



Seminar press release

Subject: **Seminar on “Street Code and Youth Violence in Risky Neighborhoods: A Cross-cultural Comparison of Youth Violence in Germany, Pakistan and South Africa”**

Islamabad: To discuss the current state of affairs of “Street Code and Youth Violence in Risky Neighborhoods: A Cross-cultural Comparison of Youth Violence in Germany, Pakistan and South Africa” the Department of Sociology, Quaid-i-Azam University has organized book launch on **February 20, 2019 from 10:00am to 1:00 pm, DSS Hall, Department of Sociology, Quaid-i-Azam University, and Islamabad**. It was the joint research project of the Institute of Conflict and Violence (IKG) Bielefeld University Germany, Department of Sociology Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad and Cape Town University South Africa under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Heitmeyer, Dr. Steffen Zdun, Dr. Sebastian Kurtenbach, Dr. Simon Howell, Abdul Rauf and Dr Muhammad Zaman. The participants of the seminar discussed the core findings of their research on codes of street and violence. This seminar served as an opportunity to discuss the dynamics of the street code and violence and the way forward to address the youth affairs. Participants shared their knowledge, exchanged best practices, and discussed ways to improve and provide conducive environment for the youth to be productive part of society.

The ceremony started with the opening remarks of Dr. Sadia Saeed, Incharge Department of Sociology, Quaid I Azam University. She welcomed the honorable guests. She elaborated that street violence is a substantial research area and congratulated Dr. Zaman and his project team for such eminent work.

Dr. Sebastian Kurtenbach, Fachhochschule Münster, Germany discussed in detail the research project with reference to the theoretical and methodological basis. He explained that as per Anderson’s codes of street the juveniles are the vulnerable group and they develop that specific kind of behaviour and norms that they use to justify their violent behavior. In



addition to this, it is the codes of street which provides safety in dangerous environment. He further elaborated the basic assumptions of the codes of the street and highlighted the need to conduct the current study. He also discussed the core elements of the codes of the street. The research was aimed to propose general theory of street codes. The rationality to choose three counties: Pakistan, South Africa and Germany was that these were the cases with heterogeneous characteristics which can contribute to develop a general approach of codes of street. The main idea was to find out that either the codes of street by Anderson were applicable around the globe or not.



Mr. Abdul Rauf from Bielefeld University Germany, provided descriptive and empirical analysis of project in three different countries and how these codes develop in cross cultural context. He explained that the codes of the street are basically the reactions to the violent situations by the juveniles to stay safe. He discussed in detail the difference of these codes in

Pakistan, South Africa and Germany. It was found that street codes are developed in every country but vary in cultural framework.

Dr. Muhammad Zaman, who one of the author of the book and organizer of the event explained the findings of their research project “Street Code and Youth Violence in Risky Neighborhoods”.

He discussed the similarities and differences of how the street codes operate in different cultural contexts.

The codes were found to be different in every setting in terms of socioeconomic and political scenarios. He elaborated nine different street codes extracted from Anderson’s theoretical approach. It included, respect,

family and friends, neighborhood perception, self idealization, toughness, symbols, perception of violence, street wisdom and enemy. Only three of them which are Respect, Family and Friends and Street wisdom were found to be similar in all three countries, whereas rest of all were completely in contrast to the Anderson’s concept. He further suggested the policy recommendations for the juveniles in the risky neighborhoods with four “E”:

Education, Employment, Engagement and Empowerment of the youth. The first and foremost was the provision of quality education followed by employment. He stressed that the youth should be provided with the technical skills and economic opportunities. Furthermore, the



civic engagement and provision of sports activities shall be ensured. In addition to this, he asserted that the youth should be involved in decision making and needs to be politically empowered. He considered Anderson's approach of street codes useful to understand the risky behaviors except for some of the elements which were completely limited to the American context. *As US is not the world but worldwide patterns can be understood with cross cultural studies.*

The honorable Minister of State for Climate Change, Zartaj Gul was the Chief Guest in the seminar. She stressed upon the importance of the issue of the juvenile in the streets of Pakistan.



She stated that violence is the product of coercive imposition of one's ideologies on others. For the policymaking, she said that we need higher goals in order to make youth progressive, as youth is a huge stakeholder in Pakistan. However, the regulation of the behaviour of youth is not only responsibility of the state but also a collective responsibility. She said the

youth is the future of Pakistan and PTI government is committed to work for the youth by providing them the employment opportunities that is the core of street violence.

The Vice Chancellor Dr. Muhammad Ali, who appreciated the work of the research team on such an important issue. He recognized that there is larger responsibility of academicians and the community to understand this issue. He asserted that it is an important issue which should be admired. The ceremony ended with the souvenirs presentation by worth minister to the participants.

