

## NHDR 2015 - Report on Consultation with Youth Group

### A. BASIC DATA

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Location</b>                       | Faisalabad                              |
| <b>Date and Time</b>                  | 25 <sup>th</sup> November 2014          |
| <b>Topic</b>                          | National Human Development Report 2015  |
| <b>Participant Profiles</b>           | 22 people with some above the age of 29 |
| <b>The IDEAS Team for UNDP Report</b> | Salman Khan (Research Associate IDEAS)  |

### B. OVERVIEW

The NHDR team at IDEAS held a focus group discussion with a group of transgenders, aged between 15 to 29 years, to discuss the upcoming UNDP National Human Development Report and to understand the youth point of view regarding a) the burning issues that affect their lives and b) the changes they would hope to see in the society.

### C. KEY ISSUES & THEMES

#### *Issues*

The transgender participants actively participated in the discussions and highlighted the following issues:

- They face a big challenge when it comes to access to education. They face great amount of ridicule and this along with lack of resources leads them to be not so well educated.
- Most of the participants were under Matric even though a few were very well educated and spoke English very well.
- They said that they did not feel comfortable getting education in the same setting as either of the other two genders. They reckoned that separate schools should be set up for transgender.
- They said that most of the office jobs were closed to them as no office wanted to be put to shame on giving jobs to them. At best, they could work as office peons or assistants.
- Some of the participants had obtained trainings in vocations such as stitching clothes, but were unable to run their own business due to social stigmas.
- Many of them were open to entrepreneurship but said that they did not receive any support from government and the social norms acted against them.
- Almost everyone was very excited about the possibility of moving abroad and working there. Some had been abroad but had been shunned by local Pakistani's there.
- Some reported acts of sexual abuse at their school or office.
- Almost everyone had cell-phones, but they change their numbers frequently.
- They said that there was the only centre in the whole of Faisalabad which was providing support to them. There was a need for more centres.

- Looking forward most were not so hopeful and reckoned that future would be very similar to present and painted a bleak picture. However, a few mentioned that things had improved a bit in the last 2 years and hoped for positive changes in the near future.
- They said that it was only upon not getting any other jobs that they had to resort back to getting paid for sex and activities such as dancing at functions.
- They said that their social acceptability was very low and no one wanted to give them rights.

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

- There was one participant who was a Master in Fashion Design and was working with models and spoke really good English. He had exposure abroad and was much more educated than the rest of the group.
- Some of the participants were peer educators, a role they had been serving for a few years. They had helped bring more transgender to the facility and were more aware of their responsibilities and support structure.