



# Summer Internship Program 2024



**KASHMIR POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
(KPRI)**

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## INTRODUCTION

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 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 several 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 2024, it was the fourth Internship Program of KPRI, and we had 30 students from 6 disciplines and 6 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 interneers had interaction with the entrepreneurs, professors, and bureaucracy. A total of twenty-two sessions were organized during this one month and at the end of each session, interneers 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 interneers. Every session started with the recitation of the Holy Quran and Darood-e-Ibrahimi. At the end of the program, every interneer presented his research topic and submitted a research article.

## Pre-Internship Activities

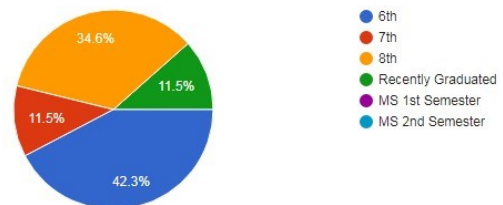
**a. Advertisement:** This year, the Internship Program was advertised on June 11, 2024. For registration purposes, an online application form was generated and shared on numerous social media forums. The link to the form was also shared with the relevant departments of different universities so that interested students can apply till June 25, 2024.



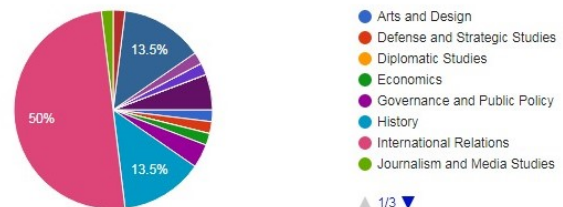
**b. Registration:** We received 52 applications from students enrolled in the required disciplines in different universities across Pakistan. Thirty-five

students were selected of which 30 students were selected as principal candidates and 05 as alternative candidates. The selected students were informed via emails and phone calls.

Semester  
52 responses



**c. 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 30 students from the University of AJK, University of Malakand,



University of London, International Islamic University, AIOU, 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, Political science, Mass communication, History, and Kashmir studies.

## **The Opening Ceremony**

The KPRI Summer Internship Program 2024 kicked off with an engaging orientation session on July 11, 2024. This event marked the official start of the program, welcoming a group of shortlisted students from different universities to the prestigious Kashmir Policy Research Institute (KPRI). Upon their arrival, the students completed their registration, filled out necessary forms, and signed the code of conduct, ensuring their commitment to the program's guidelines. Each intern was also issued an Intern's Card, formalizing their enrollment and making them an official part of the KPRI team.



Khawaja Haroon Ur Rasheed, the Assistant Director of KPRI and the focal person for the internship program, warmly welcomed the students. He took the opportunity to explain the rules and regulations that would govern their participation, ensuring that everyone understood the expectations. He also shared a detailed roadmap for the month-long internship, providing a clear overview of the activities and learning opportunities ahead.

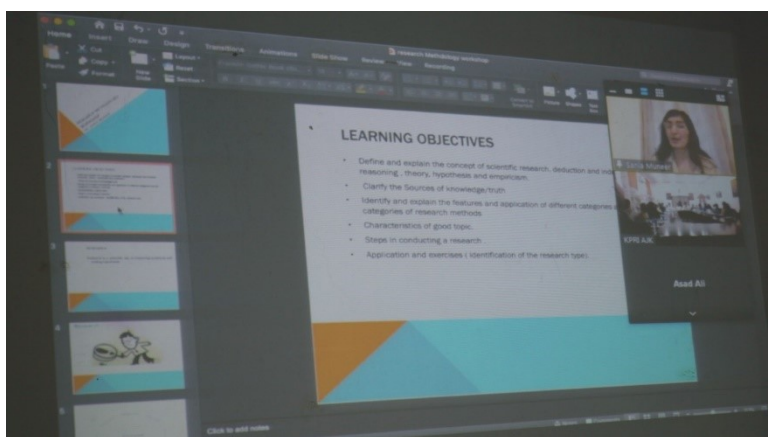
Adding to the session's importance, Dr. Raja Muhammad Sajjad Khan, the Director of KPRI, gave a brief introduction to the institute. He highlighted KPRI's key functions, objectives, and the vital role research plays in policy-making. His remarks were designed to ignite the students' curiosity and passion for research, setting the stage for a productive and meaningful internship experience at KPRI.

## **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 four sessions on the Research Methodology, two were in-person while two were online through Zoom link. Below is the brief description of those sessions.

### **a. Introduction to Research Methodology**

The first session of the KPRI Summer Internship Program 2024 focused on research methodology and was conducted virtually by Dr. Sania Muneer, a research fellow at SOAS University, London, and the Chief Editor of the International Journal of Kashmir Studies (IJKS). During the session, she sparked the students' interest in research by explaining the key concepts, including the difference between a research paper and a thesis, and the overall structure of a research paper. Her approach was to simplify complex ideas, making it easier for the students to grasp the fundamentals of research.



Dr. Sania highlighted that research methodology is a systematic process that guides researchers in collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data to answer questions or test hypotheses. She explained that it involves

selecting the right techniques and tools for designing studies, gathering information, and evaluating the results. According to her, a strong research methodology is essential for ensuring the reliability, validity, and replicability of a study, which in turn produces accurate and meaningful insights. Furthermore, she underlined the need for ethical considerations throughout the research process to uphold the integrity of the work, ensuring that the findings are credible and trustworthy.

