



## Youth's expectations from the government of AJK: Initiatives of recent government.

**Simra khayyar**

*M.Phil Research Scholar*

*E mail: Simra.abbasi.sa@gmail.com*

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# **Youth's expectations from the government of AJK: Initiatives of recent government.**

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## **Abstract**

*The youth of Azad Jammu and Kashmir doesn't not carry very high expectations from its government. However, they have to be optimistic and consistently putting their itinerary (agenda) in front of the government to ensure their legitimate rights. On the other hand, government keeps on working for the improvement of Kashmir but that is not up to the mark. Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir needs to work on different areas such as: administrative areas, they have to correct their managerial issues and so on. The main objectives of this research is to find out the real situation of health sector, depilates situation of government structure, cultural preservation, employment, technology and innovation, social issues, skill development, safety and security, sports and recreation, clean and healthy environment and so on that full fill the needs of youth's expectation. To achieve this purpose a survey was conducted by using*

*question air and taking interviews of some government officers and young people to understand the value of their expectations or needs. The major findings of this research includes low employment and low wages as well, low health facilities, social issues, need of latest technology, cultural issues etc. This study also specifies the initiatives that recent government also proceeds for the betterment of youth. These comprises are; public service commission, NTS, social protection, supremacy of merit and transparency and accountability. The result of the research shows that youth has high expectations from its government in many possible ways. Furthermore; this study revealed that the recent government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir take initiative for the progress of youth assumptions.*

## **Keywords**

Youth, legitimate, depilated, Kashmir, expectations, wages.

## **Introduction**

For any nation youth is the main key factor of its empowerment. The goals of the younger generation have more influence on the social and political environment. Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) is a region renowned for its incredible scenery and dynamic culture. It is critical to scrutinize the hopes, desires and requests of the youth of AJK. The government should find out the ways how to tackle the challenges related to the development. AJK youth are dynamic and diverse group that's spans a range of socio-economic backgrounds, ideologies and

aspirations. They are the chain bearers, holding out hope for a better future of their communities as well as for themselves. Gaining an understanding of their expectations from the government can help them to identify some specific areas where policy inter-vention's are most critical and come to know where the society needs the changing.

The core of youth's expectations is their desire from government that puts their welfare first, although need to try to listen their concerns actively. A vast range of areas are covered by this including democratic, social equality, employment, healthcare, environment and various other things.

### **Definition of Youth**

There is various definition of youth according to different perspectives.

We can define youth in the term of age factors and social interference.

### **Youth definition under the light of UN**

Without limiting other definitions by Member States, the United Nations defines "youth" as persons between the ages of 15 to 24 for statistics purposes. In his 1981 report to the General Assembly on International Youth Year (A/36/215, para. 8 of the appendix),<sup>1</sup> the Secretary-General made reference for the current concept of youth

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<sup>1</sup> 1 Secretary-General's Report to the General Assembly, A/36/215, 1981

and it is for the first time. In subsequent reports (A/40/256, para. 19 of the annex), he reaffirmed it. But aside from that statistical definition, the Secretary-General acknowledged in both reports that the definition of "youth" differs throughout nations globally. The World Programmed of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond was endorsed by the General Assembly in 1995 with resolution 50/81, which reaffirmed that the United

### **Definition of youth under different countries**

Cultural, social, and legal considerations frequently influence how "youth" is defined in different countries. Youth is often regarded as a transitional stage between childhood and adulthood, marked by physical, psychological, and emotional changes, as well as a period of exploration, learning, and identity development. Furthermore, the concept of youth may range across policy contexts, such as education, employment, and social services, where different age thresholds may apply for qualifying criteria or specialized interventions aimed at youth development and empowerment. There are certain categories into which different countries fall and explain the situation of youth within them.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Those classification and titles represent only the author's concept and view created only for the comparison purpose within this Paper and they are not officially accepted or defined in any policy document.

