



Vice-Chancellors' Conference

on

Equity and Inclusion of Marginalized Communities in
Higher Education: Opportunities and Challenges

March 5, 2024
Faletti's Hotel, Lahore



Organizers:

Bargad Organization for Youth Development
&
Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC)

A BRIEF REPORT

3RD VICE CHANCELLORS' CONFERENCE

EQUITABLE, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE
FUTURE

MARCH 5, 2024

Designed By: Minahil Aslam
Supervised by: Sabiha Shaheen
Prepared by: Usama Nasir/Noor Imran



Standing left to right:

Prof. Dr. Amir Gillani, Engr. Dr. Mansoor Ahmad Baloch, Dr. Asif Munir, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Bilal Khan, Prof. Dr. Islam Ullah Khan, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saleem, Muhammad Yousuf, Prof. Dr. Mujahid Kamran, Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Afzal, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali, Sabiha Shaheen, Usama Nasir, Dr. Tanveer Qasim, Prof. Dr. Shazia Bashir, Rabia Dar

Sitting right to left:

Dr. Ashfaque Mahmood Qureshi, Prof. Dr. Adnan Noor Mian, Prof. Dr. Nadeem Ahmad Bhatti, Prof. Dr. Khaleeq Ur Rehman, Prof. Dr. Hadia Awan, Prof. Dr. Uzaira Rafiq, Prof. Dr. Kalsoom Paracha, Prof. Dr. Zareen Fatima Rizvi, Prof. Dr. Anila Kamal, Prof. Dr. Zile Huma, Prof. Dr. Kanwal Ameen, Prof. Dr. Faleeha Zahra Qazmi, Prof. Dr. Suriya Choudhary

REIMAGINING HIGHER EDUCATION: EQUITY, GOVERNANCE, AND SUSTAINABILITY

The first Vice Chancellors' Conference was a collaborative effort of the Bargad Organization for Youth Development with the University of Home Economics, Lahore, under the Vice Chancellorship of Professor Dr. Kanwal Ameen. This was held in March 2021. The theme of the conference was 'Equity & Inclusion of Marginalized Communities' in Higher Education: opportunities & challenges'.

The second Vice Chancellors' Conference was held the following year, i.e., June 2022. This was also organized jointly by Bargad, University of Home Economics, Lahore, again under the Vice Chancellorship of Professor Dr. Kanwal Ameen. The theme for the conference was 'The Challenges of Academic Governance: Achieving Excellence and Equity in Higher Education'.

In continuation of our joint efforts for a better future of Education in Pakistan, the 3rd Vice Chancellors' Conference was held with a thematic focus on "An Equitable, Inclusive, and Sustainable Future".

Conference Objectives:

- Advocate for the effective implementation of the 2% Minority Education Quota in higher education institutions, ensuring equitable access and support for underrepresented groups.
- Champion the adoption of sustainable policies and practices in educational settings
- Promote intra- and interfaith harmony by establishing and supporting interfaith clubs in universities, fostering a culture of mutual respect

Some key discussion points of the conference are as follows:

- Better implementation of a 2% minority quota
- Improvement in academic freedom and academic policies,
- Better engagement of youth for diversity and inclusivity.
- Incorporation of environmental considerations in education

Considering the vital importance of Sustainable Development Goals and the Minority Empowerment Package the conference identified key challenges and gaps but also achievements. The SDGs emphasized during the conference were: 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), 10 (Reduced inequality), 13 (Climate Action), & 16 (Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions in promoting inclusive and equitable educational institutions). The efforts to provide strong policy and institutional support to effectively achieve SDGs and Minority Empowerment Package were delineated.





CONFERENCE OPENING

"Today, as we gather here, it is imperative to sensitize ourselves to the importance of making our curricula more inclusive. It is crucial for Vice Chancellors to be sensitized to these issues, as they play a pivotal role in shaping the educational landscape. The theme of this conference underscores the multifaceted challenges facing our society today, spanning social, economic, and environmental realms."

Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir
Chairperson

Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC)

Dr. Shahid Munir emphasized that achieving equity in education requires addressing systemic inequalities and promoting meaningful inclusion. He raised concerns over the underrepresentation of minorities, noting that only 21% of quota seats are currently being utilized—an indicator of the gap in equitable access and opportunity.

He also highlighted the urgent need to integrate environmental sustainability and interfaith harmony into educational frameworks. Stressing the alignment with the UN SDGs, he called for climate-conscious education and the organization of seminars to foster inclusive, pluralistic learning environments.

On educational excellence, Dr. Munir acknowledged the vital contributions of minorities and the importance of teacher training and technology adoption—such as AI in education—to prepare students for future challenges. He cited initiatives like the PhD supervisors' training and indigenous PhD programs as steps toward strengthening local research and industry linkages.

In closing, he called on participants to engage critically and collaboratively to build a future where every student has access to quality education and universities serve as hubs for innovation and inclusive growth. He thanked Bargad Organization for Youth Development for their partnership and encouraged continued dialogue on these key themes.

PANEL 1: INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

Discussion Points:

- 2% minority education quota in higher education
- Challenges and Recommendations

Prof. Dr. Ahmed Usman initiated the discussion by introducing the theme of the conference and emphasizing the importance of ensuring inclusivity in higher education to meet the country's goals. He highlighted the significant gap in the number of reserved seats despite efforts made.



Prof. Dr. Ahmad Usman

Sociology Department, University of Punjab

Dr. Ahmad highlighted that only 21% of the 1,211 minority quota seats across 30 public universities in Punjab have been filled, despite efforts to improve minority representation. Of the enrolled students, 133 are female and 113 male, representing various religious communities including Christians, Sikhs, Ahmadis, and Hindus. While these students contribute to campus diversity, the high number of unfilled seats signals a need for stronger strategies to improve quota utilization. Dr. Ahmad called on vice chancellors to provide recommendations for enhancing inclusivity in higher education.



Prof. Dr. Kanwal Ameen

Former VC, University of Home Economics

Prof. Dr. Kanwal Ameen acknowledged the progress made since the last conference but noted persistent challenges, particularly the lack of awareness among minority students about reserved seats. She emphasized the need for better information dissemination through platforms like social media and university websites. Highlighting the distinction between equality and equity, she called for admission policies that consider social disparities and provide support to help minority students meet academic standards. She also stressed the importance of sensitizing faculty to prevent bias and foster inclusive learning environments.



Prof. Dr. Talat Naseer Pasha

Former VC, University of Education
Lahore

Prof. Dr. Talat Naseer Pasha emphasized the importance of diverse faculty as role models for minority students, citing the University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (UVAS) as an example of inclusive representation. He also addressed affordability challenges, calling for increased investment in education and proposing support mechanisms—similar to those available for university employees' children—to improve access for minority students.



Prof. Dr. Nizamuddin

Pro Rector, Superior University, Lahore

Prof. Dr. Nizamuddin reaffirmed the University of Gujrat's commitment to supporting minority students admitted on merit, ensuring they can pursue education without seeking alternatives. He emphasized upholding academic quality and called for a comprehensive report to distinguish between cases of denial due to limited seats and those where students were ineligible or did not apply. He highlighted the need for accurate data to effectively address inclusion and diversity in admissions.



Mr. Muhammad Yousaf
Deputy Secretary Ministry of
Human Rights and Minority Affairs

Mr. Yousaf highlighted the issue of vacant seats, pointing out that the vacant seats in higher education then translates into vacant seats in professional departments. The 2% education quota is linked to the 5% job quota. 18,000 seats in government institutions remain unfilled, necessitating measures to fill them, such as the carry-forward formula.

Sharing experiences from Punjab University, Mr. Yousaf mentioned initiatives like the establishment of a Human Rights Chair and the provision of scholarships through programs like PEEF (Punjab Educational Endowment Fund).

