

A photograph showing the spines of several books in a library. The books are arranged on shelves, and the focus is on the spines, which are slightly blurred to create a sense of depth. The colors of the spines vary, including shades of brown, blue, and white.

ILLUME (Jan-Apr, 2019)

YOUTH
EMPOWERMENT

Editor: Maria Qibtia

EDITORIAL

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Youth are the building blocks of a nation. The role of the youth in the nation-building occupies the central place. The countries which utilize their youth in as right direction are more developed. The energy and brightness of minds of youth act as torch-bearer for a nation. Pakistan's talented youngsters has started to bring in more innovations and unique ideas in various field of life. Now one can notice Pakistani youth contributing in all the spheres of life across Pakistan. From education to films, to arts to medicine, to engineering to politics; one would not find a place where these young talented people are not functioning. Every day they bring in new ideas such as Street Art Competitions, Sports Events, Debates, Magazines, Public Relations and the list goes on.

All this glory of youth entails high appreciation and salutation from all the professions. It is encouraging to note that

Government of Pakistan is also truly taking up youth development at policy levels and enabling youth through various development programs. HRDN on its part has also raised the voice by its dedicated efforts to bring youth on front line. To start with, HRDN has focused on the Women folk for this quarter.

In this very edition of Illume, keeping in view the importance of above mentioned topic 'Youth Empowerment', focus being on Womenfolk, we have tried our level best to give opportunity to the Young Emerging Women leaders to express their ideas through their articles and messages. This quarter's Illume also includes regular activities of HRDN and a brief message for youth from a Government dignitary.

We will be waiting for your feedback and suggestions at maria.qibtia@hrdn.net

Happy reading ☺

YOUTH- KEY AGENTS FOR DEVELOPMENT & PEACE

By: Javeria Ijaz (YWLC Alumni)

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"The world now has the largest generation of young people in history. I place great hope in their power to shape our future."

These were the words of United Nations Secretary-General 'Ban Ki-moon' at an event on Demographic Dividend and Youth Employment which was held at UN Headquarters in New York.

Today's world is having about 1.8 billion people as its young population that corresponds to a staggering amount of human potential. This world can be made a peaceful and developed place to live in with a more just and sustainable future by using the potential and skills of its young population.

And the building block in attaining this is nothing else but "Youth Empowerment".

Youth empowerment is basically the process by which young people gain the abilities to make decisions for themselves and then the implementation of those decisions in their lives as well as for others for the sole purpose of utmost betterment of the world or of their respective regions.

Youth empowerment is to make the young people capable of utilizing their skills in a

manner that they can get to the best of it, to enable them to play their respective roles in different fields of practical life, to get them involved in activism and to make the utmost use of their fresh ideas and innovative minds, to prepare them to lead the world in the best way possible.

We are living an era of large young population but we have the majority of the youth living in the developing regions of the world. The sub-region of South Asia is home to a very large portion of the world's young people. This situation intensifies the need of youth empowerment to not let the young potential go waste.

Mr. Ban Ki-moon, in the same event further said,

"We all appreciate the massive waste of human capital in our world when 74 million young people cannot find work."

These two particular statements by Mr. Ban shows that despite of having a large generation of young people containing potential, we cannot make use of this potential to its best due to a number of problems.

The world is a home to 1.8 billion young people but to its utmost unfortune, most of

the youth of the world is trapped in poverty with few opportunities to show their potential in different fields of practical life. Lack of education, fewer opportunities, poverty and many other factors prevent the youth from stepping forward to address the world issues.

These issues preventing the youth to play its necessary part in world development issues need to be resolved to get the youth on forefront. This is why "Youth Empowerment" is today's world's utmost need.

To increase the investment in young people, to promote education among the youth, to provide the youth with employment opportunities, to make sure the involvement of the youth in decision making that are going to affect them, to enable them to learn, to make them able to earn a decent living is the essence of the very idea of youth empowerment.

The impact of youth empowerment can make a huge difference in economic growth. When there are more young people into work force, with less dependents and more working-age people, they can make an acceleration into economic growth. Empowering youth and providing them with employments is the key towards achievement of a healthy economic growth of any country.

Empowering young girls is equally essential as the girls make more than half of the youth population. Empowering women and girls and ensuring their sexual and reproductive health would enable them to contribute their respective part.

