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Roundtable Report Youth Development and Economic Growth



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Hosted by:

**Planning Commission,
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Social Policy Development**

Roundtable Report

Youth Development and Economic Growth

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Acronyms

AERC	Applied Economic Research Centre
AKF	Aga Khan Foundation
YES, Network	Youth Engagement Services Network
ASK Development	Attitude, Skills, and Knowledge Development
CETAD	Centre for Enterprise and Trade Development
DFID	Department for International Development, UK
FAST	Foundation for Advancement of Science and Technology (
MIT-EFP	MIT Enterprise Forum Pakistan
NED	Nadirshaw Edulji Dinshaw
NUML	National University of Modern Languages
PIDE	Pakistan Institute of Development Economics
SPRSM	Strengthening Poverty Reduction Strategy Monitoring Unit
SDPI	Sustainable Development Policy Institute
UNFPA	United Nation Funds for Population
USAID	US Agency for International Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
YPP	Youth Parliament of Pakistan

Table of Contents

Acknowledgment	i
Foreword.....	ii
CPRSPD Team Members	iii
Introduction	1
Keynote Speech	2
Session I: Youth Education and Skill Development.....	3
Session II: Communities and Social Networks	5
Session III: Youth Social & Economic Entrepreneurship	7
Session IV: Benefits of Urbanization and Geo-Spatial Agglomeration	10
Key Recommendations	12
Annexure I: Concept Note.....	13
Annexure-II: Agenda	17

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The Youth roundtable brought together youth of Pakistan in touch with policy makers, development practitioners, international development partners, and professionals from both public and private sectors. The youth expressed their desire and vision on transforming Pakistan and making it a progressive country. All this was made possible due to the visionary leadership of Dr. Nadeem-ul-Haq Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission who guided the youth initiative at CPRSPD and made it an integral part of the New Growth Framework and Mr. Rauf Engin Soysal, UN Special Envoy to Pakistan who made himself available for this daylong event. Thanks are also due to session co-chairs, Ms. Seema Aziz, Mr. David Martin, Ms. Robin Raphael and Mr. Timmo Pakkala for moderating different sessions.

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M. Yasin Janjua

National Project Manager CPRSPD

Foreword

The Centre for Poverty Reduction and Social Policy Development (CPRSPD) is charged with providing evidence based social policy development and supporting national priorities in policy making. More than 2/3rd of Pakistan's population is concentrated below the age of 30, which will change the age structure of working age population over the next few years. Majority of the youth entering the labor force over the next two decades will have little education and skills catering to market demand. Moreover, incessant shocks to the economy such as energy crisis, international commodity price shocks, security issues, and flash floods of 2010 have left little resilience in the economy and absorption capacity for growing youth labor force. This required a rethinking about the sources of growth in Pakistan's context.

Planning Commission had the privilege to embark upon a mission to formulate a new growth framework which would address these difficulties as well as the challenge of engaging Pakistan's youth. The CPRSPD team was tasked with providing input on Youth and Communities, which is one of the core pillars of the new framework. The framework places great emphasis on increasing productivity and innovation by the future generation of Pakistan by providing quality basic education, skill development and opening opportunities for entrepreneurship. CPRSPD did a great job by preparing background policy papers, holding consultations with stakeholders as well as the youth of Pakistan. The roundtable with youth played a pivotal role as it helped policy makers understand the aspirations, needs, and requirements of the future generation of Pakistan. The report presents the main proceedings, finding, and recommendations of the roundtable. The recommendations made by the youth of Pakistan are adopted by the Planning Commission and included in the youth section of the framework.

While the growth framework provides the policy guidelines for federal and provincial governments as well as development partners, private entities, and Non Government Organizations (NGOs) regarding key areas of reform and work on youth development, the biggest challenge remains. The challenge of implementing these reforms to benefit youth, which comprises a major share of Pakistan's population, requires serious and sustained efforts by development partners and governments at provincial and local level. I am hoping that the recommendations made by the youth of Pakistan will be adopted by all and youth will continue to strive to make Pakistan a better place for living not only for themselves but for the global community as well.

Dr. Nadeem ul Haq
Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission

CPRSPD Team Members

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Mohammad Mukhtar	Driver
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Introduction

On January 25th, 2011, more than 150 participants from across the country gathered in Islamabad for the “Youth Development and Economic Growth” Roundtable – the first in the series of consultative meetings for New Economic Growth Framework hosted by the Centre for Poverty Reduction and Social Policy Development (CPRSPD) at the Planning Commission. The event was chaired and co-chaired by Dr. Nadeem-ul-Haque, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Mr. Rauf Engin Soysal, UN Special Envoy to Pakistan, respectively.

