



Press Release

CM's e-Rozgaar Program LAUNCH TO PROVIDE TECHNOLOGY BASED FREELANCE JOBS-Says Dr. Umar Saif

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Enablement of youth has been an important component of Punjab's Youth Policy under the present regime. Chief Minister e-Rozgaar training program is another technology based economic activity of the present government. It will equip 10,000 young graduates in three batches of trainees to increase their employability using internet based freelancing. Under this program, at least 40 co-working spaces are being established across Punjab for young graduates. Critical freelancing skills include technical, communication and management. This was stated by Dr. Umar Saif Chairman Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) while reviewing the launch arrangements of joint flagship Program of Youth Affairs, Sports, Archaeology & Tourism (YASAT) Department of Punjab and PITB, being launched soon.

He said that the program has been devised to attract the young graduates having completed their 16 years of education. The selection of candidates of the program will be strictly on merit depending upon academic achievements, matching skills and profiles. Most important feature of the program would be active participation of female graduates. He added that five female's specific co-working spaces are also being established under the program.

This revolutionary program has been envisaged under the special instructions of the Chief Minister Punjab Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to provide job opportunities to the educated youth and to encourage self-employment through knowledge based economic activity. Every year approximately 200,000 students graduate from universities. However, the industry is unable to cater to all of them. In such a scenario, internet based opportunities can help provide earning opportunities for the unutilized work-force. Pakistan ranks as the 4th largest provider of freelancers in the world. It ranks in the upper 10 to 25 percent on Upwork's listing of growth rates for top-earning countries, alongside India, Canada and Ukraine. Earnings by Pakistani freelancers already account for \$850 Million of the country's software exports.

According to Payoneer's data, the average freelancer works 36 hours a week at a rate of \$21 per hour, giving them an annual pretax salary of more than \$39,000. Freelancers with a college degree typically earn \$20 an hour, less than the \$22 an hour earned by those whose highest education level is high school.