



A comprehensive report on Summer Internship Program 2023

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KASHMIR POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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Introduction

Kashmir Policy Research Institute (KPRI) is a premier and leading think tank in the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). Initially in March 2017 Policy and Research Forum (PRF) was established which was renamed as Kashmir Policy Research Institute (KPRI) in 2021. It is an independent and Non-profitable institute that is dedicated to evolving policies, providing in-depth understanding, and conducting research on various aspects of history, contemporary politics, and the conflict of Jammu and Kashmir as well as relevant regional and international issues. The mission of this Institute is to highlight various aspects of the Kashmir Conflict in order to reach an amicable solution as per the wishes of the Kashmiri masses in the light of UN resolutions for the promotion of regional peace.

KPRI has been doing a number of activities since its inception. The Summer Internship Program is one of the flagship programs of KPRI. It is a one-month program to promote the research culture in AJK and to develop the interest of students in research rather than in slogans. Besides the Research Methodology, sessions on the different aspects of the Kashmir Conflict, burning issues in AJK, and interaction with the political leadership and bureaucracy are organized to develop the interest of students in a solution-oriented approach rather than just making complaints. In July-August 2023, it was the third Internship Program of KPRI, and we had 32 students from 6 disciplines and 4 universities from AJK and Pakistan. In the one-month duration, the first week was dedicated to the research methodology, and for that, we had national and international research scholars who delivered their lectures in-person and online respectively. Then sessions on specific topics with special consideration of AJK were arranged. We also arranged sessions in which the internees had interaction with the entrepreneurs, professors, bureaucracy, and political leadership. A total of twenty-two sessions were organized during this one-month period and at the end of each session, internees submitted their feedback. Moreover, some side activities were also organized to improve communication and interpersonal skills, and management skills, and to build confidence among the internees. Every session started with the recitation of the Holy Quran and Darood-e-Ibrahimi. At the end of the program, every internee presented his research topic and submitted a research article.

Pre-Internship Activities

Advertisement

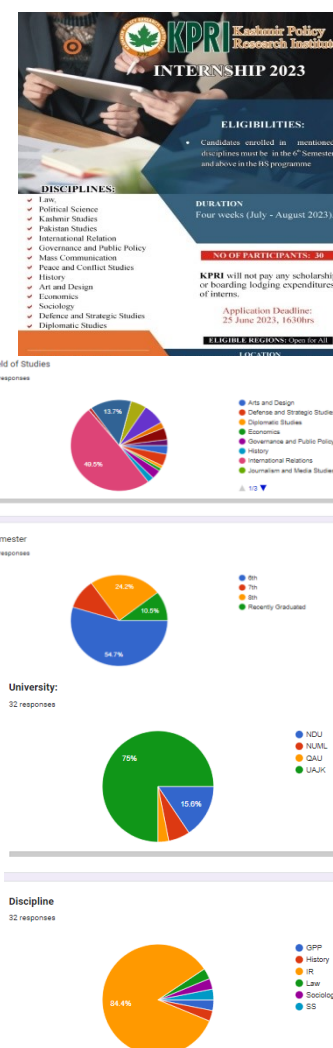
This year, the Internship Program was advertised on June 15, 2023. For the registration purpose, an online application form was generated and shared on numerous social media forums. The link to the form was also shared with the relevant departments of different universities so that interested students can apply till June 25, 2023.

Registration

We received 95 applications from students enrolled in the required disciplines in different universities across Pakistan. Forty students were selected of which 30 students were selected as principal candidates and 10 as alternative candidates. The selected students were informed via emails and phone calls.

Selection Process

These students were selected on the basis of the quality of the abstract, diversity in the field of study, diversity in the institute, and gender equality. Some students from Sindh, Punjab, and Baluchistan were interested in joining, but due to accommodation problems, they could not join, unfortunately. Finally, there were 32 students from the University of AJK, Quaid-e-Azam University, NUML, and National Defense University Islamabad. The majority of the interns were from the field of International Relations while some internees were from the fields of Law, Defense and Strategic Studies, Governance and Public Policy, History, and Sociology.



The Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony of the program was held on the 6th of July in which the chief secretary AJK Mr. Muhammad Usman Chachar was supposed to be the Chief Guest. He was unable to attend the ceremony due to some reasons, and on his request, the Senior Additional Secretary PM Secretariat Mr. Masood ur Rehman and Senior Additional Secretary Services Mr. Rashid Qureshi joined the ceremony as special guests. The focal person for this Summer Internship Program, Assistant Director Kh. Haroon Rasheed, conducted the stage. The program was formally started with the recitation of the Holy Quran and Mr. Awais Haider, a student from UAJK, got this fortune.



