



Youth  
Economic  
Forum

Bridging the Gap Between  
Youth and Policy Makers

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Media Contact: Farhan Khalid  
Email: f.khalid@yeforum.com.pk  
Contact No. +923335356462

Ref. No.: 01/YEF /PR-04-03-2020  
Webs: www.yeforum.com.pk  
Twitter: @yeforumpakistan  
Facebook: Youth EconomicForum

## PRESS RELEASE

**May 7, 2020:** The second session of YEF Live Session Series was held with the topic, “How students can fully utilize this time to prepare themselves for the post-pandemic economy”. The significance of having this topic as a point of discussion is that how we have to adapt to the new ways of life in a post-pandemic economy specially the youth who was about to enter the job-market. The session was really helpful for the youth to enable and get an understanding of skills and professions that are going to be valuable and how we can inculcate those skills and professions.

Jalil Hamdani moderated the session. Keeping up the norm we had our experts and student representation. We had Ms. Sarah Farhan. Sarah is an alumnus of the University of Nottingham with MSc in Economics. She is also a faculty member at various prestigious educational institutes in Islamabad. Next, we had Mr. Talha Imadi, Finance Manager at DBTV and MBA from Bahria University. For the student representation, we had Khadijah Kamili. Khadijah is a student of Bachelors in Mass Communication at NUML Islamabad.

The session started with the introduction of our panelists, brief recap of the previous session and a general overview of the topic. The session was based on the notion that how we can perceive everything positively in such tough times. The panelists started the discussion by telling how they are coping and utilizing the lockdown time. Ms. Sarah Farhan referred the post-pandemic time as “New Normal” and how important is the need having the skill of change management. She further added her new experience with the online teaching. There is a need to incorporate new skills in our lives. She said, “It is a time where all the sectors whether it be education, services or government are moving towards flexibility and innovation. Ms. Sarah was of the opinion that we should refer and perceive this lockdown period as a “Transition Period”.

Mr. Talha Imadi shared a collective opinion as other panelists. He said that the nature of demand of skills in the new industry is changing. He talked about the new modes of how students can benefit themselves financially sitting in the comfort of their homes. Next Khadijah shared her stance. She talked about the how the present day student in Pakistan is at advantage and disadvantage as well. She talked about the limitations such as how a major chunk of our youth is deprived of the connectivity in times of this lockdown. She also shared her experience of remote learning and how she is spending her time in learning new skills online.

The panel also talked about the skill of the future, the “Data Literacy”. The Economist says that “Oil is no more the most expensive asset, Data is the now the most expensive asset. Ms. Sarah Farhan further added the importance of the skill of handling big data. She said that having data literacy is the first step towards fulfilling the need of a tech savvy future. We can say that “Data is the oil of the digital world”. Ms. Sarah Farhan further guided us how we can gain skills of handling and using big data.

The session concluded on the point that we should always create multiple paths in terms of our career. We need to define and realize the altering and transforming needs of the future. Then how we have to align our skills and focus with those needs. In this case, the current youth is blessed to have the facility of accessing the global world through internet. This makes comparatively easy for them to adapt. But, unfortunately in Pakistan, we have a long way to go.