

Baseline Study

Youth Violence in Karachi

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Executive Summary:

Search for Common Ground is working with public and private schools and colleges in Karachi to tackle the issue of youth violence in the city. In collaboration with the Karachi Youth Initiative, SFCG has started the initiative to engage students in a constructive discourse on peace building and conflict resolution through common ground dialogues and by invoking a strong sense of civic and social responsibility. Primarily focusing on 150 young people, the project titled “I Am Karachi: Preventing Youth Violence in Karachi” is being implemented in five violence affected areas of Karachi including Lyari, Orangi, Korangi, Saddar and Gulshan Towns. The project aims to promote non-violence and build the capacity of youth leaders to become active agent of peace in their communities through collaborative actions, mediation and dialogue.

Youth violence deeply affects not only its victims but also their families, friends and communities. There are close links between youth violence and other forms of violence. Violent young people commit a range of crimes and display other forms of deviant social and psychological behaviour. There are a variety of approaches that have been used to reduce violent behavior among youth. The most common interventions aim to change individual skills, attitudes and beliefs. These kinds of interventions are commonly applied in schools and are designed to help youth manage anger, resolve conflict and develop appropriate social skills.

The major reasons behind youth involvement in violence in Karachi are poverty, illiteracy and limited access to positive social interactions. According to a Supreme Court of Pakistan verdict in 2011, many of the political, ethnic and religious groups in Karachi have a ‘militant wing’. These wings recruit youth from colleges and universities or after their pursuit of higher education and they become an asset of these parties. These groups provide incentives including weapons, and money to new recruits of the ‘youth wings’ in order to safeguard their interests. These groups attempt to enhance their economic and political status through these youth groups. There is a new trend emerging in which these groups are also using youth for extortion and blackmailing.

SFCG has conducted this baseline study to identify the motivating factors for youth involvement in armed groups, analyze the mechanisms of their involvement, and create a ranking of colleges most vulnerable to violence. It aims to identify some of the most pressing challenges and opportunities that youth in Karachi face. In addition to a comprehensive desk review of recent research on youth violence and extremism, the study attempts to measure the core attitudes of all relevant stakeholders towards youth, particularly to identify issues that push them to violent and extremist behaviour.

Some of the major findings of the study indicate that youth from different towns had different perceptions about the violence in their communities. The data indicates that 85% youth from Saddar and 68% youth from Lyari Town relied more on the use of strength and violence to resolve a conflict in their community. This trend is much weaker in Orangi, Korangi and Gulshan

town. Almost 90% of youth from these three towns said they try to use the help of community elders or try to resolve conflict by collaboration rather than the use of force.

Over 62% of youth from these five towns believed that violence is common in their communities. In Lyari, however, this figure is 80%. Over 65% of the youth the five towns believes that the portrayal of violence in the media is contributing towards youth acting violently in their communities. In Gulshan, this figure is 85% and in Korangi it is 78%. When asked what are the main reasons for youth violence in Karachi, 24% believe it is because of unemployment, 21% youth believe it is because of the poverty, 9% believe it is because of easy acquisition of weapons, 18% believe it is because of gangs in Karachi and 26% of youth believe it is because of political parties. However, 75% of the youth in from these five towns in Karachi are confident that good leadership skills and improved social skills can help bring peace to their communities.

Recommendations:

- In Karachi reinforcement of initiatives on youth violence taken up by NGOs and public sector is needed for better implementation with close co-ordination with community and law enforcement agencies of such programs at a larger scale.
- There are number of individuals in Karachi which are running schools for street children, NGOs and public sector organizations need to help such individuals, to increase enrollment numbers as education is important for peace to prevail in Karachi.
- As the five project towns are most prone to violence in Karachi, project should focus on providing trainings on conflict resolution, making an effort to educate youth on solving their issues by dialogue and collaboration rather than using violent means.
- Youth committees should be formed at community level, making them a part of the decision making processes and mechanisms. Their involvement will not only increase the sense of responsibility in them but will also increase their ownership in community's wellbeing and peace.
- Monthly meetings should be arranged between community elders, youth and government officials to discuss the issues in their community and what can be done to address these issues.
- Project staff should hold sessions with parents on importance of parental guidance and impact of good parental guidance on their children.

1 Introduction:

1.1 Socio-demographic context of Karachi:

Karachi, a mega city of more than 23 million people, has emerged as a city of ethno-political and religious-sectarian violence in the last three decades¹. As the capital of Sindh province, Karachi is home to all the important provincial and federal institutions including the Provincial Assembly, the Sindh High Court and Sindh Secretariat. In addition to this it holds the presence of army corps headquarters of Pakistan Rangers and headquarters of Sindh Police.

With a total area of 3,527 square kilometers, Karachi is divided into 18 towns and six cantonments. The urban area of Karachi extends more than 1,800 square kilometers. The city has a coastline starting from Cape Monze in the west and extending to Gharo in the east. Karachi is the largest city and economic hub of Pakistan, which is also called revenue engine of the country owing to its contribution of about 70 percent of the total revenue. The city, which has two of the three sea ports of the country, has a vast ethnic diversity, with representation of each and every ethnicity and community living in Pakistan.

Like many mega cities of the developing world, Karachi is also called an 'urban mess'. Laurent Gayer sums it up quite nicely: "Since partition, Karachi is no longer divided between 'black' and a 'white' city, but between 'planned' and 'unplanned' areas". The planned areas consist of residential and commercial areas, which are developed by Karachi Development Authority (KDA) and the unplanned areas refer to settlements, which were developed through illegal occupation of land. These unplanned settlements provide shelter to almost 50% of Karachi's population. These settlements are made on drainage channels, riverbeds and along the railway lines of the city. In these unplanned settlements, health, educational and other social services are provided by informal sector, which are often inadequate, badly managed and of generally poor quality.

Table 2: Comparison between planned and unplanned settlements of Karachi

Item	Planned	Unplanned
Average house hold size %	6.9	7.3
Population under 20 %	48.6	56.4
Semi-permanent structures %	10-30	75
Number of people per room %	0.5	3.3
Population with intermediate education %	19.8	16.3
Population with degrees %	19	13
Population employed %	65	60
Population unemployed %	24.9	39.9
Average income per month %	3800-5000	1800-2150
Average expenditure %	3083	1650-2109

¹ Mohammad Waseem, "Ethnic Conflict in Pakistan: The Case of MQM," *The Pakistan Development Review* 35(4) PartII, 1996)

Income spent on food %	53	58
Income spent on rent %	18	13
Income spent on savings %	30	2.3

Source: Arif Hasan, *Understanding Karachi: Planning and Reform for the Future*, (Karachi: City Press, 1999),

Karachi has an estimated population of 23 million with an annual growth rate of 4.8%, which is significantly higher than the national growth rate of 1.6%. The ethno-linguistic distribution shows that Urdu speaking population occupies more than half (55%) of total population of Karachi followed by 14 percent Punjabis, nine percent Pakhtuns, seven percent Sindhis, four percent Baluchs and remaining 12 percent others. According to Waseem (1998), rural-urban migration from all provinces of Pakistan to Karachi shaped its urbanization process after partition. He identifies *four waves of migration* comprising Muhajir's (1940s–50s), Punjabis and Pakhtun's (1960s–80s), Sindhi's (1970s–90s) and foreigners including Afghans and Iranians among others (1980s–90s).

Violence in Karachi emerges from multiple factors, which act together to magnify the impact each would have separately. Criminal gangs capitalize on perceived disenfranchisement and societal conflicts among different communities to their advantage, while also importing and distributing small arms into the city².

