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Gawharshad Institute of Higher Education (GIHE) is a private, non-profit university, which is strongly committed to provide quality high education to the people. The institute aims to be the leading research and teaching community where it can prepare competent leaders and workforce for the future of Afghanistan. Moreover, GIHE through its distinct policy towards women gives the priority to provide greater space and opportunities for female applicants in its academic life.

**BACKGROUND:**
Gawharshad University was founded in August 2010 by Dr. Sima Samar, who is one of the most prominent human rights activists in the world and is presently chairing the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission.

The university is pursuing the following long-term objectives;

- Improving, consistently, the quality of higher education in Afghanistan
- Introducing a standardized and validated model of education
- Comprehensively developing the institute
- Establishing a close tie with other national and international universities

*Figure-1 depicts the short-term and medium-term objectives of the university.*
Development, economic, political, social, and cultural, in poor countries is the ground that should be established on the basis of rationale thinking and science. Hence, these countries need to understand the laws of nature and their societies by utilizing the tools, which are provided by modern science and technology for their welfare and security. But, this cannot be accomplished without getting involved the educational institutions in a society. Educational institutions have proven to be the means by which cultural development and educational advancement can occur. Therefore, we can claim that the level of knowledge and awareness of the people directly depend on the quality of education being provided by these institutions.

The GIHE was established on this basis and aims to spread the modern science and the importance of human rights in the society. We are strongly committed to provide standardized and quality educational services to our young generation and respect the values of human rights, democracy, and gender equality. Having all these as our mission, we have successfully paved the way since the establishment of this institute. Our future objectives will be following the same mission so that we can play our part for the development of our country.

GIHE has a distinguished Board of Trustees. Prominent Afghan leaders and academics such as Dr. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai, Dr. Rangin Dadfar Spanta, Dr. Azam Dadfar, Minister Ehsan Zia, Dr. Sima Samar, Dr. Alema, Professor Hamid Layan, Professor Azam Banwal, Mahbuba Huquqmal, Dr. Alima and Dr. Zahir Fahimi serve in the Board of Trustees of GIHE. Several Afghan senior civil servants also teach at GIHE. The support from these individuals makes GIHE a distinguished institute among other private universities in the country.
UNIVERSITY’S PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS

- **Conducts the degree programs in these fields:**
  - BBA
  - BA in Economic and Management
  - BA in Education Management
  - BA in Political Science
  - BA in Law
  - BA in Civil Engineering
  - BA in Road Construction Engineering
  - BA in Public Administration

- **Conducts non-degree programs such as:**
  - Gender Studies
  - English Language Courses
  - Computer Skills Courses
  - Peace Building and Conflict Resolution

- **Women Empowerment:**
  - Provides 20% discount for female students
  - Holds workshops for women rights studies
  - Provides scholarship opportunities for girls from poor families
We work for the betterment of the quality of higher education in Afghanistan and with having “Meritocracy and Leadership” as our slogan, we are paving the way towards it. Since its establishment, GIHE has held 8 rounds of pre-entrance test (Kankor) and has enrolled 2,281 students from 34 provinces of Afghanistan, 34% of which are female students (the highest percentage among other private universities).

**Figure 1: Growth of Students**

![Figure 1: Growth of Students]

**Figure 2: Students distribution by field**

![Figure 2: Students distribution by field]

**Figure 3: Morning and Evening classes**

![Figure 3: Morning and Evening classes]
As of 2014, GIHE had the following numbers of academic and administrative staff, shown by the bellow figures;

**Economics and Management Department**

**Law and Political Science Department**

**Engineering Department**

A total of 62 personnel are engaged with all other administrative tasks inside the Gawharshad Institute.
The year of 2014 has been a fruitful year for our university. We could, fortunately, establish and get closer to the fulfillment of our objective of comprehensive development. Throughout the year, Gawharshad Institute of Higher Education had the following remarkable achievements.

**Establishment of GELD;**

Gawharshad English Language Department is established to meet the needs of the students both in acquiring English Language Proficiency and scoring high marks in ESP tests (IETLS, TOEFL). Within a year, the department could register a total of 131 students from inside and outside of the institute in its different course level.

**Establishment of Peace Department;**

This center was formed for achieving the following objectives:

Short-term objective: include short-period training programs and preparation of a standardized curriculum on peace building applicable in Afghanistan. Medium-term objective: inclusion of peace building and conflict resolution subject in the curriculum of GIHE. Long-term objective: we aim to expand the peace department to a center named as Gawharshad Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Center and teach this subject to the under-graduate level.

**Establishment of Communication Office;**

This office is responsible for maintaining a close link among all other departments of the university. The tasks to keep up-to-date our website, report monthly on the accomplishments of other departments, and all other similar communication tasks are the responsibilities of this office.

**Establishment of Research Department;**

The research department aims to create an academic space addressing important policy issues concerning Afghanistan in all three national, regional and international levels. The department is devoted to provide qualitative, quantitative, non-partisan and policy oriented research. Moreover quarterly magazine, translation of books, articles, reports, academic seminars and workshops are part of Centre’s subject matter. Finally, the Centre is focusing on having academic relations with other research institutions and universities in and outside Afghanistan.

**Commencing Master level program;**

Gawharshad Institute of Higher Education is proud to announce that shortly, the institute will begin its master level program. The initial steps have been taken and hopefully, in 2015 it will accept applications for this program.
Commencing Computer Science Department;

Adding to its degree programs, the university will shortly begin the undergraduate studies in computer science, which will be taught by professional lecturers.