## **Developed countries**

In comparison to other less industrialized countries, a developed country, also known as an advanced country, is a sovereign state with a developed economy, high standard of living, and cutting-edge technological infrastructure.

- **United States**

In the United States, "youth" often refers to people in their teens and early twenties. While there is no universally accepted age range, youngsters are often defined as individuals aged 13 to 25. This time is defined by the transition from infancy to adulthood, which includes physical, emotional, and social growth, as well as educational pursuits and entry into the labor sector.

- **United Kingdom**

In the UK, "youth" typically refers to individuals between the ages of 13 to 19, covering the teenage years. This definition aligns with the period of adolescence, marked by significant physical, cognitive, and emotional development. However, in broader contexts, the term "youth" may extend up to the early twenties, encompassing young adults who are still navigating their transition into full independence and adulthood.

- **Luxembourg**

In Luxembourg, the definition of "youth" generally refers to individuals in their late teenage years up to their mid-twenties. While there isn't a strict definition, youth typically includes those between the ages of 15 to 29. This period is characterized by significant personal, educational, and professional development as individuals transition from adolescence to adulthood. Luxembourgish youth are often involved in educational pursuits, vocational training, employment, and various social and recreational activities.

### **Developing countries**

A sovereign state classified as a developing country has a less developed industrial base and a lower Human Development Index (HDI) than other nations.

- **Nigeria**

The term "youth" in Nigeria usually describes those who are in their late teens, early thirties, or even mid-twenties. Youth often refers to those who are between the ages of 15 and 35, while there isn't a set age range. This definition is in line with Nigeria's National Youth Policy, which defines youth as anyone in the 15–35 age range. As people move from youth to adulthood, this time is marked by considerable personal, educational, and social development. Nigerian adolescents are engaged in a wide range of social, cultural, and

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recreational activities in addition to their academic endeavors, jobs, and vocational training.

- **Pakistan**

People in their late teens to mid-twenties or early thirties are usually considered to be "youth" in Pakistan. Youth is often defined as people who are between the ages of 15 and 29, while there isn't a set age range for this group. This definition is consistent with Pakistan's National Youth Policy, which defines youth as people in the 15–29 age range. As people move from youth to adulthood, this time is marked by considerable personal, educational, and social development. Pakistani youth are engaged in a wide range of social, cultural, and recreational activities in addition to their academic endeavors, jobs, and vocational training.

- **Philippines**

In the Philippines, the definition of "youth" typically refers to individuals in their late teenage years up to their mid-twenties or early thirties. While there isn't a universally agreed-upon age range, youth generally includes those between the ages of 15 to 30. This period is characterized by significant personal, educational, and social development as individuals transition from adolescence to adulthood. Filipino youth are often involved in educational pursuits, vocational training, employment, and participation in various social, cultural, and recreational activities.

## **Under developed countries**

The United Nations lists developing nations with the lowest socioeconomic development indices as least developed countries (LDCs).

- **Uganda**

The word "youth" usually describes people in Uganda who are in their late teens to early thirties or mid-twenties. Youth often refers to persons who are between the ages of 15 and 30, while there isn't a set age range for this category. As people move from youth to adulthood, this time is marked by considerable personal, educational, and social development. Youth in Uganda are frequently engaged in a variety of social, cultural, and recreational activities in addition to their academic endeavors, jobs, and vocational training.

- **Haiti**

In Haiti, "youth" usually refers to those who are in their late teens or early thirties, although it can also refer to someone in their mid-20s or early 30s. Youth often refers to people between the ages of 15 and 30, while there isn't a set age range for this category. At this stage, people move from adolescent to adulthood and experience significant changes in their social, intellectual, and personal development. Youth from Haiti frequently further their education, get occupational training, work, and participate in a range of social, cultural, and

recreational activities. But it's important to acknowledge that Haiti suffers many obstacles, like poverty, poor access to healthcare and education, political unrest, and natural catastrophes, all of which may have an impact on the possibilities and experiences that the country's young people have.

