

INTER-GENERATIONAL SOCIETAL TRANSFORMATION & PAKISTAN'S RESILIENCE

POST SEMINAR REPORT



CENTRE for AEROSPACE & SECURITY STUDIES, LAHORE

INTER-GENERATIONAL SOCIETAL TRANSFORMATIONS AND PAKISTAN'S RESILIENCE

POST SEMINAR REPORT

PRESIDENT

Air Marshal Asim Suleiman (Retd)

SEMINAR COORDINATOR

Dr Bilal Ghazanfar

JUNIOR EDITOR

Jawad Zulfiqar

MASTER OF THE CEREMONY

Naba Fatima

RAPPORTEURS

Azhar Zeeshan, Faiza Abid,

Meher Azfar Rana

CENTRE for AEROSPACE & SECURITY STUDIES

August 2024

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INTRODUCTION

Pakistan's history attests to the resilience of its society and state. This strength, rooted in shared values, historical unity, and an indomitable spirit, has kept the nation afloat. However, in the 21st century, this resilience faces a new challenge: the generational divide between Baby Boomers (Digital Immigrants) and Generation Z (Digital Natives).

The generational divide manifests in differing worldviews. Baby Boomers, shaped by the Cold War era, prioritise traditional issues such as foreign policy and national security. In contrast, Generation Z's perspective, shaped by globalisation and the information age, focuses on navigating a dynamic world with evolving global partnerships and economic priorities.

Social media, a hallmark of the postmodern age, deepens this divide. The relentless flow of information creates echo chambers, fracturing shared narratives and amplifying differences. Misinformation and "fake news" on national security issues further complicate matters. As Generation Z becomes more prominent, their priorities often clash with those of Baby Boomers, leading to "mismatched pluralities" where many feel unheard and disengaged. This discord hinders Pakistan's ability to address critical issues such as national development, political stability, and social progress.

However, there is hope. Building social resilience is crucial for Pakistan's future. Generation Z's youthful energy and digital fluency,

combined with the wisdom and experience of the Boomer generation, hold immense potential. To bridge the gap, a "New Narrative for Resilience" needs to be fostered, leveraging the lived experiences of Boomers alongside the fresh perspectives of Generation Z. By harnessing the collective potential of its people, Pakistan can navigate 21st-century challenges. Intergenerational dialogue, understanding, and collaboration between generations are key to building a more resilient future.

Recognising Pakistan's evolving social landscape and the challenges to national resilience, the Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS), Lahore, hosted a seminar titled "Inter-Generational Societal Transformation & Pakistan's Resilience". The seminar aimed to bridge the generational gap and foster a collaborative approach to building a more resilient future for Pakistan.

SPEAKERS OF SEMINAR

Introductory Remarks	Dr Bilal Ghazanfar
Bridging the Generational Divide: Understanding Inter-Generational Perspectives on Contemporary Challenges	Mian Imran Masood
Harnessing Digital Fluency: Gen Z's Role in Shaping Pakistan's Future	Mr Oves Anwar
Boomer's Blueprint: Adopting Experience for Next-Gen Resilience	Dr Yaqoob Khan Bangash
Concluding Remarks	Air Marshal Asim Suleiman (Retd) President, CASS Lahore

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A seminar titled “Inter-Generational Societal Transformations And Pakistan’s Resilience” was organised by the Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies (CASS), Lahore on 22 August 2024. The discussion commenced with the keynote address by Mian Imran Masood, Former Provincial Education Minister. It was followed by insightful presentations by two experts, Mr Oves Anwar, an eminent legal expert, and Dr Yaqoob Khan Bangash, a distinguished academic. An extensive interactive session, followed by concluding remarks by Air Marshal Asim Suleiman (Retd), President CASS, Lahore, rounded up the seminar.

Dr Bilal Ghazanfar opened the seminar by stressing the significance of understanding intergenerational relationships for national development. He highlighted that in Pakistan, where over 65 percent of the population is under 30, the challenge lies in bridging generational divides shaped by varied experiences and values. He added that Pakistan’s youthful demographic, with a median age of 20.4 years, offers diverse perspectives and skills, but technology has heightened these generational divides by impacting communication and perceptions. To foster national cohesion and growth, it is crucial to manage technology inclusively, understand generational needs, and promote meaningful dialogue. Dr Ghazanfar emphasised that addressing these dynamics thoughtfully is key to building a more resilient and prosperous future for Pakistan.

Mian Imran Masood, in his keynote address, highlighted the importance of intergenerational dialogue for national progress. He discussed various socio-political and economic divides in Pakistan, including the contentious 18th Amendment, provincial biases, religious sectarianism, and socioeconomic disparities, which impact national unity and development. Mr Masood emphasised the generational divide, noting the shift from "digital immigrants" to "digital natives," and the need to bridge this gap by integrating the wisdom of older generations with the innovation of the younger. He criticised outdated policies restricting online and distance learning, advocating for reforms to better align with global trends and empower Pakistan's youth. Concluding, he envisioned transforming the generational divide into a bridge for progress, asserting that uniting generations is crucial for a more resilient and cohesive future for Pakistan.

The second speaker of the day, Mr Oves Anwar, explained that Gen Z's comfort with technology and challenge to traditional norms are driving significant changes across various sectors. Mr Anwar emphasised the need to respect and integrate Gen Z's innovative approaches with the experience of older generations. He criticised outdated policies and restrictive state interventions that hinder digital growth and noted Gen Z's proactive role in recent movements, such as those in Bangladesh. Mr Anwar stressed the importance of adapting governance to the digital age and meeting Gen Z's demand for transparency and authenticity.

The third speaker of the day, Dr Yaqoob Khan Bangash, delved into the critical intersection of generational experiences and the resilience of the next generation. Dr Bangash described resilience as a double-edged sword, asserting that while it is valuable, it should not be the ultimate goal. He observed that Generation Z's rapid technological engagement reflects a constant craving for change, often without strategic direction. He cited Bangladesh's recent political shifts as a cautionary tale for Pakistan, noting the need to address the generational divide and the rise of global interconnectivity, which challenges traditional nation-state structures. Additionally, Bangash highlighted the erosion of meaningful community engagement due to digital over-reliance and stressed the necessity for honest intergenerational dialogue. He argued that acknowledging historical truths and addressing past mistakes is crucial for bridging gaps between generations and fostering a cohesive sense of citizenship and patriotism.

The interactive session explored ways to bridge generational gaps and enhance youth involvement in Pakistan's policymaking and societal development. Dr Yaqoob Khan Bangash advocated for a Pakistan-specific generational framework, critiquing Western classifications and stressing the need for a local context. Mr Masood highlighted the importance of integrating youth through effective policies and education, addressing emotional instability exacerbated by social media, and emphasising the role of the family in character development. Both speakers recognised the challenges of Pakistan's digital infrastructure but remained optimistic about the adaptability of younger generations in digital careers. They also called for

intergenerational collaboration to strengthen economic resilience and stressed aligning educational curricula with market needs to leverage Gen Z's skills for economic growth.

In his concluding remarks, Air Marshal Asim Suleiman (Retd) said that as these generational differences collide, a growing number of people in our society feel marginalised, disengaged, and alienated from the broader national discussion. This growing disconnect threatens Pakistan's capacity to tackle crucial issues like national development, political stability, and social advancement. If left unchecked, this divide could undermine our ability to build a unified, resilient society capable of meeting the challenges of the 21st century. He said that the key to our future resilience lies in fostering inter-generational dialogue, understanding, and collaboration. He added that by uniting the strengths of both the older and younger generations, we can create solutions that honour our past while meeting the demands of the future.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1 Managing the Generational Divide

The generational divide in Pakistan presents a critical societal challenge with the potential for both conflict and positive change. Neglecting younger generations' concerns and aspirations would be a missed opportunity in shaping the country's future.

2 Cultural Dilemmas

In an era of hyper-globalisation, Pakistani Gen Z faces a paradoxical situation, having to navigate traditional values with modern, global ones. Historical openness and diversity in Pakistan have declined, with contemporary society exhibiting increased conservatism and less acceptance of diverse viewpoints.

3 Lesson from Bangladesh

The First Gen Z revolution in Bangladesh ended without substantive change, highlighting that a desire for change without a strategic vision is meaningless, as the new government has adopted the same old tactics.

4 Negative Impacts of Digitalisation

Incidents like the Jaranwala church arsons, involving mostly Gen Z, highlight the dangerous mix of misinformation and digital connectivity

that fuels impulsive, destructive actions. While the digital world expands interaction, it has also reduced meaningful engagement, eroding the sense of community and neighbourhood connection among younger generations.

5 Gen Z's Economic Priorities

The digital realm is akin to a natural habitat for Gen Z, who are more risk-acceptant and seek alternative economic opportunities, such as the gig economy and freelancing. They perceive reskilling and upskilling as integral to their economic survival.

6 Citizenship, Patriotism and Brain Drain

Older generations in Pakistan have a strong sense of citizenship and pride, while the younger generation feels less connected to the country's history and development. Political instability, economic hardship, and violence have disillusioned Gen-Z, who reject resilience as a solution to systemic issues. This also fuels the brain drain from Pakistan.

7 Valuing Truth in History

The truth must be valued if progress is to be made. Pakistan's version of history is often heavily edited, with up to 70-80% of the narrative distorted in some cases. Failing to address the truth can alienate younger people.

8 Next-Gen Resilience

Resilience is valuable when it supports a greater goal, but it should not be viewed as the ultimate objective. It is beneficial as part of the journey, not as the final destination.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Dr Bilal Ghazanfar

Dr. Bilal Ghazanfar, Associate Senior Researcher at CASS, Lahore, opened the seminar by extending a warm welcome to the distinguished speakers. He underscored the notion that the strength of any nation is deeply rooted in the foundations laid by previous generations, highlighting the importance of understanding the nuanced relationships between generations.

Understanding Pakistan's Demographic Landscape

Dr Ghazanfar highlighted Pakistan's unique and diverse demographic landscape. With a population exceeding 230 million, Pakistan ranks as the world's fifth-most populous country. The nation's population is predominantly young, with over 65 percent under the age of 30 and a median age of 20.4 years. This dynamic demographic includes four distinct generations, each contributing a rich array of experiences, values, and expectations.

He acknowledged the pivotal role of older generations in the nation-building process and their adaptability to global changes. Conversely, the younger generations are stepping into influential roles, driving the future with their technological expertise and innovative perspectives.

The Impact of Technology on Generational Dynamics

Dr Ghazanfar stressed that while technology is a powerful enabler, it must be used judiciously.

