



Youth and Laws of Success – Pakistan's Context

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ABSTRACT

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This article aims to identify measures to harness Pakistan's youth bulge as a valuable asset for national prosperity by emphasizing their critical role in the country's development. Pakistan's total population stands at 241.49 million, with approximately 64% of the population being below the age of 30, presenting both opportunities and challenges. To transform this youth demographic into a dividend rather than a threat, it highlights three potential sources: religion, Iqbal's poetry, and mind sciences, which can help harness their potential for the nation. Drawing from case studies of recently developed Asian countries that have effectively leveraged their youth, the article includes relevant data of Japan, Singapore South Korea and China to streamline the study. For transforming process, the article proposes dividing the youth into three age groups (below 7 years, 7-14 years, and 15-30 years) and suggests tailored measures for each. In the end it recommends a set of measures.

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1. Introduction

Youth development affects the future prosperity and well-being of the next generation. This study will examine several aspects—physical, cognitive, emotional, and social—that affect youth's growth. In addition, it will examine how families, community, and educational institutions may support and nurture the healthy growth of young people. Pakistan's young, if correctly utilised, the demographic dividend has the potential to reshape the nation's trajectory, changing obstacles into opportunities and driving Pakistan towards a future of extraordinary progress and prosperity. Combining three potential sources (religion, Iqbal's poetry, and mind sciences), this article give readers a clear roadmap of what to expect by diving into the several ways in which Pakistan's youth might be recognized and utilized as a valued asset. From educational empowerment and skill development to civic involvement and entrepreneurship, Pakistan's youth are set to make a significant contribution to the nation's growth. As the various facets of youth as an asset, are investigated it becomes clearer that investing in the potential of the younger generation is not just a strategic necessity, but also a moral commitment that holds the key to unlocking Pakistan's genuine global potential.

The vivid energy and excitement of a nation's young serve as the threads that weave the fabric of a promising future in the tapestry of its growth and prosperity. Pakistan, being rich in history and culture, is at a crossroads where the aggregate potential of its youthful people is emerging as the cornerstone of growth. As the country faces many problems, it becomes clear that harnessing the vibrancy, inventiveness, and resilience of its youth is not an option but a need for long-term success.

1.1. Objective

Objective of the study is to identify and propose measures for converting Pakistan's youth bulge into a dividend focusing on the critical role that Pakistan's youth can play as an irreplaceable asset in the nation's prosperity. The article highlights the untapped potential of the younger generation by examining many aspects such as education, skill development, civic involvement, and entrepreneurship. Furthermore, it advocates for a paradigm change in how society views and invests in its youth, emphasizing the need of comprehensive methods that enable them to contribute effectively to Pakistan's socioeconomic and cultural fabric. It intends to inspire a collaborative commitment from politicians, educators, and society at large to harness the demographic dividend via a comprehensive study of the difficulties and possibilities presented by young.

2. Methodology

The methodology of the article is based on some case studies, grouping the youth according to their age and focusing on their motivation through religious sources, Iqbal's poetry and data from emerging mind sciences.

2.1. Definition of 'Youth'

Youth can be defined as the transitional phase between childhood dependence and adult independence. Youth are individuals between age of completing compulsory education and securing first job, (Fact Sheet of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 31 Oct 1947). According to UN, 'youth' are persons aged between 15-24 years, without bias for Member States to define otherwise, (UN Secretary-General's Report to the General Assembly). Defining 'youth' or 'young people' interchangeably as individuals aged 15-24, UN recognizes that different entities may define alternatively (Fact Sheet of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 31 Oct 1947). The South Korean law on Juveniles, classifies youth as individuals aged between 9-24 years (The Framework Act on Juveniles 2008 – South Korea). As per Chinese National Bureau of Statistics youth is defined as those who are 15-29 years old (Xi, 2006). The use of the 15-24 age cohort as the definition of youth effectively serves statistical purposes for assessing needs and establishing guidelines for youth development.⁶

2.2. Population Data

The section provides an understanding of current population dynamics in Pakistan, laying groundwork for exploration of broader topics and themes. Examination of this data helps set context for the reader and highlights significance of the issues that will be addressed in subsequent sections. Historically, Pakistan's youth have played an indispensable role in process of nation-building. Perhaps early youth of Pakistan had fullest realization of their duty towards nation depicting the Quid e Azam motivation in which he said:

"Pakistan is proud of her youth, particularly the students who have always been in the forefront in the hour of trial and need. You are the nation's leaders of tomorrow and you must fully equip yourself by discipline, education and training for the arduous task lying ahead of you. You should realise the magnitude of your responsibility and be ready to bear it" (Fact Sheet of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 31 Oct 1947).

Pakistan has world's largest youth populations, with over 64% falling below 30 years of age. This trend is expected to persist until 2052. Providing youth with quality education, gainful employment, and development of marketable skills, empower them to make informed decisions, benefiting both, themselves and their families. Responsibility to harness this demographic asset, akin to what China achieved and capitalized since two decades ago, or risk allowing it to become a youth bulge that adds competition to Pakistan's socio-political fabric, rests with our leadership.

