



International Conference on  
Early Childhood Development

# 5th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Investing in Early Childhood Development  
*Building Human Capital*

**April 7 - 8, 2026**

Venue:

W.M. Zaki Auditorium, Academic Complex  
Allama Iqbal Open University,  
Islamabad, Pakistan



The Asia Foundation





International Conference on  
Early Childhood Development  
in Pakistan

## 5<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

April 7– 8, 2026

Investing in Early Childhood Development – Building Human Capital

Venue: W.M. Zaki Auditorium, Academic Complex  
Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad, Pakistan

**DAY-1: TUESDAY - APRIL 7, 2026**

**OPENING CEREMONY**

**Venue: W.M. Zaki Auditorium, Academic Complex**

08:30 am	Registration of participants
08:30 - 09:30 am	Guests to be seated
10:00 am	Arrival of the Chief Guest – <b>Prof. Dr Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister Planning, Development &amp; Special Initiatives</b>
10:00 - 10:05 am	National Anthem
10:05 - 10:10 am	Recitation and Translation from the Holy Quran – <b>Mr. Ibtisam-ur-Rehman, Arabic &amp; Islamic Studies, Allama Iqbal Open University</b>
10:10 - 10:15 am	Welcome Address - <b>Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, Vice Chancellor, Allam Iqbal Open University</b>
10:15 - 10:20 am	Children’s Performance (Skit) – The Circle of Care
10:20 – 10:25 am	Opening Remarks – <b>Mr. Nasruddin Rupani – Chairman Rupani Foundation</b>
10:25-10:55 am	Pakistan’s journey in ECD/ECCE/ECE-Animated Video Remarks by Partners:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Dr Nazeer Ahmed - Chief Nutrition, SUN Secretariate, Ministry of Planning, Development &amp; Special Initiatives</b></li> <li>- <b>Ms. Pernille Ironside – Country Representative, UNICEF Pakistan</b></li> <li>- <b>Ms. Ellen Thom – Deputy Representative, WHO Pakistan</b></li> <li>- <b>Mr. Muhammad Rafique Tahir – Board of Director - Pakistan Alliance for Early Childhood</b></li> <li>- <b>Ms. Noureen Bano Lehri – Chairperson of the National Commission on the Status of Women</b></li> <li>- <b>Mr. Muzaffar Ud Din – Country Representative (Pakistan), The Asia Foundation Pakistan</b></li> </ul>
10:55 - 11:10 am	<p>Update on the previous Conference’s Recommendations - <b>Dr Saba Shuja, Manager ECD, UNICEF Pakistan</b></p> <p>Sharing the Conference Objectives &amp; Schedule Overview of the 5th International Conference on ECD - <b>Ms. Khadija Khan, CEO, PAFEC</b></p>
11:10 – 11:30 am	<p>Keynote Address: <b>Investing in Early Childhood Development – Building Human Capital</b></p> <p>Presenter: <b>Dr Zafar Mirza – Former Federal Minister Health, Ministry of National Health Services Regulation &amp; Coordination</b></p>
11:30 am	Address by the Chief Guest
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Presentation of Mementos</li> <li>ii. Group Photo</li> <li>iii. Visiting ECD Exhibition</li> <li>iv. Tea Break &amp; Networking</li> </ol>

**DAY-1 - PLENARY-1: TUESDAY - APRIL 7, 2026**  
**Venue: W.M. Zaki Auditorium, Academic Complex**

**Session Chair: Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change & Environmental Coordination**  
**Moderator: Syed Jalal ud Din Shah, Global CEO Rupani Foundation**

