

## PalArch's Journal of Archaeology of Egypt / Egyptology

### MEASURING THE FACTORS OF LIMITED PARTICIPATION OF YOUTH IN POLITICS OF PUNJAB (PAKISTAN)

*Dr. Muhammad Waris<sup>1</sup>, Asifa Tariq<sup>2</sup>, Faiz Rasool<sup>3</sup>, Muhammad Umair Irshad<sup>4</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>Associate Professor , Government Associate College Shahpur Sadar

<sup>2</sup>PhD Scholar, Department of Pakistan Studies GC University Faisalabad

<sup>3</sup>Lecturer, department of Pakistan studies, government College university Faisalabad Pakistan

<sup>4</sup>M.Phil Scholar Department of Pakistan Studies GC University Faisalabad

Corresponding Author Email: [faizrasoolps@gcuf.edu.pk](mailto:faizrasoolps@gcuf.edu.pk), [umair\\_irshad40@yahoo.com](mailto:umair_irshad40@yahoo.com)

**Dr. Muhammad Waris, Asifa Tariq, Faiz Rasool, Muhammad Umair Irshad.  
Measuring The Factors Of Limited Participation Of Youth In Politics Of Punjab  
(Pakistan) -- Journal Of Archaeology Of Egypt/Egyptology 20(2), 2290-2304. ISSN  
1567-214x**

**Keywords: Youth, Political Participation, Family Affiliation, Political Attitudes,  
Economic Factors, Corruption**

#### ABSTRACT

This research provides an overlook at political participation behavior of youth in Punjab Province of Pakistan. This paper consists of different factors that cause low youth participation in politics. The affecting factors on voting behavior and political participation include lack of interest, public issues, economic factors, senior politicians, family influence, regional affiliations and corruption of leaders. This literature is examined through the lens of seven guiding questions. Quantitative approach is used to conduct this study so a questionnaire was framed to accumulate data from more than 4200 respondents. The qualitative approach included close group discussion and interview which was conducted from university level students. This research will provide well-informed reflection of thinking of youth about low participation of youth in politics. This study portrayed the facts that age, family income, political affiliation, and other factors affected voting in national and local elections. The results viewed that participation of youth in politics is an important factor and now youth has acquired wisdom for the said purpose.

#### INTRODUCTION

The youth is an important factor of any nation to bring a change in any aspect of life. The young people's participation in politics helps to bring a political change in politics of a country. According to WHO, the people of a country

between 10-19 years falls in “Adolescent” and age groups of 10-24 will be treated as “Youth” (Organization, 1999). The interest of the youth in politics and the political setup of their country can make numerous changes in the political arena that can bring a positive change in the state. In case of Pakistan, history unveiled that youth had started their practical politics from their institutes. The involvement of youth in politics of Pakistan has different phases, including major works in Pakistan Movement, the Bengali Nationalist Movement and Movement for the overthrow of President Ayub Khan (Kokab, Waris, & Iqbal, December 2020). The student unions were the major source of youth in politics of Pakistan that underwent in many changes when different governments had banned student politics.

In the previous 15 years, youth once again got momentum in politics of Pakistan but with divergent political ideas. Pakistan is a democratic country that based on the two-third proportion of youth among the national population (Ministry of Youth Affairs, 2009). Therefore, the role and activities of youth in politics have much important for the decision-making process by choosing their representatives in government. The Insaaf Students’ Federation that was created in 2007 under the umbrella of “Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaaf” that became able to get momentum in youth of Pakistan. The young people are actively seen in politics by participating in political campaigns, sit-ins and demonstrations.

Youth are desired to get an important phase with their social, psychological, economic and political attributes by having the opportunity to speak about their concerns (Erkan, 1985). Similarly, everyone has right to choose their path with autonomy, cultural independence and philosophical thoughts (Mpofu, 2012). On the other hand, a major number of youth are unaware from the facts about political conditions of Pakistan. The youth demonstrated that they do not have faith in political institutions and politicians (Blais & Loewen, 2009). Secondly, the UN’s study unveiled that youth have the ability to participate in decision-making processes, but they are excluded and marginalized (Union & (UNDP), 2012). The statistics of the Planning Commission had shown the increase of 3% of the youth population in Pakistan annually, (Statistics, 2018) but it was determined that senior citizens are much participating in politics than the youth.

