

A Sociological Perspective of Socio-Economic Conditions of Youth in Sindh: A Case of Union Council Daro, District Sujawal

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Abstract

The study aims to analyze the socio-economic conditions of youth in Sindh from a sociological point of view. Furthermore, the study also aims to bring youth problems into the mainstream of Pakistani society and make it a topic of discussion in academic and policymaking forums. This research is based on a mixed-method research design and conducted as a case of U.C Daro, District Sujawal. It is descriptive as well as exploratory in type. The survey method was used by employing a closed-ended questionnaire as a tool for data collection. The survey sample was 350 respondents. The qualitative data were collected using a semi-structured questionnaire through the interview method and 5 interviews of social activists were conducted. The study reveals that there is enough need for the development and progress in U.C Daro. Especially, the youth of this union council needs socio-economic reforms. The facilities of education for the youth are not good. The economic opportunities for the youth are not available. The youth have entrepreneurship skills but do not have money to start their business. The majority of the youth do have awareness about the provincial government's youth development programs. The study has further revealed that civil society in the union council Daro is playing a positive role in the socio-economic development of young individuals. Youth still face challenges in the shape of unemployment, access to educational institutions, and adverse conditions of law and order.

Keywords: Sociological-Perspective, Socio-economic, Conditions, Youth, U.C Daro.

Introduction

Youth is the phase of the transformation of an age from childhood to adulthood. In the other sense, the term youth is used to represent the spirit, activeness, and freshness of an individual. United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has used the term youth for those people who are of age group from 15-24 years. This definition of UNESCO is different from the explanation of the youth as provided by the World Health Organization (WHO).

The youth play a significant and positive role in the development of society. So, it is a topic of interest for all social science researchers to identify the role the youth plays in the development of society. In this regard, it has become an impossible mission for a society to achieve its goals without understanding the youth and without solving the issues they are facing (Cohen, 2002). Youth is an active and most attentive population in any society. It possesses the energy and motivation and they have also an age factor as well. The energy and capacity that a youth possesses is unprecedented. This capacity of the youth if used positively and the right direction provided to them, there is nothing for the societies impossible in this perspective to achieve and accomplish (Importance of Study in Youth, 1849). Youth also perform a positive and pertinent role in the economic development of a country. It has been observed in many countries that most of the business startups and entrepreneurship activities are being started by the youth with new zeal and passion. Such passion brings success to the youth and society as well.

The condition of the youth varies from society to society as well as from culture to culture. Moreover, the conditions of the youth are dependent on the circumstances and conditions of society. Besides, the conditions of a youth change from region to region in the same country as well. If we take an example of this situation concerning the youth of Pakistan to different regions we shall find the socio-economic conditions of the youth of Lahore and Faisalabad different from the youth of the D.G Khan and Larkana. This shows that the development of the youth not only relies on a specific rule but it has a dependency on society as well as on the culture to which a youth belongs (Jenkinson, 2010). The socio-economic conditions of the youth of big cities are much better than the youth of small cities and rural areas. The youth of the big cities are being provided with every facility that they require for their mental as well as physical development. Contrary to this the youth of rural areas and small cities are deprived of all such facilities as required by them for their social, economic, cultural, mental, and physical development (Janssen et al., 1999). The socio-economic conditions of the youth of the developed nations are better as compared to the underdeveloped countries. The youth of USA is provided with all the basic needs. Hence, they are working well for their individual as well as for the progress of the nation as a whole (Kumar, 2016). The developed countries devise pragmatic programs and constitute effective policies for the socio-economic, cultural, and political development of the youth. Such nations plan for up-to-date training and job skills for their youth as they may compete in the times of the future with the other nations of the world. They are provided the awareness of their different rights and their capacities are being developed keeping in view the needs of the future. However, the situation is not same in the underdeveloped countries. The youth of these underdeveloped countries is not up to date with the current requirements of the world, hence, they lack training and other skills (Cohen, 2002). In underdeveloping countries like Pakistan, the rate of unemployment is increasing day by

day which is causing the young individuals of the country to be dependent on their family members for a long time (Soomro & Mirjat, 2019).