PANEL 1: DISCUSSION INSIGHTS
Summary of Recommendations by Speakers

Name	Affiliation	Key Recommendations
Prof. Dr. Najma Najam	Pro VC, NUR International University	Proposed Offices of Inclusion and Diversity; highlighted 30% minority intake in nursing at NUR.
Prof. Dr. Ahmed Usman	University of Punjab	Called for celebrating diversity; noted lack of quota in medical/engineering universities; emphasized broader institutional representation.
Prof. Dr. Mujahid Kamran	VC, Grand Asian University	Suggested government subsidies for private sector; questioned impact of multiple quotas on merit seats.
Prof. Dr. Anila Kamal	Rawalpindi Women University	Noted low application rates from minority students due to awareness gaps and perceptions of exclusion.
Prof. Dr. Zil e Huma	Govt. College Women University, Sialkot	Highlighted financial barriers and awareness gaps; recommended scholarships and community-based outreach.

PANEL 1: DISCUSSION INSIGHTS
Summary of Recommendations by Speakers

Name	Affiliation	Key Recommendations
Prof. Dr. Faleeha Zahra Kazmi	VC, University of Home Economics, Lahore	Shared inclusive practices; emphasized institutional collaboration and support for minority students.
Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali	Bahauddin Zakariya University (BZU)	Stressed need for data on minority student transitions and grassroots-level engagement strategies.
Prof. Dr. Muhammad Afzal	Baba Guru Nanak University	Advocated inclusive faculty attitudes; proposed revising admissions policy for fairer access.
Prof. Dr. Mehmood Saleem	VC, Mir Chakar Khan Rind University of Technology, DGK	Raised concerns over merit reduction due to batch quotas; urged clearer limits and community awareness.
Mr. Prashant Singh	Assistant Controller, University of Punjab	Called for a quota implementation formula; highlighted gaps in higher-level programs; urged representation in academic governance.

PANEL 2: CLIMATE CHANGE

Discussion Points:

- Integration of Climate Change in Academic Curricula
- Research and Innovation for Climate Solutions
- Collaborations and Partnerships

Prof. Dr. Kanwal Ameen welcomed the inclusion of climate change in the agenda, citing the 2022 floods in Pakistan as a stark reminder of its urgency. She emphasized the need for awareness and sensitization at all levels and noted that climate change education has been integrated into school curricula, with students actively working on projects like waste management and green plastic solutions.



Prof. Dr. Uzaira Rafique

Fatima Jinnah Women University,
Rawalpindi

Prof. Dr. Uzaira Rafique shared that FJWU was the first public sector university to offer a degree in Environmental Science in 1999, which became a model replicated nationwide. She emphasized the need to address environmental issues both at universities and the grassroots level, advocating for alignment between academic and environmental policies—such as reducing single-use plastics. She also stressed the disproportionate impact of climate change on women and their leadership in environmental movements, citing the Chipko movement and bamboo bike initiatives. She called for individual responsibility in daily actions to combat climate change.



Mr. Waqar Uddin Butt

Lawyer and Policy Advisor

The speaker noted the growing importance of climate change in public discourse, contrasting it with earlier neglect. He traced environmental awareness back to post-war challenges in the 1950s, including nuclear waste, industrial emissions, and fossil fuel use. Emphasizing the need to address modern consumption patterns—such as electronic and rubber waste—he called for interdisciplinary collaboration across fields like law, communication, and energy. He stressed the complexity of climate change and urged ethical, people- and nature-centered approaches to drive meaningful action.

