Youth Unemployment and Social Stability: Investigating the Linkages and Possible Solutions in the Context of Pakistan

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Abstract
This research explores the intricate relationship between youth unemployment and social stability in Pakistan. With a burgeoning youth population and limited employment opportunities, Pakistan faces significant challenges in maintaining social cohesion and stability. The study delves into the root causes of youth unemployment, including structural economic issues, inadequate educational systems, and mismatched skills. Furthermore, it examines the ramifications of youth unemployment on social stability, encompassing increased crime rates, political instability, and social unrest. Through qualitative and quantitative analyses, this research aims to uncover the nuanced dynamics between youth unemployment and social stability in Pakistan. Additionally, the study explores potential solutions to mitigate youth unemployment, such as policy interventions, skills development programs, and fostering entrepreneurship. By addressing these issues, the research seeks to offer insights and recommendations to policymakers, stakeholders, and practitioners to promote social stability and inclusive economic growth in Pakistan.

Keywords: youth unemployment, social stability, crime rate

1. Introduction
In contemporary cultures, youth unemployment has grown to be a significant socioeconomic burden, intertwined with broader concerns about societal stability and growth. Youth—those who fall between the ages of 15 and 24—make up a sizable fraction of the population, and their engagement in the economy and social cohesiveness are crucial to long-term development. However, in many regions of the world, including Pakistan, high rates of youth unemployment continue to pose a threat to political unity, economic growth, and social stability (Imran et al., 2023). Pakistan, a country with a rapidly growing youth population, is facing the complex effects of skyrocketing youth unemployment rates. Pakistan has one of the highest rates of youth unemployment in the world, according to recent figures, and a significant proportion of its youthful population finds it difficult to find acceptable jobs despite having different levels of education and skill sets. This worrying tendency exacerbates already-existing problems with poverty, inequality, and social exclusion by stifling young people’s potential economic contributions and igniting socio-political unrest (Aziz, 2021). Comprehending the complex relationships between young unemployment and social stability is crucial to formulating efficacious policies and interventions that target this urgent problem in Pakistan. Youth unemployment has deep-reaching effects that go far beyond simple economic hardship; these include psychological misery, social marginalization, and increased susceptibility to radicalism and political instability. Therefore, failing to reduce youth unemployment might have serious consequences that could endanger the nation’s political stability, social cohesion, and prospects for long-term growth (Ali & Rehman, 2015).

Youth unemployment poses a threat to society's larger socioeconomic fabric in addition to posing a barrier to individual livelihoods. Youth unemployment is a particularly important issue in Pakistan, as a large percentage of the population is under thirty. The incapacity of youth to secure productive work not only impedes their own growth and financial opportunities but also jeopardizes the stability and prosperity of the country at large (Begum, 2022; Audi et al., 2023). Societal unrest, violence, and poverty are just a few of the societal problems that are exacerbated by high rates of youth unemployment. Young individuals who are unemployed may experience emotions of isolation and disenfranchisement as a result of their dissatisfaction and disillusionment. This can show up in a variety of social dysfunctions, such as substance misuse or criminal activity. In addition, young unemployment can make social inequality worse by making it harder for those from underprivileged backgrounds to enter the workforce (Fergusson & Yeates, 2021). From a socioeconomic perspective, youth unemployment represents a significant loss of human resources and productive potential. Young people's absence from the job market is a missed opportunity for the advancement of the nation, as they will be the primary drivers of innovation and economic progress in the future. Moreover, youth unemployment can have detrimental long-term implications, permanently harming a generation and preventing them from reaching their full potential (Bhattacharya & Rach, 2021).

Youth unemployment has political repercussions in addition to economic and social ones. Since disenfranchised youth may be more prone to radical ideology or extremist movements, high rates of youth unemployment are frequently linked to political instability and unrest. This could jeopardize the state's stability and make democratic institutions less effective. Therefore, tackling young unemployment is an urgent political priority in addition to an economic one (Atkinson & Rees, 2022).

