



Department of
Tourism, Sports, Culture,
Archaeology, Museums
& Youth Affairs
Government of Khyber
Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan.



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

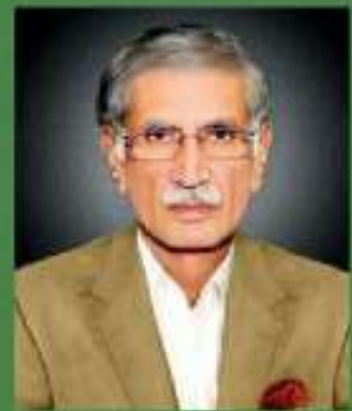
YOUTH POLICY

2016



Message from the Chief Minister

The youth represent not only the most productive segment of the society but also the most innovative, enterprising and optimistic dimension, both of which are crucial for shaping our present and future performance in achieving exclusive growth and development.



The Khyber Pukhtunkhwa is committed to and assigns paramount importance to create an enabling environment and actively engage youth in social, economic, cultural and political processes.

The KP Youth Policy 2016 is the outcome of an intricate consultative and iterative process involving relevant stakeholders who are directly associated with the policy formation process, besides hundreds and thousands of people who were connected with it through the print, electronic media and social network.

The policy will pave way for equitable and enhanced access to quality education, skill development and training, employment opportunities, technology, entrepreneurship, health and wellbeing.

The policy lays special emphasis on youth at risk, youth belonging to minority groups and other marginalized youth including IDP's and transgender youth.

The contribution of every citizen of Khyber Pukhtunkhwa, particularly young women and men, boys and girls who participated in the formation of KP Youth Policy 2016 needs special appreciation and acknowledgement. I would like to compliment the Department of Sports, Youth Affairs and their team for bringing out this policy at a very important juncture in the development history of the province.

I am confident that the KP Youth Policy 2016 will go a long way in meeting the expectations and aspirations of young people of the province and help them contribute to the growth and development of the province and the country in general while achieving success in all spheres of their own lives.

Pakistan Zindabad!

PERVEZ KHATTAK

Chief Minister, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Message from the Minister Of Youth Affairs

It is my pleasure to present this Policy to all youth of the province as a gift of the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Our Government under leadership of the Honourable Chief Minister Pervez Khattak drives special energy from the youth as a formidable political constituency and is committed to preparing the asset for a fast-changing world of economic opportunities, social challenges and their political and civic engagement with decision making at all levels. We are convinced that when the youth is economically hopeful, socially responsive and thoroughly engaged in the affairs of our state and society;

it would give us the leverage to reap dividends of a growing number of youth amidst us and to contribute to the national development. Our growth is directly linked with the well-being of our youth.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Youth Policy is a serious effort to mobilize youth as the change agents. It is to our pride that we have formulated with the first-ever youth policy of the province and can look forward to a radical change in the situation of youth with the help of comprehensive assessments done for formulation, visioning and mandate and strategic guidelines of the Policy.

We are also glad that all the stakeholders of the youth policy were involved in the making of this Policy and hope that the ownership of all actors involved in the youth development work would have started rolling the implementation of the youth policy even at its formulation phase.

I congratulate Mr. Muhammad Azam Khan, Secretary Tourism, Sports, Archaeology, Museums & Youth Affairs Department, Government of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for his sustained efforts and Dr. Hassan Mohtashami Country Representative and Ms. Sarah Sarah Masale Deputy Representative and Ms. Sadia Atta Mehmood of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Ms. Marion Regina Mueller, Country Director of Heinrich Boll Stiftung Pakistan (HBS), Mr. Iqbal Haider Butt, Lead Consultant and Dr. Shahbaz Israr Khan, Coordinator of the KP Youth Policy for their dedication and Ms. Sabiha Shaheen, Executive Director Bargad – Organization for Youth Development for providing technical and financial support for formulation of the Youth Policy.

MAHMOOD KHAN

Minister for Youth Affairs, Archaeology, Museums and Sports
Government of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan



Foreward

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Youth Policy is a primary planning document to empower youth comprehensively and regenerate their potential in economic, social and political lives of the province. It offers guidelines and strategies essential for integrated youth development of the KP youth at a time when we are experiencing the Youth Bulge in the Pakistan and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province amidst realization that without a coherent policy instrument the prospects for making youth a dividend for the nation would be limited.



For Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the need to articulate and frame the youth policy is particularly compelling due to the peace and conflict situation of the province; whereby our youth is a constant target of extremist ideologies and a fodder for terrorism in the region. The present policy facilitates creation of a constituency for peace-building and prosperity with a central place for youth by their participation in economic, social and political actions.

Additionally, through this policy, the Government of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has also fulfilled its obligation to take full charge of its authority entrusted under the 18th amendment to the Pakistani constitution and to successfully exercise the transition for transfer of powers from the Centre to the provinces.

The drafting of the Policy involved wide-ranging and thorough process of field research for collecting specific data and analyzing the challenges faced by the youth of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa that hinder their progress towards becoming positive, active and confident citizens. In the light of this scientifically collected data, the Policy has been able to propose interventions for implementation and clarify a roadmap for youth empowerment in the province. It was also kept in design of the policy formulation process that each and every relevant stakeholder from youth, youth groups and organizations, civil society and corporate entities and government departments should formally contribute their input to the consultative process. The issues raised from all relevant quarters have been incorporated in the Policy. In that sense, this Policy is owned by youth and multiple-stakeholders of youth development work in the province.

After focusing on the challenges and needs of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa youth, the Policy clarifies its mandate and delineates responsibilities of the province and youth, their entitlements and the core values and principles envisaged under the Policy. It addresses needs of diverse sub-groups of youth including male and female youth, rural and urban youth, literate and illiterate youth and vulnerable youth groups i.e. minority youth, workshop workers, differently-abled youth, religious seminary students, young jail inmates, transgender, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugee youth.

The Policy is built upon three main pillars of empowerment - economic, social and political – grouped further into various sub-categories. The assessments of these themes have fed into designing the strategies for youth development. All this is complemented with laying out appropriate institutional mechanism in the province. It can be said that such an integrated and holistic approach will enable all the stakeholders of the youth development work to efficiently implement the Policy.

On behalf of the Sports, Tourism, Archaeology, Museums & Youth Affairs Department, I must congratulate the youth and citizens of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for a due Policy at hand. I also appreciate the untiring efforts of all the stakeholders.

I am indeed grateful to the 380 representative youth from the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa districts and more than 250 agencies and organizations, both in government and in the communities, who have contributed to the formulation of this Policy. It has been a labor of love for all stakeholders of youth development work in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; in the hope that it would go a long way to improvise programmes and services for the youth. This is the first-ever youth policy of the province and would serve as a bench mark document for mainstreaming youth in the public policy arena.

MUHAMMAD AZAM KHAN

Secretary

Youth Affairs, Sports, Tourism, Archaeology and Museums Department

Government of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan

Face of the **Future**

List of Abbreviations

ADP	Annual Development Programme
BEOE	Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment
BoD	Board of Directors
FATA	Federally Administered Tribal Areas
FDU	Frequent Drug User
HIES	Household Integrated Economic Survey
ICPD	International Conference on Population & Development
IDP	Internally Displaced People
IYG	Informal Youth Group
KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
KPYDC	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Youth Development Corporation
MD	Managing Director
NFE	Non-formal Education
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
PAC	Post Abortion Care
PCNA	Post Crisis Need Assessment
PSLM	Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement Survey
TRF	Total Fertility Rate
UC	Union Council
UNODC	United Nations Office of Drugs & Crime


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A person stands on the edge of a dark, layered rock formation, their arms raised in a gesture of triumph or freedom. The background is a bright, hazy sunset over a valley, with the sun low on the horizon. The overall mood is one of achievement and looking forward.

Introduction



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Youth Policy

is the central tool to systemically
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and evaluate
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Introduction

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Youth Policy is the central tool to systemically integrate, implement, and evaluate all youth development work in the province. Based on three pillars of integrated youth development, economic, social and political empowerment, it would facilitate participation of youth in the mainstream developmental processes through a comprehensive framework to meet pressing challenges to youth. It also envisages empowering strategies, institutional mechanism and the action points for multiple public, private and social sector stakeholders which are working to develop youth in the province.

This pioneering document portrays local realities obtained in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and meets global standards of policy making. It is based on varied youth information both from the primary and secondary sources. 380 representative youth from all districts in the province and more than 250 organizations and bodies contributed to the consultative process across the province to formulate the policy. Its design phase was thoroughly inclusive; in that it demonstrated participation of diverse youth groups i.e. female and male, rural and urban, literate and illiterate, minority youth, workshop workers, differently-abled youth, jail inmates, transgender, vulnerable youth groups, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Refugees (Afghan youth in camps). Furthermore, political leadership, government officials, journalists, lawyers, social activists, writers, intellectuals and civil society organizations were also taken on board during the process.

This policy caters to the contextual needs and situation of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa youth. Special care has been deployed to create synergies with other national and provincial policy documents.¹ It frames the most important challenges to youth, and stipulates concrete programmatic and institutional changes in the youth development sector as well as strategies to empower youth at all three levels – economic, social and political. Additionally, it serves as a glaring example of public – private partnership to respond to the growing youth bulge and to maximize the potential of youth amidst peace and security situation in the province.

Policy Context

At the outset, we need to define what we mean by 'Youth', and what is its functional implication for the purpose of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa policy? Youth is classified as a period during which a person prepares himself/herself to be an active and fully, responsible member of the society. It is a period of transformation from family dependent childhood to independent adulthood and integration in the society as a responsible citizen. It is a transition phase between a world of rather secure and standard biological development to a world of choice and/or risk where individuals have to choose and plan their own orientation and social integration.

Youth is also defined in the context of being, "Dreamer, full of energy, want to make a mark in life, impulsive and one who is not scared to take risks;"ⁱⁱ They can also have innovative and out parameter desire to look beyond traditional ways to solve societal problems.ⁱⁱⁱ 'Age' is a one useful but insufficient indicator to characterize the transition to adulthood. Other key markers may include the increasing maturity of young people as defined differently by different cultures; the age limit of child

benefits; the end of full-time compulsory schooling; the voting age, and the minimum age for standing for elections^{iv}.

Having considered all these indicators, the Pakistani government regards 'Age' as a working definition of youth because of its tangibility. According to the Pakistani official standards as defined by The National Youth Policy of Pakistan (2009), young people between 15-29 years of age are considered as youth, while the United Nations regards youth as those falling between the age brackets of 15-24 years.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa youth policy will subscribe to the official definition of youth – persons between 15-29 years of age.



Rationale

The Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is convinced that an integrated framework of the policy would accumulate the effects of all development plans on youth in different sectors and also help avoid unnecessary over-lapping of human, technical and financial resources. The policy is informed by an emerging need to combine youth work spread over various sectors i.e. youth, labour, health, population, sports, finance, etc.

It integrates efforts of multiple public and private stakeholders and turn youth into a dividend for the province; facing youth bulge and massive outnumbering of young people amidst lesser investment on social development sector programmes.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Youth Policy comes at a time when the province is doubly pressurized by increasing young population and unfortunate consumption by a volatile security situation. The poverty also continues to suppress the youth population.

While the Youth Policy adopts holistic approach catering to holistic needs of the youth, its key test is to amicably equip youth with social, political and economic empowerment and contribute to national growth in Pakistan. Moreover, it also meets the challenges of governance and institutional mechanism for youth development in the province. Youth of the province need programmatic and policy support for their social, economic and political regeneration. The challenges like unemployment or

underdevelopment, idleness and hopelessness among youth have serious repercussions for worsening the security situation.

