ANNUAL
REPORT

2019-20

Ministry of IT & Telecom
DIGITAL PAKISTAN

Ignite
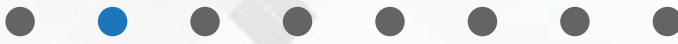NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY FUND

MISSION

To fix the innovation value chain in Pakistan.

VALUES

We live by

NO TITLES

Clash of ideas & continual learning with humility
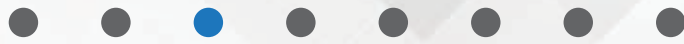
DATA DRIVEN

Transparency, learning & decision making

DIVERSITY

Evolution through diversity & inclusion

TAKING PAIN

Reach out to the marginalized & underserved

COMPOSITION OF
BOARD

A public private board with MoITT and other government representatives govern Ignite.

Thirteen (13) Directors Including

Ex-officio office bearers in the Federal Government		5
Chairman of the Authority - PTA		1
From amongst the nominations made by the relevant licenses (Data Service Provider, Fixed Line and Cellular)		3
From amongst the nominations made by the scientific and academic community		2
Corporate management executive		1
CEO of the Company		1

CORPORATE
GOVERNANCE
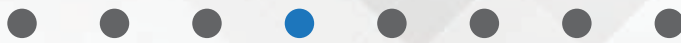
On 30th June, 2019 the Board included:

Category	Names
Independent Directors	1. Mr. Khawaja Saad Saleem 2. Dr. Shahid Qureshi 3. Mr. Akbar Jamal Shaukat
Executive Director	1. Mr. Yusuf Hussain
Non - Executive Directors	1. Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui 2. Mr. Maroof Afzal 3. Mr. Amir Azeem Bajwa 4. Dr. Nawaz Ahmad

Sub Committee of the Board

Finance and Audit Committee
Dr. Shahid Qureshi
Dr. Nawaz Ahmad

- Rs.10,000 per meeting is paid to each director as meeting fee and no other salary/fee/remuneration is paid to directors.

  The CEO of the Company is entitled to a remuneration package as approved by the Board in its 43rd meeting, while increments may be applied as approved by the Board. Below mentioned amounts relate to a remuneration paid to the Ex CEO of the company who left w.e.f. December 12, 2019. Currently no remuneration is being paid to the acting CEO, who is nominated by the Federal Government.

	Chief Executive
Managerial remuneration	5,333,226
Transport monetization	516,676
Medical allowance	31,423
Communication reimbursement	48,484
Leave encashment	61,631
	5,991,440

In relevance to rule: 5(5)(c)(iii) of the Corporate Governance Rules, 2013 for Public Sector Companies, we hereby state that the Board has ensured compliance with the law as well as the Company's internal rules and procedures relating to public procurement, tender regulations, and purchasing and technical standards, when dealing with suppliers of goods and services.

BOARD OF
DIRECTORS
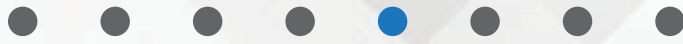
Mr. Shabahat Ali Shah
CEO, National Information
Technology Board

Mr. Sher Afgan Khan
Additional Secretary,
Ministry of IT & Telecom

Major General (R) Amir Azeem Bajwa
Chairman, PTA

Mr. Aamir Hafeez Ibrahim
CEO, Jazz

Mr. Khawaja Saad Saleem
Managing Director, Nayatel Pvt. Ltd.

Dr. Shahid Qureshi
Program Director, Center for Entrepreneurial Development, IBA, Karachi

* Current Ignite Board of Directors

Mr. Rizwan Ahmed Sheikh
Joint Secretary Exp (IT), Finance Division

Mr. Muhammad Omar Malik
Member Telecom, Ministry of IT & Telecom

Mr. Danish Ali Lakhani
CEO, Cyber Internet Services Pvt. Ltd.

Mr. Zia Ul Mustafa
President, ICMA

Dr. Faisal Ahmad Khan
Pro Vice Chancellor, Balochistan University of IT, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS), Quetta

Mr. Syed Junaid Imam
Member IT, Ministry of IT & Telecom & CEO Ignite

IGNITE IS CREATING A
KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY

MANDATE
To create a knowledge economy through R&D in ICT and commercialization of research.

CORPORATE STATUS
A Public Company Limited by Guarantee, incorporated in 2006 by the Federal Government, under Section 42 of Companies Ordinance, 1984.

SOURCE OF FUNDING
0.5% of gross-adjusted revenue of telecom operators.

CEO'S
REVIEW

Syed Junaid Imam

Ignite seeks to solve the most meaningful problems in Pakistan by technology intervention and support in tapping global opportunities through innovation. A vibrant innovation landscape that includes academia, industry and society is the building block of a knowledge economy. Realizing the need for a robust innovation ecosystem in Pakistan, we are engaging with all key stakeholders through a multitude of interventions for building an enabling environment for startups and entrepreneurship.

Technological innovation possesses incredible potential to transform lives and solve burning problems that people face. Ignite Tech Innovation Grants aim to solve problems and avail opportunities in health, education, energy, finance, security and other verticals, with Fourth Industrial Revolution Tech (4IR). During 2019-20, four Technical Innovative Projects worth Rs. 65 million have been approved after careful appraisal. Ignite also introduced the AgriSurge Innovation Challenge (AIC) in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, aiming to invite groundbreaking ideas to transform the agriculture sector in Pakistan. National Education Challenge was launched to solve the most pressing issues of continuing the education for schools, colleges, universities, out of school children and illiterate adults in the face of global pandemic shutdowns.

Ignite NIC program plays a pivotal role in accelerating digitization and entrepreneurial growth to make Pakistan into a knowledge economy. Under the NIC Program, through 5 incubation centers across Pakistan, this year, 6,007 applications were received out of which 264 startups were selected; 12 cohorts were inducted; 119 startups graduated and total funds disbursed equaled Rs. 392.99 million. An impressive number of startups striving to solve challenges associated with transport, health, agriculture, education and more made the headlines, received funding and came up with solutions to fight COVID-19.

To keep youth abreast with the cutting-edge e-learning trends, Ignite launched DigiSkills.pk in 2018 – a large scale National Digital Skills Training Program, which set a target of 1 million trainings within 2 years, at the beginning. This program was initiated to equip freelancers, students, professionals, etc. with knowledge, skills, tools and techniques necessary to seize the opportunities available internationally in online jobs marketplaces and also locally to earn a decent living. This year, the number of trainings surpassed the 1 million target, achieved well before the two year mark. DigiSkills.pk program has 77% male and 23% female participation. These are future skills through which Ignite aims towards poverty alleviation and financial inclusion, with a special focus on female empowerment. A true turning point for DigiSkills.pk freelancers, Ignite signed a partnership agreement with JazzCash to enable freelancers to transfer money from their Payoneer accounts to JazzCash Mobile Accounts in real time at the best exchange rates.

To spur R&D and innovation at grassroots level, the NGIRI-FYP program offers support to selected Final Year Projects (FYP) of undergraduate students. This year, 677 projects were funded with Rs. 30.7 million disbursed during FY2019 and 1042 projects approved during 2020.

This Annual Report portrays our contributions and performance for the year and we're proud of the role we have been able to play in spurring technology and innovation across Pakistan. We have highlighted multiple programs that we continue to initiate to build an inclusive and exciting tech innovation ecosystem. We look forward to your feedback.

OUR CORE ACTIVITIES
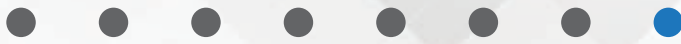
Innovation is the prime determinant of the rise and fall of societies. The new surge of innovation is the fourth industrial wave, where creativity and innovation are at the forefront. Startups are the building blocks of the knowledge economy. Governments provide incentives to address market failures and agile regulation that balances risk with innovation.

Ignite funds startups and innovative projects that utilize 4th industrial wave tech to solve local problems and target global opportunities in health, education, energy, agriculture, telecom, finance and other verticals. Our national network of incubators across Pakistan nurtures startups and engages them with investors and corporations.

We have launched a Digital Skills Training Program to provide one million trainings across the country over a period of two years. Through studies and stakeholder engagement, we help with planning in the public and private sectors.

Being executed since 2012, the National Grassroots ICT Research Initiative (NGIRI) is aimed at promoting R&D and Innovation at the grassroots level by providing financial support to selected Final Year Projects (FYP) of undergraduate students.

Ignite outreach activities seek to inform professionals, media, students, corporations, and policymakers about the challenges and threats posed by the new economy and the importance of innovation and seek to increase engagement in Ignite programs.

Tech Innovation Grants

Solving meaningful problems and availing opportunities with Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) Tech.

NIC Program

Accelerating entrepreneurial eco system by nurturing startups and engaging them with investors and corporations.

DigiSkills.pk

Creating a populace that is learning continuously with initiative.

FYP Fund

Igniting university innovation and providing final year students with hands-on skills.

Outreach

Ignite outreach engages corporates, professionals, entrepreneurs, academics, media and policy makers with programs and informs them about the importance of innovation, and the challenges and threats posed by the 4IR.

TECH INNOVATION GRANTS

TECH INNOVATION GRANTS ↖

Thematic
Areas

Through Tech Innovation Grants, Ignite funds startups and innovative projects that utilize 4th Industrial Wave Tech to solve local problems and target global opportunities in health, education, energy, telecom, finance, security and other verticals.

3D/4D Printing

Augmented/ Virtual Reality

Neurotech

Internet of Things

Big Data, Artificial Intelligence

Blockchain

Robotics

Wearables / Implantables

Cloud

Shared Economy

Proposal
Submission

During the past year, 97 new Technical R&D and Innovative Product Development projects worth Rs. 1.95 billion were submitted. These projects belonged to Telecom, Health, Energy, Agriculture, Aviation and Education sectors. Few of the technology areas targeted by these projects include AR/VR, AI/Big Data, Robotics, IoT, Cloud and Shared Economy.

Proposal Submission by Technology

Technology	Count
AR/VR	1
3D/4D Printing	4
Blockchain	4
IoT	13
Others	13
Robotics	5
Shared Economy	2
Wearables / Implants	4
Cloud Infrastructure	4
AI, Big Data	47

Proposal Submission by City

City	Count
Islamabad	33
Jamshoro	1
Karachi	26
Kohat	1
Lahore	19
Peshawar	6
Quetta	4
Rawalpindi	1
Topi	2
Wah Cantt	1
Dera Ismail Khan	1
Faisalabad	2
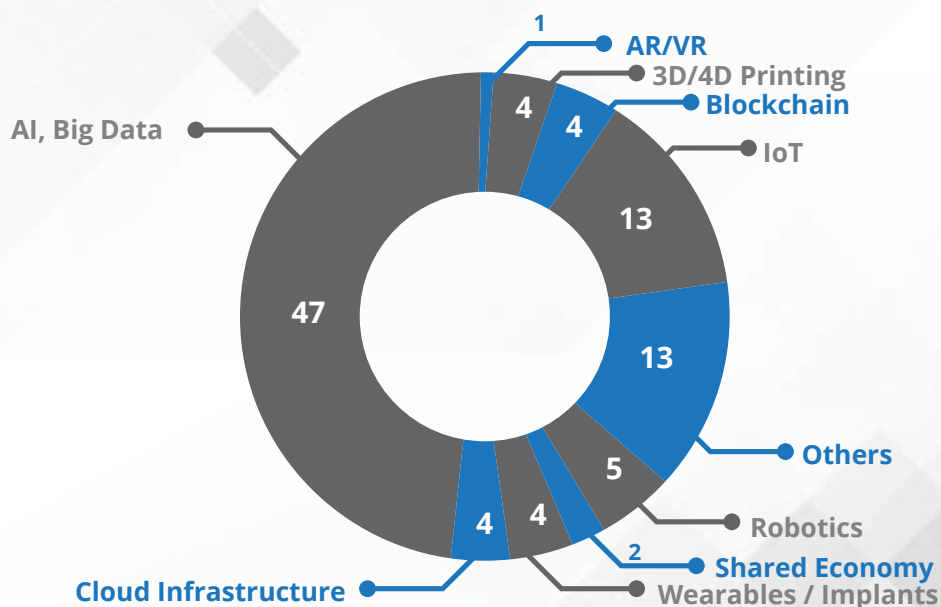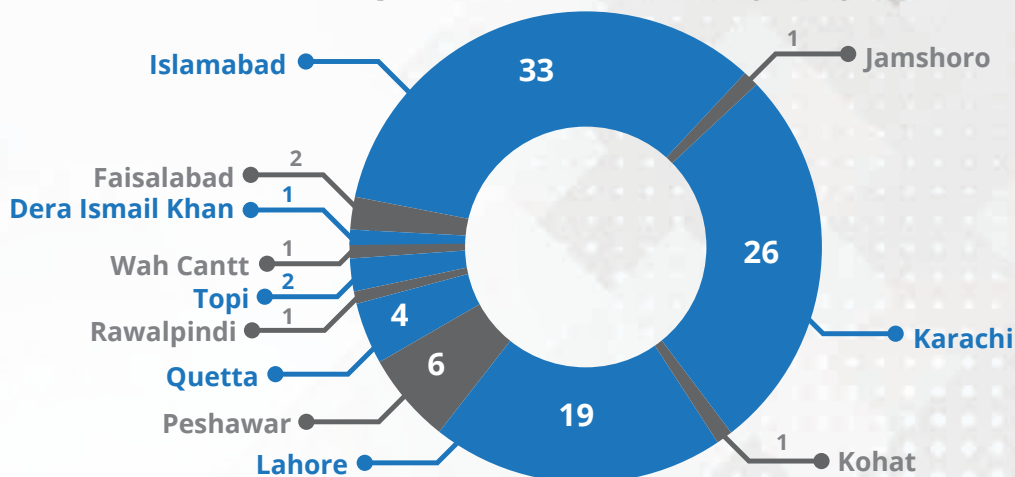
Proposals
Approved

Four technical innovative projects worth Rs. 65 million, were approved by the Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) for funding in Jan 2020. These projects were evaluated internally by the Ignite evaluation team as well as by industry experts so as to select the ones with the potential to create marketable products and services.