“It is essential to ensure that technology fosters inclusion and progress rather than exacerbating division and disparity.”

He observed that technology has deepened what was once a generational gap into a more pronounced divide. This transformation has impacted how different generations interact, communicate, and perceive the world. He argued that understanding this divide is crucial for addressing Pakistan’s current socio-political and economic challenges. Examining Pakistan’s growth barriers through the lens of this generational divide provides valuable insights. This intergenerational chasm is evident across various societal domains, including education, employment, politics, and culture.

Navigating Generational Divides for National Growth

Dr Ghazanfar emphasised that Pakistan's future depends on its ability to navigate the complexities of intergenerational societal transformation. Bridging these widening generational gaps is vital for fostering a cohesive and progressive nation. Achieving a more resilient and prosperous future for Pakistan is an attainable goal through the collective efforts of all generations.

In conclusion, Dr Ghazanfar stressed the necessity of understanding the expectations of different generations, leveraging their strengths, adopting technology thoughtfully, and fostering meaningful

intergenerational dialogue. By embracing these strategies, Pakistan can effectively address the challenges of the 21st century and build a more resilient, equitable, and prosperous future for generations to come.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Bridging the Generational Divide: Understanding Inter-Generational Perspectives on Contemporary Challenges

Mr Imran Masood

Mr Imran Masood began his keynote address by expressing his gratitude to CASS, Lahore for the opportunity to speak. He acknowledged the honourable guests, esteemed colleagues, and the bright young minds present at the seminar, emphasising the importance of such platforms for shaping the future through discussions that pave the way for progress.

Socio-Political and Economic Divides

Before delving into the topic of bridging the generational divide, Mr Masood touched upon various socio-political and economic divides in Pakistan. He discussed the 18th Amendment, a frequent topic of discussion, and highlighted that the amendment was introduced to address the divide between provinces and the federal government, particularly in areas such as water accords and financial distribution. He noted that the National Assembly unanimously passed the amendment, granting provinces more autonomy. However, he pointed out that there are now efforts to reverse the amendment as the federal government seeks to assert more control over the provinces. Despite challenges, the provinces have continued to

operate under the framework of the 18th Amendment, though divides between them—such as the longstanding provincial bias between Sindh and Punjab—remain.

Citing the Kalabagh Dam as an example, he illustrated how provincial divides have hindered national progress. Although the dam was deemed essential for Pakistan, it became a casualty of political and provincial divisions, with even a strong president like General Musharraf unable to push the project forward.

Mr Masood further discussed Pakistan's religious divide, pointing to deeply rooted sectarian beliefs that have sparked numerous movements across the country. He shared an anecdote from his time as Punjab's Minister for Education when a curriculum dispute over a single illustration led to riots and significant unrest in the northern areas, resulting in strikes, destruction, and loss of life. This incident underscored the intensity of the religious divide, which continues to influence the country's educational system and broader society.

He also touched on the difficulties faced by minorities in Pakistan, despite constitutional protections and efforts to include them in governance. Mr Masood referred to high-profile incidents, such as the assassination of Governor Salman Taseer and the killing of a Sri Lankan manager in Sialkot, as stark reminders of the persistent tensions rooted in religious divides. Additionally, he discussed the strong racial divide present in rural areas, noting that these divides are deeply embedded in village and provincial life across Pakistan.

Moving on to the socio-economic divide, Mr Masood highlighted the gap between rich and poor, as well as the divide in education, particularly between English and Urdu medium schools. He observed that the introduction of the Single National Curriculum had brought new challenges, reigniting the debate over language in education. Ultimately, while some subjects like science and maths remained in English, the overall divide persisted.

The political divide, according to Mr Masood, also continues to shape the country's landscape. He linked these divides—political, religious, racial, and socio-economic—to the generational divide and noted that this would exacerbate the current socio-political and economic challenges of Pakistan. He added that understanding these divides through the lens of generational perspectives reveals a complex interplay between tradition and progress.

Generational Divide and Its Implications

Building upon the socio-political and economic divides, Mr Masood highlighted another notable divide, which he termed a 'generational break', caused by rapid technological advancements. This break has transformed social structures. He pointed out that older generations, influenced by slower technological progress, differ significantly from younger generations who operate in a hyper-connected, digital environment. He noted that this technological divide has led to distinct generational experiences and expectations. Older generations' views are shaped by hierarchical social structures and traditional media, whereas younger generations are influenced by globalised, diverse, and rapidly changing cultural norms driven by

social media. These shifts have resulted in divergent perspectives on societal values and norms, which impact societal cohesion.

Mr Masood underscored the importance of bridging generational divides to foster a more prosperous Pakistan.

“By leveraging the strengths of each generation and addressing the challenges posed by rapid technological changes, Pakistan can build a cohesive and forward-looking society.”

He added that effective intergenerational collaboration and collective effort are essential for achieving sustainable development and national prosperity.

Generational Divide and Resilience in Pakistan

Mr Masood further framed the discussion within the broader context of intergenerational societal transformation and the resilience that Pakistan has historically demonstrated. He highlighted the significance of resilience, defining it not merely as the ability to withstand adversity but as the capacity to adapt, evolve, and emerge stronger. Drawing on Pakistan's history, he noted the nation's resilience through economic challenges, political upheavals, and social transformations. However, he pointed out that today's focus must shift to a less tangible yet equally significant challenge: the intergenerational gap.

In his analysis, Mr Masood distinguished between two key generational cohorts: the older generations, whom he referred to as

"digital immigrants," and younger generations, labelled as "digital natives". He described the older generations as the architects of modern Pakistan—a generation that witnessed the nation's birth and laid the foundations upon which the current society stands. According to Mr Masood, this generation adapted to technology later in life, learning the digital language and continuing to contribute with their wisdom and experience.

On the other hand, Generation Z, the first generation to be born into a world where digital technology is a necessity rather than a novelty, presents a different set of challenges and opportunities. Mr Masood noted that while these digital natives are globally connected and informed, they also grapple with issues such as information overload, digital dependency, and socio-political uncertainty.

Building upon these distinctive generational characteristics, he warned that the generational divide could act as a double-edged sword, serving both as a source of tension and a potential wellspring of strength. However, he also emphasised that the resilience inherent in the younger generation, combined with their unique digital experiences, could empower them to address these challenges effectively and contribute to a more adaptable and robust society.

Bridging the Divide and Policy Challenges

Mr Masood urged that the experience, tradition, and deep sense of national identity of the older generation must be harmonised with the innovation, adaptability, and global relevance sought by the younger

generation. He argued that achieving this requires a fundamental shift in approach, particularly in policy-making, education, and even military tactics. Citing the rise of artificial intelligence (AI) and other modern technological advancements, he stressed the need to move away from traditional methods and embrace new strategies to remain competitive.

To capitalise on opportunities, Mr Masood suggested establishing platforms for knowledge exchange, such as forums in universities and community workshops, to bridge the generational gap. In terms of educational reforms, he emphasised the importance of addressing educational disparities to ensure all young people have access to quality education. This approach is crucial for bridging generational gaps and preparing the workforce for future challenges. He also recommended improving educational standards and aligning curricula with the needs of a modern, digital economy to support economic growth and social development.

Mr Masood urged leveraging technology to enhance communication and collaboration between generations. This includes developing digital platforms for intergenerational dialogue and creating community-level information networks that combine the wisdom of older generations with the digital engagement of younger ones.

“Cultural heritage must be integrated into the national narrative to strengthen identity and pride to encourage the youth to appreciate traditional values while embracing modern advancements.”

Revitalising Education for National Growth

Finally, Masood highlighted the need for investment in educational infrastructure over less critical projects. He recommended focusing on creating IT parks and other facilities that support educational and technological advancements to contribute to long-term national development.

He criticised the current policies restricting online and distance learning (ODL) programs in Pakistan, pointing out the lost opportunities in a rapidly digitalising world. Mr Masood highlighted that despite having over 266 universities, including 92 in the private sector, none are permitted to offer ODL degrees internationally, which he found particularly restrictive given the global demand for such programmes. He lamented that while countries like India have capitalised on these opportunities, Pakistan remains bound by outdated regulations that limit its ability to earn foreign exchange and expand its educational reach.

In a broader reflection on policy and generational needs, Mr Masood underscored the importance of adapting to the demands of the new generation, who are inherently more connected to the world. He pointed to the issues faced by tech companies in Pakistan, particularly regarding outdated systems and slow regulatory responses, which hinder the country's economic growth and limit the potential of its youth.

Conclusion

Throughout his address, Mr Masood expressed a deep respect for the older generation's contributions, particularly their role in the creation and development of Pakistan. However, he called for a renewed focus on empowering the youth, who make up 65% of the population, with proper education and equal opportunities, irrespective of their socio-economic background.

In closing, Mr Masood articulated a vision for Pakistan.

“The generational divide can be transformed into a bridge, allowing the experience of the past to guide innovation and where the energy of the youth rejuvenates tradition.”

He asserted that in this unity lies the greatest strength of Pakistan, and in this collaboration, the resilience of tomorrow will be defined. He concluded by affirming that while Pakistan's resilience has been proven time and again, it is now time to unite generations for the common good, ensuring a stronger, more cohesive nation.

Harnessing Digital Fluency: Gen Z's Role in Shaping Pakistan's Future

Mr Oves Anwar

Mr Oves Anwar's speech on "Harnessing Digital Fluency: Gen Z's Role in Shaping Pakistan's Future" opened with an unconventional approach, as he directly addressed the Baby Boomers and Gen Xers in the audience. He posed a question regarding the meaning of modern slang terms such as "sus," "no cap," and "that's OP." Upon receiving no answers, he remarked that such words induce a level of panic amongst preceding generations, reflecting the generational disconnect. He pointed out that while older generations can still communicate with Gen Z and Gen Alpha, the latter groups are often required to use the language of their elders rather than their vernacular.

Characteristics of Gen Z and Their Impact

Mr Anwar shared an anecdote to further illustrate the characteristics of Gen Z. He recounted an incident, where he tasked a young Gen Z employee with assisting a government and military institution in setting up their social media accounts. The employee, in a meeting with high-ranking officials including a major general, casually addressed the officer by his first name. This behaviour, Mr Anwar noted, was unthinkable for older generations, especially in Pakistan, where adherence to strict protocols and reverence is of primal

importance. However, he viewed this lack of traditional deference not as a negative trait but as a refreshing challenge to outdated customs, indicating a necessary shift in societal norms.