In many western countries of the world, the median age is 40. But throughout the Arab

world, the median age is under 30. In Jordan, it is 22. This is something what the demographers call "youth bulge" and this bulge is a direct source of not only the development of financial prosperity but for positive social changes.

By working on the process of youth empowerment, young men and women can bring new energy, creativity and dynamism to labor markets, to diplomacy and to international relations.

For a better future of the world, UN agencies are working on three fronts regarding youth empowerment,

Firstly, UN has started engaging with young people by directing number of programmes and initiatives at young men and women.

Secondly, UN is providing global tools to help young people find decent jobs. It empowers them to become job creators.

Thirdly, UN has passed resolutions to bring young people right to the heart of global diplomacy.

This clearly depicts that the world's nations have their eye on youth empowerment that we are in dire need of.

I'll be winding up my article by highlighting the impacts of youth empowerment that this world now tend to achieve by working on the very process:

Poverty eradication: Youth empowerment will result in the development of skills in the young people. These skills can be utilized by them to feed themselves, to assist others and even invest for future use, aiding the nation economically.

Good education standard: Empowerment can help youth to understand the importance of education that leads to social improvement of the country.

Good governance: With the inculcation of youth empowerment, the youth can reject the status quo and pave a path for a better future.

Crime reduction: Empowerment ensures that youth has the necessary skill to sustain

a livelihood, preventing them to adopt the path of crime.

"Young people should be at the forefront of global change and innovation. **Empowered, they can be the key agents for development and peace.** Let us all ensure that all young people have every opportunity to participate fully in the lives of their societies."

EMPOWERING YOUTH

“IF NOT NOW, IT NEVER WILL BE”

By: Ms. Zarmina Penazai (YWLC Alumni)

M.Phil. Educational Leadership and Management
University of Management & Technology, Lahore



Youth empowerment is a process of giving authority to young people in making decisions and implementing change in society and to succeed in life. A nation's hope is its young members. They can change the future of society with their behavior and attitude. Youth empowerment can help transform the economy and strengthen a nation. Politically empowered youth can hone future leaders in making. Pakistan with one of the largest number of the young population needs to invest in youth empowerment to enhance the livelihood of its people and making them conscientious about themselves and the world. Representation of youth in the parliament as its members will give them a voice and a means to alleviate their problems.

Education has been recognized globally as the most important and fundamental human right. Empowering youth through quality education and vocational training is the key to a sustainable economy and social change. Providing equal opportunities for both men and women in education increases their self-esteem and confidence to choose and explore their own interests. Encouraging them to choose their own careers and field of profession for which they have aptitude rather than the choices imposed on them by family or society.

For building a healthy nation, it is essential to empower them mentally, physically and emotionally. Instigation of easily accessible

and affordable health care facilities will instill health consciousness in youth. Sport are an important part of a healthy lifestyle; active participation in sports decreases the risk of unemployed youth indulging in substance abuse. This need can be catered by building sports academies and complexes in towns and cities all over the country. Academic pressure is shoving students to suicides, and the unremitting problem of increasing suicide rate is alarming. They are in a dire need of mental health awareness programs at all levels to help them cope with academic stress and other matters related to mental health. Peace in a country and environment free from terrorism will exert constructive effects on the health of young citizens. Youth with Mental stability can participate as active members of society.

Our Youth is being subjected to sexual harassment and sexual abuse, the rationale behind the intensification of this heinous crime is the silence of victims because they do not have awareness related to the crime and fighting back the molester. Women in Pakistan make up more than 50% of its population, but still, they cannot speak up against sexual harassment. From homes to institutions this issue has always been considered a taboo. It needs to be addressed instantaneously on social and institutional forums to make youth, specifically women aware of their rights in a patriarchal society.

Climate change is a global challenge and Youth around the world is genuinely concerned about it, they know the younger generations will be facing its consequences in greater intensity than older generations. We as a nation are not as much aware and apprehensive about climate change. Our youth must actively participate in addressing climate change to secure their future. The government should employ its youth for introducing sustainable development campaigns and projects on school, colleges and universities and at community level.

These campaigns will educate and give awareness to the common man and upcoming younger generations about taking care of the environment and nonrenewable resources.

