

SHAHID MEHMOOD ECONOMIST

Contact Info

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SKILLS/EXPERIENCE

- Economics and Statistics
- Research Reports
- Media-Opinion/ Column writing and debate
- Teaching

Research upon...

- Social Safety Net (SSN)
- Capital and Financial Markets
- Economic Reforms
- Public Policy and Governance
- Power Sector
- Pharmaceutical Sector
- Public Sector
- Debt and Liabilities

Summary

My career as an Economist spans over a timeframe of almost 15 years. The rich, diverse experience has imbued me with a good understanding of forces that shape and propel the global and domestic economy. During my professional career, my consultancy and research roles have helped me gather valuable insights about both the public and private sectors. Further, a desire to communicate to wider audience my understanding of the issues that confront global and Pakistani economy led me to become a writer for leading newspapers in Pakistan (DAWN, NEWS, TFT, etc.). In between these assignments, I have also managed to garner teaching experience in leading public and private institutes.

Education

M.A Economics (May 2006) - Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois, USA

B.Sc. Economics and Stats (May 2004) - Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois, USA

Professional Experience

Opinion Writer (Nov 2012-----) - One of the leading opinion writers in Pakistan on domestic and international economic issues. Have written for leading newspapers of Pakistan, including NEWS, DAWN and Friday Times (TFT).

Research Fellow, PIDE (March 2020--) Research Work on issues that affect the economy and its management. Presently working on preparing a new growth strategy under the aegis of the Ministry of Planning and Reforms.

Program Manager, Population Council (Oct 2019-March 2020) Population Council is a leading organization working in the field of health and population related issues. As program manager, I handle a portfolio of 7 different programs/projects that were centered upon research, analysis, surveying, service provision, district rankings, quality improvements and monitoring the activities of task forces formed under Supreme Court orders.

Head of Economic Reforms Management Unit, Global Think Tank Network (GTTN)/ NUST University (Jan 2018----) - As Head of Economic Reforms Management Unit, my main task was to formulate a strategy on Economic Reforms involving a diverse array of topics, and to follow related developments in Pakistan's economy. The reforms report was completed in March 2019, with onward submission to the GTTN Board members.

Senior Research Associate, COMSATS (Feb 2019- June 2019) – Short assignment that centered upon various aspects of Pakistan's economy, aimed at informing COMSATS' understanding of how technology based initiatives could be of help to Pakistan's economy.

Economist, Growth Strategy KP Govt. (2014-15 and Jan 2019-May 2019)- The government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), in its aim towards developing a growth strategy for the province, has worked on various initiatives, two of these being the

2014-15 and 2018-19 work on growth and sustainable development. I was hired as an economist to work on both of these, to analyze the various economic aspects that were part of these strategies.

Head Of Research, PRIME Institute (Nov 2016-Sep 2017)- PRIME institute is a leading think tank in Pakistan, focusing its research and activities on economic related issues and road blocks afflicting economic freedom. As head of research, my task was to oversee the process of research on a diverse set of topics, including (but not limited to) debt, education, health, Economic Zones, Taxation policy, Pharmaceutical Industry and CPEC. Among other things, we established a CPEC monitor to keep in touch with pace of work on CPEC related projects.

Researcher, PRIME Institute (July 2014- October 2016)- My basic responsibilities centered on research work on projects and to supervise the publication of PRIMEs analytical reports plus advocacy campaigns.

Researcher, ISAP-S (April 2013-June 2014)- Research related to economic issues and annual education reports, education budgets and expenditures on education.

Consultant Economist, GRID (Aug 2012-June 2013)- This consultancy assignment involved research involved development of human capital with an impact on economic growth, and a broad perspective on South Asia.

Payment Specialist, Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Pakistan Govt. (July 2010-October 2012)- BISP is Pakistan's first Social Safety Net (SSN) program, with an outlay of more than Rs. 130 billion per year. As Payment Specialist, I was tasked with looking after a wide spectrum of issues related to the program and its establishment. These included (but are not limited to) generation and tracking of monthly payments to over 4 million beneficiaries, management and design of payment mechanisms (manual, electronic, biometric), coordination and liaison with donors (USAID, DFID, ADB, WB) and government departments. For the first time in Pakistan, an electronic payment mechanism was implemented to oversee transformation from manual to electronic payments to beneficiaries. I, along with our team, spearheaded the effort to devise and implement that system.

Economist, Finance Division, Govt. Of Pakistan (May 2007- June 2010)- As part of the then Finance Minister's team on economic reporting and development, my main responsibilities revolved around reporting to the finance minister, External Finance Wing and Prime Minister Special Program (PMSP) on infrastructure. I advised relevant authorities on matters related to external finance, SEZ's, Infrastructure Financing, etc. Moreover, I also dealt with issue pertaining to negotiations over external financing with international donor institutions like IMF.

Certificates/ Qualifications

Economic Growth and Governance (2015), awarded by by Dr. Nadeem UI Haque, leading Economist and former Deputy Chairman Planning Commission.

Basic Financial Accounting (2013), awarded by Pennsylvania State University.

Financial Inclusion of the Poor (2011), awarded by World Bank

Certificate on Ethics and Ethical Training (2005), awarded by State Government Illinois, USA

Civil Superior Service (CSS, 2009), Govt. of Pakistan.

Teaching Experience

Subjects taught- Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Economic Development, Introductory Public Policy, and Trade Theory.

Institutions taught at- IQRA University, Bahria University, Pakistan Institute of Trade and Development (PITAD), COMSATS.

Professional References

Dr. Anjum Altaf, ex-dean LUMS School of Humanities anjumaltaf@hotmail.com

Dr. Nadeem Ul Haque, VC PIDE, ex- Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission nhaque_imf@yahoo.com

Present Research Areas

Economic Management and Reforms, Public Lands and Public Wealth, Erstwhile-FATA (Merged Areas), Donor Profile, Pharmaceutical Industry

Other Interests

History, jet fighters and gemstones