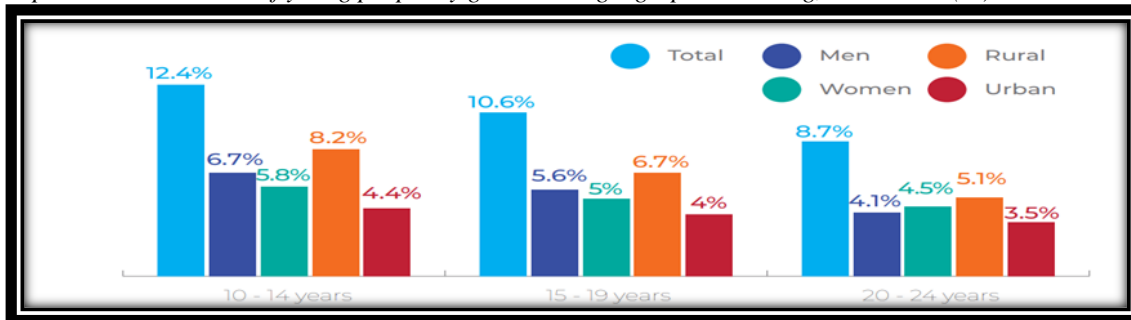
As an underdeveloped nation, the socio-economic conditions of the youth of Pakistan are also not good. This has been reported by researchers, policymakers, and social scientists from time to time. Similarly, Nida (2013) identified that poverty, unemployment, feeble conditions of the economic, deteriorated standard of education, the negative impacts of politics and religion, the worst situation of the law and order, and injustice have oriented the youth of Pakistani society towards crime, radicalization, ignorance, extremism, and hatred. The population of Pakistan mostly consists of the youth individuals. As per some estimates 103 million which constitutes 63% percent of the population of Pakistan are of 25 years of age. It is due to deep-rooted poverty that, the majority of the youth in Pakistan do even not enjoy their childhood. The literacy rate of the youth of Pakistan is even not good. The literacy rate of young males is 52% percent and the female ratio is 42% percent. However, the unemployment ratio of the youth is 15% percent (Anwar, 2014). The conditions of Pakistani youth are not good it has been identified through the data of different sources and a sample size of 100 that 29 Pakistan youth are illiterate. However, only 6% of youth have an education of more than 12 years. Furthermore, 39 youths out of a total of 100 are employed. In this figure, the number of employed male youth is 32 and the rest 7 are female. The sample moreover shows that out of a total of 100 youth, 57 are those who are neither seeking jobs nor working anywhere (Ahmed, 2018). Pakistan has a large number of illiterate, unemployed, and unskilled youth. Such a great number of the youth is posing a threat to the economic and social stability of Pakistani society. If such youth are not provided with resources, they will be proved not a valuable human but they shall be a burden (Hafeez & Fasih, 2018). Among regional countries, Pakistan has been placed in the last (0.517) under the Youth Development Index of 2021 (Gul, 2023). Pakistani youth is facing many problems among them the shortage of job opportunities, no social engagement, unequal and deteriorated health and education facilities, old traditions, social injustice, and the attitude of the community which excludes the youth from society are worthy to be counted (Shimshali, 2021). In Pakistan, youth aged 15 to 24 are in the transition period towards adulthood. This age group is facing many challenges and risks. Such challenges are affecting their well-being and development. Besides, Ahmed et al (2022) identified that in Pakistan intra-personal elements influence the well-being of youth. Such factors are comprised of issues of mental health, and entertainment. Moreover, extra-personal elements also affect the youth like media, peer, and neighborhood influence.

The Rationale of the Study

This study has been justified to be conducted on different grounds such as youth constituting about 63% population of Pakistan out of 207 million people as provided by the Census, 2017 (Hafeez & Fasih, 2018). This means more than 50% population of Pakistan consists of youth. The Census of 2023 reported that Pakistan is the 5th most populous nation in the world. It has 2/3 population of youth below 35 years of age. The report of Next Generation in 2023 pointed out that among the most populous nations of the world, Pakistan has a high ratio of young population (Gul, 2023). Pakistan is not only a young country, but it will remain young by the year 2050, possibly longer (Najam, 2024). Besides, it has been reported by several studies that the conditions of the youth of Pakistan are not good. Youth is facing several problems including socio-economic, cultural, and political issues. Union Council Darro is one of the rural areas in district Sujawal, Sindh, Pakistan having a youth population as well. So, this study is designed to provide a descriptive overview of the conditions of the youth on a regional level. The conditions of education, economics, and awareness of youth about youth-related programs have been taken into consideration. It is furthermore, justified that in district Sujawal, especially in the Union Council Darro no significant study yet has been conducted to identify the socio-economic conditions of the youth population of this area. This study, in this context, will be significant from a policy perspective and this would have benefit for the youth and community as well. The study furthermore, shall provide empirical and scientific facts and findings which shall be helpful in improving the conditions of the youth of Sindh in general and particularly the youth of the Union Council Darro, District Sujawal.

Figure 01.

Population distribution of young people by gender and geographical setting, 2017-2018 (%)



Source:

Pakistan Labour Force Survey 2017-2018 as provided in *Generation Unlimited: Investing in Pakistan's Young People*, (n.d)

The above-mentioned figure reveals that most of the youth population of Pakistan is the resident of the rural areas. Hence, in light of this finding, it is also pertinent to conduct a study that may show the socio-economic conditions of the rural youth. Which eventually, recommends the measures to be taken for the betterment of the youth in such areas.

Objectives of the Study

The following are the objectives of this study.

