which has several differences from Sunni-Islam. The main feature of the Iranian version of Shiite political system is the concentration of power in the hands of the clergy and the denial of democratic rights to the general population. One thing common between Afghanistan and Iran is the poor treatment of women. The clerics of Tehran have also ordered women when they leave their homes to cover their bodies from head to toe. The failure to do so can lead to arrest and imprisonment.

India, after having launched a democratic system of governance when it gained independence in August 1947, gave full democratic rights to non-Hindus in a very diverse society. Two groups – Muslims and low caste Hindus – were to be treated no differently from the large Hindu majority. Under the long-serving Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the system of governance is changing with Hindus becoming the preferred citizens of the state. He

has opted to introduce *Hindutva* as the system of governance. He has also decided to change the name of the country from India to Bharat. This makes sense as the name India was derived from the name of the Indus River which originates in the Tibetan highlands and then flows Pakistan into the ocean through a delta located a bit north of India in Pakistan's Sindh province. This treatment of Muslims in India that number 200 million in a population now estimated at 1.5 billion will create what I have called in a recent article, "India's Musalman problem."

These three quasi-religious states in Pakistan's neighborhood will, overtime, create problems for Pakistan. The rise of the Taliban in Afghanistan has given support and comfort to their allies in Pakistan who are members of the group called the Tehrik-e-Talban Pakistan (TTP). The TTP is following the ideas adopted by the Taliban who assumed power in Kabul after the twice-elected president Ashraf Ghani fled the country in August 2023. The TTP has increased its operations in Pakistan aiming their attacks at the country's security forces who, in response, have largely held fire.

This brings me to a discussion of Pakistan's fourth neighbor, China. Islamabad's close relations with China date back to the closing days of the eleven-year rule of Field Marshal Ayub Khan, Pakistan's first military ruler who governed for eleven years from 1958 to 1969. He was convinced by his Foreign Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto that he needed to distance himself from Washington and get close to Beijing. This was done and today, as discussed in an earlier BIPP report, China has made large investments in developing Pakistan's infrastructure.



Shahid Najam
Vice Chairman

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Hope and Despair: COP 30 Belem Brazil

The outcome of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 30), held at Belem Brazil from 10 to 21 Nov 2025 was anxiously awaited with the ardent hope that the world as a whole, especially the developed countries and emerging economies like China and India responsible for major GHG emissions, will deliver unflinching commitment and affirmation to restrict and reverse the accelerated trend of global warming beyond the agreed target of 1.5 °C by 2030. The projected reduction of GHG emissions is, however, merely 10 % by 2035, far below the 60% threshold required to stay within the 1.5°C limit and tackle the enormity, severity and scale of climate crisis. It is indeed a matter of great concern and worry as every fraction of a degree of warming, could lead to catastrophic and enduring impacts on the lives and livelihood of vulnerable people and communities especially those residing in the fragile and marginalized eco-systems. Mass extinction of biodiversity, greater mortality rates, and incessant food and water insecurity, among others, will be the disastrous consequence and fatality of the extreme weather events, severe heatwaves, torrential downpours and raging floods, thus denying future generations the ability to survive and thrive on the planet earth in a rapidly changing climate landscape.

The failure to achieve the much needed universal consensus to respect and realize the 1.5°C global warming target set by the Paris Agreement for 2030, was essentially fomented by the inherent design defect in the

governance structure of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which continues to be dominated by myopic national political interest to the abnegation of the unequivocal scientific evidence as to the intensity of climate emergency and crisis. The skewed global power structure, noticeably expressed and manifested in the absence of USA from COP 30 and the perversity of the major polluters characterized by the rhetoric and sophisticated geo-political apologia, economic development and energy needs, profoundly marred the negotiations and prevented the Conference to agree on a specific time-bound and financially-sound strategy to accelerate the implementation of vitally essential climate targets by 2030.

Concrete financial commitments required to implement the climate action plans including those related to the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of the developing countries remained an elusive dream for a blissful future. The COP29 target of mobilizing at least \$300 billion annually by 2035 was already considered highly inadequate while the proposal embodied in "Baku to Belém Roadmap for \$ 1.3 Trillion" lacked a concrete action plan and pragmatic arrangements to help developing countries achieve their NDCs. The power and "prestige" of fossil fuel lobby and associated industrial complex once again established the supremacy of its iniquitous will to delay and dilute the measures for transition to clean energy. A crackdown on the indigenous peoples and activists further stifled the voices and choices of the vulnerable mortals in influencing the COP 30 outcome. The massive security arrangements and display of intimidating batons, boots and guns further blemished the soul and spirit of free and peaceful assemblage of humanity in pursuit of a common cause based on mutual respect, tolerance and right to co-exist.



