



Draft

National Youth Policy

**Ministry of Youth Affairs
Government of Pakistan
Islamabad.**

Foreword

Youth is defined as a period during which a person prepares himself/herself to be an active and fully, responsible member of the society. It is a period of transformation from family dependant childhood to independent adulthood and integration in the society as a responsible citizen. In Pakistan, Youth is defined as the population in the age group of 15 to 29 Years.

2. The period of life which youth represents is most productive and useful by virtue of the nascent energies they are endowed with by nature. The young people aspire for full participation in the life of a society. If appropriate opportunities are made available to put their natural endowment to creative, productive and useful channels, Pakistani Youth is indeed capable of working miracles.

3. Youth has played an acknowledged role in the creation of Pakistan. They continue to be vibrant and active and eager to contribute their due share in the progress and prosperity of the nation. Comprising of about 27% of population of Pakistan with even proportion of males and females, Pakistani Youth is invigorated with ambition, enthusiasms, dynamism and commitment to rise. Young people are a major human resource as well as agents for socio economic change, growth and developing entrepreneurship. They are the future of the country.

4. Recently, the Youth have been given the right to vote and the age limit has been brought down to 18 years. This has brought them in the main stream of National Life and show the faith of the nation in the capabilities of the youth in determining its destiny.

5. Given the importance of Youth to Pakistan's future, it is necessary to provide means and environments in which this invaluable human resource attains the optimal growth potential, equipped with the requisite character

strength and motivation to participate in the main stream of the practical life. The youth, as it discovers the world of practical life with curiosity, is also impressionable and, therefore, vulnerable to many diverse influences. It is necessary to mature and steer the development of youth in line with Islamic values, the ideology of Pakistan and the norms and aspiration of Pakistani society. To achieve this objective, a number of challenges being faced by the youth have to be addressed and opportunities opened up to them to unleash their energies.

6. Amongst the major challenges being confronted by the youth are un - employment/under - employment; lack of guidance for future careers; lack of hand holding upon entering the job market; lack of vocational training opportunities; decline of moral values; increasing violence; lack of health counseling and awareness; lack of recreational and sports facilities; lack of fora for competitions in literature, innovation and sports; drug abuse and limited or short sighter support to academic excellence and merit.

7. The National Youth Policy has been prepared to mainstream the youth, harness the talent and energies of youth and address the challenges being confronted by today's youth. This is a dynamic document which will be suitably adjusted as more experience is gained and the realities on ground change with time. A number of Ministries and Organizations are already working in various areas related to youth. This policy aims at integrating their programmes and provide overall sense of direction consistent with the needs of the country. Efforts have been made to build on the existing programmes and avoid the tendency to reinvent the wheel. The Ministry of Youth Affairs will essentially play, a catalytic and coordinating role besides undertaking specific programmes and projects to supplement the overall efforts. The success of this Policy will depend upon the commitment and zeal of all the stakeholders whether in public or private sector. This is an investment which will pay rich dividends to

humanity in general and Pakistanis in particular for all times to come and I am optimistic that all the stakeholders will rise to this immense opportunity. I am also confident of the capabilities and the talent of the Pakistani Youth and am sure that they will do their best to build a strong, prosperous and vibrant Pakistan.

..... 2007.

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STRUCTURE OF THE POLICY DOCUMENT.

The document is structured such that it first lays down the “Principles of National Youth Policy” followed by a “Plan of Action” for each principle stated in the Policy and an “Institutional Implementation Plan” to implement the Policy.

PRINCIPLES OF THE POLICY

The thrust of the National Youth Policy is to enable the Youth of Pakistan to become proud Pakistanis, good citizens and to prepare them for income generation in their practical life and secure the future of Pakistan. The Principles of National Youth Policy are given below:

1. **Motivation, Awareness and Sense of Pride.**

- (a) Inculcate a sense of pride by creating awareness about our history, heritage and achievements.
- (b) To expose youth to works and examples of high achievers in the world in various walks of life and to instill a passion to excel and achieve excellence.
- (c) Develop amongst the youth an international outlook, a desire to compete, an insight into other cultures and desire to learn lessons from achievements and errors of others.