Peace in Karachi is considered crucial for economic growth and stability of the country, which accounts for the lion's share of GDP. Karachi produces about 42 percent of value added in large scale manufacturing and 25 percent of the GDP of Pakistan. In 1960s Karachi used to be an economic role model for many countries in the world. Many countries sought to emulate Pakistan's economic planning strategy and one of them, South Korea, copied the country's second "Five-Year Plan" from 1960-65. The World Financial Center in Seoul is said to be designed and modeled after Karachi. In February 2007, the World Bank identified Karachi as the most business-friendly city in Pakistan. According to economists, Karachi's contribution to GDP amounted to around 16 billion rupees (approx. US\$ 1.6 million) a day.

The city remained largely safe from the worst kind of militancy, suicide attacks, bombing and blasts that wracked the country especial the northern parts during the last four years. But the city has been bedeviled with targeted killings, ethnic and secretarial clashes, turf war by different political and criminal groups, extortion activities, bank looting, robberies and other street crimes.

According to trade and industry circles³, the unabated violence and chronic energy crisis have made the city, which was dubbed as 'most business-friendly city in Pakistan' just five years ago, not so viable for trade, business and industrial activities. They said that the recurring ethno-

³ Commerce and Trade circles is a committee of leading companies in Karachi, which give verdicts on the changing environment and how it effects the industry

sectarian violence and unchecked activities of different mafias are deterring investors from investing in the country especially in the city. The situation has assumed such an alarming proportion that industrialists have started relocating their units to different countries including Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Malaysia and even Cambodia (Waseem, 1996).

Chief of Citizen Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) and a prominent businessman in Karachi, Ahmed Chinoy, acknowledges that the continuing violence was shying away the investors from investing in the country especially in the city. He added that the violence and subsequent closures of industrial units not only caused huge losses to the industrialists but also jacked up the cost of doing business.

Article in 'The News' said that the chronic law and order situation in Karachi, which is the economic heartbeat of the country, has caused large-scale relocation of industrial units in the city to other countries. They are of the opinion that not only new industries unit are not being set up in the city but the existing units have ceased expansion due to the persistent law and order situation that hamper smooth and consistent operation of industrial and business concerns.

The ethno-political divide in the city can be identified as one of the major reasons behind social and economic unrest over the past three decades (Waseem, 1996). According to Waseem the author of "Ethnic Conflict in Pakistan: The Case of Karachi", the conflict in Karachi started between the Sindhi and the Muhajir population soon after the first wave of migration from India in 1947. The conflicts revolved around settlements, and over obtaining dominant and key positions in the Muslim League. In recent years, these conflicts have become more complex as people and ethnic groups from other provinces migrated to Karachi and increased the number of groups with a stake in the city.

The current conflict dynamics in the city involves dozens of sectarian and militant organizations. These sectarian and militant groups not only contribute in shaping the religious landscape in Karachi but they also play an important role in the ethno-political tensions in the city. Karachi is a battleground for more than 200 gangs which are involved in organized crime, says Abdul Sattar a TV journalist based in Karachi.

Gangs in Lyari and militant wings of different political parties have used the weak rule of law to their advantage. The Superintendent of Police, anti-crime cell, Garden Town Karachi says, "the criminal groups are involved in different criminal activities all across Karachi with 'bhatta' (extortion money) being their permanent source of income. These groups are also involved in target killing, kidnapping for ransom, street crime, gambling and narcotics."

Similarly, there are also businesses, which have started recruiting vulnerable youth to safeguard their interests and businesses in Karachi. Many youth have joined drug mafia as well. They are trained in order to protect and deliver drugs. These youth groups sell drugs to people all across Karachi including the elites. Only a small number are ever arrested and the police is invariably unable to produce any evidence against them and are freed without any charges.

1.2 The Project

SFCG is implementing a 12-month project entitled “I Am Karachi: Preventing Youth Violence in Karachi” in the 5 target towns: Lyari, Orangi, Korangi, Saddar and Gulshan. In collaboration with the Citizens Police Liaison Committee, local law enforcement bodies, civil society organizations, media and other partners, the project aims to increase exposure to values that reject violence as an acceptable behavior among youth in Karachi. The project targets 150 youth in those five target towns of Karachi.

The project works with public and private colleges to engage the student body through dialogues and constructive discourses on conflict resolution with the aim of invoking a strong sense of civic and social responsibility. As the quality of education has continued to erode in public education systems, the public colleges in particular are increasingly becoming places for violent extremist groups to influence the youth through religious and political patronage thereby increasing the youth’s susceptibility to joining groups that promote their own religious, political and ideological agendas.

On the other hand, students in the private colleges invariably excel academically but do not demonstrate values of social activism, civic responsibility and giving back to the community. The result is the lack of realization and awareness among these youth towards the importance of collective positive action with respect towards peace-building and countering violence in their communities. SFCG works to identify and empower public and private college students in community leadership with a focus on developing peace-building and conflict resolution skills in key conflict affected areas of the city.

1.3 Objective of the study:

The study aims to highlight some of the most pressing challenges and opportunities that youth of Karachi face. In addition to a comprehensive desk review of recent studies on youth and the pressing challenges they face due to violence and extremism, the study aims to measure the core attitudes of all relevant stakeholders towards youth, particularly to identify issues pertaining to them due to violence and extremism.

SFCG conducted this research to identify the motivating factors for youth involvement in armed groups, analyze the mechanisms of their involvement, create a ranking of colleges most vulnerable to violence, and outline potential points of intervention. The ranking determines the 10 most vulnerable colleges or colleges with active youth clubs and student groups. The mapping also looks at the positive ways in which youth leaders in Karachi are organized, focusing on colleges and youth-led clubs and student groups. Data collection tools were developed to gather information on the following three key areas:

1. Capacity building on peacebuilding, conflict resolution, and leadership
2. Youth engagement in violence
3. Exposure to values that reject violence

2 Methodology:

2.1 Mixed Methods Approach

A mixed methods approach comprising of both quantitative and qualitative techniques was used to carry out this study. For the collection of quantitative data, a perception survey was used while, for qualitative data, key informant interviews (KIIs) and focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted.

2.2 Population and Sample Size

The survey population comprised of the male and female students of public and private schools, parents, teachers, law enforcement personnel and government officials. These categories of the population were divided into two separate groups for the purpose of conducting a structured perception survey and qualitative study.

Sample size for structured perception survey

The structured perception survey was conducted in five towns of Karachi. The sample size for this survey was 276 schools and colleges across five target towns of Karachi, in which 10 respondents; 5 female and 5 male were selected making the overall survey sample of 2760 respondents. Thus from each of the five target towns of Karachi, 552 male and female students were selected. These male and female students represented both public and private schools and colleges of the five selected towns.

To calculate the required sample size for quantitative study, the following formula was used:

$$n = \frac{Z^2 p (1-p)}{d^2}$$

Where:

n= required sample size

Z= Z value (e.g. 1.96 for 95% confidence level)

p= Expected proportion

1-p= Probability of failure

d= degree of precision (width of confidence interval)

$$n = \frac{(1.96)^2 0.15 \times 0.85}{(0.25)^2}$$

n=276

With assumed 5% nonresponse rate, so the sample size was 285 schools before going to field.