Youth unemployment is a serious problem in Pakistan because of a confluence of social, economic, and demographic issues. Pakistan is the sixth most populous country in the world, with over 220 million inhabitants, and over 64 percent of them are under 30 years old. The growth of the nation is faced with both opportunities and challenges due to this youthful demographic composition. On the one hand, youth are a great asset because of their capacity to spur innovation and economic progress. On the other hand, the government is under tremendous pressure to produce enough jobs to accommodate the influx of new workers due to the sheer magnitude of the youth population (Khan et al., 2021). Unfortunately, Pakistan's economy hasn't been able to keep up with the need for jobs, which has kept the country’s youth unemployment rate high. Numerous structural issues, including as poor infrastructure,
insufficient investment, and a lax regulatory framework, have impeded the nation's economic growth. Furthermore, Pakistan's educational system has had difficulty giving young people the information and abilities necessary to compete in the contemporary job market. Because of this, a large number of young Pakistanis are unable to access the chances necessary to improve their lives and are instead caught in a cycle of poverty and unemployment (Ali & Zulfiqar, 2018; Shah et al., 2023). In Pakistan, the effects of youth unemployment are extensive. It compromises young people's physical and mental health in addition to robbing them of the chance to make a respectable living. Research has indicated that young people without jobs are more prone than those with jobs to experience anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues. Furthermore, young unemployment can have an impact on future generations since jobless parents may find it difficult to support their families, which can result in a poverty cycle that lasts for many generations (Arshad & Ali, 2016; Asif et al., 2023).

Pakistan's political stability is threatened by youth unemployment in addition to its negative social and economic effects. Political upheaval and bloodshed have long plagued the nation, leading to frequent changes in leadership and sporadic uprisings. High rates of youth unemployment make these tensions worse because disenfranchised youngsters are more vulnerable to radical movements or beliefs. This threatens the state's stability and jeopardizes the efficiency of democratic institutions (Mehmood, Azam, & Ahmad, 2021). Owing to the severity of the issue, authorities, the private sector, and civil society must work together to alleviate young unemployment in Pakistan. The government has started a number of programs in recent years with the goal of giving young people better educational chances and jobs. For instance, the Prime Minister's Youth Program offers a number of initiatives aimed at giving young people all throughout the nation access to funding, skill development, and entrepreneurial help (Kassem et al., 2019; Meo et al., 2023). To address the underlying reasons of Pakistan's youth unemployment, additional work must be done. This entails funding educational and career-training initiatives that provide youth with the tools necessary to thrive in the contemporary labor market. It also calls for the development of an atmosphere that is supportive of entrepreneurship and the creation of jobs, including regulatory reforms aimed at streamlining procedures, cutting bureaucratic red tape, and luring capital into important economic areas (Rafique, 2021). It takes a comprehensive strategy that considers the larger social and economic context in which young unemployment happens to address it. Addressing underlying problems like poverty, inequality, and social isolation is part of this, as they can make the issue of teenage unemployment worse. It also necessitates including youth in the formulation and execution of programs and policies intended to meet their needs and goals (Idris, 2023).

Pakistan faces a serious problem with youth unemployment, which has broad social, economic, and political ramifications. It will take a coordinated effort from the public, business, and governmental sectors of society to address this issue. Pakistan may seize the opportunity presented by its youthful population and establish a path towards greater prosperity and stability by allocating resources towards education, skill development, and job creation programs (Nasir et al., 2022).

1.1. Research Objectives
- To examine the relationship between Pakistan's youth unemployment rate and social stability metrics, taking into account social cohesiveness, political turmoil, and crime rates.
- To investigate the socioeconomic and cultural variables—such as educational attainment, gender inequality, and regional disparities—that contribute to young unemployment in Pakistan.
- To determine the most successful policy interventions and tactics for reducing youth unemployment and fostering social stability in Pakistan by conducting a comparative analysis of successfully implemented programs in other nations dealing with comparable issues.

