

R E P O R T
NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE
ON RISKS & DIVIDENDS OF
YOUTH BULGE IN PAKISTAN



Organized by BARGAD in Collaboration with
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)



10 AUGUST 2010

National Youth Conference on Risks and Dividends of Youth Bulge in Pakistan

© BARGAD, Gujranwala – Pakistan, 2010

Report by: Iqbal Haider Butt & Dr. Shahbaz Israr Khan

BARGAD publications are independent of specific political party interests. Views expressed in this report do not necessarily represent opinion of the organization or its Board of Directors.

BARGAD encourages dissemination, citation and reproduction of its works provided that has duly been acknowledged.

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S NOTE	3
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
1. INTRODUCTION TO THE CONFERENCE	5
1.1 THE CONTEXT	5
1.2 OBJECTIVES	6
1.3 OUTPUTS	6
1.4 MEDIA COVERAGE	6
1.5 PRE-CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS AND MEETINGS	6
1.6 EXECUTION PHASE	6
2. CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS	8
2.1 INAUGURAL SESSION	8
2.2 FRAMING THEMES OF YOUTH BULGE IN PAKISTAN	11
2.3 DECLINING FERTILITY IN PAKISTAN	14
2.4 EDUCATION AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT	19
2.5 YOUTH FOR LABOUR FORCE DEVELOPMENT	23
2.6 SATELLITE SESSION FOR YOUTH REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH – LET’S START TALKING	27
2.7 YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT	28
2.8 CONCLUDING SESSION	32
ANNEXURE 1: CONFERENCE PROGRAMME	35
ANNEXURE 2: LIST OF CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS	38
ANNEXURE 3: FEEDBACK OF THE CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS	42
ANNEXURE 4: MEDIA COVERAGE	47
ANNEXURE 5: CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS	49
5a: Policy Brief	49
5b: Youth Voices	49
ANNEXURE 6: NATIONAL YOUTH ADVOCACY PLATFORM PAKISTAN	50

Executive Director's Note

Bargad is a leading youth development organization that is playing its part to bring public and policy reforms for integrated youth development in Pakistan. The present reported event, National Youth Conference on Risks and Dividends of Youth Bulge in Pakistan, brought the issue of Youth Bulge under the spotlight, where people from government, donor agencies, NGO's, CSO's, media and most importantly youth of 32 different universities, youth organizations and youth of all four provinces and Azad Jammu & Kashmir gathered to ponder on the issue that how can we transform a risk into a dividend. Launching of National Youth Advocacy Platform is a momentous achievement; the conference has proved to be a milestone to the youth development advocacy work in Pakistan.

The conference revolved around the vision of integrated youth development comprising themes of (i) Declining Fertility in Pakistan, (ii) Youth and Education, (iii) Youth for Labour Force Development and (iv) Youth Engagement and Participation. The sessions of the conference were carefully designed to take the input of public and policy circles in which youth ministers, secretaries from relevant ministries, researchers, educationists, political analysts, vice-chancellors, sexual and reproductive health experts, gender specialists, officials from TEVTA and Labour Ministry, youth organizations, personnel from media, donor agencies and youth of all the provinces successfully came up with recommendations which will be worked on in future for policy reforms in Pakistan.

National Conference on Risks and Dividends of Youth Bulge in Pakistan is a collaborative labour of love. I hereby briefly point to and thank a number of individuals who have contributed to the success of this conference.

I hereby extend my thankfulness to Ms. Sadia Atta Mehmood, National Program Officer UNFPA who supported and worked with us for nourishing and transforming the idea of National Youth Conference into a reality. I am highly obliged to Ms. Sadia Atta Mehmood and Mr. Iqbal Haider Butt who thematically designed the conference and worked on the Policy Brief, "Public and Policy Imperatives for Youth Bulge in Pakistan." that introduces the youth bulge debate.

I greatly acknowledge Jose Ferrairs, Country Representative UNFPA, Shahid Hussain Bhutto, Federal Youth Minister, Dr. Kaiser Bengali, Chairperson BARGAD and Adviser to Sindh Minister, Abdul Khaliq Achakzai, Youth Minister Baluchistan, Syed Syed Aqil Shah, Youth Minister Khyber Pakhtoon Khaw, Minhaj-ul-Haque (Population Council Senior Researcher), Nasira Habib, Researcher and Educationist, Dr. Faaria Ahsan, Programme Officer UNFPA, Dr. Tauseef Ahmad, Demographer and Researcher, Aamir Riaz, Editor Awami Jamhori Forum, Prof. Dr. Masoom Yasin Zai, Vice Chancellor Quaid-e-Azam University, T.M. Qureshi, Deputy Education Advisor, Policy and Planning Wing, Ministry of Education, Ayesha Tammy Haq, TV Anchor and Corporate Lawyer, Kamyla Marvi Tappal, Country Manager LDM, Sohaila Mushtaq, Senior Joint Secretary, Federal Ministry for Youth Affairs, Saifullah Chaudhary, National Program Officer ILO, Saeed Alvi, Chairman TEVTA, Ali Mardan, Advisor Ministry for Youth Affairs, Javed Gill Central Labor Advisor, Abdus Sami Khan, Education Specialist GTZ, Ali Salman, Senior Partner Development Pool, Iqbal Haider Butt, Asia Leadership Fellow, and Qadeer Baig, Country Representative World Population Foundation (WPF).

I also extend my gratitude to the youth groups, students of 32 universities and faculty staff whose vital participation and input helped us to reach critical recommendations.

Muqadas Iqbal, Sarmed Raza Nayak, Bushra Sadiq, Saiqa Rani, Shakilla Kaukab, Dr. Shahbaz Israr Khan, Adnan Butt, Mujahid Raza, Shahid Iqbal, Usman and our beloved volunteers are acknowledged for logistic support, documentation and event management.

Special thanks go to the UNFPA for supporting the conference and in particular Mr. Jose Ferrairs (Country Representative UNFPA), Mr. Naseer Muhammad Nizamani (Assistant Representative UNFPA) and Ms. Sadia Atta Mehmood (National Program Officer UNFPA).

I must again thank Mr. Iqbal Haider Butt and Dr. Shahbaz Israr Khan who synthesized and wrote the present report.

I believe that report of the National Youth Conference is useful for those who are concerned over any aspect of integrated youth development in Pakistan and making youth a dividend. This report will be of interest to students, educationists, youth groups, researchers, civil society practitioners, persons, public representatives, policy makers, and other public interest leaders.

Sabika Shaheen

Executive Director

Executive Summary

Youth issues are a subject of considerable debate as the government and development donors are gradually increasing investments on youth. The ascendance of youth issues to national priorities has primarily come from realization of the very outnumbering of young people in the country and due to what we call the 'youth bulge' and its potential implications.

Given the seriousness of the issue, BARGAD in collaboration with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) organized a "National Youth Conference on Risks and Dividends of Youth Bulge in Pakistan" at Pearl Continental Hotel, Lahore on August 8-10, 2010. The conference also coincided with commemorating dates of the start of the international year of youth. It was part of the joint project of BARGAD and UNFPA titled, "Public and Policy Imperatives for Youth Bulge in Pakistan."

Unique and immensely significant, the event was the first national youth conference on the youth bulge to have come up with vision for integrated youth development and recommendations to put youth as a top agenda for public and policy circles in Pakistan.

The National Youth Conference was an exclusive opportunity for stakeholders of youth development in Pakistan. Representatives of the government, international donor community, experts, academia, civil society, and youth organizations along with students, faculty members and administration from 32 universities took part in the proceedings. The conference was practically a consortium of all those who care about making youth a dividend for Pakistan.

Notables who participated in the proceedings included Jose Ferrairs, Country Representative UNFPA, Shahid Hussain Bhutto, Federal Youth Minister, Dr. Kaiser Bengali, Chairperson BARGAD and Adviser to Sindh Minister, Abdul Khaliq Achakzai, Youth Minister Baluchistan, Syed Syed Aqil Shah, Youth Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Minhaj-ul-Haque (Population Council Senior Researcher), Dr. Faaria Ahsan, National Programme Officer UNFPA, Dr. Tauseef Ahmad, Demographer and Researcher, Nasira Habib, Researcher and Educationist, Aamir Riaz, Editor Awami Jamhori Forum, Prof. Dr. Masoom Yasin Zai, Vice Chancellor Quaid-e-Azam University, T.M. Qureshi, Deputy Education Advisor, Policy and Planning Wing, Ministry of Education, Ayesha Tammy Haq, TV Anchor and Corporate Lawyer, Kamyla Marvi Tappal, Country Manager of LDM, Sohaila Mushtaq, Senior Joint Secretary of Ministry for Youth Affairs, Saifullah Chaudhary, National Program Officer ILO, Saeed Alvi, Chairman TEVTA, Ali Mardan, Advisor Ministry for Youth Affairs, Javed Gill Central Labor Advisor, Abdus Sami Khan, Education Specialist GTZ, Ali Salman, Senior Partner Development Pool, Iqbal Haider Butt, Senior Partner Development Pool and Qadeer Baig, Country Representative of World Population Foundation (WPF).

The conference stressed the need for moving ahead with the vision of integrated youth development and linking different sectors to maximize dividends of the youth bulge. Public interest practitioners and policy makers took stock of demographic dividends and risks of youth bulge for implementation of youth-development policies and programmes.

The conference started off with the inaugural session on August 08, 2010 which was proceeded with National Anthem and flag hoisting ceremony. Later Dr. Naseer Muhammad Nizamani, and Provincial Youth Ministers of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Abdul Khaliq Achakzai and Syed Syed Aqil Shah addressed. Sadia Atta Mehmood presented the Policy Brief on Public and Policy Imperatives for Youth Bulge in Pakistan.

Next day was opened with the session titled "Framing the Themes of Youth Bulge in Pakistan" followed by a session on Declining Fertility in Pakistan. The objective of the first session was to set technical grounds for the main topic of the conference. Then three parallel sessions were run: Education and Youth Development, Youth for Labour Force Development and Satellite Session for Youth. During the parallel sessions factual situation was mapped out and strategies were designed through technical recommendations to ensure that (i) education becomes an effective tool to develop youth and their life-enhancing skills, (ii) how youth employment is guaranteed, and (iii) reproductive health issues are addressed with straight face.

The final day of the conference started with the session on youth participation and engagement and ended on concluding session. At this occasion winners of National Contest of Innovative Ideas on Youth were also awarded prizes by the Federal Youth Minister.

All six technical sessions brought very inclusive and constructive recommendations by the participants, which were presented by two young participants of the conference during the concluding session. National Youth Advocacy Platform for Youth Development in Pakistan (NYAP) was also launched during the concluding session.

1. Introduction to the Conference

1.1 The Context

Recent demographic transition in developing countries has drawn attention of analysts, media persons, policy makers and practitioners to the rapidly changing structure of the working age and youth population, commonly referred to as the 'demographic dividend' and 'youth bulge'.

Recent researches establish that the population's age structure (the relative size of each age group) deeply affects development opportunities and plays a major role in security and governance challenges. Analysts and practitioners believe that the phenomenon of the youth bulge is bound to cause upheavals for good or bad.

Sixty-two countries are ranked as "very young" as two-thirds of their populations are under the age of thirty. The Middle East, where 60 percent of the population is under twenty-five, is also susceptible to youth-bulge-related civil strife. With generally low levels of development, countries with a very young age structure are consistently the most likely to face major challenges. When countries that experienced new conflict in 1970s, 1980s and 1990s were cross-referenced with their age structure at the beginning of each of those decades, very young structures were found to have the strongest correlation with occurrences of civil conflict. In 1990s, countries with a very young structure were three times more likely to experience conflict than countries with a mature structure. Between 1970 and 1999, around 80 percent of all new outbreaks of civil conflicts occurred in countries in which 60 percent or more of the population was under age 30.

Pakistan is also experiencing the demographic transition which may go up to 2048. With 165 million people, Pakistan is today the sixth most populous country in the world. Between 1975 and 2005, the country's population more than doubled, and the UN estimates that another 54 million people will be added in the next 15 years. Around the early 2040s, Pakistan would surpass Brazil and Indonesia to become the fourth most populous country in the world after China, India and the US.

According to recent projections made by the US Census Bureau, the population of Pakistan in 2010 is estimated to be 177,276,594 and the active youth (53,265,671) contributes to 30% of the total projected population. This youth bulge is not inherently dangerous, but when governments are unable to foster work opportunities and platforms for expression and engagements, or the prospects of stability, youth bulge can exacerbate the risks of conflict.

Over the next two decades, Pakistan will have around 85 million more citizens. Educating, feeding and caring for so many children will be a daunting task for a society struggling to satisfy the needs of its population. Each year growing numbers of active youth will be the work hunters, idle, suppressed and politically and socially alienated or frustrated for want of a decent place in the society.

The demographic change in Pakistan, according to a recent briefing paper (2010), demands (i) ensuring fertility decline in Pakistan, (ii) extracting dividend through educational attainment, (iii) and absorption of growing labour force and this democratic transition has visible implications for MDGs in Pakistan.

With stakes getting higher because of the youth bulge, Pakistan could benefit from its young population otherwise the unutilized opportunity could result into social devastation. Despite the enactment of a National Youth Policy, we have yet to recognize the urgency of youth development in Pakistan – both as risks and dividends.

BARGAD sees little policy research and programmatic response as to the youth bulge in Pakistan. Moreover, it is largely focused on the supply side as of now and on links between policy and youth agendas in demography, education and health sectors. This has also to be supplemented with demand generation and developing mechanism for youth participation and engagement with the policies; so that a critical mass of support is available and actual potential of youth is enhanced for youth-reforms in Pakistan. Apart from the broader points of the youth significance articulated elsewhere in the world, we have yet to obtain credible information and data on how youth numbers and lack of opportunity are contributing to and may result in security risks, radicalization and extremism in Pakistan. Another issue is feeble demand-based input from public interest groups on youth issues and especially it's the need to respond to urgency of a youth bulge. The conference aimed at bringing the youth bulge on the national scene by setting advocacy agenda and consolidating on results of the conference and policy brief through a national working group on youth bulge.

1.2 Objectives

- I. Organize a three-day National Youth Conference on Risks and Dividends of Youth Bulge in Pakistan.
- II. Develop linkages and raise awareness among education communities, public interest groups, media and policy makers for integrated youth development in Pakistan.
- III. Establish a policy advocacy platform for youth development at the national level.
- IV. Promote reforms for integrated youth development in the light of recommendations made at the conference.

1.3 Outputs

The conference was successful in many respects:

- People related to the issue of the youth bulge participated in the conference. Besides government officials, civil society and youth organizations, as many as 32 universities had presence in the conference. Out of 200 participants male representation was 65.5% male and 34.5% female representation.
- Youth Policy Brief that would be a consulting document for integrated youth development was presented.
- The theme and design of the conference helped to link youth and universities with the pressing issue of youth bulge.
- Input by public and policy experts and their interaction with participants during Q&A sessions facilitated in figuring out recommendations.
- National Innovative Idea Contest that ensured youth participation and engagement throughout Pakistan. Scores of ideas can be used as projects in future. Position-holders were awarded prizes and certificates at the end of the competition.
- Establishment of a policy advocacy platform -- the National Youth Advocacy Platform-Pakistan -- is expected to work for promoting integrated youth development reforms leading towards sustainable human development in Pakistan.
- The recommendations emerged after technical sessions highlighted needs of the youth in front of donors, policy makers, academia and groups working on youth development to help them come up with a cohesive plan for integrated youth development.

1.4 Media Coverage

The event was covered by 10 Urdu newspapers, five English newspapers, two weekly magazines, three news agencies, nine TV news channels and two radio channels. Three live programs were arranged on three different radio channels. Additionally, three programs for three different TV channels -- two live and one recorded -- were telecasted on the youth day. Articles in English and Urdu appeared in the press and a blog has been posted for social interaction as well.

1.5 Pre-Conference Preparations and Meetings

A two-day preparatory meeting of the BARGAD team under the technical guidance of Iqbal Haider Butt organized at BARGAD office on June 11, 2010 devised detailed action and management plans. Another seven internal meetings and a meeting with UNFPA were held before a thorough program and relevant mechanisms were finalized.