Dr. Mohammad Nizamuddin
Member BOD

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Why Support Is Essential for New Teaching Methodologies and Innovative Teaching

In today's rapidly evolving educational landscape, the need for effective and innovative teaching methodologies has become more significant than ever. As classrooms grow increasingly diverse and technology continues to reshape how students learn, educators are required to adopt new approaches that foster engagement, critical thinking, and real-world problem-solving. However, the successful implementation of these new methodologies depends heavily on the availability of strong institutional and professional support. Without such support, even the most promising innovations struggle to reach their full potential.

One of the primary reasons support is essential is that new teaching methodologies often require shifts in mindset, planning, and practice. Approaches such as active learning, inquiry-based instruction, blended learning, and the use of artificial intelligence in classrooms demand that teachers move beyond traditional, lecture-based routines. This transition can be challenging, particularly for educators who have long relied on established methods. Professional development workshops, mentoring, and hands-on training help teachers gain confidence and competence in adopting these new strategies. When teachers feel supported, they are more willing to experiment, reflect, and refine their practice. Additionally, implementing new methodologies often

require access to appropriate resources and infrastructure. For example, adopting a flipped classroom model may require reliable digital tools, learning management systems, and multimedia resources. Inquiry-based learning may require flexible classroom spaces and materials that encourage exploration and collaboration. When institutions invest in these resources, they not only facilitate effective teaching but also signal to teachers that innovation is valued and encouraged. Conversely, when resources are lacking, educators may become reluctant to change, fearing that new methods will create more challenges than benefits.

Support is also crucial for fostering a culture of collaboration among educators. New teaching methodologies are most effective when teachers share experiences, successes, and challenges. Professional learning communities, peer observations, and reflective discussions create opportunities for mutual growth and problem-solving. These collaborative structures help educators refine their approaches and adapt methodologies to their specific teaching contexts.

Finally, supporting new teaching methodologies benefits students directly. When teachers are properly trained and equipped, they can create learning environments that are more engaging, inclusive, and responsive to student needs. This leads to improved learning outcomes, increased motivation, and better preparation for the demands of the modern world.

Given that support for new teaching methodologies is vital for transforming education in meaningful and sustainable ways. By investing in training, resources, and collaborative cultures, institutions empower teachers to innovate confidently and effectively, ultimately enhancing the quality of education for all learners.

**Atr un Nisa****Research Associate**

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at NetSol

Pakistan's Fiscal Health: Can 2026 Be a Turning Point?

As Pakistan moves into 2026, the country's fiscal health stands at a critical crossroad. At the end of fiscal year 2025, total public debt reached approximately PKR 80.6 trillion, reflecting a 13 percent increase over the previous year. The debt-to-GDP ratio climbed to around 70 percent, up from 68 percent in June 2024. Domestic debt accounted for about PKR 54.5 trillion, while external debt stood near PKR 26.0 trillion.

On the revenue side, the overall tax-to-GDP ratio improved to 15.7 percent in FY 2025, marking the highest level in more than two decades. However, a significant portion of this increase came from non-tax revenues rather than a structural broadening of the tax base. Non-tax revenues rose by approximately 68 percent during FY 2025, highlighting the temporary nature of this revenue growth.

Despite the increase in nominal revenues, structural pressures remain. Rising debt and associated interest and principal repayments continue to crowd out budgetary space for development, social spending, and public investment. Public debt servicing absorbed a substantial portion of net federal revenues in FY 2025, limiting resources available for other sectors. While the maturity profile of domestic debt has improved, with the average time to maturity rising from 2.8 years to 3.8 years, external vulnerabilities and rollover risks continue to pose significant challenges.

The improved tax-to-GDP ratio and higher revenues in FY2025 suggest that revenue

mobilization efforts are bearing some fruit. If this momentum is maintained and translated into structural reforms, such as broadening the tax base, improving compliance, and reducing reliance on one-off non-tax windfalls, Pakistan could strengthen its fiscal fundamentals. Debt-management measures, including shifting borrowing toward longer-term instruments, conducting debt buybacks, and extending maturities, may ease rollover pressures and lower short-term fiscal stress.