In the opening remarks, Director KPRI Dr. Raja Muhammad Sajjad Khan introduced the KPRI as a think tank and its working. Then, he introduced this summer internship program, and the road map of the one-month program. He highlighted the importance of the Research work in the world and its need in the institutions of AJK. He said that the world does not believe in slogans rather it believes in the fact-based statistics. We are going to teach this to the interns in this research methodology module. Moreover, we will organize the sessions in which these internees will interact with the bureaucracy and the political leadership of AJK so that they can get to know how things work.

The Senior Additional Secretary PM Secretariat Mr. Masood Ur Rehman, in his remarks, appreciated the work of KPRI. He was of the view that this region lacks in the research work, but KPRI is trying to fill this gap. He said that the internees should be aware of different aspects of the Kashmir conflict besides research methodology. They should be informed about the social and economic development in AJK and its ideological relationships with Pakistan.

Senior Additional Secretary of Services Mr. Rashid Qureshi, in his remarks, highly appreciated the initiative of KPRI. He was of the opinion that this program would be beneficial for not only these internees but also for the government in its policy-making. He encouraged the internees to get knowledge about the Social, economic, and political domains and then write research articles to highlight the loopholes and suggest the appropriate solutions. In this way, we will make progress by leaps and bounds.

Sessions on Research Methodology

The first week of the Internship Program was dedicated to the Research Methodology in which national and international scholars delivered their lectures. Out of five sessions on the Research Methodology, three were in-person while two were online through Zoom link.

a. Introduction to Research by Dr. Rahat Zubair

The first session was with Dr. Rahat Zubair. She is a Senior Research Fellow at NIHC, QAU Islamabad, and the Editor of the International Journal of Kashmir Studies. She



developed the interest of the internees in research by explaining Research, the Difference between a Research Paper and a Thesis, and the structure of a research paper.

b. Scientific Research in Social Science by Dr. Uzair Amjad

The second session on the Research Methodology was with Dr. Uzair Amjad. He holds a



Ph.D. degree from Monash University, Australia, and is currently working as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Management and Technology, Lahore. He delivered a lecture on Two Styles of research (Qualitative and Quantitative), and logic of inference, and explained Scientific Research in Social Sciences.

c. Research Designs and Steps of Research by Dr. Raja Adnan Razzaq

The third session was on the Research Designs and the Steps of Research with Dr. Raja Adnan Razzaq, a Research Fellow at Oxford University. He delivered a lecture on



Beginning the Research Process: Identifying a Research Topic, Developing Research Questions, and Reviewing the Literature.

d. Research Design and Methods by Dr. Saroj Kumar Aryan

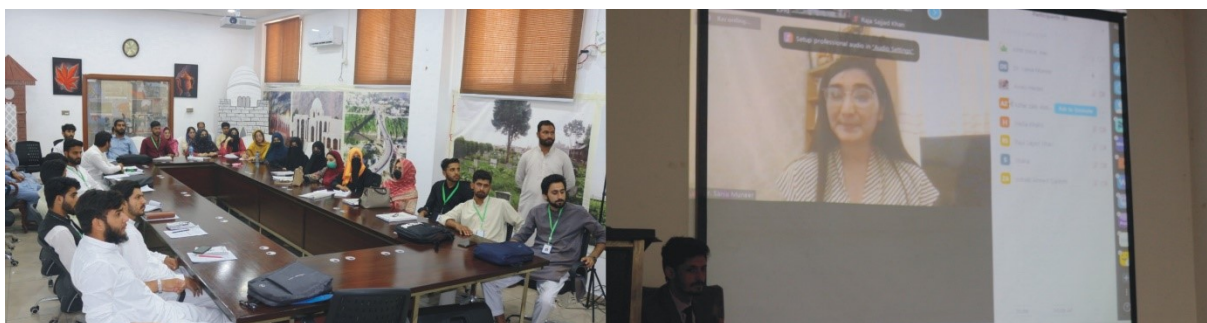
The 4th session was on Research Design and Methods. It was an online session with Dr. Saroj Kumar Aryal who is a faculty member of Political Science and International



Studies at the University of Warsaw, Poland. He delivered a lecture on Hypotheses, Concepts, and Variables Contextual framework. He also taught how to implement different theories in a research article.

e. Reference, Technical Aspects, Report Writing and Publication by Dr. Sania Muneer

The fifth and last session on research methodology was a virtual session with Dr. Sania Muneer, a research fellow at SOAS University London and the Chief Editor of IJKS. She



covered References, Technical Aspects, Report Writing, and Publications in her session in which she explained the Classification of Primary and Secondary Sources, APA and Chicago Manual, and Document Analysis in detail.