### **b. Two Styles of Research: Qualitative and Quantitative**

The second session of the Research Methodology series was led by Dr. Uzair Amjad, who holds a Ph.D. from Monash University, Australia, and is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Management and Technology, Lahore. Dr. Amjad delivered an insightful lecture on the two main styles of research: qualitative and quantitative. He explained the key differences between these approaches and how they are applied in research. His focus was on helping the students understand the logic of inference, which is essential for drawing conclusions from research data.



Dr. Uzair also introduced the concept of scientific research in social sciences, explaining how it differs from research in the natural sciences. He emphasized the importance of using a systematic and evidence-based approach when conducting social science research, ensuring that the findings are grounded in solid reasoning and data. His session provided the interns with a deeper understanding of how to approach research in social sciences effectively.



### **c. References, Technical Aspects, Report Writing and Publications**

The third session in the Research Methodology series was delivered by Dr. Raja Adnan



Razzaq, a Research Fellow at Oxford University. His lecture focused on critical aspects of academic research, covering "Reference, Technical Aspects, Report Writing, and Publications." Dr. Razzaq emphasized the importance of proper academic referencing and explained the different types of academic references and sources. He highlighted the need to distinguish between primary and secondary sources, as well as published and unpublished materials, to ensure the credibility of research.

Dr. Adnan also provided a detailed overview of various referencing styles, such as the Oxford Style Manual, Turbine Manual for Writers, The Chicago Manual of Style, APA, MLA, and The Elements of Style. His explanation helped students understand when and how to use these styles effectively in their research. Additionally, he discussed plagiarism in depth, covering the key aspects, types, and serious implications of plagiarism in academic work. He also shared practical tips on how to avoid plagiarism by correctly citing sources and maintaining originality in research.

### **d. Research Design and Steps of Research**

Dr. Sania Muneer, a Research Fellow at SOAS University of London, was the guest speaker in fourth session of the Research Methodology. She explained the research design process and the key steps involved in conducting research. Dr. Muneer emphasized the



importance of starting with a clear research question, which she discussed in her work on "Research Question Review Literature." According to her, a well-defined research question helps guide the entire study and shapes the research design.

Dr. Sania also stressed the need for a thorough literature review. She explained that reviewing existing research helps to place the research question in context, identify any gaps in the knowledge, and refine the study's focus. Additionally, she mentioned that a



good literature review helps researchers choose the right methods for their study. By focusing on the research question and the literature review, Dr. Muneer explained that researchers can build a strong foundation for their work, making sure it adds valuable contributions to the field.

## Sessions on the Kashmir Case

### a. The Kashmir Case: A Brief History and The Recent Developments

A special session focusing on the historical dimensions of the Kashmir conflict was held



with Dr. Raja Muhammad Sajjad Khan, Director KPRI. During this session, Dr. Sajjad Khan provided a detailed overview of the history of the Kashmir conflict, starting from the Treaty of Amritsar in 1846. He then discussed the key events that unfolded in 1947 and beyond, giving the students a deeper understanding of how the conflict has evolved over time. He emphasized the importance of United

Nations Security Council Resolutions, particularly Resolution 39 and Resolution 47, which serve as the foundation for resolving the conflict. Dr. Sajjad Khan also reaffirmed that Kashmiris have never accepted India's illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir and remain determined to fight for their freedom.

Addressing the special status of Kashmir, Dr. Sajjad Khan explained that this status was first granted by Maharaja Hari Singh in 1927 and later by the Indian Constitution under Articles 370 and 35-A in 1949 and 1953, respectively. However, the Government of India revoked this special status on August 5, 2019. Dr. Sajjad Khan argued that this revocation violates not only India's own constitution but also the Instrument of Accession, international law, the Shimla Agreement, and various UN resolutions. He drew parallels between India's actions in Kashmir and the Israeli model, noting that India has issued over 6.1 million domiciles to non-Kashmiris, which is a strategy to alter the region's demographic makeup.

Dr. Sajjad Khan further explained that the criteria for issuing domiciles include 15 years of service or 10 years of residence in Kashmir, criteria often met by security forces and their families. He stressed that in today's world, facts hold more weight than slogans, and it is crucial to present the Kashmir case through research and academic papers. He encouraged

the students to actively engage in research and also to utilize social media platforms to raise awareness about the Kashmir issue.

He concluded the session by urging the internees to actively engage in promoting the Kashmir cause through scholarly research and social media. He emphasized the importance of using these platforms to convey the factual realities of the situation to the global community and to advocate for the freedom of Jammu and Kashmir.

