



Second - National Tax Justice Youth Film Festival Report

Event Title	<i>National Tax Justice Youth Film Festival</i>
Theme	<i>Fair Tax Gender Nexus</i>
Organizers	<i>Oxfam Pakistan in collaboration with Indus Consortium, Rise for Equality, and Arid Agriculture University.</i>
Date	<i>29th March, 2017</i>
Venue	<i>Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi</i>
Moderator	<i>Ms. Maha Mussadaq</i>
Participant	<i>600 Estimated</i>

The Event Day - Second “National Tax Justice Youth Film Festival” - NTJYFF

A large number of university students from Punjab and Sindh came together to highlight gender insensitive tax laws and their adverse affect on women’s economic, social and political life through films at the second “National Tax Justice Youth Film Festival” held at ARID Agriculture University Rawalpindi here Wednesday morning. Focused on creating awareness on fiscal justice in Pakistan, the film festival under its “Fair Tax Campaign” provided a unique platform and opportunity for the youth of Pakistan to showcase their talent through short films and documentaries. The theme of this year film festival is “Fair Tax Gender Nexus”. The aim is to shift the terms of debate on tax justice in the country by connecting with the youth so that they can understand how fair tax work for them and what is the connection of fair taxation with gender. Film Festival emphasizes diversity in its film programming (tax works as re-distribution of wealth i.e., financial provisions for health, education, infrastructure development, social safety nets, housing etc).

NTJYFF Big Goal Intentions

The objectives of organizing the youth film festivals are: 1) mass mobilization for Gender Sensitive Fiscal Policy Reforms. 2) Promoting Gender Sensitive Budgeting and budgetary allocation for education, health and social protection. 3) Reduce economic inequality and promoting equitable society.

Opening Ceremony Proceedings – by Chief Guest

With the arrival of the Chief Guest of the film festival event **Her Highness Ms. Jeannette Seppen** Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands Embassy arrived in the university around 10:00

am. There were colorful walls and balloons around. She inaugurated the National Youth Film Festival by cutting the red ribbon enclosed by the arch of balloons. Subsequently, she met the five girls who covered their faces by the masks of Fatima Jinnah (late, Māder-e Millat ("Mother of the Nation") struggled for Pakistan's Independence), Her Majesty Queen Máxima (Queen of the Netherlands), Ms. Theresa May (UK Prime Minister), Benazir Bhutto (Ex. Late First Female Primate Minister of Pakistan) and Malala Yousafzai (Nobel Peace Prize Winner) with the purpose to demonstrate the power of women and furthermore to empower those women who are marginalized.

Inauguration of graffiti wall "Fair Taxes works for Poor & Marginalized"

In the second national Tax Justice Youth film festival an innovative idea was initiated by paint the graffiti wall and it was inaugurated by Her Highness Ms Jeannette Seppen Ambassador of the kingdom of the Netherlands Embassy. As she moves further there was a painting graffiti wall, painted by the four girls (Noor Fatima, shaheera mughal, komal Nadeem, Neeli Ahmad) from NCA that shows that how women are treated in male dominated society and how they are being affected under the heavy burden of indirect taxes.

Welcome Speech - Mr. Mohammed Qazilbash

The welcome speech was delivered by **Mr. Mohammed Qazilbash** (Country Director, Oxfam Pakistan). I feel great pleasure being among vibrant, progressive future youth of Pakistan. I, from the core of my heart warm welcome all the participants, her Excellency Ms. Jeannette Seppen Ambassador of the Netherlands Embassy and thanks to honourable guest Prog. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmed, Vice Chancellor of Arid Agriculture University for his cooperation in organizing such big event. As far as the Tax Justice is concerned, it's the core subject of Oxfam and we will be working for the marginalized people of the country. Besides, it is our moral obligation to pay fair share of the taxes for progressive Pakistan. Because higher the contribution of taxes by people the more development will be in Pakistan.

Film Screening – Short listed Films and Documentaries

After that there was film screening for half an hour. The judges were given responsibility to select those top films which were fulfilling the specified criteria of the theme of the event. The jury was comprised of four judges, Hussain Jarwar, Asim Jaffry, Jawad Ahmed and Fiza Qureshi. Students from twenty 28 public and private universities of Pakistan was participated in the film festival and the festival showcase the work of 38 students from across the country.

Speeches by honorable guests

Dr. Farzana Bari (Director of Gender Studies – QUA) thanked all the participants. Short films have honestly reflected the ground situation of women in our country. In Pakistan, women are divided in different classes and divisions. Women have no equal access to resources. They are the most marginalized section in our society than men. In gender global gap Pakistan, out of 145 countries, stands on 144. And in economic participation it is positioned on the same stance. Literacy rate of women in Pakistan is significantly less than men. There are the legal constitutions about gender equality but there is no much implementation of those laws.

Domestic violence law is not being passed in KPK and the capital. Once women are given the opportunities they can excel in all the sectors.

Dr. Sajid Rashid (Principal CEES, Punjab University Lahore) said that fourteen hundred years ago our prophet gave importance to women. Giving equal rights to women is core of our religion. Besides, he said that we have 51% female students enrolled in our university. It is our responsibility to provide equal rights to women. About taxation, indirect taxes on general public are an injustice with them. We are paying lot of taxes but in return getting not much. I suggest that for marginalized and poor people, there should not be any taxes.