- **South Sudan**

When someone is referred to as "youth" in South Sudan, it usually means that they are in their late teens, early thirties, or mid-twenties. Youth often refers to people between the ages of 15 and 30, while there isn't a set age range for this category. A person's journey from adolescent to adulthood is characterized by substantial personal, educational, and social development during this time. Youth in South Sudan are frequently involved in a variety of social, cultural, and recreational activities in addition to their academic endeavors, jobs, and vocational training. But it's crucial to acknowledge that South Sudan faces issues like poverty, poor access to healthcare and education, political unrest, and conflict, all of which may have an impact on the chances and experiences accessible to the country's young people.

### **Youth expectations from its government of AJK**

Youth has expected a lot of facilities, opportunities, self-determining factors to touch the pyramids of success in their practical life. For this reason, a research was conducted through interviews taken by the

different age group between 18 to 26. However, at the end all the data is summarized according to the need. In developing nations, such as those that are members of the IsDB, youth make up an exceptionally sizable portion of the populace. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Economic Outlook Series for 2017<sup>3</sup> projects that by 2050; one-third of the world's young will reside in OIC nations. With their enormous potential to boost economic progress, young people are viewed as society's most valuable resource. But a large number are unemployed and disengaged. The task is to support young people's inclusion and self-fulfillment while offering the appropriate opportunity to focus their energy and ambition.

## **Employment**

Promoting decent work for young people has long been an ILO priority. The ILO's approach to youth employment has altered as a result of realizing the complexity of the issue, with the majority of its work up until the mid-1970s centered on protecting young workers through normative initiatives.<sup>4</sup> Globally, the young unemployment rate is 13%, according to the 2018 World Employment Social Outlook<sup>5</sup>. The rate of youth unemployment in IsDB member nations is predicted to continue rising over the next three years, from 15% in

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<sup>3</sup> OIC Economic Outlook 2017: Industrial Development for Structural Transformation. Ankara: Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC).

<sup>4</sup> Quote and figures are from ILO, "Global Employment Trends for Youth 201

<sup>5</sup> World Employment Social Outlook: Trends 2018. Geneva: International Labor Organization

2017 to 15.6% in 2019 and 2020, higher than the global average. Global youth unemployment peaked in 2017 at 12.6%, the highest level since 2005. In 2019 and 2020, a minor fall to 12.5% is anticipated.

As we know that employment is the major issue of youth in A.J.K. In a research (interviews) it is highlighted that young generation of A.J.K does not have the proper opportunities of employments as compare to other cities in Pakistan. In these aspects youth expectations are much higher;

- Firstly, government should start different projects in which the youth of A.J.K can work. There should be a proper handling from the government so that no individual can manipulate a worker.
- Secondly, beside government projects there must be private companies that can provide the chance of employment to the youth and government should support and appreciate their efforts rather than criticizing.
- Thirdly, government should make policies that can allow people to generate their home business. such as, for house wife and older people.
- Fourthly, government should try to concentrate on small industries so, that even a person who is not so much literate can easily earn on his own and support his family.

## **Health facilities**

Health is a state of physical, mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease and infirmity by WHO.<sup>6</sup> As in the case of health facilities, youth expect not much about little bit as they are not so much concerned about their own health;

- Firstly, government should make policies like the youngsters who do not have any source of income their treatment will be free of cost.
- Secondly, there should be some rehabilitation center for those who are drugs addicted, most of the youth is getting destroyed by the use off drugs at a very young age between 12 to 15.
- Thirdly, there should be an access of health facilities in distance areas especially in rural and underserved areas. Government should have built hospital with all kind of new equipment's and modern facilities. Highly qualified doctors should be there to sever people. Well maintained health facilities must be there. Insurance of well skilled and empathetic healthcare professionals must be there.
- There should be health education program that gives information on healthy life style, sexual and generative

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<sup>6</sup> De Onis, Mercedes and Monika Blössner. 2003. The World Health Organization Global Database on Child Growth and Malnutrition: methodology and applications. *International Journal of Epidemiology* 32, Nr. 4 (1. August): 518–526. doi:10.1093/ije/dyg099, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ije/dyg099>.

problems. Nutrition must be there to guide every single person about a healthy diet.

