



Bridging the Gap Between  
Youth and Policy Makers

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Islamabad, 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2019:** Youth Inclusive Governance organized by Youth Economic Forum was made an interactive session to bridge the gap between the youth and the policy makers. 25 individuals from different university and background were part of this event in order to present a more holistic youth perspective. The focused target audience of the session was youth. Mr. Shabih Zaidi, Program Manager at Youth Economic Forum, moderated the event. The key speakers were Danish Farid (Political and Geostrategic Analyst), Mir Iftikhar (MNA-Human Rights) and Sajjad Fayyaz (Political analyst).

Mr. Shabih welcomed all the guest speakers and gave a brief introduction of the topic of the event. Following that, Mr. Danish continued the session. He started by giving his introduction and moved toward the early era of the mankind. He started giving examples of the youth from the past explaining how important it is to properly utilize the potential of youth. He asked several question during his time to make the session more interactive. Mr. Danish told the individuals that they need to first understand the roots, fundamentals and then take the appropriate steps accordingly. He further talked about the hash-tag campaign which is effective as it creates awareness but that is not a solution to every problem and for that people should understand that instead of using has-tags on social media instead people should start talking practically steps. Moreover, he stated that the youth has been being misguided. In case of the polio-campaign, the government should address the negative aspects of people mind set. They should be responsible to answer that where the vaccines are coming from? Are they even tested properly and who is testing them?

Mr. Mir Iftikhar continued the session by sharing his life story. He talked about the struggles and difficulties the youth goes through. He said that Kashmir issue and polio campaigns are an important on going issue which should be addressed.

Following that, Mr. Sajjad Fayyaz, shared his life story and struggles he went through. He told the individuals that passion, determination and faith is a source that will make you do wonders. A youth should have a firm belief in themselves and they can conquer whatever they desire.

He mentioned few youth individuals from the past such as Hazrat Ali, M. Bin Qasim and others who actively participated as youth in different state of matters. He also highlighted the issue of Kashmir and further talked about the polio campaigns. He said that the youth should encourage the polio campaign in order to create awareness. The least the youth can do is go to door-to-door, have seminars, hold sessions in universities, college and other places so that people get awareness. Through this, people will support and promote it.

Mr. Shabih concluded the event by giving the summary of all the guest speakers and gave an insight of a way forward. Then at the end of the event, Question-Answer session proceeded for about 20 minutes. Students enthusiastically participated and asked questions from the guest speakers.

Youth economic forum is the Pakistan's first youth-run policy think tank which strives to bridge the gap between the youth of Pakistan and its policy makers. YEFs' mission is to formulate policies that are more youth inclusive. This session was in alignment with YEF's vision and allowed the youth of the country to connect with the policy makers on a much deeper level.