



Group Development Pakistan

Case Study

Nothing About Us, Without Us!

GDP received an invitation to send two children, a boy and a girl, to the Asian Children Summit organized by Child Rights Coalition Asia (CRC Asia)- a regional child rights network- in Bangkok, in November 2019. GDP reached out to its child community members in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) and asked for child nominations. 6 children applied: 2 girls and 4 boys. The other children elected their representatives among those child candidates and eventually, Kenizeh and Ali Hassan got elected to attend the meeting and brief their peers on their way back.

The two Pakistani child delegates sent by GDP attended the Asian Children Summit and shared their views on "The Asia we want". This child sensitive vision of Asia was articulated around Child protection, Child Justice as well as children & environmental rights and will be shared with Asian decision makers to guide them for further policy and legal reform. While talking about child protection, children were also trained on child online safety.

Once back to Pakistan, the two Pakistani child delegates sponsored under the PCRPP project were invited to a Judicial Conference on Cyber Crimes organized by the Punjab Judicial Academy in 2020, and gave a presentation as speakers to approximately 300 judges and representatives of the law enforcement agencies.

The participants of the Judicial Conference were initially quite surprised to see children as speakers but after hearing their



Children from HRCYTF advocating for online child safety and relevant measures during the Judicial conference on cybercrimes in Lahore.

presentation, they decided that the next steps towards ensuring online child safety in Pakistan could not happen without children's input! Consequently, Digital Rights Foundation (DRF), a recognized Pakistani NGO specialized in digital rights and safety, has proposed to synergize with GDP and those child activists to counter online child abuse. DRF will nominate those child delegates as child online safety ambassadors, train them so that they can train other peers who will equip more children in their school and communities about online safety. This strategy responds to the two child delegates' concerns who stated: "we cannot be everywhere as we must also focus on our studies, we need to ensure a trickle down effect and include more children in our team!"

Moreover, a discussion is taking place between GDP and the Cyber Crimes Wing of



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the Federal Investigation Agency to launch a joint awareness program to counter online child abuse via a child and youth participatory process conceived as "Cyber scouts". Finally, the Director of the Balochistan Judicial Academy offered an open invitation to those children to conduct trainings on child rights in Quetta.

At the end of the judicial conference, both children received an award from the then Chief Justice of Lahore High Court, Honorable Justice Mamoon Rashid Sheikh, as well as from the Chief Justice of Pakistan, Honorable Justice Gulzar Ahmad. The children were thrilled with the outcome of the conference and pledged to continue their work for the promotion of child rights in Pakistan.

It seems that Pakistani duty bearers have well understood the message of those two child activists "Nothing about us, without us!".