



## PRESS RELEASE

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**6<sup>th</sup> October 2020:** Youth Economic Forum's (YEF) "Live Session Series" in collaboration with DBTV discussed the 'The importance of Part-time work in Pakistan'. The session was organized to discuss the scope of part-time work in the country, its impact on students in terms of personal and professional growth as well as the cultural and societal barriers that affect individuals working part-time.

The session was centered around the experience of guest speakers Mohib Hussain (currently doing BBA from Institute of Management Sciences, Peshawar), Nausherwan Ali (currently studying Accounting and Finance in FAST) and Nimra Tanweer Ahmed (graduate from NUST) who have done part-time work whilst doing their degree. The seminar was hosted by Jamal Nasir, PR Associate at YEF.

The session started with the panel's views regarding their overall experience working part-time while studying. Mr. Nausherwan, who is working for Redbull part-time, stated that his idea of getting enrolled into a university was beyond just getting a degree which is why he was keen on exploring and familiarizing himself with the market. This led him to pro-actively inquire about opportunities which helped him land the job in Redbull two years ago.

Ms. Nimra Tanweer, who was a part of YEF and a few think tanks is currently working at Saving 9. She said that her initial motivation to do part-time work was the monetary benefit but she soon realized the importance of work experience. She ended up doing quite a few un-paid internships in order to obtain skills that she felt could not be taught in university and requires hands-on experience.

Mr. Mohib, who previously did an internship with ACCA Pakistan and is currently the Chief Operations for Qissa Khwanan a local startup, added that apart from everything the other panelists mentioned, he gained self-esteem and confidence through part-time work. His interactions in independent projects and internships led him to realize his strengths and he ended up becoming an integral part of a startup.

Next, the host asked the panel regarding the positive and negative implications of part-time work and their coping mechanisms, to which Mr. Mohib said that his grades suffered immensely during the first few months of part-time work. However, he said, the experience helped him learn time management which ultimately led to him enjoying his internship in the last tenure. He is currently in his final year and reflected that he has learnt to manage work, studies and family time effectively meanwhile obtaining skills such as customer relationship management due to his part-time work experiences. Ms. Nimra agreeing with Mr. Mohib, added that her field of work is PR and requires expertise in customer relationship management and building contacts which she learnt through her work experience during her degree. She added that her work experience in different ventures helped her uncover her creativity and increase cognitive development and she rose above just following instructions and was able to bring her own ideas to the table. To which Mr. Nausherwan added that the process mentioned by Ms. Nimra helps people develop an entrepreneurial mindset and obtain the people's skills that cannot be learnt within university. He further added that very few degrees focus on communication skills and public dealing even though they are a part of almost all jobs. According to him his job at Redbull has immensely contributed to the development of these skills which were otherwise not included in his coursework.

While Talking about the struggles of managing part-time work with university the panel unanimously agreed that initial academic setbacks were a part of their journey, but effective time management has helped them overcome these

setbacks. Moreover, Ms. Nimra highlighted the issue of gender discrimination in the workplace which she believes is being overcome by the organizational structures but persists in the societal perception.

When asked whether the primary motivation of part-time work should be financial, Mr. Mohib and Mr. Nausherwan said that even though the monetary benefit is a plus point, working should be seen as an investment in one's self. They agreed that the benefit received in the form of getting the feel of the market, soft skills, confidence, public dealing and other intangible skills exceed the monetary benefit. Ms. Nimra added to this by saying that she too believes the same, but universities and organizations need to be more inclusive and provide fair compensations in order to make part-time work feasible for all students, regardless of their social status.

Lastly, while commenting on the societal perception of part-time work being secondary and unimportant compared to studies, the panel agreed that their studies and grades remained a huge issue for everyone around them but they had to rise above the initial demotivation and realize with a positive mindset that the skills acquired through work are also extremely important for their career.