Given the importance of youth development in the planning process in Pakistan, the New Growth Strategy developed at the Planning Commission envisages Youth and Community as one of its important pillars. Therefore, the aim of the conference was to connect with youth stakeholders and policy makers in an effort to increase the participation of youth not only in the youth focused research and policy development activity, but also to obtain substantial youth feedback for the New Economic Growth Strategy being formulated at the Planning Commission.

The Roundtable brought together participants from diverse organizations and institutions including Care Foundation, UNFPA, YPP, NUML, Roots School System, FAST, ASK Development, Naseeb Networks, Bargad, IDI, British Council, DFID, Right to Play, PRS, MIT-EFP, Development Pool, White Rice, CETAD, SDPI, AERC, NED etc. to share their experiences and give their suggestions for an inclusive youth development strategy, which feeds into the New Economic Growth Framework.



Figure 1: Chair and Co-chair hosting the event

The roundtable had four sessions, which were organized around four themes:

- a) Youth Education and Skill Development;
- b) Communities, Social Networks and Youth Mobilization;
- c) Youth Social and Economic Entrepreneurship, and
- d) Benefits of Urbanization and Geo-Spatial Agglomeration.

Mr. Yasin Janjua, National Project Manager was the host and stage secretary. He requested the chair and co-chair to preside the roundtable. Mr. Ahmad Owais Pirzada, Additional Secretary

P&D, formally opened the conference with his remarks on the importance of reaching out to the youth and youth activists and its significance to policymakers. This was followed by a keynote address by the Deputy Chairman wherein he expressed the need for actively promoting youth development in Pakistan.

The Co-chair of the roundtable, Rauf Engin Soysal highlighted the huge potential of Pakistan and emphasized its crucial role for peace and stability to the South Asian Region. He further stated the challenges confronting productive engagement of Pakistani youth and how Pakistan should encounter these problems by promoting youth entrepreneurship.

Keynote Speech

Dr. Nadeem-ul-Haque, State Minister/Deputy Chairman Planning Commission

The Deputy Chairman expressed the importance of this roundtable in rethinking the issues and Challenges faced by Pakistani Youth. He showed concern about the lack of opportunities for the youth and students who returned to Pakistan. According to him if this is the plight of the cream of Pakistan, then what about those who are less fortunate and are in majority.

He said that the poor quality of education in public schools has resulted in parallel education systems, which are completely disconnected from each other producing two different sets of individuals: the so-called liberal elites on one hand and the conservative masses on the other, who seemingly live on different planets. Majority of youth comprises school dropouts as well as those who complete education, but have little or no survival skills. Moreover, college graduates do not find opportunities after graduation and become frustrated. This has resulted in a fertile ground for preparing polarized and prejudiced mindset among youth, which can be easily influenced and recruited by extremists.

He added that the Pakistani thinkers and policymakers need to rethink how large cohorts of youth who exit from schools with or without education can be engaged and mentored to promote a vibrant and peaceful society.

He stated that unfortunately, Pakistan has been facing many challenges since its birth, but for the last couple of decades certainly due to the unintended consequences of our development policies. "If high growth rates have to be achieved, we need to promote private sector, promote youth entrepreneurship, have creative cities, and vibrant and globally connected communities."

He emphasized that the optimism for change and a desire to do something for the future for our young generation has brought us together to rethink our national priorities. For this purpose, he said, he wants Pakistan's youth to assume the central role, set a vision for Pakistan and rethink our national priorities and provide solutions, which last and help us make Pakistan a safe haven for our next generation.

Session
I

Youth Education and Skill Development
Co-chair: Seema Aziz, Care Foundation

The session started by the co-chair expressing deep rooted concern about the problems related to the present youth bulge and economic situation across Pakistan. Describing the current status of the educational system as a “complete mess,” Mr. Mushtaq from Roots School System emphasized the importance of the role of the Government and NGOs in correcting the



Figure 2: Ms. Seema Aziz, CARE foundation addressing the participants

state of affairs. He underscored the lack of critical infrastructure and facilities in most public educational institutions, which are necessary to improve access to education. He also stressed on the significance of unification and improvement of curriculum across Pakistan. According to him, there is a need to create brain sets with high sense of citizenship, ownership and patriotism. He concluded by stating that channelizing, engaging and inspiring the youth cohort will lead us towards a better future.

The concept of “IT as a vehicle of Change” was brought forward by Dr. Zubair Sheikh, head of FAST University, Karachi Campus. He highlighted that uneducated, unemployed and untrained youth cohort is large in number. He presented the idea of initializing change in the society by “Training 100, 000 Youth” every year. He considered youth as a primary force of change

‘Curriculum is the most important denominator in the growth process.’
- Faisal Mushtaq

which can be achieved through youth enlightenment, engagement and empowerment. Youth is central to the forces in change management surrounded by teachers, strategies and policy makers. He talked about youth activism and the role of SMS texting in this regard as topics of further research. Amongst other suggestions included: a system of certification for the underprivileged class in professions i.e.