Investment in Verticals (Rs. in Million)

Security/Cybersecurity	Energy	Healthcare	Others
27.07	10.93	3.62	23.46
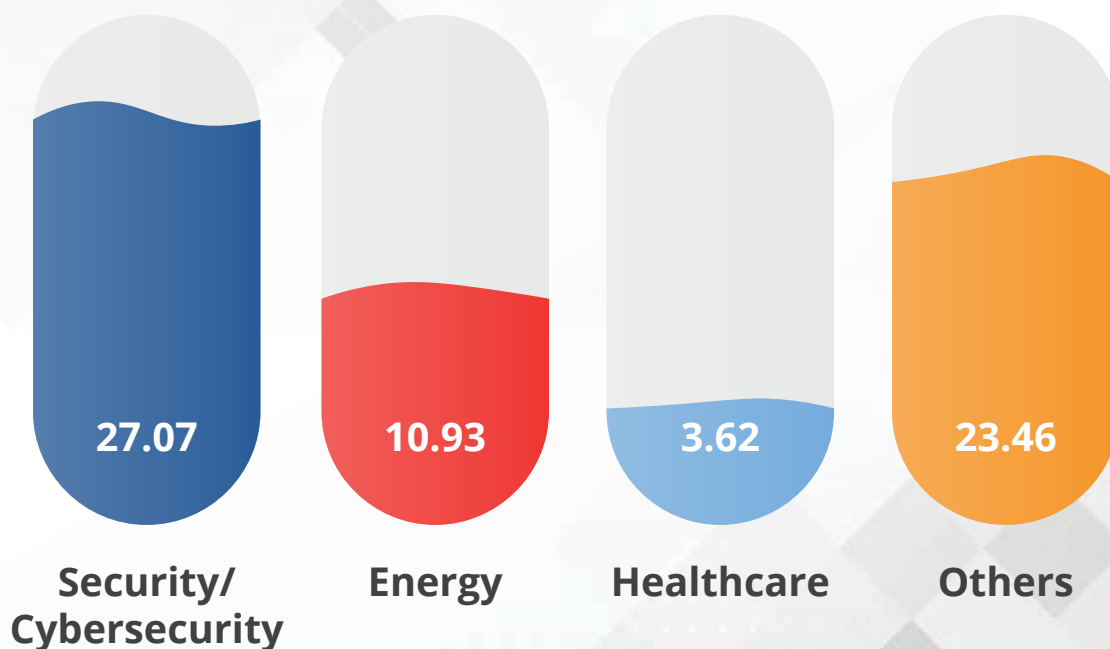
Investment in Technology (Rs. in Million)

AI/Big Data — 38.01

AR/VR — 27.07
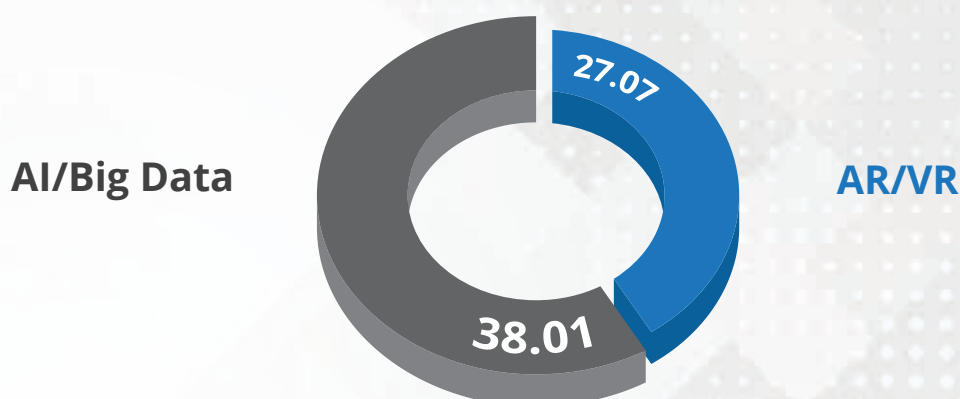
Technical R&D
Projects

Ignite has funded a diverse range of technical R&D projects within the ICT spectrum since its inception. Under these funded projects, individuals including professional engineers, researchers, software developers, project managers, finance and accounts professionals, undergraduate and graduate students are being trained to perform state-of-the-art R&D activities in their respective fields. The category-wise snapshot of twenty (20) technical R&D projects that have completed all closure related formalities during FY 2019-20 is given below:

Category	Approved Budget	Projects
AR/VR	Rs. 50,570,892	2
Health-Tech	Rs. 50,882,237	2
Software System	Rs. 63,873,688	4
Ed-Tech	Rs. 52,174,124	3
Mobile App/Web Based Solution	Rs. 51,295,470	3
Telecom	Rs. 58,705,109	3
Embedded Systems	Rs. 35,379,532	1
Security	Rs. 26,618,137	1
Wearables	Rs. 7,898,940	1
Total	Rs. 397,398,129	20

TOTAL REVENUE GENERATED (Rs. in Million): **24**

TOTAL INVESTMENT RAISED (Rs. in Million): **554**

PEOPLE IMPACTED IN THOUSANDS: **433**

HR TRAINED: **305**

PATENTS FILED: **3**

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS: **18**

CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS: **35**

New
Initiatives

■ Agrisurge Innovation Challenge

AgriSurge Innovation Challenge (AIC) is an Open Innovation Challenge seeking to transform the agriculture sector in Pakistan through groundbreaking ideas to meet the growing challenges with new solutions, using 4IR technologies of AI, Big Data and others to address the demands of growing population. Pakistan is considered to be an agricultural country; this sector contributes 21% to the GDP and employs 45% of the labor force.

Optimal Usage of Water	Warehousing of Agro Products	Credit Availability/ Access to Finance for Farmers	Skills & Training for Farmers
Lack of Locally Produced Good Quality Seeds	Agro Products & Services Marketplace for Farmers	Lack of R&D on Soil Quality	Lack of Entrepreneurship

Lack of Understanding of Alternate Crops
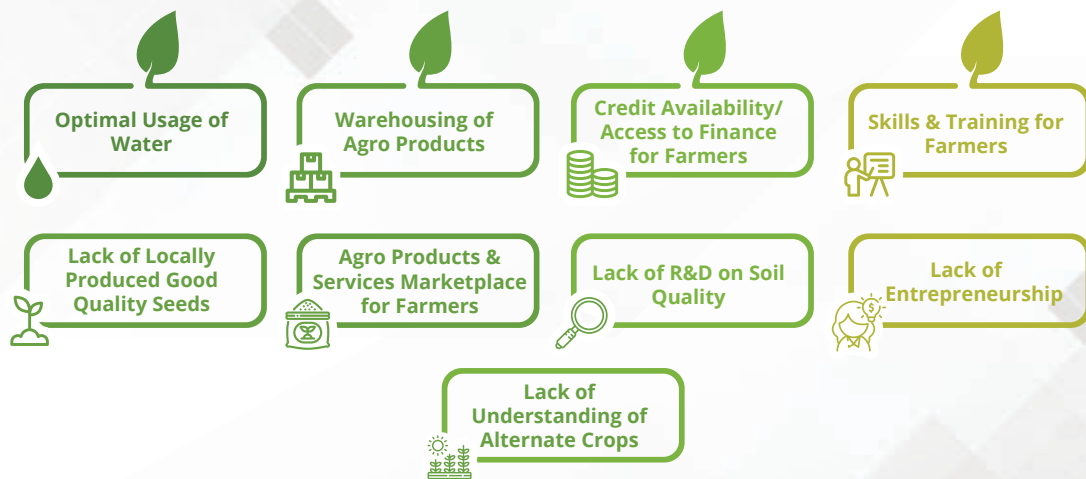
To address these challenges through innovation, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN, Ignite and MoITT joined hands to launch the AgriSurge Innovation Challenge, with the following objectives:

Increase agricultural production	Enrich value chains at each step in the farmer-to-market process	Use emerging technologies to optimize responses to climate change and other challenges	Empower vulnerable populations by establishing e-commerce platforms

Awards

1st PKR 500,000   **2nd** PKR 300,000   **3rd** PKR 200,000

Fighting COVID-19 through Innovation

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a special funding stream under the Tech Innovation Grants was introduced. 75 proposals worth Rs. 1.46 billion (approx.) have been submitted by academia and industry.

Focus Areas

- Point-of-care Diagnostics
- Monitor and Control
- Prophylactics and Therapeutics
- Electromedical Equipment
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Predictive Modeling using AI
- Innovation in Industrial Raw Materials

- Developing Production Processes/Methods
- Innovation for Production Line Automation
- Solutions to Monitor Food/Ration Supplies
- Awareness and Understanding COVID-19
- Others

Proposals Submitted
75

Approximate worth
Rs. 1.46 billion

* Approval process is currently on hold due to new PPRA regulations.

Tech R&D
Projects

Automatic Surveillance System for Video Streams

Vertical: Security
Funding: Rs. 26.62 Million

This complete automatic surveillance system has made it possible to recognize human activity and identify suspected activities, using compact video metadata in the form of natural language descriptions along with human face, age, gender and emotion recognition.

- **Secured investment of Rs. 97.5 Million from Planning and Development Division, Islamabad through HEC.**
- **Deployed at multiple nodes of Safe City Project Lahore**.

Retail Recommendations Become Personalized with DealSmash Recommender System

Vertical: Mobile App/Web Based Solution
Funding: Rs. 8.88 Million

DealSmash Recommender System, an AI-based spam filter, provides contextual awareness and personalized recommendations to retail customers, detecting and recognizing general objects close to the user in a video stream, using stereo cameras and miniature computers.

- **Secured investment of Rs. 18.4 Million from Al Hilal Securities Advisors.**

Innovative Learning Solution for Science Education

Vertical: Ed-Tech
Funding: Rs. 28.59 Million

Knowledge Platform strives to ensure provision of quality education to middle school students by developing curriculum-aligned science content through blended learning solution (i.e. Learn Smart Classroom).

- **Deployed in 390+ schools across Pakistan, providing education to 180,000+ students.**
- **Received Rs. 365.8 Million investments from Beacon House, Lakson Group and DFID.**
- **Generated Rs. 9 Million in revenue.**

Object Detection & Categorization for Visually Impaired Persons using Deep Neural Learning

Vertical: Wearables
Funding: Rs. 7.89 Million

A wearable product has been developed to assist visually impaired people in interacting with the environment, using deep neural networks, enabling the visually impaired user to detect and recognize nearby general objects in a video stream using stereo cameras and miniature computers.

- **MoU signed with Pakistan Association of Blinds, Sindh and Acrux Technologies, Islamabad.**

Therapy and Education of Special Needs Children with AR Learning System
Vertical: Augmented/Virtual Reality
Funding: Rs. 27.35 Million

This Augmented-Reality based game for therapy and education of children with special needs has redefined special education and therapy, making it cheaper, effective, measurable and more accessible.

