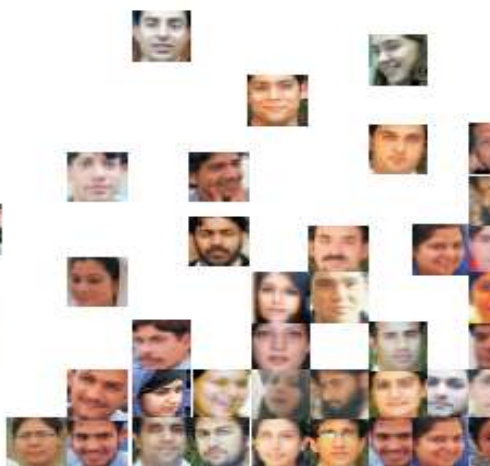


Youth Voices

Innovative Ideas
on
Youth
in Pakistan



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Technical Committee of Judges: Ali Salman, Gulmina Bilal, Iqbal Haider Butt, Raziq Fahim, Sadia Atta Mehmood, Saima Jasam and Zafarullah Khan.

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BARGAD  **برگد**

Organization for Youth Development

Youth Voices

Innovative Ideas

on

Youth

in Pakistan



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The documentation of innovative ideas has been an outstanding process for us.

I am grateful to BARGAD's Team (Shahbaz Israr Khan, Bushra Sadiq, Saiqa Rani, Muqadas Iqbal, Shakeela, Adnan, Jazaid, Shahid) for their vital role in promoting the "Youth Voices" among masses. No doubt I cannot forget one name Iqbal Haider Butt who compiled and edited this document within a very short time. Special thanks to Sarmad Raza Nayak who not only designed but also published this document in very limited time. UNFPA deserves special appreciation to support this project.

However, at Bargad, we would never forget one particular entry submitted by Premchand, a youth activist from Sanghar-Sindh. Affiliated with the Youth Parliament (PILDAT) as a Youth Minister, he expired in the Margalla hills crash on 28th July, 2010 that took lives of 152 passengers. He was studying Social Work at the University of Sindh.

We dedicate "Youth Voices" to the memory of Premchand and have annexed his innovative idea at the end of this publication. His unfortunate death and reported marking of his coffin with a callous label reminds us that we have a long way to go before we see end of all negative discrimination in Pakistan!

Sabika Shaheen

Executive Director

Preface

This booklet, *Youth Voices*, is a compelling inside view into the thinking of Pakistani youth who were asked through a national call in June-July 2010 to submit innovative ideas, suggestions and recommendations on key problems of youth in the country.

It was further stipulated that the entries should establish the need and significance of the key problem, well-backed by data and evidence to reach to logical and workable recommendations.

Aim of the contest on *Innovative ideas on Youth in Pakistan* was primarily to engage youth on issues directly affecting their lives and functionally to put their analytical, problem-solving and creative skills in service of youth development; so that the prospects of youth thinking and acting for themselves are encouraged.

64 youth between the ages of 15 to 29 years submitted their innovative ideas by end of the deadline, 22 July 2010.

A technical committee comprising of 7 reputed experts working on aspects of youth development evaluated the innovative ideas in according with a well-defined criteria.

This booklet compiles three write-ups of the winning youth voices and selections from many other entries.

The Pakistani youth here intensely speak in demanding tones to highlight problems they endure on daily basis and have offered innovative ideas about serious issues that the Pakistani youth want adults and policy makers to hear about.

Each writing of the booklet appeals to the heart. Our talented young analysts passionately take on the marginalization of youth in Pakistan. Majority of the innovative ideas focuses upon overall condition of youth. Some vehemently disapprove with agitated appraisal the economic inequality and class-based segmentation of education system and the resultant poor employment opportunities in Pakistan. Still, one can find many interesting ideas on youth development; from proposing youth-led initiatives to youth participation in the national life, to exporting youth skills for international markets and the need to build playgrounds in Hyderabad, mineral exploration in Balochistan, libraries in Punjab, career counseling centres, anti-

solicitation legislation and enabling environment for the suppressed girls. In most ideas, the young voices have sustained a smooth style of writing and reverberates much-valued tradition of essay competitions; even though that was the least consideration while evaluating the ideas.

Contents of the innovative ideas apart, the “Youth Voices” reflect how young people of Pakistan think. They may not amuse research-oriented observers for factual errors in data, innovation-deficiencies and framing of the problems, but they definitely invite adults, practitioners, supporters and policy makers to think over aspirations of the youth. These can after some polishing serve to visioning for youth development in Pakistan.

Communicating the Call for Innovative Ideas

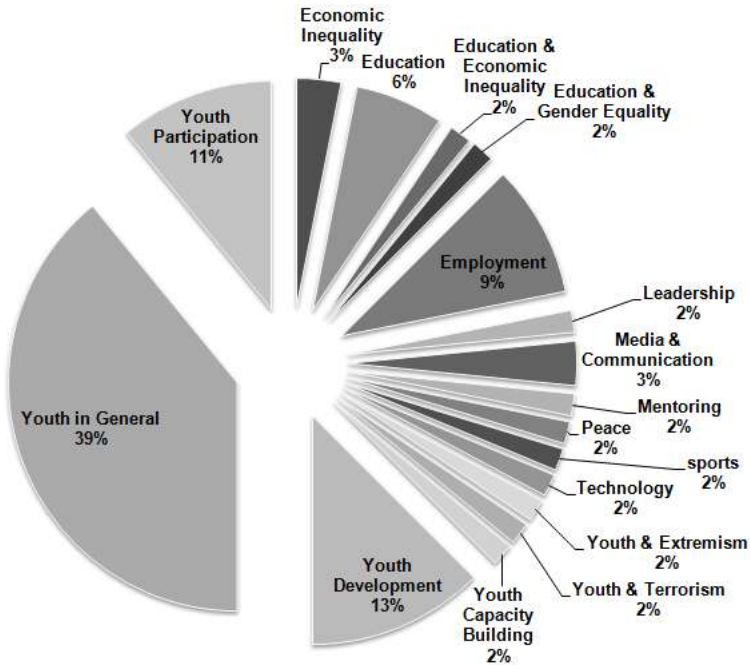
BARGAD started disseminating the *Call for innovative Idea on Youth in Pakistan* from 26 June 2010 and directly emailed the call to 3050 individuals, organizations and internet-based groups. One dedicated wall on Facebook was created and BARGAD’s two Facebook pages reached out to 1000 persons and groups. 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 Jang nationwide on 10 July 2010.

