

# HIGHLIGHTS

May 2011

A Bimonthly Newsletter for collaborative projects of Youth Affairs Department Government of Sindh and Habib University Foundation



Mr. FAISAL SABZIWARI

Mr. WASIF RIZVI

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Youth Affairs Department  
Government of Sindh



Habib University Foundation

Technical Partner



## Inspiring Pakistani Youth to Reach Excellence

- INSPYRE aims at providing youth with a platform for their personal growth, career enhancement and social development
- INSPYRE provides free of cost career education to youth for their career building in Information Technology, Retail Management, Digital Media, Call Center Industry, Fashion and Textile Designing
- Internships are an essential component of the INSPYRE learning experience



## Inspiring Leadership, Empowerment and Development in Youth

- iLEAD focuses on promoting a healthy life style, leadership & personal development in youth through sports education and community service
- iLEAD has established partnerships with 5 colleges and 25 schools in Karachi and Hyderabad
- iLEAD aims to develop a sports education curriculum, organize sports weeks, summer camps, sports festivals, coaching camps etc. for youth



## Youth Empowering Spaces

- YES facilitates Pakistani youth to aspire for a healthy and productive life
- YES will be implemented in Karachi, Mattiari and Jamshoro in its pilot phase
- YES will support youth to enhance their awareness about their own environment, grow personally, connect with each other for learning and development and use technology as an empowering tool

# Foreword

The collaborative journey of Habib University Foundation (H.U.F.) and Youth Affairs Department, Government of Sindh dates back to the year 2009. While year 2009 marked the commencement of INSPYRE and iLEAD, 2011 became the launch year for YES – Youth Empowering Spaces.

With utmost joy, I share with you the launch of YES, yet another exciting project for youth. Aimed at enabling youth to aspire for a healthy and productive life, YES will facilitate youth to explore and nurture self through a series of interventions. The launch of YES will synergize the efforts of the Department and H.U.F. for providing opportunities to youth for holistic

development.

Updates of YES will be shared with our readers through our bimonthly newsletter, HIGHLIGHTS. With the addition of YES to our portfolio, the outlook of HIGHLIGHTS is also being revised to make our newsletter as exhilarating as our projects. Your opinions and suggestions are important to us. Tell us what you think at [yasmeenbano@huf.org.pk](mailto:yasmeenbano@huf.org.pk). Hope you will enjoy reading this bimonthly issue of HIGHLIGHTS!

Yasmeen Bano  
Head, Projects

## Facts and Figures

### INSPYRE

- 94 students complete their Cohort IV courses
- 140 students enroll in Cohort V for nine offered courses
- 4 new courses offered in Digital Media
- 200 people visit Textile and Fashion Designing Exhibition

### iLEAD

- Design of 'Nurturing Healthy Minds and Bodies' curriculum and Teachers' Guide completed
- 90 students participate in iLEAD Sports Day organized at iACT
- 500 guests visit Jashan-e-Baharan Festival organized at Government College Hyderabad, an iLEAD partner college

### YES

- Youth Affairs Department, Government of Sindh and Habib University Foundation launch YES - Youth Empowering Spaces
- 150 youth participate in first YES Youth Forum

## INSPYRE Highlights

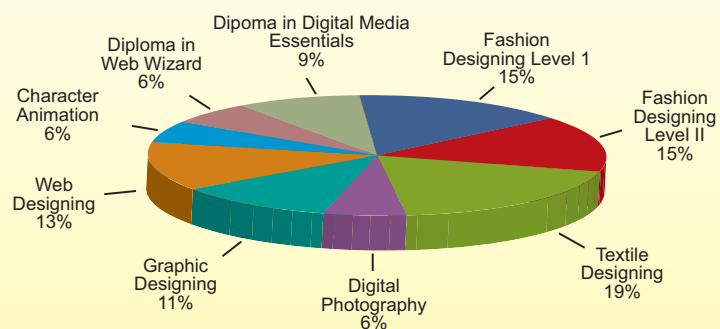
### INSPYRE Learning and Teaching

#### *Yet Another Milestone Achieved: Inspiring Youth: Announcing 94 Students Graduate in Cohort IV Admissions for Cohort V*