Graduation of 272 students and holding the first graduation ceremony;

Our university could successfully organize its first graduation ceremony on 6th of January 2015 by hosting 3,000 participants. Around 272 students from four major (Law, Political Science, management, and economics) were graduated and were awarded their BA degrees.

NON-DEGREE PROGRAMS

Gawharshad Institute of Higher Education has hosted several important events in 2014;

- The institute held two entry examinations (Kankor) during the year. In the first round of Kankor, a total of 450 participants and in the second round, 477 students had participated.
- GIHE also hosted Master level examination for the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. From 20 participants, 5 of them received full scholarship to pursue their post-graduate studies in Kyrgyzstan.
- A corner of Afghanistan Center at Kabul University was opened in Gawharshad Institute, which will enable us to access to the resources of Afghanistan Center.

The institute could, effectively, start to implement two fundamental projects. Peace building & conflict resolution and Gender & women studies program.
Throughout its academic life, Gawharshad Institute could establish a close collaboration with international agencies. These agencies support us in our extracurricular activities which enable us to provide variety of academic workshops for our students.

- **United States Institute for Peace (USIP)** cooperates with us via our Peace Department to achieve these objectives;
  1. Offering Peace Building Training for students and instructors,
  2. Developing a standard curriculum for the subject of Peace Building,
  3. Forming the Youth Leaders for Peace

- **German Embassy in Kabul** is closely working with us on peace and gender studies. With the help of the embassy, we could successfully conduct three rounds of Gender Academic Studies. A two-year program is running which will be completed by the end of 2016.

- **Culture of Resistance Network (USA)** has been providing scholarships and financial aids to poor female students who cannot afford to finance their higher education themselves. This relationship is built via our Women Empowerment Center.

- **Canadian Federation of Women** is another provider of sponsorship and financial aids to our poor female students. For detailed information about their scholarships, please refer to our website.

- **Technical University Sydney** has signed a memorandum of understanding with GIHE in 2012. The memorandum ensures a strong cooperation between both sides in their academic affairs.

- **Indigo Foundation (Australia)** has been supporting us in providing scholarships for poor but qualified girls and conducting English courses to build their capacity.
INDIVIDUAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Certain individuals support financially, GIHE’s female students to pursue their higher studies such as Khedmat, Natiq, Linda, and Valentina.

Gawharshad Institute student experience

“My father has sickness and my sister is the only person who pays our life expenses. These issues coupled with my inability to be placed at public university made me absolutely hopeless to pursue my higher studies. After referring to many private universities, I finally found out that Gawharshad Institute is the only private university which provides financial assistance to female students who cannot afford to finance their studies at university level. Now, I am about to complete my studies in Law and am really thankful to Gawharshad for providing me scholarship and playing such a major and positive role in my career.”
The chancellor is the main governing authority of Gawharshad Institute. He oversees and finalizes all important decisions concerning the overall performance of the university. He adopts new policies, appoints staff, makes financial decisions, and receives reports from all departments and guides on their way of conduct. As depicted in the figure below, all other departments work in a close cooperation and coordination with each other and under direct supervision of the chancellor.

**Figure 4: Governance of GIHE**
Gawharshad Institute of Higher Education, as part of its mission to create greater space and opportunities for women, has established the Women Empowerment Center (WEC) in April 2011. Since then, the center has established the following achievements; provided around 200 scholarships for poor female students through our international partners;

- 27 scholarships were awarded by Canadian Federation for Women
- Linda project has sponsored 10 girls’ studies at GIHE
- 4 girls have received scholarships by Khedmat Project

WEC has also arranged several English courses for girls, conducted three rounds of gender academic study program for both boys and girls from inside and outside of Gawharshad Institute, held workshops on violence against women and women’s rights, and facilitated internship program for girls in Gawharshad and in other organizations in Kabul.

RESOURCES

Our every faculty provides consultancy services which facilitates guidance on students’ issues inside our compass, issues such as choosing a field of study, selecting their monograph topics, supervising their research, and etc. Moreover, plenty of credible, important, and updated books and journals are gathered from different countries in our library. Our students have complete access to them.

Currently, there are 4,840 books and journals in Persian almost for every field of study. The rest include; 5,167 books in English Language, 538 books in French, and 2,930 journals and magazines.
It is the responsibility of our finance deputy secretary to collect all revenues generated from our activities. The main source of our revenues is the tuition fees.

Figure 5: Source of Income

In 2014, payment of salary to the staff formed the major part of our expense. The figure below provides detailed information on our areas of expense.

Figure 6: Expenditure
Major steps have been made to make our financial department transparent, efficient, and up-to-date. The main efforts are summarized as follows;

- Creation of Banking system
- Payment of salary, to all of our staff, through banks and on time
- Collection of fees from our students in accordance with the banking procedures
- Preparation of monthly financial report of GIHE
- Task assignments to each staff in finance department
- Preparation of documented financial procedures
- Establishment of standard filing system for all departments

**Planned activities**

Gawharshad Institute is working, persistently, to develop and expand its activities so that it can meet the expanding needs of our young generation. For this purpose, we have set our future planned activities in a way that can lead us to the best outcomes.

1. Soon, GIHE will establish educational and cultural ties with different esteemed universities around the world.
2. GIHE is destined to launch a comprehensive database to computerize the institute’s data management and information flow.
3. We are, shortly, commencing a new undergraduate program in computer science.
4. Gawharshad Institute will launch, for the first time, its master level program in Law and Political Science.
5. We aim to establish a peace department and a gender studies department at undergraduate level.
6. Facilitation of Internship opportunities for our students at national and international organizations is our next plan.
7. The research department will organize more specialized and practical workshops, such as entrepreneurship programs, apprenticeship programs.