

*Country Report*  
*For Symposium on Globalization And*  
*The Future Of Youth In Asia*

*By*

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# *Globalization And Future Of Youth in Asia*

## *Executive Summary*

1. For many people the world may seem like an old place, yet there are 2.8 billion people under the age of 25 out of a world population of six billion. Nine out of 10 of these young people live in developing countries. The United Nations defines youth as a period during which a person is being prepared and prepares itself to be an active and full, responsible member of the society. This period of youth is identified by the United Nations as 15 to 24 years. While the lower period remains 15 years, each country has adopted different maximum years ranging from 24 to 40. In Pakistan it is taken as 15-29 years, which are 35 million in number. They are not just the future, but also the present. The national policy makers are giving increasing focus and high priority to their development at the international forums and, as the development of their latent potential holds for the future.

2. The development of young people is a multi-sectoral concept; it is necessary that all the agencies including the Ministries, civil society and NGOs devise their programme for the welfare and development of the youth. The main stress for formation of the policies should be on the following points:

### **2. The Problem of Youth Unemployment:**

2.1 The first and the foremost conclusion concerning policy is that youth unemployment represents a serious cause for concern.

- Youth unemployment has reached high levels across a wide range of country and almost everywhere rates are significantly higher than the adult rates.
- The consequences of youth unemployment such as social exclusion, which can lead to drug abuse criminal and social unrest, are extremely serious and damaging society as a whole.

### **3. Counseling**

3.1 The youth employment programmes should include a preliminary guidance and counseling stage. It is important to recognize that vocational and counseling as well as other forms of job such assistance are

complementary and should not be seen as substitute for other forms of policy intervention for the young people.

#### **4. An integrated Approach**

4.1 Educational employment policies are closely related to one another. Youth employment policies and programmes are likely to be more affected if they are integrated with education policies. Youth employment programme should developed in the context of an overall strategy for the promotion of youth employment.

#### **5. Social Partners**

5.1 Workers' and employers' organizations should be involved in both the design and implementation of youth employment policies.

#### **6. Monitoring and Evaluation**

6.1 Programmes need to incorporate both monitoring and evaluation functions at the designed stage. Monitoring and evaluation are fundamental requirement for the effective implementation of policies and programmes for promoting youth employment.

## Country Profile

### *Islamic Republic of Pakistan*

1. Pakistan emerged on the map of the world as an independent state on 14th August 1947, as a result of the division of former British India.
2. Pakistan lies between 23 – 42 to 36 – 55 latitude north and 60 – 45 to 75 – 20 longitude east. It touches the Hindukush Mountains in the north and extends from the Pamirs to the Arabian Sea. It is bounded by Iran in the west, Afghanistan in the northwest, India in the east and southeast and Arabian Sea in the south. There is a common border with China alongside Gilgit and Baltistan in the north.
3. Total area is 796,095 sq.km with an estimated population of 148,723 million based on a (March 2004) projection of population census of 1998. It is divided into four provinces Balochistan, North West Frontier Province (NWFP), Punjab and Sindh. The Islamabad Capital Territory and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and Federally Administered Northern Areas (FANA) are in addition to the four provinces.
4. Climatically, Pakistan enjoys considerable measures of variety. North and northwestern high mountainous ranges are extremely cold in winter while the summer months of April to September are pleasant. The plains of the Indus valley are extremely hot in summer with a cold and dry weather in winter. The coastal strip in the South has a moderate climate. There is a general deficiency of rainfall. Rains are monsoonic of origin and fall late in summers.
5. The country has an agricultural economy with a network of canals irrigating a major part of its cultivated land. Wheat, cotton, rice, millet and sugar cane are the major crops. Among fruits: mangos, oranges, bananas and apples are grown in abundance in different parts of the country.
6. The main natural resources are natural gas, coal, salt and iron. The country has an expanding industry. Cotton, textiles, sugar, cement, and chemicals play an important role in its economy.
7. Urdu is the national language and is used as a medium of understanding throughout the country. A number of regional languages are also spoken.

These are Punjabi 48%, Sindhi 12%, Siraiki (a Punjabi variant) 10%, Pushtu 8%, Balochi 3%, Hindko 2%, Brahui 1%, English and others 8%.

8. Pakistan is an Islamic Republic. The present Constitution was adopted in 1973 and prescribes a parliamentary form of government. There are two houses, the Senate, the upper house, and the National Assembly, the lower house. The Senate consists of 100 representatives with 17 seats reserved for women. The National Assembly has a total strength of 342 of which 60 seats are reserved for women. Women have the right to contest elections on general seats also.

9. Each Province has a provincial assembly. The cumulative strength of all provincial assemblies is 728 of which 128 seats are reserved for women. The Constitution contains lists of subjects, which are dealt with the National Assembly, and those, dealt by the provincial assemblies.