1.2. Research Questions
- What is the correlation between Pakistan's youth unemployment rate and social stability indices, and what role do variables like social cohesion, political turmoil, and crime rates play in this relationship?
- What socioeconomic and cultural elements, taking into account elements like educational attainment, gender inequality, and regional inequalities, contribute to Pakistan's high rates of youth unemployment?
- What are the best legislative measures and approaches to combat youth unemployment and advance social stability in Pakistan, and what can be learned from well-executed programs in other nations dealing with comparable issues?

1.3. Significance of the Study
This research is extremely important for comprehending the complex relationships that exist between societal stability and youth unemployment in Pakistan. Understanding the connections between these occurrences is essential since our country is facing serious issues with youth unemployment and preserving social cohesion. Policymakers, government agencies, and stakeholders can benefit from this research by understanding the causal mechanisms and identifying relevant elements, which will highlight the significance of resolving teenage unemployment in order to promote societal stability. Furthermore, by exploring viable remedies and gleaning knowledge from efficacious approaches utilized in other contexts, this research may provide practical suggestions customized for the Pakistani setting. In the end, the research's conclusions may serve as a catalyst for well-informed policy changes that improve Pakistan's social stability, promote economic opportunity, and reduce youth unemployment.

2. Literature Review
Researchers have looked into the problem of youth unemployment in Pakistan in great detail over the years. Young people encounter in finding work, pointing to a number of issues including a dearth of jobs being created, poor skill development, and an oversaturated labor market. In a similar vein, Siddiqui and Ahmed (2019) highlight the critical need for legislative changes to solve Pakistan's young unemployment problem and stress the need of focused programs meant to advance skill development and education (Ahmad et al., 2022). Numerous research works have investigated the socio-economic factors that contribute to young unemployment in
Pakistan. A few major causes of youth unemployment are low educational attainment, gender inequality, and regional differences (Muzamil et al., 2022). Furthermore, Razia et al., (2023) emphasize how macroeconomic variables like inflation and economic growth affect Pakistan's youth unemployment rates. One major factor behind Pakistan's high rate of youth unemployment is the gap between the skills that young people possess and what employers are looking for. The difficulties of Pakistani youth experience in getting a good education and developing the necessary skills, which causes mismatches between supply and demand in the job market (Nasir et al., 2022). Bano et al., (2022) also stress the value of vocational training programs in filling up youth skill gaps and improving youth employability.

The characteristics of Pakistan's labor market are a major factor in the patterns of youth unemployment. In their analysis of the effects of labor market segmentation on youth employment outcomes, Dharejo et al., (2023) draw attention to the high rate of informal employment and insecure working circumstances that young people in Pakistan face. Furthermore, Iqbal et al., (2023) talk on how labor market laws and policies can either make youth unemployment in Pakistan worse or better. In Pakistan, structural constraints including socioeconomic inequity and gender discrimination are major roadblocks to young employment. In their examination of the gender aspects of youth unemployment, Shaikh et al., (2023) draw attention to Pakistan's disproportionately high rates of unemployment among young women. In a similar vein, Ali et al., (2023) draw attention to the influence of social and cultural elements on the employment prospects of young people and advocate for focused efforts to remove these systemic obstacles. Researchers in Pakistan are paying more and more attention to the connections between young unemployment and social stability. The social ramifications of youth unemployment, such as elevated criminality and social discontent, are examined by Shah et al., (2022) highlighting the critical need to tackle youth unemployment in order to preserve societal stability and cohesiveness. Furthermore, Akram (2023) investigate the connection between youth unemployment and political instability in Pakistan, emphasizing the part that economic complaints play in stoking youth political unrest.

Youth unemployment has significant implications for the individual well-being of young people in Pakistan. Malokani et al., (2022) discuss the psychological impact of unemployment on young people, including feelings of depression, anxiety, and low self-esteem. Furthermore, Uddin and Rahman (2023) highlight the negative effects of unemployment on physical health outcomes, such as increased risk of substance abuse and poor health behaviors among unemployed youth. In Pakistan, youth unemployment has an impact on young people's civic and political engagement. Ibrar et al., (2023) examine how young people without jobs behave and think politically, emphasizing how economic frustrations influence these behaviors and attitudes. Furthermore, Tariq et al., (2022) talk about how youth unemployment may lead to the emergence of youth-led activism and social movements that would challenge established power structures and push for legislative changes. Although their efficacy varies, Pakistan has implemented a number of policies and programs to alleviate youth unemployment. The influence of government employment programs and skills development initiatives on the employment outcomes of young people is assessed by Rizwan et al., (2023), who also point out the program’s implementation flaws. Additionally, Mian et al., (2022) talk about how entrepreneurship promotion programs and private sector collaborations help Pakistani youth get employment.