Another Cohort of students graduated from iACT in April 2011. 94 students successfully completed their courses, of which 54% were INSPYRE scholars. Graduating students completed their courses in Call Center Agent Training, Fashion Designing Level I, Fashion Designing Level II and Textile Designing. The graduates of Cohort IV are being facilitated to acquire jobs and internships. 60% of call center graduates have already succeeded in obtaining jobs.

In April 2011, iACT enrolled 140 new students in nine courses of Cohort V. 42% of them are being awarded INSPYRE scholarships. The gender enrollment ratio is perfectly balanced. During the admissions process, 750 interested candidates approached iACT, of which 80 came from outside Karachi. 417 applicants were invited for tests and interviews, upon which the list was finalized. A majority of these students are located in Malir, while the rest reside in Gulistan-e-Johar, North Nazimabad and Kemari.

Percentage-wise Enrollment of 140 Students in Cohort V Classes



### *Diversifying and Enriching the Learning Portfolio of iACT*

iACT has progressed by launching new courses to widen the scope of opportunities for youth at iACT. INSPYRE has contributed significantly in initiating these courses. Classes for these courses will be held in the newly constructed INSPYRE Learning Facilities at iACT. Thank You, INSPYRE! The following new courses are being offered:

- **Digital Photography Fundamentals** aims at facilitating participants to develop core skills for digital photography and editing. The course is

being taught by professional photographer, Mr. Rizwan Khan.

- **Character Animation (Autodesk MAYA)** will help youth to explore the field of Character Animation in Pakistan. Mr. Shahrukh Khan, a MAYA expert, is facilitating the course.
- An inspiring achievement for iACT has been the introduction of two new diploma courses, namely **Web Wizard** and **Digital Media Essentials**. These courses are being taught by Mr. Noor Mohammed Bhangar and Danish Siddique, current iACT faculty members.

# INSPYRE Highlights

## INSPYRE and iACT Students Organize Third Fashion and Textile Designing Exhibition

iACT regularly organizes exhibitions to display the work of its students. In this regard, the third Fashion and Textile Designing Exhibition was held at iACT. 79 students of Cohort IV displayed their final projects and course portfolios to over 200 visitors. The theme of the exhibition was 'Unique Dresses', chosen to challenge students' imagination and creativity and to facilitate them in thinking out of the box. Displayed items included a range of casual and formal wear, fashion accessories, printed unisex dresses and bed sheets using tie and dye, batik, fabric painting, screen printing and silk printing.



Students pose next to their projects in the Fashion and Textile Designing Exhibition

## Youth as Agents of Change: Active Citizens Program

Active Citizens Program aims to encourage youth to play a positive role in community development. It helps them in acquiring knowledge, skills and the right attitude to design and implement a variety of Social Action Projects (SAPs). Following SAPs were conducted in March and April 2011:

### Facilitating School Graduates to Make the Right Career Choices



Youth volunteers conduct career counseling session as part of SAP

This Social Action Project (SAP) aims at sharing career information with students of grades IX and X. Through this SAP, students are given career guidance and they learn about the qualifications, knowledge and skills required to pursue certain careers. Six schools with lower socio-economic status have been identified. The SAP team visited four schools and conducted interactive sessions with the students.

### Health is Wealth

This project focuses on the growing issues of health in our society and aims at facilitating children to understand the harmful effects of consuming unhygienic food and other low quality local food items readily available on the streets of Karachi. They are helped to understand how these food items adversely affect their weight and overall physical wellbeing.

### Working at the Grassroots to Combat Illiteracy



Students attend a class at a school established under SAP

This SAP aims at helping females and children belonging to lower socioeconomic communities to acquire basic literacy skills. A home based school has been established with the support of SAP grant and local resources in Bhitayyabad (an underprivileged area of Karachi). The school is imparting basic Urdu and Mathematics skills to interested women and children.