It's now time to sow the seeds of empowerment with proper delegation of resources, facilities and environment so that we can reap its harvest in years to come. If it is not now, it never will be.

MESSAGE FOR YOUTH OF PAKISTAN

By
Mr. Zulfi Bukhari- Minister
Ministry of Overseas Pakistani and Human
Resource (OPHR)



“Youth of Pakistan is not less skilled, innovative and proficient than others who belong to any part of world, considering if they get fair opportunity to explore themselves. If we take an example of Dubai, It has been developed by Youth of Pakistan; entire digitalization of Dubai is dependent on our youth. Our Youth is our greatest strength; but if it’s not nourished in proper manner it can become a liability as well because, for nation like us the frustration created in youth is becoming our biggest challenge. I just want to ensure our Youth that they should not get apprehensive as the present government’s mandate is to empower them for better Pakistan, **the Pakistan which belongs to them not to us**”.

MESSAGES BY YOUNG WOMEN EMERGING LEADER

Wazia Rafiq Jhang, Punjab

The most powerful manifestation of youth and women empowerment is their economic independence which is a key factor in making Pakistan a more inclusive, tolerant and progressive state. I am glad that Organizations like HRD Network are playing excellent role in fostering the ideas pertaining to mainstreaming youth and women.

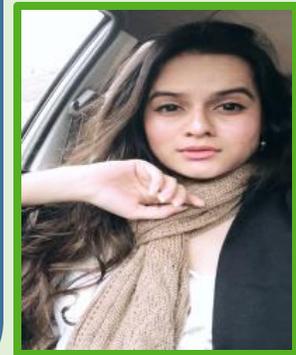


Suleha Kamal YWLC Alumni

Gender equality is not just a women's issue, it is a human issue. It is time we realize the fact that here in Pakistan we should support a more equal vision of leadership in the next Generation. The only way to do this is to start early, at the school level.

Faiza Badar Abbasi YWLC Alumni

The Day when you know where you lack; the day when people consider you a failure but deep inside they are inspired is the day when your path towards success initiates. Explore your vision and do hard work to an extent that you start believing that winning is the game of continuous struggle and that spirit makes you successful.



Zahra Zebakht Ali Khan Abbottabad

The fact that we are waking up to the idea of providing young women a platform to actually enable them to bring completion to their latent leadership qualities is something that needs to be not only praised but also encouraged. Pakistan can really climb to the next level with all the talented young women out there contributing to its development.

OUR MEGA EVENT

Young Women Leadership Conference

April 1-2, 2019
At National Library and Aiwan-e-Sadr

Here are the highlights of 1st Young Women Leadership Conference (YWLC) 2019, which is initiated to become a hallmark event of the Human Resource Development Network (HRDN) to put forward the challenges and opportunities for young women at district level directly before the authorities.

A 2-day Young Women Leadership Conference (YWLC) was designed and implemented by the Human Resource Development Network (HRDN) on 1st and 2nd April 2019, held at prestigious venues of Islamabad such as National Library of Pakistan and Aiwan-e-Sadr (President House) respectively and was followed by a visit to Parliament and a meet up session with members of National Assembly. The first lady Mrs. Samina Alvi inaugurated the event at the National Library and Honorable President of Pakistan Mr. Arif Alvi presided the 2nd day at Ainwan-e-Sadr. Guest speakers for day 1 were MNA Ms. Noreen Ibrahim, MNA Ms. Saima Nadeem, Ms. Maliha Hussain CEO Mehergarh and Ms. Robeela Bangash CEO-HRDN. Whereas on day 2, guest speakers included Ms. Sana Mir Former Captain Pakistan Women Cricket Team, Mr. Muhammad Qazalbash Country Representative OXFAM International, Ms. Robeela Bangash CEO-HRDN and Mr. Roomi S. Hayat Chairperson HRDN.

Mr. Qasim Suri, Deputy Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan was the chief guest for the Parliament session and respectable parliamentarians like Ms. Noreen Ibrahim, Ms. Saima Nadeem, Ms. Munawarra Bibi, Ms. Nosheen Hamid, Ms. Zille Huma and Senator Seemi Ezdi were the guest speakers.

