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A Tribute to The Vital Signs - The Pioneers of ...

By **Rameez Asif** (rameez@raw.com.pk)

Vital Signs has been credited to be the pioneer of Pakistani Pop music by the media. Undoubtedly it is the most well known music group of Pakistan but is it really a pioneer. To explore this let us first understand the meaning of the word pioneer as it is mentioned in the English dictionary.

Pioneer (verb): 'Invent or develop new thing' or 'Go into unexplored territory'

In terms of music this would mean a genre or a style of music done for the first time by an artist or a band. Do Vital Signs fulfill this criterion? Are they really the pioneers of Pakistani Pop music? We try to answer these questions in this article.

Let us travel back in time and discover the history of Pakistani pop music. **Ahmed Rushdi** the great playback singer in 1970's started a new trend of music which was never done in Pakistan. That style or genre of music was named as Pop music. This style of music was later conceived by **Rona Layla** another playback sensation of Pakistani music industry.

In the 80's pop music took another turn when Nazia & Zohaib Hassan and Alamgir came into the music scene with great hit tracks. Mohammad Ali Sheki, Tina Sani, Sajjad Ali, Benjamin Sisters and many others were also doing pop music and were pretty famous in the 80's before Vital Signs.

The above fact invalidates the claim that Vital Signs are the pioneers of Pakistani pop music. The claim that Vital Signs was the **first pop band** does not hold true as well since many bands in restaurants used to play pop music in the 80's.

The most important point is to note that a pioneer is never a copycat. Only a person who comes with an original idea or theme can be credited as a pioneer. Let us analyze the hit songs of Vital Signs and find out the true pioneers of these songs.

1. Samjhana (Vital Signs) Copied from Red Red Wine (UB40):

Red Red Wine by **UB40** was released on **8 th August 1983** . This track stayed at the number 1 spot on the UK charts for more than 4 months and this same track was at 34 th place in the US Top 100 tracks back in 1983.

Samjhana by **Vital Signs** was released in the debut album **Vital Signs 1** in **1989** . The track was an instant hit but sadly it is a ditto copy of Red Red Wine.

Is it a coincidence? Cannot be . It is a perfect copy not only in terms of the composition but the vocal progression is also the same.

	Samjhana	Red Red Wine
Listen		
Download	Here	Here

2. Yeh Sham (Vital Signs) Copied from Terminal Frost (Pink Floyd):

Terminal Frost by **Pink Floyd** was released on **September 7, 1987** in "A Momentary Lapse of Reason" album. Terminal Frost is an instrumental without vocals.

Yeh Sham by **Vital Signs** was released in **1989** in their debut album. This track was a massive hit but who should have been given credit for its success?

Is it a coincidence? Cannot be . Not even a single note has been changed from the original. Terminal Frost is an instrumental and Vital Signs just added vocals on the track and earned money from it.

	Ye Shaam	Terminal Frost
Listen		
Download	Here	Here

3. Tum Door Thay (Vital Signs) Copied from Sara (Fleetwood Mac)

Sara by **Fleetwood Mac** was released in **1979** in their album "Tusk". This track was at 7 th place in the US pop charts and at 37 th place on the UK pop charts.

Tum Duur Thay by **Vital Signs** was released in the debut album **Vital Signs 1** in **1989**.

Is it a coincidence? Cannot be. Tum Duur Thay Tum Milgaye has the same feel and same progression as to Sara.

	Tum Duur Thay	Sara
Listen		
Download	Here	Here

4. Ajnabi (Vital Signs) Copied from Girl on the Moon (Foreigner)

Girl on the Moon by **Foreigner** (A progressive rock band) was released in **June 1981** . US Chart Position #4 (charted July 4, 1981 for 23 weeks) and UK chart position #54 (1981).

Ajnabi by **Vital Signs** was released in **1991** on their second album **Vital Signs 2** .

Is it a coincidence? Cannot be . Ajnabi again was a huge success and people went crazy for this track. Regrettably it was another rip off. The similarity is in front of you.

	Ajnabi	Girl on the Moon
Listen		
Download	Here	Here

5. Naraz (Vital Signs) Copied from Feels like Heaven (Fiction Factory)

Feels like heaven by **Fiction Factory** was released in **1983** and **Naraz** by **Vital Signs** was released in **1991**.

Is it a coincidence? Cannot be . As usual the song being a typical commercial track was a hit but if you listen to 'Feels Like Heaven' you will know how good Vital Signs was composition wise.

	Naraz	Feels Like Heaven
Listen		
Download	Here	Here

6. Aitebar (Vital Signs) Copied from Groovy Kind of Love (Phil Collins)

Groovy Kind Of Love by **Phil Collins** was released in **August 1988**. UK Chart Position number 1 US Chart Position number 1 (charted Sep. 3, 1988 for 25 weeks).

Aitebar was released in **1993** by EMI records. Aitebar was also the name of Vital Signs **third** album.

Is it a coincidence? Cannot be . Listen to the track with great attention. Check the part in Groovy Kind of Love when there are no vocals and you will notice that even the vocals progression in Aitebar is a copy. This is the pinnacle of copying.

Aitebaar Groovy Kind of Love

Listen

Download Here Here

There are too many similarities in the above mentioned songs to call them just a coincidence. It is sad to realize that one of the most famous bands of the Pakistani music industry only offered us copies of the western music. It is time that Pakistan came up with bands providing original music and not rip offs.

All these similarities cannot be a coincidence and nor are they inspirations as there is a thick line between inspiration and copying. Vital Signs cannot be credited to be the pioneers of Pakistani pop music neither did they introduce pop music and nor did they make original music. Almost all their hit tracks as shown above are rip offs.

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