



Bridging the Gap Between
Youth and Policy Makers

Date: 29th November 2019
Media Contact: Farhan Khalid
Email: f.khalid@yeforum.com.pk
Contact No. +923335356462

Ref. No.: 01/YEF /PR-29112019
Webs: www.yeforum.com.pk
Twitter: @yeforumpakistan
Facebook: Youth Economic Forum

PRESS RELEASE

Islamabad, Lincoln Corner, National Library, November 29, 2019: “Building Innovation Ecosystems in Pakistan” organized by Youth Economic Forum was an interactive session designed to enlighten the youth about their contribution in building a sustainable and collaborative ecosystem that can motivate young minds to grow and to expand their portfolio. The main agenda of the session was to shift focus to the development and building of innovation ecosystems.

An Innovation Ecosystem describes a large and diverse nature of players and resources vital for innovation. Innovation ecosystems operate at multiple levels (e.g. city, regional, national) and within multiple sectors (e.g. agriculture, health, education). The major players of an innovative ecosystem are Government, Media, Entrepreneurs, Universities, Businesses & foundation and Innovation labs & manufacturers all of which are interlinked.

The focus target audience for the session was young minds who were from diverse backgrounds and some were technocrats. Mr. Zaki Babar, Research and Publications Associate, moderated the session. Mr. Faisal Laghari (CEO – LearnOBots) and Mr. Shamyil Bin Mansoor (CTO – LearnOBots) were the guest speakers for the event. Mr. Babar welcomed the guest speakers and gave a brief introduction on the topic. Mr. Faisal Laghari continued discussion with sharing how they wanted to turn problem solvers and makers into innovators for tomorrow. As a sleeping nation, his company is among the top tech start up currently operating. He put forth the need to realize that Pakistan cannot compete at a global level unless there’s exposure and hands on experience.

Mr. Shamyil further talked about the programs they hold for children between the ages of 5-12 where they give opportunities and facilitate young minds in a way that provides quality educational technology solutions as well as introduce STEAM education in a more fun and creative way that solves various problems of society. Mr. Faisal further added that their focus was primarily on children as they have a capacity to think out of the box and are currently underway of the socialization process. By broadening their minds and capabilities, a better environment can be created that would not only entail of good values and morals moreover would be able to innovate and adapt. Experiential learning and capacity building was highlighted as the major factors leading to change.

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. Faisal also added that as an entrepreneur he faced many challenges and difficulties in engaging parents to realize the need of STEAM education and use of robotics. He shared that valuation in Pakistan is substandard and it lacks professionalism.

The guests appreciated the efforts done by Youth Economic Forum in bridging a gap to create a sense of awareness among the young minds. Mr. Zaki 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 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.