The conference was divided into following:

Monitoring meetings were also called to review the overall progress of the project and to view various risks involved besides taking proper actions beforehand.

1.6 Execution Phase

- 45 universities were targeted to ensure participation of 25 universities. Each university administration was requested to nominate one male and one female student.

- Apart from the invitations sent to universities, 150 students outside Lahore, 80 students from Lahore, 20 faculty members, 20 persons from university administrations, 20 professionals, 20 from youth organizations, 20 from civil societies were focused on ensuring 150 participants for the conference as per set quota.
- 500 invitations to dinner were sent to civil society members.
- Call for volunteers were sent to 700 volunteers through email.
- Call for innovative idea on Youth in Pakistan was emailed to 3,050 individuals, organizations and internet-based groups. One dedicated wall was created and BARGAD's two Facebook pages reached out to 1000 persons and groups. Printed posters to twenty universities were dispatched and displayed in public notices of colleges in Gujranwala. Moreover, advertisements (15 inches x 2 columns) were also published in Daily Dawn and Daily Jhang on July 10 2010.
- 1,000 brochures about the conference were printed and distributed before and during the conference.
- 50 appropriate notables from government, public and civil sectors were contacted to join as moderators, facilitators, speakers and presenters.
- 300 bags containing the required material were prepared for the conference.

2. Conference Proceedings

2.1 Inaugural Session

Inaugural Session	
Date	August 8, 2010
Venue	Pearl Continental Hotel, Lahore
Participants	300
Moderator	Ms. Salma Butt
Speakers: Dr. Naseer Muhammad Nizamani (Assistant Representative, UNFPA), Dr. Kaiser Bengali (BARGAD Chairperson), Ms. Sadia Atta Mehmood (National Program Officer Youth, UNFPA), Capt (r) A. Khalaq Achaqzai (Youth Minister Baluchistan) and Syed Syed Aqil Shah (Youth Minister Khyber Pukhtunkhwa).	

OBJECTIVES

- To develop linkages and raise awareness among education communities, public interest groups, media and policy makers for integrated youth development.
- Orientation to the conference.

PROCEEDINGS

The session started with recitation from the Holy Quran followed by the flag-hoisting ceremony by youths from the four provinces and Jammu Azad and Kashmir and playing of the national anthem.

2.1.1 Welcome Address by Dr. Naseer Muhammad Nizamani (Assistant Representative, UNFPA)

He thanked the participants who had come from across Pakistan. He said that youth is not the 'future' but also the 'present'. Given 63 percent of our population is in the age bracket of 15 to 29 years, investment in youth would lead to the development. He called upon the attendees of the conference to take practical steps for integrated youth development in Pakistan. Dr. Naseer Muhammad Nizamani shared the message sent by UNFPA Executive Director Thoraya Ahmed Obaid:

Message on International Day of Youth from Thoraya Ahmed Obaid UNFPA Executive Director 12 August 2010

"Today, on the International Day of Youth, and every day, young people is searching for opportunities to pursue and fulfill their dreams. The world's more than 1.8 billion people aged 10 to 24 years for a world where they have the knowledge, skills and opportunities to develop to their fullest potential.

While many people say that youth are the future, it is time to embrace their leadership today. Young people are natural leaders. They are leading the HIV prevention revolution—with prevalence rates falling among youth in 15 of the 21 African countries most affected by AIDS. They are leading the use of new technology to network, create and speak out for change. They are challenging traditional gender roles and paving the way for equity and equality in the 21st century.

But while there is promise, there is also peril. Today, more than half of young people survive on less than two dollars a day, living in poverty. Some 100 million adolescents don't attend school. Every year, 15 million adolescent girls become mothers. And 40 per cent of all new HIV infections occur among young people aged 15-24. In all regions of the world, youth unemployment is high, and many fall victims to exploitation and violence.

The sad truth is that too many young people are growing up with few opportunities, trying to keep up hope for the future. Young people, especially adolescent girls, continue to be marginalized and suffer human rights violations. As we commemorate the International Youth Day, it is time to renew efforts to make young people a priority.

At UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, we are promoting the participation and leadership of young people. We are promoting life-skills education and universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, and HIV prevention, treatment, care and support for young people. And we are working

Message on International Day of Youth from Thoraya Ahmed Obaid UNFPA Executive Director 12 August 2010

to empower young women, including adolescent girls, and to prevent gender-based violence. Today, as we launch the International Year of Youth, on the eve of the World Youth Conference in Mexico, I am calling on decision makers to listen to the needs of young people and respond to them. I call on governments to enter meaningful dialogue with young people to develop a mutual understanding on how to jointly address the development challenges facing us. Let us enter a partnership across generations to fulfill the promise of the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals to create a more peaceful and just world."

2.1.2 Opening Remarks by Dr. Kaiser Bengali (Chairperson Bargad)

Dr. Kaiser Bengali highlighted the need for the conference. He called for a clear-cut policy to harness the potential of youth and offer opportunities for their development. The conference was projected as a useful tool for the integrated youth development. He attributed extremism and violent trends to the blocked and inappropriate channels for youth. He recommended radical steps to implement the National Youth Policy as he cautioned against lack of direction in youth.

2.1.3 Presentation on Youth Policy Brief by Sadia Atta Mehmood (National Program Officer, Youth, UNFPA)

She said that Youth Policy Brief would extend the youth demographic discourse one step ahead towards proposing an action plan to exploit youth potential for socio-economic prosperity. She said that youth is a traditionally marginalized group especially in the developing countries. It is only recently that public and policy circles have noticed this outnumbered group, its distinct needs, aspirations, specific socio-biological complexities and how youth condition can create dynamic pressures on the national development.

She reckoned three key currents and forms of youth visibility in Pakistan: (i) the politically active and organized youth (student organizations), (ii) community youth involved in grassroots charity work, (iii) humanitarian contribution of youth during national emergencies. This speaks essentially of their spontaneous and random visibility rather than a youth conception with clear development objectives, policy frameworks and coherent programs.

Pakistan currently has the largest youth cohort in its history, with 103 million people below the age of 25, of which 54.3 million young people are between the age of 10 and 24. Unemployment, illiteracy and ill-health in a bulging youth population are big threats to social peace and national security. The government is recognizing the potential of a **demographic bonus**. However, this potential bonus can turn into a demographic threat if required social investments are not implemented. So far, the government action remains limited.

She quoted a recent population council briefing paper as having stated that ensuring fertility decline in Pakistan, extracting dividend through educational attainment, and absorption of growing labour force and the democratic transition have visible implications for attaining MDGs in Pakistan.

2.1.4 Address by Capt (r) Abdul Khaliq Achaqzai (Minister for Youth Affairs, Balochistan)

Pakistan's demographic situation provides its youth with an extraordinary opportunity to compete in any sphere. Pakistan can turn its large number of young people into a productive asset that could contribute significantly to the economic growth and poverty alleviation. He called upon both the government and society to join hands on this nation-building task and concentrate on protecting the emotional and physical health of the youth, their skill-based education, and provision of recreational facilities, employment, and above all inspiring self-confidence and motivation and courage. The largest ever number of youth in Pakistan at the time offers the best opportunity to invest in youth and reactivate and relocate their disfranchised energies for economic growth and social development. Very few channels for the youth's energy utilization may contribute to the deteriorating situation in the country.

2.1.5 Address by Syed Syed Aqil Shah (Minister for Youth Affairs, Sports, Culture & Tourism, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa)

Unemployment is a main challenge to the youth in Pakistan. He said that youth have few job opportunities after graduation, much to the adverse effect on households and in turn on the whole society and the country. Unemployment raises many questions in the young minds that can be exploited by extremist groups. Skilled youth usually leaves the country for want of adequate opportunities. The government has failed to undertake major steps to address unemployment as its rate is rising day by day. He commended BARGAD for its mission of youth development besides offering his support to the organization in carrying out its functions.

2.1.6 Vote of Thanks by Sabiha Shaheen (Executive Director, Bargad)

Vote of thanks was extended by Ms. Sabiha Shaheen, Executive Director, BARGAD to the speakers, participants and to all those who contributed to the success of the session.

2.2 Framing Themes of Youth Bulge in Pakistan

Framing Themes of Youth Bulge in Pakistan	
Date	August 9, 2010
Venue	Pearl Continental Hotel, Lahore
Participants	200
Moderator	Ms. Sadia Atta Mehmood
Speakers:	Minhaj-ul-Haque (Population Council Senior Researcher)

OBJECTIVE

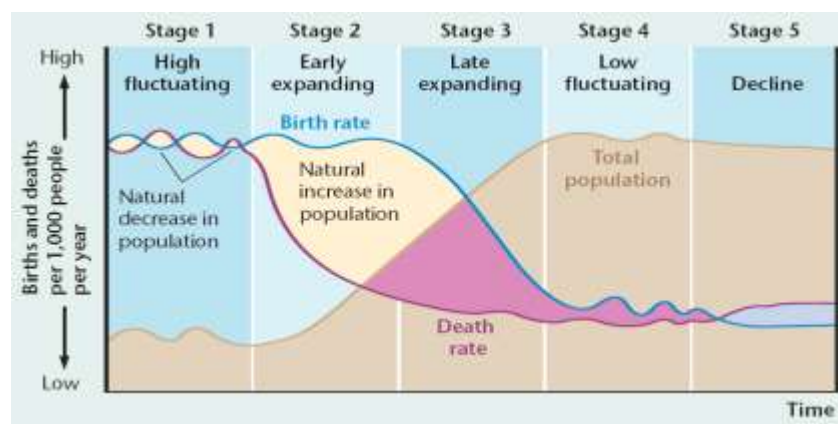
- To set technical grounds for the main topic of the conference

PROCEEDINGS

Next day was opened with the session titled "Framing the Themes of Youth Bulge in Pakistan" followed by a session on declining fertility in Pakistan. The first session was aimed at setting technical grounds for the main topic of the conference.

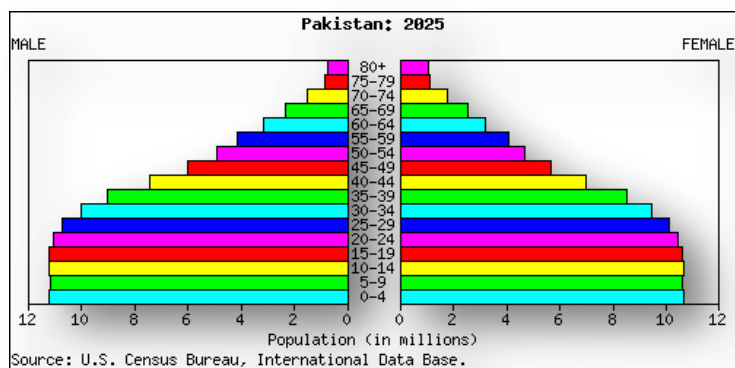
2.2.1 Presentation by Population Council's Senior Researcher Minhaj-ul-Haque

Many years back it was hypothesized that rate of increase in population is more than production and related facilities, with food production on top. This increase in population was termed 'Population Bulge.' So from 1950 to 2003 the world underwent a sea change as its population increased twice against the three-time increase in food production. Though the hypothesis proved wrong, it does not mean that the risks of much-hyped population explosion were also wrong.

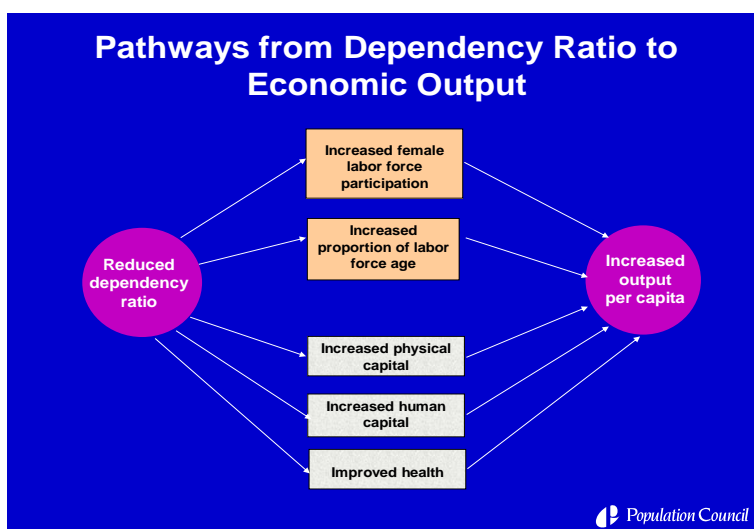


One of the mother problems, population gives birth to other problems like social injustice, unemployment, war for gain of territory and other related issues. Most of the people react against different campaigns like family planning and blame it as a Zionist strategy. The current fertility rate of Pakistan is 2 and if the trend continues, the population will double by 2030. Along with increase in population the behavior to utilize resources lavishly has compounded the problem.

However if our labour force increases in comparison to our population even then our problems can be solved. In Pakistan, India and many African countries the problem is not associated with population but with less skilled labour force. Fertility rate in Pakistan decreased from 3.5 to 2 but the factor of labour force was neglected and the prosperity remained a dream. With projected fertility rate Pakistan will have a great opportunity by 2030 if it is able to utilize its youth properly.



The above table shows that less population of old people and more fertility rate would result in 'Youth Bulge' by 2030. If this opportunity that a nation gets once in its history is availed, this will have its beneficial effects for 200 years. The more we plan it properly, the more dividends we would reap.



The prosperity of a nation depends upon its people in the 15-64 age bracket, provided its woman are not neglected. Thus ensuring woman development and enhancement of labour skills is a must. If the labour force is developed, it will increase the per capita income and positively impact the GDP. According to projected calculations, the number of people between 15-63 years of age will be 132 million by 2020 and 204 million in 2030.

Following conclusions were drawn:

- Youth Bulge is a one-time window of opportunity to be operating for a few decades.
- In some countries demographic bonus disappears fast, in others it may disappear slowly.
- A faster decline in fertility is required to ensure the full demographic dividend.
- Differentials by poverty, residence and education reflecting social obstacles and lack of access to services have to be reduced.
- An informed debate should identify needs and necessary steps for developing policy and programs
- Various ministries are to be convinced to program for youth in a multi-sector framework.
- The scope of youth policy needs expansion to incorporate different categories of young persons (in/out of school, urban/ rural, single/ married, etc.)

2.2.2 Discussion

Fatima Urroba: The main problem faced by youth is anxiety; what's the solution?

Minhaj: Anxiety is not related to population but with what we have provided our youth for their skills development and the resources we are offering them. We can get rid of anxiety if we channelize the potentials of our youth.

Asma Kausar: The problems under discussion are the product of capitalism, which is not the case with social democracy. Moreover, public-centered rather than state-centered policies must be drafted. Can you please elaborate with an example your point of risks and dividends?

Minhaj: Once, western Asia had the youth bulge. They planned to avail the opportunity and now their prosperous economies are evident. On the other hand, African countries too had this opportunity, but they lost it.

Adnan Alam: Swelling population is a threat to population itself. Increased sanitation problem is one of the ramifications. How do you see it?

Minhaj: It depends on the way you have developed and trained the youth. A well trained and skilled youth is not a problem but a blessing. Pollution or sanitation is not the problem if we are able to train and make youth involved in civic activities.

2.2.3 Recommendation

- Population increase cannot be viewed only through the lens of economics and a dividend in terms of more labour force. It adversely affects environment and social cohesion.
- There is a need to include political processes and parties in the youth bulge debate to have real impacts on policy, sustainability and ownership of youth reforms in Pakistan.

2.3 Declining Fertility in Pakistan

Declining Fertility in Pakistan	
Date	August 9, 2010
Number of Participants	200
Venue	Crystal Hall B, Pearl Continental, Lahore
Moderator	Qadeer Baig
Speakers:	Dr. Tauseef Ahmed (Demographer and Researcher), Dr. Faarhia Ahsan (National Program Officer, UNFPA) , Bushra Sadiq (Senior Program Officer, Bargad)

OBJECTIVES

- Mapping out the relationship between declining fertility and youth prosperity
- Involving community in reproductive health awareness
- Breaking cultural barriers

PROCEEDINGS

The session addressed following topics to highlight the aforesaid objectives:

- The challenges of declining fertility in the light of demographic discourse.
- Unmet Need and Family Planning in Pakistan.
- Engaging High School Girls to Ensure Declining Fertility.