2.3. Pakistan Bureau of Statistics Census – 2023

Pakistan population in 1947 was 33m (14th in the world). According to latest (Pakistan Bureau of Statistics Report 2020-21) digital census 2023,¹ Pakistan's population has reached 241.49m, adding 33.8m as compared to Census of 2017. According to digital Data Reportal,

¹ Details about youth etc. are not available on webpage nor provided once asked by author through email.

by Jan 2023, Pakistan had a population of 238.1m. Pakistan's population grew by 4.6m, @2% increase between 2022-2023. The youth below 24, constitute 56.7% of entire population in Pakistan. With current annual growth rate of 2%, Pakistan's population may reach 330m by 2050. Considering 'youth' as individuals aged 15-29 years, is in line with Commonwealth definition of youth (National Youth Policy December). Of the country's total population, 64% are below age of 30, and 29% are between the ages of 15-29 years. The age group is main focus of this study.

2.4. Importance of Youth

There was a time when 'overpopulation' was spread as a bomb by Ehrlich (1968), describing a demographic phenomenon where a large population of a country are youth, between ages 15-29. This imbalance can have significant social, economic, and political implications, for a country. Term 'Youth Bulge' was coined by German Gunner Hienson in early nineties. The phenomenon has changed with the passage of time. Now World over, August 12 is observed as International Youth Day (IYD), set by UN General Assembly in 1999, on a recommendation by World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth. IYD 2023 theme was 'Green skills for youth: towards a sustainable world'(UN Secretary-General António Guterres). The article gets significance in the backdrop that year 2023 has been declared as 'Year of Youth 2023' in the 56 Commonwealth's countries (Pakistan being one of them) with four aims; 'energize', 'engage', 'empower' and 'envision' the youth.² The Commonwealth's countries have 2.5 billion population, of which more than 60% are under 30 years of age and 1.5 billion are youth between 15-29 years of age. These youth (aged 15-29) are assets to a country and their potential should be realized. Like rest of the world, Pakistan also assigns importance to its youth and increase the role of young people in future dynamics of country. Govt. created National Youth Policy December (NYDF) under Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in 2019, on 03 basic principles; Education, Employment and Engagement (3Es). Pakistan celebrates Youth Day on March 11th each year with a motto all about huge importance of the youth (Iqbal, 4 Aug 2023). The day is celebrated to honor young people of the society with regard to their contributions to the society and ensure their well-being.

2.5. Youth Challenges

Pakistani youth faces multiple challenges; illiteracy, hindering access to quality education and economic opportunities, scant focus on character building at homes and in educational institutions, drug addiction, indulgence in immoral activities and obscenity eroding traditional values and social cohesion, unemployment, lack of meritocracy, absence of robust rule of law and extremist & fanatic views among youth etc.

2.5.1. Green Passport

British Company, Henley & Partners conducted world annual survey 2023 of Passports based on count of destinations their holders can enter without a visa beforehand (The Henley Passport Index). Pakistani passport is 4th worst in World (ranking at 104/107 countries) with only Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria below it, and Singapore stands out 1st, Japan & South Korea, both at 2nd while India is at 85th position.

2.5.2. Pakistan's Identity

Globally, Pakistan's identity is at risk of erosion, making it imperative for concerted efforts to address these challenges and pave the way for a brighter future for its youth.

2.5.3. Youth Emigration

Pakistanis are consistently leaving country and settling abroad. Number of emigrants in 2022 was 832339, whereas in the current year, their number has reached to 450110 (till Jul 23).

2.5.4. Brain Drain

The situation of educated people leaving the country is known as brain drain. Pakistan is currently facing the worst situation of brain drain. According to a report by DW people leaving the country in the year 2022 with a total number of 765,000 people included highly qualified engineers, doctors, and experts in other fields (Nazir, 2023, May 25). The

² More details of youth activities during the year 2023 can be had from Commonwealth Official website.

phenomena negatively impact the country's economy, hinders economic growth and poses a significant threat to Pakistan's future.

3. Literature Review

Before proceeding further, it is apt to have a look on the available literature on the issue.

