

Analysis and Discussion

Statistical Analysis of Paigham-e-Pakistan Conference 2020

RAUF AHMED*

Paigham-e-Pakistan Centre for Peace, Reconciliation, and Reconstruction Studies, Islamic Research Institute, International Islamic University, Islamabad organized a two-day national conference on “An Inclusive and Peaceful Society in Pakistan: Challenges and Opportunities” on September 8-9, 2020 at Islamic Research Institute, Faisal Mosque Campus, Islamabad. The conference was sponsored by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan under the Thematic Research Grant Project led by Professor Dr. Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq (Principal Investigator) and Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Munir (Co-Principal Investigator). In this conference, eighty-six authors from forty-one Pakistani institutes presented sixty-five papers on nine themes.

Theme-wise Distribution of the Papers

Out of sixty-five, nine (14%) papers related to each of “Religious Minorities, Role of Media, and Establishment of Peace” and “Constitutional and Legal Framework of Pakistan for Prevention of Hatred, Extremism, and Violence.” They were followed by “Sectarianism and Tendency of *Takfir* in Pakistan: Reasons, Effects, and Remedies” with eight (12%) papers. Seven (11%) papers were presented on each of the following themes: “Educational Institutions and Their Role in Building Peaceful Societies,” “An Analysis of the Efforts of Pakistan for Eradication of Violence, Extremism, and Terrorism,” and “The Role of ‘*Ulamā*’ and Religious Leaders in Advancing Peace and Stability in

* Librarian, Dr Muhammad Hamidullah Library, Islamic Research Institute, International Islamic University, Islamabad, Pakistan.

Pakistan.” Moreover, six (9%) papers were dedicated to each of the following themes: “Paigham-e-Pakistan: Introduction, Significance, and Importance,” “Terrorism, Extremism, and Sectarianism: An Islamic Perspective,” and “Islamic Ethics of Disagreement and Its Value for Contemporary Pakistani Society.”

Sr. No	Themes	No. of Articles	%age
1	Paigham-e-Pakistan: Introduction, Significance, and Importance	6	9.23%
2	Educational Institutions and Their Role in Building Peaceful Societies	7	10.77%
3	Terrorism, Extremism, and Sectarianism: An Islamic Perspective	6	9.23%
4	Religious Minorities, Role of Media, and Establishment of Peace	9	13.85%
5	An Analysis of the Efforts of Pakistan for Eradication of Violence, Extremism, and Terrorism	7	10.77%
6	The Role of ‘ <i>Ulamā</i> ’ and Religious Leaders in Advancing Peace and Stability in Pakistan	7	10.77%
7	Sectarianism and Tendency of <i>Takfir</i> in Pakistan: Reasons, Effects, and Remedies	8	12.31%
8	Islamic Ethics of Disagreement and Its Value for Contemporary Pakistani Society	6	9.23%
9	Constitutional and Legal Framework of Pakistan for Prevention of Hatred, Extremism, and Violence	9	13.85%
	Total	65	100

Table 1: Theme-wise distribution of the papers

Profession-wise Categorization of the Contributors

Out of the eighty-six presenters, thirty-one (36%) were professors or assistant professors. This number was followed by twenty (23%) lecturer presenters. Seventeen (20%) presenters came under the category of “Post-doc, PhD, and MPhil scholars.” Three (3%) presenters belonged to each category of “dean/chairman” and “teaching/research associate.” Similarly, two (2%) authors related to each category of “advocate,” “director/deputy director” and “principal librarian /librarian.” Presenters also included an assistant director, an assistant inspector

general prisons, a coordinator, a *nā'ib muftī*, and a head of an NGO. This shows that majority of the presenters comprised the scholars who worked at private and public sector higher educational institutions or were postgraduate scholars at them. It seems that scholars from religious seminaries (*dīnī madāris*) contributed very little to the conference papers.