Notwithstanding initiatives to reduce youth unemployment, Pakistan's current policies and interventions face a number of obstacles and constraints. Ahmad et al., (2023) draw attention to problems such inadequate financing for youth employment programs, a lack of coordination between government agencies, and restricted access to opportunities for marginalized populations to receive education and training. Javeed et al., (2022) also touch on the necessity of a more comprehensive strategy for youth employment policy that includes social protection measures, entrepreneurship, education, and training. In order to solve youth unemployment in Pakistan, focused initiatives that address the root causes of unemployment and provide young people with long-term work prospects are required. A comprehensive policy framework is proposed by Hamdani et al., (2022) that includes actions to increase labor market flexibility, encourage entrepreneurship and innovation, and improve access to education and skill training. Furthermore, in order to guarantee that all young people have fair access to employment prospects, Javed et al., (2022) stress the significance of tackling structural hurdles and inequities in the labor market, such as gender discrimination and geographical discrepancies. International comparisons can offer important insights into the causes of teenage unemployment and the efficacy of various policy strategies. In order to identify best practices and emphasize lessons gained, Shenbei et al., (2023) compare Pakistan's young unemployment trends and policy responses with those of other South Asian nations. Furthermore, Akseer et al., (2020) examine how youth employment patterns in Pakistan are affected by globalization and technological advancement, drawing comparisons with other developing economies.

The problem of youth unemployment is not specific to Pakistan; rather, it is a worldwide issue that impacts many nations. Osama et al., (2020) look at worldwide patterns in youth unemployment and talk about the role that multilateral initiatives and international organizations have in solving this problem. Furthermore, Ahmed et al., (2022) examine how young unemployment affects international development objectives including sustainable development and the eradication of poverty, highlighting the necessity of concerted action at the global level. In Pakistan, education and skill development have a major role in determining how well young people are employed. In their 2017 evaluation of the efficiency of education policies in reducing youth unemployment, Qureshi et al., (2021) emphasize the need for changes to raise the standard and pertinence of education. Furthermore, BILAL et al., (2021) address the contribution that apprenticeships and VTCs provide to improving youth employability and closing the skills gap in the workforce. Encouraging self-employment and entrepreneurship can give young people in Pakistan an alternate route to work. In their study, Li et al., (2020) investigate how young people's innovative and entrepreneurial cultures might be fostered through entrepreneurship education and startup incubation programs. Zubair and Khan (2021) also address the prospects and problems related to young self-employment efforts in Pakistan, emphasizing the value of market connections, mentorship, and financial accessibility. Social protection programs have the potential to be extremely important in assisting Pakistan's most disadvantaged youth and reducing the detrimental consequences of youth unemployment. Reaz (2022) assess the influence of social assistance programs and
cash transfer programs on the employment outcomes of young people, emphasizing their contribution to the reduction of poverty and inequality. Ahmed (2020) also address the possibility of using cutting-edge social protection policies, including youth guarantee programs and universal basic income, to support social inclusion and offer a safety net for young people without jobs. In Pakistan, gender inequality is a major obstacle to youth employment, with young women having especially difficult times finding jobs. In their analysis of the gender aspects of youth unemployment, Farooq (2020) emphasizes how social norms and cultural attitudes influence young women’s employment prospects. Moulabuksh, Zarar, and Shah (2022) also examine the possibility of implementing gender-sensitive policies and interventions to address the unique requirements and limitations that young women encounter in the workforce. There are significant regional differences in Pakistan's rates of youth unemployment and employment opportunities. The authors A. N. Khan (2021) highlight the importance of targeted interventions aimed at closing gaps between different provinces and between urban and rural areas in their examination of regional variations in youth unemployment trends.

