THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY
Institute for Educational Development

13th International Conference
Raising Children in Our Times
October 15 & 16, 2025

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME
Karachi

CONFERENCE DAY 1 | WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2025 | AKU AUDITORIUM, STADIUM ROAD CAMPUS	
8:30 – 9:30	Conference Registration – AKU Auditorium Entrance
INAUGURAL CEREMONY	
9:30 – 10:30	Readings from Sacred Literature
	Welcome Remarks by Farid Panjwani, Dean, AKU-IED
	Address by Tania Bubela, Provost, AKU
	Address by Salim Virani, Vice Provost, Research, AKU
	Remarks by the Chief Guest
	Overview by the Conference Chair, Sajid Ali, Professor, AKU-IED
10:30 – 11:00	TEA BREAK
KEYNOTE SESSIONS AND PANEL DISCUSSION	
11:00 – 12:00	**Keynote Session | The Flourishing Child** **Lynne Wolbert**, Associate Professor, HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht | PhD, Philosophy of Education, VU Amsterdam *Chair: Naveed Yousuf, AKU-EB*
12:00 – 12:15	Synergy Team AKU (Munir Lalani)
12:15 – 13:15	**Panel Discussion | Beyond Survival: Shaping Safe and Supportive Spaces for the Modern Child** **Panelists –** 1. Zainab Qureshi, BEAJ; 2. Mehmood Mughal, ISRA University; 3. Nargis Asad, AKU; 4. Fozia Parveen, AKU *Moderator – Fatima Ubaid, VLC*
13:15 – 14:15	LUNCH BREAK
14:00 – 14:10	ENERGIZER
14:10 – 15:15	**Keynote Session I In conversation with Syeda Arfa Zehra** *Chair: Farid Panjwani, AKU-IED*
15:15 – 15:45	Drama Performance / Dastangoi
15:45 – 16:00	**Session I Voices of Children** **Video & Session** *Chair: Nasima Shakeel Co-Chair: A Child (TBD)*
16:00 – 16:30	**Session I Raising Children: Implications for Teacher Education** **Anjum Halai, AKU** *Chair: Asma Hyder, IBA Karachi*
16:30– 17:00	**Conclusion of Day 1** Presenter: Conference Chair, Dr Sajid Ali
17:00	**End Day 1 and Refreshment**