Mr Anwar then transitioned to a broader discussion, emphasising the importance of taking Gen Z seriously. He criticised the tendency to infantilise this generation, even though they are now adults who are significantly shaping various sectors, including legal, political, and economic landscapes.

“A large portion of Pakistan's population belongs to Gen Z, and as such, they deserve the same respect and attention as any other adult demographic.”

He also touched upon the persistent issue in Pakistan of treating adults, particularly men, as children well into adulthood.

Gen Z's Global Context and Economic Engagement

Cautioning against broad generalisations, Mr Anwar acknowledged the significant differences between Gen Z across different regions, such as in America, Europe, Africa, and Pakistan. He argued that while there are similarities, Pakistan's Gen Z has been uniquely shaped by a context of political instability, economic hardship, and, most notably, extreme levels of violence over the past two and a half decades. This exposure to violence and insecurity has profoundly influenced their worldview.

He further elaborated on the environment in which Gen Z has come of age, characterised by political uncertainty, economic volatility, and the global overemphasis on counterterrorism, which has altered the perception of fundamental human rights. Mr Anwar asserted that this generation has witnessed deep political polarisation, both globally and within Pakistan, and pointed to India's current political climate under Modi as another example.

“The erosion of trust in state institutions among Gen Z, he noted, has led them to adopt alternative modes of economic engagement, such as the gig economy and freelancing, largely due to their scepticism about the state's ability to resolve economic issues.”

The Proactive Nature and Global Influence of Gen Z

According to Mr Anwar, Gen Z's proactive approach contrasts sharply with the older generation's attempts to maintain the status quo. He suggested that time is on the side of Gen Z, and in a decade, the landscape will likely be dominated by their influence. He reiterated the notion of digital natives, pointing out that Gen Z is the first generation to grow up with ubiquitous internet access. This access has enabled them to acquire and refine new skills rapidly, making rescaling and upscaling integral to their economic survival in a way that previous generations did not experience.

He also discussed the dual impact of this global exposure, noting that while it enhances their skills and social awareness, it also

fosters frustration and resentment when local opportunities do not match those available to their global peers. This disparity has contributed to the increasing brain drain from Pakistan. Mr Anwar highlighted Gen Z's active participation in global social justice movements, such as those related to Palestine, climate change, the Me-Too movement, and Black Lives Matter. He praised their willingness to take risks that previous generations might have avoided due to fear of repercussions on their careers or academic prospects.

Authenticity, according to Mr Anwar, is highly valued by Gen Z, they demand evidence to support claims and are quick to challenge traditional narratives, holding others accountable for their statements. This shift, he argued, makes it difficult to rely on outdated propaganda tactics, as information is now readily available for scrutiny.

He further emphasised the strong desire for change among Gen Z, particularly in governance systems. Mr Anwar used Bangladesh as an example of this phenomenon and noted that the same sentiment is present in Pakistan. He touched on the persistent economic challenges in Pakistan, acknowledging that Gen Z is keenly aware of these issues. He argued that the state must play a crucial role in enhancing their access to economic opportunities, a necessity in a country where such opportunities are often limited.

The Cultural Duality and Resilience of Pakistani Gen Z

Mr Anwar also addressed the cultural duality that Pakistani Gen Z navigates, balancing traditional values with modern, global ones. Religion and culture remain an important reality for Pakistanis, it is part of their DNA. A large segment of Pakistan's Gen Z population is still graduating from madrasas and is therefore traditionally underserved. Mr Anwar noted that in this new environment, where the world seems to be opening up through internet access, there is fear that this community will remain unaffected.

“Today, the Gen Z population in the country continues to balance traditional values with modern exposure. This cultural duality is expected to be part of conversations for generations to come.”

According to the speaker, such hurdles have created a level of resentment and frustration among the generation.

He expressed concern over the concept of resilience, often lauded as a virtue in Pakistani society. While resilience is important, Mr Anwar argued that it should not be used as an excuse to tolerate poor governance or societal failures. He voiced his belief that Gen Z is beginning to reject the notion that resilience should compensate for systemic issues, a departure from the mindset of previous generations who were more accepting of enduring hardships without demanding change.

Digital Economy and State Intervention: Challenges and Opportunities

Mr Anwar discussed Gen Z's digital fluency and emphasised that the generation is poised to lead to the rise of a digital economy in the country. This shift would encompass sectors such as e-commerce, fin-tech, digital marketing, and app development, with coding becoming as essential a language as any spoken one.

He highlighted Gen Z's strong entrepreneurial spirit, noting that their adeptness with digital tools could drive economic growth, foster new industries, and create high-tech jobs tailored to a tech-savvy populace. The potential for a thriving start-up ecosystem and a focus on innovation was underscored as a significant opportunity for Pakistan, though Mr Anwar expressed caution regarding the state's role in this emerging landscape.

Addressing the issue of state intervention, Mr Anwar advised a hands-off approach, cautioning that state regulations, often justified by national security concerns, could disrupt, or even dismantle delicate ecosystems or equilibriums that are difficult to establish. He expressed frustration with the pervasive influence of security imperatives in policymaking, particularly how they can stifle progress in other vital areas of the economy and society.

He urged a reconsideration of this balance, acknowledging the importance of security but also recognising the need for discussions that renegotiate its dominance over other critical issues.

“Gen Z is increasingly fatigued by the prioritisation of security concerns over other aspects of national development.”

Further, he predicted an immense increase in civic participation driven by digital connectivity. With policy decisions and civic engagement now accessible through smartphones, the public can influence governance, whether through comments on social media platforms like Twitter (X) (assuming VPN access) or other online forums such as Reddit. This, he argued, represents a significant democratisation of public discourse.

However, Mr Anwar also pointed out the persistent digital divide in Pakistan, where many individuals still lack access to smartphones and the internet. This divide, he warned, could have long-term detrimental effects on the country, acknowledging the urgency in facilitating the rise of digital activism, which is already underway as a powerful force in shaping Pakistan's future.

The First Gen Z Revolution: Lessons from Bangladesh

Mr Anwar then delved into what he described as the "first Gen Z revolution," which recently occurred in Bangladesh. He recounted the remarkable way in which young students in Bangladesh organised themselves, using their digital fluency to challenge the Awami League government. They targeted not only government members but also economic elites who supported the regime, initiating boycotts and calling for these individuals to be ostracised. This rapid and effective organisation, conducted primarily online, was so

impactful that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was forced to cut off or slow down the internet to stifle their efforts—an action Mr Anwar noted with concern, as it is becoming increasingly familiar in Pakistan as well.

He Anwar described how the students quickly established a chain of command through social media, presenting a unified front with clear demands. They maintained their stance with peer pressure ensuring discipline and focus among the participants, a stark contrast to the more fragmented and compromised movements of the past. This movement, which began due to longstanding oppression and a controversial quota system favouring the descendants of freedom fighters, escalated after the Supreme Court struck down the quota. However, by then, Sheikh Hasina's government had already killed over 100 students, transforming the movement from one focused on quotas to one seeking justice for the slain students.

Despite Sheikh Hasina's record of economic improvements, including lifting millions out of poverty, her failure to ensure freedom and human rights sparked the students' revolt. Mr Anwar noted that while older generations, might view the younger generation as ungrateful—echoing Hasina's sentiments—the Gen Z perspective is that governance is a duty, not a privilege, and that rights and justice are owed to the people, not granted as favours.

The revolution led to demands for a caretaker government comprised of the best and brightest, including Nobel Laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus, and calls for accountability. In a twist of irony,

the same courts that Sheikh Hasina had established to prosecute pro-Pakistan individuals from 1971 are now seeing cases filed against her.

The youth's ability to organise extended beyond protests; they took on roles traditionally held by the state, such as maintaining law and order and managing traffic. Mr Anwar recounted how students and local community members formed groups to police their neighborhoods after the police abandoned their posts. Videos from Bangladesh showed young people holding street parties and karaoke sessions at night to ensure public safety, with drones being used for surveillance—a testament to the power of Gen Z. In one instance, a man in a bear costume was seen managing traffic, symbolising the innovative and sometimes whimsical ways the youth filled the vacuum left by the state.

As the revolution progressed, attempts to subvert it by the judiciary were met with swift action. When the Chief Justice of the Bangladesh Supreme Court attempted to declare the movement unconstitutional due to the absence of a caretaker mechanism—abolished by Sheikh Hasina—the Supreme Court was surrounded by protesters. The Chief Justice and six other judges were forced to resign, and a new Chief Justice was appointed. Mr Anwar remarked with a hint of satisfaction that such developments cause discomfort among those in Pakistan who cling to the status quo, underscoring the power and potential of Gen Z in reshaping the future.

The Future of Governance and Civic Engagement

Mr Anwar concluded his discussion with reflections on digital freedom and the evolving role of Gen Z. He emphasised that the digital realm is akin to a natural habitat for digital natives, and any attempt to control or alter it would be deeply resented. This analogy was drawn from historical precedents where encroachments on land and resources have led to significant backlash, suggesting that digital spaces are no different.

He argued that while concerns about misinformation and disinformation are valid, Gen Z is generally less susceptible to these issues due to their advanced digital literacy. Contrary to popular belief, it is often older generations who fall prey to misinformation, as they may lack the skills to critically evaluate the information they receive. Instead of imposing restrictions, Mr Anwar advocated for combating misinformation with more information and improving digital literacy among the youth.

Mr Anwar highlighted the growing demand for transparency and accountability from governance systems, citing global examples like the recent movements in Israel which have failed to align public opinion and in turn failed to get away with a lot of atrocities that it has been committing for decades. The speaker highlighted that this is due to this generation's ability to ask questions. He critiqued the recent justification by the IT minister in Pakistan for internet slowdowns, noting that Gen Z, along with other citizens, are

increasingly intolerant of such excuses and demand greater transparency.

He also touched on the paradox of privacy within Gen Z. While this generation might seem to openly share their lives on social media, Mr Anwar pointed out that they are very protective of their true private lives. They are aware of the public versus private dichotomy and are cautious about maintaining a distinction between their curated online presence and their genuine personal experiences. Any intrusive surveillance or breach of privacy is likely to be met with strong resistance from Gen Z.

Mr Anwar concluded by addressing the stereotype of Gen Z as "snowflakes," which he termed as unhelpful. He noted the declining interest in military service among younger generations, with significant reductions in applications to armed forces globally. This trend, he suggested, might also affect Pakistan. He emphasised the importance of preparing for future challenges related to digital domains, including cybersecurity and cyber warfare, which will be particularly relevant to Gen Z. There is, therefore, a need for a nuanced understanding of the digital age and its implications for governance, privacy, and security, stressing that these issues must be addressed thoughtfully to align with the evolving expectations and realities of the younger generation.