## Broadening Horizons through Enthralling Sessions with Guest Speakers

Inviting guest speakers and exposing students to the work environment are key features of the learning process at iACT. The following activities were undertaken in this regard:

### Understanding Merchandising: A Session with Ms. Uzma

Ms. Uzma Iftikhar, Administrator and Fashion Designer at Fashion Apparel Design and Training Institute (FADIN) of Pakistan visited iACT as a guest speaker for Fashion Designing and Textile Designing students. She helped students understand the concept of merchandising and its application to work as a merchandiser and/or as an entrepreneur.

### Call Center as a Career: Mr. Faisal Latif Speaks to Students



Mr. Faisal Latif, orients students on the scope of the Call Center Industry

"The Call Center Industry promises wonderful career prospects," Mr. Faisal Latif, Assistant Manager HR - TRG Global remarked in a session with iACT's Call Center Agent Training students. He facilitated students' understanding of the industry, stressing that youth should consider it as a viable career field.

### Students Visit International Textiles

A group of Textile Designing students visited International Textiles in April 2011. The visit enabled them to observe various large scale textile designing processes and boost their understanding of them. Informative presentations were made to them by the experts.

# INSPYRE Highlights

## Engaging iACT and INSPYRE Alumni: First Alumni Reunion



An iACT alumna shares her views during the alumni reunion

iACT aims to provide a platform to its alumni to stay connected and share their experiences. iACT alumni met at its first reunion in April 2011, during which the framework for the iACT Alumni Association was shared with them.

The key objectives of the iACT Alumni Association include:

- Establishing strong relationships and bonding between iACT and its alumni for mutual learning and support of one another.
- Connecting and creating a network of people for collaborative initiatives
- Developing linkages with other professional alumni bodies and community for societal development

The alumni shared their thoughts about the framework in an interactive session. Alumni expressed their willingness to support iACT in its endeavors.

### Key Areas Identified by Alumni for their Professional and Personal Growth

- Self confidence and personal grooming
- General work place skills including time management, basic IT, negotiation skills
- Networking with professionals

## iACT – Touching Lives, Preparing Professionals

The Institute for Advancing Careers and Talents (iACT) is proud of its students and alumni, and is thankful to INSPYRE for providing so many youth with opportunities for growth. INSPYRE scholars M. Saqib and Asghar Ali found a wonderful launching pad in iACT to become successful in their personal and professional lives.

### M. Saqib's Story



M. Saqib, Student Textile Designing – Cohort II

Coming from a family of eight, circumstances did not allow M. Saqib to pursue further education after completing a degree from SM Arts and Science College. He joined the family business where he oversaw activities of the Sales Department. Saqib then enrolled in the Textile Designing course, after hearing about iACT and INSPYRE from a friend.

At iACT, Saqib found a haven for his dreams in the form of iACT's friendly environment, supportive teachers and personal development sessions. Today, he finds himself presentable in the workplace and in customer interaction owing to these sessions.

After completing his course, Saqib interned at Pelikin Knitwear for one month. His stellar performance here led to his recommendation for a six week specialization course at Clariant, Textile Division. Saqib learned state-of-the-art textile designing techniques, securing fourth position in the class.

He then decided to start his own business of bed sheets. Saqib has involved himself in the manufacturing process as well quality control. Although the business is in its initial stages today, he sees it growing as a result of hard work and past lessons.

M. Saqib feels like a textile engineer today. He realizes there is much to learn in the field of textile designing, and looks to iACT to offer higher level courses in it. For him, life has changed for the better, for now he has chalked out his future plans. With the income he is earning from his business, he is playing a crucial role in supporting his family.

### Asghar Ali's Story



Asghar Ali, Student Call Center Agent Training – Cohort II

Asghar Ali was a student of the Call Center Agent Training course in Cohort II. He found a track to follow and is now living his dream. After graduating from Karachi University, he began searching for employment. Returning unsuccessfully, Asghar came to iACT to gain skills for the call center industry. He expressed that the iACT education was the closest he ever came to receiving a practical education: what he could not learn in 16 years, he learned at iACT in three months.

