NEWSLETTER

Jan-March 2020

PROPELLING THE FUTURE OF INNOVATION IN BUSINESS

PM IMRAN KHAN LAUDS NIC PROGRAM STARTUPS

SEED FUND
Pakistan's First
PAINLESS KIDNEY DIALYSIS MACHINE

11

DIGISKILLS.PK
1 MILLION TRAININGS
Imparted to **Youth** in **Freelancing** & other **Marketable Skills**

15

CONTENTS

CEO'S
REVIEW

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.

Startups are the epicenter of innovation and are fueling the growth of economies worldwide by creating new jobs, financial inclusion, reducing the income divide, contributing to the GDP and raising the standard of living. We share this with pride that 10 of our startups from the National Incubation Center (NIC) Program demonstrated their products at the Prime Minister House, where Prime Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan shared his appreciation for the incredible work that is being done by these young innovative companies. The state has a key role to play in nurturing and facilitating these companies. The recent amendments in the Companies Law 2017 to ease the regulatory framework for startups is one example of the resolve of the Government to encourage entrepreneurship and innovation through startups.

Keeping in line with its objectives, Ignite is also innovative in optimizing its operations. One such step was signing of an MoU between Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and Ministry of IT & Telecom (to be executed through Ignite). FAO representative was sitting in Rome, Italy, one of the worst hit country by Covid-19, while Secretary IT & Telecom signed the MoU sitting in Ministry of IT & Telecom. This MoU, I believe will yield some encouraging outcomes in terms of technology interventions in the food and agriculture industry of Pakistan.
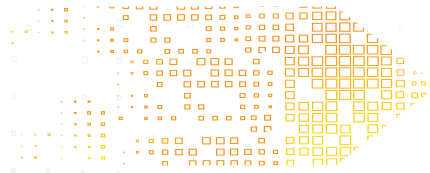
Covid-19 pandemic has brought unprecedented challenges to our way of life. In these times of trials and tribulations we are reaching out to our tech community to work on innovative products and services to help surmount these odds. We have introduced a special funding program with fast track evaluation and approval of proposals, specifically targeting the Covid-19 pandemic. Ignite SEED grants have also relayed their focus from applied research projects to developing innovative products and services that are commercially viable and have potential to impact the lives of our people. As a consequence of this shift in focus, we are also modifying our evaluation, award and monitoring processes to ensure mentoring and training of teams undertaking our funded projects to ensure success throughout the product development life cycle and commercialization.

Lately, there has been a lot of talk around e-learning, various blended learning models, and synchronous vs asynchronous learning. We have been abreast with the digital learning revolution and our Digiskills.pk program, has recently achieved a milestone of imparting 1 million free online trainings in freelancing and marketable skills.

This newsletter is our attempt to share some of the significant contributions that Ignite has made to spur technology and innovation across the country. We have highlighted various programs that help contribute to an inclusive and exciting innovation ecosystem. We look forward to your feedback and hope that my team and I can serve this country with ever more zeal and zest.

SYED JUNAID IMAM

IN FOCUS

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 startup 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 vibrant societies always encourage their youth to propel forward, adding that only a government making headway could dare to promote new ideas. He said fear of failure prevents people from taking big steps and thus undermines their true potential.

> **"Imran Khan** lauded the initiative to back startups, which he said showed that Pakistan is heading in the right direction, as only open minds breed new concepts."

Ministry of IT & Telecom and FAO Sign
Framework Collaboration Agreement

The Ministry of IT & Telecommunication and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations virtually signed a framework collaboration agreement to jointly work for the development of the agriculture sector of Pakistan by using Information Technology. Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui, Secretary IT & Telecommunication and Ms. Minà Dowlatchahi, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Representative virtually signed framework collaboration agreement while sitting in Pakistan and Rome, Italy respectively.

> **"Agriculture is the mainstay of Pakistan's economy as it contributes around 20 percent in the overall Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and is also a big source of employment. Low growth, water shortage, environmental concerns, volatile energy prices, rising expectations of consumers – these are some of the complex challenges the agriculture sector is facing today, in the face of diminishing production profit margins for farmers."**
> **Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui**

Ms. Minà Dowlatchahi said that agricultural innovation in Pakistan is a necessity - small farmers are not only food producers, they are consumers and also guardians of Pakistan's natural resources: soils, water, biodiversity and seeds. Through the framework collaboration agreement, both organizations vow to collaborate in providing a framework for supporting the formulation and execution of local and/or national projects in Pakistan. These projects will aim to benefit sustainable and inclusive agricultural and food systems (agriculture, livestock, forestry, aquaculture) to contribute to achieving zero hunger and poverty eradication.

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. Both organizations jointly agreed to host the "e-Agriculture Innovation Challenge" to be held in Islamabad to address the pressing challenges facing the agriculture sector.

