

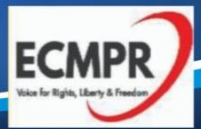


**Experts Center for Market Policy and Research**  
**Experts in Management & Social Sciences**

**Policy Recommendations on**  
**Panel Discussion**  
**“Evidence Based Public Financing”**



September 03-04, 2022



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# **EXPERTS PANEL DISCUSSION PROCEEDINGS**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*Experts Center for Market and Policy Research (ECMPR), a subsidiary of the Experts in Management and Social Sciences, registered with Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan, is delighted to issue the proceedings of the Experts Panel Discussion on **Evidence Based Public Financing held on September 03, 2022.** The Organizing Committee expresses its sincere gratitude and thanks to all those who participated in the discussion and made the event interesting, informative, and thought provoking.*

The efforts for organizing this event started in March 2022 when senior members of the Center organized a meeting in Islamabad in which it was decided that a panel discussion would be arranged wherein representatives from academia, civil society organizations, public representative, senior researchers, senior policy makers would be invited as keynote speakers and panelists. In the very said meeting the theme "**Evidence Based Public Financing**" was agreed upon. Immediately after that meeting, the Center started approaching different experts. Ten (10) experts agreed to deliver keynote speeches in the event, they included Vice Chancellors, Deans, and Professors from academia, representatives from UNICEF and UNDP, Pakistan, and representative from Planning Commission, Government of Pakistan.

The main drive behind this experts' panel discussion was to shed light on the critical aspects (e.g., child & gender responsive budgeting, bridging up the gap between gender responsive budgeting & participatory budgeting, gender and child responsive national accounting system) of our national budgeting system, to educate the participants about the existing budgeting system, its issues, the possible solutions, and to give policy recommendations.

The Committee finalized the following themes of the key note speeches: child & gender responsive budgeting; SDGs driven and participatory budgeting; bridging up the gap between gender responsive budgeting & participatory budgeting; tracking of gender & child responsive budgeting & expenditure; gender and child responsive national accounting system; and project & program-based budgeting.

The keynote speakers include: **Prof. Dr. Shahida Wizarat**, Dean College of Economics and Social Development (CESD), Institute of Business Management (IOBM), Karachi, Pakistan; **Ms. Sadaf Zulfiqar**, Member, Public Finances for Children National Focal Point, UNICEF, Pakistan; **Prof. Dr. Muhamamd Naveed**, Dean, Management Sciences, Bahria University Islamabad; **Mr. Qamar Naseem**, Founder and

CEO, Blue Veins, Peshawar, Pakistan; and **Ali Asghar**, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Information T & Telecommunication, Islamabad, Pakistan.

Besides, the invited keynote speakers, the event was participated by Prof. **Dr. Jahan Bakht**, Vice Chancellor, University of Agriculture Peshawar, **Eng. Rukhsana Zubairi**, Member of the Senate of Pakistan, **Mr. Malak Khalid**, President Peshawar Chamber of Commerce, **Mr. Atif Shehzad**, Chief Executive, Makkah Agency, Uniliver Pakistan Ltd., **Mr. Nasir Azam**, UNCR Pakistan, **Dr. Atiq ur Rehman**, **Prof. Dr. Wali Rahman**, Sarhad University of Science & IT Peshawar, **Prof. Dr. Shahid Jan**, Islamia College Peshawar, **Dr. Fayaz Ali Shah**, Islamia College Peshawar, **Dr. Mohibullah**, Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan, **Dr. Sonia Sethi**, Islamia College Peshawar, **Dr. Abid Ahmad**, CECOS University Peshawar, **Dr. Aftab Alam**, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University Sheringal Dir Upper and a number of other researchers and representatives from media. The Committee is thankful to all of these for sparing their precious time and adding value to the event.

The panelist thoughtfully discussed many aspects of the theme and questions from the audience were entertained. Detail of the panel discussion, and policy recommendations are part of this report.

This Report carries the gist of the panel discussion and can be accessed from <https://expertsms.org> & <https://ecmpr.org>.