- Further there must be an online platforms (apps) that gives information related to health issues, do check on appointment scheduling and must have health tracking measurements. Online platforms should give opportunities to young people to participate in health policy-making according to the new era.

### **Social issues.**

Any behavior or condition that negatively affects a significant number of people and is widely acknowledged as something that needs to be handled is considered a social problem.<sup>7</sup>

According to the youth of A.J.K there are a lot of social issues that need concentration, things that are totally destroying the social life of our youth, several factors that are disabling the youth to get up and keep going;

- Majority of youth highlighted the issue that is circulating in our society is gender abuse. Abusing is not something that only deals with a bad verbal behavior but it is also the act of someone distributing someone other. There must be some rapid actions for this kind of abuse.

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<sup>7</sup>Institutional Measures for Supporting OER in Higher Education: An International Case-Based Study. *Open Education Studies* 4, Nr. 1 (1. January): 310–321. doi:10.1515/edu-2022-0019, <https://doi.org/10.1515/edu-2022-0019>.

- The other factor that youth highlighted is climate change. They quoted the people of A.J.K saying that they face a lot of problems due to climate change, Including floods and landscape. Government should involve the youth in such policies that revolve around the awareness operations to mitigate the factors.

### **Safety and security**

The state of being away from hazards caused by natural forces or human errors randomly is known as safety. While, Security is the state of being away from hazards caused by deliberate intention of human to cause harm.<sup>8</sup> According to the youth perceptive safety and security they both falls in the basic human rights of a person as per the constitution and worldwide too. It's a very important feature of every individual to be highlighted. The youth of AJK is concern about the things that have been gone drastic in the last five years due to multiple reason in AJK. They expect of a lot security measurement from its government;

- Firstly, there should be proper forces to secure people in different occasions.

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<sup>8</sup>Lindhout, Paul and GenserikReniers. 2020. Reflecting on the safety zoo: Developing an integrated pandemics barrier model using early lessons from the Covid-19 pandemic. *Safety Science* 130 (1. October): 104907. doi:10.1016/j.ssci.2020.104907, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssci.2020.104907>.

- Secondly, the recent protest on (25 may 2024) shows that the government of AJK does not have any arm forces to protect their people. Youth expect to a have proper law, enforcement, and protection against gang violence and domestic abuse.
- Thirdly, there should be an effective and responsive emergency service. These services should be prepared for natural disasters, health emergencies and for other crisis too by ensuring the time and efficient response to protect the lives and property.<sup>9</sup>

## **Technology and innovation**

Technology innovation is defined as the creation and application of new or improved technologies, tools, systems, and processes that bring about significant advancements or breakthroughs in various fields. It involves harnessing knowledge, expertise, and resources to develop innovative solutions that solve problems, improve efficiency, drive progress, and deliver value.<sup>10</sup>

The overall condition of Pakistan technology and innovation is not sustainable over the world wide if we compare it to the market of India, Nigeria and Bangladesh just because of not having proper

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<sup>9</sup> Interview taken by researcher.

<sup>10</sup>Szewczuk-Stępień, Marzena and Magdalena Jurczyk-Bunkowska. 2020. The concept of a civic technology tool for empowering social innovations. *Journal of Economics & Management* 39 (1. January): 149–167. doi:10.22367/jem.2020.39.08, <https://doi.org/10.22367/jem.2020.39.08>.

access to the system. On the other hand, the situation in AJK is worse in this field. The youth expect more;

- The main concern of youth is to build more and more tech colleges or universities for the betterment of young generation.in AJK there are only (six) mainly high universities that give the opportunity to learn more about the technology.<sup>11</sup>
- Furthermore, youth expect from its government to create favorable atmosphere for innovation by offering and supporting STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics).
- Additionally, the young people expect from its government to highlight justifiable and environmentally friendly tools to address global change challenge like climate.