NIC PROGRAM

Our national network of incubators across Pakistan (Islamabad, Lahore, Peshawar, Karachi and Quetta) nurtures startups and engages them with investors and corporations. Ignite startup portal gives single point data access to national and international venture capitalists interested to invest in Ignite startups.

IMPACT

16,174

Jobs Created

Rs. 1.40 Billion

Revenue

148

Awards

Rs. 5.00 Billion

Investment Committed

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

4,860 Jobs

Rs. **0.662** billion
Revenue

Rs. **0.736** billion
Investment Committed

42 Awards

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685 Jobs

Rs. **0.225** billion
Revenue

Rs. **2.85** billion
Investment Committed

16 Awards

NIC LAHORE
Funded by Ignite, MoITT

NIC Peshawar
Funded by Ignite, MoITT

1,100 Jobs

Rs. **0.26** billion
Revenue

Rs. **0.423** billion
Investment Committed

35 Awards

9,321 Jobs

Rs. **0.207** billion
Revenue

Rs. **0.949** billion
Investment Committed

40 Awards

NATIONAL INCUBATION CENTER
NIC KHI
Funded by Ignite, MoITT

NIC QUETTA
Funded by IGNITE, MoITT

208 Jobs

Rs. **0.047** billion
Revenue

Rs. **0.042** billion
Investment Committed

15 Awards

Ignite Startups
Investment Snapshot

Peer-to-Peer Car Rental Gets a Boost: NIC Islamabad-based Roamer Raises 6-figure Funding

Launched in 2019, Roamer is a startup based out of National Incubation Center Islamabad. The peer-to-peer hourly car rental service features chauffeur-driven cars and is currently available in Islamabad. The company was founded by Mohammad Hadi, who has worked as an investment banker in Dubai, and Ali Moeen, who has previous experience in building and leading tech teams for a prominent IT company in Pakistan. Roamer has over 50,000 registered users and 1,200 vehicles on its platform, with most of its supply coming from those who've been driving for Uber and Careem. The startup has also recently started partnering with small car rental businesses to have their cars and drivers in its fleet. Their solution is proving to be an ideal one for emerging markets having scarce mobility options and the startup is exploring expansion in 2021.

Innovating the Healthcare Ecosystem in Pakistan: Instacare Raises Rs. 22 million in Funding

NIC Lahore's first cohort startup, Instacare has raised funding of Rs. 22 million from Khaleef Technologies, which is one of the leading Value Added Services (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 allow Instacare to expand its integrated healthcare platform at the mainstream level.

Financial Inclusion of Farmers: Agrimart Gets Rs. 10 million Grant from Karandaaz

Agrimart , a startup from NIC Lahore's second cohort, 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 to be able to expand its product at a mainstream level, including more and more farmers in the digital economy.

Another Win for Bera: The Traditional Peshawari Chappal Brand Raises Rs. 25 million Investment

The traditional Peshawari Chappal brand, a startup out of National Incubation Center Peshawar, has raised a second investment, this time Rs. 25 Million. Bera is bringing the traditional Peshawari chappal to the mainstream by connecting the local artisans with the international market. Bera provides access to the craftsmen to do what they're best at and earn a sizable income from it, all the while boosting the creative economy of Pakistan.

NIC Program
Success Stories

AugmentCare Offers Consultation during Coronavirus Crisis

During the Corona virus crisis in Pakistan, AugmentCare offered the ultimate online consultation solution to the public to encourage them to avoid crowded hospitals, doctors offices and reduce the risk of contamination. Their qualified doctors were able to help people with identifying their symptoms, saving a trip to the doctors, with the first consultation being free of cost.

Abey Khao, Pakistan's only Cafe Set up and Run by Deaf People Gets Featured in The Guardian London

Located in Islamabad, Abey Khao is believed to be the only cafe set up and run by deaf people. The startup has been featured in the leading publication The Guardian."The menu is in sign language, as is the English alphabet painted on the walls, along with the signs for "yes", "no", and "thank you". Customers are encouraged to place their orders using sign language", expressed the introduction of the article, adding, "Menus in sign language and jobs for the hearing-impaired are challenging discrimination against those with disabilities." The feature highlights the story of the founder, Sheikh Faizan Raza, 23 who started out with a food cart.

Training Entrepreneurs of the Future Bootcamp for Kids

In an attempt to empower the next generation of entrepreneurs, NIC Islamabad in collaboration with Mind Works International, conducted an entrepreneurship bootcamp for kids, teaching skills like ideating, prototyping, earning finances, making and selling products and offering services.

PakStockPhoto Exhibits at World Bank Pakistan on International Women's Day

PakStockPhoto partnered with World Bank Pakistan on this year's International Women's Day and held a Photo Exhibition of Top 20 images received through its one-month long photo contest by involving photographers across Pakistan and students of visual, creative and art universities, playing a pivotal role in encouraging creative talent in Pakistan to keep up with their work.