### **b. The Indian Perspective of the Kashmir Conflict**

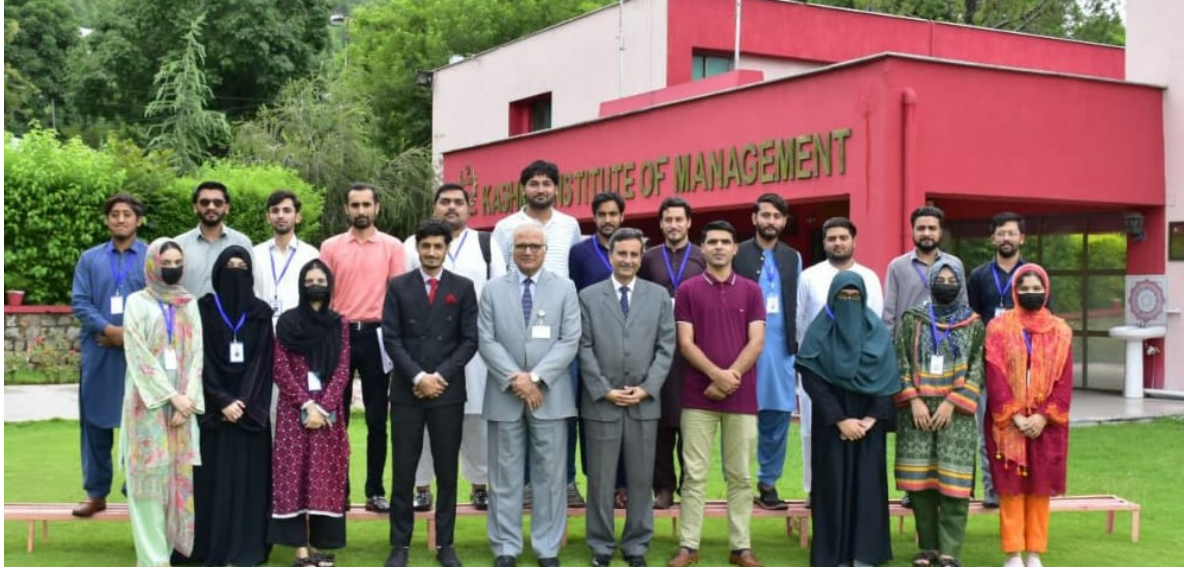


A scholarly session on "The Indian Perspective on Kashmir" was organized at KPRI, featuring Mr. Tariq Mahmood Butt from the Kashmir Institute of Management Studies (KIMS) as the resource person. In his lecture, Mr. Tariq Butt covered the geographical, historical, economic, and religious significance of Kashmir for India. He placed particular emphasis on the religious perspective, explaining that Jammu and Kashmir holds great importance for India due to several highly significant Hindu religious sites in the region. This adds a layer of religious motivation to India's occupation of the territory.

He also provided a detailed breakdown of the current territorial divisions in Jammu and Kashmir. According to him, 41.43% of the total area is under India's forcible occupation, while 41.39% is controlled by Pakistan, which includes Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. Additionally, 17.6% of the region is under China's control, including Aksai Chin. He highlighted that India has not been serious about resolving the Kashmir issue through negotiations, as evidenced by its historical actions. Instead, India has focused on solidifying its control over the region, driven not only by strategic considerations but also by religious significance.

Discussing India's political moves, Mr. Butt explained that since 1957, India has been attempting to abrogate Articles 370 and 35A, which provided special status to Kashmir under its constitution. Recently, India succeeded in amending Article 370, effectively ending Kashmir's special status and dividing it into two union territories. By abolishing

Article 35A, India also aims to change the identity and demography of Kashmir. However, the people of Jammu and Kashmir are actively resisting these efforts with an organized strategy. Mr. Butt emphasized that the responsibility of the people in Azad Kashmir is to keep the flame of freedom alive and ensure that the voice of Kashmiris reaches the global stage.



## **Sessions on the Themes with Special Consideration to AJK**

### **a. The Governance and the State's Credibility**

The Guest speaker for this session was Mr. Massod ur Rehman who is serving as Director



General at State Disaster Management Authority, AJK. The speaker underscored the vital role of governance and its credibility in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), with a particular focus on the impact of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). Effective governance is foundational to addressing the region's complex political and socio-economic challenges. For AJK to thrive, it is crucial to establish a governance system

that is transparent, accountable, and efficient. The NDMA's involvement is essential in this context, as it enhances governance through its expertise in disaster management and resource allocation. By improving disaster response and preparedness, the NDMA supports a more robust governance framework that can better address both immediate and long-term needs.

In AJK, governance must be reinforced by actively involving citizens in decision-making processes. This participatory approach ensures that the administration not only addresses the diverse needs of its populace but also builds trust and confidence among the residents. Effective governance hinges on the efficient management of resources and the equitable distribution of aid, particularly in areas affected by conflict or natural disasters. By fostering a transparent decision-making environment, the government can enhance public confidence, which in turn boosts the effectiveness of its policies and programs.

Additionally, implementing anti-corruption measures and upholding the rule of law are pivotal for achieving a stable and prosperous AJK. Corruption undermines governance by diverting resources away from critical areas and eroding public trust. Therefore, rigorous anti-corruption strategies and a strong legal framework are essential to ensure that resources are utilized effectively and that governance remains credible. By promoting transparency



and accountability, AJK can create a more stable environment conducive to development and resilience, ultimately leading to a better quality of life for its citizens.

#### **b. Diversity and Pluralism in the Culture of Azad Kashmir**

Ms. Tahzeeb-un-Nisa, Secretary of Sports, Youth, and Culture in AJK, delivered an



inspiring lecture during the session. She acknowledged the important role played by the AJK Sports, Youth, and Culture Department in promoting cultural diversity and pluralism. The department actively organizes various events, festivals, and programs that celebrate the rich cultural heritage of different communities in AJK. By encouraging young people to

participate in cultural and sporting activities, the department not only nurtures local talent but also provides a platform for the exchange of ideas and experiences among different cultural groups. Ms. Tahzeeb emphasized that these initiatives are essential for creating an inclusive environment where youth can learn from each other's traditions and strengthen the cultural fabric of AJK.

She also highlighted the unique cultural landscape of Azad Kashmir, which is characterized by a predominantly Muslim majority, a traditional joint family system, and a deep emphasis on peace and harmony. The region's culture is shaped by various factors, including religion, geography, and historical migration patterns. Urdu and Pahari are the predominant languages, and local cuisine and sports play a vital role in community life. Ms. Tahzeeb explained that despite political challenges and the push for economic development, the vibrant pluralism and strong sense of cultural identity in Azad Kashmir remain a source of pride for its people.