- **Deployed in 12 schools and 12 hospitals.**

Urdu Search Engine
Vertical: Mobile App/Web Based Solution
Funding: Rs. 33.22 Million

Under this project, the largest URDU content repository has been developed with a function to provide access to the citizens of Pakistan to facilitate the adoption of Urdu Language, producing an Urdu search engine namely https://www.humkinar.pk/ enabling users to search text in Urdu.

- **23,000+ unique users.**
- **Investment of Rs. 72.4 million from Planning Commission of Pakistan through HEC.**

OCT Image Analysis System for Grading & Diagnosis of Retinal Diseases and Its Integration in I-Hospital
Vertical: Health-Tech
Funding: Rs. 12.36 Million

ALBASR is a complete and standardized web-based electronic medical record suite for eye care with a decision Support System for eye diseases, generally suited for eye hospitals/clinics, especially in rural areas connected to any metropolitan hospital using telemedicine systems.

- **Deployed and tested at AFIO Rawalpindi.**
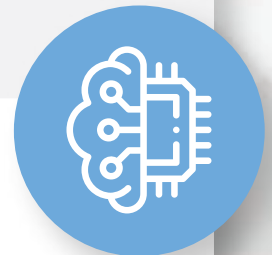
Scalable Transmission of Adaptive Multimedia based on P2P
Vertical: Telecommunication
Funding: Rs. 21.68 Million

This application was developed to assist media houses, educational institutes, individuals and organizations, to stream live multimedia contents.

- **MOU signed with Pak Enquirer & Aptech Media.**
- **Acquired membership of Planet Lab Europe.**

Towards the Next Generation Java Messaging Library for High-end Computing

Vertical: Software System
Funding: Rs. 7.5 Million

The project has allowed efficient execution of Java parallel programs on clusters built with multicore processors. The project has redesigned the MPJ Express software and implemented several new features to bring it at par with C/Fortran/C++ MPI libraries.

- **23,000 unique downloads.**

A Reconfigurable System-on-Module for Industrial Controls to Improve Tactical and Defense Related Applications

Vertical: Embedded Systems
Funding: Rs. 35.378 Million

Under this project, a credit card sized printed circuit board has been produced that can be reconfigured to perform several high-end electronic operations in signal processing, networking, security and automation.

- **Can be deployed in tactical and defense related applications.**

Authoring and Presenting Mathematical Documents becomes easier with ALAP

Vertical: Ed-Tech
Funding: Rs. 12.53 Million

This source software system (ALAP) can provide accurate real-time laTeX-to-speech capabilities for accessible math authoring and generating accessible WCAG 2.0 compliant PDFs.

- **57 visually impaired researchers have been trained.**

Indoor Location Based Services for Mobile Devices

Vertical: Telecommunication
Funding: Rs. 10.23 Million

The project has developed indoor localization techniques and a prototype indoor LBS application using Wi-Fi based and LED-based indoor localization techniques and improved localization accuracy.

- **2,000 student users in LUMS library.**

Automated Generation and Conformance Testing of Mobile Application Variants

Vertical: Software System
Funding: Rs. 26.51 Million

Developed for model-driven product line engineering of mobile applications to generate native variants for multiple platforms; this project can help mobile application developers in building cross-platform native applications.

- **300+ trainings imparted to students.**

e-Assessment System for C/C++ Programming Assignments

Vertical: Ed-tech
Funding: Rs. 11.06 Million

An automated assessment system to grade programming assignments has been developed in C or C++ languages using Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA).

- **Deployed at Lahore campus of COMSATS Institute of Information Technology.**

Enabling 3D Vision on Hand-held Devices

Vertical: Mobile App/Web Based Solution
Funding: Rs. 9.19 Million

Enabling 2D video stitching through an art preservation application, this project makes it possible to digitize artwork and cultural heritage, such as frescos and handicrafts (textile etc.) at high quality with parallel implementation of point-tracking that can gain maximum advantage from GPU along with 3D surface reconstruction.

Virtual Broadband Remote Access Server

Vertical: Telecommunication
Funding: Rs. 26.81 Million

Virtual B-RAS is a product developed for ISPs to authenticate, authorize and route subscriber data traffic, enabling Internet Service Providers to offer value-added services to their customers by ensuring minimum latency.

HoloAds (Augmented Reality Based Advertising)

Vertical: Augmented/Virtual Reality
Funding: Rs. 23.22 Million

This project has created a series of Plug-ins for the Unity Engine, allowing developers and publishers to create contextual ad-systems for Augmented Reality (AR) and Mixed Reality (MR) smart glasses. The end-product is an Augmented Reality (AR) based smart-ads platform, which allows developers to monetize their apps by taking existing mobile ad systems.

Single Cell Treatment with Automated Tele-Micromanipulator

Vertical: Health-Tech
Funding: Rs. 38.52 Million

With the scope of creating a cost-effective tool to perform semi-automated microinjection, this project also entails the development of a training simulator for manual micro-cell injection systems, hence being helpful in delivering drugs to a single cell for the treatment of diseases like cancer, Alzheimer's, Sickle cell anemia, cystic fibrosis etc.
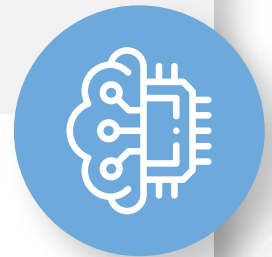
Design & Implementation of a Language Independent Software Clone Management Tools Suite

Vertical: Software System
Funding: Rs. 17.10 Million

A prototype of a software engineering tool has been developed for clone detection, clone visualization, clone framing, clone repository and clone tracking. These features are especially useful for JAVA developers.

End-to-End Solution for Business Process Composition and Management

Vertical: Software System
Funding: Rs. 12.76 Million

This project improved the efficiency of business processes (BPs) and reduced their cost for deployment and management for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), utilizing cloud-based services and open source software components for rapid development and deployment of BPs for SME organizations at low cost.

NIC
PROGRAM

NIC
PROGRAM

The Government of Pakistan (GoP) has outlined a vision of accelerated digitization and transformation of Pakistan into a knowledge-based economy to spur economic growth through innovation and entrepreneurship. Keeping in mind the critical role played by startups in economic growth, job creation, financial inclusion, reducing the income divide and building a knowledge economy, Ignite, under the auspices of Ministry of IT & Telecom, launched a program to build a network of National Incubation Centers (NIC) in the Federal Capital and all Provincial Capitals.

The key objective of this program is to facilitate talented entrepreneurs and provide them all necessary support to transform their innovative ideas into sustainable businesses. NICs facilitate and provide all the key support required by startups to succeed, including mentorship and networking by leading entrepreneurs, corporate chieftains, top professionals, investors and global entrepreneurial organizations through numerous events and meet-ups. Other key facilities provided to startups include rent-free office space, high speed broadband Internet, makers lab, usability labs, fintech lab, design thinking lab, AI R&D centers, and a host of other shared facilities.

The
Impact
FY 2019-20

ISLAMABAD
FUNDS DISBURSED (Rs. in Million)
105.89

2 COHORTS INDUCTED

1,759 STARTUP APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

40 STARTUPS SELECTED

29 STARTUPS GRADUATED

LAHORE
FUNDS DISBURSED (Rs. in Million)
95.67

22 STARTUPS GRADUATED

52 STARTUPS SELECTED

592 STARTUP APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

2 COHORTS INDUCTED

KARACHI
FUNDS DISBURSED (Rs. in Million)
108.45

2 COHORTS INDUCTED

660 STARTUP APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

42 STARTUPS SELECTED

14 STARTUPS GRADUATED

PESHAWAR
FUNDS DISBURSED (Rs. in Million)
82.78

14 STARTUPS GRADUATED

34 STARTUPS SELECTED

772 STARTUP APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

2 COHORTS INDUCTED

QUETTA

2 COHORTS INDUCTED

292 STARTUP APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

30 STARTUPS SELECTED

25 STARTUPS GRADUATED

Impact Since Inception

TOTAL **FUNDS** DISBURSED (Rs. in Million)
908.47

25 TOTAL COHORTS INDUCTED

TOTAL **STARTUP** APPLICATIONS RECEIVED
11,497

539 TOTAL STARTUPS SELECTED

TOTAL **STARTUPS** GRADUATED
213

National Incubation Center
Dream. Build. Rise
Funded by Ignite, MoITT

Impact During 2019-20

2
Cohorts Inducted

1,759
Startup Applications Received

40
Startups Selected

29
Startups Graduated

Impact Since Inception

FUNDS
DISBURSED
(Rs. in Million)
223.48

8
COHORTS
INDUCTED

STARTUP
APPLICATIONS
RECEIVED
6,500+

187
STARTUPS
SELECTED

STARTUPS
GRADUATED
78

Star Startups

FOWRY

One-stop-shop platform that provides B2B and B2C smart delivery solutions

- Rs. 36.7 Million GMV delivered.
- 34.7K orders delivered.
- 25K+ downloads.
- Partnered with ICT Administration, Government of Punjab, and Government of Sindh.
- Successfully launched Qurbani 2020 in Pakistan, KSA, UAE, UK, USA and Canada for deliveries in Islamabad & Rawalpindi.

AugmentCare

Ground-breaking health tech solution, offering digital access to qualified doctors

- Exponential growth during COVID-19 pandemic.
- Seed investment round raised.
- Revenue: more than Rs. 30 Million.

XpertFlow

Aiming to develop a solution to assist healthcare professionals in monitoring critical patients in real time

- Successfully completed the HyperSpark Pre-Accelerator Program conducted in partnership with Temasek, raising $10,000 as an equity-free grant.
- Currently part of UNSW Health10x Pre-Accelerator (Australia) and Expara VirTech Accelerator (Singapore).
- Amongst the top 3 finalists at Startup Istanbul.

Aiyin

An immersive, practical and experience-based learning platform to empower underprivileged students

- Built and successfully implemented their VR Educational content in multiple schools across the country.
- Partnership with Harvard University.

Move It

Scaling logistics company digitizing the freight industry of Pakistan by connecting loads to lorries, making it possible to move anything anywhere

- Within their first 6 months of launch, they were able to get a substantial share of the B2B grocery delivery market.
- Growth from a fleet of 3 cars to 30 cars.

Impact During 2019-20

2
Cohorts
Inducted

592
Startup
Applications
Received

52
Startups
Selected

22
Startups
Graduated

Impact Since Inception

FUNDS
DISBURSED
(Rs. in Million)
248.80

5
COHORTS
INDUCTED

STARTUP
APPLICATIONS
RECEIVED
1,300+

140
STARTUPS
SELECTED

STARTUPS
GRADUATED
82

Star Startups

SE Drop

SE Drop treats and recycles water, ridding it of waste and chemicals

- Collaboration with INTERLOOP, Chemistry Department, LUMS & Chemical Engineering Department, UET.
- Joint venture with Karachi Engineering Company (lagum engineering) and Islamabad-based startup, Sukhi Zindagi.

GirlyThings

Producing a kit, providing women with immediate menstrual care

- Selected by Standard Chartered SC Women in Tech in partnership with INNOVentures Global (pvt.) Limited and is currently in the process of signing a deal with them and with Gloria Jeans.
- Winner of P@SHA Award in the 'Indigenous Services' category.
- Founder, Tanzila Khan was the winner of The World's Summit Awards 2019 in Portugal.

Mountainaise

Using a Machine Learning cog for scaling business transformation, customer success journey and performance marketing

- Received a sizeable grant from SEGMENT.
- Launched upgraded version of Mountainaise, featuring a CRM attribution module.
- Partnership with a US company to sell Mountainaise's products.

Mini Tractor & Reaper Binder

Offering a machine to prepare and bind wheat produce post-harvest, saving time and reducing labor cost.

- Featured by USAID as a success story.
- Partnership with BMITCO, a global trading company, which purchased 50% of their inventory.
- Mini Tractor and Reaper Binder has a venture with Chinese R&D center.

Car Helpline

Pakistan's 1st 24/7 roadside assistance platform

- Selected in Startup Category P@SHA – ICT Awards 2019.
- MoU with Women on Wheels and University of Management & Technology (UMT, Lahore).
- MoU between CarHelpline & United Motor Merchants CAA Club Group (South & Central Ontario, Canada).