<p>12:00 - 1:30 pm</p>	<p><b>Keynote Address:</b> How Microfinance can support ECD Entrepreneurs at Community Level to take ECD to scale  <b>Presenter:</b> Mr. Stephen Rasmussen – Chairman, Community &amp; Enterprise Development Organization</p> <p><b>Theme 1: Economics and Sustainable Mechanisms- Innovative Approaches to ECD Finances</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global economic evidence on high returns to ECD with reference to Asia’s demographic transition and human capital dividend - Case Study from Pakistan</li> <li>• Venture philanthropy, blended finance and catalytic capital, corporate social responsibility models and faith-based giving, family foundations and diaspora philanthropy</li> <li>• Linking climate justice with child development, green ECD centers and climate-adaptive infrastructure, carbon finance mechanisms for caregiving programs</li> <li>• Trauma Informed Care and Investing in Neurobiology</li> <li>• Blended Social Financing for ECD, the Combined Role of Catalytic Capital and Venture Philanthropy</li> <li>• Unlocking financing for young children</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Speakers:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dr. Adnan Aziz, Chief Program Officer, Global Islamic Finance Impact Program for Climate, Nature and Development, UAE (Virtual)</li> <li>2. Ms. Katy Anis, Principal, Coalescence Advisory Service(Virtual)</li> <li>3. Ms. Mina Zamand, Economist, World Bank Pakistan (In-person)</li> <li>4. Mr. Vikas Arora, Chief of Impact Investing &amp; Blended Finance, AVPN Limited (Virtual)</li> <li>5. Ms. Shekufeh Zonji, Early Childhood Development Action Network (Virtual)</li> </ol>
	<p>Q&amp;A Session</p>
	<p>Conclusion by the Chair</p>
	<p>Presentation of Mementos to Speakers and Chair</p>
<p>1:30 - 2:30 pm</p>	<p>Lunch Break &amp; Networking</p>

**DAY-1 - PLENARY-2: TUESDAY - APRIL 7, 2026**  
**Venue: W.M. Zaki Auditorium, Academic Complex**

**Session Chair: Ms. Sharmeela Rassool, Deputy Country Representative, UNICEF Pakistan**  
**Co-Chair: Mr. Muzaffar Ud Din, Country Representative, The Asia Foundation Pakistan**  
**Moderator: Dr Shelina Bhamani, Associate Professor, Program Director Outreach Education & Lead ECD PREP ObGyn Aga Khan University**

2:30 - 3:30 pm	<p><b>Keynote Address:</b> Mr. Shinozaki Yusuke, Chief Representative, JICA Pakistan</p> <p><b>Theme 2: Nurturing Care Across Cultures: Innovations and Inclusive Approaches to ECD</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parenting models and family-strengthening systems – Key Family Care Practices (KFCPs) &amp; Scaling-up Parenting Programme in Pakistan</li> <li>• Responsive Caregiving</li> <li>• RDI/Rupani Foundation’s AWIP model as a regional example</li> <li>• Digital parenting platforms and remote learning tools</li> <li>• Inclusive approaches to Early Childhood Development</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Speakers</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dr. Saba Shuja, Manager ECD, UNICEF Pakistan(In-person)</li> <li>2. Dr. Qudsia Uzma, Programme Lead, WHO Pakistan (In-person)</li> <li>3. Mr. Jalaluddin Hunzai, CEO, Rupani Foundation(In-person)</li> <li>4. Mr. Sajjad Hyder, CEO, Gbeetechive(In-person)</li> <li>5. Dr. Zeba Rasmussen, Founder of Mehnaz Fatima Foundation(In-person)</li> <li>6. Dr. Naila Khalid, Health &amp; Nutrition Advisor, Save the Children Pakistan (In-person)</li> </ol>
	Q&A Session
	Conclusion by the Chair
	Presentation of Mementos to Speakers and Chair
3:30 - 3:45 pm	Tea Break & Networking

**DAY-1 - PLENARY-3: TUESDAY - APRIL 7, 2026**  
**Venue: W.M. Zaki Auditorium, Academic Complex**

**Session Chair: Dr. Naeem Zafar, Chairman, Pakistan Alliance for Early Childhood & President, PAHCHAAN**  
**Moderator: Dr. Hana Mahmood, Chief of Global Health, International Research Force**

3:45 – 5:00 pm	<p><b>Keynote Address:</b> Prof. Dr. Syed Jamal Raza, Executive Director, Sindh Institute of Child Health and Neonatology, Karachi</p> <p><b>Theme 3: Health, Nutrition and Safety &amp; Security</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Integrating developmental milestones, early detection &amp; early intervention into Pakistan’s primary health care services</li><li>• Stunting prevention through adequate nutrition – it starts in the womb</li><li>• Strengthening ECD through Food Security and Healthy Dietary Practices</li><li>• From policy to practice: advancing child safety and protection in Pakistan</li><li>• Integrating ECD into Public Health Care</li><li>• Fulfilling the ECD promise for children with special needs</li><li>• Safe Cities for Children to Thrive</li></ul> <p><b>Key Speakers:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Mr. Anteneh Girma, Chief Nutrition, UNICEF Pakistan(In-person)</li><li>2. Dr. Salman Kirmani, Professor, Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, Aga Khan University(In-person)</li><li>3. Dr. Fatima Rehman, Developmental Pediatrician, The Children’s Hospital Lahore(In-person)</li><li>4. Dr. Mehek Naeem, Member Punjab, National Commission on the Rights of Child Pakistan (In-person)</li><li>5. Dr. Shahzad Khan, VC, Health Services Academy(In-person)</li></ol>
	Q&A Session
	Conclusion by the Chair
	Presentation of Mementos to Speakers and Chair

