

NHDR 2015 - Report on Consultation with Youth Group

A. BASIC DATA

Location	Sheikhupura
Date and Time	24 th November 2014
Topic	National Human Development Report 2015
Participant Profiles	9 male factory workers between the ages of 23-38 (the comments included in the report or of those who were less than 29 years of age)
The NHDR Team	Zohra Sohail, Neelum Maqsd, Faisal Bari and Amal Masud

B. OVERVIEW

The NHDR team at IDEAS held a focus group discussion with a group of factory workers, aged between 23 to 38 years at a spinning mill in Sheikhupura, to engage them in a discussion regarding the issues and problems that are pertinent to their lives. The discussion was conducted in the context of the upcoming UNDP National Human Development Report.

C. KEY ISSUES & THEMES

Issues

The male factory workers were initially a bit apprehensive in discussing their lives and related issues, as the FGD was being conducted at their work place, but eventually they started to actively participate in the discussion:

- Most of the participants had either not completed or had just completed their first ten years of education, as they had to drop out of school after that to earn for their family
- The participants had not attained any technical training; they came to the factory as unskilled workers and had learned the skill by doing.
- The participants had large family sizes and they work to support their families
- The participants were sending their children to either private or government schools and they believed in providing the children with as much education as possible
- One of the participants had completed his undergraduate degree and was now working at the factory's laboratory.
- The participants had found out about the jobs at this factory through their relatives or friends working in this factory. This showed that there was no formal way of finding out about employment opportunity.
- The participants want a political party that would bring a change but they were unable to explain why they select a particular leader
- Some of the participants used to support another party but now they wished they had supported the new political party so in future they would vote for a new party
- A participant wanted to marry a girl of his own choice but was having problems in convincing his family

- Most participants were not married as their older siblings were unmarried and in their cultural norm the younger sibling gets married after the elder one.
- The participants used news channel instead of newspaper or mobile phones to find out about the latest news.
- All participants would want to go abroad to work but a participant who didn't want to go abroad to work pointed out that workers who go abroad cannot come back for deaths or other events in their family hence he would not want to go abroad.
- None of the participants would want to settle abroad but they just wanted to go there to work

D. INTERESTING QUOTES AND EXAMPLES

- . “ We don't have fun without our mobile phones”
- “We have been using mobile phones ever since we were young”