- a. World Bank has emphasized Pakistan to urgently invest more and better in its people if they are to be richer, better educated, and healthier when the country turns 100 years old in 2047.
- b. Institute for Strategic Studies, Research and Analysis (ISSRA) stating that the current education system falls short in preparing youth for leadership roles in today's volatile political and economic landscape, has recommended some practical steps to harness the potential of youth.
- c. Meerani (2021, February 8) mentioned 2 youth programs launched by the Govt of Pakistan to reap the benefits of youth power.
- d. Ahmed (2022, February 28) referring to data collected by Pakistan's National Human Development Report of 2017 has urged for making a comprehensive plan to educate, train and engage young people.
- e. Fatima (22 July 2022) identifying some burning issues e.g. employment opportunities and lack of civic education etc. has recommended points for progress.
- f. Rehman (2022, August 12) on International Youth Day 2022, stressed significance of youth as assets highlighting importance of mutual consultation. He emphasized promoting youth entrepreneurship in the tech era.
- g. Iqbal A. (2022, October 23) noted that for empowering youth to build a prosperous nation, Govt aims to bridge gaps, offering equal opportunities. Initiatives include internships, uplifting neglected areas, sports facilities & scholarships for top talent.
- h. Shinwari (2022, Dec 4) after emphasizing to give respect and importance to youth, has stressed upon Govt to set a route and must coordinate with relevant social organizations to effectively utilize this asset and avoid future problems.
- i. Khaki (2023, Jan 9) emphasized need for resources allocation to expand technical and vocational training, establish IT institutes for new graduates, offer subsidized financial credit and guidance for project implementation to youth.
- k. Samo (2023, September 06) highlighting Pakistan's brain drain problem in 2023, suggests focusing on education, skill-demanding job creation, offering competitive salaries, ensuring transparent governance & maintaining consistent policies.
- l. Sarah (n.d) has urged upon youth to use their right of vote, participate in the politics and imbued with features of character helping attitude to others, they should be motivated to solve issues faced by nation.

A review of existing literature reveals that the issue has been addressed by various authors from their respective perspectives; however, a comprehensive analysis is lacking, and this current article seeks to fill that gap.

4. Pakistan's Ideal Past

To encourage youth to believe in Pakistan's potential for economic success, citing the country's past achievements of the 1960s as evidence of its ability to thrive once more. Some testimonials & instances from Pakistan's bright past are:

4.1. An Economic Role Model

In past, many countries wished to emulate Pakistan's economic model. Some testimonials are:

'...in 1963, the Ayub Khan-led government dished out Rs. 120 million loan to this largest European economy of today for a period of 20 years, some decades-old Ministry of Finance documents reveal....'(The News International Report, 2014, Nov 11).

'During the 1960s, Pakistan was seen as a model of economic development around the world, and there was much praise for its rapid progress. Many countries sought to emulate Pakistan's economic planning strategy, including South Korea, which replicated the city of

Karachi's second 'Five-Year Plan'. (Economic History of Pakistan) 'Pakistan may be on its way towards an economic milestone that so far has been reached by only one other populous country, the United States.' (Story (1965)). The survival and development of Pakistan is one of the most remarkable examples of state and nation-building in the post-War period' (The Time, 1966).

4.2. Iqbal and Indonesia

Allama Muhammad Iqbal's philosophical ideas profoundly impacted Indonesian struggle for independence in the 1940s. Indonesian leaders drew inspiration from Iqbal's teachings. Iqbal was widely mentioned in Indonesian media, symbolizing courage in fight against Dutch colonialism. Iqbal's ideas contributed to formation of Indonesian Islamic state, with leaders like Usman al-Muhammady considering themselves his disciples, (Khumaini, 2007, Sep).

4.3. Case Studies

A number of countries have effectively converted their youth into asset for development over last 75 years post WW-II, 1945. These case studies are limited to some Asian countries. They recognized potential of their youth and made deliberate efforts to provide them with quality education, skills training and opportunities for innovation & entrepreneurship and have effectively transformed youth bulges into valuable assets contributing significantly towards development of their countries. An account of reasons behind these countries' progress, is appended below:

4.3.1. South Korea

South Korean youth is engaged in formal decision-making. Youth Special Congress gathers young reps nationwide to deliberate & propose youth-oriented policies, (UN Secretary-General's Report to the General Assembly). To counter recent crisis, Sri Lanka is following South Korean Model, Wattegama (2022). South Korea's remarkable success has four secrets:

- a. Motivation
- b. Focus
- c. Coordination
- d. Capacity-Building

4.3.2. Singapore

Singapore has nice story to be shared with youth in Pakistan. Country, once part of Malaysia, famous for crimes, law and order situation, was disintegrated from Malaysia by majority vote of Parliament in 1965. By strategic investments in education, skills training and creating a business-friendly environment, Singapore successfully channeled its youth bulge into a competitive advantage. Singapore's three lettered formulae for development.

- a. Meritocracy
- b. Pragmatic
- c. Honesty

4.3.3. China

As per 2000 census, youth population in Chinese mainland, was 315 million, constituting 25.36% of total population. China's literacy has enhanced enrolment rate since 1990s with 100% in Junior Secondary School, and HSSC rising almost from 0%-55% (1990-2020), Xinhua (2022, April 21). Chinese Economic Model differs from traditional socialism in its use of a market system in economy. It also differs in its commitment to democracy 'with Chinese characteristics' and to a new model of party leadership,(Zhang, 2011). According to (Li, 2015), main characteristics of China's Model are:

- a. State-Led Development.
- b. Development - Top Priority.
- c. Focusing Good Governance.
- d. Gradual/Pragmatic Reform.

