SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS OF MARGINALIZED YOUTH OF URBAN AREAS AND YOUTH POLICIES IN PAKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

Though most of the developing countries have their youth policies in accordance with UN guidelines, still youth, in general, face problems and marginalization. The youth of Pakistan, a developing country, face the same difficult situation; the partnership in war against terrorism making this situation more bad. In this study Pakistan's youth policy is examined by situational analysis of youth problems and their marginalization. The tools used were interviews, focus group discussions, with relevant literature review. The universe of this study is two major cities of Karachi and Peshawar. Demographically, these are heterogeneous cities with different types of ethnic groups, sub-ethnic groups, religious groups, and sectarian groups, with mix ethnic and sectarian groups of various characteristics. The specific objectives of this study were a) to find out the causes behind marginalization of youth in urban areas of Pakistan, b) to analyze the youth development policies of Pakistan, and c) to find out solutions of problems of marginalized youth of urban areas of Pakistan.

Keywords: marginalized youth, youth policy, urban areas, development, heterogeneous cities.

INTRODUCTION

The term marginalization is still contested among scholars and various organizations due to its use in different forms in different countries and social situations. The 'EFA Global Monitoring Report 2010" defines it as "a form of acute and persistent disadvantage rooted in underlying social inequalities". Conceptually, it is tendency of societies, by their social system, political situation and economic conditions that some or large part of population become disadvantaged or excluded. According to International Consultative Forum on Education for all (EFA Forum), UNESCO, Status and Trends, 2000 "Marginalization occurs when people are systematically excluded from meaningful participation in economic, social,

political, cultural and other forms of human activity in their communities and thus are denied the opportunity to fulfill themselves as human beings."

In Pakistan, a large number of youth are marginalized and their problems are different in nature. We cannot generalize the causes as their problems can be related to economic classes, parents' attitude, society, tribal system, taboos, youth globalization, demographic transition, conflicts, violence, and law enforcement agencies related etc. With the proper policies and implementtation of those policies most of the problems can be solved and level of marginalization can be reduced. With proper measures youth can play role in development of country and can reach at high levels of standards. But in Pakistan and it's all provinces scenario is entirely different in terms of implementation of policies. It is among the responsibilities of state to implement the constitution and policies but due to corruption and mismanagement, most of the policies are not implemented. The demographic situation of Pakistan is changing rapidly, and becoming hetero-

geneous in most of the urban areas. (Durr-e-Nayab, 2006). According to Pakistan government standards, individuals between ages of 15-29 years are youth (Youth policy of Sindh, 2012). In Pakistan, youth constitute 28% of total population and around 54 million or 68% of those are below the age of 30 years (Ministry of Education, Youth in Development Pakistan, 2009). According to administrative structure, Pakistan is divided in to five provinces i.e. Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Baluchistan, and Gilgit Baltistan. The population of all the five provinces is divided into different ethnic groups.

In Pakistan and some other developing countries related literature can be classified into policies, studies, constitutions drafted by Government agencies, studies and projects by NGO's, studies by universities and studies by individuals. Some important literature related to marginalized youth of Pakistan and developing countries describes different concepts. A study with the title 'Alternative youth Policy in Pakistan', by Ali Salman (2005) was conducted by an

NGO in which several ideas related to youth policies are discussed. This book is focused on youth issues related to Pakistan, discrimination of youth on the basis of age, economical status, gender, and religion. Another study with the title of 'Comparative Analysis of National Youth polices' (Deutsche Gesellschaftfür Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH Postfach Eschborn, Germany) states that children and youth up to age of 24 years are 70% of the population of many developing countries. According to this study problems of youth are related to poverty, insufficient health services, economic issues, social issues, political issues, discrimination, and violation of laws. Youth polices of some countries, guidelines and policies of UN are also discussed in this study. A study by British Council, Pakistan 'Next Generation' (2009) is related to youth and their problems in Pakistan. According to this study, youth population is increasing in Pakistan and half of the population is under twenty years of age. The study reveals that Pakistanis are losing their confidence in future and only 15% believe that