Sr. No	Category	No. of Presenters	%age
1	Professor/Assistant Professor	31	36.05%
2	Lecturer	20	23.26%
3	Post-Doc/PhD/MPhil Scholar	17	19.77%
4	Dean/Chairman	3	3.49%
5	Research/Teaching Associate	3	3.49%
6	Advocate	2	2.33%
7	Director/Deputy Director	2	2.33%
8	Principal Librarian/Librarian	2	2.33%
9	Assistant Director	1	1.16%
10	Assistant Inspector General Prisons	1	1.16%
11	Coordinator	1	1.16%
12	<i>Nā'ib Muftī</i>	1	1.16%
13	NGO Head	1	1.16%
	Total	86	100

Table 2: Profession-wise categorization of the contributors

Authorship Pattern

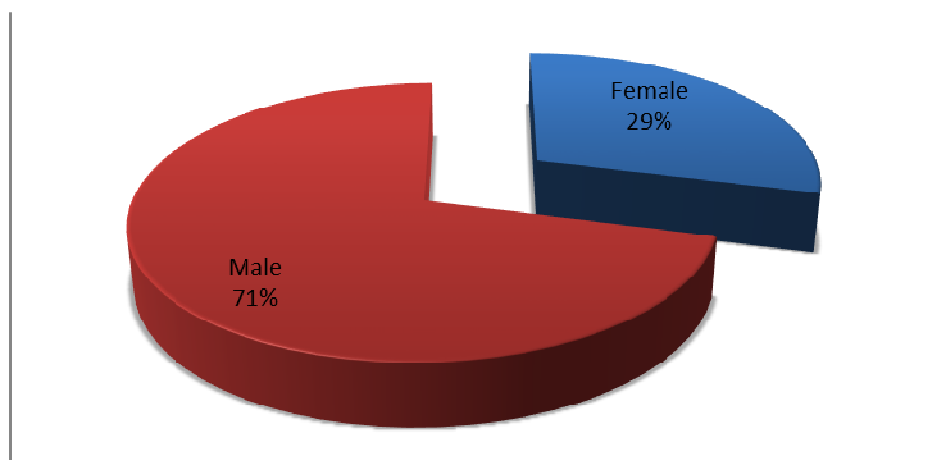
Table three shows that forty-six (71%) papers were single authored, followed by seventeen (26%) articles, which were jointly written by two authors. Only two (3%) papers were jointly written by three authors. Overwhelming majority of single-authorship articles is in line with the authorship pattern of narrative-style research in contrast to that of empirical-style research.

Authors	Papers	%age
One	46	70.77%
Two	17	26.15%
Three	2	3.08%
Total	65	100

Table 3: Authorship pattern

Gender-wise Authorship Pattern

While considering the gender of paper presenters, it was observed that sixty-one (71%) authors were male scholars and twenty-five (29%) authors were female scholars. Under-representation of female scholars may have resulted from diverse factors. They may not have been informed about the conference well before time. Moreover, situation created by pandemic COVID-19 and unavailability of traveling and accommodation facilities by the host institution may also have caused under-representation of women scholars.