It is note-worthy that during this period education institutions were closed and we could not capitalize upon peer presence and words of mouth sharing in campuses.

Themes of Youth Voices

Following themes were taken upon by the youth: economic inequality, education, education & economic inequality, education & gender equality, employment, leadership, media & communication, mentoring, peace, sports, technology, youth & extremism, youth & terrorism, youth capacity building, youth development, youth in general and youth participation and

engagement. A chart showing issues discussed by the youth is given here:



As can be seen, the youth took up diverse issues. However, they were keener towards youth issues in general and broad terms. The population issue was mostly used as a background and insuring declining could not come up as an independent field of analysis and innovation.

Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation criteria for the innovative ideas clearly spelt out the analytical and problem solving competencies of the youth. Unlike the essay writing competitions, writing (English and Urdu) skills and style weighed negligibly in this contest. The objective was to attain such ideas which are workable and can be transformed into implementable projects. The following criteria for judging the ideas were employed:

#	<i>Criteria</i>	<i>Marks Obtainable</i>
1.	<i>Problem Statement</i> Quality of problem statement Logic of Argument in identifying and prioritizing the issue Analysis Fresh perspectives Empirical data support	8
2.	<i>Innovative Idea/ Recommendations/ Suggestions</i> Originality Practicality Cost effectiveness Scale of Applicability Equity	15
3.	<i>Writing Style and Structure</i> Accessibility, Length, etc.	2

Apart from the evaluation criteria, a coding system was also adopted to ensure secrecy and anonymity of the marking.

Technical Committee to Judge the Submissions included *Ali Salman* (Managing Partner, Development Pool), *Gulmina Bilal* (Director, Individualland), *Iqbal Haider Butt* (Senior Partner, Development Pool), *Raziq Fahim* (Director, College for Youth Activism and Development), *Sadia Atta Mehmood* (National Program officer, Youth, United Nations Population Fund), *Saima Jasam* (Director Programme, Heinrich Boll Stiftung) and *Zafarullah Khan* (Executive Director, Centre for Civic Education).

The judges need appreciation for the quick work that they have done within a tight schedule amidst their other youth development practices.

The Winners

On the basis of median score of the total marks given by seven judges, the top three winners are:

- *1st Position: Afifa Shamim* (Army Public School Quetta & Lahore Learning Campus)
- *2nd Position: Wajahat Nassar* (University of Engineering & Technology, Lahore)
- *3rd Position: Ishaq Ahmed Sohag* (Public School, Hyderabad)

The winners would receive cash prizes and souvenirs from BARGAD during the National Youth Conference on Risks and Dividends of Youth Bulge in Pakistan, which has been supported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

It is heartening to share that the topper Afifa Shamim is only 16 years old and currently is awaiting her “O” levels results. Because of father’s professional background of Army she has been to many places in Pakistan and also to Turkey. She has actively participated in contests like, spelling bee competition, mathematics kangaroo contests, sports competition, debates and speech competitions. She won inter-school debates competition at SLS Rawalpindi. Her passions include riding, swimming, cycling, hiking, climbing and travelling. She also loves to read, write and watch movies and has traveled to Turkey. She wants to be an architect engineer for her future career.

Over-all Impressions of the Judges

After screening the innovative ideas of 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 give. Rationally speaking, it may be fine, but even in economic rationale one has to invest first before expecting rewards.

Zafarullah Khan advises to ask the winners to polish their ideas. They should separate government-public policy actions, civil society approaches and youth led solutions. He also cautions

against different figures used for Pakistani youth population in various innovative ideas. It will be appropriate to come up with close to accurate or credible figures.

All in all, this contest of innovative ideas has been hailed as an active form of youth participation and it is hoped that the youth can further build their ideas into practical projects.

The way forward

The diversity of ideas, solutions and recommendations expressed by youth forms the basis for a much bigger youth development enterprise in which not only youth may participate and lead their proposed projects, but it also increases the knowledge base of our adults, youth groups and policy makers on how youth are approaching their issues and how we can design appropriate programmes in the light of youth perceptions indicated through this contest of innovative ideas.

After this successful contest, Bargad as an organization of youth development plans to regularly hold contests for innovative ideas on specific youth issues; so that not only youth can raise their voices but also think of becoming part and leading innovative and workable projects in their campuses and communities.

Please see innovative ideas on youth by youth in the coming pages!

1st Position

Youth Development in Pakistan

Afifa Shamim

Ever since its independence, Pakistan is in perpetual state of turmoil. We have been living with are a few evils such as three wars with our traditional adversary, law and order, mis-management of national institutions, rampant corruption, absence of visionary leadership and resultant absence of nationalistic feelings.

These evils have adversely affected the much needed development across the board. However, the human resource development is the most affected sphere in my reckoning. This also includes the development of youth which happens to be one of the most important components of power potential of any nation.

However, let me establish how I have identified youth before I embark upon answering the questions which I have asked myself.

The word 'Youth' is defined by the UN as, "people between the ages of 15 - 24 years." According to a survey approximately one billion youth live in the world today.

Pakistan with a population of 177.276 million is the sixth most populated country in the world and we have accordingly the sixth greatest adolescence ratio. Youth constitute the largest segment of Pakistani population, about 25-30% which in numbers becomes around 43 million. Indeed a huge figure.

This large segment of youth presents windows of opportunities and also poses grave challenges to the policy makers.

