

## 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>	14 female sex workers between the ages of 22-29
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### B. OVERVIEW

The NHDR team at IDEAS held a focus group discussion with a group of female sex workers, where majority of them were married, at Faisalabad (UNAIDS), to discuss the upcoming UNDP National Human Development Report and to understand the youths point of view regarding a) the issues that affect their everyday life considering their profession and b) the changes they would like to see for their future generations.

### C. KEY ISSUES & THEMES

#### *Issues*

The women were initially apprehensive but once the discussion started, they actively gave their opinion and openly discussed their problems. The following issues came forward in the discussion:

- They received almost no education due to a) financial problems b) a large family size & c) their parents were not aware of the advantages of education
- They don't plan on voting for anyone in the next election as they have been disappointed by the parties which they previously voted for
- They know that they will be shunned if anyone finds out about their occupation ,therefore, they keep it a secret
- The job markets in Pakistan is very limited
- They pays in the factory or in domestic work are not very high , therefore, they cannot support their large families through those occupations
- Previously, they have worked in other occupations but at various instances their supervisors asked them to indulge in sex and therefore they had to leave those jobs
- They understand that their occupation is not considered appropriate according to the societal values and according to their religion but they continue working as sex workers due to poverty
- Women are not provided with enough economic opportunities or skills training therefore most of the women are unskilled and are unable to find a suitable job with a decent income
- The work hours in factories or in other occupations are too long for them to manage their families
- They are very vocal about their previous political choices

- Most of their knowledge about politics comes from hearsay as despite owning a television with a cable connection, they prefer not to watch news or other political shows.
- They don't want anyone to find out about their occupation as that would adversely affect the marriage prospects of their children, especially their daughters
- Most of them were married off without their consent
- Drug abuse is very common with the male members of their households, therefore, the men are not working and instead are actively indulging into serious drug abuse
- They cannot go out with their families, in public places such as playgrounds, as they are scared that someone will recognize them and tell their family that their daughter( or wife ) is a sex worker
- Domestic abuse is very common in their lives

#### ***Recommendations***

- There should be deflation in the country
- Education should become free of cost; by this they mean that all expenses related to education such as books, uniform and fee should be free of cost
- The police should clamp down drug dealers as drugs have actively penetrated in the society
- There should be more well paid job opportunities for women
- There should be free of cost training centers for women where they could learn some skill
- Politicians should fulfill their promises
- Security and policing should improve

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

- ❖ "I don't want this life for my children" (28, female)
- ❖ "I want my daughter to never find out what I do" (27, female)
- ❖ " My husband was a barber but instead of cutting hair he started cutting me (implying that he used to beat her)" (27, female)
- ❖ "We want to fulfill the needs of our children" (27, female)
- ❖ "Parents just want to marry their daughter off, they don't see if the man is right for her or not" (28, female)
- ❖ "One evening my parents told me that I am getting married the next morning" (28, female)