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PREAMBLE

The gig economy is a free market system in which organizations hire independent workers for short-term commitments instead of hiring full-time workers. Therefore, a freelancer is an individual who earns money on a per-job or per-task basis, usually for short-term work, while providing services to clients around the world. The emergence of online portals for match-making between freelancers and companies has accelerated gig economy growth.

Talents that make up the gig economy are usually called freelancers, gig-workers, independent contractors, and free agents. Companies are as large as Google now hire more freelancers than permanent employees, and this trend is rapidly becoming commonplace. Freelancer.com, the largest freelance portal in the world, has 52 million registered users.

Freelancers earned over \$2 billion on Upwork in 2019 across more than 8,000 skills, including website & app development, creative & design, customer support, finance & accounting, consulting, and operations. It is projected that by 2027, 86.5 million people will freelance in the US, approximately 50.9% of the total US workforce, according to Statista.

As per a BCG survey, 40% of executives worldwide expect to use freelancers over the next three years, and 50% of them agree that corporate adoption of gig platforms would be a highly significant trend in the future.

The gig economy has come of age and is expected to experience explosive growth over the years. According to Statista, the projected gross volume of the global gig economy in 2023 is US\$ 455.2 billion.

This Coffee Book is a tribute to the freelancers of Pakistan's gig economy, whose untiring efforts have made Pakistan's gig economy a global powerhouse. We hope that you find this coffee book useful and that it gives a glimpse of Pakistan's gig economy by introducing you to the tech freelancers of Pakistan.



To Appreciate the Pakistani Freelancers

Honorable Federal Minister's Message



Syed Amin ul Haque

Federal Minister
Ministry of Information
Technology &
Telecommunication

"Our IT vision is to put in place an accelerated digitization ecosystem to enable socio-economic development, to expand the knowledge-based economy, and to spur the economic growth."

The rapid adoption of Information and communication technology (ICT) is immensely important for the country's socio-economic development. In the spirit of democratic governance, revolutionary policies, and a visionary approach, the present Government's main focus is to enhance the growth of Pakistan's economy. The efforts are paying off as the IT industry is growing in terms of the number of companies, revenue, exports, and workforce every year, thereby demonstrating clear confidence in the ability of the local companies to deliver IT solutions and services which meet the expectations of foreign clients.

I am pleased to inform you that with more than 10,000 software houses and call centers at present, Pakistan's IT industry counts the world's largest entities among its regular clients and provides services to 120 countries around the globe. According to the Kearney Global Services Location Index 2021, Pakistan is the 2nd most financially attractive location in the world for offshore services. Pakistan's ICT Industry has been a resounding success story for Pakistan, having achieved a stellar remittance inflow growth rate and being the largest net exporter in the services sector. The Government believes in leading initiatives about IT Growth.

The Honorable President of Pakistan is leading the Ministry of IT's initiatives regarding Emerging Technologies and allied verticals. The Government believes in facilitating investment in the IT/ITES Sector. To match this spirit, the Ministry of IT & Telecom has an open-door policy to provide facilitation round the clock, be it any foreign or domestic investor interested in IT/ITES Business.

I am pleased to inform that Pakistan is ranked as the 2nd largest supplier of Online Labor in Software Development and Technology as per International Labour Organization Flagship Report 2021. This high ranking is obviously due to the quality of work and cost-effectiveness of Pakistani Freelancers.

I invite you to consider Pakistan's IT industry for investment and outsourcing at substantial annual cost savings but with the same IT service quality and standards as in other countries and to capitalize on the economic growth in the local economy.

Honorable Federal Secretary's Message



Dr. Muhammad
Sohail Rajput

Federal Secretary
Ministry of Information
Technology &
Telecommunication

PSEB is mandated to promote Pakistan's IT industry across the globe. IT companies have largely benefited from PSEB's initiatives by generating valuable business leads, establishing strategic linkages in foreign locations, and signing outsourcing contracts with their foreign counterparts.

Pakistan's IT industry has done well, and due credit goes to enterprising entrepreneurs and a skilled workforce to develop creative and imaginative solutions. Pakistani IT companies consistently receive recognition at international competitions such as Asia Pacific Information and Communication Technology Awards (APICTA) in different categories, including startup, mobile applications, E-Learning, E-Health, E-Government, security, supply chain management, communications, and financial applications.

The Ministry of IT & Telecom, through Pakistan Software Export Board, continues to support all credible private sector initiatives aimed at bolstering the local IT industry and attracting foreign investment. We believe in ensuring fast track approach to facilitate IT foreign companies for business expansion. We are here to facilitate companies interested in business investment/ growth in the IT/ITES Sector, E-Commerce, E-Governance, and other IT-related verticals with an open-door policy.

This Ministry is working hard to ensure pro-investment IT policy initiatives with an inclusive policy development process. The Government realizes that it has an important role in providing a conducive environment to the IT industry through infrastructure and HR development. PSEB has played a key role in promoting the IT industry in the past, and I hope that it will continue to play an even bigger role in contributing to Pakistan's economic growth.

The Government is paying special attention to support and sustain the growth of the gig economy in Pakistan. The development of the gig economy has become increasingly important to Pakistan to provide viable opportunities to the educated youth and enhance their contributions to the economy.

The Government wanted to enhance the number of active freelancers in Pakistan 10-fold to two million and increase the average earning to US\$ 5,000 per annum. After much deliberation and consultation with all relevant stakeholders, the Government has drafted National Freelancing Facilitation Policy 2021, which is currently in the final stages. The Government is targeting the figure of US\$ 5 billion in export remittance inflows from Pakistani freelancers and accordingly would take all possible measures to facilitate the growth of the gig economy in Pakistan.

Managing Director's Message



Osman Nasir
Managing Director
Pakistan Software
Export Board

The growth of the Information Technology (IT) and Information Technology enabled Services (ITeS) sector is vital for Pakistan's economic development. Pakistan's information and communications technology industry has delivered stellar growth and export earnings performance. For instance, as per most recent data, ICT export remittances, including telecommunication, computer, and information services, surged to US\$ 2.12 billion at a compound annual growth rate of 25.81% during July-June of FY 2020-21. The Government has set a target of US\$ 5 billion in remittances by 2025 and US\$ 10 billion by 2030. A trained workforce, having expertise in the latest technologies, has developed a vibrant and dynamic freelancing industry in Pakistan.

The freelancing industry in Pakistan is experiencing growth in terms of the number of freelancers and their earnings. Even in the remote areas of Pakistan, such as Gilgit Baltistan, a strong telecom network has resulted in the development of the gig economy in the country's far-flung areas, thus providing viable opportunities to Pakistani freelancers. These freelancers are earning valuable foreign exchange and significantly impact their remote, rural communities as they contribute to expanding the economic ecosystem through white-collar earnings.

These earnings above would not have been possible without freelancing due to limited livelihood opportunities in rural parts of the country for educated youth. It is estimated that, at present, around 200,000 freelancers (those who at least make US\$ 100 a month for the past three months) are working from Pakistan. Pakistani freelancers have earned US\$ 363 million of the current FY 2020-21, compared to US\$ 214 million in the same period last year, a growth rate of over 100%. Pakistan is home to 200+ by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC) recognized universities, which oversees funding, research outputs, and teaching quality. This results in generating more than 25,000 yearly graduates in the latest technologies, which fuels the gig economy growth in Pakistan.

The first-ever freelancer facilitation policy has been developed with input from all relevant stakeholders and is currently in the finalization stage. The Government is working steadfastly with all stakeholders to enhance the growth of the gig economy in Pakistan and thus enhance the contribution of freelancers as independent white-collar workers. It is estimated that Pakistani freelancers' earnings may reach US\$ 1 billion within three years with proper sustenance. Pakistan is ideal for digital nomads. The Government of Pakistan actively

welcomes digital nomads to consider Pakistan as their remote workstation. Pakistan offers everything that digital nomads may be looking for, such as permission to stay for extended periods, internet service, security, great weather, and a low cost of living.

As a bonus, Pakistan offers stunning landscapes and an atmosphere that would take your breath away. It is no wonder then that Pakistan was ranked as world's best holiday destination for 2020, and was also declared as third-highest ranked as the adventure destination for 2020.

As you go through the coffee book, you would note that many successful freelancers are working from the remote/rural parts of the country and not just in the tech hubs of Pakistan, not just in the metropolitan cities of Pakistan such as Islamabad/Rawalpindi, Lahore, Karachi and Faisalabad. This coffee book is intended to celebrate the achievements of Pakistan's freelancers. You would notice that many of these freelancers are based in the remotest parts of Pakistan providing services to clients worldwide. Pakistani freelancers may not be glamorous or have larger-than-life personalities, but they contribute to Pakistan's economy through foreign exchange earnings and thus contribute to their local communities. They are the technopreneurs and the unsung heroes of Pakistan.



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Writing a book about the success stories of freelancers was quite an extraordinary and inspiring experience in itself. The PSEB team: **Ms. Tayyaba Ameer, Ms. Maria Sani, and Ms. Hafsa Khalid** played a monumental role in shaping up the book. Their editorial help, keen insight, and ongoing support in bringing these stories to life is highly noteworthy. Their efforts to collect information from freelancers and communicate with them to design an "eXtra Ordinary coffee table book" based on facts and figures are commendable. They worked hard in corresponding with the freelancers, and verifying their stories to make the book authentic. We are also extremely thankful to **Ms. Sharon Shahid** for her arduous efforts in proofreading and editing the book. Her writing prowess is remarkable and her efforts to make the book flawless are certainly praiseworthy.

We are grateful to **Punjab Information Technology Board and Ms. Salma Noreen** for their efforts in coordinating with the freelancers' community and bringing brilliant stories to our attention. In addition, we also extend our gratitude to **Mr. Muhammad Khurram Toor** for designing this book beautifully, and we would like to appreciate two young boys, **Nebhan and Kenan**, for designing our logo tech destination Pakistan.

Images used in this book to represent the cities of Pakistan are mostly taken from freely available resources, and others are purchased images from Shutterstock. No violation of copyrights has been made in this book. We are incredibly grateful to those who have given stunning pictures used in this book as free sources. This book could not have been possible without your work.



Ms. Tayyaba Ameer



Ms. Maria Sani



Ms. Hafsa Khalid

Charminar Chowrangi,
Bahadurabad, Karachi



Charminar Chowrangi built in Bahadurabad, Karachi in 2007. It is located in the Civic Centre zone in the Gulshan Town. It was originally inhabited by middle class Hyderabad Muslim refugees from Hyderabad Deccan who migrated after the creation of Pakistan in 1947 (Source; Wikipedia)

Sindh

Endowed with coastal access, Sindh is a major center of economic activity in Pakistan. It has a highly diversified economy ranging from heavy industries and finance centered in Karachi to a substantial agricultural base in the Indus. Sindh has the second-largest economy in Pakistan and is thus home to a large portion of the industrial sector in the country.

Manufacturing in the province includes machine products, cement, plastics, and other goods. The province also has significant automobile manufacturing companies like Suzuki and Toyota, fisheries and shipyards, petroleum companies, the most prominent textile

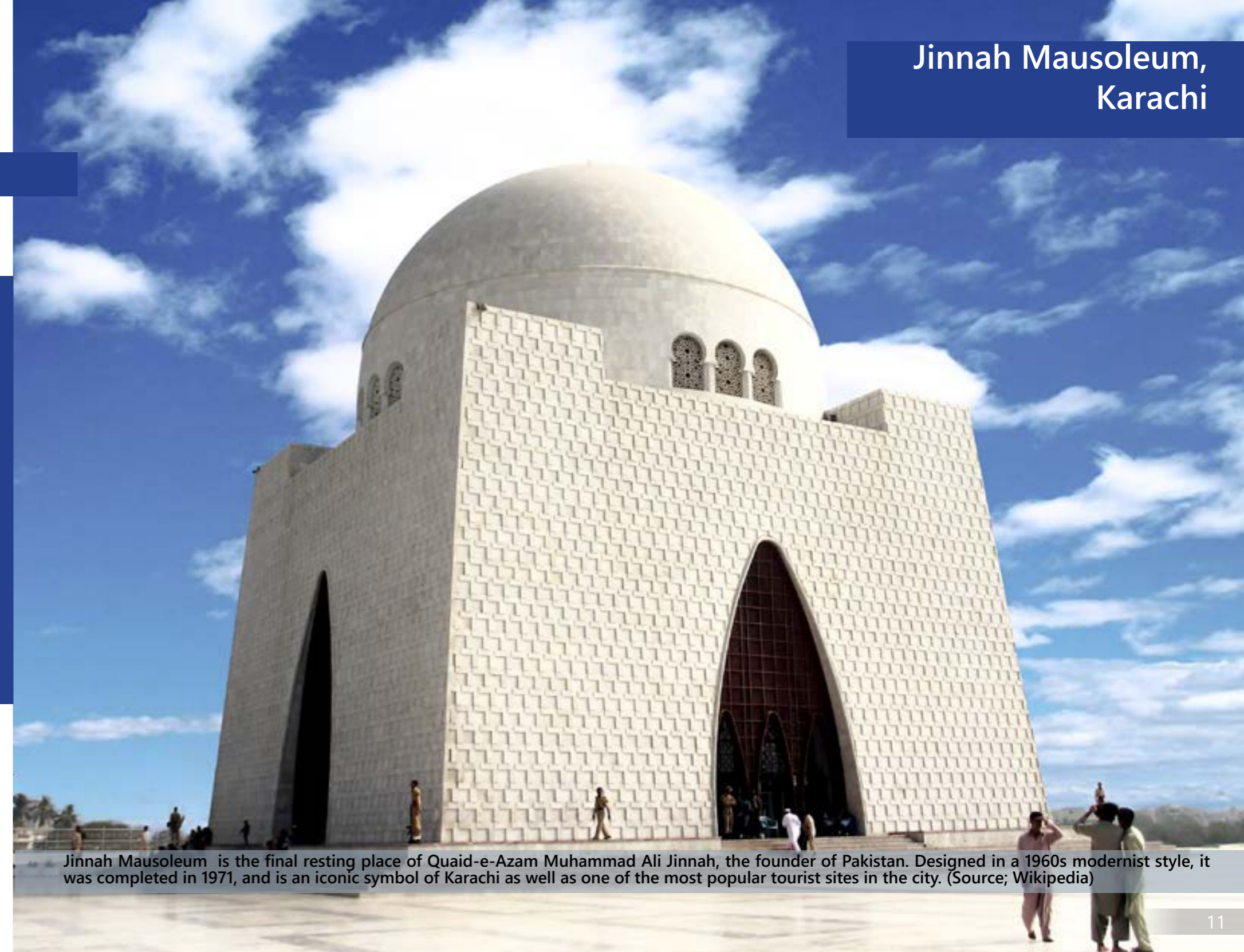
industry in the country, and has two of the most extensive industrial areas of Pakistan: Mangopeer and SITE. Sindh is the home of the two busiest commercial seaports: Port Qasim and Port Karachi. It is also the highest contributor to income tax in the total income tax collection.

Karachi, the capital of Sindh, is the largest city of Pakistan and is the third-largest city in the world, according to megacitiesproject.org. As a result, the city offers various traditions, cuisines, and languages for any visitor, luring them with its diversity, brilliant architectural heritage, and history.

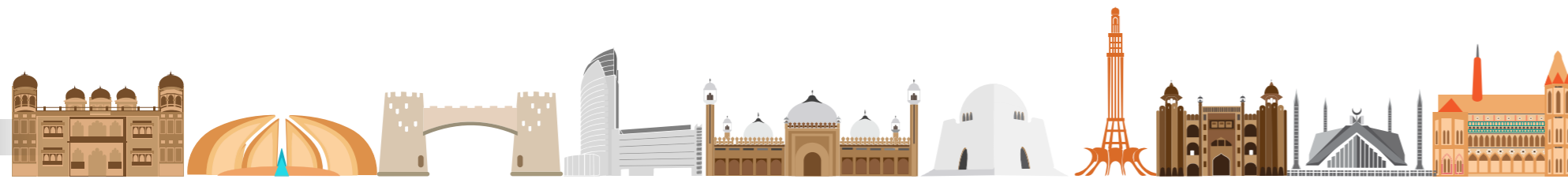
The city is home to principal international and national airline offices and multinational corporations. In Karachi, Pakistan Stock Exchange is the oldest and largest stock exchange in the country, but it was also declared one of the top Asian stock markets and the fifth best-performing stock index internationally by Bloomberg Report 2016.

Fun Fact: A Pakistani Christian man, Parvez Henry Gill, built a 140 ft. long Christian Cross at "Gora Qabristan Cemetery" in Karachi, Asia's biggest Christian Cross in a city where 90% of the people are Muslims.

Jinnah Mausoleum, Karachi



Jinnah Mausoleum is the final resting place of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan. Designed in a 1960s modernist style, it was completed in 1971, and is an iconic symbol of Karachi as well as one of the most popular tourist sites in the city. (Source; Wikipedia)



Clifton Beach, also known as Sea View, in Karachi, Sindh, is located on the Arabian Sea. It stretches from Karachi to Ormara (Balochistan). The beach is very popular in Pakistan. It is open 24/7 for the general public. Karachi is the most prominent coastal city of Pakistan and beach lovers here have many opportunities to visit different beaches bordering the Arabian Sea. Clifton Beach is purported to give the best value in leisure and recreational opportunities for fun seekers and beach lovers. (Source; Wikipedia)

Frere Hall, Karachi



Frere Hall is a building in Karachi, Pakistan that dates from the early British colonial era in Sindh. Completed in 1865, Frere Hall was originally intended to serve as Karachi's town hall, and now serves as an exhibition space and library. (Source; Wikipedia)

HAFSA NASEEM- KARACHI

Age: 30 Years
Years of Freelancing: 10 Years
Area of Specialization: Content Development,
Copy Writing

When working on the laptop was called "hawaai rozi", (unpredictable income), and, 'freelancer' was a term someone in a social gathering could hardly understand, that was the time when I started freelancing. It was by fate that one of my friends asked me to write an article for publication. I enjoyed writing, so I wrote it gladly.

At the time, I did not know where this would lead. I got an overwhelming appreciation for my first article, and since then there was no looking back. From being a freelance writer, I rose to manage a team, a website, and an online portal that facilitated freelance writers worldwide. The work was stressful and tiring. Many days, I only got a few hours of sleep at night. With a toddler in tow, it wasn't always easy. Some days, I could barely breathe amidst all my responsibilities. That said, my work had become my passion by that time. I enjoyed it, and felt alive while doing it.

So I began finding ways to establish harmony amongst my many responsibilities. I managed to balance my family life alongside my career - a passion that helped me grow emotionally and professionally. While writing articles, managing content, sifting through articles and research, and practicing content marketing, I found myself.

Pakistan has now witnessed more women contributing to its economy than ever before. It is a moment of pride for me being a woman, witnessing how empowered women have become with time. A financially independent woman is not only strong and confident, but also becomes courageous to stand in the face of adversity, securing a future for herself and her children. If I can contribute even the tiniest bit and do my part in assisting my family and country, I believe I am empowering the nation as a whole. I now run a community of women wherein I train them the skills I have learnt over the years, so they too can become financially strong and successful.

I believe in the power of positive thinking. It can change lives dramatically, and you can only see water in a glass if you believe that the glass is full. To succeed in any aspect of life including building your career as a freelancer, you need to adopt a positive mindset. There will be times when you may not find a client easily, and times when a client may not be happy with your work. If you keep persevering, and improving yourself, great results will pour in too, and you will accomplish your targets.

Another rule I advise everyone to follow is to never hesitate to look for what brings you pure joy, and most of all, give back to your family, society, and the world around you. The good in this world will always return to you.





ANNUS AWAN-KARACHI

Age: 13 Years

Years of Freelancing: 1 Year

Area of Specialization: UI/UX Designing

Gathering the stories of these brilliant freelancers led us to meet a very young and passionate freelancer who started his freelancing career at an unbelievably young age. During Covid 19 lockdown, many of us ended up binge-watching our favorite shows and playing video games. Annus ended up exploring a whole new world of skills.



It is hard to believe that Annus had such a mature mind to envision the future. Due to his interest in the field, he started learning web development on Openclassrooms (A platform for online learning). After exploring various areas like HTML and CSS, he realized that somehow that wasn't where his passion lied, so he gravitated towards some more areas. With the help and guidance from his brother, he explored UI/UX designing and ultimately developed a keen interest in this field.

Gradually, he brushed up his skills, and his UI/UX designing prowess grew with time. He began hunting projects on freelance marketplaces and soon landed many high-paying projects. Using his skills, he has managed to earn the US \$400 and is currently working on more competitive projects that are monumentally contributing towards his growth.

While talking about the challenges he faced in the start, and often still faced, Annus said, 'Some challenging situations I faced were unnecessary criticism from family as they assumed that I was wasting my time. Relatives used to mock me for being hooked to the computer for hours and not doing anything meaningful. However, my success spoke louder than any words could and proved them wrong. When they finally realized I was earning online, their attitude towards me changed.

They support me now, and I am happy that people have started to believe in me.' In addition, he believes that load shedding, internet issues, and similar factors have made it difficult to work smoothly.

He cannot open a bank account as he does not have a CNIC yet, which is another obstacle he struggles with to boost his freelancing career further. Our little champ gave a piece of precious advice to all those who want to venture into freelancing and carve a mark for themselves. He said, "The most significant character traits that helped me are consistency, hard work, and motivation. To be successful in any walk of life, you need to build the same virtues in yourself. The biggest motivation for me was my vision to help Muslims and my beloved country Pakistan. I hope I will be able to do great things for my country and the Muslims worldwide."

<https://www.fiverr.com/annusawan>

The Young UI/UX Designer



Port Grand Food Street, Karachi



Port Grand is a recreational area built in Karachi, along the waterfront of the 19th century Native Jetty Bridge that connects the Karachi Port Trust to Keamari. The project was a result of joint efforts made by the Karachi Port Trust and a private company Grand Leisure Corporation. The complex is a hub of shopping, dining, cultural and coastal recreational activities in the city. (Source; Wikipedia)

Mohatta Palace, Karachi

The Mohatta Palace is a museum located in Karachi, Sindh, Pakistan. Designed by Agha Ahmed Hussain, the palace was built in 1927 in the posh seaside locale of Clifton as the summer home of Shivratan Mohatta, a Hindu Marwari businessman from what is now the modern-day Indian state of Rajasthan. The palace was built in the tradition of stone palaces of Rajasthan, using pink Jodhpur stone in combination with the local yellow stone from nearby Gizri. Mohatta could enjoy this building for only about two decades before the partition of India, after which he left Karachi for the new state of India. (Source; Wikipedia)



Tharparker Desert, Sindh



Tharparkar also known as Thar, is a district in Sindh province in Pakistan headquartered at Mithi. The district is the largest in Sindh, and has the largest Hindu population in Pakistan. (Source; Wikipedia)

SAJAD HUSSAIN- NAGARPARKER

Age: 20 Years
Years of Freelancing: 3 Years
Area of Specialization: Off-page SEO / Linkbuilding

He is currently freelancing his services in the areas of off-page SEO and link building. The 20 years old male found his career and explored his skills by residing in an underdeveloped area known for lack of good medical facilities, insufficient internet connections, and lack of food supply.



Sajad says, 'I belong to an impoverished family. I was a bright student in my school life, and my dream was to become a successful engineer, but our lives shifted with significant ups and downs. My father had a great loss in 2017; his business collapsed, affecting his mental health. In this challenging time, our relatives left us at the corner of the shore, and we were all alone without any help.

I somehow managed to complete my matriculation and could not continue due to unaffordability."

He started working on YouTube in 2017, following many freelancers and bloggers who started from YouTube. In the start, he did not succeed because it's very tough to make money through the medium. He also learned few skills after he was unsatisfied with his YouTube work. Sajad says, "I kept going and worked part-time later after completing my matriculation; I served my complete devotion and time to the online world and started learning new skills. SEO was the first skill that I learned from an outdated SEO course, but it was not helpful. That's why I decided to learn from someone who could teach me updated SEO and help me to improve my skills.

He somehow managed to join a training course; he gained more confidence and learned updated SEO tactics. After its completion, he started freelancing on different platforms and found many clients, and now he is making a handsome amount and supporting his family.

Long story short, "In the beginning, I did not have a good internet connection, but my mom helped me and gave me 100 rupees weekly for the internet. She trusted me and supported me for two years. After those two long years of struggle, I was able to make my first earning from my online career." If you believe in Almighty Allah & stay consistent, you will be successful; you don't need too many resources to become a successful person.

Journey from a Desert Dweller to become a SEO Expert



PARDEEP MEGHWAR- MITHI, THARPARKER

Age: 34 Years
Years of Freelancing: 12 Years
Area of Specialization: Domain AfterMarket

Pardeep Meghwar from Mithi Tharparkar was born and raised in a middle-class family with five other siblings, completed primary education from Mithi, and did B.E. Civil MUET Jamshoro Sindh. Pardeep shared, "My father gifted me a computer back in 2002 after taking a loan when I was studying in class 9. I started learning web design online from home when there was 56Kbps internet available in my city. I used to create websites for my friends and myself just for fun.

My freelancing career started when I was doing my BE (Civil). I installed windows and drivers for my neighbors' PC and charged them a minimal amount to fulfill my university and personal expenses. Though I was a Civil Engineering student, I kept my passion alive for the Digital world. In 2009, one of my relatives told me about Google AdSense for monetizing my websites.



<https://www.facebook.com/pmeghwar>, [linkedin/ pardeepmeghwar](https://www.linkedin.com/in/pardeepmeghwar)



The Domain
Aftermarket Expert

I started, then I started writing blogs on technology and began making money through Google AdSense. After a few years, I came to know about Domain Aftermarket. Since then, I have been a full-time domainer. I sold thousands of Domain names in the range of US \$500 to the US \$75,000. I made my whole life with IT freelancing from buying my home, favorite cars, luxuries of life, and international tours. I have been to the UAE for three years. I visited the USA in 2020."

Currently, he runs a domain names consultant company (Domainsta) and digital skills learning academy (iSkillers), where young boys and girls learn technology skills and freelancing.

His message to the youth is, 'Millions of Pakistani young boys and girls use the internet and technology gadgets for entertainment full time. I would suggest them to please spare some time to learn internet skills online and use it as well as their technological gadgets to work online and make money out of it.'

Shiv Parvati Temple, Mithi, Tharparkar



Mithi, is a Taluka and the capital of Tharparkar District in the Sindh province of Pakistan. It became the district headquarter of the Tharparkar District in 1990, after the area's separation from Mirpur Khas. Mithi is one of the very few region in Pakistan where Muslims do not form a majority. (Source; Wikipedia)

ROOSHAN ASLAM- HYDERABAD



Age: 26 Years
Years of Freelancing: 6 Years
Area of Specialization: Logo Designing

Design is not a thing to do; it's a way of life. That is why I emphasize creating a culture and shaping values that ultimately determine the future of businesses and brands. Rooshan Aslam, a Graphics designer by profession, while elaborating his freelance journey, said, 'It has been about five years since I completed my graduation, and by the grace of Almighty Allah, I entered into freelancing. Like many other freelancers, I started from zero. It's not an overnight success, and it takes a lot of courage, dedication, patience, and persistence to get to that level where I am today. After graduation, like thousands of students, I was lost in starting my career somehow. The jobs that I was offered weren't worthy enough considering my education, and I was so frustrated to see that those working for their living were unable to raise their living standards. So it was a challenging situation for me.

After extensive research and learning from a well-known institute in his city, he started practicing freelancing. "It was a blind shot from myself because I didn't know where it would lead my life, but I had faith that I would be working in a better way to support my family. I lost my father years back, so as the elder one, I had to go for something remarkable that would change our lives." Recalling his old days.

He further added that "countless hours and efforts resulted in my bright future. At the start, I was not getting that much support because it's a billion-dollar industry marked by cut-throat competition, all ready to take the other down.

The Logo Designer



I felt hopeless that began considering the possibility of quitting this journey and looking for a permanent day job, but my mother and siblings supported me very well, and I continued my journey and effort with more enthusiasm."

Then over time, he started getting results and developing professional quality in his work, and his expectations started rising even higher with time. He is ranked as the No. 1 Logo Designer in Pakistan and scored 50th position globally in the "Design Crowd platform." He has accomplished many dreams through freelancing, and the journey is still going on.

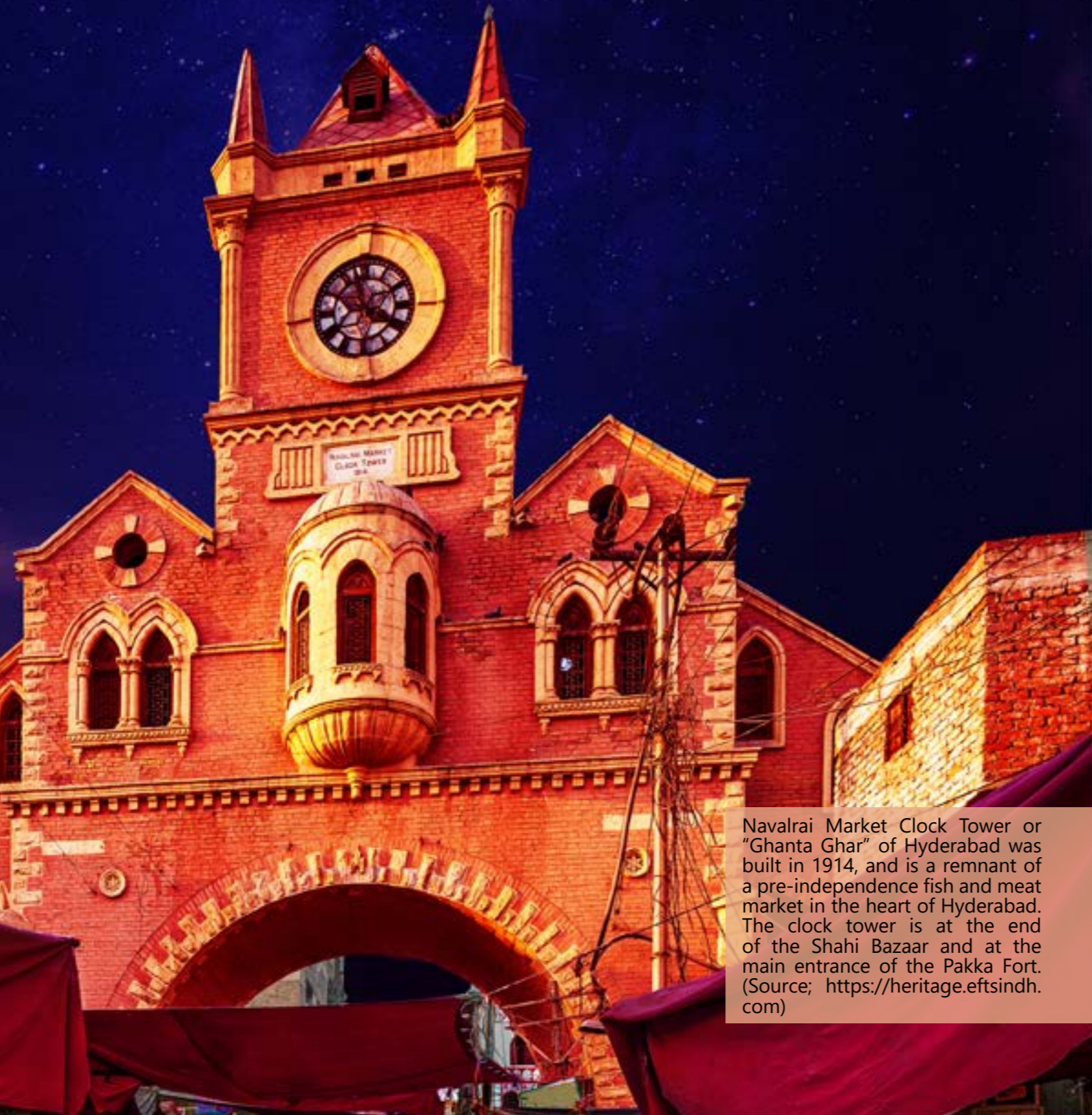
While advising young fellows, he said, it is not an overnight success formula. Suppose you ask me in one line about how you can become successful in the freelance market; it has a simple formula, "**Patience + Consistency + Hard work = Success.**"

Mukhi Mahal, Hyderabad



The Mukhi House or Mukhi mahal, in reality, is like a castle which is one of the historic buildings in Hyderabad Sindh, a beautiful example of arcticture art was built around 1921 by an influential Hindu Sindhi family famously known as JETHA NAND MUKHI. It was under the supervision of the department of archaeology, after a decision taken by supervision in government, they decided to build a museum in it. (Source; Tripadvisor.com)

Navalrai Market Clock Tower, Hyderabad



Navalrai Market Clock Tower or "Ghanta Ghar" of Hyderabad was built in 1914, and is a remnant of a pre-independence fish and meat market in the heart of Hyderabad. The clock tower is at the end of the Shahi Bazaar and at the main entrance of the Pakka Fort. (Source; <https://heritage.eftsindh.com>)

ADIL GHANI- HYDERABAD

Age: 36 Years
Years of Freelancing: 13 Years
Area of Specialization: Web Development and
Virtual Assistance

I believe in being persistent towards your goal, constantly motivating yourself, and being optimistic during life's uncertainties. These virtues are now the pillars of my lifestyle.



These lessons were learned the hard way, and the journey up to this point has been bitter-sweet. We may have come a long way in career developments and advancements, but we still have a long way to go in making this world a comfortable space for the differently-abled fellows. It is no secret that our regular jobs are not accommodating special needs people as much as they should. Most of them end up doing minimum wage jobs or depending on others even if they don't want to. In my early childhood, I suffered from an illness that severely affected my health and left school.

CEO of Ghani
Business Solutions

This incident showed me the true colors of many friends and family. I faced ruthless taunts and inhumane behaviors towards me. People always told me how I could not be successful and achieve my goals. Everyone was against my further studies, and I faced much retaliation. However, I always listened to my inner voice that said, "You will face many defeats in life, but never let yourself be defeated." All the hardships proved to be a blessing in disguise. I quickly realized most people are only fair-weather friends, and to succeed; I have to be my own applauder. I motivated myself by turning the negativity into my fuel. I changed the taunts of, "You cannot do this" to positive suggestions that said, "I am the only one who can do this." With this self-motivation, I stimulated myself and began studying from home.

Later on, after much cynicism, I was admitted to a different school where I remained an outstanding student. I had one dream, to accomplish my MBA degree, and I had decided to focus only on that. Even after excelling in school, I faced the same skepticism when I was to pursue advanced studies. I faced rejections and denial once again. Although I did not get admission to many colleges, I powered through and completed my MBA from HiAST, Hyderabad.

I started my freelancing career 13 years back alongside my job at HiAST. I quickly assembled a virtual team, which later turned into a virtual software house, and delivered projects. After 11 years, in 2019, I opened my own startup office and successfully ran it for two years. I have secured many international and national clients who believe in me and maintain long-term relations with me. Throughout this journey, my most significant support has been my family, specifically my parents. Their prayers kept me from falling, and later on, my wife, whose continuous support and hard work helped me accomplish all that I have.



Kotri Barrage between Hyderabad and Jamshoro



Kotri Barrage, also known as the Ghulam Muhammad Barrage, is a barrage on the Indus River between Jamshoro and Hyderabad in the Sindh province of Pakistan. The barrage was completed in 1955 and was inaugurated by Ghulam Muhammad. It is used to control water flow in the Indus for irrigation and flood control purposes. (Source; Wikipedia)

IBTIHAJ SHAIKH- HYDERABAD

Age: 26 Years

Years of Freelancing: 7 Years

Area of Specialization: Graphics designing

Whenever I fell, I saw myself in the mirror and asked myself about my achievements and how far I had come. This strategy helped me a lot to keep moving forward. In my career of seven years, I never took a single day off. I work even on my birthdays and special occasions. If you want to be successful, be



consistent in pursuing your goals. Empty pockets and the aim to earn money for survival landed me in the online world, as narrated by 26 years old guy Ibtihaj Shaikh from Hyderabad. 'Since childhood, I was passionate about fine arts & my drawings were pasted on the walls of my class. However, as I grew up, I lost interest in the fine arts. Computers were the 'new cool', so my interest shifted from Arts to Computer, and I became a computer geek. So my parents encouraged me to choose the software engineering field to help me pursue my interest. In his early days, Ibtihaj never thought to be a freelancer, but a survivor in society, so he became financial support for his family.

"Due to low grades, I didn't qualify for a local university and could not afford the fee of private institutions to earn technical knowledge. My mother sold her jewelry so I could get admission and study the field of my interest. After completing my certifications, I did not find any means of earning online other than a software house that offered me a 5000 Rupees job. I also ran a small shop, where I sold confectionery, french fries & samosas, and repaired old computers."

Realizing something is better than nothing, he joined that software house to become a salaried person, but destiny had written a different story for him. On the way to the office, he escaped from death in an accident and fractured his foot. After one month, when he decided to rejoin, the company refused to accept him for not being creative enough. Dejected and demotivated, he began losing all hope. "Regaining my courage, I decided to try my luck again on freelance platforms and got paid US\$20 against my first assignment. That was when my golden period started, and I never looked back".

Success sometimes does not knock on the door; it just happens. A man who saw the worst financial conditions became an inspiration. Now he is an owner of two design companies, 'I Creative Creations' & "Afhama Studios," ranking in the top 50 worldwide & ranking top 5 in Pakistan. Through my experience, I have learned that many people may have a passion for graphic design but are not financially stable enough to follow their passion. I was financially struggling; however, I was blessed enough to have an extraordinary support system behind me to help me achieve my goals and aspirations. I never thought I would be blessed enough to turn my passion into a full-time career. I know that many others are financially struggling and have a passion for graphic design. I decided to make a YouTube channel with free tutorials on how to use software and illustrations. I decided to do this because I have had the opportunity to turn my dreams into reality.

<https://www.fiverr.com/afhamastudios>

CEO of I Creative Creations &
Afhama Studios



I often used to think of, "What if someone else was in my shoes and starting to find interest in this field? What would I do to help? How would I serve the community and people who have the same dream as me?" That's when I thought of creating a YouTube channel to help support struggling people the way I did. I have walked through this path, and I know the hardships that come along the journey. Even if one person gains courage or learns something from my videos, I feel like I have pushed them closer to where they want to be. Success is not me doing better; it is us doing better, said Ibtihaj.

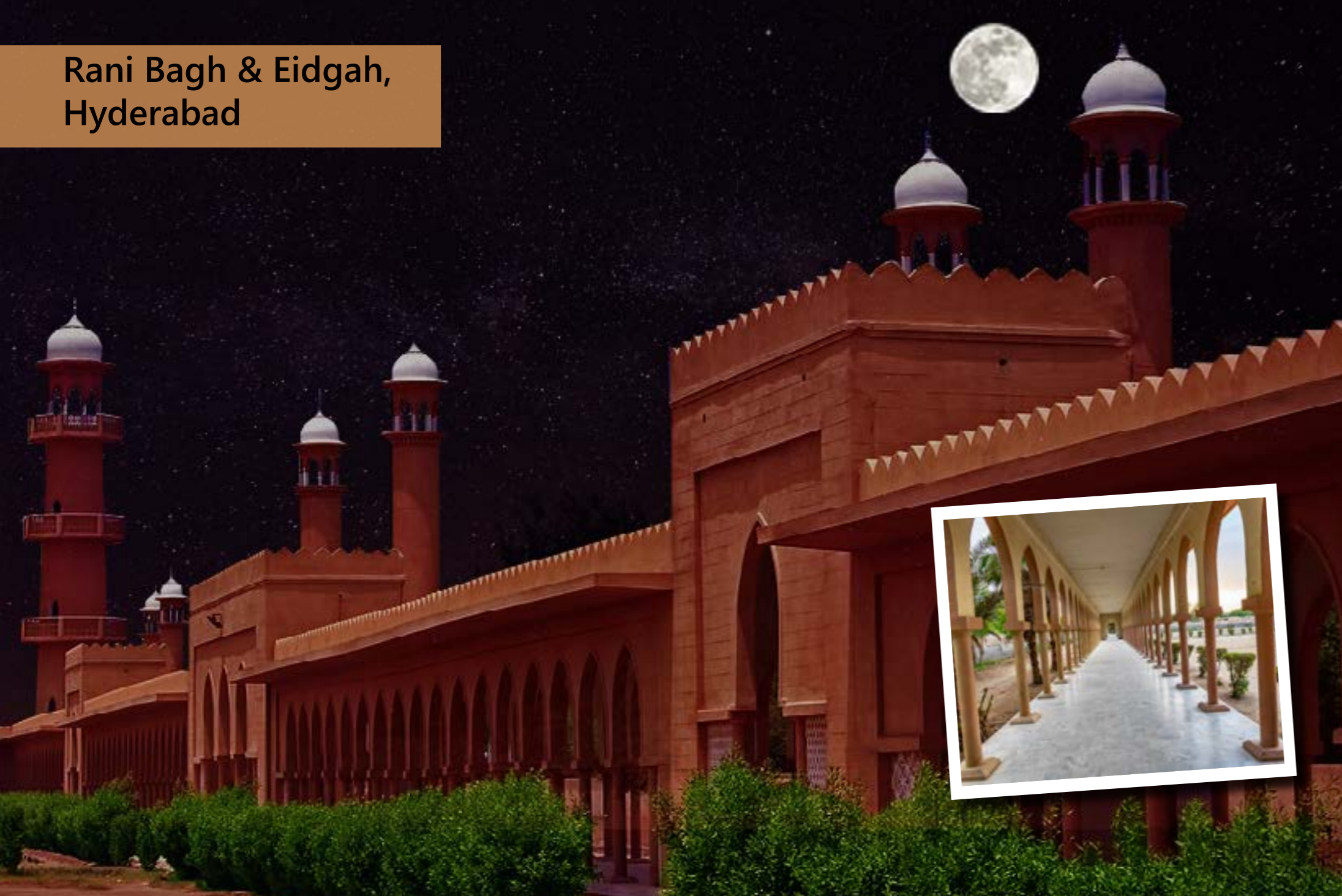
When asked to advise the newcomers, he said, "As you embark on your new journey, there will be times when you doubt yourself, break down, or do not know what you are doing. Just remember it is okay to have these feelings; it is okay to feel uncomfortable. Here are a few tips that I have learned: be grounded and stubborn; you won't always get it on the first try, so get some fresh air, go for a walk, and come back to try again. Learn to prioritize and sacrifice, and lastly, remember this is your dream, so fight for it."

Hyderabad's Badshahi Bungalow



Hyderabad's The Badshahi Bungalow is the Palace of Prince Mir Hassan Ali Khan Talpur, the son of the last ruler of Hyderabad Mir Naseer Khan Talpur. This Palace is located in Tando of Talpur Mirs in Latifabad Unit No. 4. This historic palace of Talpur Mirs was constructed in 1863 AD. (Source; <http://heritage.eftsindh.com/>)

Rani Bagh & Eidgah, Hyderabad



The Rani Bagh (Queen's Garden), previously Das Garden, is a zoological garden located in Hyderabad City. The garden was re-christened in honor of Queen Victoria. It was established as a botanical garden in 1861 by the then Ago-horticultural Society. Rani Bagh is spread over 58 acres (23 ha) of land, divided into four parts. (Source; Wikipedia)

NABEELA MUGHAL-HYDERABAD

Age: 32 Years
Years of Freelancing: 8 Years
Area of Specialization: Web Development, SEO, Graphics Designing

The "Laundry Check In" is a startup associated with 32-year-old Nabeela Mughal from Hyderabad, who is a renowned freelancer, and runs a successful startup. She has done M. Com and nurtures a keen interest in Information technology. She works as an MIS in charge as well as a webmaster in an institute, and also has her freelance clients.



Sharing her journey with us, Nabeela said, "Life is not easy for anyone. I, too, faced many hurdles in life, but every time a problem came my way, I overcame it with resilience. I applied for many Government and private jobs, but since I am differently abled, many organizations perceived it as my disability and did not give me a positive response. Despite these challenges, I never lost hope and kept pushing myself forward and applied for many job interviews.

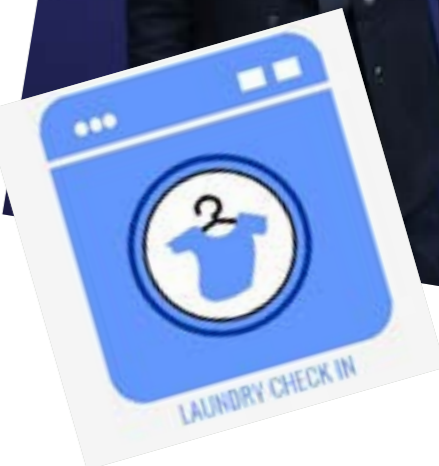
I wanted to get a well-paid job and live an independent life like many other people I admired, but I did not easily find people who believed in me. Instead of evaluating my skills, employers and companies used to reject me due to my apparent disability."

When all doors were closed, she started freelancing her services to bear her expenses. Freelancing too requires investment such as internet and laptops. Talking about those issues, she said, "I started sewing and designing to stock some pocket money and save money. Finally, I was able to buy a laptop with my savings. I was delighted at that time as I could then start my freelancing career as a Data Operator. I am currently earning PKR 12000 for six hours a week. In addition, I also work as a teacher in a computer centre so I can empower more people with skills and knowledge to build a career for themselves."

Besides her freelance activities, she has a keen interest in launching and running a startup. She offers many freelance services like graphics designing, SEO, office documentation, web designing, and web development. She also has a startup name as "Laundry Check-In". She also pitched her startup in various competitions and became a prize winner in the Sukkur University competition in 2018, out of 240 participants.

Nabeela has gone through many setbacks in life, including lacking support from loved ones, but none of those struggles dampened her spirits. She aims to be a successful entrepreneur and an inspiration for many women, the youth, women and differently-abled people. We wish her the best of luck with her "Laundry Check-In" app.

The Laundry Check In



Lansdowne Bridge,
between Sukkur and Rohri



The Lansdowne Bridge is a 19th-century bridge that spans the Indus River between the cities of Sukkur and Rohri, in the Sindh province of Pakistan. When completed in 1889, the bridge was the «longest rigid girder bridge in the world.» The Ayub Bridge was built immediately adjacent to the bridge in 1962, and so photographs of the Lansdowne Bridge usually also show the Ayub Bridge. (Souce; Wikipedia)

GHULAM MUJTABA AZHAR-SUKKUR

Age: 30 Years
Years of Freelancing: 2 Years
Area of Specialization: Front-End Developer

Ghulam Mujtaba Azhar is a graduate from the IBA University, Sukkur. He is a very passionate individual who is focused on working in a diverse team. Talking about his aspirations, he said, 'Learning has always been my priority. I was looking for more reliable and flexible opportunities to serve the community. That's why I started freelancing.' He once harbored the dream to build a

huge and thriving Software Corporation in the Sukkur. When he stumbled upon the concept of freelancing, he knew he was on the right track. During the first lockdown in October 2020, he started his freelancing journey as a Frontend Developer using Bootstrap, CSS, JavaScript, and Reactjs.

Initially, the freelancing platform was new and very challenging for him, but he never gave up and kept trying his luck. Due to limited knowledge and hands-on expertise, he faced many problems while getting his first job.

After burning the midnight oil, he got his first order to develop web pages for an event management company which he delivered with satisfactory performance. Recalling that victory, he exclaimed with excitement, "I got five stars on my first order by my client, which enhanced my confidence to earn more and motivation to work hard."

It also helped me rank my profile higher on that freelancing platform. Due to the excellent quality of my work, firm grip on my skills, and positive ratings from my clients,

I began receiving more orders. My second order was to create a frontend website for the 'Decentralize Credit Score' project. Alhamdulillah, right now, I have a team of 6 members, and on average, I am earning PKR 60,000.' His message for the young freelancers is, "Give quality work to your client, be determined to achieve your goals and be very honest with your skills. You follow this mantra, you will be compensated well for your time, effort and skills. I have seen clients are willing to pay more when they are satisfied with your deliverables."



<https://www.fiverr.com/ghualmmujtaba000>

The Front-End Developer

SARFRAZ AHMED-SUKKUR

Age: 22 Years
Years of Freelancing: 7 Years
Area of Specialization: Software Quality Assurance Specialist

"I have always been an introvert, and found solace in all things games, software, and technology," says Sarfraz Ahmed, a passionate freelance software quality assurance specialist.



It has been over 7 years since he has been working as a freelancer. This journey started when he had to leave his studies (he was pursuing software engineering) because of financial crisis his family struggled with.

He was distraught, but his love for software and technology never died. When one of his friends told him about a software house in Sukkur, he decided to check it out in search of an opportunity to work. That's how he came across the world of freelancing, and decided to explore it. Irrespective of many objections by the family, and stereotypes related to the freelance market, he tried his luck in the field, and worked assiduously to achieve many milestones.

<https://www.fiverr.com/sarfrazahmed1>

Software Quality Assurance Specialist

He began from the famous platform 'Freelancer.' Initially, it was new and very challenging for him because he was not aware of many testing tools, and faced a lot of problems to attain his first project. Eventually, he did find a gig that revolved around creating test cases for a company that managed package deliveries.

'Due to my excellent productivity, good work ethic, and strong commitment with the tendency to perfect everything, I have been successful in earning quite well. My clients have always given me a 5-star rating, and great feedback that have proved to be a huge driving force to help me perform even better, and also facilitated me in landing better gigs,' says Sarfraz.

Continuing his story, he said, 'With time, I began receiving more orders, many of that were from recurrent customers. I have a decent clientele of loyal customers who rely on me for premium quality services. Only last month, my income from different tasks was around US \$400, which is a huge achievement for me.'

His message to the ambitious, new freelancers is, 'I would like to suggest the freshers of this avenue to be professional, have a tendency to perfect everything, and be completely committed to satisfying your clients. Make customer satisfaction your priority. It is only when you focus on this aspect that, you will find clients who pay really well.'



MUHAMMAD KASHIF- MEHRABPUR

Age: 31 Years
Years of Freelancing: 11 Years
Area of Specialization: Full Stack Development

Muhammad Kashif from Mehrabpur, is a Full Stack WordPress Developer, a trainer, a lecturer, a course creator, and a community organizer. He has earned more than US \$200,000 by offering his freelance Web Engineering services only. He got ranked in the Top 2% of WordPress Experts worldwide. In addition to all these credentials and titles, he is a lead organizer of the WordPress Lahore meetup - a local community for WP developers, designers, bloggers and WordPress enthusiasts.



Kashif loves speaking to grand audiences on topics of interest, and is quite a passionate and eloquent speaker. He wants to pay back to society by empowering them with skills and knowledge pertaining to different IT horizons, and has given talks on different events of professional importance on national and international platforms.

<https://codeable.io/developers/muhammad-kashif-meshpros/>
The Web Engineer, Trainer

His freelance journey began 11 years ago when he got bored of the theoretical classes in his college, and aspired to do some engaging, practical work. He made his way to oDesk (now known as Upwork), and since then, there has been no looking back for him. Winning a freelance project was challenging for him in the start. It took him two whole weeks to complete his first-ever freelance project, and unfortunately, he failed due to the lack of practical knowledge.

Instead of giving up, Kashif researched different freelance projects that demanded less technical skills. He landed projects that required building CMS websites such as Joomla and WordPress as Plan B after failing the first project would gradually turn him into him a capable and competent Web Engineer and one of the best WordPress developers around the globe.

His advice to the novices in the field is, 'Customers buy experiences and not the services or products which is why you should focus on making your customers experience as seamless as possible. If you do that, you'd never have to struggle for new customers. Delivering quality work on time and offering matchless customer support is the key to a freelancer's success.'