## About Experts Center for Market and Policy Research (ECMPR)

We are a group of experts working with and for youth in maximizing their academic and research potentials aiming at their social and economic well-being. The organization provides technical support to young graduates to become good researchers and entrepreneurs through a variety of interventions, like training, seminars, workshops, and conferences. We also assist PhD/MS students and researchers in acquiring new skills and improving their skills in areas related to designing of research projects, data collection, data analysis and reporting.

This journey started in 2020 just a couple of months after the emergence of COVID-19, when the entire world was in a situation of deep crisis and uncertainty. No one knew when the crisis will end. Academic work, like other socio-economic activities and businesses, had come to a standstill. It will be very pertinent to mention that at that time, the concept of online conferences was not much common in Pakistan and technological options were very limited. Yes, on the international landscape there were some conferences being held online by a number of internationally reputed organizations. However, participation in such events was too expensive, beyond the reach of 99.9 % of the research community in Pakistan. That is why there was an urgent need for a platform for researchers which could fill this gap.

This idea of having a formal organization was conceived on a cup of tea in a dhabba restaurant in Islamabad among the like-minded individuals and thus EMS was founded. It was very soon ready to fill that gap.

It is a matter of great honour for the organization that it has, so far, excluding this panel discussin, organized seven international conferences wherein about 600 articles have been presented by scholars representing 15 countries and 20 disciplines. We made the best use of available technology. Thanks to Google. Their technological platform which is free for all, did never disappointed us.

After the enactment of the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment in the Constitution of Pakistan, provincial governments in Pakistan have been given more autonomy, mandate, powers and resources. However, there hardly exists any systematic mechanism at provincial level to support the provincial governments with independent analysis of their policies so that the quality of their policies be objectively assessed and improvement/changes suggested for a free, open and prosperous Pakistan.

Realizing the critical nature of the existing gap, Experts in Management and Social Sciences (Pvt.) Ltd., set up **Experts Centre for Market ad Policy Research (ECMPR)**. The Centre is tasked to act as an independent policy think tank in Pakistan. The research

and advocacy work of the think tank targets improvement in the quality of public policy at provincial as well as federal level through exploring creative solutions and developing innovative ideas.

The ECMPR is a nonprofit public policy organization based in Peshawar with a coordination office in Islamabad. In future, the ECMPR will consider setting up regional offices in Lahore, Karachi, Quetta, Muzafarabad and Gilgit. However, most of the activities will be conducted online.

The Center has been providing is not only effective but is also low cost. It is for every researcher and is within the reach of everyone. Again, thanks to Google. The Center has been working on developing a sustainable model of sharing, caring, learning and knowledge dissemination. Today the Center is not just a platform but has also evolved into a virtual family of experienced researchers who are always available to support each other.

### **Mission of the ECMPR**

The ECMPR is committed to work for the ideals of liberty, governments with limited interventions, rule of law, free markets and property rights by fostering high quality policy-relevant research, and disseminating the findings widely to decision-makers in the public and private sectors in Pakistan in general and in provinces in particular.

### **Vision of the ECMPR**

The ECMPR envisions public policy making process in the country based on evidence for a free, open and prosperous Pakistan.

### ***Core Values***

Our core values are:

- Freedom of thoughts
- Creativity
- Learning
- Dialogue
- Continuous improvement
- Objective thinking
- Collaboration

### ***Our Slogan***

Join our hands to empower youth for building a psychologically, economically and socially vibrant and progressive society.

