MUHAMMAD ALI

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Islamabad, Pakistan

EDUCATION

PhD in Global Governance and Human Security
University of Massachusetts, Boston, USA | December 2025

Master of Arts in Development Management
Ruhr University Bochum, Germany | 2012

EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor 14 September – Present
National Defence University, Islamabad

Visiting Faculty Member Feb 2026 – June 2026
Air University, Islamabad

Senior Program Officer – Research 2014 – 2020
Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy (PCP)

- Served as Project Lead for the Civil Society Organizations Sustainability Index, Pakistan (2016–2019) in partnership with USAID/FHI360.
- Led research on Philanthropy by the Pakistani Diaspora in the UK (2019) with the British Council.
- Conducted collaborative research with UNDP Pakistan on Corporate Philanthropy and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Led Pakistan's contribution to the Doing Good Index (2018 & 2020), a comparative research project conducted by the Centre for Asian Philanthropy and Society (CAPS), Hong Kong.
- Led research, Enabling Environment for Nonprofit Organizations in Pakistan (2018), in collaboration with the Aga Khan Foundation.
- Contributed to the Pakistan country report for the Global Philanthropy Environment Index (2018), led by the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy.
- Contributed to a research project evaluating Local Support Organizations in Gilgit, Baltistan, and Chitral in collaboration with AKRSP (2018).

Manager, Compliance and Risk Management 2008 – 2010
The First MicroFinanceBank Ltd., Pakistan

- Established the Compliance and Risk Management department for the Chitral region.
- Reduced ratio of nonperforming loans (NPL) from 2.29% to 0.68%.
- Ranked 2nd best in audit rankings for the region in 2009.

Unit Head (Microfinance Officer) 2003 – 2008
AKRSP / Aga Khan Rural Support Program (Micro Credit)

- Conducted a feasibility assessment for the establishment of a new branch and led its operational setup.
- Achieved the highest average annual increase (23%) in credit portfolio in the region for 3 consecutive years.
- Received the Best Credit Officer Award in a nationwide competition organized by CGAP and Citigroup.

PUBLICATIONS

- Ali, M. 'Philanthropy in Pakistan', in Siddiqui, S.A. & Campbell, D.A. (Eds.), Philanthropy in the Muslim World, Edward Elgar Publishing (pp. 271-287).
- Ali, M. & Amjad, S. 'Philanthropy in Pakistan - Why civil society organizations get bypassed in favor of donations to individuals', Stanford Social Innovation Review.
- Ali, R. & Ali, M. 'Financial sustainability of Public Private Partnership in the health sector', World Applied Sciences Journal 34 (3), 290-299.
- Ali, R., Ali, M. & Jabeen, S. 'Rural-Urban Migration Causes Challenges and Social Transformations', Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities, 24(1), 87-104.
- Ali, R. & Ali, M. 'Street Life in Pakistan Causes and Challenges', Middle-East Journal of Scientific Research 23 (1) 77-87.
- Ali, R. & Ali, M. 'Education and women's empowerment in Northern Pakistan - Tracing accomplishments and predicaments', Research on Humanities and Social Sciences, 5(5).

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- Fulbright Foreign Student PhD Scholarship (2020-2025)
- Winston Langley Fellowship for Human Security Research in the Global South, UMass Boston (2023)
- DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Scholarship for Master’s Degree (2010-2012)

TECHNICAL SKILLS & LANGUAGES

Software: NVivo (Advanced), SPSS (Intermediate), STATA (Basic), MS Office (Advanced)

Languages: English, Urdu, German (Basic), Pushto (Basic), Khowar (Mother Tongue)