

## NHDR 2015 – Report on Consultation with Youth Group

### A. Basic Data

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| Location             | Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University, Chitral Campus, Chitral City             |
| Date & Time          | 25 Dec. 2014, 14:30 pm - 15:30 pm   |
| Topic                | National Human Development Report 2015                                      |
| Participant Profiles | 16 participants, 5 female, 11 male, university students, aged between 21-27 |
| UNDP Team            | Muntazir Ali (Research Analyst)   |

### B. Overview

This was the last of the sessions planned for Chitral. Since the Campus was closed for winter vacations, most of the male participants were those who lived in the vicinity of the Campus. The female participants of the session came from a nearby private hostel, but they studied in the same university. Most of the participants studied subjects like Botany and Zoology. There were a few, all males, who said they were doing bachelors in English literature. The female participants said that they did not want to be photographed, but they had no issues with their views being recorded. Three of the five female participants eagerly participated in the discussion, the other two, however, did not say anything beyond giving their names, despite encouragement.

### C. Key issues & themes

- Most of the participants were of the view that it was up to the teacher and parents to identify the natural talent of a student and guide him accordingly. Others, however, said that it was up to the student and the kind of peer group he/she had that shaped and decided his/her interests.
- All of them agreed that educational counselling was a must if we were to produce experts in various fields rather than rote learners.
- Almost all of them had their schooling in government schools and saw a clear difference in how teaching is carried out in government and private schools.
- Most of those who were studying science subjects said that there was not much practical side to their learning, and that their education did not prepare them for professional life. As for the Humanities, in their case English Literature, they thought that the teaching in their university was really good.
- The participants agreed that for most courses, both curriculum and teaching methodology were outdated. They thought that their education was not oriented towards the needs of the industry, hence it was very difficult for students to enter the industry that was based increasingly on technological knowledge.
- The participants were of the view that only well-trained teachers should be assigned to teach in primary schools, so that they help build a firm base for educational attainment among students.

- They thought that curriculum should be updated to reflect new knowledge and emerging needs of the society, that education policymaking should be left to experts not politicians, and that there should be a uniform medium of instruction for all.
- Almost everyone was more educated than their parents. They thought that their quality of life was better than their parents when they were their age.
- Almost all participants said that they had cheated in exams. They referred to a combination of factors such as the examination system that promoted rote learning, and family and societal pressure to do well.
- Some of the participants taught in various schools. They thought that teaching jobs in the private sector were not very hard to come by in their area.
- All female participants thought that the ideal job for females in Chitral City was teaching, because other jobs, such as those in NGOs, were not encouraged.
- There was an overwhelming preference for government jobs, with only two participants (male, female) saying that there were much more opportunities for learning in private sector jobs.
- Most of the participants thought there were opportunities for entrepreneurship in the agriculture, fish hatcheries and education sectors in Chitral, but none of them had any specific plan to start their own business.
- Most of the participants said that they voted in the last elections. They thought their decision to vote for the candidate of a particular party was based on full information about the candidate and the party agenda.
- Most of the participants that their opinions were valued by their elders and that they were involved in decision making. The female participants, however, said that since the elders had more experience, they could ignore us in decision making.
- Most of male participants were not very optimistic about things getting better in Pakistan. They thought that the Pakistani nation had no objectives of its own to fulfill and that it was being used for the objective of others. The female participants and a few males saw hope in increasing education, awareness and sense of responsibility among youth.
- Most of the male participants said that they take part in various sports such as football, volleyball and cricket. The participants got most of their news from TV channels and facebook, used the internet for information and took part in discussions on facebook.
- All participants had a cellphone, and used it for messaging, making calls and listening to songs.
- Their fears revolved around unemployment and deteriorating law and order situation.

#### **D. Interesting quotes**

- “It is high time that we start asking what we can do for Pakistan, instead of asking what Pakistan can do for us.” *Female, 22*
- “My father asked me to vote for a particular candidate in the last elections, but I voted for a candidate of my choice. This is something that should be left to us.” *Male, 25.*