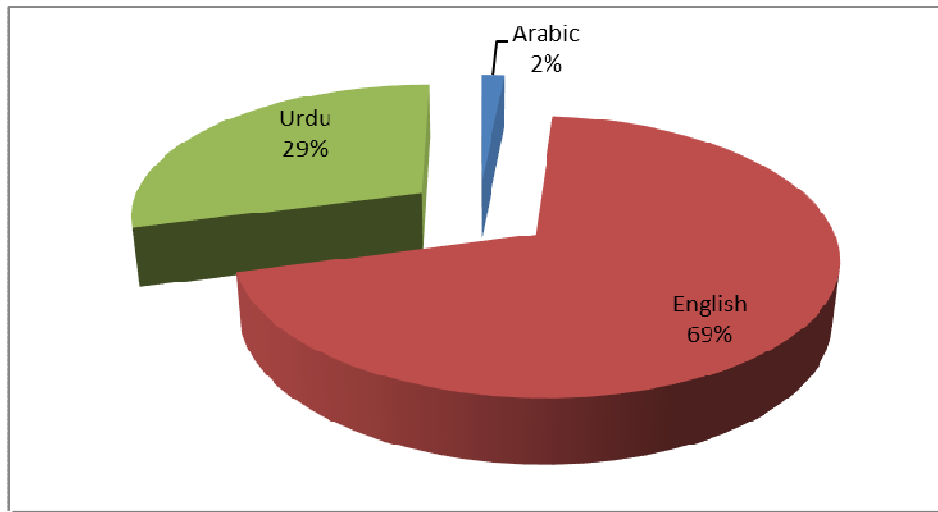


Graph 1: Gender-wise authorship pattern

Language-wise Distribution of the Papers

Further analysis of the conference papers shows that highest number of articles were written in English, that is, forty-five (69%) articles, followed by Urdu and Arabic with nineteen (29%) and one (2%) article respectively. The number of articles presented in Urdu is significantly

lower than those presented in English. Being the national language of Pakistan, the proportion of articles presented in Urdu should have been higher.

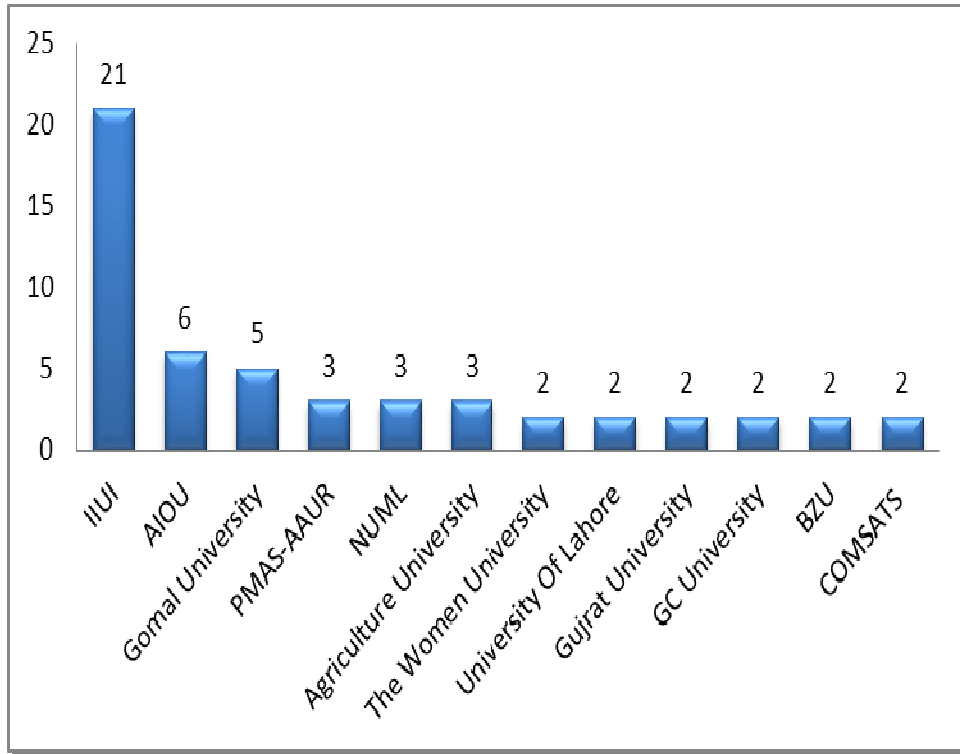


Graph 2: Language-wise distribution of the papers

Institutional Affiliation of the Authors

Sixty-five authors from forty-one Pakistani institutes contributed eighty-five papers. Graph three reflects the contribution of top twelve institutions whose scholars presented papers in the conference. Twenty-one (24%) papers were presented by the authors affiliated with International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI). Out of these, fifteen papers were contributed by the scholars of Islamic Research Institute. Next highest contribution was made by the scholars of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU), Islamabad with six (7%) papers. Gomal University, Dera Ismail Khan rose to the third position by contributing five papers. PMAS-Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi, National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad, and University of Agriculture, Faisalabad contributed three papers each. The Women University, Multan, the University of Lahore, University of Gujrat, Government College University, Faisalabad, Bahauddin Zakariya University (BZU), Multan, and COMSATS, Lahore contributed two papers each. Other twenty-nine institutes contributed one paper each. This shows that the scholars of the host University enthusiastically participated in the conference and significantly contributed to its

