



PUNJAB VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER



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BAITHAK & BEYOND

Page No. 07

OUR CITIES - OUR PRIDE

Page No. 23

Message From the Chairman PVTC

The dawn of New Year 2024 brings along many opportunities for the TVET Sector in Pakistan. PVTC team is live to the emerging situation and has already started planning its targets and initiatives to cope up with the new challenges. Preparation of Annual Development Plan, introduction of new courses, collaboration with ICCCM and NAVTTC for development of new qualifications, visits of Chambers of Commerce & Industry by PVTC officials all across Punjab and launching of short courses are some of the highlights. I wish PVTC team all the success in achieving their goals and objectives set for the year 2024 which will go a long way in improving overall quality of training by enhancing employment opportunities for the PVTC graduates.



MIAN ABRAR AHMAD

Secretary to Govt. of the Punjab
Zakat & Ushr Department /
Chairman PVTC (Additional Charge)

Punjab Vocational Training Council's 80th Meeting

Secretary to the Government of Punjab Zakat and Ushr Department and Chairman PVTC, Mian Abrar Ahmed, chaired the 80th meeting of the PVTC, to assess and formulate the future course of action of the organization. During this meeting, a comprehensive presentation and discussion took place, delving into PVTC's operations, its stated objectives, track record and the milestones achieved. This meeting provided a platform to gain an in-depth understanding of PVTC's operations and provided detailed insights into its day-to-day activities. It also included a thorough review of the strategies and

approaches adopted by PVTC to achieve its goals and fulfill its mission of providing high quality vocational training in Punjab. Moreover, the meeting provided an opportunity to review the goals set by the PVTC, assess progress toward achieving them, and identify areas where improvements and enhancements can be implemented. It also facilitated discussion of the organization's achievements in terms of practical results and wider social impact, highlighting the significant contribution that PVTC makes in the areas of vocational training and skills development.



Chairman PVTC Mian Abrar Ahmad and PVTC's Council Members during Council Meeting

Skill Upgradation Workshop Conducted By Atlas Honda Ltd.

Atlas Honda Ltd. conducted a training workshop for Instructional staff of Motorcycle Mechanic trade at Staff and Teachers Training Institute (STTI) Lahore. The training aimed to polish and enhance the skills and knowledge of instructional staff of Motorcycle Mechanic trade. The training session, facilitated by industry experts and technical professionals, covered a wide range of topics essential for motorcycle mechanics in today's rapidly evolving landscape. Emphasizing both theoretical and hands-on practical aspects, the program aimed to equip instructors with the latest advancements in motorcycle technology, maintenance, and repair. The Chairman PVTC Mian Abrar Ahmad and Managing Director PVTC Mr. Amjad Ali also visited the session and appreciated Atlas Honda Ltd.'s proactive approach in supporting vocational training. This training workshop not only benefits our instructional staff but also enhances the overall quality of training provided to trainees enrolled in the Motorcycle Mechanic Trade at VTIs across Punjab.



Highlights

Chinese Delegation at PVTC

A delegation of higher management of ICCCM visited PVTC Head Office and conducted a meeting with leadership of PVTC aimed at collaboration in Joint Curriculum Development Program and Occupational Standards. Chairman ICCCM and Ambassador of China Malaysia Friendship, Ms. Nicy Bai was accompanied by Mr. Zhan, Mr. Aitee and Advisor Pakistan Region Dr. Amna Javed. The delegation was greeted by Chairman PVTC Mian Abrar Ahmad, and MD PVTC Mr. Amjad Ali. Maj. Senior Manager Curriculum Maj. Ghazanfar Abbas (Retd) and Senior Manager R&D Mr. Shafqat Ur Rehman also attended the meeting. Moreover, short term courses and long-term programs on foreign language courses and other skill development programs also came under discussion.



Observation of 9th November - Iqbal Day

PVTC organized a webinar to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Muhammad Iqbal, the Poet of the East, the philosopher, scholar, and politician, whose poetry is among the greatest of all time. The webinar focused on Iqbal's meditation, reflection, and dedication to the principles of Islam. The program started with the recitation of the Holy Quran and Naat, followed by a speech by Maj. Ghazanfer Abbas (Retd.) on Iqbal's Philosophy of Self-Realization (Khudi) and Iqbal's Impact on Personal Development. Next, Kalam-e-Iqbal was recited by various participants, and then Mr. Shafqat-ur-Rehman spoke about Iqbal's Vision for Youth Empowerment. The webinar was attended by VTIs and Offices online. Ms. Bushra Naz, Senior Manager PR & Marketing, shared words of wisdom on "Iqbal's Call for Social Justice", and Mr. Tabarak Ali, Assistant Manager Marketing, performed the role of moderator of the ceremony and gave the closing remarks. The webinar ended with the national anthem and a standing ovation.



Baithak & Beyond

Dr. Amjad Saqib, Chairman Akhuwat

Originally hailing from Civil Service of Pakistan (DMG), Dr. Amjad Saqib is the founder and Chairman of Akhuwat, the largest interest-free microfinance program in the world. This program has disbursed over Rs. 210 billion to around 6 million poor families in Pakistan and has launched Pakistan's first free 'Akhuwat College' that is open to talent from impoverished families from all provinces. Akhuwat has put a great emphasis gender inclusivity through Akhuwat's microfinance program, with a notable achievement of catering to 43% women. Recognizing the pivotal role that women play in society, particularly in the context of economic development, Dr. Saqib emphasizes the empowerment of women as a key driver for positive social change. By providing financial resources to a significant percentage of women, Akhuwat not only addresses the economic challenges faced by women but also promotes their active participation in building a more equitable and prosperous society. He is also Chairman Punjab Development Network (PDN), which is a network of more than 160 development and charity organizations, working for social and economic development especially in areas like poverty, education, health, clean drinking water, and sanitation. He is the Executive Director, Fountain House - an Institute of treatment and rehabilitation of mentally challenged people. His areas of expertise include governance, poverty alleviation, microfinance, and rural development. The President of Pakistan recently appointed him member BoD, Benazir Income Support Program. He is the author of nine books and an acclaimed speaker who has spoken at UN, Harvard, Oxford, Cambridge, and many other prestigious institutions throughout the world.