- To determine the facilities available to the youth of Union Council Darro, District Sujawal.
- To explore the major activities and opportunities of the youth of Union Council Darro, District Sujawal.
- To illustrate the skills and potential capacities of the youth in Union Council Darro, District Sujawal.
- To analyze the level of awareness regarding the rights, opportunities, and concepts of the youth of Union Council Darro, District Sujawal.
- To investigate the issues and challenges being faced by the youth of Union Council Darro, District Sujawal.
- To highlight the youth problems in the mainstream of Pakistani society and make it a topic of discussion in academic and policymaking forums.

Research Questions

- Which are the available facilities for the youth of Union Council Darro, District Sujawal?
- What are the major activities and opportunities of the youth of Union Council Darro, District Sujawal?
- What skills and potential capacities do the youth of Union Council Darro, District Sujawal possess?
- To what extent the youth of Union Council Darro, District Sujawal is aware of their rights, opportunities, and the concept of the youth?
- What issues and challenges are faced by the youth of Union Council Darro, District Sujawal?
- How the problems of the youth can be brought into the mainstream of Pakistani society and how it can be made as the topic of discussion in academic and policy making forums?

Literature Review

Youth is a population that plays a great part in the development and upgradation of any nation. However, the nations like Pakistan are still facing problems in this context. Recently, Pakistan has been developed in many areas including youth development. Still, it requires that Pakistan has to be developed on a larger scale in other fields, especially in the field of the development of youth (Delavande & Zafar, 2012). It has been identified that 68% population of Pakistan consists of the 16-26 age group. This is a perfect age to describe the youth term in Pakistan. Almost this age group is passing life as of studentship and simultaneously considered youth as well. So, from the Pakistani perspective students and youth are interchangeable terms utilized having the same meaning and same context as well (Ashraf et al, 2013). Youth should be provided complete opportunities to acquire not only basic education but they may be able to have higher education as they more effectively play their part in the development of the country. The Pakistani youth possesses multiple talents. It is needed that such talent should be polished and utilized in the right and proper direction with the objective development of the country (Kumar, 2016).

Education and awareness have a relationship with youth development. In this study, it was argued that the country is standing at a very critical position, hence it is necessary to transform and utilize the young population for socio-economic and sustainable development. It was moreover identified by this study that the youth of our country is facing the problem of quality education. Education performs the function of the interface between youth and policies of education and brings the

development of the youth individuals as well. It is the function of the institutions of the government, particularly educational institutions to spread awareness (Ashraf et al, 2013; Hussain, 2017). Another study was conducted by Gill et al (2019) to know how government initiatives for the betterment of the youth are helpful. Among such government initiatives, the Prime Minister's Youth Program is a famous one. The findings of this study reveal that the empowerment of the youth of Pakistan has been significantly influenced by the Prime Minister's Youth Program. Besides, it is known that youth empowerment has a positive relationship with sustainable development goals.

The study exposed that unemployed youth are discriminated against and stigmatized. During the unemployment periods, they do not get support from family in particular and in general from society. This study was conducted in a rural area, hence, it was further revealed that the joint family system furthermore aggravates the conditions of the youth and enhances the negative attitude toward the unemployed youth. As a result, this negative social attitude creates psychological issues for young people (Shah et al., 2020). The resources and attitudes have a positive effect on the optimism of the youth which consequently brings the youth into social inclusion (Keating & Melis, 2022). Youth in 2022 showed their main concerns about the economic problems, which they consider essential to cater to their basic needs. The prevailing crisis has generated feelings of uncertainty among the youth. For improving their conditions youth is willing to work and earn (Shushpanova, 2023). Youth in Pakistan face many socio-economic issues and unemployment is one of these. Besides, the study held responsible to the instability of the political environment, shortage of investment, weak agricultural sector, and overpopulation for the youth's fragile socio-economic conditions (Imtiaz et al., 2020). The study identified unemployment as one of the reasons for youth inclination towards extremism in Pakistan (Ismail et al., 2022).

Theoretical Framework

Sociology is a very rich discipline from a theoretical point of view, it has multiple theories that analyze social phenomena from many points of view. However, this discipline has mainly three significant perspectives for looking into the social aspects of society. These are functionalist, conflict, and interactionist perspectives. The phenomenon of socioeconomic conditions of the youth has remained under discussion by such perspectives. So, the same is in detail described below.

In sociological thought, Herbert Spencer, Emile Durkheim, and August Comte are the classical sociologists who have supported the functionalist perspective. The modern sociologists Talcott Parsons and Robert King Merton are the proponents of this perspective. The functionalist perspective provides that society is made up of different parts. Such parts are interconnected and interrelated with each other. They work together in harmony to bring balance, stability, and equilibrium to a society (Pye & Jaffrelot, 2002). It has been revealed that functionalist sociologists have taken a good interest in studying the youth. They consider the youth as an independent part of the society. The general perception of youth in sociology is that they have norms and values that are quite different from their parents. Hence, the youth tends to violate the norms of the society. Related to the youth when sociologist makes any analysis they usually ask the question of what affirmative functions a youth has performed which has brought harmony and solidarity in a given society (Javaid, 2017). Parsons saw youth as a social category that acted as a transitional stage between childhood and adulthood. The social category of youth therefore functioned to help young people to successfully leave the security of the family and to develop independent skills, for example, by acquiring part-time work, spending time with their peers outside the home, and voluntarily entering further and higher education.