CONFERENCE DAY 2 | THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2025 | AKU-IED KARIMABAD CAMPUS

| 8:30 – 9:00 | Conference Registration AKU-IED Entrance |

CONCURRENT SESSIONS I | 9:00 – 10:30

F2F | Room 02 (Zoom)	F2F | Room 03	F2F | Room 05 (Zoom)	F2F | Room 09	F2F | Room 10	F2F | Room 12	F2F | Room 13	F2F | Library	F2F | Computer Lab	Virtual | Room 08 (Zoom)	Virtual | Room 11 (Zoom)
Chair: Nasima Shakeel *Theme1: Current ECE & Caregiving Models*	Chair: Hina Velji *Theme 3: Technology, AI, and Media in Children's Lives*	Symposium	Chair: Naveed Yousuf *Theme 2: Child Development: Equity, Economy & Environment*	Symposium	Chair: Sarwat Nauman *Theme 4: Mental Health and the Well-being of Children*	Chair: Shelina Bhamani *Theme 6: Children and the Question of Inclusion*	Chair: Rabia Nauman *Theme 5: Moral Development*	Chair: Aien Shah *Theme 6: Children and the Question of Inclusion*	Chair: Seema Laasi *Theme 3: Technology, AI, and Media in Children's Lives*	Chair: Yasmeen Mehboob *Theme 1: Current ECE & Caregiving Models*
Mapping ECE Projects Through Indigenous & Family Lenses Ghazal Azeem	Preparing Teachers for STEM in Uncertain Futures Dr Tasneem Anwar	Developing Resilient Education Service Delivery through Improved Systems Coherence Dilshad Ashraf	Eco-Consciousness Through Child-Centered Learning Nazir Ahmed Shaikh	KIX	How Children Define Good Parenting: A Child-Centric View Aisha Naz Ansari	Breaking Barriers: Innovative Education for Underprivileged Children Alina Majid	Moral Development via Religious Education: A Case from a Faith-Based Community Dr. Shairose Jessani	Raising Inclusive Children: Strategies for Educational Equity Dr Mahwish Kamran	Parenting in the Digital Age: Challenges in Managing Children's Social Media Mujahid Ahmad	Neuro-pedagogy & Early Learning Fatima Javed
GSED Implementation for 0–3-Year-Olds Across Three Countries Dr Ambreen Nizar	Digital Tools & English Comprehension in Middle School Faiqa Asim		Raising Climate-Conscious Children Erum Khan		Adolescents' Emotional Intelligence & Early Childhood Development Anum Zulfiqar Ali	Dietary Challenges in Children with Neurodevelopmental and Genetic Disorders: Insights from Karachi Ayesha Zahid Khan	Teachers as Conflict Resolvers in Early Childhood Peace Education Laksha Bheem	Early Intervention for Children with Special Educational Needs Seerat Fatima	* Integrating Neuropedagogy & Creativity in Online ECED Training * Zainab Shahzadi	The Long-Term Impact of Early Childhood Attachment Styles on Emotional and Social Development Ibtasam Thakur
Parenting & Education in Modern Times Paras Aslam	Digital Storytelling: Screens to Values Hina Amin Khowaja		Active Citizenship for Sustainability Dr. Asma Shahid Kazi		Family Drawings: Insights into Preschoolers' Development Ayesha Ayaz	Promoting Inclusion through a Rights-Based Approach to Disability and Gender Dr Kausar Waqar	Metaverse and Moral Values: An Islamic Perspective Lubna Imran	Beyond the Digital Divide: Can Low-Cost Tech Make a Difference? Nasira Parveen	Critical Analysis of Cross-generational Perceptions on Childhood in Pakistan Ayesha Syed (online) Theme 6	Formative Assessment for Holistic Development Shahzadi Anwari