Impact During 2019-20

2
Cohorts
Inducted

772
Startup
Applications
Received

34
Startups
Selected

14
Startups
Graduated

Impact Since Inception

FUNDS
DISBURSED
(Rs. in Million)
174.77

5
COHORTS
INDUCTED

STARTUP
APPLICATIONS
RECEIVED
1,800+

84
STARTUPS
SELECTED

STARTUPS
GRADUATED
14

Star Startups

Motortec

A one-stop online shop for all automotive new and used parts

- Investment Raised: Rs. 20 Million.
- Revenue: Rs. 3.6 Million in 1 year.

Qareeb.com (formerly Dukandar.com)

Online platform dealing in daily use products, including grocery, electronics and much more

- Investment Raised: Rs. 130 Million.
- Got acquired for $3.5 Million by Qareeb, one of the biggest e-commerce portals in the MENA Region.
- Expanding its services to China, Egypt and Turkey.
- Revenue: Rs. 35.5 Million.
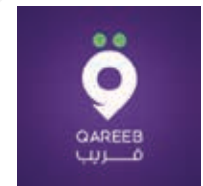
Tutor's Gateway

A platform connecting tutors and students with each other

- Revenue: Rs. 1.3 Million.
- More than 80 active tuitions per month.

Nano IT Solutions

Working in immersive VR Technology by manufacturing Motion Simulators for education and entertainment

- Winner of Pakistan Startup Cup 2019.
- Investment Raised: Rs. 22.5 Million.
- Revenue: Rs. 1.29 Million.

Khawateen Rozgar Services

Online platform connecting women to the best job opportunities available in the market

- Rs 1.26 Million grant from USAID.
- 1st prize at LIFT Pakistan 2019.
- Helped more than 380 women get jobs in more than 35 organizations.

National Incubation Center
NIC KHI
Funded by Ignite, MoITT

Impact During 2019-20

2
Cohorts
Inducted

660
Startup
Applications
Received

42
Startups
Selected

14
Startups
Graduated

Impact Since Inception

FUNDS
DISBURSED
(Rs. in Million)
166.71

4
COHORTS
INDUCTED

STARTUP
APPLICATIONS
RECEIVED
1,257

72
STARTUPS
SELECTED

STARTUPS
GRADUATED
14

Star Startups

Encore Pay

Fintech startup providing seamless payment service across a multitude of industries, agents, merchants and kiosks

- Growth rate of more than 300% during the last year on multiple live sites.
- Entry into various new markets including West Africa, East Africa, Middle East and South Asia.
- Closed first round of funding (pre-series) during the last year, and now closing Series A.
- Amongst the 7 companies selected by IBM as part of its global fintech accelerator program.

Saaya Health

Creating mental health solutions mainstream and accessible across cultures

- 100x revenue growth from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 1 million in a year.
- Live in 7 organisations, with access to 25,000 people.
- Served 4 Multinational Corporations (Bayer, Recckit Benkiser, Engro included).
- School mental health program successfully launched.
- PakQatar Takaful offering access to additional 700,000 people.
- Launched a new Burnout Mapping Tech Product.
- Coalition with AKU for mental health response across Pakistan.

IOTA Pakistan

Offers OBD car ports to gather on-board vehicle diagnostics connected to your phone for steady updates

- Investment raised from Indonesia.
- Deployed solution abroad.
- Low churn rate (5% only before COVID-19) and thus increased customer lifetime value.
- Shareholder investment recouped in 3 years.

Dosafar

A platform where people can join, offer and share their transport services like bus, taxi or any others

- Services started in Lahore.
- Partnership with 4 agencies in Karachi and 1 in Lahore.
- Launched driver application.
- Has more than 50 agencies for online bookings.

Personide

Powerhouse of e-commerce AI research, fueled by data, Personide can mold itself to shape customers' experience

- Hit the million mark in revenues.
- Customer acquisition in Asian markets.

Impact During 2019-20

2
Cohorts
Inducted

292
Startup
Applications
Received

30
Startups
Selected

25
Startups
Graduated

Impact Since Inception

FUNDS
DISBURSED
(Rs. in Million)
94.71

3
COHORTS
INDUCTED

STARTUP
APPLICATIONS
RECEIVED
640+

56
STARTUPS
SELECTED

STARTUPS
GRADUATED
25

Star Startups

Autonomous Wheelchair

Manufactures unique wheelchairs enabling users to control movement through eye gestures, while monitoring health of the patient

- Testing beta version and its associated performance.
- Working on incorporating features like eye control, notifications and alerts.

YKD Farms

YKD Farms breed a vast variety of exotic birds, with a focus on export potential

- Created 10 jobs.
- Sales increment of up to Rs. 1.5 Million.

Edjin Robotics

Manufacturing STEM Robotics kits in Quetta to help children learn science, technology, engineering, and math in an interesting manner

- Won a grant of Rs. 100,000 under UNDP's "Balochistan Youth Innovation Challenge Cup (BYICC)" 2019.
- Investment Raised: Rs. 1.2 Million.
- Developed workable prototype of first educational robot developed after 600 iterations.

Bio D-Fuel

Cost-effectively producing biodiesel through pilot plants that can be used as replacement for petro-fuels

- Participated in the Global Conference on Engineering and Technology (GCOET) 2018 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Khanmart

An online platform where customers can order premium quality dry fruits and have them delivered at their doorstep

- Investment Raised: Rs. 1.5 Million.
- Revenue: More than Rs. 600,000.
- 7 jobs created.
- Regional finalists for UberPitch 2019.

NIC Program
Success Stories

On-Demand Transport Platform Bykea Secures $5.7 Million Series A Investment - National Incubation Center Karachi

Bykea, a technology platform for on-demand transport and related services has completed a $5.7 Million Series A round of financing from Pakistan's first VC fund Sarmayacar and institutional investors from South East Asia and the Middle East. The financing will be used to fund:

- Bykea's expansion in ride-sharing.
- Express delivery and conversion of cash for digital use, for both consumers and businesses across Pakistan.

Peer-to-Peer Car Rental gets a Boost: Roamer Raises 6-figure Funding - National Incubation Center Islamabad

Roamer, a peer-to-peer hourly car rental service features chauffeur driven cars and it is currently available in Islamabad. Their solution is proving to be an ideal one for emerging markets having scarce mobility options and the startup is exploring expansion in 2021.

- More than 50,000 registered users and 1,200 vehicles.
- 6-figure funding raised.

Financial Inclusion of Farmers: Agrimart Gets a Rs. 10 Million Grant from Karandaaz - National Incubation Center Lahore

Agrimart is providing financial inclusion to low-income farmers by creating a marketplace that contributes to the Agri economy. The startup has recently won Rs. 10 Million from Karandaaz in grant money. This grant will be used for inclusion of farmers in the digital economy.

پاک ایگری مارکیٹ
پاکستان کی آن لائن زرعی مارکیٹ

Innovating the Healthcare Ecosystem in Pakistan: Instacare Raises Rs. 22 Million Funding - National Incubation Center Lahore

Instacare has raised funding of Rs. 22 Million from Khaleef Technologies, one of the leading VAS companies in Pakistan. Instacare is on a mission to innovate the healthcare ecosystem in Pakistan by making it more accessible, affordable and reliable. This investment will be used for mainstream expansion of Instacare's integrated healthcare platform.
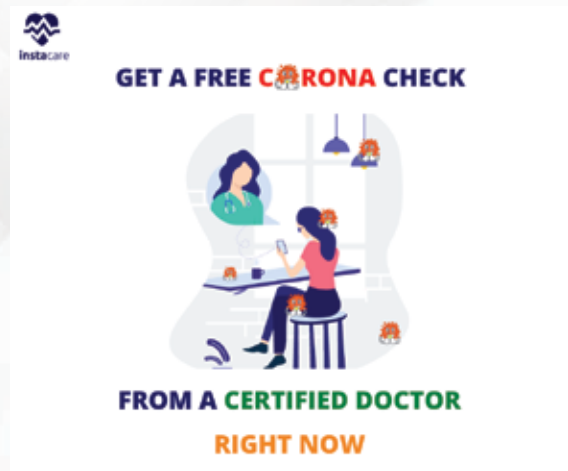
Traditional Peshawari Chappal Brand Bera Raises Rs. 25 Million Investment - National Incubation Center Peshawar

The traditional Peshawari Chappal brand, Bera has raised a second investment, this time Rs. 25 Million. Bera is bringing the traditional Peshawari chappal to the mainstream by connecting local artisans with the international market.

Xylexa, a Computer-aided Diagnostic Platform for Breast Cancer Raises Pre-seed Funding Round - National Incubation Center Islamabad

Xylexa is using Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning to develop a computer-aided diagnostics platform for automated, accurate, timely and cost-effective medical image diagnosis.

The investment, raised through Epiphany's Angel Investors, will enable Xylexa to take its current technology forward while supporting clinical trials and pilots.
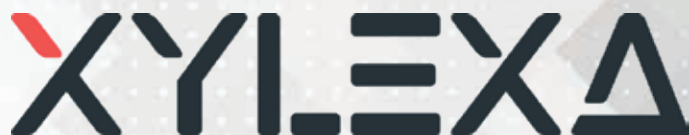
Ayeco Receives Investment at the Reality Show 'Idea Cororon Ka' - National Incubation Center Lahore

Ayeco has launched Pakistan's first smart wheelchair, called GoBee. It is the only company in Pakistan, which is locally manufacturing health tech assisted devices.

- Ayeco has also developed a walking stick, called the Smart Cane, especially for visually impaired people.
- Investment Raised on 'Idea Cororon Ka': Rs. 12 Million.

Ignite (MoITT) Powered Startups Win Big at Pakistan Startup Cup

Pakistan Startup Cup is the flagship program of The Indus Entrepreneurs Islamabad, organized in collaboration with the US Embassy in Pakistan, where top entrepreneurs from all over the country submit their ideas and compete for the big prize. During Startup Cup 2019, 3 NIC Program startups emerged as winners.

- National Incubation Center Peshawar: NanoIT Solutions and Aprus won the 1st and 3rd Prizes of Rs. 1 Million and Rs. 500,000 respectively.
- National Incubation Center Islamabad: DeafTawk from took home the 2nd prize, winning Rs. 750,000.

Ignite NIC Program Startups Shine at P@SHA ICT Awards 2019

NIC Program startups secured 5 awards at the P@SHA ICT Awards 2019.

- **Aprus Tech**, an electrosurgical instrument company, won in the 'Health and Wellbeing' category.
- **Learning Pitch**, a startup on a mission to make quality education accessible to everyone everywhere, won in the 'Education Technology' category.
- **Girlythings** emerged the winner in the 'Indigenous Services' category.
- **PakAgrimarket**, which is digitizing the agri value chain, won in the 'Agriculture' category.
- **Qumuq** came second in the 'Transport' category.

DIGISKILLS.PK

Poverty Alleviation through Future of Work
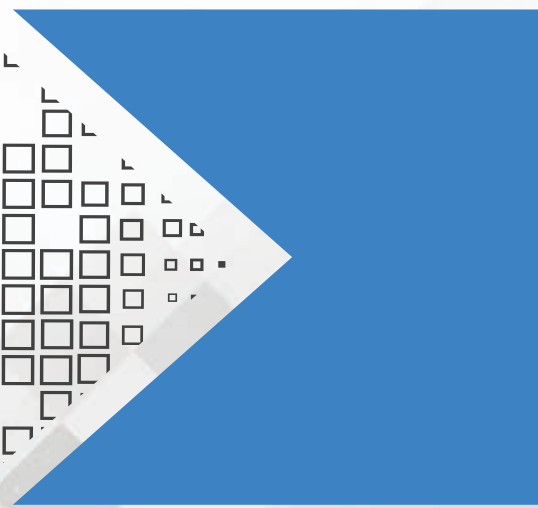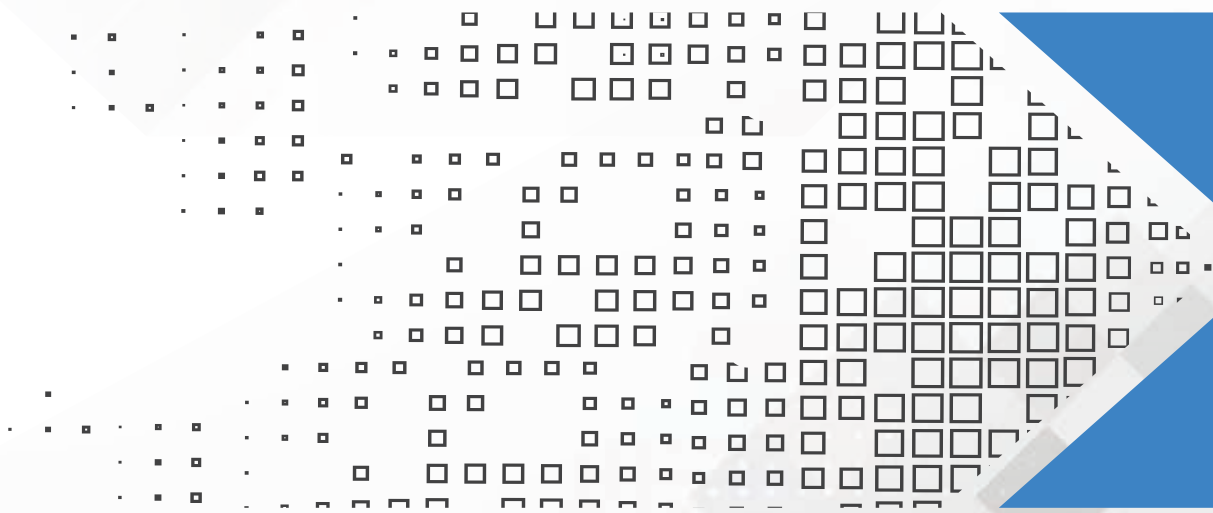
DigiSkills.pk
Overview

On 1st March 2018, Ignite, under the auspices of Ministry of Information Technology & Telecommunication, launched a large-scale national Digital Skills (DigiSkills.pk) Training Program to provide one (1) Million trainings across the country over a period of 2 years. DigiSkills.pk is aimed at equipping our youth, freelancers, students, professionals, etc. with knowledge, skills, tools and techniques necessary to seize the opportunities available internationally in online jobs marketplaces and also locally to earn a decent living.