From the finer points of telecommunication industry to persuasiveness and English language skills, iACT's holistic experience transformed Asghar Ali from a jobless graduate to a Customer Care Representative in a renowned multinational cellular company. Asghar succeeded in making his mark by bringing his name to the top 40 employees list, and secured the title of 'Employee of the Month' for three consecutive months. He is quite content with his present income, as his contribution is instrumental in supporting his family.

Alongside his job, Asghar aspires to pursue a Masters degree in Finance and Marketing to excel in his career. He wishes to give back to iACT by helping the Students' Affairs Unit in providing counseling services.

Both Saqib and Asghar Ali have stayed in touch with iACT and visit periodically. Being a part of the Alumni Association makes them proud. At iACT, they and many others have not only found a center for their career advancement, but are facilitated for their own personal development as well.

# iLEAD Highlights

## iLEAD Shares 'Nurturing Healthy Minds and Bodies' Curriculum with Education and Literacy Department, Government of Sindh



Ms. Naheed Durrani and Mr. Wasif Rizvi in consultation at the curriculum sharing event

iLEAD recently completed the design of its sports curriculum titled 'Nurturing Healthy Minds and Bodies'. To facilitate the teachers, a comprehensive teachers' guide couples the curriculum. At a consultation session held in Karachi, the curriculum was presented to the Education and Literacy Department, Government of Sindh and Sindh Bureau of Curriculum. The session was attended by prominent names like Ms. Naheed Durrani (Secretary, Education and Literacy Department), Mr. Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui (Secretary, Sports and Youth Affairs), Mr. Abdul Majid Bhurt (Director, Sindh Bureau of Curriculum) and Mr. Idress Jatoti (Deputy Director, Sindh Bureau of Curriculum). Possibilities were explored to integrate the curriculum with the overall curricular framework of higher secondary schools and colleges.

Ms. Durrani appreciated the efforts of H.U.F. and the Youth Affairs Department in developing this curriculum. She highlighted the challenges being faced by the Education Department for promoting access and quality of education across the province. She was quite optimistic about curriculum implementation, remarking that it effectively captures the needs of today's youth.

The curriculum is anticipated to instill knowledge, skills and values in youth supplemented by a sense of self-confidence and responsibility. The targeted age bracket is 14-18 years.

### **Nurturing Healthy Minds and Bodies**

- The curriculum focuses on three core areas:
  - I. Life Skills for Healthy Living
  - II. Physical Fitness and Health
  - III. Knowledge, Skills and Values for Sports and Games
- Curriculum implementation does not require any prescribed textbook. Given its learning objectives, a variety of resources are used
- The curriculum emphasizes ongoing assessment engaging teachers, learners and peers
- The curriculum is flexible to accommodate a variety of implementation approaches

## **Active Schools-Active Children: An Approach to Promote An Active Lifestyle**

'Active Schools – Active Children' is a pioneering program of iLEAD, designed to promote an inclination for basic health practices and sports activities among youth. The program focuses on using low cost resources to engage students to enhance their agility, balance, flexibility, coordination, endurance and power. Several games and activities have been designed to allure students towards sports. iLEAD will implement 'Active Schools – Active Children' at its partner schools and colleges.

## **Reaching out to Mirpur Khas and Matiari to Build Partnerships**

To expand its sphere of partnerships, the iLEAD team visited Mirpur Khas and Matiari in search of potential partners to implement 'Active Schools – Active Children' program. The team shared the relevant personnel from the field of education and local schools to share the program model. The team also discussed the possibility of organizing a capacity building workshop for teachers to enable them to implement the program in their schools.