Please tell our readers about your early life and

education and your aspirations when you were young?

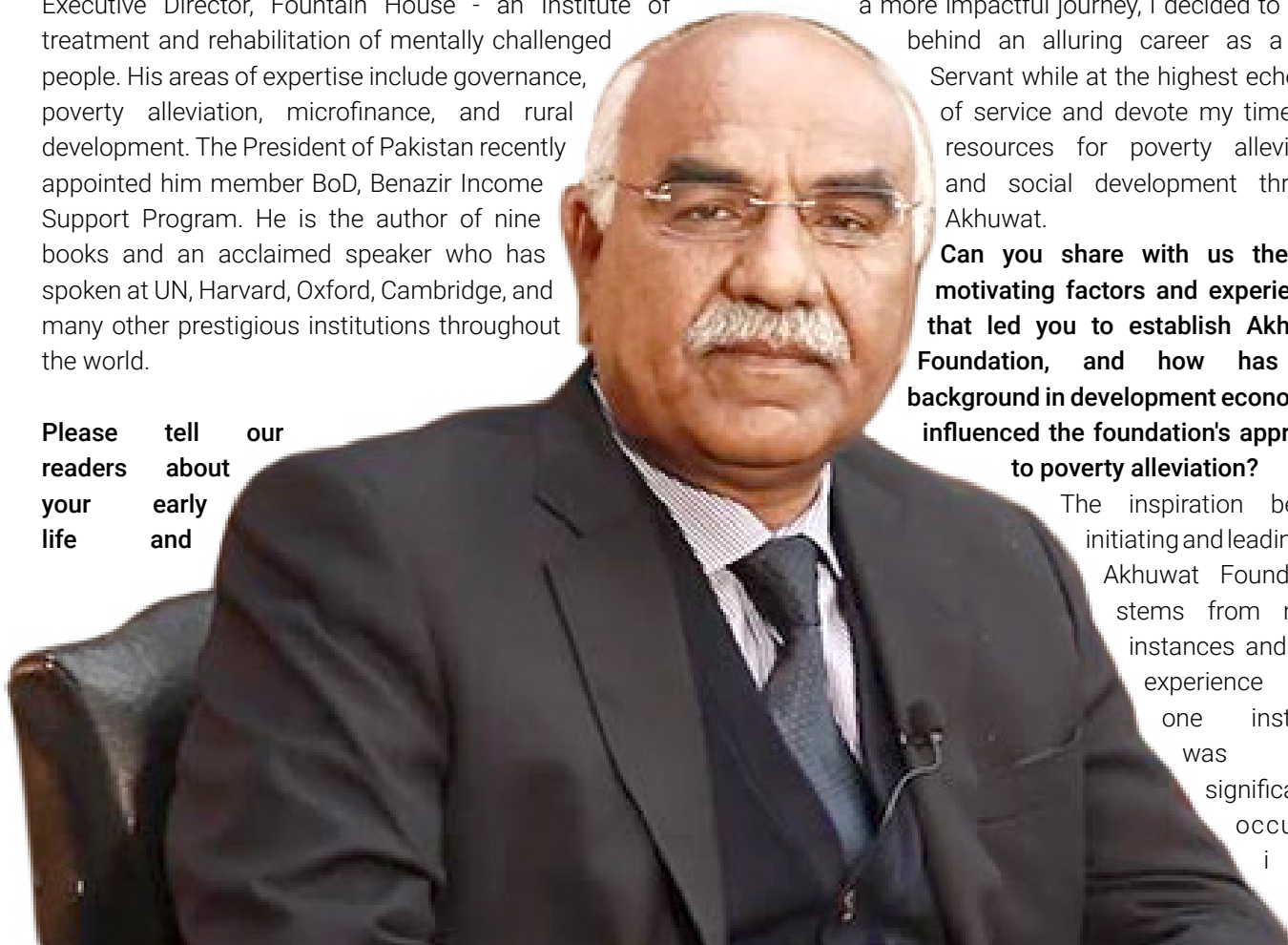
I was born in Kamalia, a small town in district Toba Tek Singh where I grew up in a small town and was fortunate to enjoy the humanistic values and simplicity of life. In my early years I was nurtured by my parents, family and teacher, brushed by interactions with the beaming intellectual thought prevailing in the country. The proverb "It takes a community to raise a child" holds ground in my case as not only my parents, but my extended family and my community were all sources of instruction/knowledge for me. I was very interested in academics, I loved to read poetry and prose, which eventually developed my interest in writing.

My professional educational journey began with the study of Medicine from King Edward Medical College. I firmly believe that one should choose a path that he believes in and the one that brings happiness and satisfaction. I constantly found myself wanting to create an impact and as a result of which I joined the Civil Services. While serving in high level bureaucratic positions I was appointed as the General Manager Punjab Rural Support Program. Working on this project, I came across the actual face of poverty in Pakistan and found it to be ruthless. In my quest for a more impactful journey, I decided to leave

behind an alluring career as a Civil Servant while at the highest echelons of service and devote my time and resources for poverty alleviation and social development through Akhuwat.

Can you share with us the key motivating factors and experiences that led you to establish Akhuwat Foundation, and how has his background in development economics influenced the foundation's approach to poverty alleviation?