## **Sports and Recreation**

Activities that enhance life skills, talents, and overall physical health are included in sports and recreation. Engaging in these kinds of activities can help you maintain your physical fitness, have fun, and earn money. Soccer, basketball, swimming, yoga, aerobics, tennis, dance, hockey, golf, cycling and mountain riding, running, listening to music, and many other sports are examples of it. Youth is very

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<sup>11</sup> Interview taken by researcher.

passionate related to the sports. They have some general concern about this;

- Firstly, in AJK there must be some sports complexes that are in range of every inferior person and access able to everyone. There must be some arrangements for different activities in parks or in societies where we live.<sup>12</sup>
- Secondly, in every other building of every street there is a school that comprises the area between (5 to 10) Marla or may be (1) canal.
- Thirdly, Young people demand well-maintained, varied, and easily accessible sports and recreation facilities. They look for social contact, competitive chances, and high-quality coaching in their chosen activities. Other important expectations include fun, diversity, and health advantages. In order to provide varied, inclusive, and entertaining sports and leisure programs, it will take teamwork to meet these goals.

## **Cultural preservation**

Any civilized state's humanitarian policy must prioritize the preservation of its natural and cultural legacy, which serves as the foundation for the identity of the country.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Interview taken by researcher.

<sup>13</sup> A. Belhi, A. Bouras, S. Fofou, "Digitization and preservation of cultural heritage: The CEPROQHA approach", in International Conference on Software, Knowledge Information, Industrial

Youth plays a very important and a very vital role to preserve and spread their culture. They have some higher expectations from its government to preserve or safe the cultural in any possible way;

- Firstly, the majority of AJK youth quoted that they have the department of KAC in university but it has no worth. Culture come in the generation from the base, if the base has to do nothing with culture than the culture dies automatically. In this case, youth only expect a simple thing from its government that rather than teaching the history of other thing they should try teach the study of Kashmir.
- Secondly, the other main concern is related to the language. they say most of the children speak other languages in spite of speaking *Kashmiri* language. Youth emphasis on this if a language dies its cultural also dies. So, for the preservation of culture government should publish some books and publish the success stories in its own language.
- Thirdly, there should be proper government support for cultural festivals and events. This is a strong desire of youth from its government to organize festivals, exhibitions, and events that celebrate and promote AJK'S rich traditions and heritage.

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Management and Applications, 2017, p. 1-7; O.Z. Pankevych, "Multiculturalism as a political and legal concept", in Journal of the National Academy of Legal Sciences of Ukraine, 2019, vol. 26, no. 4, p. 119-132.

- Fourthly, there must be some platform that promotes cultural tourism. These tourism platform highlight the AJK'S historical site, traditional villages and shows cultural landmarks. By doing this government can attract tourists and boost the local economy while preserving cultural heritage.
- Moreover, the youth emphasis to encourage local media to produce content that reflects AJK'S cultural heritage. this includes television programs, radio shows and online content that shows the traditional music, folklore and customs.<sup>14</sup>

## **Entrepreneurship**

The process of creating, developing, starting, and managing a business venture, with all associated financial risks, is known as entrepreneurship. The youth focus on this by saying that it is the need of current time period. As far as, there are several concern of youth in which it is being taught;

- Firstly, starting a business and running it like a professional is not every one's specialty. On the basis of government, first they should educate people how to run a business, how they can start or do entrepreneurship. For this reason, they have to build up some educational institute, training programs and workshops to educate people. The government should conduct

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<sup>14</sup>Interview taken by researcher.

seminars to educate not only men but also women to create awareness.