The program aims at not only developing key specialized skills, but also imparting knowledge about various freelancing and other employment and entrepreneurial opportunities available internationally and locally. Due to limited employment opportunities, it is essential for the upcoming workforce to have necessary knowledge and abilities to grab such opportunities. This was envisaged to be achieved through a national level program to train target audiences in freelancing and other specialized skills.

DigiSkills Program - 3 Interlinked Projects Worth Rs. 859 Million

DigiSkills Training Project

Virtual University developed and maintained a web-based training platform and Learning Management System besides developing and producing high quality and engaging online training content that is delivered by Online Training Experts and Subject Matter Experts (SMEs). This also included the provision of overarching trainee support services while providing the facility of qualified coaches per module.

DigiSkills Outreach Project

MCOM attained signups and enrollments for each batch on a dedicated web portal. This entailed development of outreach content, marketing strategy and media dissemination for all outreach channels e.g. Social & Digital, Print, Electronic, Events & PR.

DigiSkills M&E Project

Semiotics implemented the M&E (Monitoring & Evaluation) plan to assess the progress of the project, utilizing an AI-based performance monitoring system to provide real-time and periodic information to address all M&E indicators. This has been supported by monitoring and evaluating real-time progress of all partners and incorporating the findings and lessons learnt on a regular basis to enable continuous learning and improvement.

Aims &
Objectives

The program aims to increase:

1. Number of individuals working as freelancers in the country
2. Number of hours worked per freelancer
3. Earnings per hour or per project for freelancers
4. Household income
5. Financial inclusion
6. IT exports
7. Number of experts in specialized skills

Key features

1. Customized LMS
2. Discussion boards
3. Online coaches
4. Premier content mainly in Urdu
5. Usage of AI/Data analytics for optimization
6. Performance monitoring system
7. Analytical dashboard

10 Comprehensive Courses

Freelancing

Quickbooks

Digital Literacy

Search Engine Optimization

Digital Marketing

e-Commerce Management

Graphic Design

Creative Writing

AutoCAD

WordPress

Our Trainers & Coaches

DigiSkills.pk has used qualified experts, from the industry and academia to work as Trainers or Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) to develop course content. They have been carefully selected based on their qualification and relevant industry experience as well as screen presence etc. They are responsible to develop course content, make changes as per the feedback of online training experts, record the videos, provide learning material and re-record the video in case of any change.

Hisham Sarwar	Saad Hamid	Ayesha Fazlur Rahman	Amena Aly	Sheraz Pervaiz
Freelancing	WordPress	Creative Writing	Creative Writing	e-Commerce Management

Usman Latif	Syed Arif Hussain	Dr. Yasir Rashid	Yasir Javed Doger	Syed Hassan Adnan
Search Engine Optimization	AutoCAD	Digital Marketing	Graphic Design	Quickbooks

To mentor and answer trainees' queries, DigiSkills.pk has hired 100 plus coaches and lead coaches with expertise in freelancing and other skill-based courses. Their responsibilities include mentoring, replying to queries, providing inbound call support to assigned trainees, making outbound calls to inactive trainees, giving suggestions to improve the freelancing profiles, marking the exercises, regularly adding quiz MCQs to the quiz bank, reviewing trainees' success stories, ChatBot support, replying to general queries and blogs' moderation.
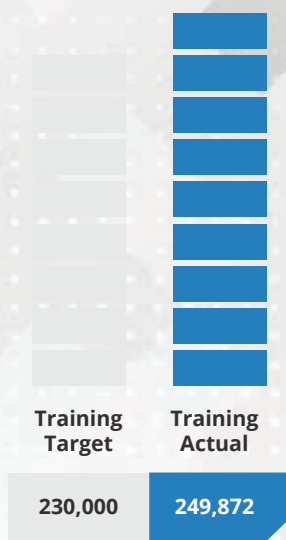
The way
DigiSkills.pk Works

SIGN UP
Sign up on DigiSkills.pk.

01 Sign up

SIGN UP
Watch ▶ "How to Sign up and register yourself".

PROFILE
Complete trainee profile through **Sign in** to LMS

Profile
complete trainee profile.

02

03 Enrollment
Get enrolled in offered courses.

ENROLLMENT
Get enrolled in your desired courses, offered by **DigiSkills.pk**

STUDY
Watch ▶
"How to study and use LMS".

Study
Start studying the selected courses.

04

05 Assessments
Take assessments of studying courses.

ASSESSMENTS
Take assessments, quizes and exercises as per the scheduled calender

COMPLETION
Watch the given **Topic Videos through LMS,** attempt Quizzes and submit Exercises.

Completion
Complete your courses.

06

07 Certificate
You will be awarded certificate.

CERTIFICATE
You will be awarded Training Certificate from **DigiSkills.pk**

Impact
FY 2019-20

■ Batch-wise Enrollment vs Target FY 2019-20

TARGET	ACHIEVED
850,000	969,914

Training Target **Training Actual**

160,000	220,000

Batch-4

Training Target **Training Actual**

230,000	249,960

Batch-5

Training Target **Training Actual**

230,000	250,082

Training Target **Training Actual**

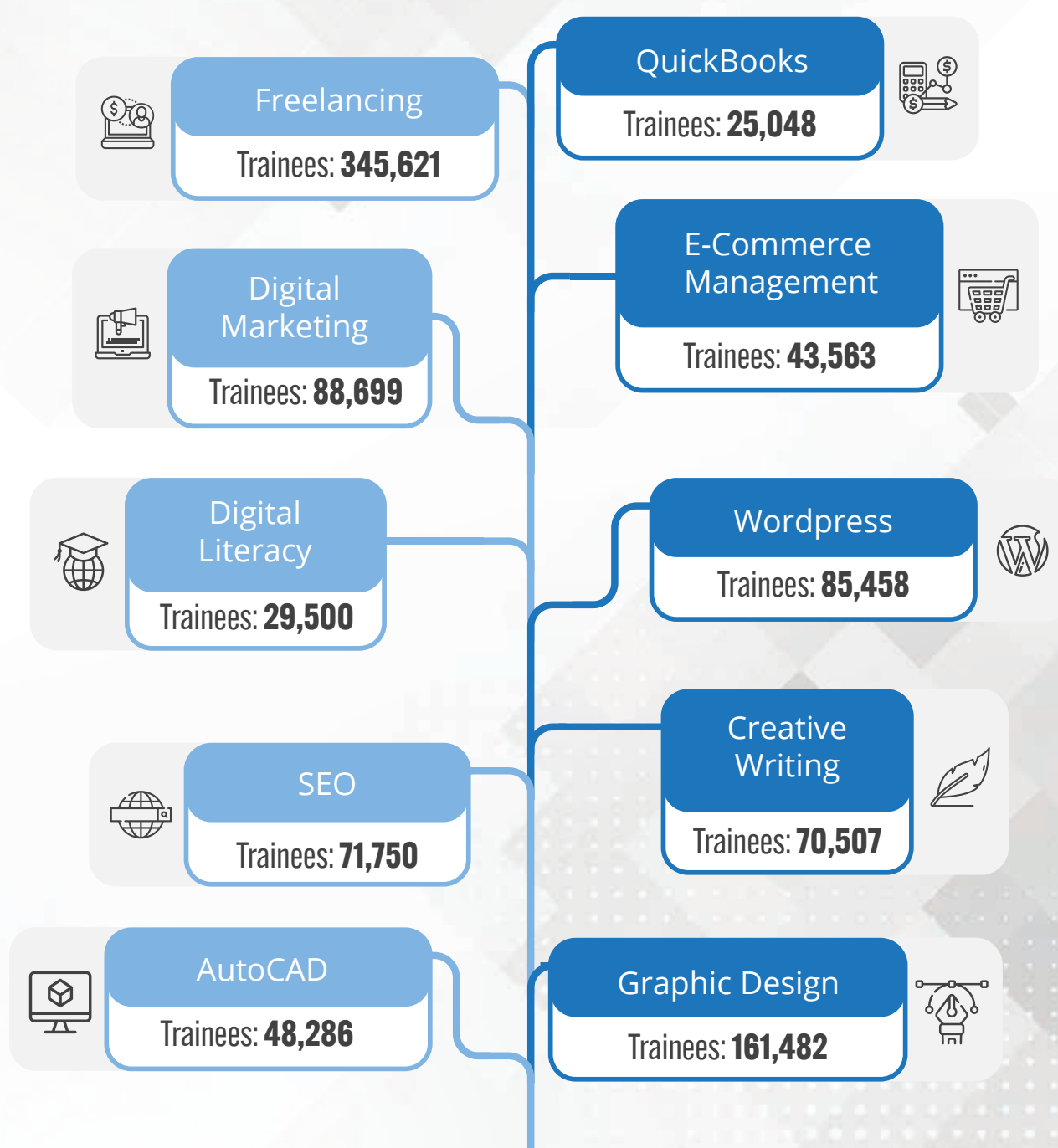| 230,000	249,872
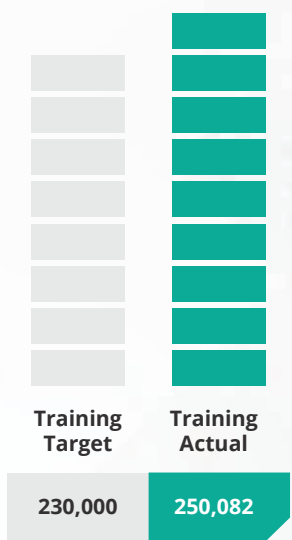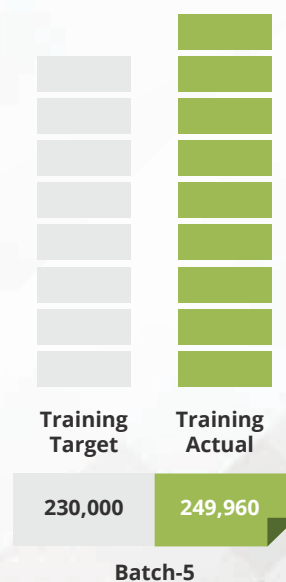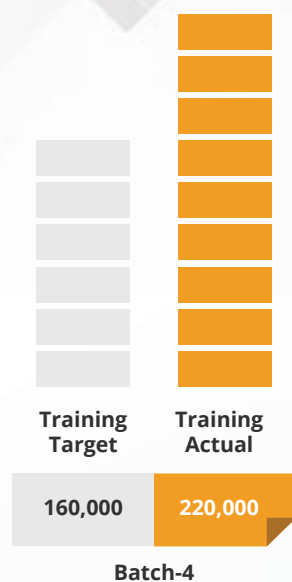
Impact
FY 2019-20