PANEL 2: DISCUSSION INSIGHTS
Summary of Recommendations by Speakers

Name	Affiliation	Key Recommendations
Mr. Waqar Ud Din Butt	Lawyer and Policy Advisor	• Advocated research funding from industries for innovations with market potential. • Emphasized civil rights lobbying for industry tech adoption. • Highlighted lobbying on food, water, and air quality. • Focused on plastic policy and need for comprehensive data to change public behavior.
Prof Dr. Uzaira Rafique	Fatima Jinnah Women University, Rawalpindi	• Stressed government subsidies for alternative energies (solar panels). • Raised concerns about solar panel recycling. • Questioned environmental and health impacts of poultry breeding, calling for life cycle assessments. • Advocated integration of indigenous environmentally friendly knowledge.
Prof. Dr. Muhammad Afzal	Baba Guru Nanak University	• Highlighted issues of water table depletion, nickel contamination, urbanization, land degradation. • Pointed to rising cancer rates linked to climate change and radiation. • Called for increased government publicity and awareness.
Prof Dr. Hadia Awan	Pro Rector, University of Central Punjab	• Emphasized quota systems for promoting inclusivity and diversity. • Defended quotas as representation for underrepresented groups. • Noted ongoing debates on how this quota differs from others.

PANEL 3: INTRA-INTERFAITH HARMONY

Discussion Points:

- Establishment of Interfaith Club/Societies in Universities
- University Policies
- Interfaith Leadership Training Programs

Dr. Tanweer Qasim opened the panel discussion by emphasizing the importance of fostering intra-faith harmony, noting that efforts often focus solely on interfaith dialogue while overlooking internal divisions within religious communities. He highlighted incidents such as those in Mianwali and Sialkot, where Muslims targeted fellow Muslims, as evidence of the urgent need to address sectarian tensions within Islam in Pakistan. Dr. Qasim also challenged the narrative that minorities pose a threat, stressing that such portrayals are misleading and harmful. Additionally, he drew attention to the situation in India, criticizing its claim of being a secular state while pointing out ongoing discrimination against Sikhs and Muslims.



Mr. Simon

Catholic Board of Education

Mr. Simon emphasized the importance of nurturing global citizens who are respectful, open-minded, and appreciative of diversity. He stressed the need to instill these attributes in citizens from an early age and integrate inter-faith studies into the curriculum. Mr. Simon recommended the establishment of inter-faith centers, the celebration of cultural and religious events, and collaboration with religious organizations to promote dialogue and understanding.



Pandit Kashi Ram

Krishna Mandir

Pandit Kashi emphasized that Pakistan is their home and underscored the importance of unity, especially in the face of external pressures.

PANEL 3: DISCUSSION INSIGHTS
Summary of Recommendations by Speakers

Name	Affiliation	Key Recommendations
Prof. Dr. Muhammad Afzal	Baba Guru Nanak University	Advocated for a more human rights-centric academic approach, suggesting integration of human rights principles into credit hours and extracurricular activities.
Dr. Tanweer Qasim	Director, Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC)	Proposed the creation of comparative religious and cultural studies departments to foster inclusive dialogue. Stressed inclusion of the Ahmadi community and addressing root causes of social divisions.
Maulana Zahid Ur Rashidi	Islamic Scholar	Emphasized direct community engagement for problem-solving, encouraged open dialogue, grassroots group formation, and representation at higher levels for collaborative solutions.
Mubarak Aftab	Field Mobilizer	Supported grassroots unity efforts and proposed joint community events like Iftars to bridge social gaps and promote unity.

PANEL 3: DISCUSSION INSIGHTS
Summary of Recommendations by Speakers

Name	Affiliation	Key Recommendations
Ms. Sabiha Shaheen	Executive Director, Bargad	Justified the need for quotas using the analogy of wheelchair access, highlighting tailored approaches for fairness and inclusion.
Dr. Kalsoom Paracha	The Women University, Multan	Questioned the exclusion of the Ahmadi community from discussions and called for greater inclusivity of marginalized voices.
Sidra Shehbaz	Field Officer, Bargad	Advocated for diversity tours for students and inclusion of both Quranic and Biblical studies in curricula to address widespread ignorance.

CHAIRPERSON BARGAD

“The German Philosopher and polymath Immanuel Kant in his book ‘The Critique of Practical Reason’ states and I quote “The greatest and most difficult problem to which man can devote himself, is the problem of education.” All present here I am sure would agree and in that spirit realize that: since the world has entered the digital age, dilemmas and issues of a different nature have emerged in the domain of education. No longer is the gathering of information what we seek.