2. **Character Building**

Inspire the youth Islamic values, ideology of Pakistan, sense of good citizenship, respect for basic human values and high standards of morality.

3. **National Integration**

Promote national integration, harmony, mutual friendship, understanding and social interactions.

4. **Promotion of Sports and Recreation:**

Patronize sports and recreation activities, sports competition, expansion of sports facilities at all administrative levels and their proper sustenance.

5. **Academic and Intellectual Development.**

Take steps to promote scholarship, enhance availability and access to academic material, participation in conferences and undertake talent farming programmes.

6. **Enabling Employment**

(a) **Skill Development**

To enhance employment of generation, existing programmes for technical training and internship in respect of its scope, spread and reach in the country in line with the need of the economy and international market.

(b) **Entrepreneurships**

Assist and support the youth in self-employment business and start up of new companies/ventures.

(c) **Micro Finance**

Provide financial resources for small scale income generation ventures.

7. **Youth Health**

Create awareness above responsible and safe behaviour and provide counseling and guidance facilities.

8. **Social Volunteerism**

Youth will be encouraged to undertake voluntary social service.

9. **Incentives for Talented and High Performing Youth**

Talented and high performing youth will be given recognition reward and incentive at the national level.

10. **Youth Marriage**

Facilitating the youth in the formation of family on a sustainable basis.

11. **Youth Mentoring**

Supporting and guiding the youth in identifying their potentials, overcoming their failures, adopting the traits of good citizens and boosting their morale for high achievements in life.

PLAN OF ACTION

A number of Ministries and institutions in Pakistan are already engaged in various programmes benefiting the youth. The National Youth Policy aims at creating a youth centric focus by integrating and coordinating the programmes of various Ministries and institutions and provide overall guidance to develop the Pakistani youth to meet the challenges of the future in building Pakistan. The Plan of Action proposed in pursuance of the Policy, thus, builds upon the existing infrastructure and programmes besides additional programmes and dimensions wherever necessary. The plan of action for each point of National Youth Policy is described below:-

1. Youth Motivation, Awareness and Sense of Pride:

It is proposed to reinforce a sense of pride of being Pakistani, motivate the youth for achievement of excellence, learn from national and international icons and to be aware of the development in the world. Accordingly the Plan focuses on :

- (a) Arranging discussions, meetings, conventions etc., preparation of documentaries and dissemination through media, educational institutions and other communication channels, the achievements of our heroes in various walks of lives, richness of our culture, monuments, our traits and traditions. These may include stories of inventions, bravery, culture, traditions of society, justice, landmark projects, adventures and our natural endowments etc.

- (b) Arranging national and international visits to see various areas, monuments, museums dwellings, cities of historical importance, world renowned facilities, universities etc. and participate in national and international events.
- (c) Interaction with Pakistani and international corporate, leaders, researchers, academicians, social workers and other icons through visits, meetings, seminars, chat programmes, video conferences, other means of mutual exchanges.
- (d) Enable interaction with high achievers and icons on the pattern of the initiative taken by Higher Education Commission and Pakistan Services Foundation by arranging interaction with Nobel Laureates.

2. Character Building

The programmes for character building of youth envisage:

- Propagation of Islamic values, Ideology of Pakistan, norms of good citizenship and human values.
- TV/Radio/media programmes and talk shows, competitions and discussions involving the youth and elders.
- Films, dramas advertisement and documentaries etc. leading to good moral lessons.