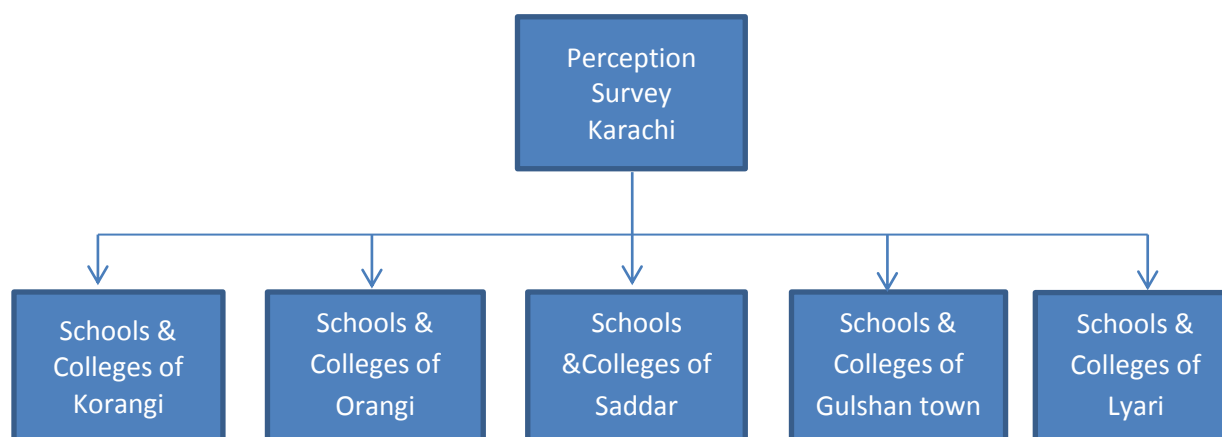
Table 3: Population and Sample Size for Structured Perception Survey

Name of the Town	No. of Public Schools	No. of Private Schools	No. of Colleges	Total Schools & Colleges	Sample size for each town (schools)
Gulshan Town	16	492	19	527	85
Saddar Town	55	177	10	242	60

Korangi Town	25	273	6	304	70
Orangi Town	23	270	6	299	40
Lyari Town	22	73	6	101	30
Total	141	1285	47	1473	285

The sample was calculated from the total number of private, public schools and colleges of the five target areas of Karachi. The overall sample size of 276 was purposively divided in different towns; this division of the sample size was organized based on the fact that some towns had more schools and colleges than other towns.

Figure 1: Quantitative data collection from 5 towns of Karachi



Sample size for qualitative survey

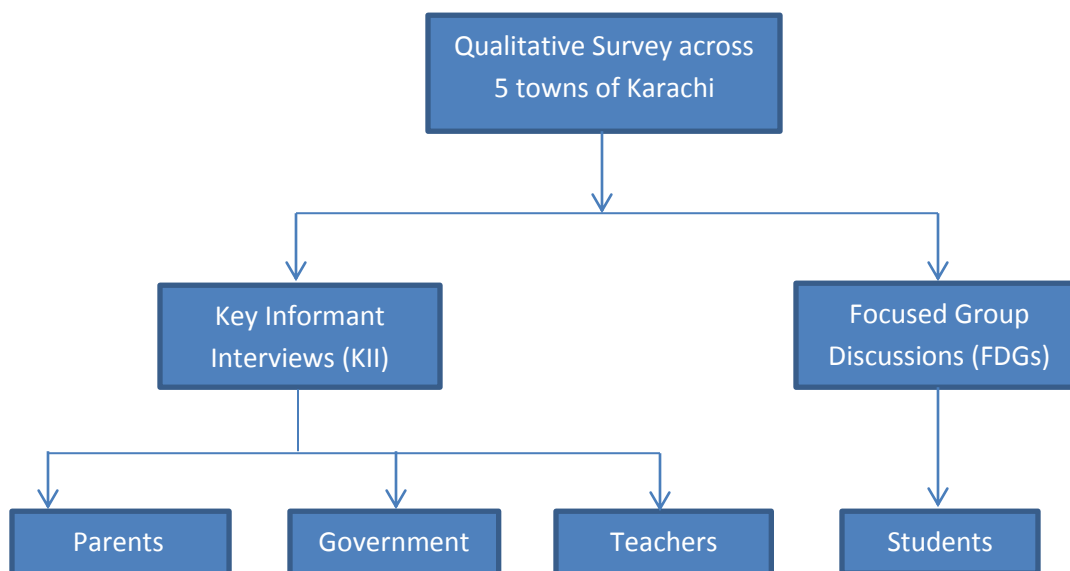
A qualitative study was carried out in the five towns by conducting 30 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and 10 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with the respondents selected on inclusive basis. Focus Group Discussions were held with male and female students separately and in each of the FGDs 10 participants participated making the overall sample of FGD 100 with equal distribution of 50 male and 50 female participants. Whereas, 2 KIIs per town were conducted with parents, teachers and government officials. Making the total number of KIIs 30. The details of the respondent distribution of KIIs and FGDs are presented in Table 4.

Table 4: Breakdown of Qualitative Study (FGDs and KII) respondents

Population Category	Lyari	Orangi	Korangi	Gulshan-e-Iqbal	Saddar	Total number of personnel
Key Informant Interviews (KII)						
Parents	2	2	2	2	2	10
Teachers	2	2	2	2	2	10
Government	2	2	2	2	2	10

Officials						
Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)						
Male Students	10	10	10	10	10	50
Female Students	10	10	10	10	10	50

Figure 2: Qualitative data collection from 5 towns of Karachi



2.3 Data Collection Tools:

The perception survey and qualitative data collection tools were developed around the idea that the views and values of the youth have a particular importance in shaping the overall dynamics of any society. The perception survey was also designed to attain young people’s views on the effects of the conflict-affected areas of Karachi. The perception survey also looked into the current needs of youth and how they believe their needs can be addressed in the context of the conflict affected towns in which they live. The Survey Questionnaires and the FGDs and KIIs interview checklists are presented in annex.

3 Findings:

Collective and group violence among youth is thought to stem from political, ethnic, religious and sectarian segregation within the city. The major reasons cited for young people’s involvement in violence are poverty, illiteracy and limited access to positive social interactions. Structural conditions and normative structures breed violence (Lindholm, 1981). These underlying factors lead towards a ‘violent culture’, not only among youth but also among adults. In particular, youth have become more violent much to the advantage of the handlers

who sit behind scenes and control youth through various channels to meet their vested interests.

The major reasons behind youth involvement in violence in Karachi are poverty, illiteracy and limited access to positive social interactions (Global Security, 2009). The Supreme Court of Pakistan, commenting on the law and order situation in Karachi in 2011 noted “many of the political, ethnic and religious groups in Karachi have a ‘militant wing’. These wings recruit youth from colleges and universities or after their pursuit of higher education and they become an asset of these parties. These groups provide incentives including weapons, and money to new recruits of the ‘youth wings’ in order to safeguard their interests. These groups attempt to enhance their economic and political status through these youth groups. There is a new trend emerging in which these groups are also using youth for extortion and blackmailing”.

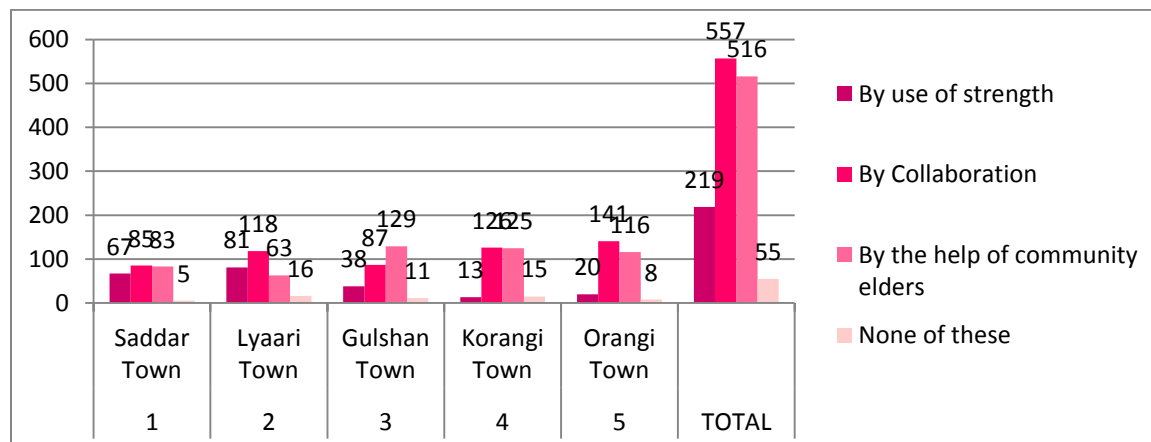
Similarly there are also businesses, which have started recruiting violent youth to safeguard their interests and businesses in Karachi. Many youth have joined drug mafia as well. They are trained in order to protect and deliver drugs. These youth groups sell drugs to people all across Karachi including the elites. Only a small number of them are ever arrested by the police. Since the police is invariably unable to produce any evidence against those, they are released without any charges.

