



4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



SDG-4: QUALITY EDUCATION

Session on Entrepreneurship for Special People of Hazara Region

COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) conducted a training session on “Entrepreneurship” for the physically challenged people of the Hazara Division on 24 November 2021. The session was mutually organized by Ms Komal Khan (CEO) of Creative Opportunity and Dr Syed Afzal Moshadi Shah, In-Charge Student Startup Business Center (SSBC), CUI. More than 50 physically challenged people attended the session.

Dr Syed Afzal Moshadi Shah introduced the concept of entrepreneurship to the participants, highlighted its importance, and linked it with real-world examples and how it can benefit physically challenged people. The participants were explained how internet technology provides a level field ground to physically challenged individuals. To motivate the participants of the session, video of successful Stephen Hopkins, Nick Vujicic and Peter Hayden Dinklage were shown. The participants thoroughly enjoyed the session and acknowledged that it increased their learning on “Entrepreneurship”. They have also shown that they will use this learning in future initiatives. In the closing remarks, Ms Komal Khan thanked CUI for facilitating this workshop and giving exceptional care and hospitality.

In his closing remarks, the Director of CUI encouraged the participants to live a successful life and shared examples from his personal life to boost the participants. He also assured to facilitate special people in every capacity. He also extended his full support to Created Opportunity for every initiative they will take for special people. The director presented Souvenirs to Ms Komal



A group photo of the “Session on Entrepreneurship for Special People of Hazara Region” event

Khan, CEO of Creative Opportunity.

World Disabled Day Event

The students from Eventix Society, CUI, under the supervision of faculty members from the Department of Management Sciences, organized activities in collaboration with Young's Muslim Inclusive Education System (YMIES), a project of ILEF (ALIF) Welfare Society, Wah Cantt to celebrate "International Day of Disabled Persons" on December 3, 2021. This day was celebrated to show solidarity and raise awareness amongst students and the community regarding their responsibility towards disabled children. The activities started with a half-kilometre walk with disabled children on the main GT road towards their school to show solidarity with disabled children. The Eventix Society students placed a painting and gaming stall to make this day unique for special children. The kids enjoyed face painting and playing games. A cash amount earned from the stall was handed over to the school's principal

for support and care of disabled children. In the end, gifts were distributed among disabled students by the CUI students. The students of CUI also showed their willingness to teach some academic skills to disabled children biweekly. Young's Muslim Inclusive system appreciated the efforts CUI students.



World Disabled Day Event



World Disabled Day Event

A Good Teacher of Tomorrow May Be A Student Today

A teacher's quality is determined by the level of professional competencies, including knowledge, understanding, skills, and attitudes they bring to the teaching profession. CUI follows the Outcome Based Education system; all passed-out students have the skills mentioned earlier. Further, presentation skills are essential to communication and help teachers communicate confidently, motivate the students to listen and keep a lecture interesting. During the degree, the students of CUI must give presentations at least 10 times in a single semester in different courses. Therefore, students gave presentations around 80 to 100 times throughout their degree. It helps them to polish their presentation skills for teaching jobs. Although according to the Alumni surveyor, most of the Alumni are working in the industry; however, those who want to be a teacher quickly get jobs because of the skills developed during their Bachelor's degree. Many COMSATS students are teaching successfully in different public and private schools and colleges.

Resource Sharing

CUI provides access to educational resources for those not studying at the university – e.g. computers, library, online courses, and access to lectures. COMSATS Community Development Unit (CCDU) is integral to CUI. Its main objective is to provide access to the resources, as mentioned earlier, to local youth in a marginalized community. CCDU believes in community empowerment and working with a bottom-up approach to uplift the extremely vulnerable, marginalized and poorest of the poor. CCDU is working with youth and children with the vision that they are agents of change and hold the key to a prosperous future and sustainably developed nation. Further, CUI has it up to mark library. Everyone from the community can access the library. For this purpose, temporary cards are issued to those who are not students in CUI.

Dr Assad Abbas completed PhD at North Dakota State University (NDSU), USA. He has been an Assistant Professor at the Department of Computer Science, COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI), Pakistan, since 2004. Like many

other faculty members of CUI, Dr Asad Abbas also uploaded all his lectures online. These online lectures are freely available to everyone. As a result, students can choose to learn anything they want from the comfort of their own homes without having to travel to lecture halls or classrooms. Further, students gain more access to subject-matter experts.

Prime Minister's Skills Development Programme

CUI has been working on the development of skills of youth. Under Prime Minister's Skills Development Programme, CUI launched free courses. This program encourages females, minorities, disabled and rural communities to attend the free courses.

In 2021, two courses were launched, i.e., a certificate in Office Management and a certificate in IT (Web and Mobile App Development) of 6 months each. Two batches of 150 trainees have successfully trained under this program. The project has provided free-of-cost quality training, stationary, training material and other resources needed for the training. These trainees can now secure jobs and earn by working online on different platforms supporting themselves and their families. In these short courses, 44 females, 3 disabled and 3 persons from minorities participated. More than a hundred students are registered for batch 3. Other than this, CUI offered many vocational and non-vocational training programs freely or with minimum cost for community well-being. In 2021 COMSATS offered different non-vocational training programs, including but not limited to workshops on ILETS, workshops on GRE, and workshops on the Arabic language.