Kashif responded in a beautiful way when asked for some suggestions for new freelancers in the industry. (He quoted his late grandfather's words); **"Start sharing what you want the most, whether it's money, knowledge, or even a cup of chai (tea), and you will enjoy the results"**. Kashif is happy, satisfied, and very thankful to his Lord for all the blessings he enjoys by choosing freelancing as his career.



Date Palm, Khairpur



Dates fruit mainly grown in the District Khairpur, Sindh. Almost 85% of the Sindh dates are produced in Khairpur alone. Khairpur city is more famous for the date trees/palms, this is why this fruit is also called as the speciality of the city. (Source; <https://gofrixy.com/dates-of-khairpur/>)

Faiz Mahal is a palace in Khairpur, was built by Mir Sohrab Khan in 1798 as the principal building serving as the sovereign's court for the royal palace complex of Talpur monarchs of the Khairpur dynasty. Originally it included the ruler's chambers along with 16 waiting rooms for courtiers and guest rooms for royal guests alongside the durbar and dining halls. Additionally there was the Hathi Khana for the royal elephant and the horses stables where today there is a mango orchard (Souce; Wikipedia)

Faiz Mahal, Khairpur



ABDUL SAMAD MEMON- QAMBAR SHADADKOT

Age: 23 Years
Years of Freelancing: 2 Years
Area of Specialization: Graphics Designing

Abdul Samad belongs to a city of interior Sindh-Qambar-Shahdaddock, where freelancing is alien to the local community. Belonging to a small town made it all the more difficult for him to establish his freelancing career.



While discussing his early freelancing days in November 2019, he said, "I was more into art and creative things. Graphics designing was my hobby, keeping that I pursued freelancing. I was unsure of pursuing it because it was a new experience for me, and I didn't want to jump into the sea without knowing its depth.

Hence, I searched and read many articles and watched videos by successful freelancers about that. Ironically, I got the idea to start my career as a freelancer. Over time, I realized that, deep down, freelancing was what I wanted. That's how I found my dream job, so I entirely focused on it and decided to be a successful freelancer. Alhamdulillah, now I am a successful freelancer and quite self-sufficient."

Abdul Samad faced many challenges at the beginning of his career. It was very tough for him to get clients in the beginning until he learned the art of writing powerful proposals. According to him, excellent English communication and dealing with clients is a significant problem in the industry. Irrespective of his struggle, he was committed to doing well in it, so he worked hard on his expertise in graphic designing and soft skills. He faced many challenges, but his excellent communication skills always paid off to him.

Reminiscing his journey, he said, "I quit my job and prioritized my freelancing career above everything else. Due to my hard work and commitment, I became a Level 2 seller on Fiverr in a small passage of time. I have worked with more than 700 clients worldwide and haven't missed a single deadline because of my commitment. I feel immense pleasure when I see my old clients return to me time and again. Abdul Samad firmly believes in his motto:

"Freelancing taught me time management, work ethics, and the importance of patience. These virtues have helped me become an excellent professional and gave my career a huge boost."

<https://www.fiverr.com/users/samad38>

The Graphics Seller



TANVEER AHMED- GHOTKI

Age: 22 Years
Years of Freelancing: 3 Years
Area of Specialization: Python Automation & Web Development

Tanveer Ahmed from Ghotki, Sindh, is currently enrolled in a BS computer science program at Shah Abdul Latif University, Ghotki campus. He started freelancing after being inspired by his teachers, who were doing wonders in the field.



When asked about his motive to venture into freelancing, he said, My main motive to start freelancing was getting practical experience and improving the skill set that I have been learning in my degree program. After being involved in freelancing, I saw how people only make a small income with their routine jobs and don't get much exposure.

<https://www.freelancer.com/u/mtanveer2012>

A Python Expert



Since I've started freelancing, I have found it an excellent opportunity to broaden my learning horizons and get in touch with diverse skills. Earlier, it was hard as I had no experience working with technical skills and on the well-known freelancing platforms.

Hence, I started working on a single marketplace mainly with non-technical skills but gradually learned new and advanced skills. Meanwhile, I also began providing those services on all the major freelancing marketplaces. As of today, I have completed hundreds of projects worth thousands of US. Dollars with exceptional ratings. These projects aren't limited to individual contractors worldwide, but international companies hire me for their regular projects.

In conclusion, my success was only possible because of those sleepless nights in the initial days that I spent on finding projects, convincing clients, and building my profile on freelancing platforms.

Addressing the new freelancers, he said, "It is the most straightforward way to get into the industry since there are no special requirements for creating a profile. You create it, and you're in, but it is tough for non-experienced newcomers to get projects with a new profile. However, if you work hard, then everything pays off in the end. It's all about consistency. Consistent hard work leads to success."

HAMID MOHAYUDDIN- GHOTKI

Age: 22 Years
Years of Freelancing: 4 Years
Area of Freelancing: Tech YouTuber, Data Entry

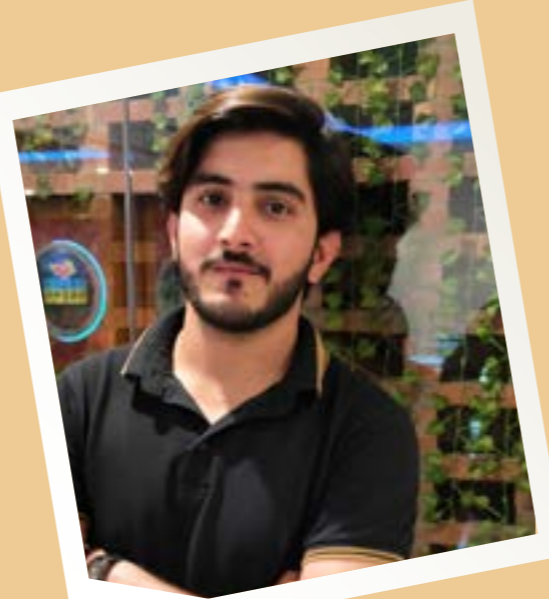
Hamid Mohayuddin, 22 years of age, dweller of Ghotki village, runs his business as a Tech YouTuber with massive electricity problems and has been doing that for the last four years.



“My father died in 2012 just when I achieved 1st position in my 8th class, and all my plans just vanished into thin air as my father was my biggest strength, and he always supported me to get good quality education which was very difficult in our area. It took me some time to recover from the most significant loss of my life, but slowly I realized my responsibilities as the eldest kid in my family, and I started working as a part-time tutor and Data Entry Operator in one of my teachers’ schools. In between. I also started my Tech YouTube channel as I was always interested in Technology, Computers, Smartphones.”

<https://www.fiverr.com/s2/e9d27d517d>

The Tech YouTuber



He worked hard, managed two jobs, and his study also. Usually, he slept at his friend’s house because his village was far from the city. Somehow he passed the Intermediate exams with good marks. He applied to many universities, but he had to choose one that he could easily afford.

“I joined Sindh Agriculture University, and in my spare time, I used to make content for YouTube and try ways to make money online. I started Data Entry with local Clients, managed to cover all my expenses, and now I’m in the final year of my B.Sc. degree with an overall CGPA of 3.8”.

“I recently joined Upwork and many other freelancing sites as a data entry expert. Now I am earning 2-3 projects per month, and I hope they will increase as soon as I get more permanent clients.”

He faces real electricity challenges during his online projects. While charging his electronic devices, he uses solar panels and batteries for laptop charging. Moreover, his family and friends do not believe in online income, so they often taunt him. However, he is determined and will accomplish more feats in life irrespective of the struggles that come his way.

Thanking his family, he says; My family always supported me in my hard times. Now, it’s my time to pay them back. I request all the young freelancers struggling in the industry not to leave hope and keep working hard, whatever the circumstances are.



Power Gen Plant, Ghotki



Powergen Qadirpur Limited owns and operates a 217 MW power plant in Qadirpur, Ghotki and runs on permeate gas which was previously being flared. This unique aspect makes the renowned Powergen Qadirpur plant one of the few green power plants in Pakistan earning carbon credits. (Source; Wikipedia)



Sewing different patches of cloth into a quilt is what makes a ralli and the making is an art in itself. It may take years or a couple of months to acquire the skill but if you have passion coupled with a need to feed your family, it becomes more of a passionate living. (Souce; tribune.com.pk)

**Ralli Traditional Handicrafts
by Ralli Artisans**

Balochistan

Balochistan is the largest province of Pakistan in terms of area. It shares borders with Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to the northeast, Sindh to the east and southeast, the Arabian Sea to the south, Iran to the west, and Afghanistan to the north and northwest.

Balochistan is strategically a vital province for Pakistan because of the high concentration of natural resources, including oil, coal, gold, copper, and gas reserves that generate substantial revenue for the Federal Government. While it is Pakistan's largest province by area, it is the most sparsely populated

region too. The largest city in Baluchistan, Quetta, has a 1.1 million population of the province's total population of 12.34 million.

Balochistan is home to Gwadar port that holds excellent strategic and economic significance for Pakistan. It is situated on the shores of the Arabian Sea in the city of Gwadar, Baluchistan.

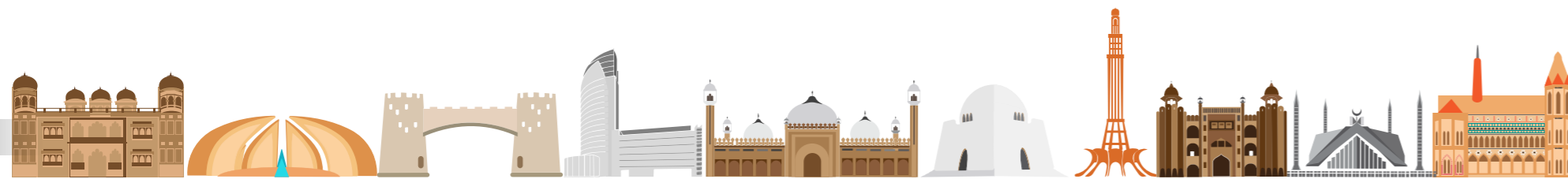
The port is located at a cross-junction of international sea shipping and oil trade routes. Gwadar is being developed rapidly as a global trade hub for Pakistan and is expected to connect three regions, i.e., Central

Asia, South Asia, and the Middle East. The port would help increase Pakistan's trade and commercial activities, particularly in the Baluchistan province. The port is receiving significant investment from China and is at the center of the \$50 billion (€41 billion) China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project.

Fun Fact: The Sulaiman Mountains are the southern extension of the Hindu Kush Range. In Balochistan its highest peak is Zarghun Ghar at 3,578 meters (11,739 ft.)

Chandragrup, The Largest Active Mud Volcano

Chandragup is an active mud volcano located in Hingol National Park in Balochistan, is considered holy by Hindus and is an important stop for pilgrims on their way to the shrine of Shri Hinglaj Mata temple. Baba Chandrakup. The mud volcano is worshipped as an embodiment of the Hindu god Shiva, and called Baba Chandragup. Traditionally, the pilgrim stays awake all night, fasting and meditating on the sins they will confess at the rim the following day. (Souce; Wikipedia)



Cricket Stadium, Gwadar



Beauty of Gwadar is beyond its strategic value. It has the most beautiful cricket stadium of the world. And stunning views of its beach would make the city a tourist attraction in future. (Source; wikipedia)

SHAH NIZAR- GAWADAR

Age: 24 Years

Years of Freelancing: 1.5 Year

Area of Specialization: Java/ Android
Development/ Desktop Application development

Shah Nizar is a brilliant freelancer from Pasni (District Gwadar), Balochistan. He commenced his journey as a freelance IT specialist, and so far, his progress has been great. His technology passion enabled him to build an income stream during his graduate studies and from the comfort of his home.

Recalling his journey, he said, 'I started my online career on Fiverr back in 2019 while studying Software Engineering. I came to know about this platform from one of my best friends. I watched YouTube videos to learn how to use Fiverr and land clients. A laptop and a good internet connection were required to work effectively on Fiverr. Fortunately, I already had both, so starting freelancing wasn't much of a trouble for me.

Plus, the skills required for java development were sufficient for me to start taking projects on Fiverr, so I started a java development course at Quetta Institute. First, I learned Java basic and then studied the advanced course in the same institute that covered almost all the advanced topics required for high-end web development projects.

I started getting local clients and gathered experience through local projects. As my skill improved, I began publishing gigs on Fiverr that ultimately led me towards foreign clients. Working online has been a challenging job for me. Online markets are highly competitive, and content developers get clients on a first come, first-served basis.

The Android Developer



However, the passion I had made sure I never gave up on my goals. I still remember all the long nights I worked on projects because most clients were from the Western time zone. Currently, I am working on one of Pakistan's biggest public sector software projects and will soon publish my research paper, which will be part of my MS Software Engineering Thesis.'

His message to the new entrants in the field is, "Never lose hope and keep trying. At the start, you will face little difficulty because the freelance market is full of competition. Keep trying, keep focusing on your goals and improve your skills. You will succeed. Most importantly, keep learning from your competitors and always improve your skills. Different experiences teach you a lot."



Makran Coastal Highway



The N-10 or National Highway 10 is a 653 km national highway in Pakistan which extends along Pakistan's Arabian Sea coast from Karachi in Sindh province to Gwadar in Balochistan province. It passes the towns of Ormara and Pasni. After completion of the Makran Coastal Highway, the average journey time between Karachi and Gwadar has been reduced to only 6 to 7 hours. (Souce; Wikipedia)

FAISAL AHMED-KECH, TURBAT

Age: 30 Years

Years of Freelancing: 6 Years

Area of Specialization: Machine Learning and Web Development Expert

Faisal Ahmed belongs to Kech, district Turbat, Balochistan. Starting his journey as an IT specialist freelancer has been exciting till now for him. "Being a tech enthusiast, I began earning from the comforts of my home while I was doing my graduation," says Faisal.

He started his online career on Upwork, which was formerly called (Odesk.com) back in 2015. He came to know about this platform from one of his best friends. He watched YouTube videos to learn how to use Upwork and attract clients. A laptop and a good internet connection were required to work effectively on Upwork,, which fortunately he already had.

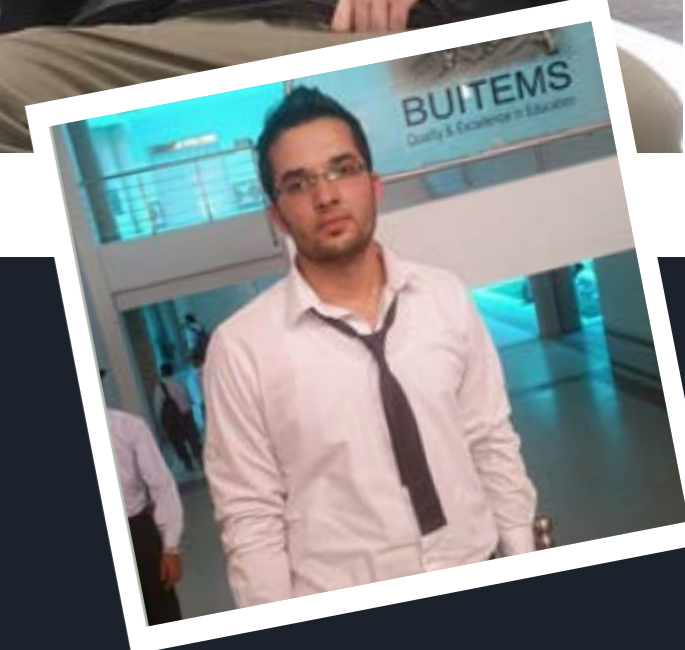
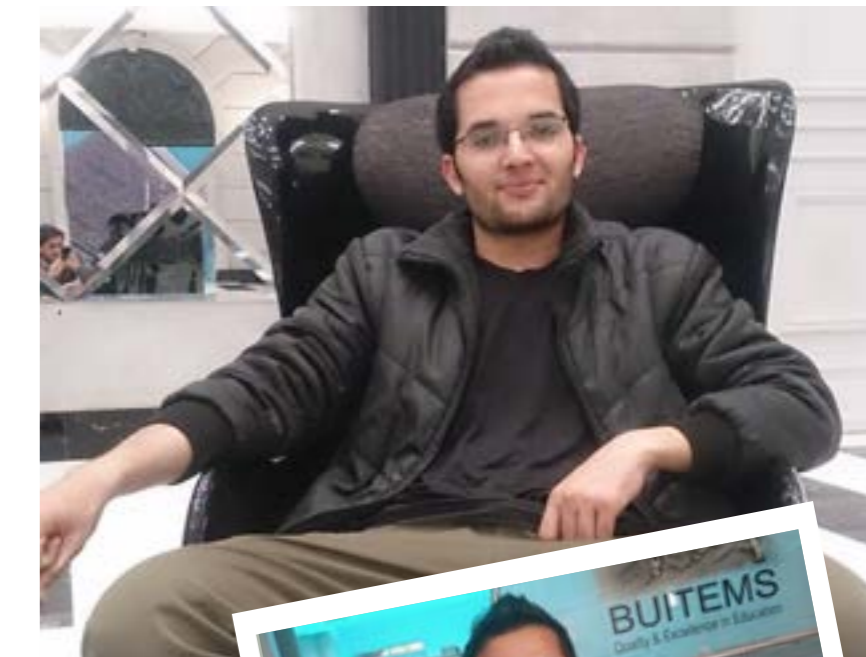
However, the skills required for web development were insufficient to take better web development projects on Upwork, so he began taking online courses to learn the skill. Soon, he became good at it and also updated his profile on Upwork. With time, he began submitting proposals for web-development-related projects and began getting orders.

'Working online has been challenging for me. Online markets are highly competitive, and web developers get clients on a first-come, first-serve basis,' says Faisal. The passion had never stopped me from giving up on my goals. Working at night was also important because most of the clients were from the Western time zone. This was the only way I could submit my proposal before anyone else could.



<https://www.upwork.com/freelancers/~01ab5c5d449183f3ab>

Machine Learning & Web Development Expert



Currently, I am working on one of Pakistan's biggest public sector software projects and will soon publish my research paper on AI, part of my MS Computer Science thesis. Addressing new freelancers, he said, " Never lose hope on hardships, be consistent, and be hardworking; you will achieve your milestone, Insha Allah."

Gawadar Port, Balochistan

The Gawadar City Port situated on the Arabian Sea at Gwadar in Balochistan. The port features prominently in the China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) plan, and is considered to be a link between the Belt and Road Initiative and the Maritime Silk Road projects. (Source; Wikipedia)



HASHIM UMAR-QUETTA

From a Telecom Engineer to a Digital Marketing Specialist



Age: 30 Years
Years of Freelancing: 2 Years
Area of Specialization: Digital Marketing

Muhamad Hashim Umar from Quetta believes that elder brothers at home are naturally responsible for caring for and guiding their younger siblings in our culture. Hashim wasn't any different, so the brother of 7 siblings helped 5 of them to become freelancers. His professional life started the way any other graduate can dream it. He completed his degree as a Telecommunication Engineer, got his dream job, and had a chance to serve the industry for eight years.

The past three years were life-changing for this young freelancer when he started a part-time job in an international Digital Marketing agency. That's how he decided to change his career and jumped into the field of Freelancing on March 26, 2020. Hashim achieved the Top Rated Seller badge on Fiverr in just nine months. Not only that, but 3 of his brothers have a similar profile level on Fiverr. Hashim has no regrets about leaving his well-paid regular job to become a full-time freelancer.

He says, 'Quitting a full-time high-paying job and venturing into the

field freelancing was the most difficult decision in my life, but it paid well.

Alhumdulillah, all praises to Allah." Hashim also revealed his plans of empowering others, 'I have already started a small campaign to pull in the younger generation from Quetta and Balochistan into freelancing. Now that I have achieved some success, I want to inspire more people to do the same with my story". Furthermore, Hashim has already been shortlisted & interviewed by "e-Rozgaar" as a trainer.

He is already on his way to create a broader impact. His advice to young

freelancers; "People need to have a leap of faith to scale and break the chains- you always need to test your limits and keep thinking on how to go beyond them."

Not only has Hashim achieved success in freelancing for himself, but he also made sure to encourage his two younger brothers to do the same. Upon his motivation, his brothers too began freelancing and have many successful projects to their credit. The three brothers are Top Rated Sellers on Fiverr and are proud of their family.

Mehrabad Valley, Quetta



Quetta is the provincial capital and largest city of the Province of Balochistan in Pakistan. It is also the 10th largest city of Pakistan. The city is known as the Fruit Garden of Pakistan, due to the numerous fruit orchards in and around it, and the large variety of fruits and dried fruit products produced there. (Source; Wikipedia)

HANNA LAKE, URAK VALLEY-QUETTA



Hanna Lake is in the hills close to where the Uruk Valley begins, 17 kilometres east from Quetta city. The reservoir was constructed in 1894 during the British Colonial era on the land of local tribesmen, and is one of the main attractions in the city. It forms a great historical bridge wall between two mountains, the depths like battlements of a fort, for the storing of water. (Source; Wikipedia)

WAQAS KHAN-QUETTA

<https://www.upwork.com/o/profiles/users/~013001ed37b9012a13/>

Age: 26 Years
Years of Freelancing: 1.5 Years
Area of Specialization: Android Development and Data Analysis

Waqas Khan belongs to Quetta, one of the five provincial capitals in Pakistan, where extremely restrictive social norms exacerbate the poor living conditions.

He said, 'My family has always emphasized the importance of education despite firmly believing in cultural traditions. Their dedication and support enabled me to pursue higher education, a rare occurrence in the kind of family I belong to. I chose to join the Software Engineering department at the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering, and Management Science (BUITEMS) because I had already found my passion for programming in high school.

I had polished my programming skills in JAVA, android applications, and blogging mobile applications, which helped me undertake multiple projects within my first semester compared to my peers. During my bachelor's, I spent most of the time coding and solving various problems and helping others understand the basic concepts of procedural programming and object-oriented programming. Afterward, I started freelancing on Upwork.

He highlighted with the saddest heart that Quetta has a significantly less job ratio than significant cities of Pakistan.

Instead of moving to a metropolitan city, he chose freelancing as his career while living in Quetta. In the beginning, it was challenging for him to hunt projects at freelancing portals, but after several attempts, he accepted a low-paid job to push the profile ratings.

After that, his journey progressed, and currently, he is a 'Top-Rated Freelancer' at Upwork- one of the most popular freelancing platforms. His target now is to achieve a 'To-Rated Plus' badge on the platform. The work goes very smoothly, and currently, he has become a top-rated freelancer at Upwork, and his objective is to achieve a top-rated plus batch on Upwork.

Furthermore, he pushed two of his colleagues to become young freelancers, and now they are working as android and web developers in multinational companies as full-time employees.

My message to new freelancers is, "Become your boss. Be passionate to learn the client's requirements to progress. Always learn from best practices, design principles, and design patterns."



The Android Developer and a Data Analyst

IZHAR AHMED KASI- QUETTA

Age: 30 Years
Years of Freelancing: 5 Years
Area of Specialization: Content Writing &
Academic Research

Izhar Ahmed Kasi, a 30 years old male from Quetta, Balochistan, shared his story of earning five figures while sitting at my home in a far-flung village of Quetta where the internet and electricity are terrible. In such circumstances, working online has never been an easy job.



He started his online career at Fiverr in 2016. He became aware of freelancing through social media. In the beginning, he watched YouTube videos and joined Facebook groups to learn how to use Fiverr and attract clients. "To work effectively on Fiverr, I needed a laptop, but due to the unavailability of sufficient capital, I borrowed some money from my friends and relatives and managed to buy my laptop," He said. However, getting a laptop was just the tip of the iceberg. Due to weak internet speed, he would spend an hour watching a five-minute video on YouTube.

The process was very hectic and time-consuming, but he did not give up. With time and patience, he created exciting gigs on Fiverr and started getting proposals. He also acquired the first client and around 120 proposals after three months of working on Fiverr.

"Working online has been a challenging job for me. Online markets are highly competitive, and content developers get clients on a first-come, first-served basis. However, due to lack of electricity and sufficient internet speed, it has been hard to connect with potential clients. Often, by the time my proposals reached clients, they would have already hired another seller. I used to check different spots at home to see where internet signals were strong. I used to stay awake all night as the internet signals used to be strong at night due to less traffic load. There was a spot on my house's lawn where I received good internet signals, and I used to sit there to complete my projects. Due to the cold weather, my hands often became numb, and I remember shivering at night many times."

However, I chose to withstand those harsh conditions as I did not have any other choice, and my priority was always to deliver an excellent product on time to my clients. Another major issue that I encountered was my lack of written and spoken English fluency, which made it difficult for me to communicate with clients easily and conveniently understand technological apps and platforms. I belong to a village where no one has ever heard about the term 'English,' let alone speaking it. I can safely say that I am the only person who can speak and understand English in my village. I used to talk in English with domestic animals at home as they wouldn't mock me for what I was doing.

<https://www.fiverr.com/izharkasi>
Journey of Becoming a Successful
Freelance Content Writer



Talking to family and friends in English was not a good idea as they would make fun of me and label me as a 'lunatic.' Similarly, due to the unavailability of electricity, my digital gadgets were pointless, but I managed to acquire a laptop, learned some basic skills from peers in the city, and established my career online.

Pir Ghaib Waterfall- Quetta



Pir Ghaib Waterfalls are waterfalls situated in the Bolan Valley, 70 kilometres (43 mi) from Quetta, in Balochistan, Pakistan.[Here a waterfall cascades down rocky mountain side making its way through many streams and ponds among the shady palm trees. (Source; Wikipedia)]

M. NASEEM KHAN- PISHIN

Age: 34 Years

Years of Freelancing: 3 years

Area of Specialization: Organic, Computational, Docking, and Synthetic Chemist

"After completing my M. Phil in Chemistry, I taught at school and college for one year. Amazingly, the longer I worked, the smaller I was paid. I decided to enroll in a Ph.D. and was offered a small stipend for providing my services as a Research Associate. Financial needs increase exponentially at this stage of life; thus, I decided to get a part-time job at private colleges. Again, I started teaching at the college level for another year.

There were some criteria that I did not meet. Nonetheless, I sent them my proposal requesting them to give me a chance to prove my abilities.." Said Muhammad Naseem.

During this period, he regularly searched for different teaching jobs online. Soon, he realized that people are earning by doing online jobs. He started making his profiles at different freelance marketplaces. He applied for many jobs and never received any response from any client. This period went for almost six to seven months. One day, he came across a job advertised by an American Online Education Platform.

They required many freelancers in the field of Chemistry. There were some criteria that he did not meet. Nonetheless, he sent them his proposal requesting them to give him a chance to prove his abilities. "A few days later. I got my first response from 'Adam Bialecki.

He said, "I've taken a look at your application, and it looks really interesting! However, could you send me some of your work, please?". I cleared the test and got my first job. Currently, I am working with them as a content writer. I have helped 8.2 million students with my content worldwide. I was provided with many other projects at this platform, including a content evaluation project on which I worked for about 15-95 hours. Things got worse at the start of COVID-19, and many projects at this platform were stopped due to financial issues,' says Naseem recalling his journey.

During Pandemic, he started looking for online teaching jobs and successfully got many online teaching jobs. These jobs comprised teaching students from different schools, colleges, and universities. he started taking regular classes at different times. Besides these jobs, he also assisted many scientists with their wet laboratory experiments,

<https://www.upwork.com/freelancers/~011802baf89ecb255e>

From a Chemist to a Top Rated Freelancer



including designing experimental schemes, checking their lab reports before submission, and guiding them with other different problems. "Furthermore, I also came up with an idea for my website. The project is still under development due to a lack of funds. However, I aim to develop this website as soon as possible to help students with their syllabus. Moreover, I also plan for many of my colleagues to work on this platform, so they start to earn what they deserve" said Naseem.

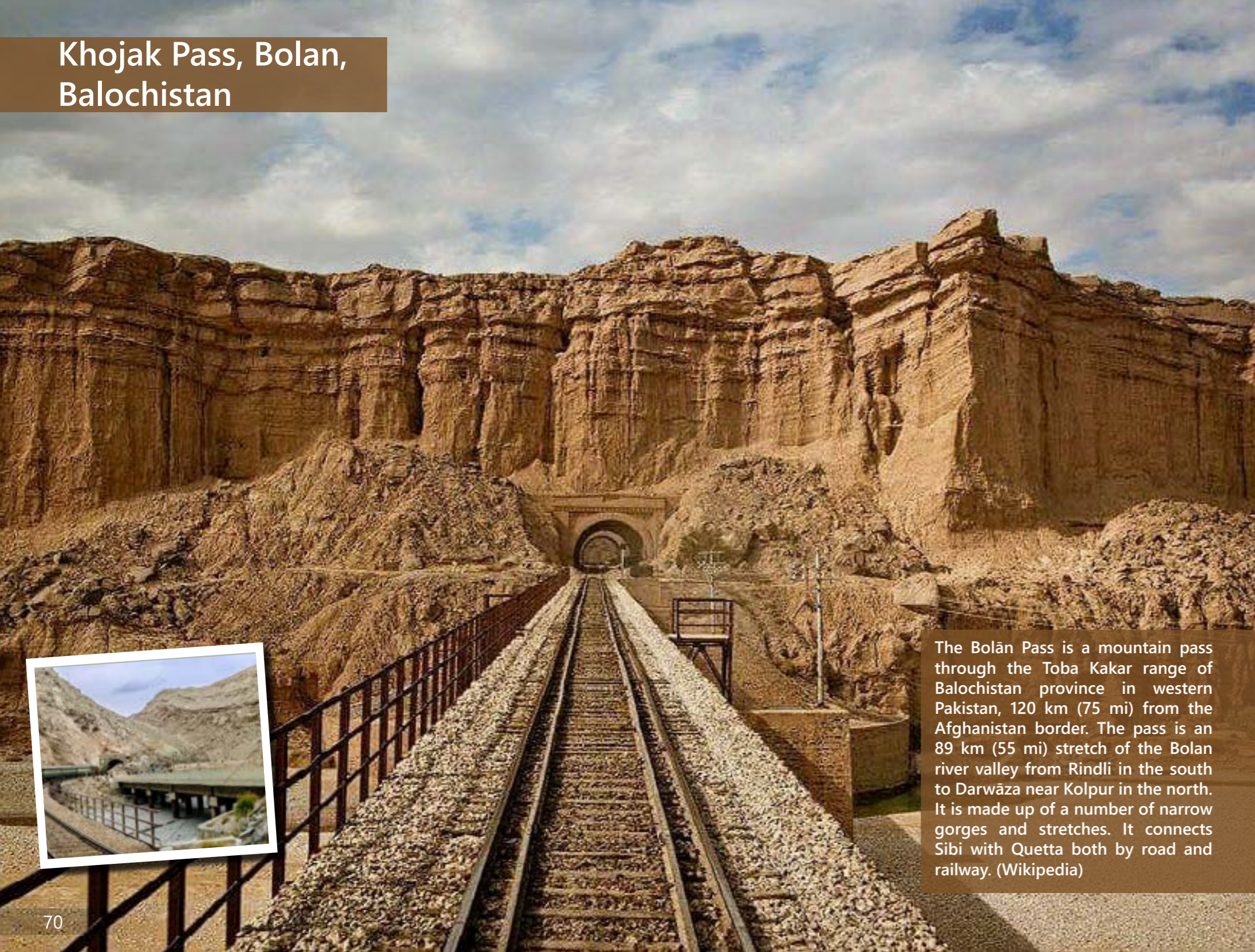
Talking about newcomers, he said, "I always support new freelancers in getting their first jobs. Unfortunately, many of them either leave freelancing due to personal issues or face rejections by clients. Therefore, I suggest they should be well prepared in every aspect before starting freelancing as clients come to get 100% results. Please do not lose hope; I got my first response in six months. If I can do it, so you can."

Wali Tangi Dam, Balochistan



Wali Tangi Dam is a small dam in the Urak Valley in Balochistan. It is situated approximately 20 km east of Quetta at an elevation of approximately 8,350 ft. Wali Tangi Dam was constructed by the Pakistan Army in the early 1960s with the purpose of supplying clean water to the Urak Valley and Quetta. The dam stores and utilizes fresh water from melting snows in the surrounding Zarghoon Hills, which are part of the Sulaiman Range. (Source; Wikipedia)

Khojak Pass, Bolan, Balochistan



The Bolān Pass is a mountain pass through the Toba Kakar range of Balochistan province in western Pakistan, 120 km (75 mi) from the Afghanistan border. The pass is an 89 km (55 mi) stretch of the Bolan river valley from Rindli in the south to Darwāza near Kolpur in the north. It is made up of a number of narrow gorges and stretches. It connects Sibi with Quetta both by road and railway. (Wikipedia)

ABDUL RAHEEM-JAFFERABAD

Age: 26 Years
 Years of Freelancing: 3 Years
 Area of Specialization: Facebook Monetization



“Poverty is my inspiration. I started freelancing when all doors were closed. I learned with a 2G internet as I could not afford 3G network in my early days,” said 26 years old Abdul Raheem from Jafferabad, Balochistan, a digital marketing and WordPress development expert.

Three years ago, being a farmer’s son, he sought job opportunities to support his family. “I completed my early education in a school having no concrete structure; we used to study sitting under trees or on straw mats. After passing intermediate, he started working as a teacher on a monthly salary of Rs. 3,000, insufficient to meet his family expenses.

He was aware of internet earnings, so he researched it in 2015 and learned blogging, web development, and Facebook monetization.

Freelancing is flexible and does not limit you with age, gender, or location. It neither demands any professional degree, a costly phone or a laptop, and competitive skills for professional earnings online. Passion, patience, and practice made me a successful freelancer. Until today, limited internet access is the main hurdle for him; he continued his virtual education with a small 2G phone using a Google translator to understand technical terms and vocabulary used in different blogs. When eagerness became an urge, he borrowed an old laptop from his friend for practice.

He said, “My family and friends were not aware of modern technology; it was challenging to convince my family and friends that I was only using the internet for education. Even today, we don’t have a dialup connection at home.” He further added, “I managed to buy a 3G phone. Whenever I needed any video tutorial, I downloaded it for a whole night, which often failed, and the whole effort was repeated. I used to charge my phone in hotels, mosques, or solar chargers as we had long hours of load shedding. The internet was my only mentor whenever I needed troubleshooting.

Facebook Monetization Expert



Over the last three years, I successfully offered my services on freelance platforms and executed monetization through Facebook. Today, I am a top-rated freelancer on Upwork, a level 2 seller on Fiver.

I am successfully running five individual websites for marketing campaigns with an average earning of \$2000 monthly. “I worked hard and never gave up as I believe success always comes after hardships.”

Quaid-e-Azam's Residency, Ziarat

Quaid-e-Azam Residency also known as Ziarat Residency, is located in Ziarat, Balochistan, Pakistan. It is where Quaid-e-Azam, Muhammad Ali Jinnah spent the last two months and ten days of his life, nursed by A. S. Nathaniel. It is the most famous landmark of the city, constructed in 1892 during the British Raj. The building is a wooden structure, originally designed as a sanatorium before being converted into the summer residence of the agent of the Governor General. It is declared a heritage site and is of great architectural importance. (Source; Wikipedia)

Punjab

Punjab is home to more than half of the country's total population of an estimated 220 Million and has the most significant number of youth. According to a USAID report, the province contributes 55 percent to the national income, employs 61 percent of the national workforce, 51 percent of the national country's exports, and produces over 75 percent of Pakistan's annual grain production.

Punjab is also one of the most urbanized regions in South Asia, with approximately 40% of people living in urban areas. Irrespective of the lack of a coastline, Punjab is the most industrialized province of Pakistan with manufacturing industries

produce textiles, sports goods, heavy machinery, electrical appliances, surgical instruments, vehicles, auto parts, metals, sugar mills plants, cement, agricultural machinery, floor coverings, and processed foods. The province is also home to the most significant number of IT companies.

Punjab has more than 48,000 industrial units, out of which 39,033 small and cottage size industrial units. The number of textile units is 11,820, the ginning industries are 6,778, and there are 6,355 units for processing agricultural raw materials, including food and feed industries. The SME Clusters in Punjab are generally recognized to have massive

potential for further development.

Lahore and Gujranwala Divisions have the largest concentration of small, light engineering units. The district of Sialkot excels in sports goods, surgical instruments, and cutlery goods. The Punjab Government is also working on developing Industrial estates to boost industrialization in the province.

FunFact: Punjab translates to 'five waters', the Beas, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi and Sutlej. Khewra Salt Mine is the world's second largest salt mine.



Alamgiri Gate, Lahore Fort
Lahore

The Lahore Fort is a citadel in the city of Lahore, Punjab, Pakistan. The fortress is located at the northern end of walled city Lahore, and spreads over an area greater than 20 hectares. The Lahore Fort is notable for having been almost entirely rebuilt in the 17th century, when the Mughal Empire was at the height of its splendor and opulence. (Source; Wikipedia)

MUBASHIR ALI-DG KHAN

Age: 22 Years
Years of Freelancing: 5 Years
Area of Specialization: Graphics/SEO/
Dropshipping

Coming from an impoverished and “a not-so-tech-savvy city DG Khan,” it is always a letdown when you settle in a city like Islamabad for graduation. My family was not financially sound. There was a continuous fluctuation in yearly income, so you can imagine the restrictions on an ambitious guy like me who wanted the best for his family and himself.

After topping intermediate exams in my city, I finally managed to get into a prestigious engineering institute in Islamabad. Although I was studying on a scholarship, my father’s pocket

money wasn’t enough, so I ventured into freelancing to manage my daily expenses. I was the first one to do it in my surroundings, so everyone made fun of me at that time, telling me how it was impossible to earn money online. Still, in my first year, I managed to bag a total income of US \$15,000. It was then that I realized that I could opt for freelancing as full-time work. Hence, I dedicated myself to it. I worked 15 to 16 hours a day for many weeks.

With the continuous addition of skills to my portfolio, I made my clientele. I have a team of 10 plus people now, and we provide a range of services, including SEO, graphic design, video making, dropshipping, digital marketing, and setting up stores on Etsy, Amazon, and eBay.



From belonging to a lower-middle-class to finally becoming financially stable and settling well in Islamabad, it was a journey full of setbacks and challenges, but it was learning of a lifetime. I was blessed by authentic and down-to-earth mentors like M. Tanveer Nandla and a few more. There is a vast potential in this side of the business that Pakistanis can dominate. Through different profiles on Fiverr only,

I have managed to make more than PKR 10 million in 2 years and counting. All of this was possible because I kept improvising and updating myself with the latest skills required in the industry. My message for beginners would be, “stick to one skill at a time, and when you think your portfolio needs improvement to maximize sales, learn another one. If you adopt this strategy, you will never face a downfall in sales.”

<https://www.fiverr.com/mubashirali679/>

The Dropshipping Expert

KASHAF YASIN-DG KHAN

Age: 22 Years
Years of Freelancing: 1 Years
Area of Specialization: Email Marketing

When it comes to freelancing in Pakistan, people mostly talk about SEO, web development, digital marketing and writing. Not many of them are aware of the scope of email marketing here, but 22 year old Kashaf Yasin from DG Khan, made a start in the world of freelancer through email marketing and achieved success in it too.



She started working as an email marketer only to prove her abilities, and not due to any monetary issues as her family was doing well financially. Email marketing refers to sending commercial messages to a group of people in order to promote a business, and get more followers and subscribers on board that ultimately boosts the company’s leads and sales.

The email includes advertisements, request business, petition sales, or donations. Kashaf came across the concept, and found it very interesting so she decided to give it a try. The only challenge she faced as a Pakistani freelancer was that people don’t easily trust Pakistani freelancers because there is a considerable risk of scams in freelancing. It took much hard work at her end to satisfy the clients and make them believe that she is not a scammer, and is in fact an honest freelancer.

When asked about her objective to start freelancing, she said, “I ventured in the field to try something new, and prove my capabilities. I work hard, not just for money, but primarily to provide value to the client. This has always been my motive, and I have achieve great success because of my work ethics.” There are very few people in our society who work scrupulously not for the sake of earnings only, but for client satisfaction, and Kashaf is one of them.

She believes that success comes when you focus on being the expert in a field, instead of being the Jack of All Trades. “To be successful, one must be consistent in their work, and master a certain skill to use it as a tool to make money,” she said. In addition, she is of the opinion that one should be consistent in their efforts, and work hard to be a successful freelancer. Every work or business, in the beginning, requires some time to establish, and become known to the world. Similarly, freelancing requires time to build a trust level among the clients. Kashaf shared that she got her first order after three months, but she didn’t lose hope.

Her advice to the new freelancers is: ‘Don’t lose hope if you don’t get positive response and orders initially. If I can earn a handsome amount after the continuous struggle of six months, one can earn even more than her because hard work always pays off.’

<https://www.fiverr.com/kashaf890?>

The Email Marketing Specialist



The Indus is a transboundary river of Asia and a trans-Himalayan river of South and East Asia. The 3,180 km (1,980 mi) river rises in Western Tibet, flows northwest through the Ladakh and Gilgit-Baltistan regions of Kashmir, bends sharply to the left after the Nanga Parbat massif, and flows south-by-southwest through Pakistan, before it empties into the Arabian Sea near the port city of Karachi. (Source; Wikipedia)

QAMER SHAHZAD- SHAKARPUR



Age: 30 Years
Years of Freelancing: 1.5 Years
Area of Specialization: Shopify

Qamar Shahzad is native to Shakarpur, a small village in Southern Punjab, and is earning a sustainable income through freelancing. "My father is a farmer, and my family had high hopes for me when I completed my education. As we don't have our own home yet, my family expected me to help build one for them when I'd land a job," said Qamar Shahzad talking about his family's expectations associated with him. Continuing his journey, he said, "After getting my MSc (IT) degree, I started my professional journey. I felt fortunate as I got a job at a gaming studio in Lahore right after my degree, but I lost my job after one and a half years. I became jobless and started my struggle to get a new job, but my efforts ended in vain."

Being jobless for two months, he began consuming his previous savings. Soon, he was left with money and had many expenses to take care of, including hostel dues, fuel, food, and the likes. He took a loan from my friend and cleared all his dues. However, day by day, his worries of not fulfilling his parents' dream increased. "I decided to go back to my hometown, hoping to get a job. However, I did not get any positive response from any company I applied to. I felt very useless and hopeless. There came a time when I couldn't even manage my basic expenses. My friend told me about training for freelancers by e-Rozgar, and I decided to test my luck. I earned the opportunity to learn a lot of new skills like social media marketing, blogging, content writing," he said

He started with a small hope to earn money online, but he was soon disappointed on receiving no orders while his peers made many clients. I was hurt as I had worked hard consistently, but my efforts bore no fruit. After two months of hard work and patience, I received my first order of \$5, but it was worth a million dollars for me.

www.fiverr.com/cybertech_sol

The Beginner



Age: 25 Years
Years of Freelancing: 6 Months
Area of Specialization: SEO

Imran Murtaza from Kot Mithan, Punjab, serves as a blogger, web developer, and SEO expert for the last six months at different freelancing platforms.

His journey started back in 2011 when he was in intermediate, and had a passion for developing his website. After his intermediate examination, he started learning programming languages and SEO back in 2012 to turn his dream into reality. At that time, he had only 2G internet in his village area. He focused on learning skills instead of earning, that helped him in his freelancing career. He started his freelance career by working on microworkers.com, where he did small tasks like signup, etc., and then ventured into full-time blogging.

I soon attained the 'Level One Seller' badge on Fiverr with my efforts and perseverance, and now I am earning a handsome revenue from Fiverr and the offline market. I'm very excited to build my home very soon- a dream my family has nurtured for many years. This could not have been possible had it not been for freelancing." His message to freelancers is not to waste time seeking jobs, build their skill set and venture into freelancing to prove their worth.

IMRAN MURTAZA- KOT MITHAN

<https://www.facebook.com/ImranMurtaza95>

The Tech Blogger



Talking about his first blogging venture and freelancing journey, he said, 'Alhamdulillah, my first blog, was successful, and it generated massive traffic and money. But after 3 to 4 months of google updates, I lost the ranking, and at that time, I didn't know how to recover and shut down that website. I researched on these aspects and again started blogging with new niches. The year 2015 was the best for me in terms of income. I bought a car for my father with earnings through blogging, and built my own house in 2019.'

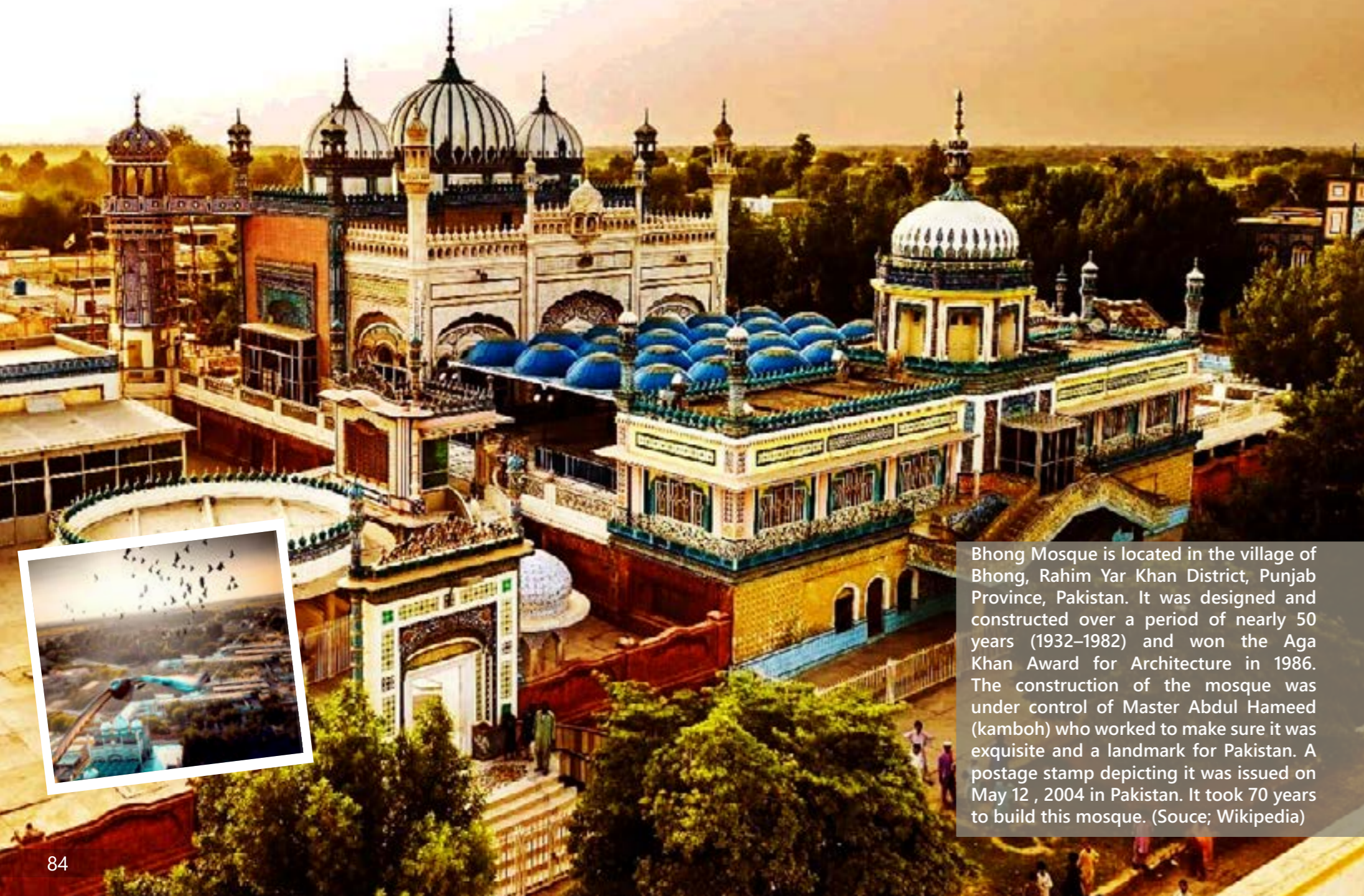
He started working on Fiverr in 2020, and within ten days, he got his first order. When asked about why he enjoys freelancing, he said, 'The best thing about freelancing is that there are no fixed working hours unlike in an office-based job.'



The biggest challenge most freelancers in Pakistan face is to accept the idea of preferring freelancing over doing a job. Moreover, poor internet connection is another challenge freelancers often encounter. If these challenges are managed, I am sure new avenues of growth will open up for the Pakistani freelancers that would improve the economy by manifolds.'

His advice for the aspiring entrants in this industry is, 'There is no shortcut to become a successful freelancer. Dedication to your work, and being consistent in it is definitely required. Take it like your full-time job, so you do it seriously, and succeed in it.'

Bhong Mosque, Rahim Yar Khan



Bhong Mosque is located in the village of Bhong, Rahim Yar Khan District, Punjab Province, Pakistan. It was designed and constructed over a period of nearly 50 years (1932–1982) and won the Aga Khan Award for Architecture in 1986. The construction of the mosque was under control of Master Abdul Hameed (kamboh) who worked to make sure it was exquisite and a landmark for Pakistan. A postage stamp depicting it was issued on May 12, 2004 in Pakistan. It took 70 years to build this mosque. (Source; Wikipedia)

RAHAT HAMEED- RAHIM YAR KHAN

Age: 19 Years

Years of Freelancing: 3 Years

Area of Specialization: Elementor Pro / ACF Pro / WP Speed Optimization



Rahat who is now prosperous freelancer ventured into the field when he was only 15. Hailing from Rahim Yar Khan, a town where there is a lack of understanding about freelancing, and hardly any institute that teaches freelancing, he experienced quite many challenges to establish his career using this stream. Sharing his initial struggles, he said, "I was about 15 years old when I became interested in making money online. I belonged to Rahim Yar Khan, and there was no institute here that would teach such things. I knew nobody would guide me on the right path, and I had to learn independently. When I realized that people are making money online, I also was curious to know more about it. I started to search about it and decided to earn through online platforms. It looked like a fantasy to me, and I started to search more on it."

Gradually, he learned many things such as ad clicking, PTC Sites, link shortening, and he came to know about blogging, forex trading and then freelancing. He enjoyed the process of searching and learning new things. He came across tons of success stories on YouTube, Facebook, Google., and became more inspired to become a success story himself. In this time, the unavailability of internet was certainly a huge roadblock in his way. He said, "One big hurdle was the internet issue as I would get access to a computer with the internet only for 2-3 hours in a day, so I had limited time to work only. The second major problem was the lack of proper guidance in the field. Luckily, I finally met a mentor who taught me and made me follow a specific path."

Rahat's mentor had a paid course going on, and he wanted to join in, but he did not have any money to pay the fee. Recalling it, he said, "I also didn't want to ask my parents for money because I had already spent three years doing nothing. I lost hope and then decided to give up on this online community, and that day became my turning point. My mentor had a YouTube channel, and I subscribed and turned on its notifications. Training had already started, and he uploaded a video that only his premium students could watch. But somehow, I got the notification, and I watched that premium session. I perceived others would have access too. It also had many links only added in the paid courses, but I did not use them as my ethics did not permit me to do so. I immediately messaged him and told him that his training material could leak and explained to him the entire scenario.

My honesty impressed him, and he added me into his premium group for free. I learned from there and then applied the techniques he taught and also corrected my mistakes.

<https://www.fiverr.com/beingbest>

The WordPress Expert



I opened a Facebook page of my niche, scrolled through posts and their comments, and came across someone seeking help. I offered him free help, fixed his issue, and he offered to pay me. I asked him to pay me via Fiverr, and he agreed. that's how I got my first order, and since then, there has been no looking back.'