**KEYNOTE  
SPEAKERS  
OF  
THE PANEL  
DISCUSSION**



## KEYNOTE SPEAKER I

**Title: Alternative to the IMF**

**Prof. Dr. Shahida Wizarat,  
Dean College of Economics and Social Development (CESD), Institute of  
Business Management (IOBM), Karachi, Pakistan**

### **Brief Biodata**

Professor Dr. Shahida Wizarat did her Masters from Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, USA on a Graduate Fellowship by the Rotary Foundation of the Rotary International. She did her PhD in Economics from the University of East Anglia on a British Council scholarship. Dr. Wizarat's areas of interest are industrial productivity; profitability; concentration; economic policies; international financial institutions; debt management; privatization and liberalization; food security; political economy; natural resources, conflict and growth. She has authored three books, *The Rise and Fall of Industrial Productivity in Pakistan* (OUP), *Fighting Dependence: Proclaiming Sovereignty for an Enslaved Pakistan* (LAP) and *Fighting Imperialism: Liberating Pakistan* (CRS). She has authored more than 80 research papers published in international and national journals and newspapers. Dr. Wizarat has been visiting faculty at the Naval Staff College formerly at Karachi, Air War College Karachi, Command and Staff College and Southern Command Quetta and National Defense University, Islamabad. She has served as editor of the *Pakistan Journal of Applied Economics* and Professor, Director of the Applied Economics Research Centre (AERC), Chief Editor *Pakistan Business Review* and Director Research IOBM. She has also served on the Board of Directors of the Karachi Stock Exchange. She is member editorial board, *Journal of the Institute of Far East - Russian Academy of Sciences*. Currently she is Dean College of Economics and Social Development (CESD) at the Institute of Business Management (IOBM). She is member and President Rotary Club Karachi East 2020-21. She is a member of the Technical Oversight Committee of the Population Council.



## **The Abstract of her Talk**

I have formulated an external sector strategy that is a better alternative to the IMF strategy on account of the following:

First, increase in exports are expected to be brought about through quality enhancement, exploring new commodities and markets.

Second, the cost of adjustment which is quite marginal is passed on to the wealthy classes, who bear a nominal cost in the short run only.

Third, the proposed strategy tries to break the trade-off between economic adjustment and economic growth by trying to bring about an 'expansionary adjustment' rather than a 'recessionary adjustment'.

Fourth, while the IMF model tries to increase foreign exchange reserves by increasing exports only, the alternative strategy focuses on expanding exports, reducing imports, charging market rates for the use of our infrastructure, natural resources and financial assets to increase the in-flow of foreign exchange.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER II

**Title: Digital Revolution in Public Finance**

**Prof. Dr. Muhammad Naveed,  
Dean, Management Sciences,  
Bahria University Islamabad.**

### **Brief Biodata**

Dr. Muhammad Naveed is recognized as one of the worlds leading experts on Dynamic Financial Modelling, Business Schools Accreditation, Corporate Governance, Financial Democracy, Knowledge Economy, Economic Sensitivity and Customized Modelling, Silicon Valley Research Framework, Business Incubation, Research Innovation & Commercialization.

Dr. Naveed been honorly invited as Guest Speaker and Chair in more than 50 Global Forums including Oxford University, LSE, Cambridge University, Silicon Valley, Melbourne University, Stanford University and many other world-renowned knowledge partners and R&D Institutions.

Prior to PhD, he had been working as "Senior R&D Manager" at Higher Education Commission, Pakistan where he developed R&D Innovation Policy, Framework of Office of Research Innovation & Commercialization, Business Incubation & Technology Park Models. He started Knowledge Economy Drives to strengthen University-Industry Collaborations to increase HEIs' share in knowledge economy. Moreover, he has seminal publications in ISI and SCOPUS Indexed Journals of high ranking, scholarly reviewer of various Emerald Journals, HEC Approved PhD Supervisor/Subject Expert of HEC R&D and QEC program and HEIs.

Higher Education Commission loudly recognizes his contribution in the light of outstanding award-winning research by World Renowned Universities and Research Institutions.