The need for the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Youth Policy is necessitated by convergence of perceptions and workable understanding points among multiple stakeholders on what we have to do about the youth issues. In many ways, various departments of the government are already investing on youth-related sectors, i.e. technical education, health, population and agriculture, etc.

But it can be said that the cumulative effect of youth-oriented schemes cannot be estimated both in terms of short term gains and long term outcomes: solely because of the fact that we lack integrated policy, coordinated implementation and mechanism among multiple stakeholders in the public sector. It is with this approach that a provincial youth policy should have the potential to integrate youth empowerment work into the government structures.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Youth Policy would also clarify roles of different departments, corporate bodies and social sector organizations. It emphasizes upon the facilitative and catalyst character of the youth affairs department and goes beyond making it a stand-alone operator in the implementation mechanism within vertical governance structures of the province.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Youth Policy, 2016 would thus promise to:

- Set the policy context by providing its rationale, youth profile of the KP and the evolution of Youth Affairs in Pakistan and eventually its devolution to the KP under the 18th Constitution amendment.
- Formulate vision, mission and objectives.
- Envision values and principles of the youth policy.
- Define the targets of policy and priority youth groups in the province.
- Resolve the entitlements and responsibilities of the youth.
- Devise strategies on key challenges to empower youth in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- Specify the institutional mechanism for implementation of the youth policy, devising regulatory frameworks, and lay out its budget and monitoring and evaluation mechanism.

Youth Profile of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa feels the pressure of youth bulge and a growing youth populace. As of January 2014, its population was projected to be 27.54 million comprising of 14.11 million male and 13.43 million female and 5.27 million urban and 22.37 million rural inhabitants. With an area of 74500 square kilometers spreading over 9.4% of Pakistan, its population density stood at 370 per square kilometers. The annual growth rate amounted to 2.81% in 2014.⁵

72.11 percent. In the active youth age bracket (15 to 29 years), they make up 27.23 percent of the total provincial population. Figures of age cohorts before entering the youth bracket indicate that the youth population is on the rise. There is no denying the fact that the youth has either potential of becoming a solid resource base for the province or transform into a complex problem challenging economic, social and governance structures.

The number of young people (0 to 29 years) in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province stands at

Youth Bulge in Pakistan (Projected National Population of Youth, 2015)			Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Age Cohorts (Years)	Population In Millions	%age of the total Population	%age of the total Population
0-4	22.76	11.87	14.94
5-9	21.33	11.13	16.42
10-14	20.07	10.47	13.52
15-19	20.12	10.49	11.64
20-24	19.8	10.33	8.67
25-29	17.13	8.93	6.92
00-29	121.21	63.22	72.11
15-29	57.5	29.75	27.23
Source: National Institute of Population Studies, Planning & Development Division, June 2010 as cited in Pakistan Economic Survey 2014-15		Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Labour Force Survey 2013-14	

Presence of a huge youth population will need more resources, jobs, food security; increased social vibrancy; and political participation. In the desired and best case scenario, this youth bulge may serve as a dividend for the nation and youth can become the vehicle for change. On the contrary, the worst scenarios present a dismal picture with proven link of massive youth populations with internal strifes and disruption.

Youth becomes increasingly important when it outnumbers other sections of the population. Presently, a large proportion of youth is entering into population structures. Around the world, sixty-two countries are ranked as "very young" which means that two-thirds of their populations are under the age of thirty.^{vi} Researchers have established that the population's age structure (the relative size of each age group) deeply affects development opportunities and plays a major role

in security risks and governance challenges^{vi}

The prospects and risks of youth bulge have compelled public and policy circles to recognize this outnumbering group, its distinct needs, aspirations in life and specific socio-biological complexities that it encounters and its potential to create dynamic pressures upon national development. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, in view of its peculiar situation, is bound to take cognizance of the sensitivities associated with its youth – both male and female. If its youth is unprepared and under-groomed for future roles, unemployed and isolated from the development processes then the province will have to compromise its collective well-being rather than to transform the youth potential into a driving force of development.





Devolution of the Youth Affairs from Centre to the KP

Age of youth is often attributed to a field of promise and potential of enthusiast individuals and growing nations. Everyone in the family and public sphere frequently repeat their allegiance to the idea of mentoring, grooming and participation of youth in the hope of a bright future.

The founding father of Pakistan Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah had also reiterated attachment to his youth cadre. Some of his biographers would even proclaim that youth was the main force which played a crucial role to

sustain political leadership of Jinnah amidst other Muslim politicians of his times.³ However, this public and political enthusiasm over youth could hardly match when it came to policy formulation in the country. In the original draft of the Constitution of 1973 there is no single word of youth mentioned nor was the Youth Affairs then a subject for state intervention at any level – federal or the concurrent.

Only minors and children find mention in the Constitution.⁴ The history of policy and provision of institutional framework took a leap when in June 1989 a Youth Affairs Division was

established at the Federal level leading to the preparation of four drafts of National Youth Policy in 1989, 1993, 2002 and 2004. It was only in 2009 that the first ever National Youth Policy was formulated to boost the enthusiasm that the youth could be geared towards becoming a dividend rather than a risk. The national policy outlined 15 principles and devised a national action plan for comprehensively investing on Pakistani youth^{xi}. Having realized the youth bulge, the national policy provided a comprehensive framework to guide a sector that had been long suppressed or ignored.

This arrangement took a radical shift with the 18th amendment in the Constitution in 2010 and transfer of powers and responsibilities to the provinces for their exclusive authority over certain subjects including youth affairs. The legitimacy of a provincial youth policy comes from this constitutional change.

The provincial government of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa links its youth development work with technical education, sports, mobility/tourism and culture in the short run and peace and prosperity in the long run. There has been a conscious effort to provide platforms of multiple actions for youth to achieve the dual aim of the peace and prosperity.

Currently the Sports, Tourism, Archaeology & Museums, and Youth Affairs Department is engaged in soft interventions in the youth affairs. The making of the provincial youth policy is part of this stage setting phase.

The tourism as a sector in collaboration with youth affairs is also working towards targeted efforts for promoting the province's tourism assets, which include sites that represent archaeological, cultural, historical and religious significance and attractive natural and scenic beauty. It aims to showcase the rich history and immense cultural diversity of the province and to inter-weave the same with opportunities for youth exchange visits to get them accustomed to thousands of years of history and then use it as a tool for new entrepreneurship.

The Department is concentrating on the youth affairs in its new projects. With the release of a set of publications and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material, the Department is inculcating a sense of identity, place and pride among youth to take stock of their cultural heritage and explore livelihood opportunities out of it.



The Department is particularly encouraging youth organizations to hold public events and with the help of local media and corporate sector the presence of youth for peace is gradually emerging. The provincial youth policy is a concerted effort to systemically engage youth in public sphere at a larger scale. The Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa believes that a sharp focus on the youth is a prerequisite to its overall development, prosperity, peace and tranquility. At the same time it is cognizant of the reality that ignoring youth in development and governance, paradigm and priorities has provided strength to anti social, anti-state and anti-order elements leading to visible erosion of governance structures and irreparable loss to social norms and destruction of civility and its values.







Mandate of the Provincial Youth Policy

Vision

To create an enabling environment for the youth in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, by providing them equitable opportunities to realize their full potential in a safe, secure, conducive and congenial environment, working for a developed and prosperous Pakistan.

Mission

To build youth who are economically active, socially aligned and politically engaged in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, and who possess useful competencies and tolerant values to become valuable citizens of Pakistan

Objectives

- a. That the youth in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is economically active and enthusiastically contributes to national growth;
- b. That the youth in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa possesses economic and social competencies for their future market and social roles through an enabling quality education;
- c. That the youth in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is socially empowered, progressive, egalitarian, tolerant, non-violent, peaceful, having positive self-image and health, and
- d. hopeful of their own future contributing to family and social well-being; That the youth in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is politically dynamic and engaged in decision making processes and civic activities;
- e. That the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa can efficiently govern the multi-sectoral field of youth development in the province and is systemically connected with youth.

Responsibilities of the Province

- a. It is the responsibility of each department and authority of the Province, and of each person performing functions on behalf of a department or authority of the Province, to act in accordance with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Youth Policy when it's in jurisdiction of that particular department, authority or the person.
- b. The adherence to any clause of the policy may be regarded as being subject to availability of resources. It is however recommended that the Government may allocate at least two percent (2%) budget annually for youth empowerment in the KP.
- c. Department, authority or the concerned person of the Province is responsible to first determine whether their applicable actions are in accordance with the policy. In case if an extra-jurisdiction dispute arises over validity of the policy clauses a multi-sectoral platform the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Youth Commission would be the responsible authority to decide upon the nature of observation.
- d. It is also a prerequisite that the government would submit before the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly and yearly report on the observance and implementation of the provincial youth policy and the Provincial Assembly should, within a specified time frame, discuss such report for finding solution to the problems faced by the youth of the province.

Responsibilities of the Youth

The policy urges the youth to fulfil their responsibilities, as are enunciated below:

- a. To contribute to social, family and self-development as responsible citizens.

- b. To demonstrate respect for human dignity irrespective of caste, creed, colour, gender, ethnicity or class background
- c. To esteem gender equality by words and actions.
- d. To maintain peace and harmony, shun violence and extremism, observe fundamental duties and respect the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the Constitution of Pakistan to all sections of the people.
- e. To respect others' faiths and beliefs in the religious, cultural and social spheres and to different schools of thought.
- f. To extend respect to teachers and elders, parents and the family, in conformity with our cultural norms, values and traditions.
- g. To promote appropriate standards of ethical conduct in individual and social life.
- h. To maintain honesty and integrity of character and be committed to fight against all forms of corruption, crime, social evils and practices.
- i. To engage in meaningful and healthy activities.
- j. To preserve and protect the environment.



Youth Entitlements

The policy affirms that the youth of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province would be entitled priority to the following:

- a. Appropriate education and training which enables them to render themselves socially useful and economically productive.
- b. Equal employment opportunities for all groups of youth without any bias or discrimination except where equity for uplift of vulnerable groups or areas is concerned.
- c. Suitable participation at district and provincial level in decision-making bodies relating to policy and governance issues or for youth development.
- d. Adequate access and facilities of sports, physical training at institutions and recreational opportunities.

Focused Youth Groups

This policy intends to focus upon the following youth groups, including male and female youth, rural and urban youth, literate and illiterate youth and vulnerable youth groups i.e. minority youth, workshop workers, differently-abled youth, religious seminary students, young jail inmates, transgender, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugee youth.



Core Values and Principles of Policy

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Youth Policy seeks to promote the following core values:

- a. Youth as positive potential and strength for the national development rather than as an instrument serving the vested interests. Public actions under the provincial youth policy should therefore contribute to develop personal and social roles of youth.
- b. Dignity of youth as full partners of social change. They don't have to be taken as risks.
- c. The promotion of social, economic and political empowerment as well as engagement of youth into the mainstream of society, economy and governance.
- d. The encouragement of character building and ethical values among youth.

The core principles of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Youth Policy are laid as under:

- a. **Diversity:** Youth empowerment interventions would recognize and acknowledge the diverse backgrounds from which youth come from and celebrate the roles played by different segmentation of the youth communities, gender, ethnicity, religion, tradition and location i.e. rich, poor, urban, rural, male, female, etc.
- b. **Integration:** There is a need for different key role players such as government, civil society, private and business sectors to coordinate their multi-sectoral efforts to ensure greater and coordinated impact in empowering youth. The present policy will synergize these efforts both through its institutional mechanism and alignment with other policies and public instruments concerning youth i.e. education policy, adolescent development frameworks, early marriage law, etc.
- c. **Holistic:** Youth empowerment initiatives would include all aspects of youth life and respond to their social, political and economic needs: so that they gain the necessary knowledge, skills, and experience required to ensure smooth transition into practical life.

