

PRESS RELEASE

May 21, 2020: Fourth session of series was held with one of the most crucial aspects of the current Covid-19 Pandemic as topic, how it is changing the course of education and work. As in Pakistan, we are three months into the lockdown and we observe a drastic change in how education sector and corporate sector are continuing their work through a change of mediums. Most of the educational institutes and corporation, capable enough, shifted instantly to online systems.

Fourth live session of YEF Live Session Series was held on May 21, 2020 Thursday and was moderated by Jalil Hamdani. Keeping up the norm of preceding sessions, the session was a mix of experts and students. This session we had our expert Dr. Shaheer Elahi, Professor at Bahria University and Ph.D. in Anthropology. In regards to student representation, we had a vocal participation from Naveen Shahzad from Bahria University and Mahnoor Saleem from National Defense University.

The session discussed the crux of the topic, the course of altering, its impacts and lessons. The session focused on the post-pandemic scenario of the education sector and work. Starting with the question of how education is going to be like after the pandemic and is there going to an impact on the quality of education. The participants were all of the opinion that the education system is totally evolving as this pandemic lockdown goes on. Many educational institutions shifted towards the online mediums like Microsoft Teams, Zoom and Google Classroom. As we enter, we gather that many institutions were not at all capable of this change. Many educational institutions are still coping with the shift and the educational process is halted. The participants all agreed on the point that the quality will definitely decrease and no medium can replace the teacher-student in person interaction and its advantages. However, one positive outcome was the decreased cost and how time was saved. The session also discussed the decision taken by New Zealand declaring a four-day workweek with remote work.

The session concluded on the fact that in Pakistan still there is a long way to go in terms of remote education and remote work. The challenges exist in shapes of the cost of shifting to these mediums, the lack of knowledge and training of teachers and less secure online interactions. However, we are hopeful that this pandemic will soon be over. This is good time for institutes and corporations to reflect on their abilities to deal with such situations.