



Community Colleges in Punjab

(A Pilot Project of PHEC)



Colleges

- Govt. College Township, Lahore
- Govt. Post Graduate College for Women, Gujranwala
- Govt. College Civil Lines, Multan
- Govt. College for Women, Faisalabad

Programs being offered

- **Associate Degree in Commerce**
(Specialization in Accounting & Finance)
- **Associate Degree in IT**
(Specialization in Networking / Web Technologies)
- **Associate Degree in Fine Art**
(Specialization in Textile Design)
- **Associate Degree in Mass Communication**
(Specialization in Media Studies)

Benefits

- Affordable Cost
- Marketable Skills
- Quality Education
- Increased Employment Opportunities
- Increased access to higher education

Pakistani education system is lagging 60 years behind from the current standards of higher education in the advanced world. There is a disparity between curricula taught at our academic institutions and demands/needs of the market. Our existing system of education and curricula are not adopting a focused approach in addressing the trends of the market.

Punjab HEC, realizing this incongruence of curricula with the market, economy and civil society, has taken a step to bridge this gap by introducing a 2-year Associate Degree (equivalent to Bachelors Degree) on the model of community colleges of advanced countries like US, and Canada, in various emerging fields of industry and business etc., to create a job-ready skilled workforce.

What are Community Colleges?

Community colleges, often referred as junior colleges or technical colleges, are the intermediary academic institutions which cater the needs of local industry and community in advanced countries like USA, Canada, Britain, Japan and Australia. These colleges are established strategically with clear and defined goals to meet the demands of local industry and economy.

Community colleges offer high quality education with technical expertise at low cost and in a flexible manner. The focus is on the marketable and industry-driven skills to fulfill the dearth of skilled human resource in various arenas of industry.

2-year Associate (equivalent to Bachelors) Degree

The rationale behind the community college program is to produce skilled human resource for the economy and society. The traditional 2-year Bachelors degree offered in public colleges offers limited to no marketable skills. The Community Colleges pilot program is the first step of providing 2-year Associate Degree (equivalent to Bachelors Degree) with specific specializations, on the semester system, that like Community Colleges in the US, provide degrees in practical and employable fields of studies to prepare students to enter the job market.

The curriculum for these programs has been developed in close consultation with the experts drawn from industry & the community for the provision of specialized and market-oriented education.

Establishment of Community Colleges in Punjab (Pilot Program)

Keeping in view the international model of community colleges, Punjab Higher Education Commission in collaboration with Higher Education Department (HED) has launched a Pilot Program for the "Establishment of Community Colleges in Punjab". In the first phase four colleges have been selected. Initially 2-year Associate Degree (equivalent to Bachelors Degree) on the semester system are being offered in Commerce, IT, Media and Fine Arts.

The existing infrastructure, equipment & teaching staff of the selected colleges has been used to launch these programs as a pilot phase. More areas will be offered after the test phase such as Hotel Management, Paramedic, Nursing, Radiological Science, Public Health etc.

PUNJAB HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

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