I lacked connections and didn't even have enough money to buy myself a pair of shoes or a bag when I started. Today, I can buy whatever I want for myself. I can fulfill the wishes of my family easily too. I have also been featured on 'Connected Pakistan.'" Currently, I am doing a BSIT from KFUEIT University. I have already started to empower others in my circle, and many students in my class have started to pursue freelancing as their career. I feel so happy to have inspired many people who are now earning well.'

Noor Mahal, Bahawalpur



The Noor Mahal was built in 1872 like an Italian chateau on neoclassical lines, at a time when modernism had set in. It belonged to the Nawabs of Bahawalpur princely state, during British Raj. According to the legend, Nawab Adnan Abbasi IV had the palace made for his wife; however, she was only there for one night, as she happened to see the adjoining graveyard from her balcony, and refused to spend another night there, and so it remained unused during his reign (Source; Wikipedia)

HAMZA RASHID-BAHAWALPUR



Age: 25 Years
Years of Freelancing: 4 Years
Area of Specialization: Content Marketing

Hamza Rashid belongs to the small and peaceful city of southern Punjab, "Bahawalpur." He has completed his bachelor's degree in computer science from an affiliated college of the University of Sargodha. After his degree, he was confused and had no idea what to pursue as a career. He belongs to a middle-class family, and had dreams to make a mark for himself. The basic problem in his pathway was the limited career options in his city and he didn't want to spend 8 hours in an office far from his home, and city. When he was in the sixth semester, his father got seriously ill In Saudia Arabia. Circumstances compelled him to start a job, but he couldn't land any due to lack of experience. One of his friends told him about online earning and helped him purchase a laptop to start my work. He then started surfing the internet with the only goal of online earning.

Recalling his initial days of spending hours on the internet trying to figure out a means to earn, he said, "In this search, I found some experts who were selling their courses at a price I could not afford. I took this scenario as a challenge and started exploring ways to earn online. At that time my family was suffering from a very hard time. Luckily, I came across a video of Sir Hisham

Sarwar talking about freelancing. I started watching his videos and got the idea of earning by selling my skills. After a short span, I signed up for Upwork. My profile got rejected thrice, but then luckily, I found a video that briefly explained how to sign up for Upwork. I applied again and my profile got approved. After getting approval, I started bidding, but didn't get any response. After 3 months of hunting for jobs, I got a reply/interview from the client. I responded quickly and got that order of \$20, which encouraged me to move forward as a freelancer. After 3 orders, I started working with a long-term client. I was earning almost PKR 20,000 at that time. I was excited and happy about that because I was supporting my family.

In this struggling time, I got a chance to meet some friends. They were also on the same path and struggling to have the right direction to success. So we decided to sit, work and grow together. We shared ideas and thoughts to make ourselves independent, but the growth was at a very slow pace.

One day, a friend told us about e-rozgar. I applied, but couldn't make it on the first attempt, but after my second effort, I got enrolled in it. This huge platform made me learn a lot of new things that gave a huge boost to my freelancing career. It was never an overnight success, I spent many sleepless nights meeting the deadlines. I heard many disparaging gossips from my friends, even from my family but I was consistent to show them that I can do something good and different from others. Luckily, I was successful and right now I am earning a handsome amount that many others around me only dream of making. While advancing in my career, I thought about helping my people so they do not have to face such issues. I started giving training and small workshops for people in Punjab online and offline. Right now, I have trained and helped hundreds of people from different areas to help them start their sustainable freelance careers. Along with this, I have a team of more than 10 people who are working and learning with me to build their careers.'

His message to the novices in the field is, 'Freelancing is a great way to start your career as a newbie in any field. It can help you polish and work on your professional and soft skills such as patience, conversation, client dealing and time management etc. It allows you to work independently and set your own hours of work. You are location-free to work from anywhere, and most importantly, you can earn in dollars while sitting at your own place.'

The Digital Marketing Specialist



The Lead Generation Expert

JUNAID QADIR- BAHAWALPUR



Age: 25 Years
Years of Freelancing: 3 Years
Area of Specialization: Lead Generation

Junaid Qadir belongs to Bahawalpur, Punjab, Pakistan. He is a student of Ms. Management Sciences, and has been working as a freelancer on Fiverr for the past three years.

His journey started back in 2017 when his family went through a crunch time, and he had to do something to manage his university expenses. He stumbled upon freelancing, but was unsure of whether or not to pursue it as there were mixed feelings from his friends and relatives regarding freelancing. While some people encouraged him to opt for freelancing as a career, but most of them also discouraged him as they believed it wasn't his cup of tea, and he would have to work assiduously to make a mark in

the field. That said, he kept all the negative thoughts aside, and pursued the field of freelancing. He enrolled in an academy to learn skills through which he can start working on different freelancing platforms.

"After learning the skills in about two months, I made a seller account on Fiverr, and by the grace of Allah, I got my first order within two weeks of creating an account, and from there, I only achieved progress. I kept working hard day and night to achieve what I was looking for. Allah has been very kind to me, and now Masha Allah, I am a level 2 seller. I found it very strange knowing people's perspective regarding how someone could earn online.

People often ask me as to how I can rely on it as my only means of earning an income, but these concerns don't bother me.

I know my worth now, and see myself only achieving more progress with time," he said while talking about his freelancing journey.

According to him, freelancing is quite a viable option for people struggling to find jobs. He said, "The best thing about freelancing is that there are no fixed hours of working. It depends on you how you work and at what time of the day you want to work. I am not bound to any rules and regulations of physical jobs. I can move from one place to another without having a fear of losing my job". He concluded with, "There, is no shortcut to become a successful freelancer. Hard work is the only key through one can achieve greatness in this field".



Darbar Mahal, Bahawalpur

Darbar Mahal is a palace in the city of Bahawalpur. The building was built to hold courtly events and government offices of the former princely state of Bahawalpur. The palace was built by Bahawal Khan V and initially named Mubarak Mahal. It was completed in 1905. (Source; Wikipedia)

Derawar Fort, Cholistan Desert



Derawar Fort is a large square fortress in Ahmadpur East Tehsil, Punjab, Pakistan. Approximately 130 km south of the city of Bahawalpur, the forty bastions of Derawar are visible for many miles in the Cholistan Desert. It was first built in the 9th century AD by Rai Jajja Bhati, a Hindu Rajput ruler of the Bhati clan, as a tribute to Rawal Deoraj Bhati the king of Jaisalmer and Bahawalpur. The fort was initially known as Dera Rawal, and later referred to as Dera Rawar, which with the passage of time came to be pronounced Derawar, its present name. (Source; Wikipedia)

MUHAMMAD ZULQARNAIN- JALAPUR PIR WALA

Age: 22 Years
Years of Freelancing: 1.5 Year
Area of Specialization: Amazon and e-bay
Store Management

This is the story of a 22 years old young freelancer, 'Muhammad Zulqarnain,' a resident of Multan and an MSc student. He is an expert in e-commerce and is also carrying out virtual assistance on E-bay and Amazon. He wanted to bear his educational and family expenses by himself, so he started doing a job. It was quite hectic for him to work and study at the same time.

He began searching for different ways of earning income and came across freelancing that captured his attention. He quit his job and started to work on freelancing platforms such as Upwork, Fiverr, and Freelancers.com to get freelancing tasks. At first, it was pretty difficult for him to get some orders. His financial condition was quite bad, so he needed more money to cope with his domestic expenses.



Then came the point when he had to take a loan to pay his university fee and house rent. He tried hard to get orders on freelancing platforms, but his efforts kept ending in vain. When he was fed up with trying, he got his first order in 2020, and he happily provided his services to the client. The client was satisfied and rated him with five stars, and his freelancing career started. **"I was the most incompetent member of my family, but now I am supporting my whole family,"** he said. He favors freelancing and motivates the young generation not to sit idle but achieve something by sitting at home, browsing through freelancing sites, and finding good clients.

Getting a job is hard and finding one that complements your passion is even harder at times. However, if you stick to the process and keep working at it, you eventually find something that suits your taste.

His message to all the young freelancers is, **"Earn money by utilizing your skills in the area of work which you find best. Use your skills and earn money for yourself as well as your family. If I, being the incompetent boy in my family, can achieve my goals, then anybody can. Hard work is the key to success."** he said.

The E-commerce Store Manager

USMAN QURESHI- BASTI PIR OLIIYA

Age: 22 Years
Years of Freelancing: 1.5 Years
Area of Specialization: Video Editing



Usman Qureshi belongs to the small village Basti Peer Oliyaa of Tehsil Jalal Pur Pir Wala and District Multan. After graduation, he was not interested in tying himself to a 9 to 5 job as he wanted to be his boss.

"Initially, I started freelancing during my university days but did not have any proper direction. Luckily, I heard about the Government's offered courses, and I took admission in one program. My core interest was in video editing, so I chose the course and worked day and night to improve my skills by learning and researching from the internet. However, the major challenge was living in a small, underdeveloped village with poor infrastructure. While it was a challenging situation, but not impossible to manage.

I used to sit for long hours at the university premises to learn about my niche and utilized maximum time to find freelance projects."

Soon, he got his first online video editing job from an Islamabad-based company that boosted his confidence to earn more and get more practical exposure in his chosen field. He began losing his passion for being an entrepreneur and was leaning more towards getting a full-time job with that job. Realizing that he genuinely wanted to be an entrepreneur, he left the job and shifted towards Upwork.

"I started my account on Upwork, and luckily I found my first client In 2019 within three months after taking an online skill course on the internet. My first project was US \$100, which I completed within three days and received a 5-star rating. Soon, I became a 'Top Rated Seller' within five months. Following that success, I began working on other freelancing platforms as well. Now, after one and a half years, I have completed 2500+ orders worldwide." He said.

He said, sharing advice for new freelancers, "Don't keep your skills only to yourself because you can be more successful when you share skills with others. I also wanted to do something to better my community, especially for young, jobless people. So I used my skills and taught them for free as 'Sadaqah Jariyah' (a gift that continues to benefit more people in the long run) to other boys of the village who are earning very well today. It only has been possible with the prayers of my parents."

The Video Editor



A wide-angle photograph of the Tomb of Bibi Jawindi in Uch Sharif, Punjab, Pakistan. The tomb is a large, octagonal structure with a prominent central dome and four minarets. It is intricately decorated with blue and white tilework, featuring geometric patterns and arched niches. The building is set on a rocky, elevated platform. In the background, there is a lush green landscape with palm trees and distant mountains under a sky filled with soft, golden clouds, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall scene is serene and majestic.

Tomb of Bibi Jawindi, Uch Sharif

The Tomb of Bibi Jawindi is one of the five monuments in Uch Sharif, Punjab, that are on the tentative list of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Dating back to the 15th century, the shrine was built in the spirit of the historical Sufi premier Bibi Jawindi of the Suhrawardiyyah order. (Source; Wikipedia)

SYED AHMED GILLANI-VEHARI

Age: 21 Years
Years of Freelancing: 2 Years
Area of Specialization: WordPress, Data Entry, Daraz VA, Video Editing

Syed Ahmed Gillani, a 21-years old young boy from Vehari, is working as a freelancer and earning a handsome amount of money to bear his day-to-day expenses.



He is a student of computer sciences, and is currently utilizing his qualification by working as a virtual assistant. He has expertise in data entry and on WordPress as well. Syed Ahmed Gillani started working as a freelancer because he wanted to improve his lifestyle and to become self-employed instead of conforming to the 9-5 job system. Belonging to a backward area, it was quite tough for his family to bear the routine expenses. 'I belong to a low-income family, but my dreams have always been big which is why I decided to work as a freelancer because I want to fulfill my dreams.

I desire to provide a better lifestyle to my family, and with time, I have been successful in accomplishing this dream,' he stated while sharing his story with us.

He believes freelancing is extremely beneficial, especially for students because it offers them with the freedom to work as per their convenience, and according to their schedule.

"Earning money as a freelancer is easy for me as I can continue my studies while working from home. This freedom would have been amiss from my life had I decided to do a routine, 9 to 5 job. I know I wouldn't have been able to continue my studies using that approach. Fortunately for me, I chose to be a freelancer, and life has only become smoother for me ever since," he mentioned.

The majority of his clients are from social media groups. They are his loyal clients now, and return to him for quality work. At first, it was pretty difficult for him to make clients, but his hard work, perseverance and grit paid him off, and now he has clients who are in awe of his work. Syed Ahmed Gillani is forever thankful to Almighty Allah for rewarding his efforts.

He advises the young freelancers to have patience in this field in order to yield the desired results. He says, 'It may take time to get the first order, but one's consistency and patience will eventually pay off, so don't give up and try your best.'

<https://www.fiverr.com/hinaaslam1996>

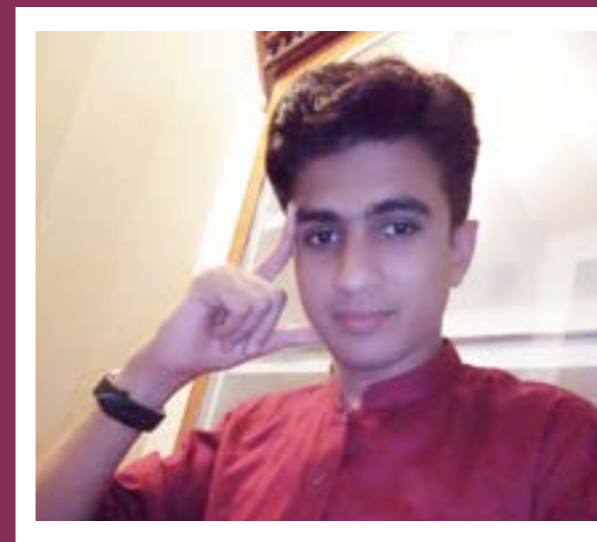
The Virtual Assistance Specialist



M. UMAIR KHALIQ-MAILSI

Age: 26 Years
Years of Freelancing: 2 Years
Area of Specialization: Content Writing and Designing

Muhammad Umair Khaliq, a successful freelancer, belongs to a small city, Mailsi of district Vehari. He started his freelancing career by enrolling in the e-Rozgar program to learn new skills, and become a successful entrepreneur like many others before him.



After his graduation, he started looking for jobs in his field, but did not succeed in the beginning. Instead of sitting idle, he enrolled in the freelance training program to learn technical skills, and learnt in depth about the freelance market. He started bidding on projects during his training and earned more than US \$300 during the course. This was quite a gratifying experience for him and motivated him to further hone his skills.

Sharing his story he said; "After earning US \$300, I was confident I could make a firm position in the current market, and resolve my domestic issues.

<https://www.upwork.com/o/profiles/users/~01d5b308ad3e795ddf/>

The CSP Aspirant

My father wanted to see me as a CSP officer, and I needed a considerable amount of money to enroll in the program. I earned money to pay for books, academy fees and other expenses by getting gigs through Fiverr. The entire journey has not been easy, but it has certainly been incredible and humbling for me. Now I am preparing for CSS so I can actualize the dream my father and I have nurtured for many years. Previously, I lost a level one profile on Fiverr due to a technical problem, but I restarted from scratch without losing hope. This goes to show that when you put your heart and mind to achieve a goal, you become unstoppable.

After making my profile again on the platform, I began landing projects. Soon, I was making more than PKR 100,000 in a month by working hard consistently. Alhamdulillah, I am earning a good amount of money now through freelancing, and I am studying simultaneously as well. Freelancing provided me with the best backup and support to fulfill my dreams and goals. Inshallah, I will pass the CSS exam, and become a CSP officer to materialize my father's dream for real," he said.

He advises youngsters to explore their talents, learn new skills and hone on their potential as he believes that the training courses are not just for teaching, but are also for discovering and polishing one's skills. His advice to the newbies is, "You need to focus on your skills and how you can deliver them successfully remotely. People also earn money through verbal dialogues on Fiverr. You just need to find out what you're good at, and improve at it to monetize the medium. So keep moving ahead in life. You can do it, and can earn well."



M. TANVEER NANDLA- NANDLA TOWN

Age: 32 Years
Years of Freelancing: 15 Years
Area of Specialization: SEO- Blogging

M. Tanveer Nandla is a successful Pakistani entrepreneur who has made a mark for himself in the SEO and Blogging industry, and is renowned for his impeccable work.



Through his journey, he faced many obstacles in his quest to live a better life. By the time, he completed his high school at a local institute in his village, he was sure that he had to live larger than life. He was a pre-engineering student who passed his exams on the third try, and right there, he knew engineering wasn't for him. From a young age, he felt gravitated towards the IT industry. He wanted to do something worthwhile in the fields of computer science, programming languages, coding, and blogging. Pursuing his passions, he left engineering and focused on building a career in computer science.

He didn't have a mentor to guide him through the steps, and he didn't have enough money, opportunities, or even tools. He also didn't have access to the internet all the time.

When Orkut made an entry in the digital ecosystem in 2006, he was quite intrigued by it, and decided to learn about such platforms. Tanveer Nandla began learning about blogging and Google AdSense from there. He was already earning a six-figure salary when he graduated in 2010. He wished to contribute to Pakistan's economic growth, and today, he already has a community of thousands of bloggers who are making millions after getting his trainings. He wanted to support others, and give back to his country. To do so, he developed "Iskills"- a brilliant resource for those interested in learning about digital marketing and blogging.

He also owns an online company, "eJustice" that has opened up jobs for many people, allowing him to contribute towards the country's economy. Anyone may use this website to get legal advice from practicing attorneys, and use their services from their own homes.

He went above and beyond to become a source of encouragement and for freelancers aspiring to make money from blogging. He has inspired and supported scores of people to accomplish big goals, and materialize their dreams. In 2019, he was awarded the title of the "Best Blogger of Pakistan" by the KPIT Board of Peshawar, Pakistan, and the World Bank.

Award Winner of Best Blogger of Pakistan



MUHAMMAD AAMIR IQBAL- MULTAN

Age: 36 Years
Years of Freelancing: 10 Years
Area of Specialization: Digital Marketing

Muhammad Amir Iqbal was born in the "City of Saints," Multan, and spent his entire childhood in straitened circumstances.



However, the terrible destitution of not having two cents to rub together didn't by any chance weakened my entrepreneurial muscle to go up in the world with a bang,' says Muhammad Amir. After completing his primary education at a local school, he minored in Computer Engineering to be later employed as a storekeeper and MS-Excel accountant in a clothing store. "I was hired at a monthly breadline pay scale of PKR 4,000 only - which was low in those times, but enough for my bread and butter. But yeah, I was provided an Intel Pentium II PC with a VOL card internet connection, he recalls."

I remained in the same job for several years until a friend introduced me to freelancing. He told me about freelancing jobs on UpWork to make more income without making a 9-to-5 effort.

At first, I was reluctant in his claims, and like most other people, my knowledge of the internet was limited. But on his continued insistence and the payment proofs, I decided to try it from the Intel Pentium II desktop PC and VOL card internet connection provided to me for the accounts work by the store owner.

Amateur at that time, Aamir made a plain profile because Upwork policies were not too strict, neither did the platform face heavy competition at that time. After a few days, he landed a US\$16 job for simple copy-paste work. "It made me wonder if freelancing paid me the exact amount I was earning for working 30 days; why not begin taking it seriously?. Despite the business environment being less complex, I used my top energy to chart my course." He said.

"I decided to continue freelancing side by side. It was challenging, and most nights, I barely got any sleep. Once the process kicked off, I decided to learn marketing, so I learned SEO and stepped up. It was a long and tiring journey, but it led me to a point where I earned US\$60,000 from a single project in a month. I quit my job after that and focused solely on freelancing.

Later, I decided to create a platform on social media to share my knowledge and allow others to share theirs, and today we have become a vast community, including people from India, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan, and there is something new to learn at all times. Now, my students are even earning thousands of dollars every month. I have always tried to benefit others with the knowledge I have gained because learning is an ongoing process, and you never know what you might learn from someone you try to teach."

The Sultan of Multan



Tomb of Shah Rukn-e-Alam, Multan

Shah Rukne Alam was the son of Pir Sadar-Al-Din Arif. He was born in Multan on 26 November 1251 and died 3 January 1335. He was the grandson and successor of Sheikh Baha-ud-din Zakariya. He was buried in the mausoleum of his grandfather, according to his own will but later, his coffin was transferred to the present mausoleum. (Source; Wikipedia)

QURAT UL AIN- MULTAN

Age: 24 Years
Years of Freelancing: 2 Years
Area of Specialization: Business Writing

Qurat-ul-ain, Hafiza Quran, double gold medalist in BBA and MS (Finance), and a mother of a baby boy has an interesting freelancing story too. Her father is an employee in a private organization, and her parents raised her and her four sisters like sons in this patriarchal society. The eldest of the five sisters, Qurat ul ain, wanted to do something extraordinary to make her parents proud.

Being a shining star, she consistently scored the highest marks, completed her BBA with majors in Finance, and enrolled in MS in 2018. She always tried to share her father's load by working hard and completed her studies via scholarships. In FSc, she was on full scholarship, and in BBA, her half fee was returned each semester due to her top position, and she also received a DALDA scholarship throughout her academic years. The fee of the MS program was high, and since the university did not offer any grants or scholarships, she knew she had to do something to manage the expense.

"One day, my father told me about an advertisement in the newspaper about e-Rozgaar training. There were the exact timings of my class and training, but I was enthusiastic about doing something in my life and making my parents proud of me. Therefore, I managed to take both classes, even in Ramazan. My trainer taught me many skills and started working on Fiverr." reminisces Qurat ul ain.

She began looking for gigs on Fiverr and offered on-page SEO and website content writing services on the platform. Even though this was a mismatch with her degree, she just wanted to earn an income. Her online career on Fiverr started within two months of training. In the same year, she got married. Her husband proved to be very supportive; she completed her MS with the gold medal and continued freelancing even after marriage.

fiverr.com/ainyyhashmi

The Gold Medalist



"I became a mother of a premature baby boy. This challenging time in my entire life was when I remained hospitalized for 36 days with my baby and faced severe postpartum depression. My health was unstable, but I never lost hope. Even in the hospital, I completed many online projects without taking a break and kept going with orders to keep my freelance profile active. I worked while nursing the baby because I didn't have any other female support at home. It was just the start of my journey, and I had a long way to go," says Qurat-ul-ain.

She wishes that every female may get empowered and financially settled in her life because females need to become successful professionals in this fast-paced modern world.

HAFIZ ABDUL HASEEB KHALID- ABDUL HAKIM

Age: 24 Years
Years of Freelancing: 2 Years
Area of Specialization: Scripting & Automation



If you live in Pakistan, you must be very familiar with this situation wherein you spend at least 16 years of your life to achieve a bachelor's degree after spending tons of money. Even then, you are still unable to land any job.

The lack of employment opportunities in our country originated due to several factors. Irrespective of the root cause, the ultimate victims of this dilemma are the fresh graduates. Barely 2 years ago, Abdul Haseeb was also a part of this group. Having completed his degree in Applied Physics, he could not get any job relevant to his field. He initially started teaching, but that was not his cup of tea.

Call it luck or a blessing that Abdul Haseeb got introduced to the e-Rozgaar training program and chose to learn some technical skills. He burnt the midnight oil in acquiring and mastering his skills to earn successfully. As they say, hard work is the key to success. Abdul Haseeb has earned a handsome amount in a concise period, i.e., eighteen months, while working as a freelancer.

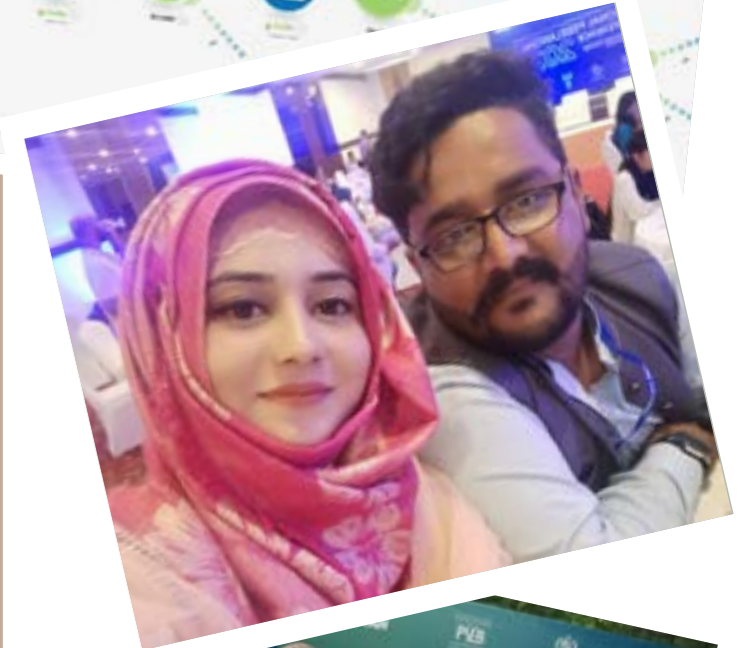
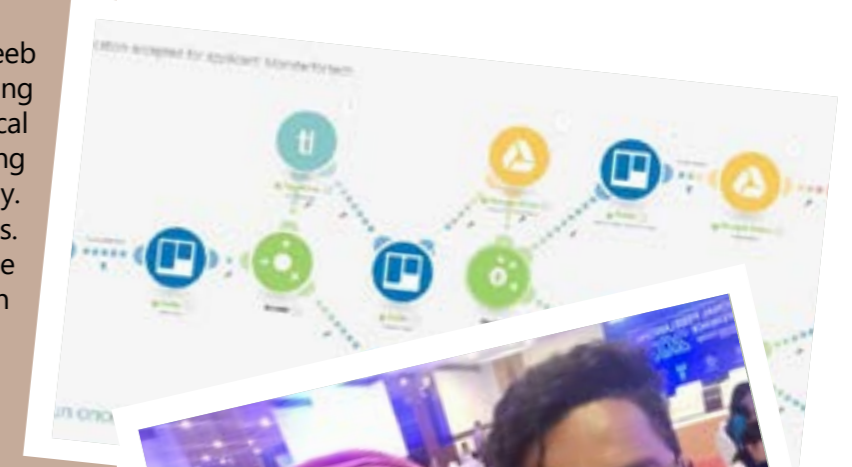
According to him, freelancing is something anyone can do, provided they learn and master the right skills. He finds it more comfortable and rewarding than any regular 9 to 5 job, as he can do it from the comfort of his own home without worrying about anything. When we asked him to share some words of wisdom for freelancing newcomers, he said, 'Always be patient and thankful. It takes time and effort to be successful, but it is all worth it in the end.'

Abdul Haseeb is satisfied and has no regrets about choosing freelancing as his career. He says, "Starving makes you successful in freelancing, whereas a full tummy will make you sleepy! (It's my Ideology). According to my perspective, often, people think of it as something easy, which is why they don't treat it seriously. If only they spend some quality time researching things online and invest their 100% efforts in their tasks, they can grow in it."

He also motivates her better half to pursue freelancing as a career and she is a successful graphics designer and a level 1 seller on Fiverr platform.

https://www.fiverr.com/monsterfortech

Scripting and Automation Expert



Blue pottery is a microcosm of the Sufi mausoleums dotting Multan and Sindh. Its blue color inspired by the heavenly color preferred by Sufi masters. Its motifs taken from Persian and Turkish calligraphy and miniatures. (Source; shopen.pk)

NAUMAN KHIZAR-KABIRWALA



Age: 25 Years
Years of Freelancing: 2 Years
Area of Specialization: Tech Blog Writing

Sometimes, it takes one moment to change your life. Sometimes you cannot go with the flow. Instead, you have to be the flow. These are the beliefs of 25-year-old Nouman Khizar from Kabirwala. Nouman himself did not believe in freelancing once as there was not enough awareness about it. However, enrolling in the program e-Rozgaar changed his mind for good. He not only learned and polished his skills from this training program for freelancers, but he was also able to earn his first dollar during his batch.

Like many other freelancers, Nouman started this journey after seeing the hopeless condition of the job market two years ago. According to him, even having a higher education degree did not help him get the job of his dreams. After getting the necessary training from eRozgaar, Nouman started working as a freelancer in the niche of Digital Marketing. Nouman is very close to becoming a Top-Rated Seller of his niche in a short period as he believes in delivering quality while always meeting the deadlines on time.

At the age of 25, this is a significant achievement. He indicated the areas of improvement for the freelance market to flourish in Pakistan. He said that the payment gateways are pretty complicated, and it takes much unnecessary effort to receive payment from international clients as Paypal is not available in Pakistan.

Nouman is satisfied with his decision to pursue freelancing and has no regrets about it. He encourages youth to prefer freelancing over tedious 9 to 5 jobs.

www.fiverr.com/nouman_seo786

The Affiliate Marketing Expert



According to him, "It takes patience, consistency, and hard work to be a successful freelancer. If you are hardworking, patient, and consistent in your efforts, nothing can stand in your way of becoming a successful freelancer."

While giving a piece of advice to new freelancers, he said, "The biggest inspiration to work as a freelancer or entrepreneur is the ability to be your boss. No more being clocked in and out of the office, no more getting told off for being late, and that's a great way to feel."

After getting success on Fiverr, Nouman is now running an affiliate website as well. He is all set to make his name in the field of affiliate marketing as well. He firmly believes that nothing is impossible if you have a passion and determination to do something; you can do that. Nobody can stop you from accomplishing your goals and becoming successful.

<https://outsource2pak.com/about-us>

MUHAMMAD SAAD HASEEB-MIAN CHUNNU

The Freelance Blogger



Age: 28 Years
Years of Freelancing: 4 Years
Area of Specialization: Automation & Scripting

"I was doing business with my father and studying before I started my blogging career. Though business is a full-time responsibility, and I was earning a good amount of profits from it. I still felt unsatisfied. I heard about blogging through one of my friends.

Later, I researched what blogging is, what it entails, and how to practice it. Unfortunately, like most beginners, I did not know exactly where to begin the journey from," said Muhammad Saad.

Right when he was looking into the matter, he found out about 'Tanveer Nandla.' Saad enrolled in his SEBT Batch 1 and started learning the basics of advanced blogging. That was how he commenced his blogging career four years ago in the field (SEO, on-page, and off-page). He also crafted many websites that have incurred great ranking over the years. Currently, he is working on different significant projects.

"After four years of experience in this field, I realized that a fresh freelancer must enter this field with proper training. Mentors like 'Tanveer Nandla' make it easy for novices to understand blogging and venture into this field. I want the beginners to understand the most important thing is to be focused, consistent, and disciplined."

Online work needs patience because it is not a one-day game. You will encounter many challenges and losses in this journey and may have to sacrifice many celebrations and occasions. That said, when you see yourself doing well, in this case, having your website and seeing it ranked, you feel gratified.

Being your boss seems easy but is a bit tricky. However, if you play the cards right, you too can be your boss. For all newbies, I want to ask them to be patient with this field. You are not going to get the results in just one day. You have to put in high-quality work, never forget that Google is the 'Boss' in this field, give it your best shot, and focus on making your nation proud. You will succeed in the end," he says.

Girls going to school,
Seetpur, South Punjab



Seetpur is a city in Muzaffargarh District of south Punjab. The city is famous for tomb of King Tahir Khan Nahar, shahi masjid and the Government High School of Seetpur which was established by the British during the British Raj. Agriculture is the mainstay of the area's economy. (Source; Wikipedia)



KHALID MAHMOOD- BUREWALA



Age: 30 Years
Years of Freelancing: 11 years
Area of Specialization: Wordpress/Website Designing

Khalid Mahmood was born in a remote Village of Burewala and completed his early education in a Government high school. His father worked as a farmer and a shopkeeper. When his brothers moved to Multan for work purposes, they took him along to continue studying in the city.

"I started my career as a freelancer at the age of 20 after finishing my B.Com exams. At that time, the term 'freelancing' was very new to me and was introduced by a cousin who worked as a programmer in a software house. I searched more about freelancing and found it fascinating instead of a 9 to 5 job in any company." Stated Khalid Mahmood.

"When I was young, I always thought of starting my own business instead of a job because that's what I saw my elders doing. I am very impressed by my elder brother, who started his own printing business from scratch. I learned graphics designing from his printing press. During the start of 2010, I went to Lahore to study more about web designing and programming. It took me three months to brush my knowledge in the areas, and then I joined a software house to utilize as well as polish my website designing skills. I worked in that software house for eight months and then returned home to continue my freelance career.

He proudly stated, "I borrowed PKR 10,000 from my brother and purchased a P.C., chair, and a table.



<https://www.fiverr.com/taibacreation>
The Wordpress / Website Designing Expert



After one and a half month's struggle and spending days and nights, I got my first order and was very excited. When I got more orders, I gradually hired a team and introduced a software house under 'TAIBA Creations.' With the Wordpress/Website Designing Expert my Freelancing earnings, I have bought a new home, got married, bought a new car, and set up my well-furnished office in Multan."

With 11 years of experience in WordPress/Website Designing, he now ranks as one of the top website designers in Pakistan. He is currently in the 'Fiverr Pro' in the WordPress category on Fiverr and the 'Top-Rated' category on Upwork. He has completed 2500+ website projects so far and has 1500+ clients worldwide. He also taught freelancing and website designing to hundreds of students who are now earning well and helping their families and country by bringing dollars.

WAQAR ZAFAR- ARIFWALA, PAK PATTAN

Age: 23 Years
Years of Freelancing: 1.5 Years
Area of Specialization: SEO



"My struggle working online has been quite enjoyable for me. As far as I have observed, only two kinds of individuals were chosen, elite and upper-middle-class, and he belongs to an upper-middle-class family. While narrating his exciting journey, he said, 'I had enough money not to bother about my career or job throughout my life in the hostel. When my degree was completed, I decided to work online. Usually, online work is more suited for someone with an IT background, but I had an agricultural background and decided to pursue it nonetheless.

Waqar Zafar is an agricultural graduate and started searching for a job. He recalls, 'To my surprise, no one wanted to hire me for more than PKR 30,000 a month. It was not very reassuring, but I was hell-bent on doing better. I knew, at that time, with such average jobs, I would neither be able to live a life I deserve nor would I be able to make any progress in the future.'

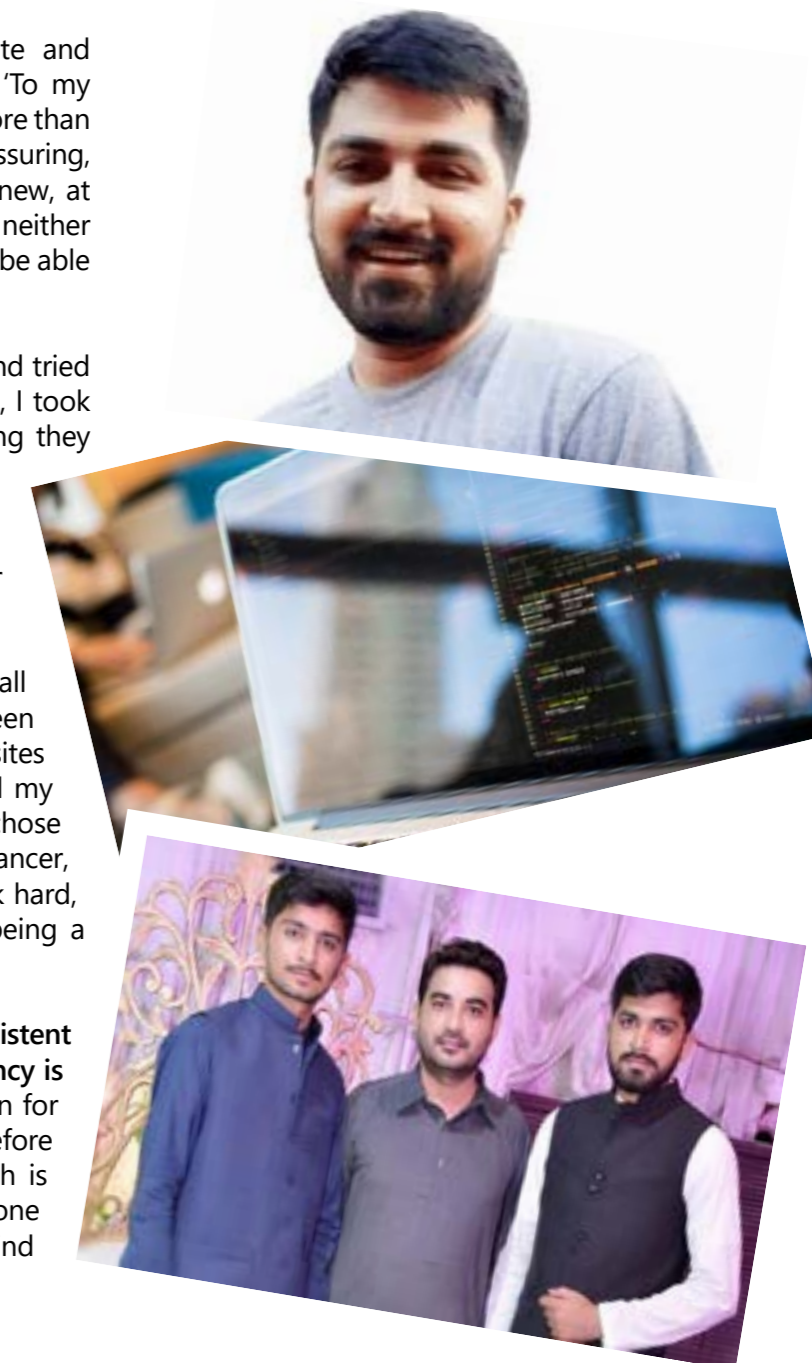
He started searching in different areas and tried his luck in freelancing. 'Like most of you, I took YouTubers very seriously. I did everything they suggested, but nothing worked for me. This struggle went on for almost six months,' he mentioned. It was then that he enrolled himself in the e-Rozgaar program and started learning SEO.

Within the next few months, I was able to call myself a successful freelancer. In between learning, I tried my luck with affiliate websites as well. Things did take time and tested my patience, but Alhamdulillah, I'm glad I chose not to give up. So, as a successful freelancer, I would say this field is welcoming. Work hard, and then nothing can stop you from being a successful freelancer.

As Kenny Dasinger stated, 'Being persistent may lead you to the door, but consistency is the key which unlocks it.' My suggestion for the new entrants is to polish their skills before invading the online field. A leap of faith is required to scale and break chains, and one should always push their limits and find ways to go beyond them.

Fiverr.com/anfalzafar

From Agriculture Field to SEO Expert

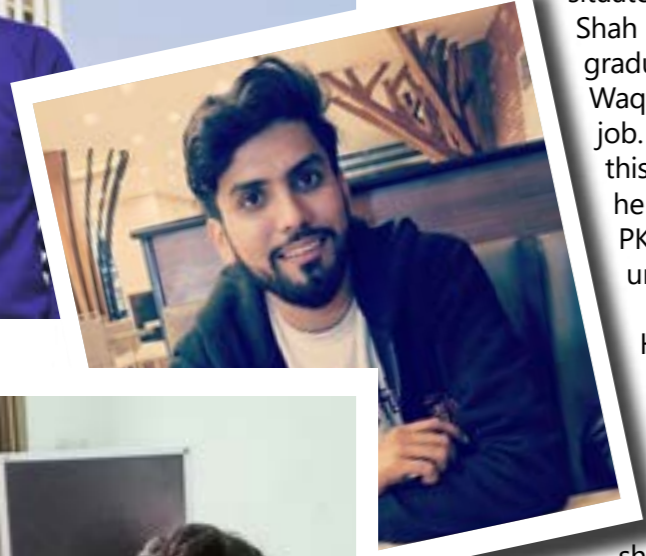


WAQAS SALEEM- HUJRA SHAH MUQEEM



Age: 24 Years
Years of Freelancing: 2.5 Years
Area of Specialization: Website Development, SEO,
and Content Writing

My worth isn't just PKR 5,000 per month,' said Waqas Saleem from a small village, situated around 3 km far from Hujra Shah Muqem, District Okara. After graduating from Sahiwal back in 2019, Waqas moved to Lahore in search of a job. First, it wasn't easy to find a job in this well-saturated big city. Eventually, he found one with an offer of 5000/-PKR per month only, which was unacceptable for him.



He decided to move back to his village with his parents and trusted his skills by trying freelancing. That's how his freelancing journey started with winning a US\$5 order on Fiverr. As Waqas shared, 'In the beginning, I sent more than 1000 proposals, but didn't get a job, so I gave up. I began thinking about that PKR 5,000 job. My mother asked me to give freelancing another try, so I tried, and Alhamdulillah got my first US\$5 project after submitting few proposals. It was a significant achievement and motivation for me.

I explored more ways to get more jobs, and in 2019 earned less than US\$5,000. That amount turned ten times more the next year by getting projects from Fiverr, Off-site Direct Clients, and repetitive clients. Now, Waqas is making an average of US\$4,000+ monthly. That said, life isn't easy as it seems, and success doesn't come overnight.

<https://fiverr.com/waqassaleem378>

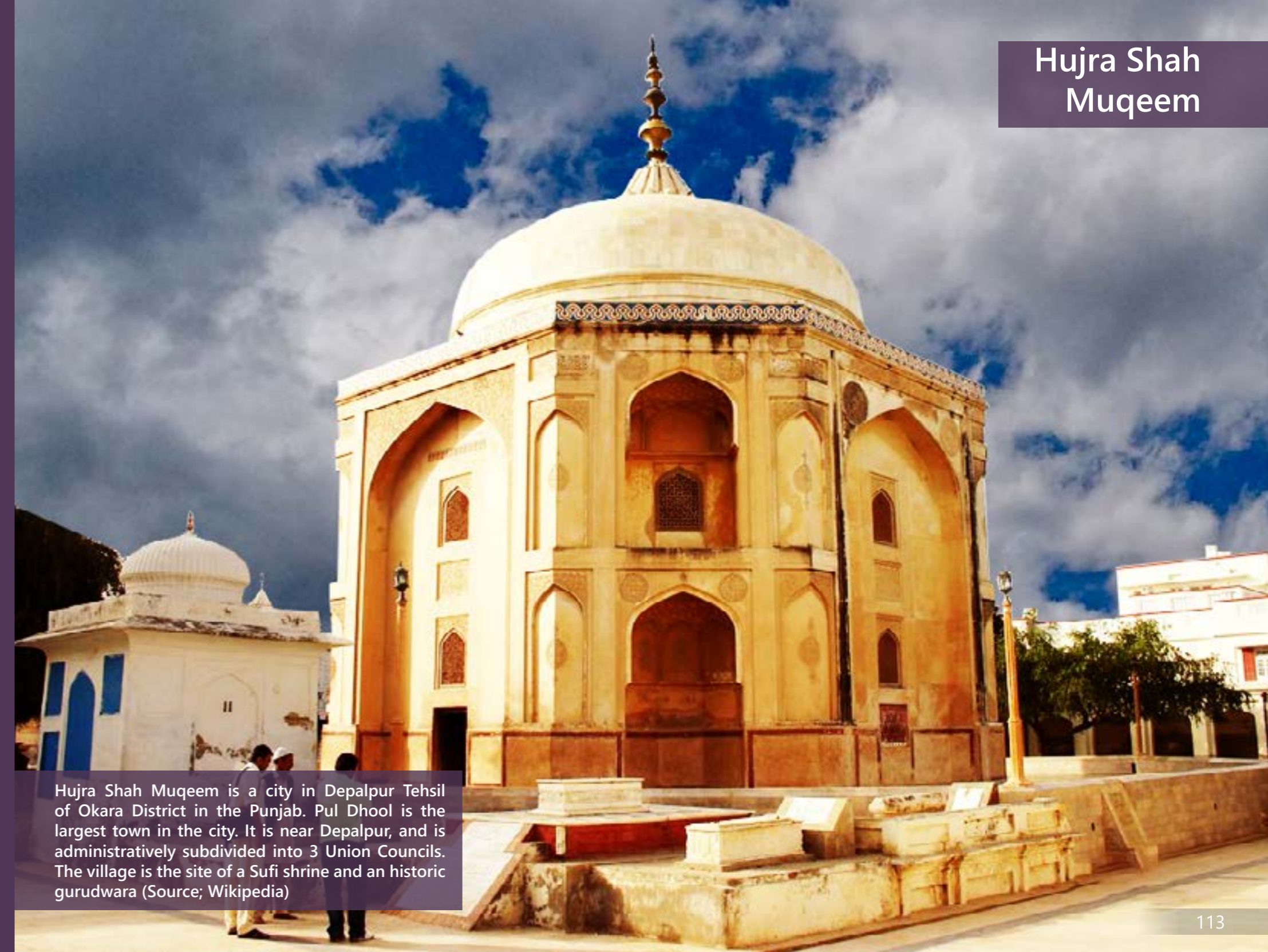
The Web Developer



Talking about available resources, Waqas stated, 'Here in the small town where I live, I didn't have enough resources to start any digital business. I don't have web developing services, any internet provider in my area, and other relevant infrastructure, so I am using a Zong Bolt+ Device, and believe me, this device still doesn't work from 7 PM to 12 AM. Every night he walked for around 3 km from his home to school to get better internet signals for his assignments because his father couldn't afford to buy him a cycle. "I remember those days when we had guests at our home, and my mother asked me to call my father to get some food for the guest. My father only had PKR 50, and we served 'Dahi Bhallay and 'rice' to the guests from those rupees only."

My mother is my best friend and became constant support throughout my freelancing journey, which is why I did not give up even when I wanted to. My parents' prayers have gotten me this far and will help me go even further in my career,' says Waqas.

Hujra Shah Muqem



Hujra Shah Muqem is a city in Depalpur Tehsil of Okara District in the Punjab. Pul Dhool is the largest town in the city. It is near Depalpur, and is administratively subdivided into 3 Union Councils. The village is the site of a Sufi shrine and an historic gurudwara (Source; Wikipedia)

Gurdwara & Haveli of Bhumman Shah



Baba Bhumman Shah was a prominent sadhu of Udasi Sikhs born in 1687 and died in 1762. Udasi sect of Sikhs was quite popular in 19th century and had a large following in Punjab. Baba Bhumman Shah is still revered for his spiritual teachings among many Sikhs and Hindus. (Pakgeotagging)

SHAJEEL AFZAL-OKARA

Age: 30 Years
Years of Freelancing: 7 Years
Area of Specialization: Mobile Apps Development, ChatBots, Websites, NodeJS

Shajeel, while sharing his early freelancing experiences, said, "I came to know about online earning by reading it behind a Rikshaw on the road. I was doing graduation and was looking for ideas to make money. Behind the Rikshaw, something like "Ghar Bethay Bethay online pesey kamayein" (earn money from the comfort of your home) with a phone number was written. So I thought it would be best for me to try this out along with my studies. I picked the phone and called that number. However, the person on the call was asking for something like three thousand rupees for

admission. I immediately got the feeling that it was a scam, and I was heartbroken. Three thousand rupees were a lot for me at that time, so I skipped this online earning plan and deemed it as a fraud."

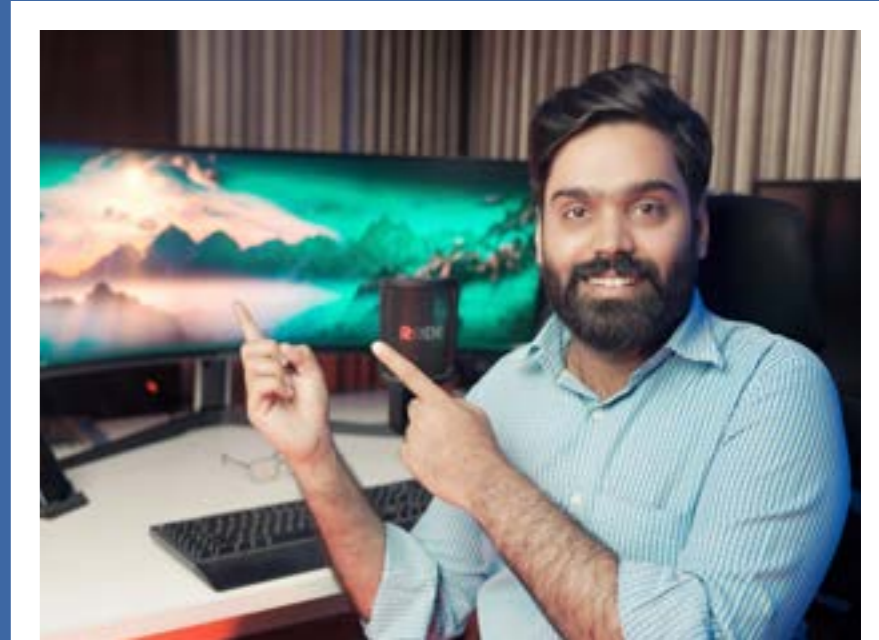
After graduation, he joined a software development company as an intern, and during that time, his friend shared someone's success story from earning money online. At first, Shajeel was reluctant about it, but later, he was convinced to try freelancing and signed up on oDesk. That's how he came into freelancing back in 2013. He shares his life-changing experience by saying, "After completing my internship, I learned new skills, but management was not very supportive, and salaries were often delayed.



Instead of working as an unpaid employee, I decided to become a full-time freelancer because I had worked with two to three clients so far on oDesk (now Upwork). I took the risk and left the job to become a full-time freelancer.

At that time, I only had PKR 35,000 in my bank account. I know it was risky, but I believed in myself and moved on. Slowly, I grabbed long-term projects and earned three times more than my salary in just six months. That is when I decided never to do a full-time job anymore." While talking about his

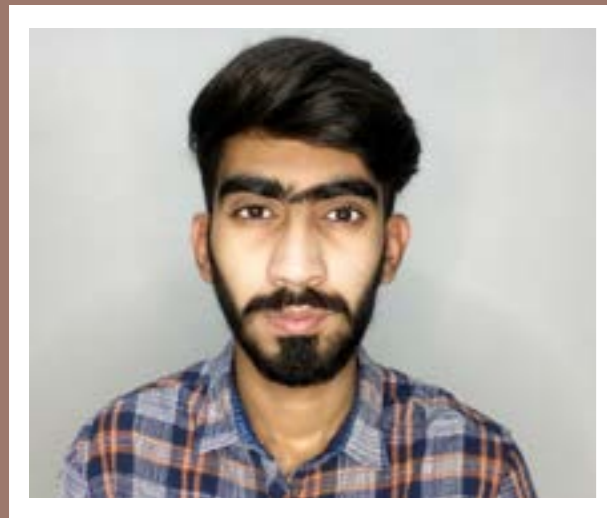
achievements, he said he earned more thousands of dollars via freelancing that could never have been possible with a 9 to 5 job. He considers freelancing the best way to earn for the youth. However, he advises everyone to make sure to become an expert in a specific domain, and create a portfolio prior to stepping in the industry.



ABDULLAH BAIG- GOJRA

Age: 22 Years
Years of Freelancing: 1.7 Years
Area of Specialization: Technical Writing

Generally, it is believed that one must start learning from scratch to acquire the required skills for freelancing. While this may be true in some cases, Abdullah Baig has a different story to narrate. Abdullah is a 22-year-old male who completed his Bachelor's in the field of IT.



He was born and raised in Abu Dhabi and had all the luxuries one could dream of. By Allah's decree, his father fell ill, and they had to move back to Pakistan. His father passed away when he was only 15, and the boy was left to think about how he could earn being the eldest in the family. Is there anything sadder than that? Abdullah knew he had to earn a living for his family, so he worked hard and completed his Bachelor's degree in IT. He scored a 3.92 CGPA and eventually became a Gold Medalist.