### *Objectives of the Study*

This analysis is mainly designed on measuring the reason behind the low participation of Punjab’s youth in the political arena of Pakistan. For attaining this objective, the sub-objectives are planned as follow:

- To identify the barriers in political participation of youth
- To view the understanding level among youth
- To assess the importance of political engagement of youth
- To determine the influence of socio-economic factors
- To explain the trends and dynamics of politics in Punjab that helps to make meaningful policies for the youth

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

The participation of the public without any barrier of age factor has much importance as it was indicated by Homana (2018). The study was structured on the varied ratio of young, adults and old age participants that has resulted the low turnout percentage in youth. The reason behind their reluctance was the lack of interest, poor involvement and repugnance from malpractices of political parties. Another factor of their reluctance was non-achievement of goals or fulfillment of promises that electable make with voters and especially to youth. In a study Büyükkaragöz, (1987) specified that youth are willing to ensure justice and elimination of inequalities from societal system. Youth generally adopts the political ideas from their parents. They tended strongly that trails behind false leaders could accomplish their goals. The adoption of morality, tradition, religious norms and political principles help to improve the political structure. However, all of these factors come from their parents and false leader devalued their parents by using false means.

The importance of youth's political participation in democratic countries will be treated more efficient when both genders equally involve in the voting and political process. The impact of gender equality and their participation is highlighted in different studies done by Lawless (2004), Atkeson (2003), and Koch (1997). Their study unveiled that women had less political involvement than men due to several reasons. The distancing of women from politics is due to their thinking that they are still weak. In case of Pakistan, patriarchal society, uneducated class and unequal rights push back women in politics. The same kind of conclusion is drawn by Pyeatt and Yanus (2018) in their study that women participation in political issues, parties, and other factors is due to sense of marginalization and lack of their equality with men.

Another factor of lower interest of youth in politics includes wealth, social well-being, money and economic development. This was linked by Lawless and Fox (2001) and Cohen and Dawson (1993). They interpreted that wealth and strong economic background boosts youth to take part in politics and government. Similarly, Solt (2008) identified that unequal distribution of wealth affected the political participation as the poor public is unwilling to vote due to the absence of any incentive.

## METHODS:

This study is based on questionnaire and interviews of youth by a random sample. More than 4000 respondents had answered the questions individually. The participants were both rural and urban based and both male and female were allowed to disclose their opinions. The majority of them were from educated youth while uneducated group also responded with the help of a researcher by identifying the questions into native language.

### *Empirical Study:*

The data collected for this study to know the responses of youth that whether there are any factors involved that cause the low participation of youth in politics or not. The question was raised "I do not take interest in the politics because government does not deliver" and the youth identified that bad

performance of governments since the inception of the country had created the disinterest in Punjab’s youth. Both Democratic and Military Rules never fulfilled their promises that caused the lack of interest.

**Table 1:** Lack of Interest due to Non-Deliverance

I am not interested in politics as the government does not deliver.										
			<b>SD (1)</b>	<b>D (2)</b>	<b>N (3)</b>	<b>A (4)</b>	<b>SA (5)</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Mode</b>
<b>Village</b>	<b>Men</b>	Uneducated	8	20	21	10	17	3.10	3.00	2.00
		School/College	63	62	53	131	96	3.33	4.00	4.00
		University	68	96	118	138	121	3.27	3.00	4.00
		Sub Total Men	139	178	192	279	234	3.24	3.33	3.33
	<b>Women</b>	Uneducated	11	16	15	14	19	3.18	3.00	5.00
		School/College	43	27	39	76	88	3.60	4.00	5.00
		University	126	147	138	186	157	3.24	3.00	4.00
		Sub Total Women	180	190	192	276	264	3.35	3.33	4.67
	<b>Sub Total Village</b>			319	368	384	555	498	3.29	3.33
<b>City</b>	<b>Men</b>	Uneducated	1	2	3	1	1	2.87	3.00	3.00
		School/College	32	38	26	51	58	3.28	4.00	5.00
		University	71	122	112	197	154	3.37	4.00	4.00
		Sub Total Men	104	164	141	249	213	3.18	3.67	4.00
	<b>Women</b>	Uneducated	12	19	8	3	3	2.24	2.00	2.00
		School/College	31	37	24	65	76	3.50	4.00	5.00
		University	43	61	41	85	69	3.25	4.00	4.00
		Sub Total Women	86	117	73	153	148	3.00	3.33	3.67
	<b>Sub Total City</b>			190	281	214	402	361	3.09	3.50
<b>Total</b>			509	649	598	957	859	3.19	3.42	3.92
Points Analysis of Total			-1018	-649	0	957	1718			
			-1667			2675	1008			