## **iLEAD Activities**

### **iACT Organizes Sports Day**



A shot of iACT students and iLEAD faculty members at the Sports Day

A daylong sports activity was held at the Institute for Advancing Careers and Talents (iACT) in April 2011. 90 students engaged in badminton and table tennis matches and other sports competitions organized by the iLEAD faculty. The Sports Youth Council helped in organizing the event. iACT faculty and support staff also participated in staff matches.

### **Government College, Phuleli Holds Festival**



Students engaging in sports activities at the festival

The Sports Youth Council of Government College Hyderabad participated in organizing a Jashan-e-Baharan Festival on March 23, 2011 to mark Pakistan Day. Several activities were featured at the event including a singing competition, musical program and food stalls. Additionally, various sports activities were conducted including hurdle and flat races. Students and their families visited the festival, taking the total visitor count to over 500 people.

# YES Highlights

## H.U.F. and Youth Affairs Department Launch YES - Youth Empowering Spaces



Syed Faisal Ali Subzwari (Minister for Youth Affairs, Government of Sindh) and Mr. Wasif Rizvi (CEO, Habib University Foundation) shake hands after signing the YES agreement

YES - Youth Empowering Spaces is an initiative of Youth Affairs Department, Government of Sindh and is being implemented in collaboration with Habib University Foundation (H.U.F.). YES aims at enabling youth to aspire for a healthy and productive life, and is engaging youth in several youth development activities.

signed. Chief guest Mr. Syed Faisal Ali Subzwari, Minister for Youth Affairs, Government of Sindh expressed the conviction that YES will yield positive results for youth development. Mr. Subzwari also highlighted the importance of youth development initiatives and acknowledged the efforts of H.U.F. in this regard.

Ahmad Siddiqui (Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs, Sindh), Mr. Khurshid Ali Sheikh (Director, Youth Affairs Department Government of Sindh), Mr. Mashhood Rizvi (Provincial Director for Sindh and Baluchistan, British Council), Mr. Ilyas Suri (Technical Director, Toyota Motors) and Mr. Saeed uz Zafar Kazmi (Director, Mohammedali Habib Welfare Trust) graced the ceremony with their presence. The youth organizations present at the event expressed their enthusiasm to participate in YES activities.

The YES launching ceremony was held in April 2011, in which the agreement between H.U.F. and Youth Affairs Department was

The ceremony was attended by a huge audience, including representatives from various youth organizations. Mr. Shoab



Ms. Sehrish Kazim and Ms. Ambreen Tabassum share details about YES at the launching ceremony



Mr. Azhar Abbas presents a shield to Mr. Shoab Siddiqui at the YES launching ceremony



Members of the audience observe a presentation being made



(From Right to Left) Syed Faisal Ali Subzwari, Mr. Wasif Rizvi and Mr. Mashood Rizvi at the launching ceremony of YES

# YES Highlights

## YES Youth Forum: Making the Voices of Youth Heard



A group shot of students at YES Youth Forum

Youth Empowering Spaces (YES) is providing opportunities to youth for self-development, an integral aspect of which is self-expression. As a part of the YES mandate, the first Youth Forum was organized in April 2011. 150 young participants attended the event. A presentation was made about YES. The activities of YES revolve around four themes, namely Personal Development and Empowerment; Career, Academic and Health Information and Guidance; Technology for Empowerment and Raising Awareness and Consciousness.

At the forum, the youth were consulted vis-à-vis the YES program design and its themes. In a series of reflective activities and discussions, they shared their input in identifying key areas where youth require support to unleash their potential. The youth openly expressed their views regarding each theme, details of which are provided below:

### Theme 1: Personal Development and Empowerment

The sentiments expressed in discussions under this theme reflected the need for a facilitative environment for Pakistan youth to enhance their capacities for their innate talent. The areas of focus identified are:

- **Realization of Plans into Actions**  
The youth highlighted the importance of their plans and innovative ideas being materialized. Technical support and financial facilitation will enable them to turn their dreams into reality, making the difference in the society which they aspire to make.
- **Acquiring Emotional Maturity**  
Participants identified emotional immaturity as a major shortcoming. They expressed the desire to receive assistance from YES to address this issue. They emphasized the need for youth to be emotionally robust to face challenges positively and problematic situations with confidence and courage.

