

## NHDR-Report on Town Hall Event with Youth Group in Sargodha

### A. BASIC DATA

Location	ILM University
Date and Time	27 <sup>th</sup> November, 2014, 2:00-3:00 p.m.
Topic	National Human Development Report 2015
Participant Profiles	34 students aged 19-25
UNDP Team	Neelum Maqsood (Research Associate-IDEAS), Zohra Sohail (Research Associate-IDEAS)

### B. OVERVIEW

The NHDR team held a town hall with the youth, aged 19-25, to detail them about the upcoming report and to obtain their responses to quotes that were gathered from earlier focus group discussions.

### C. KEY ISSUES AND THEMES

- ❖ Participants expressed displeasure with the current employment opportunities available. They said that only people who are connected or give bribes get jobs. Pakistan is suffering because of this corruption. Those with professional degrees are jobless and some people with no professional qualification have great jobs.
- ❖ Parents determine the career of their children looking at their capabilities but in a lot of villages, where parents are not educated, they have no idea how to educate their children. Therefore, their children suffer and cannot move forward in their lives.
- ❖ In response to a quote on whether women can balance both work and marriage, most had the view that they can. Some said that if women have the support of the family or the husband they can do both successfully.
- ❖ In some cases, women have to work due to financial problems so it becomes a necessity rather than a choice.
- ❖ Some males thought that men should allow females to progress in their careers and work unfettered. It will help the financial condition of the entire household.
- ❖ A girl from Pathan family said that she is one of the few women studying in her family. But she is facing backlash from the extended family. So even if her parents are comfortable with her getting education, it is the society that comes in the way of women trying to acquire good quality education.
- ❖ It was agreed that minorities don't receive equal rights in Pakistan. The reasons for this were that there is no education and awareness in this country which is

why people don't think critically about these issues. They accept what they are told and don't engage with religious texts on their own.

- ❖ There was argument on whether there should be separate courts for Christianity or Muslims.
- ❖ It was suggested that there should be awareness of religious differences and people should be taught about tolerance towards other religions.
- ❖ Some participants lauded the effect of PTI's campaigns on women's political participation and awareness. They felt that it has given people an understanding of their rights in a democracy.
- ❖ It was evident from the discussion that there is severe distrust of politicians.
- ❖ The participants favoured living in Pakistan if opportunities would be provided.
- ❖ In response to the quote on Pakistan becoming like Dubai in future, the participants agreed enthusiastically. Some argued that when people become educated, it will progress.
- ❖ Most participants expressed optimism about Pakistan's progress because of more people getting educated and more awareness.
- ❖ Some however said that the rivalry between PML-N and PTI is damaging the country. Whereas some said, unity between political parties is useless; it is unity in the country which is important.

#### D. QUOTES

- ❖ 'In Pakistan, education quality is totally deteriorated.'
- ❖ 'I have a child, I study at college and I also give tuitions. If there is support, then both career and raising a family is possible for females.'
- ❖ 'I applied for a scholarship three years consecutively but have been rejected because I am a Christian. We don't have the right to speak up for ourselves and are not treated equally. Other students get the stipend but the minority students don't. I applied for a teaching job at a school but upon seeing my Christian name, the principal said that he don't give Christians jobs at his school. He said that Muslim children don't like being taught by Christians.'
- ❖ 'The children of landlords are studying at Oxford while the tenants don't have basic education!'
- ❖ 'We don't even get gifts from abroad at Christmas. They are stopped at the post.'
- ❖ 'If opportunities are provided in Pakistan, why would anyone go abroad? My cousin is a software engineer and he was jobless for a year. Now in UK he is earning 3 lacs a year.'
- ❖ 'In Pakistan, a person is considered a good politician if he lies well.'
- ❖ 'People don't go into politics because 'politician' is almost a dirty word now.'
- ❖ 'If we go abroad, it is because of necessity.'
- ❖ 'We are not paid according to our education therefore people go abroad.'
- ❖ 'If we have unity, then we can change our government. Fault is also ours that we have corrupt government because we don't speak up and we are not united'
- ❖ 'Pakistan will go ahead inshaAllah if we all the people are educated and remove differences between each other.'