Boomers Blueprint: Adopting Experience for Next-Gen Resilience

Dr Yaqoob Bangash

Dr Yaqoob Khan Bangash delivered an address titled "Boomers Blueprint: Adopting Experience for Next-Gen Resilience," centring on the intersection of generational experiences and the resilience of the next generation. His address articulated four critical points: the interplay between patriotism and citizenship, the complexities of diversity, the paradox of digital expansion coupled with a decline in genuine engagement, and the significance of intergenerational interaction.

Dr Bangash invoked a pertinent quote from Napoleon Bonaparte: "To understand a man, you need to know what was happening in the world when he was 20." He emphasised that Pakistan's median age demographic is approximately 20.5 years—a crucial formative period where individuals develop and solidify their ideas and values, which subsequently influence their perspectives throughout their lives. Recognising the importance of this phase, he underscored the necessity of engaging with this age group; neglecting their concerns and aspirations would represent a significant missed opportunity in shaping the country's future.

Resilience: A Double-Edged Sword

In referencing Anatol Lieven's book *Pakistan: A Hard Country*, Dr Bangash transitioned to discussing the concept of resilience. Published approximately seven or eight years ago, this book sparked considerable debate about the notion of a "hard country." Lieven's analysis suggested that despite challenges, Pakistan manages to endure and persist. However, Dr Bangash echoed Lieven's critical question: whether this resilience is inherently positive.

“While resilience can be a valuable trait if it serves as a means to an end, it should not be the ultimate goal. Resilience is only beneficial when it is part of the journey rather than the final objective.”

Generation Z: The Era of Constant Change

Generation Z is distinguished from previous generations by its constant engagement with technology and a high turnover of devices, reflecting a rapid pace of change. This generation frequently shifts from one social media reel or post to the next, driven by a desire for novelty and an ever-present craving for change. Similar to the frequent upgrading of mobile phones, Gen Z exhibits a mindset of rapid change. This mindset reflects a preference for continuous novelty rather than addressing underlying issues or seeking long-term solutions, signalling an interesting generational shift and perspective within the movement.

Dr Bangash referred to recent developments in Bangladesh as an example. He shared information on a forthcoming British Academy-

funded special issue, focusing on the period from 1947 to 1970. This issue highlighted that many participants in recent Bangladeshi movements had no memory of any other prime minister besides Sheikh Hasina. What followed Sheikh Hasina's leadership lacked a concrete blueprint—unless one subscribes to the idea of an American conspiracy. Instead, these events suggested that the motivation for change was driven more by the desire for something new than by any strategic vision.

However, Dr Bangash emphasised that change, like resilience, is meaningless if it exists for its own sake; it must be guided by a clear plan or purpose to have substance. He also pointed out that post-Sheikh Hasina, the new government in Bangladesh appears to be using similar tactics to those employed by Sheikh Hasina, indicating that while the faces in power may change, the underlying political strategies might remain the same.

Reflecting on the implications for Pakistan, Dr. Bangash noted that the recent political shifts in Bangladesh might serve as a wake-up call. Although there have been concerns about whether such movements could occur in Pakistan, he noted that the historical strength of student movements and organisations in former East Pakistan has never been mirrored in West Pakistan. Despite this historical difference, he suggested that Pakistan should remain vigilant as the dynamics of change continue to evolve.

The speaker extended the discussion to the broader global context, referencing movements and changes observed in various regions. Dr Bangash referenced the Brexit referendum as an illustrative example

of how generational perspectives on political engagement are evolving. He noted that during Brexit, many young people in Britain were frustrated by the older generation's support for leaving the European Union. Some even suggested that older people should not have the right to vote, highlighting a significant generational divide. This discussion underscored the changing ways in which younger generations wish to engage in public discourse.

The Erosion of the Nation-State and the Rise of Gen Z

Dr Bangash believed that global interconnectivity, the rise of intergovernmental organisations, and the pervasive influence of the internet have intensified the pressures on traditional political structures such as the nation-state. He noted that while globalisation began eroding the nation-state's dominance two decades ago, the internet has accelerated this trend. Historically, the nation-state emerged as a successor to empires, offering a clear transition. However, he pointed out that the current movement for change lacks a clear direction for what will replace the nation-state, creating uncertainty about the future.

Dr Bangash posed the crucial question of what will happen to the nation-state as Gen Z comes into power. He illustrated this with the example of the recent German election, where nearly one-third of the elected parliament members were born after 1997. This significant generational shift will inevitably influence global politics, marking a journey into uncharted territory. In this context, he suggested that there is a need for fostering intergenerational conversation, emphasising its importance for navigating the complex political

landscape ahead amidst the interplay between patriotism and citizenship.

The speaker highlighted the importance of initiating a dialogue between the baby boomer generation and Gen Z on the topics of patriotism and citizenship. Drawing from his experience as a university professor, he noted a growing trend among younger Pakistanis: the increasing desire to leave the country. Reflecting on his time teaching at universities attracting students from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds, Dr Bangash shared a striking observation. In 2011, while teaching at Forman Christian College University, a more affluent institution, he asked a class of 50 students how many would leave Pakistan if given the opportunity; only about 5 to 10 students raised their hands. Recently, when he posed the same question to a class of 57 students at Information Technology University Lahore (ITU), over half indicated a desire to leave. This shift, occurring over just 13 or 14 years, signals a significant change in how the younger generation perceives their connection to Pakistan.

Dr Bangash explained that for the baby boomer generation, many of whom were born around the time of Pakistan's creation, a strong sense of citizenship and patriotism came naturally. They experienced the jubilation of independence and the early years of the country's development, which ingrained a deep sense of national pride. In contrast, Gen Z lacks this historical connection.

“For Gen Z, opportunities abroad are more appealing, and they often show little motivation to contribute to Pakistan’s development.”

The disconnect between older and younger generations raises serious concerns about Pakistan’s future. With over 60 percent of the population under the age of 30, Dr Bangash warned that the country could face significant challenges if a substantial portion of this population seeks opportunities abroad. He reiterated his example of Bangladesh, noting that while the country experienced considerable economic growth, dramatically increasing the participation of women in the workforce and creating numerous jobs in the textile industry, this progress did not sufficiently translate into nationwide job creation for young people. The issue, he explained, became not what was needed but what was wanted, and when the government failed to meet these demands, the youth took matters into their own hands. The disconnect between the baby boomer generation and Gen Z was so profound that it eventually led to widespread dissatisfaction and unrest. This, he argued, highlights the urgency of addressing this generational divide in Pakistan.

The Paradox of Diversity

The second point of the speaker’s address focused on the concept of diversity, which he described as paradoxical. While one might assume that the younger generation is more open to diverse ideas and viewpoints, the reality is quite different. In fact, it is more polarised, a situation exacerbated by digital technology and the way this generation has been raised.

Dr Bangash reflected on the mid-1970s in Pakistan, a time when the country was significantly more diverse, and people were far more at ease with their identities. Relationships between men and women were more cordial, and societal norms were less restrictive. For example, it was once unremarkable for a woman to cycle down the street—a sight that is now almost unimaginable. Although harassment existed, it was not as prevalent as it is today.

He also recalled a time when people could dine with friends from different religious backgrounds or sects, an interaction that has since become a point of concern. Society was generally more open. Up until 1977, for instance, alcohol bars were present on Mall Road in Lahore, where those who wished to drink could do so without fear of judgement. There was no societal pressure; people made their own choices, whether it was to drink or not, to wear a veil or not, or to interact with others from various backgrounds or not. Such diversity and openness were considered normal at the time.

Dr Bangash lamented the loss of such experiences in contemporary Pakistan, noting that it once did not matter whether one was ‘liberal’ or ‘illiberal’; people were comfortable with accepting diversity. Today, however, the younger generation in Pakistan has become more conservative and opinionated. He attributed this shift to the fact that Gen Z primarily receives information from their phones, with algorithms that cater to their preferences and do not challenge their ideas.

“Despite having access to a vast amount of information and, ostensibly, a diverse group of people, Gen Z, to a large extent, more conservative and intolerant.”

The increase in connectivity has not translated into meaningful engagement with the diversity available to them.

Dr Bangash provided a simple yet tragic example from his experience as part of the HRCF team that visited the sites of attacks in Jaranwala near Lahore and Sargodha, both targeting Christian communities. He observed that nearly all the perpetrators were from Generation Z, with the average age being 18 or 19, while older individuals merely watched from the sidelines. Although the ideas might have originated from the older generation, it was the youth who were driven to act, enraged by something that was not true, and even if it had been, wasn't occurring at the time. The trigger for their actions was quickly spread through WhatsApp, with messages urging people to gather and engage in violence. Dr. Bangash remarked on the alarming fact that thousands of people could assemble at 7 a.m. on a Wednesday morning, a time when they would typically be preparing for work, raising concerns about shifting attitudes towards work.

Dr Bangash acknowledged that while historians are often accused of only dwelling on the past, there are valuable lessons to be learned from it. He reminisced about a time when Karachi Airport was a major hub in Asia, and when many countries did not require visas—a reality that today's youth find hard to believe. He stressed that understanding the past is crucial for moving Pakistan forward.

Diversity, he argued, is an essential strength that allows individuals to be secure in their identities without resorting to criticism or violence against others. He recalled a time when people from different sects, such as Shias and Sunnis, coexisted peacefully, respecting each other's beliefs. This mutual respect and confidence in one's identity were hallmarks of a more diverse and tolerant society. Dr Bangash emphasised the need to revisit the value of diversity and foster conversations around it to strengthen the nation.

Social Disconnect Caused by Digital Over-Reliance

The third issue Dr Bangash addressed was the paradoxical impact of digital technology on social engagement. While the digital realm has broadened the canvas of interaction, it has dramatically reduced meaningful engagement. He illustrated this with a striking example from his experience as a lecturer, where each year during his civic education class, he would ask his students if they knew the name of the nearby colony. Despite being at the university for over a year, the students remained unaware of the name of the settlement, let alone the issues or concerns of the people living there. This lack of awareness, Dr Bangash argued, illustrated a significant problem: disconnection from the immediate physical community due to an over-reliance on the digital world.

He highlighted this further by pointing out a common scene in restaurants where family members sit together but are engrossed in their phones rather than engaging with each other. In some instances, they even communicate with each other through their devices rather than face-to-face. This absence of direct engagement

has eroded the sense of community, leaving many people unaware of their neighbours or indifferent to the concept of neighbourhood connectivity.