Sessions on the Kashmir Case

a. History of the Kashmir Conflict and the Recent Developments by Dr. Raja Muhammad Sajjad Khan

A special session on the historical aspect of the Kashmir Conflict was organized with the director of KPRI, Dr. Raja Muhammad Sajjad Khan in which he covered the not only history of the Conflict but also the recent developments in this regard. He briefly covered the history of the Kashmir Conflict since the Treaty of Amritsar in 1846. Then he explained what



happened in 1947 and onward. He added that the United Nations Security Council has passed several resolutions on the Kashmir Case out of which Resolution 39 and Resolution 47 have prime importance and these resolutions are the base for the resolution of this conflict. He said that Kashmiris have never accepted the illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir by India and they will fight for their freedom till their last breath.

Discussing the special status of Kashmir, he said that this status was given to Kashmir by Maharaja Hari Singh in 1927 and then was given by the Indian constitution under articles 370 and 35-A in 1949 and 1953 respectively. The Government of India revoked this special status on the 5th of August 2019, and this revocation is the violation of its own constitution, the Instrument of Accession based on which India claims that Kashmir is its part, of international law, the Shimla agreement, and the UN resolutions. It is implementing the Israeli Model in Kashmir, and for this purpose, it has issued more than 4.2 million domiciles to non-Kashmiris. As the world believes in the facts rather than slogans, it is our responsibility to project the Kashmir case through research papers. He encouraged the internees to use social media platforms as well and to use our freedom for the freedom of the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

b. The Legal Aspect of the Kashmir Conflict by Justice (R) Syed Manzoor Hussain Gillani

A session on the legal aspect of the Kashmir Conflict was arranged with an Ali-Gardh Graduate Justice (R) Syed Manzoor Hussain Gillani. He said that there were two parts of British India: One which was directly under the control of the British Government, and the second consisted of around 565 princely states. At the time of partition, those princely states were given the option to join either Pakistan or India on two principles: geographic contiguity, and written consent. Moreover, the will of the people was a kind of principle of



policy based on which the Governor of India Lord Mount Batten provisionally accepted the Instrument of accession when Maharaja Hari Singh requested accession. He was of the opinion that the plebiscite is not a feasible option for Pakistan after the issuance of 4.2 million domiciles to the non-Kashmiris.

While giving his remarks he said that we should knock again at the door of the United Nations and have negotiation with the Indian Government. He said that the regions of AJK and GB are at a loss and the Pakistani Government should give them some status and should have some representation of these areas in its national institutions.



Interaction with Bureaucracy

a. Poverty Reduction: Role and Scope of Small Industries in AJK

The guest speaker for a session on Poverty Reduction was the Managing Director of AJK Small Industries Corporation, Mr. Amir Mahmood Mirza. He described the objectives and purposes of the small industries in AJK. He said that the AJK Small



Industries Corporation has introduced the slogan “Business rather than Job” and practically taking steps to promote domestic handicrafts in AJK. For this purpose, they are providing interest-free loans to skillful people to build their own businesses. He said that on the one hand, the unemployment rate in AJK is many times more than that of Pakistan while on the other hand, the ratio of population to government jobs is the highest in the region. So the collaboration of AJK Small Industries and AJK Technical and Vocational Training Authority to eliminate poverty is the need of the hour.

b. Constitutional Development in AJK

The Secretary of Planning and Development Department AJK Government Dr. Muhammad Idris Abbasi was the guest speaker for this session. He delivered a detailed lecture on the evolution of the constitution of AJK since its inception on October 24,



1947. He said that the constitutional development in AJK consists of various phases: In the first phase the administration was based on the Karachi Agreement, the second phase was the Rule of businesses, the third phase was the AJK interim Act, and the last phase is the Interim Constitution Act of 1974. Till now, fifteen amendments have been made to the constitution of AJK out of which the 13th amendment has prime importance through

which the constitutionals and the administrative powers of the Kashmir Counsel have been abolished. Moreover, he described the evolution of seats in the AJK Legislative Assembly in detail. While answering the questions from the internees, he was of the opinion that there is no representation of Kashmiris in national-level institutions, and the cooperation between AJK and GB is weak. This can be improved by updating the Karachi Agreement.

c. Project Management Life Cycle with an Overview of Planning and Development in AJK