- **Confidence and Self Assurance**  
Youth recognize the importance of possessing confidence and self-assurance. They mentioned that they would expect YES to provide them with opportunities for confidence building through forums and other activities.

”ہمارے بہت سارے ساتھی اپنے آپ پر اعتماد نہیں رکھتے ہیں اور انہیں ایک ایسا پلیٹ فارم چاہیے جو ان کے اعتماد کو بڑھائے۔“

### Theme 2: Career, Academic and Health Information and Guidance

In discourse on this theme, following areas were highlighted where the need for support exists:

- **Access to Career Information and Counseling**  
The significance of career counseling was highlighted by youth. They voiced their dilemma of not knowing whom to refer to while searching for jobs, and the need for proper guidance. The attendants requested YES to organize seminars and internship programs for youth to enable them to access information and guidance vital for career decision making.

“Our youth is dependent and works under the influence of external rewards and motivation. YES should help them to become independent and work with internal passion and motivation.”

- **Networking for Career Opportunities**  
Despite the presence of job openings with employers continuously looking for quality human resources, unemployment is high. Most youth find it difficult to come across the right opportunity at the right time. The participants suggested forming a YES job portal for staging such opportunities. Initiatives for networking were also suggested.
- **Fundamental Workplace Skills**  
In addition, the youth advocated the need for awareness of basic fundamentals skills such as the use of computers, internet searching, letter writing, time management, etc. They expressed their desire to see YES proactively provide for such avenues.

”مسئلے تو زندگی میں ہونگے۔ ہمارے نوجوانوں کو ہمت سے ان کا مقابلہ کرنا چاہیے تاکہ دل برداشتہ ہو کر بیٹھ جائیں۔“

# YES Highlights

- **Workplace Support for Beginners**  
Youth indicated the need to have the required skills prior to entering the work environment. They felt that many young people get frustrated and depressed due to lack of skills in dealing with authoritative seniors and in multitasking. They stressed the need for a platform where they can share such issues and receive advice on how to deal with similar situations.

## Theme 3: Technology for Empowerment

This theme was of prime interest to youth. They acknowledge technology's powerful potential in facilitating their careers rather than solely being a source of entertainment. They felt that majority of youth do not benefit from technology owing to its improper and inadequate use. Following proposals were made:

- Acquainting youth with the latest technological

*"Being girls, for certain cultural and security reasons we are not allowed to take jobs in various organizations but we want to utilize our potential and acquire economic empowerment. YES should help us in exploring new possibilities."*

advancements and facilitating them to utilize the former for career progressions

- Introducing use of social networking tools as learning, marketing and relationship building resources
- Creating YES online forums to enable youth to acquire hands on information and newest updates



A participant expressing her views during an interactive session in YES Youth Forum



Ms. Yasmeen Bano in discussion with youth at YES Youth Forum

## Theme 4: Raising Awareness and Consciousness

Following areas were pinpointed by youth under this theme:

- Self awareness
- Critical thinking about media
- Awareness of possibilities existing for youth in Pakistan

# Upcoming Events & Activities

- Implementation of Active Schools-Active Children Program
- Commencement of classes for Cohort V
- Launching of Foundation Skill Module for Digital Media Students
- Launching of first YES Talent Nurturing Camp
- Designing of Yes Counseling Program
- Exploring YES partnerships

## Habib University Foundation

147, Block 7 & 8,  
Banglore Cooperative  
Housing Society,  
Tipu Sultan Road,  
Karachi - Pakistan

Phone: (92-21) 34301051-55  
Fax: (92-21) 34301056

Web: [www.huf.org.pk](http://www.huf.org.pk)  
[www.iact.org.pk](http://www.iact.org.pk)  
[www.cerp.edu.pk/iLEAD](http://www.cerp.edu.pk/iLEAD)