**DAY-2 - PLENARY 1: WEDNESDAY - APRIL 8, 2026**  
**Venue: W.M. Zaki Auditorium, Academic Complex**

**Session Chair: Dr. Nasir Mehmood, Vice Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University**  
**Moderator: Ms. Khadija Khan, Chief Executive Officer, Pakistan Alliance for Early Childhood**

09:30 – 10:45 am	<p><b>Keynote Address:</b> Childhood-battleground of Ideologies and Ambassador of hope <b>Presenter:</b> Prof. Dr. Fareed Panjwani, Dean, Institute for Educational Development (IED), Aga Khan University</p> <p><b>Theme 4: Strengthening ECD Workforce &amp; Regional Cooperation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Academic pathways through Centers of Excellence (e.g., AIOU)</li><li>• Credentialing, scholarships, and digital upskilling</li><li>• Workforce mobility across the region</li><li>• Capacity-building initiatives and cross-country learning</li><li>• Regional cooperation for quality assurance in ECD</li><li>• Workforce issues including social-emotional learning of ECCE teachers, ARNEC</li><li>• Tackling OOSC, low literacy and ECCE gaps through strengthening ECD Workforce</li><li>• How can health be integrated to build an effective and responsive ECD workforce for the region?</li></ul> <p><b>Key Speakers:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Ms. Sara Lajam, Programme Officer, Dubai Care(Virtual)</li><li>2. Ms. Ambreena Ahmed, Director, Teachers’ Resource Centre (TRC), Pakistan(In-person)</li><li>3. Mr. Abid Gill, Deputy Chief Advisor, Japan International Cooperation Agency Pakistan (In-person)</li><li>4. Mr. Syed Javid Gillani, Executive Director, Muslim Hands Pakistan (In-person)</li><li>5. Mr. Siva Prasad, Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood (Virtual)</li><li>6. Dr. Mihaela Ionesco, Programme Director, ISSA (Virtual)</li><li>7. Ms. Nikita Srivastav, Assistant Director, Health Impact, AVPN Limited (Virtual)</li></ol>
	Q&A Session
	Conclusion by the Chair
	Presentation of Mementos to Speakers and Chair

10:45 – 11:00 am	Tea Break & Networking
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**DAY-2 - PLENARY 2: WEDNESDAY - APRIL 8, 2026**  
**Venue: W.M. Zaki Auditorium, Academic Complex**

**Session Chair: Ms. Rabia Awan, Director General, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics**  
**Moderator: Dr Shehzad Mithani, Education Policy Expert**

10:45 - 12:00 pm	<p><b>Keynote Address:</b> WHO Global Scale for Early Development (GSED) in ECD Measurement  <b>Presenter:</b> Ms. Vanessa Cavallera, ECD, WHO Geneva</p> <p><b>Theme 5: Research, Measurement &amp; Accountability Systems</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening indicators, data systems, and tracking and data integration at early childhood level</li> <li>• Global measurement frameworks (MECCE, SABER-ECD)</li> <li>• Academic collaboration and regional research networks</li> <li>• Role of local government in providing data services</li> <li>• Multi Indicator Cluster Survey &amp; ECD Dashboard</li> <li>• Development of integrated, real-time and policy-responsive data systems and tools</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Speakers:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dr. Mazhar Iqbal, Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF Pakistan (In-person)</li> <li>2. Dr. Shahid Soroya, Director General, Pakistan Institute of Education(In-person)</li> <li>3. Ms. Jalila Hehldi, Co-founder, Sustainwiser(In-person)</li> <li>4. Dr Tooba Saleem, Assistant Professor, Allama Iqbal Open University(In-person)</li> <li>5. Mr. Ghulam Muhammad Shah – Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) Specialist</li> </ol>
	Q&A Session
	Conclusion by the Chair
	Presentation of Mementos to Speakers and Chair

