



Habib University
shaping futures

REPAIRING THE PRESENT, SHAPING THE FUTURE

Pakistan – a Country in Need of Healing

Pakistan, a country whose significant youth population holds vast potential, continues to find itself interminably facing a range of crises, from economic to political to judicial. While much of the malaise can be attributed to ineffectual governance and policy-making, another major factor has been the worsening of the country's human capital crisis which is limiting its ability to prosper.

One of the key contributing factors to this crisis is the absence of an effective and comprehensive higher education system for the entire country. Higher education at the national level continues to struggle from a lack of vision and a host of intellectual and institutional challenges such as an emphasis on vocational subjects, the prohibitive cost of tuition fees for the majority of university-age students, and a lack of community support towards institutions of higher learning.

Habib University – Repairing Higher Education in Pakistan

Since its inception in 2014, Habib University has been bringing a reparative change to higher education in Pakistan.

Our distinct reparative approach seeks to bridge traditional divides between various disciplines and forms of knowledge. By developing an expansive curriculum that is contextually rooted and sensitizes our students to the country's postcolonial reality, we also foster a deep appreciation for indigenous art, culture, music, language, and heritage.

We are Pakistan's first community-owned institution which emulates an American community-owned model and is driven by a profound mission: to rectify the disparities in educational accessibility and empower the marginalized youth of Pakistan.

By learning from and adapting this model to our context, we seek to reshape the understanding of philanthropic giving in Pakistan and utilize its reparative power to shape Pakistan's future.

A Values-Driven Mission

The inspiration for Habib University's mission of reparative futures is found in our philosophy of Yohsin. Attributed to Imam Ali ibn Abi Talib (A.S), Yohsin represents action to cultivate the qualities of grace, excellence, passion, respect, and service within ourselves and around us.

Every aspect of the University's operations – especially its curriculum, pedagogy, institutional goals, intellectual experience, and culture – are driven by the Yohsin philosophy.

قِيَمَةُ كُلِّ امْرِئٍ مَا يُحْسِنُهُ



The worth of every human is in the measure of their thoughtful self-cultivation.



Imam Ali A.S

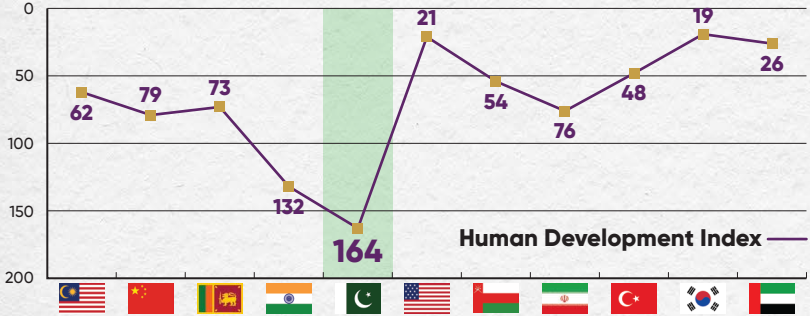
Repairing the Intellectual Experience

While having the 5th largest population in the world represents huge potential, Pakistan has been unable to create a globally acclaimed educational institution that could create a cadre of leaders from all backgrounds who can repair its flaws and create a better future.

CHALLENGES

- Focus on technical and vocational training at the tertiary level
- Limited exposure to the humanities and social sciences resulting in a lack of critical inquiry, creative thought, and understanding of local needs

Pakistan's poor ranking in the quality of higher education is reflected in the dismal state of human development indicators in the country:



Sources: UNDP Human Development Report 2023/2024

80% of higher secondary students enrolled in public examination boards never attend university

Prohibitive cost of private universities disenfranchises students from comprised socio-economic backgrounds

POTENTIAL

- GEOGRAPHICAL**
Situating at the cross roads of South and Central Asia, China and the Middle East representing tremendous trade potential

HUMAN
64% of the population under 30



- ECONOMIC**
Predicted to be the **16th** largest economy in the world by 2050

PHILANTHROPIC
Ranked **5th** in the number of people donating money which is more than developed nations such as the UK, Germany, and Denmark

Sources: The World in 2050 - Summary Report, PricewaterhouseCoopers, World Giving Index; GDP data from World Bank, Pakistan Center for Philanthropy, Charities Aid Foundation, European Research Network on Philanthropy, Statistics Canada, 2014



A Reparative Approach Through a Contextualized Core Experience

At the heart of Habib University's curricular program is our path-breaking Habib Liberal Core Curriculum that is structured by our reparative cognitive approach. The Core commences with our flagship courses in global and regional modernity, that investigate the origins, structures and meanings of key features of the modern world in history, politics, economy, culture, ecology, and religion, both globally and regionally. It then features courses in traditional and modern philosophy that are essential to a thoughtful and reparative sensibility, as well as conceptual and ethical regeneration. A further range of courses in forms of thought in the natural and human sciences accompany the student throughout their Habib years to cultivate thoughtfulness across the cognitive landscape.

