

NHDR-Report on Consultation with Youth Group

A. BASIC DATA

Location	Faisalabad Factory
Date and Time	25 th November, 2014, 11-12 p.m.
Topic	National Human Development Report 2015
Participant Profiles	14 female participants aged 17-25
UNDP Team	Gemma Stevenson (UNDP), Neelum Maqsood (Research Associate-IDEAS), Zohra Sohail (Research Associate-IDEAS), Amal (UNDP)

B. OVERVIEW

The NHDR team held a consultation with the youth, aged 17 to 25 years, to detail them about the upcoming report and to obtain their input on the three main areas of the report (i) education (ii) employment (iii) engagement.

C. KEY ISSUES AND THEMES

Issues

- Most of the female factory workers had gone to government schools and thought that the education provided was good.
- But they had to leave school because the expenses were beyond their means.
- Some of them studied till 5th, some till 8th, and some till 10th.
- They decided to join work themselves and mainly to support younger siblings.
- They found the factory job through relatives or friends. Then they learnt all their skills on the job.
- It would be beneficial to have training centres.
- Even if there are sewing centres for example, they ask for a fee which is impossible for them to afford.
- The girls were worried about their reputation since working in a factory was not seen as a respectable profession.
- They did not want to work overtime since that led them to reaching home late.
- Their parents are not happy with their work but they have accepted it. They hide it from potential suitors, neighbours and relatives. There is suspicion that girls in factories work with men and interact with them. However, the girls said that in the factory, the interaction is minimal and very respectful. If there is a problem of any sort, it is reported to the factory owner.

- In terms of political knowledge, they were not very aware. They did not watch television regularly.

Hopes, fears and recommendations

- They expressed hope for higher salaries.
- They were afraid of what kind of person they would be married to.
- They expressed fear of being harassed.

D. INTERESTING QUOTES AND EXAMPLES

- ❖ ‘Our expenses are high and our parents cannot afford our expenses. There are children in the house and there are bills that parents cannot afford. These are our problems and limitations’
- ❖ ‘My fear is of a fight in the country and of conditions becoming worse’
- ❖ ‘Our parents get worried when we come late’
- ❖ ‘Girls should not work since they don’t look good working. Relatives gossip about this and consider it bad for reputation.’