



Political Mobilization and Connectivity of Youth Activists of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Activity Report: Capacity building Workshop

OBJECTIVES

The primary goal of the 3-day capacity-building training was to empower young political activists by enhancing their understanding of political mobilization, party structures, ideologies, and governance. The event also aimed to establish connectivity among youth activists, promoting political tolerance and engagement in democratic processes in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

A REPORT BY

CENTRE FOR REGIONAL POLICY
& DIALOGUE (CRPD)

Political Mobilization and Connectivity of Youth Activists of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

October, 2024

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*Published by **Centre for Regional Policy & Dialogue (CRPD)***

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Political Mobilization and Connectivity of Youth Activists of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Introduction:

3-Day Capacity-Building Training on “Political Mobilization & Connectivity of Youth Activists” held in Dera Ismail Khan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on October 4-6, 2024. The training was organized by CRPD.

The training event hosted 25 youth activists, predominantly aged 25 years or younger, from various districts of southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. These districts included Dera Ismail Khan, South and North Waziristan, Drazinda, Karak, Bannu, Laki Marwat, Kohat, Battagram, Tank, and Jandola. The participants were activists in their respective fields and represented different political parties, actively involved as party workers. In addition to the core participants, the event was attended by guest participants and observers.

Objective:

The primary goal of the 3-day capacity-building training was to empower young political activists by enhancing their understanding of political mobilization, party structures, ideologies, and governance. The event also aimed to establish connectivity among youth activists, promoting political tolerance and engagement in democratic processes in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Training Proceedings

Day 1: October 4, 2024: The first day began with introductory sessions led by Mehran Wazir and set the tone for the rest of the workshop. Key highlights included:

- i. **Introduction to the Program:** Mehran Wazir introduced the training program and the CRPD team. Participants gave their personal introductions, sharing details about their political affiliations and areas of activism. This provided a valuable opportunity for networking and understanding each participant's unique background.
- ii. **Structure of Political Parties:** The session, led by Mehran Wazir, covered the internal structures of political parties, focusing on their communication systems and the significance of party manifestos. Participants explored the hierarchical organization of political parties and how this influences decision-making and strategy.
- iii. **Group Activity:** To solidify their learning, participants engaged in a group activity that encouraged them to apply the concepts of political party structures and communication systems.
- iv. **Peace and Democracy:** The day concluded with an engaging lecture by Dr. Khadim Hussain, focusing on the logical fallacies surrounding nationhood, nationalism, democracy, and peace. This session challenged participants to critically analyze conventional political discourses and deepen their understanding of these topics.

Day 2: October 5, 2024: The second day continued with deeper explorations of political ideologies and narratives. Key sessions included:

- i. **Political Ideologies and Activism** Mehran Wazir conducted a session on the ideology, narrative, and slogans of political parties. He explained how political slogans reflect the party's underlying philosophy and how activists can effectively use these narratives, especially in conflict and war situations.
- ii. **External Aggressions and Resistance Movements:** Dr. Khadim Hussain's session delved into the history of external aggressions, war, colonial occupations, and resistance movements in Pakhtunkhwa. This session provided a historical perspective on political activism in the region and its role in contemporary movements.
- iii. **Group Work:** Participants were divided into groups to work on case studies and discuss strategies for activism in challenging environments. This practical approach enabled participants to collaborate and apply their theoretical knowledge to real-world scenarios.

Day 3: October 6, 2024: The final day focused on contemporary political issues in Pakistan and the governance systems in place. Key sessions included:

- i. **Anti-Political Party Narratives:** Mehran Wazir led a session on the anti-political party narratives and discourses prevalent in Pakistan. Participants analyzed the clustering of political parties based on their ideologies and how these clusters shape the political landscape of the country.
- ii. **Governance and Constitutions:** Dr. Khadim Hussain delivered an insightful session on the relationship between state structures, constitutions, and governance in Pakistan. This session provided participants with a comprehensive understanding of how governance frameworks function and how they can engage more effectively within these systems.
- iii. **Group Activity:** The day ended with another group activity where participants worked together to discuss the key takeaways from the workshop and shared strategies for future political engagement in their respective regions.
- iv. **Conclusion and Certificate Distribution:** The event concluded with a certificate distribution ceremony, recognizing the participants for their active engagement and contributions throughout the 3-day training.

