

# 2015

## Report of BVN Peace Traveler



Bargad Volunteers' Network  
19-21 February 2015



## Summary

To mitigate the effects of extremism and to change the perception of youth from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Punjab, a 3-day visit of 7 selected young people (4 male & 3 female) from Bargad Volunteers' Network (BVN) coordinators was organized at Punjab in order to analyze peace situation, visit institutions, meet with students and teachers, visit historical places of Punjab and to share their experiences and knowledge with the youth of Gujranwala. The peace travelers visited University of Gujrat (UOG) and Gift University to initiate peace talks with young students and faculty members. This visit will support a collaborative initiative between two provinces. This visit will be resulting as enhancing critical thinking of young travelers thereby enabling them to generate peace content in order to eradicate youth extremism and radicalization.

The BVN peace travelers first visited UOG and then Gift University and had discussion with the students of the institutions. They also became the part of a press conference organized at Gujranwala Press Club. The guide lining questions of the discussion and responses of youth and media were following:

## Guiding Questions

This project aims to gauge youth views on issues on peace and extremism in Pakistan and the major factors that influence them while also developing awareness among young people. Please utilize the following questions to guide your discussions and as a base to any articles, blogs, and write-ups that you will work on following your exchange.



### Section 1: Youth views on peace and extremism

1. Do you believe that youth extremism is a challenge that Pakistan faces?
2. If yes, to what extent do you believe that youth extremism is a challenge? (Rate from 1 to 10)
3. What areas of state and society do you view extremism as being a challenge to?
4. What age group(s) do you view as being the most prone to extremism?



5. What are the factors that contribute to the spread of youth extremism?
6. What steps can be taken to overcome extremism among youth?

## Section 2: Youth views on the media and extremism

7. To what extent do you believe that the media contributes to the spread of extremism in Pakistan?
8. Which media outlets are most responsible for the spread of extremism? (i.e. Print, online, social media, radio, television, etc.)
9. Which sectors of society do you believe the media target when it comes to spreading extremism?
10. What steps can be taken to stop extremist speech in traditional and social media?
11. In what ways can the youth of Pakistan take control of media narratives?
12. To what extent do you use social media to promote or discuss political and social activities and causes?
13. Are you aware of any existing laws or guidelines regarding media coverage of terrorism and other related issues? If so, please state.
14. Do you believe that the media should declare the identities of those who are involved in acts of terrorism?
15. Do you believe that there is a distinction between hate speech and valid criticism in social and traditional media?

## Section 3: Campus activities regarding peace

16. Do you view student unions in Pakistani universities as political organizations?
17. Is this productive or counterproductive to tackling extremism within Pakistani universities?
18. Is there any peace society or club at your university?
19. What types of activities are organized by this society/club?
20. How regularly are these activities organized? (weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually)



21. To what extent do you believe that these events contribute to stopping the spread of extremism among the youth?
22. To what extent do you believe that these events are accessible to the general public?
23. To what extent do you believe that these events are accessible to non-university attending youth?

## Responses of the students, media and Peace Travelers

- Youth have similar issues in KP and Punjab regarding the mobility of girls and permission regarding education.
- Media portray an exaggerated depiction of any phenomenon in the country which leads to extremism ultimately.
- Both peace travelers and students from both universities suggested for a positive image which can be
- Religious leaders are restricting the mobility of women even Islam emphasized on the education of both male and female.
- This initiative of Peace Traveler is a stepping-stone towards opening up new horizons for the youth of KP and Punjab.
- Youth of KP and Punjab needs more opportunities like BVN Peace Travelers to eradicate misconception existed between youth of KP and Punjab.
- Peace content will be developed after the visit which would further clear misconceptions



## Outputs

- Interaction between students from KP and Punjab
- Peace content will be developing by peace travelers as they are writing articles on peace situation of both provinces. These articles will be published in different newspapers and magazines.
- Cultures of Punjab was explored and known by students of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
- Friendly behavior and relationship was established among the youth of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab



- Networking was established among the youth of both provinces to work on peace on campuses

## Press Conference

The travelers also attended a press conference organized at Gujranwala Press Club, where they had discussion with media under the light of the former questionnaire. Especially, the girls mentioned about the similar issues they had to face as male domination, domestic violence and no role in decision making. However, the stereotypical perceptions and subjugation is on the brink of breakage, because with education females are confident and independent enough not to be suppressed. The outcome of the conference is media coverage and the articles travelers will write after a rigorous discussion with media.

## Annexes