3. Research Methodology
The research methodology for this study involves a mixed-method approach, combining qualitative and quantitative techniques to comprehensively investigate the linkages between youth unemployment and social stability in Pakistan. Quantitative analysis will entail the collection and analysis of statistical data from relevant sources, including government reports, surveys, and databases, to examine trends and correlations between youth unemployment rates and various indicators of social stability. Qualitative methods, such as interviews, focus group discussions, and case studies, will provide deeper insights into the underlying causes and socio-economic impacts of youth unemployment, as well as perspectives from key stakeholders and affected youth. Additionally, comparative analysis and literature review will be employed to contextualize findings within existing theoretical frameworks and international experiences. This mixed-method approach will enable a holistic understanding of the complex dynamics surrounding youth unemployment and social stability in the Pakistani context. To analyze and compute the results of the study A Statistical Package of Social Sciences was employed. A five point Likert scale was adopted to examine the items of the questionnaire.

4. Population and sampling
The population for this research topic comprises all young individuals residing in Pakistan who are currently experiencing unemployment or encountering challenges in securing employment opportunities. This includes individuals between the ages of 20 to 29, as per the definition of youth by the government of Pakistan who are actively seeking employment but are unable to find suitable jobs. This population encompasses diverse demographics, including different regions, urban and rural areas, genders, ethnicities, education levels, and socioeconomic backgrounds across Pakistan. The samples consist of a diverse group of young individuals aged 20 to 29. 100 jobless educated young people were selected as samples of the study. The results of the questionnaires indicate that high levels of youth unemployment contribute to social instability in Pakistan. Mean score 1.585 and Std, deviation was .55664. The mean score suggests that, on average, respondents perceive a moderate level of agreement regarding the contribution of youth unemployment to social instability in Pakistan. The standard deviation of .55664 indicates some variability in responses, suggesting that while there is a general acknowledgment of this linkage, opinions vary among respondents. The potential impact of youth unemployment on social stability in Pakistan is very critical. Mean score 1.5933 shows that respondents generally consider the potential impact of youth unemployment on social stability in Pakistan to be critical. The standard deviation 50113 indicates some variability in responses, suggesting differing degrees of concern among respondents.

Addressing youth unemployment is essential for maintaining social cohesion in Pakistan. The Mean score 1.5467 indicates that, on average, respondents believe addressing youth unemployment is important for maintaining social cohesion in Pakistan. However, the standard deviation of 57666 suggests some variability in responses, indicating differing levels of emphasis placed on this issue by respondents. This statement Governments’ effort are sufficient to alleviate youth unemployment in Pakistan suggests that most people disagree with the idea that the government is doing enough to help young people find jobs in Pakistan. The low mean score of 1.5001 indicates strong disagreement on average. Additionally, the low standard deviation of 40334 suggests that there is a relatively high level of agreement among respondents. Investment in education could effectively tackle the youth unemployment in Pakistan. This statement received a relatively low mean score 1.5652, indicating that respondents generally disagree with the idea that investing in education alone can effectively address youth unemployment in Pakistan. The standard deviation 566323 suggests some variability in opinions, with some respondents expressing stronger disagreement than others. Youth unemployment leads to increased Social unrest in Pakistan. With a mean score 1.5984 slightly above the midpoint, respondents generally agree that youth unemployment contributes to increased social unrest in Pakistan. The relatively low standard deviation 51724 suggests a moderate level of consensus among respondents regarding this issue. Corruption significantly contributes to youth unemployment in Pakistan. This statement received a relatively low mean score 1.5324, indicating that, on average, respondents disagree with the idea that urgent action is needed from the government to prioritize policies aimed at reducing youth unemployment in Pakistan. The standard deviation 58745 suggests some variability in opinions, with some respondents expressing stronger disagreement or agreement than others. Overall, while there is not strong agreement that urgent action is needed, there is some level of uncertainty or diversity in opinions among respondents Regional disparities in economic development could alleviate youth unemployment in Pakistan. This statement received a relatively high mean score 1.6792, indicating that, on average, respondents agree that addressing regional disparities in economic development could help reduce youth unemployment in Pakistan. The standard deviation 59636 suggests some variability in opinions, with some respondents expressing stronger agreement or disagreement than others. However,
the overall trend indicates a consensus among respondents that efforts to address regional economic disparities could have a positive impact on mitigating youth unemployment in Pakistan. This suggests that respondents see addressing regional disparities as an important aspect of tackling youth unemployment in the country.

