



Youth
Economic
Forum

Bridging the Gap Between
Youth and Policy Makers

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PRESS RELEASE

June 19th, 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. Youth Economic Forum introduced a series of sessions to discuss the stance of Youth on Role and Performance of Pakistan Government during Pandemic. The session was moderated by Shabih Zaidi, Program Manager at Youth Economic Forum. The panel included Mr Arslan Bin Tariq, a graduate from LSE (giving an input from Multan and Lahore), Kiran Fatima from IBA Karachi (giving an input from Karachi), Wardah Noor from LUMS (giving an input from Layyah and Lahore) and Mr Danish Farid, a political analyst (giving an input from Islamabad).

The discussion initiated with a general overview of the topic, Kiran added the first point by sharing how government couldn't lead as in there was weak leadership and no monitoring of event happening around. The rise of Covid-19 in Arslan's view was due to lack of education and awareness where Wardah supported his point by adding the government was missing both points, education and leadership, and left the masses wandering and hitting conclusion themselves. Danish Farid added his point of view that the issues rose from the very first day when the monitoring of the situation was miscalculated since day 1. Kiran further added that the border control gave birth to the issue.

Wardah further shared the situation got worse due to the miscommunication between high end officials and field managers from the government. The misleading figures created an ambiguous picture. Where Kiran added her point since the leadership was missing, no one was taking control of the situation and no one was taking any responsibility and since then there was no unified statement issued by the government. Arslan added his point by saying the main reason of rise in cases was the lockdown lifted without consenting WHO and following their SOPs, if the lockdown was lifted gradually with following the SOPs issued by WHO, the situation wouldn't have been this worse. Danish Farid referred an article issued by Diplomat, that Imran Khan's days as PM of Pakistan are numbered, he shared that the issue for any given government is a challenge to cope up with but such articles cannot decide or conclude any leader's regime.

Kiran added that the issue in Karachi rose due to lack of coordination between Sindh and Federal, they were not hitting the button to tackle the situation. Wardah added that the government even failed to monitor and control prices of the basic medications and relevant equipment. Arslan added since the universities had no SOPs issued by HEC, we had to cope up with new challenges but we did learn a lot about the transition. Danish Farid concluded his part by saying that there are so many unseen challenges we are facing but we are together in this all. Shabih Zaidi concluded the session by thanking the panelists and advised the young minds of Pakistan to take this an opportunity to grow since the world is transitioning and businesses are evolving, Covid-19 only boosted the transition of digitalization.