- Secondly, the youth emphasis that government has to give them financial, moral and legal support to run their own business.
- Thirdly, the coming youth expects from its government to facilitate mentorship programs and networking events where they can connect with experienced business leaders and potential investors who invest in their new startup,
- Fourthly, the youth highlighted the main point is related to the taxation system. They are frequently looking for tax incentives, which can overcome their burden on new and small business.<sup>15</sup>

### **Youth representation**

Youth representation refers to the inclusion and active participation of young people in decision making, policy formulation, and governance at various levels. The youth of AKJ has some expectations in this regard;

- Firstly, youth major concern is to involve them in discussions and decision that affect their lives.in this they expect from the government to create council forums or boards in which young people can give their views and underwrite in policy making.

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<sup>15</sup> Interview taken by researcher.

- Secondly, youth expect that government should have engaged them in some youth-specific programs that include the services such as, mental health support, career counseling, recreational activities and healthcare services.
- Thirdly, they focus on some scholarship programs that represents youth of AJK in other countries. Government should make some policies to ensure the representation of youth in different perspectives.
- Fourthly, the young generations want its government to open participatory platforms. That allows young people to express their ideas and make decision according to them.
- Moreover, the youth quoted that there must be some policies that ensure a certain percentage of youth representation in different aspects such as political parties, board of organization and governmental committees.<sup>16</sup>

## **Quality of Education**

The process of gaining knowledge, skills, values, beliefs and habits is called education. It is an ongoing process that starts from the childhood and lasts for the eternity of a person. Good quality of education is the right of every individual. Youth of AJK signifies their expectation from its government in some certain way;

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<sup>16</sup> Interview taken by researcher.

- Firstly, the youth specifies the teaching methods. They want to get rid of these old GTM methods and want the government to move on new methods of teachings such as, DM and ALM that the advanced world is using.
- Secondly, government should hire some teachers from foreign embassy to educate our teachers through different seminars and workshops. Youth emphasis on training sessions of teachers so, they are able to teach practically rather than just reading and memorizing things.
- Thirdly, the usage of advanced technology and learning instruments should be provided in every school, college and university. The government should make some budget policies that provides AV/ADS to different educational institute through which the students can learn easily by looking at things and understands the things practically.
- Fourthly, the youth expect from its government to finish up the three-layer education system in which there are three categories.
  1. In the first layer we put the poorest segments of the society that carries the MADRIS students so, what they get in their curriculum of education is much different than others.
  2. Secondly, those students who go to get education in government schools or any other cheap private institute have different curriculum to study.

**3. Thirdly, the last layer refers to elite class or the people who have the enough money to be there have different curriculum to study and they are connected with the British council.**

To overcome all these problem youth, want from its government to create a system where everyone gets an equal education. Government should create a balanced education system so every specific community gets proper education.<sup>17</sup>

### **Merit and Good Governance**

The term "governance" refers to all forms of government, including the organizations, procedures, and customs that are used to decide on and control matters of shared interest. The process of governing gains a normative or evaluative component from good governance. From the standpoint of human rights, it mainly refers to the procedure by which public institutions oversee public resources, conduct public affairs, and ensure that human rights are realized.<sup>18</sup>

In the term of merit and good governance youth expect a lot from the government of AJK;

- Firstly, the youth ask from its government to have proper and equal opportunities in every sector such as; in education there must be scholarship, in jobs while having a job who

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<sup>17</sup> Interview taken by researcher.

<sup>18</sup> United nation human rights <https://www.ohchr.org/en/good-governance/about-good-governance>

deserve the seat may reliable for it. For this government should apply some rules. for instance; an exam giving candidate must be prioritized, a skillful candidate should be selected, merit system should be freed up from biasness.