Figure 3: Representative from YPP sharing his views

mechanics and electricians; information and communication technologies, entrepreneurship, etc. He also floated the ideas of “Youth Mentor Forums,” Youth Volunteerism and ‘Social Internship’.

The first discussant Ms. Faiza Effendi from UNDP raised the question of how the curriculum can be harmonized. She suggested English as the mode of communication in all educational institutions. Another participant discussed the need for behavioral change in relation to tolerance and extremism and highlighted the importance of the role of media in this regard. The importance of skill development with certification system such as Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) for those who left education at primary level was highlighted by Dr. Sohail Mahmood, the representative from NUML. If a change is required then emphasis should be laid on classroom teaching. Formulation of strategies at ground level was suggested by Mr. Akif from ASK Development. He raised question of how and where to bring the change? He also emphasized on the need for non-formal technical education in both rural and urban areas. He suggested targets be set by NGOs and Government to educate and employ a specific percentage of youth and asked Planning Commission to provide strategic roadmap for youth development.

It's time to see where we fail and how we lost our core Islamic values of tolerance

- Sohail Mahmood
NUML

After a detailed discussion the session ended with suggestions from participants from various fields. A young social activist from Lahore said that emphasis in the conference has been on innovation and not on motivation. Members of Youth Parliament of Pakistan (YPP) underscored the need for an action plan and restoration of the Youth Ministry as well as the need for increasing budget allocation of the education sector.



Figure 4: Young Social activist showing concern for the education scenario of Pakistan

Ms. Seema Aziz concluded the session by highlighting the problems in schooling such as lack of facilities, lack of access to quality education, lack of citizenship and labor market orientation in curriculum; and suggested that there should be a combined effort to raise the quality of education both of the public and private sector.

Session
II

Communities and Social Networks

Co-chair: David Martin, Country Director, British Council

The resilience among youth, the passion and love the people of Pakistan carry for their country was highlighted by the President of YPP, Mr. Abrar-ul-Haq. He suggested that the youth should come together and share their talent for Pakistan’s progress. He recounted his experience and shared that it was because of the support of the youth that he was able to launch his social help initiative ‘Sahara’. Sahara For Life Trust is a not for profit, registered tax exempted charity, dedicated to provide quality healthcare, education and social services that are accessible and cost effective to the people residing in remote areas. He successfully engaged 50,000 youth under this program.



Figure 5: Participants interacting with the policy makers



Figure 6: From Left to right: David Martin, Country Director, British Council; Rauf Engin Soysal; Additional Secretary; John Grinyer, DFID

A completely different perspective to the youth development was given by Ms. Sumbal Naveed in relation to her organization “Right to Play”. In her view, the demographic change is not a big challenge as there are ample opportunities out there; we need to utilize the existing aptitude of our youth. She emphasized that sports contributes to individual development, robustness and

social integration. She suggested that schools must

have a 45 minutes game period which will create life skills and will also enhance the leadership skills of young children.

In the final presentation, Ms. Shaheen from Bargad raised five key challenges for youth development. Firstly, it is projected that 3.7

“Sports is a tool for child development and peace building and is a key to attain the millennium development goals.”

- Sumbal Naveed
Right to Play

million children will be out of school by year 2015; secondly, addressing the youth female illiteracy; thirdly, absence of quality data on youth mapping; fourthly, the absence of local governments and mechanisms to provide for out of school youth at district and sub-district level; and lastly providing a policy platform for youth after 18th amendment to the constitution.

She identified various existing social networks for youth development i.e. civil society organizations, political parties, formal youth groups and organizations, informal youth groups and faith-based social and political groups. She suggested that youth mobilization may be increased by promoting personal growth and entrepreneurship by involving local government officials, engaging youth role models and icons, launching a national certification program to give youth recognition, instituting a national community-work program for students, building youth activity centers at district level, and formulation of youth group directories.

Ms. Shazia Khawar from British Council said that Youth development work is being carried out in pockets by several groups. While making decisions about youth programs, priority should be given to youth aspirations and perceptions. Our youth possesses a high intellectual potential which needs to be tapped to bring about a change in our society. Mr. Mardan Advisor, Former Minister of Youth Affairs talked about the role of Ministry of Youth in the process of youth development. He stressed upon the need to document issues of the youth in order to opt for and implement youth policies exclusively.

The session concluded with extensive question and answer session in which the need for youth platforms was emphasized and ways to support and facilitate this process was questioned. The need for establishing an organizational culture to go and train teachers in rural area was also highlighted. Furthermore, many of the participants underscored that the education system is dividing society making youth directionless which need to be addressed on priority basis.