**DAY-2 - PLENARY 3: WEDNESDAY - APRIL 8, 2026**  
**Venue: W.M. Zaki Auditorium, Academic Complex**

**Session Chair: Ms. Ellen Thom, Deputy Representative, WHO Pakistan**  
**Moderator: Dr. Roop Zainab, Psychiatrist & CEO, The Healing Triad**

12:00 – 1:15 pm	<p><b>Theme 6: Caregivers' Mental Health &amp; MH&amp;PSS Integration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Caring for the caregivers, global best practices</li><li>• UNICEF maternal mental health frameworks</li><li>• Integrating mental health into primary healthcare</li><li>• Holistic mind–body–spirit models - research findings from parental support groups that we have run in Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral through peer volunteers</li><li>• Rights-based &amp; scalable MHPSS model for Pakistan</li></ul> <p><b>Key Speakers:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Dr. Mowadat Hussain Rana, Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioural Sciences(In-person)</li><li>2. Dr. Abdul Wahab Yousafzai, Psychiatrist, Shifa International Hospital(In-person)</li><li>3. Ms. Safina Abdulloeva, Health Manager – UNICEF Pakistan (In-person)</li><li>4. Ms. Falak Madhani, Brain and Mind Institute(BMI), Aga Khan University(In-person)</li><li>5. Dr. Asma Humayun, National Technical Advisor Mental Health Strategic Planning &amp; Coordination Unit Ministry of Planning, Development &amp; Special Initiatives(In-person)</li></ol>
	Q&A Session
	Conclusion by the Chair
	Presentation of Mementos to Speakers and Chair
1:15 – 2:00 pm	Lunch Break & Networking

## CONCURRENT SESSIONS

DAY-2: WEDNESDAY - APRIL 8, 2026

Venue: W.M. Zaki Auditorium, Academic Complex

Session Chair: Ms. Izza Farrakh, Senior Education Specialist, World Bank Pakistan

Moderator: Dr. Seema Lasi, Assistant Professor, Aga Khan University

Rapporteur: Ms. Samina Ghafoor, ECCE Curriculum Expert

2:00 – 3:30 pm	<p><b>Theme 7: Early Learning Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strengthen Home and Community Based Learning Environments by equipping parents and caregivers with structural guidance to provide early stimulation, language exposure, and nurturing interactions during conception to 3 years of age.</li><li>• Design Play-Based Early Learning Spaces safe, inclusive, and stimulating environments that promote exploration, creativity, social-emotional growth, and foundational literacy and numeracy in pre-primary schools.</li><li>• Ensure strong transitions and foundational skills in the early primary years by aligning curriculum, teaching practices, and assessment to build reading fluency, numeracy competence, executive functioning, and problem-solving skills.</li><li>• Trained educators, engaged families, build climate-resilient child friendly infrastructure, and continuous monitoring to ensure equitable and scalable early learning access from pre-conception to 8 years</li></ul> <p><b>Key Speakers:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Dr Shelina Bhamani, Associate Professor &amp; Lead ECD, AKU(In-person)</li><li>2. Ms. Erum Barki, Education Specialist, UNICEF Pakistan(In-person)</li><li>3. Ms. Sehar Taimoor, Education Advisor, Save the Children Pakistan (In-person)</li><li>4. Dr Tabassum Naz, Director, National Curriculum Council(In-person)</li><li>5. Ms. Fakhira Najeeb, Board Director, PAFEC &amp; Chief Executive Officer, POWER99 Foundation(In-person)</li></ol>
	Q&A Session
	Conclusion by the Chair
	Presentation of Mementos to Speakers and Chair

**Roundtable on the Operationalization of the National ECD Policy Framework with Provincial Ministers and Other Government Officials Facilitated by Key ECD Experts**

