

SENATE OF PAKISTAN



(Report No.3/2021)

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & TELECOM

*'ON THE SUBJECT MATTER OF POINT OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE RAISED BY
SENATOR MIAN MUHAMMAD ATEEQ IN THE SENATE SITTINGS HELD ON 22nd &
24th July, 2020, REGARDING FOLLOWING :-*

- A) "PROBLEMS BEING FACED BY YOUNG I.T. PROFESSIONALS AND INVESTORS
DUE TO NON-SERIOUS ATTITUDE OF THE GOVERNMENT; AND*
- B) "IMPOSITION OF BAN ON SOCIAL MEDIA APPLICATIONS IN PAKISTAN"*

PRESENTED BY

**SENATOR RUBINA KHALID
CHAIRPERSON**

SENATE SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & TELECOM

I, Chairperson, Standing Committee on I.T & Telecom, would like to present report of the Standing Committee on the subject matter of point of public importance raised by Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh, in the Senate sittings held on 22nd and 24th July, 2020, regarding following. The matters were referred by the hon'ble Chairman Senate.

A) Problems being faced by young i.t. Professionals and investors due to non-serious attitude of the government; and

B) imposition of ban on social media applications in Pakistan.'

2. The composition of the Committee is as under: -

1.	Senator Rubina Khalid	Chairperson
2.	Senator Dr. Shahzad Waseem	Member
3.	Senator Abdul Rehman Malik	Member
4.	Senator Taj Muhammad Afridi	Member
5.	Senator Fida Muhammad	Member
6.	Senator Faisal Javed	Member
7.	Senator Sana Jamali	Member
8.	Senator Engr. Rukhsana Zuberi	Member
9.	Senator Hilal-ur-Rehman	Member
10.	Senator Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri	Member
11.	Senator Naseebullah Bazai	Member
12.	Senator Muhammad Khalid Bizenjo	Member
13.	Senator Nusrat Shaheen	Member

3. The matter was taken up for consideration in the Committee meetings held on 17.08.2020, 11.09.2020, 25th September, 19th October, 2020, 4th, 9th and 15th February, 2021. The last meeting was attended by the following members of the Committee: -

1.	Senator Rubina Khalid	Chairperson
2.	Senator Abdul Rehman Malik	Member
3.	Senator Taj Muhammad Afridi	Member
4.	Senator Sana Jamali	Member
5.	Senator Engr. Rukhsana Zuberi	Member
6.	Senator Muhammad Khalid Bizenjo	Member
7.	Senator Nusrat Shaheen	Member

4. During the discussion on the issue, Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh lamented absence of any measures by the government for resolving the issues of young IT professionals and startups in the country. He demanded to know if any step had been taken in this regard during last three years. Thereafter, representatives from M/o I.T. & PTA gave detailed briefing on the steps being taken by the government for young IT professional, freelancers and investors highlighting key actions taken on the following :-

1	Sectoral ownership at highest level
2	Cost of doing business
3	Ease of doing business
4	Challenges to Brand pakistan's I.t. sector abroad
5	Freelancing environment for Youth
6	Growth of e-commerce
7	E-Governance
8	Standardization of IT infrastructure
9	Availability of high quality and cost effective workspace
10	Mentoring of Start-ups
11	HR Capacity building
12	Internship program
13	Final Year Projects (FYP)

b) Imposition of ban on social media applications in Pakistan

5. The Chairman PTA apprised the Committee that PTA has blocked several applications i.e. PUBG, TIKTOK, Tinder, Brinder, SayHi, Tagged, Skout. Responding to the query raised by the Mover, it was responded that PUBG was banned due to complaints from public regarding its negative impact on physical and psychological health of the young individuals in addition the reports of suicides associated with the said game. TikTok, BIGO and other mentioned application were blocked due to complaints regarding presence of indecent material on the platforms. However, applications PUBG, TikTok and BIGO have been restored after assurance from the platforms to respect local laws of Pakistan and moderate their content in accordance with societal norms as well as local law of Pakistan. The platforms were clearly intimated that in case of violation, the decision can be reviewed by PTA. However, due to paucity of time and due to engagement of Ministry as well as PTA officers in another official meeting which was already scheduled, further briefing on the matter was, however, deferred till its next meeting.

6. Thereafter, the matter was listed on the agenda of three consecutive meetings held on 4th, 9th & 15th February, 2021 respectively, however the hon'ble mover did not attend any of these meetings, hence the issue could not be finalized. Therefore, the Committee decided to dispose off the matter of points of public importance raised by Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh in the Senate sittings held on 22nd and 24th July, 2020, respectively.



(HAFEEZULLAH SHEIKH)
AS/Secretary Committee



(SENATOR RUBINA KHALID)
Chairperson Committee