The Chief of Planning and Development Department Government of AJK Dr. Ahmed Waseem Qureshi was the guest speaker in a session on “Project Management Life Cycle with an Overview of Planning and Development in AJK”. He described how the



resources of the state are utilized. Moreover, he explained the normal budget and development budget with a main focus on the development budget. Then he explained different forums for the approval of different projects and the limit of the amount up to which a platform can approve a project. Before answering the questions from the internees, he described the life cycle of a project by giving daily life examples.

d. Tourism in AJK: Hopes and Hurdles

The Secretary of the Tourism Department Government of AJK Ms. Midhat Sehzaad was the guest speaker for this session. In her lecture, she said that the rank of Pakistan in



tourism is 25, and Azad Kashmir also has great potential in tourism. She added that the

use of Information Technology in the field of Tourism can create thousands of jobs in AJK. She said that the government has made a policy for the enhancement of tourism in AJK, and a Tourism Protection Act 2019 has also been implemented. The government is shaking hands with the private sector in the reconstruction and improvement of historical places. It is working on the project of eco-tourism and for that, the first phase is village tourism. She requested the Director of KPRI to organize training programs for the enhancement of tourism.

Interaction with Political Leadership

Besides sessions on the research methodology, four sessions were arranged with the political leaders so that the internees could have close interaction with the political leaders and understand how the political structure works in AJK. Moreover, internees wanted to know what role is being played in the resolution of the Kashmir Conflict by these political leaders. Below is the brief overview of these interactions.

a. A session with Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan

At the beginning of this session, Director KPRI, in the opening remarks, shared the role of the former Prime Minister (PM) of AJK Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan in establishing KRPI. He said that there are five universities in AJK but no one is publishing



any research journal. On the other hand, KRPI, despite limited resources, publishes the International Journal of Kashmir Studies which is recognized by the Higher Education Commission in Y-Category. He appreciated the role of the former PM in the success of KPRI and thanked him for joining KPRI for this session.

The former PM of AJK Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan, while sharing his remarks, was of the view that Kashmiris themselves backed by the Pakistani Government



should represent the Kashmir Case on international forums. In this way, the world will listen to them and pay attention to the case. He said that Kashmiris, in order to get the attention of the world for the resolution of the Kashmir Conflict, should have to converge

on a single point in the resolution of 13th August 1948 by UNSC. In that resolution, an unconditional right to self-determination was given to Kashmiris and this is the only converging point that will lead us towards our destination. Besides this point, all other slogans are dividing the Kashmiri Nation internally. These early slogans are the ploy of our enemy to keep Kashmiri divided so that they will not struggle together for their independence.

Acknowledging the work of KPRI the former PM said, that KPRI is working efficiently in unfavorable circumstances. The government should provide it resources and then rely on its research in policy making.

b. A Session with Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan

Former PM of AJK and the President of AJK Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, while sharing his remarks on the Kashmir Conflict, said that Kashmiris announced their decision of accession to Pakistan Resolution on July 19, 1947. Now, any move of alteration in the status of Kashmir will give a message of withdrawal from the Independence Movement of Kashmir. He said that the illegal step taken by the Indian government on the 5th of August 2019 has put India itself in trouble. As Kashmir is the nuclear flash point, and any war on it would not be a conventional war rather it will affect the entire world. Modi's Hindutva Ideology will backfire and it will disintegrate Hindustan. He was of the opinion that Pakistan and India should try to resolve the issue by table talks and accept international mediation.



While answering the questions from internees, he said the general elections in India are going to be held in 2024, and RSS-backed Modi government can try to do any adventure in AJK or GB to get the support of people in the election. Any such mistake can become the cause of severe consequences as India cannot fight war on two fronts: Line of Control, and Line of Actual Control. Moreover, he was of the opinion that Islamabad should immediately develop

a database of people in AJK, GB, refugees, and overseas Kashmiris so that any attempt to make a demographic change from New Dehli can be nullified. In response to another question, he said that Pakistan should focus on its economic security as the world will listen to us based on economic and strategic importance.

He said that youth are the cream of any nation and it has always remained the policy of the Muslim Conference to give priority to youth and women. He added that no nation can reach the apex of success by ignoring the youth and women. He encouraged the internees to



actively take part in research, and then present the case of Kashmir on all national and international forums.

c. A Session with Shah Ghulam Qadir

The former speaker of the AJK Legislative Assembly and the president of the Muslim League (N) AJK chapter Shah Ghulam Qadir said that the demographic changes by issuing 4.2 million domiciles to non-Kashmiris from the Indian Government is illegal. India cannot



use these votes in the process of referendum as UN resolutions on the Kashmir Conflict are the agreements between Pakistan and India. He was of the view that the war between Pakistan and India is not possible, as both countries have nuclear technology and any war between these two will lead to another world war. He said that without international mediation any negotiations between Pakistan and India would not become successful as International mediation always played an important role in negotiations between Islamabad and New Dehli.