Rising to the Occasion: RADA Technologies Makes 3D Ventilator Splitter Valve

Faced with the Coronavirus crisis and the shortage of ventilators in Pakistan, RADA Technologies rose to the occasion and from limited resources, created a 3D splitter valve to enable one ventilator to serve four different patients. This was aimed at providing a solution by bringing together available resources. The valve was tested successfully at the Shaukat Khanum Hospital.

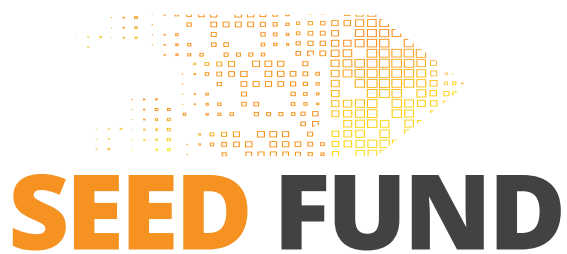## MyInterAcademy.com: Taking Tailored Video Lectures in Urdu Online

MyInterAcademy.com is an online platform that offers intermediate students customised video lectures in Urdu based on local education boards. The platform offers everything from extra classes and tuitions to past papers and crash courses. Currently the startup caters to Sindh and Punjab board students, offering content for science (pre-engineering and pre-medical) subjects, replicating a classroom like environment.

How to Use Edbox
Learning Management System
www.MyInterAcademy.com

Personalizing the Shopping Experience: Personide Unlocks Consumer Behavior

Personide, a startup incubated at NIC Karachi, is an e-commerce personalization platform, which can be integrated with an e-commerce store's website and it closely monitors the buying behavior and activity of the customers - this includes factors like demographics, buying pattern, timings, preferences, categories etc. In addition to this, the platform also creates a pattern where the distinction between similar and dissimilar products is determined.

personide
optimize . grow . succeed

SEED FUND

Funding startups and innovative projects that utilize 4th industrial wave tech to solve local problems and target global opportunities.

IMPACT

Rs. 79.3
Million Revenue Generated

Rs. 627.6
Million Investment Raised

0.7
Million People Impacted

2,412
Jobs Created

24
Patents Filed

152
International Publications

209
Conference Publications

100+
Events Organized

9
Books Published

SEED Fund
Success Stories

Pakistan's First Kidney Dialysis Machine by Byonyks

FARRUKH [EMBEDDED]
Harvard grad & developed kidney dialysis machines (PD) getting sold in the developed world.

ERIC [SYSTEMS]
Owns a Medical Devices company with a list of FDA approved products

MIKE [MECHANICAL]
MIT Graduate with 30 years of Mechanical Engineering experience in the medical industry

FRANK [ELECTRICAL]
PhD & contributed to the world's biggest Flywheel Plant, medical devices & a long list of projects

Byonyks is engineering Pakistan's First Kidney Dialysis Machine, with the support of Ignite SEED funding and angel investors. Byonyks' unique technology does not require extracting blood out of the human body to perform dialysis. Patients can perform dialysis at home without any supervision with protection from Hepatitis C infections. Byonyks is Pakistan's first biomedical device startup that is developing affordable healthcare technologies, using state-of-the-art medical engineering. Byonyks is currently preparing for industrial manufacturing. The company was founded by MIT, Harvard graduates and medical device experts, Farrukh Usman, Michael, Wollowitz, Eric Flachbart and Dr. Frank Rudoph and has recently received a patent for their technology as well.

Taking Fintech to the Next Level: Karandaaz Pakistan Signs Agreement with Techlets (Pvt). Ltd

Karandaaz Pakistan has signed a grant agreement with Techlets Pvt. Ltd, with funding from Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and a separate one with NRSP Microfinance Bank with funding from UK's Department for International Development (DFID). This grant will help Walee, a product of Techlets, in developing inclusive financial services for their growing user base of influencers and SMEs, ultimately closing the gender gap in Pakistan's digital financial services industry.
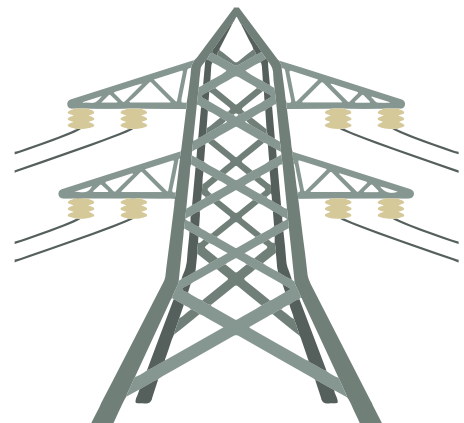
WonderTree, Selected by Google for its Startups Accelerator Program

WonderTree is among eleven businesses from around the world that are the successful applicants of Google's Accelerator program on Sustainable Development Goals. Amongst 1,200 startups from Europe, Middle East, Africa and entries from the rest of the world, WonderTree became the only start up from Pakistan to secure a place. Using Augmented Reality, WonderTree makes interactive games for motor, academic and cognitive development and education of children with special needs. Deployed in 5 cities across Pakistan, WonderTree engages 4000+ active users in 40+ schools. WonderTree is the only company using technology to meet the special needs of the marginalized population of Pakistan. Currently, WonderTree is working towards spreading its operations in the Middle East, South East Asia and Africa.