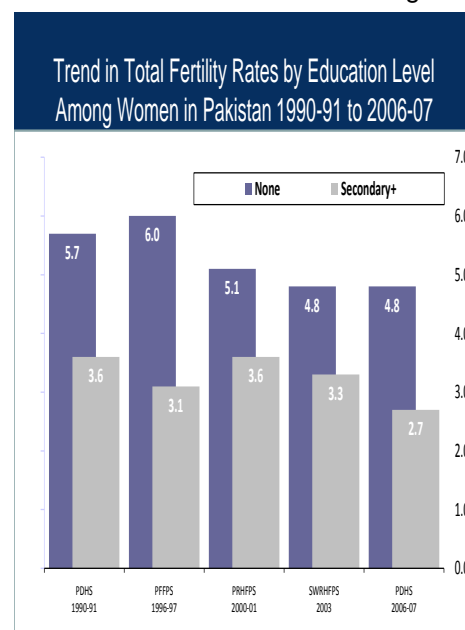
2.3.1 Challenges of declining fertility in the light of demographic discourse by Dr. Tauseef Ahmed

Demographer and Researcher, Dr. Tauseef Ahmed said that the government started the Family Planning in 1960's. First viewed as Zionist's or West's agenda to decrease the Muslim population, the resistance to the campaign gradually decreased in 70's, 80's and 90's. Time was when Pakistan was among the highest fertility rate countries. With the fertility rate at 3.1, policy makers took the problem seriously. Most of the religious leaders supported the Family Planning campaign. Finally the fertility rate was brought back to 2. The credit goes to civil bureaucracy. The Ministry of Population engaged religious leaders from different schools of thought, who agreed that the government's campaign to increase the interval between childbirths would be Islamic as compared to no childbirth.

Moreover high fertility rate has a deep relation with high death rate of women during delivery. Death rate is high among the women with less childbirth interval. Statistics show that women death rate during pregnancy and delivery in Pakistan follows Bangladesh's and Yemen's. The statistics from 1950 to 2010 as to the population of Punjab show a high population trend. Further, increased female literacy may result in decreased fertility rate ultimately leading to decreased death rate.

Fertility must continue to decline:

1. Eliminate pregnancies before age 18
2. Eliminate pregnancies beyond age 34
3. Reduce fertility in ages 20-34
4. Encourage spacing as key to healthy mothers and children



Issues faced during declining fertility campaigns are social pressure to exhibit fertility, unwanted pregnancies, unmet need, abortion rate surges, demand for children, lack of access, understanding and accurate knowledge about contraception, high misperception regarding its methods, and low female educational attainment.

Increase in population creates many problems as frequency of events become large and force social norms to change. The demand for services (schools, housing, etc), cost per unit rises and quality suffers.

Population Growth is blessing if:

1. Force behind Economic Investment (Opportunity)
2. Huge demand exists for essentials, e.g. housing, food etc

Population issue was recognized during 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s but lacked a concrete and comprehensive effort to address the challenges. The Family Planning received partial support, and investment in HR, jobs and dynamic sectors (housing, production etc) lagged behind. As a result huge proportion of uneducated, unemployed and unskilled youth remained unutilized, bereft of direction and guidance.

He summed up his presentation by calling for the following:

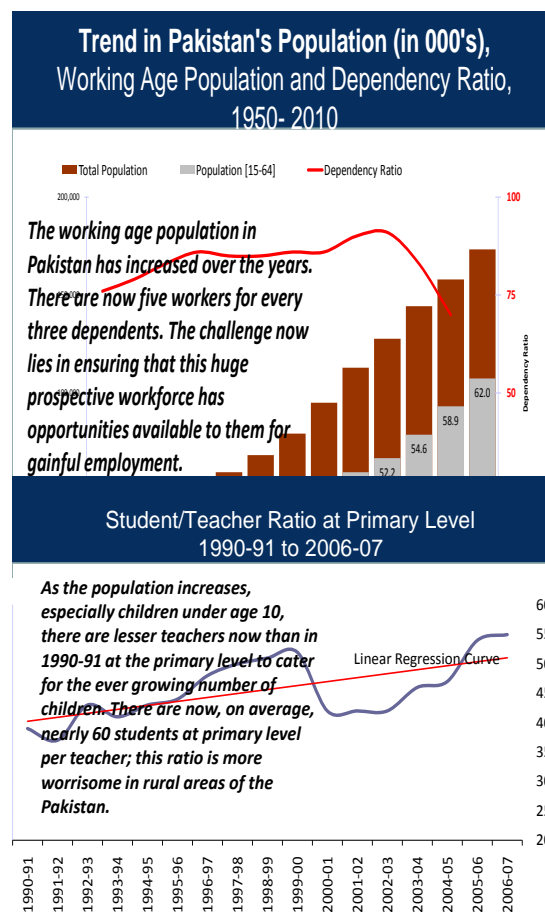
- Youth first; listen them carefully
- Consensus building among different ministries and departments (like those of Health, Population Welfare, Education, etc) to achieve synergy
- Political commitment (provincial level)
- Conducive socio-political situation
- Public-private partnership

2.3.2 Unmet Need and Family Planning in Pakistan by Dr. Faaria Ahsan

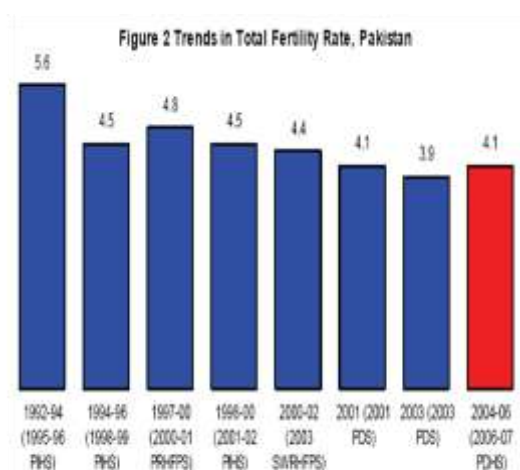
UNFPA's Program Officer Dr. Faaria Ahsan said that ICPD (International Conference for Population Development), Programme of Action, Cairo, 1994 urges all countries to provide men as well as women with reproductive health (RH) care that is "accessible, affordable, acceptable and convenient". It encourages RH care programmes to move away from considering men and women separately and to adopt a more holistic approach that includes men and focuses on couples. It also draws attention to the unfairness inherent in gender roles of many men and women, calling upon men to take more responsibility for household work and child-rearing.

Pre & Post ICPD Population Parameters:

Parameters	1991	2008
Contraceptive Knowledge (%)	78	96
CPR (%)	12	30
TFR	5.4	4.1
Population Growth Rate (%)	2.63	1.9
IMR/1000 LB	108	78
Child mortality under 5	117	94



MMR/100,000 LB	443	276
Mean age at marriage (Female)	21.6	23.4



Source DHS



Source DHS

The above figures show trends of low contraceptive prevalence in Pakistan and high unmet need. There is a high unmet need because of barriers to birth spacing. Barriers to birth spacing are cultural traditions and religious norms, gender inequality, lack of knowledge, fear of side effects, myths, fears and health concerns, lack of contraceptives and / or method of choice, method failure, and quality of services. There are provider bias and poor counseling, poor access to services including post partum care, poverty, cost as a barrier, less deliveries through SBA and no counseling. The use of family planning can be increased by increasing knowledge and interest, better economy, by showing effect of Family Planning (FP) in improving maternal and child health, quality and access, better social and political environment, political commitment and decreasing cost especially the access cost. Following are the challenges we currently face:

- Provision of funds for buying contraceptives (a gap of about \$9 million)
- Better quality and coverage of services
- Integration of FP into MCH services to remove stigma
- Removing family/cost barriers
- Encouraging 3-year gap between births
- Discouraging early marriages
- Side-effect management of contraceptives

UNFPA role is advocacy with donors for resource mobilization, technical assistance to improve services, procurement of contraceptives for the country, policy inputs to the government on FP and its effect on MDGs, assisting the government in census, technical assistance in data collection and analysis on population and development.

She came up with following recommendations:

- Integrate family planning into reproductive health programs
- Increase coverage and quality
- Male involvement in all FP initiatives as they are decision makers
- Reduce demand for large families by investing in human capital (education, skills, entrepreneurship)
- Delay early marriage and first births, and space births
- Address the adolescent needs, i.e. RH needs, education & skill

2.3.3 Engaging High School Girls to Ensure Declining Fertility by Bushra Sadiq

BARGAD's senior program officer Bushra Sadiq shared a case study conducted in Gujranwala as a BARGAD project in collaboration with WPF. BARGAD is executing a project "Empowering Girls -- Transforming Communities in District Gujranwala in 35 Selected Schools". The main objective is to stop early marriages and increase the stay of adolescent girls at school, which would result in declining fertility rate in Gujranwala.

According to the baseline action research study "Sexual and Reproductive Health and Economic Status of Adolescent Girls in District Gujranwala", around 89.5 percent of girls want guideline and counseling in marital affairs and 87.6 percent adolescent girls want counseling and guideline in family planning, which is a positive sign for the development of young girls.

Ms. Bushra Sadiq said it was not an easy job to make people aware about the reproductive health. School administrations, community elders and teachers are reluctant to talk about the issue. Keeping this in view, a curriculum has been introduced in addition to the regular curriculum on the Life Skill-Based Education (LSBE) program. It would be taught on weekly basis. Development of need based curriculum and subsequent training is a unique effort in its regard that is expected to bring changes at grassroots level in the community of Dist. Gujranwala. The main topics focused during the training will be; self awareness, gender, human rights, family, communication, health, harassment, contagious diseases, health issues and confidence building.

2.3.4 Discussion

Dr. Farria Ahsan: What does keep our society away from family planning?

Ethisham: Illiteracy among woman

Humma: Some people think that birth spacing is prohibited in religion

Shamsa Yousaf: Our cultural values

M. Younas: There is a pressure in families to have a boy or girl or for more children, which hinders family planning.

Dr. Farria Ahsan: If your father wishes that you had 4-6 children. What would you do?

M. Younas: I will not respond to their request or take the family pressure.

Dr. Farria Ahsan: Why?

M. Younas: Because I am born free and have the right to choice.

Dr. Faaria Ahsan: So this right to choice belongs to your wife who can decide how many children you should have. Thus, we can deduce from our discussion that ignorance and the lack of awareness is the main barrier against Family Planning.

M. Saleem: Women in villages give birth to more children as they get nutritious food during pregnancy.

M. Irfan: As resources also increase along with population, people feel no urgent need for Family Planning.

Maria: We are living in a male-dominant society, where female has no right to decide about number of children.

Dr. Tauseef Ahmad: The ministries of education, population and youth must collaborate, given problems are interrelated and positive results can be achieved by addressing the cause. Most of the religious leaders and groups now support Family Planning.

Dr. Farria Ahsan: So it's quite important to raise awareness in girls and woman about their reproductive rights. Once they are well informed, the change will be inevitable.

2.3.5 Recommendations

- Youth First -- Listen them carefully
- Consensus building among ministries and departments [of Health & Population Welfare, Education, etc] to work in synergy
- Political commitment at the provincial level; public-private partnership is to be developed to reduce fertility.
- Integrate family planning into reproductive health programs
- Increase coverage and quality
- Male involvement in all FP initiatives as they are decision-makers
- Reduce demand for large families by investing in human capital (education, skills, entrepreneurship)

- Delay early marriage (not before 18 years) and first births and space births. Discourage pregnancies at 34 years
- Orientation of school administrations on growing fertility rate
- Raise awareness in the society and adolescent girls about the rapidly-growing fertility rate
- Training of teachers on sexual and reproductive health

Three Parallel Sessions

The three parallel sessions were:

- Education and Youth Development
- Youth for Labour Force Development
- Satellite Session for Youth: Reproductive Health-Let's Start Talking

These sessions mapped out the factual situation and designed strategies through technical recommendations to ensure: (i) education becomes an effective tool to develop youth and their life-enhancing skills, (ii) how youth employment is guaranteed, and (iii) reproductive health issues are addressed with straight face.

2.4 Education and Youth Development

Education and Youth Development	
Date	August 9, 2010
Venue	Crystal B Hall, Pearl Continental Lahore
Moderator	Nasira Habib (Director Khoj Society for Peoples' Education)
Speakers: TM Qurashi (Deputy Education Advisor, Policy and Planning Wing, Ministry of Education), Aamir Raiz (Editor, Awami Jumhori Forum), Abdus Sami Khan (Planning Expert, GTZ), Prof. Dr. Masoom Yasin Zai (Vice Chancellor, Quaid-e-Azam University) and Nishat Kazmi (Youth Representative)	

OBJECTIVES

- To discuss radical shift from looking at education as an automatic process for youth development
- To map out the relationship of youth development with education

PROCEEDINGS

The session revolved around the following discussions:

- Meeting Learning Needs of Out-of-School Youth to Maximize Benefits of Demographic Dividends
- National Education Policy; Opportunities and Challenges in Addressing Youth Bulge
- National Education Policies; Opportunities and Challenges in Addressing Youth Bulge
- Implementation of Challenges in Educational Sector
- Challenges to the Higher Education
- Thinking Beyond Formal Education; an Alternative Perspective to the Role of Educational Institutions in Youth Leadership Development

2.4.1 National Education Policy; Opportunities and Challenges in Addressing Youth Bulge by TM Qurashi

Deputy Education Advisor, Policy and Planning Wing, Ministry of Education, TM Qurashi said that demographic dividend is a once-in-life-time opportunity in Pakistan that may not recur given a persistent decline in the fertility rate. For this we must maintain macro-economic stability and a sustained higher economic growth should form the basic principle of realizing potential benefits of demographic transition. Investment in people meant for the demographic dividend calls for a holistic education/ HRD policy and comprehensive sector wide approaches in educational planning, financing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. If Pakistan is able to utilize its youth, the country may progress rapidly.

In the mid of 2006 the government drafted a National Education Policy in wake of the youth bulge, the draft of which is available at Ministry of Education website. The government by using that National Education Policy has drafted National Education Policy (NEP) 2009. The Ministry of Education made a good progress as to education policy 2009 but no one knows its fate after the 18th amendment. Following questions arise after 18th Amendment:

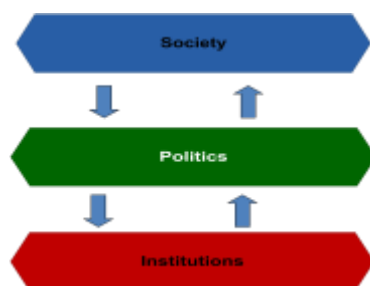
- Whether NEP will continue or provinces are required to formulate their own policies?
- Whether or not the Ministry of Education (MoE) will coordinate implementation on NEP?
- Whether a uniform education system and specifically curricula is needed all over Pakistan?
- If not, what issues will arise on migration of students from one province to another?
- Whether there would be uniform National Minimum Standards for education all over Pakistan?

2.4.2 National Education Policies; Opportunities and Challenges in Addressing Youth Bulge by Aamir Raiz

Editor Awami Jumhuri Forum, Aamir Raiz criticized that the MoE is equally responsible for the miserable education standards in Pakistan and all blame cannot be attributed to the 18th amendment. Aamir Raiz said that syllabi are being full of misguided information which inculcates discrimination, extremism, prejudiced historical incidents and militarism. The eloquent testimony of the aforesaid facts is the prejudiced syllabus full of discrimination that the MoE approved from 2003 to 2008. All educational policies of Pakistan from 1969 to 2007 induced hatred and discriminatory behaviours in students. Good policies can be made but the real test is their implementation. The graph of education standards is declining day by day, which requires investigation. He recommended a new vision for course-makers, and formulation of policies after consultation.