Describing the current status of AJK, Shah Ghulam Qadir said that this is the result of tireless work and long struggles of the leadership. He said that AJK cannot afford any political crisis at this time. He said the masses should choose their leaders wisely at the time of elections for the peace and progress of the state, as the world is competing on economic and technological fronts.

While answering the questions from interneers, he said that the AJK region has witnessed tremendous progress and many opportunities for progress are available in different fields. He stated that the revenue of AJK has doubled after the 13th amendment in the constitution of AJK. The budget of AJK in 2004 was six billion and now it is 32 billion. While addressing



the issue of jobs, he said there are around 2600 jobs waiting for the NTS and AJK PSC tests, but the Adhoc Mafia in AJK is the biggest hurdle in it. The government should take this problem seriously and make any policy to eliminate this issue.

d. A Session with Khawaja Farooq Ahmed

The Opposition Leader of the AJK Legislative Assembly and the Senior Vice President of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf AJK chapter Khawaja Farooq Ahmed said the role of youth in the progress of a nation is very important. The youth studying in different universities should



take responsibility and project the Case of Kashmir through research. Moreover, youth should effectively highlight the Kashmir Case through social media platforms. When Kashmiris themselves represent their case, the world will pay attention to it. He added that Kashmiri

Leadership should meet the ambassadors of different nations and describe to them the human rights violations in IIOJK by Indian forces.

While addressing the quarries of internees, he said that the local government system in AJK took rebirth after 32 years, but it needs to be strengthened. He said the major portion of the population of AJK consists of youth and women and there should be a special seat for youth just like the women's seats in the legislative assembly of AJK.

He said that a more independent and strengthened AJK PSC is the need of the hour to test youth and indulge them in the mainstream of bureaucracy and other institutions. He



encouraged the students to pursue their careers in social science as people having social science backgrounds work in a better way for the betterment of society.

Sessions on Career Counseling

a. A session on Scholarships and Jobs in Foreign Countries with the special consideration of UK, Canada, and Australia

A special online session on Scholarships and Jobs in Foreign Countries with special consideration of the UK, Canada, and Australia was arranged with the CEO of Allied



Software Limited UK Mr. Masood Afzal Khan. He described different opportunities available for Pakistani students in Canada, Australia, and the UK. He also explained the procedure for applying for different scholarships and jobs during his studies there. He stressed the importance of the English language in order to become successful in achieving the goal of studies or a job abroad.

b. A session on Scholarships in the USA, Asia, and Europe

This session was arranged to aware the internees about the scholarships in the USA, Asia, and Europe. Assistant Director KPRI Mr. Haroon ur Rasheed explained different scholarships in the USA, especially the Fulbright and UGRAD. He also described the requirements like the GRE, statement of purpose, reference letters, and study objectives that play a key role in the selection process. He also explained some major scholarships in Europe which are Erasmus Mundus Scholarship, Daad Scholarship, and Chevening Scholarship, and their requirements. Moreover, he explained some scholarships available in Turkey, China, and Japan. These were some of the prestigious scholarships one can dream of.

c. A session on Competitive Exams

This session was specially organized at the request of internees to get proper guidelines about the competitive exams through the Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) and AJK Public Service Commission (AJK PSC). Assistant Director KPRI Mr. Haroon ur Rasheed explained the general recruitment and CSS exam by FPSC. He explained the eligibility criteria, different groups, subject selections, examinations, and allocations of the CSS exam. He also explained some myths related to CSS. Besides exams through FPSC, he explained the exam through AJK PSC. He described the step-by-step guide, syllabus for different general ability tests, and preparation strategies.

Activities by the Internees

a. Presentation on the Research Topics and Abstracts

As the first week of the internship program was dedicated for the research methodology. The internees started work on the research article after having the lecture series on the research methodology. Besides the daily sessions, they started to choose a research topic and modify it after having a discussion with research scholars. Then they submitted their research topic through an online form generated by KPRI, and presented their topic and abstracts one by one.



b. Confidence Building Activities

This internship program was a multipurpose program that not only developed the interest of students in research, but improved their leadership skills, communication skills, and management skills. The internees were divided into 8 main groups and 16 sub-groups for different activities. Below are some activities in order to enhance their confidence level;

1. One-One Interaction

During the second week of this internship program, the Focal Person for this Internship Program, Assistant Director KPRI Haroon ur Rasheed, have meeting with 8 groups (two groups per day). In these meetings, he listened to them one by one, discussed their admission forms and CVs, and asked them if any problem they are facing during this Internship Program. Moreover, the internees discussed what are their talents and skills and what they are planning to pursue after the completion of their degree program. Assistant Director KPRI corrected them where they had made mistakes in the application form and CV, and guided them towards their goals. They internees, after having this one-one interaction, become so confident that they started

to ask questions without hesitation. This activity also created a bond between internees and KPRI.