The inspiration behind initiating and leading the Akhuwat Foundation stems from many instances and long experience but one instance was very significant. It occurred i n



2001. At that time, I was actively involved with the Punjab Rural Support Program, which provided small business loans in rural villages of Punjab. One day, a woman approached me; she was the sole provider for her family after her husband had passed away. Moved by her challenging circumstances, I decided to extend a helping hand and offered her an interest-free loan of Rs. 10,000.

To my surprise, the woman returned after six months and repaid the entire amount. She shared that the amount had enabled her to purchase two sewing machines, kickstarting her stitching business and granting her financial independence. Her tearful expression of hope and gratitude left a lasting impression on me. This incident served as the catalyst for my trust in people and the potential of interest-free microfinance. The woman's request upon repaying the loan was simple yet profound that the amount be given to another individual facing

similar challenges. This marked the inception of Akhuwat, which began with PKR 10,000 and has today disbursed interest-free loans amounting to PKR 210 billion to 6 million families all across Pakistan making it the world's largest Islamic microfinance organization.

PVTC plays a vital role in vocational training in Punjab.

How does Akhuwat Foundation collaborate with PVTC to enhance the impact of its programs, especially in terms of providing skill-based education and training to empower individuals for sustainable livelihoods?

PVTC and Akhuwat both thrive to empower our youth through vocational training. PVTC not only imparts skills but also provides the industry with skilled workforce and fosters self-employment. By bridging the gap between skill development and financial support, we can make a significant impact on individuals' lives, enabling them to build sustainable livelihoods.

The name "Akhuwat" signifies brotherhood. How does the foundation foster a sense of community support and solidarity among the beneficiaries, and how does this ethos contribute to the sustainability of the programs implemented by Akhuwat?

At Akhuwat, we embrace the beautiful idea of "Mawakhat," which is about the 'Haves' of the society empowering the 'Have nots'. It's about creating a bond of support and solidarity within our communities. What's truly inspiring is how this philosophy becomes a part of our beneficiaries' lives. As they establish their businesses through the interest-free microfinance and start earning, they carry forward this spirit by giving back to their fellow brothers and sisters. It's heartening to witness how the cycle of

support and reciprocity continues. Our beneficiaries, once they achieve stability, generously contribute to their communities. They do it in various ways, whether through small donations or what we call "sdaqah e jariya, a continuous form of charity that keeps giving. Our approach to providing loans at places of worship, like mosques, churches, or temples, isn't just practical; it's deeply rooted in faith and community. This way, we ensure that the essence of solidarity and mutual support remains alive and thriving. This reciprocal spirit, where those who have received support also become givers, and where the more fortunate in society give back to those in need, is what keeps Akhuwat's essence alive and vibrant.

Akhuwat Foundation is known for its interest-free microfinance model.

Can you elaborate on how this unique approach has contributed to the

economic empowerment of individuals and communities, and what specific impact it has had on the ground?

Akhuwat Foundation's interest-free microfinance approach has made a profound impact, transforming lives across Pakistan. More than PKR 210 billion in interest-free loans have been disbursed through 800+ branches, reaching over 6 million families in 400 cities. This initiative isn't just about money; it's about creating opportunities for countless individuals and communities. The beauty of this model isn't just in the numbers; it's in the circle of support it creates. With a recovery rate exceeding 99%, it shows how trust and responsibility flourish. It's a cycle where success stories lead to more success, as beneficiaries, empowered by their businesses, give back to help others through Akhuwat's donor fund. The financial empowerment of individuals eventually leads to a sustainable society. You have shown an immense commitment to holistic development, including education.

How does Akhuwat Foundation engage with the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector, and what role does the foundation play in promoting skill development and vocational training?

A: Akhuwat is deeply committed to holistic development, with a key focus on empowering young individuals through skill development for poverty alleviation. This commitment extends to collaborations in the IT sector and the establishment of an IT training program, aligning with Akhuwat University's Bachelor of Science in IT degree. Moreover, the foundation's Centre for Information Technology and Vocational Education (ACITVE) operates four fully equipped facilities, prioritizing an immersive flagship course offering boarding and lodging.

Akhuwat's approach to uplifting underprivileged communities' rests on a comprehensive model of participatory and inclusive development.

This program emphasizes personal development, entrepreneurial mindset, employability skills, and specialized training. In addition, we have some stitching centers in the outskirts of Lahore and Kasur to provide opportunities for women. Collaboration with the TVET sector in such endeavors can help expand our outreach and ensure that other trades are offered to increase their chances of employability.

In the context of Pakistan's evolving socio-economic landscape, how do you perceive the importance of vocational training in empowering individuals and contributing to the country's overall development? Additionally, what role do you envision vocational training playing in shaping the future workforce and fostering economic sustainability in Pakistan?

In the dynamic socio-economic scenario of Pakistan, vocational training stands as an absolute game-changer in empowering individuals and steering the country towards comprehensive development. I perceive vocational training not merely as a means of skill-building but as a catalyst for societal transformation. It is about equipping individuals, especially those from underserved communities, with practical skills that resonate with the evolving job market. By doing so, we are not just creating opportunities; we are fostering a sense of self-reliance and dignity among people. The future of Pakistan's workforce is intrinsically linked to vocational training. It is not just about jobs; it is about nurturing a