Figure 7: Youth of Pakistan expressing their views

Session

III

Youth Social & Economic Entrepreneurship

Co-chair: Ms. Robin Raphael, US Coordinator for Economic Development to Pakistan

Ms. Robin Raphael opened the session by stating the example of Tunisia, where lack of jobs available in 1990s resulted in structural problems. She emphasized the need for Entrepreneurship, by quoting the example of the U.S. She said that majority of the jobs existed in the private sector firms which were 5 years old or less.

"The government should get rid of the barriers/road blocks in order to encourage entrepreneurs with energy and patriotism to let the country grow."

- Ms. Robin Raphael,
US Coordinator for Economic
Development to Pakistan



Figure 8: Ms. Robin Raphael, hearing the views of young participants

Views on Youth Social and economic entrepreneurship were shared by a number of professionals from various organizations i.e. MIT-Entrepreneur Forum Pakistan (MIT-EFP), Youth Engagement Services (YES) Network, Development Pool, and White Rice Communications. A representative of MIT-EFP said that earlier the paradigm to make a sustainable living was to teach someone how to fish. However, there are not many fish in the ocean. Now one should teach how to create fish – this explains the concept of

entrepreneurship. He stressed upon three major factors that may promote the entrepreneurial culture: funding, mentorship and networking. Therefore, he proposed setting up of an “Angel Network,” which shall aim to tackle these problems by providing mentoring to youth entrepreneurs and then introducing them to high net worth individuals (angels or venture capitalists), from whom they may be able to get funding, mentoring and access to contacts/networks. He also quoted the example of “The Organization of Pakistani Entrepreneurs in North America”. The organization provides help with funding and mentorship through a Business Plan Competition. It brings together enterprises, talent, investors, corporations and other like-minded organizations to establish a hub of information. He proposed that such models and networks maybe replicated and established in Pakistan.

The importance of Mentorship to the establishment of the business as well as the survival of an enterprise was further stressed upon by a young entrepreneur Mr. Raheel Waqar of White Rice

Communications. He explained that business growth has three stages starting from idea, launch/ startup to tripping point. He pointed out that most businesses fail in the 2nd or 3rd year at the tripping point due to lack of mentorship. Companies that have been in business for 1-3 years should be identified and should be provided mentorship as well as business development services so as to achieve a higher and strong entrepreneurial success rate.

Successful mentorship program (SEEDS) in Sri Lanka was also proposed by another participant as one of the programs which may be replicated in Pakistan. SEEDS provide assistance with business proposal preparation, mentoring, 3 year consultation for business survival and monetary financing linkages.

“Problem free youth is good, but contributing youth is better.”

- Ali Raza Khan
YES Network Pakistan

The importance of social entrepreneurship in poverty alleviation and mainstreaming youth was emphasized by Mr. Ali Raza Khan of Youth Engagement Services (YES) Network Pakistan. Youth engagement should be focused so that the feeling of lack of usefulness, feeling of powerlessness and

belongingness can be minimized from our society. Mr. Khan shared different programs to engage youth, such as service learning programs, youth social entrepreneurship programs, and youth service programs. The Service Learning Program engages students in designing and implementing of social service projects, Youth Social Entrepreneurship Program sensitizes key stakeholders on concept of youth social entrepreneurship by inviting young entrepreneurs to present their ideas. Youth Service Program establishes a global indigenous network and provides services not only to bring a social change but also to promote revenue generation. The features of all the mentioned programs are that they are youth-led, aimed at youth preparation, multi-domain, and low costs of service delivery.

Mr. Salman Ahmad of ‘Development Pool’ underscored the need for establishing industry-university linkages. He said that in eight years, between 1999 and 2007, Pakistan has increased



Figure 9: Mr. Ali Raza Khan from YES Network Pakistan sharing his thoughts on promoting Social Entrepreneurship in Pakistan

Constraints to utilizing the R&D capacity

- Processes for approval and certification are not streamlined
- Absence of a channel for flow of capital to commercialization of projects
- Weak and slow IPR process for innovators and investors
- Lack of willingness and capacity to develop local brands
- Failure of government to communicate existing assets and scientific facilities to the private sector
- Business knowledge gap between the innovators and HEC

- Ali Salman
Development Pool

R&D investment by 600% which now stands at 0.7% of GDP or USD 1.176 billion. Moreover, the number of researchers in Pakistan has grown from 187 per million in 2005 to 310 in 2007. There is still immense R&D capacity in our universities and institutions, particularly in the science and technology focused programs. This new capacity can be converted into new entrepreneurship opportunities, economic growth and wealth creation by linking it with young entrepreneurs.

Participants at the roundtable concluded the session by showing deep concern for the youth employment opportunities and funding issues of young entrepreneurs.