Abdullah quoted, "I already had great fluency in English, so I paired that with my tech background

<https://www.fiverr.com/abdullahb786>

The Technical Writing Specialist

and started Technical Writing on Fiverr. Most of my clients were from the US and UK. I wrote many different technical articles on technologies ranging from AI to blockchain to the 4th industrial revolution. I did extensive technical research, which ultimately benefited a lot of SMEs."

With consistent and high-quality deliveries, Abdullah landed a job through a Fiverr client. The company is blockchain-based and located in the UK. He started as a technical writer, and now he is a Lead Software Tester, UI/UX designer, Tech Support, and a full-time content writer. Patience, dedication, and trust in Allah do bring fruitful results, he states.

He has a different approach to RIZQ and FATE, as he claims, "Without consistency and effort, you can't expect God to pour RIZQ directly into your pockets. Hard work is a must. You need to play your part and leave the rest in the hands of The Almighty. What is written for you will reach you. What is not written for you can never be yours. So why worry about RIZQ when you know it's already been written by Allah."

Abdullah has a broader vision and wishes to shape the future differently. According to him, anyone can become a successful freelancer with the right set of skills and practice. As per him, dedication is the key to it because whatever you do wholeheartedly and consistently pays you back. He believes that one must put their heart and soul into any work, whether freelancing or business. When asked about any suggestions for the new entrants, he says, "yourself with like-minded people helps by leaps. Don't be selfish and self-absorbed. Help the people, friends, and colleagues around you regarding freelancing. Their earning will never hinder or impact yours in any way."



FIZA TAHIR- TOBA TEK SINGH

Age: 23 Years
Years of Freelancing: 2.5 Years
Area of Specialization: Content Writing

Fiza Tahir belongs to Toba Tek Singh, has recently completed her M.Phil degree in Physics from the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad. After her graduation, she was on the verge of despair. She wanted to be independent as soon as possible.



Although her parents were bearing her expenses, she wanted to support her father, who was struggling day and night to see his daughters successful. The disappointment was severe at that time, but there was still some glimmer of hope.

Reminiscing old times, she said, "I heard of a program in my university centered on online earning. I took admission in one of the domains, 'Content Marketing and Advertising' offered by e-Rozgaar, a program supported by the Government of Pakistan. It was the 28th day of training when I got my first order from an Australian client, and it was my first triumph.

I got the inspiration to move further until a time came that a US-based company hired me directly. I kept working harder, and in only 1.5 years, I created my mini agency comprising of 8 writers. I intend to have my own software house in my village in the future.

At the start, it was only a source of income for me, but now it has become my passion and ultimate profession. Being in a rural area, apart from hurdles related to basic infrastructure, I am still facing obstacles in the form of moral support from my kin. I barely received any support from anyone at the start. Although it was pulling me down, I calmed myself down and powered up for a fresh start. Apart from supporting my family, I bought my car, Mehran, with my freelance earnings. My mentor, sir Inaam ul Haq Mansoor, gave me the road map towards a successful life, and that has helped me monumentally in materializing my dreams into reality.

He encouraged me to pursue a different world to earn name, fame, and money. With my parents' support and strong encouragement, I have succeeded in my mission. My father supported me throughout my freelance career with his love and wonderful advice. As my moral duty to pay back to the community, I'm giving free training to motivate people to learn and earn online, and this is my only mission to help others with all the little knowledge I have. Together we'll make this nation proud one day, InshaAllah."



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/fiza-tahir-373b40176/>

The Content Specialist



TALHA MALIK-JHANG SADAR

Age: 27 Years

Years of Freelancing: 4 Years

Area of Specialization: LineArt - Graphics Design

Life is unpredictable, so is our fate, and the story of Hafiz Talha Ahsan is a perfect example of that.



He is a successful freelance graphics designer and a line art illustrator. He started freelancing back in 2017. He lives in Jhung and deals with clients from all over the world. He did not accomplish this feat overnight; it took him time, and at that point, he felt drained, but persevered nonetheless.

As Talha did his graduation in Engineering, finding a job was not that easy since the engineering field had become quite saturated at that time. Constant rejection from different companies weakened his spirits, but courtesy of some helpful people in his life, he did not lose all hope. One such person in his life was his teacher, who introduced him to the world of freelancing. The idea just clicked to him, and he decided to try his luck in the field.

Fortunately, he got his first work proposal after some struggle he went through in the beginning. Being an engineer yet working as a freelance designer was completely out of his league, but he decided to pursue that option.

He watched tutorials on the subject, tried his luck with the software tools, and was constantly overwhelmed thinking about the future. Irrespective of this overpowering feeling, and the many challenges that came his way, he powered through. Meanwhile, he started hiring other designers and led the team as a project manager. Dealing with other designers, creating designs that pleased the clients, and completing deadlines wasn't easy, but he accomplished his targets every time.

"One fine day, I came across the 'e-Rozgaar' program, and that made things relatively easier for me. The program helped me massively and allowed me to learn how to use different software, techniques, and aesthetics in my work. That's how I found my silver lining and began earning well," he said, talking about his journey.

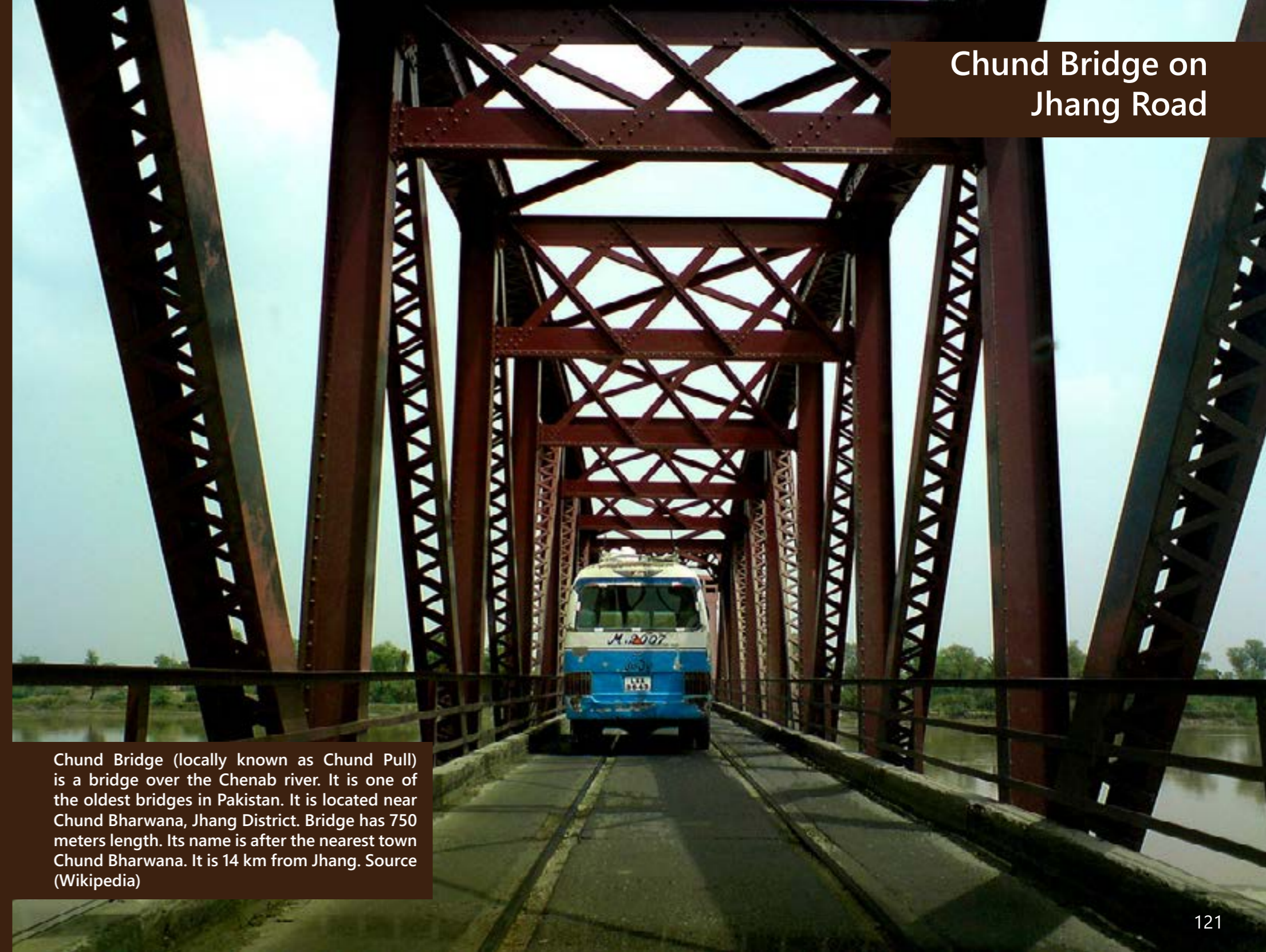
Now, Talha works independently as a logo designer and illustrator while outsourcing others for other tasks for his clients. He is a Top Rated freelancer on Freelancers.com and is earning more than he could ever imagine. When not passionately designing creative for his clients, he loves to travel, explore new places, and try new delicacies.

<https://www.upwork.com/fl/talhamalik39>

The Line Art Graphics Designer



Chund Bridge on Jhang Road



Chund Bridge (locally known as Chund Pull) is a bridge over the Chenab river. It is one of the oldest bridges in Pakistan. It is located near Chund Bharwana, Jhang District. Bridge has 750 meters length. Its name is after the nearest town Chund Bharwana. It is 14 km from Jhang. Source (Wikipedia)

M. ZEESHAN NAZAR-LAYYAH

Age: 28 Years

Years of Freelancing: 1 Year

Area of Specialization: Graphics Designing

Muhammad Zeeshan Nazar belongs to the district Layyah, and has completed his M. Phil Degree in Agriculture in 2019. Like many other people who experienced constant setbacks while hunting for jobs, he too faced the same scenario.



However, since he knew he had to support his family, he commenced his career as a freelancer in June 2020. Talking to our team about his initial days as a freelancer he said, "Being from a non-technical background, I was unaware of how building a skill in graphics design would be beneficial for me. I also took guidance from several YouTube channels for the top skills in demand, and also enrolled in the program e-Rozgaar. I took the creative designing course, and learned logo designing under my mentors' supervision, and things slowly began to make sense for me."

His first ever earning was only PKR 250, but he was delighted about it because he knew it came from hard work and perseverance. His family and relatives often made fun of him, how he sat idle at home, and only falsely claimed to make money. However, that cynicism did not deter his motivation. He said, "My parents supported me so I didn't need to worry about getting a full-time job as they were well-aware of my truest of intentions to support my family. In June 2020, I joined Fiverr, and within three months of hard work, I became a level 2 seller. I want to emphasize the fact that there is no shortcut key to becoming a successful freelancer. Hard work is the only way through which we can achieve achievement. In the pandemic induced by Covid-19, freelancing is the only business that helped many Pakistanis earn a lot when almost every other business crashed.

I have completed almost 400+ jobs on Fiverr in 10 months, and aim to be a Top Rated Seller soon. My objective is to support low-income families. My appeal to the Government is to please provide a national platform dedicated for freelancers to provide job opportunities, so they can contribute as much as possible for the country's development."

www.fiverr.com/graphics_spot93

The Graphics Specialist



AHMED YAQOOB-LAYYAH

Age: 25 Years

Years of Freelancing: 8 Months

Area of Expertise: Virtual Assistant and SQA Automation

Ahmad Yaqoob from Layyah, started freelancing a year ago when he lost his job at the beginning of the first wave of Covid-19. Instead of allowing his disappointment due to rising unemployment overpower him, he tried his luck in freelancing. He had the basic technical knowledge, so like others, he enrolled in the e-Rozgaar program offered by the government. He learned the essential fundamentals of freelance platforms, explored different domains, and exposed himself to different practical experiences to win projects. I wanted to start freelancing as a profession, so I started

to work enthusiastically and focus hard on the goal, but the freelance market is full of competition as millions of freelancers worldwide work hard to get handsome earning. I published my first gig over Fiverr, and also made a prayer to God because the first order is the most challenging to get. It is often hard to win buyer's trust as many experienced freelancers offer them lower rates to get the project. I started keeping the profile online for more than 15 hours a day, and tried to bid on each buyer request that shows on my account. I left Facebook, Instagram, and other social media platforms in order to devote my 100% attention to Fiverr. After 25 days, a USA-based client offered him to complete a US \$5 project related to virtual assistance. He worked hard to deliver it with 100% accuracy to meet the



client's expectations, and he succeeded. The buyer rated him five stars, and also gave US \$5 as a tip. 'I don't have enough words to describe how happy I felt when I saw that 10\$ in my account. He also assigned me more projects that I have completed successfully,' said Ahmad. Starting with a small project worth US \$5, he won many clients' hearts through his freelance services with time. Presently, he is getting bigger orders of significant

https://www.fiverr.com/ahmad_yaqoob

The SQA Automation Engineer

amounts from many international clients. He now earns a handsome amount from freelancing sites while working from home without any tension. 'You can be your boss while freelancing a Pakistani freelancer generating million dollars' worth of revenue each year. Many homemakers, and even students are earning, then why not you? The critical point of being successful in freelancing is to be available online as much as possible, and to provide quality services. Everyone should give a chance to freelancing because it has many opportunities to grow, getting rich, or be a professional,' suggests Ahmad to the aspiring freelancers.

MAZAHIR ALI-BHAKKAR

Age: 28 Years

Years of Freelancing: 7 Years

Area of Specialization: Graphic Design, SEO

Mazahir has been freelancing for seven years now, and has created a sustainable income stream from the medium. Talking about his life story he said, 'I come from a middle-class family, and my father was the sole bread earner of the family back then. I always wanted to help him out so that we can grow better financially, and have a better life. I was looking for means of earning online while doing my graduation. I spent many hours browsing the online world daily to find ways to make money online.' He asked many people to teach him ways to earn online, even if it helped him earn as low as US \$1 per day. Unfortunately, he didn't get any help from anyone as everyone was busy with their own lives. That said, he kept searching for online means to earn an income, and also ended up wasting money on some fraudulent people who promised to teach him ways to make money online, but did not offer him any value.

In 2014, he came across Fiverr in a random Facebook group. While the platform was alien to him, he realized he could use it to earn a livelihood. He started exploring Fiverr, and his interest in it increased day by day. At that time, he did not have any solid skills to sell any service. However, he had always been good at drawing, and loved sketching and doodling in school which is why he decided to pursue his passions. He decided to learn graphic design on his own by watching some videos on YouTube. He still remembers the moment when he installed Adobe Photoshop for the first time. He



fiverr.com/maxahir

The Graphics Specialist

didn't know how to resize an object, or to perform any other function, but with the help of Google, he soon learned about the tool, and built his skill. Recalling those days, he said, 'That was the day my career as a freelance graphic designer started. Since that day in 2014, I've worked as a freelance graphic designer on Fiverr and Upwork. When I was a student, I had a dream to do business across the globe. As a freelance graphic designer, I have achieved my dream

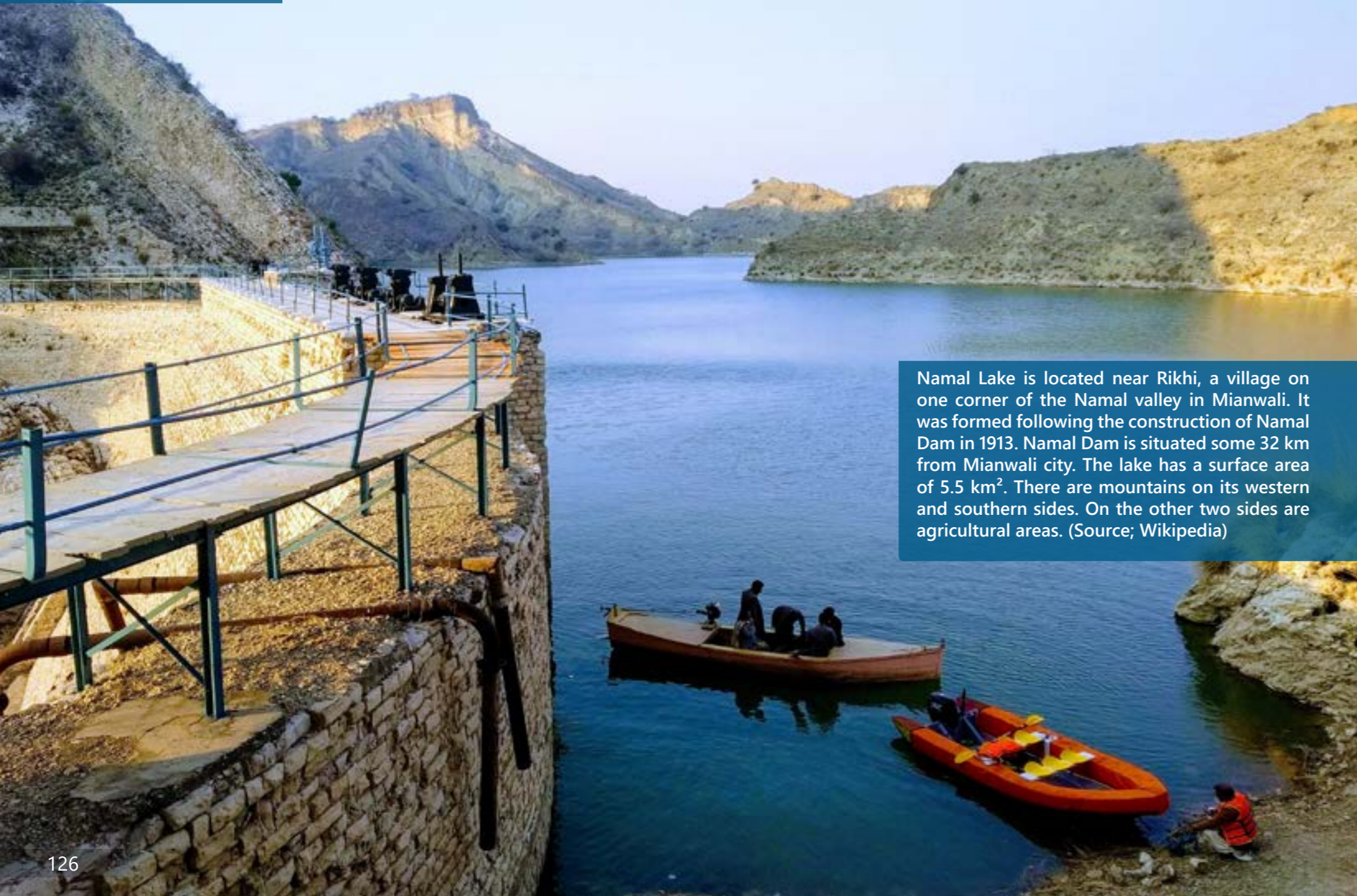
to work with international markets from the comforts of my home. I've never done a job in my life, as right after graduation, I became a full-time freelancer. Alhamdulillah, today I've everything I've dreamed for, and this all was possible due to freelancing. This is why my advice to the new entrants in freelancing would always be to believe in yourself, and work hard because if you do these two things right, you can accomplish every goal you set for yourself.'

Thal Desert



The Thal desert is situated in the province of Punjab. It is a subtropical sandy desert that resembles the deserts of Cholistan and Thar geographically. The region is characterized by sand dunes, prone to massive shifting and rolling, as well as scanty rainfall, high diurnal variation of temperature and high wind velocity. (Source; Wikipedia)

Numl Lake, Rikhi



Namal Lake is located near Rikhi, a village on one corner of the Namal valley in Mianwali. It was formed following the construction of Namal Dam in 1913. Namal Dam is situated some 32 km from Mianwali city. The lake has a surface area of 5.5 km². There are mountains on its western and southern sides. On the other two sides are agricultural areas. (Source; Wikipedia)

SOBIA AMIR-CHASHMA

Age: 28 Years
Years of Freelancing: 3.5 Years
Area of Specialization: Content & Academic Writing & On-Page SEO

From zero to a successful affiliate and research writer, here is the story of Sobia Amir. Talking about her freelancing journey, she said, '2018 was one of the best years of my life, and a turning point in my professional life because that's when I began my freelancing journey. I started my training at E-Rozgar Centre in Mianwali University as a non-technical trainee. I received my first order of US \$5 during my training that inspired me to work harder in the field. For me, freelancing was the best opportunity from Allah after completing my education. Being a business student, I never thought that I would one day become a skillful writer.' During her training, she got a teaching job in the regional college of her city. She managed to attend the training course after taking half-leave from her college.



Affiliated Research Writer

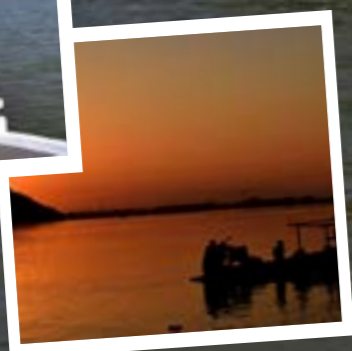


Fortunately, the head of the college was very cooperative, and supported her to continue her training along with her teaching career. Even her trainer also provided her complete help and encouragement to learn freelancing, so she could perform well. 'After my training, I became quite skilled in the field of content writing and SEO, and began posting gigs on freelancing platforms. My first ever freelance earning came from Fiverr, but I also worked on other notable platforms such as Upwork, and Livingston, and also searched for clients through many Facebook pages and groups.

My earnings soon increased, and Alhamdulillah, I have financially supported my parents to invest in real estate purchase in our hometown. Around two

months ago, we also purchased our car, and my parents are proud of me and on my achievements. Being a woman, I never thought I would be earning without stepping a foot outside, and enjoying many benefits. I am thankful to my mentors, my parents, and my generous clients, many of whom often tip me on freelancing platforms,' stated Sobia. Over the last four years, her business income has grown, along with the list of permanent clients on Fiverr and Livingston. I am proud to say that I have inspired many people in my family, and have educated many young people for free to become a source of income for their families. I cherish this as my most outstanding achievement to date. By Allah's grace, I can outsource my work while pursuing my own online business,' says the talented Sobia.

Bohar Bangla, Palace of Nawab Kalabagh



Situated on the banks of the mighty Indus, Kalabagh is best known for the fearsome Governor of West Pakistan -Nawab Ameer Muhammad Khan who ruled West Pakistan from 1961-66 with an iron fist. (Source; news.com.pk)

BEHZAD SOHAIB ANJUM-MIANWALI

<https://www.upwork.com/o/profiles/users/~01961762fc09b1e92e/>

The WordPress and Shopify Expert

Age: 28 Years
Years of Freelancing: 3 Years
Area of Specialization: WordPress and Shopify

Behzad Anjum belongs to a middle-class family from Mianwali. He has always desired for a better life, with emphasis on achieving fiscal security.

Behzad applied to many local and private organizations for a suitable job, but he failed to find a job that met his expectations. He did many unpaid internships in small and large industries, but still struggled to find a job worth his qualification and expertise.'



That was quite a tough situation to be in, and it made me realize how the education provided by the universities does not align with the skills we need in the practical life.

So I decided to enhance my skill set in order to do better in life,' says Behzad. With this realization, he returned to his hometown, and spent one and half years without any job or internship. He then decided to start teaching. After a hard struggle of two-three years, he enrolled in the e-Rozgar, and learned about freelancing, which was a huge opportunity for him to upgrade his skills to a higher level.

After completing his studies, it was difficult for him to find a job that paid well. While he faced that struggle, he also realized that everyone has the power and ability to achieve their dreams.

Talking about his life, Behzad said. "For me, the most significant thing in this world is not where we stand, but whether or not we are headed in the right direction. Life was too complicated for me when I started my job hunt. It was then that I realized the degree I owned was just a piece of paper, and did not empower me with any substantial skills. It was a challenging time indeed because I needed to fulfill my traveling expense, hostel rents, and numerous other expenses."

That proved to be a turning point in his life. He began working on freelancing platforms such as Upwork, and soon rose to earn the badge of being a 'Top Rated Plus Freelancer' at the platform. So far, he has earned over US \$45,000, and has worked for more than 5000 plus hours on Upwork with his consistency, commitment, and firm belief in Allah, and himself. His message to the aspiring freelancers is, 'Freelancing is for everyone, no doubt. To be your boss, you need to use your time wisely. Freelancing gives you the freedom to work from anywhere with your skills, so make the most of this option. Choose a skill area you are passionate about, get trained in it, and kick start your professional career.'



HINA ASLAM- JAUHARABAD

Age: 24 Years
Years of Freelancing: 2 Years
Area of Specialization: Academic Writing



Hina Aslam from Jauharabad started her freelancing career during her studies when she was doing B.S. in Accounting & Finance. Seeing other girls as job holders motivated her a lot. She decided to become independent, and share her parents' load by doing something of her own. She realized that freelancing was a great option for her to pursue. However, the major hurdle she faced at that time was a lack of awareness regarding the field.

"There were only a few people in my city who were well-aware of freelancing. Also, it was hard to convince my family and relatives about the authenticity of freelancing platforms. I decided to get enrolled in the e-Rozgar program, where I learned many in-demand skills, and studied freelancing in detail.

Being a non-technical student, my mentors guided me throughout the journey, and educated me on many tips and tricks that I could use to polish my skills. I excelled in content writing, WordPress, and on-page SEO. After gaining all the required knowledge, I registered myself on Fiverr, and started selling my services. Once my profile was all set up, I got my first client, and was required to write some product descriptions. I completed the task successfully, and received a 5-star rating for it." said hina aslam

Her motivation kept her moving forward, and soon she began receiving many orders. However, she also encountered some setbacks. Once while working on an SEO-related gig, she realized her techniques did not work as the website was bugged. Recalling the incident, Hina said, 'I optimized the site using all the expertise I had, but SEO did not work due to bugs. I explained the situation to my client, but he did not listen to me, and persisted that I wasn't qualified enough. It was a very disturbing situation for me.'

She decided to share the scenario with her instructor, and asked him for a solution. On his advice, she exchanged every bit of information she had regarding the project with the client, and finally, he understood the situation. She assisted the client in removing bugs from his website, and eventually he achieved his desired results, and was satisfied with Hina's services in the end. Sometimes, some of the clients used to get dissatisfied because of minor errors, but that did not weaken her motivation, and she worked arduously to find better clients. Currently, she is working in the field as an academic writer with clients from all over the world, and is earning quite well.

The Academic Writer



When asked about some words of wisdom for newbie freelancers, she said, "Never give up on yourself when you encounter small hurdles. If you have a skill, go ahead, polish it, and become an independent, and then work on it even more to transform yourself into an expert freelancer. Don't get distracted by problems in life. Moreover, don't worry about becoming the biggest brand right away. Start off by working on what you need at the present moment, and then work on what you need to do tomorrow. Set manageable targets for yourself, and then work your way up. Look up at the stars and not down at your feet. If you keep working hard, you too will reach the pinnacle of success. Also, adopt a curious attitude, and try to learn more about different platforms so you grow even more successful."

M. SIKANDER SHEHZAD- ADHIKOT A YouTube Content Creator & Voiceover



Age: 16 Years
Years of Freelancing: 1.5 Years
Area of Specialization: YouTube
Content Creation, Voice Over and
Video Editing

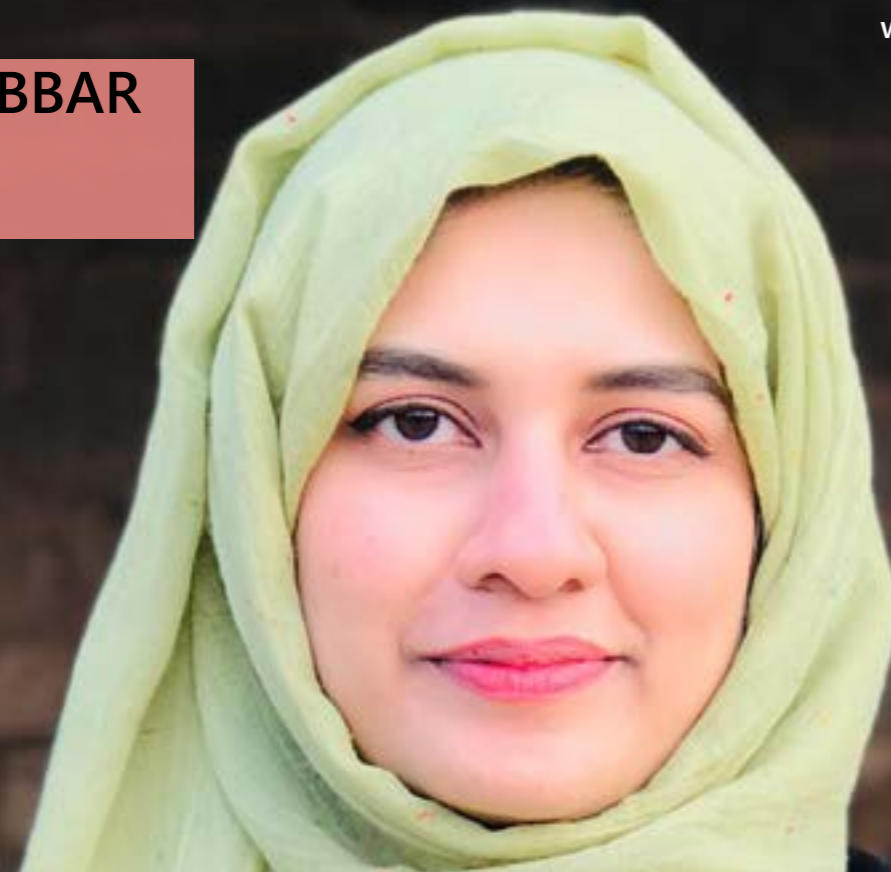
Muhammad Sikandar Shehzad is 16 years old, a student of grade 10, and is native to Adhikot. His father is a gastrointestinal patient, and unable to perform any work. Previously, he had a canteen in an elementary school. When his father's illness aggravated, he realized he had to take the responsibility to support his family, and fulfill their needs.

In 2019, he created his YouTube Channel, and at that time, he was not even aware of uploading videos on the channel. He kept learning, and was soon able to monetize his channel in November the very same year. He ventured into other areas of freelancing in January 2020 by offering video editing and voiceover services. At that time, he sold YouTube videos to different new freelancers and creators at the lowest price. After a few months, he was inspired by Hisham Sarwar through his videos, and decided to create his own account on Fiverr.

He created some gigs on the platform, and was successful in receiving his first order after three days which was very exciting for him. He earned around PKR 100,000 from this account. Unfortunately, it was banned due to some violations. This setback did not dampen his spirits, and he created another account. Sadly, he had used some problematic keywords in the gig that led to his account being blocked once again. He learnt more techniques to successfully post gigs on the platform, and created another account during the end of February, 2020. Within two months, he

was able to earn PKR 2,000 per month, and currently, he makes about US \$2,000 monthly. He mentioned how his relatives abandoned his family when his father was incredibly sick, but now that they see him doing well in life, they approach him to learn freelancing. While addressing fresh starters, Muhammad Sikandar said, 'freelancing is really magical. It would really help you if you enter the field with a positive mindset, and a can-do attitude. You can learn and earn a lot from this field. All you need is consistency, good time management, and the ability to run your business very intelligently.'

MARYAM JABBAR SAHIWAL The Architect



Age: 28 Years
Years of Freelancing: 2.5 Years
Area of Specialization: Architectural Design & 3D Visualization

"I am Maryam Jabbar from Sahiwal, Punjab, Pakistan, an architect working as a freelancer on Fiverr for the past 2.5 years. It was my father's dream to see me as an architect. I was close to my father, and he was my best friend. That's why I passionately worked hard to make his dream come true. I got admission in Comsats University, Lahore in 5-years architectural degree. Unfortunately, my father died of a severe heart attack when I was dealing with my thesis in the final year. All of

this was so sudden that I couldn't bear it, and lose interest in my studies as well as life generally. I wanted to give the final jury for the thesis, but my mind was very disturbed, so I froze my semester with the cooperation of my teacher." She Said.

After six months, she got married, but the marriage proved to be quite unpleasant, within a year, she got divorced. Despite these challenges, she never lost hope because she believed that Allah has written something unique for her. Gradually, she healed herself, and then resumed her thesis. After completing her degree, she joined a well-reputed school in Sahiwal as an

Arts teacher, but wanted to pursue her career in architecture. However, relevant jobs were not available in the city, and it was hard to shift to the metropolitan city, so she reconsidered that idea.

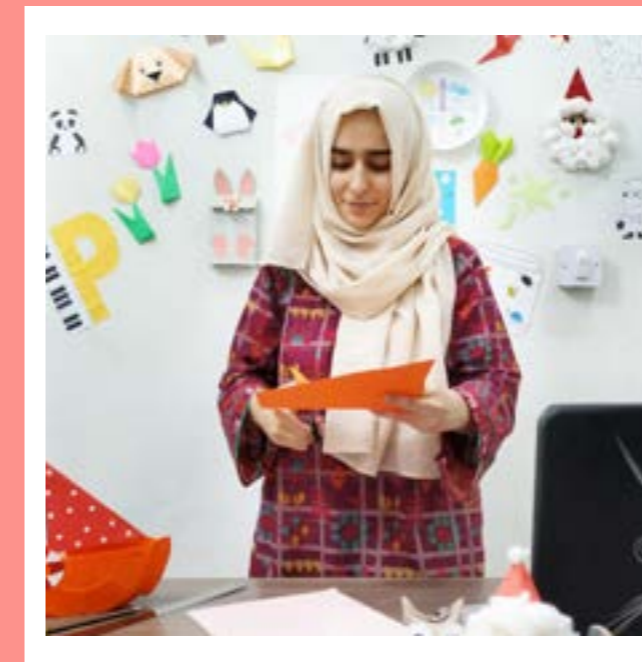
She shared her concerns with her brother who recommended freelancing to her. 'I didn't know about freelancing, so he enrolled me in the Fiverr training course. I followed lectures keenly and started my freelancing journey. Initially, for nine months, I provided architectural and interior designing-related content writing services. Then, I switched to architectural services on demand. Now, I am a level two seller on

Fiverr, and have completed top seller requirements as well. I have completed 370 projects to date and working on many more passionately,' she stated.

"I believe freelancing is an excellent opportunity for all; it gives us a complete chance to explore our potentials, and showcase our talent to the world professionally. Moreover, I feel a girl should never compromise on her dignity, no matter what the situation is. There are ups and downs in everyone's life. You should solve your problems bravely. Allah has given you potential, so explore it and utilize it in the best way because economic empowerment is the actual empowerment."

SADIA MASOOD- SAHIWAL

Age: 24 Years
Years of Freelancing: 1 Year
Area of Specialization: Art Tutorial Maker /Video Editor



Belonging to the small city of Punjab called Sahiwal, I was grown up with the mindset of teaching as a profession, but I never dreamt of it. Completing my 18 years of education with a degree in Bio-Sciences at the age of 24, I couldn't find a job because I had no teaching experience. It hurts me how our society evaluates one's abilities and skills based on experience only. Struggling with my expenditures, I started finding ways to earn online during this pandemic, and then I came across about freelancing but couldn't find a way to introduce my skill in the industry. I am an art enthusiast with a creative and artistic mind since my childhood, but I never knew this skill would be the first source of my earning.

The Art Tutorial Maker



I got a chance to avail the opportunity provided by E-Rozgaar training, and enrolled in the creative designing program. It helped me improve my skills, and find the right direction to use potential to materialize my hopes and aspirations. I began using my creative skills in making and editing videos, and started creating DIY videos of Arts and crafts for social channels. Everything doesn't come in served in a plate. I realized that, so remained consistent in my journey. It took me four months to get my first order, and the rest was history. Today, I have more than 15 satisfied clients globally. If I credit my success to freelancing entirely, I wouldn't be wrong.

Today, she sees herself standing where she always wanted to be. According to her, she couldn't ask for more if she is earning more than the average employee's income within her house premises just by exploring her skills.

I do not believe that only degrees help you attain financial stability. Instead, I believe that your skills can lead you anywhere in the world if you are determined and passionate. I found it very strange when people expressed their concerns regarding the uncertain future of freelancing. Often, people think one cannot earn a stable income for good with freelancing; I choose to firmly disagree. Sadia says she is unsure of her long-term plans, but she is assured that she can migrate anywhere in the world without the fear of losing her job because she possesses skills that are not associated with any terms and conditions. She encourages everyone to explore their abilities, and build skills around them in order to do well in life.

The Sahiwal coal-fired power plant is the flagship project of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) completed by Huaneng Shandong Ruyi (Pakistan) Energy Private Limited(HSR). The project is based upon build-operate-transfer mode and after 30 years of operation will be transferred to government of Punjab. This project has played a vital role in overcoming the shortage of electricity in Pakistan and has done so by taking care of its local surroundings and people. (Source; dailytimes. pk)

Coal Power Plant, Sahiwal,



MUHAMMAD ALI-SARGODHA

Age: 24 Years
Years of Freelancing: 2 Years
Area of Specialization: Electrical Engineering
tutions

Mohammad Ali belongs to Sargodha, and has done Electrical Engineering from COMSATS University, Islamabad. Recalling his days from the university days, he says, 'I was living in Hostel in Wah Cantt. When I was in 6th Semester, we were preparing for our final exams. One of my fellows, Farrukh Rehan Khan was busy in doing something on laptop and I asked him of what he was doing. He told me about how he was preparing an electrical project for a client. It was then that I found out about freelancing, and how it allowed us to work from home at any time, and from anywhere while providing services to national and international customers.

I was extremely impressed, and I asked him for some work. He gave me a little project, and I was too excited to do it. I spent around 3 to 4 hours on my first project. When I completed the task, my friend Farrukh gave me 1000 PKR. That was my first earning, and I was very happy to earn PKR 1,000 in just 3 to 4 hours. I asked him of ways to find direct clients, and he guided me very thoroughly.'

He then began working for middlemen, and with the passage of time, he learnt more about freelancing platforms. In 2020, he created his first ever profile on Fiverr in 2020. Initially, he faced a lot of difficulties because he had never worked on Fiverr before, and was not familiarized with the platform. In the start, he believed that he would easily get clients, but for two months he did not get even a single order. Mohammad Ali was very shocked because the reality differed from his expectations. He then decided to study the platform in depth, and found out that only creating an account on Fiverr does not guarantee you to get orders from clients.

He found out that it was important for the sellers to be online for as long as possible on Fiverr through their PC, or mobile. Once he began staying online on Fiverr for long hours, he was eventually able to get his first order within seven days.

He regularly accepts buyers' requests, and just by doing so consistently, he began receiving orders on regular basis. So far, he has worked for several international clients by providing services related to electrical engineering projects. He graduated in 2019, and had a 3.03 CGPA in electrical engineering. Like others in the field, he too had a dream job to pursue, and began hunting for jobs.

Although, he applied to different companies, but never received a positive response from even one. He then decided to go to Lahore to seek better jobs, and while dropping his CV at different organizations, he was often asked by the security guard if he had any references in the firm. He was dismayed to find out that it was only through having powerful connections that one could land a good job. Reminiscing that time, he said, 'I came to know that reference is very compulsory for getting a job in Pakistan, even for submitting a CV.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/mohammad-ali-8a6650140>



The Electrical Engineer

I was very disappointed, and came back to my home town because I lacked the references and connections required to start my professional career.

I was already doing freelancing, but till now, it was only to make some additional money to serve as my own pocket money. However, when I returned home, I decided to pursue freelancing with full dedication, and turn it into a full-time career. From that day, I have worked very hard, and earned around US \$36,000. I am very thankful to Allah Almighty, my Parents and specially my friend, Farrukh Rehan Khan for introducing me to this field because now this is how I earn my bread and butter.

INAAM UL HAQ MANSOOR-FAISALABAD

Age: 34 Years
Years of Experience: 10 Years
Area of Specialization: Digital Marketing, SEO

Inaam ul Haq from Faisalabad, who is currently serving as a freelancer, trainer, and mentor, talks about the early days of his freelancing career, 'A refreshing breakthrough of my life was when I launched my digital marketing agency. 'Tech Mentions' in 2012.



Paying an attribute to my father's dedication and contribution in my critical successes was the Google AdSense Publisher Account under his name. I started my web journey more enthusiastically by joining Punjab Information Technology Board in 2017 to teach content marketing, digital marketing, and SEO. 'I collaborated with Payoneer as Country Level VIP Affiliate for Pakistan in 2018. Tech Mentions is the only company in Pakistan that is a VIP Level Affiliate for Pakistan. I convinced Payoneer to stop charging annual fees to Pakistani Freelancers.' He earned the 'Start Trainer' title in the 'e-Rozgaar' program by PITB in 2019.

He is also a co-founder of Pakistan's leading auto brand, "AutoX.pk," wherein he manages the brand's digital marketing side." He added. His core achievements include launching many web products such as SonicX- the website performance booster, EpicWoo- the World's first ecom sales booster with conversion tools, EpicMessage- chat bot automation tool for business and individuals, GPLins- a collection of themes and PHP scripts, FiverrBell-a buyer request notification alert, QR Ocean- one of the best QR code generator, Voice-a vocal form of textual data, and WPAcademy- a platform that teaches how to become a developer. Talking about his achievements, Inaam ul Haq says, 'I am a co-founder at EPTEck, Pakistan's leading company providing robotic automation, embedded engineering, and various development services. We have three offices; one is in Pakistan, one in Germany and one in Switzerland. Providing these services across Europe, we are the only official strategic partner of RISC-V international from Pakistan.' He further added, 'I have the recognition of Master Trainer in NFTP, hiring trainers and managing freelance courses in all of the institutes across Pakistan.

"I have been through many dimensions and breakthroughs, touching the skies with a deep desire to transfer all my knowledge and learning to those enthusiastic hearts who want to at least participate in the race of perfection because success comes from Allah the Almighty. I am always available in the extreme vicinity for those who want to change their lives positively, incorporating a different perspective in their lives. Free web seminars are arranged under my supervision to arouse the awareness of web importance among youngsters who can make mountains move if they work as a nation."

www.linkedin.com/in/mansoorimrza

The Master Trainer



NUMAN ALI AKHTAR- FAISALABAD

Age: 34 Years
Years of Freelancing: 2 Years
Area of Specialization- SEO



After completing his MBA with majors in Marketing from COMSATS University, Lahore, Numan Ali landed a job in Allied Bank. He worked there for four years, but was never satisfied with his job. "I always wanted to do something that excited me more, and my job at the bank somehow did not offer that excitement. I had a keen interest in IT and wanted

to do something centered on it," said Numan. He left his 9 to 5 job, and took the 'eRozgar' training. The training was phenomenal, and completely changed his life. He had no idea where to begin, or how to win clients, and that's when he looked up ways on "how to be a successful freelancer" on Google, and discovered Fiverr. While he joined the platform with great enthusiasm, he quickly realized that it was a competitive platform with a lot of highly-rated freelancers. "My desire to use the online medium to make a fortune still inspired me, hence I persevered," he stated.

After the training completed, he started bidding on projects on Fiverr. After sending 300+ proposals in 30 days, only 4 buyers responded. He spent around 5 days convincing a client to sell his first gig! It took him around 45 days to win his first online job, and he successfully completed the task. A client required keyword research for her website. She placed first order of US \$6 (custom order). The positive feedback from her helped him gain attention on the platform, and more people started to slowly get in touch with him.

Very soon, I was earning additional money, and that felt extremely rewarding. The journey was just beginning, and I was saddling up for the ride! I never stopped, or looked back. I'm a 'Top Rated Seller' on Fiverr (Highest Rank for a Seller on Fiverr). I hired a team last year that helps in my projects. I have clients from all over the world, and have dominated the local business industry of USA. I'm managing a portfolio of US \$10,000 per month now. Recently, I worked for an upcoming Movie of Hollywood (The Finch). I'm working for many renowned international brands now.

[fiverr.com/numan_seo/](https://www.fiverr.com/numan_seo/)

The SEO Specialist



There were two real motivators for me to make this happen. The first was the freedom to work when it suited me. The second was my passion, and interest in the field. Both factors stimulated in me the passion and commitment required to make my dream come true. All of this came as a result of a lot of patience, hard work and determination. Building a client base online is not something that happens overnight, but I had put in the quality work and effort to accomplish this feat. I was motivated by success and by freedom for being my own boss. Fiverr has given me everything I needed to kick start my freelancing career, and turn it into a successful full-time profession that is going from strength to strength.

In future, I'd really love to ramp up the number of clients I'm taking on, and figure out a way to fit them into my schedule! Slowly I'd like to build up my dream-team, where we spend our creating innovative ideas, and supporting other small and medium-sized businesses in doing what they do best. I'm most excited to remove myself from the day-to-day operations, and focus on planning out strategies for my clients.

MUNIBA ZAHRA- FAISALABAD

Age: 30 Years
Years of Freelancing: 10 Years
Area of Specialization: Ecommerce Marketing
Copywriter | Amazon Business Optimization

Success is not a destination: it's a journey that you can make with the right direction only,' says Muniba Zahra. Long ago, a 17 year old girl lived in a small city of Punjab. She loved to explore the online world with minimal resources, and one fine day, she came across elance and oDesk that later combined to form Upwork. She often wondered about the different ways the world works, and how people were able to earn an income online. From a young age, Muniba loved to read books, and had a knack for writing poetry.

Her IT educational background coupled with the love of writing steered her towards copywriting. Time passed by, and she met the most extraordinary people in life who gave her the chance, and direction to learn business on the most prosperous global market: Amazon. 'My life was revolutionized, and Allah granted me respect, love, and Islamic business knowledge.

Together with those supportive people, I started 'DigiMasters', a training institute to provide extensive hands-on experience to future Muslim entrepreneurs and freelancers with a blend of Islamic business and life Ethics,' she Stated. When I look at a mature woman I am right now, who is not only doing Amazon freelancing, business, running an agency, providing consultancy to other companies, but also performing her roles as a wife, mother, and daughter-in-law, I feel I cannot offer enough gratitude to Allah, my parents, my in-laws and my beloved husband, who always supported me to achieve my goals.

<https://www.upwork.com/o/profiles/users/~01ed04f16e28ca25e3/>

She aspires to help online businesses that bring ease and opportunities for the world, and has a mission to design and develop a bridge system between e-commerce businesses and ordinary people using technical, analytical, and copywriting expertise.

Her message to all Muslim women in the world is, 'Time is money; it can be made and can be lost, and you for sure have enough time and potential to stand for yourself, and use your time wisely. May ALLAH Bless us with righteous, prosperous life here and hereafter.

The Ecommerce Copy Writer | Amazon Business Optimization Expert

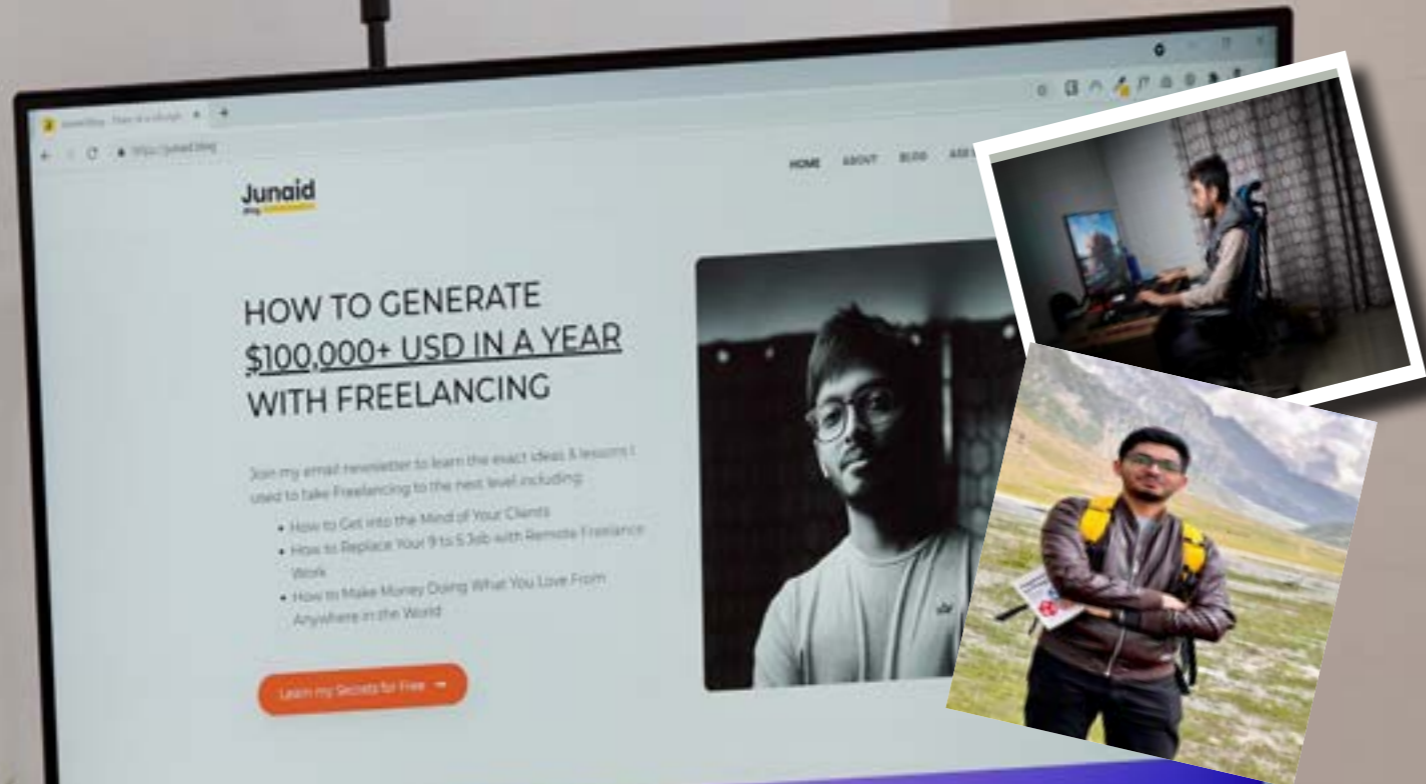


Clock Tower & 8 Bazaars, Faisalabad

The Faisalabad Clock Tower is one of the oldest monuments still standing in its original state from the period of the British Raj, during the nineteenth century. The foundation of the majestic Clock Tower was laid on 14 November 1903 by the British lieutenant Governor of Punjab Sir Charles Riwar and the biggest local landlord belonging to the Mian Family of Abdullahpur. The clock is placed at the center of the eight markets, each has unique product types for sale. (Source; Wikipedia)

JUNAID ALI-FAISALABAD

The Web Entrepreneur



Age: 28 Years
Years of Freelancing: 8 Years
Area of Specialization: Web Development

Junaid Ali is a young entrepreneur who started his journey from a single room not more than 8 x 8 feet, where he lived with his parents and brother. From early childhood, his parents had the dream to own a house of their own one day, but they did not have the resources, or any hope of achieving this target. Junaid started his career in 2013.

Since then, he has generated over US \$250,000, allowing him to fulfill his parents' lifelong dream of owning a house. Moreover, it has also allowed him to raise their living standard. Apart from serving his clients, Junaid also takes out time for teaching and motivating others to take charge of their destiny by choosing freelancing as a career. He believes that helping people overcome their problems, and raise their living standards helps him support them to fulfill their dreams. 'All of that wouldn't be possible if I didn't stumble upon the path of freelancing.

I couldn't imagine being able to build a house of my own at such an early age,' mentioned Junaid. Through freelancing, he understood the true meaning of being your own boss, and that changed the way he looked at the world. Instead of looking for a job, and wishing someone would hire him, he looks for opportunities to grow, and has taken control of his destiny.

He firmly believes that anything is possible while also showing others the way to prosperity and freedom.