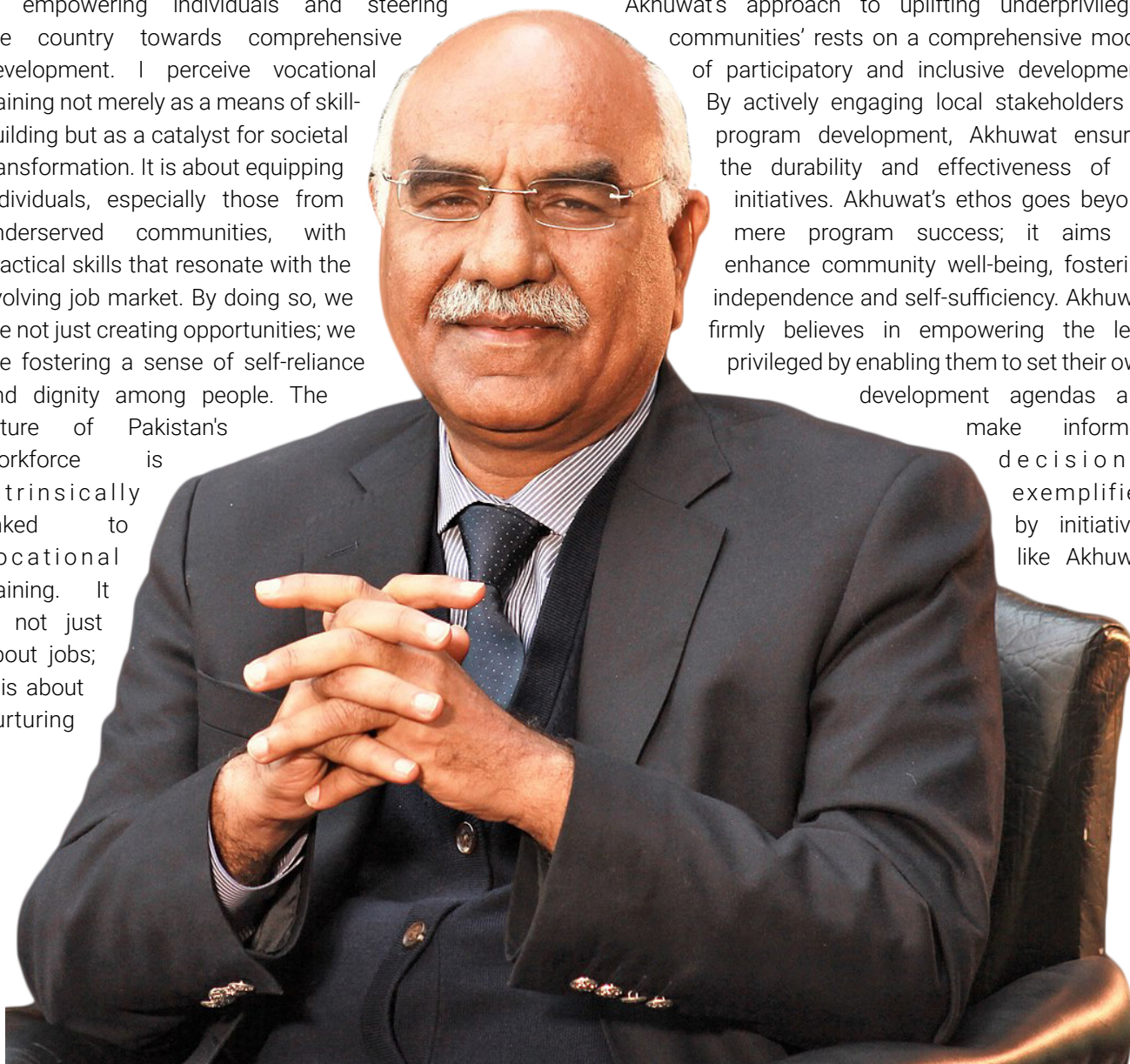
workforce that's adaptable, skilled, and capable of driving economic sustainability. Vocational training aligns with the needs of industries, ensuring a supply of skilled labor and reducing unemployment rates. It also cultivates an entrepreneurial spirit, enabling individuals to start businesses, thus contributing to economic growth. It is pivotal in bridging the gap between education and employability, ultimately laying the groundwork for a prosperous and inclusive society. In essence, vocational training is not a mere educational endeavor; it is a potent force reshaping the socio-economic fabric of Pakistan.

Akhuwat Foundation's interest-free microfinance approach has made a profound impact, transforming lives across Pakistan.

In addition to microfinance, Akhuwat Foundation is involved in various sectors.

How does the foundation's holistic approach contribute to its overarching goal of uplifting underprivileged communities, and can you provide examples of successful initiatives in these areas?

Akhuwat's approach to uplifting underprivileged communities' rests on a comprehensive model of participatory and inclusive development. By actively engaging local stakeholders in program development, Akhuwat ensures the durability and effectiveness of its initiatives. Akhuwat's ethos goes beyond mere program success; it aims to enhance community well-being, fostering independence and self-sufficiency. Akhuwat firmly believes in empowering the less privileged by enabling them to set their own development agendas and make informed decisions, exemplified by initiatives like Akhuwat



Islamic Microfinance (AIM), Akhuwat Educational Services (AES), and Akhuwat Khawaja Sara Support Program (AKSP). These programs showcase Akhuwat's commitment to empowering individuals to determine their paths to success. Our model disregards barriers of caste, color, religion, or race, ensuring that everyone is embraced and valued within the Akhuwat family. By embracing participatory decision-making and fostering inclusivity, Akhuwat propels its overarching goal of community upliftment through collective empowerment and self-determination.

Your leadership has earned you recognition both nationally and internationally. Could you highlight some of the awards and accolades you have received?