- d. **Accessibility:** Male and female youth of diverse backgrounds would access resources and services crucial to their integrated development. This would be done by oversight work within the framework of the Youth Policy: tracking progress of constitutional guarantees of free and compulsory education within minimum possible period: making technical and professional education generally available: ensuring the right of decent work, and provision of services against health and drugs risks.
- e. **Non-discriminatory:** All youth empowerment initiatives would treat the youth equally irrespective of the biases of age, gender, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability or any other form of

discrimination as enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan. The Policy shall discourage prejudices among the youth. Moreover, in the spirit of non-discriminatory approaches there is a need to encourage affirmative and equity-oriented actions that would create equally opportunities especially for the vulnerable communities. This principle is informed by the values of human dignity and respect for the human rights.

- f. **Transparency:** Institutions and organizations involved in youth empowerment would operate in a transparent and accountable manner.



- g. **Participation and inclusion:** Service providers would design policies, strategies and programmes for and with youth by sharing information, creating opportunities and involving them in decision making as active participants in their own development. Youth should own the outcomes of the development process and should view human rights as a fundamental basis for human development. They would be treated as equal partners in development programmes.
- h. **Social cohesion:** Youth empowerment interventions would promote inclusion of young people as significant part of societal structures by involving them in democratic and nation building activities. For that, their organized actions would be encouraged.
- i. **Social protection:** Various youth development interventions would seek to promote youth well being by putting in place measures that seek to protect and address the needs of youth and reduce their vulnerability.
- j. **Youth service and volunteerism:** Youth should be involved in meaningful activities which benefit communities whilst developing their sense of patriotism and their abilities through learning, service and volunteerism.



Strategizing Youth Empowerment in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



Economic Challenges and Youth Empowerment

Public and policy circles are progressively appreciative of the significance to invest on youth. There is an understanding that economic empowerment of youth has positive consequences for national growth, sustainable development and social cohesion. Whereas Pakistan is undergoing a demographic transition, the engagement and empowerment of youth in economic spheres will have an added value to maximize the dividends of youth bulge in the country.

One glaring indicator of how youth will be economically empowered will depend on how easily and massively they enter into employment markets. If we look at data; after a period of rapid increase in this challenge between 2007 and 2010, the global youth unemployment rate has eased out and settled at 13.0 per cent for the period 2012 to 2014. South Asia is also comparatively in better position with 9.9 unemployment rate for youth in 2014. However, within Pakistan, youth unemployment rate has been found higher in the KP as compared to other provinces and the national average. Nationally it is 5.96% (5.08% for male and 8.74% for female) but the KP statistics amount to 8.36% (6.53% and 15.87%) respectively. The number of employed also decreased by 0.23 million as compared to the previous year (2012-13). Figures register that there are 5.19 million persons (4.85 million male and 1.06 million female) employed in the KP out of a total of 56.52 million persons in Pakistan (2013-14).

Those who are employed are predominantly rural with a total of 4.84 million persons (3.87 million male and 0.97 million female) in the KP. Here the urban share of the employed persons amounts to 1.07 million (0.98 million male and 0.09 million female). In absolute terms, the urban share has risen as compared to the rural population.

A comparative analysis of the KP and national data of those employed reveals that 43.48% persons work in agricultural jobs in Pakistan as against 56.52% non-agricultural jobs. Formal sector absorbs 14.93% and informal sector accommodates 41.59% nationally.

KP: Labour Force Participation and Unemployment Rates of Youth (in %age)			
Age Cohorts (Years)	Participation Rates	Male	Female
Total (10 Years & Over)	36.47	59.97	13.98
15-19	23.87	36.56	10.18
20-24	43.91	78.92	16.96
25-29	50.96	95.07	18.59
Age Cohorts (Years)	Unemployment Rates	Male	Female
Total (10 Years & Over)	36.47	36.47	36.47
15-19	23.87	23.87	23.87
20-24	43.91	43.91	43.91
25-29	50.96	50.96	50.96

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. "Labour Force Survey 2013-14", Islamabad: 2015

In KP these figures are 37.20 % for agricultural jobs as against 62.80% non-agricultural jobs and 14.04% in formal and 48.76% in informal sectors respectively. Distribution of employed persons by area shows that urban share of jobs in non agricultural and formal settings are higher in Pakistan, but for KP all indicators are rural dominated. Nevertheless, there is a visible proportion of those employed in informal sector is found in the categories of unpaid family workers and Own Account workers which is actually the disguised form of unemployment.¹⁴

Data indicates that youth unemployment is decreasing in all four provinces while unemployment among educated youth has been rising in Pakistan. The indicator, 'Youth Not in Education, Not in Employment or Training (NEET)', is an appropriate tool which can measure the absence of access to education, employment and/or training. The NEET rate has been observed quite high in Pakistan. This is especially acute in rural sectors. However, it declined over time from 40.7% in 2001-02 to 31% in 2012-13. It is still highest in the KP at the rate of 40%. The decline in NEET rate nationally has also resulted in narrowing of the urban-rural gap during the period 2001-2013. Moreover, a large gender gap exists in Pakistan. Although, it has decreased over time from 61.2 percentage points in 2001-02 to 47.4 percentage points in 2012-13, the majority of female youth (55.5% per cent) is still neither in education nor in employment in 2012-13.¹⁵

A higher proportion of the labor force is rural, self-employed, largely low-skilled, and illiterate or less educated in the KP. This serves as a disincentive for the prospective business investors and is also a cause for high poverty. In terms of age-cohorts, as shown in the table on page 15 of this document, the unemployment has mostly hit the age bracket of 20-24 years with even higher rates for the female youth reflecting greater gender disparity.

The situation has become more complex due to recruitment of youth (15-29 years), especially the unemployed/underemployed, by the militants. This trend is fallen but to look at its patterns in recent past, according to a post-crisis need assessment document appeared in 2010, inadequate livelihoods and the absence of sufficient employment opportunities in KP and the FATA acted as two important crisis drivers causing involvement of youth in insurgencies. It also mentioned, "A militant recruit can earn between PKR 15,000 and 20,000 (\$176 to \$235) per month, which is nearly a double remuneration for unskilled work available in Peshawar. Militants have also capitalized financially in terms of popular support one economic opportunities in the illicit sector. Smuggling and related business are a major source of employment in the region; militant control of supply routes has helped sustain those activities contributing to livelihoods for individuals outside of their support base."¹⁶

KP has paid heavy price due to terrorism and conflict in Pakistan. Pakistan Economic Survey (2014-15) cites that during the last 14 years, the direct and indirect cost incurred by Pakistan due to incidents of terrorism amounted to US\$ 106.98 billion equivalent to Rs. 8,702.75 billion. A visible portion of these losses has occurred in the KP. The Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa calculated that damage to public property has amounted (late 2009 estimates) to nearly Rs 68.6 billion, which had earlier been projected at Rs. 5 billion (early 2009 estimates). Additional policing costs estimates were Rs 5 billion whilst, by December 2009, the

police and other security agencies had actually incurred a cost of Rs 24.9 billion. About Rs. 5 billion of revenue has already been lost, and a further Rs. 5 billion is expected to go astray through the remainder of the conflict and recovery.¹⁹ The conflict also displaced 3.5 million persons internally in the province. Another source of economic battering comes from constant influx of Afghan refugees which are estimated to be 1.5 million.²⁰ Bad security situation was also attributed as the main reason to knock down tourism sector in the province. Furthermore, two major natural disasters (earthquake, 2005 and floods, 2010) hampered its economy.

Another glaring feature of the economic profile of the KP province is related to volume of remittances from abroad as well as within the country. A study reveals that the province is the biggest recipient in terms of per capita expenditures on each household. The proportion of total households receiving remittances is nearly 31 percent received remittances in 2007-08, with this proportion higher for rural sector of the province at 36 percent. The stock of KP workers among total overseas Pakistanis is estimated to be between 1.2 and 1.7 million. Every fourth Pakistani who went abroad through the Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment or Protector of Emigrants (BEOE), Government of Pakistan comes from KP. Their destination is mostly the Middle East. KP has consistently maintained its share of around 25% in the BEOE annual placement throughout 1981–2013, and is the only province that has a much larger share in the annual outflow of workers than its share in the total population. Based on these estimates, the estimated volume of remittances in 2010-11 was between USD 1.58 billion and USD 2.25 billion, or between 14% and 20% of all official remittances.²¹

Due to combination of above pressures, the province has faced very negative impact on its economic, social, and political development. The economic health is even weaker in FATA areas where underemployment and unemployment rates in each agency exceeds to 50% ; while 60 percent of the employed (mostly male) have to leave their agencies.

Like other parts of the country, the incidence of poverty (population below the poverty line) is varied and unequal among KP's districts. Based on combined data of Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement Survey (PSLM) and Household Integrated Economic Survey (HIES), a study estimated consumption functions separately for urban and rural areas across Pakistan and predicted poverty incidence, 2010-11, for sub-national (district) levels with the help of non-monetary poverty correlates. It also covered (then) 24 KP districts. According to its results, the following districts were predicted to rank in incidence of poverty in the KP from highest to lowest order: Karak, Buner, Hangu, Lakki Marwat, Kohistan, Mardan, Nowshera, Swat, Charsadda, Swabi, Peshawar, Tank, Lower Dir, Shangla, Malakand, D.I.Khan, Kohat, Upper Dir, Bannu, Chitral, Battagram, Manshera, Abbottabad and Haripur respectively.²⁴

As stated earlier, there are higher unemployment trends in Pakistan for better-educated youth and that initial earning of youth are not much different from those of less educated youth. The current research identifies that unemployment is a luxury of middle class educated youth as they lack the concept of dignity of labour and only prefer white collar office jobs. Moreover, Youth generally lack skills of entrepreneurship and self-employment and seems demanding for government jobs. Educated youth, especially university graduates, generally complaint about the quality and standard of education and so does the employers. A study shows that fresh university graduates are not well prepared for the labor market and lack basic skills needed for employment.²⁰ Employment situation is also problematic for the graduates of religious seminaries (Madrassa). All of the Madrassa students²⁷ interviewed during consultative process for the KP Youth Policy complained about absence of technical subjects in the curriculum of the Madrassa and that the Madrassa studies do not prepare them for the labour market.