Karl Marx is the main supporter of the conflict perspective of sociology. Conflict perspective in sociology considers society an entity that has conflict, struggle, and competition as a permanent phenomenon whereby conflict, struggle, and competition bring a change. Moreover, this theoretical paradigm in sociology is also interested in the study of inequalities, deprivation, class, and stratification occurring in a society. Similarly, the youth is a segment of the population of any society that constantly remains in struggle, competition, and being deprived as well. As Rytter (2012) stated youth are being deprived of knowledge about their rights in this sense conflict perspective is an appropriate approach to study this scenario related to the youth.

The interactionist perspective in sociology is supported by Charles Horton Cooley, George Herbert Mead, and Max Weber. This perspective provides an understanding of the society through means of symbols. Similarly, when this perspective is applied to the youth provides a symbol that is aging. According to Kumar (2016) aging and old age are socially constructed and determined through symbols. Souhami (2015) provides that the young and old are the definition of society and are being constructed socially. In this way, cultures provide the meaning to the term youth. They assign them roles and evaluate their performance as well.

Methods

This study is mixed-method research conducted applying an embedded mixed-method design. Embedded mixed method design was selected keeping in view the objectives of the study. As Cresswell and Clark (2011) stated in an embedded mixed method design both data sets (quantitative and qualitative) are merged to assign supportive and secondary roles to the results. Additionally, to provide a detailed sense of the data the embedded mixed method design was applied in this study. Besides, the study is descriptive and exploratory in type. The study universe is district Sujawal, Sindh, Pakistan. The targeted

population of this study was youth of the Union Council Darro of district Sujawal and social activists of the same Union Council. The participants were selected using the purposive sampling method. The sample size was 350 participants for the quantitative part and 5 for the qualitative strand. The sample size of the quantitative part was calculated by using RaoSoft software. The quantitative data were collected using a survey method utilizing a closed-ended questionnaire. In this part of the study gender-balanced approach as utilized by Ali et al (2023) was applied. However, qualitative data were collected on a semi-structured questionnaire using the interview method. In this context, five interviews of social activists of the Union Council Darro were conducted. The close-ended questionnaire primarily was developed in the English language. However, keeping in view the educational level of the participants, the same was translated into Sindhi language. The quantitative data were analyzed utilizing the software Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 22. The qualitative data were analyzed using themes and constructs. The thematic analysis was used to acquire the opinions, views, and detailed experiences of the participants. However, for the validity and trustworthiness of the qualitative data the guidelines as provided by Creswell and Creswell (2017) were followed. Besides, the questionnaire was distributed among the respondents keeping in view the principles of ethics of social science research.

Results

Table 1.
Information of the participants

Gender		
	Male	50%
	Female	50%
Age (in years)		
	18-20	28%
	21-22	25%
	22-24	31%
	25 years	18%
Education		
	University	10%
	College	28%
	Matriculation	62%

Table 1 significantly revealed that there is an equal ratio of both male and female participants in this study. They were in an equal ratio of 50%. The researchers consider it a good sign as in a very remote area of Union Council Darro, district Sujawal almost all genders male and female participated in this study. The benefit of this was the socio-economic conditions of both genders were ascertained in detail by applying the sociological perspective. It is more important to report here that the age group from 18 to 25 years was selected as the participants for the purpose of this study. The objective was to acquire information about the socio-economic condition mostly from the young generation. In this context, there are 28% participants of 18-20 years age group, 25% were from the 21-22 years, 31% from the 22-24 age group, and up to 25 years there were 18% participants. Hence, the age group from 22-24 years is the highest, and up to 25 years is the lowest. The majority of the participants of this study were only matriculation passed as their percentage was found to be 62%. Besides, there are 28% of the participant who mentioned their education at the college level. While only 10% of respondents mentioned that they have a university-level education. This can be perceived from the results of the educational level of the participants that youth of the Union Council Darro, district Sujawal is mostly matriculation qualified.

Table 02.
The Facilities of Education

Education Facilities	Percentage
Educational Institutions are lacking in infrastructure	49%
Weak and incomplete buildings	09%
Lack of Scientific Instruments	30%
Lack of Technical and Computer Equipment	12%

The abovementioned table 2 reveals that the educational institutions of Union Council Darro, district Sujawal are lacking in the main facilities. As per the results of the survey it is known that majority of the educational institutions of the Union Council Darro are lacking in the facility of the infrastructure. The response percentage of this is 49%. There are colleges and schools in the area but all of these are lacking in the scientific instruments. This does mean the science labs of such institutions are not having enough equipment to conduct scientific experiments. There are 30% of respondents who provided

their responses in this context. There is also a shortage of technical and computer equipment in the educational institutions of the Union Council Darro. There is 12% percent of the participants who recorded their answers in this regard. The study results furthermore showed that 09% of participants provided that in Union Council Darro there is a presence of the educational institutions but the same are weak and their buildings are still incomplete.