**DAY-2: WEDNESDAY - APRIL 8, 2026**

**Venue: Room 104, Academic Complex, AIOU**

**Session Chair: Col. Rtd. Abrar Ismail, Minister Finance, Government of Gilgit Baltistan**

**Co-Chair: Prof. Dr Nasir Mehmood, Vice-Chancellor, AIOU**

**Moderator: Dr. Ehtasham Anwar, Team Lead, Data and Research in Education, FCDO**

2:00 pm

**PAPER PRESENTERS**

**DAY-2: WEDNESDAY - APRIL 8, 2026 (Concurrent Sessions)**

**Venue: Room 107, Academic Complex, AIOU**

**Session I: Economics and Sustainable Mechanisms- Innovative Approaches to ECD Finances**

**Session Chair: Dr. Muhammad Ayub Buzdar, Associate Professor, Department of Secondary Teacher Education, AIOU**

**Moderator: Dr. Farkhunda Rasheed, Assistant Professor, Education Planning, Policy Studies and Leadership, AIOU**

**Rapporteur: Ms. Jamila Javed, Lecturer, AIOU**

02:00 - 02:10  
pm

Opening of Session by Moderator

**Paper Title and Authors**

02:10 - 02:20  
pm

Managing Early Childhood Education Programs in Islamabad: Challenges Faced by School Leaders in 100 Public Schools  
Presenter(s): Sumaira BiBi (Islamabad Model College for Girls. Islamabad) (In-person)

02:20 - 02:30  
pm

Transforming Maternal and Child Health through Nutrition: Pakistan's Experience with the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement  
Presenter(s): Hira Iftikhar, Faisalabad(Virtual)

02:30 - 02:40  
pm

Role of Government of Balochistan in meeting educational needs of children with disabilities in Baluchistan Presenter(s): Salma Durrani, Social Welfare and Special Education Department (Virtual)

**DAY-2: WEDNESDAY - APRIL 8, 2026**  
**Venue: Room 108 Academic Complex, AIOU**

**Session II: Nurturing Care Across Cultures: Innovations and Inclusive Approaches to ECD**

**Session Chair: Prof. Dr. Abdul Hameed, Board Director, PAFEC & Managing Director, Center for Inclusive Education and Research**  
**Moderator: Dr. Hina Noor, Assistant Professor, AIOU**  
**Rapporteur: Dr. Sana Qaisar, Lecturer, Special Education, AIOU**

02:00 - 02:10 pm	Opening of Session by Moderator
	<b>Paper Title and Authors</b>
02:10 - 02:20 pm	Exploring the Role of Fathers in Childcare in Pakistani Context: Challenges, Opportunities, and Policy Implications Presenter(s): Sarwat Maqbool, AIOU (Virtual)
02:20 - 02:30 pm	Building Resilient Early Childhood Education Systems: Community-Based Insights on Climate Change and Learning in Pakistan Presenter(s): Dr. Zahid Majeed, Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad(In-person)
02:30 - 02:40 pm	Identify and remove barriers—such as cultural, social, and personal—that limit fathers’ involvement in raising their children Presenter(s): Ms. Musarrat Rani, Irshad Amtul Reproductive Health and Midwifery Services(In-person)
02:40 - 02:50 pm	Strengthening Inclusive Early Childhood Education through Regional Knowledge Exchange, Capacity Building, and Teacher Preparedness Presenter(s): Syeda Fatima Kazmi, The Millennium University College Pakistan (in affiliation with University of Hertfordshire, UK)); Salma Nazar Khan, The Millennium University College Pakistan (in affiliation with University of Hertfordshire, UK)) (Virtual)
02:50 – 03:00 pm	Malaysia’s structured approach to ECD curriculum development Presenter(s): Dr. Sumaila Haleem

**DAY-2: WEDNESDAY - APRIL 8, 2026**  
**Venue: Room 204 Academic Complex, AIOU**

**Session III: Strengthening the ECD Workforce & Regional Cooperation**

**Session Chair: Dr. Naveed Sultana, Associate Professor, AIOU**  
**Moderator: Dr. Muhammad Tanveer Afzal, Associate Professor, AIOU**  
**Rapporteur: Dr. Arshad Qamar, Lecturer, AIOU**

02:00 - 02:10 pm	Opening of Session by Moderator
	<b>Paper Title and Authors</b>
02:10 - 02:20 pm	Study on exploring the caregiver-preschoolers interface: a review of factors influencing healthy eating habits Presenter(s): Hadiqa Qaisar, HBS Medical College, Islamabad(In-person)
02:20 - 02:30 pm	Reimagining Teacher Preparation for STEAM Integration in Early Childhood Education Presenter(s): Zehra Khushal, Education; Dr Rukhsana Durrani, AIOU(In-person)
02:30 - 02:40 pm	Central Asia Stunting Initiative (CASI) Program overview and Achievements Presenter(s): Sanober Nadeem, Aga Khan Health Service (Virtual)
02:40 - 02:50 pm	Cognitive Growth or Cognitive Overload? Exploring Digital Learning and Parental Mediation in Early Childhood Education Presenter(s): Benish Saif, The Millenium Universal College ; Salma Nazar Khan, The Millenium Universal College, University of Hertfordshire UK(Virtual)
02:50 - 03:00 pm	Future-Ready Beginnings: Reimagining Early Childhood Education in a Rapidly Evolving World—Evidence from Urban Karachi Presenter(s): Dr. Nuzhat Naz, College of Education, Ziauddin University, Karachi; Muhammad Nizam Uddin, M.S. Scholar, Sindh Madrasatul Islam University, Karachi(Virtual)