- Secondly, youth emphasis the government to have anti-corruption measurements. In this government should take strong actions against corruption to ensure that the resources are being used properly.
- Thirdly, the government should launch the equal application of law where they ensure that laws are applied equally to everyone, regardless of status, prosperity or influence. Government should update and improve old laws in order to reflect laws.<sup>19</sup>

## **Clean and Healthy Environment**

A clean and healthy environment is essential for the wellbeing of all individual and communities. The youth has much expectation in this regard;

- Firstly, they appeal to the government there must be some platform in which the people are assigned to look after the cleanliness of one specific area. There must be some garbage dustbin on some specific points of the road.

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<sup>19</sup> Interview taken by researcher.

- Secondly, the government should arrange some training session to educate the workers of municipal committee. So, they can work effectively.
- Thirdly, they emphasis on the role of climate change that has left deep impact our health and environment as well. Rains have gone rare, dry patch have been a longed and the weather conditions have been unpredictable and are being faced by everyone.so, the government should make policies to overcome all these problems.
- Fourthly, the youth includes the waste management. They say there must be some policies to develop efficient waste collection, recycling and disposal system to manage solid and hazardous waste.<sup>20</sup>
- Moreover, government should develop and maintain parks, garden and green belts in urban areas to enhance air equality and provide recreational areas. Government should make rules to educate the public about the importance of a clean environment and ways to protect it.

## **Skill Development**

Young people demand well-maintained, varied, and easily accessible sports and recreation facilities. They look for social contact, competitive chances, and high-quality coaching in their chosen activities. Other important expectations include fun,

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<sup>20</sup> Interview taken by researcher.

diversity, and health advantages. In order to provide varied, inclusive, and entertaining sports and leisure programs, it will take teamwork to meet these goals;

- The younger generation expects the government to set up career training facilities in every AJK sector.
- Government departments and other related entities need to host training sessions.
- Short training programs should incorporate some online activities that help young people improve their general skills, such as content creation and using opportunities for earnings. All across AJK, workshops should be provided with qualified instructors.<sup>21</sup>

### **Initiatives of new government of AJK**

To assist 10 district councils and 5 municipal corporations in carrying out developmental operations in compliance with the established procedure, the government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) has approved the supply of Rs.411 million. At a press conference held here on Tuesday, AJK minister for local government and rural development (LG&RD) Faisal Mumtaz Rathore stated that the remaining LG institutions would be housed on the same pattern through the second tranche, which would likewise be given soon. Information and forest secretary Ansar

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<sup>21</sup> Interviews taken by researcher

Yaqoob, as well as LG&RD secretary Syed Shahid Mohyiddin Qadri, were also present at the event. A commission led by Mr. Rathore was established by the government last year to identify a workable solution to the problem that would not negatively impact the state's finances.

According to Mr. Rathore, the committee unanimously recommended to the government that development funds be set aside for LG institutions. As a result, it was decided to set aside Rs. 819 million for the purpose from the LG&RD department's annual development program's "block provision for new initiatives." In the first tranche, 278 union councils (UC) of all 10 district councils and 133 wards of the state's five municipal corporations Muzafarabad, Bagh, Rawalakot, Kotli, and Mirpur, would each get a grant of Rs. 1 million for development purposes, at the discretion of the elected councillor in question. According to Mr. Rathore, the next tranche of Rs408 million would be distributed as follows: Rs1 million to each of 278 union councils, 77 wards of 14 municipal committees, and 53 wards of 12 town committees. The UC chairman and the councillors of the municipal and town committees would decide how the money is to be used."The current government deserves credit for this significant initiative," he declared.The minister for LG&RD expressed optimism that the council members will use these money as wisely as possible while adhering to the established protocol.He suggested that the LG institutions establish a threshold, below which no

proposal should be considered or authorized for less than Rs. 100,000. Additionally, I will counsel the LG institutions to stop relying on government assistance. He stated that "funds would now be paid on the basis of 'work done,' in a visible contrast to the earlier practice of advance withdrawal of funds," and that the higher authorities would be able to physically verify schemes with the use of a mobile phone application.<sup>22</sup>

