

## Quality Assurance & Accreditation Awareness Seminar (Nutrition & Dietetics) at University of the Punjab, Lahore

April 11, 2022

University of the Punjab was formally established by convening the first meeting of its Senate on October 14, 1882. It was first to be established in the sub-continent at Lahore in a Muslim majority area. This university has played a leading role in higher education in the country. The university comprises five campuses, 19 Faculties, 10 Constituent Colleges and 137 departments, centers and institutes. The university also has 658 affiliated colleges. It has 991 full-time/regular and 300 part-time faculty members involved in teaching/research and 49,520 on-campus students. (29,588 Morning, 18,838 Evening and 1,094 Diploma students).

A Quality Assurance & Accreditation Awareness Seminar was conducted at Institute of Social & Cultural Studies (ISCS), University of the Punjab (PU), Lahore. Prof. Dr. Rubeena Zakar, Director, ISCS, PU, Lahore welcomed Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq A. Rajwana, Chairperson NAEAC. The awareness seminar was started with the recitation of Holy Quran. Dr. Nauman Ali, Assistant Professor, Department of Public Health, PU, Lahore inaugurated the seminar with a brief introduction of the respected guests and purpose of the seminar.

Professor Dr. Rubeena Zakar, Director, ISCS, PU, Lahore presented an overview of Nutrition & Dietetics program along with the other programs offered at the institute of social and cultural studies. She also highlighted the significance of nutrition and dietetics for the prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases. Dr. Rajwana delivered a speech on importance and need of quality assurance and accreditation. He emphasized that agriculture and nutrition share a common entry point “food”. Food is a key outcome of agriculture activities and a key input into good nutrition for the health and strength of all people. The field of HND is closely connected with food consumption, health services, healthy environment and adequate child caring practices. He also discussed that many institutions are offering Human Nutrition & Dietetics degree program where large number of students are studying in these institutions. Hence, it is essential to ensure the quality of education and research facilities provided to the students by these institutions. To serve this purpose, NAEAC has been entrusted accreditation of this degree program besides other disciplines under the purview of NAEAC. He described in detail about the external evaluation of degree programs guidelines, quality assurance standards as an essential element of higher education to promote and safeguard public interest in capacity building, evaluation criteria for academic programs including strength & quality of faculty, curriculum design & development, infrastructure & learning resources, students support & progression, research & consultancy activities, governance & leadership, best practices and Nutrition & Dietetics requirements. The participants of the seminar also contributed through their insightful questions that added more to the knowledge about the importance of quality assurance in academic excellence and future aspects of the degree accreditation process.

Students and faculty members of the department of Nutrition & Dietetics attended the seminar. In the concluding remarks, Professor Dr. Rubeena Zakar, Director, ISCS, PU, Lahore thanked the guest speaker and assured that the institute administration will fulfill the accreditation requirements of NAEAC to maintain the quality of education and increase the market value of their graduates.