On the contrary, it is the understanding of the data that we need to undertake. In the academy, especially, objectives must evolve with the times and critical thinking becomes the essential skill. Constant nevertheless, is the necessity to share and disseminate knowledge. But without the contribution of the scholars, researchers, and academics, who have dedicated their lives to the pursuit of ‘Sophia’(wisdom), this inquiry would remain a foundationless edifice.

And so we at Bargad collect the sages for a roundtable every year. “The objective is large and clear: the chain of ignorance must be broken.”



Dr. Ghazala Irfan

Forman Christian College
Member,
Chairperson Bargad & Member
Board of Directors Bargad

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BARGAD

"The Green for White campaign serves as a reminder of our responsibility to create an educational environment that is inclusive and equitable for all. By addressing the concerns raised by minority students, we can truly live up to the ideals of diversity and equality in higher education.

Another important aspect of this campaign is the request from the Christian community to be referred to as "Messih" instead of "Essayi." This simple change in terminology can go a long way in respecting their identity and fostering inclusivity within our educational institutions.

With nearly 900 seats going unfilled, it is evident that the current system is not conducive to the inclusion of minority students. Therefore, I urge all Vice Chancellors to collaborate on developing policies that address this issue and ensure that minority students are not disadvantaged in the pursuit of higher education.

Thank you!"



Sabiha Shaheen
Executive Director,
Bargad

CHALLENGES

- Less availability of scholarships and opportunities for minority students, which could help alleviate their socioeconomic status.
- Absence of educational institutes in areas where communities of religious minorities reside becomes a challenge for them in pursuing education.
- Lack of resources and high inflation make it even tougher for religious minorities to give higher education to their children.
- At the school and college level, there is no such minority quota present, which can become a hindrance in the educational path for many minority group students.
- Lack of awareness of the minority quota is also a major reason why a big number of seats on the minority quota are left empty every year.
- Inter-faith studies are missing from the curriculum, making students from religious communities feel alien.
- Ensuring engagement of females from minority groups is a challenge.
- Equal opportunities are not provided to religious minorities at the school and college level due to the absence of a minority quota there. They are not producing enough students from religious minorities who could further apply for higher education.
- Digitization in admission process is still missing to make admission process low cost for religious minority students coming from lower income background.

RECOMMENDATIONS

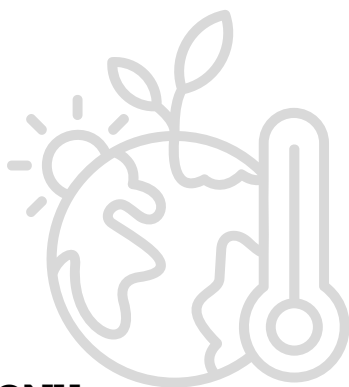
PANEL 1: INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

- Awareness campaigns should be conducted to inform minority communities about available opportunities and educational initiatives..
- Equity in education should go beyond equal access and address socio-economic challenges faced by minorities.
- Efforts should be made to provide scholarships and opportunities for minority students to improve their socio-economic status..
- There is a need for increased awareness about reserved seats for minorities and how to apply for them.
- Universities should advertise quota seats more effectively and provide clear information about the application process.
- Reports should be generated to document cases where minorities have been denied admission due to a lack of available seats.
- Efforts should be made to sensitize faculty members towards minority students to ensure fair treatment.
- Policies should be formulated to accommodate minority students who may not meet standard eligibility criteria and minimum marks requirements.
- Inclusion of interfaith studies in the curriculum is recommended to promote understanding and harmony among different religious communities.
- Initiatives such as centers for inclusive dialogue and celebrations of cultural and religious events can foster diversity and inclusivity.
- Ensure that the quota applies in all fields of study and across all courses offered by the institutions' departments to promote inclusivity and representation of minority groups in higher education.
- Regularly review and assess the implementation of the quota to understand if the quota is fulfilling the goal of inclusion of religious minorities and to evaluate and make necessary adjustments to enhance its impact and effectiveness.