With world's largest population, China's youth bulge has played a significant role in its rapid economic development. Focusing on education, infrastructure& urbanization have

allowed it to harness potential of its young population, lifting hundreds of millions of people out of poverty and becoming world's largest economy.

4.3.4. Japan

Before World War II, 'Made in Japan' products were seen as cheap and unreliable, to the extent that Western merchants considered it disgraceful to stock them. Atomic bombing on Japan cities Hiroshima³ and Nagasaki⁴ not only occasioned loss to human being⁵ but also destroyed infrastructure and brought its economy to ashes. Japan's post-World War-II progress was driven by its humility in acknowledging defeat, avoiding futile disputes and embracing relentless efforts from scratch, Jatoi (2018, Aug 10). Within 40 years, Japan achieved revolutionary progress. Its automobile industry made progress with remarkable speed. By 1959, Japan was world's largest producer of ships, building world's largest ship, 'Sea Wise Giant', in 1981. In 1985, by producing 1.227m cars annually, Japan emerged as top country in motor vehicle manufacturing industry. Let's see how Japan did this development based mainly on following characteristics;

- a. Quality Control
- b. Hard Work & Dedication
- c. 'Arigato Money' (respect the money) Technique

4.3.5. Japanese Values & Umar Law

Japanese laid the foundation of modern society law, in the principles of reform given by Hazrat Umar (RA), known as 'Umar Law.' Based on various aspects of life including cleanliness, respect for seniors and elders, honesty in their business and day to day operations, avoiding telling lies etc.

4.3.6. Takeaways from these case studies

Takeaways from these case studies are that each country had some areas to focus on e.g. Singapore focused on MPH, Japan focused on cleanliness, respect for elders, money etc., China worked on State led development and good governance. Like these countries, Pakistan also need to work on specific areas of focus for youth development.

5. Measures in Place for Pakistan's Youth

Pakistani youth is in Govt.'s focus, for nearly two decades. Ministry of Youth Affairs Islamabad, Pakistan first documented (National Youth Policy December) in Dec, 2008 followed by youth empowerment programs of 2013, National Youth Development Framework, 2019, Prime Minister's National Youth Council, Punjab Youth Policy, Sindh Youth Policy, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Youth Policy, Baluchistan Youth Policy, etc. As per World Bank's report of 20 Oct 2021 human capital 'consists of the knowledge, skills, and health that people invest in and accumulate throughout their lives, enabling them to realize their potential as productive members of society (World Bank, 2021, October 20). There is no dearth of measures and infrastructure for empowering youth. Some selected youth programs are:

5.1. Pakistan's National Youth Policy 2008

The National Youth Policy's main focus is to instill a sense of national pride, good citizenship, regional unity, holistic development, and prepare young people for practical income generation in their lives (National Youth Policy December).

5.2. Youth Loan Scheme

'PM's Youth Business and Agriculture Loan Scheme' (PMYB&ALS) provides youth entrepreneurship bank loans online with favorable terms & reduced interest rates to 21-45 years (for IT 18 years) old Pakistani residents having entrepreneurial potential.

³ On 6 Aug 1945

⁴ On 9 Aug 1945

⁵ As per estimates, 90,000 and 146,000 people were killed in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

5.3. Digital Youth Development Centres

On 3 Aug 23, the PM inaugurated the Youth Development Centres to serve university students as one stop-shops for necessary information, counselling, and resources through a single window system.⁶

5.4. Govt's Performance Report

Ministry of Planning (Apr 22 to Aug 23), indicating special emphasis on 'youth empowerment and inclusive development'. Of several strategic initiatives announced as 'PM's Youth Development Program', 06 relate to 'education', 04 for 'engagement & opportunities' and 02 each for 'employment' & 'entrepreneurship'.

5.5. National Economic Council (NEC)

Pakistan's NEC, a constitutionally mandated institution is entrusted to assess the country's economic condition and formulate plans to foster fair development and regional equilibrium. Operating under Article 156 of Constitution, the NEC serves as a critical advisory body to Federal and Provincial Govts on finance, trade, social welfare & economic strategies. The President of Pakistan on 01 Sep 2023, reconstituted 13 members NEC, with caretaker PM as Chairman, provincial CMs & other Several Federal & Provincial Ministers as NEC members. Art. 156(1)(c) of Constitution of Pakistan 'four other members as the Prime Minister may nominate from time to time' authorizes PM to nominate members, however, historically there is no representation for youth in NEC.

5.6. Utilizing Military in 'National Development'

Consequent to amendments in the Pakistan Army Act, 1952 passed by parliament in The Pakistan Army (Amendments) Act 2023, Army has been given the role of national development.⁷ Military can be effectively utilized in projects of vital importance e.g.:

- a. Infrastructure Development.
- b. Training and Skill Development.
- c. Educational Initiatives.
- d. Environmental Conservation.
- e. Community Engagement.
- f. Monitoring and Accountability.