Session
IV

Benefits of Urbanization and Geo-Spatial Agglomeration

Co-chair: Mr. Timmo Pakkala UNDP Resident Representative/ UN Resident Coordinator.

The features of the four provinces and the major cities of Pakistan were described by Dr. Ahmed from NED, where he highlighted the absence of population census since 1998 and emphasized on the need of census data. According to him Sindh is the most urban province; Punjab being the second most urbanized shows a combination of large, medium and small towns, showing patterns of strip and ribbon urbanization; KPK has layered urbanization and Baluchistan has

“Cities are the engine of growth as they develop and nurture creative capabilities of youth”
- Dr. Noman Ahmed, NED



Figure 10: Participants having group discussion

poor connectivity as it has spread out urban settlements. He also highlighted that Gwadar despite being one of the most planned cities in Baluchistan has failed to fulfill its promise. Most of the urbanization occurs by compulsion, which is a conflict generator, as is the situation in Karachi. Urban sprawling also poses threats to urbanization as it makes urbanization expensive and non productive. Meanwhile massive investment in roads, IT and electronic media has placed

a positive impact on regions and added to the development process. He referred to the demographic dividend, as a ‘death trap’ due to lack of education and skill development for youth in our country. He emphasized the need to enhance the culture of effective mechanism for data collection and information flow.

- 85 million more Pakistanis by 2030 – equivalent to five cities the size of Karachi
 - 44% population increased in just twenty years – twice as fast as the world average
 - 50% will be living in towns or cities by 2030
 - 36 million new jobs needed in the next 10 years
 - 60% people live on less than \$2 a day
- Dr. Nuzhat AERC

The need for benefitting from the demographic dividend was stressed upon by Dr. Nuzhat Ahmad, Director AERC. She said that by 2030, 50% of the population is expected to be living in towns or cities and majority will be youth. Urbanization is not only affecting our occupational choices, but income distribution patterns and access to services as well. It has put pressure on environment and infrastructure and left us with challenges of youth exploitation, regional disparities and macro-economic issues. After



Figure 11: Presentation on Capitalizing on the demographic dividend

speaking on urbanization she defined and discussed demographic dividend. She said that youth bulge may not always be negative but we must foresee this youth bulge as future aging population. According to her it is time to utilize this youth bulge and capitalize on young population in the growth process before this population enters the aging era. She also elaborated that demographic dividend is wasted due to lack of education, issues of career counseling, lack of access to financial resources for entrepreneurship and

job placement in relation to labor force requirements. To have an overall positive impact on environment, climate change, and leading us to lead a greener lifestyle, the role of youth with respect to their activities, interactions and participation needs to be evaluated and their roles shall be supported by creating a sense of space through planned urbanization and induced recreation.

The roundtable proceeded by a number of discussants sharing their view on rapid urbanization, poor planning, and creating opportunities in rural areas to counter unplanned urban migration. While discussing city based issues, Dr. Vaqar, the National Institutional Advisor, Planning Commission said that we should ruminate on available solutions to urbanization and implementation options in this regard. It may be a very difficult phase, but shall be undertaken to provide for a better living experience in our cities. Youth shall be catered in self employment through youth entrepreneurship activities.

Mr. Timmo Pakkala, UNDP Resident Representative/ UN Resident Coordinator concluded the roundtable on youth development and Economic Growth by highlighting that the growth strategy is inclusive to youth development. He stressed upon the need for the role of both Key stakeholders and youth in this regard and said that the consultation with youth needs to be further carried out. He further added that the demographic dividend is not being realized at all levels in Pakistan. The session was concluded by a note of thanks to all the participants for their useful and enlightening insights on the aforesaid theme.



Figure 12: Mr. Timmo Pakkala having a discussion with Mr. Mushtaq from Roots School System and Additional Secretary, Planning Commission

Key Recommendations

The following key recommendations were presented by young participants and professionals at the Youth Roundtable:

Session I: Youth Education and Skill Development

- A need to create brain sets with high sense of citizenship, ownership and patriotism.
- Unification and improvement of curriculum across Pakistan.
- “Training 100, 000 Youth” per year through Benazir Income Support Program.
- A system of certification for the underprivileged class in professions such as mechanics and electricians through recognition of prior learning.
- Initiation of “Youth Mentor Forums” and ‘Social Internship’ programs.
- English as the mode of communication in all educational institutions.
- An increase in the role of media to bring behavioral change in relation to tolerance and extremism.
- A strategic road map by the Planning Commission to provide non-formal technical education in both rural and urban areas.
- A need of an action plan in the after math of the devolution of Youth Ministry.
- A need for increasing budget allocation for the education sector.
- Training of teachers in rural areas.