**Percentage Distribution of Employed Persons 10 Years of Age and Over by
Major Industry Division and Area, 2013-14**

Major Industry Division	Pakistan			Khyber Pakhtunkhwa		
	All Areas	Rural	Urban	All Areas	Rural	Urban
Total	100	69.13	30.87	100	81.85	18.15
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	43.48	41.71	1.76	37.2	36.08	1.12
Mining and Quarrying	0.2	0.17	0.02	0.17	0.14	0.03
Manufacturing	14.16	6.69	7.48	10.18	7.44	2.74
Electricity, Gas Steam and Air Conditioning Supply	0.48	0.2	0.28	0.64	0.37	0.26
Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management & Remediation Activity	0.3	0.11	0.19	0.18	0.1	0.08
Construction	7.33	4.92	2.41	11.83	10.15	1.69
Wholesale and Retail Trade, Repair of Motor Vehicles, Motorcycles	14.58	6.09	8.49	14.88	10.01	4.88
Transport, Storage	5.01	2.86	2.16	7.41	5.69	1.72
Accommodation & Food Services Activities	1.57	0.64	0.93	1.43	0.97	0.46
Information and Communication	0.44	0.11	0.34	0.42	0.18	0.24
Financial and Insurance Activities	0.47	0.11	0.36	0.22	0.06	0.16
Real Estate Activities	0.33	0.09	0.23	0.41	0.25	0.16
Professional, Scientific & Technical Activities	0.44	0.16	0.28	0.41	0.21	0.2
Administrative & Support Service Activities	0.5	0.19	0.31	0.44	0.24	0.2
Public Administration and Defense, Compulsory Social Security	2.33	0.93	1.39	2.76	1.66	1.1
Education	3.56	1.86	1.7	6.03	4.67	1.36
Human Health and Social Work Activities	1.4	0.63	0.77	2.08	1.29	0.79
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	0.16	0.09	0.07	0.17	0.13	0.04
Other Services Activities	2.1	1.19	0.91	2.5	2	0.5
Activities of Households as Employers; Un differentiated Goods & Services - Producing Activities of Household for Own Use	1.15	0.38	0.77	0.63	0.21	0.41
Activities Extra-territorial Organizations and Bodies	0.01		0.01	0.02		0.02

Source: Labour Force Survey 2013-14

It is reiterated that economic challenge in the province is intermingled with peace and security situation and therefore needs to be tackled as a socio-economic crisis, focusing on youth economic empowerment as a conflict transformative tool in the province. To meet this challenge, the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa plans to implement the following workable strategies and action points:

Strategies

- Diversification of employment sectors and comprehensive awareness to youth on the available job market;
- Mapping of skills and demands of multiple sectors in the job market;
- Encouraging youth in promotion of industry and local crafts through exhibitions and trade fairs in a collaborative role under the flagship of concerned departments;
- Encouragement of entrepreneurship for youth especially vulnerable youth;
- Establishing a programme for certification and standardization of technical training for literate and illiterate youth.

Skill Development and Vocational Training

- The policy would carry out an assessment of the demand/ requirements and capacity of the skills development facilities in the province. Based on this assessment technical and skill development programmes will be enhanced. Existing schools may be inducted in this programme and a substantial number of schools in public and private sector may start regular evening and weekend programmes for skill development and technical training for which funds would be provided by the government, private sector and development agencies;
- The government intends to assign high priority to promoting technical education in the province. A crash programme would be launched to impart quality technical education under certified trainers to unemployed educated youth and then provide micro-credit to them so that they can become self-employed;
- National and international job market analysis would be carried out to identify the requirements of skills in various target markets and our youth be trained in the relevant fields. Besides, support will be extended to our youth to seek jobs and placements locally and in foreign markets;
- Vocational Training Institutes in the province will update curriculum in accordance with current requirements and job-opportunities in the Agriculture/ Industrial and Services sectors and prepare a phased expansion programme of such training facilities in rural/urban areas keeping in view regional considerations regarding youth population, prevailing skill-levels, and unemployment;
- Soliciting funding through public/private collaboration for human resource management;
- Establishment of job banks, employer online concept to promote youth employment;
- Fully activating the concept of “Employer on line” and “Job Bank on line”;
- Specialized institutions for providing training in area specific needs will be opened e.g. training of agriculture, labour, businesses. Similarly training to support tanneries, fans, cutlery, garments industries in relevant industrial areas, etc.;
- Sectoral initiatives in livestock and dairy development, tourism, mining and other relevant sectors;
- Establish and encourage local crafts based youth enterprises for income-generation at village and urban-neighbourhood level and provide professional assistance for marketing of such enterprise products;
- Offering Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and higher end technical training of international standard in line with the global market and encouraging “outsourcing” by developed countries into Pakistan.
- Institute a programme of certification of informally acquired skills by technicians and workers to enable them acquire suitable jobs and financing.
- In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth

Entrepreneurship

- To mitigate risks in new ventures, it is necessary that the risk of trying bright ideas be underwritten by entrepreneurs and our talent is given a chance to succeed. For this purpose the programme envisages creation of a youth venture capital fund to support new developments and implementation of new ideas. This Fund can be subscribed by government, entrepreneurs, corporations, donors, beneficiaries etc.;
- Creation of small incubator offices equipped with all office facilities for young graduates so that they may work in these incubators to polish up their ideas and implement to venture activities. Such incubators may be set up in universities;
- To facilitate and guide young entrepreneurs regarding procedures for opening of new companies and provide legal advice as needed;
- Arrange entrepreneurship and training programme to enable youth to learn from existing enterprises and the companies. Learn the art of making business plans and selling it to the venture capital and other funds;
- Enhance the outreach of programmes of the Small Industries Corporation of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa;
- Guide and train youth to do business, to innovate and expand business;
- Guide and train small and poor service providers to grow from small occupations into large enterprise;
- Create respect for poor and small entrepreneurship (rag to riches empowerment).

Hassle Free Loaning

- ▶ Provide financial resources/loans to increase access of poor/low income family youth to training institutions and facilitate those seeking self-employment;
- ▶ Expansion of micro finance sector in terms of outlets, products and access by the young;
- ▶ Create a centralized "Information-System/Data base" on job opportunities for Youth in public and private sector to guide and counsel job-seeking youth.

Internships, on Campus Job and Job Placements

- Developing and promoting Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Internship programme through public-private partnership that would seek to offer maximum internship opportunities to the youth in government departments, private sector and within the civil society organizations (CSOs);
- In addition to Government programme, require large organizations, companies and enterprises to provide internship opportunities equal to at least 5% of their sanctioned/approved strength of officers to young people/graduates with stipends equal to or more than the Government programme;
- Require all universities to provide on campus jobs equal to at least 5% of their full time student population;
- Encourage all universities to set up offices for awaiting graduates in job placements. The government may also support programmes for job counselling and placement services;
- Institute Placement Bureaus through ICT interface with all stake holders and maintaining up to date, accurate and increased information flow;
- Launch “Social Assistance” and “Employment Insurance” programmes to cater for temporary or short-term unemployment.



Education for Youth Development

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa youth Policy maintains that education for youth development is not just limited to literacy rate, primary education enrolment or conventional schooling system. Rather, education for youth development includes certain skill-sets that can ensure youth employability in the labour market and also ensures social, political and economic empowerment of youth. Furthermore, it promotes norms and trends among youth to take their present and future decisions which can ensure sustainable peace and development in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Pakistan.

On the basis of literature review, consultations

and interviews the KP Youth Policy highlights two major issues regarding education for youth development:

- a. Required Skill Sets, Equality and Standardization and Non formal Education
- b. Curriculum and Peace Education





Required Skill Sets, Standardization of Education and Non-formal Education

There has been a consistent emphasis on access and quantitative issues of education in Pakistan for obvious reasons of desiring to reach out to a large populace. Nevertheless, for youth development planners and workers, it is critical to question if the current paradigm of literacy and primary enrollment is sufficient to empower youth and to prepare them for labor force market and their future roles in the society?

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa faces issues of quality education for all; poor quality of teaching, especially in poor, rural and ethnic minority areas (linking to teachers' skills and qualifications); rote learning; overly academic teacher education/ ineffective training methods; inadequate support and supervision for teachers; lack of qualified teachers in remote and ethnic minority areas; lack of women teachers in rural areas (e.g. to act as role models and support for girls); inadequate contact time (i.e. the time spent in class on teaching and learning); lack of capacities at all levels and political will^{xxx} and a not-so-fully functional Non formal Education (NFE) system. Another major flaw in the present education system is lack of connectedness and coordination between education institutes with employment sector. In the absence of market analysis, youth mentor ship and career counseling it is difficult to harness potentials of youth population in the province to face the challenges of the world.

To tackle the current challenges, new approaches^{xxxii} emphasize upon standardization and equality of the country's education system and propose to equip youth with required skill-set for their future economic, social and political roles. Such approach would need a paradigm shift from conventional way of looking at education towards required skill-set and to move beyond the formal institutionalized education system of Pakistan. A policy brief summarizes following skill-set drawn from different sources required from education for youth development as:

Organization and Sources	Skill-set Required from Education for Youth Development
College Board Readiness Standards http://professionals.collegeboard.com/k-12/standards	Proposed practical skills such as critical thinking, collaboration, problem-solving and technology literacy in addition to the subject contents
Search Institute http://www.search-institute.org/content/40-developmental-assets-adolescents-ages-12-18	Developmental Assets Survey demonstrated a powerful, direct relationship between the number of assets in a young person's life, their involvement in pro-social or anti-social behaviours, and their attitudes and performance in school.
Murnane, Richard and Levy, Frank, the Harvard-MIT Education Economics (1996). "Teaching the New Basic Skills: Principles for educating children to thrive in a changing economy", New York: The Free Press.	Identified three skill sets that young people need to succeed in the workplace – hard skills (e.g. mathematics, problem solving, and reading); soft skills (e.g. oral and written communications, team work) and information technology.
The Partnership for 21st Century Skills (2002) http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/documents/P21_Framework.pdf	Identified three skill sets that young people need to succeed in the workplace – hard skills (e.g. mathematics, problem solving, and reading); soft skills (e.g. oral and written communications, team work) and information technology.
The Gallup Organization (2008) http://www.gallupstudentpoll.com/121019/Gallup-Student-Poll-National-Report.aspx	Introduced a student poll that measures students' hope, engagement and well-being
Katariba (Tokyo-Japan) http://www.katariba.net/	Found out that Japanese students especially from public schools of rural areas were not performing well due to lack of communication, student-student interaction and platforms for self-expression.

Excerpt from: "Policy Brief-Public and Policy Imperatives for Youth Bulge in Pakistan" 2011, Bargad.

Here standardization of education does not mean uniform education system rather it is determining minimum standards and competencies at various stages of education irrespective of their religious or secular orientation. Moreover, equity would mean equal opportunity to all marginalized and vulnerable youth groups without any discrimination on the basis of religion, ethnicity, gender or identity. Pertinent to

education for youth development, the most vulnerable youth groups include rural, poor and disadvantaged youth, ethnic and religious minorities, indigenous youth, IDPs, Afghan refugees, differently abled youth, transgender youth and youth in jails. In consultations and interviews, marginalized youth groups showed their concerns about their marginalization in education sector and lack of skills to sustain their lives respectably.

Strategies

- Broaden the definition of education outcomes beyond literacy;
- Clarifying educational aims and objectives so the disparities resulting from multiple school systems can be done away with;
- Clarifying set of standards and competencies for students at different education stages irrespective of public, private or religious schooling backgrounds;
- Uniform basic and secondary education to promote integration and social cohesion;
- Revise curriculum to promote peace, love and pride for local culture, diversity, pluralism and tolerance among students;
- Promotion of the culture of peer education on life skills, interactive and leadership skills etc. to equally benefit the literate and illiterate youth;
- Enhancing job-skills and career counseling/ placement services on campuses;
- Promotion of student-led societies, clubs and bodies on campuses to promote extracurricular activities for collective youth actions;
- Introduction of service learning and community service programmes;
- Reaching to illiterate youth in streets, towns and villages through literate youth as part of community service programmes. This strategy will not only engage the literate youth in a productive manner, but also help to build the capacity of illiterate youth for becoming more responsible citizens;
- Safe/violence free campuses that would attract students instead of hurling fear in their minds;
- Women participation and leadership programmes;
- Inclusion of leadership programmes at school, college and university level for grooming students on non-academic basis as well,
- Promotion of non-formal basic education programs;
- Public-private partnerships to extend the scope and outreach of education;
- Scholarship programmes to include the marginalized areas, and
- Books and research materials and facilities would be made available to the young researchers through internet access, multi-disciplinary libraries, journal databases, book banks or book loaning programmes;



Peace Education and Curriculum

Curriculum is an important tool in shaping perceptions and conceptions of youth. Education institutions were often exploited by past regimes, for instance, to mobilize people, mostly youth, as fodder for armed recruitment in state conflicts and proxy wars. The curricula taught in schools of Pakistan contained discriminatory and radical content that bred hate and intolerance among youth. Some Madrassas or religious institutions also promote radical interpretations to indoctrinate youth to adopt violence.