AI based Forecasting Replaces Manual Prediction of Energy Usage

This Short-Term Load Forecasting Tool is helping the National Power Control Center (NPCC) to forecast daily electricity demand more accurately. Previously, scheduling the forecasting of various plants to generate the energy needed at any particular hour, was based on human judgement and past experience. Moreover, in order to avoid any power shortfall, NPCC keeps many plants in running state to avoid any unexpected rise in power demand. The running plants called the spinning reserves annually burn around Rs. 13 billion of fuel that is not utilized in electricity. With its 10% accuracy, this tool will save almost Rs. 1.3 billion annually, whereas this saving would further enhance with improved accuracy of the tool. The AI based forecasting also takes into account the load management schedule of seasonal variations, religious and cultural events/holidays.

Bakhabar Kissan Receives Grant from GSMA to Digitize Agricultural Supply Chain

Bakhabar Kissan (BKK) along with Jazz has been awarded a grant from GSMA for digitizing the agricultural supply chain with a focus on smallholder farmers and their financial inclusion using Mobile Financial Services. BKK has agreed to run a pilot program with Blue Marble Micro Insurance for weather index-based crop insurance for smallholder farmers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. BKK is also one of 10 companies selected out of over 300 that applied for the Invest in Pakistan Summit (which was to be held in Silicon Valley in March 2020, but was postponed due to COVID-19 situation). The Invest in Pakistan Summit organized by OPEN Silicon Valley, provides an opportunity for Pakistani startups to present themselves to VC firms in the United States.

Recently Funded Projects

DIVERT for Mehfooz Pakistan: The First-of-its-kind VR based Training Company

Vertical: Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality

Funding: Rs. 27.07M

The capacity of Emergency Response Workers (ERW) lies at the heart of an efficient disaster management system. Police is a major part of this system and there exist numerous challenges in the way of delivering on all fronts - due to reasons ranging from political manipulation, lack of access to reliable forensic services and inadequate training to equipment and other institutional weaknesses. Virtual Reality offers a potential solution to all these challenges - enabling the police and other stakeholders to overcome constraints through simulation. This project, which is a Joint Venture between academia (LUMS) and government (PCSA and PPC13) designs training as per the requirements of various departments. The scope of the project also includes development of training material modules and repositories to be used by common citizens and ERWs, hence this project formulating the first-of-its-kind VR based training company in Pakistan.

01 Enabling the police and other stakeholders to overcome constraints through simulation.

02 First-of-its-kind VR based training company in Pakistan.

Smart Use of Energy with Analytics and Load Disaggregation Possible with Wattie

Vertical: AI/Big Data, IoT, Cloud

Funding: Rs. 10.93M

Making it possible for consumers to utilize household appliances, hence leading to a reduction in the electricity bill, Wattie is a hardware device, cloud platform and mobile app, which allows an electricity consumer to learn about the electricity consumption at appliance level. It will be the first ever appliance level load disaggregation platform in Pakistan along with an automated digital platform for Energy Efficiency Rating (EER) of domestic appliances. This way, it also enables consumers to identify the power-hungry appliances that need to be replaced. Wattie does this with minimum intervention to the existing network and only one device needs to be installed at the input level.

01 Enabling electricity consumer to learn about electricity consumption at appliance level.

02 Allows consumers to identify the power-hungry appliances that need to be replaced.

A Game-changing Revolution in the Chemical Analysis Field

Vertical: AI/Big Data

Funding: Rs. 23.46M

Chemical Analysis using Spectroscopy and Artificial Intelligence is a radically new solution of chemical testing that will be rapid, affordable, and easily accessible. Without relying on expensive, time-consuming chemical tests, this solution uses a simple handheld spectroscope to measure the reflectivity of light by the sample (soil or milk) across a range of near infrared wavelengths. Based on these spectral measurements, powerful computational servers equipped with Artificially Intelligent (AI) algorithms learn and decipher the chemical makeup of the sample. The most prominent benefit of this technology is that it does not require the user to build expensive chemical analysis lab infrastructure. The test is very fast as compared to the traditional method. This makes it possible to have a large area for soil tests in little time or instant milk testing to eliminate use of adulterations in milk. In addition, the test would be very affordable. The application of this AI-based solution can be extended to monitor quality of concrete structures, brain tumor detection, blood testing in the future.

