

MHRC Blog Contribution Specifications

We are interested in submissions that reflect student work related to critical challenges being experienced by Pakistan.

Submissions may not be driven by primary research but must be analytical. Additionally, they can frame relatable problems in contemporary Pakistan from innovative perspectives to offer creative avenues for their solutions.

Format (Length; Graphs; Style and Audience)

We encourage writing that falls within a range of 1000-1200 words, written in language that is both accessible to a wide readership, but which draws on important technical language and data as required. To this end, we encourage the inclusion of tables, charts, graphs and relevant figures/images or blocks of text as suited to needs of the writing.

All graphs and charts must be clearly labelled and axes marked. For multiple charts, please number their progression for ease of transition. Their original sources must be clearly stated underneath. There is a strong preference for charts and graphics to be in warm tones (browns; oranges; neutrals) as this aligns aesthetically with our overall website colours.

A clear legend should distinguish multiple data series from each other. Lines in these charts must be distinctively coloured and heavy enough for visibility.

Our readership includes a mix of academics and non-academics, the latter inclusive of social researchers, policymakers, political actors and journalists. Please keep these kinds of readers in mind as you think through the content, structure and tone of your piece.

Aim to state your big argument early into the writing. The argument should be related to an important puzzle on questions of development, the social sciences or policy, engaging readers in a conversation that is not otherwise prevalent in Pakistan's public discourse.

Try to keep to ONE or TWO key arguments, otherwise a variety of readers may lose track of the narrative in your writing. To this end, please choose your focus carefully and curate it accordingly. (We understand you must have lots of exciting things to say, but we would love for you to save some for subsequent submissions as well!)

Please write in direct, semi-formal styles that avoid excessive use of specialist/dense academic terms or acronyms that are not expanded. If listing or bulleting content, please prefer to convert this into full sentences that gel in with the rest of your running text. This can help keep the reading experience uninterrupted and more personable.

If longform is what might best communicate your research story, the MHRC team is happy to discuss this and remains open to such options.

Authors are encouraged to provide relevant images that can be featured as the blog thumbnail for marketing and outreach purposes.

References

This format benefits from using hyperlinks in place of references.

Links should direct readers to more detailed sources, including reports, other types of research, news items or even other blog posts. Open access sources are preferable, although links to peer-reviewed journal articles that require subscriptions are understandable as well if they are the only option available.

Please insert a hyperlink at the relevant word in your sentence that is important to reference (using ctrl-K in Word) *or* mark the URL in parentheses where you would like for it to be inserted, and we can embed the link ourselves.

Please avoid footnotes; incorporate material directly into the text to preserve a smooth readership experience (as not all readers will be of academic orientation).

Final Note

All submissions shall be reviewed by the MHRC Blog Team to facilitate readability by our audience.

If substantive changes are made, we will return an edited final version of the submission to you for review and approval. If required, we may ask for assistive clarity on facts and figures.

Please submit your piece as a Word file to momina.idrees@lums.edu.pk and include related files (Excel; original graphics) so that they can be edited to the needs of the final blog post.