The 3-day workshop successfully achieved its objective of enhancing the political knowledge and capacity of youth activists from southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Participants gained critical insights into political mobilization, ideologies, and governance, and built connections with fellow activists. The workshop encouraged open dialogue, political tolerance, and collective action, equipping the participants with the tools needed to actively contribute to the political and democratic processes in their regions.

Follow-up activities will be planned to maintain the momentum gained during the training. Participants will be encouraged to apply the knowledge and skills acquired in their local communities, with a focus on mobilizing youth and fostering political engagement.

Participants Reflections

Ms. Areeba Ruhab

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to CRPD and KKF for organizing this excellent training program. The sessions were both insightful and empowering, providing an in-depth understanding of political mobilization and the significance of youth activists staying connected. The structure of the sessions, and the trainers' expertise, made the experience incredibly enriching.

Some key takeaways for me included strategic frameworks for effective political engagement and practical tools for building strong, collaborative networks. The interactive nature of the workshops allowed for meaningful discussions and the exchange of ideas, deepening my understanding of the topics covered.

The learning environment was highly conducive, and the trainers showcased commendable expertise, patience, and professionalism. Their ability to engage participants and address real-world challenges facing youth activists was greatly appreciated. I now feel more confident and equipped to apply the knowledge and skills I gained during the training to my work.

Thank you again for this valuable opportunity.

Mr. Ayan Gandapur

My name is Ayan Gandapur, and I am currently in my third semester as a DVM student. I had the opportunity to participate in a three-day training on political mobilization, which provided me with valuable insights into Pakistan's true history. This experience deepened my understanding of the political and social challenges our nation faces.

A key takeaway for me was the importance of development; had we been living in a well-developed state, our circumstances could have been vastly different. This reinforced my belief that sustained development, both in infrastructure and institutions, is essential for progress. This experience has inspired me to become more engaged in civic matters and advocate for a future where our country can realize its full potential.

Mr. Rafiq

First of all, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to CRPD & KKF for their efforts. During this short time, I have learned and gained so much about politics, my (Pashtuns) culture, and the history of the Pakhtuns, which led me to explore the life of Bacha Khan. Currently, I am studying Bacha Khan's book – "My Life and Struggle", and I have observed so much through it.

Once again, thank you to Sir Mehran Wazir and Sir Khadim Hussain for making this possible.

Mr. Muhammad Rizwan

I am Rizwan Mehsud from South Waziristan. I completed my Master's in Journalism at Gomal University and am currently working in the field of journalism. This was my first time participating in such a workshop, and I have learned a great deal. The knowledge I gained is invaluable, especially in understanding practical politics. I now feel more equipped to participate in political discourse.

Mr. Kashif Abdali

The three-day session, led by Dr. Khadim Hussain and Mehran Wazir, was a transformative experience for me. As a law student at Gomal University, witnessing the shift in participants' perspectives and behavior was truly inspiring.

Some suggestions for improvement:

- Increase the number of participants.
- Replace incentives with a gift pack of books to encourage a culture of reading.
- Organize bi-annual sessions in Dera Ismail Khan.
- Include Q&A sessions.
- Introduce traditional musical instruments like the rabab, played by experts. This will serve both as entertainment and as an educational tool, highlighting the importance of promoting music to counter extremism.
- Thank you, Dr. Khadim Hussain, Mehran Wazir, and all the behind-the-scenes heroes for making this happen.

Muhammad Saud Khan

My name is Muhammad Saud Khan, and I have studied political science at Gomal University, Dera Ismail Khan. Currently, I am working in the social/development sector. I would like to express my gratitude to CRPD for arranging this training and teaching us political history and knowledge in such a short time.