10. The judicial system consists of the Supreme Court, provincial high courts, and other lower courts, which exercise civil and criminal jurisdiction. The Federal Shari'at Court decides if a civil law is repugnant to injunctions of Islam.

11. Pakistan is a developing country with a per capita income of more than US \$ 600. The main industries are textiles, food processing, beverages, construction materials, clothing paper products, and shrimp. The labor force is roughly 43.2 million with 39.6 million employed and 3.6 million unemployed. Nearly 42% is engaged in agriculture and 57.9% in non-agricultural activity/industry. Non-agricultural activities include manufacturing, trade, services and transport etc. Within the non-agriculture sector, the major portion i.e. two thirds (64.6%) of the employed persons was engaged in informal sector. The unemployed rate has shown an increase from 7.8% in 1999-2000 to 8.3% in 2001-2002.

12. The Pakistan economy went through a difficult period in the decade of the 90s. Poverty increased, the currency suffered repeated devaluations, foreign and domestic debt registered an increase and the growth rate of the economy fell. Drastic measures were introduced to arrest the slide in the economy. These have borne fruit. The growth rate has picked up and foreign reserves have crossed the US \$ 12 billion mark. The debt situation has also improved. However the percentage of people living in poverty has not yet shown any appreciable decrease.

## *Globalization And Future Of Youth in Asia A Pakistan's Case*

1. For many people the world may seem like an old place, yet there are 2.8 billion people under the age of 25 out of a world population of six billion. Nine out of 10 of these young people live in developing countries. The United Nations defines youth as a period during which a person is being prepared and prepares itself to be an active and full, responsible member of the society. This period of youth is identified by the United Nations as 15 to 24 years. While the lower period remains 15 years, each country has adopted different maximum years ranging from 24 to 40. In Pakistan it is taken as 15-29 years, which are 35 million in number.

1.2 The statistics about Youth Employment Labour Force in the country is as under:  
(in thousands)

	Total	Male	Female
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,041</b>	<b>16,666</b>	<b>2,375</b>
Illiterate	6,306	4,909	1,397
<b>Literate</b>	<b>9,735</b>	<b>8,757</b>	<b>978</b>
No Formal Education	107	90	17
<b>Formal Education</b>	<b>9,628</b>	<b>8,667</b>	<b>961</b>
Below Matric	5,906	5,434	472
<b>Matric and above</b>	<b>3,722</b>	<b>3,233</b>	<b>489</b>
Matric but below intermediate	2,321	2,110	211
Intermediate but below degree	811	662	149
<b>Degree and above</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>129</b>
Degree in Engineering	58	54	4
Degree in medicine	15	6	9
Degree in computer	19	17	2
Degree in agriculture	7	5	2
Degree in other subjects	371	293	78
MA / MSc	112	80	32
M.Phil / Ph.D	8	6	2

1.3 They are not just the future, but also the present. The national policy makers are giving increasing focus and high priority to their development at the international forums and, as the development of their latent potential holds for the future.

## **2. Labour Market Situation Facing Young People**

2.1 More and more young people are having trouble when first looking for work and youth unemployment levels are certainly serious in many countries.

The rate of youth unemployment is much higher than the adults in most countries of the world. The ILO estimates suggest that on average youth unemployment rates are three times as high as adult rates.

2.2 It is miserable that youth are becoming involved in conflict around the world with alarming frequency, either as victims or, tragically, as soldiers. More than half of those who are of working age are jobless, according to the International Labor Organization report. Lack of jobs can lead to increased frustration and hopelessness on such a scale that ensuing social and political excitement could make tomorrow's world far less stable and secure than that of today. In Pakistan our youth are imbued with ambition, enthusiasm and commitment. They are, however, confronted with multi-dimensional socio-economic problems as well. The gravest and most detrimental among which has identified and agreed by experts in Pakistan are unemployment, inadequate access to basic education and high percentage of illiteracy; campus indiscipline; lack of quality vocational training opportunities; lack of recreational facilities; drug abuse; degradation of environment; population growth; lack of guidance and counseling.

Total Estimated Population (As on 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2004)	151.6 million
Labour Force	44.89 million
Employer Labour Force	41.18 million
Un Employed Labour Force	3.71 million
Labour Force Participation Rate	29.61 percent
Unemployment Rate	8.27 percent
Total Youth Population (15-29 years)	39.16 million
Employed Labour Force	16.04 million
Un Employed Labour Force	2.04million
Out of Labour Force	21.08

### **3. Policies and Programmes**

3.1 Youth is the most precious wealth of Pakistan. In a population of 150 millions the presence of 60 millions youth is a natural endowment for the development of country.