In this context, the qualitative findings are found to be supportive of the quantitative results. In this part, a good number of the participants also talked about the shortage of facilities of education in Union Council Darro.

“Yes, some schools and colleges are available in the Union Council Darro. Schools do not have compound walls, their buildings are weak and old”. (Interview 2)

One of the participants about the shortage of scientific facilities in the schools of Union Council Darro said,

“I think, in the schools, the focus on the science subjects is paid less as the schools and colleges do not have either labs or the scientific instruments. If they possess both of these, then they do not have trained teachers”. (Interview 4)

Participants emphasized that more focus on the technical and computer literacy of the youth of Union Council Darro should be paid. Hence, one of the participants expressed point of view,

“The computer and information technology nowadays is a greater source of the earning across the world. It is now the need of the U.C Darro as well. But here we cannot achieve the target as the youth have inadequate facilities of the computer and Information Technology education. It should be made available for the better future of the youth of U.C Darro.” (Interview 1)

Table 03.

Economic Opportunities and Youth Employment

Economic Opportunity	Percentage
Youth Involved in Economic Activities	32%
Personal Employment	58%
Government Sector Employment	10%

The data in the above-mentioned table 3 reveals that the youth of Union Council Darro have fewer economic opportunities. Most of the youth are self-employed. This means 58% are personally employed, mostly in agriculture and few have employment in the shape of the kiryana or other shops. However, a very low number of the participants reported that they are employed in the government sector. The data shows that 10% of the participants of this study were employed in the government sector. The more significant finding of this study is that 32% of the total participants were reported to be involved in economic activities. The rest of the participants were found to be students of the college or school level and were involved in the economic activities of the community. This can be presumed that according to this study, only 32% of the youth of the Daro Union Council are participating in economic development and contributing to the earnings of their respective families. The results further bring the attention of the concerned authorities that in Union Council Darro, District Sujawal there is less number of government employees. This shows the lower number of government institutions of all kinds.

The qualitative part of this study elaborated on the phenomenon more effectively from many other angles. In this part, it was identified that in Union Council Darro, the private sector job opportunities are less in number. Besides, the jobs in the private sector provide less remuneration as well and these are insecure. Hence, the data revealed that for your youth of Union Council Darro, District Sujawal, Sindh the job opportunities are a push and pull factor for migration. It was reported by the participants that,

“Job opportunities in both the government and private sector are less in the Union Council Darro. The youth population of this Union Council cannot acquire their desired jobs in their area. Consequently, they move to Karachi or Hyderabad cities of the Sindh province in Pakistan. Where they would have good opportunities to acquire the jobs of their choice with good salaries and other privileges.” (Interview 1)

Participants were of the view that youth migration in Darro Union Council is not only due to the fewer job opportunities but also the shortage of educational facilities and bad conditions of law and order are one of the reasons. Accordingly, one of the participants stated that,

“The participants were of the view that the migration of skilled and talented youth from the Union Council Darro can be prevented by creating more economic opportunities in the area. In this context, more factories, and private

as well as government institutions should be established. Moreover, NGOs can also play a good role in the provision of economic activities to the youth. (Interview 5)

Besides, it was the perception of the participants that government sector jobs can only be acquired through political influence. This situation generates a sense of discrimination among the youth of U.C Darro. One of the participants shared views as follows.

“The possession of skills and higher academic qualifications have less value in achieving a government job. It requires a political influence. I consider this is an injustice to the youth of this U.C. Consequently, discrimination and alienated sense is found in the youth of U.C Daro”. (Interview 4).

Table 4.

Skills of the young individuals in the area

Skills	Percentage
Entrepreneurship	32%
Agriculture	35%
Technical Skills	5%
No Extra Skills	28%

Table 4 shows the potential capacities of the youth of Union Council Darro, District Sujawal, Sindh, Pakistan. This figure moreover highlights the skills being possessed by the youth of union council Darro. The results reveal that out of a total of 350 participants, 35% can be involved in agricultural activities. In other words, this portion of the participants possess the skills of agriculture only. They know how to cultivate and grow the crops. A very significant finding of this study is that 32% of respondents do possess the skills of entrepreneurship but face the problem of having no money to start their business. The youth of the union council Darro is less technically skilled as our findings show that there are only 5% of youth who possess the technical skills. The rest of the 28% members of this study were found to possess no skills. Such a number of the participants either work manually in agriculture or are involved in working in construction companies.