**DAY-2: WEDNESDAY - APRIL 8, 2026**  
**Venue: Room 205 Academic Complex, AIOU**

**Session IV: Early Learning Opportunities**

**Session Chair: Dr. Muhammad Athar Hussain, Associate Professor, AIOU**  
**Moderator: Dr. Batool Ata, Board Director, PAFEC & Assistant Professor, Institute of Education, University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir**  
**Rapporteur: Dr. Hamid Ali Nadeem, Lecturer, Department of Educational Planning, Policy Studies, and Leadership, AIOU**

02:00 - 02:10 pm	Opening of Session by Moderator
	<b>Paper Title and Authors</b>
02:10 - 02:20 pm	Development Of Paragraph Writing Skills Through Communicative Tasks Among Early Graders Presenter(s): Nosheen Anjum (Allama Iqbal Open University Islamabad); Dr. Muhammad Samiullah, ECE&ETED AIOU Islamabad; Aftab Ahmed, AIOU ISLAMABAD; Arshad Mehmood AIOU ISLAMABAD(In-person)
02:20 - 02:30 pm	The Role of Early Learning Opportunities on Holistic Development in Preschool Children (Everyday Learning in a Nurturing Environment) Presenter(s): Pari Bano, Rupani Foundation (In-person)
02:30 - 02:40 pm	Fostering Fine Motor Skills of Children with Cerebral Palsy: Exercises & Therapies Presenter(s): Dr. Abdul Basit Rana, Department of Special Education(In-person)
02:40 - 02:50 pm	Exploring the Efficacy of Digital Storytelling in Enhancing Language Acquisition in Early Childhood Education Presenter(s): Dr. Nuzhat Saadia Qureshi, AIOU; Hammad Ahmad, AIOU(In-person)
02:50 - 03:00 pm	Beyond the Classroom: The Impact of Outdoor Activities and Storytelling on Early Childhood Development Presenter(s): Samina Islam (Dy. DEO EE-W, Tehsil Gujar Khan Rawalpindi; Dr. Rao Nadeem Alam, former Assistant Professor, QAU Islamabad(In-person)
03:00 - 03:10 pm	Effect of Play Based Activities on development of Social Skills among Early Graders Presenter(s): Muhammad Mumtaz Khan, GCET Bagh AJK; Dr. Rahmat Ullah Bhatti, AIOU; Zeeshan Mumtaz, COMSATS Islamabad(In-person)
03:10 - 03:20 pm	Influence of Reinforcement on Performance of Primary Level Students in Subject of Science Presenter(s): Saira Khanm, University of Agriculture, IAEERD(Virtual)

03:20 - 03:30 pm	Scaffolding Higher Order Thinking Skills Through Visuals at ECE Level Presenter(s): Amir Hussain, AIOU Islamabad; Dr. Syed Nasir Hussain, AIOU Islamabad(In-person)
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**DAY-2: WEDNESDAY - APRIL 8, 2026**  
Venue: Room 206 Academic Complex, AIOU

**Session V: Research, Measurement & Accountability Systems**

Session Chair: Dr. Shahid Soroya, Director General, Pakistan Institute of Education  
Moderator: Dr. Tooba Saleem, Assistant Professor, AIOU  
Rapporteur: Dr. Irsa Zahoor, Lecturer, AIOU

02:00 - 02:10 pm	Opening of Session by Moderator
	Paper Title and Authors
02:10 - 02:20 pm	Causes for Disruptive Behaviors in ECE Children of Public Primary Schools: An Action Research Presenter(s): Dr. Rukhsana Durrani AIOU; Mahnoor, AIOU(In-person)
02:20 - 02:30 pm	Exploring the Role of Positive Education in Early Childhood Education: A Pathway to Socio-Emotional Well-Being Presenter(s): Riffat Bano, Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad(Virtual)
02:30 - 02:40 pm	A Study on the Significance of Equality and Inclusion In Early Childhood Development At The Primary Level In District Lakki Marwat Presenter(s): Dr. Irfan Khan, University of Lakki Marwat(Virtual)