To make 2026 a genuine turning point, policymakers will need to sustain and deepen tax reforms, prioritize public spending toward growth-enhancing sectors such as human capital and infrastructure, maintain transparency and governance to avoid fiscal leakages, and carefully manage external debt to protect the economy from exchange-rate and financing vulnerabilities. If managed effectively, 2026 could mark the beginning of a transition from crisis-driven fiscal management to a more stable, growth-oriented, and investment-friendly trajectory. However, if structural vulnerabilities remain unaddressed, Pakistan risks recurring fiscal stress in the coming years.

**Muhammad Firas Shams**
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Phantasmagoria of World Events – From elections to revolution

The world witnessed a string of elections that will have geopolitical and geostrategic shockwaves at least in the short-term. For starters, in the land of the rising Sun and the samurai, the denizens of Japan, elected their first ever female Prime Minister from the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) also known as Jimintō,

64 year old Sanae Takaichi. She is known as Japan's "Iron Lady" and is an admirer of former Prime Minister of the Great Britain, Margaret Thatcher. In terms of her political ideology, she is described as a staunch nationalist and a right-wing ultraconservative, naturally she got along well with Donald Trump when he was on his Asia trip. Half way across the world in the land that produced football immortals like Lionel Messi and Diego Maradona, the eccentric chainsaw wielding 55 year old politician, Javier Milei and his right-wing La Libertad Avanza party secured a landslide victory during the mid-term elections in Argentina despite austerity measures that hurt the working class. Milei, a right-wing libertarian, is the Argentinian political iteration of MAGA, as Trump announced a \$20 billion bailout to resuscitate the peso in order to "Make Argentina Great Again".

Conversely, across the Atlantic, in the land of tulips, Netherlands, 38 year old, openly gay, Rob Jetten of the Social-Liberal Democrats 66 party got the better of Geert Wilders (Pro-Israel rabid Islamophobe) and his far-right Populist Party, Partij voor de Vrijheid (PVV) or commonly known Party for Freedom, in a neck to neck electoral race, dragging his party from 5th place to top the Dutch political physiognomy. Jetten is tipped to become the youngest Dutch Prime Minister; he is pro-Palestine leader who has called for the recognition of the Palestinian state. Similarly, in the land of lush and picturesque landscapes, Ireland, 68 year old, left-wing Socialist, Catherine Connolly has become the President; Connolly was Teachta Dála (member of lower chamber) of the Dáil Éireann (lower house of the Irish parliament) of the Oireachtas (Ireland's bicameral system). The leftist politician is a vocal champion of the rights of Palestinians and a prominent critic of Israel's apartheid and Genocide.

A Faux Revolution in Mexico?

Generation-Z led revolutions have ousted rulers who were firmly ensconced in the seat of authority for years particularly in South Asia; Dhaka and Kathmandu are experiencing a transition. However, down in Mexico, there seems to be an engineered revolution surfacing in Mexico, which currently lacks vitality but is being likened to the CIA backed color revolutions in Central Asia and Ukraine. Left leaning pundits opine that under the dispensations of Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO) and his 63 year old successor, Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo of Morena (National Regeneration Movement), Mexico has become a Socialist country. Minimum wage was tripled in 6 years under ALMO from \$5 a day to \$15 a day. She has also been trying to decrease weekly working hours from 48 hours to 40 hours. Sheinbaum plans to further double the minimum wage. The incumbent President wants to construct 1 million houses and is interested in offering zero interest on mortgage for working class households. She has also been trying to ensure social security for participants of the gig-economy such as Uber drivers.

She also de-privatized railway, oil and electricity companies, which is not to be mistaken as a full-scale nationalization, rather the Sheinbaum government has majority shares. Moreover there is a showdown going on between the Mexican magnate, Ricardo Salinas Pliego and the President; the former has been critical of latter's economic scheme of development, while Pliego has been accused of back taxes. The Mexican President also ramped up taxes on Coca Cola and compelled the multinational company to bring down sugar contents by 30%. In addition, there has been expansion of education budget, exponentially increasing spending public schools, scholarships to ameliorate the status of the poor and infrastructure. The Sheinbaum dispensation is adhering to "trickle-up

Economics", working on the principle of "for the good of all, the poor comes first". She has become thorn and Socialist anathema for neoliberal and neoconservative elements of laissez faire capitalism the US; they want another Milei in Mexico. The half-baked Generation-Z, poor imitation of a revolution in Mexico is being synonymized with how at the crescendo of the Cold war, CIA orchestrated regime changes against progressive leaders in Latin America.