6. Three Age-Groups

As mentioned earlier for the purposes of this article youth has been classified in following three age-groups:

6.1. Age-Group 0-7

The period of 0-7 is a crucial phase in children development as they primarily learn through observing their surroundings. The behaviors and interactions of parents, siblings, and other relatives play a pivotal role in shaping the child's personality and early development. There are 3 things that elders need to demonstrate before kids at this stage:

6.2. Not to Lie

The Prophet (SAW) said: 'Lying is not good for seriousness or jest, nor for a man to promise his son and then not fulfill it', (Bukhari).

6.3. Control on Tongue

Saying of Prophet Muhammad reflects importance of self-control and proper behavior in Islam. The actual wording of this saying can vary slightly based on the source, but the essence remains consistent. The saying emphasizes the rewards for those who are able to control their tongues and their private parts. Here's a more detailed version of the saying:

⁶ Details retrieved on 4 Aug 23 from , <https://pmyp.gov.pk/pmyphome/PMYPM>.

⁷ Section 175E of Pakistan Army (Amendments) Act 2023 reads:

"175E. National Development. - The Pakistan Army may, upon direction or with the concurrence of relevant authorities of the appropriate government in the prescribed manner, directly or indirectly, carry out activities related to, inter alia, national development and advancement of national or Provided that all such activities already undertaken shall be deemed to be and always to have been validly done under this Act.

Explanation. "appropriate government" means the Federal Government or Provincial Government as the case may be."

'Whoever guarantees me (the Prophet) what is between his two jawbones (i.e., the tongue) and what is between his legs (i.e., the private parts), I guarantee him Paradise'.⁵³

It signifies that those who exercise control over their tongues, refraining from harmful speech, gossip, and slander, as well as those who maintain chastity and purity in their private lives, will be rewarded with entry into Paradise.

6.4. Seek permission before taking others' things

Devouring one-another's property is prohibited by Quran. 'O you who have believed, do not consume one another's wealth unjustly but only [in lawful] business by mutual consent' (Sahih International)(Al-Nisa: 29). Children of such tender age from 0-7 should be taught the basic rule of seeking permission before using or taking something that belongs to others.

6.5. Age Group 7-14

The age group of 7-14 is a critical phase in a child's development as they begin to receive commands and guidance from various authority figures, including family, teachers, and peers. This period comes with its own set of advantages and disadvantages, shaping the child's growth & character. Following three things are needed to be done for youth comprising age group 7-14.

6.6. Giving them Respect and Importance

John C. Maxwell,⁸ says, 'When people ask me what to do for youth development? The answer I give them is to respect them in your family, school, society and country. Give them importance' (Shinwari, 2022, Dec 4). It is upto parents, elders and teachers to involve youth in various real-time decision making starting with small things of daily life/ class activity.

6.7. Wiring/programming the 'mind' in Right Way

Dr. Joe Dispenza, a well-known author and speaker in neuroscience and personal development, focuses on the concept of rewiring or reprogramming brain to achieve personal transformation and improved mental well-being. Rewiring/reprogramming means reshaping thought patterns and neural connections to create a more positive and empowered mindset. The author thinks why to rewire/reprogram when there is enough time and opportunity to wire/program the brain in the right way. What does it mean? It means to groom the children in early life, age 7-15. That is where the 2nd stage envisaged in this article becomes operational. The ensuing three secrets Pakistani youth aged 7-15 need to be made aware of:

6.8. Teaching them laws of Success

The ensuing laws are based on notion of the power of thoughts; It is notably said that 'your thoughts are your things', 'like for like', 'the mind is transmitter', 'what you think, will be attracted to you', etc. These are based on the laws of attraction, abundance and focus as explained below:

6.8.1. Using 'The Secret' Law

The youth in this age group are to be thoroughly trained to practice the secret law of success in three steps so that this process becomes their second habit:

6.8.2. Firstly 'to Ask'

Command the Universe with clarity. Express your desires in the present tense, stating: 'I am so happy and grateful now that'. The Universe responds to your thoughts, so articulate what you truly want in every aspect of your life on paper.

6.8.3. Secondly 'to Believe'

Have unwavering faith; believe it's already yours. Act, speak, and think as if you are receiving it now, emitting the feeling and frequency of having received it. Allow the 'law of attraction' to align circumstances, people, and events for you to receive. Start by make-believing, be like a child acting as if you have it already. As you make-believe, belief will grow. Don't concern yourself with the 'how'; let the Universe bring it to you. Replace doubt with unwavering faith, knowing that what you desire is on its way.

⁸ He is identified as the most popular leadership expert in the world by Inc. Magazine.

6.8.4. Thirdly 'to Receive'

To complete the process, embrace the joy of receiving. Feel the happiness as if your desire has already arrived. Maintaining a positive and happy mindset is crucial, as it aligns you with the frequency of your desires. Affirm, 'I am receiving all the good in my life now,' and truly feel it. You act as a magnet, drawing what you want, and it, in turn, is attracted to you. With consistent practice, faith, belief, and knowing amplify your magnetic power. Expect great things, just like those who consistently attract parking spaces or winning streaks. By expecting greatness, you're creating your life in advance.