01 Artificially Intelligent (AI) algorithms learn and decipher the chemical makeup of the sample.

02 It can be used to monitor quality of concrete structures, brain tumor detection and blood testing in the future.

Automatic Blood Group Detection Unit Making Blood Group Typing Easier

Vertical: Healthtech

Funding: Rs. 3.62M

Introducing an automated system to detect blood groups in a short period of time, this device will detect the blood group with 100% accuracy. Prior to any blood transfusion, blood group typing is an important step, which is currently done manually in Pakistan. Based on a need for a system, which can automatically detect the blood group accurately in a short period of time, this solution would be able to detect the blood group in 20 to 50 seconds. The pathologist would be able to control the blood detection device and view blood detection data and microscopic images of the blood by using the android mobile app. Another feature of the android mobile app would be to schedule appointment of patients in a Blood Diagnostic Center. A report would be generated by the pathologist from the same mobile app and sent to the patient via a diagnostic center server.

01 This device will detect the blood group with 100% accuracy in a short period of time.

02 It would be possible to detect the blood group in 20 to 50 seconds.

DIGISKILLS.PK

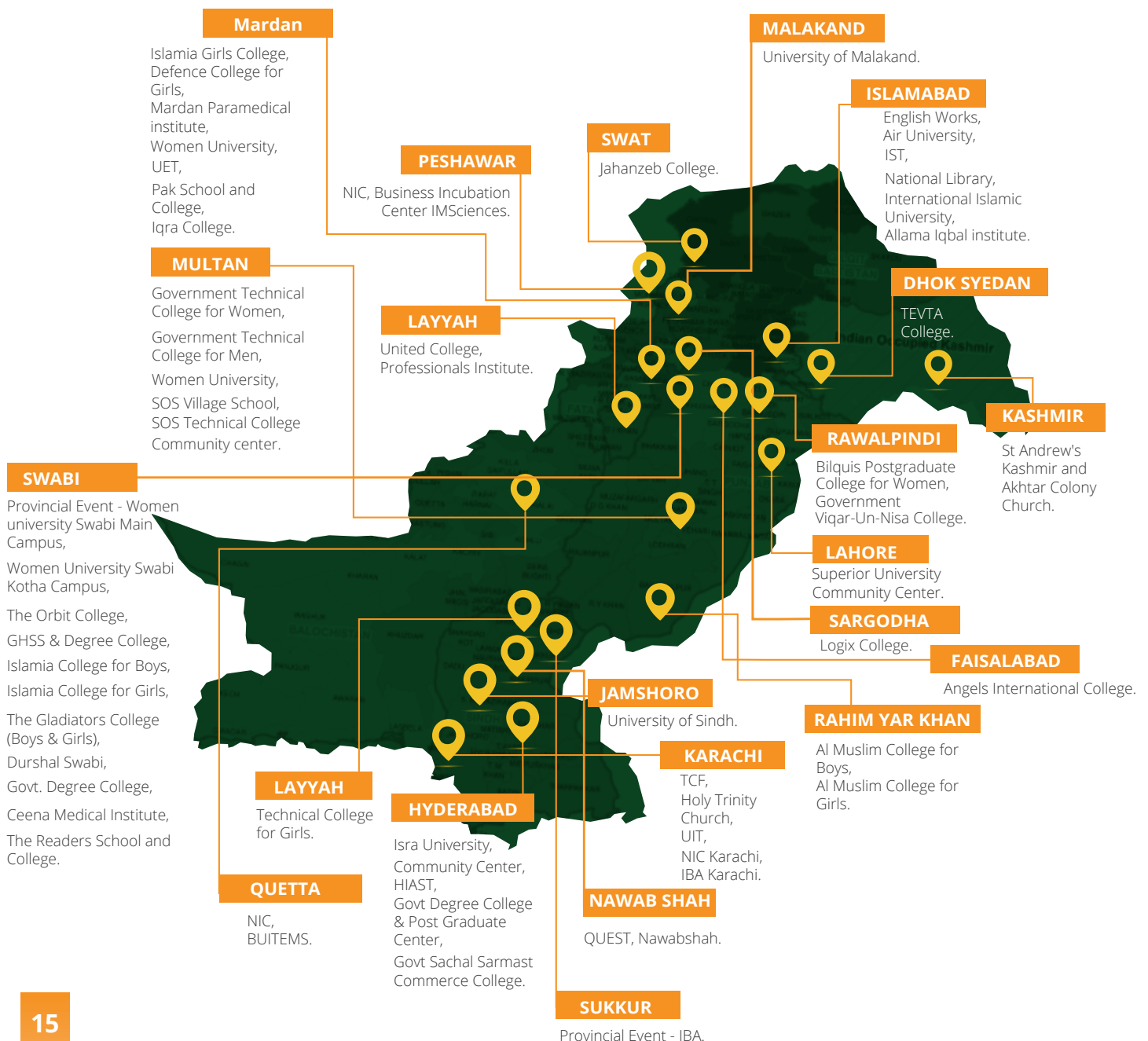**Poverty Alleviation through Future of Work**

Scan to Signup

1 million
Overall Enrollments

250k+
Batch-06 Enrollments

INFORMATION SESSIONS

Total Footfall: 8,056

Mardan

Islamia Girls College,
Defence College for Girls,
Mardan Paramedical institute,
Women University,
UET,
Pak School and College,
Iqra College.