3.1 Analysis of the Findings:

As explained in previous chapter, the baseline study collected data around three major themes based on number of questions asked to the respondents to set baseline data around those issues:

1. Capacity building on Peacebuilding, conflict resolution, and leadership
2. Youth Engagement in Violence
3. Exposure to Values that rejects violence

3.1.1 Perception of youth on how to resolve a conflict in their community?



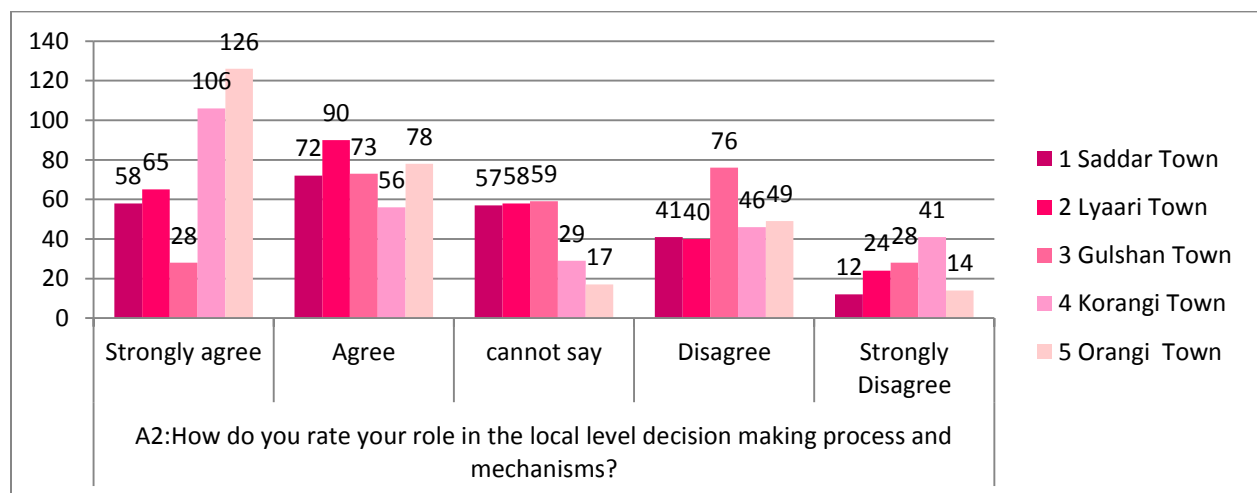
The data shows that out of 1347 youth respondents, 16 percent (219) said that they use strength or power to resolve a conflict in their community where the largest percentage (41%) said that they resolve conflicts in their community through collaboration. Similarly, 38% said that they will take help of community elders to resolve conflicts in their communities. However, youth from different towns had different perceptions about how best to resolve conflicts in their communities. As the data indicates; 67 students from Saddar and 81 students from Lyaari relied more on the use of strength and violent as means to resolve a conflict in their community; rather than resolving their conflict by use of collaboration or by the help of community elders. This trend is weak in Orangi, Korangi and Gulshan Town. As indicated by the data 129 students from Gulshan, 125 students from Korangi and 116 student from Orangi believed that they try to use the help of community elders or try to resolve conflict by collaboration rather than the use of strength or any other violent means. The finding highlighted that the project intervention has to focus on the need for promoting non-violence approach among the youth of Saddar and Lyari and provide them training on non-violence communication, peacebuilding and Common Ground Approach.

Political parties use militant youth wings to influence their agenda in Korangi, they offer Rs 2000 per day to engage youth with them.

Abdul Rauf, Govt teacher

Even though the qualitative data collected through FGDs and KIIs indicates that political parties try to influence youth by providing them with monetary incentives, especially in Korangi and Orangi Town, but the youth at large in these towns has rejected the idea of extremism and violence. The teachers and parents when interviewed felt that the educational systems should be empowered to ensure better future for large number of youth population in Karachi.

3.1.2 Youth perception on their role in decision making processes and mechanisms



Youth play a pivotal role in ensuring peace in communities; it is important to ensure their role in the decision-making processes and mechanisms at the household and community level.

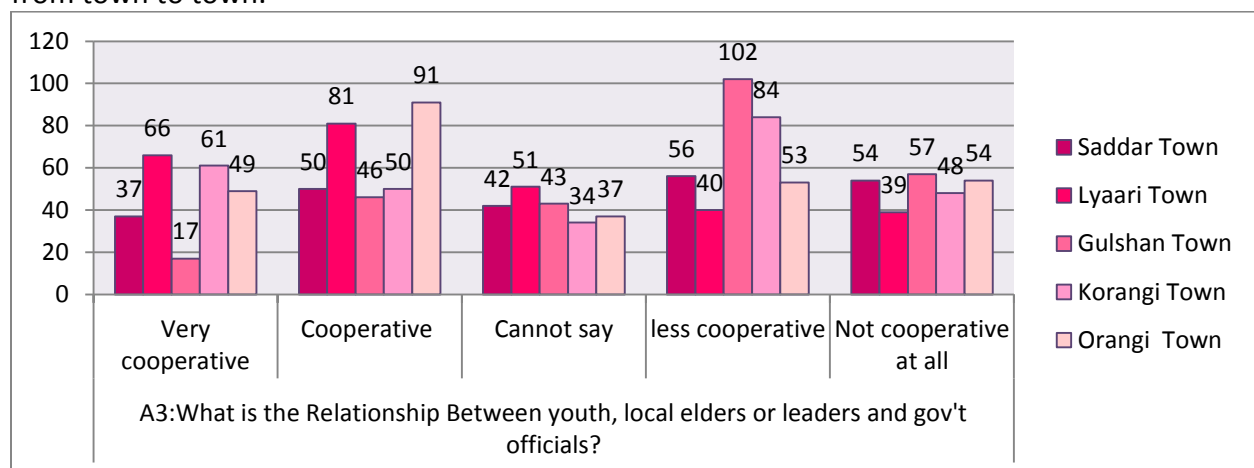
Almost all the youth across the 5 towns of Karachi strongly agree with the notion of their involvement in the decision making process and mechanisms. The data shows that 58.6% either strongly agreed or agreed that they have a role in local decision making process and mechanism whereas 29% either strongly disagreed or disagreed that they have a role in decision making processes and mechanisms.

In Orangi, this figure is 106 and in Korangi it is 126 students strongly agreed with the idea of youth involvement in decision making processes.

It was interesting when this question was asked from the parents, teachers and government officials, as most of them did not agree to this idea. They believed that youth do not have the capacity and experience to take decisions which affect them as well as the community. When asked what is the right age to involve them in decision making processes? Almost all of the parents, teachers and government officials replied. “The right age is after marriage, when they have responsibilities”. As the evidence suggests there is disconnect between the youth and community elders on this issue. Project needs to address this by organizing Common Ground Approach trainings for community elders and youth, to bring both segments of the population on same page.