157 participants were selected from all districts of Pakistan on the basis of good citizenship at their educational institute, demonstrated interest in or potential for leadership, and exhibited interest in helping others and/or volunteering in school or community. The conference



included substantive interaction for the participants with HRDN representatives as well as government and non-government agents; along with experiential learning sessions, enabling delegates to have formal and informal opportunities to network with each other and to develop collaborative relationships to persist even after the conference's conclusion.

HRDN now plans to organize this event annually in order to commemorate the International Women's Day. This initiative is aimed at identifying 1 leader from each district of Pakistan hence, supporting 157 girls to enhance their leadership skills, community activism, and networking, through connecting them with right mentors and resources each year.

The overall goal of the conference was to develop the ability of young women from all districts of Pakistan, to serve as change agents to address various social, economic and political issues; and to ensure that emerging leaders see each other as partners in solving different challenges.



ON-THE-JOB TRAINING FOR DAFI SCHOLARS

DAFI Plus Program

Jan-Apr 2019

DAFI Plus Program was a four months project commissioned by the GIZ- Pakistan Office to support and facilitate the cause of DAFI scholars to acquire experience of the formal job market in relevance to their academic qualification. The specific program objectives of the DAFI Plus project for HRDN were as follows:

- To identify On-Job Training opportunities for DAFI Scholars and ensure placement for 125 DAFI Scholars with relevant employers for and in alignment with their academic qualifications and geographical preference.
- Capacity building of DAFI scholars in order to increase their chances of employability in the formal job-sector.
- To advocate the access of qualified/skilled Afghan refugee youth to the formal job market through corresponding and contracting relevant industry stakeholders, i.e. recruiting firms, employers etc.

A number of activities were carried out from the outset as the project took off from the day the project team was taken on board by mid-December 2018 till its successful completion in the second fortnight of April, 2019. Few of the activities carried out during this period are as follows:

- Hiring of recruiters in Islamabad, Peshawar and Quetta
- Orientation Training for DAFI scholars
- Placement of DAFI scholars Islamabad (48), Peshawar (42), Quetta (33) and Karachi (2)
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Establishment of DAFI plus Facebook and Whatsapp group
- Social evenings with DAFI scholars



THEMATIC FORUMS

An interactive talk on 'Effects of Air Quality on Human Health'

Wednesday-April 24th, 2019

By: Mr. Gabriel M. Filippelli

Director, Center for Urban Health

Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, US



Climate change, a global issue with regional and national impact, has emerged as a significant challenge contributing to diverse aspects of national security. Due to climate change and pollution, we are surrounded by bad air quality. Bad air takes years from people's lives, NO2 emissions from vehicles cause 10% of global asthma deaths and most importantly poor air quality decreases cognitive function. Stronger the air science is, the clearer health impacts would be. However actions matters a lot. Here in Pakistan, the Government and regulations, voluntary industrial participation and compliance reporting, education and outreach have called an action for calculating it's responsible factors but the importance of engaging communities in identifying problems and formulating solutions are often overlooked, which needs to be incorporated.

Comprehending the importance of effects of air quality on human health HRD Network, in collaboration with American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS), organized an interactive talk on the said topic which was delivered by Dr. Gabriel M. Filippelli, Director, Center for Urban Health, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), Indiana, US as lead speaker. The interactive talk was attended by the development practitioners working directly or indirectly on the projects related to combating climate change in Pakistan.

Networking Session with Media Persons

Wednesday-16 January, 2019

HRD Network organized "Networking Session with Media Persons". The session included significant inputs from print & electronic media which would be taken as a guideline for enhancing media visibilities and to increase digital outreach of HRD Network on social and main stream media at large.



Networking Session with Media Persons

NETWORKING MEETINGS

Being a network, we always focus on expanding the visibility of our work. For the said purpose, in every quarter, HRDN team and CEO, network with various representatives of government, donor agencies and sponsors/partners. In this quarter networking meetings with following officials were held:



Meeting with President of Pakistan, Mr. Arif Alvi.



Meeting with Mr. Shahrayar Afridi, Minister of Interior.



Meeting with Mr. Usman Dar, Special Advisor to PM on Youth Affairs.



Meeting with Mr. Shafqat Mehmood, Federal Minister for Federal Education & Professional Training.



Meeting with Ms. Zubaida Jalal, Federal Minister for Defense Production .



Meeting with Mr. Zulfi Bukhari, Minister Overseas Pakistani and Human Resource (OPHR).