Batch-wise Enrollment vs Target FY 2019-20

Retaining trainees and ensuring course completion is always a big challenge for online learning, especially if the courses are free. According to Wikipedia*, course completion on one of the largest online training portals, Coursera, is 3% to 9%. In order to tackle this challenge, DigiSkills.pk did interventions to improve completion rate, including but not limited to, enrolling more trainees than the planned target in every batch, creating engaging content, using Urdu as primary medium of instruction, constant follow-ups with trainees via phone calls and providing individual attention through online coaches. As a result of these interventions, completion rates of each batch and the overall program are far more than other online programs, as shown in the table below:

BATCH	4	5	6	7
PLANNED ENROLLMENTS	160,000	230,000	230,000	230,000
ACTUAL ENROLLMENTS	220,000	249,960	250,082	249,872
ENROLLMENT TARGET ACHIEVMENT (PERCENTAGE)	137.50	108.67	108.73	108.64
COURSE COMPLETION	76,343	78,285	83,594	77,620
COMPLETION W.R.T PLANNED ENROLLMENTS (PERCENTAGE)	47.71	34.04	36.35	33.75
COMPLETION W.R.T ACTUAL ENROLLMENTS (PERCENTAGE)	34.70	31.31	33.42	31.06

Course-wise
Enrollments FY 2019-20

Total: 969,914

Freelancing
Trainees: **345,621**

QuickBooks
Trainees: **25,048**

Digital Marketing
Trainees: **88,699**

E-Commerce Management
Trainees: **43,563**

Digital Literacy
Trainees: **29,500**

Wordpress
Trainees: **85,458**

SEO
Trainees: **71,750**

Creative Writing
Trainees: **70,507**

AutoCAD
Trainees: **48,286**

Graphic Design
Trainees: **161,482**

Impact Since Inception

TARGET	ACHIEVED
1 Million	**1.53 Million**

Province-wise Enrollment

18,811

7,850

131,579

Expats: 15,561

Gilgit Baltistan

KPK

AJK

Islamabad

15,632

Punjab

84,492

Balochistan

933,272

Sindh

325,101

77% | Male **1,179,869**

Enrollments **1.53 Million**

23% | Female **352,428**

Enrollments Target Achieved **153%**

47

Roadshows
Spread

PESHAWAR

BIC, Peshawar

MARDAN

Durshal Mardan,

Women University,

UET Mardan,

Iqra College,

Pak School and College,

Mardan Paramedical institute,

Islamia Girls College,

Defence college for girls,

Allama iqbal institute

LAYYAH

Government Degree College,

Govt. College of Technology for Women, Kot Sultan,

Government Vocational Training Institute Layyah,

Professional training institute Campus 1, Layyah,

Professional training institute Campus 2, Layyah

MULTAN

Community Center, AKEPB

GILGIT

Karakoram University

HUNZA

Karakoram University

ABBOTTABAD

Abbotabad Public School

LAHORE

Punjab University,

University of Central Punjab,

Community Center, AKEPB

SWABI

Durshal Swabi,

GHSS & Degree College,

Al- Badar College,

Islamia College or Boys,

Islamia College for Girls,

The Gladiators College (Boys & Girls),

Govt. Degree College,

Durshal Swabi,

Ceena Medical Institute,

The Readers School & College,

Women university Swabi Kotha campus,

Provincial Event - Women university Swabi Main campus,

The Orbit College,

Al Muslim College for Boys,

Al Muslim College for Girls

QUETTA

Bethel Church,

NUML Quetta

HYDERABAD

Govt. College University Kali Mori,

Govt. Muslim Science Degree College,

Govt City College,

Community Center,

Sachal Sarmast College,

Govt Degree post Graduate College,

HIAST

NAWABSHAH

QUEST

SUKKUR

IBA Sukkur

KARACHI

Govt. college for Women Korangi,

Khursheed Govt. College Girls,

Govt. Degree Girls college Bufferzone,

Usman institute of Technology,

Government Girls' College - University Campus,

Govt. Degree College Murad Memon Goth,

Abdullah college, Karachi,

Etihad Town Karachi,

Code Girls Pakistan,

NIC, Karachi,

St. Andrew Church,

IBA Karachi

ISLAMABAD

Arid University,

NUST,

Yahowa yeri church,

Pak Mission Society,

Pak Mission Society,

CUST,

SZABIST University

Fueling the
Gig-Economy Explosion

Batch-wise Enrollment vs Target FY 2019-20

With the commencement of DigiSkills.pk program, the number of freelancers and their revenue growth has increased tremendously in Pakistan. According to the global payment platform Payoneer's Global Gig Economy Index, published in Forbes, Pakistan leads revenue growth in Asian freelance market with 47% year on year growth. The report also states that the number of freelancers in Pakistan has grown exponentially since the second quarter of 2018. This coincides directly with the start of the first batch of DigiSkills.pk program and the growth rate has a direct attribution to the progress of this program.

Fastest Growing Freelance Market in Asia

Pakistan 47%

Year over year revenue growth

Top10 Countries

1. USA 78%
2. UK 59%
3. Brazil 48%
4. **Pakistan 47%**
5. Ukraine 36%
6. Philippines 35%
7. India 29%
8. Bangladesh 27%
9. Russia 20%
10. Serbia 19%

Increase in Pakistani Freelancers Since Q2 2018

| | Batch 1 August 2018 | 4 Courses | 3 Months | Enrollments 30,804 Batch 2 December 2018 | 4 More Courses | Enrollments 81,119 Batch 3 April 2019 | 2 More Courses | Enrollments 200,331 Batch 4 August 2019 | 1 Million Trainings |

Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019
4%	**17%**	**28%**	**42%**
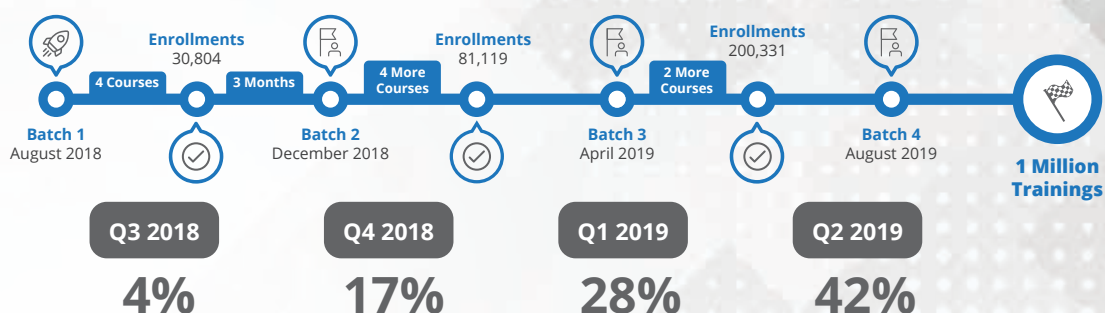
Friends of
DigiSkills.pk

Friends of DigiSkills.pk are a group of amazing individuals, firms and organizations from various walks of life united by their desire to economically empower the people of Pakistan. They work with a sense of social and civic responsibility towards marginalized communities, women and youth, without any monetary expectations and contribute in the following ways:

1. Market the program
2. Offer infrastructure support
3. Offer facilitation support
4. Provide pre-requisitetrainings
5. Offer internship, job and freelancing opportunities
6. Provide media coverage and visibility
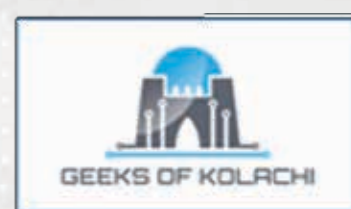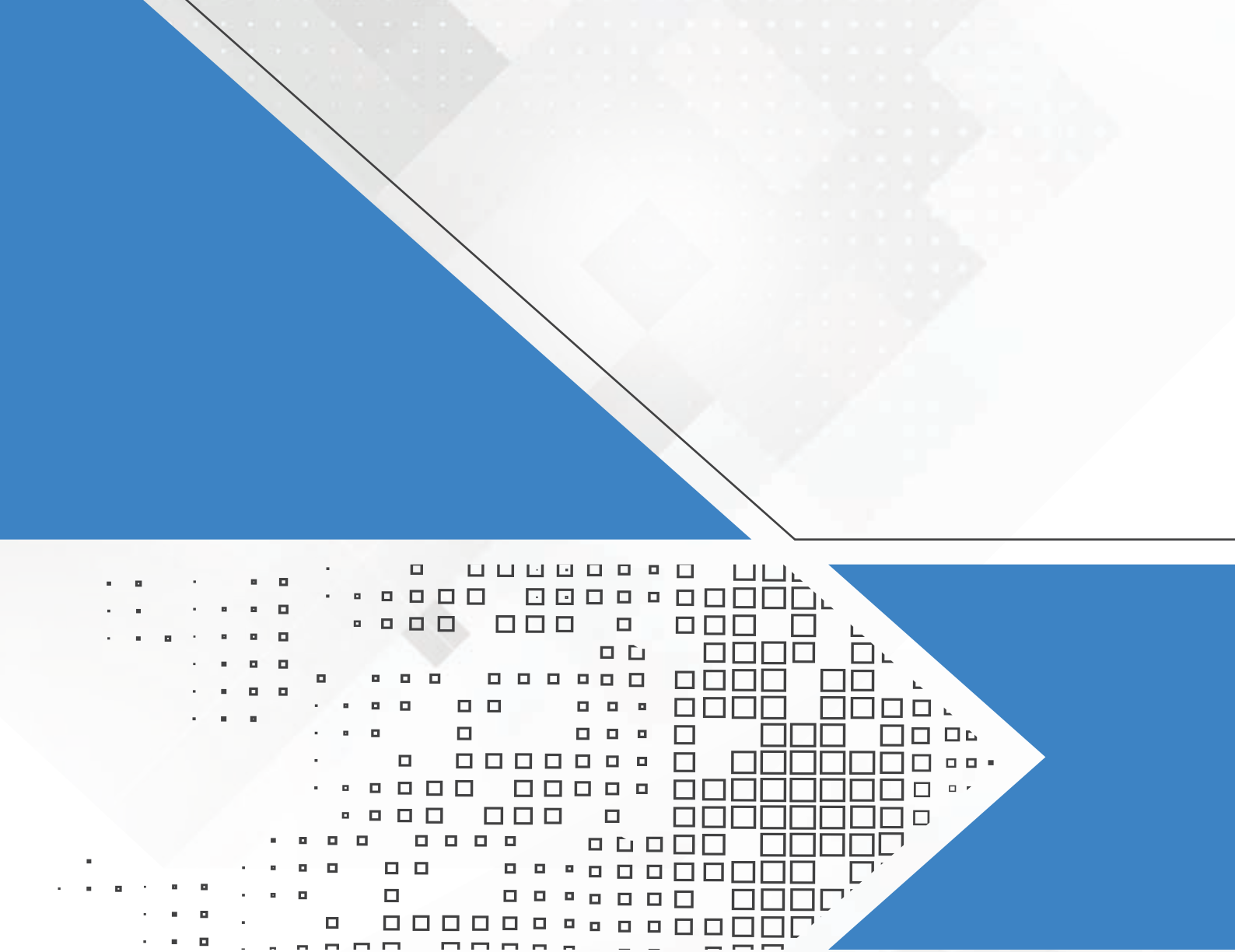
NGIRI
FYP

NGIRI
FINAL YEAR
PROJECTS
National Grassroots ICT Research Initiative

National Grassroots ICT Research Initiative (NGIRI) is aimed at promoting R&D and Innovation at the grassroots level by providing financial support to selected Final Year Projects (FYP) of undergraduate students, enrolled in ICT-related disciplines of public and private sector institutions. This program is being executed since 2012.