MALAKAND

University of Malakand.

SWAT

Jahanzeb College.

ISLAMABAD

English Works,
Air University,
IST,
National Library,
International Islamic University,
Allama Iqbal institute.

PESHAWAR

NIC, Business Incubation Center IMSciences.

MULTAN

Government Technical College for Women,
Government Technical College for Men,
Women University,
SOS Village School,
SOS Technical College Community center.

LAYYAH

United College,
Professionals Institute.

DHOK SYEDAN

TEVTA College.

KASHMIR

St Andrew's Kashmir and Akhtar Colony Church.

SWABI

Provincial Event - Women university Swabi Main Campus,
Women University Swabi Kotha Campus,
The Orbit College,
GHSS & Degree College,
Islamia College for Boys,
Islamia College for Girls,
The Gladiators College (Boys & Girls),
Durshal Swabi,
Govt. Degree College,
Ceena Medical Institute,
The Readers School and College.

RAWALPINDI

Bilquis Postgraduate College for Women,
Government Viqar-Un-Nisa College.

LAHORE

Superior University Community Center.

SARGODHA

Logix College.

FAISALABAD

Angels International College.

LAYYAH

Technical College for Girls.

JAMSHORO

University of Sindh.

RAHIM YAR KHAN

Al Muslim College for Boys,
Al Muslim College for Girls.

QUETTA

NIC,
BUITEMS.

HYDERABAD

Isra University,
Community Center,
HIAST,
Govt Degree College & Post Graduate Center,
Govt Sachal Sarmast Commerce College.

KARACHI

TCF,
Holy Trinity Church,
UIT,
NIC Karachi,
IBA Karachi.

NAWAB SHAH

QUEST, Nawabshah.

SUKKUR

Provincial Event - IBA.

EARNINGS SNAPSHOT

Ali Khokhar
Gujranwala

$6,924

"I have been working on Fiverr since March 2019 and I have earned more than $5,500 through the web development niche within 3-4 months. I learned a lot through Digiskills.pk. It is a great platform for learning."

Muneeb Hussain
Islamabad

$7,200

"I created an account on Upwork in 2019, but failed. I tried again and worked harder and created another account in April. In just 90 days, I became a top rated freelancer. Alhamdulillah, I have 100% job success and 1050+ work hours on Upwork."

Muhammad Shoaib
Jhang

$8,000

"I am a disabled person with a speaking problem. I have been doing freelancing for the last 13 months or so. Alhamdulillah I have earned $8,000 so far. Thanks to Digiskills.pk for providing such an amazing opportunity to work from home."

Muhammad Rizwan
Kasur

$5,000

"I'm working as a freelancer on Fiverr and Upwork. I have learned a lot from Digiskills.pk and now I am working as a part of the team for a small company. I would like to say thanks to Digiskills.pk."

Asfand Yar Rabbani
Muzaffarabad

$5,900

"I truly believe that a person with skills cannot be unemployed for a long time. I struggled a lot in the beginning of my career, but I didn't give up. I suggest you to start your freelancing career professionally - there are no shortcuts, be consistent."

Muhammad Abbas
D.G Khan

$6,295

"After completing the freelancing and Wordpress course in batch 2, I started offering my services on Fiverr, Upwork and offline. I have earned $6,295 in one year only, all credit goes to the instructors and Digiskills.pk team."

Empowering women to earn extra income while sitting at home

Rabia Rasheed
Gujranwala

$6,000

"I never thought that I would be making a full-time living from basic programming languages, earning ten times what I earned in my conventional job. I now have a successful freelance blogging business too - I had no freelancing experience before this."

Fakhar Nisa
Sahiwal

$2,500

"I did a graphic designing course on Digiskills.pk and it has opened up a new world for me to be financially independent."

Aqsa Mubeen

$1,063

"I have learned Digital Marketing from Digiskills.pk and have started working online on Fiverr all thanks to this great course."

Hafiza Halima
Sahiwal

$1,048

"I have learned a lot from the courses I took on Digiskills.pk. I have recently created my profile on Fiverr and I am learning more and more about being successful at freelancing."