### **Public service commission**

Lt-Gen (R) Hidayatur Rehman Named AJK Public Service Commission Chairperson By Arsalan Khattak By designating its chairman and three members, the government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) has taken the first step toward restoring the Public Service Commission (PSC), which has been largely dormant. Of course! The newly appointed Chairman of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Public Service Commission is Lieutenant General (Retired) Hidayatur Rehman. On January 13, 2024, the AJK government released a notification confirming his appointment. This decision was made in compliance with the authority granted by Section 3 of the AJK Service Commission Act, 1986 and

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<sup>22</sup> "AJK Approves over Rs400 Million for 10 District Councils, Five MCs," Dawn, April 24, 2024, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1829238>

Article 48 sub-article 2 of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Interim Constitution 1974.<sup>23</sup>

The Azad Jammu and Kashmir government's Azad Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (AJKPSC) is in charge of selecting the state's civil servants and bureaucrats. As of right now, AJKPSC operates in accordance with Act 1986. The AJKPSC office was moved to Muzaffarabad City later in 1967. In order to fill positions for public servants in the various departments of the provisional government that require a grade of BPS 11 to 15 or higher, AJKPSC holds competitive exams and assessments. Only exceptional and qualified applicants are chosen by AJKPSC for posts in public service. The AJKPSC positions are prestigious and offer a host of advantages to public employees. The AJKPSC publishes opening statements, which are typically published online and in newspapers as AJKPSC advertisements. Jobs in AJKPSC are extremely competitive.

### **Roles of the AJKPSC**

Control the administration of the civil and management services in Azad Jammu & Kashmir and hold competitive exams for civil service jobs. Hire the right candidates for the public service positions in Azad Jammu & Kashmir. To provide guidance on

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<sup>23</sup> “President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir ... administered the oath of office to Chairman Public Service Commission Lieutenant General (Retired) Hidayat-ur-Rehman,” Government of Azad Jammu & Kashmir press release, Jan. 19, 2024.

matters related to the qualifications and selection procedure, initial public service appointment, transfer, and promotion of AJKPSC public service officers to the President of Azad Jammu & Kashmir. Respond to any other issues that the President might bring up with the Azad Jammu & Kashmir Public Service Commission.<sup>24</sup>

- Exams for the Ajk PSC are held on time and in accordance with merit standards following the nomination of a new chairman. Final outcomes used to be determined by how highly contacted a candidate was. LT Gen Hi Dayatur Rehman is currently holding fair examinations in order to give opportunity to the worthy applicant.

### **NTS in Education**

The AJK Educators NTS test is an essential step for anyone hoping to improve Azad Jammu and Kashmir's educational system. This test is administered by the National Testing Service (NTS) in order to evaluate applicants based on a number of factors, including as subject-specific knowledge, teaching strategies, and educational concepts.<sup>25</sup>

- This is a major initiative from the most recent government that removes the interview from the policy.

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<sup>24</sup>“AJKPSC Complete Guide & Details in Pakistan,” IlmKiDunya, <https://www.ilmkidunya.com/ajkpsc/>(<https://www.ilmkidunya.com/ajkpsc/>

<sup>25</sup>National Testing Service (Pakistan), “About Us,” NTS, <https://www.nts.org.pk/new/AboutNTS.php>

- There were several factors that changed the positions of applicants in the past following the NTS. based on recommendations from the panel members and higher authorities.
- Since the new initiatives to exclude interviews, the government has recently started to provide exams usually based only on merit.

## **Conclusion**

Young people usually look to their government and new programs for prospects for socioeconomic inclusion, personal and professional progress, and a better future. The younger generation is looking for fresh changes in their outlook on life. The government ought to take some steps to improve people's access to sports, entertainment, and fundamental job skills. Workshops for vocational training and technical support initiatives need to be implemented.

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