2.4.3 Issues in Implementation of Educational Policies by GTZ Planning Expert Abdus Sami Khan

GTZ Planning Expert Abdus Sami Khan explained implementation as a function of interaction between different bodies in a country. A small group dedicated to the cause can develop a policy. Implementation requires finances, resources, time, etc. Success or lack of it in any sector is decided by the interplay of various groups and bodies in a state.



- In society we view: hierarchically, child has few rights, intelligence a factor of age, children issues less important, education as a conduit to job only, education as a simple process
- In politics education is always given low priority and there is a poor understanding of education
- Our educational institutions have poor capacity, are non-specialized and have low morale.

Government has made several efforts to implement an effective policy but all in vain. The elements of learning are knowledge, skills and attitudes. Learning is one's analytical ability, cognitive skills, self-learning and values. The cognitive domain moves from simple to complex.

In Pakistan teaching has remained focused on knowledge through rote learning. Learning is not just through educational institutions but it is a daily life process. This concept has a lot of implications for the manner in which we design our education structure.

Then he discussed the weak quality inputs:

1. Curriculum development and implementation
 - No standardized and transparent method

- Political misuse
 - Limited expertise
 - No dissemination
2. Textbook development process
- No quality authors
 - No process
 - Capture by interest groups
3. Teacher quality
- Poor pre-service
 - No in-service training
4. Assessments
- Low levels of expertise
 - Reinforces rote learning

Section 7 of the Act: No consistency across textbooks e.g. class 7 course more difficult than 8ths. Now the government in words of Khalil Jibran, "Pity the nation whose statesman is a fox, whose philosopher is a juggler, and whose art is the art of patching and mimicking." In Pakistan there are overstretched organizations, poor management capacity, uninformed decision-making, and lack of experts in policy, planning and education. Furthermore, political interference and corruption has aggravated the situation.

Pakistan has poor quality of education and there is no link between policy development, implementation and research. Most critically, the child is not the focus of any intervention and we do not know what we want to change or we do not want to change anything.

In Punjab teachers are in very small number as compared to students. According to PIMU Punjab 2009:

Total Teachers	Total Students
3,13,330	10,646,480

He recommended developing the balance between the quality of education and its access to everyone.

2.4.4 Challenges to Higher Education by Prof. Dr. Masoom Yasin Zai

Vice-Chancellor, Quaid-i-Azam University, Prof. Dr. Masoom Yasin Zai said that it is for universities to channelize the youth potentials positively. The quality of education in small cities and villages is highly pathetic and the reason is low investment and lack of strategies in the sector. Students develop certain behaviours and attitudes when they enter universities, universities can't completely change an individual. He attributed the raised standards of education in the Quaid-i-Azam University in the past few years to the increase investment in the higher education by the government. Similarly, he opined, if the government invests in the secondary education the condition may improve. The government must make a proper strategy to reap the dividend of its youth for which a proper planning is required at the grassroots level.

2.4.5 Thinking beyond Formal Education; an Alternative Perspective to the Role of Educational Institutions in Youth Leadership Development by Nishat Kazmi

Youth Representative, Nishat Kazmi made his presentation after showing a documentary about a person who succeeded after proper utilization of his skills. He also shared his success story. Nishat was an active member of the debating club in the Government College University Lahore, but when he went to Punjab University, he found no platform for extracurricular activities. Meanwhile a competition was announced at LUMS, for which he worked hard and his team got second position. Afterwards he was selected for several international competitions. Now Punjab University is leading in debate competitions. An effort can change the whole environment. Thus we must act instead of waiting. Furthermore, non-formal education plays a vital role in personality development and students must participate in extracurricular activities.

2.4.6 Discussion

Irfan: Does education starts from home?

A. Sami Khan: Home is not the only factor; the main problem is the way we have tried to manipulate our education system to get specific outputs. We tried to use education as a mould to get specific personalities which led to a chaos in education system and this happens in a prejudiced system.

Sohaib: Is our education system outdated and we are still following the system left by the British? Moreover, why do people prefer private schools to government schools?

TM Qurashi: The second problem you raised is mentioned in the first chapter of the education policy that throws light on different elements which mainly cause people to prefer private institutions. The main reason is the government's investment on education, which is very little percentage of our GDP as compared to what is required. Secondly, nepotism and political interests are entertained during recruitment of staff. Thirdly, schools are not built through need-assessment analysis but on the basis of political interests. Even for the selection of teachers the government follows a quota system instead of merit.

Fazal: Which factor has disturbed the balance of our education system against the backdrop of induced extremism?

Aamir Raiz: If we analyze policies before 1969, we find no conflict as the policies are well balanced. But then there was a major shift in the policy of 1969 with the inclusion of fresh norms. New trends were set because of the enmity with India and religion and extremism were used as tools.

A balanced educational policy can deter conflict. A person can retain its provincial identity as well as national. There is no conflict between religion and science, but it was manipulated to achieve some end.

Naisra Habib: When I remember my childhood I find no conflicts or controversies within people. Most of the people used to pray but there was no clash between those who offered and those who did not. The gulf has been created by us. If we are modern, we reject religion and if we are religious, we reject modernism. As a matter of fact, both modernism and religion may contribute to the development of the society.

Ayesha: Should the medium of education at primary level be local?

Aamir Raiz: The question has its roots back in British rule during which English was made compulsory to undermine nationalism. After the creation of Pakistan, the same policy continued.

Effendi: Don't we need to eliminate the class-based education system?

Dr. Masom Yasinzai: Minimum standards can be established as complete uniformity and classless education system are impractical. However we need to address the issues of disturbed balances in our society and education policy that has led to this dismal situation. We all need to think about it and should take practical steps for improving the situation.

2.4.7 Recommendations

- A uniform education system is not practicable and has produced negative impacts like political use and totalitarian tendencies. National curricula guidelines and uniform National Minimum Standards for Education should be devised.
- Limited expertise in curriculum and textbook development and poor teacher quality should be addressed.
- Link between policy development, implementation and research be enhanced with multi-stakeholder consultative process.
- Literate youth should be involved in implementation of youth policies.
- Promotion of extra-curricular activities is a must. HEC should mainstream them in education planning and implementation.
- Central and provincial governments should adopt International Year of the Youth.
- Promotion of youth-led activities and creation of youth-based forums at the provincial and district level.
- Youth-related information and their issues should be highlighted through curriculum and it should be for all youth with their diversity in view.
- Career and psychological counseling for school and college students. To achieve this end, capacity be increased and a pool of experts should be created.
- Examination and testing system should encourage analytical skills of students rather than rote learning.
- Promotion of female literacy campaigns.

2.5 Youth for Labour Force Development

Youth for Labour Force Development	
Date	August 9, 2010
Venue	Kashmir Hall, PC Lahore
Moderator	Ayesha Tammy Haq
Speakers: Saifullah Chaudary (National Program Officer, ILO), Javed Gill (Central Labor Advisor, Ministry of Labour and Man Power), Saeed Alvi (Chairman, TEVTA), Ali Salman (Senior Partner Development Pool), Fiza Iqbal Panwar (Youth Representative), M. Dawood (Youth Representative) and Saba Mehmood (Youth Representative)	

OBJECTIVES

- Demand and skill mapping
- Standardization of technical education
- Economic and social entrepreneurship, vocational and skill training
- Realizing the need for skilled labour

PROCEEDINGS

The session revolved around the following discussions:

- Human Resource Development; Current and Future Trends
- Labor Policy; Opportunities for Future Workforce
- How to Market Technical Skills Development Programs for Out of School and in School Young People
- Skill Gaps in Youth
- Youth Perspective
- Need of Technical Education among Youth
- Youth and Entrepreneurship

2.5.1 Human Resource Development; Current and Future Trends by Saifullah Chaudary (National Program Officer, ILO)

National Programme Officer, ILO, Mr. Saifullah Chaudary shared that ILO promotes social justice and decent work. 'Universal and lasting peace can be established only if it is based upon social justice' -- Preamble to the ILO Constitution.

He told that in 2006-07, over half of the youth (15-24 years) were economically inactive (55.8%):

Young male inactivity was 30.8% and Young female inactivity was 81.6%. Young male inactivity has not really changed over time (99-07) while young female inactivity has decreased (8.2) over time (99-07). He compared statistics for youth employment in Pakistan:

Structure of Youth Employment

Pakistan (15-24)	1999-2000 ('000)	1999-2000 Share (%)	2006-2007 ('000)	2006-007 Share (%)
Agriculture	3840	44.2%	5425	41.5%
Manufacturing	1448.6	16.7	2425	18.5%
Wholesale, trade	1246.7	14.4%	1892.8	14.5%

Pakistan (15-24)	1999-2000 ('000)	1999-2000 Share (%)	2006-2007 ('000)	2006-007 Share (%)
Community Srv	1023	11.8%	1547.7	11.8%
Construction	628.5	7.2%	1014.8	7.8%
Transport etc	451.3	5.2%	618.	4.7%
Financing etc	34.2	0.4%	107.4	0.8%
Electricity etc	12.3	0.1%	30.6	0.2%
Mining	2.6	0.0%	16.2	0.1%
Undefined	n/a	n/a	4.1	0.0%
Total	8687.9	100%	13081.6	100%

The above table shows that during 1999 and 2007 the engine for youth employment creation was agriculture, manufacturing, wholesale and trades, finance and insurance.

Labour Force survey 2007 and 2008 indicates that Pakistan's half workforce is illiterate. Illiteracy hinders workers abilities to benefit from decent work.

Six dimensions of decent work are: (i) opportunity for work, (ii) work in condition of freedom, (iii) productive work, (IV) equity in work, (v) security at work and (vi) dignity at work

Mr. Saifullah Chaudary made the following recommendations:

- Youth labour force participation rate needs to be increased through education, skills and employment opportunities
- Special measures needed to narrow the huge gender gap in youth labour market
- Special measures to ensure safety at work for women
- Protection measures for youth workforce in informal economy
- Reduce the job search period for youth.
- Improving labour market information and analysis
- New Sector of Employment needs to be explored: Green Job: Globally \$1.5 trillion in near future; 100 million new jobs.

2.5.2 Labour Policy; Opportunities for Future Workforce by Javed Gill

Central Labour Advisor, Ministry of Labour and Man Power, Mr. Javed said the National Labour Policy has been structured on the following four pillars:

- i. Legal Framework
- ii. Advocacy: Rights of Workers and Employers
- iii. Skill Development and Employment
- iv. Manpower Export

Mr. Javed came up with the conclusion that: Labour Policy will facilitate youth through (i) generating new employment in the private sector, (ii) skill development, (iv) improvement in terms of employment, (v) improvement in working conditions, (v) better industrial relations (vi) labour welfare measures and (vii) promotion of export of manpower.

2.5.3 Marketing Technical Skills Development Programs for Out-of-School and In-School Young People by Saeed Alvi

Chairman, TEVTA, Mr. Saeed presented the ways and means of marketing technical skills development programs for out-of-school and in-school young people. He explained the TEVTA role in training youth and marketing their skills.

2.5.4 Skill Gaps in Youth by Ali Salman

Senior Partner, Development Pool, Mr. Ali's presentation addressed one of the most problematic areas of youth, i.e. skills gaps. A large proportion of youth remains unemployed because most of the students are unable to develop expertise and skills after completing their education. Moreover, educated youth looks forward to executive jobs and does not avail low paid jobs.

Related to gender inequality, he said that women were serving against only 3% of managerial posts and that proportion was half in agriculture. It takes two to three years to build skills required for a job. Most of the employers are reluctant to hire girls as they think that girls leave the job after two or three years.

He concluded that youth must concentrate on the development of analytical, communication and self-management skills.

2.5.5 Youth Perspective by Fiza Iqbal Panwar

Youth Representative, Fiza Iqbal shared that Sindh University Campus Mirpurkhas promotes youth activism besides organizing activities for its students. The university also collaborates with BARGAD. Fiza concluded that influencing the education sector with political ideas would not auger well. Instead of introducing new educational reform, politicians should concentrate on providing facilities and materials to facilitate quality education.

2.5.6 Need of Technical Education for Youth by M. Dawood Sheikh

Youth Representative, Dawood Sheikh is a young person striving for the establishment of a technical vocational institute, said that youth in Pakistan is experiencing unemployment because they do not have technical skills and most of the graduates do not meet the skill demand of different jobs. He made the following points:

- There is a need to enhance global competitiveness in Pakistan through a quality and productive workforce by developing demand-driven, standardized, dynamic and integrated technical education and vocational training service after establishing modern technical and vocational institutes.
- There are not enough DEMAND-DRIVEN technical and vocational institutes to fulfill the industrial need. Technical and vocational institutes are teaching old curriculum.
- Existing technical and vocational institutes should be equipped with the latest courses and technology to cater for the need of different industries. Their need for persons who can operate and install machines, look after their accounts and who have the managerial skills should be met.

2.5.7 Youth and Entrepreneurship by Saba Mehmood

Youth Representative, Saba Mehmood's presentation was on youth and entrepreneurship. Her point was that entrepreneurship has a positive impact on the economy as it leads to increase in investment, employment, diversity. She dilated upon the characteristics that make an entrepreneur successful. She said that man and woman can be equally good as entrepreneur.

She concluded: (i) Education is facing new challenges with rapid changes in the world. This means new approaches to teaching and learning are needed. (ii) Economics and entrepreneurial education involve a unique blend of competencies and methods of problem solving for creating change and dealing with consequences. (iii) In Pakistan, youth must be promoted and trained as entrepreneur.

2.5.8 Discussion

Irfan: How government can play role in labour force development?

Ali Salman: The government creates new jobs due to political consideration and not on the basis of market demand. This thing blocks channels for skillful youth besides causing money loss.

Nosheen: Our constitution does not allow below-14 child to work. Our government is not complying with the pact it has signed with ILO. What is ILO doing in this regard?

Ali Salman: The constitution prohibits child labour but in our culture child labour is not considered immoral or depraved. Thus our culture is also a big hurdle in the way of the constitution. Moreover, the government is working in different sectors to stop child labour. As such, we cannot completely blame our government.

2.5.9 Recommendations

- Youth Labour Force participation rate needs to be increased through education/skills and employment opportunities
- Special measures are needed to narrow huge gender gap in youth labour market.
- Special measures should ensure safety at work for women
- Protection measures for youth workforce in informal economy
- Special programmes in technical and vocational training should include illiterate youth. Formalization of non-literacy/ practice-based training is required for certification
- Reduce the job search period for youth
- Improving labour market Information and Analysis
- New sector of employment needs to be explored: Green Job: Globally \$1.5 trillion in near future; 100 million new jobs
- For employment generation, primary emphasis will be on rural areas and surrounding small towns through development of physical and social infrastructure and rural industries
- Opportunities for self-employment should be offered to the educated, skilled and entrepreneurial, especially through better access to credit facilities
- Particular emphasis should be on the Training of Trainers to maximize the multiplier impact with the collaboration of private sector
- Procedures regarding export of manpower have to be simplified and streamlined
- DEMAND-DRIVEN technical and vocational institutes to fulfill the need of the industries. Existing technical and vocational institutes are teaching the old curriculum and they cannot compete with the latest technology.
- Encouraging youth for self-employment and entrepreneurship by resisting cultural taboos to the manual work and revision of teaching and learning approaches in favour of applicable knowledge and problem-solving methods.

2.6 Satellite Session for Youth Reproductive Health – Let’s Start Talking

Satellite Session for Youth Reproductive Health- Let’s Start Talking	
Date	August 9, 2010
Venue	Board Room F, Pearl Continental, Lahore
Moderator	Kamyla Marvi Tappal (Country Director LDM)

OBJECTIVES

- To understand different dimensions of the reproductive health
- Develop a vocabulary for reproductive health
- To understand as to how reproductive health is closely associated with gender

PROCEEDINGS

Kamyla Marvi welcomed the participants and shared the objectives and the agenda. After an interesting activity “Transfer In”, the participants were paired up. Then they set the norms for the session.¹

A. Understanding Reproductive Health (RH)

Participants were asked to brainstorm all the words that come to their minds with the word reproductive health. The facilitator encouraged the brainstorming by asking the participants to think about the word RH life-cycles, positive aspects, alternative identities, body parts, emotions etc.

Participants then wrote different words that came to their minds, e.g. semen, pregnancy, uterus, gonorrhoea, miscarriage, virginity and impotency etc.