Session II: Communities and Social Networks

- A 45-minute game period to create life skills and to enhance leadership skills among children.
- A platform for youth to come together and share their talent for Pakistan’s progress.
- Youth mobilization may be increased by promoting personal growth and entrepreneurship by involving local government officials and engaging youth role models and icons.
- Launching a National community-work program for students.
- Building of youth activity centers at district level.
- Formulation of youth group directories.
- Need to document issues related to youth development in order to opt for and implement youth policies.

Session III: Social and Economic Entrepreneurships

- Set up of an “Angel Network” for youth mentorship.
- Identification of companies that have been in business for 1-3 years and providing mentorship services to for attaining higher and strong entrepreneurial success rate.
- Promotion of youth social entrepreneurship programs.
- R&D capacity in our universities and institutions, particularly in the science and technology focused programs, shall be converted into new youth entrepreneurship opportunities.

Session IV: Urban Development and Benefits of Geo-Spatial Agglomeration

- Need for updating census data regularly.
- Create a sense of youth space through planned urbanization and induced recreation.
- Ruminates on available solutions to unplanned urbanization and their implementation
- Creating opportunities in rural areas to counter unplanned migration

Annexure I: Concept Note

Centre for Poverty Reduction and Social Policy Development (CPRSPD)

Concept Note for Roundtable on Youth Development and Economic Growth²

Tuesday, 25th January, 2011 P-Block, Pak Secretariat, Islamabad

The failure of development planning process to actively promote youth development has resulted in unintended consequences. For instance, poor quality of education in public schools has resulted in parallel education systems, which are completely disconnected from each other producing two different sets of individuals: the so-called liberal elites on one hand and the conservative masses on the other who seemingly live on different planets. Majority of youth comprises school dropouts as well as those who complete education but have little or no survival skills. This has resulted in a fertile ground for preparing polarized and prejudiced mindset among youth, which can be easily influenced and recruited by popular anarchists. Hence, a failure to engage youth and convert its latent energy into a dynamic force may result in a demographic disaster.

The education and skill training systems are producing individuals for elementary skill job market. Those who are considered trained have mostly acquired basic or intermediary skills, which are either least in demand or outmoded. Even some donor driven skill acquisition programs are focusing on producing more plumbers and electricians, but least we know about where and how this low skilled labor force will be absorbed? Dubai has had its own bust, which was a famous destination for these least skilled workers. On the other hand our cities are experiencing unregulated expansion, which does not support a job market for skilled and certified individuals in randomly expanding construction industry. The local job market either does not absorb them or they remain underemployed in family businesses. Besides, the job market for uneducated and low skilled workers is void of humanism. Labor in elementary occupations either works as virtually 24hours slave or survives as daily wager. The availability of work is mostly at the mercy of job market condition, which is dependent on a fragile economy lacking peace, security, and economic stability. ***In order to engage the emerging labor force there is a need to create at least 1.3 million jobs every year, which seems difficult under present economic scenario. Perhaps, promoting youth entrepreneurship and self employment is the key to deliver for young people as far as their livelihood is concerned.***

Young people are the future of Pakistan and their aspirations matter; therefore, the New Growth Strategy being developed at the Planning Commission envisages a new development approach seeking active participation of youth in Pakistan's economic development. The new development approach requires rethinking youth social and economic development and its linkages with the institutional framework defined by family, community, enterprise, geo-spatial agglomeration, and the

² Yasin Janjua (NPM, CPRSPD) with guidance from Dr. Nadeem-ul-Haq Deputy Chairman Planning Commission. For Questions and comments please contact yasin.janjua@gmail.com

organs of state. Nevertheless, in order to promote youth development, it is imperative for the policy makers to connect with young people. Therefore, at the forefront, active youth involvement is necessary in policymaking. In this respect, CPRSPD is critically positioned to engage youth stakeholders and policymakers. As a premier think tank, within the Planning Commission, engaged in social policy development, it can lead an effort to increase the participation of youth not only in the youth focused research and policy development activity at the Centre, but obtain substantial feedback on New Economic Growth Strategy.

The CPRSPD under the supervision of Deputy Chairman plans to hold a consultative roundtable with Pakistani youth at national and sub-national level, especially with those who are actively engaged in youth social and economic development and promoting entrepreneurship. A first in the series roundtable conference will be held at the Planning Commission on January 25th 2011. ***The roundtable will be attended by around 40-50 participants who are actively engaging youth in economic, social, and human development.*** The roundtable will initiate dialogue on youth education, employment and livelihood issues and invite ideas from participants to promote youth development in Pakistan with active involvement of both private and public sector. The conference agenda is constructed around these possible sub-themes:

