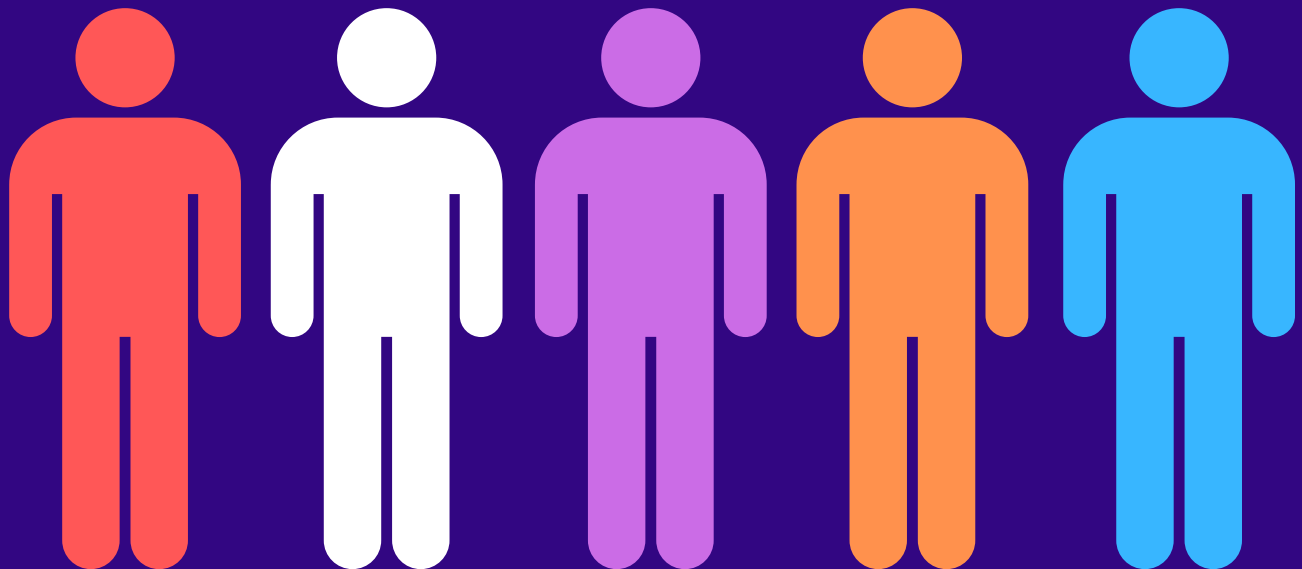




# YCR Impact Report 2019-2021

## Making **Youth** Lead the Development Discourse



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## **FOREWORD**

### **QAZI M ZULQURNAIN UL HAQ**

**Executive Director**



In view of pressing developmental challenges such as poverty, inequality, unemployment, environmental degradation and poor healthcare among others, the world needs more solutions and change makers to improve human lives. Considering the growing focus on evidence-based decision making and solution orientation and the realization around viewing youth as an essential stakeholder, the Youth Center for Research (YCR) works on two fronts: a) Bridging gap between knowledge and policymaking through Research, Advice and Engagement; b) Collaborating across generations to raise future leadership which is well-grounded and more socially aware that could partake in changemaking.

In view of global geographical disparity, YCR with a global is serving as an international platform that is bridging a connection between developing and developed countries and drawing learning from the best practices around the world. This is essential to enable holistic understating of issues while considering their contextual relevance and dynamics to devise pragmatic solutions.

Over the span of three years, YCR has spearheaded extensive engagement with researchers, academics, experts, youth and intellectuals from around the world and produced researches that can potentially feed advocacies and democratize knowledge. This in turn enables general public to engage with academic content with is generally perceived as exclusionary and esoteric.

In a short span of 3 years, YCR has received acknowledgement from global platforms such as American Middle Eastern Network for Dialogue at Stanford (AMENDS) University and Future Leaders Connect Fellowship jointly run by the British Council and the University of Cambridge.