Furthermore, some text books and materials also portray stereotyping of girls^{xxxx} and there is need for unbiased education for religious minorities. In the current scenario of the province, peace education is the need of the hour in order to promote harmony and peace in the region, as the current curricula of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa do not prepare students to critically think, analyse, mitigate and transform conflicts.

Moreover, as mentioned in the previous section, meaning of education and learning should not be just restricted to school learning. Youth learns from everyday life; community, friends and families.

Trainings on peace education has brought positive results as one of the survey finds students who participated in peace education trainings in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were able to sensitize participants and teachers on peace

education and conflict resolution/ management and also promoted critical thinking process and empowered target group with better communication skills, acceptance of differing views, preventing use of violence in solving conflicts and educating people on dividends of peaceful co-existence.^{xxxx} Peace education can play a central role for preparing youth to contribute towards sustainable peace of the province. Such an approach is also recommended by Peace Crisis Need Assessment document of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to counter radicalization in the province.

We need programmes on peace education that bridge gaps among different religions, sects, ethnic groups and bring harmony and develop tolerance among youth of the province. Peace education should include formal as well as non-formal education programmes to include all youth groups of the province. Such programmes would need collaborative efforts of public and private sector. One of the very important recommendations that came out of the policy formulation consultations is building cohesion and “National Pride as Pakistani.” and it can certainly be done through peace education by promoting the culture of peace and dialogue and by bringing together different diverse groups.

Social Challenges and Youth Empowerment

The present scenario of the province is posing myriad of social challenges to youth that are holding them back to get their due rights and are rendering them physically and psychologically insecure thus impeding their way to develop socially. Negative social factors frequently raise frustration and sense of deprivation among different youth groups. These factors can greatly impede skills and capabilities of youth to develop and utilize their potentials fully or can even mobilize them into violence. In contrast, the enabling factors that might lead to positive youth development are: youth participation and engagement; decreasing fertility; education for

youth development; youth for labour force development; social capital; youth networks; sharing of information; use of leisure time; non-formal education; peer to peer support through a pool of resource persons; cultural youth activities; youth-adult partnerships; participation of youth in projects and programs as actors and agents of change, and; networking between local, national and international youth actors^{xxxx}

Key social challenges and youth empowerment under the KP youth policy are detailed out ahead.

Youth Population, Health and Sports

In addition to an increased youth bulge the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa population also has 3.5 million IDPs and 1.5 million Afghan refugees that have made the conflict and crisis in the province more complex. In this situation of an increased population and rising level of expectations, the shrinking resource base of the province cannot sustain aspirations of the youth. That explains why youth were found frequently complaining during the consultations and interviews about the lack of opportunities, growing frustration and insecurity. It is no wonder that youth in the province demand their demographic share. They also require life

skills training and involvement of youth in family planning programmes and initiation of toll free health centres.

In a nut shell, in current conflict and crisis situation the issue of population and, specifically youth, becomes more critical and it becomes very important to recognize youth population of the province as a group and strategic development partner. Recognition will allow investing on youth as part of their rights and to channelize and harness their potentials in a right direction that can benefit youth and lead province and the nation towards sustainable peace and development.

The following strategies are planned to counter this challenge:

- ▶ Initiate quantitative researches on the regional scale and depths of youth bulge in the province;
- ▶ Undertake researches on impact of youth bulge in the province, especially focusing upon its link with aspects of development, peace, economy and politics;
- ▶ Devising sectoral strategies to turn youth bulge into a dividend for the province;
- ▶ Coordinate youth debates on youth bulge;
- ▶ Run youth-led mass awareness campaigns for promoting family planning in the province.

Adolescence and Youth Health Rights

Physical, mental and social insecurities greatly block youth to achieve their set goals, aspirations and desires. Data reveals that such insecurities and lack of adolescence and youth health rights have negative impact on youths' social, economic and political development. Adolescence and youth health rights like information and counselling of adolescents in the areas of gender relations and equality, violence against adolescents, responsible sexual behaviour, responsible family planning practices, family life, reproductive health, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV infection and AIDS prevention are important to tackle the youth rights issues. It is equally important that the sexual reproductive services, whilst keeping in view the social, cultural and religious values are also provided to adolescents and the youth;

so that they can avail facilities to support changes in their bodies and physical condition. Such services would include information and counselling on sexuality, safe sex and reproductive health; Contraception and protective method provision; Sexually Transmissible Infections (STI) diagnosis and management; counselling (and referral for testing and care); Pregnancy testing and antenatal and postnatal care; counselling on sexual violence and abuse (and referral for needed services); and Post-abortion care (PAC) etc.

	KP	Pakistan
Total Fertility Rate (TFR)	3.9	3.8
Contraceptive Prevalence Rate	28.1	35.4
Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)	275/100,000	276/100,000
Infant Mortality Rate	63/1000	94/1000

Source: Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey, 2012-13

It has to be noted that Pakistan has endorsed ICPD (International Conference on Population and Development), which has shifted the emphasis of population planning to promoting rights and sustainable development. Furthermore, Pakistan is also a signatory to several international treaties and conventions including Convention on Rights to Children (CRC), the international covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Such international treaties and conventions commit the country to right of young people.

Excerpts from Documents: Existing International Commitments of Pakistan

ICPD, Paragraph 6.15

Youth should be actively involved in the planning, implementation and evaluation of development activities that have a direct impact on their daily lives. This is especially important with respect to information, education and communication activities and services concerning reproductive and sexual health, including the prevention of early pregnancies, sex education and the prevention of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. Access to, as well as confidentiality and privacy of, these services must be ensured with the support and guidance of their parents and in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In addition, there is a need for educational programmes in favour of life planning skills, healthy lifestyles and the active discouragement of substance abuse.

Source: Adopted at the 21st special session of the General Assembly, New York, 30 June – 2 July 1999

ICPD Beyond 2014, Chapter 2: Human Rights and Dignity, C. Adolescents and youth

152. For youth overall, Governments responding to the global survey prioritize economic empowerment and employment (70 per cent), and social inclusion and education (both 56 per cent). These priorities underscore the intersections between the right to productive employment and decent work and education, training, social integration and mobility, taking into account gender equality...

Source: FRAMEWORK OF ACTIONS for the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference of Population and Development Beyond 2014.

Convention on the Rights of Child, Article 27.1

Adolescence and youth health rights are one of the main areas of concern in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Furthermore, there seems to be a perception that youth rights, as a status, are more relevant for boys than for girls.^{xxxx} Around the time of puberty, societal expectations and the personal aspirations of male youth and female youth begin to diverge. It is also a time when “the world expands for boys and contracts for girls.”^{xxxx} Many female youth additionally face discrimination in getting education. Their male counterparts are preferred over them in the families. Most of the female also get married before the age of 20 and are then restricted to participate in social, economic and political spheres of life. The data shows high maternal mortality rate that is more or less equal to the Pakistan’s overall maternal mortality rate. In last 16 years there is a slight decline in TFR from 5.5 to 4.3 in the province.^{xxxx}

Youth in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have concerns about their physical, mental and social

wellbeing. Lack of sexual health and reproductive health information makes youth vulnerable to sexual violence and abuse, sexually transmitted diseases, early age marriages, early pregnancies and other malpractices.

Nevertheless, some circles in the province perceive sexual health and reproductive health education as anti-religious and secular agenda. There is also absence of peer group formation for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), seminars on sexually transmitted diseases, awareness campaigns on sexual and reproductive rights, toll free centres where youth could get information on their health issues, establishment of youth health council centres etc. It is imperative to mention that policies and programmes are the need of the hour to initiate SHRH education as part of youth rights.

The Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would adopt the following strategies on adolescence and youth health rights:

- Adopt policies to address holistic health needs of the youth;
- Protection, survival and development of children and youth;
- Undertake education and communication activities in reproduction rights at the school level with cultural sensitivities of the regions in view;
- Portrayal of equality of boys and girls through all public messages and curricula;
- Initiate life-skill programmes for children and youth;
- Other measures would include drug demand reduction projects; Entertainment opportunities for youth; social awareness among youth; and, establishment of Rehabilitation centre for drug addicts.

Pro-youth Legislative Measures on Marriage

Mostly in rural areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, female are married under the age of 20 and usually their consent for marriage is not taken. One of the interviewees during the youth policy consultation said, “In our culture, female gets married at an early age. Other discriminatory practices towards female youth like Vani, Sawara, Ghag and Zhagh are also prevalent. A number of such cases are reported but the government is not successful in preventing such inhuman customary practices to happen. A few months ago Peshawar high court had observed that even a single section in Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) could not check the detestable practice of swara and vani. Therefore, it was required

that a separate law should be enacted for checking these practices.^{xxxix} The Government would implement following strategies to counter this issue:

- Strict measures for implementing laws against forced and early marriages;
- Involve religious scholars in the debates against forced and early marriages, and
- Essay writing competitions among students on forced and early marriages.

Suicide Cases Among Youth

Suicide among youth has increased tremendously over the past few decades mainly because of mental depression and frustration. Suicide among youth is one of the main issues that were raised in the consultative meetings on youth policy. One of the main reasons shared was frustration, physical insecurity and sometimes due to psychological pressures and unemployment among youth. A study conducted by AKRSP in Chitral, Pakistan, concludes that most of the suicides committed by female youth (16-29

years) are because of rigid family systems and exclusion of female youth in decision making processes of life. A suicide case was also reported in which a student of grade 7 committed suicide because of harsh attitude of school and the hostel.

It was further observed during the consultative meetings that youth suicide trends were higher in most literate districts, i.e. Swat, Chitral, etc.

Fact Sheet about Youth Suicide^{xl}

- Every year, almost one million people die from suicide; a "global" mortality rate of 16 per 100,000, or one death every 40 seconds.
- In the last 45 years suicide rates have increased by 60% worldwide. Suicide is among the three leading causes of death among those aged 15-44 years in some countries, and the second leading cause of death in the 10-24 years age group; these figures do not include suicide attempts which are up to 20 times more frequent than completed suicide.
- Suicide worldwide is estimated to represent 1.8% of the total global burden of disease in 1998, and 2.4% in countries with market and former socialist economies in 2020.
- Although traditionally suicide rates have been highest among the male elderly, rates among young people have been increasing to such an extent that they are now the group at highest risk in a third of countries, in both developed and developing countries.
- Mental disorders (particularly depression and alcohol use disorders) are a major risk factor for suicide in Europe and North America; however, in Asian countries impulsiveness plays an important role. Suicide is complex with psychological, social, biological, cultural and environmental factors involved.

Source: World Health Organization, Retrieved from:

http://www.who.int/mental_health/prevention/suicide/suicideprevent/en/, October 2012

Drug Addiction Among Youth

Young Drug Addicts

During the consultative process for formulation of the present youth policy, one of the rehabilitated drug addicts informed that he started taking drugs because of peer pressure and frustration. At the end of the interview he proposed the government to grant seed money to youth working on workshops; so that they could start their own businesses and come out of financial frustration.

He also told that he has to work all the week and does not have any entertainment opportunities.

Another respondent said, "Yes, unemployment may lead youth towards crime and drug addiction. I can share the story of my friend who was a very good player of football. He was unemployed for many years and because of unemployment and family pressure he got addicted to heroin and then became involved in theft. Now he is in jail."