**DAY-2: WEDNESDAY - APRIL 8, 2026**  
Venue: Room 207 Academic Complex, AIOU

**Session VI: Caregivers' Mental Health & MH&PSS Integration**

Session Chair: Prof. Dr. Aneela Maqsood, Assistant Professor, Fatima Jinnah Women University  
Moderator: Dr. Jahan Ara Shams, Assistant Professor, Department of Early Childhood Education & Care, AIOU  
Rapporteur: Dr. Aneela Alam, Lecturer, AIOU

02:00 - 02:10 pm	Opening of Session by Moderator
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	<b>Paper Title and Authors</b>
02:10 - 02:20 pm	Study on Systemic Review of maternal dietary patterns from pregnancy to postpartum Presenter(s): Laiba Akram, HBS Medical and Dental College, Islamabad(In-person)
02:20 - 02:30 pm	Faith-Based Parenting: Managing Stress to Enhance ECD Presenter(s): SAEED ANWAR, Riphah Internation University, Islamabad, Pakistan(In-person)
02:30 - 02:40 pm	Mental Health and Nursing Care: Interventions to Support Caregivers and Children Presenter(s): Ms. Musarrat Rani, Irshad Amtul Reproductive Health and Midwifery Services(In-person)
02:40 - 02:50 pm	Unlocking Play -based Teaching: Analysing the Attitude and Practices of Teachers at Early Childhood Education Level Presenter(s): Robina Altaf (AIOU); Mubeshera Tufail, Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad(Virtual)

## POSTER PRESENTERS

**DAY-2: WEDNESDAY - APRIL 8, 2026**

**Venue: Lobby First Floor, Academic Complex, AIOU**

<b>Paper Title and Authors</b>
Development and Piloting of a Qualitative Measure of a Home Observation Tool on Caregiver-Child Interaction and Engagement in the Context of Pakistan Presenter(s): Taiba Baig (Agha Khan University Human Development Programme); Dr.Seema Laasi (Agha Khan University Human Development Programme); Yasmeen Mehboob (Agha Khan University Human Development Programme))
STEAM Integration and safe use of technology to enhance the learning & teaching in ECE Presenter(s): Khet Kumar (Red Pi)
Involvement of Fathers in social development of children at Early Childhood Education in Pakistan: A phenomenological Study Presenter(s): Uzma Mazhar, NUML; Qurat Ul Ain Hina, NUML
To Observe and Compare the Classroom Quality Indicators of Early Childhood Education (ECE) in Public and Private Schools in Gilgit Baltistan Presenter(s): Meher Kamil, AKU
Prospects And Challenges Of Early Childhood Care And Education In Azad Jammu And Kashmir Presenter(s): Jawad Zareen Shah, Arid Agriculture University; Imran Yousuf, PMAS-Arid Agriculture University

DAY - 2: WEDNESDAY - APRIL 8, 2026

CLOSING CEREMONY

Venue: Venue: W.M. Zaki Auditorium, Academic Complex

4:00 PM	Guest to be seated & arrival of the Chief Guest & Guest of Honour: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training</b></li><li>- <b>Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar (S.I) – Chairman, Higher Education Commission, Pakistan</b></li></ul>
4:00-4:05 pm	National Anthem
4:05-4:10 pm	Recitation from Holy Quran – <b>Prof. Dr Shah Mohyuddin Hashmi, Dean Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies</b>
4:10-4:25 pm	Welcome Note – <b>Mr. Nasruddin Rupani, Chairman Rupani Foundation</b>
4:25-4:40 pm	Reflection on the Conference – <b>Dr. Naeem Zafar, Chairman PAFEC and a female participant</b>
4:40-4:55pm	Conference Findings and Recommendations - <b>Professor. Dr Nasir Mahmood, VC Allama Iqbal Open University</b>  Call to Action  Signing of MoUs and Partner Commitments
4:55 pm	Address by the Guest of Honour and Chief Guest
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. Presentation of Mementos</li><li>ii. Group Photo</li><li>iii. Tea &amp; Departure</li></ol>