The data qualitatively shows that the skilled persons of the union council Darro were disappointed as their skills were not used in proper manners. A participant was of the view that,

“I claim that youth of Union Council Darro possess the technical skills. They are skilled carpenters and blacksmiths. They know how to repair motorcycles and automobiles as well. Besides, they know the skills how to cultivate the land and how to get good production from one crop. Unfortunately, due to the less support from the government, their skills are not utilized in the right direction” (Interview 3)

Similarly, another participant seemed to be disappointed and shared the experience below.

“The local market of Union Council Darro is not able to utilize skills positively and more productively. Hence, they are of the view that their skills do not play any part in their personal as well community development. They were more effectively of the view that it is due to the unemployment ratio in the area. So, they are not getting the due status of their skill in the union council Darro”. (Interview 5)

Awareness of official programs by the government for youth in Union Council Darro

In this section, the researchers have identified the awareness of the basic knowledge of youth of Union Council Darro about different concepts regarding youth as described under the laws of Pakistan and different conventions or covenants of the United Nations Organization (UNO). Besides, the knowledge of the youth of Union Council Darro was ascertained about the different initiatives taken by federal as well as provincial governments of Pakistan for the progress and well-being of the youth. From the provincial perspective, special focus was given to the province of Sindh.

We asked about which age group in Pakistan is considered as youth. The data revealed that most of the participants were not aware of this official age group which is recognized as youth in Pakistan. Almost, all the participants were making guesses about this bracket. The element of uncertainty was found about the knowledge of such an age group officially regarded as the youth in Pakistan. Most of the repeating answer was age group between 15-24 is recognized as youth in Pakistan. However, in this context, it is more pertinent to know that as per Ahmed (2018), the age group between 15-29 in Pakistan is known as a youth individual. The data furthermore, reveals that the youth of Union Council Darro have heard first time in their life about the conventions and covenants of the United Nations Organization (UNO) which describe their rights and are

working for their betterment as well. Such conventions are the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) 1948, the Convention on the Rights of Child (CRC), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), and Sexual Health and Reproductive Health (SHRH), Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Additionally, the data shows that the youth of the union council Darro are also not aware of the amendments made and the fundamental rights as provided in the constitution of Pakistan.

It was also identified how far and about which programs of federal as well as of provincial governments, the youth of union council Darro are aware which have been initiated for the welfare and well-being of the youth. The following table elaborates on the phenomenon.

Table 5.

Awareness of official programs by the government for youth in Union Council Darro

Program	Percentage
Benazir Bhutto Shaheed Youth Development Program	45 %
National Internship Program	13 %
HEC Scholarship Program	8%
Youth Exchange Program	0 %
No Information	34 %

The above-mentioned table 5 exposes that most of the youth of the Darro Union Council of District Sujawal are aware of the Benazir Bhutto Shaheed Youth Development Program (BBSYDP). The percentage of this response is 45%. This program was initiated by the Government of Sindh in 2008-09. The prime object of this program was to enhance the skills of the youth and make them eligible and trained to achieve a job in the market. Besides, 13% of youth are found to be aware of the National Internship Program (NIP). This program was initiated by the initiate of Government of Pakistan in 2009-10. The objective of this program was to provide training to the graduate youth of Pakistan. The youth were attached to the different departments/ministries of federal as well as provincial, local, and district governments for one year. After 2009-10 different governments in Pakistan retained this program with different names. The youth of Union Council Darro is not well aware of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) Scholarship Programs. Only 8% percent of youth provided that they know about the HEC Scholarship programs. The significant and more alarming finding about the awareness of the youth individuals of union council Darro about the government programs is that there is no participant aware of the Youth Exchange Program. It is also worth noting that the data reveals that 34% youth population of this study is not aware of any program of federal and provincial governments that is working for the betterment of the youth across Pakistan especially in the province of Sindh. It was identified from the qualitative section of this study that young individuals are aware of these programs because such programs provide financial assistance. The financing is the major reason for the awareness of the youth about such programs of federal as well as provincial governments. Similarly, one of the participants was of the view that,

“I know personally to few of the students of my village that have secured scholarships in the universities... I do not know in which scholarship program they have succeeded”. (Interview 2)

Another participant provides that,

“Remuneration is provided in the Benazir Bhutto Shaheed Youth Development Program. It is due to this reason many young people are engaged in the training of these programs. Besides, such programs provide a certificate as well. In my opinion, if the young people were not aware, how would they are actively participating in these programs.” (Interview 4)

Qualitative findings, contrary to the quantitative findings also provided that women of the U.C Darro are in less proportion aware about these initiatives of the government for the youth development.

“... due to conservative values we do not allow the girls [girls of U.C Darro] for higher studies. Besides, we donot promote to the skill development centers particularly for the women ... It is due to these reasons, almost majority of the girls are not aware of such development initiatives of the government.” (Interview 1)

Table 6.