RECOMMENDATIONS

PANEL 2: CLIMATE CHANGE

- Universities should integrate climate change and environmental education into their curriculum.
- Practical steps (eco-friendly), such as reducing plastic usage and promoting recycling, should be implemented within educational institutions.
- The university establishes or upgrades specialized research centers and fund interdisciplinary projects to advance research and innovation for climate solutions.
- Collaborations and Partnerships among green organizations, communities, policy makers and universities to promote sustainable practices, and advocate for evidence-based climate policies.



PANEL 3: INTERFAITH HARMONY

- Establishment of Interfaith Club/Societies in Universities.
- Introduction of interfaith Leadership Training Programs.
- Grassroots-level committees and forums should be established to address issues of inclusivity and harmony within communities (this is aimed for the community leaders present at the conference).
- Efforts should be made to promote unity and understanding through joint celebrations and diversity tours.



AGENDA

3RD VICE-CHANCELLORS' CONFERENCE: "EQUITABLE, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE
ORGANIZED BY PHEC AND BARGAD ORGANIZATION FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

DATE: MARCH 5, 2024 (TUESDAY)

TIME: 09:00AM - 04:00PM

VENUE: FALETTI'S HOTEL, LAHORE

Description	Time
Registration and Guests to be Seated	09:30 AM - 10:00 AM
Recitation of the Holy Quran National Anthem	10:00 AM - 10:05 AM
Welcome Note by Prof. Dr. Ghazala Irfan	10:05 AM - 10:15 AM
Opening Remarks of 3 rd VC Conference by Chairperson, PHEC Agenda 3 rd VCs Conference	10:15 AM - 10:30 AM
Address by Chief Guest	10:30 AM - 10:40 AM
Shields, Souvenirs to Guest, and Group Photo with the Vice Chancellors	10:40 AM - 11:00 AM
Panel 1: Inclusion and Diversity	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Panel 2: Climate Change	12:00 PM - 01:30 PM
LUNCH 1:30 PM- 2:30 PM	
Panel 3: Interfaith Harmony	02:30 PM - 03:30 PM
Conclusion and Future Prospects by Bargad	03:30 PM - 03:40 PM
Remarks by Ms. Sabiha Shaheen	03:40 PM - 03:50 PM
Concluding Address by Chairperson PHEC	03:50 PM - 04:00 PM

MEDIA COVERAGE

DAWN

TODAY'S PAPER | MARCH 08, 2024

VCs unite for good quality, inclusive higher education

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Vice chancellors pledged action for equity, inclusion, and sustainability in higher education during a Vice-Chancellors Conference by the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC) and a non-government organisation at a local hotel on Tuesday.

The conference yielded a significant commitment: the implementation of a two per cent quota for minority admissions and five per cent reservation for minority jobs within Punjab's higher education institutions. This move underscores a dedication to promoting equal opportunities for all citizens.

Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change risks was also a key topic.

Discussions highlighted threats to the ecosystem, food security, and energy.

Experts emphasised the need

for modern agricultural technology and efficient farming practices to mitigate these challenges.

Addressing on this occasion, PHEC Chairman Dr Shahid Munir underscored the positive contributions of minorities to Pakistan's development.

He stressed the importance of upholding the rights and dignity of minorities as guaranteed by the Constitution and Islamic teachings. Combating extremist ideologies and promoting interfaith harmony through university seminars were also highlighted.

Dr Munir also addressed the issue of water scarcity, emphasising that Pakistan has sufficient water resources if modern irrigation techniques are adopted.

Replacing traditional methods with spray and drip irrigation was presented as a crucial step. Additionally, PHEC's efforts in training and upskilling teachers were outlined.

The conference featured distinguished guests including vice-

chancellors from various universities in Punjab, along with experts, scholars, minority leaders, and specialists in science, engineering, and information technology.

