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Centers for Advanced Studies in Water



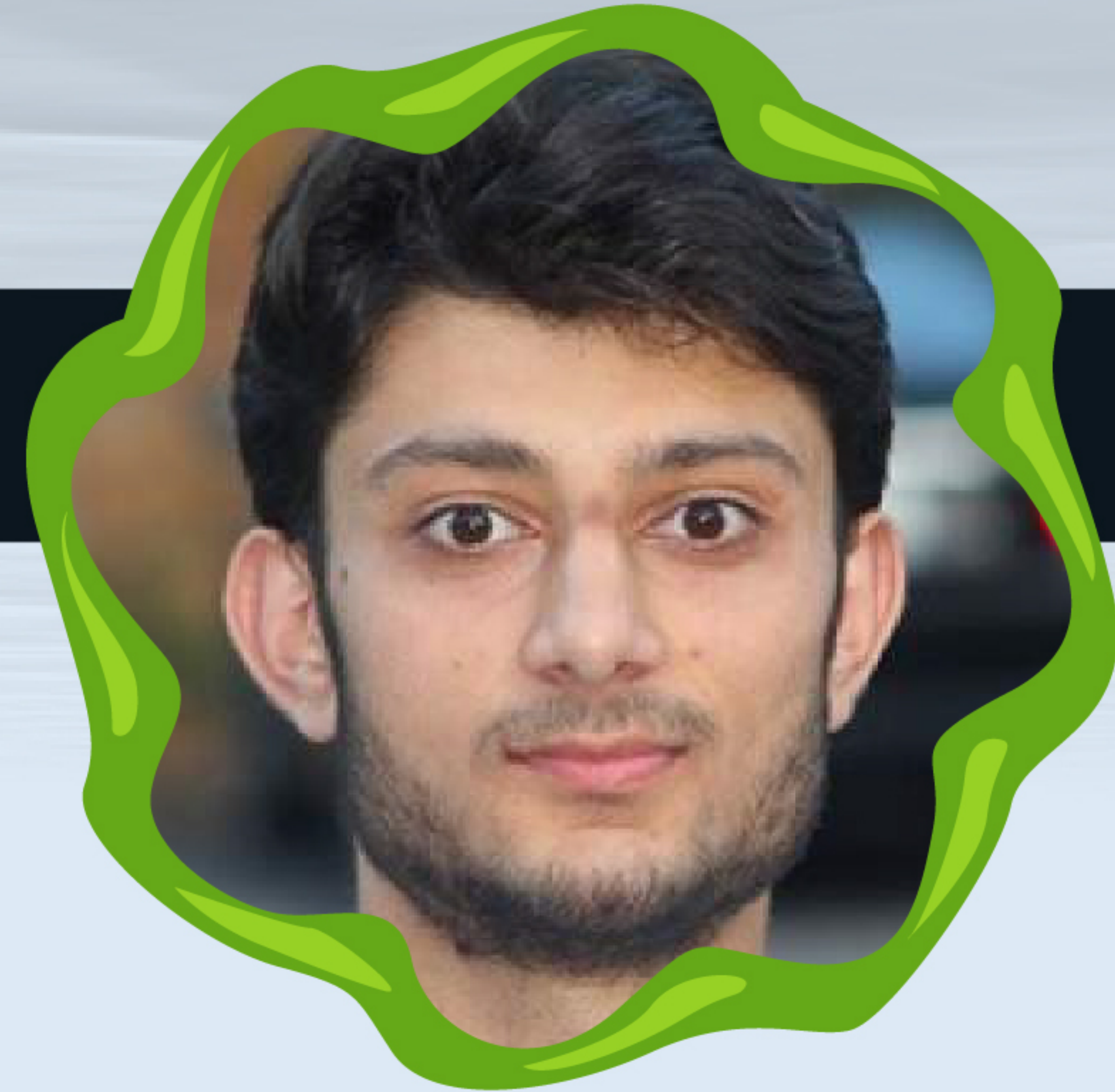
WAQAS INAM

A Journey towards an Improved Future Vision

Waqas Inam belongs to the magnificent valley of Swat in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, in the north of Pakistan. He is now doing Masters in Hydraulics, Irrigation, and Drainage (HID) at the U.S.-Pakistan Center for Advanced Studies in Water from Mehran University, Jamshoro, Sindh, the opposite end to of the country.

Waqas elaborates that he made a decision of taking admission in the Center for Advanced Studies in Water, when he was doing his bachelors from UET Peshawar. He had a chance to take one of the outreach sessions by the Center at UET Peshawar. Knowing about the Center's vision in the session influenced Waqas to go beyond the margins, travel far from home, and take admission in the USPCAS-W. "The most interesting feature of the Center was their focus on the students to make them successful in their respective fields," he says.

Waqas comes from a working-class family. According to him, his father is serving as clerk and his mother is a teacher. His parents together are doing their finest to provide Waqas and his three siblings a proper education and he sees his parents as the main reason behind his motivation for higher education. "My parents have helped me throughout this journey both financially and emotionally. They have always provided their support, encouragement and obviously prayers," he says. Because of his parents' moral support and encouragement, he was highly motivated when he joined the Center.