'Deciding to be a freelancer has made all the difference in my life. From being able to learn something new every day to getting to meet new people whom I love working with, to being able to build a house of my own finally, and to getting my dream car and luxuries of life I only dreamt of- I have now triumphs to my credit that makes me very proud of myself. I believe the future of work is remote, based solely on your skills. The world is changing, and it's SO EXCITING to be a part of the revolution!' concludes Junaid.

MUHAMMAD RASHAD-USMAN WALA

Age: 30 Years
Years of Freelancing: 10 Months
Area of Specialization: Virtual Assistance and Digital Marketing

Muhammad Rashad belongs to Usmanwala, Kasur near Border of Ganja Kalaan, and lives on the farm of a landlord. He was born in a family wherein making money was considered important, and nobody was well-aware regarding the importance of education.



Nonetheless, he completed his DAE Civil, and started a job in 2012. From day one, he believed in hard work and never gave up. After completing his degree, he tried to pursue his career as a successful engineer but failed. He tried shifting towards a construction business, but once again, he was confronted with disappointments for him. His challenges increased all the more after his marriage.

"I used to sell grains packets for my family's survival; some shopkeepers bought my packets in cash while some bought them on credit that made things even tougher for me. I wanted to earn for my family, so I became an auto-rickshaw driver. Unfortunately, luck did not favor me again.

Journey from a Farmer to a Freelancer

Instead of losing hope, I sold my rickshaw, and became a Careem driver in Lahore; but working for more than 18 hours affected my health. I went back to my home town and helped my parents by working in vegetable fields. I hoped to find better means of survival, but my lousy luck followed me right when my field was ready for harvest. Covid-19 entered our lives, and the lockdown put our survival in jeopardy.

During his struggling period, he was continuously looking for online earning methods, and one day he watched Hisham Sarwar's video titled, 'Why Freelancers Failed In their Life?' This video gave him another chance to change his destiny. He enrolled himself into the DigiSkills program, and learned marketing and freelancing skills by completely dedicating himself to the program. After gaining the necessary knowledge of his domain, he stepped into online platforms.

"I remembered I set my profile again on 25th of February, 2020. I had created it before in 2016, but I didn't know how to use it then. With the help of Allah Almighty, I put my first bid and won a project worth US \$277, out of the 26 people who had placed a big on it. I didn't sleep the whole night in sheer happiness. After receiving my first payment, I distributed sweets among my family member and friends. Now, my career has been started, and I am determined to change my destiny for the better."

"He stated how poor internet remains to be a huge problem in his area, and for this reason, he had to relocate to get a better internet connection. He moved to the city to pursue his freelancing career, and is now serving as a level 2 freelancer. He also trained many of his friends in the area, and motivated them to become a freelancer." His message to newcomers is, "Try another way if you fail in one. Do polish your skills and keep learning new ones to thrive."



MUDASSIR SALEEM MALIK- LAHORE

Age: 36 Years
Years of Freelancing: 11 Years
Area of Specialization: Project Management, Team Development, and Virtual Team Management

Opting for Computer Science in graduation was the best decision Mudassir Saleem made with his parents' mutual understanding. In 2007, He searched to get admission in Sweden for his Master's Program when he passed university. He started his job in the same company as a .net developer and progressed in his career, working with many international companies that strengthened his profile.



"In 2010, my friend, colleague & Co-Founder Adnan Tahir thought about setting up things for ourselves, and as a "Technologist" working in the field of marketing. I chose to build my profile on ODesk. It was tough when we had no "Mentor" to guide us in those times, but we struggled and landed some fantastic projects. We kept on delivering projects, and our profiles grew stronger with time. From 2010 and onwards, my freelancing career converted itself into a leading software development house in Pakistan.

I am proud to say that we worked tirelessly on Odes' (now Up work) and grew our work-plate, and from people, we now stand 125 strong under one roof.

The only primary trait that helped me was being persistent, passionate, and honest with my clientele. Now at the age of 36, I am running a Tech company called "AppsGenii Technologies." I am also part of many startups and initiatives, including GharPar, DentiNect, and CodeWorking. It was not EASY, but all these hardworking is worth it at the end of the day. I love what I've done, no regrets, and Alhamdulillah is still filling the gaps and moving on.

I would humbly request and advise all new and budding freelancers to please be patient, persistent, and honest in what they are doing. There is always room to improve, so never consider you have reached the max. Sitaron se aagey Jahan aur bhi hain (there are more galaxies beyond the stars, so keep exploring), he stated.

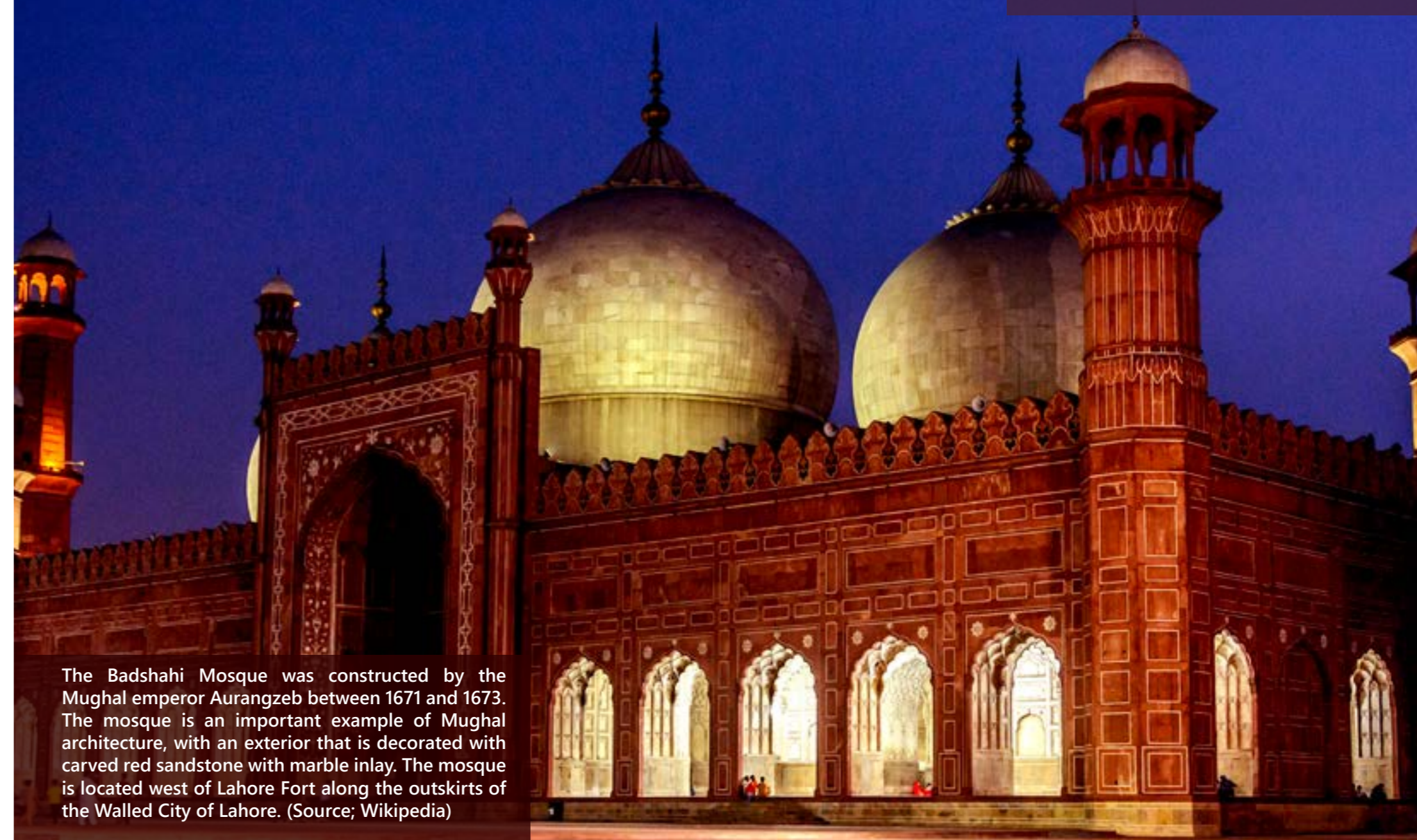
He advises entrants in the field to look for people who can help them grow while focusing on what they can do best and moving to something new when they feel there is no room for further growth.

"As an entrepreneur, I've learned that life will not always be fair, and you will make mistakes. Fairly speaking, mistakes are inevitable. You cannot be perfect, so don't shy away from erring and learning. Some of the most important life lessons are learned the hard way. It is best to learn from the experiences of others instead of going through every setback yourself. Wherever you are in life, it pays to learn from those who have the experience to teach. The more you learn, the better you become. You'll avoid mistakes and focus more of your energy on succeeding in life," advises Mudassir.

The Project Management Expert



Badshahi Mosque, Lahore



The Badshahi Mosque was constructed by the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb between 1671 and 1673. The mosque is an important example of Mughal architecture, with an exterior that is decorated with carved red sandstone with marble inlay. The mosque is located west of Lahore Fort along the outskirts of the Walled City of Lahore. (Source; Wikipedia)

River Front Urban Development, Lahore



In view of the recent urbanization in Lahore, the government aims to establish a riverfront development in the city alongside River Ravi, stretching all the way to Sheikhpura district. A 33-km long stretch made of concrete would be developed on River Ravi, where a new city will be developed on the riverbanks. (Source; Zameen.com)

UMAIR MAJEED & UMAR MAJJEED-LAHORE

Age: 25

Years of Freelancing: 3 years

Area of Specialization: Product Engineering, Website Development, Mobile App Development, Artificial Intelligence

2017 was the year when I graduated in Computer Sciences from FAST NUCES, one of the most reputed institutions of Pakistan. Right after that, I was fortunate enough to land a job as a Software Engineer in Systems Limited, Pakistan's premier technology organization. I worked over there for a year and then started my MS in Data Science from ITU, Lahore.

In parallel to all this, I was working as a freelancer on different online platforms, offering my services as a data scientist and machine learning expert. One of my foreign clients was impressed by my expertise and the level of commitment I brought to the table. He awarded me some hefty projects and asked me to set up, manage, and expand a development team for further projects.

With all this going in the background, my elder brother, Umar Majeed, left his full-time job and started working in Crossover, becoming a part of the top 1% global talent and earning \$100k+ per annum. Umar needed a place to work remotely, and I needed to set up a development team. So, we decided to rent out an office space.

We wanted to do something unique, something that was never done in Pakistan regarding Data, Analytics, and Artificial Intelligence. This is how we came up with the name Datics AI and started our firm in 2018.

Starting a firm of your own is never easy, especially when you are so young and many big players are already in the market. But I would want to add that patience, hard work, and commitment can make anything possible, and we are a living example of this. From nothing to building a custom office that serves our needs with over 50+ resources in just a short period of 2 years is something remarkable in itself. We are the only expert-vetted software development firm on Upwork, representing the top 1% of talent in Pakistan. We have offered 100s of software solutions to our international business clients. We are also working on some smart IT solutions that will help the USA government collect taxes without any hassle.

In 2020, convinced by the potential of Datics AI and his passion for serving Pakistan by creating more jobs, Umar left his lucrative job as a remote Chief Python Architect and joined our team as a CTO. With his 9+ years of experience and expertise in software development, we are now stronger than ever. Our focus on business and problem-solving has been greatly improved over the past two years. We have now developed a more institutionalized approach.

"We have already partnered with a firm in the USA and would be opening our own offshore office in the years to come. This is just the tip of the iceberg, and I believe there are no limits to what we can achieve."



Azadi Chowk, Lahore



Azadi Chowk «Liberty Interchange»; also known as Minar-e-Pakistan Chowk, «Minar-e-Pakistan Interchange»), is a large elevated roundabout in Lahore, capital of Punjab, Pakistan. Azadi Chowk is near the Minar-e-Pakistan monument, where the ceremony of the Pakistan Resolution was conducted, resulting in the creation of Pakistan. (Source: Wikipedia)

ALI KAMRAN-LAHORE

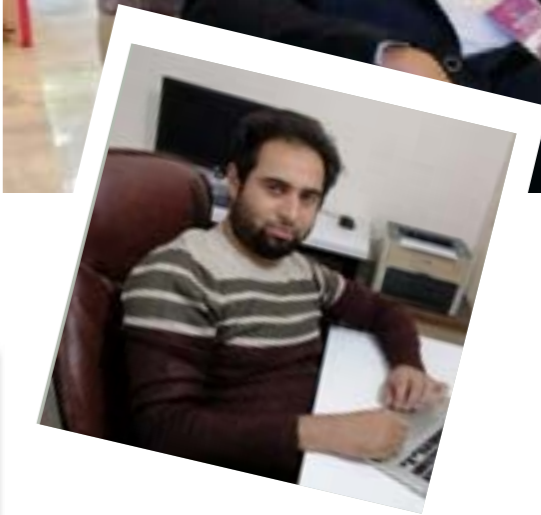
Age: 32 Years
Years of freelancing: 9 Years
Area of Specialization: Digital Marketing

‘Only rebels become leaders’, writes Ali Kamran, a thriving freelancer from Lahore. Generally, it is believed that young boys have to choose their father’s business when they grow older, but are considered a rebellion if they refuse to do so. Such is the story of Ali Kamran from Lahore. When he grew up, his father had already decided for him to join their family business. When he disagreed, he had the option of doing a 9-5 job instead.

Around nine years ago, in 2012, Ali decided that he would neither work in full-time job, nor join his father’s business.

That was the time, he discovered oDesk (now Upwork), and started his freelancing journey when he was 22 years of age, and was working on his thesis for his Master’s degree.

In 2013, oDesk acknowledged Ali Kamran among the top 5% freelancers worldwide. This achievement motivated the young boy to create his team to complete projects faster while he focused more on winning even bigger projects. Ali is one of a very few Facebook Blueprint certified digital marketing professionals in Pakistan. After achieving many desired milestones as a freelancer, Ali decided to jump into the education field by creating his course on social media marketing for TEVTA, and also joined ‘e-Rozgaar’ as a



master trainer for the ‘Content Marketing & Advertising’ category. He is providing professional training to the trainers across Punjab in creating, editing and evaluating the syllabus. Ali has trained around 35 trainers so far to empower them with the skills to further train the youth struggling with unemployment. Around 10,000+ trainees graduated under Ali’s umbrella. At the same time, the extraordinary impact that

he has created is immeasurable as he has made it possible for many families to live a better life. He always guides his students and the newbie freelancers to believe in themselves, and pursue their passions because if you do what you love, you continue to find new ways to prosper in that area, and excel in life.

SHAROON SHAHID- LAHORE

Age: 32 Years

Years of Freelancing: 7 Years

Area of Specialization: SEO and E-Book Writing

In 2012, Sharoon Shahid began looking for some home-based work, came across a freelancing opportunity, and worked crazily for a man for full 30 days, only to end up realizing how it was a scam.



Heartbroken, but not hopeless, she searched for some content writing gigs and came across some great opportunities. Prior to that she had worked as an intern for a company specializing in medical machinery, but on realizing it wasn't her cup of tea, she leaned towards writing-based jobs.

Sharing her story on how she ventured into freelancing, she says, 'While working with a consultancy firm, I began making my freelance clients and specialized in the art of e-book and SEO writing. By that time, I was managing about 80% of my family's household, and was a mother to a beautiful 1-year-old boy. Fast forward to when he was 4.5, I had to throw in the towel in my toxic, and abusive marriage wherein I was subjected to domestic violence and every kind of abhorrent abuse regularly. Fortunately, I was completely financially independent at that time, had a home on a rent to live in, and was able to manage all my household expenses by myself. I worked on honing my skill and potential, and was soon able to land better clients.'

Currently, she has clients based in Kenya, the US, UK, Canada, Austria and Pakistan, and those who choose to work with her don't go anywhere else whenever they require top-notch website copy, SEO articles, and e-books. Plus, she is the Community Lead at Connected Women Pakistan, a storyteller with Suno Kahani Meri Zubaani and Luqmay, and course instructor at SkillsToDo and Learning Lab, and runs her blog 'raised Alone, Raising Alone.' She is also currently working as the CMO of Ollybear, an Austrian-based social enterprise that established diverse social projects in developing countries. She stumbled upon the organization via People Per House, a popular freelancing platform. While talking about that experience, she says, 'Together, Ollybear and I aim to empower the women of Pakistan with strength and courage to fight violence once and for all.' Her journey so far has been quite an interesting one. There were massive setbacks and days when she felt she couldn't go forward, but she kept powering through courtesy of her faith and constant grit.

www.fiverr.com/sharoon88?up_rollout=true

The E-Book Writing Expert



She believes she couldn't have made it this far had it not been for freelancing. 'I gave my son quality time, tended to all his needs, and carried out gazillion chores as a single parent only because I worked as a freelancer. I wouldn't have enjoyed such freedom had I been tied to a 9 to 5 job. I wish good luck to everyone who steps in this field and encourages them to believe in themselves to do wonders in life. Often women, especially single moms doubt themselves immensely that hinders their growth. I request them to please understand that they have unimaginable power. We just need to realize, accept and explore it to truly unlock and materialize into reality. Moreover, I feel we need to be more grateful for our blessings. Gratitude leads to contentment that creates more room for positive beliefs that consequently trigger our growth,' she advises the young generation.

Arfa Software Technology Park, Lahore



The project's name was Lahore Technology Park but it was later renamed to honor the memory of late Arfa Karim, a Pakistani computer prodigy who became the youngest Microsoft Certified Professional at age nine in 2014. (Source: govtof-pakistan.com/twitter)

SAIMA ASHRAF-LAHORE

Age: 40 Years
Years of Freelancing: 10 Years
Area of Specialization: Research & Grant Writing, Business Documents, SEO

40 years old freelancer, Saima Ashraf narrated her story, "It was almost ten years back when I started applying for a job after my MBA, but I did not find any reasonable offer primarily because of my post-polio disability.

"I had mobility limitations, and it was practically hard for me to maneuver to the workplace. Instead of wasting her time seeking jobs, and getting rejected due to disability, she decided to work as a freelancer. Beginning from a local portal, she worked as a content writer, and after a few months, she learned SEO from an institution in Lahore. 'SEO gave me a writing boost on international forums when I joined Upwork. Competing with international freelancers was challenging.'" She said.

"I began at US \$3/hour, the lowest rate at that time, but I had to start my journey. My first project was SEO copywriting that proved to be the milestone of success in my life. It became my identity on Upwork, and today, I am one of the top-rated writers on the platform," she states. She has grown her writing career over the years, and currently, her profile is graced with many successful researches, grant proposals, and business documents." She further added.

Currently, she is working at US \$50/hour on Upwork. "Like any other job, freelancing is not easy. When we jump into the pool of candidates globally, we need to be equipped with top-notch skills because going the extra mile for clients brings long-term fruits.

The most challenging part of freelancing is maintaining high standards to get positive feedback from clients. As a freelancer, honesty, quality, and integrity are the most critical factors. We cannot win overnight- the process takes time, energy, and patience.

I implemented the same principles in my freelancing career, and I learn every single day,' she mentioned. According to her, freelancing is working sans frontiers sitting at home. It means that your work speaks on your behalf.

The freelancers need to understand the job, apply for the most relevant ones, follow the client's guidelines, and deliver projects on time to become successful in the industry. Her message to the young freelancers is, 'Do not wait for a job; instead learn digital skills, be your own master and grow every day.'

<http://aprec.tech/>



The Business Researcher

SADIA MAZHAR-LAHORE

Age: 30 Years
Years of Freelancing: 7 Years
Area of Specialization: Business Consultancy, Social Media Marketing, and Content Writing

It takes much self-confidence, trust, motivation, and energy to become a successful freelancer and switch to entrepreneurship. Sadia Mazhar, a wonderful mom, CEO of the startup 'Torque 360', and a specialist in business consultancy, social media marketing, and content writing, is a mompreneur who has exemplified herself as many married working ladies. When she had just started her matriculation, she suffered from the traumatic experience of her mother's demise. As she was trying to recover from her significant loss, she encountered another loss- her father passed away during her matriculation years.



She suffered from depression and somehow cleared her matriculation, but her dream of becoming a doctor was shattered as she did not attain the required marks in her matriculation exams.

She said, "I did intermediate with disappointment because I couldn't appear in MCAT due to a 55.6% score. My dream of pursuing a career as a professional doctor was ruined. Then I did B.Com with a heavy heart because I would not say I liked the degree, but I accepted it."

Since her early teens, she had a keen interest in IT, so she learned graphic design, computerized accounting, and freelancing. After that, she started her career as a freelancer in 2014. She joined Fiverr in 2015. She gained successful projects and earned handsome income initially, but she lost many promising clients due to poor internet connections. She met with top-notch mentors to learn the art of building networks. After getting married in 2016, she restarted freelancing and never gave up.

Sadia earned her first achievement when Microsoft approved her 'Microsoft Bizspark' application with free services equivalent to \$120000 for one whole year.

She said, "I gained many projects in 2018, and 2019 was an even progressive year. I attended several meetings and conferences with my supportive toddler. In 2020, I moved towards a stable and reliable income source to start different projects. After a long struggle spanning over seven years, I have become a successful entrepreneur and own my education startup, 'Torque 360, SMC Pvt. Ltd., registered under SECP. She stated, 'Our project, 'Train and be Trained' initiative will provide training, select trainers, and hire them for us. The mode of training will be both online and on-site".

<https://www.fiverr.com/saadiamazhar>

The Mompreneur and a CEO of Core 360





Fort Road Food Street located between Fort Road and Roshnai Gate of the Walled City in Lahore. The Fort Road Food Street is renowned for traditional Lahori cuisines with a stunning view of the majestic Mughal era Badshahi Mosque. The building itself that the street is based on was built during the era of the Mughal Empire and the British Rule. (Source; Wikipedia)

The Magazine Designer

SYED ALI ABBAS-SHEIKHUPURA



Age: 27 Years
Years of Freelancing: 2.5 Years
Area of Specialization: Magazine, Poster & Book Designing

Everyone has some big and scary dreams, and our financial status has nothing to do with them. Unlike his father, who served as a worker in a factory and wasn't making enough and couldn't even afford his children's higher studies, Syed Ali Abbas wanted to earn at least PKR 100,000 per month.

Despite the challenges, his father somehow managed to attain a need-based scholarship for his son, and that's how Syed could pursue his BSc Electrical Engineering degree from UET Lahore.

Like many university graduates, Ali Abbas has experienced the bitter struggle of unemployment as there aren't enough jobs in the country for fresh graduates. The most challenging phase of life started when he traveled daily for 1.5 to 2 hours from Sheikhupura to Lahore for interviews, and every evening he suffered the disappointment of rejection.

He applied for the program e-Rozgaar, and luckily he got shortlisted too. This 27-year-old, dismayed graduate wasn't ready to learn something new or test his luck any further, but his mother encouraged him to try. That's how a training program has opened new doors, and he jumped into the field of freelancing. Syed says, "I used to travel 3.5 to 4 hours every day to attend a 2 hours class, but that was all worth it.

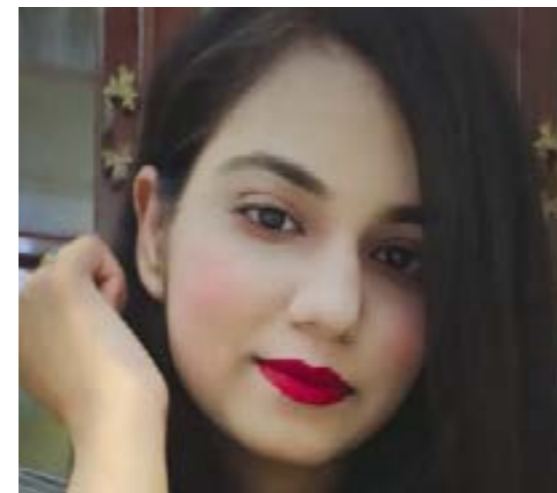
Today I am earning an average monthly income of PKR 100,000. However, creative designing was a new field for an Electrical Engineer, and it took me three straight months to learn the basics of this field and win my first freelance project."

Furthermore, Ali also gave a piece of advice for new freelancers, "Never Give up! Life tests your patience. Your relatives, friends, and many others will praise on your face and behind your back about your failures. However, you need to listen to your heart, overcome your distress, and keep trying hard no matter whatever it takes. Eventually, you will achieve the desired success one day. Just have faith in yourself and the process that takes you to the finish line!"

ZAHRA SHAHID RATHORE-MURIDKE

Age: 22 Years
Years of Freelancing: 7 Months
Area of Specialization: Social Media Marketing

A chemist by profession, 22 years old Zahra Shahid Rathore has done her Masters's in chemistry from the University of the Punjab, Lahore.



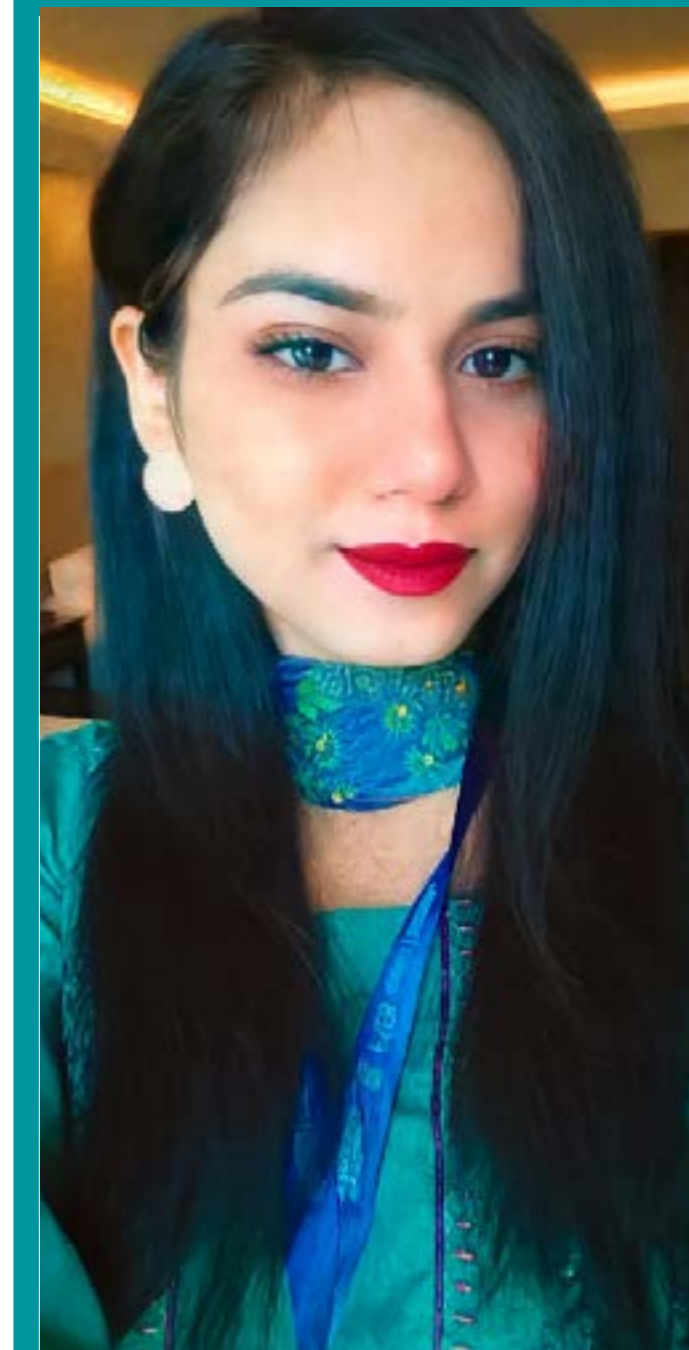
She was very young when she started working as a teacher. She used to teach students at home, with minimal earnings that weren't enough to meet the routine household expenses. She continued her education with teaching and completed her Master's in Chemistry. "When I got my degree, I started working as a Q.C. analyst in the pharmaceutical industry." "I used to travel for hours daily and work the whole day outside. During covid-19 lockdown, I lost my job. At that time I was very disappointed. I felt like I was wasting my time and my degree," says Zahra recalling her old days. One day a Facebook post on 'how to earn more than PKR 80,000 per month' grabbed her attention. She thought of trying it out to work from home and generate a handsome amount.

She clicked on the post that led her to the e-Rozgaar program that she then researched. At the start, Zahra felt like the course was out of her domain since she lacked technical knowledge, but her mentors encouraged her and taught her to use her present knowledge to do well in freelancing. "Today, I'm working as a freelancer using my knowledge and expertise in chemistry," said Zahra.

When she started freelancing, she had no laptop or computer and worked on a broken mobile phone. "I got my first client from the USA who needed my help as a chemist for his lab work. My mobile phone was broken, so he could not see or hear me. Despite the difficulty in communicating with him, I convinced him to give me a chance to prove my capabilities. I borrowed a mobile phone and started working. My client was pleased with my work, and it has been six months working as a freelancer; he is still working with me on his different projects. Today I have my smartphone, laptop, and a computer. And I'm only working at home as a freelancer. I don't need to go outside and travel for hours and spend my whole day there. I work with my own will at a time that suits me, using my knowledge of chemistry. I don't feel that I have wasted my degree and time anymore," says the talented Zahra.

When asked to give some valuable advice to ambitious, novice freelancers, she said, "I want to say that freelancing gave me much confidence to earn and interact with international people. I have learned a lot from freelancing, and my communication skills have improved to a whole new level. I have had the chance to represent your country in front of the world. I have been very fortunate, and I want all of you to experience the same. Just believe in yourself, and use your available resources to build your name in the industry."

A Social Media Expert



Hiran Minar is an early 17th-century Mughal era complex located in Sheikhpura. The complex was built at the site of a game reserve in honour of Mughal Emperor Jahangir's beloved antelope named Mansraj. (Source; Wikipedia)

Hiran Minar,
Sheikhpura



Nishan-E-Manzil, Gujranwala



Nishan-e-Manzil Gujranwala is a famous land mark and a well known point of interest of this city which is visited by so many visitors on daily basis. This place is very beautiful, old and famous among the tourist who come here from across the world. (Source; Wikipedia)

MEERAN KHAN- GUJRANWALA

Age: 30 Years

Years of Freelancing: 8 Years

Area of Specialization: Business Technical Writing

2013 was the year when I started my first freelance job as Business Development Officer. It was a time when I was unable to understand different terms such as content writing or academic writing.



My journey commenced from earning roughly about PKR 7,000 as my first salary. It has been quite an extraordinary ride so far. Freelancing was an opportunity from Allah. Being a software engineer, I never considered myself to be a good, and skillful writer. I am forever thankful to myself for seizing this opportunity.' While I was fighting Cancer back in 2015, freelancing helped me, and enabled me to fight for myself in difficult times. I realized the importance of staying strong in the face of adversity, which is indeed a huge blessing. After an intense battle with cancer, I defeated the illness, and worked from home.

Soon, various clients reached out to me for project management tasks, management plans, and project schedules. This prompted me to learn something different in this field. Today, I can proudly say that I am a successful Project Manager, as I completed my M.S. in Project Management from one of the recognized organizations on my own while freelancing to support my expenses. Being a woman, she never envisaged she would get to learn a great deal from the comforts of her bed. She had quite a tough time while combatting cancer, but her hard work in her academics, and freelancing career earned her a lot of appreciation that fueled her motivation. Over the past eight years, her business revenue has increased along with the list of permanent clients. She feels proud and happy to have inspired many people in her family to embark on their freelancing journeys, and has also trained many youngsters free of cost to earn an income for themselves, and their families.

This shows she gives back to the community that brings her a great sense of accomplishment. In addition, she is now successful in hiring a team to reduce her workload while she focuses on finding even better-paying clients, as well as pursuing a Ph.D. on her own. Talking about her ambitions, she said, 'Soon, I will be a TOP RATED SELLER on Fiverr that will be another feather in my cap, and help me shift towards entrepreneurship, which is my target for 2022. I would like to thank PSEB for giving me this opportunity to talk about my efforts, and being recognized as one of the prestigious freelancers of Pakistan. Being a girl, earning more than, or even equal to many men while sitting at home, and growing forward by leaps and bounds feels amazing.

<https://www.fiverr.com/meerakhan22>

From Zero to a Successful
Research Writer



Using the platform PSEB provided, I would like to encourage the girls reading this to seek what you can do best, and build sufficient skills, so you don't need to ask anyone for any financial help and support for your sustainability. Don't get disappointed if you don't get a job. Find a skill you can do best at, and start pursuing it. ALLAH will never let your efforts go to waste. You are talented; you just need to find that spark in you and seek it, success will be coming through, but yes you need to be patient enough to land your first freelance order to start your journey.

Village Site,
Head Marala, Sialkot



ATTIYA ZAINAB- HEAD MARALA

Age: 31 Years
Years of Freelancing: 10 Years
Area of Specialization: New Startups Business Planning

Continuing with the inspiring stories, let's take a look at Attiya Zainab's story. Talking about her life, she said, 'I belong to a remote area, Head Marala in Sialkot. Right after my graduation, I started a job in a private, and reputable school. After three years, I opted for my career as a Government school teacher. I continued to pursue a degree in MBA, along with teaching.

"My aim was always to be an entrepreneur, but since there weren't any entrepreneurs in my family, they did not understand my desire at first. My aptitude for being an independent person became a significant hurdle in my job. This obstacle strengthened my determination to be my own boss. One day, I saw an ad on Facebook on how one can earn a lot through the online medium. This inspired me to pursue a career in the field.

After getting married and having kids, I felt like I was ignoring my passion for being independent because managing a job and family made my routine extremely hectic,' recalling her journey.

At that very point, Attiya decided to quit her job, and started full-time freelancing along with managing her kids and family. In her area where there are significant infrastructure problems such as unstable internet, she persevered and created her profile on freelancers.com by using my mobile data. Initially, she faced a lot of backlash, and was admonished by friends and family for quitting a



Government job, and sitting in front of a laptop instead. However, she found complete support from her husband and mother. Attiya went on to pursue her ambition, and kept honing her skills in the process. She offered services in the field of business, and crafted valuable business plans for different organizations, especially for new startups. 'By now, I have made 500+ business plans for various businesses that are running very successfully.

"I have been working as a freelancer since 2013. There was no proper guidance available anywhere around me to help me save my time, and boost my earnings. In 2019, I enrolled in the e-Rozgaa program, and completed my course. With brilliant instructors, many of whom became my mentors, my vision enhanced, and I began doing even better than before. Throughout my long journey, I have faced many scams and failures in projects as well, but my E-Rozgaar mentors have proven to be a sincere ray of light in the darkness that surrounded me, and taught me how to avoid scams and project failure. I am forever thankful to them," stated Attiya.

<https://www.freelancer.com/u/IdealAftab>

The Startup Business Planner



MUHAMMAD ADNAN- SIALKOT

Age: 37 Years
Years of Freelancing: 14 years
Area of Specialization: WordPress Development

Before working as an independent, self-employed man, I worked for a company for four months, and that experience was quite unpleasant.

I remember they deducted half of my salary due to impractical reasons. I left that job and never looked back," said 37 years old, successful WordPress developer Muhammad Adnan from Sialkot. "I started freelancing at the age of 22 after completing my Bachelor's degree in Computer Science from Allama Iqbal Open University. Freelancing gave me the freedom to work from my city. I prefer working on freelancing platforms instead of struggling in the local market because the former is accompanied by many benefits including making big bucks. I advise the novice freelancers to focus more on building their diverse portfolio, and then build a team along the way. That's how they will transform themselves from a self-employed person to a businessperson, and further increase their income,' states Muhammad Adnan. Talking about his achievements, he said,

I gave back to my community by being a Google Student Ambassador as well built a team of more than 20 people in Sialkot, and hired local people to help them pursue a career of their choice. I am proud of myself for doing something meaningful for the people of my city.' After completing his bachelor's degree, Adnan dedicated 15 years of his life to working hard, and staying persistent in the field of freelancing. Besides taking care of his personal and family expenses, he also spends a handsome amount in scaling up his team.

Along the way, he was confronted with many hardships, but every time, he was faced with a quandary, he resolved the problems instead of surrendering to them.

He has also built a couple of WordPress products such as 'Analytify' and 'LoginPress' under his brand 'WPBrigade', making a significant mark for himself in the WordPress industry. Currently, he is serving as a senior software architect. He has many accolades to his credit such as the 'Google Summer of Code Student 2010', 'Google code-in Mentor', 'Google Student Ambassador 2013', and 'Innovation Hero' as nominated by Punjab Government. Highlighting more of his accomplishments, he said, 'I also won a worldwide programming competition known as Google Summer of Code in 2010 that helped me a lot. It is a competition wherein very few students participate from Pakistan.

After completing and passing that competition, I did presentations in Universities like LUMS, FAST, and UET to spread the awareness on Google Summer of Code. I am a sponsor, influencer and volunteer, and have attended WordPress conferences in Nepal, United States, Bangkok, and Pakistan." When asked for any advice he has for the newcomers, he said, 'First, it is wise to work in a reputable company to build the necessary skill set to sell to international clients. Building proper skills is an essential thing that most people fail to understand. Once you have a skill to offer, that's when you should start freelancing. Whether you do it during or after your graduation, but make certain to have some hands-on experience in the area you wish to offer a service in.

www.freelancer.com/u/hiddenpearls



The Wordpress Entrepreneur

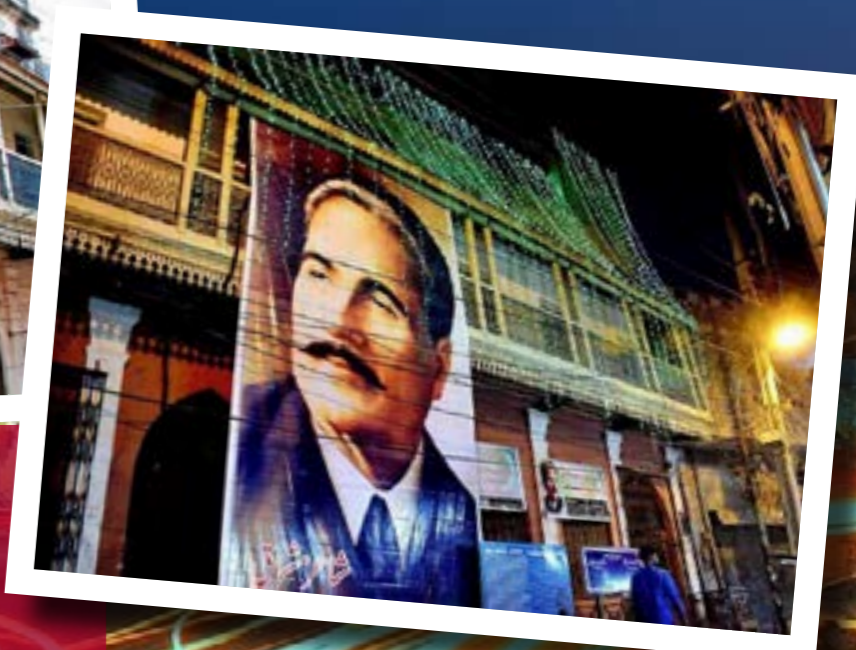
The Sialkot Clock Tower also known as Iqbal Square, is situated in Saddar Bazar, Sialkot Cantonment, Pakistan. Standing tall for more than a century, the tower would have been witness to many a time of upheaval and change. It has been renovated many times but the original structure has not changed much. (Source; Wikipedia)



The Clock Tower, Sialkot



Iqbal Manzil is the birthplace of Muslim poet and philosopher Dr Muhammad Allama Iqbal (1877-1938). It is located in the heart of the city of Sialkot in Punjab province of Pakistan. (Source; Wikipedia)



HAMID RAZA-SIALKOT

Age: 29 Years
Years of Freelancing: 3 Years
Area of Specialization: Designing & Suppling of Sports & Street Wear

Hamid Raza was a banker before he ventured into freelancing. He was earning a fixed amount every month and was quite satisfied with his salary. However, Hamid wasn't too happy with spending the whole day at my office and being answerable to his boss at the end of the day as banking is a full-time, exhausting job. He wanted the freedom to make his own rules, not be obligated to anybody else, and work freely from anywhere, be it a hotel room, apartment, coffee shop, or somewhere exotic.

That's when he decided to quit his 9 to 7 job, and landed in the field of freelancing, Hamid needed guidance for polishing his skills, and for that, he enrolled in the e-Rozgaar program where he spent three months learning the art of freelancing. He is working as a successful freelancer now. He says, 'Here I am the boss of my work- I can choose the projects I want to work on, and decide where to work from, and at what time.'



The Sports & Street Wear Designer



This is an incredible feeling. My biggest inspiration to work as a freelancer was always the ability to be your boss. You don't need to clock in and out of the office all the time, no more being reprimanded for being late, and no more taking orders from others. Alhamdulillah, now I am the owner of a manufacturing company and recently started a local brand. I make sports and streetwear and supply it nationally.'

He aims to inspire the new entrants in the industry with his story, and encourage them to try this field as it is extremely rewarding. His message to them is, 'Sometimes, you suffer from joblessness, or dissatisfaction in your jobs, but even in those times, do not lose hope.'

You are a born star- you need to accept it and find a skill you wish to build and refine. Freelancers and entrepreneurs make their own decisions, so this decision is all up to you. Imagine getting clients in an area you excel at and can give your best shot at. Instead of focusing on making a fortune alone, pay more attention to make loyal clients by providing them with top-notch services. Do not sit and wait for the client. Instead, search for clients and actively bid on projects to win them. Also, remember that not every client you would come across will be kind and generous. Some can be difficult, so when dealing with that lot, keep your calm and respond politely. In the end, you will succeed.

SYEDA SABA USMAN-GUJRAT

Age: 29 Years
Years of Freelancing: 10 Months
Area of Specialization: Book Designing

As Covid'19 has affected every person's businesses and lifestyle, there was an urge in everyone to do something creative to sustain oneself during the worse pandemic crisis. 29 year old girl, Saba Usman, who previously worked as a school teacher from Gujrat, applied to the e-Rozgaar program to train the young generation, and make them aware of the advantages of freelancing. She got selected, and started learning freelancing through the platform Fiver. She found out about multiple fields in freelancing during her learning, and always had a keen interest in book designing.

She registered herself as a book designer, and now she is designing books for her clients spread across the globe. After completing her first order, she received a good response from her client, and that motivated her to work even more. This appreciation boosted her confidence, and she started her journey as a freelancer. The only challenge she faced in her freelancing journey was terrible internet speed that was a constant obstacle, and made it quite challenging for her to complete the orders on time. Talking about how Covid-19 impacted her life, she says, 'The pandemic made life quite difficult for me, but I tried my best to earn a living by utilizing my creativity in book designing.'

She advises the young, talented freelancers to choose the freelance field related to them, and focus on adding life and value into it. She says, 'It is important for you to choose a unique field from your competitors so you get an edge over them. Also, you must communicate well with your clients, deliver the project on time, and in case if you face any issues with the client, find a middle ground instead of arguing with him/ her. Saba aspires to start my own online business too. Talking about it, she said, 'I am planning to publish, and sell my books online on different sites.'

The Book Designer



My Instagram followers are increasing day after day, and I hope to soon soar high, and become a renowned book designer.'

She also encourages freelancers to pay utmost attention to the quality of their work, and never compromise on it. Saba states, 'If you want to make more money, you have to prove you deserve them. There are clients willing to pay more. But you'll complete with freelancers at the very top for those gigs. Everyone dreams about traveling, but sadly, you cannot go on many adventures while doing a 9 to 5 job. If you are someone who is ambitious, and wants to embark on new voyages, freelancing will suit you well,' writes Saba while describing her desire to travel.

In the beginning, her aim was to get a good pocket money being a house wife, so she started small, but soon grew successful. After getting immense response from customers, her interest multiplied by manifolds, and she decided to invest in more time and effort. She has been able to buy a new car, and upgrade her lifestyle through her freelancing career.

She advises everyone, especially women to try it out by exploring their unique talents to carve their name in the world. No matter if you are a house wife or a working women, you can excel in your fields and build a strong nation.



Pakistan being represented at FIFA world cup through Football



AQSA MUBEEN- GHANIAN SHARIF

Age: 25 Years
Years of Freelancing: 8 Months
Area of Specialization: On-page SEO, Content Writing

Some people spend their entire lives waiting for the perfect opportunity to come, while few go on and create them. Aqsa Mubeen's story is one of the unique stories we came across, and needless to say, she inspired us with her immense level of dedication throughout her entire freelancing journey.



Aqsa belongs to a village Ghanian near Mandi Bahauddin. She did her Bachelor's degree in B.S. Computer Science from the University of Sargodha, Mandi Bahauddin campus, and wanted to pursue a professional career, and post-graduation studies. constraints, and not being permitted by her family to do a full-time job, Aqsa was disheartened. She did not want her qualification to go to waste. Fortunately, she came across the eRozgaar program on social media, and decided to apply.

Once again, she had difficulty getting permission to go for classes, but Covid-19 lockdown proved to be a blessing in disguise for her. e-Rozgar classes shifted to the online mode, and Aqsa got a golden chance to polish her skills while staying at home. Her mentor Mr. Usman recognized the spark in her and encouraged her to keep working at it.

This training program boosted her confidence, and she ended up getting projects frequently. She is an on-page SEO expert working on multiple competitive projects. She worked hard with dedication even though she was confronted by many challenges from all directions. Talking about her life, Aqsa says, I belong to a village. Working on my mobile phone, or even laptop late at night isn't easy for me. Poor internet is the cherry on the top in my list of challenges. That said, I do not succumbing to these problems at any cost. Aqsa is happy about her decision to join the e-Rozgaar program, and feel content working online. She is earning a decent amount of money regularly while sitting at home in her village. Her family appreciates her, and is thankful to her mentors, who played a vital role in her success.

When asked about her future aspirations, she said, " In the future, I want to move to an advanced level after completing the e-Rozgaar course as I have big goals to achieve InshAllah. I want to continue pursuing a higher degree in IT, and build even better SEO skills. In the past eight months. I have trained many students, friends, juniors and also university level teachers. I love it when students ask me queries, and I resolve them as this enhances my skills. I plan to venture into e-commerce marketplaces like Amazon, eBay, Etsy and daraz, and become an expert at them. My ultimate mission is to contribute to Pakistan's economy to help it escalate higher."

<https://www.fiverr.com/mubeen69>

The On-Page SEO Expert



MUHAMMAD AMJAD- PERO CHAK

Age: 35 Years
Years of Freelancing: 12 Years
Area of Specialization: Yii Development

You may not believe in the power of miracles, but 35 years old Muhammad Amjad does. Qualified in Information Technology, he began utilizing his skills in freelancing gigs roughly about 12 years ago. Freelancing has revolutionized his life massively as currently, he earns a handsome amount of money every month.



Amjad belongs to village Pero Chak, Daska, district Sialkot, and expert in web and mobile app development. He started working as a freelancer earlier in 2008 when there was barely any scope in Pakistan. Earlier, he tried working for different companies and made several proposals, but all were rejected. At that instant, he decided to launch his website as he was an experienced programmer. He launched his website for the convenience of IT students.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/muhammadamjadmughal/>

The YII Development Specialist



Sharing his story, he said, "After successfully launching my idea, a client approached me to work for him as a freelancer. He offered me a reasonable amount. Hence, I started working for him.

I realized that instead of working for any other company, working as a freelancer is a way better option as it helps me save time and gives me the flexibility of choosing my work hours according to my convenience."

Amjad believes that one must identify their hidden skill to thrive in the industry. Only when you know what you are good at you can turn it into a skill and sell it to get clients. Moreover, he emphasizes the importance of building good time management skills. With good time management, it becomes easier to manage orders and complete projects on time.

Additionally, he believes that one should also deliver beyond the client's expectations, and for that, freelancers must improve the quality of their work. He says, 'I have seen that newcomers in freelancing make false promises to clients to get projects, and when the time comes for delivery, they fail to provide quality work. This attitude seriously harms their credibility. I would advise them not to adopt this practice; instead, they should be loyal and honest with the clients and only make claims they can fulfill. Don't make freelancing only about getting orders. Focus more on having a trustworthy relationship with your clients, and that's how you will emerge victorious in your journey.

MUQADDAS AMIR- MIAN DEEN WALA

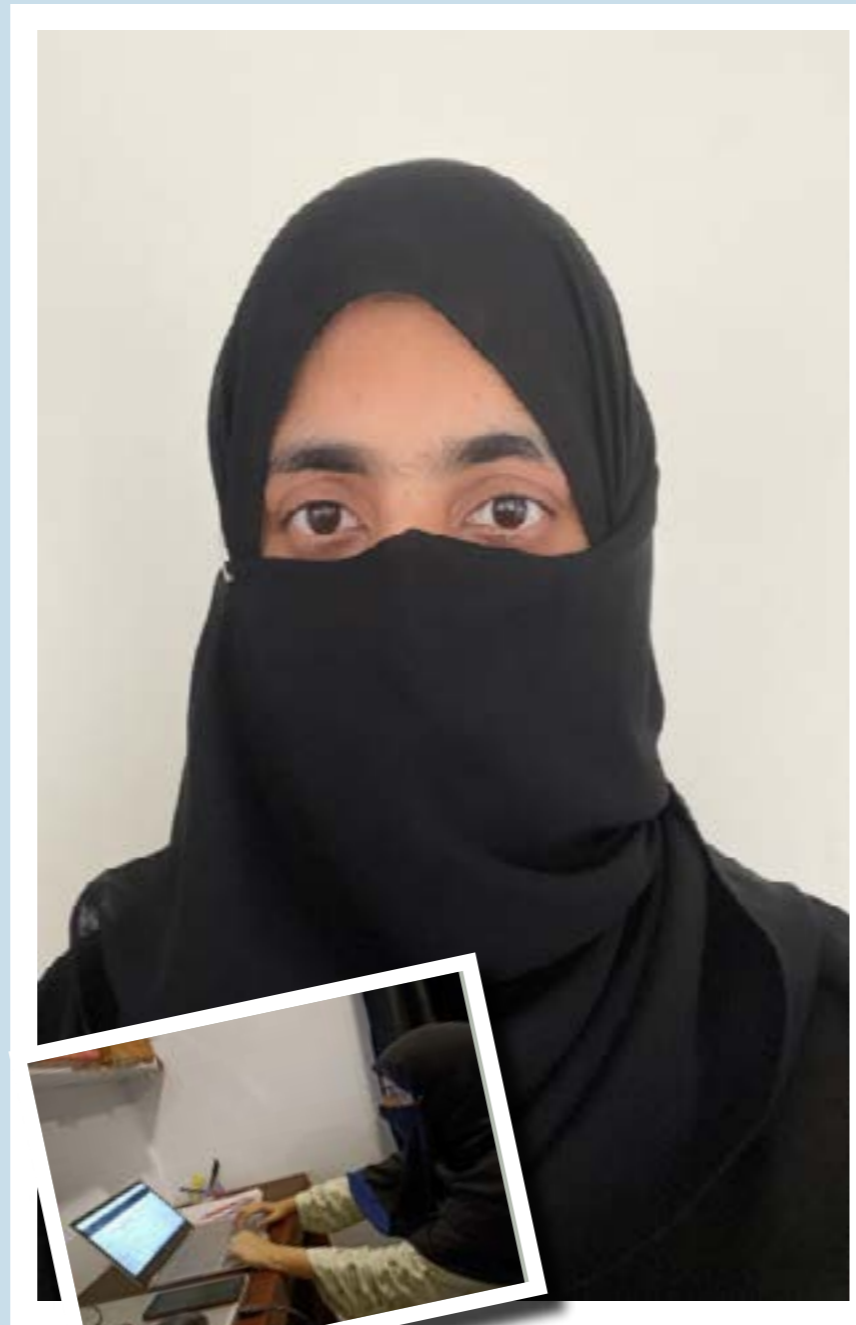
Age: 26 Years
Years of Freelancing: 8 Years
Area of Specialization: Offpage SEO, on-page SEO, Google News approval

Muqadas Amir is a passionate freelancer and backlink builder with years of experience and skills in the field. She hailed from a small village, Mian Deen Wala, in the Mianwali area, where the residents usually raise livestock and farming. The majority of the masses of the area live a nomadic lifestyle and have limited income. It is also very difficult for the girls in the area to have access to primary education even. Talking about her journey, Muqadas said, "I decided to choose my destiny, and opted for the field of Computer Sciences whereas my family forced me to do B.S. Chemistry. I was criticized for choosing a different path, i.e., B.S. Computer Sciences, but history has shown us time again that where there is a will, there is always a way.