| 10:30 – 11:00 | TEA BREAK |

CONCURRENT SESSIONS II | 11:00 – 12:30

F2F	Room 02 (Zoom)	F2F	Room 03	F2F	Room 05 (Zoom)	F2F	Room 09	F2F	Room 10	F2F	Room 12	F2F	Room 13	F2F	Library	F2F	Computer Lab	Virtual	Room 08 (Zoom)	Virtual	Room 11 (Zoom)
Chair: Sadia Bhutta *Theme 4: Mental Health and the Well-being of Children*	Chair: Seema Laasi *Theme 3: Technology, AI, and Media in Children's Lives*	Symposium	Chair: Khairulnissa Ajani *Themes 2: Child Development: Equity, Economy & Environment*	Symposium	Chair: Sarwat Nauman *Theme 4: Mental Health and the Well-being of Children*	Chair: Shelina Bhamani *Theme 6: Children and the Question of Inclusion*	Chair: Al-Karim Datoo *Theme 5: Moral Development*	Chair: Kiran Qasim *Theme 10: Play-Based Learning in Early Childhood Education*	Chair: Munir Lalani *Theme 2: Child Development: Equity, Economy & Environment*	Chair: Nazim Aman *Theme 4: Mental Health and the Well-being of Children*
Play, Nature & Neuroscience: A Holistic Approach to Child Development Shaheena	Digital Tech & Cognitive Abilities: Stakeholder Perspectives Kashfia Latafat	Nurturing the Leaders of Tomorrow: Improving Holistic Skill Development through Human-Centered Design Dr Bronwen Magrath	Perfectionism and Parental Burnout Fatima Ahmed	Shaping the Future: A Collective Responsibility 1. Murad Jan 2. Dr Shairose 3. Dr Salima 4. Dr Ali Gohar	Digital Misinformation & Its Impact on Children's Development Ayesha Niaz	Raising Differently Abled Children: A Journey of Barriers and Bonds Yasmeen Mehboob	From Self-Awareness to Social Responsibility: Impact of Navigating Youth Program Naureen Javed Hirani	Play-Based Learning vs. Rote & Socioeconomic Limits in Pakistan Inara Suleman	How Should We Raise Children? Amber Suboohi Ahmad	Impact of Moral Development on Students' Academic Achievement in Public Secondary Schools Dr Shahnaz Parveen Channa
Whole-School Health: Impact of Involving Students, Staff & Parents Shahnila Altaf	Empowering Parents via AI & Digital Literacy Saima Rana		STEM Spark Beyond the Classroom Sana Zaib		ECD Interventions in Pakistan: A Review Using the Nurturing Care Framework Dr Ambreen Nizar	Setting Up Inclusive ECE: A Case Study from a Private School in Karachi Zubaida Faisal	Moral Education: Analysis of Secondary Curricula and Textbooks Dr Rabia Nauman	Play-Based Literacy & Numeracy: Insights from PBC2C Pakistan Faryaal Khalid	Impact of Inequality of opportunity on children academics Nauman	** Vaping Addiction and Psychological Well-being in Private School Adolescents ** Dr Fozia Aamir Siddiqui
Empowering Teachers to Support Student Mental Health Shazmeen Karim	Fostering Digital Resilience in an AI-Driven Future Noreen Kamran		Education in Times of Climate Catastrophe ** Ayesha Salman (TCF)		Teaching Beyond Books: Supporting Children's Mental Health Fatima Shahabuddin Shakir	Understanding the Gender Gap in Learning and Achievement at TCF ** Zuha Sohail (TCF)	Raising Children: Theory & Practice Identity Sher Bano	TBD	Real-Life Numeracy: A Toolkit for Mixed-Age Rural Classrooms ** Kainat Safdar Abbas (In-Person)	ابتدائی تعلیم و تربیت بذریعه فہم قرآن ۔ ایک ابتدائی تجربہ ** Bahar Ahmad

12:30 – 13:00	**LUNCH BREAK**

13:00 – 13:30	**POSTER PRESENTATIONS (IED Corridors)**

CONCURRENT SESSIONS III | 13:30 – 15:00										
F2F | Room 02 (Zoom)	**F2F | Room 03**	**F2F | Room 05 (Zoom)**	**F2F | Room 09 (Zoom)**	**F2F | Room 10 (Zoom)**	**F2F | Room 12**	**F2F | Room 13**	**F2F | AV Room**	**F2F | Library**	**F2F | KIVA**	**F2F | Room 1**
Chair: Farid Panjwani *Theme 8: Philosophical & Artistic Understanding of Education*	**Chair: Salma Alam** *Theme 7: Skills, Dispositions and Attitudes*	Symposium	Symposium	Symposium	**Chair: Meher Rizvi** *Theme 4: Mental Health and the Well-being of Children*	**Chair: Nazim Aman** *Theme 6: Children and the Question of Inclusion*	**Chair: Rumana Hussain** *Session Arts Presentations and Display of Arts*	Symposium	Session	Session
The 'Other' We Teach: Childhood, Everyday Prejudice, and the Art of Undoing Exclusion Mehar Fatima Khoja	**Preparing Teachers for Child Development: A Review of Pre-Service Courses** Aisha Naz Ansari	**Promoting Inclusivity in Education: How Alternative Learning Programs (ALP) and Non-Formal Education (NFE) Address Exclusion through Flexible and Inclusive Models** Abid Gill	**Effects of Civic Engagement Programs on Student Environmental Awareness** Sana Abdul Salam	**Improving Drivers of Learning for Marginalized Children** Dilshad Ashraf	**Attention Span and Its Impact on Early Childhood Development** Ghazala Mumtaz	**No Child Left Behind? The Untold Story of Pakistan's Forgotten Children** Nasreen Bibi	**The Bridge of Positivity** Tazeen Haque	**Building Foundations for Lifelong Learning: The 5E Model in Early Education** Noureen Lakhani	**Mindfulness Session** Mohsin Kazi	**Art-based Activity** Dr Maria Iqbal CFAW
Explore the Empirical Pedagogies for Learning craft Traditions Asiah Seemab	**Community-Based Simulations to Teach Children Life-Saving Skills** Dr Ayesha Ahmed				**Enhancing Attention in Ages 5–10: A Review of Meditation & Activity-Based Interventions** Nasima	**Empowering Educators: Professional Development for Equity and Inclusion** Noureen Lakhani	**Wings and Roots** Yasmeen Zahra Salman **Parenting in Pixels: Anecdotes and Artworks on Raising Children in Modern Pakistan** Ramsha Hayder & Haris Tohid **It Takes a Village to Raise a Child** Iffat Allana			
Music: more than entertainment but a key to open consciousness Syed Hamza Ali	**Raising Problem Solvers: Developing Mathematical Thinking in Children** Dr Munira Amirali				**Shifting Social Norms and the Choices of Educated Youth** Tayyaba Tamim (TCF)	**Principal-Led Diversity Initiatives: A Case Study from Karachi** Safina Shaheen	**A slow dance of life** Bilal Ahmed **Red Flower / Gul Lala** Aliya Yousuf			
15:00 – 15:30	**TEA BREAK**									