3.1.3 Relationship between Youth, Local Elders and Government Officials

To ensure peace in an environment like Karachi, these three actors need to have regular interaction and coordination with each other. In order to assess this aspect, a question was asked on the perceived relationships between youth, local elders and government officials. The data indicates that the youth believe that they have minimal interaction and coordination with community elders and government officials. The data also suggests that this perception varies from town to town.



When youth were inquired on this issue during the FGDs; youth from Gulshan and Korangi believe the coordination between youth, community elders and government official’s needs to improve significantly if peace is to be ensured in Karachi. The youth from Saddar, Lyari and Orangi said that they have good co-

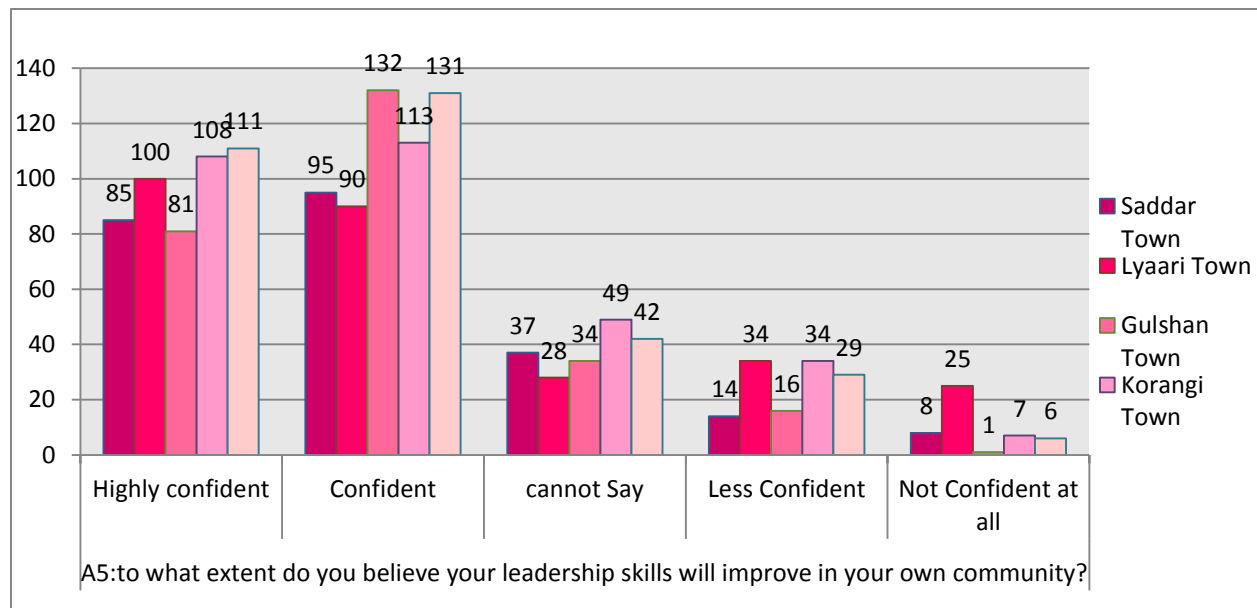
Community elders are not playing their role in youth development. Also there should be opportunity for positive activities such as sports, so that youth can channel their energy in something constructive.

Jamil Ilyas, Government teacher

ordination with community elders but minimal or no co-ordination with government officials. Youth believe that their co-ordination with government officials needs to improve if peace is to prevail in Karachi. The gap of coordination between youth and community elders was also identified by the parents, teachers and Government officials during the KIIs. Government officials felt that good co-ordination between youth and community members can play an important role to eradicate street crimes, as they can help police to timely identify unusual activities.

3.1.4 Leadership Skills

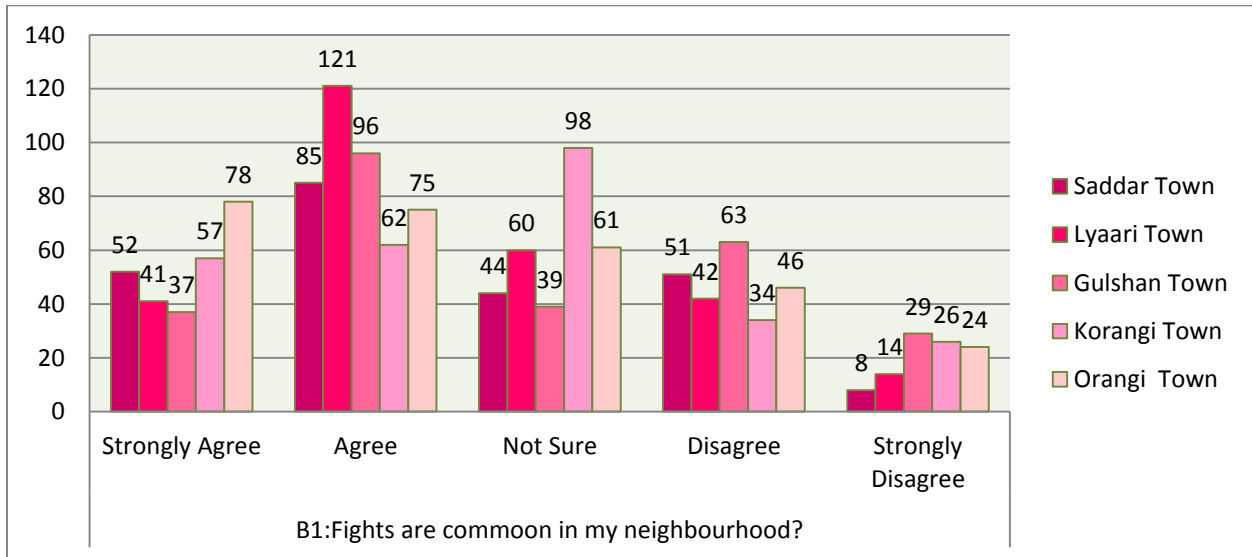
Leadership skills, such as goal-setting, problem-solving and sound decision-making, are not just necessary for leaders - these skills are needed for success in today's world (MacNeil 2000). Helping young people develop leadership competencies makes them better able to solve community problems and enhances their civic participation (O'Brien & Kohlmeier, 2003). By supporting and engaging young leaders, adults and communities experience direct benefits including increased social cohesion and improved quality of life. (Zeldin, McDaniel, Topitzes, & Lorens, 2001).



Almost all of the youth respondents were confident that good leadership skills could help bring peace to their communities. Even though there is a slight variance across five towns, but during FGDs the general consensus was in favor of enhanced leadership skills for Karachi's violence prone youth. This implies that youth recognize the importance of leadership skills in their personality and for ensuring peace in society. During the KIIs with community elders, it was noted that they also felt that leadership skills in youth are very important as they are the future of their community.

3.1.5 Is Fighting Common in your Neighborhood?

Overall most of youth (xx%) surveyed said that fights are common in their communities, with 162 youth members' surveyed form Lyari town claiming that fights are common in their neighborhoods as Lyari is notorious for violence and criminal activities.