FYP FUND

NATIONAL GRASSROOTS ICT RESEARCH INITIATIVE (NGIRI) – FINAL YEAR PROJECTS

The program aims to assist final year undergraduate students of ICT related disciplines by providing them with financial assistance for developing prototypes/working models of their Final Year Projects (FYP) in order to promote R&D and innovation at grassroots level. The program is being executed since 2011 and so far, seven batches of the program have been rolled out successfully.
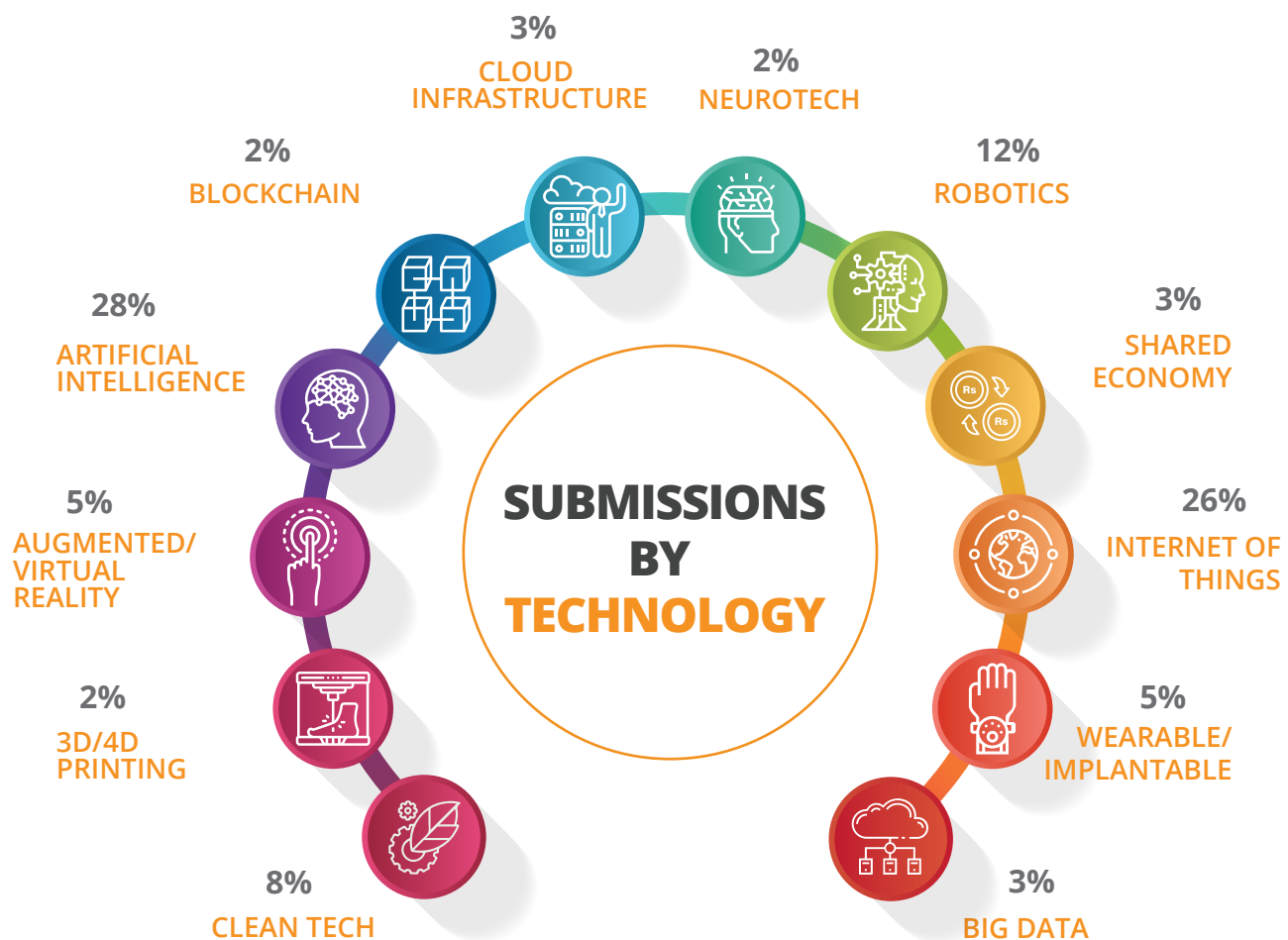
SUMMARY - NGIRI 2011-19

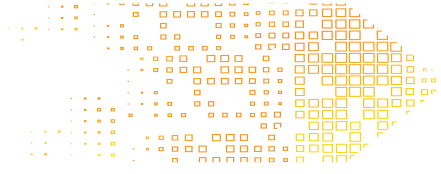| YEAR	UNIVERSITIES	FYP EVALUATED	FYP APPROVED	FYP FUNDED	DISBURSEMENTS (RS. IN MILLIONS)
2011-12	68	785	272	272	15.27
2012-13	78	1016	418	418	31.78
2013-14	72	1247	430	430	25.13
2014-15	75	1324	436	436	29.59
2015-16	76	1167	512	359	18.14
2017-18	89	1623	569	439	21.45
2018-19	154	2124	815	*675	*30.50
TOTAL	612	9,286	3,452	3,029	171.86

* (NGIRI 2019) Disbursements of funds is in progress.