Some of the notable awards and world-wide recognition, including "Ramon Magsaysay Award 2021", popularly known as "Asia's Nobel Prize", the Islamic Economy Award by His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Thomson Reuters in 2018. I am also recipient of Social Entrepreneur of the year award for 2018 by World Economic Forum (WEF) and Schwab Foundation and Commonwealth's 31st Point of Light award by Queen Elizabeth II in 2018. I have also been awarded Life Time Achievement Award, 2014 by Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank and Thomson Reuters, for efforts to promote Islamic finance. President of Pakistan bestowed on me Sitara-e-Imtiaz (2011) and Government of Pakistan announced Hilal-e-Imtiaz (2023), two of the most coveted civil awards of Pakistan. In recognition of my significant contribution towards betterment of humanity, Rotary International presented him "Life Time Achievement Award" in December 2022.

Can you discuss some of the key challenges that Akhuwat Foundation has encountered in its journey, and how has the organization navigated these challenges to continue its mission of poverty alleviation?

We encounter challenges every day, but I view them as opportunities for growth and positive impact. We initiated our journey with a humble PKR 10,000, and today, we have expanded our reach to over PKR 210 billion with a recovery rate of 99.9%. One significant challenge was convincing people of the long-term viability of our approach. Our model stands apart from traditional microfinance, which often burdens borrowers with financial and operational costs. Akhuwat, however, believes that those lending money should bear these expenses. While we couldn't eliminate operational costs entirely, we minimized them by forgoing luxuries such as company-owned cars and opting for minimal furniture in our loan branches. Another innovative approach was utilizing religious places like mosques, churches, and temples for loan

disbursement. This not only minimized operational costs but also ensured community participation, transparency, and accountability. Addressing challenges also involved tapping into the power of volunteerism. Volunteers, representing diverse backgrounds, play a crucial role in Akhuwat's philosophy and we rely on their support to continue expanding our operations. In essence, our challenges have transformed into opportunities for innovation and to improve our work. Akhuwat's bottom-up approach, engaging volunteers in direct interaction with beneficiaries, conducting field visits, and participating in sensitization campaigns, underscores our commitment to sustainable change which is led by the community.

Looking ahead, what is the long-term vision for Akhuwat Foundation, and how do you envision the organization's role in shaping the future of social entrepreneurship and philanthropy in Pakistan?

Our ultimate goal is to alleviate poverty by introducing self-sufficient resources through interest-free microfinance, free of cost quality education, and various skill-based initiatives. Looking ahead, I envision Akhuwat's future as bright, expanding its footprint in social entrepreneurship, In Sha Allah. One of our long-term visions involves transitioning towards digitizing resources and skill-based learning to combat poverty. Those associated with Akhuwat, inherently embody the spirit of volunteerism and philanthropy, consistently reflecting these values through their actions in aiding humanity.

How would you describe Dr. Amjad Saqib in one word or phrase?

- A change maker.
- Believer in Mawakhat

What message would you like to share with our youth, especially from the TVET Sector?

I strongly believe that the world is in a constant state of change, with new technological advancements emerging regularly. In this era of digitization, there's a critical need to enhance our skills through technical and vocational education training. Nations that fail to keep up with these updates often find themselves falling behind. My vision for Pakistan's future revolves around individuals being independent by leveraging available resources to acquire new skills. The youth of Pakistan must learn to adapt and preserve the spirit of social entrepreneurship and dedicate some of their time and resources for the prosperity of those who are less fortunate.

(Courtesy PVTC's Team PR)

Orientation Session RPL and NVQF Registry

An orientation session on RPL (Recognition of Prior Learning) and NVQF (National Vocational Qualification Framework) Registry for Area Managers and Principals of PVTC took place in Lahore with collaboration of the TVET Sector Support Program. The session aimed to provide guidance on the implementation of the RPL assessments for 600 candidates across various Vocational Training Institutes (VTIs) pertaining to ROR project. The project aimed at assessing 60% of returnees and 40% of local candidates before December 2023. The collaborative effort underscores the commitment to recognizing and valuing prior learning experiences, contributing to the broader objectives of skill development and qualification framework adherence within the TVET sector.



Orientation Session RPL and NVQF Registry



Training Sessions for Admin & Accounts Officers and Life Skills Instructors

A 3-days training session on the Role of Life Skill Instructors in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) was conducted with the support of the TVET Sector Support Program. The session was concluded among three batches of Admin & Accounts Officers and Life Skills Instructors at VTI Multan. The importance of Green Skills, Green TVET, integrating 6Rs and Green Jobs in TVET were emphasized. Senior Principal VTI Lodhran Rao Muhammad Asif presented his views on CBT&A, Team Building and Leadership. Topics relevant to Green TVET were presented by Manager E&C PVTc Mr. Tariq Baig. Senior Manager PR & Marketing Ms. Bushra Naz delivered the lectures on awareness of the Digital Future of TVET, Cyber Laws and Cyber Security, Gender Equity and Social Inclusion, Social Media Usage and Safe Use of Internet Devices to the participants.



Employment Drives 2023

Keeping up with the tradition, Punjab Vocational Training Council Organized employment drives for its Pass Outs in VTIs in which prominent industries participated. These drives were organized across Punjab. Around 10,000 pass outs of VTIs participated in these events while more than 100 prominent industrial establishments with the support of local Chamber of Commerce and Industries conducted interviews of these skilled men and women and offered jobs to suitable candidates. The objective of these drives was to further strengthen the relationship and cooperation between the industry and VTIs and to provide decent employment opportunities to the pass-outs. Through these events, not only the industry got the opportunity to interact with skilled workforce for the future, but the pass outs were also given the opportunity to travel from VTI classrooms to the industry floors with confidence. PVTC is not only bridging the skill gap but also making the dreams of these skilled people become a reality.