The young respondents validated the question that they are not interested in politics as the government never delivers as they promise in campaigns. The results unveiled that youth of Pakistan even did not have the basic facilities at their end as the government did not deliver the required things. The non-fulfilment of promises and unavailability of the basic needs developed the interest of youth against the political participation. The result indicated positive tendency and mean and median also supported this fact. Similarly, the mode

valued at 4 that indicated the trend toward agreed option. The term basically had negative aspect so the trend of mean median and mode symbolized the lack of interest of youth in politics.

In case of uneducated youth of the village, the tendency was in disagreement that shows a different trend which may be seen due to unawareness of the facts as educated peoples agreed with this question. The mean (2.88) and (2.44) of responses of uneducated male and female from the village extended a slight decline than (3) which was central value. It reflected that youth disagreed this term and favored government as they thought that government delivered well and they have interest in politics.

The thinking of uneducated rural male and female respondents may differ due to the *Biradris* (Caste system) and *Dhara-bandi* (Factionalism). The power politics of Punjab had different dimensions from the politics in other parts of the country. The electoral history of Pakistan as well as Colonial Period indicated that there is a deep stance of these *Biradaris* in the politics of Punjab. Instead of socio-economic barriers in rural areas, illiterate rural voters prefer their castes during elections.

During interviews and closed group discussion, the youth majorly showed reservations about the establishment. They expounded their words about four military governments of Pakistan. They opined that democratic government intends to deliver but mostly establishment and their sub-ordinates interrupted the government. This was another factor which diverted the interest of youth from politics (Nayab, 2023).

The trend of absence of youth interest in politics because the government does not deliver is affirmed by another question "Participation in politics does not assist ordinary people." The results of the said question also showed a positive trend that marked the youth opinion more effectively. Young people believe that the government did not deliver and did not assist the common public so this caused the lack of interest. This trend denoted that youngsters prefer the leaders on the basis of delivery of basic needs.

**Table 2:** Correlation between Youth Participation in Politics and interests of Common People

Participation in politics does not assist ordinary people.										
			SD (1)	D (2)	N (3)	A (4)	SA (5)	Mean	Median	Mode
Village	Men	Uneducated	53	64	72	41	27	2.71	3.00	3.00
		School/ College	77	78	72	85	92	3.09	3.00	5.00
		University	66	131	108	138	91	3.10	3.00	4.00
		Sub Total Men	196	273	252	264	210	2.97	3.00	4.00
	Women	Uneducated	48	67	79	59	43	3.00	3.00	3.00
		School/	54	47	36	64	74	3.20	4.00	5.00

		College								
		University	104	175	163	168	149	3.10	3.00	2.00
		Sub Total Women	206	289	278	291	266	3.11	3.33	3.33
	Sub Total	Village		562	530	555	476	3.04	3.17	3.67
City	Men	Uneducated	6	2	2	8	2	2.90	3.50	4.00
		School/ College	31	53	26	44	48	3.12	3.00	2.00
		University	94	138	122	160	144	3.18	3.00	4.00
		Sub Total Men	131	193	150	212	194	3.07	3.17	3.33
	Women	Uneducated	17	32	23	21	7	2.70	3.00	2.00
		School/ College	38	55	24	60	48	3.10	3.00	4.00
		University	55	66	64	55	58	2.98	3.00	2.00
		Sub Total Women	110	153	111	136	113	2.93	3.00	2.67
	Sub Total	City		346	261	348	307	3.00	3.08	3.00
	<b>Total</b>			643	908	791	903	783	3.02	3.13
Points Analysis of Total			-1286	-908	0	903	1566			
			-2194			2469		275		

The politics of Punjab is based on landlords so generally society did not find any realistic chance to get into politics. History showed that political parties selected those candidates majorly, which had a strong background in politics or a big *Biradari* background. It can be witnessed from the electoral politics of PTI in district Khushab where party did not gain much weightage until the Party selected landlords as the candidates (Ullah, 2020). Political parties generally select the candidates who can win from their regions so the party can gain a majority in the Assembly. In spite of this, parties also influence their voters, common people and political leaders to make them stronger.