"After getting admission, adjusting at a new place was a bit tough for the first two months, but the center has a welcoming attitude and environment," shares Waqas. To his liking, he found field trips and Friday seminars the best. He finds provided facilities as well-organized, says:

"... It was good as I had to work in lab as well for my research work, I got all the support I asked for in the lab".

The most fascinating part of his journey was the U.S. exchange program where he went to Colorado State University for four months. He shares his experience:

"from my experience in the U.S., along with improved English language, I have improved in my cross-cultural adaptability had greater research exposure as well. Throughout my days at Colorado State University, I liked openness of the people, as we were given the atmosphere where we were open to opinions and discussions and we felt ease in communicating with the mentors."

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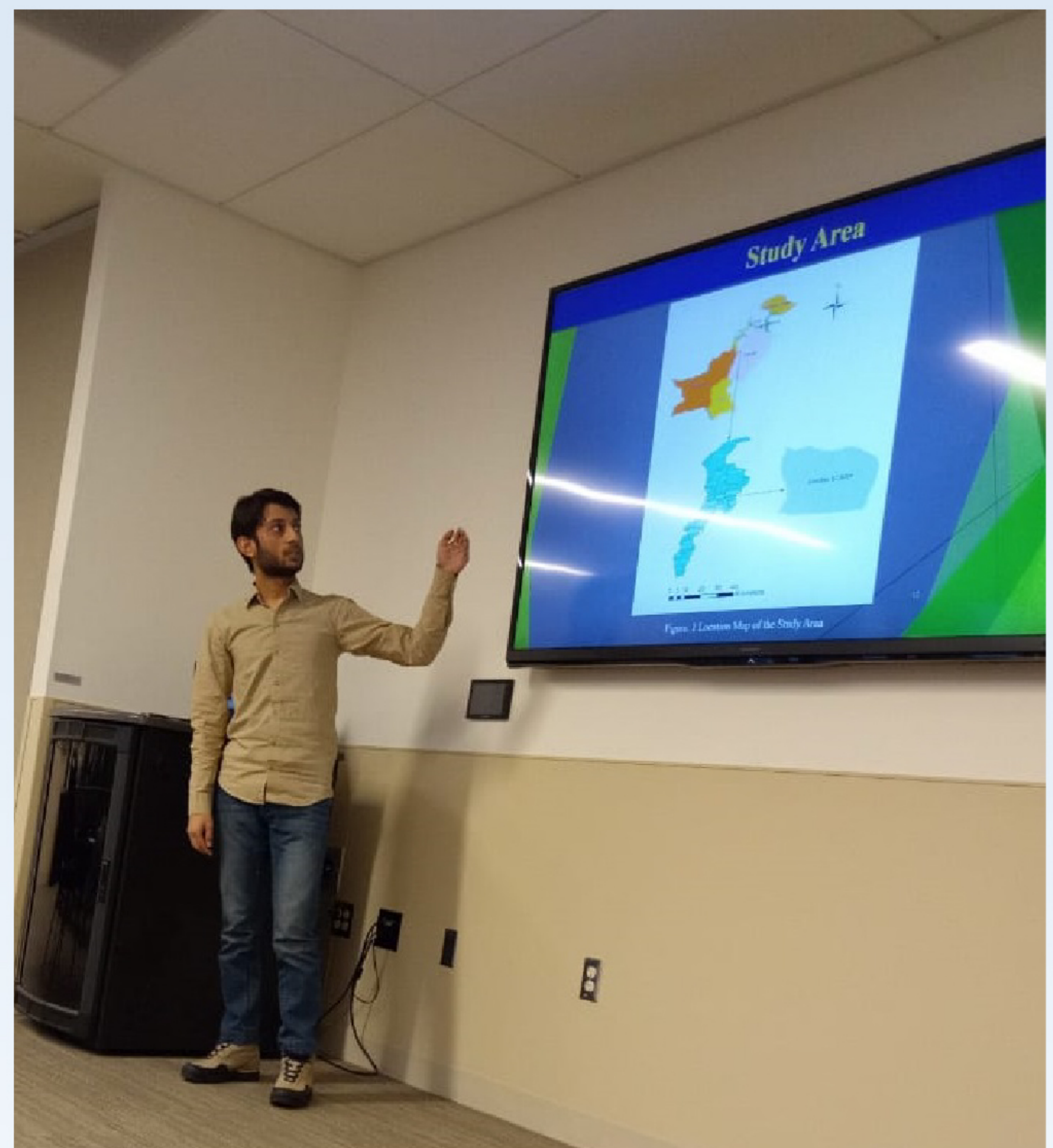


He doesn't find any real discrimination when he was asked about the gender equity policy in practice at the Center. He came to know about the gender equity policy in-depth when he joined the Center and notes there aren't such differences amongst opportunities provided for both genders in the center. Only to his inconvenience he felt there must be accommodation facilities for the boys as well who come from the upper regions like the girls.



While summarizing his overall experience, Waqas says:

"This counts as one of my greatest achievements--that I came to Jamshoro and am doing my MS and I have got the experience of U.S. exchange program. The Center has given the sort of environment and training that has groomed me entirely into what I am today. I have improved my interpersonal skills. I wasn't able to adapt [to] new places before, but now I can adjust at new places and with people too. I have improved! I am looking forward to publishing my research paper soon and afterwards I want to pursue Ph.D. in the U.S."



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