

PRESS RELEASE

Islamabad, October 21, 2019: “Role of vocational education and training for Youth Inclusive Economic Development.” organized by Youth Economic Forum was an interactive session designed to enlighten the youth to grasp particular skillset to expand their portfolio in order to give a better start to their professional life. 40 young leaders from different backgrounds and universities participated in the event to present a more holistic youth prospective on this issue. The focus target audience for the session was young minds who aim to indulge professional skillset in themselves during their graduation. Mr. Shabih Zaidi, Program Manager at Youth Economic Forum, moderated the session. Mr Farhan Khalid Associate Director DeRisc, Mr Habib Hassan a consultant at Planning Commission Pakistan and Mr Ghyour Hussain DG National Library of Pakistan were the guest speakers for the event.

Mr. Zaidi welcomed the guest speakers and gave a brief introduction on the topic. Mr Farhan Khalid continued discussion with sharing his recent experience at KPK when he got in discussion with an entrepreneur who imported a machine from Japan but it couldn't work as the required skillset for operating the machine was not available in Pakistan. He share why Pakistan couldn't provide the labor force required abroad due to lack of required skillset. He shared that vocational education and training can make the graduates more professional and help them in job hunting.

Mr Habib Hassan rose the point that the if we calculate the number of young minds as per UNDP report, the annual lot that graduates is around 5 million where the offered jobs by government are no more than several thousands. Only private sector can help in accommodating but what if they do not find the required skillsets? This is the sole reason when the graduates cannot find a suitable job that accommodates their skillset. He further asked the students to explore themselves. Explore what they are good at.

Mr Ghyour Hussain shared his point of view that most of us think of skills as if they are not respected or paid well. He shared that I am a father to two but I won't prefer my son or daughter learning plumbing skills as it is not respectful today if compared with the era of warriors when the blacksmith and goldsmith were no less than bureaucrats. He further added that we need to change the point of view of the society towards the role of vocational workers. He further thanked Youth Economic Forum for holding an interactive session at the National Library engaging the young minds of the society.

Mr Farhan Khalid also highlighted that we (students) need to acquire soft vocational skills that have a major impact on our professional life for example negotiation skills. He also shared that with businesses becoming more technical, we need to focus on learning technical skills. Mr Habib Hassan further added we can search for online courses where we can learn skillset to better our professional career.

The participants contributed by highlighting their points that were needed to be discussed. The speakers cleared their view and enlightened them with their experience and knowledge. Mr Farhan shared that he as an employer is always at point to hire a graduate with the required skillset. He shared that a private firm invests a year in training a graduate where he learns how to work.

Mr. Zaidi concluded the event by giving the summary of all the guest speakers and gave an insight of the role of vocational education and training in creating youth economic development. Then at the end of the event, Question-Answer session proceeded for about 30 minutes. Students and youth activists 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 and the policy makers. Its mission is to make policies that are more youth inclusive. This session was in alignment with its vision and presented the youth of the country to connect with the policy makers on a much deeper level.