### **KEYNOTE SPEAKER III**

**Title: Importance of Efficient Allocation of Resources for Children and, Current Investment in Children**

**Ms. Sadaf Zulfiqar,  
Public Finances for Children National Focal Point,  
UNICEF, Pakistan**

#### **Brief Biodata**

Sadaf Zulfiqar is working with Social Policy section of UNICEF Pakistan as national lead for social protection and Public Finance for Children. She has extensive experience of working in region on issues pertaining to girls' education, gender-based governance and social protection program management and implementation. She has worked with development programs of USAID, UNDP and SC Pakistan at policy and implementation level. She holds an MS degree in Development Studies & International Relations.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER IV

**Title: The Landscape of Opportunities in IT for Youth**

**Mr. Ali Asghar,  
Additional Secretary,  
Ministry of Information and Technology & Telecommunication, Islamabad**

### **Brief Biodata**

Ali Asghar is a civi servant. He holds a mater degree in law from London School of Economics. He has held a number of portfolios in the government including Director Public Procurement Authority, Director General (Law & Regulations), Pakistan Telecommuni-cation Authority, and Joint Secretary, PM Secretariat. Currently, he is serving as Senior Joint Secretary (Development) in Ministry of IT and Teelcommunication.

### **Key points of his address**

- IT and telecom revolution is transforming the wholeworld.
- It is opening up opportunities for youth. Our university students and graduates should quickly learn how to explore windows of opportunities which are opening up in the world. Once they understand what is happening in the world and what opportunities are available, then they can create clear roadmaps to learn necessary skills to tap those opportunities.
- If anyone in the contemporary era complaints for being jobless and expresses his inability to find jobs, then he/she should re-learn how to live in the new era which is full of opportunities.
- Today, it is no longer a challenge how to find a job. The real challenge now is how to learn new skills which are needed by the world.
- University teachers have a great role to play to raise awareness among their students and to prepare them mentally to exploit the opportunities. Mind it, rules of games are totally different from what we had just a decade ago.
- Meanwhile, I will also urge upon youth to be fully aware about the threats of cybersecurity and cybersecurity laws.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER V

**Title: Child Poverty vs. Adult Poverty**

**Dr. Luis Gorjon,  
Chief Social Policy, UNICEF Pakistan Country Office**

### **Brief Biodata**

Dr Luis Gorjon is currently serving as Chief Social Policy, UNICEF Pakistan Country Office. In the private sector, he worked for the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF). A UK based financial services provider managing a yearly £3.5 billion Sterling social investment portfolio. Luis led CAF's global social impact management/ measurement and advocacy portfolios. With CAF, Luis led and successfully implemented a new business model for social investment in Russia, India, South Africa, Brazil and the US.



In the past, Luis worked as the main advisor to the Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates on issues related to Latin America and the Caribbean and Southeast Asia. He also worked with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the Maldives, Uganda, Kenya, Colombia, Brazil, Pakistan and Peru.

He has been a speaker in a number of conferences including: the Global Impact Forum; Social Value Matters conference 2014; Do Good Data conference; and, Critical Mass 2015. He is a member of Social Value International (SVI). He is a fellow of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts (RSA); a member of Social Value UK and WINGS.

In Mexico, Luis worked as a regional representative (Delegate) of the Mexican Secretary for Social Development where he coordinated Progresal/ later Oportunidades in Mexico's northern region: one of the largest cash-transfer programmes; and also worked advising two presidential candidates on social development, social value management and social protection matters. He was a member of the Advisory Council for the Pakistani Chapter of the Human Development Report 2020.

**Talk: Child Poverty vs. Adult Poverty**

Child poverty is different from adult poverty. Children have specific protection, nutritional, health, education, social protection and other needs which are different from those of adults. In addition, girls often have specific needs which are different from boys'. The ultimate objective of measuring and analyzing children in poverty is to contribute to the elimination of child poverty. Measurement and analysis allow countries to design policies to eliminate child poverty and to monitor their impact. As the child population represents between a third and a half of total population in most countries, and the conditions of children do not always move in tandem with that of the rest of the household, household-based measurement of poverty may misconstrue the extent and nature of child poverty.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER VI

**Title: Gender Responsive Budgeting in Pakistan**

**Dr. Shahid Jan Kakakhel**

**Director at Experts Center for Market and Policy research (ECMPR)**

### **Brief Biodata**

Dr. Jan is currently Chairman and Professor of Management at Islamia College University Peshawar He is also Director at Experts Center for Market and Policy research (ECMPR) and also associated with Alternate Solutions Institute (ASI).