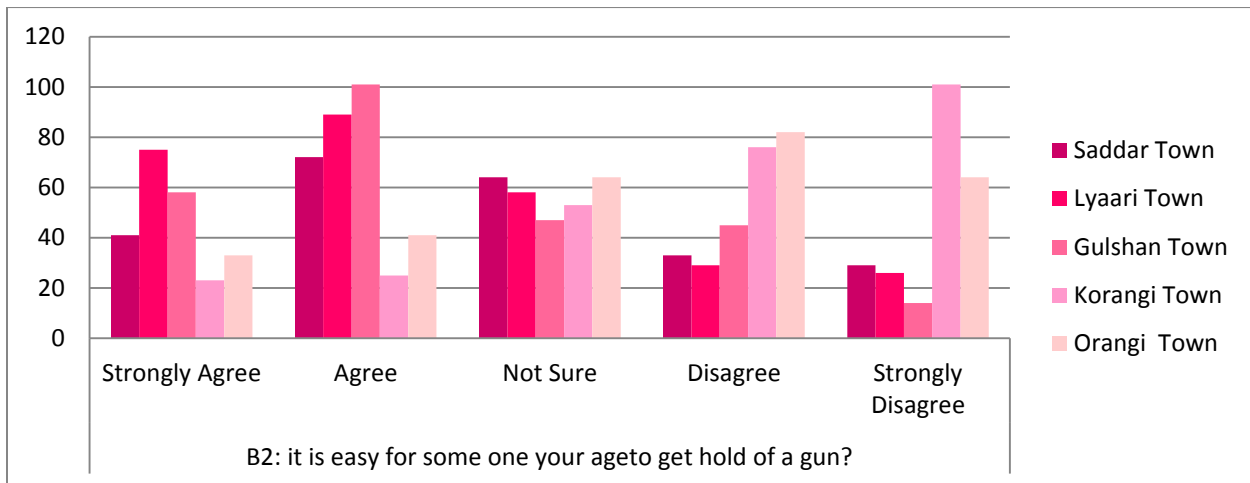


During Klls, the respondents said that fights are common not only in the five target towns but all over Karachi. This question made some respondents emotional as they had lost their loved ones because of the fights that took place in their community. Overall, youth, parents, teachers and government officials felt that fights are very common in their communities and people fight over small issues and kill each other. The project needs to address this issue by training the participants on conflict resolution and mediation, equipping the participants with the necessary skills to resolve small conflict peacefully in their communities.

Lack of education and employment opportunities are the issues government need to address if they want peace to prevail in Karachi.

Shaukat Tehsin, Teacher

3.1.6 Can youth get hold of a gun easily?



The easy availability of guns in Karachi has been cited as a major reason for heightened levels of violence in the city. When asked about the accessibility of weapons in their communities, XX% of youth either strongly agreed or agreed that it is easy to get hold of a gun in Karachi.

How can peace prevail in a community where it is easier to get a gun than a piece of bread?

Sohrab Hassan, Parent

74 youth respondents from Orangi and 164 youth from Lyari said that it is easy for youth to get hold of weapons.

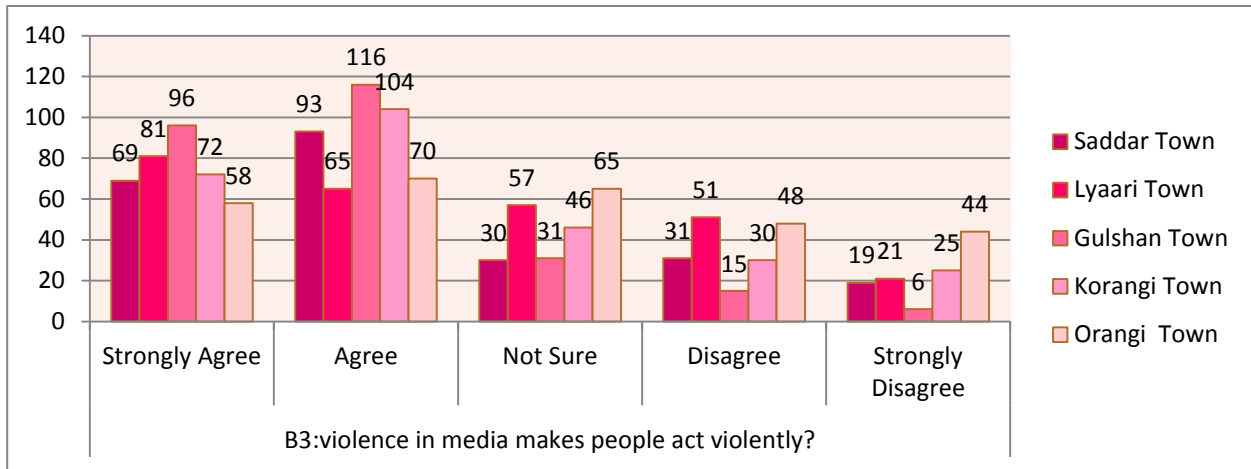
The respondents of KIIs also pointed this issue and said due to the gangs present in the towns it has become very easy for the youth and community members to get hold of weapons.

3.1.7 Coverage of violence in media makes youth act violently

The excessive coverage of violence in the media has raised questions on the responsibility of the media towards the society. Many analysts and policy makers have accused the Pakistani news and entertainment media of sensationalizing and promoting violent behavior. Young respondents in FGDs were also of the view that media needs to act responsibly as they have a great influence on the mindset and behavior of youth who have little else to occupy their time. Most of the youth respondents said that violence in media is contributing to youth acting violently in their communities. If we view the data demographically across 5 towns, 212 youth respondents in Gulshan and 176 youth respondents in Korangi report that violence in media is contributing to youth acting violently.

Media only focuses on the negative news; positive initiatives are not highlighted in media. When constantly exposed to negative views youth adopt them.

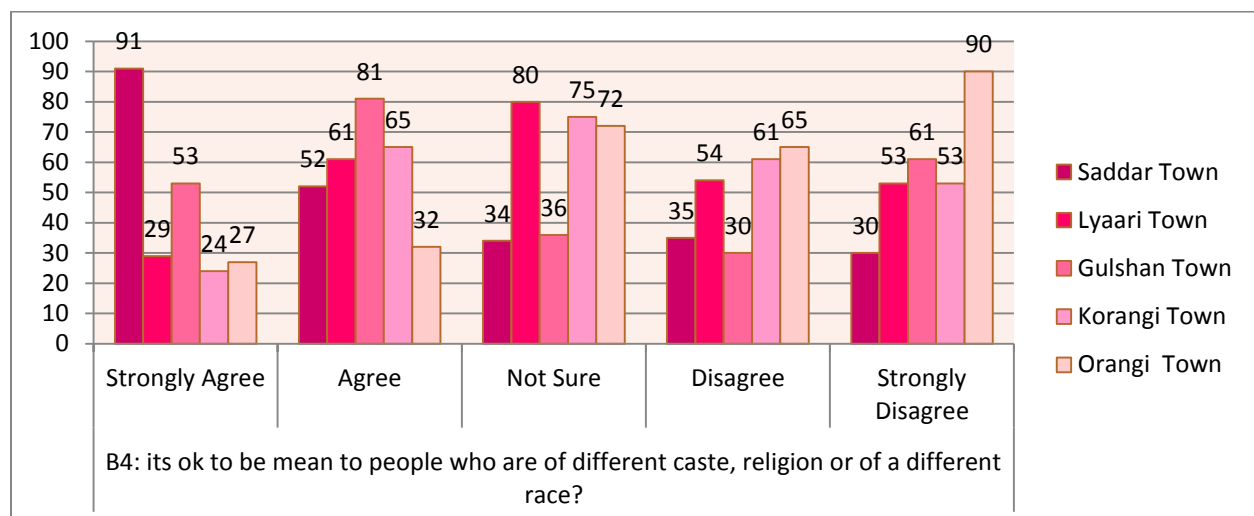
Dawood Ahmed, Parent



The respondents of KIIs also said that media needs to act responsibly and contribute towards the efforts of ensuring peace in Karachi. Sensitizing the issue of violence will only spread disappointment in the society and hinder the efforts peace builders working in Karachi.