Manager of a programme on drug demand reduction in Kohat told that most of the drug addicts are psychologically very depressed. Majority of such addicts are youth.

According to UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) Pakistan is a main transit country for heroin smuggling from Afghanistan towards the “Southern route”. The country is ranked one of the top nations with maximum proportion of PWIDs (people who inject drugs). Due to bordering Afghanistan, KP is vulnerable to effects of drug trafficking. According to a survey finding, drug use was more common among those between the ages of 25 to 39 than the youth age bracket of 15 to 29 years. The negative consequences of drug taking are multiplied because of links to other crimes. In most of the cases, drug addiction may lead addict to crimes like robbery, theft, rape, sex work for money or drug, drug business and other heinous crimes. Illiteracy and lack of education and awareness may let youth towards harmful drugs. Peer pressure can also be seen as a powerful factor, especially among youth.

The KP Youth Policy is committed to facilitate youth towards healthy attitudes and prevention and for limiting risky behavior among them. It is envisaged that the Government will encourage and support youth-led campaigns on drug prevention and help relevant government agencies and private organizations in their awareness programmes for education institutions. Electronic and print media campaigns to target rural and community youth will also be launched.

Malnutrition and Food Security

Malnutrition and food security are another challenges faced by youth of the province. A report highlights that 88 percent of all districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are food-insecure and highest food insecure areas recorded were

Shangla, Kohistan, Hangu and Upper Dir^{xliv}. Chronic poverty in the province is endemic^{xlv}. Malnutrition and food security among other reasons are linked with poverty in the province.

Sports

Sports play an important role in sustainable peace and development.

Several projects around the world have proved to be successful by involving youth in sports and conflict transformation measures. In all consultative meeting and interviews the

participants complained about lack of playing opportunities. Even existing playing grounds are used for different purposes,

for instance, in D.I Khan. There are few entertainment and playing opportunities for youth in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, mainly because of small number of parks and playing grounds, which are insufficient to cater for the needs of youth population in the province. For instance, before 2004, many sport tournaments and cultural festivals were arranged in which youth used to participate, but now youth has nearly no or little opportunity to participate in competitions. The participants of the

consultative meeting in D.I Khan also pointed out that there were only two playgrounds in the city, now one of them has been included in the army area and other one is used for IDPs logistics; so, youth are left with no play grounds at all. Similar concerns were noted in other consultative meetings as well. Moreover, there is greater need for establishing female sports and entertainment facilities in the province.

Responding to a question one unemployed youth said during the youth policy formulation process, “One of the main ways I control my frustration is sports. Sport gives me chance to refresh my mind also to interact with different people. In my opinion, sports can be one of the important peace promoting contributors in Dera. A lot of youth can be involved in sports; it raises tolerance and builds sportsmanship. Moreover, sport tournaments are also a good source of entertainment for spectators.”

Lack of sports and healthy environment can indulge youth into negative practices like drug addiction, can even lead to suicide.

Strategies

- The over-all aim of these strategies is to facilitate actions of concerned departments with collaboration of civil society and the corporate sectors to ensure physical, mental, and social well-being of youth in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- Mapping of existing sports facilities and playgrounds in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and cost planning of the missing facilities;
- Ensure that no school without sports facilities is registered;
- Provision of playgrounds on the minimum basis of area population;
- Organize school level tournaments with the help of local elders and private sector;
- Funds generation with the help of private sector by using space of playgrounds;
- Persuade young entrepreneurs to run sports events for earning;
- Encourage the private sector to spend on sports as part of corporate social responsibilities;
- Run youth-led mass campaigns to promote sports by involving celebrities;
- There is also a demand for coaching for games and sports, special focus on addict youth; art and culture programs; Sports academies; kits and coaching and First Aid Training programs for youth; promotion of indigenous games by arranging tournaments; Play grounds; gala competitions; Indoor games; and, indigenous games (polo, tug of war, skipping; chess; stick polo and racing etc).





Rights of Minority & other Marginalized Youth Groups

Certain youth groups in the province face a number of social issues due to their identity or status. Such groups include religious minorities, differently-abled persons, IDPs, Afghan refugees, Transgender and Youth in Jails. All the mentioned youth groups should be integrated in the youth policy of province.

I) Religious Minorities

Youth from different religious minoritiessm were consulted through one session and various interviews. It was found that this youth group is highly excluded and sometimes faces social discrimination. Key concerns of the minority group included education and employment. The minority youth were also apprehensive about curriculum taught in schools and that most of the schools do not have teachers to teach ethics in place of Islamiyat for Muslims. A Kalash youth from Chitral complained that their religion is still not enlisted by NADRA in the national I.D card or passport. However, in August 2015, NADRA has formally rectified and recognized identity of the Kalash as a distinct group. They will now have separate box for identification on the Computerized National Identity Cards (CNICs) or passports.

ii) Differently-abled persons

Integration of differently abled persons in programs and policies is very necessary.

According to projected estimates for 2012 based on 1998 census to the level of districts, the disability ratio in the KP was 2.1 percent, numbering to 560265 Persons with Disabilities (PWDs, hereby called the Differently-abled Persons) in total numbers. This is lowest ration among provinces of Pakistan. Out to them, 87.0% belong to rural areas and remaining 13.0% to urban areas. Fifty nine percent (59.0%) of the KP PWDs are male while 41.0 % are female. Malakand has the highest rate of 7.6% and Peshawar has the lowest of 0.75% among

districts. The population of handycaped is dominant as it contributes 31.3% and deaf/ mute contributes 7.7% of the total PWDs population. In the province, the environment has yet to be made friendly for differently abled persons. Set job quota for the group is not mostly provided to them. A respondent said, "Most important thing is our integration in the youth policy of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Special programs should be initiated for us; for example, relief by the financial institutions, microcredit on very low interest rates and easy installments so that we can start our own business. Secondly, Youth awards for differently abled persons. Thirdly, awareness should be raised among people about our rights. Importantly, we need behavioral change programs for people so that they can learn to respect us." In view of the needs of this group, The KP Youth Policy commits to mainstream this group and enhance its employment quota from 2% to 3%.

iii) Transgender Youth

Transgender youth faces severe discrimination in all walks of life. One of the main issues faced by them is mental depression due to the attitude and behavior of the society. Certain life style is imposed on them and they find no way to escape from it. Most of them have to live as beggars or sex workers and are at high risk of sexually transmitted diseases. The Supreme Court of Pakistan has declared transgender people's right to health and inheritance and recently ruled that transgender be added as a third gender category on national identity cards. But still there is a need to register the transgender youth as full citizens and the government needs to ensure that transgender youth enjoy equal citizen rights.

iv) IDPs

As a result of the conflict the province has 3.5 million IDPs which are living in fragile living conditions.

main issues faced by youth in camps include psychological trauma of being displaced, lack of quality education, employment opportunities and attitude issues of the locals. Female youth faces more problems because of cultural barriers and discriminatory practices of the society.

v) Afghan Refugees

The province currently hosts 1.5 million Afghan refugees and has a large youth population that is socially excluded and living in extreme poverty. They are usually called 'Muhajar' and most of the people look down upon them. Policies and programmes, preferably those engaging concerned international donor organizations dealing with refugees, are needed to harness the potential of such a large population and to ensure their rights.

vi) Youth in Jails

A large number of youth is in jails that receive little attention in terms of their social, economic and

political integration. District-wise data of the prisoners, prepared by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Home Department, Dated 3 August 2015, unfolds startling facts about generational composition of the 5362 jail inmates of 11 districts for whom the age factor has been recorded. According to this data, 38.75% of all the recorded inmates fell within youth age bracket (15-29 years). Chitral tops with 58% youth inmates. Peshawar district is placed at second number (51%), closely followed by Swabi (50%), about generational composition of the 5362 jail inmates of 11 districts for whom the age factor has been recorded. According to this data, 38.75% of all the recorded inmates fell within youth age bracket (15-29 years). Chitral tops with 58% youth inmates. Peshawar district is placed at second number (51%), closely followed by Swabi (50%), Kohat (49%) and Mardan (48%) districts. Given its numerical strength, Peshawar has the most youth inmates in the province. Lowest number of youth inmates was observed in Charsadda, Karak and D.I.Khan districts respectively.

Facts on the ground call for special attention to correctness and rehabilitation of youth inmates in the KP. The KP Youth Policy will explore development of special programs for youth in jails so that they can be reintegrated into the society and can contribute to the province as responsible citizens

Youth Activism and Volunteerism

Youth activism and volunteerism plays important role in engagement of youth in peace building and conflict transformation processes. The literature on the subject highlights possible role of social capital characterized by resilience, integration and trust in peace building and keeping the social fabric of the society intact.^{xvii,xviii} It has also been noted by a mapping study that Informal Youth Groups (IYGs)^{xix} in Pakistan are mainly composed of youth and are self-relying and generate resources from their own sources. Instead of indulging in violence, members of IYG's volunteer and spare valuable time and energies for community and youth engagement

activities. They engage youth more effectively as compared to formal youth organizations as IYG's working methodology is tailored according to mind-set and culture of the area.¹ A policy brief also identifies youth participation and engagement as one of the critical areas of integrated youth development and promotion of peace processes in Pakistan.ⁱⁱ The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa youth provided three main reasons for the lack of youth activism and volunteerism, which are: no incentive, less number of platforms, lack of recognition of youth volunteerism through awards and absence of public-private partnership and coordination.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa main issue is absence of database of youth focused, youth specific organizations and informal youth groups. During the consultative processes many youth organizations and informal youth groups were identified who are involving youth in volunteering activities. Such groups are vital in promoting peace and sustainable development in the province. In the specific situation of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, youth can not only serve the community by their activism and volunteerism, but can also make constituencies of peace and avoid youth from risky behaviour. At college and university level, many literary councils and

student-led organizations are working which regularly engage youth in positive youth development activities. There is need of creating a database of all youth organizations and informal youth groups functioning in the province so that the potentials of these groups can be harnessed and coordinated efforts for youth development can be done. This can be done by formally enrolling and registering youth organizations and groups with the Youth Affairs Department.

The Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would implement the following strategies to promote youth activism and volunteerism:

- The concept of volunteerism would be started at school level: community service would be made complimentary to promote volunteerism;
- Mentoring of youth on disaster management will also be ensured at school and college level; Volunteerism promotion would ideally get pace with excellent results in an efficient way at the schools and colleges where the students would be assigned various community service tasks for out of school youth and the youth on streets, so that the young volunteers can simultaneously exercise their personal and social competencies and engage and target diverse groups of youth. Civil defense movement is also an asset, which will be mobilized for training youth in basic emergency services. Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) is another avenue, which will assist youth by training them basic emergency services through an outreach programme
- A plan to offer incentives for volunteerism, such as additional marks (National Cadet Corps style), or special preference when applying to institutions as student candidates or at the time of applying for jobs in the form of “Volunteer Points” would be drawn up.
- Volunteerism by youth will be inducted at various levels of development, social and public work where specific roles and responsibilities will be assigned to volunteers as practiced in the developed world, which in turn would be rewarded appropriately in the form of special incentives at the successful completion of the task; and
- Enrolment and registration of youth organizations and groups with the youth affairs department will be carried out.

Youth Mobility and Tourism

During the policy consultations it was found out that the main challenges are less number of youth hostels, assurance of security; tourism facilities for female youth; marketing and development of tourist sites; and, affordable travelling and lodging for youth. Such mobility and group tourism is one of the important tools to promote harmony and peace among youth. With exposure to newer places and group interactions tourism is a freshening lesson in history, geography and diversity of our locale. It also boosts economic activity at the destination place.