Youth Center for Research is uniquely modeled to facilitate sustainable development through research, collaboration and engagement. With its expanding outreach, the multiplier effect will amplify development gains across socio-economic, political and financial spheres.

# OUR THOUGHT LEADERSHIP



**Syeda Nazneen Jahan**  
Development Professional  
Director (Bangladesh)



**Abhishek Jain**  
Development Professional  
Director (India)



**Nadeem Hussain**  
Development Practitioner & Author  
Director (Pakistan)



**Muhammad Ashar Khan**  
Resident Research  
Fellow (Pakistan)



**Dr. M Fazal Hussain Qureshi**  
Director  
(Pakistan)



**Dr. Shamsher Sadiq**  
Assistant Professor  
Director (Pakistan)



**Annesha Mahanta**  
Non-Resident Research  
Fellow (India)



**Abdulmumin Edidi**  
Non-Resident Research  
Fellow (Nigeria)



**Nkwiri Jesse Chukwu**  
Non-Resident Research  
Fellow (Nigeria)

## YCR Philosophy

Youth represents almost **sixteen percent of the global population**. This demographic contribution of the youth varies across regions constituting more than sixty percent for Africa and thirty percent for South Asia. Representing a noticeable portion of population across nationalities, this age group has a direct stake in national and global issues which translate into development challenges. These issues not only affect the economies, but they also adversely impact youth development at large.

Since young people make our potential future leadership, it is important to nurture them into active global citizens. At the Youth Center for Research, we believe that the preparedness of future leadership depends on understanding of development challenges facing us. However, this sound understanding needs to be built through research and discussion in a collaborative learning space drawing insight from experts and global best practices.

YCR's emphasis on collaborative research is also aimed at achieving parity between developing and developed nations. Where developing countries aspire their developed counterparts on human progress and other socio-economic fronts, they also need to consider their intellectual contribution in the sphere of knowledge production. This production does not only enable generation of indigenous intellectual content, in fact, it also allows exchange of best practices for further investigation and collective progress.

The Youth Center for Research provides collaborative approach to research to support sustainable development across socio-economic, political and fronts. Based in Pakistan, the Center serves as a global platform to undertake **research, advice and engagement** on development issues while **preparing young people** from across countries for **potential future leadership**. To do so, the Center connects the youth with experts to bridge intergenerational intellectual gap and enable holistic and joint approach and effort for sustainable progress.

## AIM

The Youth Center for Research (YCR) is one of its kind think tank, aimed at developing a generation of future leaders by enhancing their understanding of development challenges facing the world. Research and transnational collaborations make the core of this leadership aspiration to encourage and engage the youth in research-driven dialogues, discussions, policy analyses and advice on a range of socio-economic and political issues on local, regional and global level.

Youth Center for Research leverages upon intergenerational and intragenerational connections and engagement to undertake collective learning and joint deliberations to approach development challenges with a solution-oriented mindset.

Since 2019, YCR has developed a global community of aspiring young leaders and development experts from around the world.

Aspiring young leaders who become part of YCR continue to create lasting impact in their respective domains of influence and advance their goals regarding their area of development interest.

Each year YCR virtually expands its outreach on a global level which not only builds research, planning and strategic engagement capacity of young people, it also supports their academic and professional growth.

