

AIPS Research Grant Report  
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I am grateful to the American Institute of Pakistan Studies for providing me with a short-term fellowship in 2011. The grant permitted me to do research in Pakistan on the charitable sector. Specifically, the grant allowed me to make site visits and conduct interviews for several weeks during two visits to Pakistan in 2011 and in 2012. The grant also allowed me to make substantial progress in writing a manuscript for a book tentatively titled *Faith and Survival: Charity and Everyday Security in Pakistan*.

Private provision of essential social welfare in Pakistan is almost ubiquitous; at billions annually in US dollar terms, the private social welfare sector rivals in scope and quality the welfare programs of government. And it is free or available at a nominal fee. Charitable provision of social welfare in Pakistan is overwhelmingly motivated by faith and mediated in 'Islamic' terms. Aid of orphans and widows and students, for example, are in relatively good supply because they earn special merit. Charitable providers of social welfare in Pakistan, as elsewhere, are sometimes connected with political parties and other groups that seek to control the state. It is noteworthy, given the politicization of public life in South Asia, that most social welfare organizations are non-partisan.

With the support of AIPS and Wellesley College I have visited more than 120 social welfare operations in Pakistan, food kitchens of all varieties, free schools of every kind, and clinics and hospitals of all descriptions. I am writing profiles of 35 of these. A list of people I have interviewed is attached. Please note that the interviews outside of Islamabad and Lahore were not conducted while visiting Pakistan on an AIPS grant or AIPS-arranged visa.

I am nearing completion of the book manuscript. I have written more than 93,000 of an envisioned 110,000-words.

#### Presentations

The AIPS grant and visits to Pakistan gave me the opportunity to prepare and gave the following talks in Pakistan:

“Faith and Philanthropy in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan” at the Akhter Hameed Khan Resource Centre and Human Resource Development Centre, Islamabad

“Faith and Philanthropy in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan” at the International Conference on Islamic Microfinance, Islamabad

“Investor Capture of Conventional Microfinance and Lessons for Islamic Microfinance” at the International Conference on Islamic Microfinance, Islamabad

“Public Goods without Good Governance: The Political Consequences of the Private Provision of Public Goods” at the Council of Social Science Pakistan, Islamabad

“Pakistan – United States Relations” at the University of Peshawar, Peshawar

I also reported on my AIPS-supported research in a talk in Washington D.C.

“Private Initiatives for Poverty Alleviation: Faith and Philanthropy in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan” at the East West Center Washington D.C.

#### Publication

During the time in Pakistan that the AIPS grant afforded, I worked with a University of Peshawar Ph.D. candidate Raza Rehman Qazi Khan (a participant in the AIPS-HEC workshop that I conducted with Professor Rifaat Hussain) to research and write “Civil Conflict, Natural Disasters, and Partisan Welfare Associations in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.” It was published in Sara Ashencaen Crabtree and Jonathan Parker, eds., *The Cup, The Gun, and the Crescent: Social Welfare and Civil Unrest in Muslim Societies*, London: Whiting & Birch in January 2013. I was the external examiner for Mr. Qazi’s thesis earlier this month.

#### Wellesley College – Fatima Jinnah Women University Course (FJWU)

I used the occasion of time in Pakistan to work with Nadeem Akbar, Pakistan Director AIPS and Fayyaz Baqir, Director Akter Hameed Khan Resource Centre to design a course for students at Wellesley College and at FJWU in Rawalpindi (on human development in Pakistan). I coordinated with Samina Qadir, Vice Chancellor of FJWU and Mariam Rab, Registrar and Professor of Women’s Studies at FJWU. I worked with FJWU’s and Wellesley’s excellent technical service staff to ensure adequate technical facilities. And I secured funding to cover the expenses. We offered the course in Fall 2012. It was by all accounts a great success. We plan to offer the course again next year.

Please do let me know if you have any questions or would like any further information.