Meeting with British Council Team to explore future collaborative opportunities.



Meeting with Head of the Mission, Embassy of Czech Republic for Annual Trainers' Retreat.



Program on Young Women Leadership Conference at Radio Pakistan.



Meeting with UNDP Team

Meeting with UNDP Team to discuss future initiatives regarding Youth Empowerment.



Project Manager LSP Ms. Romina Kochius and CEO HRDN Ms. Robeela Bangash during the MoU Signing Ceremony of GIZ-Labor Standard Program (LSP).

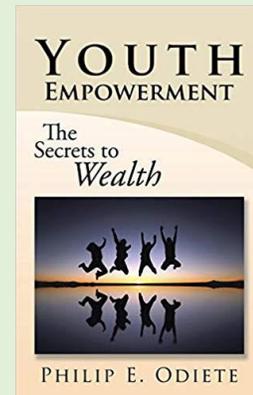
BOOK REVIEWS

Books are like heavenly presented inspirations which awakens your minds and souls to new dimensions and also positions your personality about the rusty old concepts, books are indeed food for thought and soul and cherishes its existence in the hands and eyes of the reader. Few recommended books on the topic of this edition are:

Youth Empowerment: The Secrets to Wealth

By: Philip E. Odiete

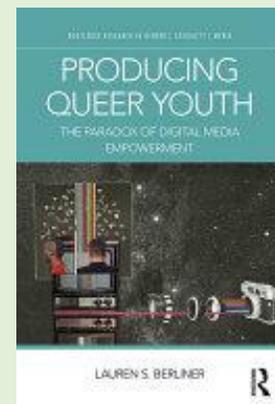
Youth Empowerment: The Secrets to Wealth is a motivational and inspirational book that tackles the adversaries that revolves around our mind and moral and physical world. Though the title says 'Youth' the book is meant for every rational man regardless of their ages. It is a book written for a single purpose, which is building your ego and your aspiration.



Producing Queer Youth: The Paradox of Digital Media Empowerment

By: Lauren S. Berliner

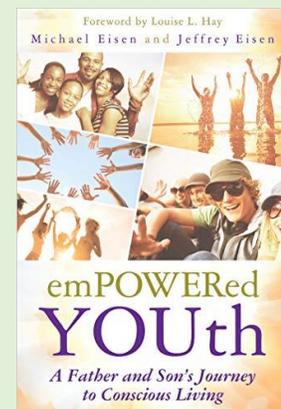
Producing Queer Youth challenges popular ideas about online media culture as a platform for empowerment, cultural transformation, and social progress. Examining youth media practices within broader communication history and critical media pedagogy, Berliner forwards an approach to media production that re-centers the process of making as the site of potential learning and social connection. Ultimately, she reframes digital media participation as a struggle for—rather than, in itself, evidence of—power.



Empowered YOUth: A Father and Son's Journey to Conscious Living

By: Micheal Eisen & Jeffrey Eisen

Heartfelt story of Michael and Jeffrey Eisen who rose up from a tumultuous, emotional past to come together in a loving, respectful relationship as father and son; coach and student. Through this engaging narrative they help deconstruct the paradigms and beliefs that contribute to anxiety, stress and unrest within the family unit. They provide a refreshing perspective on how parents and kids can work together to empower and support one another by opening the channels of communication, dissolving fear and surrendering the need for control. Empowered YOUth will leave readers feeling hopeful, passionate and optimistic.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sr No.	Activity	Tentative date
1	21st Annual Trainers' Retreat (ATR) to Czech Republic and Hungary	June 8 th -14 th , 2019
2	Workshop on ' Career Counselling and Job Hunting ' for YWLC participants	June, 2019
3	Policy Dialogue with Women Parliamentarians on ' Problems faced by women in Pakistan '	July, 2019
4	Workshop on ' Pursuing Social Action Project to achieve Sustainable Development Goals ' for YWLC participants (in collaboration with OXFAM)	July, 2019
5	Celebrating Traditional foods of Pakistan- Eid Milan Party	August, 2019
6	Gallivanterers: A series of Exposure Visits customized for our members. First destination of this series will be UZBEKISTAN (TASHKENT – CHARWAK – SAMARKAND)	August, 2019

Contact Us



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