3. National Integration:

Promote national integration and harmony amongst the youth from various walks of life in the country. These bonds created at a young age will go a long way to nourish future relationships. Programmes to include:

- **See Pakistan visits:** Participants from all over the country would be invited to come together for organized visits to various areas. The participants will live and get together as they see sites of historical importance, explore the life, history and natural endowments and meet leaders in various walks of life. These programmes will be based on selection of youth on merit from various regions of the country so that the objective of cross cultural learning is achieved.
- **See city tours,** cause local administration to run special transport on week-ends to conduct city visits to expose youth to different parts of the city they live in.
- **Arrange national youth conventions** where various cultural, social competitive events are held. Corporations and leading companies will be invited to set up stalls to exhibit their products and business practices giving the youth an opportunity to interact with them and build relations.
- **Arrange country-wide tours and run youth trains.** Provide concession on railway tickets to youth during the period of summer vacations of June to September to promote excursion travel.
- **Arrange in-cities tours** on quarterly basis to enable visits of students in local institutions to venues of interest, museums and monuments etc. For this purpose resources will be made available through Ministry of Youth Affairs to public sector educational institutions, to undertake such activities. Ministry of Youth Affairs will promote these efforts.
- **Arrange interschool, inter college and inter universities debates and conventions etc.** To promote such activities, Ministry of Youth Affairs will provide resources to public sectors.
- **Facilitate student camping/lodging facilities** in premises of selected educational institutions during summer period to facilitate

low cost tours. For this purpose a scheme of “back pack” lodging will be launched in cooperation with educational institutions.

- **Cause or construct youth hostels** in various cities and tourist spots in the country for providing decent and economical accommodation for youth to facilitate their visits. Also establish relations with the members of international youth associations and travel agents.

4. Promotion of Sports and Recreation

The plan of action for the promotion of sports and recreational facilities is as follows:

- Distinguished persons such as President, Prime Minister, Ministers, Nazims, leading icons in society, corporate leaders and other known personalities to become patrons of sports organizations in urban and rural areas.
- Arrange competitive events at all administrative levels.
- Ensure proper media coverage and appreciation of the sports activities.
- Enhance training for various sports through training centers, schools and educational institutions and media.
- Enable expansion of sports facilities, play grounds, proper maintenance and sustenance of the sports facilities.

5. Academic and Intellectual Development

Pakistan has no dearth of hard-working and talented youth. Given the opportunity, they can rise to the highest ranks in academic and intellectual pursuits. Many talented students, however, are handicapped because of lack of financial support, compromise on merit, limited

opportunities, ignorance about opportunities and lack of availability or access to books, literature and other academic resources. To promote young academics to pursue excellence, the programmes include:

- Enhancing the availability of scholarships to carry out studies at higher secondary, under graduate and graduate levels in country and abroad. A special emphasis will be given for scholarships at higher secondary and under graduate levels to dovetail with a similar programme being run by Higher Education Commission.
- Starting and augmenting programmes for educational loans and “Qarz-e-Hasna” for students who do not get merit scholarships for studies both in Pakistan and abroad. These loans can be advanced by the Governments and banks.
- Special funds will be created to facilitate participation of young students and professionals in conferences in-country and abroad.
- In order to prepare students for getting admissions for the world renowned institutions at under graduate and graduate levels, special tutorials and guidance sessions would be arranged on internet and various local institutions would be encouraged to run trainings on subsidized rates.
- Books and research and development materials and facilities would be made available to the young researchers through internet access, libraries, book banks or book loaning programmes.

6. Enabling Employment

There is a great need to enhance the existing programmes of skill development and vocational training in the country as it has a tremendous potential to provide employment to our youth in rural and urban areas as well as the job market abroad. The plan of action envisages:

(a) Skill Development and Vocational Training

- It is proposed to carry out an assessment of the demand/ requirements and capacity of the skills development facilities in the country. Based on this assessment technical and skill development programmes will be enhanced. It is proposed that existing schools may be inducted in this programme and a substantial number of schools in public and private sector may start regular evening and weekend programmes for skill development and technical training for which funds would be provided by the Federal and Provincial Governments.
- National and international job market analysis would be carried out to identify the requirements of skills in various target markets and our youth be trained in the relevant fields. Besides, support will be extended to our youth to seek jobs and placements locally and in foreign markets.
- Vocational Training Institutes in the country will update curriculum in accordance with current requirements and job-opportunities in the Agriculture/ Industrial and Services sectors and prepare a phased expansion

programme of such training facilities in rural/ urban areas keeping in view regional considerations regarding youth population, prevailing skill-levels, and unemployment.