6.8.5. Age Group 15-29

This age group marks the time when young individuals make career choices. By employing religious, psychological, and poetry-inspired motivation, youth can be transformed into a valuable asset for Pakistan.

6.8.6. Urge for a Change

In order to get change in national conditions, Pakistan's Youth need to be educated to change; 'the change of mindset'. The Quran says: '... Allah does not change a people's lot unless they change what is in their hearts.' (13:11) Khan Zafar A. (1937)⁹ has rightly translated this verse into a couplet:

خدا نے آج تک اس قوم کی حالت نہیں بدلی نہ ہو جس کو خیال آپ اپنی حالت کے بدلنے کا

6.8.7. Eagle Spirit

Allama Iqbal has placed much emphasis on awakening of youth. He characterizes youth as an 'eagle' (شائبین). Throughout his poetry he has referred to such a phenomenon.

عقابی روح جب بیدار ہوتی ہے جوانوں میں نظر آتی ہے ان کو اپنی منزل آسمانوں میں

'When the eagle-spirited youth awaken, they see their destination in the skies.'

6.8.8. Early risers- great achievers

Waking up early is the practice of getting out of bed before most people, often considered a productive strategy. It involves consistently rising early to maximize daytime productivity. This approach has ancient roots and is currently endorsed by various personal development experts. The book 'Economics' ascribed to Aristotle contains: 'Rising before daylight is also to be commended; it is a healthy habit, and gives more time for the management of the household as well as for liberal studies' (Aristotle, 384–322 BCE). Famous quote 'Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise' is attributed to Benjamin Franklin. His another quote is: 'The early morning has gold in its mouth'. The proverb 'The early bird gets the worm' suggests that rising early in the morning leads to success during whole day. Scientifically, Dr. Matt Walker says: 'there's a window of several hours-roughly between 8 PM and 12 AM-during which your brain and body have the opportunity to get all the non-rapid eye movement (non-REM) and REM shuteye they need to function optimally.'

6.8.9. Unhealthy Sleeping Patterns

Some basic changes require adoption by the youth in order to get on to respect in the comity of nations. A change in the sleeping patterns; Early to bed early to rise. Aiming to inspire youth to embrace a more natural lifestyle, Rahman (2019, July) presented a thought provoking comparison between the final years of the Mughal Empire, where emperor used to awake in the night and the British East India Company officials who slept early and rose early in the morning. Today's Pakistan shares numerous similarities with Mughal India. Youth has unhealthy social habits. A recurring issue lies in appointing less competent people to crucial positions within Govt and political parties, leading to inefficient and corrupt governance. This pattern hinders Pakistan's progress despite its substantial potential and resources, (Rahman, 2019, July).

⁹ The couplet is attributed to Allama Iqbal; whereas it relates to Molana Zafar Ali Khan, of daily *Zimindar*.

6.8.10. Practicing a 20 Minutes Nap

To boost the mental faculties adoption of the system of 20 minutes nap (قبيلولة) at noon in nap pods may be encouraged in all working environments, similar to 'work hard, sleep hard' formula of Googleplex, Silicon Valley, Tulio (2015, Aug 27).

6.8.11. Leaving Comfort Zones

Jack Canfield said that 'The biggest rewards in life are found outside comfort zone. Live with it. Fear & risk are prerequisites if you want to enjoy a life of success and adventure.' Nietzsche, advocated for a life of self-discovery, individualism, and embracing life's challenges without fear. 'Live dangerously' is an encouragement to embrace risk, challenge & unknown in life to achieve personal growth & fulfillment, rather than playing it safe and avoiding all risks. It is a command to step out of comfort zone and embrace life's challenges with courage & enthusiasm. While living dangerously can lead to fulfilling & exhilarating experiences, it should be balanced with responsible decision-making and consideration of potential consequences, (Nietzsche, 1883).

6.9. Islam Perspective

6.9.1. Hardships

'Hardship' is always followed by 'easiness'. The phenomenon has explicitly been described in the Holy Quran as:

'So, verily, with every difficulty, there is relief: Verily, with every difficulty there is relief.' (Ali, d.1953).

Holy Prophet has been promised: 'the latter portion will be better for thee than the former.' (Al-Duha:4)

6.9.2. Spending as Charity' & preventing 'Beggary'

Youth need to be educated that Quran has given much emphasis on charity (صدقة), spending (انفاق) and feeding the needy (اطعام الطعام). While the immediate hunger of needy can be accomplished by providing food, it is important to safeguard their self-respect. Youth is often found lurking around roads seeking pennies. Beggary needs to be discouraged out-rightly, and it is essential to provide cooked food on subsidized rates to those in need shows a private cheap food project in Islamabad suburbs).