Dr Bangash shared an anecdote about a student who told him that without an Instagram account, one essentially does not exist in today's world. When he mentioned that he was on Facebook, the student dismissed it as an outdated platform, indicating a generational divide in how digital presence is perceived. This reliance on digital validation has led to a scenario where a significant portion of Pakistan's population, not active in the digital realm, is rendered almost invisible in the eyes of the younger generation.

To counter this trend, Dr Bangash had to take practical steps in his classroom by asking students to leave their phones in a box at the beginning of class and encouraging them to engage in conversation with one another. The initial irritation among students at being separated from their phones, even for an hour, is telling. However, this exercise aimed to reinforce the importance of face-to-face interaction, which is essential for building a sense of community. He also noted the fundamental difference between interacting with someone in person and communicating through digital platforms. The former allows for a deeper understanding of the person, something that is often lost in the digital realm.

Dr Bangash emphasised that if Pakistan is to rebuild its social fabric, the country must revive the sense of community that the baby boomer generation once had. This is a crucial conversation that must take place between generations, as community is a foundational

building block of society. Without addressing this disconnection, he warned, Pakistan risks further social fragmentation and deterioration.

Bridging Generational Gaps through Communication

Dr Bangash's fourth point focused on bridging the gap between generations and how to facilitate meaningful conversations. He acknowledged the challenges in getting the younger generation to engage with the older ones, noting that the younger generation often questions the relevance and approach of the older generation. To address this, he emphasised the importance of using appropriate tools for effective communication, particularly with Gen Z.

He pointed out that while older generations, including himself, were more text-oriented—believing that something was real if it was written—the younger generation is primarily visual. This shift in preference from text to visuals offers a pathway for engaging with them. Dr Bangash highlighted that converting text into visual formats can significantly improve understanding, engagement, and retention among younger people. He noted that while this approach is still under-utilised in Pakistan, it is increasingly being adopted in Western universities, where text is often translated into visuals to enhance learning.

To convey ideas about citizenship, diversity, and community to the younger generation, Dr Bangash suggested using various visual tools such as videos, visual information charts, and podcasts. He observed that many young people are avid podcast listeners, making it a valuable medium for reaching them. Importantly, he pointed out

that older generations are not entirely unfamiliar with these formats. Even those who are 60 or 70 years old likely have some understanding of how podcasts work and can recall using camcorders for recording in the past. The transition from these older technologies to modern devices like smartphones is not as daunting as it might seem.

The Imperative of Acknowledging Historical Truths

Dr Bangash argued that utilising these visual and auditory tools is essential for fostering engagement and building connections between generations. He believes that this approach will facilitate the much-needed intergenerational conversation, helping to bridge the divide and promote understanding across age groups.

The speaker's fifth point addressed areas where the baby boomer generation needs to improve, particularly in the context of engaging with younger generations. He acknowledged that while there are many aspects to consider, he would focus on a couple of key issues. The most pressing of these, according to Dr Bangash, is the need for the baby boomer generation to recognise and admit their mistakes, especially given the current information overload.

He explained that younger generations, including both Gen Z and millennials, are often put off by the older generation's reluctance to acknowledge past errors. In an age where information is readily accessible, it is no longer possible to hide or fabricate historical facts. Dr Bangash emphasised the importance of honesty, noting that failing to address the truth can alienate younger people. He provided

an example from his own teaching experience, where he candidly told his students that many countries, including Pakistan, have fabricated parts of their history. He cited the United States as an example, where textbooks often downplay the atrocities committed against Native Americans by focusing on more palatable narratives like Thanksgiving. While this kind of historical revisionism is common, Dr Bangash pointed out that Pakistan's version of history is often even more heavily edited, with up to 70-80% of the narrative being distorted in some cases.

Dr Bangash argued that with the availability of information online, it is impossible to maintain these fabrications and continuing to do so only erodes trust. He stressed that the mistakes of the past must be acknowledged, and the truth must be valued if progress is to be made. This is particularly challenging for the baby boomer generation, who have internalised these narratives due to the limited information available to them at the time.

Sharing a personal anecdote, Dr Bangash recalled his time at Oxford, where he often felt disheartened after learning the truth about Pakistan's history, which contradicted much of what he had previously been taught. He noted that while it took him years of study to uncover these truths, today, this information is readily available online. He reiterated the importance of engaging with the truth, arguing that it is essential for fostering patriotism and a sense of citizenship among the younger generation. He dismissed the fear that acknowledging the truth would somehow harm Pakistan, emphasising that the country's resilience will endure regardless.

In his concluding remarks, Dr Bangash highlighted the need for honesty from the older generation as critical for building a bridge between them and the younger generation. He argued that this transparency is crucial for creating a bond that currently does not exist.

“Generation X and millennials are often overlooked, but these generations serve as an important bridge, especially as they are currently in positions of power and have experienced various phases of change.”

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Air Marshal Asim Suleiman (Retd)
President, CASS Lahore

In his concluding remarks, Air Marshal Asim Suleiman (Retd), President CASS Lahore, said that we live in an era where knowledge is expanding at a breathtaking pace. Today, technology is racing ahead, opening new horizons, and creating unprecedented opportunities for the younger generation. From science and technology to social dynamics and global affairs, he said, young people today have unparalleled access to information and resources. He added that this era of rapid change brings with it an array of tools that enable the youth to stay ahead.

Challenges

The President said that with these advancements comes a significant challenge — a growing generational divide that cannot be ignored. This divide is not merely a matter of age, but rather a reflection of the widening gap in mindsets, perspectives, and priorities between different generations.

He noted that a recent survey revealed that 8 percent more Pakistanis feel this gap has widened over the past decade, with an increasing number of people perceiving significant differences between the young and the old. This is a worrying trend, he

remarked, adding that the generational divide threatens to fragment our society and weaken the unity that is essential for our nation's progress.

Generational differences

He said that the Baby Boomer generation, shaped by the Cold War and the geopolitical tensions of the 20th century, tends to focus on traditional concerns like national security, stability, and the preservation of long-standing values. They bring with them the wisdom of experience, a deep understanding of the past, and a commitment to the principles that have long guided our nation.

On the other hand, Generation Z, born in an age of rapid Globalisation and digital transformation, is more attuned to global partnerships, economic innovation, and social progress. Their priorities are shaped by the demands of an information age, where adaptability, creativity, and innovation are key to thriving in an increasingly interconnected world. For them, the challenges of today revolve around navigating complex global partnerships, fostering economic innovation, and driving social change.

The President said that this shift in priorities and perspectives has brought about its own set of challenges. In a world dominated by digital media, information spreads rapidly, often reinforcing divisions and fragmenting shared narratives. The proliferation of misinformation and fake news, particularly concerning vital national

security matters, has made it increasingly difficult to sustain a cohesive national dialogue.

“This constant barrage of conflicting information can exacerbate generational tensions, as different age groups may interpret and respond to the same events in vastly different ways, further deepening the divide.”

As these generational differences collide, he said, a growing number of people in our society feel marginalised, disengaged, and alienated from the broader national discussion. This growing disconnect threatens Pakistan's capacity to tackle crucial issues like national development, political stability, and social advancement. He added that if left unchecked, this divide could undermine our ability to build a unified, resilient society capable of meeting the challenges of the 21st century.

The President said that the key to our future resilience lies in fostering inter-generational dialogue, understanding, and collaboration.

“By uniting the strengths of both the older and younger generations, we can create solutions that honour our past while meeting the demands of the future.”

He urged the audience to commit to this shared journey, for the future of the nation depends on it, saying that together, a brighter and more inclusive future can be built for all.

INTERACTIVE SESSION

Question 1: How can Pakistan develop its generational classifications as part of decolonising social science, moving away from American-centric terms that may not fit its unique context?

Answer: Dr Bangash acknowledged the significance of discussing how the end of the Cold War has influenced generational classifications. He pointed out that these classifications are often arbitrary and predominantly based on American perspectives, which shape the terminology used, such as "Gen Z". Dr Bangash emphasised the necessity of developing a Pakistani-specific terminology to reflect the country's unique generational shifts more accurately. He highlighted the Musharraf generation, beginning around 1999-2000, as a distinct period in Pakistan's history, differing significantly from previous generations. Dr Bangash concurred that the current American classifications may not be fully applicable in the Pakistani context and stressed the need to revise these frameworks. He also noted that this effort aligns with broader de-colonial objectives, aiming to establish terminologies that are relevant to local contexts rather than relying on those better suited to the American experience. Furthermore, Dr Bangash observed that these American classifications are not even universally applicable within Europe, let alone Pakistan, underscoring the importance of developing a more regionally appropriate framework.

Mr Anwar began by likening generational classifications to zodiac signs, questioning whether being born in a particular period dictates one's entire life, similar to the superstition of avoiding specific activities on certain days. The essence of generational labels, as presented in the discussion, is not about rigid categorisation but rather about understanding shared experiences. These labels highlight the common circumstances that a group of people, born during a specific time frame, have collectively endured. He added that while there are perhaps more effective ways to define these generational cohorts, particularly when considering Gen Z, there have been significant, transformative changes, especially in technology, that have marked their experiences. In this regard pointing out that the exact boundaries of these periods can be flexible, as individual experiences vary. For instance, one might sometimes identify with the Baby Boomer generation and at other times with Gen Z, depending on outlook and other factors. Moreover, generational experiences are not exclusive to one cohort. For example, while Gen Z has undergone certain technological shifts, millennials have also experienced these changes, albeit at a more mature stage in their lives rather than during their formative years. This intergenerational interaction highlights that the impact of these shared experiences is not confined to a single generation and generational labels are ultimately arbitrary constructs, primarily developed by Western-centric scholars and thinkers, reinforcing the idea that these classifications should not be seen as definitive or universally applicable.

Question 2: How can the gap between generations be bridged to ensure youth inclusion in policymaking and decision-making, particularly in the absence of significant local government action in Punjab and other provinces over the past ten years?

Answer: Mr Masood began by reflecting on the lack of stable democracy in Pakistan since its independence in 1947. According to him only about 30 to 35 years of parliamentary governance have functioned effectively during this time because political parties in Pakistan have focused more on consolidating their own power rather than strengthening institutions like local bodies. This lack of support for local governance structures is partly due to members of parliament and assemblies wanting to centralise and retain power, leading to a reluctance to allow local bodies to flourish. Addressing the generational divide, the speaker emphasised the need to engage the younger generation. They noted that effective engagement requires communication, especially because young people today are primarily influenced by what they can see and experience visually, whether on screens or in their surroundings. The absence of functional local bodies means that basic rights and amenities, such as clean drinking water and civil services, are not being adequately provided.