Having established how I take youth, the questions that I asked myself are: what are the challenges being faced by the youth? What are the opportunities awaiting Pakistani youth? And what the government and non-governmental organizations should do to exploit these opportunities? It is in the same sequence that I shall answer these questions.

Major challenges being faced by the youth are that poverty is widespread; education levels are low; unemployment is high, and traditional culture does not encourage young people to take decisions on issues concerning themselves. There is limited scope for young people's positive local engagement in grassroots' politics and community development. The situation is even more complex for the youth of much under developed provinces such as Balochistan and Khyber Pukhtunkhwa, and portions of Sindh and Southern Punjab. Moreover, unequal population distribution in urban (40%) and rural areas further worsens the existing situation. Those from low and middle income groups, have a few opportunities to develop to their full potential. Most of the youth living in rural areas confront absence of civic amenities resulting into wastage of precious time and effort. These unemployed young people when see their families suffer; they adopt evil vices like, drug smuggling, human trafficking, violence and many other undesirable practices. Above situation thus ultimately leads to a loss of direction.

Having established the challenges let us now look at the opportunities available for the Pakistani youth. Both in land and abroad innumerable opportunities are awaiting our youth. In the west, Europe, Australia and Russia the governments are faced with the major challenge of aging population, shrinking population growth rate (even going into negative) and resultantly non availability of the workforce comprising youth. The declining trend in current and following years will force import of skilled labour and youth for socio-economic development and defense requirements.

Any any socio-economic developmental activity requires active participation of the youth in a country. A few to cite are establishment of cottage and large scale industries, and development of agriculture, IT, communication, health and defence sectors.

These problems do have a solution and the opportunities available can be exploited. For this I proffer following recommendations:

- Youth of Pakistan should be categorized into three categories educated, skilled and unskilled. These should

be identified at district level and prepared for exporting abroad after language and technical training been imparted side by side. In this way if 1000 boys and girls are annually picked from every district around 100,000 youth will be available for exporting to countries in dire need of them. Especially the labour market in Europe can be captured. In this regard our missions abroad can play a pivotal role in identifying the requirement in different regions and countries. Similarly, top of the line youth can be sent abroad en mass to seize the moment and opportunities.

- Pakistan is rich in a number of minerals. The mineral sector is a potentially significant but as yet under-developed sector in Balochistan's economy. Currently this sector employs only about 1.3 per cent of the employed persons in the province. Projects should be launched for the extraction of these minerals, like the "Saindak Copper Gold project". Young people should be encouraged and trained to join this sector. It will give rise to further opportunities and open doors for many unemployed people and uplift Pakistan's economy.
- Education system needs revision. Out of a total of 220,885 schools in Pakistan 163,330 schools present in rural areas lack basic facilities and good teachers. Hence, Pakistan needs to introduce more academies that will support youth development programs and will arrange after school classes. These people will not only help in boosting up our economy but will also bring our values on international scale.
- Another important area of development is sports. From the beginning youth excelling in sports can be picked up like other countries and put into well established sports academies where they can be trained for individual and team events in international sports.
- Lastly, cottage industry needs to be revived and given exposure at national, regional and international levels so as to capture the markets and improve financial health of the low and middle income section.

People of Pakistan are creative, skilful and competitive. They only need opportunities to display their talent and prove to the world that they are better than others. However, nothing can be achieved without contribution of the government. Therefore, the government needs to understand the problems in depth and should look for its solutions ensuring bright future for the youth and Pakistan itself.

If we adopt above measures time is not far when Pakistan will find her right place amongst the comity of nations. I will end this paper by quoting that “Where there is a will there is a way”.

2nd Position

Joining Hands for a Secure Future

Wajahat Nassar

The importance of youth as the assets of Pakistan cannot be overemphasized. Youth in Pakistan have been deprived of higher skills and many of them have been forced to work on low wages during their childhood. In current times, a child to have fully enjoyed his/her childhood should be considered fortunate. Others are forced by their parents to work and earn bread.

Although the government has tried many policies of free-education but all have faced the same criticism from the target population itself; as sending a child to a school puts an end the income he or she would bring to the family.

For others, who attend high school and universities, the effective transfer of knowledge has been a major issue.

Many of the youth cannot apply for jobs because industries call for young people with a wide knowledge base and experience. Arif et al. have observed that educated youth faces higher rates of unemployment due to varied reasons and also argue that the socially advantaged youth find employment more easily than others.¹ It is important to see how such factors lead to cumulative effect on the future development.

As the economic recession hit the world and inflation rates increased in Pakistan, Punjab saw a relatively new dilemma of putting up children for sale. Shaukat Ali of Mian Channu put his children for sale due to hunger and despair² but could not win the government into proper actions to deal with his plight. It is the nation's future lost to clean up the engines or to work as a mechanic.

¹ G. M. Arif et al. Demographic Transition and Youth Employment in Pakistan.

<http://www.pide.org.pk/pdf/PDR/2008/Volume1/27-70.pdf>

² <<http://www.dawn.com/2007/02/22/op.htm>>

Another of such horrendous acts is the sale of the human body parts. Both the hospital and the economically-forced donor earn; although in varied proportions as to the final share.

Apart from this trend, the labour market is not supportive as well. Pakistani youth have to face a longer period of time to find a decent employment that would yield maximum savings at the end of the month, in face of the high inflation rates. In 2007 more than half of the unemployed (55.7 per cent) were searching for work for more than six months.³ This time lag creates a sense of hopelessness and uncertainty of the future.

All this coupled with increased pressure results into depression. A majority of the suicides in Pakistan have been associated to this reason. In 2006, unemployment became the second most common reason of suicide, with more men committing or attempting suicide than women.⁴

This could be connected back to the 'baby boom' in the 1980s due to the high fertility rate and increased percentage of youth population. On an average every woman gave birth to 6 children in the 80s, who are now seeking employment.⁵ This has considerably decreased to 3 children per woman in 2008, but it will require at least two or three decades before the effect subsides.