The party determines the candidature by forbidding public's interests while civilized democratic parties, governments and states did not do that before assigning any tasks to their leaders. The raised question "participation in politics does not assist ordinary people" evaluated that whether public gets benefit or not by participating in politics. The youth from Punjab province agreed with the raised question with the positive tendency that having mean and median more than 3 which was the central value. Though the mode's value, 2 indicated disagreement from the mean and median but the overall result favored this question. The largest responses were tended towards agreed options that indicated the trend of youth. However, the second larger number was in favor of disagreement but the negative question determined that young people undermined that public cannot get benefit from politics.

The trend of uneducated women of the village and uneducated men and women of city areas disagreed with this question so the mean for this question in case of uneducated people remained less than central values. Similarly, urban women

that were well educated and getting the education from the university also disagreed with the question. Their mean point lied on 2.98 which was less than 3. The results were a mixture of opinion, but the overall youth tended that common people did not get benefit from politics through participation.

Mrs. Sofia Ramzan, a PhD scholar, during the interview stated that public gets benefits when the benefits of political parties also involved in any matter (Ramzan, 2023). In a close group discussion, participants also disagreed with this question because they think that political parties do not allow common people or do not trained them about the techniques to protect their rights.

**Table 3:** The Effect of Richness on Political Participation

Only rich people can afford politics.										
			<b>SD (1)</b>	<b>D (2)</b>	<b>N (3)</b>	<b>A (4)</b>	<b>SA (5)</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Mode</b>
<b>Village</b>	<b>Men</b>	Uneducated	41	68	75	64	21	2.83	3.00	3.00
		School/College	94	88	58	80	88	2.95	3.00	1.00
		University	110	121	79	114	112	2.99	3.00	2.00
		Sub Total Men	245	277	212	258	221	2.93	3.00	2.00
	<b>Women</b>	Uneducated	21	55	56	46	23	2.97	3.00	3.00
		School/College	83	53	31	43	63	2.81	3.00	1.00
		University	166	189	104	154	136	2.92	3.00	2.00
		Sub Total Women	270	297	191	243	222	2.91	3.00	2.00
	<b>Sub Total Village</b>			574	403	501	443	2.92	3.00	2.00
	<b>City</b>	<b>Men</b>	Uneducated	2	3	3	8	8	3.70	4.00
School/College			58	39	23	29	49	2.85	3.00	1.00
University			118	146	87	162	150	3.12	3.00	4.00
Sub Total Men			178	188	113	199	207	3.23	3.33	1.67
<b>Women</b>		Uneducated	4	23	22	51	8	3.33	4.00	4.00
		School/College	60	55	32	39	43	2.90	2.50	1.00
		University	69	74	35	65	56	2.88	3.00	2.00
		Sub Total Women	133	152	89	155	107	3.04	3.17	2.33
<b>Sub Total City</b>			340	202	354	314	3.14	3.25	2.00	
<b>Total</b>			826	914	605	855	757	3.03	3.13	2.00
Points Analysis of Total			-1652	-914	0	855	1514			
			-2566			2369	-197			

Nicolas Martin in his book unveiled the hold of landlords in politics of Punjab and especially in the upper Punjab region (Martin, 2016). That means the rich people majorly control the politics of Punjab, as the previous question supported the factor that common people cannot get benefits from politics through participation. However, the changing trend of peoples of Punjab particularly youth thinks that people with low income also can take part in political activities. Data extracted from questionnaires resulted the negative trend in case of this question. The mode also showed the disagreed option with value 2 that was less than central value 3. The young respondents did not endorse the factor that “only rich people can afford politics” that actually not familiar to reality.

Contrary to that, the mean and median of responses favored the term with 3.03 and 3.13. From city areas, uneducated men and women and male students from the university endorsed this term. The uneducated male respondents’ mean remained at 3.71 and female at 3.33, while mean of responses of the university students remained 3.12. All other tendencies remained less than central value but the overall mean of respondents remained high than central value.