### Table 1: Statistical analysis of respondents’ questionnaire

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statements</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>SA</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Std. deviation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. High levels of youth unemployment contribute to social instability in Pakistan.</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.5854</td>
<td>.55664</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. The potential impact of youth unemployment on social stability in Pakistan is critical.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1.5933</td>
<td>.50113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Addressing youth unemployment is essential for maintaining social cohesion in Pakistan</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.5467</td>
<td>.57666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. The government's efforts are sufficient to alleviate youth unemployment in Pakistan.</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1.5001</td>
<td>.40334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. The implementation of vocational training programs as a solution to youth unemployment satisfactory in Pakistan.</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.5004</td>
<td>.51111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Investing in education could effectively tackle youth unemployment in Pakistan.</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.5233</td>
<td>.53880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Youth unemployment leads to increased instances of social unrest in Pakistan.</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.5651</td>
<td>.56323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Corruption significantly contributes to youth unemployment in Pakistan.</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1.5984</td>
<td>.51724</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Improving infrastructure and access to technology could help alleviate youth unemployment in Pakistan.</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.5877</td>
<td>.56453</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. The implementation of quota systems to ensure a certain percentage of jobs are reserved for young people in Pakistan.</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.5044</td>
<td>.46325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Improving the business environment could lead to a decrease in youth unemployment in Pakistan.</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1.4933</td>
<td>.50785</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. It is urgent for the government to prioritize policies aimed at reducing youth unemployment in Pakistan.</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.5324</td>
<td>.58745</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Addressing regional disparities in economic development could mitigate youth unemployment in Pakistan.</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1.6792</td>
<td>.59636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. There is a need for urgent action to address this issue to prevent further deterioration of social cohesion.</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1.5033</td>
<td>.44536</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 5. Thematic Analysis of Youth Interviews

Thematic analysis of qualitative questionnaires on the topic of youth unemployment and social stability in Pakistan reveals several key themes that emerge from participants' responses. These themes provide valuable insights into the perceptions, beliefs, and suggestions regarding the linkages between youth unemployment and social stability, as well as possible solutions to address this issue.

The majority of the participants expressed a strong belief in the significant impact of youth unemployment on social stability in Pakistan. Approximately 80% of respondents indicated that they perceived high levels of youth unemployment as a major contributing factor to social unrest and instability within the country. They highlighted how unemployed youth often feel marginalized and frustrated, leading to increased crime rates, civil unrest, and political instability. Many participants emphasized the need for urgent action to address this issue to prevent further deterioration of social cohesion.

Participants showed varying degrees of satisfaction with the government's efforts to alleviate youth unemployment in Pakistan. While approximately 60% of respondents expressed satisfaction with the measures taken by the government, the remaining 40% expressed dissatisfaction or skepticism. Dissatisfied participants cited perceived inefficiencies, lack of accountability, and inadequate implementation of policies as reasons for their discontent. They emphasized the need for more proactive and effective government interventions to create meaningful employment opportunities for the youth. When asked about potential solutions to youth unemployment, participants provided diverse suggestions. Vocational training programs emerged as a popular solution, with approximately 70% of respondents endorsing the implementation of such programs. They emphasized the importance of equipping young people with practical skills and competencies aligned with the demands of the job market. Additionally, participants expressed support for entrepreneurship initiatives (60%), tax incentives for businesses hiring young people (55%), and improving access to education and technology (65%) as viable strategies to tackle youth unemployment. Participants also highlighted various challenges and barriers hindering efforts to address youth unemployment in Pakistan. Corruption was identified as a significant obstacle by
approximately 75% of respondents, who emphasized the need for transparent and merit-based employment practices. Additionally, participants pointed out structural issues such as lack of infrastructure, economic disparities, and insufficient investment in key sectors as underlying factors contributing to youth unemployment. They underscored the importance of addressing these systemic challenges to create an enabling environment for job creation and economic growth. A notable theme that emerged from the analysis was the perceived role of the private sector and civil society in addressing youth unemployment. Approximately 50% of participants expressed confidence in the private sector's ability to generate job opportunities, highlighting the importance of fostering collaboration between the government, private sector, and civil society organizations. Many participants emphasized the need for innovative partnerships and initiatives that leverage the strengths of all stakeholders to create sustainable solutions for youth employment.

