

Concept Note: Empowering Pakistan's Youth through the Bano Qabil Program



Introduction

In a time when digital skills are crucial to both individual success and national progress, Alkhidmat Foundation Pakistan has launched the nationwide expansion of the Bano Qabil Program. Launched in 2022 and now officially expand across all four provinces, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Kashmir, and the Federal Territory, this initiative is geared towards equipping Pakistan's youth with the skills they need to shape their own futures—and, by extension, the future of our country.

With 3 billion PKR allocated to the program, Bano Qabil is uniquely positioned to contribute to the pillars of Pakistan's economy, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), and the broader mission of youth empowerment.

Introduction or Background

Youth unemployment and lack of digital skills are significant barriers to Pakistan's economic growth. With over 60% of the population under 30, the nation faces a critical challenge: equipping its young people with the skills needed for the modern job market. According to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (2022), youth unemployment stands at 8.8%, a figure exacerbated by limited access to quality education and training.

Recognizing this, Alkhidmat Foundation launched the *Bano Qabil Program* in 2022. This initiative provides industry-aligned digital training, addressing the root causes of youth unemployment by enhancing employability and fostering entrepreneurship. With its recent expansion to all provinces, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Kashmir, and the Federal Territory, the program is poised to drive Pakistan towards a knowledge-based economy.

Goal and Objectives

Goal:

To empower Pakistani youth with digital skills that enhance their employability and contribute to sustainable economic development.

Objectives:

1. Train 100,000 youth in advanced IT fields such as Web Development, Cybersecurity, and Data Science by 2025.
2. Establish 20 new IT centers across underserved regions within the next two years.
3. Ensure 50% female participation to promote gender equality in the tech workforce.

Expected Results

- **100,000 youth trained**, increasing their employability and income potential.
- **70,000 job placements** in high-demand IT roles.
- **15% increase in household income** for participating families within the first year of employment.
- **Enhanced digital inclusion**, especially in rural and marginalized communities.

Innovation

The *Bano Qabil Program* stands out due to its scalable model and focus on practical, job-oriented skills. Unlike traditional training programs, it offers:

- **Localized IT Centers** with state-of-the-art facilities.
- **Customized learning paths**, catering to different skill levels and career aspirations.

- **Mentorship and placement services** to ensure successful career transitions.

This holistic approach maximizes impact and sustainability, addressing the unique challenges faced by Pakistan's youth.

Budget

Total Amount Requested: PKR 3 billion PKR

Breakdown of Costs:

1. Establishment of 5000 IT Centers:
2. Curriculum Development and Training Resources:
3. Scholarships for Underprivileged Students:
4. Mentorship and Placement Services:
5. Program Administration and Monitoring

UN SDGS

This project aligns with SDGs 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), and 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), reinforcing its transformative potential for Pakistan's youth and economy.

Root Causes

The unemployment crisis among Pakistan's youth stems from several interconnected factors:

1. **Lack of Market-Driven Education:**
The formal education system in Pakistan often fails to equip students with practical, market-relevant skills, particularly in digital and technological fields. Graduates frequently lack the competencies required to meet the demands of the evolving job market.
2. **Limited Access to Quality Training:**
Youth in rural and underserved areas face significant barriers in accessing quality skill development programs. Infrastructure limitations and affordability further widen the skills gap.
3. **Gender Inequality in Skill Development:**
Cultural and social norms often restrict women's access to education and skill-building opportunities, reducing their participation in the workforce.
4. **Digital Divide:**
Despite the increasing importance of digital skills, many young people lack access to the necessary technology or internet connectivity, especially in remote areas.

Opportunity

The *Bano Qabil Program* leverages several strengths and favorable conditions to address these root causes:

1. **Existing Infrastructure and Expertise:**

Alkhidmat Foundation's 60+ IT centers across Pakistan provide a robust infrastructure for delivering high-quality, industry-aligned training.

2. **Supportive Government Policies:**

Pakistan's Digital Policy 2023 emphasizes digital transformation and skill development as key drivers of economic growth, creating a favorable environment for initiatives like *Bano Qabil*.

3. **Partnerships and Community Support:**

Collaboration with local and international stakeholders, including tech companies and educational institutions, enhances program reach and effectiveness.

4. **Demographic Dividend:**

With a large, youthful population eager to learn, the program can harness this untapped potential to drive economic progress and social change.

Impact by the Numbers:

324,000+ Enrolled Students: Our reach has grown tremendously, with hundreds of thousands of motivated learners pursuing courses designed to prepare them for the jobs of tomorrow.

60+ IT Centers: Spread across Pakistan, these centers provide state-of-the-art facilities, a nurturing learning environment, and hands-on training.

50,000+ Successful Graduates: More than 50,000 graduates have completed their training, now thriving in the workforce and creating inspiring impact stories of their own.

28 Specialized Courses: Our diverse curriculum spans crucial fields like Web Development, Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, Data Science, and much more.

Advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals

Bano Qabil is committed to advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly:

SDG 4: Quality Education – Our diverse, accessible curriculum of 28 courses provides lifelong learning opportunities for youth across Pakistan, ensuring inclusivity and promoting continuous personal growth.

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth – By delivering in-demand skills, we empower youth to secure fulfilling, high-quality employment or to start their own ventures, contributing to sustainable economic development.

SDG 5: Gender Equality – Our program emphasizes equal access, creating opportunities for young women as well as men to gain IT skills, enter the workforce, and lead the way in building a more inclusive digital economy.

Youth Empowerment at the Core

Pakistan's future relies on our young people's ability to lead, innovate, and bring change. Through Bano Qabil, we're offering them a platform to develop their talents and potential. Whether they're in bustling cities or rural villages, these young people now have access to opportunities that previously seemed beyond reach.

Bano Qabil's Youth Impact With over 50,000 success stories and counting, Bano Qabil alumni are making their mark. Many are earning income, supporting their families, and becoming local role models, igniting a cycle of empowerment and positive change in their communities.

Join Us in Building a Brighter Future for Pakistan

Are you passionate about empowering Pakistan's youth and advancing our country's digital capabilities? Learn more and apply to the Bano Qabil Program today! Together, we can ensure that our youth have the skills and support to build a better tomorrow—for themselves, their communities, and our nation.

<https://banoqabil.org/Student/Register>

Let's continue to support Pakistan's youth and build a future we can all be proud