Similar to responses on the questionnaire, the young generation of Punjab posed mix statements during the closed group discussion. Keeping in mind the political culture of Punjab, the discussants endorsed this statement but exemplified few electable who appeared from a humble background. They were elected by their political abilities and hard work as Prime Minister Malik Meraj Khalid and Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar. Even various religio-political forums allowed weak participants to contest elections and they had won too.

Mr. Usman Ali, a Masters student, stated that majorly landlords are strong politicians in Punjab and have a lot of money, but there are some examples where landlords with a weak financial background also won the elections in 2018. The Punjab’s politics based on specific castes and elitist groups so there are least chances for a common man to find their place (Ali, 2023). This question is also affirmed by the tendency of the statement “Present politicians do not allow position for youth.” It also moved towards the positive tendency, which marked this fact that youth believe that *Biradaris* and elite groups did not like the entry of common and financial weak people in politics.

**Table 4:** Politicians’ Willingness for Youth Participation

Present politicians do not allow position for youth										
			SD (1)	D (2)	N (3)	A (4)	SA (5)	Mean	Median	Mode
<b>Village</b>	Men	Uneducated	9	23	14	16	15	3.06	3.00	2.00
		School/ College	56	64	66	105	98	3.32	4.00	4.00
		University	83	92	97	147	114	3.29	3.00	4.00
		Sub Total Men	148	179	177	268	227	3.23	3.33	3.33
	Women	Uneducated	6	13	17	15	21	3.44	3.50	5.00

		School/ College	28	56	28	75	85	3.48	4.00	5.00
		University	133	171	152	184	115	3.03	3.00	4.00
		Sub Total Women	167	240	197	274	221	3.32	3.50	4.67
	Sub Total	Village		419	374	542	448	3.28	3.42	4.00
City	Men	Uneducated	2	2	1		1	2.33	2.00	1.00
		School/ College	36	33	27	50	54	3.26	4.00	5.00
		University	70	99	119	213	151	3.42	4.00	4.00
		Sub Total Men	108	134	147	263	206	3.01	3.33	3.00
	Women	Uneducated	6	9	11	1	1	2.35	2.00	3.00
		School/ College	33	38	32	50	79	3.44	4.00	5.00
		University	42	56	38	95	69	3.31	4.00	4.00
		Sub Total Women	81	103	81	146	149	3.04	3.33	4.00
	Sub Total	City		237	228	409	355	3.02	3.33	3.50
	<b>Total</b>			504	656	602	951	803	3.15	3.38
Points Analysis of Total			-1008	-656	0	951	1606			
			-1664			2557		893		

The political culture affects political parties and their decisions too in the nomination of their leaders. Majorly they favor mature and middle age candidates instead of youth. In case of acceptability of youth, they place them at the lower level in candidature that decreases the chances of having party ticket. The experienced leaders and consecutively elected persons from a constituency take advantage over young people. They also influence the party by their link to society and state as they sway the policy making process by their experience.

Mostly the political leaders of Punjab were middle-aged men so a question was raised that "Present politicians do not allow position for youth." The respondents agreed with question and results showed positive affinity with 3.15 mean, 3.38 median and 3.75 Mode that was more than central value. The agreed option got the highest numbers with strongly agreed option at the second number. Only uneducated youth tended towards disagreement of this term with 2.33 mean and 2.35 mean in case of male and female respectively. Overall youth agreed present politicians do not allow position for youth. It was a negative question as youth in politics have much importance so this question determined that politicians do not allow youth to take a strong position in politics. The same stance of youth was witnessed in another question "Participation in politics does not assist ordinary people" in which tendency remained positive.

During the closed group discussion, youth strongly agreed with this question because they think that elitist class, *Biradaris* and religious leaders use the different means to maintain the status quo. By exploiting the sentiments of the

common man through religion, the economy, or any other source, they gain power and the rest of public never let them come against them. Even at the village level, the youth majorly influenced by their parents to cast vote to their specified person on the bases of caste or sect. This led the young voters to discomfort so they generally back off from such type of politics and ensures the imposition of their personal thinking (Waris, 2017). This drift can be seen in the following table.