2. Stage Conduction

This activity was specially designed to eliminate the fear of stage from internees and to build confidence in them so that they can share their views without any hesitation. At the start of every session, each day, a pre-session activity was organized in which students have to host the stage. Each day, one student come on the stage for stage conduction, one for the recitation of Holy Quran, and one for sharing any message of the day. Moreover, each day, two students had to receive the guest which helped them in improving their management skills. Every student took part in these kinds of activities.



3. Scenario Based Activities

This was another interesting module for confidence building and team work. In this activity, a theme or scenario was given to the internees, and they had to perform it by playing the role of different characters. For example, they resolved a case of domestic land dispute among brothers and a murder case. Moreover, they presented a case of Kashmir in ICJ and discussed the Kashmir Dispute in UN by playing the role



of diplomats of related regions.

4. Presentations and Motivational Stories

Another activity in confidence building module was presentation and sharing of motivational or personal stories. Internees presented their research topic, why they chose that topic, and their abstract. Moreover, each internee shared a motivational or personal story from the stage through which a lesson was shared.



c. The Submission of the Research Articles

At the end of the Internship program, every internee submitted a research article on a topic he presented during the second week of the Internship program. Although the internees were university students and beginners in the field of research, many of them submitted a decent research articles. They were aimed to do the research more effectively in future and will publish their articles in national and international research journals.

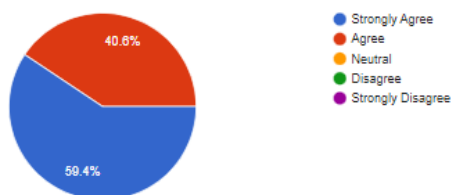
d. Feedbacks

At the end of every session, internees had to submit an online feedback form. In these feedback forms they were mentioning what they learnt, strengths and weaknesses of the session, their satisfaction level, and their quires related to that session, and suggestions for the future sessions. They submitted overall feedback at the end of the Internship program

through which their satisfaction level can be measured. The Pie-charts of those feedbacks are given below.

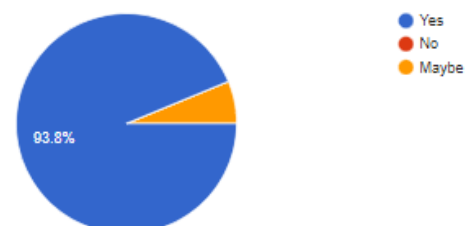
This program increased your grip on Kashmir Conflict.

32 responses



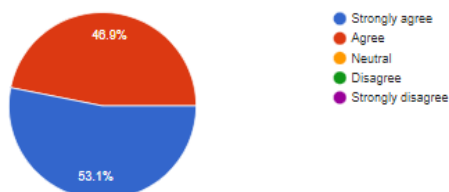
Was this program helpful in developing the research interest in you?

32 responses



This Program increased your knowledge on general topics related to Kashmir specially AJK.

32 responses



Was this program helpful in improving your communicational skills?

32 responses



Was this program helpful in developing professionalism in you.

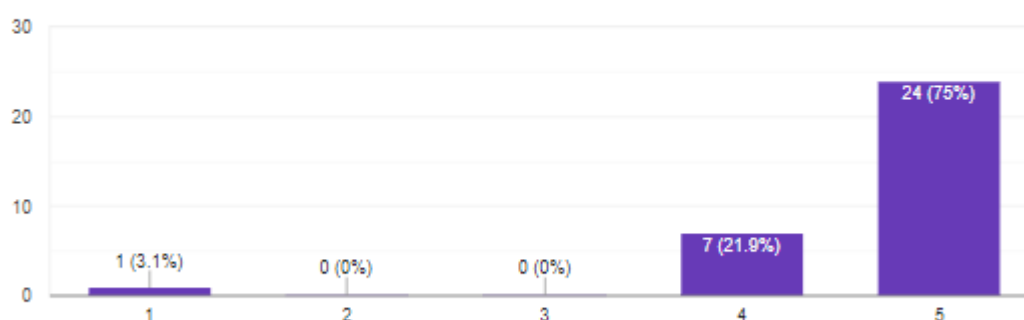
32 responses



Rate the overall Internship Program.