Mr. Jawad Ahmed (Social Activist, Singer and Musician) said that we have politics concentrated economic. Economy is one of the huge questions of Pakistan's government. Further explaining, he expressed that the question of economy is related with power, those who have power have access and control to economy, resources and most of the institutions. In addition, the means of production in Pakistan are agriculture, industries and services sector and these are controlled by the elites. The rich have power, money and authority; they go in the parliament regulate and devise the policies and rules for their favour. Quoting the Karl Marx, Mr. Jawad said that social empowerment can be measured through gender equality. There is no doubt women can play very significant role in the economy of Pakistan. They need to be provided socio-political and socio-economic rights. Unfair tax system needs to be abolished. We all need to take collective integrated efforts to bring about the just and fair taxation and gender system that works for all not only for the poor. Finally, Mr. Jawad also sang national anthem of Pakistan and patriotic songs to motivate youth for their contemporary contribution in on the taxation, gender and development.

Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmed (VC Arid Agriculture University) said that it is a big honor of our University that such great event has been organized. Tax or whatsoever you would like to adopt that you learn from your early ages. Some of the people have too much wealth and others are poor. Those who are rich need to help poor. There is no doubt that women can contribute a lot to the economy they should be given space and equal rights in all spheres of life. Pakistan is a best country. We have great minds, potentials and capabilities and just need to invest them right path.

Chief of Guest Speech - Her Highness Ms. Jeannette Seppen

Her Highness Ms. Jeannette Seppen (Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands Embassy) thanked and delighted to be the part of such remarkable event. The Netherlands has 17 million population and we are the tax payer nation. Paying tax and utilizing it is the great indicator of socio-economic development. Pakistan has great bulge of youth and they are great contemporary force and we believe in youth for positive transformation in Pakistan. The films play very important role in today's world because it travels fast and sensitizes people and mass easily. The movies showed, are wonderful reflection of current taxation and women status in Pakistan. By further she shared the example of the Netherlands said that most of the revenue in the Netherlands is generated from the axes and all the basic necessities such as education, primary health and etc are provided by the government. It is the system that works. People of Pakistan should pay taxes and government should take responsibility to utilize it properly.

Prizes, shields and certificates

After her speech, the prizes money (encompass 30,000 for 1st prize, 20,000 for 2nd prize and 15, 000 for 3rd prize winners), shields, and certificates were distributed among the six (06) winners for 3 winner short films and 03 for short documentaries, in addition also provided certificates and shields in the short listed films and short listed documentaries and token of appreciation to all the participants who submitted the entries in the second National tax justice youth film festival. Certificates were also presented to the 15 Arid University volunteers students who supported us in the event and provide facilitation in the accomplishment of the big goal. Shields were also distributed among the university teacher who supported us and motivates the students that they take part in the film festival activities. Furthermore Mr. **Mohammed Qazilbash** shared the gratitude with the chief guest **Her Highness Ms. Jeannette Seppen** (Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands Embassy) and with all the honorable guests by presenting them the shields as a souvenir.

Vote Of Thanks – Asim Jaffry

Finally, Mr. Asim Jaffary (Program Manager, Oxfam) thanked all the participants. He appreciated to the dedicated and integrated efforts of youth and admired those who did amazing job making short movies on gender and taxation in Pakistan. He thanked to Arid Agriculture University, Indus Consortium, and Rise for Equality and NCA girls for the outstanding painting and Dr. Farzana Bari. He thanked to Her Highness Ms. Jeannette Seppen, the Netherlands Ambassador for their support in Pakistan. He said that due to political capture on the various resources in Pakistan is causing unfair tax system in the country. We want change and determined youth power into transformation.

Releasing Balloons

At the end of the NTJYFF with her Excellency Ms. Jeannette Seppen, Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmed, Mr. Jawad Ahmed, Dr. Farzana Bari, Dr. Sajid Rashid, Mr. Mohammed Qazilbash and all other guests, teachers, media persons , youth and students came out of the hall and released the balloons in the Air for better, free, hopeful and equitable society.

Media Coverage – Second NTJYFF

The following links are the coverage of National Youth Film Festival in various newspapers and in other media.

Print Media

1. National Tax Justice Youth Film Festival Held At PMAS-AAUR
<https://www.pakistanpoint.com/en/pakistan/news/national-tax-justice-youth-film-festival-held-119932.html>
2. Young film-makers highlight gender, tax nexus
<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1369178/young-film-makers-highlight-gender-tax-nexus/>
3. The Youth Film Festival at PMAS-AAUR
<http://pakobserver.net/youth-film-festival-at-pmas-aaur/>
4. Potohar art and literature festival kicks off
<http://nation.com.pk/islamabad/30-Mar-2017/potohar-art-and-literature-festival-kicks-off>

5. Three-day Potohar Art and Literature Festival begins
<https://www.dawn.com/news/1323733/three-day-potohar-art-and-literature-festival-begins>
6. Urdu News paper coverage – Tax Laws for Poors
<http://azkaar.com.pk/dailyazkaar.php?start=8&year=2017&month=3&Day=30>
7. Taxes are responsibility for all -for gov-for citizens- ambassador of Netherlands -pro-poor tax laws can lead to a better Pakistan - Oxfam
<http://www.pakistanintheworld.com/content/taxes-are-responsibility-all-gov-citizens-amb-netherlands-pro-poor-tax-laws-can-lead-better->

Social Media

The video links are shared on the Oxfam Pakistan “Even it up” facebook page and Indus Consortium learning group facebook page. Up till now in 24 hours the total likes received are 81.

- ✚ National Anthem sang by Mr. Jawad has got 17 likes
- ✚ Song by Jawad Ahmed has received 10 like and 1comment
- ✚ Music group (Arid Agriculture University)
- ✚ Event video-1 has got 10 likes,
- ✚ Event video-2 has got 9 likes
- ✚ Event video-3 has received 12 likes.
- ✚ Speeches has got 23 likes

Electronic Media

1. FM Radio



Second NTJYFF Visual for Reflective Inside