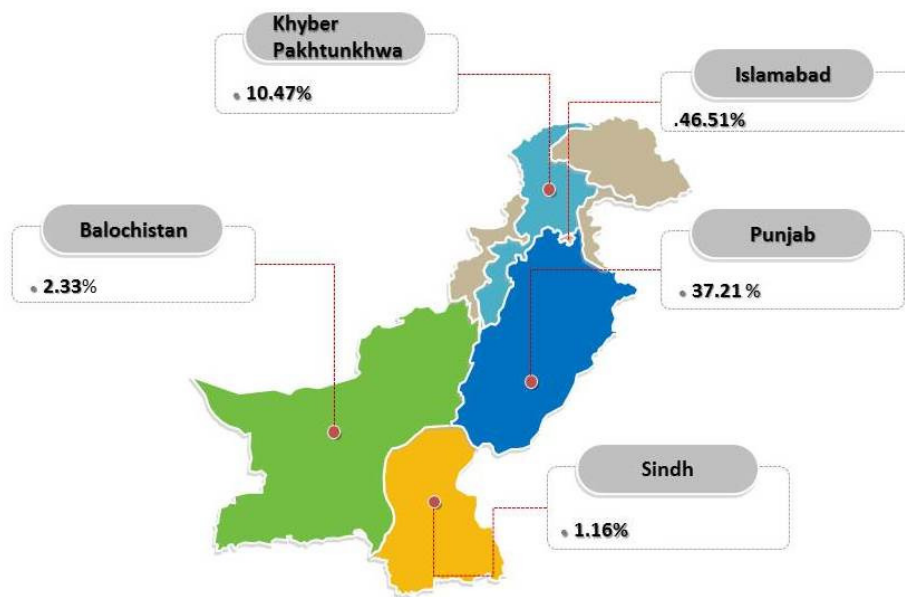
themes. Moreover, other public sector universities also made significant contribution to the conference.



Graph 3: Institutional affiliation of the authors

Area/Province-wise Distribution

The majority of contributors with 47% were from the institutes of Islamabad, followed by Punjab with 37%, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with 10%, Balochistan with 2.33%, and Sindh with 1.16%. Under-representation of the scholars from Balochistan and Sindh may have been caused by the remoteness of these areas from the venue of the conference. However, if the call for papers had been advertised more effectively and the presenters had been facilitated with travel grants and accommodation, the proportion of the scholars from these two provinces might have been higher.



Graph 4: Area/province-wise distribution

Conclusion

The above statistical analysis shows that sixty-five research papers were presented by eighty-six scholars. A significant number of papers were presented by the host university. Most of papers were single-authored and by male presenters. Majority of articles were presented in English language. According to the profession-wise categorization, the top three categories were “professors/assistant professors,” “lecturers” or “Post-doc/PhD/MPhil scholars.” As for the area representation, majority of paper presenters were from Islamabad and Punjab province.

Conferences bring together scholars of relevant academic disciplines from different geographical areas. They also provide participants with the opportunities of sharing their views, ideas, and experiences with others. The message of Paigham-e-Pakistan is to eradicate violence and extremism and to build a peaceful society in Pakistan. Under-representation of certain geographical areas and segments of society implies that the announcement of the conference probably was not advertised properly. In order to increase the representation of female presenters, special initiatives should be taken. Moreover, proper awareness and communication to the academia about the conference might decrease disproportionate representation of other

provinces. Special measures to provide travel grants and accommodation to the scholars from Balochistan, Sindh, and KPK will hopefully increase their representation. The quota system might also be helpful in this regard. The importance of English cannot be overemphasized but the scholars should also be encouraged to present their papers in Urdu for the wider dissemination of Paigham-e-Pakistan.

• • •