Tourism is the province's key strength and has over the decades provided a livelihood to a large number of the population in districts such as

Swat, Chitral, Abbottabad and Mansehra. Tourism has highly been restricted for the past few years because of deterioration of security in the province. However, there is a general realization that, subject to improvements in security, this sector has huge potential in terms of employment and revenue generation, provided essential infrastructure is planned and created in time." The government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is committed to promote tourism among youth. Recently a programme related to youth group tourism has been launched in the province and several other initiatives are in progress.

The issues of youth mobility and tourism will be resolved by the following strategies:

- Building of new youth hostels;
- Ensuring availability of hostels of government colleges for group tourism during the peak tourism period, when these hostels are vacant.
- Inter-provincial youth exchange programmes hosted by local colleges and universities;
- Special travel packages for group tourism;
- Opening of government guest houses for the public;
- Encouraging the private sector to invest on tourism publishing;
- Setting up of camping sites for youth near every rest house should be mandatory
- Promoting local festivals with fundraising potential, and
- Use of social media to inform about historical and interesting local places and about private travel and accommodation operators.



Conflict and Insecurity

The province of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is a land of beauty and diversity where people of different cultures, ethnicities, religions, and sects have coexisted peacefully. But mainly due to regional instability, the province has been under security crisis and violent conflict. As compared to the past years, it is however recovering. KP has recorded a continuous decline in fatalities, year on year since 2010, with the exception of 2013.

Fatalities through 2014 stood at 617, including 406 civilians, 108 SF personnel and 103 terrorists; as compared to 936, including 603 civilians, 172 SF personnel and 161 terrorists in 2013. Other parameters of violence, such as major incidents, suicide attacks and explosions also remained low through 2014. The Province accounted for 49 major incidents of violence (each involving three or more fatalities) resulting in 436 deaths in 2014, as against 65 such incidents, accounting for 694 fatalities in 2013.

As against 21 suicide attacks in 2013, in which 350 persons were killed and another 635 were injured, 2014 registered nine attacks resulting in 196 deaths and 260 persons injured. Similarly, there was a considerable decrease in incidents of explosion. In comparison to 189 blasts resulting in 598 fatalities in 2013, 2014 recorded 109 blasts resulting in 354 fatalities. The number of such incidents and resultant fatalities stood at 10 and 58 respectively in 2012; one incident and 11 fatalities in 2011; and 12 incidents and 139 fatalities in 2010. The Investigation Wing of KP Police confirmed, on November 25, 2014, that terrorist attacks had recorded a decrease in 2014, as compared to 2013. According to the Police, the total number of terrorist attacks declined to 438, as against 468 reported during the corresponding period in 2013. 10 incidents of suicide attack were recorded in 2014, down from 18 such attacks in 2013. It is no wonder that the most affected segment of the society is youth. Terrorist, insurgents and other violent groups targeted youth of age 15-29 years.

One of the major tactics of terrorists is to manipulate youth grievances like social exclusion, economic instability and to work on religious, social, ethnic and sectarian divides. Post Crisis Need Assessment (PCNA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa mentions four strategic objectives in which gender is a cross cutting themes (The document greatly emphasizes the importance of youth inclusion in processes):

- 1. Build responsiveness and effectiveness of the State to restore trust of the citizens**
- 2. Stimulate employment and livelihood opportunities**
- 3. Ensure the delivery of basic services**
- 4. Counter radicalization and foster reconciliation**

Consultative process for youth policy identified the following elements to promote peace and harmony in the province: Sense of nationhood and national integration among youth; Promote the culture of dialogue and non-violent resistance to resolve and transform conflict; Respect of Human rights of all groups, especially marginalized ones, in the province; Women friendly and gender sensitive spaces; Promotion of tradition and local culture of the area through exhibitions and cultural festival/ fairs; Cultural exchange programs and exchange visits between different sects and ethnicities; Involving media in peace processes; Establishment of protest halls or places for youth to express their grievances; Building art schools, theaters; cinemas; convention centers, recreation parks; Peace Education; Formation of youth peace committees, and Establishment of Youth Development bodies for the implementation of above said initiatives.

Under the present policy, the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would implement the following strategies to build a culture of peace, positive self-image and national identity:

- Youth-led mass campaigns against hate-speech;
- Mobilize Jawan Markaz and youth councilors to create spaces and platforms for youth at the local level;
- Promotion of societies in educational institutions;
- Strict implementation of laws against hate speech;
- Involve public interest groups including academicians and students in the screening of literature and text books to celebrate cultural and religious diversity of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa;
- Prepare teacher training material for the primary level schooling in Pashto and other languages of the province;
- Encourage private sector to promote local arts and music;
- Link business and management schools with entrepreneurial projects of local arts and music;
- Devise strategies to promote local and traditional festivals with business potential.

Political Participation and Engagement of Youth

A. Awareness about Civic responsibility and citizenship: It was found out during the youth policy consultative process that more than 90 percent participants have no awareness about their civil, social, economic and political rights. For them youth rights is a new term. They don't have adequate knowledge about the constitution and laws in Pakistan. Even Youth living in cities and those who are graduates are unfamiliar with the governance structures and processes of how government is run. Most of the participants do not know about their responsibilities as citizens and seems to be just demanding from the state. It was also reiterated that the youth generally don't take interest in voting processes. However, despite all

these shortcomings, the youth demand better government accountability.

B. Lack of political awareness among youth: It was observed by the consultative process that the majority of youth don't have knowledge about the political system of Pakistan. They were also apprehensive about exploitation of youth by political parties. This sometimes goes to the extent of negative perception about politics and democracy. Nevertheless, there was a common demand in all consultations to set up youth quota in National and Provincial Assemblies; so that the youth can raise their voice.

C. Lack of participatory platforms for youth:

Youth of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are frustrated due to lack of participatory platforms. There is absence of structures for youth political participation i.e. student councils for the literate youth and representation within local government for the community youth. They are excluded from policy formation and implementation processes due to structural limitations. Additionally, networking among youth

groups in the form of association is highly limited. All this acts to sustain pessimism and a lack of youth interest to participate in the public sphere, politics and community activities.

Strategies of the KP Youth Policy

- Democratic and politically empowered youth is the need of the hour. Political empowerment of youth would be materialized by instilling a sense of ownership and legitimacy through their involvement in electoral and legislative process;
- Manifestos of political parties should elaborate their youth development agendas;
- The local government need to spell out inclusion of community youth in their working;
- Sensitization of teachers and parents to discontinue asserting politics a futile exercise calls for serious attention. The concept of monitor at schools is as much political as is the election of a parliamentarian so it needs to be encouraged to instil the right skills among youth at their early ages for better future roles;
- Student unions/councils with pro-peace, women friendly and student centered politics need to be established at colleges and universities. Such unions should have minimum criteria for their leaders and have to be delinked with mainstream political parties. This has to be complemented with promotion of youth associations on campuses and communities and engaging youth in mass campaigns and emergencies through the youth associations.
- Annual awards to those youth groups and clubs would be granted which have successfully implemented projects to promote youth rights.
- The Political Parties Order 2002 (at the national level) needs revision to incorporate democratic and political rights of youth.

In the light of above strategies, Government of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would implement and support the following actions:

A) Awareness about Civic responsibility and citizenship

- Raising awareness among youth about their rights and responsibilities;
- Raising awareness about knowledge of the constitution and laws of Pakistan;
- Educating youth on government structures and procedures;
- Raising awareness on democratic processes;
- Voter mobilization campaigns by the youth, and
- Civics topics should be part of curricula.

B) Supporting political awareness among youth

- Awareness raising campaigns and involvement of media to highlight the youth work;
- Training programmes on democracy and importance of democratic processes; Seminars and workshops on political awareness of youth and educating youth on political system of Pakistan and the constitutional rights of youth;
- Programmes to inculcate citizenship and patriotism among youth;
- Promotion of leadership skills among youth;
- Facilitation to youth for trips to Provincial Assembly of the KP and providing opportunities to watch assembly proceedings and interact with elected and non-elected leadership of the province.

C) Supporting participatory platforms for youth

- Youth societies and debating clubs;
- Youth conferences and seminars;
- Youth councils and youth local bodies at the grassroots level;
- Resume talk in the parliament to restore student unions/councils;
- Engagement of youth in legislation and implementation of policies;
- 5 to 10 % youth representation in the local body system, and training of youth councilors;
- Networking among youth groups through enrolment of youth organizations by the government;
- Involvement of youth in decision making processes; and,
- Establishment and Activation of Jawan Markaz (Youth Centres) at divisional levels leading to replication in districts, tehsils and Union Councils.

Issues

The Marginality of Youth Affairs in Public Policy

The emerging reality of youth bulge is unprecedented and needs going beyond business as usual. Youth is a sector in evolving and has been taking the centre stage for policy work. This situation is unlike the past when the very definitions and needs of youth were blurred and confused with education, health, sports and employment for young persons. This shift from marginality to the centre-stage needs matching political willing to make youth part of our provincial development plans. For that Tourism, Archaeology, Museums, Sports & Youth Affairs Department will initially need a separate Youth

Directorate for running youth affairs, eventually leading up to setting up of a full-fledged autonomous Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Youth Development Corporation (KPYDC). There is also a compelling need to engage youth from the grassroots level for greater mass mobilization and to enrol youth groups and organizations with the department; so that all work is channelled in a systemic way from the Union Council level to the provincial headquarters in Peshawar.

Integration of Youth Development from Multi-Sector Perspectives

There is a need to invent a horizontal governance support system for youth development in the province, because unlike other sectors youth affairs are spread over different provincial departments (i.e. youth affairs, education, population and health, labour, women development, finance, etc.,) and need a coherent and coordinated system for its smooth

operations, review and redressal mechanism. Traditionally the provincial departments have defined jurisdiction and vertical machinery to implement its operations. However in case of a subject like the youth affairs there has to be a stringent institutional layout for coordination and synergy among departments like youth affairs, education, population and health, labour,

women development, finance, etc., to combine their youth development work into a systemic enterprise without disturbing the departmental boundaries. In this sense the Tourism, Archaeology, Museums, Sports & Youth Affairs Department will have to play a catalyst and facilitative role within the government and with other stakeholders for integration of all youth

related work in the province and for coordinated implementation to develop the youth of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. This can be done through instituting an inter-departmental working group.

Arrangements for Public-private Partnership

Considering the diversity of challenges to youth and various stakeholders like the government, the NGOs and the private sector, the provincial government will make partnerships within its own departments and authorities and with the help of corporate and civil society sectors must ensure that the youth is fully engaged, responsive and productive. Due to little youth policy work in the past the bureaucratic and governance structures will have to be adjusted to multiple

partners and give them space in the implementation and monitoring of the youth work.

Such a partnership can be realized by a Youth Development Commission.

