

MUHAMMAD KASHIF AAKASH

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RESEARCH SUMMARY

Researcher in disability and rehabilitation studies with expertise in qualitative and mixed-methods research. My work explores lived experiences of disability, health systems, and social inclusion through frameworks such as the **International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF)**. I utilize diverse methodologies including in-depth interviews, survey research, and systematic reviews to examine disability and rehabilitation practice among health professionals and communities across international settings.

EDUCATION

Thesis Submission (09/2026), Expected Completion 11/2026,
PhD Candidate in Public Administration and Innovation for Disability and Social Inclusion
Universita degli Studi della Campania, “Luigi Vanvitelli” Naples, Italy

Focus: Disability and Rehabilitation Research

Activities: In a national doctorate, performing research activities in Università Politecnica delle Marche

- Coordinator: Prof. **Francesca Gimigliano**, Professor, Luigi Vanvitelli
- Advisor: Prof. **Maria Gabriella Ceravolo**, Professor, UNIVPM
- Co-Advisor: Prof. **Marianna Capecci**, Professor, UNIVPM
- Dissertation: Integrating Evidence: Enhancing treatment outcomes in individuals with disabilities through systematic reviews of Randomized Controlled Trails (RCTs) and Big Data Analysis

10/2024 – 03/2025

Observer (Visiting Research Scholar)

Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Istanbul Faculty of Medicine, Istanbul University, Istanbul, Türkiye

- Research Projects:
 - Navigating life with Cerebral Palsy: A Qualitative Study of lived experiences and resilience
 - Exploring the role of digital and assistive Technologies in enhancing social inclusion for children with disabilities: A Systematic Review
- Advisor: Prof. **Resa Aydin**, Professor, Istanbul University
- Co-Advisor: Prof. **Nalan Capan**, Professor, Istanbul University

09/2019 – 11/2021

M. Phil (Master of Philosophy) in Public Policy

Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Islamabad, Pakistan

- Grade: 3.72 (4.0)
- Advisor: Prof. **Nasir Iqbal**, Associate Professor, PIDE
- Thesis Title: [The Economic Cost of the State-Owned Enterprises \(SOEs\): A Market Based Solution](#)

- Thesis Defense Date: Nov 19, 2021
- Thesis Grade: 4.0 (4.0)

01/2015 – 04/2019

BSc (Hons) (Bachelor of Sciences with Honors) in Agriculture, Major: Rural Development
The University of Agriculture Peshawar, Peshawar, Pakistan

- Grade: 3.30 (4.0)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Lived experiences of disability and chronic illness
- Family and caregiver experiences in health contexts
- Rehabilitation and social participation using the ICF framework
- Qualitative and mixed-methods health research
- Health systems and disability inclusion

RESEARCH AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

03/2022 - 12/2023

Independent Research Consultant, Centre for Policy Research Islamabad, Pakistan

01/2021 - 03/2022

Research Assistant, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Islamabad, Pakistan

- Advisors:
 - Prof. **Nadeem ul Haque**, Vice Chancellor, PIDE
 - Prof. **Nasir Iqbal**, Associate Professor, PIDE
 - Prof. **Zehra Gardezi**, Assistant Professor, PIDE
- Worked on multiple policy research projects involving survey design, field data collection, and quantitative analysis using STATA. Projects covered topics including state-owned enterprises, SME development programs, urban mobility and traffic management, and public health insurance policy.
- Methods:
 - Conducted quantitative data analysis using STATA and supported qualitative data analysis. Designed field surveys and interview protocols, supervised field teams, and contributed to policy reports and briefs for national development projects funded by international organizations.

09/2020 – 02/2021

Teaching Assistant, School of Public Policy, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Islamabad, Pakistan

- Advisor: **Prof. Nasir Iqbal**, Associate Professor, PIDE
- Course: Public Policy Analysis
 - Assisted in teaching undergraduate classes in public policy analysis.
 - Conducted tutorial sessions and facilitated discussions on selected course topics.
 - Supported assessment activities including grading assignments and examinations.
 - Provided academic support to students and coordinated course logistics with the instructor.

PUBLICATIONS

1. Aakash, M.K. et al. Living Beyond Functioning: A Qualitative Exploration of lived experiences, resilience, and participation in individuals with cerebral palsy. Under Review at **Developmental Medicine and Child Neurology**.
2. Aakash, M.K. et al. Knowledge and use of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health: A Cross-Sectional survey among health professionals in Pakistan. Under Review at **Frontiers in Rehabilitation Sciences**.

EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTION

1. Contributing Editor

PIDE Guide to Policy and Research (P&R) Magazine, Volume 3, Issue 1, theme Informal Economy of Pakistan.

Published by Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, (PIDE), Islamabad.
<https://pide.org.pk/research/informal-economy-of-pakistan-policy-research-pr-vol-3-issue-1/>

CONFERENCE PRESENTATION AND WORKSHOPS

03/2026

Neuro-rehab Wednesday Seminar Series – Marche Polytechnic University UNIVPM.

Presentation: Beyond Function: Everyday life and resilience among individuals with cerebral palsy: Evidence from Turkiye at Ancona, Italy

02/2026

Participant, “LIFE Winter School on Health and Well-Being at University of Lucerne, from February 17-19 at Luzern, Switzerland, (Credit ETC 01).

10/2024

Poster Presentation, “*Knowledge and use of the ICF for health needs assessment and rehabilitation: The case of Pakistan*” in Congress 52° Congresso Nazionale SIMFER “La scienza riabilitativa e l’impegno nel territorio per una nuova etica della riabilitazione”, ha valutato ed ha ACCETTATO from 6-9 October at Padua, Italy

03/2022

Poster Presentation, “*The Economic Cost of the State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs): A Market Based Solution*” in 2nd Annual General Conference by the School of Economics and Social Sciences on Development: Discourses and Critiques at Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Karachi, Pakistan.

Link: <https://www.iba.edu.pk/ddc/pdf/kashif-aakash.pdf>

11/2021

Poster Presentation, “*The Economic Cost of the State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs): A Market Based Solution*” in 35th Annual General Meeting of the Pakistan Society for Development Economists (PSDE) at Institute of Management Sciences Peshawar, Pakistan.

Link: <https://psde.pide.org.pk/wp-content/uploads/poster.pdf>

FIELD RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Conducted field-based research across multiple policy and development studies in Pakistan, including projects on urban mobility, informal economy, SME development, and public health interventions.
- Designed and implemented **surveys and semi-structured interviews**, coordinated field teams, and supervised primary data collection.
- Managed data cleaning and preparation using **STATA**, and contributed to analysis and reporting.
- Participated in research projects implemented with organizations such as the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics and United States Agency for International Development.

SKILLS

Technical Proficiencies:

- **Stata:** Expertise in data cleaning, tabulation, visualization and advanced statistical analysis.
- **NVivo:** Advanced skills in qualitative data analysis, including case creation, classification, thematic coding (parent and sub-codes), matrix coding, cross tabulation and data visualization.
- **Microsoft Office Suite:** Advanced skills in MS word, excel and PowerPoint.

Research and Data Expertise:

- Strong background in quantitative and qualitative research methodologies.
- Skilled in developing and designing questionnaires on Kobo Toolbox.
- Experienced in primary data collection (surveys, interviews, fieldwork).

Report and Policy Writing:

- Proven ability to draft policy brief, analytical report and research summaries for diverse audience.

Languages

- English - Fluent, Pashto – Native, Urdu - Native, Italian - Basic (Learning)

Updated March 10, 2026