

Dr. Hassan Sohaib Murad: A Visionary Leader Larger Than Life

Dr. Hassan Sohaib Murad's life story is one of unwavering vision, boundless generosity, and a profound commitment to reshaping Pakistan's educational landscape. As a social entrepreneur and academic trailblazer, Dr. Murad laid the foundations of what would become one of the country's largest private universities, the University of Management and Technology (UMT). Along the way, he touched innumerable lives, forged global alliances, and demonstrated that dedication, ingenuity, and faith can turn even the most ambitious dream into reality.

Planting the Seeds of Change

While working with the Dawood Group—one of Pakistan's leading conglomerates—Dr. Murad recognized a pressing need for skilled managers and forward-thinking leaders. Despite a promising career path under the mentorship of Saith Hussain Dawood, he felt compelled to establish an institution dedicated to cultivating leadership potential. In 1990, with limited resources and an unshakable conviction, Dr. Murad founded the Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM) in two rented rooms in Gulberg, Lahore. Drawing upon a modest loan from his close associate, Professor Khurshid Ahmad, he initiated short courses for professionals in fields ranging from import-export to hospitality management.

Building UMT: From Non-profit to National Force

Before long, ILM's popularity soared, prompting Dr. Murad to seek a formal degree-awarding program. He found a visionary partner in Hakeem Saeed, the chancellor of Hamdard University, who immediately recognized ILM's transformative potential and granted affiliation. This crucial alliance paved the way for ILM to evolve into a full-fledged university, leading to the official charter of the University of Management and Technology by 2004.

Under Dr. Murad's leadership, UMT flourished both in size and impact. Today, the university sits on trust-owned land valued at over 13 billion rupees, an asset dedicated wholeheartedly to educating Pakistan's youth and advancing the nation. Of its nearly 25,000 students, 60 percent receive scholarships—a total of some thirteen billion rupees in financial assistance, self-generated through institutional resources rather than external sponsors or industrialists.

A Beacon for Research and Innovation

Beyond its impressive enrolment numbers, UMT has emerged as a research-intensive institution focused on addressing societal challenges. During Dr. Murad's tenure, the university saw a remarkable growth in research output, fostering solutions that transcend academic theory and drive real-world impact. With 20 schools and institutes, 150 degree programs, and a faculty roster that includes over three hundred PhDs, UMT has become synonymous with quality education, innovation, and public service.

Global Reach, Enduring Influence

Dr. Murad's extraordinary vision was not confined by national borders. He represented Pakistan internationally, forging relationships with global leaders such as President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan of Turkey, Dr Morsi of Egypt and Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim of Malaysia.

As a member of the International Association of University Presidents and the International Business Forum, he championed collaboration among educational and business communities worldwide. His work as Chairperson of the National Business Education Accreditation Council modernized and elevated business education across Pakistan, bringing local standards in line with international benchmarks and accrediting institutions like IBA, LUMS, and LSC.

A Multidimensional Legacy

Dr. Hassan Sohaib Murad was more than an academic entrepreneur—he was a philosopher, a spiritual thinker, and a prolific author. His writings on leadership, accountability, and time management continue to inspire students, educators, and professionals. He believed in nurturing not just the intellect but also the human spirit, integrating ethical and moral dimensions into management education.

Inspiring the Next Generation

Dr. Murad's life stands as a testament to resilience, hard work, and the power of a selfless vision. At a time when many are tempted to seek opportunities elsewhere, his example reminds Pakistan's youth that transformative change can—and must—be achieved at home. By overcoming financial hurdles, institutional skepticism, and systemic challenges, he paved a path for future generations to follow.

This introductory account merely scratches the surface of Dr. Hassan Sohaib Murad's vast contributions. His story is one waiting to be told in full—a blueprint for aspiring leaders seeking to build, innovate, and serve with integrity. Whether through a biography, documentary, or guidebook for personal development, Dr. Murad's extraordinary journey promises to uplift hearts, empower minds, and rekindle faith in the boundless potential that lies within us all.