

## NHDR 2015 - Report on Consultation with Youth Group

### A. BASIC DATA

<b>Location</b>	Bytes 4 All Office, Street 17, F10/2, Islamabad
<b>Date and Time</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> September, 2014, 10.30am-12pm
<b>Topic</b>	National Human Development Report 2015
<b>Participant Profiles</b>	14 participants, aged between 15 to 27 years, 4 females and 11 males, all English speaking to varying degrees and from broadly high socio-economic group
<b>UNDP Team</b>	Faisal Bari (Author of Report), Amal Masud (Communications Specialist), Torsum (Communications Associate), Ayesha Jamal (YPO), Gemma Stevenson (Lead Coordinator)

### B. OVERVIEW

The NHDR team at UNDP held a consultation with a group of youth, aged between 15 to 29 years, to apprise them of the upcoming report and to obtain their input for a) the themes that are important to young people and b) the channels and means with which the NHDR team should engage with young people over the course of the consultation exercise.

### C. KEY ISSUES & THEMES

#### *Issues*

The young participants contributed to the discussion by showing their concern on the following issues:

- Politics is having a negative effect on the youth. They are becoming aggressive day by day
- One participant asked: 'Why is there a need for a report on the youth?'. The team explained its role as a piece of research to understand the needs of Pakistani youth better, as well as its role as an advocacy tool. However, the question suggests a clear, quick justification will be useful for each subsequent consultation conducted.
- There is a huge gap between the public and private sector in education. Education has become a business and though the situation is different in KPK and Punjab but it is basically capitalized all over the country
- Social pressure. Parents are status-conscious and want their children to enter a profession where they can exercise their influence, enjoy all the basic luxuries and provide for the entire family. The youth are forced to give preference to their family's interests instead of pursuing their dreams.
  - E.g. very few people pursue study in the field of the arts or culture as it does not obviously lead to a stable career

- Culture has a great impact on the youth on choosing what sort of education or profession they wish to follow. Culture varies in all the provinces of Pakistan. Certain cultures are rife with discrimination and/or racism and thus career opportunities are not open to all. The caste system, religious sectarianism, gender discrimination, tribalism and inherited family trends/ professions all play a vital role in influencing the youth in selecting a profession.

### **Recommendations**

Ways and means of reaching out to different youth groups was discussed in detail. It was recommended that the main outlets and tools to reach out to them will be universities, clubs, unions, youth wings of political parties and social media.

- There is need for a specific strategy on how to reach out to the rural youth, the underprivileged who do not have access to education.
- A mechanism could be set up to engage social mobilisers/volunteers who could record views of the rural youth and send them to the central office
- Research Analysts should spend more time in the field to grasp the demographics of the youth of the region
- Use of informal means to reach the youth who work on agricultural land and in factories
- Concern over reaching out to females living in conservative areas. Tap local community organizations who are already working there, lady health workers and meeting teachers of madrassahs
- Input from minorities, non-Muslims and transgenders is also important
- A question remains on how to engage the media
- A question remains on how to engage the youth with the State and bureaucracy
- Understand the youth through focusing on Survey of Pakistan and the Federal Bureau of Statistics

### **D. INTERESTING QUOTES AND EXAMPLES**

- ❖ “Youth makes up a major population of the country and they are the future. Politics is having a negative impact on them. Basically it is their attitudes. They are becoming more aggressive day by day.” – **18 Female**
- ❖ “Regional disparities and trends on Education, Employment and Engagement need to be carefully looked into. Why do youth make different choices? Or for that matter, why do they associate themselves with extremist groups> A Baloch living in Khuzdar and a Pathan living in Charsadda would have different social and political choices than someone in Punjab or Sindh. How do we stop that?” - **28 Male**

- ❖ “There’s a huge divide between the public and private sector. For example, there are many public and private universities in Lahore. The mentality, the perception among the youth on how to manage this gap is completely different.” - **24 Male**
- ❖ “Education is basically capitalized all over the country.” – **19 Male**