Theme I: Youth Education and Skill Development

With almost 63% of the population concentrated below the age of 25 in 2008-09, and a median age of 21 years, Pakistan is considered the country of young and restless. With a Net Enrolment Rate (NER) of 57% at primary level, the illiteracy level at 30% among youth is the highest in the region posing a serious challenge for policy makers. Hardly 17% of the youth cohort completes secondary education; resulting in more than three quarters of youth to exit from educational system without any foundational or life skills. Barely, less than half of those who complete secondary education would ever make it to college. Moreover, less than 6% percent of youth population (15-24) has reported to have acquired any technical skills. Majority of Pakistan's emerging labor force is either with no education and skill or very little thereof. Given the low quality of education, perhaps it is no longer in demand as scores of individuals continue to exit the education system. ***Before it is too late, we must rethink the genesis of our education system and restructure it.***

Possible issues and questions in this area could be:

- What medium of communication is relevant for connecting the dots between two polarized educational systems?
- Why there is a Skill and job market mismatch, and where are the jobs for the kind of labor force being produced?
- What role education and skills development can play in personal growth and career development?
- How education can promote behavioral change for the promotion of tolerance, openness, dialogue and peaceful negotiation?

- How school dropouts can be uplifted and their lives can be transformed in order to shape the future of Pakistani society?
- What types of soft skills are necessary for enabling youth development?

Theme 2: Communities and Social Networks

Perhaps the Pakistani thinkers and policymakers need to rethink how large cohorts of youth who exit from the schools with or without education can be engaged and mentored to promote a vibrant and peaceful society. Active communities with vibrant social networks can promote a tolerant society.

Possible issues and questions in this area could be:

- Whether high fertility rate among youth cohort will result in demographic dividend or disaster?
- How youth can be purposefully engaged and empowered through youth social networks?
- How youth can be transformed from citizens-in-waiting to citizens-in-action?
- How and who should mentor our children for character building outside the classroom?
- What role models and heroes communities and social networks may eulogize and how?

Theme 3: Social and Economic Entrepreneurships

Dr. Nadeem-ul-Haq has aptly articulated in his paper on entrepreneurship in Pakistan, that the entrepreneurship is viewed by economists to be a combination of innovation and risk taking. When such activity thrives, high growth rates are achieved as well as opportunities offered to all segments of society, including the poor; the latter benefits from growth and employment as well as through opportunities for entrepreneurship. In Pakistan innovation and risk taking is severely inhibited by the intrusive role of government in the marketplace. From the early days of planning when protection and subsidy policies determined winners in the market place, entrepreneurship has been diverted to seeking government favors. Government economic policy also seeks to promote growth through a basically 'mercantilist' approach where domestic commerce, though seriously neglected, is heavily regulated. This sector either employs most of the poor or offers them entrepreneurial opportunities in self employment. Hence deregulating this sector could be a priority in and anti-poor strategy.

Possible issues and questions in this area could be:

- Given low quality of education, is there a future for IT entrepreneurship, or a knowledge based economy in general, in Pakistan
- What type of legal framework will promote innovation and technology adoption?
- How markets and new business franchising help create jobs for young people. What are the impediments and how to overcome these?
- Why promote Business Development Services and Business Franchising for youth?
- How Entrepreneurial culture can be developed among Pakistani youth?
- Is mentorship important for new businesses setup by youth?
- What are the challenges faced by young people in scaling up their business for Initial Public Offering (IPOs).

Theme 4: Urban Development and Benefits of Geo-Spatial Agglomeration

The prevalent real estate development culture has promoted a rent seeking path to success. Resultantly, cities do not promote geo-spatial agglomeration of economies by design to become clusters of vibrant commercial activity which may be considered youth entrepreneurship friendly? Though urban clusters are serving as powerful magnets of employment and opportunity for the poor, but the only space they are able to grab is in shanty towns. To develop an entrepreneurship culture in a city, especially for sores of unemployed youth in waiting, the cities need to be redesigned and rezoned so that they become commerce friendly.

Possible issues and questions in this area could be:

- Are cities entrepreneur friendly?
- What type of zoning schemes will promotes youth entrepreneurship?
- What inhibits our cities from becoming hubs of commerce and centers of growth?
- Where is the space for youth?
- What type of Geo-Spatial Agglomeration will minimize risks of climate change in rural urban context?
- What recreational facilities does youth have? Place for social interaction?

Annexure-II: Agenda

Centre for Poverty Reduction and Social Policy Development (CPRSPD)

Planning Commission Auditorium, P-Block, Pak-Secretariat, Islamabad

Tuesday 25th January, 2011

Agenda for Roundtable on Youth Development and Economic Growth

Format of Roundtable: The roundtable conference on youth is structured around four themes: a) Youth Education and Skill Development; b) Communities, Social Networks and Youth Mobilization; c) Youth Social and Economic Entrepreneurship; and d) Benefits of Urbanization and Geo-Spatial Agglomeration.