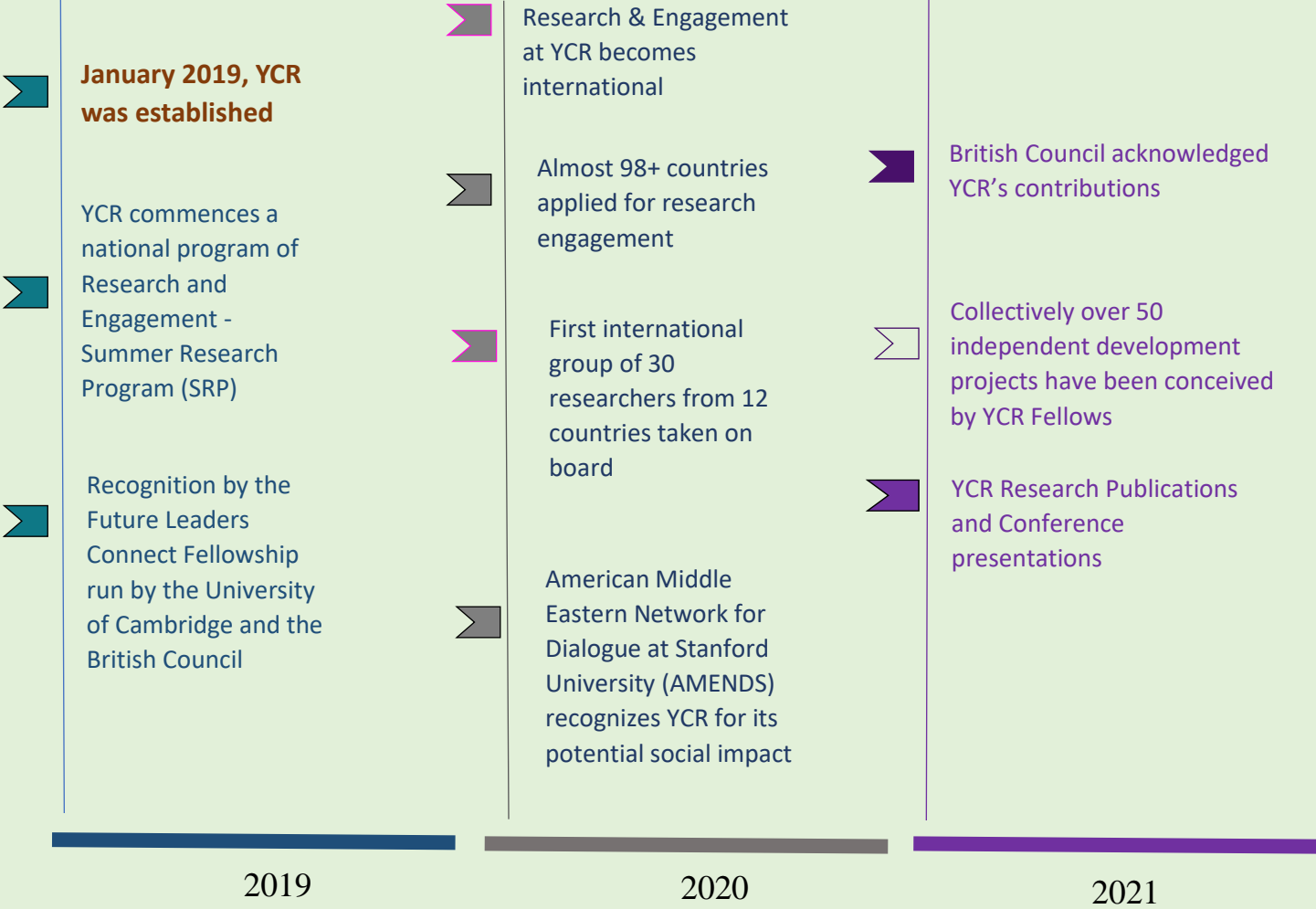
The global network developed by the Youth Center for Research has bridged

intercontinental connections and enabled learning across developing and developed countries spearheaded by the youth.

**“The Center aims to add substance to youth advocacy by developing their knowledge base around issues of national and global significance. Well-informed young people are in a better position to undertake civic and political participation and leadership in policy discourse to navigate through national and global institutional and power apparatus.”**

**YCR leverages on SDG 17 to build global networks for collective impact**

# OUR JOURNEY



**3600+**  
Research Applications  
Received

**20+**  
Intellectual  
Contributors from over  
12 countries

**25+**  
Publications

Almost **60**  
Research Projects

# FLAGSHIP SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM

The Youth Center for Research runs an annual (virtual) transnational collaborative Summer Research Program. This program is aimed for young people between 17 to 35 years of age, to enable them in understanding development challenges facing their countries and the world at large.