Role of Civil Society in the Development of Youth

No Role	Positive	Negative	Little Bit	Don't Know
8%	42%	10%	30%	10%

It was more pertinent to know to what extent civil society performs it's role in the development and progress of the youth of the union council Darro, District Sujawal. In this context table 6 reveals that the respondents provided their answers in a very interesting manner. The majority of the respondents believe that civil society plays due role in the development of the youth of Union Council Darro. Regarding the positive role of civil society, 42% of participants provided their responses that civil society plays a positive role in the development of the youth. Contrary to this there were only 10% of respondents who

said that civil society plays a negative role in the development of the youth. On the other end, 30% of participants in this study provided their response that they know a little bit about the role of civil society in the development of society. Only 10% of participants showed their response that they do not know about any type of role, either positive or negative role of the civil society for the development and uplift of the youth of the Union Council Darro. Besides, 08% believe that civil society has performed no role in the development of the youth of the union council Darro.

About this theme, the participants in the qualitative study also supported and provided the following views.

“Yes, civil society is working for the welfare of the youth. Besides, it is also generating awareness among the youth of the U.C Darro. We have welfare organizations and people on their own also work for the betterment of the youth”. (Interview 4)

However, one of the participants did not agree with the role of civil society and shared his experience as follows.

“Still civil society has to work and there are many questions on the role being performed by it. There are gaps and civil society is not properly institutionalized in UC Darro.” (Interview 2)

Table 7.
Challenges and issues for youth in Union Council Darro

Challenge	Percentage
Physical	5%
Psychological	25%
Frustration	3%
Mal-nutrition	3%
Unemployment	30%
Violence	6%
Reproductive Issues	3%
Lack of Access to Education	20%
Others	5%

The table 7 shows the major challenges and issues being faced by the youth of the union council Darro. The physical challenge was determined in terms of access to the institution of health. It was also determined whether they have access to recreational places, do they have access to healthy foods in their union council, whether the physical environment of their area is polluted, and how they perceive the streets of their villages in union council Darro. The 5% of the participants provided their responses that they face in the union council such problems and these problems pose a challenge for the future generation of the union council Darro. Hence, observed through the data that youth of the union council Darro do not face physical challenges in a greater proportion. Our data further reveals that the major challenge for the youth of the union council Darro is unemployment. It was exposed by the 30% of participants that they feel unemployment is a challenge for the youth of the union council Darro, district Sujawal, Sindh. It is due to unemployment and other reasons 25% of respondents expressed that they feel psychological challenges in the shape of anxiety and other disorders as they remain worried about their future and their livelihood. Therefore, in the consequences psychological problems may erupt. Another major challenge for the youth of the Union Council Darro is access to educational institutions. In this context, 20% of participants are of the view that they have issues in reaching the educational institutions in the union council Darro. The high schools and especially the colleges are away from their houses. The condition of the roads is also not good and even the public transport is scarce. Under such circumstances, they find it difficult to have access to educational institutions. The female participants pointed out cultural and social reasons as one of the challenges for them to have access to educational institutions. Another significant finding of this study is that 6% of the participants were of the view that they face the challenge of violence. In this study, the violence has been determined in terms of the conditions of law and order. The conditions of the law and order are not more violent but to some extent, the condition of the law and order is not good in the union council Darro. Incidents of theft usually occur. Besides the snatching of the motorcycle is also one of the elements of the worst condition of the law and order in the area. The 3% of the participants of this study identified that the youth of the union council Darro is facing the issue of malnutrition. Even 3% percent of the respondents were also of the view that they are frustrated due to many reasons. So, such a portion of our population faces the challenge of frustration as well. The female participants are facing the challenge of reproduction. Such a challenge involves the cultural issue of the choice of a male and a girl child. It is due to the shortage of health problems the female participants pointed out the challenges to have a proper cure for female special diseases as well.

The findings of the qualitative part also supported the quantitative outcomes on this theme. The majority of the participants were found to agree that numerous types of challenges the youth of the Union Council Darro are facing invoke the immediate intervention of the policymakers.

“Social evils are rampant in the U.C Darro. The selling of banned products such as ghutka, mawa, and kaccha sharab, etc., is a common phenomenon in the area. It is a challenge for the youth individual of the union council Darro. This issue creates health problems and other issues of the social order as well.” (Interview 2)

Similarly, another participant provided that,

“Most people do want to lodge complaints about social evils and violence. The fact is that they are not aware of the persons who deal with them or who produce such banned products in the area. Hence, they require the concerned authorities to look into the matter and resolve such issues of the union council Darro.” (Interview 4)