**Table 5:** Youth Political Participation and Disliking of Parents

I do not take interest in politics because my parents/family dislike politics.										
			SD (1)	D (2)	N (3)	A (4)	SA (5)	Mean	Median	Mode
Village	Men	Uneducated	15	19	17	14	8	2.73	3.00	2.00
		School/ College	87	127	82	50	43	2.73	2.00	2.00
		University	111	133	125	95	65	2.75	3.00	2.00
		Sub Total Men	213	279	224	159	116	2.74	2.67	2.00
	Women	Uneducated	18	19	7	8	12	2.64	2.00	2.00
		School/ College	66	79	50	43	30	2.59	2.00	2.00
		University	173	226	135	136	82	2.63	2.00	2.00
		Sub Total Women	257	324	192	187	124	2.63	2.00	2.00
	Sub Total Village			603	416	346	240	2.68	2.33	2.00
	City	Men	Uneducated	1	2	1	1	1	2.83	2.50
School/ College			45	46	45	30	30	2.76	3.00	2.00
University			143	222	146	82	56	2.51	2.00	2.00
Sub Total Men			189	270	192	113	87	2.70	2.50	2.00
Women		Uneducated	3	7	8	5	3	2.92	3.00	3.00
		School/ College	62	69	31	35	34	2.61	2.00	2.00
		University	56	88	66	46	40	2.75	3.00	2.00
		Sub Total Women	121	164	105	86	77	2.76	2.67	2.33
Sub Total City			434	297	199	164	2.73	2.58	2.17	
<b>Total</b>			780	1037	713	545	404	2.71	2.46	2.08
Points Analysis of Total			-1560	-1037	0	545	808			
			-2597		1353		-1244			

The approaches of the youth in politics may differ, or transmitted from their parents. As the political liking and disliking is an individual choice of anybody so someone may not allow anyone to influence his political thoughts. However,

the factor of parents to transmit the political liking and disliking cannot be negated as parents pour their ideological preferences in children.

A growing person definitely had less knowledge than mature persons so definitely the youth has less knowledge than their parents about politics. On the other hand, youth can also understand the scenario and it can change mechanism so liking and disliking may differ from their parents' liking and disliking. In this regard a question was asked that "youth do not take interest in politics because their parents/family dislikes politics?" The respondents disagreed with this question and unveiled that parents thinking about politics did not affect them.

The responses were measured and resulted as negative due to the less mean at 2.71, median at 2.46 and mode at 2.08. The youth majorly opined the disagreed option that means the youth did not believe that their parents linking/disliking influenced them. All participants based in village and city, including male and female and from all educational levels endorsed the same response. Similarly, young participants during the closed group discussion undermined this statement. They had mentioned the factors like religion, general affiliation, political attachments, social aspects and dejection from corrupt politicians which marked their political thoughts instead of their family liking and disliking.

**Table 6:** Dejection from Corrupt Politicians Demotivates Youth Participation

I do not participate in politics because I am dejected of corrupt politicians										
			SD (1)	D (2)	N (3)	A (4)	SA (5)	Mean	Median	Mode
Village	Men	Uneducated	7	12	13	11	16	3.28	3.00	5.00
		School/ College	51	55	94	108	70	3.24	3.00	4.00
		University	63	93	108	133	124	3.31	3.00	4.00
		Sub Total Men	121	160	215	252	210	3.28	3.00	4.33
	Women	Uneducated	4	12	6	18	20	3.63	4.00	5.00
		School/ College	26	35	47	94	56	3.46	4.00	4.00
		University	86	138	198	191	138	3.20	3.00	3.00
		Sub Total Women	116	185	251	303	214	3.43	3.67	4.00
	Sub Total Village			345	466	555	424	3.36	3.33	4.17
City	Men	Uneducated	2	1			2	2.80	2.00	1.00 <sup>a</sup>
		School/ College	29	33	46	53	39	3.20	3.00	4.00
		University	78	126	144	200	100	3.24	3.00	4.00
		Sub Total Men	109	160	190	253	141	3.08	2.67	2.67
	Women	Uneducated	6	3	3	5	3	2.80	3.00	1.00

		School/ College	22	46	60	48	38	3.15	3.00	3.00
		University	43	75	68	57	55	3.02	3.00	2.00
		Sub Total Women	71	124	131	110	96	2.99	3.00	2.00
		Sub Total City		284	321	363	237	3.04	2.83	2.33
<b>Total</b>			417	629	787	918	661	3.20	3.08	3.25
			-834	-629	0	918	1322			
Points Analysis of Total			-1463			2240		777		

A person with the same working patterns may feel exhaust from the same things. Similar to this, corruption with continuity caused hatred thinking of youth towards politicians. This factor had restrained the youth to take part in political works. The leadership qualities include the heart winning of voters but Pakistani leaders still unable to do that due to corruption and malpractices of leaders.