The key note **presenters have been asked to deliver 7-10 min talks** around key issues and questions, which have been identified in the concept note. After the presentations floor will be opened for discussion. **Each discussant will have 3 minutes** to succinctly present his/her views. The questions, answers, comments and feedback will be welcomed from observers and youth participants. Though discussants are assigned particular sessions, but their presence and participation in other sessions would be considered extremely valuable.

Program Schedule

8:15 – 9:00 Registration
9:00 – 9:10 Welcome Remarks by Mr. Ahmad Owais Pirzada, Additional Secretary P&D
9:10 – 9:20 Key Note Address by Chair State Minister/Deputy Chairman Planning Commission
9:20 – 9:40 Inaugural Remarks by Co-Chair UN Special Envoy to Pakistan

9:40 – 10:00 Tea Break

10:00 – 11:30

Session I: Youth Education and Skill Development

Chairs Dr Nadeem ul Haq and Mr. Rauf Engin Soysal

Session Co-Chair Seema Aziz, Care Foundation

Key Note Talks:

- Yasin Janjua, Introduction to Youth Engagement Strategy
- Faisal Mushtaq, Education and Youth Development, Roots School System
- Dr. Zubair Shaikh, (FAST)

Discussants

- Faiza Effendi, UNDP
- Billal Ahmad Rana, YPP Prof,
- Dr. Sohail Mahmood (NUML)
- Sadia Atta Mehmood, UNFPA
- Arshad Akif, Ask Development
- Zubair Faisal Abbasi, IDI

11:30 – 13:00

Session II: Communities, Social Networks and Youth Mobilization

Chairs Dr Nadeem ul Haq and Mr. Rauf Engin Soysal
Session Co-Chair David Martin, Country Director British Council

Key Note Talks

- *Mustafa Omar Asghar Khan* Intro to the Session
- *Monis Rahman, CEO Naseeb Networks (confirmed)*
- Abrar-ul-Haq YPP Youth Mobilization and Community Development Experience Sharing (confirmed)
- Sabeeha Shaheen, Executive Director, Bargad (confirmed)
- Sumbal Naveed, Right to Play

Discussants

- Seema Aziz, Care Foundation
- Shazia Khawar, British Council
- Ali Mardan, Advisor Ministry of former Youth Affairs
- John Griniyer (DFID Economist)
- Nouman Ghani (PRS)
- Ahmad J. Pirzada
- Mohammad Wahab

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch and Prayer Break

14:00 – 15:30

Session III: Youth Social and Economic Entrepreneurship

Chairs Dr Nadeem ul Haq and Mr. Rauf Engin Soysal
Session Co-Chair Robin Raphael (US Coordinator for Economic Development to Pakistan)

Key Note Talks

- Sana Shahid Intro to the Session
- Captin Farrokh, Chairman, MIT-EFP Developing and Entrepreneurial Culture in Pakistan (Confirmed)
- Mr. Ali Raza Khan of Youth Engagement Services Network, Transforming youth from citizens-in-waiting to citizens-in-action (Confirmed)
- Mr. Ali Salman, Development Pool (Confirmed)
- Raheel Waqar, CEO, White Rice young entrepreneur (Confirmed)

Discussants

- Billal Ahmad Rana, YPP
- Jaffer Qamar, Chief Economist
- Dr. Abid Q. Sulehri, SDPI
- Naushad Javaid, Telenor
- Dr. Naveeda Salam (PRS)
- Mr. Khalid Mehmood CETAD

15:30 – 15:45 Tea Break

15:45 – 17:00

Session IV: Benefits of Urbanization and Geo-Spatial Agglomeration

Chairs Dr Nadeem ul Haq and Mr. Rauf Engin Soysal

Session Co-Chair Timo Pakkala, UNDP Resident Representative/UN Resident Coordinator

Key Note talk

- Umair Ahmad, Intro to the Session
- Dr. Nasir Javed, Head of Urban Planning University of Punjab (Confirmed)
- Dr. Nuzhat Ahmad, AERC Karachi (Confirmed)
- Dr. Noman Ahmed (Professor and Chairman of Architecture and Planning NED)

Discussants

- Jean Luc Stalon, Deputy Country Representative, UNDP
- Ahmad Owais Pirzada, Add Secy, Planning Commission, NPD, CPRSPD
- Mr. Khalid Mehmood CETAD
- Ali Mardan, Advisor Ministry of former Youth Affairs
- Sana Shahid (Planning Commission)
- Umair Ahamed, Planning Commission
- Mustaf Omar Asghar, Khan
- Sumbal Naveed, Right to Play

17:00 – 17:15 Concluding Remarks and by Dr. Nadeem-ul-Haq (Deputy Chairman)

17:15 Vote of Thanks by National Project Manager