These dialogue sessions facilitated discussions between diverse stakeholders, paving the way for a more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable future for higher education in Pakistan.

PANEL DISCUSSION: The Kinross College for Women hosted a panel discussion organised by its anti-drugs and tobacco committee on Tuesday.

The chief guests were DSP Syed Zafar Abbas Naqvi and consultant of anti-drugs and narcotics campaign, Syed Zulfikar Hussain.

After the welcome note by Prof Dr Masud Asad Khan, the dean of Social Sciences and Humanities, the panel discussed the causes of drug abuse, its impact and social responsibility of members of society as stakeholders following the

spark in the consumption of drugs.

The session mainly focused on creating awareness about the debilitating harms and effects of drugs by explaining the severity of the popular drugs. Popular drugs like ice and others were condemned and their accessibility was discussed.

DSP Naqvi shared the effects of the Punjab Police to stop the spread of this hazardous drug.

Syed Zulfikar Hussain also condemned the use of vapo and explained his concern about the consumption of this drug primarily by students and other young people.

DSP discussed the early signs of drug abuse and what parents and family members should look out for.

On behalf of the anti-drugs and tobacco committee, Dr Kaloon Akhtar concluded the session and thanked the guests for their efforts in bringing a positive change.

INTERNATIONAL
THE NEWS

VCs vow to promoting equity, sustainability

Our correspondent

LAHORE

VICE-chancellors of different universities committed to promoting equity, inclusion and sustainability in higher education. They expressed this commitment during a one-day Vice-Chancellors' Conference, which was jointly organised by the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC) and an NGO here on Tuesday.

According to a press release, the participants of conference also made a major commitment to introduce a 2% quota for minority student admissions and a 5% reservation for minority employment in Punjab's higher education institutions reflecting a strong commitment to providing equal opportunities to everyone.

Addressing the confer-

ence, PHEC Chairman Dr Shahid Munir underscored the positive contributions of minorities to Pakistan's development. He stressed the importance of upholding the rights and dignity of minorities as guaranteed by the Constitution and Islamic teachings. Combating extremist ideologies and promoting interfaith harmony through university seminars were also highlighted in the conference.

Dr Munir also addressed the issue of water scarcity, emphasising that Pakistan has sufficient water resources if modern irrigation techniques were adopted. Replacing traditional methods with spray and drip irrigation was presented as a crucial step. Additionally, PHEC's efforts in training and upskilling teachers were also outlined.



مقامی ہوئی میں وائس چانسلرز کانفرنس کے بعد میڈیٹر میں شہید منیر کا دیگر شرکاء کے ساتھ گروپ فوٹو

موسمیاتی تبدیلی کے لحاظ سے پاکستان کمزور خطہ: مقررین

جیہ زری ٹیکنالوجی اور موثر فیصلہ سازی تاکثر: وائس چانسلرز کانفرنس سے خطاب

لاہور (ایکپress) وائس چانسلرز کانفرنس میں شہید منیر کا دیگر شرکاء کے ساتھ گروپ فوٹو

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MEDIA COVERAGE



ایچ ای سی اور برگد کے اشتراک سے وائس چانسلرز کانفرنس

اقلیتوں کیلئے تعلیمی اداروں میں 2 ملازمتوں کے 5 فیصد کوٹے پر عمل کے عزم کا اظہار

لاہور (ایجوکیشن رپورٹر اوپن گجر) پنجاب ہائر ایجوکیشن کمیشن اور برگد کے اشتراک سے مساوات، جامع اور پائیدار مستقبل کے عنوان پر وائس چانسلرز کانفرنس نے اقلیتوں کے لئے ہائر ایجوکیشن کے اداروں میں 2 فیصد اور ملازمتوں کے 5 فیصد کوٹے پر عمل درآمد یقینی بنانے کے عزم کا اظہار کیا ہے۔ مقامی ہوٹل میں منعقد ہونے والی وائس چانسلرز کانفرنس میں کہا گیا کہ موسمیاتی تبدیلی کے خطرات کے لحاظ سے پاکستان فعال کردار ادا کر رہی ہیں۔