#### **c. Climate security of Azad Kashmir**

Ms. Hafsa Masoodi was the guest speaker in this session. In her lecture on "Climate Security of Azad Kashmir," Ms. Hafsa Masoodi addresses the region's pressing environmental challenges due to climate change, focusing on the accelerated melting of

glaciers and its impact on water resources. These glaciers are vital for sustaining rivers and streams that support drinking water, agriculture, and hydroelectric power. However, their rapid retreat threatens to diminish water availability, potentially leading to shortages that



could affect various sectors and heighten competition among communities.

She also highlights the increasing frequency and severity of floods, which pose significant risks to lives and infrastructure in Azad Kashmir. The unpredictable nature of these floods complicates disaster preparedness and response, making it crucial for communities to develop effective

strategies to mitigate these risks. Additionally, climate change is disrupting agricultural patterns, leading to reduced crop yields and threatening food security, which could have serious economic consequences for the region.

To enhance climate security, she recommends robust disaster risk management systems, sustainable agricultural practices, and reforestation efforts. These strategies aim to reduce vulnerability, support food security, and bolster ecological resilience. She also advocates for comprehensive policies that integrate climate adaptation and mitigation, ensuring a sustainable and resilient future for Azad Kashmir.

#### **d. The Role of TEVTA in the Capacity Development of Youth of AJK**

The Chairman TEVTA Mr. Muhammad Fareed was the guest speaker in this session. He said that the importance of technical education in today's rapidly evolving world cannot be overstated. Technical education, equips individuals with practical skills and knowledge that are directly applicable to various industries, ensuring they are job-ready upon graduation. This hands-on approach, he emphasized, is crucial in bridging the skills gap between what employers need and what job seekers possess, ultimately reducing unemployment rates. He went on to say that a skilled workforce is the backbone of innovation and productivity. By driving these elements, technical education significantly





contributes to economic growth and enhances global competitiveness. In an era where technology is advancing at an unprecedented pace, the necessity for a workforce proficient in using and developing new technologies. Technical education ensures this technological proficiency, making society more adaptable and forward-thinking. He stated that AJK-TEVTA was established in 2007 to provide Vocational & Technical education at certificate and diploma level (technicians and entry-level technologists respectively). Skilled and trained manpower is an important component of any industrial undertaking; therefore, the survival of a country in a newly expanding global market is not possible, until it strives to be more competitive. Therefore, improving skill and capabilities of the unemployed educated youth is considered to be the most important intervention.

Additionally, he pointed out that technical education offers continuous learning and professional development opportunities, enabling individuals to advance in their careers and remain relevant in their fields. He also mentioned that it fosters entrepreneurship by providing the foundational skills needed to start and manage businesses, promoting innovation and self-employment.

In conclusion, he asserted that technical education is not just about individual career success; it is about the broader economic and technological advancement of society. He called for investment in and support for technical education, recognizing it as a key driver for a prosperous and innovative future.

#### **e. Financial Empowerment of Youth through Information Technology**

The Director General IT Board AJK Dr. Khalid Rafiqe was the Guest speaker in this session. The establishment of the IT Board of Azad Kashmir in 2001 marked a pivotal step in the region's digital transformation. With the primary objectives of e-governance, IT mass literacy, and job creation, the board aims to foster a sustainable and robust ICT infrastructure. This focus is particularly vital in a region where access to technology can bridge significant gaps in governance and service delivery.



The recent launch of various IT applications illustrates the board's commitment to harnessing technology for the public good. The Land Record System simplifies land transactions and enhances property rights, providing transparency and reducing disputes. The AJK Prime Minister's Portal serves as a direct channel for citizen engagement, allowing residents to voice concerns and access government services more efficiently.

Moreover, the Video Conferencing System facilitates communication between government officials and citizens, especially in remote areas, making it easier to address local issues. The Digitalization of Domicile and Computerized Driving License initiatives streamline administrative processes, reducing bureaucracy and enhancing service delivery. Judicial System Digitalization improves access to justice by providing online resources and case management tools, while Election Commission Automation ensures fair and transparent electoral processes.

Other applications like the Biometric Attendance and File Tracking System enhance accountability and efficiency in government operations. The AJK Tourism App promotes local tourism by providing information and resources to both residents and visitors, potentially boosting the economy. Overall, these initiatives not only empower ordinary citizens by making services more accessible but also strengthen the relationship between the government and the community, fostering trust and collaboration. By reducing the distance between the government and its citizens, these IT advancements can lead to a more informed, engaged, and prosperous society in Azad Kashmir.

## Sessions on the Leadership and the Career Counseling

### a. Session on the Effective Communication

Mr. Tariq Mehmood Butt, Director Kashmir Institute of Management, was the Guest speaker in this session. He said that the importance of effective communication is foundational to successful interactions and relationships, both personally and professionally. It is the ability to convey information clearly and understandably, ensuring that the message is received as intended. This skill is essential because it enables individuals and groups to collaborate more



effectively, enhances relationships by minimizing misunderstandings, and supports better decision-making and problem-solving. When communication is effective, it facilitates a seamless exchange of ideas, which is crucial for achieving mutual understanding and resolving conflicts.

He further said that to develop effective communication skills, individuals should focus on several key strategies. Active listening is a critical component; this involves fully engaging with the speaker, paying attention to both verbal and non-verbal signals, and providing thoughtful feedback. Active listening not only shows respect but also ensures that the communicator's message is accurately received. Clarity in speech and writing is equally important. This means expressing thoughts straightforwardly and concisely to avoid ambiguity. Awareness of non-verbal cues such as body language, facial expressions, and tone of voice can significantly impact how a message is perceived and should be aligned with the verbal content.