6.9.3. Causes of financial hardships

Things due to which financial difficulties arise are summarized hereunder:

a. Ignoring the Quran

The deteriorating condition, economic hardships, and lack of stability of the Muslim nation are primarily caused by distancing themselves from the Quran. 'But whosoever turns away from My Reminder (i.e. neither believes in this Quran nor acts on its orders, etc.) verily, for him is a life of hardship, and We shall raise him up blind on the Day of Resurrection. He will say: 'O my Lord! Why have you raised me up blind, while I had sight (before). (Allah) will say: 'Like this, Our Ayat (proofs, evidences, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, etc.) came unto you, but you disregarded them (i.e. you left them, did not think deeply in them, and you turned away from them), and so this Day, you will be neglected (in the Hell-fire, away from Allah's Mercy).' (Taha: 124-126)

b. Indulgence in Riba (interest)

'Those who devour usury will not stand except as stand one whom the Evil one by his touch hath driven to madness. That is because they say: 'Trade is like usury,' but Allah hath permitted trade and forbidden usury'.... (Al-Baqarah: 275)(Ali, d.1953). 'Allah will destroy Riba (usury) and will give increase for Sadaqat (deeds of charity, alms, etc.)' (Mohsin Khan)(Al-Baqarah: 276).

c. Corruption in Weighing & Measures

'And give full measure when you measure out, and weigh with a true balance; this is fair and better in the end.' (Israa:35, Shakir). Who, when they take a measure from people,

take in full. But if they give by measure or by weight to them, they cause loss. (Mutaffifeen:2-3, Sahih International)

d. Extravagance

Holy Prophet said: 'Eat, drink, give in charity and spend on garments. However, do not indulge in extravagance and do not have the intention of pride and arrogance.' (Sunan Ibn Maja: 3605)

e. Concentration of wealth in a few hands

Islam discourages the concentration of wealth in a few hands, and that's why it orders the distribution of spoils among the needy. 'The purpose of this distribution system is so that wealth does not circulate only among your rich but spreads throughout all segments of society.' (Al-Hashr: 7)

f. Indebtedness - Humiliation and Disgrace

'Debt is like a noose around one's neck, and when Allah wants to humiliate a nation, the noose of debt is placed around their neck.' (Mustadrak, Abdullah bin Umar). It means that they become indebted, and when they do not repay the debt, they remain humiliated, and whenever an opportunity arises, they are further disgraced.' 'The worst meeting with Allah is when a person is in a state of debt.' (Sunan Abi Dawood 1/475) 'Corruption has appeared throughout the land and sea by [reason of] what the hands of people have earned (Al-Rum:41).

g. Five for Five

(i) When a society indulges in open sin and immorality, it can face consequences such as epidemics and diseases that were not previously known to their ancestors. (ii) When people begin to cheat in measuring, they will be struck with famine, economic hardship, and oppression by their rulers. (iii) When people withhold the payment of Zakat (obligatory charity), Allah prevents rain from falling from the sky, and if it were not for the cattle, no rain would fall on them. (iv) When people break their covenant with Allah and His Messenger, Allah places over them an enemy from among themselves who takes away what they have. (v) When their rulers do not judge by what Allah has revealed and do not implement what Allah has sent down, Allah will cause discord and disputes among them.'

h. Providing assistance and food

Not providing assistance and food for those in need (Al-Muddassir:44), nor motivating other to do that (Al-M'oon:3). A person would express regret and longing, wishing to have given charity and become one of the virtuous or righteous individuals (Al-Munafiqoon:10) such a behavior is hypocrisy (al-Tauba:75). Some individuals deviating from religious values, would engage in sins like adultery, wearing silk, drinking alcohol, and playing music, considering these actions permissible. Once, arrogant people, living in luxurious homes in mountainous areas, would refuse to help a person in need, telling him to come tomorrow. Due to their arrogance, Allah will punish them that night by knocking down a mountain on them. Many of them will be transformed into monkeys and pigs, remaining in that state until the Day of Judgment (Bukhari: 5590).

i. Financial corruption

'When public money is considered as 'booty', trust deposits as 'wealth', and charity as 'penalty', then is the time to await a red storm, earthquakes, changes in the landscape, falling stones and continuous, visible signs that will appear, similar to the continuous descent of an old Pearl necklace whose thread has been broken (At-Tirmizi, 209-279AH).

6.9.4. Causes of Prosperity

Things that bring prosperity are summarized hereunder:

a. 90% of sustenance is linked with business

'Embrace trade because nine out of ten livelihoods are connected to business.' (Sunan Saeed ibn Mansoor). The same has further explanation: 'Nine out of ten livelihoods are in trade, and the remaining one part is in animal husbandry.'(Al-Albani, 1914 – 2 October 1999).

b. Order in Rain System

'If people begin to obey me, I will make it rain upon them at night, and I will make the sun rise upon them during the day, and I will not let them hear the sound of thunder.' (Hanbal, d. 241 AH/855 AD).