I got a laptop in 2013. I started interacting with computer and tech gadgets, and that's how my love for computers increased by manifolds. Along with studying for B.S, I started learning different freelancing skills. I watched YouTube tutorials and tried to learn the tips and tricks of the trade on my own. I even created my account on Fiverr but never succeeded in bagging a client from there. When I got a local order for just PKR 100, that was when my freelancing journey officially started.

It created a spark inside me. I couldn't sleep that night due to sheer happiness. Success does not come not fast; it demands sacrifices. Her family did not allow her to go for the e-Rozgar training because the training center was far from her village, and it was challenging for a girl to go for training alone. Nonetheless, she managed to join the training and learn many skills from it. Talking about the training, she said, "I was the first trainee in my batch who got an order on Upwork. I started optimizing my gigs more effectively, and soon, many orders began pouring in. I have managed to perform Umrah accompanied by my whole family from the income I earned through freelancing. In addition, I also managed my sister's marriage expenses and have now invested in a local business as well. This has been possible due to freelancing only."

Her pursuit for passion and the desire to strive for excellence have placed her as one of the top freelancers in the country. So far, she has worked with many clients in Pakistan and internationally as well. She has a team of people with different freelancing skills and expertise, including graphic designers, web designers, front-end developers, content writers, digital marketing, and many others, and they work remotely to manage their expenses and actualize their aspirations.



The Self-Made Girl

H. MUHAMMAD WAQAS- KAMOKE

The Business Solution Provider



Age: 31 Years
Years of Freelancing: 6 Years
Area of Freelancing: Digital Business Solutions

Life comes as a challenge to everyone. Though, there are very few people who look at those challenges in the eye and accept them. Such people do not let any obstacle stand in their way. They power through all the difficulties and pave the way for others too. One such person is Hafiz Muhammad Waqas.

Waqas belongs to a very humble background. Being the eldest son in the family, he always had tons of expectations to fulfill.

He took a break from studies in grade 6th to pursue Hifz-e-Quran upon his grandfather's wish. After successfully achieving his goal, he wanted to study further, but His journey so far has not been an easy ride, but considering the victories he has to his credit, it has all been worth it.

However, he continued studying in government schools, and ultimately was able to reach the university level. He applied for the BBIT field and other fields by a stroke of luck, and was successful in getting admission there. That's when a whole new world opened in front of him. He learned about computers for the first time, and his interest rose to a whole new level.

Later on, he learned about freelancing and decided to give it a go. Considering his background, this was a massive step for him, but he took it despite the uncertainties involved. Even though he got his dream job after graduation, he wanted to get out of the 9 to 5 job loop. His journey so far has not been an easy ride, but considering the victories he has to his credit, it has all been worth it.

Hafiz Muhammad Waqas joined e-Rozgar back in 2017 as a Technical Trainer to empower the unemployed 16 years graduates. He has already trained 3000+ freelancers to date.

He now leads his team of freelancers who provide Complete ERP Solutions for Large & Medium Enterprises in Various Business Sectors; Software Development, Web Development, Web Hosting Services, Mobile Apps Development, and Social Media Marketing.

Hafiz Muhammad Waqas is satisfied and contented with pursuing freelancing as well as inspiring others to follow their dreams.



The Khewra Salt Mine (or Mayo Salt Mine) is in Khewra, north of Pind Dadan Khan, an administrative subdivision of Jhelum District, Punjab. The mine is in the Salt Range, Potohar plateau, which rises from the Indo-Gangetic Plain, and is the second largest in the world. The mine is famous for its production of pink Khewra salt, often marketed as Himalayan salt, and is a major tourist attraction, drawing up to 250,000 visitors a year. . (Source; Wikipedia)

HAREEM MUKHTAR JHELUM

A Virtual Assistance Expert



Age: 27 Years
 Years of Freelancing: 3 Years
 Area of Specialization: Websites virtual Assistance

Hareem completed her master's degree in Behavioral Sciences. She is the eldest daughter of her parents, and is therefore very responsible. When her father retired from his Government job, she knew that this would result in significant lifestyle changes for her whole family. She was worried about how things would proceed in the future for her younger siblings, and her own self. She started freelancing to support her family, back in 2019. The road was not smooth in the beginning.

She faced a big scam, but this did not break her confidence. Instead she took it as a lesson, learned from her mistake, and moved on. Fortunately, she soon landed up with regular clients, and invested her 100% efforts and energy in the process to achieve her goals. She became a level 2 seller on Fiverr within a month only.

The best thing about Hareem is that she always turned her setbacks into another learning opportunity. This attitude led her to become a successful freelancer. With her passion and dedication, she now earns enough to support her parents, and finance her siblings education.

She is doing a regular job with two USA companies, and has many other regular clients as well. Hareem became a real hero for many other girls like her. Instead of keeping her knowledge to herself, she decided to share it with as many girls as possible. She has trained several girls about building skills, and freelancing. Thanks to her, they are now earning well on their own as well.

It's people like her who revive our faith in humanity. As long as we have passionate people who have commitments with family, willing to lift others and be their source of inspiration, we will thrive as a nation. We wish Hareem the best of luck in her future endeavors.

When asked about her journey, and words of wisdom for new entrants, Hareem said, "Freelancing like any other field has its own share of ups and down. One day, you may get a US \$1000 project, and the next day, you may only find a US \$10 one. However, you should not perceive this as a setback. Instead, you need to take every gig responsibly, and commit yourself to it.

Moreover, you need to set meaningful goals for yourself, and strive towards them. Never leave even the tiniest of opportunities to grow bigger. Seize the moment, and make the most out of it. I have always worked using this strategy, and so far, it has worked out very well in my favor. I hope the same for you."

SHAYAN SHAUKAT-DINA

Age: 31 Years
 Years of Freelancing: 4 Years
 Area of Specialization - Graphics Designing and YouTubing

Shayan started his career as a banker in 2014. Soon, he realized the job wouldn't give him much outcome as he had worked there for three years, and his income was still below PKR 20,000. The banking job was getting stricter with time, and he felt suffocated in a 9 to 5 job that did not provide him with any freedom or relaxation. Aspiring to do something more meaningful and empowering, Shayan began looking for different ways to earn a living online. He says, "I always believed in learning skills, and started working on YouTube. However, since I aspired to be a professional freelancer, I joined Erozgaar in 2017. I gained many skills related to graphic design in the program that helped me structure my career just the way I had always desired for. Due to the e-Rozgaar training, I have built great skills, and strongly believe I can venture into different lines of work, and expand my work as much as possible.

I have always been interested in doing something in the field of IT, or designing. Hence, this training and the field of freelancing provided me with exactly this opportunity- to pursue my interests, and build a career out of them. I started working on YouTube in December 2014, and began monetizing the medium. When I started receiving regular income from Youtube, I was finally satisfied that my alternate source of income was working out for me.'

That's when Shayan decided to quit his job in the banking industry. After he resigned from the bank in October 2016, which he believes is one of the best decisions he ever made in his life, he continued to work on YouTube.

Unfortunately, due to some new policies from YouTube, the majority of his content was declined. He was heartbroken and worried about his financial stability. While sharing his old days, he said, 'Living in a joint family, I contributed to household expenses, especially since I was married and had two kids. It was a pretty hard time for me. I continued my work on YouTube. I heard about the e-Rozgaar program and applied for training in the field of graphics design. In August 2017, I joined e-Rozgaar, and started learning Graphics Design. Due to the three months of training and skill learning, I am now earning a handsome income and support my family in a way I couldn't do being a banker. I am extremely grateful to the program for helping me build my professional career."



The Graphics Designer and YouTuber



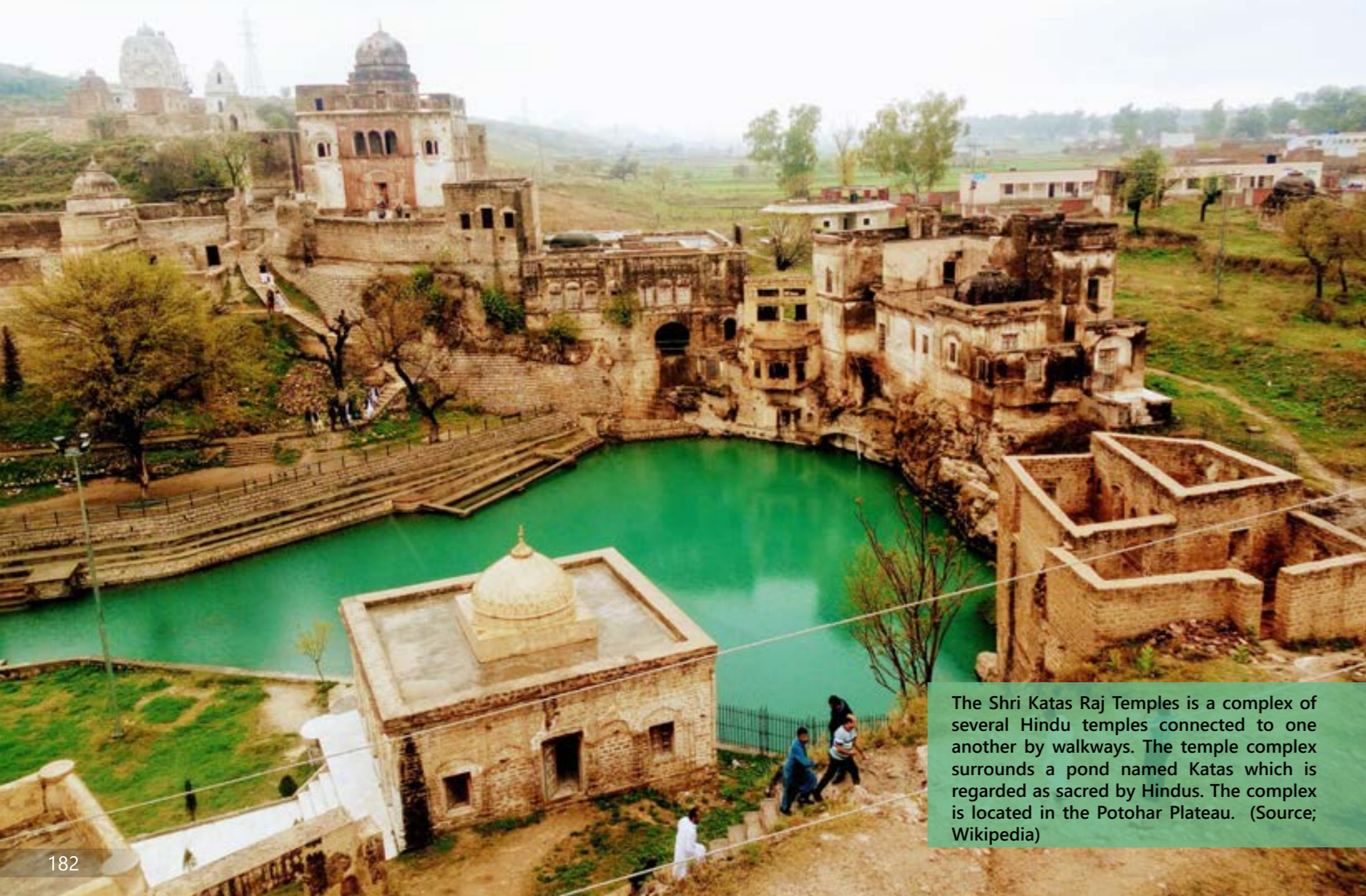


Rohtas Fort is a 16th-century fortress located near the city of Jehlum. The fort is one of the largest and most formidable in the subcontinent. Rohtas Fort was never stormed by force, and has survived remarkably intact. The fortress was built by Raja Todar Mal on the orders of Sher Shah Suri, partly to suppress the local Gakhar tribes of then Potohar region. Some Gakhar tribes were allies of the Mughal Empire, and refused to recognize the suzerainty of Sher Shah Suri. (Source;Wikipedia)



Rohtas Fort,
Jhelum

Katas Raj Temples, Chakwal



The Shri Katas Raj Temples is a complex of several Hindu temples connected to one another by walkways. The temple complex surrounds a pond named Katas which is regarded as sacred by Hindus. The complex is located in the Potohar Plateau. (Source; Wikipedia)

MUHAMMAD ASAD IQBAL-CHAKWAL

Age: 29 Years
Years of Freelancing: 3 Years
Area of Specialization: MATLAB Development

Muhammad Asad Iqbal, from Chakwal holds an MS degree in Electrical Engineering and is also faring well as a freelancer. As successful as he is now, things were quite difficult for him a couple



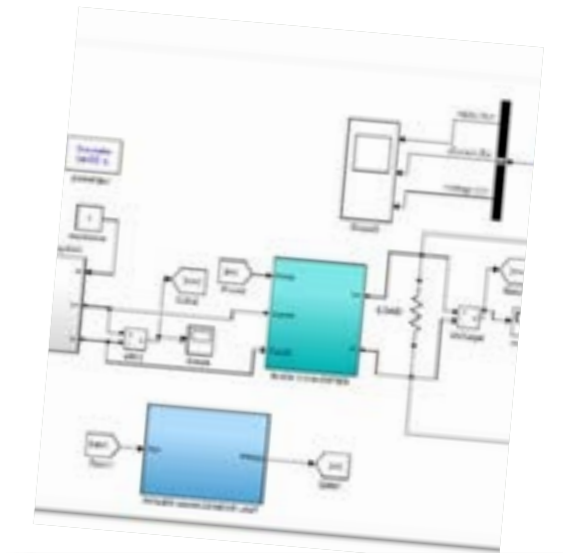
of years ago. In 2018, he struggled to land a decent job in the public and the private sectors. There were hardly any good opportunities available, and he was amongst those who suffered from this issue. Talking to us about his hardships, he mentioned, 'I struggled back in 2018 when I was applying for jobs in the public and private sectors, but I could not get a job due to a lack of job opportunities, and it was a challenging period for me.'

However, fortunately for him, he discovered the e-Rozgaar program through Facebook and applied for it. He wasn't aware of the ins and outs of the freelancing industry at that time. One night, he received an email from the program regarding the orientation the next day. Initially, he wasn't prepared or interested in the program. However, the next day when he woke up, he decided to attend the orientation organized at Comsats University in Wah.

Sharing his feelings about that orientation session, he said, 'In just one hour of that orientation, I became immensely inspired to pursue a freelancing career because it seemed like the perfect opportunity for a jobless person like me. I created an account on Freelancer and started bidding.

In April 2018, I got the first gig that paid me around US\$30. I also requested that my training center change from Comsats, Wah to UET, Taxila as the training sats were better at UET, Taxila. However, when I shifted there, I was already earning US\$900 with the help of the guidance offered in the first orientation,' says Asad recalling that experience.

In 3.5 months of training, he learned web development skills and, most importantly, discovered various freelancing platforms and their mode of working. Asad is incredibly pleased with his freelancing journey so far, and is satisfied with his earnings. He does not feel the need to do a job anymore because he can utilize his education and skills much better through freelancing. His message for the newcomers is, 'Adopt a serious attitude towards freelancing and focus on building a skill you are passionate about. If you do that right, there will be no looking back for you.'



The MATLAB Expert

MUHAMMAD HASEEB-TALAGANG

Age: 23 Years
Years of Freelancing: 1 Year
Area of Specialization: Web Development

23 years old Muhammad Haseeb is from Talagang, currently doing his M.S. in Computer Sciences and earning his living by working as a freelancer for many international clients. Haseeb's father passed away when he was only eight years old, and he, along with his family, have gone through a traumatic time in their lives.

Reminiscing his past, he said, "I witnessed an intense financial crisis from an early age. Although I have an elder brother, when my father passed away, my brother too was quite young and jobless.



As I grew older, I began hunting for many part-time jobs, such as tutoring kids to manage my expenses and contributing financially to my household. After taking my final exams at college, I began teaching and worked part-time in the evening. That was quite a tough period, but I survived it. I then pursued my Master's in Computer Sciences from Virtual University.

Haseeb wanted to pursue higher studies, so he left his hometown and got admission in M.S. in Comsats, Islamabad. He started a part-time job to pay his semester fee and routine expenses, so his family did not have to bear that expense. While he searched for a better source of income, one of his friends guided him about unique ways of earning money via freelancing.



He said, "When my friend shared his personal experience with me, I found a ray of hope in life. Seeing the potential in freelancing, I decided to give it a go. Luckily, I heard about the e-Rozgar program in those days and got myself enrolled in the technical domain. During that course, I got my first order after two months of creating a profile. I kept sending proposals for more gigs and worked hard day and night.

No matter what the tasks were, I invested my maximum time and energy to complete them timely. Working as a freelancer has brought me freedom and a more comfortable lifestyle. I have turned it into my full-time career and feel great to be my boss. It takes great passion, commitment, and constant effort to succeed in the field, and I have proven that I can do it."

fiverr.com/haseeb_coder
The Web Specialist

Swaik Lake - Khandowa Near to Talagang



Swaik Lake (also known as: Khandowa Lake) located in tehsil Kallar Kahar, Chakwal District of Punjab the province of Pakistan. The lake is located about 10 kilometres (6.2 mi) from the Kallar Kahar and 48 kilometres (30 mi) southwest of city of Chakwal along the Motorway (M-2). (Source; Wikipedia)

World Trade Center, Rawalpindi

World Trade Center is a 14 story development located on the G.T road, DHA, Rawalpindi affiliated with the World Trade Centers Association. The development includes a five-story shopping mall including a 150,000 sqft. Carrefour , six story office tower and a 267-room four-star hotel. The project is owned by multinational organization Giga Group. (Source; Wikipedia)

Civic Center Bahria Town, Rawalpindi



SAMINA RIZWAN- MUHRI KHAMBAAL, RAWAT

Age: 40 Years

Years of Freelancing: 9 Years

Area of Specialization: Math Content Writer and Curriculum Developer

“BE THE WOMAN YOU WANT YOUR DAUGHTER TO BE”.



Momprenuer Samina Rizwan finds a way to achieve her goals, and introduces freelancing to her daughter at a very young age. Samina Rizwan belongs to the small village of Muhri Khambal near Rawat. Forty years old, Samina has already earned US \$130,000+ as a freelancer to date while successfully raising her two daughters with the support of her husband. The career-oriented girl got married right after her graduation, and couldn't achieve her dreams as she had aspired for.

Like the majority of traditional, loving, and caring Pakistani husband, her husband never felt comfortable letting her go out to do any job - Once she managed to convince him to let her teach in a school; On the very first day of her job, he got sick, and had a terrible temperature because of severe stress and anxiety. That day she decided to stay at home to keep her soulmate happy and satisfied.

She had an urge to build a career, and never wanted to waste her 16 years of education. “Talking about her desire to do more, she said, ‘I got a laptop as my first wedding anniversary gift, and started looking for ways to earn money online”.

Due to the lack of awareness at that time, she struggled for four years, and finally, in 2011, she got to know about platforms such as Odesk, Elance, Freelancer & Guru, and began trying her luck on all of them. “I got my first-ever project on Elance that paid me US \$50, and a second project on Odesk at US \$4/ hour,’ she said, sharing the experience of the initial days of getting gigs online”.

Samina had done her Bachelor's in Mathematics, so she started working as a Mathematics content writer, and curriculum developer. Later, she expanded her skill set in web development, and e-commerce. From Upwork alone, Samina has earned over US \$130,000 to date.

“My Biggest Achievement so far is the way my 13 years old daughter Mahnoor Fatima is following my footsteps at a very young age, ALHAMDULILLAH. She has already started her Fiverr career as a video editor, and Shopify Expert. She sold her first Shopify store to a US client for US \$250. Currently, she is polishing her skills in the fields of copywriting, cryptocurrency trading, and technical analysis,’ says Samina”.



HINA AMIN DHOK SHARFA, RAWALPINDI

Age: 22 Years
Years of Freelancing: 2.5 Years
Area of Specialization: Programming and Web Designing

Hina Amin, from Dhok Sharfa, started freelancing to pay her tuition fees. Within a year, she became a passionate freelancer earning a handsome amount of money by utilizing her leisure time. Hina says, I am currently studying Computer Science in one of the top-tiered public universities in Pakistan. I've started freelancing as an affiliate marketer, and website designer to pay my tuition fee. In less than a year, I have been able to earn a lot more than that. Freelance earning has allowed Hina to support her family. It has paid for her expensive pursuits such as traveling across the country, buying latest technological gadgets, but more than anything else, it helped her fight the common narrative that women are only good for managing home, rearing children and nothing else.

Hina is known as a trendsetter in her family as she was the first to enroll in any university, so we can only imagine how hard things would be for her. Convincing her parents to invest in her education instead of marrying her off at an early age wasn't an easy task for her. Hina describes the situation in words, "Being the very first woman in my family to enter a university, things were not easy for me. I convinced my parents not to marry me at a young age, and invest in my education instead. They were facing all sorts of pressure from all around.

Firstly, the societal pressure of living in a distant village, and the idea of sending your daughter to another city for higher education was an even more distant concept. Secondly, there was a huge financial pressure as my father was the sole breadwinner, and had a low-paying Government job, so he felt getting me married was a better option than investing in my education. Thirdly, the psychological pressure of going against the norms of our society loomed on my family. Even in the face of all these pressures, my family stood by my side.' Furthermore, while talking about her initial days as a freelancer, she shares, 'To be honest, things were disappointing at first.

I was not getting any attraction on the freelancing platform, and had difficulty managing my time studying and learning new skills. I can't tell you how many sleepless nights I had before securing my first order of US \$10 only. I was elated, but the absolute satisfaction came almost a year later when I got a strong foothold in the industry. Last year has especially been great for me as I earned almost ten times more. I have invested money in new ventures, and on top of that, I didn't have to compromise my studies. Part of it has to do with the fact that my degree in Computer Science has played a crucial role in this journey." Hina will be graduating this year while she already has financial freedom, and wouldn't be pursuing any career for salary, but value addition only.



<https://www.fiverr.com/hinaamin374>

An Affiliate Marketer

HAROON Q. RAJA- RAWALPINDI

Age: 37 Years
Years of freelancing: 21 Years
Area of Specialization: Information & Communication Technology Services

Having embarked upon his freelancing journey back in 2000, and with a career spanning across web development, content creation, SEO & SMO, information systems security & disaster recovery, communication & workflow optimization, cloud solutions, CRM & marketing automation, technical training, and beyond, Haroon Q. Raja is an ICT industry veteran.



"When I started my first commercial freelance project at the age of 16, I wasn't aware of the term freelancer", says Haroon, recalling the early days of his freelancing career. "I just wanted my A-Levels final-year project to be deployed in a real-world scenario rather than some fictional business, so I approached a few local businesses with some ideas, and a bookstore owner asked me about how much I would charge. I wasn't expecting to be paid, and

having no idea about the ongoing market rate, I only quoted PKR 10,000 for building a bookstore management system for them. Admittedly, it wasn't the best of my work, but it got the job done, and gave me the confidence that even with my limited skill set, I can earn without relying on formal employment." Since then, he has worked in different capacities on numerous freelance projects across several industries, including some Fortune 500 companies. Not one to stay confined to working solo, he has also transitioned into entrepreneurship on multiple occasions with varying levels of success, considering his failures to be his most valuable learning experiences.

Currently, he's running his premium WordPress cloud hosting, CRM, and marketing automation solutions business named HappyCloud. He's also the co-founder and Director of Planning & Strategy of his brainchild, PAFLA (Pakistan Freelancers Association) — a non-profit organization he envisioned to empower Pakistani freelancers through collaboration with the Government, regulators, financial institutions, industry, and academia. He also teaches the WordPress course at "Extreme Commerce".

"I long to see the day when humankind no longer has to work because of AI & robots taking care of everything for us, but till that day comes, I'd very much prefer the freedom of working on my terms the freedom I first discovered through freelancing, and now enjoy through entrepreneurship. It's not a walk in the park, mind you, but do it right, and it's far more rewarding than employment there's simply no comparison," concluded Haroon when asked the reasons why he chose this career path.



<https://hqraja.com/>

The ICT Industry Veteran

ZAHIDA EJAZ- RAWALPINDI

Age: 50 Years
Years of Freelancing: 11 Years
Area of Specialization: Curriculum Writing,
Proofreading & Worksheets Generation

Someone remarked correctly, "If there is a will, there is a way". Zahid Ejaz, a 50-year-old woman from Rawalpindi, has proven it through freelancing in content development and documentation to achieve her goals. She had previously worked as a teacher but was dissatisfied with her work schedules.



Consequently, she opted to leave her full-time teaching profession at the age of 40 and began working as a freelancer despite having no technical skills. However, she now earns four times as much as she did as a teacher on a monthly basis. As a former teacher, Curriculum Developer and Proofreader of primary mathematics books, she now offers her online freelance services as a curriculum developer/mathematical resource making jobs, as well as excel/word/pdf conversions,

PDF fillable forms, Prezi, and PowerPoint presentations. Due to her family's circumstances, she switched from a full-time teacher to a freelancer. Her deep love and concern for her family prompted her to change careers to freelancing in order to give her family the time and attention they deserved. And that was only achievable as a consequence of freelancing; the perks of being a freelancer.

Zahida is convinced that freelancing will pay her more than a normal job. «A young teacher can easily make four times greater than a school job by working only two to three hours a day for four days a week,» she explains. She stated that her freelance profile received excellent feedback as a result of her hard work, which led to her receiving more job opportunities. "My working hours were cut in half, and my income was increased three times, sometimes more,» she said, citing her talents and expertise. Zahida explains the advantages of freelancing in such a fashion "A teacher who converts to freelancing can enjoy her freedom, devote more time to her family and social life, take holidays according to her schedule, and yet earn more than she would in a traditional teaching position. It also aids us in developing new talents and become more productive over time."

Zahida is driven by her humanistic impulses and is passionate about making her ideas a reality. She feels that what she intends to do for young people, particularly women, will allow her aspirations to come true. She intends to develop her own brand and agency for freelancing work in order to achieve this magnificent goal. "Through my page Core Learning Skills and YouTube channel, I aim to raise awareness among women about the need of learning new skills and earning money from home, as well as assisting teachers and students in improving the quality of lesson delivery and resource creation." She explains her sane motives."

www.fiverr.com/kazzats?up_rollout=true

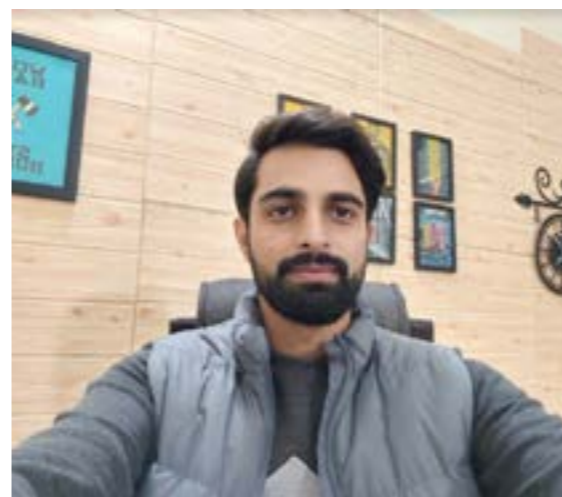
The Educationist



She is aware of the challenging situations that students and teachers face because of the cutthroat competitive environment in the job market. As a result, she wishes to assist and welcome to her agency everyone who is self-aware, career-oriented, and eager to learn.

SHEHROZE FAREED- RAWALPINDI

Age: 26 Years
Years of Freelancing: 5 Years
Area of Specialization: Shopify



Shehroze is a top freelancer from Rawalpindi who landed in the industry rather unexpectedly. Talking about how he ventured into freelancing, he said, "My father passed away when I was in ninth grade, and my siblings and I were without any guardian at that crucial time. We somehow passed those cumbersome years, and I managed to go to university. I got a laptop to work on my assignments.

While researching for some assignments, I discovered Shopify, and ventured into drop-shipping in 2015 through Shopify. I also developed a website to practice e-commerce, but it did not work, and the project turned out to be a failure."

Continuing his story, he said, "One of my friends introduced me to Fiverr and other freelancing platforms. Freelancing appealed to me, and I began burning the midnight oil to find ways to monetize my skills on different platforms. I didn't get any orders for four months even after working daily, but I didn't give in to that challenge. I wanted to prove my worth because I realized if others around me could do this, so could I. Slowly, I began selling gigs centered on graphic designing as well as CV designing, but did not get any worthwhile order even then. Later on, I started offering Shopify services and focused on it constantly as I already had some experience in the field. When I signed up with this service on a freelancing platform, I wasn't expecting an offer. I just wanted to know if my portfolio was good enough to attract inquiries. To my surprise, I began getting orders soon enough. I started earning, and became more motivated than ever to push myself even further.

fiverr.com/shozef

The Shopify Expert



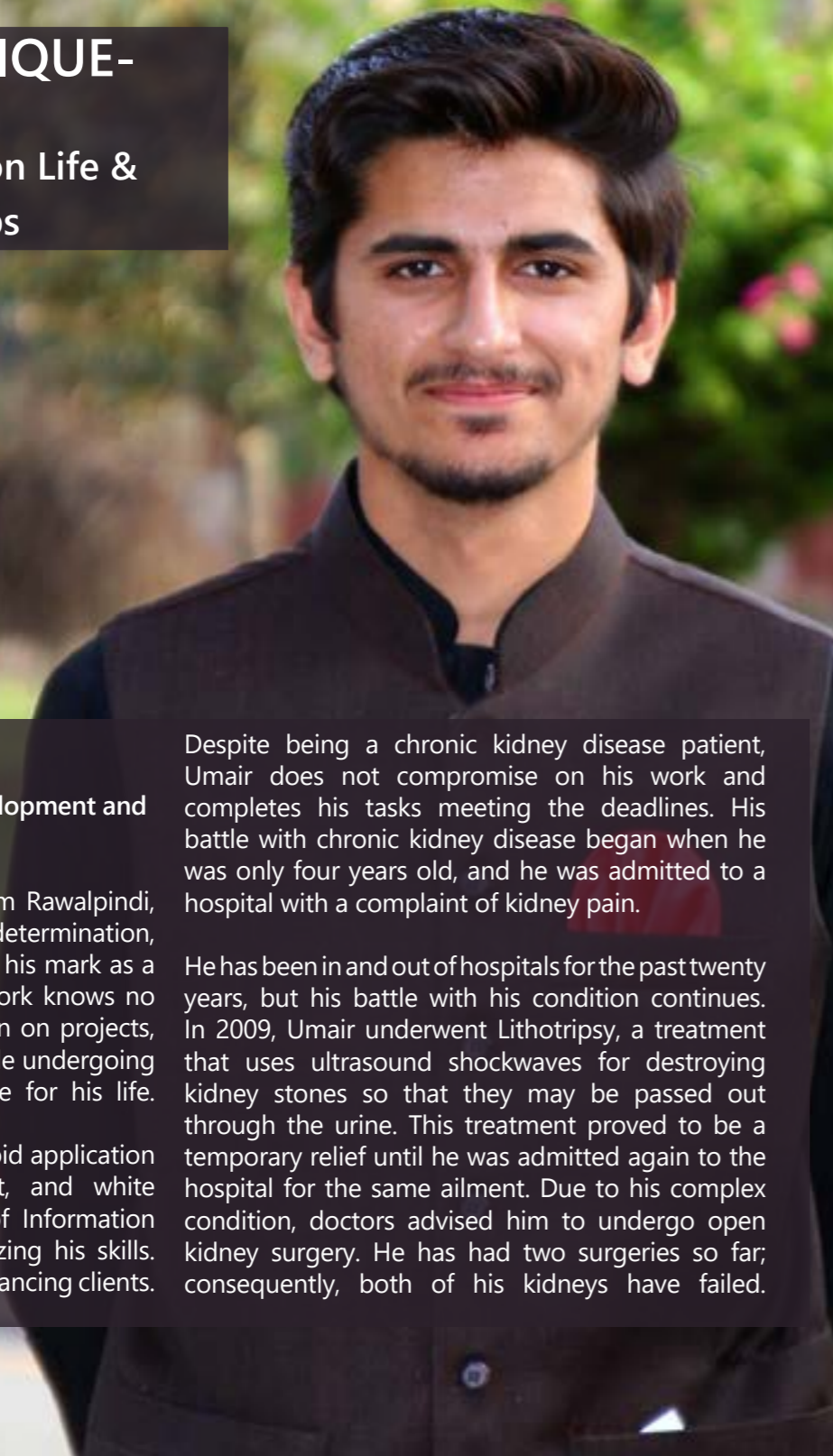
Presently, I have a small team of freelancers working under me, and so far I have developed 500 Shopify websites.' When asked to give some advice to aspiring freelancers, he said, 'Never give up on yourself, and the field of freelancing. Yes, it takes a lot of patience and consistency, but if you persevere through the first year, you will have a smooth ride ahead. Give it your 100%, and don't give up- you will achieve success sooner or later."

Truck art is a popular form of regional decoration in South Asia, with Pakistani trucks featuring elaborate floral patterns and calligraphy. Pakistani decorated trucks servicing Afghanistan came to be known as jingle trucks by American troops and contractors. The term jingle truck comes from the United States military slang, coined by servicemen in Afghanistan, although it may date to the British colonial period. The term came to be because of the «jingle» sound that the trucks make due to the chains hanging from the bumpers of the vehicles. (Source; Wikipedia)



UMAIR SHAFIQUE-RAWALPINDI

Freelancer's take on Life & Programming Apps



Age: 22 Years
Years of Freelancing: 7 Years
Area of Specialization: Android Development and White Board Animation

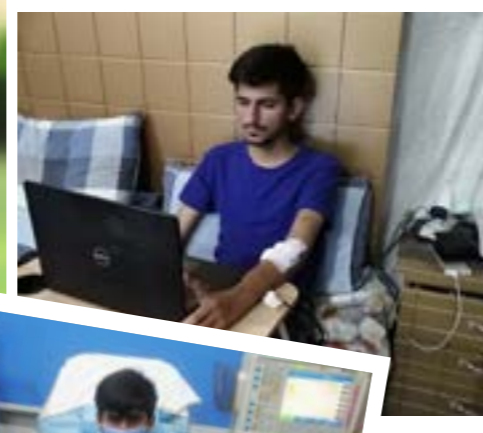
A 22 years old young freelancer from Rawalpindi, Umair Shafique, is powered by his determination, self-discipline and willpower to make his mark as a freelancer. His commitment to his work knows no boundaries. The young boy has taken on projects, and completed them timely even while undergoing kidney dialysis, and fighting a battle for his life.

Umair Shafique has expertise in android application development, website development, and white board animation. He is a student of Information Technology, and is productively utilizing his skills. He uses Fiver and Up-work to get freelancing clients.

Despite being a chronic kidney disease patient, Umair does not compromise on his work and completes his tasks meeting the deadlines. His battle with chronic kidney disease began when he was only four years old, and he was admitted to a hospital with a complaint of kidney pain.

He has been in and out of hospitals for the past twenty years, but his battle with his condition continues. In 2009, Umair underwent Lithotripsy, a treatment that uses ultrasound shockwaves for destroying kidney stones so that they may be passed out through the urine. This treatment proved to be a temporary relief until he was admitted again to the hospital for the same ailment. Due to his complex condition, doctors advised him to undergo open kidney surgery. He has had two surgeries so far; consequently, both of his kidneys have failed.

After twenty years, the doctors identified the root cause of his condition: Umair's liver was producing stones. He was then diagnosed with Primary Hyperoxaluria Type 1- a rare disease with a genetic mutation. Doctors now advised him to have a combined kidney, and liver transplant that costs a lot. His survival only depends upon regular dialysis. Umair is earning and working hard by freelancing to cover the expense of his surgery. Talking about his health condition, and work, he says, 'I cover my expenses, but the treatment is costly, and currently only being offered in India and Turkey. However, I feel I can manage to arrange the required funds through my work. I believe in my hard work and will never let my illness become an obstacle in my growth.' Umair is a true inspiration for all of us, and we wish for him to get healthy soon.



NAFEES ASGHAR-RAWALPINDI

Age: 25 Years
Years of Freelancing: 5 Years
Area of Specialization: Mobile Application Design and Development

According to Nafees, a thriving freelancer, one of the best things that can happen to someone is when their friend becomes their first mentor. That is how Nafees started his freelancing journey, and was introduced to the profitable world of freelancing.



Nafees was a regular university student who did not know much about online earning till he saw his friend working online, and earning through Fiverr. He was amazed at the idea of freelancing, and requested his friend to guide him. That's when his entire life changed as he began to focus on learning more about freelancing so he could monetize the medium to support his family, and himself one day.

Nafees's niche is mobile application design and development. He is a Top Rated Seller on UpWork, and "Level Two Seller" on Fiverr.

When he started freelancing, he worked on many projects at minimal rates to keep the ball rolling as he believed that something is better than nothing. With time, his skill improved and he began landing high ticketing clients. He has completed more than 600 projects throughout this tenure. He now has a team of ten employees working under him. He is his own boss and is satisfied with his decision to pursue freelancing.

According to Nafees, some of the roadblocks he experienced include timezone differences, lack of awareness about freelancing within the community, internet issues, and unavailability of feasible payment gateways. It is difficult for a freelancer even to open a bank account here in Pakistan, let alone receiving payments with ease.

He believes freelancing is certainly a lucrative field, and people aspiring to work with international clients and become self-employed should definitely pursue it. His suggestion to the new entrants is, 'Know what you want, and then work dedicatedly to achieve it. There is nothing that you cannot achieve if you become determined to fulfill that goal.'



The Mobile App Development Expert



Archeological Museum,
Taxila

Taxila Museum is located at Taxila. The museum is home to a significant and comprehensive collection of Gandharan art dating from the 1st to the 7th centuries CE. Most objects in the collection were excavated from the ruins of ancient Taxila. Construction of Taxila museum started in 1918, its foundation stone laid by Lord Chelmsford, Viceroy of India in 1918. There are some 4000 objects displayed, including stone, stucco, terracotta, silver, gold, iron and semiprecious stones. (Source; Wikipedia)



SAIFULLAH ALI-TAXILA

Age: 31 Years
Years of Freelancing: 4 years
Area of Specialization: Cartoonist and Caricature Artist

Growing up, we all loved cartoons (honestly, we still do!). However, very few of us were daring enough to choose cartoon creation as a career.



Saifullah is one of those brilliant, and talented freelancers who went through with it, and has made a big name in the field. Initially, Saifullah did not believe in freelancing, and deemed it an unsuitable career choice. He preferred a job with more discipline and decorum. In 2017, he enrolled in the e-Rozgaar course for creative design, where he was able to master his skills as a cartoon and caricature Artist. He developed his Fiverr and Upwork profiles, made his gigs based on cartoons and caricatures, and instantly started earning through them. Saifullah has become a "Top Rated" Seller on Upwork, and a Level 2 Seller, on Fiverr in two years. He earned thousands of positive reviews on his profiles from customers all over the world.

He has managed to earn a whopping US \$100,000 through Fiverr, Upwork, and other platforms. He has achieved multiple milestones in life already, and believes that the sky is the limit. Saif serves a USA-based IT firm as Lead Graphic Designer after serving big names such as Porsche, World Dental Association, Procter and Gamble (P&G), Ted Talks, Miss Universe (body building), and some other celebrities around the world. Saif is also certified enrolled in various 2D and 3D graphics-related courses, that help him keep his profile competitive as a designer. Further, he started his small training institute to provide creative design training to empower the youth. Freelancing helped Saif perform Umrah with his online earning, and he is also donating a significant part of his earnings in the Agricultural sector and employed deserving low-income families. Addressing new freelancers, he said, "Becoming a professional freelancer takes more than a few days or months; it takes years to establish your worth, and become a regular earner. Here are a few significant tips that I feel compelled to share with anyone interested in pursuing a career as a freelancer. Keep a positive mindset, develop strong work ethics and Integrity, strengthen your communication skills, be passionate about your work, and focus more on learning more than earning.



<https://www.fiverr.com/saifullahali999>

The Incredible Cartoonist and Sketch Artist



<https://www.fiverr.com/sixeldesign>

SHAHRUKH AHMED-HASSAN ABDAL The Gaming Expert

Age: 24 Years
Years of Freelancing: 1.5 Years
Area of Specialization: V.R./Game Development

"Your life doesn't improve by chance; it improves by bringing about some change in it." - Shahrukh Ahmed." Shahrukh's freelancing story started after completing his software engineering degree. He applied to almost 100 different companies; and was also forced to apply to the Government sector that he never really liked much. Due to his low grades, he wasn't get selected for any position. However, to him, grades never really mattered; skills did. His core interest was always in the areas of games and programming. Talking about his passion, he says, 'In my final year project, I designed an

FPS action game, and rendered my university a map. I got appreciation from my professors and interviewers. I started reading research papers, and documentation about gaming. Unfortunately, I had no machine to start practicing because the game and V.R. development need high-specification machines that are quite expensive. I enrolled in the e-Rozgaar program during my studies, and got selected in 2019. My trainer helped us to make a good profile for data entry and virtual assistance gigs. I started earning from a freelance account, and did many jobs pertaining to typing, data entry, web research, SEO, and graphic design.'

Sharing his freelancing experience, he said, 'Within four months, I earned around PKR 100,000.

I had enough money to invest in a machine, hence, bought one for game development and started practicing on it. Three months had passed, and I had not received any project. I was constantly losing hope. After four months, I received a gig related to V.R. That was my jump start in the field.' Following that, he began getting more projects, and within two months, his gigs ranked at the top of the first page. Companies started contacting him, and he began signing long-term contracts with them. During Covid-19, many directors switched from actual locations to greens screens. At that time, he earned many orders wherein he rendered some environments for a web series. It was an excellent experience for him to put real-life locations into the screens.

He is currently working with multiple companies with many clients with diverse professions including software developers, doctors, engineers, architectures, film directors, university professors, real estate agents, artists, and many entrepreneurs. He has completed around 150+ games and V.R. environments-related jobs. Recalling his past, he said, 'Now, when I think about my past, I feel thankful that I never found any 9 to 5 job. After one year of freelancing, I can safely say that choosing this line of work was my wisest decision ever. I have all the freedom I ever wanted while doing something I am extremely enthusiastic about. This is why I believe that your life only gets better by change.'





Hazara Motorway or M-15 Motorway is a 180 kilometer controlled-access motorway linking the Burhan Interchange near Hasan Abdal in Punjab province with Haripur, Havelian, Abbottabad, Mansehra, Shinkiari, Battagram, and Thakot in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. It is also known as Hazara Motorway. (Source Wikipedia)



M-15 Motorway



AQIB MASOOD-FATEH JANG

Age: 29 Years
Years of Freelancing: 4 Years
Area of Specialization: Dropshipping

Aqib Masood, 29 year old, successful freelancer from Fateh Jang, decided to take some meaningful action in his life 2017 after completing his graduation. He used to spend nights making assignments for his friend's circle to make some extra money to manage his routine expenses worried about his career, and started a job hunt in public and private sectors. After earning his degree, he applied for almost 70 jobs with the hope of getting employed somewhere.

He even took extra miles for submission of his CVs in industrial zones of Lahore, Rawalpindi, and Hattar, but all his efforts ended in vain. Explaining his early days, he said, 'The good thing that happened that year was getting enrolled in the e-Rozgar Course in the non-technical batch.

I tried to pursue it by doing a project worth US \$5, but due to lack of consistency and focus, I did not get any more orders.



The Dropshipping expert



Moreover, my family always pressurized me to get a job, so I did not take freelancing seriously. I even tried to pursue a career in teaching, but that too, did not go as I had planned.' Since he had the desire to prove his worth, he decided to give freelancing another try in 2019.

He joined many communities for freelancers, and came across a representative of 'Payoneer.' Aqib volunteered himself for participation in their event, and that's how his freelancing journey officially began. He earned his first local client, and made sure to pay special attention to communicate well with her to understanding her requirements about the project.

Aqib realized that link building, and effective communication were his strongest suits, so he explored and polished them even more. Soon, he became more confident in his abilities, and leveraged them well to get better-paying clients. At the present, he serves numerous customers with fine quality deliverables, and is also hunting new clients through self-branding and email marketing.

Aqib motivates young freelancers to be your own boss and encourages them to join entrapreneurship insted of being employed. He advices ' Hardships in the begining will ultimately result into fruitful returns."

Word Press Design & Development Specialists

MOOSA MUMTAZ & AROOSA AMANAT-JAND, ATTOCK

Years of Freelancing: 3 Years
Area of Specialization: WordPress Website Design & Development, Virtual Assistance

Aroosa and Moosa belong to Attock, and have a degree in engineering. Once they graduated, both started to actively look for jobs. Unsurprisingly, the dismaying situation of job market left them looking at other roads to earn an income. Moosa got an admission to the



University of Rome, Italy. Unfortunately, his visa was rejected, so he started doing an Internship at the head office of Fouji Foundation. Later, his internship converted into a permanent job. Aroosawasdoing M.S. in Electrical Engineering at that time. They found out about the e-Rozgaar Program taking place in Attock. Instantly, they decided to enroll in the 'tech' domain of the program, and learn about freelancing. That's how their life changed for the better. In the start, they were skeptical about freelancing, but decided to pursue it nonetheless.

They won their first project worth a staggering US \$8000 as virtual assistants. It was a huge milestone for them, and boosted their confidence. They started working on that project as a team. After that project, they made a team of 4 to 5 people, and started working in WordPress and virtual assistance areas after completing their training.

Moosa found himself in hot water when his father was diagnosed with multiple life-threatening health conditions. It was a miserable time for Moosa as he, and his mother were the only ones to take care of his ailing father. In such a tricky condition, Moosa couldn't carry on with some highly paid jobs. However, the strong moral support of his father towards him worked as a catalyst in helping him grow further as a freelancer. It was disheartening for Moosa that his father did not stay for long in his life to see him achieve more growth in his career. Moosa and Aroosa believe it is extremely important to highlight the support of their families in their journey.

Their families gave them free-hand in choosing freelancing as their profession. The support of their parents pushed them harder towards accomplishing the success they cherish today. Alhamdulillah they are content on making this decision, and are tirelessly working on some more interesting projects together such as tutoring for the WordPress websites in the community. They are also running a freelance Web Agency under one roof in Attock. Moosa is about to attain the 'Top Rated Seller' badge at Fiverr. This is the highest level on Fiverr, one of the most competitive freelancing forum. His family's never-ending support strengthened his courage to a whole new level as not once did they ask him to leave freelancing, and find a job instead.



Both, Aroosa and Moosa are incredibly grateful to their families, and are excited about accomplishing new feats in their line of work.

Railway Station, Attock Khurd

Constructed in 1880, the Attock Khurd Railway Station is located on the bank of the Indus River and the Victorian structure made of stone masonry is surrounded by the Manglot Mountain Range. It is located near the old iron girder bridge built in 1883, which connects Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with Punjab. This bridge is one of the most important strategic and commercial crosses on the Indus between Punjab and KP. It was originally designed by Sir Guildford Molesworth and was opened to traffic on May 24, 1883. (Source; dawn.com)



SALMA NOREEN- ATTOCK

Age: 32 Years

Years of Freelancing: 13 Years

Area of Specialization: Content Marketing

Salma Noreen! An expert with 13+ years of experience, is a multi-award winning freelancer & trainer, her top awards include (but not limited to); the Best Female Freelancer award where she has received this award by KPITB for serving most of the local & international clients as an individual female freelancer. The Best Content Marketing Trainer award by PITB | Punjab Information Technology Board for successfully transforming maximum unemployed Pakistani graduates' lives through her training on content marketing & freelancing. Furthermore, as a community organizer, she is acknowledged by WordPress for being the first Pakistani female to lead the official WordPress chapter in Pakistan. She is running a few most significant local, niche-based, and like-minded communities for Pakistani freelancers and actively playing her role in promoting the freelancing culture in Pakistan. Salma started her journey as a freelancer back in 2008. Noreen's freelancing journey wasn't less than a roller-coaster in the initial 4 years. In 2012, finally, after many ups and downs in freelancing, she discovered her path as a freelancer. In 2013, she got featured by Express Tribune (Pakistan's national newspaper) for her efforts, and that's how she has started a new phase of creating an impact. On a question about her activities these days, she responds, "I am a freelancer, a trainer, a community organizer, a public speaker, a YouTuber, and an aspiring author. I offer my freelance services to help individuals and businesses to have & maintain their online presence & reputation, and as a trainer and a speaker.

I promote professional and personal growth by implementing practical and proven methods. I make sure my sessions are entertaining to keep my audience engaged." Salma Noreen as a trainer is here to help her trainees to understand the importance of content marketing and use it to become successful freelancers. Firstly, she brings disappointed and depressed unemployed youth back to the normal life worthy of living their desired lifestyle. Everyone deserves success, respect, and much love regardless of which area they belong to, what university they graduated from, or whatever age group they are

in and by empowering them with digital skills to sell online and further guiding them regarding content marketing and personal branding. She explains this term in a way she shares; "Freelancing is an environment which is ideal for everyone because everyone can work on their schedules, pace, timings, which is luxurious." Working as a freelancer allows her to follow her dreams, respect her own pace, and enjoy her freedom.

It keeps her inspired & curious to know about other nationalities and cultures while working as a freelancer for her international clients. Besides being a full-time

[Freelancer.com/u/sn66.html](https://freelancer.com/u/sn66.html)

freelancer, Noreen is quite active as an online host featuring the Pakistani Freelancers' Stories to motivate and inspire newbie freelancers towards freelancing. Her flagship web series is the Top Pakistani Freelancers Show. Further, she is actively working on women's empowerment in Pakistan as a confidence coach and a public speaker to empower the Pakistani women by challenging their perceptions and self-doubts that are holding them back in a constructive & meaningful way at national levels.



An Award-winning Best Female Freelancer in Pakistan, An Award-winning Trainer

Attock Fort, Attock

Attock Fort was built at Attock Khurd during the reign of Akbar the Great from 1581 to 1583 under the supervision of Khawaja Shamsuddin Khawafi to protect the passage of the River Indus. Attock was briefly captured on 28 April 1758 by the Maratha Empire and became the northern boundary of the Maratha Empire. (Source; Wikipedia)

AFZAAL AHMED-HAZRO, ATTOCK

25 year old, Afzaal Ahmed living in Hazaro village, Attock started freelancing while he was still studying. Currently, he is an active 'Level 3 Seller' at Fiverr, and earns a handsome income to support his family as well as to fulfill his personal needs. Afzaal believes that at its core, freelancing provides the liberty from working within the constraints of an established work structure, and empowers



individuals to surpass the traditional boundaries while getting international exposure in infinite horizons to scale their growth. The essence of freelancing for him is the provision of liberty. While describing his work, he says, "I wanted to be my boss, and work freely so I chose to freelance instead of working in a centralized environment where I have to seek permission for everything, and never feel alive." Afzaal belongs to a middle-class family. Living within a restricted budget, his small pocket saw big dreams.

Following the footsteps of many accomplished entrepreneurs, he also wanted to be an entrepreneur so he could bear his expenses on his, including his semester fee.