Additionally, adapting one's communication style to suit the audience ensures that the message is tailored to the listeners' needs and preferences. Regular practice of these techniques, combined with seeking feedback and engaging in constructive conversations, can greatly enhance one's communication abilities. This ongoing refinement leads to more meaningful interactions and successful outcomes in various aspects of life.

### **b. Session on the Effective Leadership**

Mr. Tariq Mehmood Butt, Director Kashmir Institute of Management, was the Guest speaker in this session in this session. He said that effective leadership is integral to the success of any organization, guiding teams toward shared objectives while cultivating an environment of trust, respect, and collaboration. At its core, effective leadership involves setting a clear vision and communicating it compellingly to inspire and motivate the team. Leaders who demonstrate integrity, empathy, and decisiveness build credibility and foster a positive organizational culture. They create an environment where team members feel valued and heard, which enhances engagement and productivity.

Moreover, effective leadership requires adaptability and resilience. Great leaders are not only proactive in identifying potential issues but are also adept at problem-solving, enabling them to navigate complex situations with confidence. They understand the importance of continuous learning and development, both for themselves and their teams. By investing in their team's growth, they provide opportunities for skill enhancement and career advancement, ensuring long-term success and sustainability for the organization. This commitment to development helps in building a strong and capable team that can adapt to changes and drive the organization forward. Ultimately, effective leadership is about empowering others, fostering a positive work environment, and achieving collective success through a collaborative and forward-thinking approach.

### **c. Digital Footprints, Resume Writing, and Social Media Branding**



Mr. Mubashar Naqvi, PR Officer at UAJK, was the guest speaker in this session. He emphasized the importance of building a strong online presence, personal branding, and managing one's digital footprint, as these factors significantly influence career opportunities. In today's digital age, maintaining professional profiles, such as on LinkedIn, and engaging positively on social media is essential. Personal branding helps individuals stand out in the job market, while a mindful digital footprint is crucial, as employers often review online activities during the hiring process.

He also highlighted the importance of effective resume writing, advising that resumes be clear, concise, and tailored to specific jobs, with links to online profiles and portfolios included. In summary, mastering your online presence and personal brand is vital for career success in the digital age.

#### **d. Session on the Competitive Exams**



The Assistant Director at KPRI, Khawaja Haroon Ur Rasheed, was the speaker in this session. He gave a brief session to the students about competitive exams and their preparation. He said that currently, there are very few job opportunities in the state and a lot of competition. Therefore, only those students who perform better in the field of competitive exams will be able to secure a position. Additionally, he informed the students about the structure of the Azad Kashmir Public Service Commission, the General Ability Test, and the descriptive exam. He provided awareness about the marking distribution and syllabus of the descriptive exam.

Furthermore, he informed the students about the subjects and their divisions in the Central Superior Services (CSS). He also shared the history, hard work, and dedication of bureaucrats from Azad Kashmir who have qualified CSS.

#### **e. Workshop on the Critical Thinking and Analytical Skill Building**

In a session led by Khawaja Haroon Ur Rasheed, the Assistant Director at KPRI, the topic of critical thinking was explored in depth. He explained that the goal of critical thinking is to help individuals systematically analyze and evaluate information, arguments, and evidence. By doing so, it enhances problem-solving skills, enabling people to tackle complex problems effectively. Critical thinking also improves decision-making by encouraging well-informed, reasoned choices, promotes independent thought, and builds strong analytical abilities. Additionally, it fosters open-mindedness by encouraging consideration of diverse perspectives and ideas.

After the lecture, Khawaja Haroon Ur Rasheed divided the interns into groups and assigned them different topics to debate. Each group had to present arguments both in favor of and against their given topic. A panel of judges, composed of the interns themselves, evaluated the arguments and announced the winners based on the quality of the presentations. This exercise not only helped the interns practice their critical thinking skills but also allowed them to engage in lively discussions and consider multiple viewpoints on various issues.

## **Activities by the Internees**

### **a. 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;

#### **i) 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.

## **ii) 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.

## **iii) 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.

### **b. 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.

### **c. Writing of the Opinion Articles**

As part of their internship at KPRI, the internees wrote opinion articles on a wide range of important topics related to the Kashmir issue and the development of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). These topics included critical discussions such as the abrogation of the special status of IIOJK and its violation of international law and UNSC resolutions, as well as the implications of the new domicile law and attempts to change the region's



demography. They also explored issues like women's rights violations, the impact of pellet guns on victims, and the saffronization of IIOJK by the BJP.

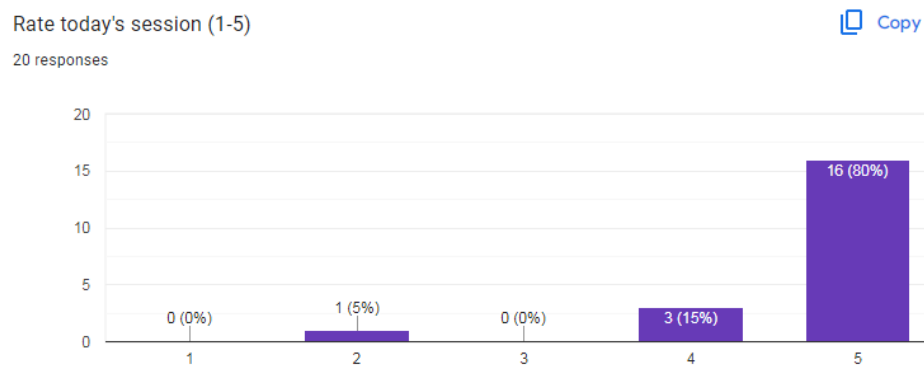
In addition to these politically charged subjects, the students also wrote about the cultural and historical aspects of Jammu and Kashmir, including the diversity of its culture and the impact of Dogra rule. They provided proposals for the development of tourism in AJK, improvements in the education system, and ways to engage the youth of AJK in the region's development. These opinion pieces reflect the interns' deep engagement with the complex issues surrounding Kashmir and their commitment to contributing thoughtful ideas for the future of the region.