- Specialized institutions for providing training in area specific needs will be opened e.g. training of agriculture labour, maintenance of agriculture implements, agriculture businesses, agriculture practices in agricultural areas. Similarly training to support tanneries, fans, cutlery, garments industries in relevant industrial areas etc.
- Establish and encourage local crafts based youth enterprises for income-generation at village and urban-neighbourhood level and provide professional assistance for marketing of such enterprise products.
- Institute a programme of certification of informally acquired skills by technicians and workers to enable them acquire suitable jobs and financing.

(b) **Entrepreneurship**

- Our youth is inspired with new ideas but are usually handicapped because of lack of resources to experiment these ideas and develop these to enter the market. To mitigate risks in new ventures, its is necessary that the risk of trying bright ideas be underwritten by entrepreneurs and our talent is given a chance to succeed. For this purpose the programme envisages creation of a **youth venture capital fund** to support new developments and implementation of new ideas. This

fund can be subscribed by government, entrepreneurs, corporations, donors, beneficiaries etc.

- Creation of small incubator offices equipped with all office facilities for young graduates so that they may work in these incubators to polish up their ideas and implement to venture activities. Such incubators may be set up in universities.
- To facilitate and guide young entrepreneurs regarding procedures for opening of new companies and provide legal advice as needed.
- Arrange entrepreneurship and training programme to enable youth to learn from existing enterprises and the companies. Learn the art of making business plans and selling it to the venture capital and other funds.
- Enhance the outreach of programmes of Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency (SMEDA).
- Guide and train youth to do business, to innovate and expand business.
- Guide and train small and poor service providers to grow from small occupations into large enterprise.
- Create respect for poor and small entrepreneurship (rag to riches empowerment).

(c) **Micro - Finance**

- Provide financial resources/loans to increase access of poor/low income family youths to training institutions and facilitate those seeking self-employment.
- Expansion of micro finance sector in terms of outlets, products and access by the young.

- Create a centralized “Information-System/Data base” on job opportunities for Youth in public and private sector to guide and counsel job-seeking youth.

(d) **Internships, On Campus Job and job placements.**

- Expand and improve national internship programme.
- In addition to Government programme, require large organizations, companies and enterprises to provide internship opportunities equal to at least 5% of their sanctioned/approved strength of officers to young people/graduates with stipends equal to or more than the Government programme.
- Require all universities to provide on campus jobs equal to at least 5% of their full time student population.
- Encourage all universities to set up offices for awaiting graduates in job placements. The government may also support programmes for job counseling and placement services.

7. **Youth Health**

- Extension and upgradation of physical and mental health, public health, preventive health care and population welfare and rehabilitation care facilities, would be undertaken for the benefit of young people in addition to inculcation of healthy practices amongst them.
- Awareness and preventive campaigns and programmes would be launched against drug abuse, smoking, HIV/AIDS, communicable diseases, nutritional imbalance, accidental injuries, psychological and mental illnesses and environmental hazards and problems. Community Youth Health Committees and confidential counseling help line would also be established for the purpose.

8. **Social Volunteerism**

- A National Youth Volunteer Corps will be promoted to utilize youth human resource and potential mobilized and motivated through incentives to assist in practical work for the Social and Economic Development of the country. Areas of youth volunteer activity will cover all vital sectors, from Social Security, Health, Education, Environment, Gender, Sports; and community uplift. Using existing volunteer activity in the country the programme will be based on methodology, principles and best practices adopted internationally and acquire necessary foreign professional expertise to establish and help this vital initiative gain initial momentum.
- Pakistan Boy Scouts / Girl Guides Association will be invigorated to activate the work and ethos of these organizations at grass root level in educational institutions and at community - level.

9. **Incentives for Talented and High Performing Youth.**

A merit and competition based **National Youth Award** will be instituted. For this purpose nominations will be solicited from various institutions as well as through national advertisements. These awards will be given in the fields of academics, social work, outstanding achievements of national importance, inventions, innovations, bravery, dedication, profession, Art and Culture etc. An elaborate system of selection on merit will be devised so that the deserving candidates, irrespective of their social background (poor, rich, rural, urban, political, family status etc) are selectors.