He heard about freelancing from his friend, and was motivated by one of his professors, who influenced him and many others to try their hand at freelancing. Talking about his early days, he said, "I was very clear about acquiring certain freelancing skills when I started my freelancing career. My first month was completely dry in terms of earnings. Things started perking up in the second month of my career. I spent 24 hours on my first order as I didn't know much about the design demanded by my client, but somehow I completed my task. The second major challenge I encountered was communicating in English. I often faced issues in the start about understanding buyers' needs and demands, so I took the assistance of my friend. I used to send my conversations with my potential and existing clients to my friend, who interpreted them, and helped me better understand the buyers' needs. The whole practice continued for two months. He assisted me for two months, and after that, I began improving.' Now, Afzaal is efficiently communicating with buyers from across the globe, and completes the orders easily. His core interest always lied in the area of graphic designing. When asked about his interest, he said, 'I chose Photoshop and illustrator tools as they are easy to learn and use. I created my gigs, and registered my id on Fiverr under the name of 'Galaxy Pixel.' Right in the beginning, I did not get any fruitful results, but after completing a couple of orders with positive feedbacks, I began getting more assignments from foreign clients. Due to my hard work and consistency in delivering my assignments, I kept progressing, and soon will be awarded the 'Top Rated Seller' badge on Fiverr.' Afzaal also set up his own side business during the process, and has become an entrepreneur. His entire journey wasn't straightforward. He was confronted with multiple challenges, but his

<https://www.fiverr.com/galaxypixel>

The Webpreneur



dedication to his work, and the desire to prove his capabilities, helped him progress and accomplish huge milestones. He also plans to project himself as an influencer, and a coach to teach beginners in the field so they too can materialize their hopes and dreams.

SAQIB KAMRAN- ATTOCK



Age: 31 Years
Years of Freelancing: 8 Years
Area of specialization: Website & Mobile Application
Designing and Development

Has it ever happened to you that your visa got banned by Dubai, you lost your job, and were stressed about your future? Three years back, these worries perturbed Saqib Kamran who is a 31 year old, hard-working, talented, and passionate freelancer hailing from Attock. Roughly three years ago, he was happily doing a full-time 9 to 5 job in Dubai with part-time freelancing, getting a couple of freelance projects every month. When he returned to Pakistan, he did not realize that the job market would be terrible. There was hardly any good job available, and this scenario heavily stressed Saqib.

That was when Saqib decided to give freelancing a try for his survival. He started freelancing temporarily to make ends meet, and dreamt of going back to Dubai to find another job like most Pakistani men. However, destiny had other plans in store for him. It took him three long years to finally find a decent job in Dubai. While you may think Saqib would have jumped to grab the offer, he preferred freelancing over his dream job.

Talking about it, he said, 'I started freelancing to build a good source of income stream to live comfortably in Pakistan. My goal was always to stay in Pakistan temporarily, and return to Dubai to find another job. After three years of freelancing when I went back to Dubai, and found another dream job, I realized that my freelancing earnings were much better than a full-time job, even in Dubai. Plus, as a freelancer, I had no work pressure from my employer. That's when I came back to Pakistan to continue my freelancing journey from here. Now I am working as a full-time freelancer.'

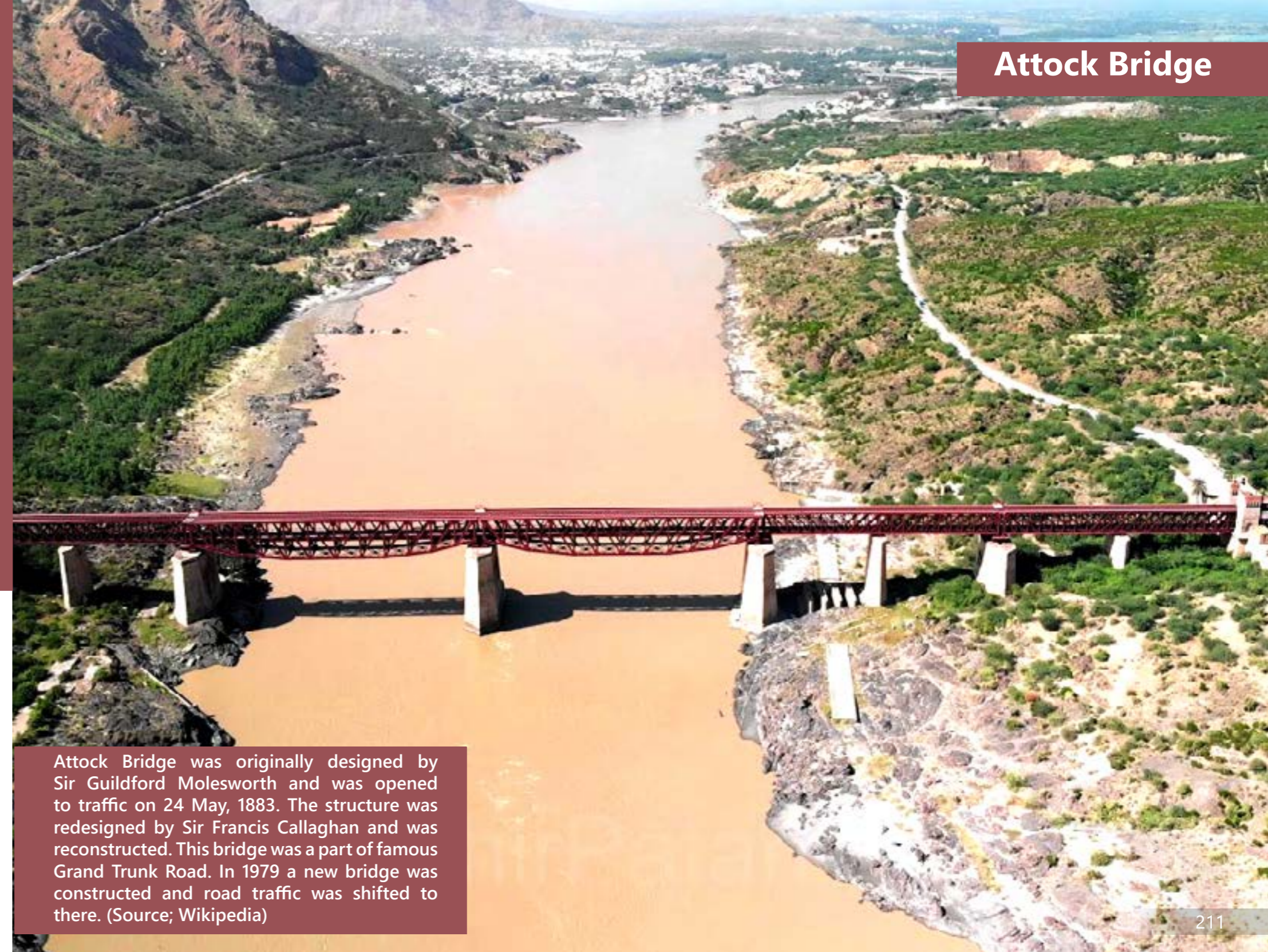
Saqib Kamran has realized that being a full-time freelancer is much better than choosing a full-time job. According to him freelancing has given him the freedom to choose projects as per his interest, ease and time, so he can work whenever he wants.'

saqibkamran.com

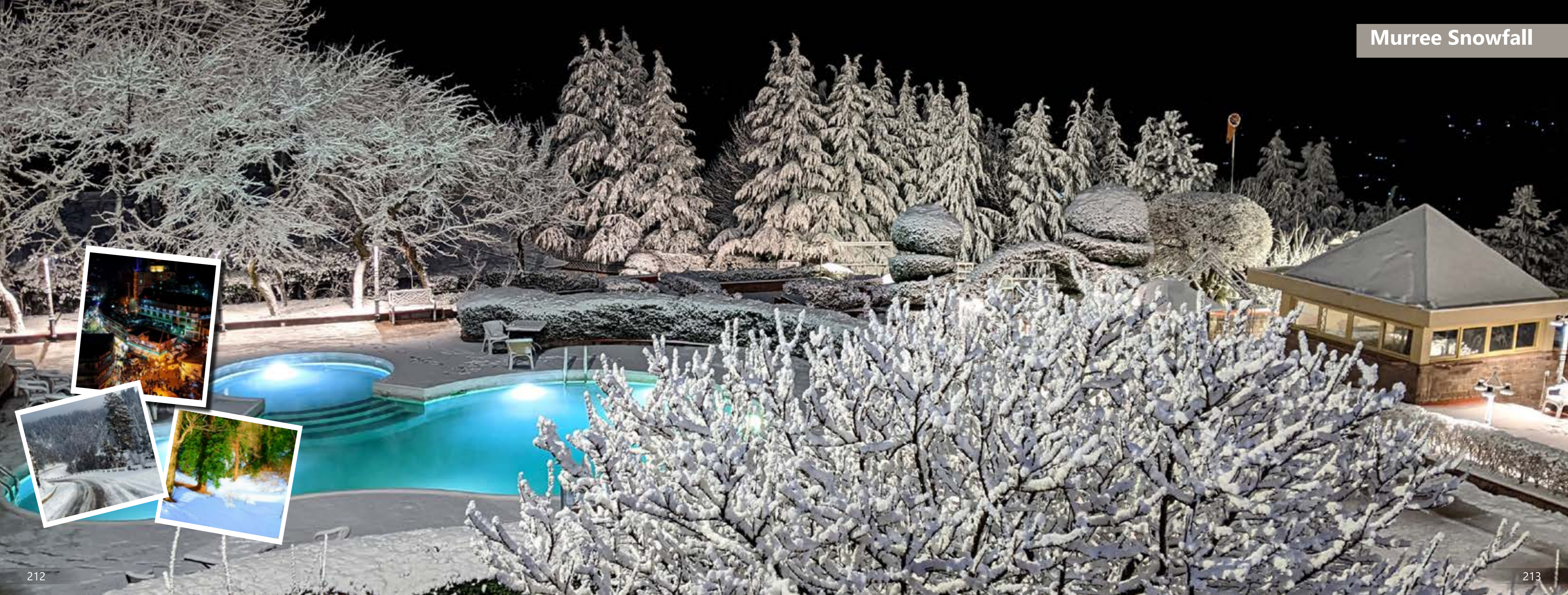
From a 9 to 5 Job to a Full Time
Freelancer



Attock Bridge



Attock Bridge was originally designed by Sir Guildford Molesworth and was opened to traffic on 24 May, 1883. The structure was redesigned by Sir Francis Callaghan and was reconstructed. This bridge was a part of famous Grand Trunk Road. In 1979 a new bridge was constructed and road traffic was shifted to there. (Source; Wikipedia)



Islamabad Capital Territory

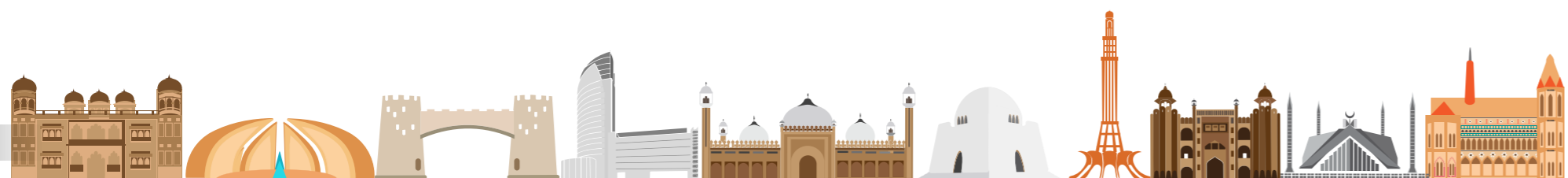
Islamabad is the capital city of Pakistan and is administered by the Pakistani federal government as part of the Islamabad Capital Territory. It is the ninth-largest city in Pakistan, while the larger Islamabad–Rawalpindi metropolitan area is the country's third-largest population of about 4.1 million people. Built as a planned city in the 1960s to replace Karachi as Pakistan's capital, Islamabad is noted for its high living standards, safety, and abundant greenery. Islamabad is Pakistan's most diverse metropolis in terms of the population makeup of the city. It has the largest expatriate and foreigner population in the city.

The reasons are simple: its inviting and reasonably temperate climate, its lush green scenery, and excellent basic infrastructure.

The master plan for the city was designed by Greek architect Constantinos Apostolou Doxiadis and divided the city into eight zones, including administrative, diplomatic enclave, residential areas, educational and industrial sectors, commercial areas, and rural and green areas. Islamabad is known for several parks and forests, including the Margalla Hills National Park and the Shakarparian. It is home to several landmarks, with the most

notable one being the Faisal Mosque, the largest mosque in South Asia and the fifth-largest in the world. Other landmarks include the Pakistan National Monument and Democracy Square. The city is a stopping point for tourists who desire to proceed to the country's Northern Areas for trekking, hiking, adventure sports, and mountaineering.

The city is home to twenty universities, including the Bahria University, Quaid-e-Azam University, PIEAS, COMSATS Institute of Information Technology and NUST. Islamabad has the second largest number of IT companies after Lahore.



Centaurus Mall, Islamabad



Centaurus is the 1st Mix Use Complex in Pakistan. It is the 1st project in Pakistan which has introduced the concept of modern and innovative designing.

HISHAM SARWAR- ISLAMABAD

Age: 44 Years
Years of Freelancing: 15 Years
Area of Specialization: Graphics Designing, Social Media Marketing & Digital Marketing

Popularly known as the PM of Freelancing, Hisham Sarwar is a name engraved on every freelancer's heart. His is an incredibly aspiring story that has touched and enthused many hearts. He is a successful entrepreneur, YouTuber, influencer, speaker and growth enthusiast who envisions to make his country grow and reach new heights of prosperity. His freelancing journey started quite unexpectedly. While doing a steady job at a US-based company, Hisham soon discovered that he was desperate for freedom, and space as a creative designer. He could not enjoy that with an average job of 9 to 5, so he began exploring different avenues, and landed upon freelancing that seemed like a lucrative option to him.

Hisham Sarwar started freelancing on the side in 1998y, roughly over two decades ago and soon went solo to provide web design/development services to clients on freelance marketplaces like Elance, Freelancer, and Guru. With time, his clientele and earnings only grew bigger and better turning him into one of the few Pakistani millionaire freelancers in the country at that time. He attributes his success in the freelancing world to being one of the pioneers in the field from Pakistan. This is why he advises his students to discover niches wherein nobody, or a few people are working to establish their mark in the field. In the last five years, though, he has narrowed his focus to only Guru, and it's proven to be a good decision.

In a concise space of time, he has earned recognition in profile sales and been given exclusive coverage in testimonials on the front pages of Guru.com.

Hisham employs 20 people currently and provides services in the domains of web development, graphic design, and mobile application. He is also the first Pakistani freelancer to rank in the top 10 in one of the largest freelance marketplace Guru.com. He also runs his own company 'Being Guru' which is a freelancing, Technology, and Motivational blog that covers important tech news and posts daily inspirational and motivational posts. Founded by Hisham Sarwar in partnership with his friend in Silicon Valley, USA – Being Guru has gained an excellent reputation, and its popularity worldwide speaks volumes about the excellent work it does.

Additionally, he is also running Pakistan's first freelance marketplace 'Workchest' for a Pakistani youngster startup (Rozgar Pakistan). Currently, the portal is in beta version and has over 90,000 freelancers on board who bid on projects, and are even landing jobs. This is certainly a revolutionary breakthrough for Pakistan's freelance industry and economy.

Hisham's determination, relentless energy, motivation, and adaptability have proven him as a true leader. His contribution towards humanitarian causes and respect towards individuals has been exemplary. Hisham teaches different skills and processes of freelancing to a vast audience through his YouTube channel 'Being Guru' and 'Hisham Sarwar.' He is the perfect epitome of an empathetic visionary who puts the needs of his community before him.

BEING GURU



He is also a celebrity in the community of freelancers and represents this community on various platforms. Hisham's advice to everyone has always been, '**Thakna nahi jamey raho, darna nahi dattey raho, kamyab hojao gey. haan dair sawair apni jagah**' which is translated as, 'Don't tire, stay put; don't be scared, keep going- you will succeed. Yes, things may take time, but you will be triumphant in the end.'

Margalla Hills, Islamabad



The Margalla Hills is a hill range within the Margalla Hills National Park on the northern edge of Islamabad Capital Territory, Pakistan, just south of Haripur District, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It is part of the Himalayan foothills. The Margalla range has an area of 12,605 hectares. It is a range with many valleys as well as high mountains. (Source; Wikipedia)

AYMAN SAROSH- ISLAMABAD



Founder Wecan-
Freelancer of the Year 2019

Age: 33 Years
Years of Freelancing: 11 Years
Area of specialization: General Administration and Content Writing

Ayman Sarosh from Islamabad is a mother of two kids, providing her services to the world's top-notch organizations, CEOs, and startups alike. She started her career as a freelancer back when many of us didn't even have a hint about it. Yes! She started it more than a decade ago and has proven yet again that there is no limit for those who believe in themselves, stay consistent, and are more focused on their goals than anything else. For her immaculate services in the freelancing industry, she was awarded the "Freelancer of the Year 2019" accolade by the International Payment Gateway Payoneer, and she was also featured in the renowned, international publication, 'Forbes', and several national, media channels.

Upon asking how she ended up in the field, Ayman's answer was the most unique we have received so far. According to her, "I have always experimented with new stuff, especially with those things that pique my interest. I believe I tried freelancing out of curiosity because no one in my immediate vicinity was doing so, and the internet became my best companion in helping me out. As a result, in addition to my M.Phil., I began looking for online work to channelize the financial stream."

In 11 years of her flexible work, she has earned more than US \$100,000+ from platforms like Upwork, LinkedIn, and through social networking sites wherein she provides her services in the fields of general administration, and content writing.. She also runs an initiative "WeCan", where she provides online work opportunities to fellow Pakistani women, builds their skills, and provides them with a platform to network.

Ayman believes that Pakistan has great potential for building diverse skills, and proving their unique capabilities. However, there needs to be better access to the latest technology, and internet facilities all over Pakistan. Ayman is highly enthusiastic about encouraging Pakistani women to pursue a freelancing career, and change their fixed beliefs about how they may not be able to succeed in it.

As her message to the nation, she said, "freelancing will become the new norm of work in the upcoming years, so it is high time to jump in, and start learning to earn. Do not be to pursue a freelancing career, and change their fixed beliefs about how they may not be able to succeed in it".



Seventh Avenue is a signal free road located in Islamabad. It starts from the intersection on Khayaban-e-Iqbal (Marghalla Road) near Islamabad Zoo and ends at intersection on Kashmir Highway. (Source; Wikipedia)

ZAKIR AHMED SHAH- ISLAMABAD

WordPress and SEO Expert

Age: 30 Years
Years of Freelancing: 9 Years
Area of Specialization: WordPress and SEO

Zakir Ahmad Shah is the lead coach of the WordPress team at Digiskills. I provided training to the SkillsFirst, and Empower Pakistan trainees. In December 2020, he joined Authority Partner US-based Software Company as a WordPress developer and was recently promoted a Team Lead of the WordPress team. He started freelancing back in 2012 when he was an undergraduate student and was not good at programming.

Talking about those days, he said, 'Luckily, I watched videos related to WordPress, and it was love at first sight as it was effortless to develop and manage. Working in the local market was not easy, and the daily commute was the foremost problem for me. On the other hand, freelancing has no restrictions on time and location. However, it was not easy to learn new skills. Plus, competing with top-rated freelancers worldwide and staying in touch with the clients at their time zones was more than a job. When I scanned my earnings, I realized I am on the right track to triple my revenue by providing top quality services.'

Zakir made sure to communicate with his clients to avoid any chances of dispute effectively. Moreover, he also offers unlimited number of revisions till the time the client is satisfied. He believes this isn't easy, but this strategy has helped him build a loyal clientele. He says, "I learned SEO and WordPress from YouTube and blogs. After that, I made my account on UpWork, and so far, I have earned US\$100,000 on Upwork. I learned and worked very hard to earn the client's trust. I always worked as per the client requirements and learned how to deal with the clients and leverage my skills to achieve more referrals from the same clients."

Moreover, I also learned how to outsource and manage my projects effectively. Consistency and hard work are essentials to be a successful freelancer. You must stay up to date with new technology to become a top-rated freelancer. Excellent communication skills can help you in leveraging your skills in your freelancing career." At present, he has his agency on Upwork and has established more than six different income streams. Last year, he joined YouTube, sharing Upwork, Freelancing WordPress, and SEO videos to help newbies learn and grow. He also worked as a volunteer/ Ambassador at Google Developer, Tedx Islamabad.





HAMZA AZIZ- ISLAMABAD

Age: 19 Years
Years of Freelancing: 2 Years
Area of Specialization: Graphics Designing

Often when people are differently-abled, society feels sympathetic for them and thinks of how they can never achieve their goals. This isn't true because you can easily turn a difficulty into an opportunity if you decide to overcome any challenge. Such is the story of 19-year-old Hamza Aziz, an ambitious freelancer from Islamabad, who suffers from polyneuropathy and muscular dystrophy, and started his freelancing journey while studying as an intermediate student.

He always advises people to believe in themselves. In his own words, 'Don't let your disability stop you from conquering your passion. If you don't have a job, buy a computer system, learn digital skills and sell them online. Explore different niches and stick to one that suits you, or if you are already passionate about some niche, monetize it by selling online. If you have motivation and enthusiasm for work, physical challenges will never come to your success.'

Though he spent 2 years in Fiverr, his aims are high as he wishes to achieve top-level seller ranks. He was inspired to become a graphics designer by watching photo manipulation videos on YouTube. Talking about his interest in the field, he said, 'I became keen about freelancing when my friend showed me his iPhone that he had bought through his earnings from freelancing.'

I researched on different platforms and created my profile on Fiverr. Soon enough, I started receiving small assignments of banner creation, photoshop editing, and that's how my journey began.'

The Podcast Specialist

Fiverr is a competitive market, so Hamza had to research thoroughly to find low competition gigs. He never considered his physical condition a challenge for him. He accepted himself genuinely and learned to live with his condition. Hamza is an optimistic person who trained himself to utilize his abilities effectively to leverage them instead of complaining about the problems in his life. During his journey, he faced many issues such as weak internet connections, costly internet packages, and unsupportive payment modes in Pakistan. He is a firm believer in earning well to be independent. While talking about online earning, he says, 'It exists for real, and you can earn a good livelihood through it. If nothing, you would at least be able to pay your

internet bills on your own.' He wants to become an inspiration and role model for younger freelancers, especially for differently abled people. His message to everyone reads as such, 'Don't lose hope, keep learning new, advanced, and low-competition skills. If you don't get success in one niche, switch to another one. Using this strategy, you will find your passion and can monetize it as well.' His special advice for those with health conditions, and life-altering conditions is, 'Don't let your disability stop you from following your passion and ambition. Treat yourself as a normal, healthy person, and build a positive mindset so you focus on the positives in life, and prosper.'



Pakistan Monument,
Shakarparian, Islamabad



The Pakistan Monument is a national monument and heritage museum located on the western Shakarparian Hills in Islamabad. The monument was constructed to symbolize the unity of the Pakistani people. Adjoining the monument is the Pakistan Monument Museum, which includes a wax museum depicting important events leading to the Pakistan Movement. (Source; Wikipedia)

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

The History of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa refers to the history of the modern-day Pakistani province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including the former Federally Administered Tribal Areas, which has colloquially been referred to as Pashtunistan. The earliest evidence from the region indicates that trade was common via the Khyber Pass; originating from the Indus Valley Civilization. The early people of the region were a Vedic people known as the Pakthas, identified with the modern day Pakhtun peoples. The Vedic culture reached its peak between the 6th and 1st centuries B.C under the Gandharan Civilization, and

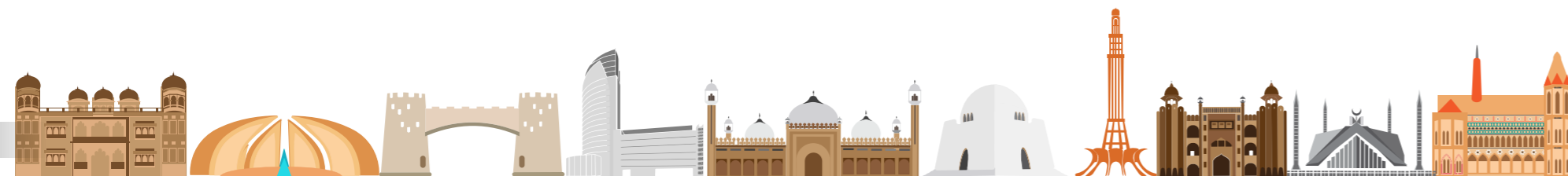
was identified as a center of Hindu and Buddhist learning and scholarship. The area saw a brief shock during the invasions of Alexander the Great, which had managed to conquer the small Janapadas, or city states, that had ruled the region. Seizing the resulting instability and inexperience of the local Greek governors, a young prince named Chandragupta Maurya managed to take control of the area, eventually going on to conquer much of Northern India. Over time the Mauryan Empire, from Chandragupta's line, had gone on to conquer much of the Indian Subcontinent with the Empire reaching

its peak under King Ashoka. Ashoka had converted to Buddhism from Hinduism, and with his conversion, declared that the official state religion of the Empire was the former. Ashoka's rule had witnessed a rise in Buddhism throughout India, although Hinduism was not displaced. After Ashoka's death, the Mauryan Empire had crumbled under the weak rule of the later Kings.

Makra Peak, Siri Paye Meadows, Shogran Valley



The Makra is a scenic peak in the Mansehra District in Hazara Region of the Himalayas in northern Pakistan. It is 3,885 metres (12,746 ft) high and almost 200 kilometres (120 mi) from Islamabad on the Naran Road. Hiking on the Makra is difficult due to snow and the gradient of the mountainsides. The place has been named as Makra Peak by locals as Makra due to its shape in snow resembling that of a spider on a web. (Source; Wikipedia)



Lake Saif-UI-Mulook,
Kaghan Valley

Saiful Muluk is a mountainous lake located at the northern end of the Kaghan Valley, near the town of Naran in the Saiful Muluk National Park. At an elevation of 3,224 m (10,578 feet) above sea level, the lake is located above the tree line, and is one of the highest lakes in Pakistan. Malika Parbat, the highest peak in the valley is near the lake. (Source; Wikipedia)

Sajikot Waterfall, Abbottabad

Sajikot Waterfall is a waterfall located in Havelian Tehsil, Abbottabad. It is a popular tourist destination in Abbottabad District. It is about 27 kilometres (17 mi) from Havelian and 40 kilometres (25 mi) from Abbottabad District. A newly constructed narrow road from Havelian to Sajikot allows visitors to take their cars right at the top of the waterfall. (Source; Wikipedia)

Umbrella Waterfall is a waterfall located in the Sajikot area of Abbottabad District. It has recently emerged as a new tourist attraction in the KPK province of Pakistan. The waterfall is located 27 Kilometers from Havelian.[1] To reach the waterfall, you have to hike down about 30 to 45 minutes from the village of Poona. The Umbrella Waterfall is on the same road where the famous Sajikot Waterfall is located. (Source; Wikipedia)

Umbrella Waterfall, Abbottabad

SYED ARSALAN ALI SHAH- ABBOTTABAD

Age: 33 Years

Years of Freelancing: 10 Years

Area of Specialization: Website Design, CMS, UI/
UX Design, Ecommerce Development

Syed Arsalan Ali Shah, is an online entrepreneur, freelancer, Founder & CEO of Connected Pakistan- an award-winning digital freelancing agency, featured as Pakistan's first success story on Payoneer.



"I was serving as a Government officer, but the restrictive nature of the job, and the lack of growth opportunities as well as the limited elements of creativity involved in the job influenced my decision to change career paths. I have always found myself as a person with a passion for growing professionally in national, and international arenas. I opted to freelance to attain that goal. I found freelancing as the right option to explore. It gives unrestricted liberty for creativity with no boundaries to bind, and I can do work of my choice anytime, anywhere with anyone' says Arsalan talking about the reason why he shifted to freelancing from a government job." Says Arsalan

He has trained thousands of students who are now industry icons, and running their successful ventures. Microsoft appointed him as a Lead Trainer to execute Microsoft's Rozgar. Work initiative for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (K.P.K) to generate employment through freelancing. H has been awarded as the best trainer by Mr. Imran Khan (Prime Minister Islamic Republic of Pakistan) in the KPK Youth Employment Program powered by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

K.P. Information technology board (KPITB), the Government of Pakistan, bestowed an award to Connected Pakistan for being the Best Digital Freelancing Agency of Pakistan (2019). Arsalan was also featured as the only success story in Pakistan (2020) by the most reputable and the only payment platform available to freelancers of Pakistan, Payoneer.

Talking about his desire to empower the youth, he says, "to create the awareness of freelancing resulting in empowering the youth for the betterment of the country's society and economic stability, I am successfully organizing free of cost conferences under the banner of "Connected Pakistan". Conference on a significant scale in different cities of Pakistan for the last six years. Several printed and electronic media platforms have also highlighted the work I do at Connected Pakistan, and its impact across the freelancing industry of Pakistan".

Discussing the benefits of freelancing, Arsalan said, freelancing provides you with the liberty to work on your own terms with the clients of your choice, and in areas that interest you. Plus, you get the golden opportunity to work in international markets, and broaden your horizons. It certainly helps you grow, and carve your mark in the world provided you are resilient and passionate.

Founder and CEO of Award Winning Agency -
Connected Pakistan



ANUM ZULFIQAR- ABBOTTABAD

Age: 30 Years
Years of Freelancing: 7 years
Area of Specialization: Expert in WordPress, CMS & Content Creation

Anum Zulfiqar is a Computer Software Engineer by Trade, an entrepreneur at heart, and an award-winning freelancer, recognized as the best freelancer of Pakistan by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Technology Board.



Currently, she is serving as Executive Director in Connected Pakistan, an Award-winning Digital Freelancing Agency. She is also the first Pakistani female freelancer who got the 'Top Rated Seller' badge on one of the largest marketplace Fiverr.com. After this achievement, various print and electronic media have deemed her "A Catalyst of hope for Women Empowerment in Pakistan" and "A hope of Silent Revolution for Women in Pakistan," says Anum talking about her feats with us.

The ease of working from home attracted her the most in the start.

She wanted to communicate with new people every day, learn from them, share her experiences, and utilize her skills to provide value to her clients. She also wanted to work as per her availability and choose her projects in her own time. She believes doing this isn't impossible; it does require you to be skilled and have a laptop with a stable internet connection. When asked about her views on freelancing, she said, 'For a female like me, it was the best option to work from home. It gave me independence while staying in my "Chaadar and Chaar Deewari" (house and its confinements), spending time with my family, taking care of kids, husband, and everyone else. The proudest feeling is to represent Pakistan and change the perception of developed countries towards Pakistan that we are friendly, talented, and skilled people. Although we have limited resources, we are still making our mark in the global freelancing market. Freelancing allowed me to live the real meaning of women's empowerment. For me, happiness is that I am not just doing my job but also contributing to the economy of Pakistan by bringing remittances to make it financially strong. Freelancing made me financially independent and enabled me to train and empower thousands of aspiring youth of Pakistan, opening doors of employment for them. I am a self-taught person and never took any professional training. That's because when I started in 2014, nobody knew what freelancing was except a few, so I had to dive in and learn everything myself, experiment with new things, and create a whole new category of 'Website Builder & CMS' on Fiverr. "My gig is the pioneer in that category offering responsive websites. I kept on learning new technologies and enhancing my skills according to the international demands & trends. Things have changed now, platforms have evolved, and today, one should get professional training to acquire proper skills before opting for freelancing.

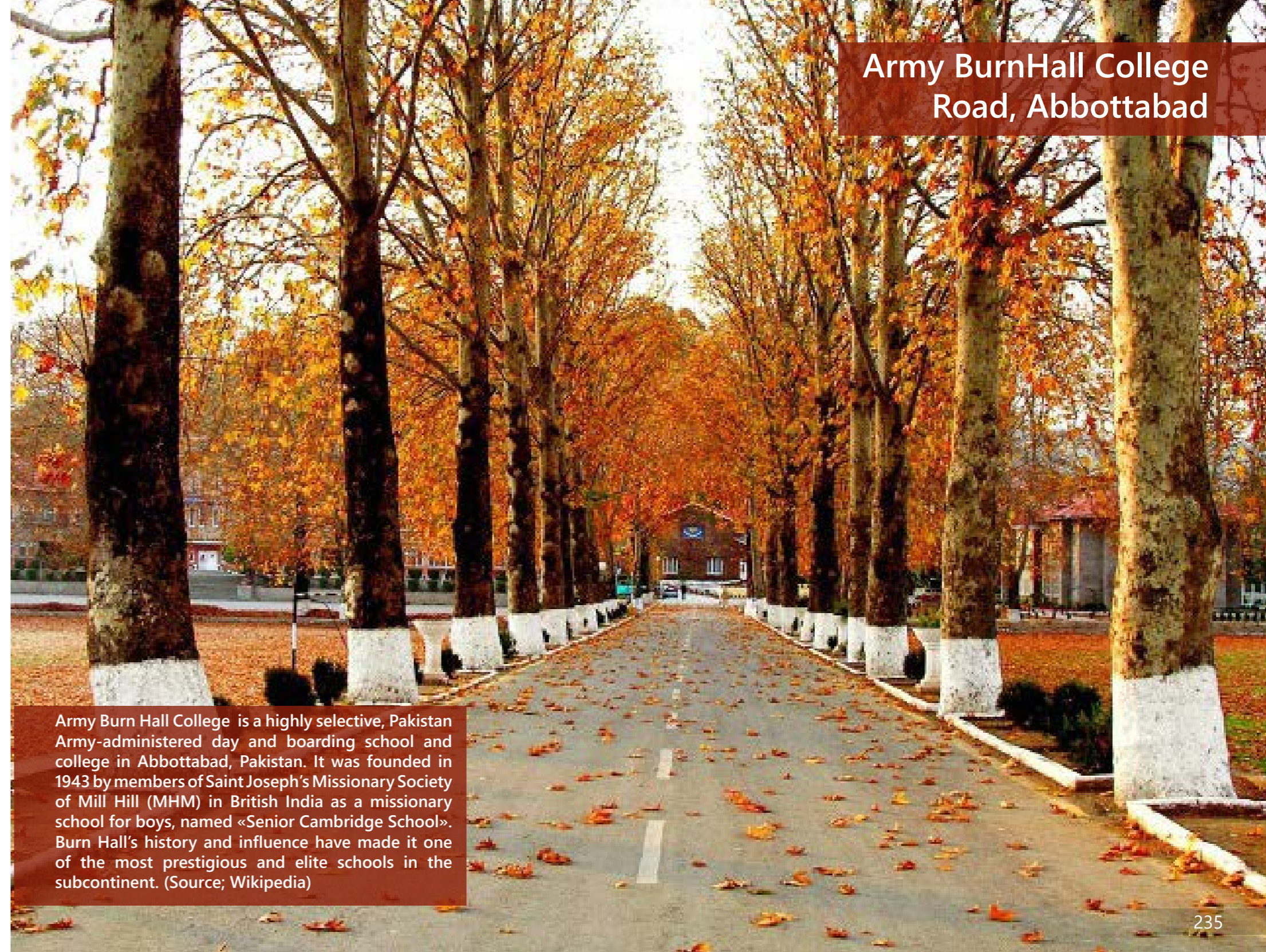
www.fiverr.com/aneelasyed

Executive Director - Connected Pakistan



We need to keep on learning, we need to keep on evolving, and we need to keep on working on new ideas. Executive Director - Connected Pakistan It was not an easy journey, especially for a woman to start and scale a business, but the new challenges every day keep me motivated to learn and work more. It was almost impossible to maintain balance in my domestic and professional life, especially after having my first twins. It was really hard to get a skilled workforce, so I started to train them myself by offering internships and building a team. Women of Pakistan have known defeat, suffering, struggle, and loss for generations, so I started a program, "She Can," to empower them. I hired women, trained them, and gave them a new option of independence while keeping our cultural values intact. The growth of the business relies on a good loyal team. I created a growth culture by re-investing our earned profit and created several revenue streams by enhancing the services spectrum. Today, 30% of our profit is spent on the social initiatives that we call 10Es." When asked to give some advice to the novices, she says freelancing has become a serious business, requiring a great deal of patience, consistency, and time. You have to believe in yourself and keep on advancing your approach towards technology. You have to keep on investing in yourself, your skills, and your ideas. You have to change before change changes you, and you have to be a collaborator to grow bigger.

Army BurnHall College Road, Abbottabad



Army Burn Hall College is a highly selective, Pakistan Army-administered day and boarding school and college in Abbottabad, Pakistan. It was founded in 1943 by members of Saint Joseph's Missionary Society of Mill Hill (MHM) in British India as a missionary school for boys, named «Senior Cambridge School». Burn Hall's history and influence have made it one of the most prestigious and elite schools in the subcontinent. (Source; Wikipedia)

Group picture of Kids,
Abbottabad Village



ASAD HUSSAIN SHAH- ABBOTTABAD

A SOS Boy who became a
Tech Entrepreneur



I worked there for six months until management came to know about my trespassing. They followed me there and asked codematics about my routine. I was summoned to the chairperson Ms. Khoula Mustafa Shah, who encouraged me, and allowed me to continue my internship after college hours with fixed pocket money that I often used to buy web domains. She also bought a new laptop for me to practice on it and complete my assignments."

To support him and fuel his motivation, he was assigned to build the school's website and soon got other referral projects. He built his own office by earning through Fiverr in 2020 and started his own company named 'Filenod' with seven professional employees working on graphics designing and front and back end web development. His advice to aspiring freelancers is, 'Be your boss. Life is full of miracles. It's up to you to make it or break it, and you can make it by following your heart's deepest desires and working hard.'

Age: 20 Years
Years of Freelancing: 6 Years
Area of Specialization: Web Development

Identify your skills, set your goals, and stick to your objectives. Keep going on and learn new skills. For those who do not have any financial support, freelancing is the best platform for learning, earning, and growing,' says 20-year-old, hardworking freelancer Asad Hussain. Unfortunately, Asad lost his four family members in a traumatic earthquake. He and his elder brother were raised by SOS village, Abbottabad Campus. He completed his early education in the SOS school. Asad had a keen interest in computer courses and spent hours learning them.

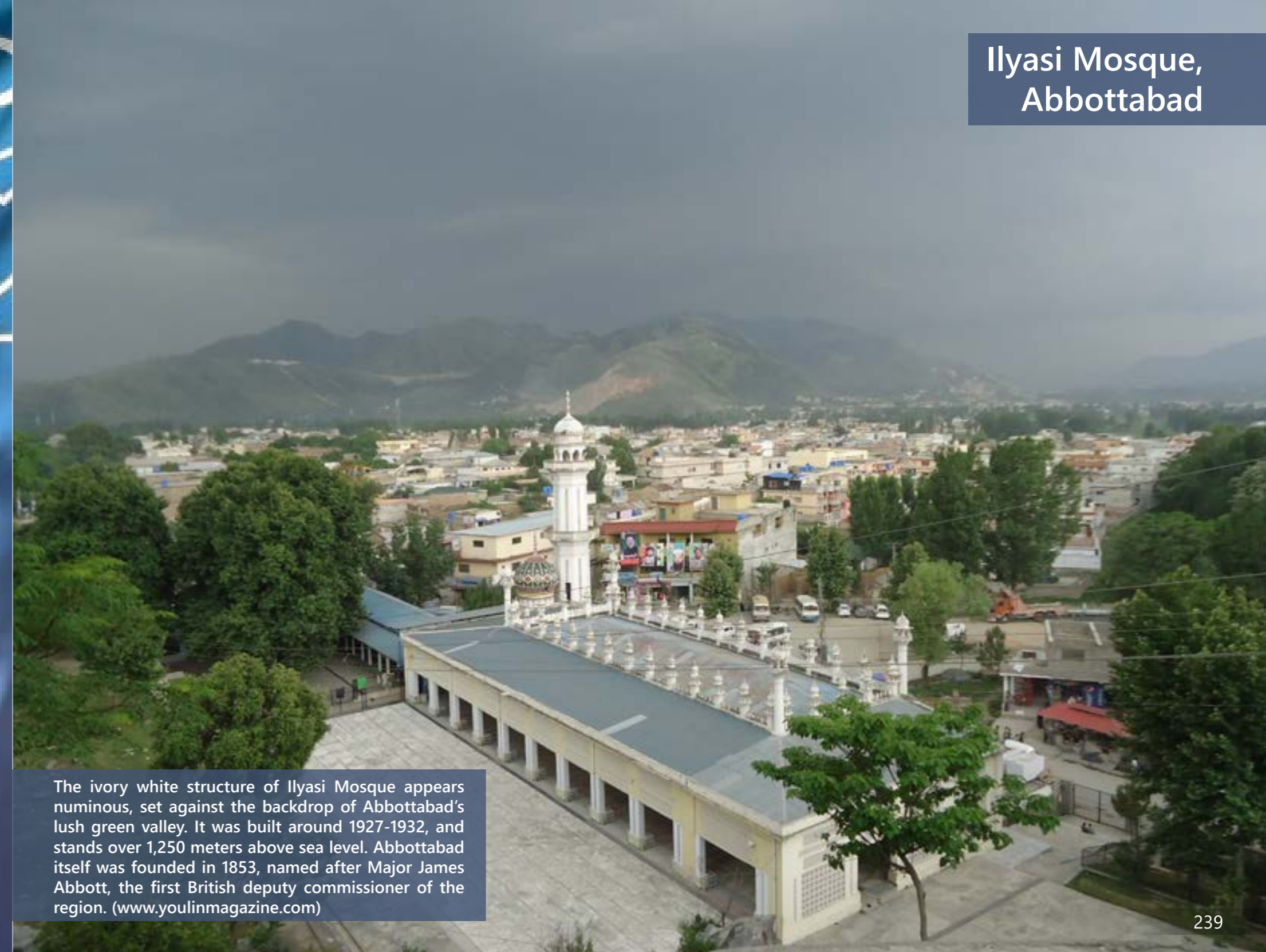
Talking about his passion, he said, 'I have had a fondness for computers since my childhood, but we had limited resources at SOS, which is why I could not pursue this interest.

Although we had a good quality education system at SOS village, the limited resources kept me from doing what I liked the most. I used to practice computer skills in our lab, but I want to learn more. My desire to learn more skills encouraged me to look for more ways to quench my thirst. I heard about a startup, 'Codematics,' so I joined their vocational training program, 'URRAAN.' Codematics offered courses to bachelor-level students but seeing an intermediate student's passion and eagerness to learn, I was allowed to sit in the course and learn web development."

He often borrowed his friend's or colleague's laptop at the training center and began freelancing in the late hours. The two-month-long course extended to six months as he was passionate about learning web development and freelancing in detail. He was allowed to sit in for long hours to learn and pick orders from Fiverr. He added, 'I used to climb walls after my college hours and walk on foot to reach STP premises.



Ilyasi Mosque, Abbottabad



The ivory white structure of Ilyasi Mosque appears numinous, set against the backdrop of Abbottabad's lush green valley. It was built around 1927-1932, and stands over 1,250 meters above sea level. Abbottabad itself was founded in 1853, named after Major James Abbott, the first British deputy commissioner of the region. (www.youlinmagazine.com)

Islamia College, Peshawar is a public university located in Peshawar. Founded by the personal initiatives led by Sir S.A. Qayyum and Sir George Roos-Keppl in 1913, it is one of the oldest institutions of higher education in Pakistan, and its historical roots are traced from the culminating point of the Aligarh Movement. (Source; Wikipedia)

SYED MUHAMMAD AHMAD- PESHAWAR

Age: 32 Years
Years of Freelancing: 9 Years
Area of Specialization: Copywriting
Age: 32 Years
Years of Freelancing: 9 Years
Area of Specialization: Copywriting

Ahmed was always a good speaker and a writer, so he utilized those skills by working as a content writer. Freelancing proved to be lucky for him because he has

earned a handsome amount of money through it. Within a year, he proved his capabilities by becoming a 'Top Rated Freelancer on Upwork.' Sharing his story with us, he said, 'I am earning more than ten times



This is the success story of 32-year old Syed Muhammad Ahmed, an expert in copywriting. He has been successful in making quite a fortune through freelancing. Ahmed belongs to Peshawar and is using the freelancing platform Up-work to get clients. Ahmed mentioned that he was never a bright student in his university, and his teachers didn't have high expectations. He got a job during his academic life, but the salary package was far less than what he hoped for. Moreover, he was fed up with the 9 to 5 job culture. At that point, he decided to make money by doing something different.

in a day than what an average man makes in a month. It is an unbelievable achievement for me. I wanted the freedom to work, which was impossible to achieve while working for somebody else. I believe that I took the right decision at the right time to quit my job to work as a freelancer instead. I was quite confident in this decision and always knew I could pull it off."He believes working for any company and being available at their constant beck and call was a wastage of his talent as the job did not pay him as much

as he deserved to earn. While advising novice freelancers, he says, 'If a below-average student (referring to himself) can achieve great milestones and get a great payout, you can too. Hard work always pays off, so stay determined and motivated. Don't let your morale drop down because of other people; sadly, many people in our society cannot see anybody succeeding. Sharing his memories of 2013, he said, 'I still remember the time when his mother said, 'Muhammad beta thora jaldi kero. Meri help ker ghar kay

<https://facebook.com/syedmuhammadahmadofficial/>

The Tech Entrepreneur



kharchay main. Main nahin chahti tumhari sisters ki shadi late ho' (Start earning fast, and help me manage the expenses. I don't want your sisters to get married late.) I felt hopeless because I was earning few dollars from Elance at that time. I saw deep pain in her eyes, and I wished I could hack Elance to give my mother every pleasure she wanted. I vowed to myself that day to do whatever it takes to become wealthy. After that day, I worked hard for almost 19 to 20 hours daily and pushed myself to a limit where no one could ever think, and finally,

I heard those words from my mother in her last days 'Muhammad, Allah tumhey khush rakhey, agar tum na hotey to humain bohat mushkil hoti' (May Allah always keep you happy. If it weren't for you, we wouldn't have been able to survive in life.) She could not speak due to a stroke she suffered from, so I wrote those lines on paper and showed them to my father. Now my hard work has been paid off. I fulfilled my mothers' wishes before she passed away. We are all fighting many battles that help us develop into stronger, successful person who can make their parents happy. I am happy to have been that person.

Sethi Manzil, Peshawar



Sethi Mohallah, sometimes called Sethian Mohallah, is an old and traditionally arranged neighbourhood in the old city of Peshawar. The mohallah contains seven South Asian mansions built by the Sethi family that were built in a style reminiscent of Central Asia with elaborate wooden carvings. The houses were completed in the late 19th century. (Source; Wikipedia)

Takht-i-Bahi, is an Indo-Parthian archaeological site of an ancient Buddhist monastery in Mardan.. The site is considered among the most imposing relics of Buddhism in all of Gandhara, and has been exceptionally well-preserved. The complex is regarded by archaeologists as being particularly representative of the architecture of Buddhist monastic centers from its era. (Source; Wikipedia)

SHAH FAHAD-KORAGH

Age: 22 Years
Years of Freelancing: 3 Years
Area of Specialization: UI/UX Designing and Graphics Designing

Behind every successful story, there is a story of pain and turmoil. This is why one must be hopeful, and patient during their hardships because if you persevere, you will definitely meet success at the finish line. This is the firm belief of 22 year old, Shah Fahad from Mardan. He could not continue his education due to financial crises, and has done Intermediate only. That said, he now owns his own freelancing house, and is one of the rated freelancers in the field. "I belonged to a poor background, and I could not continue my education due to financial crisis. I was ambitious to become a professional freelancer, and was very keen to learn technical and graphic designing skills. I joined the local printing press to learn graphic designing skills for six months. I delivered projects free of cost to improve my existing skillset. At the start, it was hard for me to work for free due to financial hardships," says Fahad when we asked him about his early life."

With high hopes, he faced every challenge to meet his objectives. When he realized he had sufficient knowledge to become a good freelancer, he started working on Fiverr in 2017. However, his weak English communication skills posed a significant hindrance. Often, he could not understand his clients' needs that cost him the loss of many projects. Talking about how he overcame those challenges, he said, "I started watching YouTube tutorials, and worked free of cost with a local freelancer for one month. Then I was outsourced on a daily wage of PKR 300 for a whole year."



<https://www.fiverr.com/users/shahfahadusafxi>

Journey from a Printing Press to a Graphics Specialist

I completed 8 to 10 projects daily with constant earnings. Being aware that I was not paid according to my countless efforts, I was very focused, and paid great attention to designing skills. I worked hard for hours, often did not sleep well, and completed my assignments to gain considerable experience. When I felt I was ready to communicate easily with my clients, I left my job to work independently.' At the start, he used dictionaries and Google translator to communicate with clients, and soon his communication skills improved.

He was appreciated by his foreign clients many times, who never complained about his language, and admired his creative skills. Besides freelancing, he also works with international companies such as Nexco in Japan and Divine Bundles in USA on a contractual basis. Concluding his story, he said, 'Alhamdulillah, I am generating good revenue from my clients, and it's increasing day by day. I am married, and can easily afford my household expenses. I am happy that I have become my family's core support.'

www.fiverr.com/artemisia1992

MEHWISH SOHAIL-MARDAN The Illustration Artist



Age: 28 Years
Years of Freelancing: 3 Years
Area of Specialization: Concept Art, Illustration

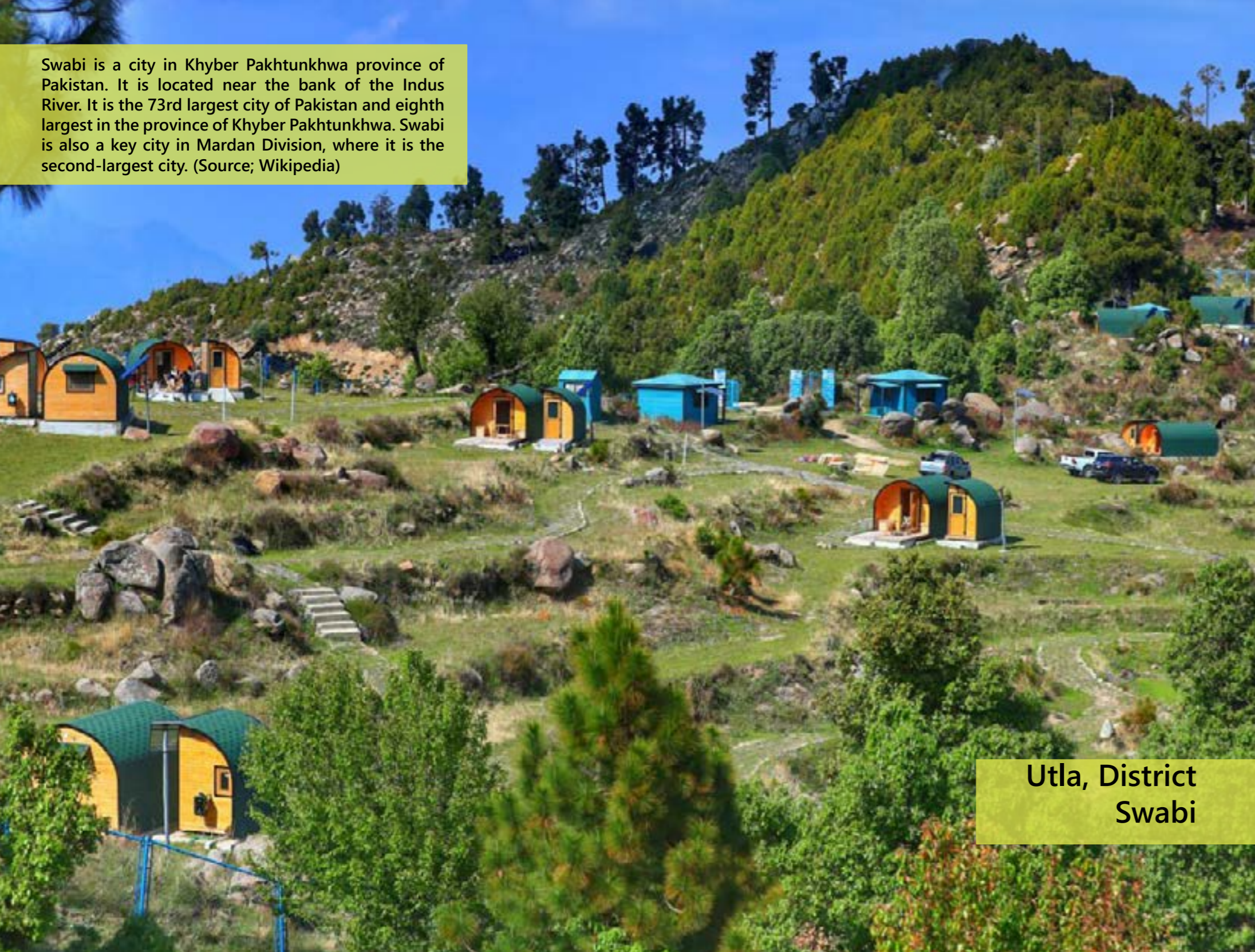
Here is another unique tale of success. Many freelancers took inspiration from their trainers, while many people started freelancing out of curiosity, or unemployment. However, Mehwish Sohail took her inspiration from her husband. She saw him working, and earning successfully, hence decided to try it out for herself.