NGIRI 2020

FYP Submissions by Technology

- Artificial Intelligence — 28%
- Internet of Things — 26%
- Blockchain — 2%
- Robotics — 12%
- 3D / 4D Printing — 2%
- Clean Tech — 8%
- Neurotech — 2%
- Wearables/ Implantables — 5%
- Big Data — 3%
- Augmented / Virtual Reality — 5%
- Shared Economy — 3%
- Cloud Infrastructure — 3%

NGIRI 2020

156
Institutions
Particiapted

▶

2,832
FYP
Submitted

▶

1,042
FYP
Approved
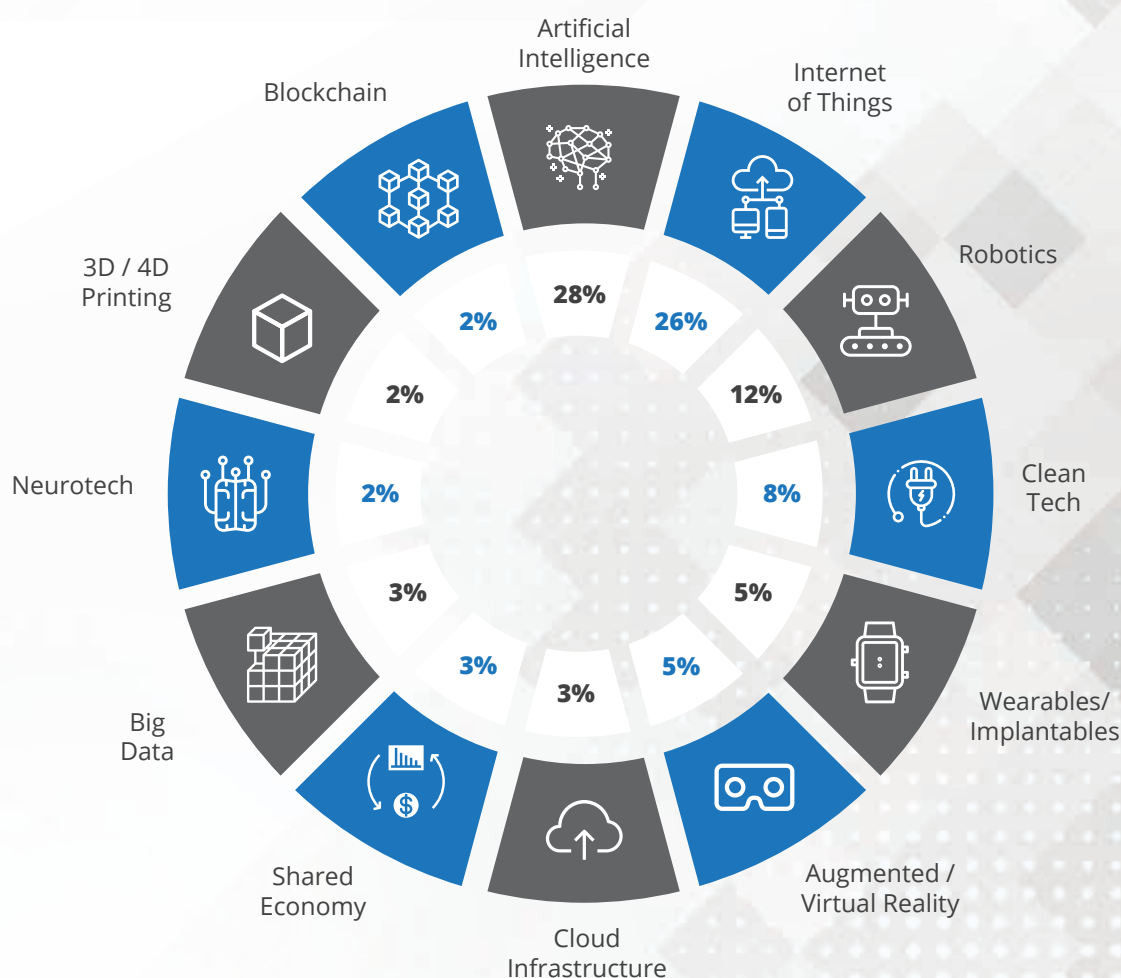
* Disbursement of funds is in progress.

NGIRI 2019

136
Institutions
Particiapted

▶

2,124
FYP
Submitted

▶

815
FYP
Approved

▼

2,000+
Students As
Beneficiaries

Rs.
30.7
Million
Disbursements

◀

677
FYP
Funded
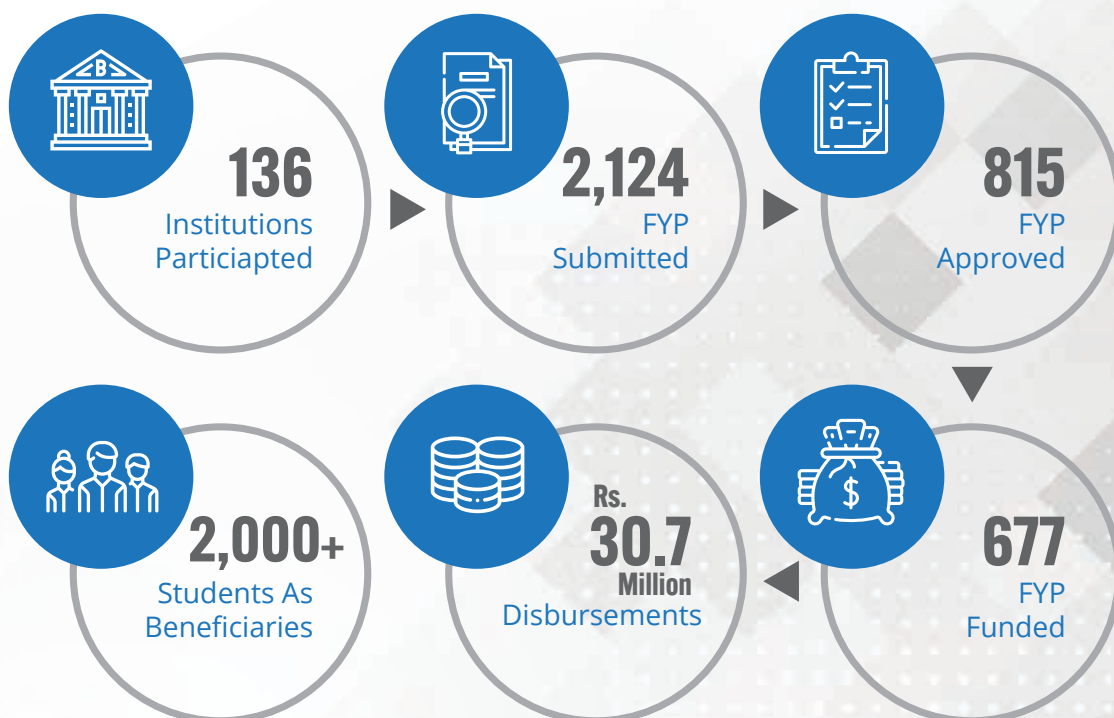
Overall Outcome

Yearly FYP Breakup

YEAR	PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS	FYP SUBMITTED	FYP APPROVED	FYP FUNDED	DISBURSEMENTS (RS. IN MILLION)
2011-12	68	785	272	272	15.27
2012-13	78	1,017	418	418	31.78
2013-14	72	1,247	430	430	25.13
2014-15	75	1,324	436	436	29.59
2015-16	76	1,166	512	360	18.14
2017-18	89	1,623	569	439	21.45
2018-19	136	2,124	815	677	30.72
2019-20*	156	2,832	1,042	--	--
TOTAL	**750**	**12,118**	**4,494**	**3,032**	**172.09**

* (NGIRI 2019 - 20) Disbursement of funds is in progress.

Provincial FYP Breakup

PROVINCE	UNIVERSITIES	FYP SUBMITTED	FYP APPROVED	FYP FUNDED	DISBURSEMENTS (RS. IN MILLION)
Azad Jammu & Kashmir	20	174	86	62	3.65
Balochistan	31	274	122	107	6.26
Fed. Capital	138	3,643	1,239	850	47.59
Gilgit Baltistan	5	13	8	6	0.29
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	128	1,376	577	413	22.63
Punjab	240	3,343	1,202	753	43.76
Sindh	188	3,295	1,260	841	47.91
TOTAL	**750**	**12,118**	**4,494**	**3,032**	**172.09**
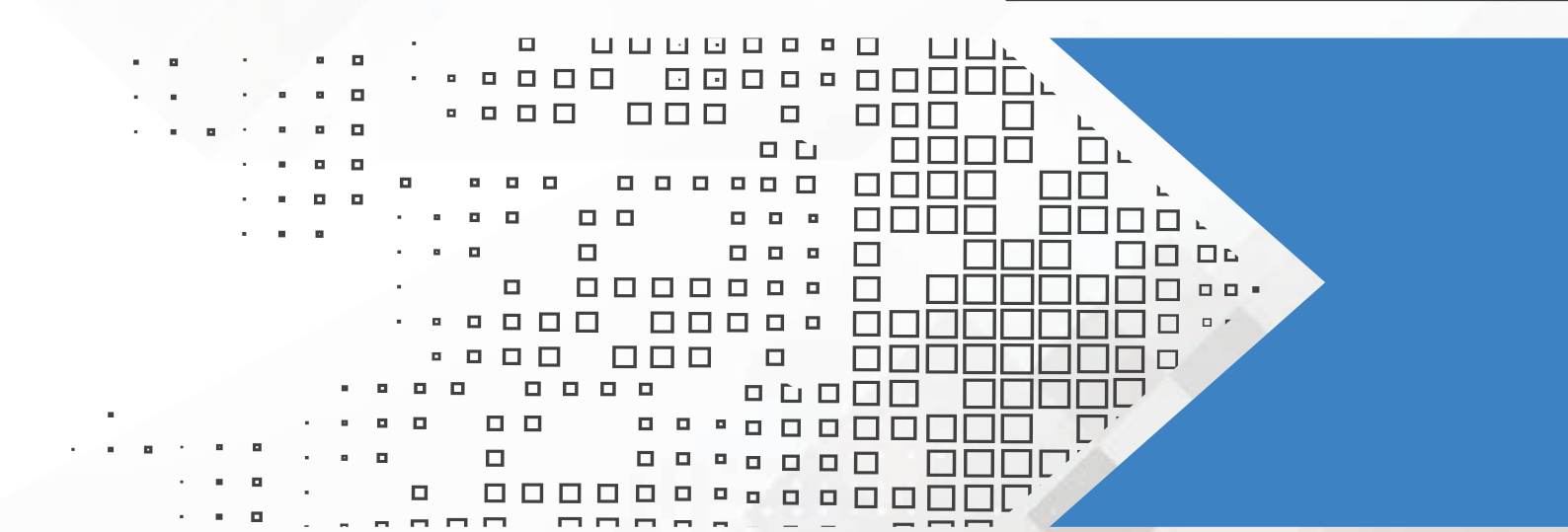
OUTREACH

OUTREACH

PM Imran Khan Lauds NIC Program Startups

While attending a demonstration of 10 startups from 5 National Incubation Centers across Pakistan, at the Prime Minister House, PM Imran Khan said that with startups playing a key role in economic growth and financial inclusion, the government would facilitate talented entrepreneurs in transforming their innovative ideas into sustainable businesses.

During his address, the Prime Minister said that the objective of startups is to encourage people who want to achieve and make progress in life. The NIC program is in line with the government's vision of accelerated digitization and transformation of Pakistan into a knowledge-based economy, to spur economic growth through innovation and entrepreneurship. Prime Minister Imran Khan said that vibrant societies always encourage their youth to propel forward, adding that only a government making headway could dare to promote new ideas. He further stated that fear of failure prevents people from taking big steps and thus undermines their true potential.

Imran Khan lauded the initiative to back startups; he said that it shows Pakistan is heading in the right direction, as only open minds breed new concepts.

Federal Minister for IT & Telecom, Syed Amin Ul Haque Lauds Bloodless Kidney Machine by Byonyks

Farrukh Usman, Founder of Byonyks, a medical devices company behind Pakistan's first bloodless dialysis machine, called on Federal Minister for IT & Telecom, Syed Amin Ul Haque, who appreciated the spirit of Byonyks' team for putting Pakistan on the global map with this innovation. Pakistan will be the 5th country in the world to have its indigenously produced "Bloodless" dialysis technology. Syed Junaid Imam, CEO Ignite stated that Tech Innovation Grants' recipient Byonyks has exceeded expectations by developing this state-of-the-art technology.

Federal Minister for IT & Telecom, Syed Amin Ul Haque Attends NIC Karachi's Graduation Ceremony

National Incubation Center Karachi held a graduation ceremony for 19 high-growth startups incubated under 2nd and 3rd cohorts. Federal Minister for IT & Telecom, Syed Amin Ul Haque, graced the event as the chief guest. He said, "The cultural shift to transform Pakistan into a startup economy cannot be achieved without the enthusiasm and drive of our youth." CEO Ignite, Syed Junaid Imam said, "Realizing the need for a robust innovation ecosystem in Pakistan, we are engaging with all key stakeholders through a multitude of interventions for startups and entrepreneurship."

