



GOAL 8

Decent work and Economic Growth

223

Research Projects

17

Publications

17

Patents

NUST Placement Ecosystem

NUST has a strong ecosystem supporting placements of its students for internship and jobs for its graduates, through active engagement with the industry. A large number of on-campus recruitment drives, industry sessions, and alumni talk series are conducted across all schools and campuses. Being a comprehensive university, industries matching each discipline are selected. NUST has thus achieved a 94% employment rate as per QS ranking criteria and ranked as Pakistan's No 1 university in Employers' Reputation.

Preparing Students for Employability

In order to prepare our students for the job market, we implement custom made career development programmes focusing mainly on developing employability skills applicable to the competitive job market. The career development programme includes Career Orientation Seminars, Workshops on Resume Writing, and Workshops on Interviewing Techniques, One-o-One counseling sessions, and Focused Group Discussions (FGD).

NUST-TAI Summer Internship Programme

NUST hosted a delegation from Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI). During their visit, TAI offered international internships to NUST students, as a result of which, 15 students from different NUST colleges were selected, amongst which College of Aeronautical Engineering (CAE) had the honour to send the majority of its students from both Aerospace and Avionics Engineering departments. The internship was from 3 weeks in summer 2019 and was supervised by a faculty of NUST. The students had the opportunity to experience an internship programme in an International Aerospace Industry. Students also had an opportunity to witness an air show where TAI displayed their aerospace products. Students also visited Middle East Technical University (METU), in Ankara during the course of their internship period.



Technology Incubation Centre (TechOne)

1000+ jobs created, **69** Start-ups graduated, **25** Client Startups, **70%** Survival Rate



TechOne is the first Technology Incubator of Pakistan established in academia in 2005 by Pakistan's premier university NUST as a mean to replicate the concept of incubators in Pakistan. It provides a conducive environment for young businesses with all the necessary facilities, training and venture capital opportunities under one roof.

GAP Programme:

Global Acceleration Programme was one of its kind programme which showcased Pakistani startups in Silicon Valley. 12 Pakistani startups were coached by international mentors and entrepreneurs of Silicon Valley. They attended several events, networking sessions such as OPEN forum and Dream Force, held meetings with potential business clients and pitched their ideas to potential investors

This programme success stories are summarized as follows:

- Total funding of the programme USD 460,000.
- One startup idea was acquired by a global telco
- Additional six startups raised seed funding from Silicon Valley VCs/ investors
- Two startups signed partnerships with Silicon Valley Companies

SSBC:

Student Startup Business Centre (SSBC) is hosted at TechOne with an agreement with the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan and the Promotion of Education in Pakistan (PEP) Foundation for the establishment of a startup business centre to support startups by students.

The goal of the initiative is to promote talented student entrepreneurs and enhance their practical learning experience at the university. SSBC provides:

- Free co-working space,
- Seed funding,
- Incubation facilities,
- Mentoring and coaching, and
- Opportunities to participate in national and international events to selected student startups



Roundtable: Socio-Economic Implications of the IMF Programme for Pakistan

Against the backdrop of a feeble financial performance of global emerging markets, Pakistan's economic challenges call for dynamic structural reforms, feasible macroeconomic policies and functional trade linkages. Finding practical solutions to these challenges is an urgent national enquiry that demands visionary and comprehensive answers. In this regard, the second roundtable was held on the topic "Socio-Economic Implications of the IMF Programme for Pakistan" in July 2019. Dr Ashfaque Hasan Khan, Principal S3H was the keynote speaker and key economists and finance experts were among the participants.



National Seminar "Economic Insight: The Way Forward"

Economy plays a vital role in the development of any country and to analyze the current state of economy of Pakistan a national seminar was held, titled "Economic Insight: The Way Forward" in July 2019, where President of Pakistan H.E Arif Alvi honored the session as a chief guest. To look at the macro-economic challenges and to discuss in detail the root causes of slow growth, the session was followed by two roundtables;

- "Macro-Economic Challenges and a Way Forward by Dr Ashfaque Hasan Khan, Principal S3H
- Pakistan- India Trade Relation" by Dr Salman Shah, Advisor to Chief Minister Punjab

The main theme was centred on appraising various dimensions of Pakistan's macroeconomic sector and prospects for the country's trade in the region, especially with India; measuring strengths and weaknesses of economic policies; and generating some fresh thoughts and workable ideas through an inclusive discourse by the experts and other notable participants.



Health Concerns of the Textile (Weaving) Workers & the Associated Community

This project by NUST researchers is focused to establish the association between the septic environment of the weaving industry with the associated diseases and to explore the impact of ill health of the workers on their families or associated community. The population for the study consists of workers from the weaving industry of Kasur, a district near Lahore, Pakistan. The study counts on the stratified random samples to select both the treatment and control group from different union councils of Kasur. A well-structured questionnaire based data collection was planned to explore the diseases associated with the weaving industry and its impact on the families of the workers (associated community). Suitable econometric models (like logit/probit) were applied to study the determinants of ill-health of the workers and the associated community.

An Exploratory Study of Operational Models, Impact, and Best Practices of Business Incubation Centres for Tech Start-ups in Pakistan

Business incubation centres have been recognized globally to boost entrepreneurial activities in the economy and to contribute to technological advancement and economic development. Pakistan is an emerging market with good technological infrastructure and a large pool of talented youth, which exhibits a tremendous business growth potential if institutions may strengthen the entrepreneurship culture in the country. In Pakistan, business incubation phenomenon is at early stages of implementation comparing to advanced economies. Since last few years, public and private sector organizations are putting efforts to establish different non-profit and for-profit incubation centres. These numbers are far less than the country's economic development requirements to nurture new start-up enterprises. Hence, there is a need to extend incubation capacity of existing incubation centres, making less-functional incubators completely functional and established more incubation centres in different regions of Pakistan. It requires an understanding of recent state of business incubation process in the country. Nevertheless, little is known about business incubation phenomenon in Pakistan, such as existing incubation models and their best practices, impact of incubation services on start-up firms, incubation services requirement of incubatees, existing opportunities. This research project, conducted at NUST Business School, aims to investigate operational models, impact, opportunities, challenges, and best practices of business incubation centres in Pakistan to improve effectiveness and efficiency of business incubation ecosystem.