3.1.8 Views about People from other Castes, Sects or Religions

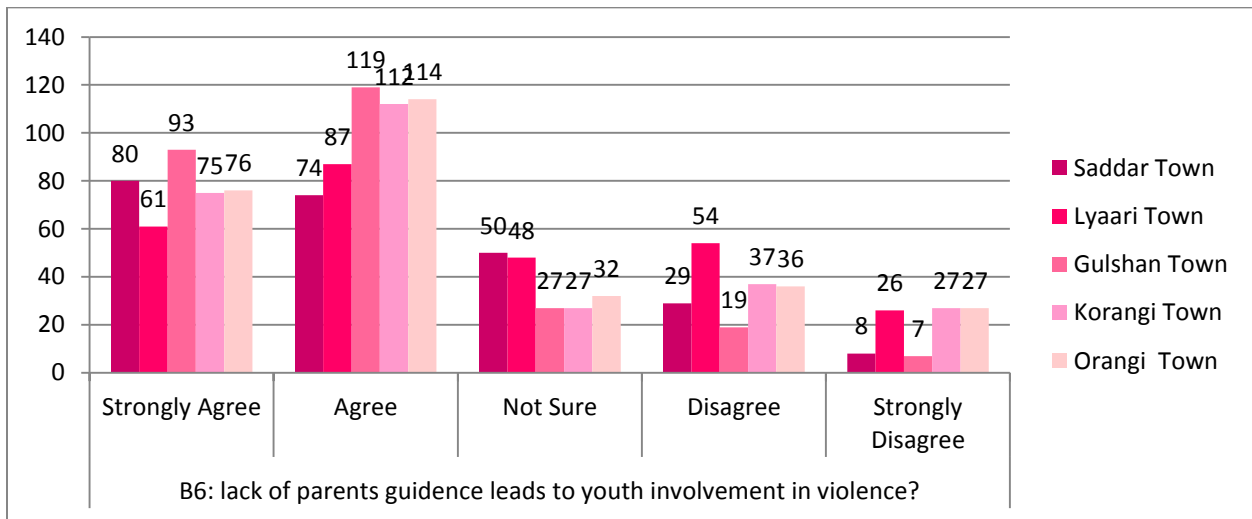
Karachi is a multi-ethnic and multi-linguistic society. Cultural and religious differences between the various ethnic groups that make up Karachi are cited as a leading cause of the violence in Karachi over the past three decades (Mohsin, 2009). The data from qualitative and quantitative tools provide sufficient evidence that youth in Karachi have low tolerance towards people of 'other' castes, sects and religions. It is alarming to note that 615 youth respondents out of 1215 believe that it is acceptable to be violent towards people of other castes, sects or religions. The data suggests that in Saddar out of 242 youth respondents 143 believe that it is acceptable to be violent against people from other casts. Similarly in Gulshan 134 out of 245 have higher level of ethnic and religious intolerance.



Data from the FGDs and KIIs also suggests that community at large do not have tolerance towards people from other religion and casts. This is evident, as people belonging to same

religion and cast live in small communities of their own within the large towns such as Korangi, Lyaari, Gulshan, Korangi and Orangi.

3.1.9 Youth perception on role of education in promoting violent behavior



Education is vital for the health, progress and wellbeing of any society. Interestingly, most of the youth from all five towns of Karachi believe that lack of education is one of the major reasons behind high violence rates among the youth of Karachi.

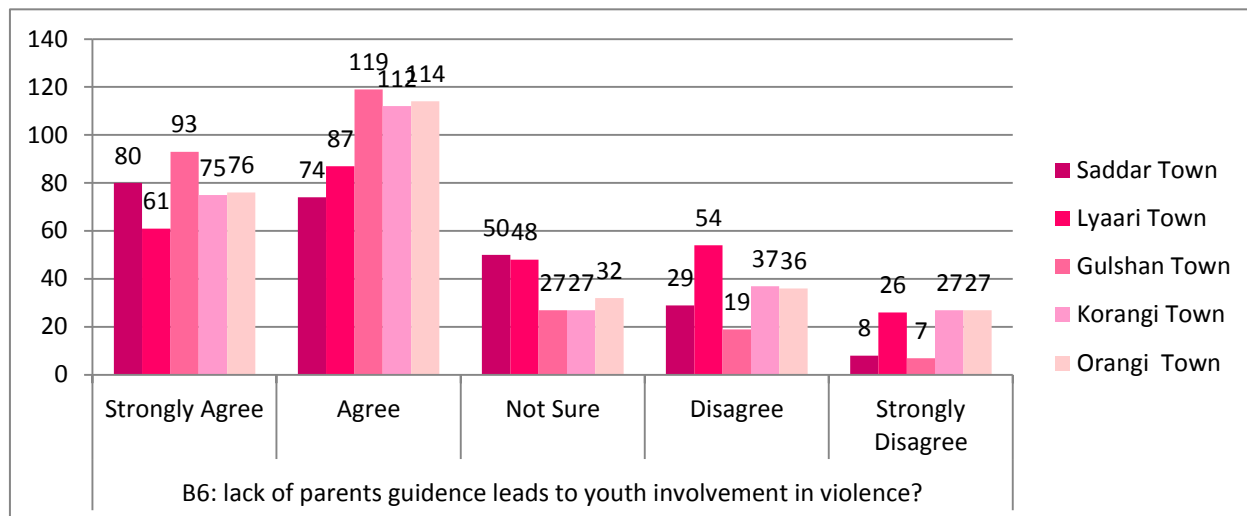
During the KIIs parents also felt that education needs to foster rapidly among youth for better and peaceful Karachi. The KIIs respondents also indicated that gang leaders are idolized by youth, they consider them as their heroes. This needs to improve and only education can improve that said some of the KIIs respondents. The research shows that the access to quality education needs to improve significantly if peace is to prevail in Karachi.

Lack of respect for elders and respect for gang leaders has only made it difficult for us teachers to guide youth in the right direction.

Zulfiqar Baloch, Teacher

3.1.10 Importance of parental guidance

The study shows that 891 respondents believe that lack of parental guidance leads youth towards violent behavior. Many young people in FGDs commented that gangs and members of



political parties are constantly looking out for youth who they can manipulate.

Invariably these are the ones with unstable homes and who have little parental guidance or support, especially during puberty and teenage years.

During the KIs the respondents said that in most of the families living in urban Karachi, both parents have to work long hours to make their ends meet. This leaves youth vulnerable to outside influences including gangs, media and extremists religious groups. 140 youth respondents in Gulshan, 133 in Korangi and 125 Orangi reported that parents should constantly guide the youth. Without this guidance youth will always be venerable to join violent activities.

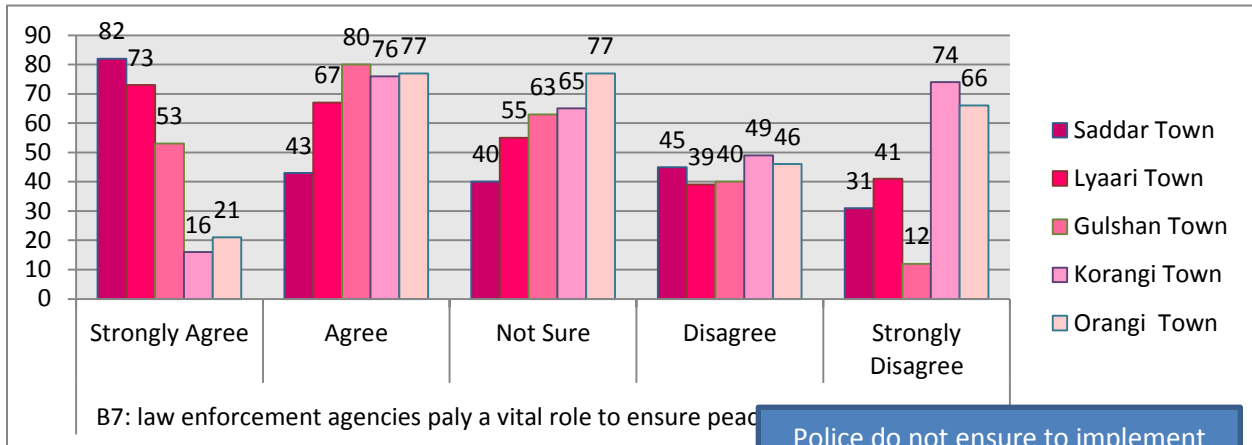
Both parents in most families living in Orangi have to work to make both ends meet. This leaves youth venerable to outside influence and gangs in Orangi use this to their advantage.