Employment Drives 2023



Employment Drives 2023



Training Session

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

Ms. Bushra Naz, Senior Manager RR & Marketing, delivered an orientation session to the Management Cadre of Punjab TEVTA in Lahore. The primary focus was on Gender Equality, Social Inclusion, and Women Empowerment in the context of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector. The session aimed to cultivate a profound understanding of gender-sensitive critical issues, with the main goal of inspiring proactive measures and actions.



Training Session organized by STTI

Emotional Intelligence and Green Skills

STTI (Staff & Teachers Training Institute) organized enlightening online sessions for PVTC trainees and instructional staff, focusing on two vital aspects of personal and professional development. Senior Manager Curriculum Major Ghazanfar Abbas (Retd), delved into the particulars of Emotional Intelligence, while Mr. Tabarak Ali, Assistant Manager Marketing, shared insights on Green Skills. These sessions, attended virtually by PVTC staff and trainees from various Vocational Training Institutes (VTIs), underscored the commitment to holistic growth and skill enhancement within the PVTC community. The interactive sessions provided a platform for valuable discussions and knowledge exchange, fostering a culture of continuous learning.



PVTC's Engagement with Chambers for Growth & Employability

Punjab Vocational Training Council (PVTC) has undertaken a proactive initiative to bridge the skill gap by conducting comprehensive visits to numerous chambers of commerce and industry across Punjab. These engagements aim to foster collaboration with industries, facilitating On-the-Job Training (OJT) and enhancing placement opportunities for PVTC pass outs. Through these interactions, PVTC is actively working to innovate its curriculum, designing courses that closely align with the current industry standards. Additionally, PVTC is fostering partnerships with businesses as part of the 'Sponsor a Child' scheme, ensuring a holistic approach to skill development and employment. Concerned Regional Managers, Area Managers and Principals accompanied Sr. Manager PR & Marketing Ms. Bushra Nawaz during these visits.



Senior Manager PR & Marketing Ms. Bushra Naz, Vice President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce, Members of Chamber of Commerce and Industries, President DBOM Faisalabad Mr. Muzammil Sattar, Area Manager Faisalabad and Principals of Faisalabad VTIs during the visits of Chambers of Commerce and Industries, Faisalabad

Visits of Different Chambers of Commerce and Industries



Senior Manager PR & Marketing Ms. Bushra Naz, Regional Manager North Mr. Zahid Zulfiqar Qureshi during the visits of Chambers of Commerce and Industries, Rawalpindi, Gujrat and Sargodha along with concerned Area Managers and Principals.

Visits of Different Chambers of Commerce and Industries



Senior Manager PR & Marketing Ms. Bushra Naz, Regional Manager North Mr. Zahid Zulfiqar Qureshi during the visits of Chambers of Commerce and Industries, Sialkot, Islamabad and Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries, Gujrat along with concerned Area Managers and Principals.

Visits of Different Chambers of Commerce and Industries



Senior Manager PR & Marketing Ms. Bushra Naz, Acting Regional Manager South Mr. Ansur Mehmood, Area Manager Bahawalpur Mr. Farasat Hassan, Principal VTI Multan Rana Tanveer Ahmad during the meeting with Chambers of Commerce and Industries, Khanewal, Multan and Bahawalpur.

Visits of Different Women Chambers of Commerce and Industries



Senior Manager PR & Marketing Ms. Bushra Naz, Regional Manager North Mr. Zahid Zulfiqar Qureshi, Area Manager Rawalpindi Mr. Adnan Sheikh during the visits of Women Chambers of Commerce and Industries, Rawalpindi, Sialkot and Bahawalpur.

Our Cities - Our Pride District Muzaffargarh

Muzaffargarh, situated on the banks of the Chenab River in Pakistan's Punjab province, is a city with a storied past and a flourishing agricultural sector. It ranks as the 39th most populous city in Pakistan with a total population of 4,328,549 out of which 2,223,085 are male and 2,105,145 are female . The region's historical roots date back to the Indus Valley civilization, which was characterized by agriculture and dense forests. Subsequent periods, including the Vedic era, witnessed the infusion of Indo-Aryan culture into the Punjab region. Throughout history, Muzaffargarh has been ruled by various civilizations, including the Kambojas, Daradas, Kekayas, Madras, Pauravas, Yaudheyas, Malavas, and Kurus. In 331 BCE, Alexander the Great left his mark on the region. Later rulers included the Maurya Empire, the Indo-Greek kingdom, the Kushan Empire, the Gupta Empire, the White Huns, the Kushano-Hephthalites, and the Turk and Hindu Shahi kingdoms. In 997 CE, Sultan Mahmud Ghaznavi took control of the region, followed by the Delhi Sultanate and the Mughal Empire. Religion played a significant role in shaping the area, as Sufi missionaries brought Islam to the region, and their dargahs remain important religious sites. After the Mughal Empire's decline, the Sikh Empire under Maharaja Ranjit Singh took control of Muzaffargarh, and in 1848, the British Raj assumed authority over the region.



Muzaffargarh's geographical location, near Multan in southern Punjab, makes it an agricultural powerhouse. The area's flat, sandy and muddy plain, and network of canals support citrus and mango farming, though it is susceptible to flooding along the Chenab River during the monsoon season. The city experiences an arid climate with searing summers and mild winters. It is known for extreme temperatures, with recorded highs reaching around 54°C (129°F) and lows dropping to approximately

-1°C (30°F). Annual rainfall averages about 127 millimeters (5.0 inches), and dust storms are a common occurrence. District Muzaffargarh has 03 tehsils with 78 union councils. Total area of the district is 4,810 sq Km. Literacy rate of the city is 47.11 % showing a huge potential of



imparting skill training and shaping the abundant youth into skilled workforce.