He received his MBA degree from Quaid-E-Azam University Islamabad and his Post Doctorate degree from Gatton College of Business and Economics, University of Kentucky, USA. He is also Atlas Leadership Academy, USA graduate.



During his twenty-year career, Dr. Shahid Jan kakakhel has served different Universities as Libertarian, faculty member, Researcher, writer and administrator. He has supervised 18 PhD scholars, 40 MS scholars and published 80 research articles in the field of economic Prosperity, CSR, Social Entrepreneurship, Sustainability, Free trade, and Management.

### **Brief to the Talk**

Pakistani society is patriarchal, where the role of women is by and large restricted to household affairs and their possible entry into political, economic, and social sphere is not welcomed. Power relations between women and men have resulted in discrimination against women in all spheres of life. It helps women to become a part of the mainstream and become empowered.

It addresses the inequalities between men and women in both the public and private spheres. GRB challenge the existing gender relations and reduce the gender gap between men and women. It is a new concept in Pakistan and the adoption of this approach is confronted with many challenges, including political will, administrative support, a lack of training and the skills required to implement it, patriarchal structures and so forth.



# **PROCEEDINGS OF THE PANEL DISCUSSION**

This panel discussion was hosted by Dr. Sonia Sethi. After recitation from Quran Majeed, Dr. Sethi spelled out the modus operandi of the event. The participants were informed that initially the keynote speakers would deliver their respective keynote and then there will be panel discussion which would be moderated by Dr. Atiq ur Rehman, Managing Director, Experts in Management and Social Sciences wherein there would be rounds of questions/comments/clarification and responses from the experts.

Dr. Atiq ur Rehman, Managing Director, EMS, delivered his welcome address and informed the participants about the brief history of the organization and its achievements. He briefed the audience about the importance of such panel discussions and expressed his hope that such discussion would have positive impact on all the stakeholders. After the welcome address, the first keynote speaker, **Prof. Dr. Shahida Wizarat**, Dean College of Economics and Social Development (CESD), Institute of Business Management (IOBM), Karachi, Pakistan. was asked to deliver her talk on the title "**Alternative to the IMF**".

Keeping in view the precarious economic situations of the country and the IMF seen as a panacea of all the economic problems, Dr. Wizarat, in her talk, emphasized that going to IMF would further complicate the economic position of Pakistan. Therefore, she proposed an alternative to the IMF. The rationale behind her approach included increase in exports, quality enhancement, exploring new commodities, and markets. She also touched upon the issues of cost of adjustment between the privileged and unprivileged classes. In her talk, she objected to the IMF model which only focusses on increasing exports to increase foreign exchange reserves. While she proposed there is a need of expanding exports, reducing imports, charging market rates for the use of our infrastructure, natural resources and financial assets to increase the in-flow of foreign exchange.

The second keynote speaker was **Prof. Dr. Muhammad Naveed**, Dean, Management Sciences, Bahria University Islamabad. He talked on the **Digital Revolution in Public Finance**. Dr. Naveed talked about the significance of IT and opined that it affects several aspects of public finance; including tax policy, administration & enforcement, fiscal management, currency provision; and delivery of public services & social programs. He was of the opinion that if properly employed could enable governments to collect, verify, store, and process revenues, payments, and collateral information in real time and at low cost, ensure efficiency and effectiveness of tax. He emphasized on bringing innovation in the traditional practices, employ PFM for decision making. With the help of IT, we need to maintain & invest in talent to support sustainable growth; and strengthen alignment between PFM and corporate strategy.

The third keynote speaker was **Ms. Sadaf Zulfiqar**, Member Public Finances for Children National Focal Point, UNICEF, Pakistan. She talked on **Importance of Efficient Allocation of Resources for Children and, Current Investment in Children**. She showed her serious concerns about the vulnerable position of the children and emphasized on some solid steps to mitigate the problems of children. According to her 9 out of 10 children suffer from, at least, one moderate deprivation. In the context of Pakistan, she showed her concern by quoting the statistics from Global Gender Gap Index in which Pakistan position is 153 in 156 countries while in Human Development Index its number is 154 in 189 countries. To improve the position, she suggested that there is a need of investment in institutions for their capacity building. She also emphasized on employ real time data while making allocations in public sector budget. Besides, she emphasized on a nexus of public finance for children, social protection & SDG-linked sustainable financing.