This lack of access exacerbates the disconnect between generations and fuels a rebellious sentiment among the youth. Mr Masood highlighted that when young people compare Pakistan to other countries using human development indices, the disparities become glaring, leading to frustration and dissatisfaction. To address these

issues, the advocated for policies that involve and incentivise the younger generation, particularly through education and job opportunities. Without such engagement, frustration will continue to grow, leading to further societal challenges.

Question 3: What factors have prevented us from bridging the gap between the older and younger generations and instilling essential values in the younger generation?

Answer: Mr Masood highlighted that character building is a critical component of the curriculum at various educational stages, including primary, secondary, and higher education levels. The recent curriculum reform, known as the National Curriculum of Pakistan (formerly SNC), has incorporated such values and traditions. However, Mr Masood emphasised that the foundation of a child's values is primarily established at home.

He remarked on the importance of parental influence, noting that the values instilled by parents significantly impact a child's development. According to Mr Masood, it is crucial for parents to teach their children the right values and not to model dishonest behaviour. He critiqued the prevailing educational focus, which often prioritises job prospects over the development of character. The primary goal should be to nurture children into good human beings, distinguishing this from merely preparing them for careers.

Reflecting on societal changes in Pakistan, Mr Masood observed a shift, towards a more liberal society with greater openness and

acceptability compared to the 1950s and 1960s. He emphasised the need for a balance between generations: the older generation must adapt to the changes introduced by the younger generation, while the younger generation should respect their predecessors. Recognising the complexity and varying dynamics of this issue across different households, Mr Masood highlighted its significance in current discussions on education and societal values.

Question 4: Could labelling Gen Z inadvertently encourage behaviours aimed at distinguishing themselves as a unique group?

Answer: Dr Bangash began by acknowledging that every generation has its positive and negative aspects. He remarked that no generation solely engages in negative behaviour, as such an approach would lead to its downfall. Instead, every generation exhibits a mix of good and bad traits. Generational classifications are a fundamental part of sociology, as they provide a framework for shared experiences and events. These classifications allow for the creation of literature and understanding of historical contexts. For instance, World War II was a significant event that drastically changed the world for those born before and after it. Similarly, the shift from a time with only one channel (PTV) to an era with 80 channels represents a profound change in everyday life, underscoring the importance of these generational groupings.

Dr Bangash further explained that such classifications are not rigid but are instead used for generalisation, much like how government policies are made for a general population rather than for individuals.

He illustrated this by noting that while there are thousands of types of citizens in Lahore, a policy designed for Lahore must generalise to some extent. Generational tags function similarly, grouping people based on shared sociological terms, though these terms are fluid and can vary depending on context. However, he cautioned that whilst generations can be useful they do not capture the full complexity of individual experiences. Therefore, he suggested that, especially in Pakistan, new classifications might be necessary, as the country's experiences differ significantly from those of the West. For example, consumerism, which heavily influenced American society, arrived in Pakistan much later, affecting its societal development differently. Dr Bangash emphasised that classifications are merely metrics and should not be seen as the only way to discuss generational differences; one can create broader categories or even move beyond these tags entirely.

Dr Bangash criticised the tendency to rely solely on schools and the internet for education, arguing that this approach neglects the critical role of the home. He pointed out that in many successful Western countries, particularly in Europe, elementary school teachers are the most highly paid, reflecting the importance of early education. In contrast, in Pakistan, elementary education is undervalued, with poorly qualified teachers often placed in these roles. The home is central to instilling values and the responsibility of nurturing these values should not be handed over to digital devices or external institutions. He argued that basic values, such as caring for others, originate in the home, and without cultivating these values, societal development will suffer.

Dr Bangash highlighted the detrimental effects of this neglect, noting that a generation has been raised to rely on digital devices instead of engaging in physical activities or learning from elders at home. He provided a personal example, recalling how, during his childhood, it was common for children to go outside and play in the evening, fostering teamwork and social skills. Today, however, many children, even as young as four or five, are more likely to be found playing on an iPad or watching instructional content on television rather than interacting with others. This shift has led to a loss of essential life skills, such as teamwork and empathy, which were traditionally developed through face-to-face interaction and play fostering personal growth and value formation.

Mr Masood that the generational gap should not be an excuse for young people to engage in activities that go against national values, such as using drugs, partying, or disrespecting Pakistan. He concluded that this situation is a moment of reflection, urging everyone to think carefully about these issues.

Mr Anwar shifted the conversation to a legal perspective, explaining that the behaviours and actions in question being committed by Gen Z are those that would be illegal in nature, emphasising that crimes would fall into this category. He noted that criminological data indicates that as people approach the age of 40, the likelihood of them committing crimes decreases significantly. After the age of 40, the probability of committing a crime is almost non-existent. In this way, the age group most likely to commit crimes falls between 16 and 27 years. This is a consistent pattern worldwide, where younger

individuals are more prone to criminal behaviour. For example, during the tragic lynching of minorities, most of those involved were from Generation Z. This trend is not unique to this generation; 10 years ago, similar crimes were committed by Millennials when they were within this age bracket. He stressed this does not mean that all criminals belong to Generation Z; rather, it reflects that such behaviour is commonly associated with the age group.

Mr Anwar believed in the notion that people mature over time, noting that many individuals who are now considered respectable and "good" were not necessarily so in their youth. However, he pointed out that in a free country, people have the right to engage in ludicrous behaviour such as walking home backwards as long as it is not illegal. If someone has an issue with such behaviour, it is their problem, not the individual's. However, once an action crosses the line into illegality, it becomes a societal problem, as it impacts the community.

Mr Anwar cautioned against labelling Generation Z's actions as irrational unless they are egregiously harmful or radical. He suggested that the perception of increased crime or unwise acts might simply be a result of this age group's natural propensity toward risk-taking and boundary-pushing, which is typical of youth across generations.

Question 5: How do you perceive the relationship between emotional connectivity, emotional stability, and the materialistic values often showcased on social media?

Answer: Mr Masood highlighted the importance of emotional stability, describing it as a crucial yet frequently neglected aspect of contemporary society. He stressed that parents must establish strong connections with their children to foster open discussions about issues and expectations.

Dr Bangash elaborated on this point, noting that emotional issues are often not taken seriously, leading to a generational disconnect. This problem has been exacerbated by the rise of social media, which frequently promotes materialistic values that can worsen emotional instability. The focus on wealth, success, and status on social media often creates unrealistic expectations, contributing to emotional distress. Dr Bangash pointed out that while emotional maturity is vital, the older generation may not fully comprehend the depth of these emotional issues, particularly as they have been intensified by social media's influence. He emphasised that open communication and emotional support are essential in addressing these challenges and urged society to acknowledge the importance of emotional health.

Mr Anwar observed that although individuals may have social goals such as respect, honour, and glory, achieving these through legitimate means within society is extremely challenging. He highlighted the difficulty of social mobility, particularly for those who

graduate from prestigious universities but struggle to find jobs that match their skills. In such cases, individuals are left with limited options: they may enter a different field, rendering their university education and resources underutilised; engage in unlawful activities; or leave the country, resulting in the loss of a valuable asset. Mr Anwar questioned whether society incentivises positive behaviour, arguing that in Pakistan, the expected outcomes of doing everything correctly are often not realised for the majority, although they may be for the elite. This disparity, he noted, has significant implications for emotional health.

Question 6: Given the current volatility in digital infrastructures and technology in Pakistan, to what extent are digital careers sustainable?

Answer: The speakers acknowledged the challenges posed by Pakistan's unstable digital infrastructure but expressed optimism regarding the sustainability of digital careers. They emphasised that this generation's adaptability and versatility are critical strengths in overcoming these challenges. As the demand for digital skills rapidly increases, so do the opportunities for careers in this field. For example, the importance of reskilling and upskilling—such as learning coding within a short timeframe—has become paramount in the evolving job market. The speakers noted that while traditional degrees may no longer carry the same weight, the ability to swiftly acquire and apply relevant skills can ensure the sustainability of digital careers in Pakistan. They suggested that if there is a growing

demand for mobile and remote jobs, the market will eventually adjust to accommodate this demand.

Question 7: How can intergenerational collaboration be institutionalised within the corporate governance and political structures to ensure the resilience of Pakistan's economy in the face of external shocks, especially deriving from the boomers' experience?

Answer: Intergenerational collaboration is essential for the resilience of Pakistan's economy, particularly in the face of external shocks. According to the speakers, the key to fostering this collaboration is through open and continuous conversation between generations. Older generations bring valuable experience and knowledge, while younger generations offer adaptability and new It was also noted that while the internet and social media have their benefits, they should not replace face-to-face communication, which he considers the hallmark of a civilised society. This personal interaction can help bridge the generational gap and foster mutual understanding, ultimately contributing to the resilience of the economy.

Question 8: How can we encourage the local industry to adopt and appreciate high-tech tools, and how can Gen Z contribute their new skills and expertise to benefit Pakistan?

Answer: Mr Masood pointed out that the current academic curricula in Pakistan have low relevance to market needs, leading to a gap

between education and employment opportunities. As a result, skilled degrees are now being offered in areas such as digital marketing and website development to address this issue. He emphasised the importance of first improving the alignment between education and market demands.

Dr Bangash added that there is a disconnect between the skills that Gen Z possesses and the needs of the local industry. He noted that every economy evolves to accommodate new skills, citing the example of UET, which began in 1926 by offering only diplomas before transitioning to degree programs. Over the past century, significant changes have taken place, and there are now ways to encourage and support such developments. He suggested that it is up to the new generation to carve out space for these advancements.

Mr Anwar further elaborated on this point, stating that if demand is created, supply will naturally follow. He suggested that the local industry must evolve and adapt to new realities by creating demand for high-tech tools and jobs that align with Gen Z's skills. As new fields and technologies emerge, the industry should not resist but rather embrace these advancements. Gen Z, with their versatility and technical expertise, can play a crucial role in this transition. By fostering innovation and embracing change, the local industry can benefit from the fresh perspectives and skills that Gen Z offers. This, in turn, would lead to economic growth and a more dynamic workforce in Pakistan.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1 Inter Generational Dialogue and Community Bond

To restore Pakistan's social cohesion, it is essential to revive the sense of community. Investing in community building can help counter social fragmentation. Additionally, fostering inter-generational dialogue through mentorship, collaborative projects, and inclusive policy-making will bridge the gap between older and younger generations, strengthening societal bonds.