Copy

32 responses



Miscellaneous

a. A Session on Entrepreneurship and Economic Potential in AJK

Prof. Dr. Abdul Rauf Janjua, Director ORIC and Business Incubation Center, was the guest speaker for this session. During his lecture on the Entrepreneurship and Economic



Potential in AJK, he said that AJK is rich in natural resources and precious herbs in a way that the effective utilization of which can lead to the huge decline of poverty in next three to five years. He was of the opinion that the resources in AJK through which we can take benefits are natural plants for medicines, hydropower, honey, agriculture, poultry, dairy, trout farming, wild life, ecotourism, trophy hunting, minerals, fresh water, and domestic fruits, and many other things. Although this area is rich in natural resource, we lack in planning and policy making due to which we are unable to take the benefit efficiently. He added that AJK is an organic valley fortunately, but the benefit in large extent cannot be taken due to lack of planning.

He said that in order to take the benefit from the available resources, pre-planning has a prime importance. He further said that no one in AJK is landless; however, people have a little portion of land approximately 4 canals per person. If one is unable to achieve the enough grain for food, one can produce a great amount of good seeds from this land. While answering to the questions from the internees, he said social sciences and the research in social science play a pivotal role in the progress of a society. The developed nations encourage their masses to enroll in social sciences for the betterment of the society, and we should also encourage our people to do the same. At last, he said that we should spread hope rather than hopelessness.

b. A Session on Mysticism and Peace

In a fast-paced world where every other person is patient of depression and anxiety, a special session was organized on Mysticism and Peace. The founder of *Bedari-e-*

Insaniyat Movement Kashmir and a Sofi-Scholar Sahibzada Imtiaz Zafar was the guest Speaker in this session. He explained the basics of mysticism and how to attain the peace



of the mind and the soul. He was of the opinion that Almighty Allah has created this universe and all the secrets of this universe are in the Holy Quran. He further said that two sects came into being with the creation of Adam A.S. that are the goodness and the evil. The former will lead ultimately to peace while the later leads to depression and anxiety. He said the man is the Caliph of Allah on the earth, and to obey the orders of Allah, to feel the pain of others, and to invite the people to the Straight Path is the real mysticism.

c. A session on WHO and its Working with the Special Consideration of AJK

The guest speaker for this session was the Regional Head from World Health Organization (WHO) for AJK and GB Dr. Abdul Wahid Bhurt. He described the



mechanism of International organizations and the sub-institutes of the United Nation Organization on global level. He said that the World Health Organization is prime Institute for health globally, and it also designs health related policies for the world. He said an interesting fact that the WHO work for the elimination of a one disease at a time and at this time it is working for the elimination of Polio. He added that currently, Polio disease is present in Pakistan and Afghanistan only. He said that we are facing some

hurdles in Pakistan in the vaccination process, but the AJK is Polio free region. He stated that according to the procedures of WHO, they can work for the elimination of another disease only after the elimination of Polio.

d. The 20th Death Anniversary of Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan

This session was arranged with the collaboration of KPRI and JKLC operation wing in order to pay the tribute to struggles of the founder of AJK, Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan. Former member of the Legislative Assembly of AJK, Ms. Noreen Arif, was the chief guest in this session. Moreover, director KPRI and Admin JKLC Dr. Raja Muhammad Sajjad khan, Director operations JKLC Raja Muhammad Aslam Khan, Media Coordinator JKLC Sardar Ali Shan also shared their remarks on the struggles and



the life style of Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim khan. Two internees, Usman Jaghanghir Mughal and Eman Naeem, also shared their remarks to pay tribute to the struggles of the founder of AJK.

e. A session Foreign Policy of Pakistan and PAK-US Relations Post 9/11

Syeda Saba Israr, a lecturer from the department of International Relations UAJK, was the guest speaker in this session. She explained foreign policy, the determinants of foreign policy, and the determinants of the foreign policy of Pakistan. She said the



geographical and strategical location of Pakistan has a unique importance that no state can ignore, and they make their foreign policies accordingly. Then explaining the Pak-US relations, she said that the relations between these two states have always witnessed a continuous ebb and flow. She added that the relations between Islamabad and Washington witnessed a tremendous change after 9/11. The relations after the withdrawal of US from Afghanistan are in hot water. These relations can be made better on some converging points like climate change and human development index.