country is heading in right directions. According to study Pakistan is at the worst situation of its economy as fifty present of children are attending primary education and only quarter of the respondents were literate in this study. According to study next generation show love for Pakistan but they don't believe in leaders and current political system. Another study titled as 'Sociological Study of the Factors Affecting the Aggressive Behavior among Youth' (Ruqaya Imtiaz, Ghulam Yasin and Asif Yasin) discusses the social factors promoting aggression among youth analyzed by sample of 175 youth of universities. Various factors like attitude towards religion, or sectarian environment in institutions and family, job problems, role of media, violence are focused in this study. According to study the childhood respondents were facing the aggression caused by violence, family economic status which also impacts on aggressive behavior of youth. According to study family environment, unhealthy peer groups, unsatisfactory educational system, and religious problems promote aggressive behavior among youth.

Till today Pakistan has its three youth policies approved by National and Provincial assemblies.

OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

Pakistani society is based on different dominant factors like emotional relationship with language, territory, provinces, ethnicity, religion etc., which affect very much on marginalization of youth, their development and integration. If we try to understand the problems of youth we will find different types of dynamics. Problems related to youth of Baluchistan are entirely different than youth of Punjab, and problems of youth related to economically sound families are different than poor families. In this way problem of youth on gender basis, rural and urban basis, ethnicity and language basis are different in nature. It is very difficult to describe the youth problems and development in all, but we can place and solve them in different categories. The basic aims of this study are as under:

1. To find out the causes behind marginalization of youth in urban areas of Pakistan.

2. To analyze the youth development policies of Pakistan.

3. To find out solutions of problems of marginalized youth of urban areas of Pakistan.

METHODOLOGY

As the focus of this research was to analyze the issues related to marginalized youth of Pakistan, and evaluate National Youth Policies, hence the study was exploratory in nature. Research was initiated through personal and professional dialogue with youth using structured interviews, focus group discussions with different stakeholders, revision of National Policies of youth development. Thus the methodological approach was both qualitative and quantitative. Since the topic of the present study is related to marginalized youth of urban areas of Pakistan, therefore universe of study was Karachi and Peshawar; the two major urban areas of Pakistan.

FINDINGS

Table-1
Frequency Distribution and Percentage of
Respondents by City

City	Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
Karachi	100	66.7	66.7	66.7
Peshawar	50	33.3	33.3	100.0
Total	150	100.0	100.0	

Interpretation.

Purposive sampling procedure was used for selection of the subjects. The population of youth in targeted cities was very high, in this was Pilot study related to this issue therefore two cities were targeted and 100 participants form Karachi and 50 participants form Peshawar were taken.

Table-2
Frequency Distribution and Percentage of
Respondents by Gender

Gender	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Male	94	62.7	62.7	62.7
Female	56	37.3	37.3	100.0
Total	150	100.0	100.0	

Interpretation.

As purposive sampling procedure was used for selection of the subjects, the population of youth in targeted cities was very high. According to this table 94 male and 56 female youth participated in the study.

Table-3
Education of the Parents of the Respondents

Parents Educated?		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
	Yes	111	74.0	74.0	74.0
	No	39	26.0	26.0	100.0
	Total	150	100.0	100.0	

Interpretation.

The above table 3 shows that out of total 150 respondents,

- Respondents having educated parents were 74%.
- Respondents having uneducated parents were 26%.

Therefore, data shows that majority of parents of youth were educated.

Table-4
Respondents' thoughts about any role of state for their lives and family

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	76	50.7	50.7	50.7
No	51	34.0	34.0	84.7
I don't Know	23	15.3	15.3	100.0
Total	150	100.0	100.0	

Interpretation.