2 Prioritise Character Development in Education

Ensure that educational systems emphasise character development alongside skill development. Parents should model honest behaviour and in-still the right values in their children, aiming to nurture them into well-rounded individuals rather than solely preparing them for careers.

3 Visual Communication for Understanding

To enhance intergenerational understanding and engagement, we must translate text into visual formats. Unlike older generations, who are more text-oriented, the younger generation primarily processes information visually.

4 Leveraging Digital Literacy and Gen Z's Potential

To combat misinformation, the state should promote accurate information and improve digital literacy across generations.

Recognising Gen Z's digital skills is key to addressing future challenges like cybersecurity, where their expertise can be invaluable.

5 Hands-Off Digital Regulation

Governments need to adopt a hands-off approach to the digital realm. State regulations could disrupt or even dismantle delicate ecosystems or equilibria that are difficult to establish.

6 Balancing Generational Dynamics

For a progressive society characterised by greater openness and acceptability, a balanced approach towards generations is needed. The older generation must adapt to the changes introduced by the younger generation, while the younger generation should respect their predecessors.

7 Localising Intergenerational Frameworks

There is a need to revise the frameworks that explain intergenerational perspectives in the context of Pakistan. Such efforts align with broader decolonial objectives, aiming to establish terminologies relevant to local contexts rather than relying on those suited to Western experiences.

PROFILES OF THE SPEAKERS



Mian Imran Masood

Former Minister Education, Punjab /
Vice Chancellor University of South Asia

Mian Imran Masood is a distinguished law graduate from Punjab University and an esteemed alumnus of Aitchison College. He has held several key positions in the Punjab government, including Parliamentary Secretary for Health & Population Welfare, Member of the Public Accounts Committee, and Minister for Education. Mr Masood's leadership extends to the cultural sphere as the Chairman of the Gandhara Arts Association.

His notable achievements include serving as University Chairman of the Working Group of Baba Guru Nanak International University, Chairman of the Chief Minister's Task Force on Education, and Vice President of the Association of Private Sector Universities of Pakistan (APSUP). His contributions have been recognised with prestigious awards, such as the Gold Medal from the All Pakistan Private Schools Welfare Association and the Best Vice Chancellors Award.



Mr Oves Anwar

Director, Research Society of International Law

Mr Oves Anwar is a highly qualified legal expert with an LLB (Hons) from the University of London, UK, and an LLM in International Legal Studies from the University of Vienna. He is the founder of the Conflict Law Centre at the Research Society of International Law (RSIL) and serves as a member of the Prime Minister's Working Group of Experts on Pakistan's International Investment Regime Reforms. Additionally, he co-hosts the podcast "The Right and @War".

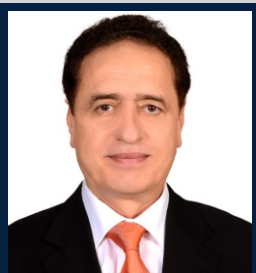
Mr Anwar has made significant contributions to the digitalisation of legal research and has been instrumental in establishing the Centre for Human Rights and the Centre for Criminal Justice Reform & Capacity Building. His publications include critical works such as *Cyber Surveillance and Big Data: Pakistan's Legal Framework and the Need for Safeguards, Human Rights and Pakistan's Counter Terrorism Legislative Landscape**, and the **Handbook on Criminal Investigations in Pakistan*.

**Dr Yaqoob Khan Bangash**

Dean of Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences
Information Technology University

Dr Yaqoob Khan Bangash is a distinguished academic with a PhD from the University of Oxford, UK, and a graduate degree from the University of Notre Dame, US. He currently serves as the Chairperson and Assistant Professor of History at Forman Christian University (FCU), Lahore, and the Chairperson of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Information Technology University (ITU), Lahore. Additionally, he has been a Visiting Fellow at the British Academy and Royal Holloway, University of London, UK.

Dr Bangash is a Fulbright Visiting Fellow at Harvard University, US, and the founder of Afkar-e-Taza, an initiative promoting intellectual discourse. His scholarly contributions include the publications *A Princely Affair: Accession and Integration of Princely States in Pakistan 1947-55* and *Between the Sword and the Pen: The History of Lahore High Court*.

**Air Marshal Asim Suleiman (Retd)**

President, CASS, Lahore

Air Marshal Asim Suleiman (Retd) graduated from the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Academy in 1978 and has flown a wide assortment of fighter aircraft from the PAF's inventory during his flying career. Air Marshal Asim Suleiman (Retd) is a graduate of the National Defence University, Islamabad and Defence Services and Staff College, Dhaka. He holds a master's degree in Defence and Strategic Studies from Quaid-i Azam University, Islamabad.

He has been a part of several Operational and Training Squadrons, including the Combat Commanders' School as an instructor. His command assignments include command of a Combat Squadron and an Operational Base. He served as an Air Adviser at the Pakistan High Commission in India. His numerous staff appointments include serving as Staff Officer in different capacities to three Chiefs of the Air Staff, Director-General Air Intelligence, Deputy Chief of Air Staff (Support) and Deputy Chief of the Air Staff (Administration). After retirement, he served as Director General of the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority. He was also nominated as Chairman PIA. Air Marshal Asim Suleiman (Retd) is a recipient of the Hilal-i-Imtiaz (M) and Sitara-i-Imtiaz (M). He was also awarded the Sitara-i-Basalat and Imtiaz Sanad.



Dr Bilal Ghazanfar

Associate Senior Researcher, CASS, Lahore

Dr Bilal Ghazanfar is an Associate Senior Researcher at CASS, Lahore. Before joining CASS -Lahore he was a Research Associate at Punjab University, Lahore- Pakistan. Dr. Bilal Ghazanfar also served as a Lecturer at the University of Central Punjab and Lahore Leads University. He holds an M.Phil. degree in International Relations from National Defense University, Islamabad.

His area of research includes but is not limited to South Asia's security issues, Human security, and the Strategic Culture of Pakistan. He remained part of Track II diplomatic Initiatives. He is a certified NATO trainer and has delivered lectures at the NATO Center for Excellence in Ankara.

PRESS RELEASE

The Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies (CASS), Lahore, organised a seminar titled "Inter-generational Societal Transformations and Pakistan's Resilience" on 22 August 2024. The event focused on bridging the generational gap in Pakistan to strengthen the nation's resilience.

The seminar commenced with opening remarks by Dr Bilal Ghazanfar, Associate Senior Researcher at CASS, Lahore, who emphasised that technology has transformed the average generational gap into a generational break. Mian Imran Masood, former Education Minister of Punjab, delivered the keynote address, wherein he emphasised the necessity of bolstering intergenerational connectivity through educational and social initiatives. Mr Oves Anwar, Director, the Research Society of International Law, highlighted the technological prowess and innovative mindset of younger generations and noted that they have the potential to reshape Pakistan's future in a digitised world. Dr Yaqoob Ahmed Bangash, Associate Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences, Information Technology University, emphasised the need for enhancing communication between generations to leverage experience and wisdom.

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development. In his opinion, divergent worldviews, exacerbated by the amplifying effects of social media, have led to a polarisation of societal discourse in Pakistan. He warned that if left unchecked, this divide could undermine Pakistan's ability to build a unified society that meets the challenges of the 21st century.

The question-and-answer session generated insightful discussions. The seminar highlighted the complexity of the inter-generational gap and identified steps that can be taken to build a more equitable, and prosperous Pakistan for generations to come.

SUMMARY OF HEADLINES

Newspaper	Title
The Destination	Youth Innovation Key to Pakistan's Future Experts say
The World News AM	Inter-generational Societal Transformations and Pakistan's Resilience
Islamabad Post	Experts discuss Inter-generational Societal Transformations and Pakistan's Resilience
Daily Asian Sun	Technology has Transformed the average generational gap into a generational break: Experts
Daily Peak Point Islamabad	Experts Discuss Inter-generational Societal Transformations and Pakistan's Resilience
Asia Today	Experts Discuss Inter-generational Societal Transformations and Pakistan's Resilience
Pakistan Today News	Experts Discuss Inter-generational Societal Transformations and Pakistan's Resilience

اخبار	مائٹل
الفجر	جزیرن گیپ سے پیدا ہونے والے سماجی چیلنجز اور پاکستان کے معروضی حالات پر سمینار کا انعقاد
ڈیلی محم	جزیرن گیپ سے پیدا ہونے والے سماجی چیلنجز اور پاکستان کے معروضی حالات پر سمینار کا انعقاد
پاکستان ٹوڈے	جزیرن گیپ سے پیدا ہونے والے سماجی چیلنجز اور پاکستان کے معروضی حالات پر سمینار کا انعقاد
ڈیلی رپورٹ اسلام آباد	جزیرن گیپ سے پیدا ہونے والے سماجی چیلنجز اور پاکستان کے معروضی حالات پر سمینار کا انعقاد
اگلا قدم ڈیلی	جزیرن گیپ سے پیدا ہونے والے سماجی چیلنجز اور پاکستان کے معروضی حالات پر سمینار کا انعقاد
ڈیلی پاس پردہ اسلام آباد	جزیرن گیپ سے پیدا ہونے والے سماجی چیلنجز اور پاکستان کے معروضی حالات پر سمینار کا انعقاد
چولستان ٹائمز	جزیرن گیپ سے پیدا ہونے والے سماجی چیلنجز اور پاکستان کے معروضی حالات پر سمینار کا انعقاد
ڈیلی ماؤنٹین پاس	جزیرن گیپ سے پیدا ہونے والے سماجی چیلنجز اور پاکستان کے معروضی حالات پر سمینار کا انعقاد
ڈیلی صدائے اولس کوسٹ	جزیرن گیپ سے پیدا ہونے والے سماجی چیلنجز اور پاکستان کے معروضی حالات پر سمینار کا انعقاد