The youth was asked whether “they are not participating in politics because they are dejected of corrupt politicians” and the majority agreed with this statement. The positive trend had been viewed in case of mean (3.2), median (3.08) and mode (3.25). The youth endorsed this factor by opting agree option maximum and strongly agreed with the third largest number. It means the youth endorsed the fact of corruption dejected youth in political participation. Contrary to that, uneducated respondents from urban areas showed a negative trend with 2.80 mean in both male and female. This quantified that uneducated peoples from city areas disagreed this term but that was not a major trend.

The answers of discussant were mixed in nature, as about half of the participants were dishearten from politicians due to corruption and malpractices. However, some of them asserted that these politicians are liable to bring a change in society so we have to trust them and those participants were not much dejected from this condition. Supporting their answers, they referred example of revolutions including Islamic revolution, renaissance, reformation, the French revolution and the Russian revolution, etc.

**Table 7:** Political Participation: A Waste of Time for Youth

Participation in politics is a waste of time										
			SD (1)	D (2)	N (3)	A (4)	SA (5)	Mean	Median	Mode
<b>Village</b>	Men	Uneducated	72	91	51	49	27	2.54	2.00	2.00
		School/ College	90	102	77	93	47	2.76	3.00	2.00
		University	80	132	108	119	99	3.04	3.00	2.00
		Sub Total Men	242	325	236	261	173	2.79	2.67	2.00
	Women	Uneducated	90	90	62	42	32	2.48	2.00	1.00
		School/	66	87	40	40	45	2.67	2.00	2.00

		College								
		University	113	244	165	133	94	2.80	3.00	2.00
		Sub Total Women	269	421	267	215	171	2.66	2.33	1.33
	Sub Total Village			746	503	476	344	2.72	2.50	1.67
City	Men	Uneducated	3	9	3	10		2.80	3.00	4.00
		School/College	52	57	35	21	37	2.67	2.00	2.00
		University	117	173	168	113	92	2.83	3.00	2.00
		Sub Total Men	172	239	206	144	129	2.77	2.67	2.67
	Women	Uneducated	32	20	14	32	19	2.88	3.00	1.00 <sup>a</sup>
		School/College	54	74	24	44	33	2.68	2.00	2.00
		University	58	102	49	50	38	2.69	2.00	2.00
		Sub Total Women	144	196	87	126	90	2.75	2.33	1.33
	Sub Total City		435	293	270	219	2.76	2.50	2.00	
	<b>Total</b>			827	1181	796	746	563	2.74	2.50
Points Analysis of Total			-1654	-1181	0	746	1126			
			-2835			1872	-963			

After finding different factors effecting youth participation in politics, the question was raised that “Participation in politics is waste of time.” Though the political participation of youth is necessary to bring positive change in the political arena of Pakistan, but the majority of youth was inactive in politics. However, they thought that political activities do not waste their time and that unveiled the importance of political activity in the eyes of youth. The results of the statement showed the negative trends and participants’ responses got less mean and median than the central value. Similarly, disagree option got maximum points and mode valued at 2. The results proved this fact that taking part in politics is not the waste of time.

The responses tended toward negative, but only male participants from city areas had different opinion. The mean was evaluated at 3.28 that meant taking part in politics is a waste of time. However, the majority of participants opposed this statement and it was rejected during the close group discussion as well. The participants opined that politics teaches techniques and methodologies to youth to handle political issues and to understand power politics.

## CONCLUSION

The factors discussed in this study and their results concluded all factors openly. It confirmed the stance of youth over politics and hurdles faced by youth, including non-delivery of government, unsatisfied works for the common public, hold of elitist groups, *Biradaries* and experienced men that never allow youth to come forward in politics. The interest of youth is not developed because they think that delivery of basic facilities is absent from the society and government did not do efforts for better infrastructure. Similarly, economic

factors such as inflation and less job opportunities also confirm the non-delivery of government. They considered that common people are not allowed to work properly in politics; however, they think that poor people can also afford politics and political activities. Contrary to that, it is fact in Punjab's politics that rich people have the major hold as they do not allow party position and space for youth.