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Defying a Dictatorship: Art as a Tool for Resistance

Art reveals what power tries to silence.

Art has long been utilized as a site of resistance against fascism. When freedom of expression is restricted, art is a space where authority can be questioned. Dictatorships have long sought to suppress and police culture to exert force; it is here that creativity adapts in a way which continues to push back. From 1977 to 1988, Pakistan saw a decade-long dictatorship under General Zia-Ul-Haq, a dynamic more than indicative of the suppression of public opinion that was not in alignment with the state ideology. Zia's Islamisation project sought to regulate 'morality', rewrite cultural norms, and weaponise religion as a tool for oppression. Zia's regime actively aimed to limit female mobility in public spaces; the government also closely monitored and imposed censorship laws on television, Theatre, and Literature. Academic institutes were closely surveilled, but this only further created a ground for

resistance; artists found different ways to express their disapproval of the Zia regime.

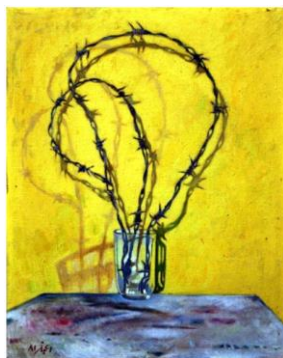
NCA as a Site of Resistance

The National College of Arts (NCA) in Lahore was everything that threatened the Zia dictatorship and the state ideology he was trying to impose. Co-education, modernist art, creative freedom, and a youth unafraid to question the world they lived in were all key characteristics that represented Pakistan's premier art college.

Artist and NCA Faculty member, Salima Hashmi, had been openly critical of the Zia regime, the lack of freedom, specifically of female artists; for them resistance was not only artistic but it embodied a political moment when Zia's policies sought to regulate how women should appear and behave under the guise of *chadar* and *chardawarie*, simply existing as an outspoken, 'jeans-wearing' female art student became an act of political defiance. Their presence challenged the state's idealized image of what an 'acceptable woman' is.

Faculty played a critical role in upholding a fiercely independent artistic vision, encouraging students to think and question the political climate, even when explicit political art was dangerous. Instead of directly protesting, students, out of fear, learned to embed critique within abstraction, symbolism, and metaphor. Printmaking, miniature painting, and performance-based work became subtle vehicles for commenting on authoritarianism, gender control, surveillance, and fear. This created a more sustainable message for resistance, one that can be carried on in the future.

Art against Power



Oil on Canvas painting by Ijaz-ul Hassan, titled New Year Bouquet, 1981.

This painting portrays a bouquet where flowers are replaced with barbed wire. Ijaz-ul Hassan makes use of irony as a divisive tool for communicating the hypocrisy of the Zia regime that manipulated Islam for personal benefit and the people of Pakistan for its agenda of attaining and then sustaining power.

The barbed wire bouquet symbolizes that what is being presented to the people of Pakistan is, in reality, a fraudulent act, i.e., the mode of government is comparable to barbed wire, a restrictive government, containing its people to the confines of state propaganda. Ijaz-ul Hassan's active protest and opposition to the military dictatorship are what led to his arrest in the first year of Zia's rule, in an offhanded attempt to snub freedom of speech and creativity.

Despite the obvious constraints placed by the Zia administration, Pakistani artists refused erasure of identity and expression. Their work documented the regime's consequences, challenged its authority, and shaped a new artistic identity grounded in symbolism and critique. This period demonstrated that while political conditions influence artistic production, they cannot extinguish it; instead, they often deepen its urgency, impact, and commitment in revealing what power is attempting to silence.



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Innocence for Sale: The Dark Reality of Bacha Bazi in Pakistan's 'Moral' Society

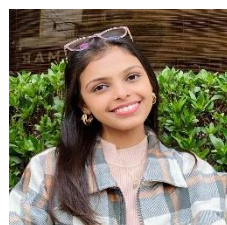
Pakistan has been keen to promote itself as a country based on the principles of Islam- a shining light of decency, a morally shaped society. Such is the preaching of at least the textbooks, the chanting of TV anchors, the repetition of every official speech like a ritual recited over a dead body. However, walk out of the well-orchestrated story, and all those noble ideals fall so easily into darkness as soon as accountability is brought up. In that pit, there is "bacha bazi"; a cursed, despised, but all too natural, sin that is gasping comfortably in the dints of the shadows within Pakistan. Young boys are purchased at a couple of dirty notes, with their innocence, since there is nothing more of a cry of a moral society than to transform children into commodities. However, the same country will explode with full force against those who are seeking their basic human rights. All night long, they make each other the guardians of tradition, the champions of purity, the safeguards of posterity.