CONCURRENT SESSIONS IV | 15:30 – 17:00										
F2F | Room 02 (Zoom)	**F2F | Room 03 (Zoom)**	**F2F | Room 05 (Zoom)**	**F2F | Room 09 (Zoom)**	**F2F | Room 10**	**F2F | Room 12**	**F2F | Room 13**	**F2F | AV Room**	**F2F | Library**	**F2F | KIVA**	**F2F | Room 01**
Chair: **Sajid Ali** *Theme 7: Skills, Dispositions and Attitudes*	Chair: **Farid Panjwani** *Theme 8: Philosophical & Artistic Understanding of Education*	**Symposium**	Chair: **Kausar Waqar** *Theme 9: Social & Cognitive Development of a Child*	**Symposium**	Chair: **Rabia Nauman** *Theme 4: Mental Health and the Well-being of Children*	Chair: **Shairose Jessani** *Theme 6: Children and the Question of Inclusion*	Chair: **Video Presentations**		**Session**	**Session**
Curriculum Mapping for Future-Ready Children Meher Rizvi	**Developing Critical Thought in ECD** Al-Karim Datoo	**The future of early childhood education** Taimur Khalid Bandey	**Using Pictures to Build Comprehension in Early Years** Salimah Kaisani	**Centering Marginalized Voices in Education Policy Discourse** Dilshad Ashraf	**From Anxiety to Empowerment: Strategies for Children's Mental Health** Ruba Shakir	**Sustaining Engagement through Student Voice and Choice** Sara Rahim			**Mindfulness Session** **Mohsin Kazi**	**Art-based Activity** **Dr Maria Iqbal CFAW**
Fostering Learning Through Assessment: A Case from AKU Examination Board Munira Muhammad Rangwala	**Role of Art in Education** Rumana Hussain		**From Paper to Pixels: Building a Sustainable Blended Reading Culture in Schools** Madiha Saeed		**Impact of Teacher Training on Mental Health Support in Rural Sindh** Seemi Batool	**Exclusion or Inclusion? Teacher Practices in Pakistani Classrooms** Sohail Ahmad				
Breaking Stigma: A Culturally Relevant Sex Education Model for Pakistan Kulsoom Zaman			**Urdu's Role in Cognitive Growth & Cultural Identity** Sanober Parvaiz		**Measuring Positive Youth Development in Pakistan** **Salima Kerai (online)	**Technology for Learning in Low-Income Contexts: Raftaar Program Findings** **Kanwal Ilyas (TCF)				

CLOSING CEREMONY		
17:00 – 18:00	Garden Area (Zoom)	Synthesis of Conference, Conference Chair, Sajid Ali, AKU-IED
		Awards and Certificates Distribution
		Address and vote of thanks by Dr Farid Panjwani
		Refreshment
DAY END		