The above table 4 shows that out of total 150 respondents,

- 51% respondents think that state have role for their family condition and life.
- 34% respondents think that state have no role for their family condition and life.
- 15% respondents don't know that either state have role for their family condition or life.

Thus data shows that half of youth know the role of state for youth rights, and basic human rights and half of the youth don't know the role state for their status in country. It also revealed that government or non-Government organizations working for youth and human rights still could not succeed to aware the population about their rights and role state policies.

Table-5

Respondents'thoughts about if state through its policies and programs can change their status and can empower them

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	73	48.7	48.7	48.7
No	44	29.3	29.3	78.0
I don't Know	33	22.0	22.0	100.0
Total	150	100.0	100.0	

Interpretation.

The above table 5 shows that out of total 150 respondents,

- 49 % respondents think that state can change their lives and status through policies.
- 29% respondents think that state cannot change their lives and status through policies.
- 22 % respondents don't know that either state can change their lives and status through policies.

Thus data shows that less than half of youth know the role of state for role state and youth policies, half of the youth don't know the role state and youth policies for their lives.

Table-6
Respondents' knowledge ofwhether they know anything about Government's youth policy for youth

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	35	23.3	23.3	23.3
No	95	63.3	63.3	86.7
I don't Know	20	13.3	13.3	100.0
Total	150	100.0	100.0	

Interpretation.

The above table 6 shows that out of total 150 respondents.
- 23.3% respondents said that they know about Government youth policy.
- 63.3% respondents there is no any Government youth policy.
- 13.3% respondents there is don't know about Government youth policy.

Thus data shows that more than half percentage of youth knows about youth policy.

Table-7
Respondents' vies if they are satisfied with educational system they have experienced

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	53	35.3	35.3	35.3
No	95	63.3	63.3	98.7
I don't Know	2	1.3	1.3	100.0
Total	150	100.0	100.0	

Interpretation.

The above table 7 shows that out of total 150 respondents

- 63% respondents said that they are not satisfied with education system they experienced.
- 35.3% respondents said that they are satisfied with education system they experienced.

It shows that a large number of youth was not satisfied with education system they experienced.

Table-8
Respondents' views if they are satisfied with recreational and sports facilities for youth

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	51	34.0	34.0	34.0
No	82	54.7	54.7	88.7
I don't Know	17	11.3	11.3	100.0
Total	150	100.0	100.0	

Interpretation.

The above table 8 shows that out of total 150 respondents,
- 54.7% respondents said that they are not satisfied with recreational and sports facilities for youth.
- 34% respondents said that they are satisfied with recreational and sports facilities for youth.
- 11.3% respondents said don't know about recreational and sports facilities for youth.

It shows that a large number of youth was not satisfied with educational and sports facilities.

Table-9
Family Economic Status of the Respondents

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Middle	104	69.3	69.3	69.3
Lower Middle	19	12.7	12.7	82.0
Upper	8	5.3	5.3	87.3
Lower	7	4.7	4.7	92.0
Very Poor	12	8.0	8.0	100.0
Total	150	100.0	100.0	

Interpretation.

The above table 9 shows that out of total 150 respondents, a large number of respondents(69.3%) was from middle class, 12.7 % were from lower middle class, 8% belonged to very poor families and only 5.3 % belonged to upper class.

It shows that a large number of youth was living in poverty or belonged to middle class families.

Table-10

Respondents vies about how much they think that they are marginalized due to low economical resources or poverty

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Much of the time	11	7.3	7.3	7.3
Some Time	64	42.7	42.7	50.0
Never	75	50.0	50.0	100.0
Total	150	100.0	100.0	

Interpretation.

The above table 10 shows that out of total 150 respondents,

- 50% of youth feels that they are not marginalized due to poverty.
- About 43% of respondents some time feel that they are marginalized due to poverty.
- Only around 7 % of respondents feed much of time that they are marginalized due to poverty.