The parents' hold over political thoughts of youth is also rejected by the young generation of Punjab. It is evaluated that parents cannot much influence to their children as the youth participates on their behalf freely. Similarly, the children do not leave participating in politics because of the dislike of their family or parents about the participation. This study marked that the youth have less interest in politics due to immoral and corrupt activities of leaders but they expect that their participation in politics can help in reducing corruption. However, they think that already existed leaders and infrastructure does not give them space to participate in politics. Though the majority of youth did cannot get much weightage in politics and due to several issues cannot participate well, but still the majority of youth did not consider political participation as wastage of time.

## REFERENCES

- Ali, U. (2023, June 2). Youth Participation in Democracy. (H. Iqbal, Interviewer)
- Atkeson, L. (2003). Not all cues are created equal: the conditional impact of female candidates on political engagement. *Journal of Politics*, 65(4), 1040-1061.
- Blais, A., & Loewen, P. (2009). Youth electoral engagement in Canada. Retrieved from Elections Canada: <https://www.elections.ca/res/rec/part/youeng/yeefr2011-eng.pdf>
- Büyükkaragöz, S. (1987). Gençlerde törel gelişim ve bu gelişimi etkileyen sebepler. Ankara: Uluslararası Terörizm ve Gençlik, MEB Yay.
- Cohen, C., & Dawson, M. (1993). Neighborhood poverty and African American politics. *American Political Science Review*, 87(2), 286-302.
- Erkan, N. (1985). Gençlik ve demokrasi: Katılımcı gençlik örgütleri. Istanbul: Güven Yayıncılık AŞ.
- Homana, G. (2018). Youth political engagement in Australia and the United States: student councils and volunteer organizations as communities of practice. *Journal of Social Science Education*, 17(1), 41-54.
- J.L. Lawless. (2004). Politics of presence: women in the house and symbolic representation. *Political Research Quarterly*, 53(1), 81-99.
- Koch, J. (1997). Women's engagement in politics in the year of the woman. *American Politics Quarterly*, 25(1), 118-133.
- Kokab, D. R., Waris, D. M., & Iqbal, H. (December 2020). Youth Participation in the Politics of Pakistan: A Historical Review (1947-1971). *Pakistan Social Sciences Review*, 4(IV), 186-198.
- Lawless, J., & Fox, R. (2001). Political participation of the urban poor. *Journal of Social Problems*, 48(3), 362-385.
- Martin, N. (2016). *Politics, Landlords and Islam in Pakistan*. Abingdon: Routledge.

- Ministry of Youth Affairs, G. o. (2009). National Youth Policy. Retrieved from [http://www.moya.gov.pk/national\\_youth\\_policy.html](http://www.moya.gov.pk/national_youth_policy.html)
- Mpofu, P. (2012). The dearth of culture in sustainable development: The impact of NGOs' agenda and conditionalities on cultural sustainability in Zimbabwe. *Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa*, 14(4), 191-205.
- Nayab, I. (2023, April 13). Youth Participation in Democracy. (D. M. Waris, Interviewer)
- Organization, W. H. (1999). Programming for adolescent health and development. Saillon: WHO.
- Pyeatt, N., & Yanus, B. (2018). Increasing women's political participation: the role of women-friendly districts. *Journal of Representative Democracy*, 54(4), 185-199.
- Ramzan, S. (2023, May 11). Youth Participation in Democracy. (D. M. Waris, Interviewer)
- Solt, F. (2008). Economic inequality and democratic political engagement. *American Journal of Political Science*, 46(1), 48-60.
- Statistics, M. o. (2018). Progress towards achieving MDG Target 1B, full and productive employment and decent work for all. Retrieved from Pakistan Bureau of Statistics: <http://www.pbs.gov.pk/sites/default/fi>
- Ullah, Z. S. (2020). Elections 2018: A Study of the Politics of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf in District Khushab. MPhil Unpublished Thesis. Faisalabad: Department of History and Pakistan Studies.
- Union, I.-P., & (UNDP), U. N. (2012). Global parliamentary report: The changing nature of parliamentary representation. New York: United Nations (UN) Publications.
- Waris, M. (2017). Power Politics and Role of Biradaries in Distric Khushab (1982-2008). PhD dissertation. Lahore: Department of History, GC University Lahore.