Well, thanks to both of them, we have a motivational story to share. Mehwish is a passionate graphic designer, and illustration artist hailing from Mardan who made groundbreaking success within three years of freelancing. She always had a keen interest in graphic designing, and wanted to do something about her passion. After she was introduced to freelancing by her husband, Mehwish polished her skills, and learned graphic designing in-depth before starting out in the field.

She has made more than of US \$80,000, and is still going strong. We asked Mehwish about the most frequent challenges she faced as a freelancer. She said, "Internet connectivity issues were, and still are the worst. Freelancing is all about managing everything on time, but internet unavailability, or weak signals often become a hurdle in this process. Being a woman, I have household chores to do as well. It becomes quite a challenge to manage work, and household chores side by side, particularly when I am facing internet connectivity problem."

We requested Mehwish to share some words of wisdom with our youth, and her response was, "Acquiring new skills is what made me what I am today. Nothing is too difficult if you do it with passion, and a thirst for knowledge. If I can do it, so can you. Never refrain, or shy away from learning something new. Keep that spark of curiosity alive to achieve your goals. There was a time when I sacrificed my sleep regularly to facilitate my clients. It always takes devotion along with hard work to fulfill your dreams."

Swabi is a city in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan. It is located near the bank of the Indus River. It is the 73rd largest city of Pakistan and eighth largest in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Swabi is also a key city in Mardan Division, where it is the second-largest city. (Source; Wikipedia)



Utlā, District Swabi

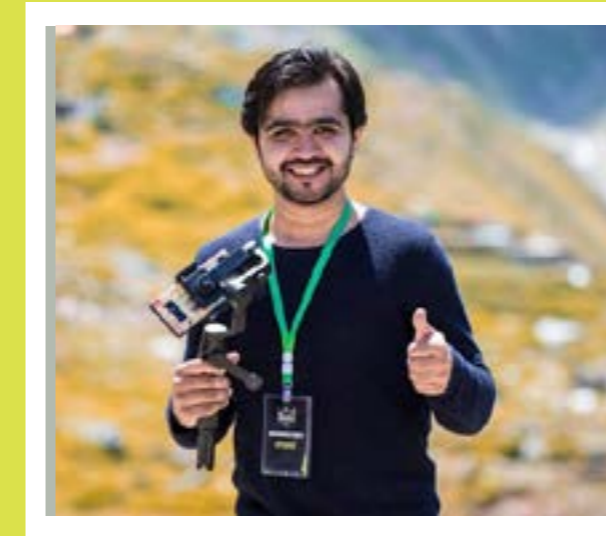
MUHAMMAD ISMAIL-SWABI

Age: 30 Years

Years of Freelancing: 7 Years

Area of Specialization: Blogging and SEO

Life, they say, is not a bed of roses. Only a few in the world are born rolling in money. Otherwise, it requires a tug-of-war for most of the rest to make a living. A boy who was not even certain of his future has now become an epitome of success in the world of blogging. This is all about Muhammad Ismail.



The only son of a mother having four daughters, a mother who fought hard to give her children a better living, this is all about Muhammad Ismail – a notorious personality in the field of affiliate blogging today. “To me, those not unusually wealthy and comfortable always have taller chances of success than those on velvets because success is only achieved when one comes out of his comfort zone” – Muhammad Ismail.

Growing up so financially needy, Ismail, from his childhood, has had the urge to do something big in his life. Courtesy of the predicaments, he became a born businessman. He lost his father at the age of 7 and saw the other (ugly) side of life from that nonage. His journey started from selling copies and notebooks to his classmates at school to selling mobile phones and their accessories at the same age. And, from doing all the little things to succor his mother to making thousands of dollars a month today, Ismail has come a long way. Ismail’s internet (online) journey started back in the early 2010s. Although his very initial encounter with the internet world was a nasty one, i.e., some spam where he lost some 70K Pakistani rupees, he didn’t give up.

He finally landed in the blogging world, from sharing the crack versions of different software to doing many other things. It was then when it all started with a baby blog – the journey of a completely naïve person turning into an internet and blogging giant. Muhammad Ismail was being listed amongst the top 12 Pakistani bloggers in 2013, amongst the top 10 in 2014, and he continued soaring up every next day. He has been listed several times in a row amongst the expert bloggers nationally and internationally. He owned (and owns) several successful blogs and has sold numerous blogs making millions from each one of them. He has earned countless awards and recognitions for his works in the online field.

Fiverr.com/ismailblogger

A Tech Blogger and Youtuber



He was featured in Tribune and Techjuice in 2014 and has been featured in lots of Pakistan’s other top magazines. Several national and international televisions have been interviewed, i.e., VOA, Radio Pakistan, Mashriq TV, Khyber News, etc. In 2015, Ismail, being the leading tech entrepreneur in Pakistan, was invited by the USA government for meetups with the world’s greatest tech entrepreneurs and startup founders. He has played a leading role as a Training Coordinator in KP Youth Employment Program Powered by World Bank and KPIT Board.

He taught around 4K+ students from all over the country who are now making their living from the internet. Currently, he is the founder of “The Mentors Pakistan” – a consummate internet training company, an internet/ blogging trainer and coach at various institutes and universities, an esteemed motivational speaker, and a freelancer. He has lots of other big titles in his custody. Recently, Connected Pakistan named him the real “TOORZAN Khan of KPK.



Mingora is a city in the Swat District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It is the 3rd largest city in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the 26th largest in Pakistan. Mingora is the largest city and the epicenter of social, cultural, and economic activities in Malakand Division, and also the largest in the northern part of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. (Source; Wikipedia)

MUDASIR SHAH-NAJIGRAM, SWAT

Age: 28 Years
Years of Freelancing: 4 Years
Area of Specialization: Visual Graphics Designing

Freelancing has now made it easy for our youth to earn a living. Many freelancers in Pakistan are making money by utilizing their skills. Mudasir Shah, a 28-year graphic designer from Swat Najigram, has found freelancing a very convenient and profitable medium to



monetize his skills and prove his capabilities. After doing Masters in Computer Sciences, he started searching for jobs, but could not find a suitable one as there were fewer vacancies and the organizations that did offer him a job had extremely remuneration attached to them. He said, "Earning money is a difficult thing to do, and I wanted to prove my skills and wanted to earn utilizing my skills, but I faced many difficulties in that process initially."

At that time, he heard about earning online. At that time, he heard about earning online by working as a freelancer.

<http://www.fiverr.com/amshah4five>

Visual Graphics Designer



"It was hard for me to believe that one can earn online, but my friend highly inspired me, and he told me about freelancing website Fiverr.com." He created his account on Fiverr.com, and it has been four years that he is successfully working on it and has completed up to 500 projects. He also got an opportunity to work with two American companies to satisfy his graphic designing services.

Since his childhood, he was interested in fine arts and wanted to get admission in fine arts, but his father didn't agree on that. Keeping in view his interests, he learned graphic designing skills by learning Illustrator and Photoshop. While registering on Fiverr, he chose graphic designing because he believed that he could earn money with this skill.

"In the beginning, I faced many challenges as I was unaware of using this site. I didn't get orders at first, and I found it difficult to write descriptions of my work, but I steadily waited. I finished my first order on time with quality service that made my client happy", he stated.

He advises all the new freelancers not to lose hope initially as it may take time to get orders at first. "If one has the skill of doing something at his/her best, he can achieve anything in life as I did," he said.

As it is said that slow and steady wins the race, one should wait and have faith in themselves. He strongly believes that the youth of Pakistan is quite talented, but due to fewer vacant spaces in organizations, many people waste their hidden talents which is why freelancing is a very beneficial option for them to explore.

Ski Resort, Malam Jabba, Swat



Malam Jabba ski resort situated in the Hindu Kush range of the Swat Valley at a top elevation of 2,804 metres (9,199 ft). The resort is located in Malam Jabba village, 40 kilometers east of Saidu Sharif and 314 kilometers northwest of Islamabad. It is the largest and oldest ski resort in Pakistan. (Source; Wikipedia)





Balcony View,
White Palace



Spring Season,
White Palace



White Palace,
Swat

The White Palace of Marghazar was built in 1940 by the first king of Swat, Miangul Abdul Wadud (Badshah Sahib) in the small town of Marghazar situated at about 13 kilometers away from Saidu Sharif. The name was given to the palace as it was built of white marble. The White Palace at Marghazar was the summer residence of the Wali of Swat, Miangul Jehanzeb. (Source; Wikipedia)

Terrace Farms, Battagram



AKBAR ALI- BATTAGRAM

Age: 23 Years
Years of Freelancing: 3 Years
Area of Specialization: Front-End Web
Development

Akbar Ali, from the KPK district Battagram, started freelancing to make himself attain financial stability. He started his freelance career while he was studying in 2019.



My family is financially sound, but I wanted to be independent, and bear my expenses on my own instead of burdening my parents. In the beginning, I encountered many challenges to get freelance projects as I had zero experience with freelancing platforms,' says Akbar, talking about the reason why he stepped in freelancing.

To make his journey smoother, and properly learn freelancing, he enrolled in digiskills to learn basic freelancing skills. He joined different freelancing groups on Facebook to learn from others, and enhance his. "Reading the success stories of others pertinent to their freelancing journey inspired me a lot, and I was determined to be a freelancer.

Front-End Web Developer



I started with general data entry gigs, but I didn't achieve much success in the area due to lack of knowledge, experience, and high competition,' he said. After getting his training, he modified his gigs, leaning towards web development that included services such as web customization, bug fixation, and web designing. He got his first freelance project on Facebook from a Pakistani client, and earned PKR 1,800. After that, he struggled continuously to get better gigs on Fiverr.

He landed his first project, worth US \$50, on the platform. Following that, he began getting regular orders. Throughout this process, he faced issues opening his bank account as an individual freelancer. That said, somehow, he found ways to counteract this issue. Things kept progressing smoothly for him, and now he ranks as a successful 'Level two Seller' on Fiverr, earning hundreds of dollars per month. Akbar enjoys learning new things related to his skills every day, and having unique experiences with new clients. Talking about his accomplishments, he said, 'I am financially stable, and independent now.

I am able to afford my university fee, hostel expenses, as well as routine expenses. This has been possible due to my hard work during many sleepless nights. My goal is to launch a micro-software agency, and expand my business online worldwide. My suggestion for all those who want to start a freelance career is to work on building skills, and keep trying to find better clients instead of giving up".

Chitral is a town situated on the Chitral River in northern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Chawmos is a festival of the Kalash people of Pakistan. It is also sometimes spelled chaumos. It is celebrated for two weeks at winter solstice, at the beginning of the month chawmosmastruk in two weeks. (Source; Wikipedia)



Spring Festival,
Chitral



Kelash Festival, Kalash Valley,
Chitral

Azad Jammu & Kashmir

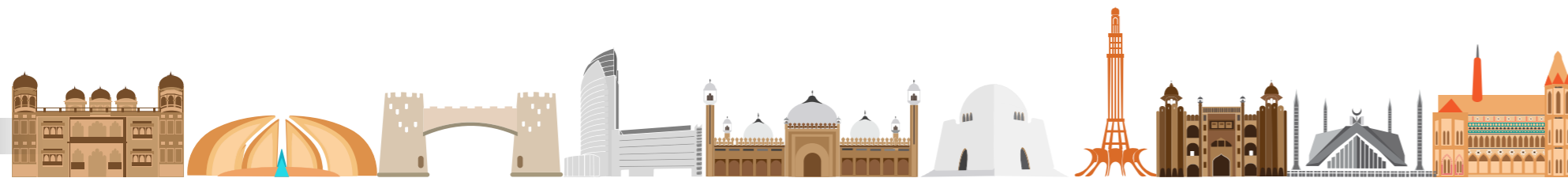
The History of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa refers to the history of the modern-day Pakistani province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including the former Federally Administered Tribal Areas, which has colloquially been referred to as Pashtunistan. The earliest evidence from the region indicates that trade was common via the Khyber Pass; originating from the Indus Valley Civilization. The early people of the region were a Vedic people known as the Pakthas, identified with the modern day Pakhtun peoples. The Vedic culture reached its peak between the 6th and 1st centuries B.C under the Gandharan Civilization, and

was identified as a center of Hindu and Buddhist learning and scholarship. The area saw a brief shock during the invasions of Alexander the Great, which had managed to conquer the small Janapadas, or city states, that had ruled the region. Seizing the resulting instability and inexperience of the local Greek governors, a young prince named Chandragupta Maurya managed to take control of the area, eventually going on to conquer much of Northern India. Over time the Mauryan Empire, from Chandragupta's line, had gone on to conquer much of the Indian Subcontinent with the Empire

reaching its peak under King Ashoka. Ashoka had converted to Buddhism from Hinduism, and with his conversion, declared that the official state religion of the Empire was the former. Ashoka's rule had witnessed a rise in Buddhism throughout India, although Hinduism was not displaced. After Ashoka's death, the Mauryan Empire had crumbled under the weak rule of the later Kings.

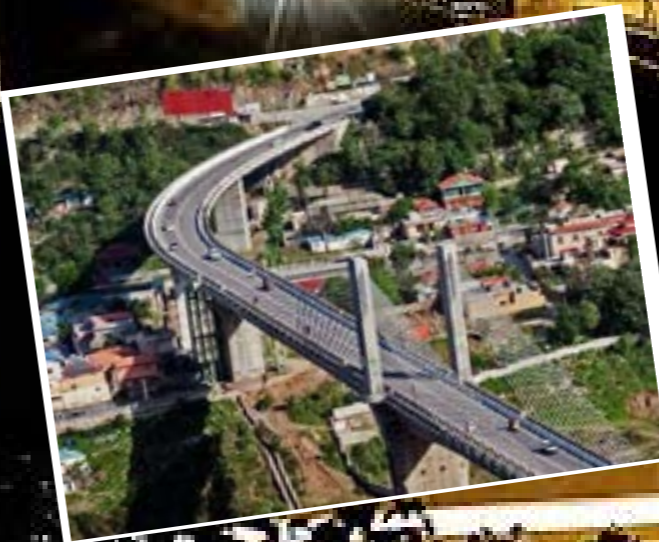
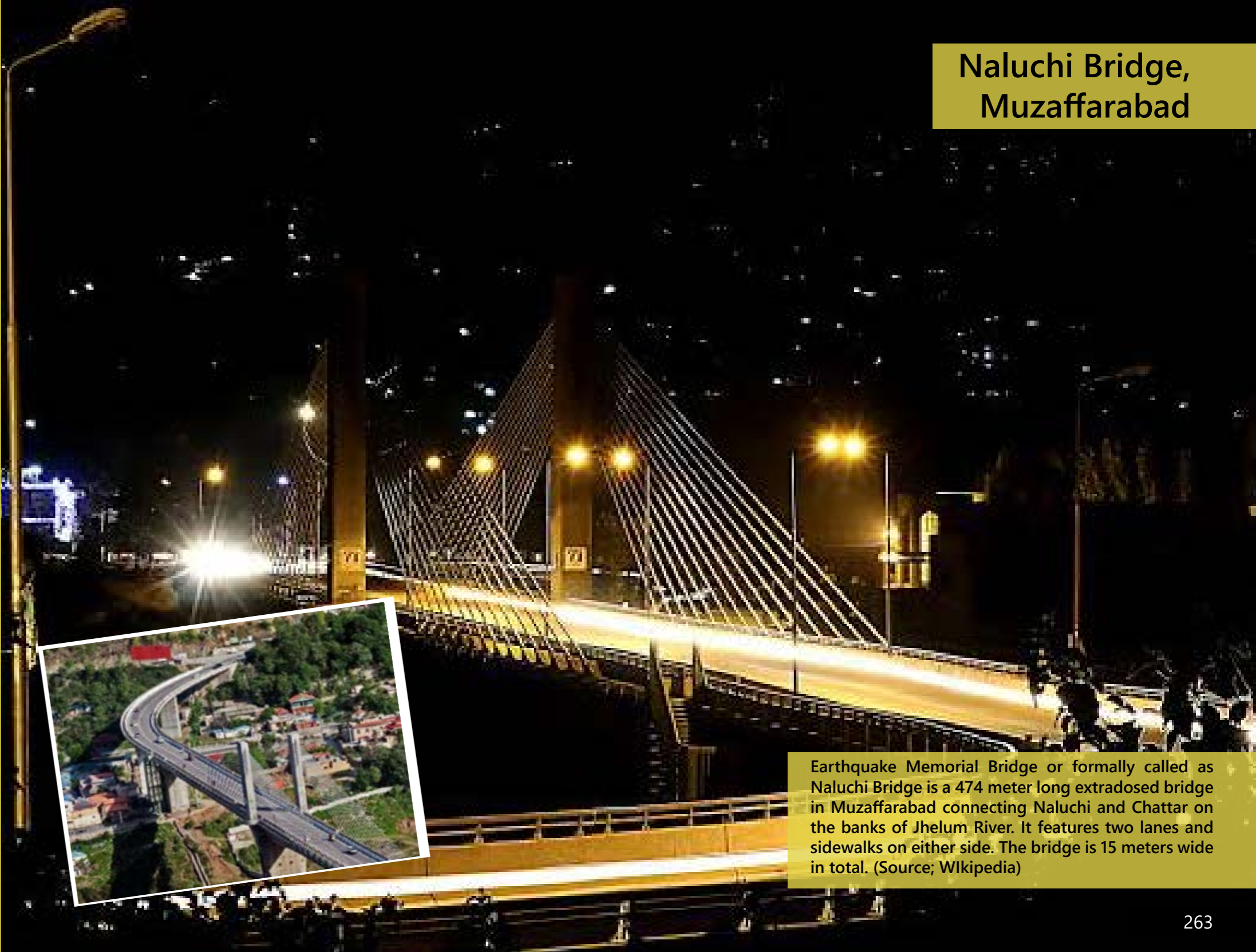


Pir Chanasi is a shrine and a tourist destination located about 30 kilometers (19 mi) east of Muzaffarabad, the capital city of Azad Kashmir. The mountain peak has gained large fame for its ziyarat of a famous saint, Sayed Hussain Shah Bukhari. The area is also famous for paragliding and snow cross jeep rallies. (Source; Wikipedia)





Naluchi Bridge,
Muzaffarabad



Earthquake Memorial Bridge or formally called as Naluchi Bridge is a 474 meter long extradosed bridge in Muzaffarabad connecting Naluchi and Chatter on the banks of Jhelum River. It features two lanes and sidewalks on either side. The bridge is 15 meters wide in total. (Source; Wikipedia)

Sardai Village, Neelam Valley,
Azad Kashmir



The Neelum District or Neelam District is the northernmost of 10 districts located within the Pakistani-administered territory of Azad Kashmir. Several languages are spoken natively in the district. The predominant one is Hindko. The Neelum Valley was known before the partition as Kishanganga and was subsequently renamed for the village of Neelam. (Source; Wikipedia)

AZAD CHAIWALA- MIRPUR



Age: 37 Years
Years of Freelancing: 4 Years
Area of Specialization: Entrepreneur & Blogging

Azad Chaiwala, is a multi-millionaire & an incredibly successful entrepreneur. It is time people knew about some of his notable achievements. He started his business career at the age of 12 selling sweets in Mirpur, Azad Kashmir. He then started his freelancing career that lasted for two years, serving eight different services including graphic designing, banner designing and web development.

He became millionaire at the age of 21 by working in the gaming industry. He has already published more than 1000 apps. From only three of his studios, he has successfully launched many apps and games that have had over 700 million downloads on the Google Play store alone. Azad originally started acquiring domains back in the year

2000. He can't recall the exact date, but at one point, owned over 15,000 domains. He has so far received more than 750 million unique organic click-throughs from Google alone. He has all these accomplishments to his credit only because he offered top-notch SEO, and problem-solving services, and never compromised on the quality of his work.

He has a very strong presence over the internet: over 500,000 subscribers on YouTube, and more than 300,000 followers on Facebook. Azad has also recently ventured into Instagram, Tik Tok, and Twitter, and is getting phenomenal recognition on these platforms as well.

He has contributed to the society to the best of his abilities. In 2009, Azad welcomed his first students- girls from a government college based in District Bhimber. For Azad, it was a race against time. These girls were in college, and

had yet not learned anything about computers. He wanted Pakistan to have a skilled female workforce, and educated mothers. Hence, he invested his time, energy and resources to train those girls. The first batch proved to be a huge success; four students were who had taken the advance computing, office receptionist/admin & office computer technician course were able to get good jobs based on their skills alone. Azad was thrilled with the results, and proceeded to open 21 branches all free of cost under the name of 'Infaaq IT Center.' Though there were thousands of students who learned for free at his institutes, Azad felt they were always undervalued, and underutilized.

The term 'FREE' is often stigmatized as it is believed that whatever is free is of low quality. To improve on the situation, he closed all the 22 institutes in 2019, shutting the doors of the last one on 31st December, 2019.

<http://azadchaiwala.com/>

Founder of
FreeOnlineGames.com



On 1st January, 2020, Azad opened the doors to one mega center under his own name 'Azad Chaiwala Institute', and started teaching all these skills as paid courses.

Talking about his experience, he says, 'I gave the youth of Pakistan insight into entrepreneurship, and skill at a time when no one else was doing so.

My mission is to see a prosperous Pakistan, where people are as much in love with doing business as they are with cricket, and discuss more things to do with trade, innovation, and business strategies than just politics. It is crucial to understand that you need to start small in order to reach heights of success in the industry. There are lots of opportunities available out there; people need to explore, and avail those.'

Mirpur City, Azad Kashmir



Mirpur officially known as New Mirpur City is the capital of Mirpur district located in Azad Kashmir, Pakistan. It is the 2nd largest city of Azad Kashmir and 74th largest city in Pakistan. A significant portion of the population from the district, the Mirpuri diaspora, migrated to the United Kingdom in the mid-to-late 1950s and in the early 1960s. Mirpur is thus sometimes known as Little England. (Source; Wikipedia)

Arang Kel, Neelam Valley



Arang Kel is a village and tourist spot in the Neelam valley of Azad Kashmir, Pakistan. It is located on the hilltop above Kel at an altitude of 8,379 feet (2,554 m). Source; Wikipedia)

IRAM GHAFOOR- BAGH

Age: 26 Years
Years of Freelancing: 2.5 Years
Area of Specialization: Content Writing

Iram Ghafoor, 26 year old girl from Bagh, AJK, is earning six figures while sitting in a small village with pathetic internet.

Since she belongs to a village with poor internet facilities, online learning and earning were never easy for her.

"It was really challenging for me to work online from a village that has no proper access to even 2G. I had a broken laptop, and my 2G internet would hardly work. It took me 3 days to download 5 videos



related to freelancing on my mobile. I would spend the whole day struggling to download a 7-minutes long video," says Iram recalling the struggling period she went through. says Iram recalling the struggling period she went through.

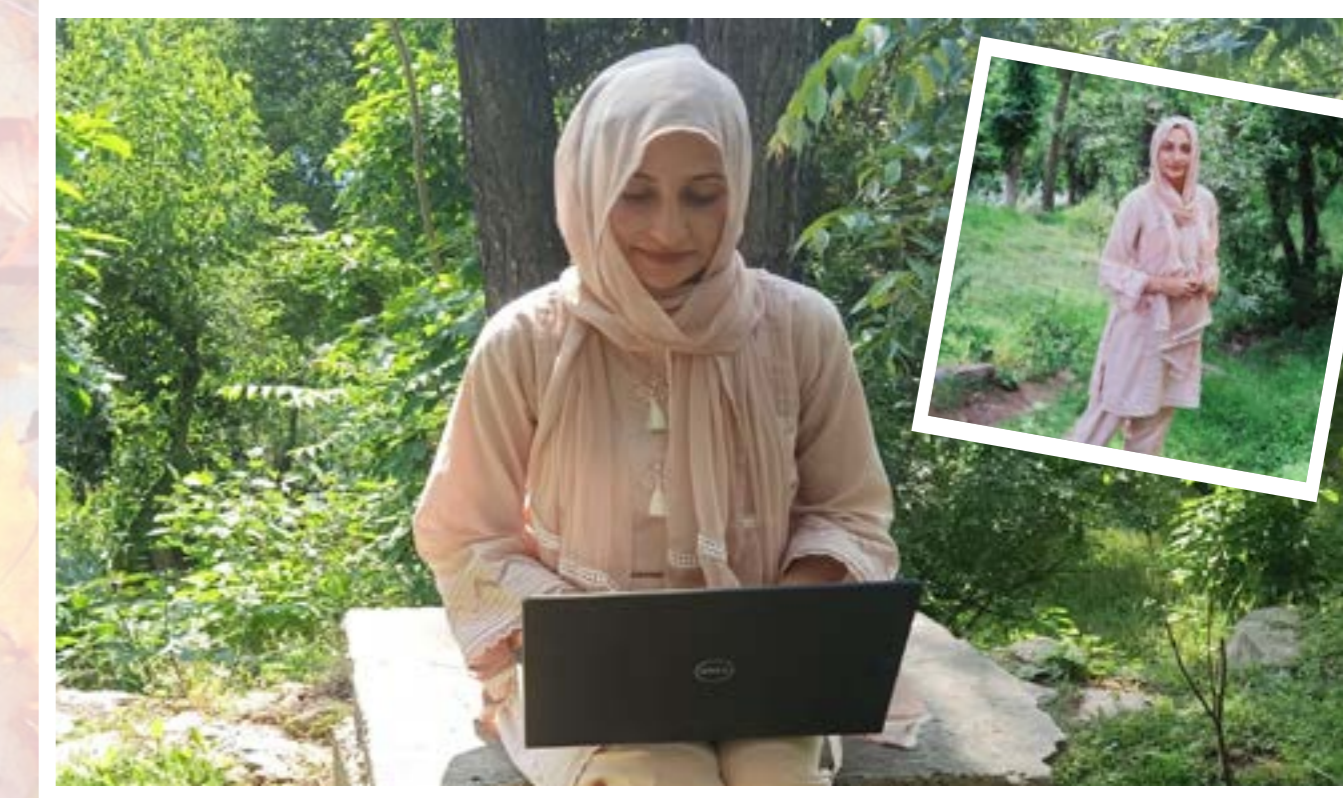
"I used to move all around my house, and even in the fields with the hope that the internet would work somewhere. I would stay up on many nights because that was the only time, the internet worked slightly better. Due to sitting under the scorching sunlight, I had burnt my skin. My hands would freeze, working relentlessly on the cold winter nights, but I persisted, and worked

even harder, added Iram. As Iram comes from a non-technological background, she also had to struggle to learn computer skills. "When I started, I didn't even know how to save a file on the desktop, but I had to do it, so I learned it." Apart from these challenges, Iram had to work hard to improve her English language and content writing skills.

"Since I opted for freelance content writing, I had to work really hard to improve my grip on the English language.

A Journey of Earning Six Figures From Bagh Village

<https://www.fiverr.com/users/iraamm>



I hail from a village where nobody speaks English, or even Urdu properly. To improve my English speaking skills, I used to practice it speaking on my own. My cousins called me mad, and made fun of me, but that did not deter my motivation to keep trying. I would Google new words, learn their meanings, practice using grammar, and spent hours making sentences using different idioms,' mentions Iram. She believes all the hard work she invested in her work has been completely worth the

phenomenal results she is getting. She offers SEO, content writing, and blog managing services on different freelance marketplaces. Currently, she is a 'Level Two Seller' on Fiverr, and has so far earned more than US \$20,000 from the platform alone. She also offers her services on Upwork, and has worked with over 300 international clients to date. 'Despite all the obstacles that came my way, I never surrendered because my passion knew no boundaries,' concludes Iram.



Chitta Katha Lake is an Alpine Lake located in Shounter Valley, Azad Kashmir, Pakistan. It is located at the elevation of 13,500 feet (4,100 m). (Source; Wikipedia)



Gilgit Baltistan

Rakaposhi Peak,
Gilgit Baltistan

Every year on November 1, the region of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) officially celebrates its independence from Kashmir's Dogra family rule. Gilgit was liberated on November 1, 1947 while Baltistan was freed in 1948 as a result of a bloody freedom war.

Despite protestations from India and even some Kashmiris, and despite Gilgit Baltistan existing in Pakistani maps as a part of a territory whose status has yet to be determined, the people of GB have never accepted being part of the disputed state of Jammu and

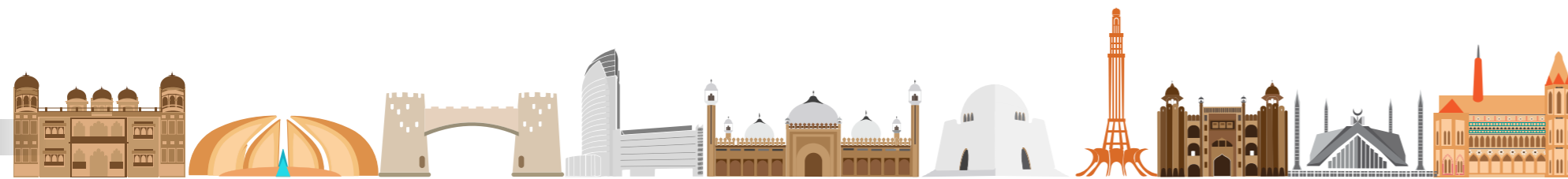
Kashmir, over which Pakistan and India have been at loggerheads since Independence in 1947. It is instructive to look back at history to understand why.

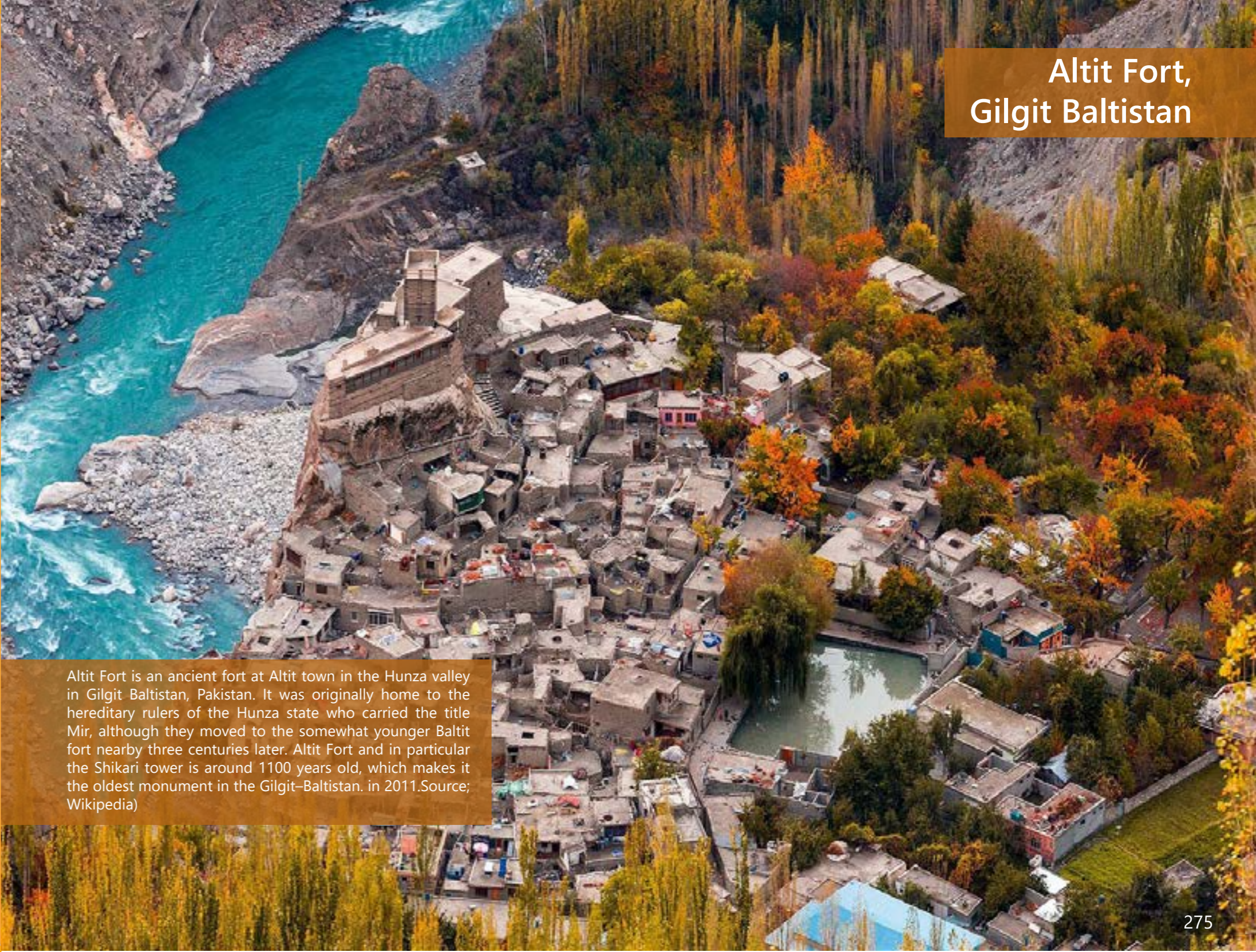
Before its independence, present-day GB was part of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, one of the largest princely states of India. This state was created in 1846 after the signing of a treaty between the British and Gulab Singh of the Dogra dynasty. During the first Anglo-Sikh war (1845-1846), Gulab Singh, who was serving as the ruler of Jammu in the Sikh empire,

chose to side with the British East India Company by remaining neutral. Acknowledging Singh's loyalty during the war, in 1846, the East India Company sold Kashmir to him for 7.5 million rupees of that time. With this accord, Gulab Singh eventually became the first Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir.

Fun fact: Karakoram Highway is the world's highest paved international road which connects Pakistan and China via Khunajrab pass. China Pakistan Economic Corridor CPEC is being constructed, KKH is part of CPEC.

Rakaposhi is a mountain in the Karakoram mountain range in the Gilgit-Baltistan territory of Pakistan. It is situated in the middle of the Bagrote valley, Nagar valley and danyor, approximately 100 km (62 mi) north of the city of Gilgit. Rakaposhi is also known as Dumani (Mother of Mist or Mother of Clouds). It is ranked 27th highest in the world. (Source; Wikipedia)





Altit Fort,
Gilgit Baltistan

Altit Fort is an ancient fort at Altit town in the Hunza valley in Gilgit Baltistan, Pakistan. It was originally home to the hereditary rulers of the Hunza state who carried the title Mir, although they moved to the somewhat younger Baltit fort nearby three centuries later. Altit Fort and in particular the Shikari tower is around 1100 years old, which makes it the oldest monument in the Gilgit-Baltistan. in 2011.Source; Wikipedia)

Fairy Meadows named by German climbers (German Märchenwiese, "fairy tale meadows") and locally known as Joot, is a grassland near one of the base camp sites of the Nanga Parbat, located in Diamer District, Gilgit-Baltistan. At an altitude of about 3,300 metres (10,800 ft) above sea level, it serves as the launching point for trekkers summiting on the Rakhiot face of the Nanga Parbat. (Source; Wikipedia)

Passu Cones, Karakoram Highway, Gilgit Baltistan



Passu is a small village located near Gulmit in the Gilgit Baltistan, Pakistan region of Northern Pakistan. Situated along the Karakoram Highway in Upper Hunza, Pakistan, Passu is a popular tourist destination in Pakistan and all over the world because of its easily accessible sweeping landscapes, and vistas of the 7,478 m (24,534 ft) tall Passu Sar mountain, the Passu Glacier, and Tupopdan 6,106m (20,033 ft). (Source; Wikipedia)

NAJEEB KHAN-HUNZA

Age: 23 Years

Years of Freelancing: 2 Year

Area of Specialization: Mobile App Development, Web Development, Graphic Designing

Najeeb Khan from Hunza along with his friends started a tech-company named 'EdTech', after completing their graduation, with a vision to equip future generations with the skills and knowledge to earn a livelihood with its intensive accelerated learning programs..



Due to the (COVID-19) pandemic, just like any other business, they had to halt their operations, and freelancing was their only way out to survive in the crashing global market. With some knowledge of freelancing, Najeeb began freelancing in March, 2020.

Sharing his story with us, he said, "I had always wanted to work independently, and work on my terms. Also, freelancing was something through which I can contribute to the community by introducing the young generation to the world of freelancing. I firmly believe that the future of work is freelance/remote work which is a measure reason I chose to freelance".

Initially, it was tough to hunt projects, but he learned the right way to interact and communicate with clients with time. He took help from various online resources, and people from the freelance community.

Till now, He has earned more than US \$2000 through freelancing. During his freelance career, he also got an opportunity to work with the prestigious "Hult Prize Foundation".

"During the pandemic, my team at TechScape realized that freelancing could help bring down unemployment in the region, and train people from various backgrounds on freelancing and provide them a platform to as well as provide them with a platform that helps them attain financial stability. Currently, we are a team of 30+ individuals, providing software development services to clients globally". Says Najeeb.

Talking about the challenges he faced, he said, as a freelancer, poor Infrastructure remained the biggest hurdle for me. Problems such as power shortages, and weak internet connection has increased my share of problems. Freelancing is all about patience, consistency, and working hard. You need to improve yourself daily and stay updated with the latest tools and technologies, especially in the IT Industry".

When asked to give some advice to the youngsters, he said, as we are moving further into the Digital Age, the way we work is changing. The future of work is all about having advanced skills, and remote jobs, so freelancing is the future, and can help you have a great career. My message to newcomers is to stay patient, and not lose hope if you cannot hunt for jobs. If you build a skill that is high in demand, and polish it, you can kick start your freelancing career, and do wonders and a thousand proposals to land your first job.



NADIA IQBAL-GILGIT

Age: 34 Years
Years of Freelancing: 3.5 Years
Area of Specialization: Front-End React Developer

Hailing in Gilgit, Nadia is a freelance Front-End React Developer on Upwork. She and her husband used to work in Lahore, but they couldn't earn enough even then. Nadia was skeptical about doing a 9 to 5 job with two kids to raise.



That's what became her true motivation to start freelancing, so she could manage her home, work, and look after her kids without worrying about anything.

The initial phase was a real struggle. Nadia spent more than 12 hours every day learning, improving, and refining her skills as a developer. After learning, she started working on Upwork almost three years ago. She managed to earn approximately US \$40,000 in this period.

Nadia did not stop here, and looked for ways to progress even more. She hired and trained four more developers who now work with her on different projects. She initially established a proper home office, but now, they have built a separate office where Nadia intends to take more people under her wing soon. She has a dream of turning Gilgit into a city of freelancers. Her husband has been her constant support throughout her struggle. He never hesitated in supporting her.

She faced various challenges while working from Gilgit. She said, power shortage is a constant in our lives, and poor internet connectivity aggravates the situation. Scarcity being the only ISP in Gilgit-Baltistan has been facing challenges in providing state-of-the-art facilities due to the region's rough, and challenging terrain. Her valuable advice to the youth, and ambitious newbie freelancers is, Master skills to learn freelancing, and be your own boss. To improve Pakistan's struggling economy, we need more skilled freelancers who can bring in more foreign exchange that is not impossible at all given the rising trend of freelancing in the country.



Front-End React Developer



ZAHRA NOREEN-KARIMABAD, HUNZA CEO, SheDev



Age: 23 Years
Years of Freelancing: 2 Year
Area of Specialization: Mobile App Development, Web Development, Graphics Designing

"We aim to connect women to the digital, technologically advanced world, thus providing them with financial stability via atypical methods of learning and earning. Moreover, it is also a place for women to break stereotypes, and excel in IT," says 23-year-old Zahra, talking about her tech-company 'SheDev', which is the first of its kind in Gilgit. Zahra belongs to Gilgit, and has been successfully freelancing for the last one year. "In Gilgit-Baltistan, we have fewer opportunities, and have to migrate to metropolitan cities for higher studies," said Zahra Noreen.

After completing her schooling, she moved to Faisalabad for graduation in Computer Sciences. She said, "I always felt that women should come forward, and become a part of the tech world. I took the responsibility to give back to society to utilize my skills, and knowledge so I could inspire women back home. I am a C-Atrax Certified Cyber Security Expert. I have worked in Microsoft Technologies for three years, and I am a Microsoft Office Specialist (Word, Power Point, and Excel 2013). Also, I am an Android Application Developer, Web Designer, and Graphic Designer". After graduating from G.C. Women University Faisalabad, she returned to her hometown, intending to do something that would profoundly impact society, but in the start, her plans did not work out as she had envisaged.

"This struggle was a real eye-opener for me. I spent considerable time thinking about similar issues that many women in my region face. However, I did not lose hope and kept searching for opportunities. The weeks of struggle paid off, and I joined TechScape as an intern, where the team provided me opportunities to flourish my skills, and motivated me to go the extra mile to transform Gilgit-Baltistan into a tech city". With the support of "TechScape", and coordination with her colleague Ms. Faiza Ali, she laid the foundations of a new venture-SheDev Pvt. Ltd. "We are grateful to the National Expansion Plan of NICs for providing us the beautiful office space".

SheDev became the first-ever women-led, and owned tech company of Gilgit-Baltistan.

Talking about her experience with starting SheDev, Zahra says, At SheDev, we help women find their skills, train, and assist them to find dynamic earning opportunities. We have a team of 46 passionate women who believe in their skills, and in SheDev to bring an evident, and meaningful change in the society. My journey from an intern at TechScape to CEO at SheDev is full of successes, failures, experiences, friendships, and motivation. I believe that if you stay committed to your goals, nothing can stop you from achieving them".



Rainbow Lake, Astore Valley
Gilgit Baltistan

Rainbow lake is situated in Minimarg a village in the Astore, Gilgit Baltistan of the Pakistan. It is situated right to the Deosai Plains approximately 190 km from the city of Gilgit. It is famous for trout fishing. (Source; Wikipedia)

Baltit Fort,
Gilgit Baltistan



Baltit Fort is a fort in the Hunza valley, near the town of Karimabad, in the Gilgit-Baltistan region of northern Pakistan. Founded in the 8th CE. In the past, the survival of the feudal regime of Hunza was ensured by the impressive fort, which overlooks Karimabad. The foundations of the fort date back to 700 years ago, with rebuilds and alterations over the centuries. In the 16th century the local prince married a princess from Baltistan who brought master Balti craftsmen to renovate the building as part of her dowry. (Source; Wikipedia)



SALEEM ABBAS- SKARDU

Age: 25 Years
Years of Freelancing: 1 Year
Area of Specialization: Virtual Assistant,
Social Media Marketing, Web Designing

Saleem Abbas born and rise in Skardu, Gilgit-Baltistan. When he was a kid, he had only one dream, to travel and explore every corner of the globe. As he grew older, he realized that traveling around the world isn't a cheap passion. Narrating his journey, he said, "when I was a student in 7th grade, I read the first time about Bill Gates that he was the world's richest man. I was curious about what makes him so rich. That curiosity led me to read about him. I found that he is a tech startup. That day I understood that the world's richest peoples have a Computer and IT background.

"I have completed my early education with computer science searched Pakistan's finest IT universities for admission, but their fee structure shocked me as I belonged to a middle-class family and could not afford the costly education. I migrated to Karachi to earn a living and started working in Systems Limited as a BPO CSR agent. I worked few months out there, but my parents called me back. After returning to home town, I took admission to the University of Baltistan, Skardu, in 2019. In the last 3,4 years, Skardu became an attractive tourist destination which led me to achieve my dream goal, and that opportunity led me to become a social media influencer.

https://www.fiverr.com/caleembalti?up_rollout=true

Journey from hailing mountains to a Technopreneur

In the early stage of Covid-19, I made travelogues and uploaded on my Youtube channel and raised the number of my fans, but it cost me many budgets. But my passion did not let me down. After a week of internet research, I landed on fiverr.com, a marketplace where buyers look for talents and sellers sell their services. Initially, I tried to monetize my existing skills like photo editing and video editing but did not get riped fruit. After sending 10 buyer requests every day, I got my first assignment after 20 days, and my freelance journey started.

New opportunities always come along with new hurdles. In Skardu, we have only one internet service provider with limited access, and the poor internet connection made my every assignment next to impossible. I used to sit in university premises to complete my assignments to retain happy clients, but electricity shortage became higher in winters, and it is hard to make a living without electricity in Skardu.

I am about to reach a level 2 seller on Fiverr with 13 active clients from USA and UK with all struggles. I hired 7 classmates on contract-based work and 2 outside of Gilgit-Baltistan. Now, I'm offering almost everything which a digital marketing agency does. I plan to start my startup 'Brand Amplifier' very soon, and my motto is to employ those students who drop their studies due to financial issues. I am very thankful to my parents, who never imposed their ideologies upon me, always supported me, in my ambitions."



Skardu Valley



Skardu is a city located in Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan, and serves as the capital of the Skardu District. Skardu is situated at an elevation of nearly 2,500 metres (8,202 feet) in the Skardu Valley, at the confluence of the Indus and Shigar Rivers. The city is an important gateway to the eight-thousanders of the nearby Karakoram mountain range. (Source; Wikipedia)



Chunda Valley



Phander Valley



Shangrila Resort Skardu,
Gilgit Baltistan

Shangrila started its business in 1983 with the opening of the first Resort Hotel in Skardu, Baltistan. It was first ever Resort established in the northern areas for tourism. It was named "HEAVEN ON EARTH" due of its stunning beauty, breathtaking view and peaceful ambiance. This serene & scenic resort was founded by the Brig. Muhammad Aslam Khan, the first commander of the Northern Scouts who played a major role in liberation of the Northern areas in 1948. Pakistan. (Source; shangrilaresorts.com.pk)

PAKISTAN



PAKISTAN

Pakistan is a beautiful country, home to 108 peaks above 7,000 meters, including K2, the country has stunning landscapes. From the lively cities of Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi to the beautiful valleys in the north, it is no wonder that Pakistan was ranked as the top holiday destination for travelers for the year 2020 by the United States-based luxury and lifestyle publication Conde Nast Traveler. In 2018, the British Backpacker Society ranked Pakistan as the number one travel destination in the world. Pakistan was ranked 'the best holiday destination' for 2020 by Eurasiantimes, a leading travel magazine. According to Forbes, an American business magazine founded in 1917, Pakistan is one of the top 10 under-the-radar travel destinations for 2020. Clearly, Pakistan has come a long way with internationally reputed entities routinely recommending Pakistan for travel.

Pakistan is the 33rd-largest country by area, spanning 881,913 square kilometers. The Karakoram Highway is the world's highest paved international road, according to Travel+Leisure magazine. The 800-mile highway connects Pakistan to western China and reaches a maximum height of 15,300 feet. The ATM at the world's highest elevation belongs to the National Bank of Pakistan and sits in the Khunjerab Pass, in Gilgit-Baltistan. Pakistan is home to has the world's largest continuous irrigation system and the longest glacial system outside the polar regions and is also home to the second largest and oldest salt mine in the world. The World Economic Forum's Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Report placed Pakistan in the top 25 per cent of global destinations for its World Heritage sites.

Pakistan's unique geographical location in Asia makes it a center of trade in the region and that is to increase further in the coming years as the country is working hand in hand with China on CPEC plan to develop the infrastructure of the Gwadar port. The port will act as portal for western China and possibly for the landlocked central Asian countries through the important sea route of the strait of Hormuz and is the largest natural deep port of the world. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is a framework of regional connectivity. CPEC will not only benefit China and Pakistan but will have positive impact on Iran, Afghanistan, India, Central Asian Republic, and the region.

Pakistan's economy is the 22nd largest economy in the world. Pakistan is set to become the world's 23rd biggest economy by 2040 according to Global Trends report by US National Intelligence Council (NIC), which is designed to help policymakers and citizens anticipate the economic, environmental, technological and demographic forces that are likely to shape the world through the next 20 years. There are more than 12,000 IT & ITeS companies currently registered with Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) comprising of both domestic and export-oriented enterprises. There are 600,000+ English-speaking IT & BPO professionals with expertise in current and emerging IT products and technologies, and over 25,000 IT graduates and engineers are being produced each year. The number of IT companies is expected to surge with the rise of entrepreneurship in the younger population of the country.

With world's 5th largest population at over 220 million, Pakistan is one of the leading countries from where students enter the world's most prestigious universities in large numbers. Pakistanis are the fourth-most intelligent people in the world, according to poll results gathered from 125 countries by the Institute of European Business Administration. The world's seventh-largest collection of scientists and engineers is from Pakistan. English is a commonly used language in country. More often than not, most of the IT professionals, IT executives and company founders in Pakistan have graduated or lived in the West. Finding a skilled workforce in Pakistan in the technology field does not present a problem for foreign investors and there are no cultural barriers to overcome as Pakistani professionals are used to interacting with clients from the North American market. Pakistan's technology sector is providing services to world's most reputed companies across Americas, Europe, Middle East, Asia, Africa and Australia. Several international companies including Global enterprises like Bentley®, Ciklum®, IBM®, Mentor Graphics®, S&P Global®, Symantec®, Teradata®, and VMware® have established global consulting services centers, research & development facilities, and BPO support services centers in Pakistan. Pakistan, in 2023, will have a gross domestic product (GDP) of \$310 billion US\$, according to trading economics. Pakistan is a safe, progressive and liberal country with a democratic government system. The elections are held every 5 years under a competitive multiparty political system. The country has five provinces as well Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Kashmir which have independent governments.



Pak China Border,
Khunjrab Pass
Gilgit Baltistan

Khunjerab Pass is a 4,693-meter (15,397 ft)-high mountain pass in the Karakoram Mountains, in a strategic position on the northern border of Pakistan (Gilgit-Baltistan's Hunza and Nagar Districts) and on the southwest border of China (Xinjiang). Its name is derived from two words of the local Wakhi language: "khun" means blood and "jerab" means a creek coming from a spring or waterfall. (Source; Wikipedia)

“You will have to make up for the smallness of your size by your courage and selfless devotion to duty, for it is not life that matters, but the courage, fortitude and determination you bring to it”.

Muhammad Ali Jinnah