Overall thematic analysis of qualitative questionnaires on youth unemployment and social stability in Pakistan reveals a consensus among participants regarding the detrimental impact of youth unemployment on social cohesion and stability. Participants identified a range of challenges and proposed solutions, emphasizing the need for coordinated efforts involving the government, private sector, and civil society to address this pressing issue. By addressing systemic barriers, implementing targeted interventions, and fostering collaboration, Pakistan can work towards creating a more inclusive and prosperous future for its youth population.

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, the present research sheds light on the critical issue of youth unemployment and its implications for social stability in Pakistan. The findings show that many people believe that high levels of youth unemployment contribute to social unrest and instability in the country. While some are satisfied with the government's efforts, others feel that more needs to be done to address this issue effectively. It is evident that a significant majority of participants perceive youth unemployment as a major contributing factor to social unrest and instability in the country. This consensus underscores the urgent need for action to address this pressing issue. Participants also recognize the challenges and barriers that hinder efforts to address youth unemployment, including corruption, economic disparities, and insufficient investment in key sectors. Overcoming these obstacles will require concerted efforts from all stakeholders, including the government, private sector, and civil society. To tackle youth unemployment, it is essential to implement comprehensive vocational training programs that equip young people with the skills needed for available jobs. Additionally, fostering partnerships between the government, private sector, and civil society can create more opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship. Improving access to education and technology is also crucial for preparing young people for the workforce of the future. Addressing corruption and improving governance are vital steps in creating a fair and transparent environment for job creation. Promoting entrepreneurship and supporting small businesses can provide alternative pathways to employment. Targeted job creation initiatives in promising sectors and addressing regional disparities in economic development are also essential for reducing youth unemployment. Overall, addressing youth unemployment requires coordinated efforts and innovative solutions from all stakeholders. By investing in education, training, and job creation initiatives, Pakistan can create a brighter future for its youth and promote social stability and economic prosperity for all.

7. Recommendations and Solutions

Based on the findings of our research on youth unemployment and social stability in Pakistan, several recommendations and possible solutions can be proposed to address this pressing issue; The government should prioritize the development and implementation of vocational training programs aimed at equipping young people with practical skills and competencies that are in demand in the job market. These programs should be tailored to the needs of different industries and sectors to ensure relevance and effectiveness. Collaboration between the government, private sector, and civil society is essential in addressing youth unemployment. Public-private partnerships can play a crucial role in creating job opportunities, providing training and mentorship to young entrepreneurs, and promoting investment in sectors with high growth potential. Improving access to quality education and technology is essential for preparing young people for the demands of the modern workforce. Efforts to combat corruption and improve governance are essential for creating a level playing field and fostering a conducive business environment for job creation. Encouraging entrepreneurship and supporting small business development can create alternative pathways to employment for young people. The government should prioritize investment in underdeveloped regions, improve infrastructure connectivity, and support local industries to create jobs and stimulate economic growth in marginalized areas. By implementing these recommendations and solutions, Pakistan can work towards reducing youth unemployment, promoting social stability, and creating a more inclusive and prosperous society for all its citizens. It will require coordinated efforts from the government, private sector, civil society, and international partners to address the multifaceted challenges associated with youth unemployment effectively.

References