Discussions

The findings of both the quantitative as well qualitative parts of this study reveal that educational institutions in Union Council Darro, district Sujawal have fewer facilities. They have a shortage of infrastructure. The laboratories of these institutions do not have enough scientific instruments. Besides, such institutions are facing a shortage of technical and computer equipment. These issues of the institutions of education directly affect the progress and development of the youth of the U.C Darro. Such findings are aligned with the previous study by Kumar (2016). Moreover, the study identified that the youth of Union Council Darro have fewer economic opportunities. The majority of them are self-employed in the agricultural sector and shops. The youth of this U.C Darro in a low proportion are employed in the government sector. Additionally, the qualitative part of the study has revealed a smaller number of private jobs in U.C Darro, and these jobs are also insecure. Besides, to achieve a job, political influence is required. Owing to these reasons, the youth migrate to the other cities of Sindh, and a sense of discrimination is felt in the youth of U.C Darro. The findings of this study are supported by previous studies like Shah et al (2020). The study identified that most of the youth of Union Council Darro do possess the skills. However, the majority of them are trained in agriculture and cropping skills. Significantly, the youth of this U.C. have acquired entrepreneurship skills as well. However, the youth is technically less skilled. The qualitative study supports quantitative findings and provides a new point of view that the skilled youth of U.C. Darro are disappointed because they are not satisfied with the utilization of their skills. Accordingly, the findings are supported by Keating and Melis (2022).

Significantly, the study identified that the youth of U.C Darro is aware of the different youth development programs initiated by Federal and Provincial governments. This is a good sign for the development of the youth and achieving the development goals. Benazir Bhutto Shaheed Youth Development Program (BBSYDP) of the Government of Sindh, the National Internship Program (NIP) an initiative of the Government of Pakistan, the Higher Education Commission (HEC) Scholarship Programs, and the Youth Exchange Program are some examples regarding the youth of the U.C. Darro are aware. The qualitative part highlights financial assistance as the reason why youth are aware of these programs. The findings were found to be aligned with Ashraf et al (2013) and Gill et al (2019). Another significant finding of the study is that a good number of the participants of this study are of the view that civil society plays a significant role in the development of the youth of U.C. Darro. However, the qualitative part has highlighted some flaws of the civil society and required that it has to work yet for the youth development and its institutionalization as well. Besides, the study has reported many problems that are being confronted by the youth of U.C. Darro. They face difficulties in accessing the institutions of health. They feel difficulties accessing recreational places. Pollution and other environmental issues also affect the youth of U.C. Darro. Unemployment is a major challenge for the youth of U.C. Darro which creates anxiety and worries for their future. Distance of the educational institutions and conditions of the roads is another issue that the youth face in U.C Darro. The conditions of the law and order are also not good in U.C. Darro, it also poses a challenge for the youth. The young females are facing the challenges of reproduction due to the cultural values. The qualitative part of this study highlighted the social issues as one of the major issues of the youth of U.C. Darro. The findings of this part aligned with the previous studies such as Ismail et al (2022), Imtiaz et al (2020), and Shushpanova (2023).

Conclusion

This descriptive study concludes that in the Union Council Darro, district Sujawal, Sindh, Pakistan there is enough need for development and progress. Especially, the youth of this union council needs socio-economic reforms. The facilities of education for the youth are not good and these are not up to the standard. There is a lack of infrastructure in the institutions of education. The economic opportunities for the youth of Union Council Darro are also not available. Major earning sources of youth are agriculture and kiriyana shops. A very low number of youth are employed in the government sector. The majority of the youth of Union Council Darro do possess the skills of cultivation of land and the second major skill is entrepreneurship.

Even the youth has skills of entrepreneurship but they do not have money to start their business. The youth is aware of the official programs initiated by the federal as well as by provincial governments. The majority of the youth do have awareness about the provincial government's youth development programs. The study has revealed that civil society in the Union Council Darro is playing a positive role in the socio-economic development of young individuals. This does mean in a very rural area of Sindh province the civil society is more active. Still, the youth of Union Council Darro face many challenges. Such challenges include physical, unemployment, psychological challenges in the shape of anxiety and other disorders due to unemployment, access to educational institutions, the condition of the roads is also not good and even public transport is scarce, adverse conditions of law and order, the selling of the banned product such as ghutka, mawa, and kaccha sharab, etc., is a common phenomenon of the area.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study it is recommended as:

- More facilities for education and employment should be created for the youth of the union council Darro. This can be possible by the initiatives of district and provincial governments. In the creation of economic job opportunities, the provincial and federal governments should play a positive role by establishing mega-industrial units in the area.
- The youth of the Union Council Darro possess the skills of entrepreneurship but they do not have enough money to start their business. In this regard, loans of easy installment should be allocated by the provincial government to the youth of this area.
- The provincial government should pay attention to the overall infrastructure of the area including the construction of the roads. This will create ease for the youth to reach the institutions of education and others easily.
- Many challenges being faced by the youth of union council Darro. Among such the adverse situation of law and order is most important. The provincial government should pay attention to this issue. The proper implementation of laws against the sale of banned products should be made.
- Keeping in view the challenges and socio-economic conditions of the youth of Union Council Darro effective policies should be formulated by the provincial government for the youth of the Sindh province.
- **More detailed studies on a large scale are recommended to be conducted with a large sample size from other districts** of Sindh province in Pakistan to know the socio-economic conditions of the youth. In this regard, NGOs and Government institutions are recommended to work in collaboration. Such studies shall open more avenues for the discussion of the socio-economic conditions of youth in Sindh.

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