



Write an Essay for Jawan Pakistan!

Take charge of your future!

Overview

UNDP, Pakistan is preparing National Human Development Report (NHDR) 2015 on youth. The report is an independent study intended to stimulate informed debate and analysis on youth issues in Pakistan. It will cover three drivers of youth empowerment – education, employment and engagement - with the objective of informing public policy discourse and improving the policy landscape for young people.

However, the aim is not just to develop a report but to ignite a national level conversation through an intensely participatory process spanning youth consultations all over Pakistan, large scale events, one-on-one interviews, contests with young people in Pakistan and many other engagement activities. The process will also include a national survey on youth perceptions; a series of specialist background papers from leading Pakistani academics and practitioners, and a Youth Development Index.

It is anticipated that NHDR 2015 process, which is led by the youth & for the youth, will not only identify relevant & evidence-based policy interventions to improve the lives and opportunities for Pakistan's youth, but also will generate a sustainable national level conversation between policy-makers and young people in Pakistan.

To engage youth and ignite a national level conversation amongst them, NHDR has initiated a number of engagement mechanisms where the youth can actively participate. For instance, [Youth to Youth Conversations](#), online [Youth forum](#), [Raza Kars Programme](#), and [Write an Essay- Take charge of your future project](#). The Input from all these mechanisms will be considered to be incorporated into the narrative of the report, to support the survey findings where needed.



Purpose of Essay

NHDR 2015 team has adopted a participatory approach for engaging its stakeholders, especially youth, in the report making. NHDR wants maximum participation of youth in formulating policy recommendations as well. NHDR team believes that youth has unique perspective of viewing the world and is capable enough to come up with innovative recommendations. Thereby, we have decided to take youth's opinions and suggestions into account regarding the issues they face in Pakistan. More specifically, we want to know what youth thinks on the six key issues highlighted below. How do they think the government/institutions/other stakeholders can solve these issues they face in their daily lives related to education, employment and engagement?

Rules

1. The essays should not be more than 800- 1000 words.
2. It should be typed in word document.
3. The suggestions made should be relevant to the issues highlighted.
4. The suggestions should be practically possible.
5. The essay should be unbiased – it should not be favoring any particular caste, creed or religion only.
6. The essay should not promote or encourage violence, hatred, or be discriminatory on the basis of gender, age, race, disability, ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation.
7. If you really feel passionate about writing on any other issue apart from these then you need to email us and seek prior approval of the issue before writing. Also, please keep in mind that the issue has to come under at least one of the three key themes; education, employment & engagement.

Key Issues

Education:

- 1) A large number of youth in Pakistan is unable to complete basic education due to issues revolving around basic access, transport, lack of familial support, lack of financial resources etc. What do you think should be done to bring these

- uneducated youth (15 – 29 years) back into the education stream? What sort of education facilities or programmes there should be to accommodate these young people?
- 2) It has become point of debate now that school/university education is not well-equipped with practical knowledge and necessary skills, needed to gain entry into job market. What do you think should be done to fill this gap between academia and job market – to make the transition from education to employment easier? What steps or measures the government/institutions/other stakeholders should take into account to tackle this issue?

Employment

1. Entrepreneurship is the new mantra in Pakistan. It's an excellent alternative for a country where there aren't many job opportunities. It is believed that entrepreneurship is an answer to high unemployment in Pakistan. What do you think should be top 3 policy recommendations to encourage entrepreneurship in both rural and urban areas?
2. An uneducated but skilled youth has better opportunities to earn livelihood however an uneducated and unskilled youth is left at the mercy of society. Thus, skill development should be encouraged. What do you think should be the possible strategies that can be adopted by government/institutions/other stakeholders to impart employable skills at macro level in Pakistan?

Engagement (Interest & Participation in country's affairs)

- 1) By conducting 70 youth consultation all over Pakistan, it has been observed that youth doesn't trust public institutions that much. What do you think are the reasons for this trust deficit? What do you think the can be done to address this issue?
- 2) A general antipathy towards formal political processes has been observed amongst youngsters. What do you think should be done to increase interest and participation of youth in Pakistan's political affairs?



Where to send your Essays?

If you feel you have a suggestion or recommendation that would really make things easier for you and your country then pick up a pen/pencil and paper. Write to us! Write what sort of arrangements you think should the government make to allow you to serve as better civilians of the country.

All the submissions are to be emailed at jawan.pakistan@undp.org by 15th July 2015. Please make sure to keep the subject of the email as "Youth Essay – NHDR 2015".

What do essay contributors get?

The top 10 essays selected by our Lead Authors will:

- 1) Be published in our online blog
- 2) Promoted on our social media platforms
- 3) Will also be part of NHDR's monthly E-newsletter
- 4) Practical and quality suggestions will be considered to be part of NHDR 2015.

Thank you so much for your time and effort!