The need of the time is to increase the job opportunities and to ensure that young people have the skills and qualifications required for the employment.

The Pakistani government is not fully indifferent to the situation and has been trying to cope with this through initiatives such as NAVTEC and the National Internship Programme. However it is important to create new programmes and allow the youth to develop their hidden talents.

³ Pakistan Employment Trends-Youth, *May 2008, No. 3*, Labour Market Information and Analysis Unit, Ministry of Labour, Manpower and Overseas Pakistanis, Government of Pakistan
<http://www.hrcp-web.org/showdocument.asp?id=9>

⁴ <<http://www.hrcp-web.org/showdocument.asp?id=9>>

⁵ Economic Survey of Pakistan 2008-09, Ministry of Finance, Government of Pakistan
<<http://www.finance.gov.pk/admin/images/survey/chapters/12-Population09.pdf>>

It's the rare ingenuity of the youth that needs to be tapped to ensure that Pakistan will develop and prosper. If the Pakistani young men and women are to make an effective contribution to the society they must be trained, educated and guided in the right direction.

The need of the time is to make the youth more productive in terms of their input to the country through skills development which should ensure that there is a shift from the informal to the formal sector.

The youth needs to be mobilized, beyond just earning bread for the family to more responsible young people working towards a common national goal. The youth need to develop a solution for themselves.

The proposed solution 'Pakistan Youth Led Employment (PYLE)' will be guided completely by a central management composed of youth from all over Pakistan with equal representation of all provinces. The essence of the solution will be highlighted through networking and establishing centers in cities across the country. It will focus on business creation and promotion through effective guidance on the same platform. Apart from promotion of the business ideas, PYLE will also aim to provide young people with the opportunity of training and capacity building. It aims to address issues of vital importance to Pakistan: skill development, gender gap and provincial inequalities.

The core programme shall allow the young people to develop their own business ideas and work on establishing themselves. This component will be overseen by the Youth Business Committee of the Central Assembly. Young people with the financial resources will be matched up with other young people with brilliant and groundbreaking business ideas. This will be ensured through a Business Plan competition which will allow the young people to showcase their ideas to the potential sponsors. When the youth find a suitable sponsor, PYLE shall stand as a witness to the legal contract between the parties.

However, if any of the youth do not find suitable sponsor, the President shall allow the idea to be sponsored by a number of young people rather than one. This core programme shall ensure profit and loss sharing.

The project and the initiative will allow the youth to be self-employed and job creators rather than job seekers. This will reverse the vicious cycle of unemployment and will bring an end to the depression leading the country to a halt.

3rd Position

Sports in the Development of Youth

Ishaq Ahmed Sohag

Age 17 years
Public School, Hyderabad.

The future of any nation lies in the hands of its youth. The youth can change the fate and are backbone of their nation. A nation which does not invest for the betterment of their youth cannot expect and expect a bright future.

The youth of Pakistan, without any doubt has tremendous talent. They can excel at any level. They are currently serving the nation in many fields and also brightening the name of Pakistan. It should also be ensured that the youth do not face any problem. Their problems should be solved on priority basis.

One of the major problems of youth in Pakistan is that they don't have many playgrounds to exercise physically. Sports help a lot in the grooming and character building of youngsters. Besides studies sports are also very necessary for the health of youngsters. Sports are equally important as studies. After studying many hours at their educational institutes, they need to refresh their brains. The freshness and healthy environment can be better gained in the playgrounds by the youngsters.

I am studying in Public School, Hyderabad. The city of Hyderabad is unique for its diversity and rich culture. It is a historical city along River Indus in its lower reaches. It caters about 03 million people. The city had 12 major playgrounds in 1980 when the population was about 02 million. Over a period of time, population has tremendously increased. Several new residential colonies/societies have cropped up. However, only few have been catered with the sports ground facilities. Unfortunately these sports grounds can better be termed as OPEN GROUNDS since they are not provided with necessary facilities usually associated with playgrounds. Their size is also

too small to host popular games like cricket, hockey and football. This is largely due to non-compliance to government rules by the private housing societies/builders.

The lack of sports facilities is very much evident in the educational institutions too. The mushroom of private schools in residences/houses has badly affected the physical growth of youngsters since they are devoid of playgrounds and/or indoor game facility. The parents prefer to send their children in such schools/colleges for their close location, lower tuition fees and/or English language. However, all this is at the heavy price of physical exercise for youngsters.

The competitions in major sports like hockey, cricket, football, table tennis and athletics were a regular feature at inter-school and inter-collegiate level. There were 26 big schools which used to take part in such events during annual features until 1980; while 12 colleges participated at the inter-collegiate level. Today, number of schools and colleges has grown but lack of sports facilities at all levels has diminished the interest of sports among the youngsters. Now sports events have become a non-regular event, which is badly affecting the youngsters physically and mentally.

When the youth don't get such fresh atmosphere and the places where they can play different games, then it will cause harm to the growth of their brains and bodies.

As discussed above, facility of sports in the form of playgrounds and indoor gymnasiums may be provided at all levels.

Secondly, access to such facilities may be provided to all segments of the society especially those who cannot financially afford.

We need to understand that good sportsmen usually hail from poor families even in the developed countries. There are two big clubs viz. Hyderabad Gymkhana and Hyderabad Club, which are providing very good sports facilities. There are about 08 thousand members in these clubs where sports are usually enjoyed by children of their members. Since, they are limited only to the elite class due to strict admission policy; therefore, youngsters at large are still devoid of any decent sports facility.

The permission of new housing schemes/colonies must be mandatory to the provision of proper sports grounds. This can be

enforced by the Building Control Department of Hyderabad Development Authority (HDA).

Another factor necessary is the encouragement of sports-based students for higher studies and their job placement in departments in public sector. There were special seats for students on sports basis in University of Sindh, Mehran University of Engineering & Technology and Agriculture University, Tando Jam. All these centers of learning are situated in the vicinity of Hyderabad and used to absorb the students who excelled in sports until 1985. Similarly, government departments like Customs & WAPDA used to provide jobs on sports basis to talented youth for earning their butter and bread till 1994. The annulling of these policies has also contributed largely to the arrest of sports activities among youth in Hyderabad.