#### **d. 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.

#### **e. Feedback by the Internees**

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 charts of those feedbacks are given below.



## Miscellaneous

### a. A Seminar on 5<sup>th</sup> August

On Yom-e-Istehsal, a special seminar was organized at KPRI. The theme of the seminar was “Revocation of the Special Status of Kashmir: Indian Actions to change the



Demography and Systematic Human Rights Violations. The Director KPRI, Dr. Raja Mohammad Sajjad Khan was the chief guest of the seminar while Assistant Director of Kashmir Policy Research Institute Khawaja Haroon Al Rasheed, Assistant Director Syed Usman Ali Bukhari, Assistant Media Wing Babar Bashir Awan, Students from various universities, including Naila Rashid, Faizan Kazmi, Mnail Waseem, Ibrahim Baig, Haroon Abbasi, Zeeshan Umar, Mubashir Turk, Habiba Mansoor, Muhammad Talal Javed, and others, also delivered speeches and others also addressed the seminar. The speakers said that India’s action on August 5, 2019 was not only a violation of the United Nations and international laws, but also a clear violation of the Indian Constitution itself. India took this step in a deliberate and well-planned manner so that it could maintain its illegal occupation of Kashmir, they added.

On this day in 2019, India abrogated Article 35-A and 370, under which Jammu and Kashmir had a special status. The speakers said that with this move by India, the protection of Kashmiris’ properties and government jobs had been removed and the Muslim majority identity of Jammu and Kashmir. Efforts are being made to convert them into a minority, they lamented. They said so far 61 lakh non-Kashmiri Hindus have been issued domiciles of occupied Kashmir by India. Occupied Kashmir had a special status under Article 370, which has been abolished and Jammu and Kashmir has been divided into two union territories, they added. The speakers said names of historical places are being changed and non-state Hindus are being given preference in government jobs at the local level and retired Indian soldiers and Hindutva RSS workers are being settled in the occupied territory. They said the worst Hindutva agenda has been imposed in Modi’s India. Terrorist Hindu organizations have the patronage of the government and today no minority is safe in India, they deplored. The speakers said India is systematically weakening the economy of

Kashmiris, adding government employees are being terminated and lands of Kashmir are being distributed among non-state Hindus and traders. The speakers said that in the current situation when India has turned Kashmir into an open prison, it is our responsibility to be the voice of the people of occupied Kashmir and expose the true face of India to the world.

### **b. One-Day Trip to Leepa Valley**

As a recreational activity, a tour to Leepa Valley was also organized in the 4<sup>th</sup> week of the Internship Program. The tour began early in the morning, with the group excitedly boarding the bus. As they traveled through the scenic roads leading to Leepa Valley, the interns



marveled at the lush green landscapes and the majestic mountains surrounding them. Upon arrival, the group was greeted by local guides who provided insightful information about the history and culture of the area. They visited several key sites, including the ancient



wooden mosques of Leepa, known for their unique architectural style, and the picturesque Leepa River, where many took the opportunity to capture memorable photographs. Throughout the day, the interns participated in various activities, including

hiking through the valley's breathtaking trails and engaging in traditional local games. They also had the chance to taste regional delicacies. The trip concluded with a reflective session where the interns shared their experiences and what they had learned about the region's



history, culture, and environmental significance. Overall, the tour not only fostered team bonding but also deepened the interns' appreciation for the beauty and diversity of their country.

### **c. A Networking Lunch**

A networking lunch was organized at KPRI, where students had the opportunity to bond



over food and culture. Some students brought homemade Kashmiri dishes, including the traditional Kashmiri Goshtaba, while Kashmiri Biryani was served as the main dish. The lunch provided a warm and welcoming atmosphere for the students to share special items from their regions and exchange gifts, fostering a sense of community and cultural exchange. It was a delightful way for everyone to connect, learn more about each other, and celebrate the diversity within the group.



## **Certificate Distribution Ceremony**

The Kashmir Policy Research Institute's (KPRI) Summer Internship Program 2024 concluded with a certificate distribution ceremony at the Prime Minister's House in Jalalabad, Muzaffarabad, on September 3. The event was honored by the presence of the Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, who served as the chief guest. In his address, the Prime Minister highlighted the significant role that the youth play in shaping the future of the state and reinforcing its systems. He expressed confidence in the capabilities of the young generation of Azad Kashmir, acknowledging that they are well-informed and aware of their responsibilities. "Our youth are the builders of the state, and in the future, you will serve the people of the state," he remarked.

Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq also stressed the importance of students in bringing the Kashmir issue to the forefront, recognizing the efforts of KPRI and its Summer Internship Program in this regard. He announced plans to expand the internship program significantly, increasing its scale by ten times. This expansion reflects the government's commitment to empowering the youth and providing them with opportunities to contribute to the state's development.

The ceremony was attended by several prominent figures, including Senior Minister Colonel (Retired) Waqar Ahmed Noor, government ministers Chaudhry Azhar Sadiq, Pir Mazhar Saeed Shah, Abdul Majid Khan, Chaudhry Akbar Ibrahim, and Malik Zafar Iqbal, as well as various government secretaries and university students. The presence of these dignitaries highlighted the importance of the event and the recognition of the students' achievements.