It is revealed that half of respondents feel they are marginalized due poverty.

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Table-11

Views of the Respondents about what is Important for Them from Education, Technical Education and Income Support Program

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Education System	123	82.0	82.0	82.0
Income Support Program	9	6.0	6.0	88.0
Technical Education	18	12.0	12.0	100.0
Total	150	100.0	100.0	

Interpretation.

The above table 11 shows that out of total 150 respondents,

- 82% of youth feel that education is very important for them and to change their marginalized life towards inclusion.
- 12% youth gave the preference to technical education.
- Only 6% of respondents feel that income support programs can solve their issues.

It shows that large number of respondents feels that education is very much important.

Table12
Respondents' Views about what is Important for Them to Change Their Lives, Role of law, Politics or Ethnic groups

Reponses	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Role of Law	132	88.0	88.0	88.0
Politics	14	9.3	9.3	97.3
Ethnic Groups	4	2.7	2.7	100.0
Total	150	100.0	100.0	

Interpretation.

The above table 12 shows that out of total 150 respondents,
- 88% of youth feel that role of law is very important for them and to change their marginalized life towards inclusion.
- 9.3 % youth gave the preference to politics.
- Only 2.7% of respondents gave importance to ethnic groups.

It shows that larger number of youth has their view that role of law is very important for changing the lives of marginalized youth.

Table 13

Cross Tabulation of the views of the Respondents for How much do you think that you are marginalized due low economical resources or poverty? *Do you think that state through its policies and programs can change your status and empower you? *Are you satisfied with educational system you have experienced

Are you satisfied with educational system you have experienced?			Do you think that state through its policies and programs can change your status and empower you?			Total
			Yes	No	I don't Know	
Yes	How much do you think that you are marginalized due low economical resources or poverty?	Much of the time	0	5	1	6
		Some Time	6	2	3	11
		Never	28	0	8	36
	Total		34	7	12	53
No	How much do you think that you are marginalized due low economical resources or poverty?	Much of the time	3	2	0	5
		Some Time	29	24	0	53
		Never	5	11	21	37
	Total		37	37	21	95
I don't Know	How much do you think that you are marginalized due low economical resources or poverty?	Never	2			2
	Total		2			2

DISCUSSION

The results of study reflects that youth of the country are suffering from numerous socio-economic issues, large number of youth is marginalized and not satisfied with education system they are experiencing. Regarding the youth policy and role of state for development of youth, data revealed that majority of youth don't know about government's youth policy which further shows that government could not impart updates about youth policies drafts to youth and educational institutions. It is further revealed by data that more than half of youth have their view that state can play vital role to change the lives of marginalized youth through laws and policies.

It is accepted worldwide that sports and recreational activities can play vital role for youth development and empowerment but data shows that majority of youth is not satisfied with sports and recreational facilities provided by state for youth. The findings also show that although the majority of population belongs to lower middle or middle class and is marginalized, but still majority of the youth believe that they are not marginalized. It is, probably, because they don't know the definition of marginalization and consequences of this social problem.

Finally, when two important questions were discussed with youth about solutions of marginalization or what is important for them to solve the issue, responses show that education is only way to change the marginalization or exclusion for inclusion or youth empowerment. And role of law or proper work by state and government department can play vital role to change the situation of youth for better.

CONCLUSION

It is concluded that marginalization is major social issue of country and majority of population is youth which is marginalized. State could play vital role to change the lives of youth but still youth policies could not be passed by national as well as provincial assemblies. Moreover, youth is not satisfied with education system and don't know about youth policies.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Looking at the findings of this study it is recommended that public and private organizations can play vital role to change the situation of marginalized youth. It is also suggested that state should pass the youth polices and act on those polices through projects and youth affairs and development departments. It is also recommended that educational institutions play their role for the youth; to achieve this therefore government must have education policies for quality education. It is also suggested that proper recreational and sports facilities must be provided for youth.

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