The SRP provides an enriching gathering of young people from both the developing and the developed part of the world, which also facilitates a fruitful exchange of ideas and experiences.

During the program, young researchers work collaboratively based on the themes drawn from the SDG 2030 agenda to work on socio-economic and political issues aligned with current national and international developmental preferences.



**Kareshma e Shams**  
Bangladesh



**Clifton Dawanyi**  
Zimbabwe



**Shruti Yadav**  
India

The program, under the guidance of practitioners and experts from various countries, helps young people in developing a proactive mindset and outlook towards exploring the issues rather than being a passive recipient of information.

Since the youth will eventually shoulder the responsibility of running the state, it is imperative for them to actively participate in development issues and raise an informed voice for its better reflection and accommodation in the policy process. The summer research program is an independent program majorly based on applicant's motivation towards undertaking research. It is a combination of extensive literature review based on secondary research followed by primary research majorly through discussions with the experts from the chosen area of interest.

**100 +**

Young Change Makers and Experts have become part of YCR programs from 4 habitable continents since 2019

**20+**

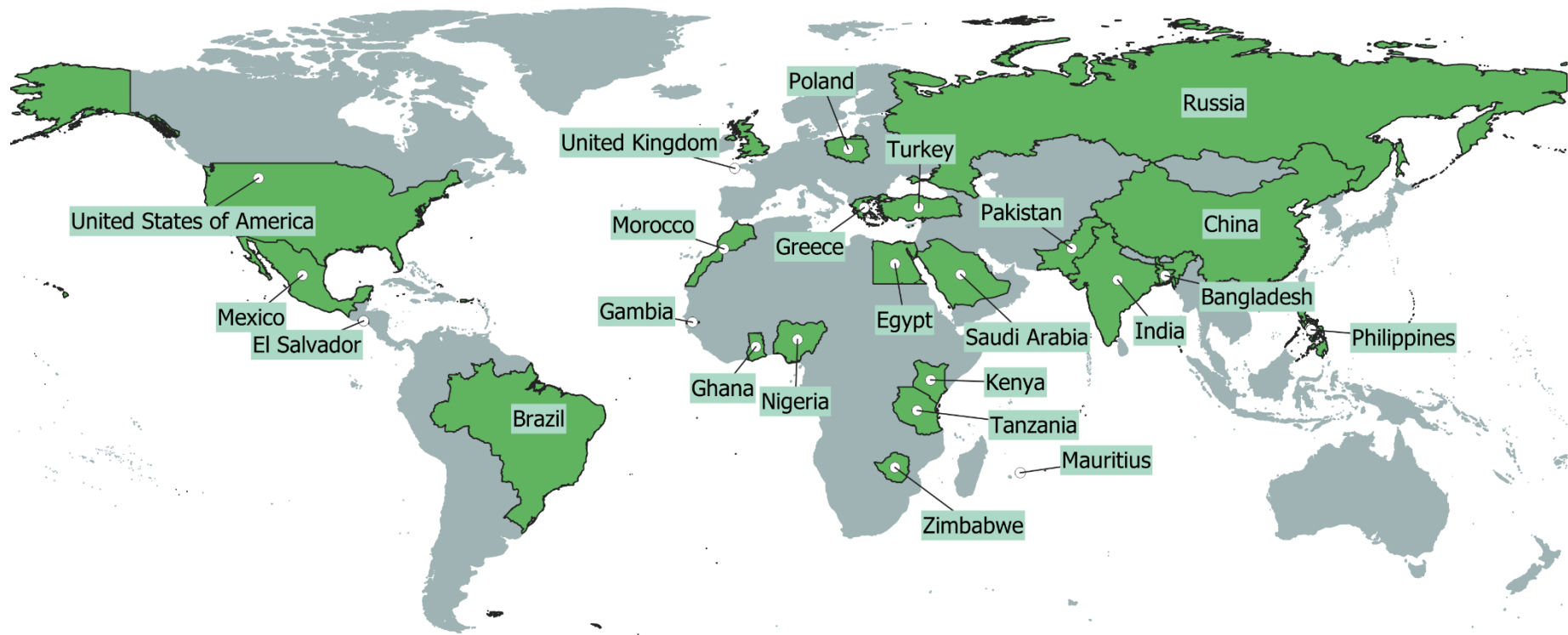
Countries make a collective learning community and global outreach of YCR