There is no doubt that youth is in loss at a large due to lack of sports facilities, which is an integral component alongwith education in one's mental and physical growth. However, we must be optimistic and move forward with an open mind.

The youth may be provided facilities at all levels, whether living in rural areas or any part of the country. We need to understand that our national heroes like Jehangir Khan (Squash), Waqar Younus (Cricket), Shahnaz Shaikh (Hockey), Nasim Hameed (Athletics) and Ali Nawaz Baloch (Football) hailed from remote places but rose at heights due to sports.

Selections from other Youth Voices

“We have to reshape our educational system and have to produce uniformity in Sindhi, Urdu, English and Madressah education systems. Curriculum of all these categories is very much different to each other. We need to remove this differentiation from curriculum points. Most of the population of Pakistan is related to rural areas. Students from rural areas cannot easily compete with urban student, because somehow we can say that government or private institutes in urban areas provide better quality and competitive education.

Manohar Lal

“Many regions of the world have dearth of human resources like Europe, Australia and Canada. Pakistani youth can be the answer. Ministry of manpower should coordinate with countries demanding human resources. There should be close collaboration of the ministry with education ministry and the youth should be trained according to the requirements of such countries. There should be sound mechanisms to transfer these youth to the human resource deficient states.

Saadi Rafique

“Law against Solicitation

We want a new Law to be passed by our Parliament. This should be the terms of the Law:

“Any organization found guilty of malpractice, immoral activity, encouraging solicitations, neglecting qualified candidates, or found to have a flawed recruitment process will face strict Legal action, Penalty and withdrawal of its operating License, Transparency in the recruitment process is mandatory, The -deserving qualified Youths should be given an equal opportunity of growth and benefits –failure to comply would lead to stringent consequences.”

“My next proposal for combating youth unemployment in Pakistan is to have a consortium of youth academies and the corporate sector in Pakistan.”

Arsalan Farooqi

"Power of youth can change country's condition"

"Send details of fresh graduates from universities to the desired field i.e. company, industry, academia, etc.

Shah Faisal

"A possible solution to debug the above cited problems is that scholars and other serious circles of society including journalists, educationists, economists, businessmen etc. with collaboration with youth should unite at a platform and with mutual efforts find out ways to pickle the agony root and branch.

Ahsan Jamil

"A special program of injecting youth volunteers in all government and civil society organizations need to be initiated at all levels to provide youth an opportunity to look closely and intimately at the systems of country. After all then they will have to be part of that system later. Then they can perform well.

Aftab Ahmed Jungo

"Pakistan is moving fast in creating competitive schools but we need a wider outlook. Most of these are owned by private sectors, and are charging high because of best efforts put upon our youth. But we have forgotten that our poor young nation is also lives in Pakistan. They also come forward when we need them, why we can't give them a great blessing- the so called good education? Why we are not giving them a chance to prove themselves.

Mavish Basher

"I think that young terrorists are treading the path of terrorism due to poverty from couple of years. As poverty has increased terrorism also has. Not any agency but hunger is brain washing our poor youth ...

Bushra Basheer

"Everybody even a child knows about youth problems in our nation.

Rooh-Ul-Amin

“Our youth is full of ideas, passions, changes, development, interests and new beginnings. The only problem is a chance to express.

Amna Riaz

“No decision about us without us”

Mohsin Ali

“*Some of the economic and social problems are created by youth for youth* like street crime, violence in campuses, female harassment, status consciousness, superseding merit system and finding shortcuts for the success. These are all related to individual’s personal and cultural values. The need is to refine our behavior. We are Muslims, who have been the rulers of the world, but now what we have become?”

Hafiz Kashif

“Youth counseling center should start a pilot project in few towns and pick 50 students from different community and government schools, monitor them, help them and coach them at all stages for next 4 years and finally assist them how to achieve their goals and help their own family members.

Sheikh Talaha

“It has been psychologically proven that each individual feels passionately about something. Therefore firstly, it is the job of every school, university and parent to harness this interest regardless of what field this interest is shown for.

Naina Raisinghani

Problems:

1. Proper counseling
2. Need of youth development organizations / institutes
3. Acting on the injunctions of Islam- the complete and proper code of life
4. Master of ONE and Jack of ALL trades approach rather than Jack of ALL trades and Master of NONE.

Recommendations:

1. Building of guidance and counseling centers at UC level.

2. Creating of vocational centers in rural areas, as major portion of the youth (male and female) lives there and majority of them are uneducated.
3. Involving the youth in civic responsibilities by assigning them different duties.

Riaz Ahmed Jakrani

“.... seasoned politicians and leaders should train the leaders of tomorrow. The best platform has been provided in the guise of Model United Nations.

Maryyam Ahmed

“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 by establishing modern technical and vocational institutes in this country.

Muhammad Dawood Sheikh

“Guidance is what we require in our early stages of life for personality development. A great former American charismatic President Abraham Lincoln said “I will prepare and some day my chance will come.”

Ali Masood Jadoon

“As a girl, I feel that women in this society do not have a right to dream because what they dream is not what they become.

Sidra Mohiuddin Soofi

Missing youth found dead

TOBA TEK SINGH, June

Three schools blown up in Bajaur, Peshawar

Down Report

Two activists shot dead

Targeted killings continue in city

By Imran Ayub

KARACHI, July 3: At least two young activists — one aged 18 and the other 20 — were shot dead by the Mulla district of the party's organisational wing. "He was elected", said the official. "The dead and the wounded were killed to the Civil Hospital Karachi or more."

Govt schools not madrasahs stoke militancy: US report

WASHINGTON, June 21: Pakistan's public education system helps stoke militancy, government's ability to provide it.

