

PRESS RELEASE

April 30th, 2020: Youth Economic Forum goes on with its vision and mission of providing youth with a platform to voice up and to bridge the gap between youth and policy makers. However, when situations like the current pandemic strike the progress, it is the responsibility of the leading platforms to continue their work and adapt the new ways. Youth Economic Forum moving straight ahead collaborated DBTV and introduced “YEF Live Session Series”. Distinguishing the session by keeping a sharp focus on the youth and specifically on the graduating batch of 2020. Youth is an eminent segment of every society. In such challenging times, when youth can play a crucial part collectively and socially, YEF believes in informing the youth with right facts and ways to follow. YEF will continue its mission through the available means of communication.

In such times, many questions and obstacles arise for the youth. In such a state of confusion, YEF provides the right direction. With the first session held on April 30, 2020, it provided a concise but comprehensive overview of all the major aspects of how this current pandemic has affected the graduating class of 2020. YEF decided to follow a pattern in terms of the panel for the discussion. It included a mix of experts and student representation from the batch of 2020. Initiating the series, the first session was moderated by Jalil Hamdani, who is also a graduating student of Bachelors in Public Administration from NUST. In regards to our experts, we had Mr. Farhan Khalid who is the Director at the DeRisc Group and also a visiting faculty at the AIR University. Next, we had Dr. Ghufuran Ahmed, an Assistant Professor at NUST Business School and Ph.D. in Economics. For the student representation, we had Nimra Tanveer, a final year student of Public Administration at NUST.

The discussion initiated with a general overview of the topic, “The Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on the Graduating Batch”. Nimra Tanveer started the session with providing a deep insight about the how her final year has been affected. She discussed the problems like how her final thesis has been halted, how the course of education has been impacted, altered and how her institution is dealing with it. She also brought up the most important point that the upcoming professional life took a toll. After that both the experts discussed how they are dealing with the new course of imparting education and the lacking of the government. Mr. Ghufuran Ahmed discussed how his institution is still evolving and trying different mediums of online education. Followed by Mr. Farhan Khalid, he discussed the shift from conventional ways to modern ways of education. However, how in Pakistan there is still a big population in remote areas with no proper internet connection and teachers with no proper training in remote teaching. Mr. Farhan Khalid discussed some industry sectors at advantage due to this pandemic like the telecommunication. He added the concept and lesson of evolving of how we have to adopt the new mediums as we did in past. The discussion also included the point that how the role of government and steps for the graduating youth. The example of Canada was discussed that how they introduced a 10 Billion Dollars aid for the graduating batch of 2020.

The discussion concluded on two points. First that although in this uncertain situation, graduating students are at disadvantage but how they have to learn adaptability, they have to find the new modes of employment and skills of the future. Secondly, how there is a big need to for government to play its role for the youth in terms of policymaking. All the panelists agreed on the point that we are in this together and how it is a collective responsibility of the citizens, government institutions and students.