In his speech, Prime Minister Anwar ul Haq highlighted recent reforms in AJK, such as the full activation of the Public Service Commission and the National Testing Service (NTS), ensuring that all appointments are now based on merit. He proudly mentioned the elimination of nepotism in the state, which has been a significant challenge in the past. The Prime Minister also announced the introduction of the Right to Information and e-governance systems, which will provide citizens with greater access to information and promote transparency in governance.

The event concluded with the Prime Minister distributing certificates to the students who successfully completed the internship program. The Prime Minister emphasized that the



youth have a vital role to play not only in the development of Azad Kashmir but also in addressing the ongoing Kashmir issue. Additionally, he announced new opportunities for university-level students to work alongside ministers in various ministries, further empowering the youth to contribute directly to the state's progress.



## **Conclusion**

The 4th Summer Internship Program at the Kashmir Policy Research Institute (KPRI) has successfully concluded, leaving a lasting impact on the participating students and reaffirming the institute's commitment to nurturing the next generation of leaders. This year's program brought together 30 undergraduates and recently graduated students from diverse academic disciplines and esteemed institutions across the country. Over the course of several weeks, these interns engaged in intensive research, policy discussions, and practical activities that broadened their understanding of the complex issues surrounding Kashmir and the region's broader socio-political dynamics.

The program's focus on research and policy analysis allowed interns to develop critical thinking skills and a deeper comprehension of Kashmir's historical, legal, and political landscape. By applying theoretical frameworks to real-world issues, the interns were able to contribute meaningfully to the ongoing discourse surrounding Kashmir. This hands-on approach, coupled with guidance from seasoned experts, ensured that participants left the program with a strong foundation in research methodologies, which will undoubtedly benefit them in their future academic and professional endeavors.

Moreover, the internship program provided a unique platform for students to engage with political and civil leadership in AJK. These interactions not only exposed the interns to the workings of governance but also gave them an opportunity to voice their perspectives on critical issues. The exposure to leadership and decision-making processes fostered a sense of responsibility among the interns, encouraging them to take an active role in shaping the future of Azad Kashmir.

The KPRI Summer Internship Program also emphasized the importance of career-building activities, equipping students with essential skills such as effective communication, social media branding, and online ethics. These workshops, combined with the practical experience gained through research and leadership engagement, have prepared the interns to excel in their future careers. The program's holistic approach ensured that students did not just gain academic knowledge but also developed the soft skills necessary to navigate today's complex professional environment.

In conclusion, the 2024 KPRI Summer Internship Program has been a resounding success, reflecting KPRI's dedication to youth empowerment and academic excellence. The



experiences gained during this program have not only enriched the students' academic and professional lives but also contributed to their personal growth. As these young individuals move forward, they carry with them the knowledge, skills, and inspiration to serve as future leaders and advocates for Kashmir. KPRI's ongoing commitment to expanding and enhancing the program further demonstrates its vital role in the region's intellectual and social development.

#### **Internees List and Articles title**

Name	University	Discipline	Your Research Topic
Qurban Ali	UAJK	International Relation	Child Labour In Muzaffarabad
Syed Faizan Ali Kazmi	UAJK	International Relation	Barriers to career development faced by women in rural Azad Kashmir
Syed Wasi Haider Hamdani	UAJK	Law	Abuse of Power by Police and Abuse of Power in Muzaffarabad, AJK from 2010-2018
Zeeshan Umer	UAJK	International Relation	Health issues in Muzaffarabad
Heemal Khursheed	UAJK	History	Sewage issue in Muzaffarabad
Muhammad Mobashir Turk	UAJK	International Relation	India's demographic policies in Jammu and Kashmir: A threat to local identity and rights
Naila Rasheed	UAJK	History	The event of August 5,2019 social impact in Kashmir
Manail Waseem	University of London	Law	Evaluating the Impact of Recent Judicial Reforms on Access to Justice in Pakistan; Post Covid
Ibrar Shehzad	University of Malakand	Political Science	CPEC and its Dynamics on Kashmir conflict between India and Pakistan.
Ayesha Munir	UAJK	History	Water issue in Muzaffarabad
Haroon Shabbir	UAJK	Law	The Amendments to Articles 370 and 35A: A Critical Evaluation of their

			Impact on Kashmir's Autonomy and Self-Determination
Farah Abrar	UAJK	History	Women's rights violation in ILOJK and its impact
Muhammad Talal Javed	NDU	International Relation	The barriers to the political participation of women in AJK
Fatima javed.	UAJK	International Relation	Decline tourism rate in Azad Jammu and Kashmir.
Malik Abbas Ashraf pracha	UAJK	International Relation	Falls of education system in Pakistan
Hamza Shakoor	AIOU	Mass Communication	5th august Kashmir
Raja Mohsin Khan	UAJK	Law	international legal aspects of the Kashmir conflict, including the role of international organizations and agreements in addressing the region's legal status and human rights concerns.
Bushra Tanveer	UAJK	International Relation	Climate change and health in Muzaffarabad: A silent threat.
Suleman Gillani	UAJK	International Relation	Natural beauty of Kashmir
Muneeba Munsif Awan	UAJK	History	Water security in Muzaffarabad bad (Tap water and drinking water)a
Ibrahim Rashid	UAJK	International Relation	Ruby deposits in AJK
Luqman Ali	UAJK	International Relation	Barriers to Effective Basic Education in Rural Areas of Azad Kashmir: A Focus on Free Basic Education
Sibtain Nazir Awan.	UAJK	International Relation	Relevance of UN Resolutions on Kashmir issue after Shimla Agreement.
Habiba	UAJK	History	Impacts of Terrorism on Neelum