Information Gap on Youth

Despite much nuisance and the centrality of youth bulge issue, there is little or scattered data available on youth issues in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. We have to currently mainly generate information from the international and national

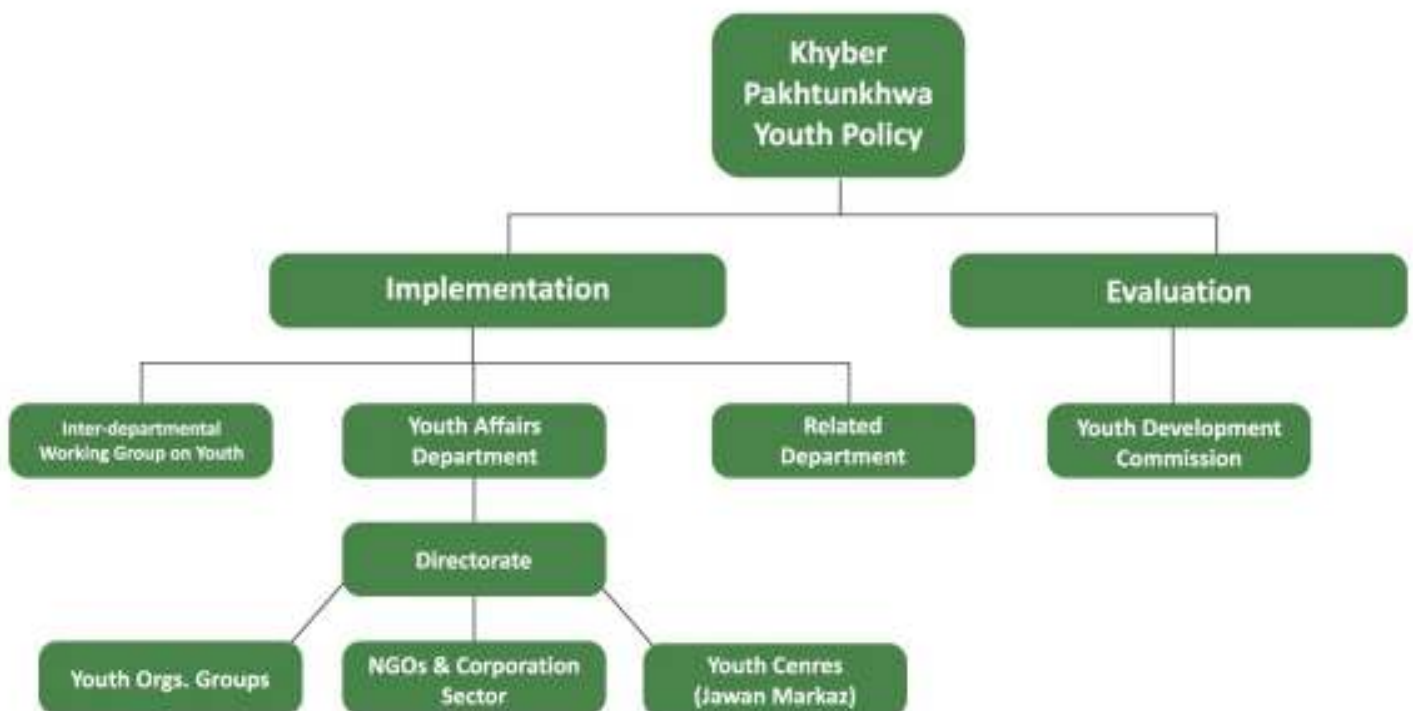
sources. Relying on the existing information will create information dependencies. There is a need to fill this information gap.

Institutional Mechanism of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Youth Policy

With a view to establish an efficient, inclusive and informed institution mechanism for implementation of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Youth Policy, the Tourism, Archaeology, Museums, Sports & Youth Affairs Department will lay out a comprehensive institutional infrastructure to execute both internal and

external operations of the Department. It will pursue legal cover for the policy and get it approved.

Initially, the step-wise institutional mechanism is as under:



Youth Centres (Jawan Markaz)

Youth Centres (called Jawan Markaz) will be the main drivers of change and youth mobilization at the grassroots levels. Youth Centres, initially at Divisional and District level and later spreading down to Union Council (UC) level will be responsible for organizing and coordinating all youth actions mainly including (i) sports events, (ii) community services, and (iii) awareness campaigns approved from the head office of the department. Jawan markaz will additionally collect segregated data of youth in districts including that of highly

educated, uneducated, skilled and unskilled youth. They will also collect record of youth working independently in districts and submit to the Director Youth Affairs, Government of KP. Jawan Markaz's public awareness campaigns would be run by staff of the department at divisional & district offices along with youth volunteers of the respective region, educational institutions and with facilitation of the head office.

Structure and Indicative Functions of the Youth Centres (Jawan Markaz)



Directorate of Youth Affairs

Presently, there is no separate and dedicated youth affairs directorate within the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. A key task of the body (initially, Directorate of Youth Affairs which will lead up to formation of KPYDC in future) will be to take along all the youth groups and organizations working in the province. It will ensure coordination, transparency, economy of resources and government-youth liaison. It will also promote sustainability of youth-led initiatives and create a data-base of youth organizations. The department will further

work on establishing various sub entities/ forums under the autonomous bodies to ensure youth participation in the province with the help of youth from community organizations and local administration along with providing various facilities to youth at divisional and district levels including sports & recreational centres, training centres, research (libraries & labs) centres and youth hostels.

It will intervene in all possible sectors where youth can be benefited including the following:

- i. Education & Skills Development
- ii. Sports & Extracurricular Activities
- iii. Entrepreneurship & Business Development
- iv. Information Technology & Innovative Engineering
- v. Culture & Tourism
- vi. Social Awareness & Reforms
- vii. Women & Child Rights
- viii. Relief, Rehabilitation & Disaster Management
- ix. Health Care & Public Health
- x. Legal Affairs, Human Rights & Transparency

Inter-departmental Working Group on Youth Development

The Department will put forward a summary for establishing an inter-departmental working group on youth development to consolidate communication and operational links among departments working on any

aspect of youth development.

Headed by a representative of the provincial Chief Secretary, the working group will be composed of provincial administrative secretaries.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Youth Development Commission

A number of provincial departments, organizations, NGOs, various international donors, philanthropists, corporate bodies, NGOs and community-based organizations are already engaged in youth empowerment activities in their respective fields. The implementation of the plan will thus heavily rely on the existing institutions. Essentially it will require these institutions to pay specific attention to youth development by enhancing and augmenting existing programmes, capacity building and increased financing in consonance with the Youth Policy. To create synergy, harmony and increased coordination in programmes of multiple stakeholders, a Youth Development Commission will be set up comprising youth members from civil society organizations, youth affairs department and other stakeholders. The Youth Affairs department will form its Secretariat. The main

function of this commission will be to give impetus to harmonious implementation of the Youth Policy, monitoring of performance, facilitating fund-raising and to provide overall guidance.

The Commission will comprise:

- i. Chairperson , to be nominated by the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
- ii. Secretary, Youth Affairs, Sports, Tourism, Archaeology & Museums Department
- iii. Secretary Tourism, Archaeology, Museums, Sports & Youth Affairs Department as ex-officio Secretary
- iv. Elected members of National and Provincial Assemblies
- v. Member of the provincial assembly's

Standing Committee on Youth

- vi. Youth Representatives
- vii. Heads of Youth organizations
- viii. Head of civil society organizations
- ix. Head/Senior Management of Corporate bodies/Private Sector entities
- x. Renowned academics nominated by the Higher Education Department after seeking approval of the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
- xi. Media representatives
- xii. Religious Scholars
- xiii. District Nazim
- xiv. Tehsil Nazim

The Commission will:

- a) Give vision, strategic directions and institutional roadmap for the empowerment of youth in the social, economic and political life of the youth as enunciated in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Youth Policy, 2015;
- b) Monitor achievement of strategies and the progress of implementation of the youth policy;
- c) Support the Department to build public-private partnerships;
- d) Facilitate adequate resources and outreach to private and social sectors to achieve the mission, including assisting in fund raising for youth development in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa;
- e) Maintain transparency and ethical standards;
- f) Review annual report on the Status of Youth in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to be submitted by the Directorate and advise on way ahead.

Given the scope of Commission's work, it is recommended that necessary legal and procedural arrangements, in the form of an enactment by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Assembly, are made for its smooth working in an autonomous manner.





Monitoring & Evaluation

- a) The Directorate will devise a full proposal for monitoring and evaluation of the youth development work.
- b) The Directorate shall prepare an annual progress report on state of youth in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and submit to the Youth Development Commission, which will review yearly progress and recommend the way ahead.

References

ⁱThe following national documents were consulted: Pakistan - New Growth Framework (2011), National Labour Policy (2010), National Education Policy (2009), Health Policy (2009), Population Policy (2010), National Youth Policy (2009) and the Pakistan Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) – II (2008).

The list of provincial policy instruments are: Comprehensive Development Strategy 2010-2017, Vision Document for Tourism Sector of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (2012), etc.

ⁱⁱKhan, Shahbaz Israr. “Youth Directory 2011-Youth Mapping Study of Punjab and Islamabad Capital Territory”, Gujranwala: Bargad-Organization for Youth Development, 2011.

ⁱⁱⁱCorriero, Jennifer. “Role of Youth Survey”, 2004.

^{iv}European Union. “Youth - Investing and Empowering”, EU Youth Report, Commission Staff Working Document, Brussels: 27 April 2009.

^vWorld Gazetteer. “Pakistan: Administrative Divisions (population and area)”, Accessed on October 2012.

^{vi}As Cited in Government of Pakistan. “Economic Survey of Pakistan 2010-2011”, Chapter 12: Population Labour Force and Employment, Table: 12.7.

^{vii}Leahy, Elizabeth, Robert Engelman, Carolyn Gibb Vogel, Sarah Haddock and Tod Preston. “The Shape of Things to Come: The Effects of Age Structure on Development”, Population Action International PAI: Washington DC, 2007. Available at: <http://www.populationaction.org/Publications/> (“Chapter 2: Very Young Age Structures”. pp.22-33.)

^{viii}For indepth analysis, please refer to see some of such studies done by Leahy, Elizabeth, Robert Engelman, Carolyn Gibb Vogel, Sarah Haddock and Tod Preston (2007); Möller, Herbert (1968). “Youth as a Force in the Modern World”, *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 10: 238-260; Choucri, Nazli (1974). “Population Dynamics and International Violence”, Massachusetts: Lexington; and Lionel Beehner (2007). “The Effects of Youth Bulge on Civil Conflicts”, Council on Foreign Relations; and UNDP (2006). “Youth and Violent Conflict-Society and Development in Crisis”, Retrieved from: http://www.undp.org/cpr/whats_new/UNDP_Youth_PN.pdf, October, 2012.

Moller establishes the relationship large youth cohorts with the French revolution of 1789 and the importance of economic depression hitting the largest German youth cohorts ever in explaining the rise of Nazism in Germany in the 1930's. Choucri argues that youth bulge interaction with economic depression stimulates young people to use violence as it causes economic instability leading to weakening of the legitimacy of the state. Her evidence shows that between 1970 and 1999, 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.

The UN High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change also refers to youth as a potential threat to security and asserts that a “surging youth population” – combined with unemployment, urbanization and other factors – can lead to violence.

^{ix}Mujahid, Sharif al. “CHAPTERS FROM HISTORY: Students' role in the Pakistan Movement”. Daily Dawn, June 30, 2002

'Children are mentioned in Articles 25, 25A, 26, 37 of the Constitution while 'infants and minors' were mentioned in the repealed Concurrent Legislative List. [Concurrent Legislative List has been repealed under the Constitution (Eighteenth Amendment) Act 2010.]

"These fifteen principles included: (1) Reinforce sense of Pride, Awareness and Motivation, (2) Promote National Integration, (3) Enabling Prospects of Income Generation for the Youth (Harnessing the Youth Dividend), (4) Address Issues of Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups of Youth, (5) Support Character Building, (6) Promotion of Sports and Recreation, (7) Academic and Intellectual Development, (8) Youth Health, (9) Social Volunteerism, (10) Incentives for Talented and High Performing Youth, (11) Youth Marriage, Family and Life Skills, (12) Youth Mentoring, (13) Special Youth, (14) Balancing the Gender Imbalance, and (15) Youth in Prison.

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