10. **Youth, Marriage**

- Facilitating the youth in the formation of family on a sustainable basis.
- Facilitating marriage through providing the necessary financial resources and accredited counseling services.
- Providing necessary life skills for youth through university and school curriculum in order to make youth capable of coping with their problems in the early years of marriage.
- Raising the youth awareness of genuine Islamic tradition and values in the realm of family.

11. **Youth Mentoring**

- Strengthening the institution of family to provide guidance to youth.
- Educate parents, senior citizens, teachers, professionals in the art of mentoring and guiding young people.
- Promoting and encouraging youth counseling centers in universities, hospitals, large enterprises etc.

1. National Youth Council

The plan of action cuts across many disciplines. A number of Ministries, Provincial Departments, organizations, NGOs, various International Donors, Philanthropists, corporate bodies, NGOs and CBOs are already engaged in various disciplines envisaged in the plan of action. The implementation of the plan will thus heavily rely on the existing institutions. Essentially it will require these institutions to pay specific attention to youth development by enhancing and augmenting existing programmes, capacity building and increased financing **in consonance with the National Youth Policy**. To create synergy, harmony and increased coordination in programmes of various institutions, **a National Youth Council** will be set up under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister with the Chief Minister of the Provinces, Governor of NWFP, Chief Executive Northern Areas, alongwith the Minister Incharge of Youth Affairs as its members. The Ministry of Youth Affairs will form its Secretariat. The main function of this council will be to give impetus to harmonious implementation of National Youth Policy, monitoring of performance and to provide overall guidance. For operational coordination with all stakeholders and leadership and **Executive Committee of the National Youth Council** will be formed under the Secretary, Youth Affairs Division.

2. National Youth Fund

It is also proposed to create a National Youth Fund with the support of international donors, corporate bodies, banks, philanthropists and some seed money from the government for giving scholarships for undergraduate students

for education abroad in the world best universities to be selected on merit through GRE/SAT/TOEFEL Programmes and to provide resources for new initiatives and projects/programmes. The fund be managed by a Board of Governors comprising of seven large subscribers to the fund besides, a representative of international donors and three nominees of the Government. Its details charter, rules and organizational structure be finalized by the Board of Governors.

3. Ministry of Youth Affairs will play the role of a catalyst coordinator and enabler for implementation of National Youth Policy. The Ministry will develop liaison with public sector organizations, media, corporate sector, civil society and various international donors to support the implementation of National Youth Policy. It will chalk out programmes for youth motivation, awareness, promotion of national integration, enablement for income generation and undertake various studies through consultants in pursuance of the policy. In cooperation with the Ministries/organizations concerned, Provinces corporate bodies, civil society and with the guidance of the National Youth Council, the Ministry will also undertake/support the following programme as described in Plan of Action:

- See Pakistan visits.
- Weekly See city tours
- National Youth Conventions.

- Quarterly students visits to city museums, monuments etc.
- “Back – Pack” lodging at youth hostels.
- Sports training centers.
- Youth centers.
- Scholarships and Qarz-e-Hasna programmes.
- Book bank.
- Youth Railway Concession.
- Vocational and skill development trainings and internship programmes.
- Entrepreneurship, venture capital/youth funds and innovation development incubators.
- Youth health programmes and counseling help lines.
- Social volunteerism and
- National Youth Awards.

4. Besides, a number of inter-provincial inter-district and inter-tehsil events will be arranged by the Provinces. Special programmes of similar nature as mentioned at paragraph 3 above will be undertaken by Government AJK, Northern Areas and FATA.

5. It is recommended that the Provinces, Government of AJK, Northern Areas and FATA may strengthen their departments dealing with Youth Affairs.

6. A corporate and philanthropist fraternity will be formed to benefit from their support in implementation of the Policy. Special relations will be cultivated with the civil society and foreign donors who are keen to play a role in the support of Youth NGOs will be inducted in delivery of Youth centric programmes.