We learned a great deal during the training, including:

- The political history of Pakhtunkhwa.
- The resources of Pakhtunkhwa, its annual production, and their exploitation.
- Pashto language, culture, Pakhtun identity, and its significance.
- Avoiding political propaganda.
- Understanding political principles.
- Effective use of time.

Suggestions for the future: CRPD should continue organizing such trainings.

Love and respect.

Pictorial Presentation

Glimpse from Day 1



Day 1 Group activity and discussion



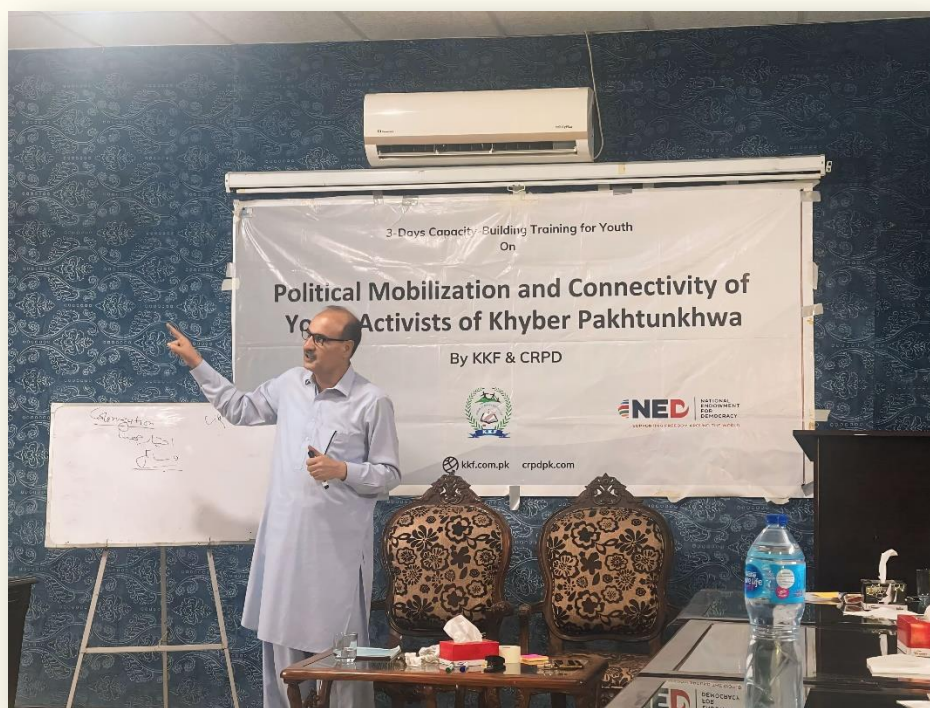
Glimpse from Day 2

Lecture by Mehran Wazir



Glimpse from Day 2

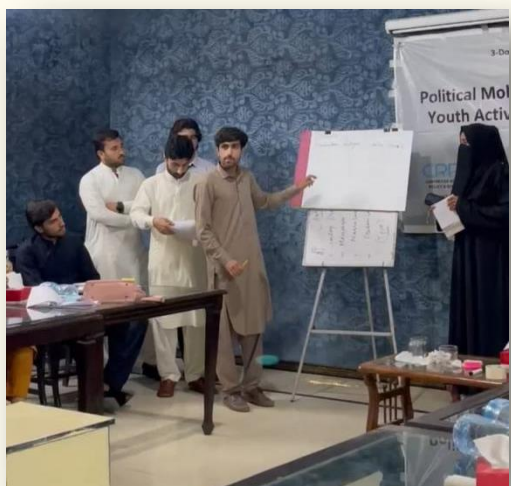
Lecture by Dr Khadim Hussain



Day 2 Group Activity and Discussion



Day 2, Group Presentation and Discussion



Glimpse from Day 3



Day 3 Group Activity



Certificates Distribution



Certificates Distribution