The fourth keynote speaker was **Ali Asghar**, Senior Joint Secretary, Ministry of Information Technology & Telecommunication, Islamabad, Pakistan. He talked on the **Digital Revolution in Public Finance**. He informed the audience about ICT from international as well as Pakistani perspective. He also informed the audience about the role and contribution of MOITT, its funded projects, facilitation and opportunities for youth.

# **PANEL DISCUSSION POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS**

### Policy Recommendations and Conclusion from Dr. Shahida Wizarat

There is an external sector strategy that is a better alternative to the IMF strategy on account of the following:

- First, increase in exports are expected to be brought about through quality enhancement, exploring new commodities and markets;
- Second, the cost of adjustment which is quite marginal is passed on to the wealthy classes, who bear a nominal cost in the short run only;
- Third, the proposed strategy tries to break the trade-off between economic adjustment and economic growth by trying to bring about an ‘expansionary adjustment’ rather than a ‘recessionary adjustment’;
- Fourth, while the IMF model tries to increase foreign exchange reserves by increasing exports only, the alternative strategy focuses on expanding exports, reducing imports, charging market rates for the use of our infrastructure, natural resources and financial assets to increase the inflow of foreign exchange; and
- The short-term measures proposed in this study are Selective Demand Management, and charging market rates for the use of our infrastructure, services and resources. This will yield a very substantial amount to the external sector.

It is further recommended that:

- The agreements signed between the Government of Pakistan and foreign governments and companies should be ratified by different pillars of the Government including some representation from the civil society to prevent rent seeking and corruption;
- The short-term measures also include banning the import of luxury and consumer goods. This will save \$ 3.15 bn from the import bill. Moreover, essential imports can be obtained on barter saving a staggering \$ 10.05 bn from the import bill, resulting in total saving of \$ 13.20 bn;
- The medium to long term measures includes exploring substitutes for essential imports, exploring alternative commodities and markets for exports. The present government has not handled the repatriation of looted Pakistani assets held abroad very effectively requires a change of strategy; and

- Moreover, implementation of Cartagena Protocols on risk assessment and biodiversity and photo-sanitary standards will expand our export markets to the Russian Federation, Central Asian Republics and the European Union.

### **Recommendations from Muhammad Naveed**

The importance and significance of digital finance has widely been acknowledged due to its overarching effects in the following areas:

- Digitalization advancements affect several aspects of public finance; including tax policy – administration & enforcement, fiscal management, currency provision; and delivery of public services & social programs;
- It increasingly enables governments to collect, verify, store, and process revenues, payments, and collateral information in real time and at low cost;
- Greater efficiency and effectiveness for performing fiscal functions; and
- Increased tax efficiency and flexibility needed to address challenges & opportunities posed by the digitalization of the commercial economy.

To get benefitted from and bring digital revolution in public finance there is a dire need for **Financial Leadership** that may lead that nation in the right direction. Such leadership is supposed to voyage the nation through:

- To move beyond traditional practices;
- To improve PFM by using innovative methods to make decisions;
- To develop Financial Governance capabilities for agile decision making, scenario planning, and decentralized decision making to be competitive;
- To maintain and invest in talent to support sustainable growth;
- To strengthen alignment between PFM and corporate strategy; and
- To change regulatory burden into an advantage.

### **Recommendations from Sadaf Zulfiqar, Member Public Finances for Children National Focal Point, UNICEF, Pakistan.**

- Investment into enhanced institutional and system level capacities in decentralized context for well coordinated and maximized impact of public spending;
- Policy advocacy for greater equity and use of data for pro children financing and allocations in public sector budgets;

- Nexus of public finance for children, social protection & SDG-linked sustainable financing: increased fiscal space for child sensitive social protection, governance and coordination in decentralized context;
- Systematic evidence to inform public sector budgetary reform processes, mechanisms and trends; and
- Leveraging partnerships for collective public and policy advocacy, communication and outreach.