Muzaffargarh's economy is diverse, featuring industries such as sugar mills, power generation, jute mills, textile mills, cotton ginning, and more. Agriculture and livestock also contribute significantly to the local economy. Key crops include wheat, cotton, rice, sugarcane, sunflower, mangoes, pulses, and more. The city's commitment to education is demonstrated through numerous government schools, private schools, and government colleges. In terms of healthcare, Muzaffargarh offers a range of facilities, including the District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ), Tehsil Headquarters Hospitals (THQ), Rural Health Centers (RHCs), and Basic Health Units (BHUs). The region's agricultural prowess is underscored by its vast cultivated area of around 7,86,738 acres, producing a variety of crops. Wheat dominates, covering 61.22% of the cultivated land, followed by cotton (22.24%), rice (5.47%), sugarcane (6.77%), and more.

Notable personalities from Muzaffargarh include philanthropist Sardar Kaura Khan, former Punjab Chief Minister Abdul Hamid Khan Dasti, Mushtaq Ahmed Gurmani (the first Governor of West Pakistan), and Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, a prominent politician and ex-chairperson of the Kashmir Committee. In conclusion, Muzaffargarh is a city steeped in history and a thriving agricultural center in southern Punjab, Pakistan. Its resilience in the face of extreme weather and dedication to education and healthcare make it a significant hub

Our Cities - Our Pride

District Muzaffargarh

in the region. Muzaffargarh has 03 tehsils which are Muzaffargarh, Alipur, Kot Addu and Jatoi. Total literacy rate of the district is 47.11% with an average household size of around 6.5 per household. Muzaffargarh's total population from 15 to 40 years ranges to 1,620,798



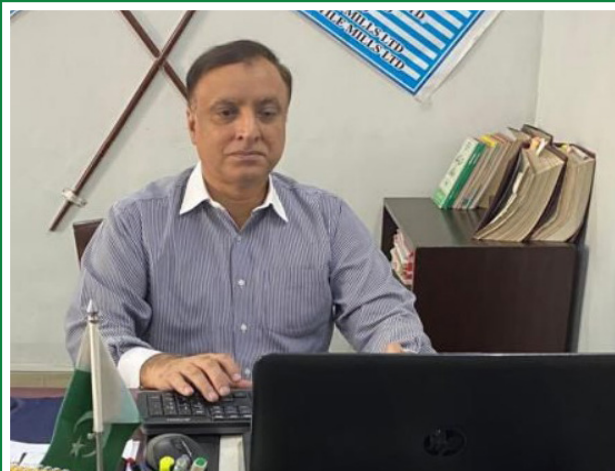
which reflects a huge potential to equip the youth with vocational skills. Recognizing this potential, PVTC established its first VTI in Muzaffargarh in July 2003. Since then VTI Muzaffargarh has produced 6,595 pass outs. Afterwards, SVTI Shahjamal was established in July 2005 which is currently operational with 03 trades with a total pass out count of 2,791. To cater for the vocational training needs of the remote areas, PVTC established another satellite campus SVTI Basira in April 2014 which is also offering 03 trades and has produced 1,066 skilled men and women till date. Over all employability ratio of VTI Muzaffargarh is 71%.

VTI Jatoi was established in July 2005 and it is currently offering 04 demand driven trades. SVTI Alipur, satellite campus of VTI Jatoi was established in July 2016 and it is currently offering 05 trades for the deserving youth of the vicinity. VTI Jatoi has a pass out count of 8,845 with an employability ratio of 51%. VTIs of the district Muzaffargarh are currently imparting state of the art vocational training in the following trades;

- ✱ Clinical Assistant
- ✱ National Vocational Certificate Level 2 In Arts (Dress Making)
- ✱ National Vocational Certificate Level 2 In Automobile Technology (Motorcycle Mechanic)
- ✱ National Vocational Certificate Level 2 In Electrical Technology (General Electrician)

- ✱ National Vocational Certificate Level 2 In Hair & Beauty Services (Beautician -Women/Men)
- ✱ National Vocational Certificate Level 2 In Hand Embroidery
- ✱ National Vocational Certificate Level 2 In Information Technology (Computer Operator)
- ✱ National Vocational Certificate Level 2 In Mechanical Technology (HVACR)
- ✱ National Vocational Certificate Level 2 In Mechanical Technology (Welder [Flat (1F, 1G) And Horizontal (2F, 2G) Positions])

In conclusion, Muzaffargarh emerges as a city where history, agriculture, and skill development converge. Its journey through time, its commitment to education and healthcare, and its thriving vocational training initiatives collectively position Muzaffargarh as a significant hub in southern Punjab, Pakistan.



MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT DBOM

It is an immense pleasure for me to be a part of PVTC's VTIs of district Muzaffargarh. PVTC is making industrious efforts to empower youth of the area to earn respectable livelihood by imparting state of the art vocational training at their door step. Impressive vision and inspiring mission makes PVTC a remarkable training providing organization. Glorious 25 years of PVTC have done a great work in employment of the youth of the province of Punjab. Our area has a huge demand of skilled work force. The success of youth lies in skillful vocational training and PVTC's contribution in this regard is exemplary.

MAJ. (RETD.) TARIQ MASOOD
PRESIDENT DBOM, MUZAFFARGARH

Words of Wisdom

What We Say, Will Never be Recovered!