A Healing Approach From the Lens of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

Habib University's School of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, hosts innovative majors such as Comparative Humanities, Social Development & Policy, and Communication & Design, that seek to transform the cognitive and practical landscapes of our time across culture, politics and economy, society, media, visuality, and history. In their healing approach, our programs seek to overcome the outdated and violent divisions between tradition and modernity, the past and the future, the secular and the religious, the human and the non-human, that have long structured knowledge in the human sciences in the modern period.



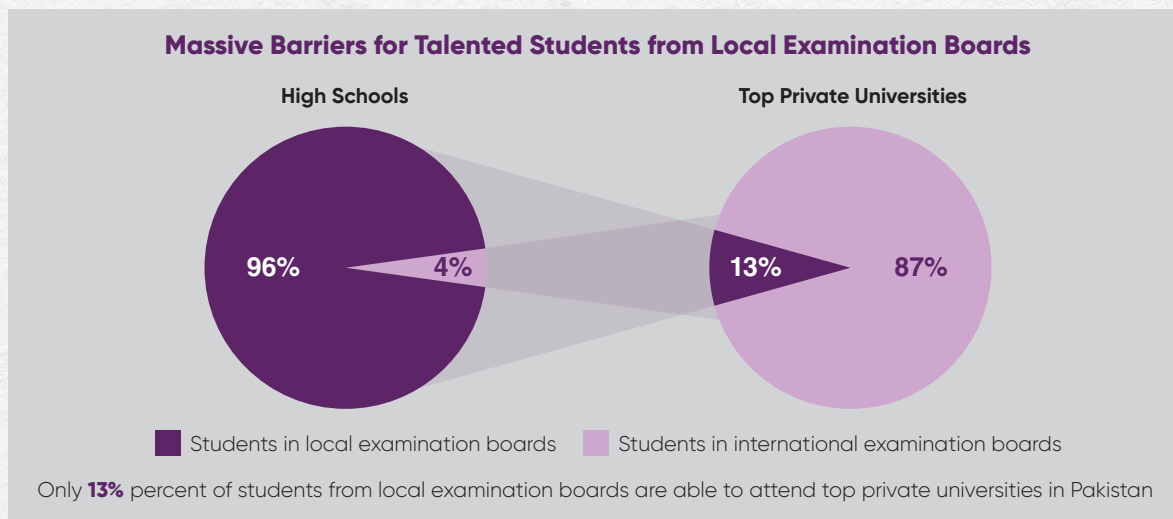
A Reparative Approach From the Lens of Science and Engineering

Our programs in the School of Science and Engineering – in Computer Science, Electrical and Computer Engineering, and in Science & Mathematics – are similarly oriented towards developing a thoughtful and reparative approach to the problems and practices, orientations and interventions of science and technology, and their management. Science and technology are at the heart of the contemporary world, and the harnessing and reorientation of their enormous potential are key to any reparative planetary futures. Habib University's radical pedagogical mission believes that such an ethical orientation will lead to excellence and innovation in science and engineering.

Repairing Access to Higher Education

Most students in Pakistan attend schools that follow the government's curriculum, often referred to as local examination boards, while a minority attend relatively more expensive schools that are linked to international examination boards such as the O and A Levels, International Baccalaureate, and the American system.

This scenario sees a total reversal at universities where the majority of students are from international examination boards.



This disenfranchisement of a large number of students from local examination boards is a result of top private universities in Pakistan being primarily tuition-dependent, recovering 80–90% of operational expenses through student revenue.

In our reparative role of making world-class higher education accessible to students without substantial means, Habib University has established the **Talent Outreach, Promotion and Support (HU TOPS)** program. The program addresses educational inaccessibility in Pakistan by providing disenfranchised youth enrolled in **local examination boards with 100% scholarships**.

This initiative exemplifies the University's commitment to **equal opportunities, empowering students from diverse backgrounds** to become lifelong learners, innovative problem solvers, and community-minded leaders, thereby **repairing the disparities in education accessibility in Pakistan**.