Another doctor gunned down

By Imran Ayub

KARACHI, June 7: At least one young man armed with a pistol entered into a clinic in Orangi Town Friday afternoon and shot a doctor in the chest.

HRCP team visits lawless Borari village

Parents stop sending children to schools

Young man commits suicide

A young man committed suicide by hanging himself from a ceiling fan at his rented lounge in the Orangi Town area.

Murder mystery solved

Three siblings killed youth over 'honour'

By Atfal Ansari

KARACHI, July 6: The Karachi Sadler police on Tuesday night solved the mysterious phone call in mid-June and the unidentified man informed him that his daughter was in a relationship with a young man.

'Bandits' kill young man

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI, July 2: A young man was shot dead in Bazar Colony late on Friday alleged by police.

Young couple gunned down

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI, June 23: A young couple was found dead in a local locality on Friday. Police said that some arm people spotted the body lying on Mahmood Shah Road near Nizamuddin Chowk. They informed the police.

Young man killed in clash over land

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI, July 9: A young man was killed in an honour of fire between two men.

Schoolchildren with guns

Their lives and property. We still have the police and the courts in our country to control the law and order situation if it goes out of control. We are living in a state where state gives its citizens a legal guarantee to protect their lives and property.

'Sectarian attack' claims youth's life

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI, July 2: A young man was gunned down.

Young couple gunned down

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI, June 23: A young couple was found dead in a local locality on Friday. Police said that some arm people spotted the body lying on Mahmood Shah Road near Nizamuddin Chowk. They informed the police.



Hassan Idrees

ریاست کا کام زیادہ سے زیادہ افراد میں تعلیم عام کرنا ہے اور افراد پر اس کا حصول فرض ہے۔ نوکری تو بعد کا مسئلہ ہے اور رزق کم یا زیادہ کسی ذمہ داری تو اللہ نے خود اٹھائی ہے۔ لہذا ان سکرائوں کو اب "بانگ" ہو جانا چاہیے۔

ایک بکری شاہ

پیارے وطن پاکستان میں آج جو تکمیل مسائل نو جوانوں کو درپیش ہیں۔ وہ مندرجہ ذیل ہیں۔

- ۱۔ مختلف طرح کا تعلیمی نظام
 - ۲۔ نو جوانوں میں اسلامی تعلیمات کا فقدان
 - ۳۔ نو جوانوں کو صوبائی اسمبلیوں، پینٹل اسمبلی میں نشستیں نہ دینا
 - ۴۔ نو جوانوں کیلئے میڈیا میں پروگرام نہ ہونے کے برابر
 - ۵۔ گورنمنٹ کی جانب سے یونیورسٹی، کالج، اسکولز کے نو جوانوں کے لیے لیڈرشپ ڈویلپمنٹ اور معلوماتی پروگرام نہ ہونے کے برابر
- ہمارے ملک میں سب سے بڑا مسئلہ تعلیم کے بعد نو جوان لیڈروں کو آگے نہ آنے دینا

محمد سلیم پو بدری

یہ ملازمت کی منڈی ہے اور اس منڈی میں بھی وہی نو جوان کامیاب ہوتا ہے جس کی ہتھی بڑی - غارش ہوتی ہے۔ یوں صرف چند - غارش لوگوں کو میرٹ پر تقرری ہوتی ہے اور باقی نو جوان - غارش نہ ہونے کی وجہ سے پھر نوکری کی تلاش میں لگ جاتے ہیں۔ اس تلاش میں یہ نو جوان نظر شروع کر دیتے ہیں۔ پھر ملک میں نظر کرنے والے افراد کے شمار کے لیے سروے ہوتا ہے۔ تو سب سے زیادہ نو جوان ملتے ہیں۔ ذکی ہوئی ہے تو نو جوان ملوث پایا جاتا ہے تو ہوتا ہے تو ایف۔ آئی۔ آر میں نو جوان کا نام آتا ہے۔

محمد سار شہزاد

صوبہ پنجاب میں 60 ڈائریز اور 10 ایسے ہیں جہاں کوئی لائبریری نہیں ہے
Young Thinkers! Let's play an ideal game?

عراقان ذوالفقار

Appendices

Annexure 1: Top Ten Position Holders

1st Position Holder

Afifa Shamim

Age: 15 years and 11 months
Education: O Level, Lahore
Learning Campus
Sahib-Zad-Gul Road. House
No. 4. Command and Staff
College, Quetta Cantt.

3rd

Ishaq Ahmed Sohag

Age: 17
Public School, Hyderabad
Email: ishaq_sohag@live.com

5th

Saadi Rafique

Email: its_saadiz@yahoo.com

7th

Hafiz Kashif

Age: 26
Bachelor in bio-technology
Email: kashif_iub@gmail.com

9th

Mohsin Ali

Age: 20
Bachelor in bio-technology
House no 18 J Street No 3
Sector F1, Mirpur, AJK

2nd Position Holder

Wajahat Nassar

Age: 22
Institution: UET, Lahore
47 B Tipu Block, New Garden
Town, Lahore

4th

Manohar Lal

Qualification: M.A (English)
Ward No: 1 Station Road,
Jhol, District Sanghar SINDH

6th

Muhammad Dawood Sheikh

Age: 20
Virtual University, Lahore
Campus
Email: mds_92@yahoo.com

8th

Sidra Mohiuddin Soofi

Age: 17
Institution: D.A Degree
College for Women, Karachi

10th

Inyyat Atta

Age: 25
Barakhel House, Diyal Road,
Dera Ismail Khan City
Khyber Pukhtunkhwa

Annexure 2: Profiles of the Judges

Ali Salman is Managing Partner of Development Pool, a socio-economic consultancy firm based in Lahore. Bringing over 10 years of diverse experience in public, private and development sector, He specializes in economic analysis, entrepreneurship and policy analysis. Email: ali.salman@developmentpool.org