B. Exploring Sex and Gender

Participants were divided into two groups. Each group was given a flip chart. One group was asked to brainstorm the characters of man and the other group was asked to brainstorm the characters of a woman. The facilitator then went through each chart. The words that cannot be held true were deleted and kept in the central chart.

Man Characters	Woman Characters
Husband/ Brother	Creator/ Motherhood
Son/ Father	

The participants generated a debate that most of the gender differences are created by the societies, which are not based on reality. Man and woman are equal in terms of their rights and choices.

4.6.1 Recommendations

- There is a need to encourage youth to talk about reproductive health issues by creating comfortable environment, adopting appropriate terminology, integration of SRH and life-skills component with education system, curriculum and student testing.
- Teacher training is necessary for scaling up the SRH awareness.
- It is required to prioritize family planning, life-skill and gender issues over HIV Aids in Pakistani context.

¹ The session participants showed reluctance to indicate their names in the report. Moreover notes, video capturing and voice recording were not allowed as per norms set by the participants.

2.7 Youth Participation and Engagement

Youth Participation and Engagement	
Date	August 10, 2010
Venue	Crystal Hall B, PC Lahore
Moderator	Ms. Salma Butt
Speakers: Ali Mardan Rahoojo (Advisor, Ministry of Youth Affairs), Sadia Atta Mehmood (National Program Officer, Youth, UNFPA), Sarmad Raza Nayak (Youth Representative), Iqbal Haider Butt (Senior Partner Development Pool) and Sohaila Mushtaq (Senior Joint Secretary, MOYA)	

OBJECTIVES

- Effective engagement of youth on issues directly affecting their lives
- Putting their analytical problem-solving and creative skills in service of youth development

PROCEEDINGS

Presentations on the following topics were made:

- National Youth Policy; Objective and Action plan
- Mechanism for Youth Participation and Engagement
- A Rural Perspective Regarding Engagement of Youth
- Presenting the Publication “Youth Voices”

2.7.1 National Youth Policy; Objective and Action Plan by Ali Mardan Rahoojo

Advisor, Technical, Ministry of Youth Affairs, Ali Mardan discussed definition of youth, history of National Youth Policy, principles of policy and plan of action and policy response by Ministry of Youth Affairs.

In the light of the definition, “Period of transformation from family dependent childhood to independent adulthood and integration in the society as a responsible citizen” the Ministry of Youth Affairs put youth bracket from 15 to 29 years of age.

Pakistan is facing youth issues of (i) dwindling sense of national pride, motivation, frustration; (ii) lack of attention to national integration, harmony and cohesion; (iii) unattended youth dividend (unemployment and income generation); (iv) lack of proactive approach for marginalized youth; (v) inadequate attention to young life issues (health, family, sports, leisure, past times, etc).

The National Youth Policy (NYP) was the first ever national policy prepared and approved by the present democratic government. The finalization of NYP took 20 odd years and colossal amount of money was spent on hiring local and foreign consultants. The incumbent government takes the credit for preparing the NYP with the available resources of the Ministry of Youth Affairs without spending anything from the public exchequer. The NYP broadly outlines the youth issues and also suggests mitigating actions. The implementation of NYP is well underway. Some of the projects have already been conceived and implemented and some of them are in final stages of preparation.

Ali Mardan concluded as “Youth of the country is not part of the problem but solution to all problems.”

2.7.2 Mechanism for Youth Participation and Engagement by Sadia Atta Mehmood

National Programme Officer, Youth, UNFPA, Sadia said that UNFPA invests in programmes to meet youth needs for health care, education, economic opportunity and life skills. The Fund works to ensure that adolescents and young people receive accurate information, non-judgmental counselling and comprehensive and affordable services to prevent unwanted pregnancy and sexually-transmitted infections, including HIV. UNFPA seeks to engage young people as active participants in programmes that affect them.

UNFPA Framework for Action on Adolescents and Youth: 1. Supportive policy environment; 2. Comprehensive life skills and RH education; 3. Youth-friendly RH services; 4. Participation of youth / build leadership.

UNFPA seeks the engagement of youth in all affairs of communities, government schools, civil societies where they can learn and demonstrate their potential to act learning and caring roles and be mentored for future roles.

At the end she said that youth participation is very essential and youth must be included at every level. If Pakistan is able to ensure youth participation today, then country may have better and strong leaders tomorrow. To ensure youth participation we need:

- Improving access to information in order to enable young people to make better use of their opportunities to participate in decision-making;
- Developing and/or strengthening opportunities for young people to learn their rights and responsibilities, promoting their social, political, developmental and environmental participation, removing obstacles that affect their full contribution to society and respecting freedom of association
- Encouraging and promoting youth associations through financial, educational and technical support and promotion of their activities; and
- Taking into account the youth contribution in designing, implementing and evaluating national policies and plans affecting their concerns.

2.7.3 A Rural Perspective Regarding Engagement of Youth by Sarmad Raza Nayak

Youth Representative, Mr. Sarmad shared his experience with youth in rural areas. He said that the relationship of youth with the main stream is very weak in rural areas. In Pakistan the value of rural culture has been besmirched. Youth in Pakistan must have equal rights and justice must be provided in all respects.

In Pakistan, the rural youth gets a sense of embarrassment when it compares itself with the youth in cities. The main challenges that our youth faces in rural areas are (i) financial challenge, (ii) mass resentment because they are offended by opportunities to others, (iii) lack of entrepreneurship, (iv) social degradation of Dara and local networking culture, (v) the lack of information and exposure, (vi) no media is sensitive to youth perspectives.

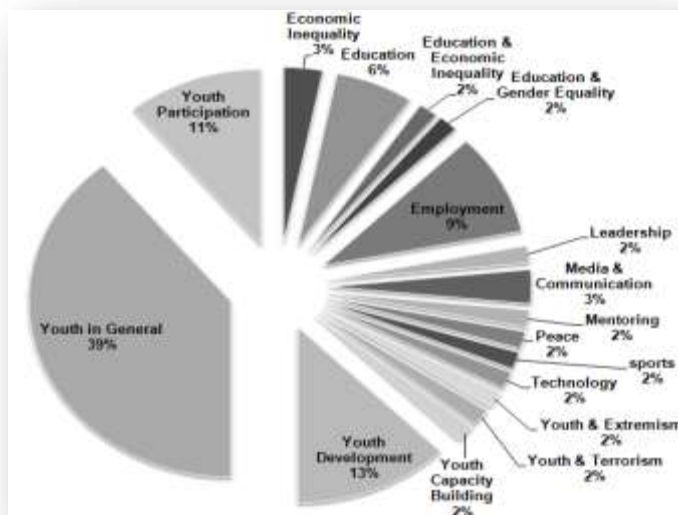
He recommended:

- Local sports and festival events i.e. Kabbadi, wrestling, etc
- Training of modern trends i.e. SMS messages, billiard
- Skill enhancement through mobile phone tech
- Youth income generation programmes
- Effective communication strategy for engaging rural youth
- Promotion of oral culture
- Standardization of skill certification for those who are out of schools

2.7.4 Presentation of “Youth Voices” by Iqbal Haider Butt

Senior Partner Development Pool, Iqbal Haider Butt gave presentation on the National Contest on Innovative Ideas on Youth in Pakistan, organized by BARGAD. He informed the audience that a technical committee comprising seven reputed experts working on the youth development evaluated the innovative ideas that 64 young persons in 15-29 age bracket presented. The ideas of first three position holders along with excerpts from different write-ups were compiled in the form of a book, “*Youth Voices*.”

Following themes were taken up by the youth: economic inequality, education, education and economic inequality, education and gender equality, employment, leadership, media and communication, mentoring, peace, sports, technology, youth and extremism, youth and terrorism, youth capacity building, youth development, youth in general and youth participation and engagement. A chart showing issues discussed by youth is given here:



The evaluation criteria for innovative ideas clearly spelt out the analytical and problem-solving competencies on youth.

After screening the innovative ideas on youth, one of the judges, Ali Salman, summarized that our educated/university-attending youth are demanding three key things: equality, opportunity and guidance. "If you think of it, all of these words imply that youth want something before they can deliver. Rationally speaking, it may be fine, but even in economic rationale one has to invest before expecting rewards."

Conclusion of Presentation: Polish the ideas into projects and actions involving 'US' NOT JUST 'THEM' – adults and governments

2.7.5 Address by Sohaila Mushtaq, Senior Joint Secretary

Senior Joint Secretary, Federal Ministry of Youth Affairs, Ms. Sohaila said that now the MOYA has youth policy, a direction that would bring change. The main problem of youth is direction and the Ministry is working on directionless youth to channelize their potentials. She said, "If you need guidance, you are welcome to come to our ministry or call us, we will respond to your request."

2.7.6 Discussion

Maria: Mr. Iqbal has pointed out that innovative ideas contest depicted youth attitude, who want to know how the society can derive benefit from them and not how they can benefit the society. My question is whether guidance is not the right of the youth. Shouldn't we train them? Is this the problem with the youth or with our education system?

Iqbal Haider Butt: First of all, it was a comment of one of the judges and not of mine. Further it was a general impression. As for youth guidance, we all are responsible for giving youth a proper direction. Our education system has failed to deliver the cause. Our youth must think for itself and for its rights.

Shaista Rasheed: Sarmad, how to address the out-school youth and furthermore how mobile can be used for youth activism?

Sumaira: Sarmad, what is your opinion about the cultural transition for the last many years? Is media especially cable is a threat to our culture?

Sarmad: First thing is that the out-school youth is not a curse but a certain dividend, if we are able to harness its potential in a positive way. There are several ways to channel the potentials, for example by informal education and by technical education. In my presentation I also called for realizing the inherent traits of our society. By realizing its inherent potentials we can provide our society with better opportunities.

Mobile phone can be used as a very effective tool for youth activation. For instance, I trained many deaf young persons to send messages through mobile and now they are using it properly.

As for culture, it is not an alienated entity as culture can't be alienated from extrinsic effects. Dynamism in culture is its beauty and not a negative phenomenon.

Syed Aqeel Haider: Sadia Atta, should drug addiction be considered as a crime or as a psychological disease? Isn't it a malignancy for our youth?

Faizan Hassan: UNFPA has changed its strategy as now we are seeing UNFPA working with youth organizations and working on different projects in collaboration with these organizations.

Azhar: How can be youth participation a practical thing as in our universities? Students do not have any representation and university administration tries to suppress and repress students.

Sadia Atta Mehmood: Drug addiction in youth is the result of lack of positive channels for youth. Drug addiction must be considered as a psychological disease. The evil can be contained if we are able to channel our youth.

In response to Faizan's comment, Organizations can address the issues in a organized way through collaboration. As the Ministry of Youth Affairs is working on the issues of youth development and activism and one of the components of UNFPA is youth, UNFPA is seeking joint ventures.

Organizations like BARGAD are having good partnership with universities. We need to build up and strengthen such partnerships in order to draw university students to healthy activities.

Alia: Why the implementation of youth policy is so slow, moreover what are the new initiatives of the ministry of youth?

Ali Mardan Rahoojo: National Youth Policy is a new document in the phase of its implementation. Now we have the policy and we are proceeding towards the goal of youth development and participation. The Ministry has delivered the things never addressed before. The Ministry of Youth is soon going to launch a radio channel to provide youth with a discussion forum and to get their valuable feedback.

Naeem Tariq: All the speakers have talked about the character-building of youth. Is character building only needed for youth? Does corruption not trickle down from our aged people to youth? Shouldn't we concentrate on the grown-up segment of our society?

Sana: Haven't we focused much on reproductive health and less on integrated youth development and other related topics?

Sadia Atta Mehmood: The presentation of Minhaj addressed the issue of demographic dividend that opened the debate related to the dividends and risks of the youth bulge. It was not purely the presentation on population. He showed that with the increase of population the demand of food, infrastructure and other related facilities also increases. And if the resources are exhausted, the youth of a nation poses a threat to it. The talk pinpointed many related issues.

I am not defending the design of the conference, but certain problems related us. For example, the session of the reproductive health was designed to highlight the maternal mortality rate during childbirths, which is very high in girls aged between 15-19 years, its link with poverty and education. Different policies concerning youth were discussed.

Your questions clearly evince that you have understood the basic theme of the conference and it is the sign of its success. Moreover this success is the sheer effort of BARGAD that has worked to bring us all here to discuss the issue. I express my gratitude to BARGAD for organizing this successful event.

2.7.7 Recommendations

- There is need for a concerted and dedicated effort for rural and tribal youth and for creation of appropriate media strategies looking at current practices of participation, i.e. local festivals and events.
- Usage of modern gadgets for social networking of illiterate youth.
- National level advocacy and networking on youth issues.
- Linkages of youth with youth and social organizations.
- To motivate youth for engaging in issues affecting them and to write/speak and act for themselves.

2.8 Concluding Session

Concluding Session	
Date	August 10, 2010
Venue	Crystal Hall B, Pearl Continental, Lahore
Moderator	Ms. Salma Butt
Speakers: Mr. Jose Ferrairs (UNFPA Country Representative), Mr. Shahid Hussain Bhutto (Federal Minister for Youth Affairs), Ms. Sabiha Shaheen (Executive Director, Bargad) and Ms. Afifa Shahmin (first position holder, National Youth Contest on Innovative Ideas)	

OBJECTIVES

- Develop linkages and raise awareness for integrated youth development and propose recommendations drawn from the conference
- Development of action plan for advocacy of youth development policies and programs in Pakistan

PROCEEDINGS

The session started with the launch of National Youth Advocacy Platform-Pakistan and findings of the conference by Ms. Sabiha Shaheen (Executive Director, BARGAD). Recommendations of the conference were presented by two young speakers.

Mr. Jose Ferrairs (UNFPA Country Representative), Mr. Shahid Hussain Bhutto (Federal Minister for Youth Affairs) and Afifa Shahmin (first position holder, National Youth Contest on Innovative Ideas) were among the speakers. Prizes and certificates were distributed to the winners of the innovative ideas contest as certificates were distributed to the volunteers of the conference.

2.8.1 Launch of National Advocacy Platform for Youth Development and Findings of the Conference by Sabiha Shaheen

Executive Director, Bargad, Ms. Sabiha was glad that the conference was successful in addressing the cause. She said that BARGAD has organized the conference in collaboration with UNFPA in commemoration of the youth year. The youth year's objectives are designed to address the basic youth issues. BARGAD has recognized the profound importance of the direct youth participation in shaping the future and the valuable contribution that youth can make in all spheres, as well as its willingness to express its ideas as to building a better and more just world in order to attain the objectives of the International Youth Year: Participation, Development and Peace.

In line with the theme for the International Youth Year, the theme for this year's International Youth Day is "Dialogue and Mutual Understanding".

On August 12, 2011 BARGAD and UNFPA would be able to make youth of Pakistan prominent at the international level. BARGAD and UNFPA are launching advocacy platform at the national level for the purpose of integrated youth development. She said that Ms. Saiqa Rani and Dr. Shahbaz Israr Khan would volunteer as secretaries. She welcomed nominations for joining the Platform, which may be submitted to Shahbaz or Saiqa. She invited suggestions and feedback.

2.8.2 Session-wise Recommendations

Session-wise recommendations of the conference were presented by two young participants. (Reference Page 13 – 2.2.3, Page 17 – 2.3.5, Page 22 – 2.4.7, Page 26 - 2.5.9, Page27 - 2.6.1 and Page 31 - 2.7.7)

2.8.3 Speech by Afifa Shameem

Since independence, Afifa said, Pakistan was in a perpetual state of turmoil. We have been living with evils such as three wars with our traditional adversary, law and order, mismanagement of our national institutions, rampant corruption, absence of visionary leadership and resultant absence of nationalistic feelings. These evils have adversely affected the much-needed development. However, the human resource development is the most affected sphere. She called upon the youth to play its role in the national development. Afifa Shahmim is the first position holder of National Contest on Innovative Ideas.