مقامی ہوٹل میں پنجاب ہائر ایجوکیشن کمیشن اور برگد کے اشتراک سے مساوات، جامع اور پائیدار مستقبل کے عنوان پر وائس چانسلرز کانفرنس کے موقع پر جین ڈاکٹر شاہد منیر کے ساتھ وائس چانسلرز کا گروپ فوٹو

لاہور: مساوات، جامع اور پائیدار مستقبل کے عنوان پر وائس چانسلرز کانفرنس

تعلیمی برادری کیلئے ملازمتوں کے 5 فیصد کوٹے پر عمل درآمد کا اظہار

لاہور (ایڈیٹر رپورٹر) پنجاب ہائر ایجوکیشن کمیشن اور برگد کے اشتراک سے مساوات، جامع اور پائیدار مستقبل کے عنوان پر وائس چانسلرز کانفرنس نے اقلیتوں کے لئے ہائر ایجوکیشن کے اداروں میں 2 فیصد اور ملازمتوں کے 5 فیصد کوٹے پر عمل درآمد یقینی بنانے کے عزم کا اظہار کیا ہے۔ مقامی ہوٹل میں منعقد ہونے والی وائس چانسلرز کانفرنس میں کہا گیا کہ موسمیاتی تبدیلی کے خطرات کے لحاظ سے پاکستان فعال کردار ادا کر رہی ہیں۔

Vice chancellors pledge action for sustainability, equity in higher education

Dr Shahid Munir praises contributions of minorities in national development; Dr Ghazala Irfan suggests legislation to counter intolerance, extremism in educational institutions

By Jarida Report March 5, 2024

Jarida Daily



Leaders from religious minorities, experts, scholars, and specialists in science, engineering, and information technology joined a day-long Vice Chancellors' Conference, organized jointly by the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC), and Bargad – a leading non-government organization formed in 1997 to promote peace, justice and cooperation among young people – at Lahore's Faletti's Hotel.

Addressing on the occasion, Punjab Higher Education Commission Chairperson Dr Shahid Munir pointed out that extremism was on the rise all over the world and all communities will have to unite against extremists and their ideology. "We believe that extremism and terrorism have nothing to do with any religion," he said, adding that some people wanted to impose their point of view on others that's not acceptable.

He said that radicalization in the society grew as a result of the disturbance in Pakistan's neighborhood and its further causes included unrest and social injustice. He also appreciated contributions of all religious minorities in national development. He suggested the visible support of the minorities as guaranteed by the constitution. He also addressed issue of water scarcity, emphasizing usage of modern irrigation techniques.

Dr Shahid Munir said that respect for humanity and tolerance were hallmarks of an educated



ایچ ای سی اور برگد کے اشتراک سے وائس چانسلرز کانفرنس کے موقع پر جین ڈاکٹر شاہد منیر کے ساتھ وائس چانسلرز کا گروپ فوٹو

ایچ ای سی اور برگد کے اشتراک سے مساوات، جامع اور پائیدار مستقبل کے عنوان پر وائس چانسلرز کانفرنس نے اقلیتوں کے لئے ہائر ایجوکیشن کے اداروں میں 2 فیصد اور ملازمتوں کے 5 فیصد کوٹے پر عمل درآمد یقینی بنانے کے عزم کا اظہار کیا ہے۔ مقامی ہوٹل میں منعقد ہونے والی وائس چانسلرز کانفرنس میں کہا گیا کہ موسمیاتی تبدیلی کے خطرات کے لحاظ سے پاکستان فعال کردار ادا کر رہی ہیں۔

MEDIA COVERAGE



The organizers would like to extend their gratitude to all of the honourable Vice Chancellors who participated in the conference and made it a success.

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Participating Universities





Participating Universities



Evacuee Trust Property Board
(ETPB), Government of Pakistan



Participating Universities



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