Gulmina Bilal is Director of Individualland. She specializes in political systems, advocacy and training. She has the distinction of leading a national political advocacy organization of Pakistan in addition to designing a number of political advocacy campaigns Email: individualland@gmail.com

Iqbal Haider Butt is a Senior Partner of Development Pool, a socio-economic consultancy firm based in Lahore. He specializes in planning, technical writing and research, and programme design. he thematically led and pioneered youth track of peace diplomacy in South Asia in 2002 and has been a United Nations University (UNU) and Asia Leadership Fellow. Email(s): iqbal.butt@developmentpool.org / iqbutt@yahoo.com

Raziq Fahim is Director for College of Youth Activism and Development. He is working to empower youth to prevent youth from becoming militant by bringing peace and tolerance to some of the most dangerous regions of Pakistan. Primary areas of expertise: Civil Society, Conflict Resolution, Culture, Dialogue, Education, Facilitation, Gender, Human Rights, Social Entrepreneurship, Terrorism

Sadia Atta Mehmood is a National Program Officer for Youth Program at the UNFPA Country Office in Pakistan. She has worked passionately to promote rights of children and youth in Pakistan with focus a special focus on sexuality issues and reproductive health. She has extensive experience in designing creative development programs for children and young people that includes life skills programs for youth, theatre and puppet development and IEC materials on child protection etc. Sadia is

also the author of numerous articles, and research papers on children and youth issues that have been published in journals.

Saima Jasam is presently working with Heinrich-Boll- Stiftung, Lahore Pakistan as head of the program section. She received her Master's degree in development studies from Institute of Social Studies at Hague, Netherland. She is member of various human rights and women rights organizations and is also an author of a book "Honour Shame and resistance". She is also a human rights and women rights activist.

Zafarullah Khan is Islamabad based political and media analyst and civic educator with interest in political communication, political parties and democratic development. He has moderated number of workshops/ courses on democracy, civic education and communication arranged by national, regional and international organizations. He has worked as journalist for country's leading newspapers and electronic media. Presently he is working as Executive Director of Center for Civic Education Pakistan. He holds a masters degree in Media and Communication from London School of Economics in the United Kingdom.

Annexure 3: Innovative Idea by Premchand

پاکستانی نوجوانوں کی ترقی

پاکستان کی کلٹی ان مانگ ملک میں کی جاتی ہے جہاں نوجوانوں کی تعداد سب سے زیادہ ہے ایک سروے کے مطابق پاکستان میں %50 سے زیادہ افراد ہیں جن کی عمر 30 سال سے کم ہے اور ان میں بھی زیادہ شرح 10 سے 22 سال تک کی ہے عالمی دنیا کی نظروں میں نوجوانوں پر جس ملکوں کا اہم سرمایہ بیومن ریسورسز ہوتا ہے اور اگر اس میں بھی نوجوانوں کی تعداد زیادہ ہو تو وہ ملک امیر کہلاتا ہے دنیا کے ہر ملک میں نوجوانوں کے لئے بہتر اقدام اٹھانے جا رہے ہیں خاص کر کے ترقی یافتہ ممالک کی حکومتیں، NGOs اور دوسرے ایسے ادارے جو نوجوانوں کی ترقی میں کوشاں ہیں وہ کلٹی اور غیر کلٹی نوجوانوں کو ایک پلیٹ فارم پر ساتھ ساتھ کر کے ان میں اتفاق پیدا کرنا اور سیاسی، سماجی، معاشی، سائنسی، تکنیکی اور عمرانی معلومات کا تبادلہ کرنا مسائل کو گہرائی سے جاننا اور ان کے حل کے لئے منصوبہ بندی کرنا نوجوانوں کو پالیسی کی آگاہی دینا یہ سب وہ کام ہیں جنہوں نے نوجوانوں میں شعور پیدا کرنے اور خود مختار کرنے کے لئے ہیں نوجوان ہر ملک اور ریاست اور قوم کا اہم سرمایہ ہوتا ہے یہ ایک چست زوردار اور سماجی کا ایک قابل اعتماد فرد ہوتا ہے جو اس عمر میں خدا کی عطا کی ہوئی نعمتوں کو بہتر ملک کے خدمت میں استعمال کرنے کے ساتھ پر جوش ہونے سے اپنی صلاحیتوں کے ساتھ اہم چیزوں کو تخلیق کرنے کی طاقت اور صلاحیت رکھتا ہے

نوجوانوں کے اہم مسائل:

دنیا کے ہر ملک میں نوجوان کے اپنے اپنے مسائل ہیں مگر ہمارے ملک میں محدود سہولتوں اور موانعوں کی وجہ سے نوجوانوں کو بہت سے مسائل اور دشواریوں سے گزرنا پڑتا ہے اہم چیزیں درپیش ہیں جن میں سیاسی عدم استحکام سماجی معاشرت کا دل بد بن چھپنے کرنا سائنسی کلٹی کی ثقافت سے دور ہونا اور ادب سے ناواقفیت اہم ہیں جس کی وجہ سے بے روزگاری، غربت اور سماجی برائیاں بڑھ رہی ہیں اور ترقی روز بروز کم ہوتی جا رہی ہے مگر میری نظر میں بنیادی مسائل نیچے بیان کر رہا ہوں ان کا حل نوجوانوں کی ترقی میں اہم کردار ہوگا

1) ہمارا سرکاری تعلیمی نظام اور کالٹی کلچر

2) نصاب میں آئین، قانون اور بنیادی حقوق کی آگاہی کا نہ ہونا

3) شروع سے کیریئر کا سٹیک پر توجہ نہ دینا

4) نوجوانوں میں خدشات کلچر کا بڑھنا

مسائل کے حل کے لئے اہم نکات:

مسائل کے بہتر حل کے لئے منصوبہ بندی کی جاتی ہے ہمیں بھی نوجوانوں کے مسائل کی طرف پوری توجہ دینی ہوگی ان کو درپیش چیلنجز کے حل کے لئے انتظامی اور اہم اقدام اٹھانے کی ضرورت ہے جس سے نوجوان خود مختار رہوں اور ملک کی بہتری، ترقی اور خدمت کے لئے اپنی صلاحیتوں کا استعمال کر سکیں ہماری حکومت نوجوان کو اپنا اہم سرمایہ سمجھ کر ان کو صحیح پائیز کا رآمد استعمال نہیں کیا ہر ریاست یا ملک میں قانون، آئین اور بنیادی حقوق کو واضح اہمیت حاصل ہوتی ہے مگر ہماری پالیسی یہ ہے کہ نصاب میں قانون، آئین اور بنیادی حقوق کی پائیز آگاہی نہیں دی جاتی اور اس کا نقصان یہ ہوتا ہے کہ ہمارے زیادہ تر نوجوان قانون کا احترام نہیں کرتے اور بہت

ساتھ واقعات رونما ہوتے رہتے ہیں جس میں اسٹریٹ گراؤم کے سارے اقسام شامل ہیں اور ایڈ آرڈر کنٹرول سے باہر ہے کیریئر کا ڈسٹنگ ایک اہم مسئلہ رہا ہے ہم شروع سے کیریئر کا ڈسٹنگ پر توجہ نہیں دیتے تو جوانوں کو وہ شعبات تک محدود کر رکھا ہے انٹیکس اور ڈاکٹر جس کے لئے بڑا سرمایہ روپے انٹری ٹیسٹ تیاری اور انھوں سے ایڈ جسٹ کے لئے خرچ کر دیتے ہیں وہ قابل بن کر یونیورسٹی سے نکلنے ہیں تو باہر ممالک میں ڈیپانڈ ہونے سے یہ کیریئر باہر چلی جاتی ہیں اور ان ممالک کی ترقی اور کامیابی کے لئے اپنی قابلیت، صلاحیت طاقت استعمال کرتے ہیں ہمیں ساری توجہ اپنی اس کیریئر کو جوانوں پر دینی ہوگی تاکہ یہ اپنی قابلیت صلاحیت اور طاقت ہمارے ملک پاکستان کے لئے استعمال کر سکے اور دوسرے نو جوانوں اور انہم شعبات کی اہمیت ہٹانی ہوگی اور ان کے لئے مواقع نکالنے ہو گے جیسے کہ کیمپوز اور وزارت سیاست معاشرت ٹیسٹ آف ادب اور سپورٹس اہم ہیں جو ہمارے ملک کو ترقی کی اونچائی تک پہنچا سکتی ہے اس لئے کیریئر کا ڈسٹنگ اہم کردار ادا کر سکتا ہے

ہمارے باصلاحیت اور قابل نو جوانوں کو بنیادیں دینے کی طرح کھانا پینے کا اہتمام نہ صرف موجودہ جوان پر ہوتا ہے مگر آنے والی نسلوں کے لئے رہاؤ کی کامیابی ہے ایک تازہ سروے سے معلوم ہوا ہے کہ پاکستان میں 12 سے 30 سال کی عمر کے نو جوان میں میر وین کا استعمال زیادہ ہے 2 ملین لوگ بیرون کے عادی ہیں اور اتنی تعداد بھنگ، چرس، چھش، شراب، کچا شراب، کھانکا، پان اور نشہ آور 2100 سپاری استعمال کرتی ہے سگریٹ اور شیشہ پینا تو لڑکے لڑکیوں دونوں میں عام اور فیشن ہو گیا ہے 50 فیصد سے زائد طالب علم کالج یونیورسٹیوں اور گورنمنٹ کی کیمپوں ریسٹورنٹ اور مرگ کے کنارے ٹرانسپورٹ میں پبلک جگہوں کو تباہ کنوشی کیلئے استعمال کرتے ہیں پاکستان کے نو جوانوں کے لئے یہ اہم اور قابل موقع مسئلہ ہے جس پر قابو پانا بہت اہم اور ضروری ہے تاکہ ہم اپنے ملک کو ایک صحت مند مستقبل اور قابل اعتماد باصلاحیت نو جوان دے سکے یہ ترقی میں اپنا پورا کردار ادا کر سکیں

ضروری اقدامات

سیاسی، سماجی، معاشی، علمی، ثقافتی اور ادبی مظلومات کا تبادلہ ہمارے تجربہ کار سیاستدان، وزراء، قانون دان، بیورو کریٹ، ٹیکو کریٹ، ماسٹرز عالم صحافی آکر اپنے خیالات کا تبادلہ کریں ہمارے نو جوانوں کی تحقیق اور تخلیق کی صلاحیت کو بڑھانے کے لئے وہ کیمپنوں اور نو جوانوں کو زیادہ برصانے اور ان میں ضروری مشینری مہیا کرے اور قابل استاد دینا اہم اقدام ہیں۔ یہ باتی نو جوانوں پر زیادہ توجہ کی ضرورت ہے کیونکہ ان کے پاس مواقع اور سہولتوں کا فقدان ہے ان کو آگے لانے کے لئے مواقع فراہم کئے جائے تو انشا اللہ یہ وہ اقدام جو ہمارے نو جوان کو غلبہ کرے گا اور پاکستان کو غلبہ کرے گا۔ دل و جان قابلیت صلاحیت طاقت دونوں تجربے سے ترقی میں اہم کردار ادا کرے گا

This booklet, 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 speak in demanding tones. 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 designing and implementing youth-led and focused initiatives in Pakistan.

In commemoration of
*The International Year of Youth: Dialogue
and Mutual Understanding*
(12 August 2010 to 11 August 2011)



INTERNATIONAL
**YEAR OF
YOUTH**
OUR YEAR OUR VOICE

The UN system's approach aims to provide a concrete framework for collective efforts during the International Year of Youth. UN system's approach for the Year focuses on the three key areas.

- 1) Create awareness (increase commitment and investment in youth)
- 2) Mobilize and engage (increase youth participation and partnerships)
- 3) Mobilize and engage (increase youth participation and partnerships)

BARGAD



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