2.8.4 Distribution of Certificates to the Volunteers of National Youth Conference

UNFPA country representative Mr. Jose Ferrairs distributed certificates among the volunteers of the National Youth Conference: Aesha Manzoor, Shaheena Kausar, Sami-ulla, Naveed Jan, Fahad Bhatti, Umair Junaid, Mohsin Ali and Abdul Azeem.

2.8.5 Concluding Remarks by Mr. Jose Ferrairs

Country Representative, UNFPA, Mr. Jose Ferrairs counted the launch of the National Youth Advocacy Platform-Pakistan as a momentous achievement. He said, "It is my pleasure to join you at the concluding session of the conference and most especially to witness the launching of National Youth Advocacy Platform for the youth development in Pakistan. UNFPA is honoured to be the part of this national youth initiative in participation with BARGAD and Ministry of Youth Affairs."

He said that the theme of the conference would be signed in the context of the conference. He viewed that fertility rate in Pakistan is high and education can play a vital role in planning fertility. A successful transition from education towards young people can accelerate economic growth. It would be an advantage for a country if its working age population is educated and ready to face the challenges of sustained economic growth and globalization. He said that UNFPA would continue to partner with the government and civil society organizations including youth organizations to expand access for the youth to information pertaining to sexual and reproductive health. Addressing specific issues facing young people there should be youth involvement and participation in economic, political, social and cultural spheres. It is imperative for Pakistan development. This can be achieved by including youth as a crosscutting team in all major sectors, policies and programs in the national development and poverty-reduction efforts.

He concluded, "I am very happy to know that these acts constituted the very important part of the recommendations but also the part of national advocacy based on youth participation and development. These recommendations of which I am seriously a part are the recommendations that UN especially UNFPA would wish to work and have partnership with young people in terms of their empowerment and in terms of their participation in national processes in the national project of democracy and in all spheres of life, where youth is involved in this society."

"Finally, I affirm that the commitment of the UNFPA country office in Pakistan with youth initiatives is very strong. We believe in investment in youth for their holistic development. We believe in facilitating the aspirations of young people, built their capacity and ensure effective youth-adult partnerships. These people will act strongly in the months and years to come. On the behalf of UNFPA, I congratulate you all on this momentous achievement and we look forward to working with youth for the implementation of this national youth advocacy campaign."

2.8.6 Prize and Certificate Distribution to Position-Holders of Innovative Ideas Contest

Federal Minister for Youth Affairs, Mr. Shahid Hussain Bhutto distributed prizes and certificates to the 1st three position-holders: Afifa Shahmeem, Wajahat Naisar and Ishaq Ahmad Sohag respectively.

2.8.7 Address by Shahid Hussain Bhutto

Federal Minister for Youth Affairs, Mr. Shahid Hussain Bhutto congratulated BARGAD, UNFPA and Ministry of Youth Affairs on launching the National Youth Advocacy Platform-Pakistan and assured the audience that the Ministry of Youth Affairs would work in all its capacities to make the platform successful. He said that the MOYA is progressing by leaps and bounds but much is to be done. He concluded, "Youth Ministry is establishing partnerships with private circles and will not intrude in these processes. Our private partners would design and run the programs and we will have a supportive role. We want to change the old set trends; we want our youth to excel in the realm of competition and to compete with the youth of the world."

2.8.8 Vote of Thanks by Sadia Atta Mehmood

National Programme Officer, UNFPA, Ms. Sadia Atta paid thanks to Youth Minister Shahid Hussain Bhutto, UNFPA Country Representative Mr. Jose Farrairs, Advisor Ministry of Youth Affairs, Ali Mardan Rahoojo, Senior Joint Secretary Federal Ministry of Youth Affairs, Sohaila Mushtaq, BARGAD Executive Director, Sabiha Shaheen, university faculty, civil society, youth organizations and young participants of the conference. She attributed the success of the conference to their participation.

Annexure 1: Conference Programme

NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE ON RISKS & DIVIDENDS OF YOUTH BULGE IN PAKISTAN

Venue: Pearl Continental Hotel, Lahore
08-10 August 2010

8 August 2010, Sunday

INAUGURAL SESSION	
<i>Moderator: Salma Butt</i>	
06:00 P.M-06:30 P.M	Registration of Participants
06:30 P.M-06:45 P.M	Guests to be Seated
06:45 P.M-06:50 P.M	Recitation from the Holy Quran
06:50 P.M-07:00 P.M	National Anthem and Flag Hoisting Ceremony
07:00 P.M-07:10 P.M	Welcome Address By Dr. Naseer Muhammad Nizamani, Assistant Representative UNFPA
07:10 P.M-07:20 P.M	Opening Remarks and Objectives of Conference By Dr. Kaiser Bengali, Chairperson BARGAD
07:20 P.M-07:40 P.M	Presentation on Youth Policy Brief By Sadia Atta Mehmood, National Program Officer (Youth), UNFPA
07:40 P.M -08:20 P.M	Statements By the Provincial Youth Ministers; Syed Syed Aqil Shah, Youth Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Capt (Retd.) Abdaul Khaliq Achaqzai Youth Minister Balochistan
08:40 P.M-08:45 P.M	Vote of Thanks By Sabiha Shaheen, Executive Director Bargad
08:45 P.M-10:00 P.M	<i>Welcome Dinner</i>

9 August 2010, Monday

09:00 A.M-10:00A.M	FRAMING THE THEMES OF YOUTH BULGE IN PAKISTAN
9:00 A.M-09:30 A.M	Presentation By: Minhaj-ul-Haque, Senior Researcher, Population Council
10:00A.M-10:30A.M	Tea Break
10:30 A.M-01:00 P.M.	SESSION 1: DECLINING FERTILITY IN PAKISTAN
Moderator: Qadeer Baig	
Key Panelists:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Unmet Need and Family Planning in Pakistan, Dr. Faaria Ahsan, Program Officer, UNFPA ▪ The Challenges of Declining Fertility in the light of Demographic Discourse By Dr. Tauseef Ahmed, Demographer and Researcher ▪ Engaging High School Girls to Ensure Declining Fertility By Bushra Sadiq, Senior Program Officer Bargad 	
Q &A Session	
01:00 P.M -02:00 P.M	Lunch

SESSION 2: PARALLEL SESSIONS**02:00-05:00 PM****3.1. EDUCATION & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT***Moderator: Naisra Habeeb***Key Panelists:**

- National Education Policy; Opportunities and Challenges in Addressing Youth Bulge, TM Qurashi, Deputy Education Advisor, Policy and planning Wing, Ministry of Education.
- National Education Policies; Opportunities and Challenges in Addressing Youth Bulge, Aamir Raiz, Editor Awami Jumhori Forum.
- Implementation Challenges in Educational Sector, Abdus Sami Khan, Planning Expert GTZ.
- Challenges to the Higher Education; Prof. Dr. Masoom Yasin Zai, Vice Chancellor Quaid-i-Azam University.
- Thinking beyond Formal Education; An Alternative Perspective to the Role of Educational Institutions in Youth Leadership Development, Nishat Kazmi, Youth Representative.

Q&A Session

Session Coordinator: Saiqa Rani

3.2. YOUTH FOR LABOUR FORCE DEVELOPMENT*Moderator : Ayesha Tammy Haq***Key Panelists:**

- Human Resource Development; Current and Future Trends, Saifullah Chaudary, National Program Officer, ILO
- Labor Policy; Opportunities for future work force, Javed Gill, Central Labor Advisor
- How to market Technical Skills Development Programs for Out of School and In School Young People, Saeed Alvi, Chairman TEVTA
- Skill Gaps in Youth, Ali Salman, Senior Partner Development Pool
- General introduction of Mirpur khas Campus, Fiza Iqbal, Youth Representative , Mirpurkhas campus, University of Sindh, Jamshoro
- Need of Technical Education among Youth, M. Dawood, Youth Representative
- Youth and Entrepreneurship By Saba Mehmood, Youth Representative

Q&A Session

Session Coordinator: Dr. Shahbaz Israr Khan

3.3. SATELLITE SESSION FOR YOUTH: REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH-LET'S START TALKING

Resource Person: Kamyla Marvi Tapal, Country Manager, LDM

Session Coordinator: Bushra Sadiq

Working Tea

10 August 2010, Tuesday**SESSION 5****09:30 A.M.-01:00PM.: SESSION 5: YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT***Moderator: Salma Butt***Key Panelists:**

- Mechanism For Youth Participation and Engagement, Sadia Atta Mehmood, National Programme Officer (Youth), UNFPA
- National Youth Policy Objective and Action Plan By Ali Mardan Rahoojo Advisor

(Technical), Federal Ministry of Youth Affairs	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A Rural Perspective Regarding Engagement of Youth By Sarmad Raza Nayak ▪ Presenting the Publication “Youth Voices”, Iqbal Haider Butt, Senior Partner Development Pool ▪ National Youth Policy; Opportunities and Way Forward, Ms. Sohaila Mushtaq, Senior Joint Secretary, Federal Ministry for Youth Affairs 	
<i>Lunch</i>	
<i>02:00 P.M-03:40 P.M</i>	<i>OPEN HOUSE SESSION</i>
<i>CONCLUDING SESSION</i>	
<i>Moderator: Salma Butt</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Launching of National Youth Advocacy Platform for Youth Development in Pakistan By Sabiha Shaheen, Executive Director Bargad. ▪ Recommendations of the Conference ▪ Speech By Afifa Shameem, First Position Holder Innovative Ideas Contest ▪ Distribution of Certificates to the Volunteers of NYC ▪ Concluding Remarks By Mr. Jose Ferrairs, UNFPA Country Representative ▪ Speech By the Chief Guest, Shahid Hussain Bhutto, Federal Youth Minister, Ministry of Youth Affairs. ▪ Vote of Thanks By Sadia Atta Mehmood, National Programme Officer (Youth), UNFPA 	

Annexure 2: List of Conference Participants

Participant's Name	Affiliation	Participant's Name	Affiliation
Abdul Azeem	Bahauddin Zakaria University (BZU), Multan	Attiya	News 1. TV
Abdul Hayee	IDSP, Quetta	Ayesha Amjad	FCC
Abdus Sami Khan	Planning Expert GTZ	Ayesha Anwar	GCU Lahore
Adnan Alam	Qurtaba University	Ayesha Shoukat	Islamia University Bahawalpur
Adnan Butt	Bargad	Ayesha Tammy Haq	Anchor, Business Plus
Adnan Lodhi	Daily Times	Ayub	
Adnan Rasheed	NP News	Azhar Mushtaq	University of Agriculture, Bargad
Afifa Shamim	Winner: Innovative Ideas on Youth.	Baseer Khan	Bargad
Ahmad Abdullah	Punjab University (PU)	Bilal ahmad	FCC
Ahmad Usman	Punjab Law College	Bushra Sadiq	Bargad
Ahsan Ali Ghori	Karachi University (KU)/ APMO	Capt. Abdul Khaliq	Provincial Minister for Youth Affairs.
Akhtar Hussain	Cavish Foundation (Organization)	Col Junaid Shamim	Pakistan Army
Akmal Sumroo	City 42 TV	Dr. Faaria Ahsan	UNFPA
Ali Mardan	Advisor, Federal Ministry for Youth Affairs	Dr. Jahangir Achakzai	University of Balochistan
Ali Salman	Development Pool	Dr. Kaiser Bengali	Bargad
Ali Sheraz	Punjab TV	Dr. Murad Khatoon	Sindh University Jamshoro
Ali Usman	Daily Express Tribune	Dr. Naseer Muhammad	UNFPA
Ambreen Mir	University of Balochistan	Dr. Tauseef Ahmed	Demographer & Resercher
Amer Kamal	Din TV	Dure-Shahwar Memon	PU
Amina Javed Mir	University of Gujrat	Ehtisham Ali Sethi	University of Gujrat
Amir Riaz	Awami Jamhoori Forum	Erum Amjad	Superior University
Amjad Zafar Ali	ACCA Pakistan	Fahad Bhatti	IUB (BWP)
Anosh Vincent	Forman Christian College (FCC) A Chartered	Fahat-ul-Hassan	YAP/YAN
Asif		Faisal Sultan	PU
Asif Chaudhary	Dawn	Faiza Khan	PU
Asif Qureshi	Abasyn University	Faizan Hussan	Chanan Development
Asma Kausar	University of Agriculture, Faisalabad	Faraz Malik	Geo TV

Participant's Name	Affiliation	Participant's Name	Affiliation
Fareha Arshad	Shirkat gah Organization	Khuzaema Gauhar	A-Level, Lahore Grammar School
Fatima Urooba	NED University	M. Dawood	Youth Representative
Fazillah Haider	BZU	M. Hanif Khan	Abasyn University
Fizza Iqbal Panwar	Sindh University Jamshoro	M. Imtiaz Taqi	University of Central Puniab
Hafiz Muhammad	UAF	M. Kashif	Shah Abdul Latif University
Hajra Hur	East West Center	M. Usman Butt	Waqat TV
Haroon Suhail	Chanan Development Association	M.Naveed	Govt.College Kharour
Hassam Shafqat	Punjab Law College	M.Saifullah Chaudhry	ILO
Huma Butt	University of Gujrat	Madiha Masood	LCWU
Hussan Ara	University of Balochistan	Mahesh Kumar	Shah Abdul Latif University
Imran Fateh M	GCU Faisalabad	Mahnoor Mehmood	Lahore Grammar School
Imran Saeed	UET	Makhdoom Athar	Family Magazine
Imran Shaheen	NUST	Maqsood	Bargad
Iqbal Haider Butt	Development Pool	Maria Saifuddin Effendi	National Defence University
Iqra Nageen	PU	Mashal Asif	Ypees/Kinnaird College
Iram Gull	OU	Masood Bhatti	Daily Ausaf
Ishaq Ahmed Sohaq	Public School Hyderabad	Mehmood Ilyas	CDO
Javed Gill	Federal Advisor, Labor Ministry	Mehmood ur Rehman	Comsats Lahore
Jawad Pervaiz Malik	FCC	Mehwish Tariq	FCC
Jawiria Shabbir	Lahore College for Women University (LCWU)	Mian Jamil	NP Muqabla
Jose Ferrairs	UNFPA	Minhaj ul haque	Population Council
Kamran Chuhtai	FCC	Minhal Khan	Shirkat gah Organization
Kamyla Marvi Tappal	LDM	Misbah hul Hassan	NUST
Kashif Dogar	Social Welfare Department Govt. of Puniab	Mobeen Khan	Abasyn University
Kashif Sharoon	FCC	Mohammed Younas	IDSP, Quetta
Kashir Shumail	FCC	Mohsin Ali	UOL
Khadija Farooq	Punjab Law College	Muazzam Mukhtar	Development Professional
Khalid Latif	University of Peshawar	Mufaaza Tahir	LCWU
Khurram Iqbal	TV Production	Mughira Bin Suhaib	Class 10th Cadet College Jhang