3.2 President General Pervez Musharraf, stressing upon the integral role of youth in national affairs, had summoned a nation-wide convention of university students sometime back in Islamabad. It is as a part of his policy that 2005 has been declared the year of the youth. In this context, the ministry

for youth affairs has framed a draft for national youth policy and has called upon the youth to submit their views on this document. The suggestions and proposals submitted by the youth, would thus be helpful in making the policy more effective and streamlining it with the demands of the day.

3.3 The Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz while addressing to the nation would emphasis to the empowerment of youth. It has been decided that the government will provide guarantee to banks for SME sector and loans worth Rs.6 billion to be provided. Vacancies in the government offices to be filled. Khushal Pakistan Programme will be launched again. Crash programme for technical and vocational training to impart skills to 300,000 unskilled people. Micro credit schemes to increase its out reach to 3.2 million families. Investment in every field of engineering, electronics, construction, computer, IT and biotechnology would be promoted. Small development schemes would be generated for income generation. Crash programme for technical and vocational training in collaboration with the private sector. Construction and housing sector will be boost to produce ample employment opportunities. Lady health visitors will be increased from 70,000 to one 100,000. Around 800,000 people in far off areas would be educated through adult education in five years. Government is also keen to boost manpower export, particularly young to other countries where there services are required.

3.4 The recent efforts of multi-donor multi-billion Social Action Program (SAP) have generated more controversy in regard to its efficacy and impact on social indicators. The program laid too much emphasis on measuring and monitoring inputs rather than the actual outcomes and thus distorted the management choices. More recently Pakistan has realized that exclusive dependence on public sector institutions to deliver the basic social services is fraught with high risks and danger of failure. Public-private-community partnership is now being recognized and practiced as the predominant mode for delivery of these services.

3.5 The devolution of financial and administrative powers to local governments is expected to enhance the effectiveness, out reach and access of basic services at the grass roots level. Monitoring and tracking systems are being put in place to gauge the progress on outcomes and effectiveness of delivery. A comprehensive package of educational reforms with medium term Education Sector Reforms (ESR) has been finalized and linked with the Devolution and Local Government Plan 2000 and SAP II restructuring.

3.6 A Task Force on Human Development has been established to identify best practices spell out the implementation modalities. The main planks of the ESR Action Plan are Universal Primary Education and 100% literacy and eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education. Fiscal restructuring and debt servicing relief will allow higher allocations of public expenditure for underpinning these strategies of education.

3.7 Private sector organizations particularly in labor intensive industries have to actively embark on literacy and training programs for upgrading the quality of their labor force. Knowledge based and technology intensive industries also need to be nurtured and facilitated by public policies such as investment in high quality professional, technical and higher education. It is encouraging that the Government has established a Task Force on Higher Education for preparing recommendations.

#### **4. Employment Programme Focused on Youth**

##### **i. Apprenticeship**

###### *Objectives:*

This programme was created in 1962 to give young jobseekers formal training with the country's industrial unit.

###### *Target Groups*

Young people looking for work.

###### *Institutional Base*

The Apprenticeship Ordinance was enacted in 1962 to make it compulsory for employers in the specific industries to engage apprentices in the portion of a minimum 20% of total number of persons employed.

###### *Scope of Programme*

- The training includes particle training and related thyroidal instruction necessary skill and proficiency in trade.

- The apprentices are to receive within the normal working hours related theoretical instructions to the extent of at least 20% of total working hours.

## **ii. National Volunteers**

### *Objectives:*

Promoting, developing and regulating systematic apprenticeship programme for educated persons to equip them for securing gainful employment.

### *Target Group:*

Young educated persons

### *Institutional Base:*

Partly financed and managed by the Government through a statutory fund created under the Act.

### *Scope of Programme:*

- To register every educated person seeking employment who has attained the age of 20 years and has not attained the age of 45 years.
- To place suitably qualified registered persons with establishment for filling regular vacancies and for on the job training or apprenticeship.
- To facilitate for placement abroad of persons willing to so placed.
- To provide assistance to train educated persons in obtaining finances from various financing agencies for setting up self managed projects.

### *Source of Funding:*

- a. Grants made by the Federal Government, a Provincial Government and local bodies;
- b. Contributions made by commercial and industrial establishments; and
- c. Income from other sources.

### **iii. Other Programmes**

Realizing the importance of youth the present government of Pakistan has taken several measures to involve the youth in national development and decision-making. In this regard voting age has been revised from 21 to 18 years. The condition of graduation has been imposed for the members of the National/Provincial Assemblies etc. Vocational Training Programme has been started and SME Bank and Khushali Bank for providing small loans for self-employment have been established. Some mega projects have been started/being started which are providing employment to the youth of the country.

The nutshell of above discussion is that the concerns of today's young people are heartfelt and urgent. In the next 25 years, two billion more people entering our planet will live in the developing world. We must set our priorities around their need for more opportunities, jobs, and social justice.