Haider Yousaf, School Principle

3.1.11 Role of law enforcement agencies on ensuring peace in community

Many young people in FGDs reported that in Karachi, mostly from Saddar, Korangi and Gulshan state that some elements within the law enforcement apparatus are working with the mafia and political parties to implement their agenda. Youth in Karachi gave a mix response to this question. 588 of respondents said law enforcement agencies have failed to have positive influence on the conflict in their communities, whereas 440 believe that law enforcement

agencies play a vital role to ensure peace in their society. The youth from Lyari and Orangi were the ones which believe that law enforcement agencies have played a vital role in ensuring peace, as these two towns have undergone police operation against criminal elements in recent



history.

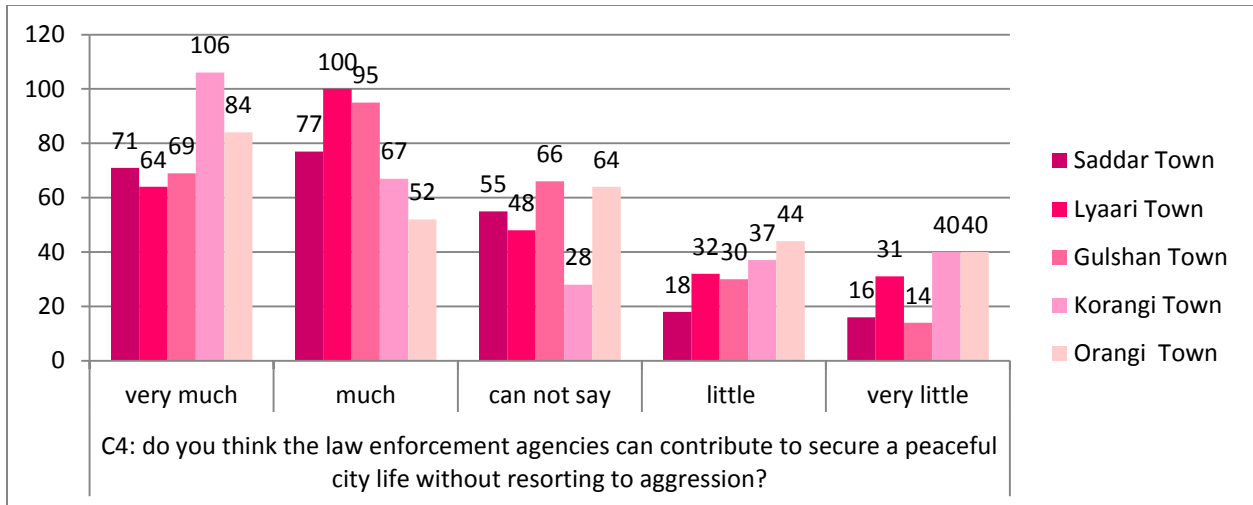
During the KIs it was respondents felt that the law enforcement agencies like police are puppets of the political parties. They believed that police helps political parties in implementing their agendas. The government officials on the other hand did not agree with the voice of the masses. They believe law enforcement agencies are doing their best given their limited resources to ensure peace in society.

Police do not ensure to implement laws. They are aligned with political parties and their agendas; they have no concern to ensure peace in the community.

Tahira Ali, Parent

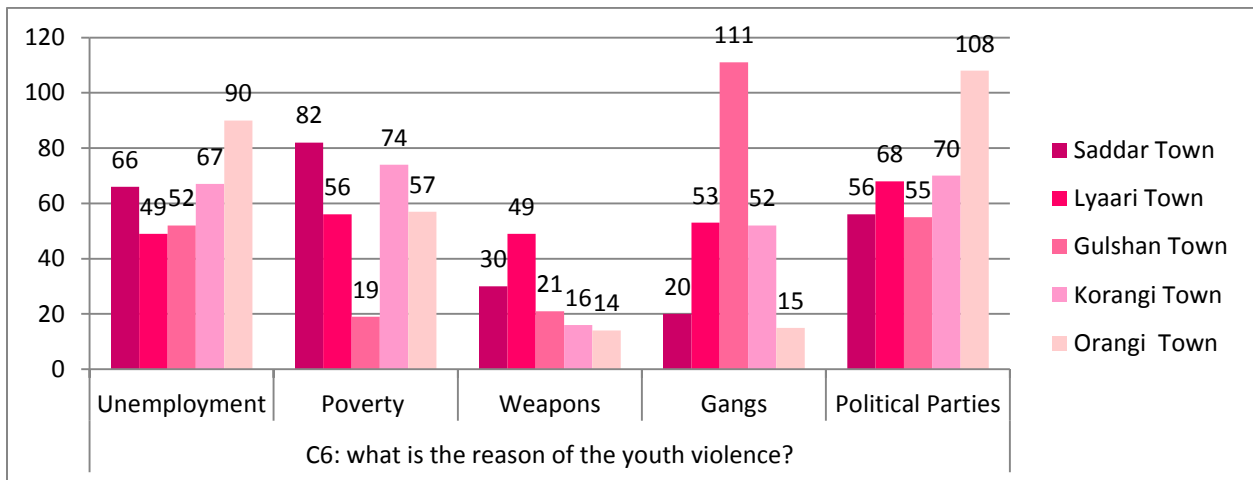
3.1.12 Can law enforcement agencies restore peace without resorting to aggression?

Law enforcement agencies have mixed success in the war against gangs in Karachi. However, on a positive note, the youth respondents strongly believe that law enforcement agencies can restore peace without resorting to aggression. In fact, 800 of respondents believe that peace can be restored to the city if law enforcement agencies implement the already existing laws and regulations. This may imply that the legal structures required to bring peace to Karachi are already present; the need is to implement this with appropriate levels of investment and professionalism.



3.1.13 Major factors causing violence in Karachi

The survey data shows that 324 believe violence in Karachi is a direct result of youth unemployment, 288 think it is because of the poverty, 130 believe it is because of easy acquisition of weapons, 251 believe it is because of gangs in Karachi and 357 believe it is because of political parties. These perceptions vary slightly across five towns of Karachi.



During the KIs the respondents gave another perspective as well. They believed that the unrest is due to un-equal distribution of resources; giving preferences to the people of specific towns. One of the government official from Lyari said “It is quite difficult to get a job if you belong to Lyari, the employers believe that person belonging to Lyari can never be trusted.”

Recommendations:

- In Karachi reinforcement of initiatives on youth violence taken up by NGOs and public sector is needed for better implementation with close co-ordination with community and law enforcement agencies of such programs at a larger scale.

- There are number of individuals in Karachi which are running schools for street children, NGOs and public sector organizations need to help such individuals, to increase enrollment numbers as education is important for peace to prevail in Karachi.
- As the five project towns are most prone to violence in Karachi, project should focus on providing trainings on conflict resolution, making an effort to educate youth on solving their issues by dialogue and collaboration rather than using violent means.
- Youth committees should be formed at community level, making them a part of the decision making processes and mechanisms. Their involvement will not only increase the sense of responsibility in them but will also increase their ownership in community's wellbeing and peace.
- Monthly meetings should be arranged between community elders, youth and government officials to discuss the issues in their community and what can be done to address these issues.
- Project staff should hold sessions with parents on importance of parental guidance and impact of good parental guidance on their children.

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