

PRESS RELEASE

Youth Festival: Sindh gov't. to set up youth centres in every district: Youth Minister



KARACHI, May 16: Sindh government is going to set up youth centres in each district of the province from next year to provide career and education counseling, technical education, adult education and other facilities to youth, said Abid Bhayo, Sindh Minister for Youth here on Monday.



He was speaking at Youth Festival jointly organized by Pakistan Institute of Labour Education and Research (PILER), Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum (PFF) and Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) in collaboration with UNICEF at auditorium of National Museum of Pakistan.

The event was part of the three-year UNICEF project called the Social Cohesion & Resilience Programme, being implemented in three suburb towns of Karachi (Gadap, Bin Qasim and Kaaemari), Badin and Jacobabad districts.

The youth minister said the provincial government is working on provision of rights and facilities to the youth. Though the provincial government is facing challenges in education and health, I assure that Sindh government would help to take this project of non-formal education.



Bhayo pointed out that provincial government has initiated various programmes for youth including career counseling, providing technical education and connecting youth with organizations. Under the project, which is going to end on June 30, 2017 we have trained 88,000 youth in technical skills all over the province, he added. .

Speaking on the occasion, Karamat Ali, Executive Director of PILER said youth should be provided opportunities to move forward. He said due to the non-formal education projects initiated by UNICEF, the students in backward areas have put their efforts in learning and there were good results of these learning centres.

He pointed out that there is a need for resilience and cohesion in Sindh because people from other provinces come here to find jobs, which also creates many social problems for local people. According to him the interests of local people of Sindh are not protected in the government policies.



In 2010 the parliament inserted Article 25-A in the Constitution, which ensures compulsory education to the children of the age between five to 16 years. But today more children are out of schools than were in 2010.

He said it is actually a responsibility of the state to provide education to all children. Every member of the parliament and government employees should first read Pakistan's Constitution. There is a need for electoral reforms in Pakistan.

Mr. Ali said malnutrition in Sindh is acute as compared to other provinces that is resulting in birth of a large number of stunted children in Sindh. "We have to mobilize people and a People's Manifesto be prepared."

He said if we want a resilient and cohesive society local culture should be promoted and youth be provided opportunities to learn.

Ayaz Soomro from Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum gave an overview of the Social Cohesion & Resilience project.



Ellahi Bux from SPO said such programmes should be continued.

Dr. Fauzia Khan, Curriculum Wing of School Education Department said youth has energy to meet the challenges. She asked the youth to learn skills.

Faisal Uqeli from the provincial education department said there are 45,000 government schools in province and most of schools are facing many problems. In three months, out of 4500 closed schools,

we have succeeded in reopening up of over 2000 schools. We have put the reports of these schools on Internet, so the people of that area should come forward, visit those schools and confirm us if those schools have opened or not. We have received a good feedback from active communities.

He recalled that in the past government schools were providing quality education, but, he asked why there are problems now. "We need to look into the reasons for declining quality education," he added.

Mohammad Akram, Education Officer from UNICEF said the main purpose of the three-year non-formal education programme was to promote peace and how to engage youth. Youth is engaged in capacity building so they can play their role in bringing positive changes in the society. A lot of things are in pipeline. UNICEF has recently completed non-formal education policy for Sindh.



More than 63 percent of this country is youth. There is need to take measures for implementation of Youth Policy, he added.

On the occasion, youths from various areas of the province presented tableaus, songs and theatres, highlighting the social problems in the society.

Shields were distributed among the successful youths and teachers on the occasion.

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