SUBMISSIONS BY TECHNOLOGY - (NGIRI 2019-20) FYP

NGIRI 2020 was launched on 6th January 2020 and 2,832 FYP applications were submitted by the deadline (28th February, 2020). It is expected that more than 1,000 FYPs will be approved for funding during FY 2019-20.

SUBMISSIONS BY TECHNOLOGY

- 3% CLOUD INFRASTRUCTURE
- 2% NEUROTECH
- 12% ROBOTICS
- 2% BLOCKCHAIN
- 3% SHARED ECONOMY
- 28% ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
- 26% INTERNET OF THINGS
- 5% AUGMENTED/ VIRTUAL REALITY
- 2% 3D/4D PRINTING
- 5% WEARABLE/ IMPLANTABLE
- 8% CLEAN TECH
- 3% BIG DATA

OUTREACH

CEO Ignite Calls on Federal Minister for IT & Telecom, Syed Amin Ul Haque

Syed Junaid Imam, CEO Ignite and members of his team called on Federal Minister for IT & Telecom, Syed Amin Ul Haque and briefed him about the functioning and projects of Ignite. He apprised the Federal Minister of the progress of NIC Program, Digiskills.pk, SEED Fund and FYP Fund. He also briefed the Minister that Ignite is seeking high-impact ideas with short time-to-market, from the brightest innovators that can be developed to tackle the most pressing challenges caused by the COVID-19 outbreak.

Federal Secretary IT & Telecom, Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui Attends Digiskills.pk Media Interaction

Ignite organized a media interaction session as part of Digiskills.pk outreach, at the National incubation Center in Islamabad. Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui, Federal Secretary IT & Telecom graced the event as Chief Guest. During his keynote address, Mr. Siddiqui lauded the efforts of Digiskills.pk team for building a freelancing ecosystem through free online training in Pakistan. During his opening welcome address, Syed Junaid Imam, CEO Ignite stressed upon building an ecosystem for 'future of work', financial inclusion and poverty alleviation and highlighted the role of Ignite in this regard. Media was given a detailed briefing on Digiskills.pk and its achievements.

NIC Islamabad Graduates its 3rd and 4th Cohorts

National Incubation Center Islamabad graduated 32 startups from its 3rd and 4th cohorts. The graduation ceremony was attended by people from the government, corporate, development sector, media and the startup ecosystem. Federal Secretary IT & Telecom, Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui and CEO Ignite, Syed Junaid Imam also graced the event. This marks the completion of NIC Islamabad's 3rd year mark - a journey of empowering the youth through entrepreneurship and helping them Dream, Build and Rise.

Baytee App Launched to Empower Women

Governor Sindh Imran Ismail & Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui launched the Baytee app of the Ministry of IT & Telecom in Karachi. Mayor Karachi Wasim Akhtar was also present at the occasion. The app is aimed at empowering women through Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). Through this app, women will be able to locate nearby hospitals, women police stations, educational institutions, hostels etc.

Ignite CEO Syed Junaid Imam on Youth Talk

Ignite CEO, Syed Junaid Imam was featured in Youth Talk, PTV News' premier show, highlighting the role of Ignite in nurturing the innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem in Pakistan. He spoke about various programs of Ignite and their impact on the lives of youth by promoting entrepreneurship, skills training, tech advancement and innovation at all levels, especially university level.

Digiskills.pk Impact Featured by Youth Talk

PTV News' show Youth Talk did a special feature on Digiskills.pk and how it's contributing towards poverty alleviation through 'future of work' training to 1 million Pakistani youth. Nadeem Nasir, Head of Communications of Ignite spoke about the earning opportunities created by Digiskills.pk program, especially for the youth of rural areas who have shown special interest in the trainings and many of those who have completed their trainings have started earning an income to support themselves and their families.
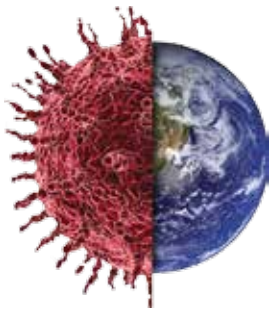
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- Prophylactics and Therapeutics
- Electromedical Equipment
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Predictive Modelling Using AI

- Innovations in Industrial Raw Materials
- Developing Production Process/Methods
- Innovation of Production Line Automation
- Solutions to Monitor Food/Ration Supplies
- Awareness and Understanding COVID-19
- Others