اخبار	مائٹل
پیام وقت	جزیرن گیپ سے پیدا ہونے والے سماجی چیلنجز اور پاکستان کے معروضی حالات پر سمینار کا انعقاد
ڈیلی حال کوئٹہ	جزیرن گیپ سے پیدا ہونے والے سماجی چیلنجز اور پاکستان کے معروضی حالات پر سمینار کا انعقاد
ڈیلی جیبل	جزیرن گیپ سے پیدا ہونے والے سماجی چیلنجز اور پاکستان کے معروضی حالات پر سمینار کا انعقاد
تجارت لاہور	جزیرن گیپ سے پیدا ہونے والے سماجی چیلنجز اور پاکستان کے معروضی حالات پر سمینار کا انعقاد
نوج	جزیرن گیپ سے پیدا ہونے والے سماجی چیلنجز اور پاکستان کے معروضی حالات پر سمینار کا انعقاد
ڈیلی سبرنگ	جزیرن گیپ سے پیدا ہونے والے سماجی چیلنجز اور پاکستان کے معروضی حالات پر سمینار کا انعقاد
ڈیلی سجاگ کراچی سندھ	جزیرن گیپ سے پیدا ہونے والے سماجی چیلنجز اور پاکستان کے معروضی حالات پر سمینار کا انعقاد
سندھ بیست سکھر	جزیرن گیپ سے پیدا ہونے والے سماجی چیلنجز اور پاکستان کے معروضی حالات پر سمینار کا انعقاد
ڈیلی K-2	جزیرن گیپ سے پیدا ہونے والے سماجی چیلنجز اور پاکستان کے معروضی حالات پر سمینار کا انعقاد

اخبار	ٹائٹل
ڈیلی عظمیٰ لاہور	جہڑیشن گیپ سے پیدا ہونے والے سماجی چیلنجز اور پاکستان کے معروضی حالات پر سمینار کا انعقاد
اپنا فورم پاکستان	جہڑیشن گیپ سے پیدا ہونے والے سماجی چیلنجز اور پاکستان کے معروضی حالات پر سمینار کا انعقاد
صحافت کوئٹہ	جہڑیشن گیپ سے پیدا ہونے والے سماجی چیلنجز اور پاکستان کے معروضی حالات پر سمینار کا انعقاد
ندائے خلق ہری پور	جہڑیشن گیپ سے پیدا ہونے والے سماجی چیلنجز اور پاکستان کے معروضی حالات پر سمینار کا انعقاد
چناب ٹائمز	جہڑیشن گیپ سے پیدا ہونے والے سماجی چیلنجز اور پاکستان کے معروضی حالات پر سمینار کا انعقاد
اکس سندھ	جہڑیشن گیپ سے پیدا ہونے والے سماجی چیلنجز اور پاکستان کے معروضی حالات پر سمینار کا انعقاد
صدائے وقت انٹرنیشنل	جہڑیشن گیپ سے پیدا ہونے والے سماجی چیلنجز اور پاکستان کے معروضی حالات پر سمینار کا انعقاد
ڈیلی عوامی لکڑ	جہڑیشن گیپ سے پیدا ہونے والے سماجی چیلنجز اور پاکستان کے معروضی حالات پر سمینار کا انعقاد
روزنامہ ماوٹین پاس گلگت	جہڑیشن گیپ سے پیدا ہونے والے سماجی چیلنجز اور پاکستان کے معروضی حالات پر سمینار کا انعقاد

ما سٹل	اخبار
جزیشن گیپ سے پیدا ہونے والے سماجی چیلنجز اور پاکستان کے معروضی حالات پر سمینار کا انعقاد	ڈیلی امروز کراچی
جزیشن گیپ سے پیدا ہونے والے سماجی چیلنجز اور پاکستان کے معروضی حالات پر سمینار کا انعقاد	یونیورسل ریکارڈر
جزیشن گیپ سے پیدا ہونے والے سماجی چیلنجز اور پاکستان کے معروضی حالات پر سمینار کا انعقاد	ہزارہ جیو
جزیشن گیپ سے پیدا ہونے والے سماجی چیلنجز اور پاکستان کے معروضی حالات پر سمینار کا انعقاد	ڈیلی مسلمان انٹرنیشنل
جزیشن گیپ سے پیدا ہونے والے سماجی چیلنجز اور پاکستان کے معروضی حالات پر سمینار کا انعقاد	ڈیلی خبردار کوئٹہ
جزیشن گیپ سے پیدا ہونے والے سماجی چیلنجز اور پاکستان کے معروضی حالات پر سمینار کا انعقاد	صدائے وقت انٹرنیشنل
جزیشن گیپ سے پیدا ہونے والے سماجی چیلنجز اور پاکستان کے معروضی حالات پر سمینار کا انعقاد	ڈیلی آئین پشاور
جزیشن گیپ سے پیدا ہونے والے سماجی چیلنجز اور پاکستان کے معروضی حالات پر سمینار کا انعقاد	پاکستان جہاں
جزیشن گیپ سے پیدا ہونے والے سماجی چیلنجز اور پاکستان کے معروضی حالات پر سمینار کا انعقاد	الاخبار

اخبار	ٹائٹل
شہید اسلام آباد	جہزیشن گیپ سے پیدا ہونے والے سماجی چیلنجز اور پاکستان کے معروضی حالات پر سمینار کا انعقاد
میزان	جہزیشن گیپ سے پیدا ہونے والے سماجی چیلنجز اور پاکستان کے معروضی حالات پر سمینار کا انعقاد
پختونخوا نیوز	جہزیشن گیپ سے پیدا ہونے والے سماجی چیلنجز اور پاکستان کے معروضی حالات پر سمینار کا انعقاد
ڈیلی سیاست	جہزیشن گیپ سے پیدا ہونے والے سماجی چیلنجز اور پاکستان کے معروضی حالات پر سمینار کا انعقاد
چنار ٹائمز	جہزیشن گیپ سے پیدا ہونے والے سماجی چیلنجز اور پاکستان کے معروضی حالات پر سمینار کا انعقاد

MEDIA COVERAGE



CASS EVENT: 'Inter-generational Societal Transformations and Pakistan's Resilience'

LAHORE (WNAM REPORT): The Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies (CASS), Lahore, organised a seminar titled "Inter-generational Societal Transformations and Pakistan's Resilience". The event focused on bridging the generational gap in Pakistan to strengthen the nation's resilience. The seminar commenced with opening remarks by Dr Bilal Ghaznifer, Associate Senior Researcher at CASS, Lahore, who emphasised that technology has transformed the average generational gap into a generational break. Mian Imran Masood, former Education Minister of Punjab, delivered the keynote address, wherein he emphasised the necessity of bolstering intergenerational connectivity through educational and social initiatives. Mr Oves Anwar, Director, Research Society of International Law, highlighted the technological prowess and innovative mindset of younger generations and noted that they have the potential to reshape Pakistan's future in a digitised world. Dr Yaqoob Ahmed Bangash, Associate Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences, Information Technology University, emphasised the need for enhancing communication between generations to leverage experience and wisdom.

In his concluding remarks, Air Marshal Asim Suleiman (Retd), President, CASS Lahore, highlighted that the widening generational gap in Pakistan poses a significant threat to national cohesion and development. In his opinion, divergent worldviews, exacerbated by the amplifying effects of social media, have led to a polarisation of societal discourse in Pakistan. He warned that if left unchecked, this divide could undermine Pakistan's ability to build a unified society that meets the challenges of the 21st century.

The question-and-answer session generated insightful discussions. The seminar highlighted the complexity of the inter-generational gap and identified steps that can be taken to build a more equitable, and prosperous Pakistan for generations to come.



Experts Discuss Inter-generational Societal Transformations and Pakistan's Resilience

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Experts discuss inter-generational societal transformations and Pakistan's resilience

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Technology has transformed the average generational gap into a generational break: Experts

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Generational Divide Threatens Pakistan's Future, Experts Warn

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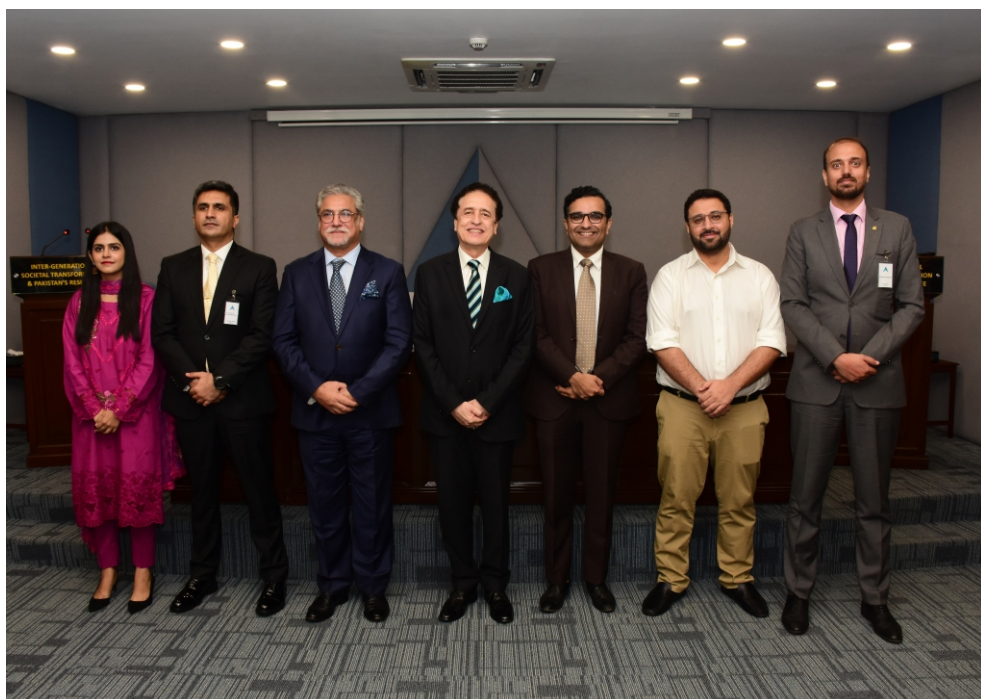














INTER-GENERATIONAL SOCIETAL TRANSFORMATION & PAKISTAN'S RESILIENCE

“By leveraging the strengths of each generation and addressing the challenges posed by rapid technological changes, Pakistan can build a cohesive and forward-looking society.”

– Mian Imran Masood

“Today, the Gen Z population in the country continues to balance traditional values with modern exposure. This cultural duality is expected to be part of conversations for generations to come.”

– Mr Oves Anwar

“Generation X and millennials are often overlooked, but these generations serve as an important bridge, especially as they are currently in positions of power and have experienced various phases of change.”

– Dr Yaqoob Bangash

“By uniting the strengths of both the older and younger generations, we can create solutions that honour our past while meeting the demands of the future.”

– Air Marshal Asim Suleiman (Retd), President CASS, Lahore

“It is essential to ensure that technology fosters inclusion and progress rather than exacerbating division and disparity.”

– Dr Bilal Ghazanfar



✉ info@casslhr.com / 🌐 www.casslhr.com / ☎ 042-36669692

Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies

69, Abid Majeed Road, Lahore Cantt