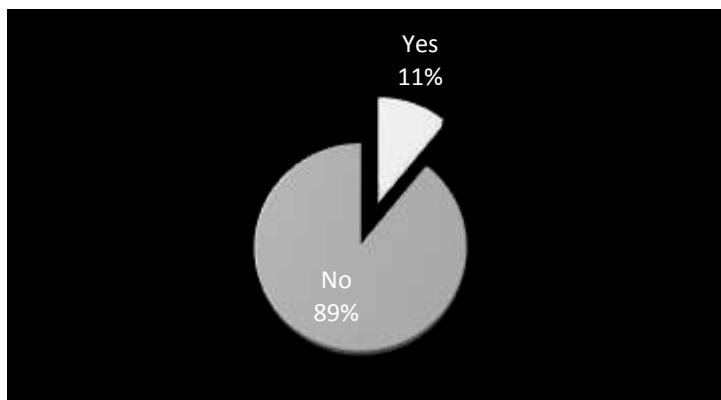
Participant's Name	Affiliation	Participant's Name	Affiliation
Muhammad Abubakar Siddiq	University of Sargodha	Prof.Dr. Masoom Khan	Quaid-e-Azam University
Muhammad Asad-ullah Fazal	Govt. College University Faisalabad	Quratulain (Sumra)	School of Leadership
Muhammad Azeem	Volunteer	Qurrat-ul-ain	Education Service
Muhammad Fazal-ur-	Gomal University	Rabbia Arshad	Humshehri
Muhammad Hassan Raza	PU,LHR	Rahala	LCWU
Muhammad Irfan	Gomal University	Raja Muhammad	Press For Peace Organization
Muhammad Jassar Aftab	University of Agriculture Faisalabad	Rana Muhammad	Qurtaba University
Muhammad Omer Khan	NED WET	Reehania Sarwat	LCWU
Muhammad Saleem	Islamia University Bahawalpur	Rizwan Ali	APNA TV
Muhammad Sohaib	Gomal University	Saba Mahmood	PU
Muhammad Umar Warraich	University of Gujrat	Sabiha Shaheen	Bargad
Muhammad Usman A Siddiqi	Govt College University Lahore	Sadaf Javeria	Gomal University
Muhammad Waqas Butt	PU,LHR	Sadia A. Mehmood	UNFPA
Mujahid Raza	Bargad	Sadia Ramzan	PU
Mujib-u-rahman	University of Peshawar	Saeed A. Alvi	TEVTA Punjab
Muqadas Iqbal	Bargad	Saeeda Jabeen	Y-Peer Member
Murad Saeed	UOP	Saifullah Chaudary	NPO,ILO
Nabeela Rafique	PU	Saima	Samma TV
Naeem Ijaz	CEO	Saima Zareen	NGO/SAP-PK
Naila Anwer	PTV TV	Saiqa Rani	Bargad
Nasira Habib	Khoj	Salma Butt	Ibid.
Nauman Adil	Iqra University Karachi	Sana Tariq	Preston University
Nauman Ali Ch	Bargad	Sarmad Raza	Bargad
Naveed Jan	Volunteer	Shabbir Ali Babar	Karachi University
Naveed Ulah	Assist. Director	Shahbaz Israr Khan	Bargad
Nimra Nazar	FCC	Shaheen Koasar	Volunteer
Nosheen Nawaz	Islamia University Bahawalpur	Shahid Aziz	Bargad
Pawan Masaud	PU	Shahid Minhas	University of Guirat

Participant's Name	Affiliation	Participant's Name	Affiliation
Shaista Rasheed	FCC	Tahira Akhtar	Islamia University Bahawalpur
Shakilla Koukab	Bargad	Tauseef Iftikhar	FCC
Shakria Bukahri	University of Balochistan	Umair Junaid	Volunteer
Shamsa Yousaf	AJK	Umar Zafar	
Sobia Hafeez Kiani	AJK University	Umer Naeem	Y-PEER/ Comsats
Sohaila Mushtaq	Joint Secretary, Federal Ministry for Youth Affairs	Usman Nadeem	Channel 5 TV
Sumeera Hassan	FCC	Usman Rashid	Bargad
Sumra Anis	School of Leadership	Uzma Rubab	CNBC TV
Syed Abid Hiussan	FCCU Media Coverage	Wajahat	
Syed Ali Raza Naqvi	AJK University	Waqas Youns	AJK University
Syed Amir Manzoor	BZU	Yabinda Saleem	Punjab Law College
Syed Aqil Shah	Provincial Minister for Youth Affairs, Khyber	Zahid Bashir	Nawa-i-Waqat NP
Syed Imran Abbas	University of Sargodha	Zainab	Mashal TV
Syed Muhammad	FCC	Zakir Munir	Amal Human Development
Syed Nishat Kazmi	PU	Zara Imran	Y-PEER/ Kinnaird College
T.M. Qureshi	Deputy Educational Adviser(Policy)		

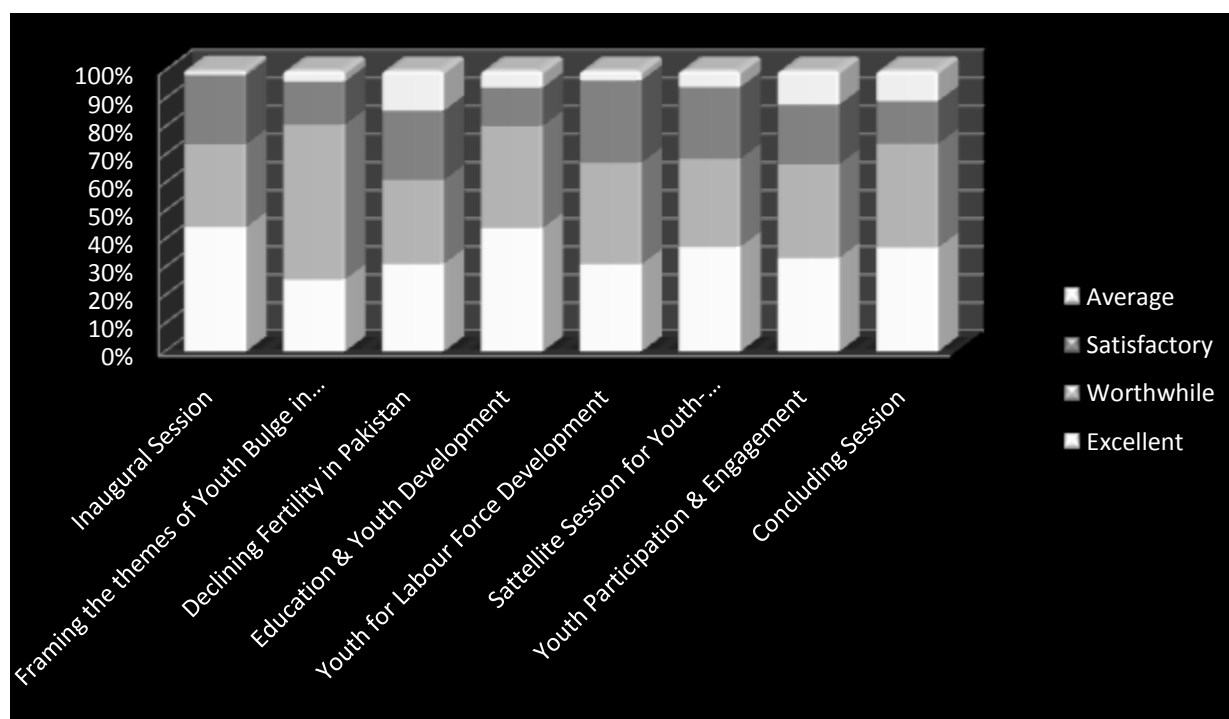
Annexure 3: Feedback of the Conference Participants

Q. No 1: Have you ever before participated in National Youth Conference on Risks and Dividends of Youth Bulge in Pakistan?

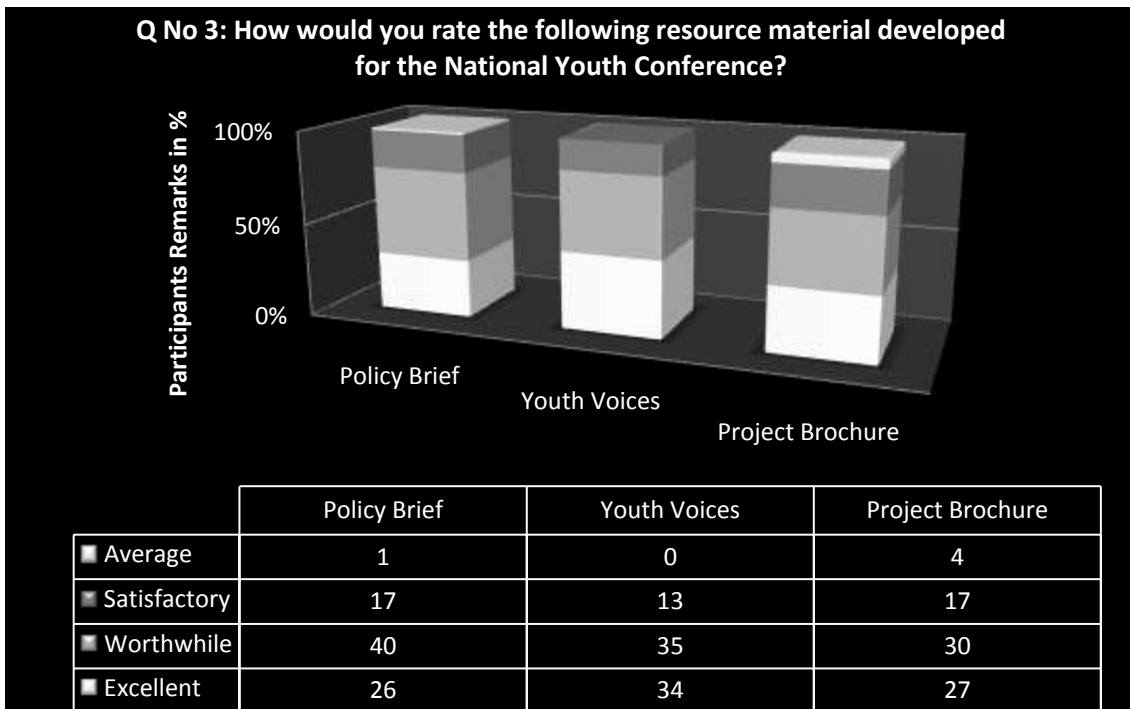
83 participants filled out the feedback form and the answer in percentage is as:



Q. No 2: How would you rate the sessions of National Youth Conference?



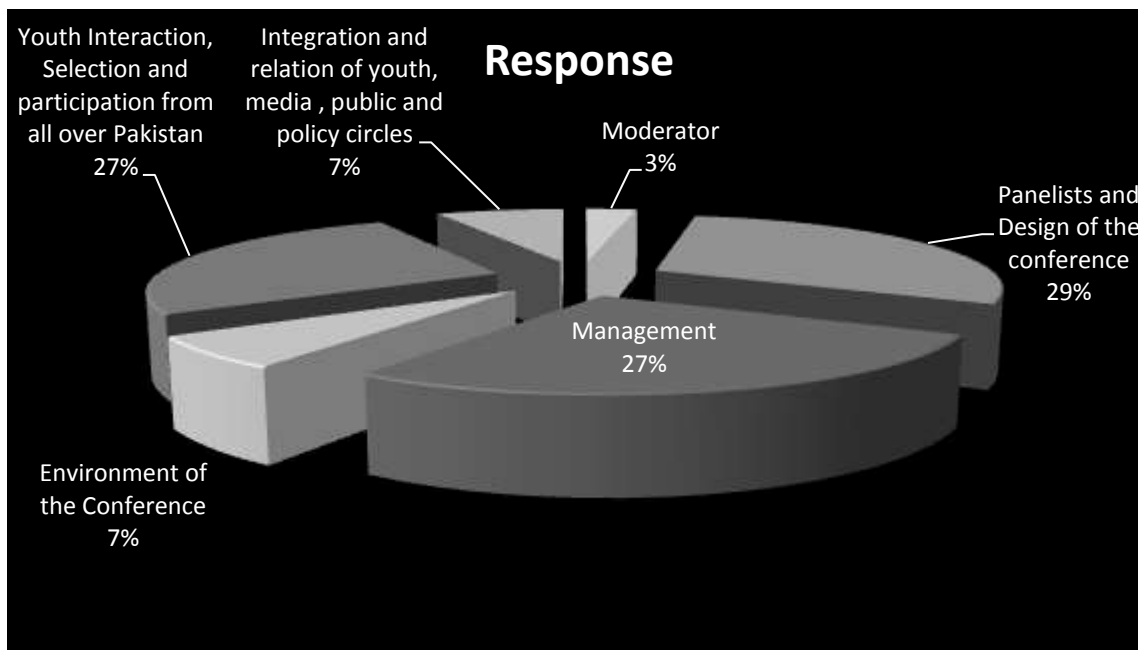
The analysis of 83 feedback forms of Q No 2.is as above.



Analysis: The analysis of 83 feedback forms of Q No 3 is as above.

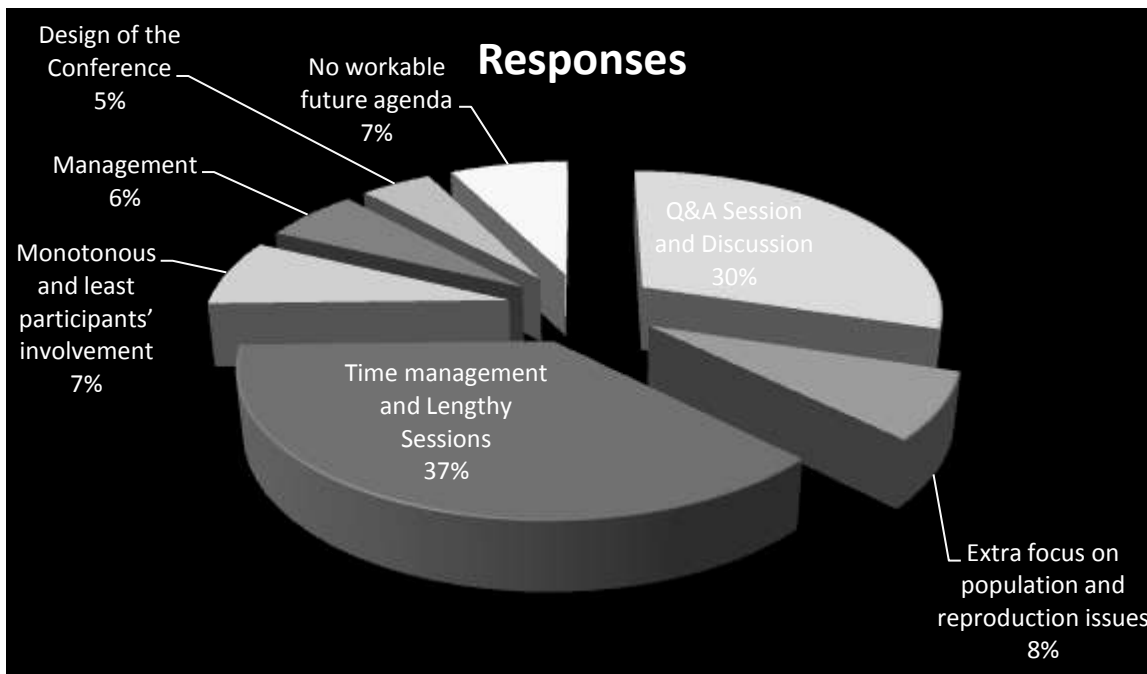
Q No 4: Please enlist three strengths of the National Youth Conference on Risks and Dividends of Youth Bulge in Pakistan?

Analysis: The question was attempted by 67 participants out of 83 filled feedback forms. General analyses are as:



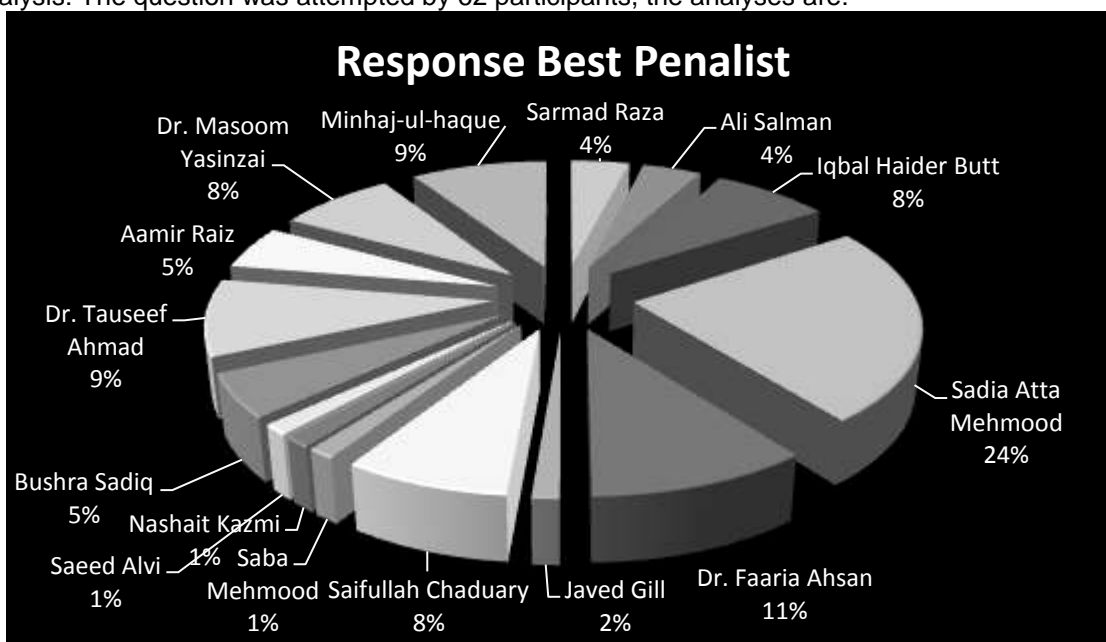
Q.5 Please enlist three weaknesses of the National Youth Conference on Risks and Dividends of Youth Bulge in Pakistan?