**Recommendations from Ali Asghar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Information Technology & Telecommunication, Islamabad, Pakistan**

- We need to create awareness, among youth, about new opportunities being offered by IT & telcom revolution. Teachers have an important role to play in this context.
- Youth should learn how to explore new opportunities.
- Youth should prepare themselves with new skills and competencies required to take advantage of the new opportunities.

**Recommendations from Dr. Atiq ur Rehman, Managing Director, Experts in Management and Social Sciences (EMS), Pakistan**

- Gender responsive budgeting should be adopted in all government departments and educational institutes, which is crucial for achieving SDGs .as well
- Sustainable Development Agenda and SDGs should be covered in the curricula at all levels of education.
- SDGs and gender responsive budgeting should be included in the research agenda of social sciences institutes.

**Recommendations from Prof. Dr. Wali Rahman, CEO, Experts in Management and Social Sciences, Peshawar, KP, Pakistan**

- There is a need of affecting basic shift when we talk about financial allocation to development and non-development budget;

- Untill and unless we realize that our social development and industrial development are as important as our defence is, our discussions, no matter how intensive and frequent they are, will land us no where;
- We have been granting charters to opening new universities, which may not be bad, but at the same time, we have to open an industrial zone whenever we grant charter to a new university; and
- We have to relax auditing the education budget for at least 10 years so that experts may have open hand in carrying projects. After 10 years, there is a possibility of constructive competition among the project runners and winners for the real development of the country.

**Recommendations from Dr. Shahid Jan, Director, ECMPR, Khyber Pakhtunkwa, Pakistan**

- Firstly, a gender equality perspective should be institutionalized in the public finances. Budget guidelines should be analyzed through a gender perspective and accordingly gender sensitized budgets should be adopted.
- Secondly, it should not be only restricted to money but also encompasses the analysis of government policies, programs and projects from a gender perspective. Gender perspective should be incorporated into public policy in order to promote gender equality.
- And lastly, parliamentarians, policy makers, and Opinion leaders should be sensitized about gender budgeting so as to meet the challenges faced by gender budgeting and subsequently women's empowerment.



### **Vote of Thanks by Dr. Fayaz Ali Shah, CEO, Experts Center for Market and Policy Research (ECMPR), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan**

The ECMPR expresses its deepest gratitude to those who helped the Center to plan and organize this event. The Center believes that the event must have inspired many individuals in academia to undertake new research initiatives and participate in such events in future.

Organizing and conducting such panel discussions is, no doubt, an arduous task. It requires a lot of inputs and efforts to make such event a success. In its true essence, the event signifies the unflinching efforts on the part of the keynote speakers and scholars in the field of interest. The Center recognizes and values contribution of everyone.

The Center looks forward to the potential experts to participate in such events of national interest and hopes that such gathering and discussions during and after such events are of value for all the stakeholders. It is also acknowledged that each keynote and response /comments to the individual questions have added to the knowledge of audience.

The Center is deeply indebted to all **KEYNOTE** speakers for agreeing to participate in the event and sharing their thoughts and ideas with the participants. Besides, the Center also expresses its gratitude to all the dignitaries including Prof. Dr. Jahan Bakht, Vice Chancellor, University of Agriculture Peshawar, Eng. Rukhsana Zubairi, Member of the the Senate of Pakistan, Mr. Atif Shehzad, Chief Executive, Makkah Agency, Uniliver Pakistan Ltd. and Mr. Malak Khalid, President, Peshawar Chamber of Commerce, and Dr. Abid Ahmad, Dean, Faculty of Management, CECOS University, Peshawar for sparing their precious time and added value to the event.

At the end, the Center once again greatly appreciates all those who directly and indirectly contributed in the organization of this event. **THANK YOU ALL!**

## **Support ECMPR Mission Today**

Join our hands to empower the youth for psychologically, economically and socially vibrant and progressing society.