Federal Minister for IT & Telecom, Syed Amin Ul Haque Meets DigiSkills.pk Freelancers

Federal Minister for IT & Telecom, Syed Amin Ul Haque met DigiSkills.pk freelancers to have a direct account of their experiences of learning from the program, which has imparted 1.28 Million trainings to youth in freelancing. The Federal Minister gave direction for increasing the ratio of

women in DigiSkills.pk program from 23% to 33%, incorporating minorities and educated transgenders. Freelancers apprised the IT Minister about Digiskills.pk program being a game-changer in the face of the recent economic crunch. Federal Secretary IT & Telecom, Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui stated that he has special affection for youth taking their own flight to explore opportunities to overpower the conventional barriers and dependencies.

Federal Minister for IT & Telecom, Syed Amin Ul Haque, Visits NIC Islamabad

Federal Minister for IT & Telecom, Syed Amin Ul Haque visited National Incubation Center Islamabad. The Minister met with startups incubated at the NIC, expressing that the entrepreneurial ecosystem is on the rise and youth are our future and asset. He stated, "The recent inclusion of numerous innovation hubs, incubation centers and venture capital funds, is helping the startup community to grow in Pakistan. These incubation spaces will help us build a knowledge-based economy and a progressive Digital Pakistan. Startups are creating jobs, empowering the underprivileged communities and making Pakistan technologically-enabled."

Ignite and JazzCash Partner to facilitate DigiSkills.pk Freelancers

JazzCash, Pakistan's leading mobile account, has partnered with Ignite to facilitate the Ministry of Information Technology & Telecom's (MoITT) national level training program, DigiSkills.pk. Ignite

CEO, Syed Junaid Imam and Mobilink Microfinance Bank President, Ghazanfar Azzam signed the MoU in the presence of Federal Minister for IT & Telecom, Syed Amin Ul Haque, Federal Secretary IT & Telecom, Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui and JazzCash CEO, Erwan Gelebart. This partnership enables DigiSkills.pk freelancers to transfer money from their Payoneer accounts into their JazzCash Mobile Account in real time and at the best exchange rates.

Ministry of IT & Telecom and FAO Sign Framework Collaboration Agreement

The Ministry of IT and Telecommunication and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations signed a framework collaboration agreement to jointly work for the development of the agriculture sector of Pakistan through IT. Federal Secretary IT & Telecommunication, Shoaib Ahmad Siddique and Ms. Minà Dowlatchahi, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) representative virtually signed framework collaboration agreement for support, formulation and execution of local and/or national projects in Pakistan. Both FAO and MoITT, through Ignite will share material such as statistical information, software and maps, made available by the FAO or MoITT/Ignite for use in the activities under this collaboration agreement.

IT Ministry Announces Winners of National Education Challenge (NEC) 2020

The National Education Challenge (NEC) 2020 was launched by Ignite-MoITT through NIC Karachi to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 outbreak on education and literacy. The Top 3 innovators of

NEC2020 were announced in a ceremony held through a video link. Federal Secretary IT & Telecom, Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui graced the event as the chief guest on behalf of Federal Minister for IT & Telecom, Syed Amin Ul Haque. The top solution, Taleemabad clinched Rs. 1.5 Million; the first runner-up, Halla Gulla was awarded Rs. 1 Million and the second runner-up, Nativ Learning received Rs. 0.5 Million. Federal Secretary IT & Telecom, Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui, said, "We are geared up to transform every sector by implementing 4th Industrial Wave tech. We should organize more innovation challenges and sprints to inspire the spirit of creating new solutions that can counter the adverse effects of COVID-19 in Pakistan."

DigiSkills.pk Fulfills 1 Million Trainings to Youth Milestone in Freelancing

One million trainings have been imparted to youth in freelancing under the national level training program DigiSkills.pk, launched by MoITT through the Ignite National Technology Fund. Upon the direction of Federal Minister for IT & Telecom, Syed Amin Ul Haque, the Federal Secretary IT & Telecom, Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui, was briefed on the successful execution of the program by Dr. Zafar Alvi, Project Director DSTP (DigiSkills Training Project) through video link. The Project Director apprised the Secretary that in its 30-month duration, the project had aimed to impart 1 Million trainings in 7 batches and managed to meet the target in the 6th batch. Federal Secretary IT & Telecom lauded the efforts of Ignite, Virtual University and the marketing and monitoring teams for achieving the target before time.

Former Federal Minister for IT & Telecom, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui's Visit to NIC Quetta

Former Federal Minister for IT & Telecom, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui visited National Incubation Center Quetta. While meeting the incubatees, he stated, "I'm glad to visit NIC Quetta where young entrepreneurs are competing with other metropolises of the country with utmost rigor and passion. As you are cognizant of the technological challenges being faced by the country, I take it as our collective responsibility to come up with products and solutions that can ease out the difficulties faced by our citizens." He also congratulated the Ignite team on setting up 5 world class incubators, including NIC Quetta, where youth of Balochistan are proving their mettle.

Media
Coverage

DAWN   TRIBUNE   Associated Press of Pakistan Corporation   express نیوز   THE NEWS   Daily Country News

NHT National Herald Tribune   BUSINESS RECORDER   دنیا   جنگ   نوائے وقت   اوصاف

خبریں   pt Profit   اساس   نئی بات   EID GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN   ایکسپریس

DAILY MASHRIQ PESHAWAR مشرق   Daily LEAD Pakistan   Parliament Times   جہان پاکستان   The Patriot   میٹرو واچ

الاخبار   CENTRELINE   EveryDay NEWS   Pakistan OBSERVER   پاکستان   آج

paepakistani   B NEWS   THE NATION   Tech Shaker   اردوپوائنٹ   lead

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Notes

FINANCIALS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of Ignite

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the annexed financial statements of Ignite (the Company), which comprise the statement of financial position as at June 30, 2019, the statement of comprehensive income, the statement of changes in fund, the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and we state that we have obtained all the information and explanations which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, were necessary for the purposes of the audit.

In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the statement of financial position, the statement of comprehensive income, the statement of changes in fund and the statement of cash flows together with the notes forming part thereof conform with the accounting and reporting standards as applicable in Pakistan and give the information required by the Companies Act, 2017 (XIX of 2017), in the manner so required and respectively give a true and fair view of the state of the Company's affairs as at June 30, 2019 and of the surplus and other comprehensive loss, the changes in fund and its cash flows for the year then ended.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as applicable in Pakistan. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* as adopted by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (the Code) and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report Thereon

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the directors' report, but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's reports thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

A. F. FERGUSON & CO., Chartered Accountants, a member firm of the PwC network
PIA Building, 3rd Floor, 49 Blue Area, Fazl-ul-Haq Road, P.O. Box 3021, Islamabad-44000, Pakistan
Tel: +92 (51) 2273457-60/2604934-37; Fax: +92 (51) 2277924, 2206473; < www.pwc.com/pk>

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In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of Management and Board of Directors for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the accounting and reporting standards as applicable in Pakistan and the requirements of Companies Act, 2017(XIX of 2017) and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Board of directors are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs as applicable in Pakistan will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs as applicable in Pakistan, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.

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- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the board of directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

Based on our audit, we further report that in our opinion:

a) proper books of account have been kept by the Company as required by the Companies Act, 2017 (XIX of 2017);

b) the statement of financial position, the statement of comprehensive income, the statement of changes in fund and the statement of cash flows together with the notes thereon have been drawn up in conformity with the Companies Act, 2017 (XIX of 2017) and are in agreement with the books of account and returns;

c) investments made, expenditure incurred and guarantees extended during the year were for the purpose of the Company's business; and

d) no zakat was deductible at source under the Zakat and Ushr Ordinance, 1980 (XVIII of 1980).

Other Matter

Prior Year Financial Statements Audited by Predecessor Auditor

The financial statements of the Company for the year ended June 30, 2018 were audited by another auditor, KPMG Taseer Hadi & Co. Chartered Accountants, who expressed an unmodified opinion on those statements on July 22, 2019.

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is Asim Masood Iqbal.

Chartered Accountants
Islamabad
Date: June 11, 2020

IGNITE
(A Company incorporated under section 42 of the Companies Act, 2017)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT JUNE 30, 2019

	Note	2019	(Restated) 2018	(Restated) 2017
			--------Rupees--------	
ASSETS				
NON CURRENT ASSETS				
Property and equipment	7	12,173,012	12,335,841	9,831,063
Intangible assets	8	-	959,238	2,022,818
		12,173,012	13,295,079	11,853,881
CURRENT ASSETS				
Advances - considered good	9	60,243,739	171,494,169	82,245,778
Short term prepayment		12,003,200	18,073,000	-
Accrued interest on bank balance		11,417,867	9,870,937	7,309,136
Other receivables	10	-	3,483,365	8,740
Bank balance	11	461,712,768	410,723,983	538,343,501
		545,377,574	613,645,454	627,907,155
TOTAL ASSETS		557,550,586	626,940,533	639,761,036
FUNDS AND LIABILITIES				
FUNDS				
Unrestricted funds		6,709,285	6,709,285	6,709,285
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Restricted funds	12	882,343	146,643,966	295,180,042
Deferred capital grant	13	12,173,012	13,295,079	11,853,881
		13,055,355	159,939,045	307,033,923
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Trade and other payables	14	537,785,946	460,292,203	326,017,828
TOTAL FUNDS AND LIABILITIES		557,550,586	626,940,533	639,761,036
CONTINGENCIES AND COMMITMENTS	15			

The annexed notes 1 to 24 form an integral part of these financial statements.

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER

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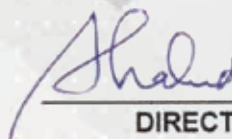DIRECTOR

IGNITE
(A Company incorporated under section 42 of the Companies Act, 2017)
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019

	Note	2019	(Restated) 2018
		---------- Rupees ----------	
INCOME			
Grant income recognized	16	1,166,199,472	1,390,451,457
EXPENDITURE			
Project/ program activities	17	957,792,383	1,180,607,857
Operating costs	18	206,571,296	223,206,956
		1,164,363,679	1,403,814,813
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		1,835,793	(13,363,356)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Other comprehensive (loss) / income not to be reclassified to income and expenditure in subsequent periods:			
Re-measurement (loss) / gain on staff gratuity	14.3.4	(1,835,793)	13,363,356
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR		-	-

The annexed notes 1 to 24 form an integral part of these financial statements.

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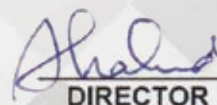**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

_____
DIRECTOR

IGNITE
(A Company incorporated under section 42 of the Companies Act, 2017)
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019

	Unrestricted Funds
	Rupees
Balance at July 01, 2017	6,709,285
Deficit for the year	(13,363,356)
Other comprehensive income for the year	13,363,356
Total comprehensive income for the year	-
Balance at June 30, 2018	6,709,285
Surplus for the year	1,835,793
Other comprehensive loss for the year	(1,835,793)
Total comprehensive income for the year	-
Balance at June 30, 2019	6,709,285

The annexed notes 1 to 24 form an integral part of these financial statements.
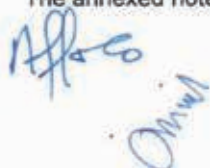
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

DIRECTOR

IGNITE
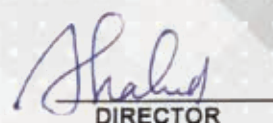(A Company incorporated under section 42 of the Companies Act, 2017)
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019

	2019	(Restated) 2018
	--------------- Rupees ---------------	
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	1,835,793	(13,363,356)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	6,159,926	4,983,767
Amortization of intangible assets	959,238	1,063,580
Amortization of deferred capital grant	(7,119,164)	(6,047,347)
Amortization of restricted funds	(1,159,080,307)	(1,384,404,110)
Provision for staff gratuity	6,839,248	8,436,564
	(1,150,405,266)	(1,389,330,902)
Changes in:		
Advances - considered good	105,978,905	(83,997,650)
Short term prepayment	6,069,800	(18,073,000)
Other receivables	3,483,365	(3,474,625)
Trade and other payables	74,090,227	156,116,150
	189,622,297	50,570,875
Cash used in operating activities	(960,782,969)	(1,338,760,027)
Contribution made to staff gratuity fund	-	(22,165,724)
Restricted funds received during the year	990,000,000	1,227,000,000
Interest income received on bank balance	18,833,967	13,794,778
Refund of scholarship	8,934,884	-
Net cash flow generated from / (used in) operating activities	56,985,882	(120,130,973)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	(5,997,097)	(7,488,545)
Net cash flows used in investing activities	(5,997,097)	(7,488,545)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES	-	-
Increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	50,988,785	(127,619,518)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	410,723,983	538,343,501
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	461,712,768	410,723,983

The annexed notes 1 to 24 form an integral part of these financial statements.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER

DIRECTOR