



# FACT SHEET

## Pakistan National Human Development Report 2017

### 'Unleashing the Potential of a Young Pakistan'

- **The Pakistan National Human Development Report finds that investments in the youth of the country are amongst the best investments that can be made in Pakistan's future.** The three most important investments that can be made to empower our youth are, (a) Quality Education; (b) Gainful Employment; and, (c) Meaningful Engagement.
- **Pakistan currently has the largest generation of young people ever recorded in its history.** 64 percent of the total population is below the age of 30, and 29 percent is between the ages of 15-29 years. It is currently one of the youngest countries in the world and the second youngest in the South Asian region after Afghanistan. A staggering 90 percent of the world's 1.8 billion young people live in less developed countries, with almost one fourth concentrated in South Asia. This raises critical questions for the future. Will Pakistan be, as some have argued, one of those countries to grow older, before it becomes richer?
- **This youth bulge presents a unique window of opportunity that needs to be translated into youth dividend before it is too late.** Pakistan's dependency ratios are much lower than in the previous century. This means there are more people in the working age (15 to 64), than there are those who are older (65 and above), or children (< 15 years). Current median age of 22.5 is expected to hover at around 31 years by 2050, beyond which, this window of opportunity will start to close for good.
- **A Pakistan-specific, Human Development Index (HDI) at the sub-national level clearly depicts wide differences in the state of choices and opportunities available for people.** Amongst the regions, Islamabad has the highest HDI at 0.875, followed by AJ&K with an HDI of 0.734; whereas FATA bears the lowest HDI at 0.216. Amongst the provinces, Punjab has the highest HDI at 0.732; whereas Balochistan has the lowest HDI at 0.421. Sindh and KP perform relatively better and fall in the medium human development category. Within districts, out of the top ten best performing districts, four belong to KP, three to Punjab, two to Sindh, and one to Balochistan, whereas, six of the ten worst performing districts belong to Sindh and four to Balochistan.
- **Variations in district representative Pakistan-specific HDI reveal that there are small pockets of high levels of human development in a country otherwise consisting of low-medium and medium levels.** For instance, Sindh and KP are both categorised as having a medium level of human development (Sindh HDI is 0.640, KP HDI is 0.628). However, majority of the districts in KP outperform those in Sindh.
- **The regions with the highest ranking in Pakistan Youth Development Index (YDI) are:** Azad Jammu and Kashmir (0.630), followed by eastern Punjab (0.6111), Islamabad (0.609) and northern Punjab (0.607). Regions with the lowest YDI are central (0.343), northern (0.380) and south-eastern (0.390) Balochistan, northern KP (0.360), and FATA (0.392).
- **Only 14 out of 195 countries spend less on education than Pakistan - 9 of these have a lower HDI ranking than Pakistan.** The National Education Policy 2009 required Pakistan to increase the expenditure on education to 7 percent of GDP by 2015, but the national education budget, while doubled over time, remains at 2.3 percent of the GDP. Pakistan spends 0.29 percent of GDP on research and development (R&D) - less than half the spending of other South Asian countries.
- **At the current net enrolment growth rate of 0.92 percent, it will take another 60 years to reach the target of 'zero out-of-school' children.** A staggering 9.45 million children at the primary level were estimated to be out of school in 2015. To achieve this goal by 2030, just over a decade away, Pakistan must increase its net enrolment ratio to a yearly growth of 3.8 percent.

- **Pakistan's increased education attainment levels have failed to reduce the socio-economic deprivation of a significant section of the population.** There are stark disparities in literacy levels across different divides in Pakistan - location, gender, and socio-economic status – particularly for vulnerable categories like women and rural dwellers. Most youth (76.9 percent) quit education and begin working for financial reasons. Many of these aspire for a second chance at education.
- **Merely getting children to school is not enough:** Providing them quality education relevant to the labour market skills is what will ensure high returns to investment in education.
- **Youth between 15-29 years make up 41.6 percent of Pakistan's total labour force (between 15-64 years).** In addition, almost 4 million youth attain working age every year in Pakistan. In order to absorb this populace into the job market - at the current participation and unemployment levels (5.8 percent), considering the number of retirees - Pakistan needs to create 4.5 million new jobs over the next 5 years (0.9 million jobs annually).
- **Along with increasing the quantity of jobs, it is equally essential to create quality employment opportunities for youth.** A large number of young people are currently working in poor quality jobs under deplorable conditions: 25 percent of young people are in unstable low paid jobs without any security or benefits and 35 percent are unpaid family workers, the majority of whom are women.
- **Negative perceptions of politics and politicians have not led to political disengagement among the youth, who are still eager to vote in the next election.** According to the National Youth Perceptions Survey (NYPS), only 24 percent of youth expressed trust in politicians, yet approximately 90 percent male and 55 percent female expressed their intention to vote in the 2018 elections.
- **Young people are eager to engage in community life yet have limited opportunities to do so.** The NYPS confirms that almost 90 percent of youth do not have access to recreational facilities such as libraries, cinemas and parks in their localities. 48 percent own a mobile, 15 percent have access to the internet, and 8 percent to radio, while at least 68 percent have access to TV. Despite that, access to information regarding youth development opportunities available in Pakistan, is still limited.
- **It is essential to include young people at all levels of social and development decision-making, because “voice and participation are a key part of the human development approach and important for long term policy-making”.** According to NYPS, 80 percent of females as compared to 60 percent of males felt they had no say regarding the most important decisions in their lives, such as marriage. Put simply, it is the youth who are the drivers of economic, social, institutional and political change. Their mental models are changing, and their aspirations are on the rise.



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