

Dr. Uzair Ahson (Brief Curriculum Vitae)

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SUMMARY OF EXPERIENCE

With a progressive and diversified professional experience of around 20 years in teaching, training and research, Dr. Uzair Ahson has developed a three-pronged demonstrated skill-set including applied research/consulting, project management, and training & curriculum development. He has done **PhD in Economics** from the GC University, Lahore – Pakistan. Over the years, he has conducted several research projects in the domain of socio-economic development for the national and international organizations such as British Council Pakistan, The World Bank, and the State Bank of Pakistan, for example. He has also developed and delivered customized training modules for start-ups incubated at NIC Lahore, and also for women entrepreneurs from micro and small business segments of Lahore.

Sectoral/Industry experience: Economic analysis for Social sector development, Gender analysis, Sportswear and dairy milk value chains, Electrical fan Industry, Automobile spare parts, and International trade of Pakistan.

EDUCATION

- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Economics, from GC University, Lahore.
Area of research: Structural change, inter-sectoral labor relocation, and economic growth in developing countries of Asia.
- M. Phil. Economics, from GC University, Lahore.
Area of research: Intra-industry trade between Pakistan and India.

EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

- Assistant Professor, (May 2008 to date) & Lecturer (November 2002 to May 2008) at the Department of Economics, GC University, Lahore.
- Member of the Economic Cluster, SDG Coordination Unit of UNDP and P&DD, Punjab (2017).
- GCU Lahore Focal person for liaison/coordination with Planning and Development Board (2017).

RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

- *Project Coordinator* of HEC-British Council Joint Higher Education Link Program (JHELP) – Phase-I (2004-2007). *Program coordinator* of MS degree ‘Entrepreneurship and SME Management’ (since 2012).
- *Planned and spearheaded* the initiation of a new degree program i.e. MSc Entrepreneurship and SME Management in 2005. This was first of its kind in the country.
- Have *supervised* around 70 graduate/postgraduate research projects/theses of economics, and entrepreneurship (since 2008).
- *Member Departmental Board of Studies* – advise/monitor changes in curriculum and teaching/learning strategies.
- *Member Board of Faculty Arts and Social Sciences* (2015-17) – monitor changes in scheme of studies and curriculum to harmonize these with HEC guidelines.

SOME IMPORTANT CERTIFICATIONS/COURSES ATTENDED

| Date / Year | Certification/Course name, organization, and place |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 17 September 2024 to 21 December 2024 | Evaluating Social Programs (Online certificate by MIT and J-PAL). Verifiable at https://mitxonline.mit.edu/certificate/ffc7875d-e0cf-489e-af99-54377fd8efed/ |
| 10 January 2024 | Changing Behaviour for Sustainable Development (An online collaborative course between Monash University and the SDG Academy). Verifiable at: https://courses.edx.org/certificates/b04d2bb46a674ddab8664b73c4c36c40 |
| 23 September 2023 | Impact Measurement & Management for the SDGs (Online non-credit course authorized by Duke University and offered through Coursera. Verifiable at: https://coursera.org/verify/42HSLK2NTXMZ |
| 27 August 2021 | Results-Based Management (Advanced Level) by UNWOMEN An e-learning course provided by UNWOMEN Training Center |
| 13 August 2021 | Results-based Management (RBM) e-course by UNICEF |

| Date / Year | Certification/Course name, organization, and place |
|--------------------------------|---|
| | An e-learning course through the Agora platform |
| 28 July 2021 | Programme Planning Process (PPP) by UNICEF An e-learning course through the Agora platform |
| 29 December 2016 | Data Analysis for Evidence Based Policy Making Organized by the Punjab Economic Research Institute (PERI), Lahore, Pakistan. |
| 28 November – 02 December 2011 | Foresight for Innovation Organized by OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) Secretariat, Islamabad, Pakistan. |
| 18-22 August 2008 | Result Based Management (RBM) Organized by Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Islamabad. |