The Certificates Distribution Ceremony

The Certificate Distribution Ceremony of the 3rd Summer Internship Program at the Kashmir Policy Research Institute (KPRI) took place on November 15, 2023, at the KPRI Conference Hall. The event was graced by the presence of the Chief Guest, Mr. Fayyaz Ali Abbasi, Additional Chief Secretary (General and Development) to the Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). The ceremony was attended by prominent figures including Mr. Wajahat Rasheed Baig, Secretary of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Commission (JKLC), Dr. Raja Muhammad Sajjad Khan, Director of KPRI, Mr. Sardar Ali Shan, Media Coordinator, officers from KPRI and JKLC, and approximately 30 interns who actively participated in the program.

Mr. Fayyaz Ali Abbasi, in his address, emphasized the importance of addressing challenges through a combination of modern trends and historical understanding. He commended the interns for their dedication and stressed the need for proposing solutions through innovative research approaches. Mr. Abbasi acknowledged the excellent work being done by KPRI, expressing his commitment to strengthen the institute further to enhance the learning experience for researchers. He appreciated KPRI's multidimensional research efforts, covering not only Kashmir's history and movement but also social, educational, and economic development in Azad Kashmir.

Secretary JKLC, Mr. Wajahat Rasheed Baig, highlighted the significance of training sessions in exposing individuals to modern trends. He underscored the need for establishing more institutes on the lines of KPRI to meet the growing demand for research and intellectual development.

Dr. Raja Muhammad Sajjad Khan, the Director of KPRI, provided insights into the institute's achievements, emphasizing that KPRI International is the first think tank in Azad Kashmir. He discussed various initiatives undertaken by KPRI, including workshops, seminars, conferences, and training workshops on diverse topics. Dr. Khan announced the institute's aim to organize an international summer school in the coming year and unveiled plans for the creation of the KPRI Alumni Network. This network is designed to connect and engage with former students who have received training, enabling them to contribute effectively to regional forums and the Kashmir Freedom Movement.

The culmination of the program saw the distribution of certificates of achievement to high performers as a token of appreciation. Additionally, certificates of participation were awarded to each intern, recognizing their active involvement and successful completion of the

Summer Internship Program. To recapitulate this, the Certificate Distribution Ceremony marked a significant moment in acknowledging the accomplishments of the interns and the impactful work of KPRI. The event reinforced the commitment to fostering a culture of research and intellectual growth in the region, setting the stage for future endeavors in the field of policy research and development in Azad Kashmir.



Recommendations

- Below are some recommendations for the future internship programs:
- Advertisement should be published at least 1 month before the opening ceremony
- It would be better if interneers are selected from different universities having diversity in disciplines.
- Interneers should be shortlisted first and final selection should be made after conducting interview either physical or online.
- If students are selected from different universities based in Pakistan, accommodation facilities should be given to them.
- Writing is an important part of the research paper, so during the internship program, second week should be based on writing workshops.
- Interneers should be asked to write report at the end of each session.
- It would be great if table microphones are being installed.
- There should be a research lab consisting of 10-15 computers that have access to international libraries. These computers can be used for research purpose as well as technical workshops.
- There should be some outdoor sessions like visit to national assembly, to attend any court proceeding, or any other department to show how things work.
- There should be a recreational trip in the mid of the program or at the end of the program.
- The interneers should be given the responsibility of introducing KPRI and its work in their host institutes, and arranges session in their institute with the collaboration of KPRI.
- The interneers should be requested to become the part of KPRIAN so that they will keep in touch with the future activities of KPRI and share them in their circle.

Conclusion

Since its founding, KPRI has been involved in a variety of endeavors. One of the centerpiece initiatives of KPRI is the summer internship program. It is a one-month program designed to advance the research culture in AJK and pique students' interest in actual research as opposed to catchphrases. In addition to seminars on research methodology, sessions on the various aspects of the Kashmir Conflict, pressing problems in AJK and engagement with the political leadership and bureaucracy are organized to pique students' interest in a solution-oriented approach rather than merely complaining. The third KPRI internship program took place in July–August 2023, and 32 students from AJK and Pakistan representing 6 fields and 4 universities participated. We had national and international research scholars who delivered their lectures in person and online throughout the first week of the one-month period, which was devoted to the research technique. Then, sessions on certain topics were planned, paying particular attention to AJK. Additionally, we set up meetings for the interns to interact with businesspeople, academics, government officials, and political figures. Throughout this one-month period, there were a total of twenty-two sessions scheduled, and interns were required to provide feedback at the end of each one. Additionally, a few extracurricular events were planned to boost the interns' confidence, managerial abilities, and communication and interpersonal skills. Each intern presented his or her study topic and turned in a research article at the program's conclusion.



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