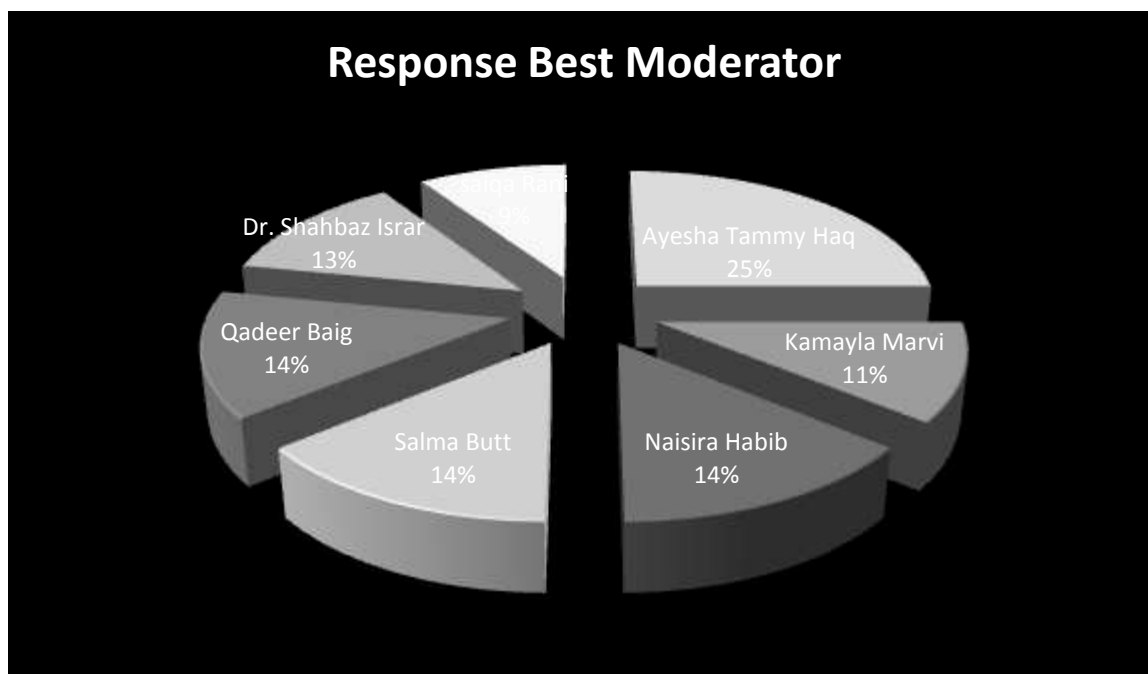
Analysis: Out of 83 filled forms 65 participants attempted the question. General analyses are as follows:



Q.6 who were in your opinion the two best Panelists, Participants and moderators of the conference?

Analysis: The question was attempted by 62 participants, the analyses are:





Q.7 Please identify two steps that you would like to undertake in order to back up dividends of youth bulge and integrated youth development in Pakistan?

The question was attempted by 58 participants the selected feedback is given as:

1. Arrange campaign on reproductive health and family planning
2. Aware youth about current dilemma of education, population, labour policy and need of integration of youth on national level
3. Promoting concept of peace & conflict resolution
4. Educational plan
5. Career planning & Career management
6. Providing a national plat form for talent identification
7. Sharing information with youth
8. Develop a project for rural youth
9. Support to the youth led activities
10. Women empowerment
11. Controlling fertility rate
12. I will promote BARGAD in my city
13. Train youth to believe in themselves and depict problem
14. Commencing such session in my university under the flag of BARGAD & UNFPA to empower youth
15. Create proper awareness of Islam , so students don't fall for those misleading and manipulated information
16. Promotion of environment friendly campaigns
17. Do some practical work, do not gossip in luxurious halls
18. Democracy campaign and campus union elections campaign
19. Seminar and awareness workshop in small cities of Pakistan
20. Involve youth from religious seminaries

21. Use information of the conference in my daily life
22. I will present the data collected to my teachers

Q.8 What future activities you suggest that BARGAD should undertake to ensure dividends of youth bulge and Integrated youth development in Pakistan?

The question was attempted by 61 participants; generally participants demanded BARGAD to undertake activities related to youth development and participation as arrangement of seminars, dialogues, debate, awareness and information disseminating campaigns, capacity building workshops and trainings in universities, colleges, small districts and rural areas. The topics suggested were Education policy of Pakistan, youth participation on campuses, involvement of students of seminaries, peace and security, gender discrimination, woman empowerment, declining fertility, labour policies, child labour, human rights and youth participation in rural areas.

The participants in their feedback were serious about practical implementation of the recommendations drawn out from the sessions. As one participant commented:

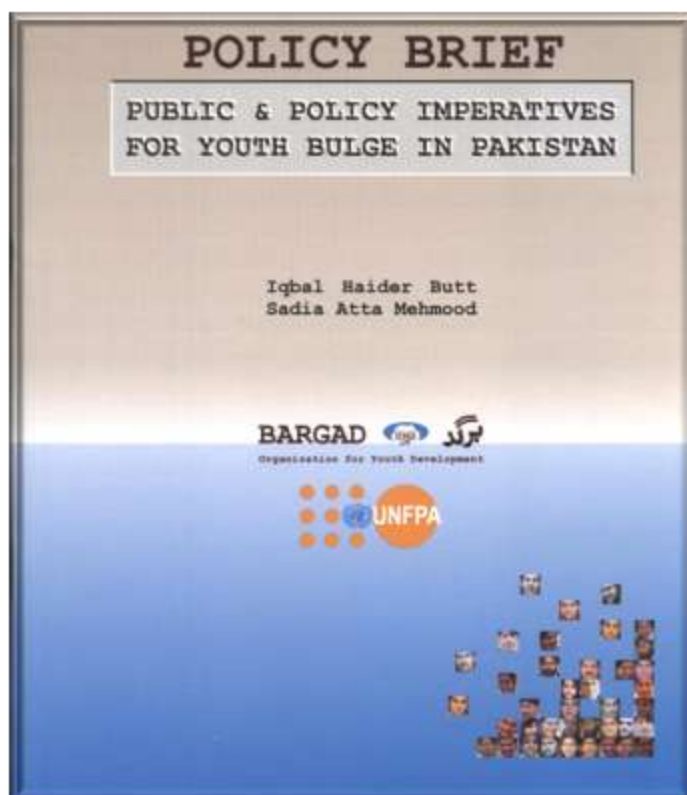
“Report and conclusions gathered from this conference should be published and make sure its ability in school, colleges and universities for general awareness. Recommendations must be worked for practical outputs.”

Annexure 4: Media Coverage





Annexure 5: Conference Publications



5a: Policy Brief

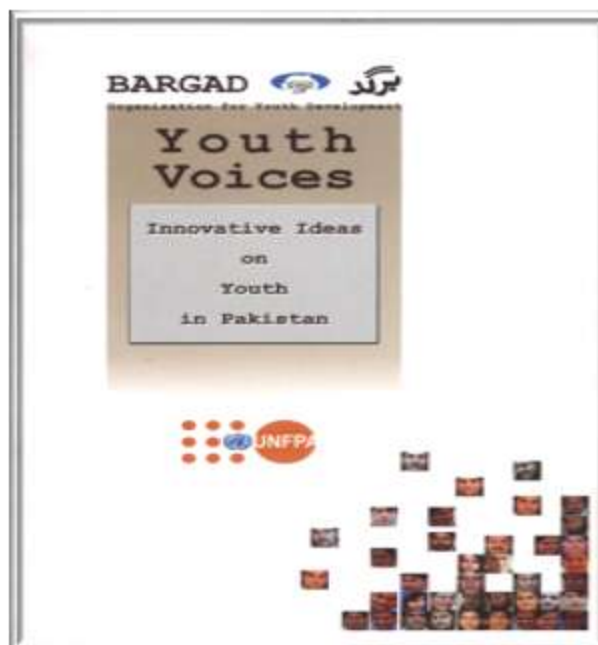
Policy Brief introduces the youth bulge debate and is a resource input for the “National Youth Conference on Risks and Dividends of Youth Bulge in Pakistan”

By looking at legacy of conception and policy practices in youth development, it highlights critical areas for integrated youth development and programming in the country: (i) Declining Fertility, (ii) Education and Youth Development, (iii) Youth for Labour Force Development and (iv) Youth Participation and Engagement. It envisaged that the Policy Brief will provide a balance to integrate youth development roles of policy makers, donors and practitioners working in different sectors.

5b: Youth Voices

“Youth Voices” is a compelling inside view into the thinking of Pakistani youth who were asked through a national call to submit innovative ideas, suggestions and recommendations on key problems of youth in the country.

It compiles three innovative ideas from winning youth voices and selections from many entries. The Pakistani youth here intensely demand in demanding tone. They highlight problems they endure on daily basis and offer innovative ideas about serious issues that the Pakistani youth want adults and policy makers to hear about. “Youth Voices” is a must reading for design and implementing youth-led and focused initiatives in Pakistan



Annexure 6: National Youth Advocacy Platform Pakistan

National Youth Advocacy Platform (NYAP)– Pakistan

By maximizing dividends of youth bulge, BARGAD and UNFPA seek to thematically link policies and practices of education, labour force development, health (reproduction, population) and youth participation with an integrated vision for youth development in Pakistan. This work would practically lead to a national Platform of multiple stakeholders striving to develop youth in their respective fields - the student community, academia, youth organizations, labour and health rights activists and experts, media, civil society practitioners and donors. The proposed platform is a nationwide coalition for integrated youth development in Pakistan.

Goal:

Promoting integrated youth development reforms leading towards sustainable human development in Pakistan

Objectives:

1. Develop linkages and raise awareness among the education communities, public interest groups, media and policy makers about integrated youth development in Pakistan.
2. Propose recommendations and action plans in order to support the foresaid goal.
3. Advocacy for the implementation of youth development policies and programs in Pakistan.

Name:

The name of the platform is proposed as:

“National Youth Advocacy Platform – Pakistan” (NYAP)

Members:

The members of the National Advocacy Platform are proposed to be referred as:

“National Youth Development Advocates” (NYDA)

Composition:

National Advocacy Platform would consist of twenty representatives from following categories:

- B) UNFPA
- C) BARGAD
- D) Student community
- E) Academia
- F) Technical youth, not literate
- G) Labour sector
- H) Health sector or a Population Expert
- I) Media
- J) Youth organization
- K) Civil society practitioners
- L) Donors

Structure:

- 1) Technical Body
- 2) Supportive Body

Technical Body:

The technical body is proposed to consist of twenty representatives as mentioned in the above composition.

Functions of the Technical Body:

- 1) To discuss various concerns in light of the goal and objectives of the platform, 2) to review the existing policies concerned with the youth development, 3) to recommend changes/ alterations in the existing policies concerned with the youth development, 4) to propose new policies required for the issues that are still unidentified, 5) to plan strategies and programs for the integrated youth development

Supportive Body:

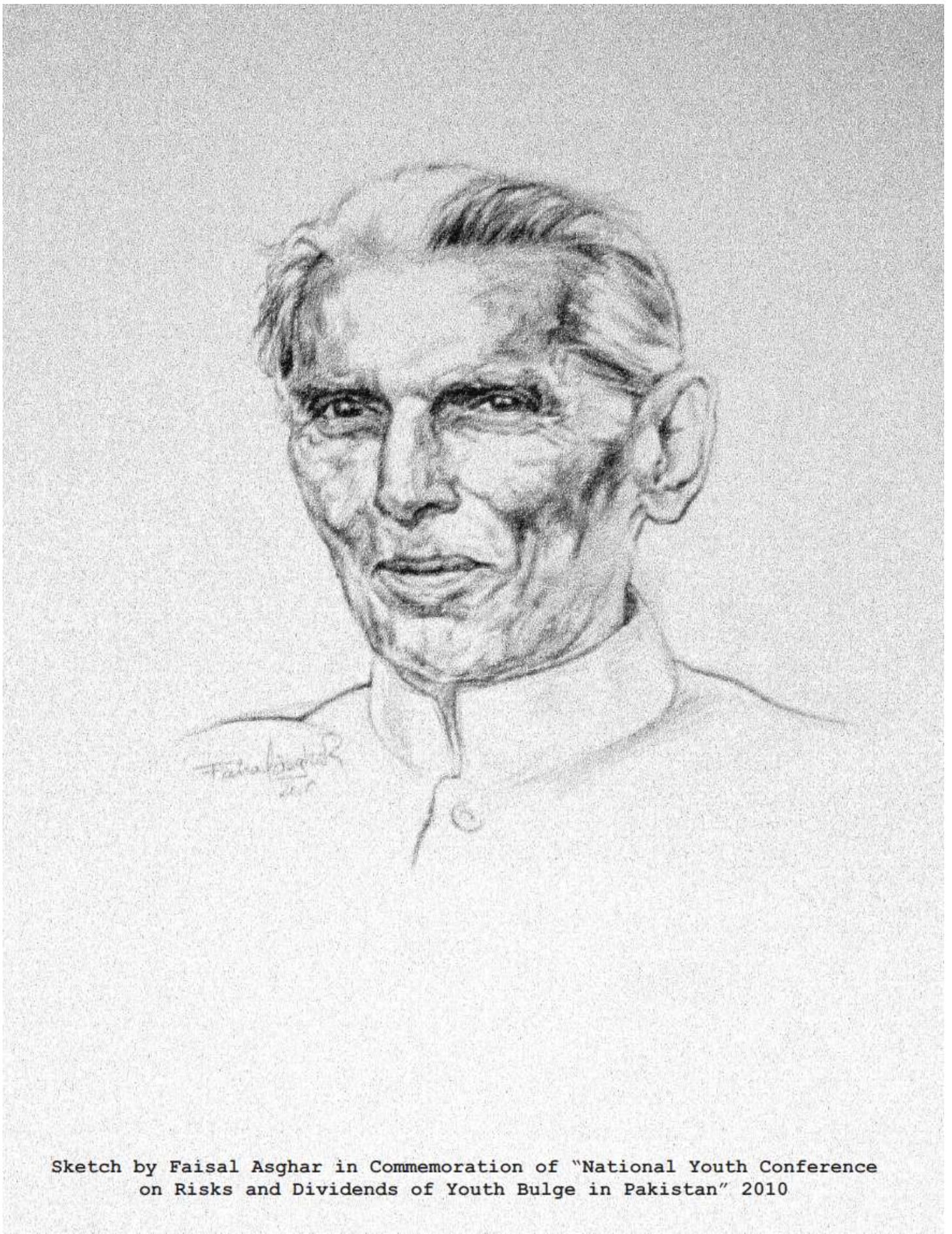
The supportive body is proposed to consist of two persons from the team of BARGAD.

Functions of the Supportive Body:

- 1) To organize meetings of the NYAP, 2) to organize activities of NYAP, 3) to maintain the records of the NYAP and 5) reporting of the activities of NYAP.

Duration:

NYAP will be effective for the span of one year (10 August 2010 to 11 August 2011).



Sketch by Faisal Asghar in Commemoration of "National Youth Conference
on Risks and Dividends of Youth Bulge in Pakistan" 2010



Organization for Youth Development

Bargad-Organization for Youth Development
House Number CB 36 F, St.# 1 A Allama Iqbal Town
Rahwali, Gujranwala, Pakistan
Tel: +92-55-3864920 Fax: +92-55-3868052
Bargad.youth.organization@gmail.com
www.bargad.org.pk