However, when real children are exploited, paraded, raped, sold, and broken? Silence, selective blindness and moral amnesia. The same hotspots have been spotted by research over the years: truck stops, coal mines, madrasas, on the border, slums, not hidden, not rare, not imaginary. They are open secrets, known, seen and intentionally ignored. For instance, in a madrasa where kids are supposed to learn about "Deen", boys who

want to earn a living, work in truck addas are taken in the trucks at a few rupees, are subjected to unheard of torture in the process, with the society remaining blind. Some are kept as disposable beings. Others were sold into brothels. And when their suffering grows intolerable, they resort to drugs since being numb is the only way this country can be sure to offer shelter. And then the question is, why is the use of drugs on the rise? As if food isn't a luxury and as if despair isn't cheap.

Like, we did not create the same environment that kills childhood, even before adulthood sets in. During one of the interviews, a boy who was too young to comprehend the burden of his own trauma was asked what he wanted to be when he grew up. He spoke with a dumb, dead unintelligibility: "I will be a truck driver....and I will have one boy. The pain is excessive when an alternative of men is involved. In case I possess one only, at least he will not languish as I did myself". Suppose his conception of charity, moulded by the inhumanity which was imposed upon him. The tradition, which is deeply rooted in the Afghanistan tradition of keeping boys as sex slaves, has taken root here. Sahil, a child protection non-governmental organization operating in Pakistan, reported close to 2,000 cases of child abuse in Pakistan in the first six months of 2025, 44 percent of whom were boys. Sustainable Social Development Organisation (SSDO) reported 7,608 cases in 2024, of which there were sexual abuse and kidnapping, and trafficking, child labor, and forced labor, on average, 21 cases per day. As of the first half of 2023 alone, 2227 cases of child sexual abuse were reported, of which about 69 (959 cases) were minor boys, and 31 (431 cases) were minor girls. Street children below the age of 18 are at a high risk of maltreatment (80-90 percent), which means that the population of the most disadvantaged youth in Pakistan is highly vulnerable. But every

single night on television, we refer to ourselves as a great nation, moral nation, a nation of unmatched values. Meanwhile, its children learn to sleep in the dark. We may demand to be called a "great nation", but it's time, at last, to go and fight the monsters we've given the green light to live in our living rooms, because those children we fail to raise today will have more than our country; they will have the darkness that we refuse to see.



Hafiza Esha Tu Razia
Research Intern

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From Fear to Fairness: Embracing Gender Equality in Pakistan

Does Feminism really impact our cultural values, or does it reshape them in a manner that makes them equal for everyone, irrespective of gender? Recently, the World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Gender Index 2025 reflects deeply rooted disparities and male dominance in our society. Also, a research by Dr. Zeba Sathar and her fellows, depicts the same, patriarchal structure prevailing in our society. Both these reports signal the gender disparity and racial discrimination that feminism aims to eliminate from society.

In a conservative society like Pakistan, the concept of feminism is often considered a danger for religious values, and a foreign or western concept that will later, if practiced would also westernize our culture. And most of it is the perception adapted from the media. Portraying only the negative aspect of the movement caused moral panic among the

people, rage baiting them, and diverting attention from a movement that strives to promote equal and positive changes for all genders, which would later endeavors.

Feminism is particularly crucial for countries like Pakistan where women face discrimination in aspects of economic, education, health, and political representation. Pakistan ranks last out of 148 countries in the Global Gender Gap index 2025 according to the World Economic Forum (WEF), and the rate of unintended pregnancies, which is 1.6 million every year, indicates that concepts like bodily autonomy and gender equality are largely unknown or poorly implemented in Pakistani society. This should be a concerning moment for the country.

However, eliminating such disparities could bring favorably changes in our society, and instead of criticizing the concept of feminism, adapting the positive attribute of the approach would beneficially impact the country's condition, with every individual independently and effectively contributing in the well-being of the society and the country's economic condition, which would only seem possible if everyone have equal opportunities without any gender discrimination.



Gonasheen Khizra Rafiq
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Artificial Intelligence: Transforming Our Day-to-Day Life from a Technological Perspective

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become the backbone of modern technology in no time, influencing almost every area of our daily

routine. From smartphones to healthcare systems, AI-powered technologies are reshaping the ways we work, communicate, and solve problems. To understand this transformation, one must make a comparative analysis of how life used to be pre-AI and how deeply technology evolved post-AI has.