KEY SHORT-TERM RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

- ***Monitoring and Evaluation Consultancy for English and Digital for Girls' Education (EDGE) – for the British Council Pakistan (2023-2024)***
The EDGE project envisioned the development of 21st century skills including English and digital skills among the school girls in Pakistan. Being a pilot study, in this consultancy, the impact evaluation was done on the basis of mixed methods with total sample size of 300 for quantitative and 30 for qualitative study. Baseline and endline data were collected by trained enumerators. For data analysis, the Diff-in-Diff approach was used and was triangulated with the qualitative findings. In the next phase, this project was scaled up.
- ***A baseline study for Dialogue for Sustainability (DfS) commercialization based on Alumni Factories' and Multipliers' Perspective. For GIZ, Pakistan (Dec 2021 -Feb 2022)***
For scaling-up the outreach of DfS, GIZ on-boarded the consultancy firms also called the Multipliers, who were responsible for replicating the DfS methodology ensuring sustainability in textile industry of Punjab. For this purpose, Multipliers' core competencies, ownership of DfS and their readiness for DfS implementation was assessed in order to monitor and measure their progress.
- ***Research on 'Supply chain analysis of key sectors from gender lens'. For the UNWomen Pakistan (Feb 2021 to July 2021)***
This study assessed the supply chains of dairy milk and sportswear (two very important sectors in Pakistan) from gender lens. Qualitative research design was applied to explore the positioning of women in respective supply chains and identify suitable recommendations for improving it. In this project, I planned the research process in line with the expectations and requirements of the client, conducted field trips for data and information collection, and meeting with relevant stakeholders, and wrote the report.
- ***Pre-Feasibility Study for Vegetables Packhouse – Agriculture Development Unit, Government of the Punjab (Nov. 2017 to Jan. 2018).***
This pre-feasibility study was done for identification of business opportunities in agro-based activities. It provided key information about the choice of vegetables, location, supply chains, standards, and market dynamics. Six vegetables i.e. Cabbage, Potato, Turnips, Brinjal/Eggplant, Onion, Okra/Lady finger were selected on the basis of market potential and source availability.
- ***Project Evaluation of Take a Child to School – TACS (March-April 2017) for British Council Pakistan. (Review consultant and data analyst)***
This project evaluation exercise was undertaken to assess the Take a Child to School (TACS) project of the British Council Pakistan. TACS was a 3-year-long project which aimed at increasing the enrolment of the Out of School Children (OOSCs) in primary education in **63 districts** across the four provinces of Pakistan – a country stated to be falling behind its relevant SDG goals. This evaluation exercise combined analysis of existing and fresh data based on field research. The OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) criteria were used for evaluation framework.
- ***User Beneficiary Assessment Survey Phase – II, PPAF-III (2014) for APEX Consulting, Islamabad under a World Bank project implemented by Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF), Islamabad.***
The objective of this Assessment Survey was to assess the medium term impact of PPAF program/projects level interventions on the direct beneficiaries under PPAF-III and to integrate these findings into program activities. I was responsible for questionnaire development, training of enumerators, and preparation of an analysis plan, and finalize it in consultation with the client. I also analysed data, prepared and finalize the report in consultation with the client. Data analysis was done by using 'SPSS' and 'Microsoft Excel' softwares to identify and analyse the patterns of beneficiaries' perceptions about the project interventions. **Sample size was 2000, from 21 districts** covering major programme components

including Social Mobilization, Livelihood Enhancement and Protection (LEP), Micro-credit, Health, Education and Infrastructure related interventions.

- ***‘Beneficiary Perception Survey of Selected Completed PMSIP Sub Projects’ (2013) for APEX Consulting, Islamabad under a World Bank financed project for infrastructural development, and improvement in Municipal Services in Punjab.***

This was a survey based research to assess the perceptions of beneficiaries of Punjab Municipal Services Improvement Project (PMSIP) in Punjab – Pakistan. PMSIP was funded by the World Bank and implemented by the Punjab Municipal Development Fund Company (PMDFC). The Results Framework of the World Bank¹ was adapted/used for this assignment. I was mainly responsible for developing a data analysis plan, conduct data analysis, and write a survey report according to the agreed upon standards and framework. A sample of **2250 respondents from 14 sub-project locations** (covering the schemes of Water Supply, Improvement of Roads/Streets, and Solid Waste Management) was used for assessment of the beneficiaries’ perceptions. Developing logical linkages among key project outputs, inputs, and the beneficiaries’ perceptions about municipal services. The executive summary and final report can be seen online at https://pmdfc.punjab.gov.pk/system/files/psr_es.pdf.