Mansoor			Valley ..
Zeeshan Mumtaz	UAJK	International Relation	Kashmir at the crossroad
Habiba Mansoor	UAJK	History	Dogra Rule in Jammu and Kashmir

## Feedback from Internees

My time at the Kashmir Policy and Research Institute was incredibly transformative. I gained deep understanding of different topics and sharpened my research and analytical skills. The experience allowed me to explore critical issues, engage with experts, and contribute to meaningful discussions. I'm truly grateful for the opportunity provided by KPRI to learn and grow in such an intellectually stimulating environment. I look forward to collaborate with KPRI in future. ~ **Abrar Shazad**

During my internship at KPRI, I had a life-changing experience that went beyond mere professional development. The amiable environment they provided made the learning process effective and enjoyable. The opportunity opened new dimensions of understanding regarding the Kashmir conflict, offering profound insights into the situation's complexities. KPRI's commitment to education and their role as gracious hosts for students from Pakistan greatly enriched the experience, making it both memorable and impactful. Thank you KPRI. ~ **Manail Waseem**

KPRI Administration, I want to sincerely thank the administration at KPRI. Your support and guidance during my internship meant a lot to me. The way you managed everything so smoothly helped me focus on my research and learning. Your leadership truly makes the institute a place of innovation and excellence. ~ **Ayesha Munir**

Dear KPRI Administration, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the exceptional administration at KPRI. Your dedication, support, and guidance throughout my internship were invaluable, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to have worked with such a talented and committed team. The administrative team's efficiency and organization created a seamless and productive environment, allowing me to focus on my research and learning. Your leadership and expertise make the institute a hub for innovation and excellence. Thank you again for your outstanding support and mentorship. I wish the institute continued success and growth in the future. ~**Haroon**

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the exceptional administration at KPRI. Their dedication, support, and guidance throughout my internship were invaluable. The administrative team's efficiency and organization created a seamless and productive environment, allowing me to focus on my research and learning. Their leadership and expertise truly make the institute a hub for innovation and excellence ~ **Syed Wasi**

KPRI Administration! I want to sincerely thank the amazing team at KPRI. Your support and guidance during my internship meant a lot to me, and I'm truly grateful for the chance to work with such a dedicated group. ~ **Hemaal Khursheed**

Respected sirs, your unwavering support, guidance leading us towards our future goals. Thank you for every bit of the moment that you'll provided us at KPRI. We shared a lot of things regarding our personal growth, national growth and how we build our society. Keep shining and thriving the same way as you lead us on that road map. Thanks to all of kindness and dedicated services. ~ **Mubashir Turk**

I am deeply grateful to the Kashmir Policy Research Institute for the opportunity to explore the complexities of policy and governance. Your guidance and mentorship have been invaluable, and I appreciate the trust you've placed in me. The experience has not only honed my skills but also broadened my perspective. Thank you for fostering a culture of learning, innovation, and critical thinking. I will always cherish this enriching experience. ~ **Bushra Tanveer**

The time that I spend during this internship was very precious I can't express my feeling in words. This internship was very informative for myself. I am grateful for the opportunity provided by KPRI. ~**Naila Rasheed**

I am deeply grateful to KPRI administration for providing us with such a good platform in Kashmir where our leadership skills were nurtured, the Kashmir conflict was well understood and our research capabilities honed. Moreover, it gave us an opportunity where we interacted with the best colleagues and teachers. Once again I am deeply grateful to KPRI. ~ **Faizan Kazmi**

I am thankful for the chance to complete my internship, which has been a very valuable experience. I gained hands-on knowledge and leadership skills that helped me better understand my potential. The support and guidance from AD Haroon ur Rasheed and internees played a key role in my learning. This internship has boosted my confidence and prepared me for future challenges in my career. Thank you for this rewarding experience. ~ **Ourban Ali**

KPRI administration is very cooperative and interactive. They provide us a great opportunity to learn in a peaceful and friendly environment. I really appreciate their valuable efforts to motivate, encourage and guide us in right path. Thanks for this amazing opportunity that you provided to us. ~ **Fatima Javeed**

Kashmir Policy Research Institute, the pioneer of research culture in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. I am honored to be the part of this prestigious institution. With the guidance of Haroon Sb and companionship of honorable colleagues it was a great learning journey. Thanks Everybody. ~ **Muhammad Talal Javeed**

Hope all friends are doing well Finally, our internship which was for one month has come to an end. I would like to thank our seniors including Director Raja Sajjad, Assistant Director Haroon UR Rasheed and Assistant Director Syed Usman. I pray for everyone to be happy wherever they are. ~ **Hamza**

I am honored to have had the opportunity to engage with the esteemed Kashmir Policy and Research Institute. Your tireless efforts to promote fact-based research, informed policy discussions, and inclusive dialogue on the complex issues surrounding Kashmir are truly commendable. Your dedication to fostering greater understanding and peaceful resolution is a testament to the power of knowledge and collaboration. I extend my sincerest appreciation for your work and look forward to continuing this important conversation. ~ **Suleman Gillani**

KIPRI Administration, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the management of KIPRI for providing us with this unwavering opportunity. I am deeply appreciative of the insightful sessions arranged by the management. They have been instrumental in my learning journey. Stay Safe ~ **Farah Ibrar**

KPRI Administration: I have learned many things from KPRI. I really appreciate their valuable efforts to motivate, encourage and guide us in right path. I am grateful for the opportunity provided by KPRI. ~ **Muneeba Munaif**



**Near State Guest House, Jallalabad, Muzaffarabad, AJK**

**Ph: 05822-920969, Fax: 05822-920211**



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