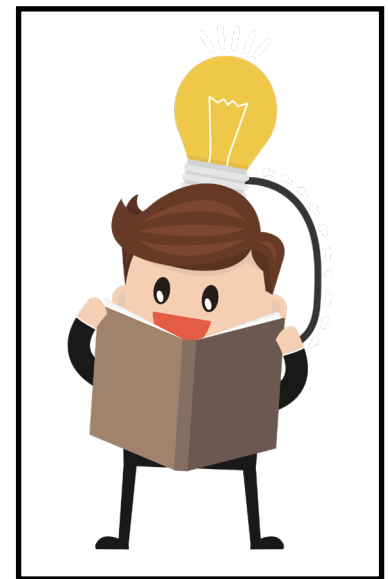
One evening I was parked in front of the mall wiping off my car. I had just come from the car wash and was waiting for my family to arrive. Coming my way from across the parking lot was, what society would consider, a "Faqeer". From the looks of him, he had no car, no home, no clean clothes, and no money. There are times when you feel generous but there are other times that you just don't want to be bothered. This was one of the "don't want to be bothered" times. "I hope he doesn't ask me for money," I thought. He didn't. He came and sat on the curb in front of the bus stop and he didn't look like he could have enough money to even ride the bus. After a few minutes he spoke.

"That's a very nice car," he said. He was ragged but had an air of dignity around him. I said, "Thanks," and continued wiping off my car. He sat there quietly as I worked. The expected plea for money never came. As the silence between us widened something inside me said, "Ask him if he needs any help." I was sure that he would say yes, but I held true to the inner voice. "Do you need any help?" I asked. He answered in three simple but

profound words that I shall never forget. We often look for wisdom in great men and women. We expect it from those of higher learning and accomplishments. I expected nothing but an outstretched grimy hand. He spoke three words that shook me.

"Don't we all?" he said. I needed help. Maybe not for bus fare or a place to sleep, but I needed help. I reached in my wallet and gave him not only enough for bus fare but enough to get a warm meal and shelter for the day. Those three little words still ring true. No matter how much you have, no matter how much you have accomplished, you need help too. No matter how little you have, no matter how loaded you are with problems, even without money or a place to sleep, you can give help. Even if it's just a compliment, you can give that.

You never know when you may see someone that appears to have it all. They are waiting on you to give them what they don't have. A different perspective on life, a glimpse at something beautiful, a respite from daily chaos, that only you through a torn world can see.



Prime Minister Delivery Unit (PMDU)

Pakistan Citizen's Portal

PVTC has been active on PMDU since launch of the portal and has made Pakistan Citizen's Portal (PCP) complaints resolution a top priority. As per the statistics of PCP dashboard of Managing Director PVTC, 701 complaints have been received so far, all complaints have been resolved, yielding 100% complaints resolution rate and satisfactory feedback of 60% by the complainants which reflects the commitment, efforts and transparency of complaint resolution process of PVTC.



I am Happy, My issue has been resolved.

701

Total
Complaints

701

Resolved
Complaints

100%

Complaints
Resolution

60%

Positive
Feedback

0

New
Complaint

Sky is the Limit Success Stories



Mr Muhammad Ahsan
VTI Jatoi, Muzaffargarh

In the heart of Dinga Korai, a resilient spirit emerged from the shadows of adversity, embodying the transformative power of skilled based vocational training. Muhammad Ahsan's journey is a testament to the impact of the General Electrical trade at VTI Jatoi. When fate dealt him a challenging hand after the loss of his father, Muhammad Ahsan found guidance from VTI Jatoi, and during his stay in the VTI Jatoi, Ahsan not only acquired valuable skills in General Electrical Trade but also discovered the path to financial independence.

Emerging from the depths of financial constraints, Ahsan embarked on a remarkable journey. Equipped with the knowledge and skill gained at VTI Jatoi, he established his own Electrical Workshop in the vicinity. The ripple effect of this endeavor was nothing short of extraordinary, as Ahsan's monthly income soared to an impressive 50000+, marking a significant turning point in his life.

Ahsan's success story extends beyond financial achievements; it's about empowerment and resilience. From a position of vulnerability, he has risen to become a beacon of inspiration for the youth of Dinga Korai. Not only has he secured his financial well-being, but he has also constructed his own house. The Electrical Trade at VTI Jatoi stands as a catalyst for change, breathing life into the aspirations of the underprivileged. Ahsan's narrative echoes the profound impact that quality vocational training can have on the lives of individuals, turning dreams into reality. The dedicated commitment of staff of VTI Jatoi has not only empowered youth but has sparked a ripple effect of change in the community.

Hira Ahmed, the daughter of Ijaz Ahmed, hails from the secluded expanses of Tehsil Muzaffargarh. In the backdrop of financial constraints and the responsibility of a family of six children, her father valiantly worked hard to cater for the needs of his family. However, the meager income proved insufficient for the education of all his offspring. Hira Ahmed's remarkable journey not only underscores personal triumph but also exemplifies the profound impact of women's empowerment through skill training in remote areas.

In pursuing the Computer Trade at VTI Muzaffargarh alongside traditional education, Hira demonstrated that skill development is a powerful tool for empowerment and independence. Her pursuit of excellence, marked by A+ grades, became a testament to the potential recognized through quality vocational training. Hira's successful transition from student to a Data Entry Operator in the Assistant Commissioner's office is a proof of the practical and career-oriented nature of the training provided by PVTC. Beyond securing a job, Hira's commitment to education extends to her role as an inspiration for her siblings and other young girls of the vicinity. By imparting international standard vocational training in the remote corners of Punjab, PVTC is fostering a culture of empowerment and self-reliance. The rigorous efforts of PVTC have not only equipped individuals like Hira with the skills needed for professional success but have also played a crucial role in breaking gender barriers.

PVTC's commitment to bringing international standards to vocational training in remote areas is not just about imparting skills; it's about fostering a sense of dignity, self-sufficiency, and gender equality. As women like Hira Ahmed carve their paths to success, PVTC's initiatives stand as a beacon of hope, promising a brighter and more empowered future for individuals and communities alike.



Ms. Hira Ahmed
VTI Muzaffargarh