- ***Economic Welfare Analysis of Pakistan-India trade in light engineering sector: a case study on fan and bicycle industries (2005)***

This chapter is included in the World Bank Report titled as “The Challenges and Potential of Pakistan-India Trade”. This chapter includes economic welfare analysis on the basis of some particular assumptions of free as well as low tariff trade between the two neighbouring nations in light engineering products i.e. bicycles and fans. The final report is available on line at http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSPContentServer/WDSP/IB/2007/07/11/000020953_20070711135032/Rendered/PDF/402730P07493901India1Trade01PUBLIC1.pdf

A short list of training courses and workshops conducted

| Date / Year | Training name, organization, and place | Thematic Areas |
|--|---|--|
| Oct 2014 – Oct 2019 | Entrepreneurship Development Program As part of a training team, delivered entrepreneurship training through a 10-days training program to young founders at the LUMS Incubation Center - Now the National Incubation Center, Lahore . Total Number of participants: 210, through 10 programmes. | Entrepreneurship & Enterprise Management |
| May – Aug 2017 Oct. – Nov. 2017 (02 Cohorts) | Kamyab Karobar under the Urban Youth Project Organized by the LUMS Incubation Center for entrepreneurial development of young entrepreneurs of Lahore. Main modules developed and delivered were Value chain, Market survey, Pre-feasibility, and Business plan. Total participants: 100 | |
| Mar 2016 – Apr 2018 (8 Cohorts) | Under Women* Lahore, a World Bank funded project ‘A New Generation of Women Entrepreneurs in Lahore’ – managed by Enclude at GC University Lahore. Main modules developed and delivered: ‘The entrepreneurial journey’, ‘Business Growth Action Plan & Business Model Canvas’, and ‘Business Growth Strategies’. Total Number of participants: 200 | |
| June 2011 To January 2017 | Entrepreneurial Behaviors and Business Creation Exercise A regular course in workshop mode in the MS Entrepreneurship and SME Management Programme at Department of Economics, GC University, Lahore . Total Number of participants: around 150 | |
| 07-19 May 2012 | Entrepreneurship Training Workshop | |

¹ “Designing a Results Framework for Achieving Results : A How-to Guide” available at <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/32158>

| Date / Year | Training name, organization, and place | Thematic Areas |
|--|---|--|
| | Organised by Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) Punjab for Principals and Teachers of TEVTA Colleges and Institutes. Number of participants: 30 | Entrepreneurship & Enterprise Management |
| 14 January 2019 | Trainers' Insights Organized by Qasim Ali Shah Foundation, Lahore For Train the Trainer Batch 10 Number of Participants: 55 | Teaching and Training Methods |
| 13 November 2018 | Seven (open)Secrets of Highly Competent Trainers Organized by Qasim Ali Shah Foundation, Lahore For Train the Trainer Batch 10 Number of Participants: 35 | |
| 30 July 2018 | Teachers Training Program for Economics Teachers Organized by the Concordia Colleges, Lahore Total Number of participants: 12 | |
| 8 August 2017 | Teachers Training Program for Economics Teachers Organized by the Concordia Colleges, Lahore Total Number of participants: 14 | |
| 2 December 2008 | How to Teach Case Studies Under GCU Lahore and Strathclyde University, UK Link Project HEC & British Council Joint Higher Education Links Programme (Phase II). Number of participants: 20 | |
| July – August 2020 (Four days) | British Council Pakistan's Digital Social Action Project (SAP)Campaign amid Covid-19 Conducted four virtual training programmes for the university graduates Number of participants: 50 | Society & Citizenship |
| 24 - 28 Aug 2015 07 - 11 Sep 2015 15 - 19 Aug 2016 26 - 29 Sep 2016 07-11 Jan 2019 04-08 Feb 2019 | Training of Facilitators (Universities) – Active Citizens Programme Organized by the British Council Pakistan University of Gujrat, Hafiz Hayat Campus, Gujrat. University of Agriculture, Faisalabad. Kinnaird College for Women, Lahore. Lahore College for Women University, Lahore. Kinnaird College for Women, Lahore. Superior University, Lahore. Total Number of participants: around 205 | Society & Citizenship |

COMPUTER SKILLS AND LANGUAGES

Computer/software Skills: Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Power Point), SPSS, Stata.

Languages: Fluent in English and Urdu (speaking and writing); fluent in Punjabi (mother language).

RESEARCH JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Structural change and economic progress: Empirical evidence from selected Asian countries. Pakistan Journal of Social Sciences 2017, Vol. 37, No. 2, pp.549-565 (Lead Author).
- Structural Transformation and Economic Growth: A Fresh Empirical Assessment of SAARC Countries. The Pakistan Journal of Social Issues 2017, Volume VIII, pp 21-31 (Lead Author). https://uog.edu.pk/downloads/journal/PJSI_21-31v2.pdf
- Financial Sustainability of Higher Education in Pakistan: A Public Sector University's Perspective. SAARC Journal of Human Resource Development 2009, pp 67-93 (Co-author).
- An Economic Analysis of Micro and Small Scale Shoe Making Units of Lahore. GCU Economic Journal 2003, pp 1-24 (Co-author)