



Role of Youth in Elections

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Targets to be achieved in Elections 2013:

Following are the targets that are needed to be achieved in the upcoming for a better functioning democracy and better empowerment of people.

**Greater
Turnout**

**Greater number of
registered voters**

**Free and Fair
elections**

**Positive
campaigning**

**Awareness among people
about the importance of
vote**

The role of Youth:

Since Pakistan has more than 60% population as youth, therefore the Youth can play the most vital role in setting the direction of future in the elections, since the elections are a turning point for the democratic nations. Following are some steps that youth can take in order to make the system more efficient and to achieve above mentioned targets.

Greater Turnout and awareness

- Youth should come up with a united front, irrespective of what party they support, to campaign for the trust of people on the elections
- Youth, particularly students, should campaign at different levels to help people realize the power of their vote
- Groups of students should persuade other students within their institutions to cast vote on the day of polling.
- Since youngsters are enthusiastic, they should encourage their families to go to cast vote on the day of voting
- Students should go town to town, village to village and arrange small gatherings in order to make people realize the importance of vote and persuade them to vote on the day of polling, this task can be done vigorously by the politically active students of different political parties
- Social media can act as a rapid changing medium, the youth should use the social media e.g. Facebook, Twitter etc to create awareness among the people and persuade them to vote
- Youth from different political parties should collaborate in this regard for persuading more people to vote other than their own election campaigns.
- Special events and seminars should be arranged by the election commission in the institutions on the importance of vote, youth should actively participate in them.
- Youth should volunteer for the programs by ECP to guide people about electoral process, so that they should be familiar with process

Greater number of Registered voters:

- Since Election Commission of Pakistan has published new electoral rolls, Youth should actively participate in them and ask others to get themselves registered if they are not
- Students should guide the general public through the registration process and help them confirm their name and constituency in the lists
- Youth should analyze the lists and complain against the fake registered votes or any other problems to the Election Commission

Positive Campaigning:

- Youth should play an important role and should act as watchdogs over the campaigning of the candidates.
- They should monitor the campaigning in their constituencies keenly.
- They should monitor that what resources are being used, if government resources are being used they should complaint against the candidate to the Election Commission of Pakistan without any hesitation.
- They should check whether the candidates are campaigning within the budget fixed by the Election Commission as per the rules, if any candidate is spending more, they should launch a complaint to the special cells of Election Commission
- If any candidate is using illegal means for example harassing, bribing, exploiting or being offensive to a community, they should launch complaint to the ECP

Free and Fair Elections:

- Youth should persuade the people to cast the vote totally independent of any pressure and secretly to the candidate they personally think deserves the vote
- While on the Polling booths, the youngsters should keenly monitor that is the polling fair
- If they find any problem on the booth, for example secrecy of voter nor ensured or corruption, they should immediately inform the presiding officer and if that doesn't work, immediate complaint on emergency cell should be made
- Use of weapons on the day of polling should be reported to the respective police stations
- Youth should not be afraid of launching complaints to the authorities
- Youngsters should try to be present on the time of voting and monitor that there is no fraud or harassment at that time

Role of MYPs

- Members of Youth Parliament should work both collectively and individually in all the above mentioned directions
- Every MYP should initiate these steps in their Educational Institutions and their Organizations
- MYPs should collectively visit some rural areas and campaign about the importance of vote and persuade people to vote in the elections so that a true people's representative government can be made
- Every MYP should initiate these programs within his/her constituency at small level and expand it to maximum possible limit
- Twinning program can be used as a forum by the MYPs to address the people on behalf of the Youth parliament and persuade them to vote argumentatively. MYPs should remain politically neutral during this mission
- Every MYP should remain active on the day of polling, and should act on the above mentioned directions
- MYPs should use media as a forum to express their views about importance of each and every vote.
- 4th Youth Parliament shall remain in touch till the elections and such awareness programs e.g. seminars, media shows, press conferences should be arranged by the Youth Parliament even after the tenure is complete.
- Since the election will take place during the tenure of next Youth Parliament, next Youth Parliament should be made more practically active in this regard and energies of energetic Youth Parliamentarians should be directed toward this cause.