Life before AI

Before AI, most technologies were rule-based and capable of very limited functionality. Devices followed fixed instructions without the ability to learn from data or adapt to user behavior. For instance, mobile phones could only be used for calling and messaging. Computers required users to input every command manually, and internet search engines could only return very simple, keyword-based results without understanding user intent.

Navigation systems had static maps and didn't update in real time; customer service was done fully by humans, and other industries were heavily reliant on manual labor and the precision of humans. Medical diagnosis relied strictly on a doctor's experience rather than tools that were automated. Overall, technology existed but lacked intelligence, prediction, and automation.

Life after AI: Technological Advancements

With the era of AI, technology expanded from just machines to intelligent systems that are capable of thinking, learning, and making decisions. One major technological shift is visibly seen in machine learning and data processing, where AI analyzes massive amounts of information in seconds, which was impossible in the past. Facial recognition, voice assistants, enhancements of cameras, and personalized recommendations in

smartphones are powered with AI. Additionally, with search engines now understanding full questions instead of just keywords, thanks to natural language processing, they yield better results.

In transportation, AI-driven navigation devices provide real-time traffic information, predict delays, and indicate suitable routes. Self-driving car technologies rely on AI sensors, computer vision, and deep learning to detect objects and make safe driving decisions. AI-based diagnostic systems, smart medical devices, and wearable health trackers, which monitor heart rate, sleep patterns, and physical activity, are some of the remarkable technological upgrades in healthcare. Together with AI, Internet of Things (IoT) devices in smart homes enable automated lighting, temperature control, and house security. Robotic vacuum cleaners, with the help of AI algorithms, map the entire home and clean with great efficiency without human effort.

AI has also enhanced cyber security through faster detection of threats and other suspicious digital activities compared to human operators. In finance, it analyzes spending habits, detects fraud, and even automates trading via AI algorithms. To conclude, from manual, rule-based technologies to intelligent, learning systems, AI has remade the technological world. It made ubiquitous everyday tools increasingly smarter, quicker, and more effective; in turn, it altered our lifestyles in unprecedented ways. As AI continues to evolve, its day-to-day life technical impact will only grow stronger.



Tabinda Naz
Assistant Manager IT/Knowledge Management

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at NetSol

BIPP Round Up

On 7th of November, 2025, Riphah Institute of Public Policy (RIPP) and the Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy (BIPP) jointly organized a seminar on *"AI Vision Monitoring Water Security and Governance in Pakistan"*. The session brought together experts from academia and industry to discuss how Artificial Intelligence (AI) based technologies can enhance water monitoring, support policy development and improve governance frameworks in Pakistan. Distinguished speakers included Mr. Shahid Najam (Vice Chairman BIPP), Prof. Dr. Rashid Aftab (Director RIPP), Dr. Umair Arif (CEO, Disrupt Lab) and Dr. Muhammad Azmat (Associate Professor NUST)

Moreover, on 17th of November, 2025, under the Hamid Bilqees Scholarship Program, 20 scholarships were distributed amongst the students of Govt. Graduate College for Women, Wahdat Colony Lahore in the disciplines of Information Technology (IT) by Mr. Shahid Javed Burki, BIPP Chairman.



Similarly, on 20th of November, 2025, BIPP awarded 3 scholarships to the female students of the School of Biochemistry and Biotechnology, University of the Punjab. Through BIPP's scholarship initiatives, we aim to empower women to be able to exercise and expand their political, economic, cultural, and development choices, and contribute to building a more inclusive and prosperous Pakistan.



On 24th of November, 2025, Mr. Burki presided over the 14th meeting of the Board of Directors (BOD) along with board members Mr. Shahid Najam, Ms. Jahanara Burki, Mr. Babar Yaqoob, Mr. Ayub Ghauri, Dr. Mohammad Nizamuddin and Mr. Shahjahan Shafi Burki. The meeting discussed Agenda items including the Progress Report on BIPP activities, Scholarship Programs, Briefing on the upcoming launch of the 18th Annual Report 2025, New Initiatives, Financials of the institute, and way forward.



Lastly, in month of November Dr. Iftikhar Shah (Consultant BIPP) participated as guest lecturer in a seminar on "Waste Management in Pakistan: Challenges and Future Prospects", at Minhaj University. Additionally, he participated as a panel member in the conference titled "SDPI's 28th SDC-Panel: Transforming Food Systems through Fiscal and Trade Policy Reforms".





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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