Additionally, the University provides 85% of its students with scholarships and financial aid to ensure access to all high-merit students.

Solving the problem of access to great higher education in Pakistan requires Habib University to be an advocate that leads by example in providing student support. With a completely new imagination of philanthropy that supports higher education in Pakistan, Habib University has been able to fulfill its promise of making great education accessible to students without substantial means and the University is doing this **by providing 900% more scholarships and financial aid** per student than the nearest private higher education institution.



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I was very grateful to have the opportunity to be selected in the first batch who had received 100 percent scholarship ... education in Pakistan is a luxury, especially when you talk about higher education, especially when you think about subjects such as anthropology, public health research, which are thought of as privileged academic options for people who can afford these kinds of courses.

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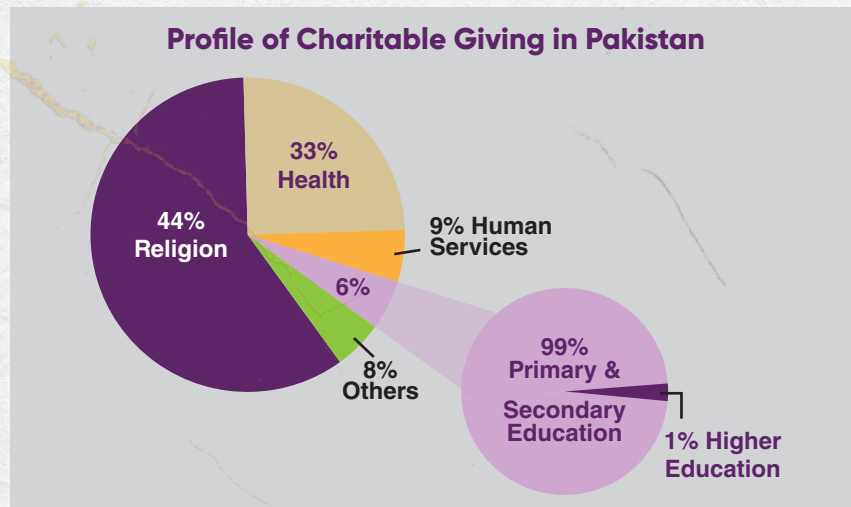
YUSRA AFZAL

BSc (Honors) Social Development & Policy,
Class of 2020

The Reparative Nature of Philanthropy

Pakistan is one of the most philanthropic nations in the world, but ironically the investment in higher education is not taken seriously by the local community, which traditionally has focused on immediate needs such as emergency healthcare and charity towards the vulnerable.

Most philanthropy in the education sector has focused on primary and secondary education, an unfortunate part of our colonial heritage that has limited independent thought.



Pakistanis are one of the most charitable people in the world and support a wide range of causes. The country is currently experiencing a youth bulge with a significant proportion of its population being of university-going age. However, the majority of Pakistan's large youth population continues to remain disenfranchised since **just a tiny fraction of philanthropy is directed toward higher education.**

The University's reparative approach towards philanthropy seeks to change that through our unique **community-ownership model**. This inspiration comes from the US model of philanthropic giving which has been the foundation for leading American universities.

Habib University is the first institution outside North America in nearly 400 years to make higher education a **community cause** and generate **societal ownership**. These leading universities dedicated their philanthropic efforts towards higher education, and educated a far higher number of students than they had in past decades, Habib University in Pakistan was able to do the same and mobilized community co-ownership to support its mission to **provide access** to the most talented students irrespective of their socio-economic, ethnic, or educational backgrounds or ability to pay tuition.

By galvanizing both the local community and Pakistani diaspora in support of **institution building**, we can ensure that the country's **large youth population** has access to world-class education enabling them to become thoughtful leaders **contributing to national development** and shaping a better future for Pakistan.

Since the University's inception in 2014, the support shown by the community has allowed the University to disburse **over \$30 million in scholarships and financial aid**. This is due to the growing number of supporters, both locally and internationally, who believe in the University's mission. As a result of this confidence, more than half of the University's expenses are met through community support.



Habib University provides the unprecedented opportunity to not only the people of Pakistan living in the country but to the Pakistani diaspora who can impact higher education and create new pathways to support it. We firmly believe that philanthropic support to higher education is a long-term investment in a developing country.



SHOUKAT DHANANI

CEO, The Dhanani Group, USA,
Board of Governors, Habib University