c. Istighfar benefits

Noah (AS) motivated his nation to do *istighfar* which would have five benefits: 'They will be forgiven; there will be a continuous rain of blessings from the sky; there will be an abundance of wealth and children; gardens will flourish; and rivers will flow.' (Nooh:10-12)

d. Sustenance is revealed systemically from Heavens

'Allah has placed mankind's sustenance in the heavens.' (Al-Zaariat: 22) 'If We were to send down all at once, their sustenance, it could cause the people to become ungrateful due to excessive abundance.' (Al-Shura:27)

e. When Allah opens His blessings

Almighty Allah mentions that 'If the people of these towns had believed and been mindful of God, We would certainly have opened up to them blessings from the heavens and the earth. But they gave themselves up to evil, so We seized them for their deeds.' (Al-Araf:96) 'If the children of Adam adhere to the right path, We will certainly provide them with plenty of water (sustenance).' (Jinn:16)

f. Blessing in Labourer's Charity

Abu Mas'ud narrates that the Messenger of Allah used to give us commands regarding charity, and one of us used to work as a laborer, earning money to provide charity. Today, among those people, there is one who possesses one hundred thousand in cash. (Sahih Bukhari: 1415).

7. Conclusion & Recommendations

While analyzing various aspects covered in this article and suggestions accumulated during the review of the material/literature on the subject it is concluded that converting youth bulge into an asset for Pakistan requires a multipronged comprehensive approach addressing various aspects of youth development. Drawing motivation from religious, psychological and Iqbal's poetry sources, youth's thinking process needs be transformed into an active dividend for Pakistan. Based on the presented data, findings, and conclusions of this article, the recommendations are made in the following levels:

- Scholars/preachers from *minbar*/stage should encourage youth on repentance and seeking Allah's forgiveness, the measure to attain prosperity as per Surah Noah.
- Except when otherwise necessitated in relevant fields, the youth as well as nation at large may be encouraged to go to bed soon after Isha prayer and rise at dawn time. This would also help reduce prevalent energy crisis in the country.
- To facilitate process, practical measures be adopted as:
 - A system may be devised where youth are encouraged to wake-up at 3:30 am (in summer) and 5:00 am (in winter) and undertake physical activities.
 - With immediate effect, Govt at Federal and Provincial levels to order and implement closing of all businesses and workings by 8 PM in winter (Oct-Mar) and 10 PM in summer (Apr-Sep).
 - Office timing (6-8 hours as the case may be) in all Govt/ semi Govt offices and civil set-ups may be swayed by one hour in summer v. winter, ensuring daylight-saving time(DST).
 - To recharge the mental abilities, adoption of the system of 20 minutes nap (فيلولة) at noon in nap pods may be encouraged in all working environments, similar to 'work hard, sleep hard' formula of Googleplex, Silicon Valley.
 - Discourage late-sitting in the offices, workplaces and business places.

- Some 11% of the population is involved in begging on streets. A clean-up action may be taken against beggary in the country. Youth and children may be treated for rewiring their minds to adopt hard work.
- State of insolvency & indebtedness is an offence in the forces. Nation needs to be modified so that youth which is future of this country does not look at and rely on loan and assistance from outsiders. It should stand on its own foot.
- To transform the national jails into 'correctional centers' nationwide, modeling after KPK prisons, positive prisoners' engagement in education and rehabilitation programs may be prioritized.
- Keeping in view China's Govt-led development and given the fact that military has been assigned the task of 'national development' through act of parliament, the military's role in the development may be increased.
- The foremost and essential thing is to encourage the youth towards the Quran. Further, youth may be equipped with Iqbal's teachings. For this purpose, 'Iqbal Chair' may be established in all universities and colleges.
- National curriculum is to be reviewed with regards to inclusion of motivation on religious, psychological and poetic aspects as hinted at under the heading of general suggestions.
- Engaging national and international motivational speakers, success coaches and mind sciences experts, thought process of the youth may be molded towards positivity, positive thinking and creating positive mind set i.a.w. laws of attraction, abundance and focus.
- Keeping in view stern warnings against Riba (Interest) youth may be educated about its elimination from all trade, banking, etc.
- Country's wealthy individuals/welfare organizations be organized, and welfare sectors be designated so that assistance and essential items can be promptly delivered to deserving individuals under a structured system.
- Promote a corporate mindset among youth and encourage entrepreneurship in every social stratum of country.
- Exposing beggary techniques and mafias, public awareness may be created to discourage people paying them.
- Develop practical strategies to eradicate beggary and impart vocational skills to beggars particularly young beggars at the national level.
- Comprehensive working on eldering and parenting may be devised involving relevant SMEs and awareness campaigns may be propelled for parents and elders on how to tackle the children in this age group.
- The couples aspiring for marriage may be given appropriate training on parenting and grooming of children before *Nikah*/developing their family lives.
- To use gardens/ parks areas near *Katchi Abadis* and where no garden/ park is available, the project of mobile Buses may be implemented in those areas.
- As regards administration and logistics, Govt may engage young graduates for such schools. Teachers of same Govt/ private schools may be engaged on honorarium/voluntary basis. Retired Officers/Educationists may be engaged.

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