**10**

SDG themes have been discussed during the past 3 years. Experts from the fields under these themes have guided discussions and deliberations with the youth



# OUR GLOBAL REACH IN '3 YEARS'



# SUSTAINABILITY APPROACH

Leveraging on SDG 17, that is building partnerships for the SDG goals, YCR is inculcating sustainability mindset and raising a future leadership that is well grounded and is more socially, politically and environmentally aware.

During the past three years, the following themes have been picked by young change makers to delve into and engage with experts, professionals, scholars and practitioners on issues falling under these sustainability goal areas.



Some research areas picked up by the youth ...

## Women Empowerment & Microfinance

This research is a comparative analysis to gauge the levels of empowerment attained through Micro Finance Institutions through the parameters of social, political, and economic empowerment of women in the rural communities of India, Bangladesh and Pakistan

## Nationalism & Violence

Using the case of Kashmir, the study investigated the specific characteristics of nationalism that can serve as causal factors to armed conflict.

## Education & Digital Divide

The research investigated best practices to draw policy recommendations in closing the digital divide in education in Bangladesh, Nigeria, and Pakistan.

## Youth Political Participation & Technology

The research focused on analyzing the role of the youth in policymaking and political engagement. In view of contemporary technological advancements, digital technology was examined as an emerging force driving alternative means of political participation.

## Refugees and Mental Health Access

The study undertook documentary analysis and policy review of health policies catering to refugee children to provide recommendations to ameliorate their condition

## Corruption & Political Integrity

The group focused on identifying key issues relating to corruption and political integrity with particular focus on the effect of government's power abuse and elite coherence over the media.

Almost **18** collaborative transnational researches have been conducted by young scholars grouped in teams and hailing from multiple countries across Asia, Africa and America.

More researches can be viewed at [www.youthcfr.com](http://www.youthcfr.com)

**Three**

**Year**

**Impact**

**Knowledge  
Generation &  
Exchange**

**Researchers'  
Impact**

**Research  
Publication**

**Panel Talks &  
Advice**

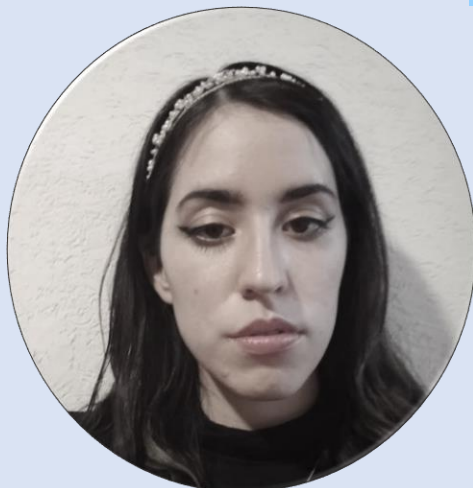
## YOUTH CO-CREATING KNOWLEDGE & PARTAKING IN ACADEMIC DISCOURSES

At the Youth Center for Research, young people as future leadership undertake collaborative, transnational researches in teams coming together from multiple countries. These teams pick their research problems catering to varied development discourses spanning across multiple sectors. Relying on extensive team work, young researches challenge their own convictions and engage with multiple perspectives and existing knowledge to advance their understanding on issues with utmost humility.

Overcoming geographical limitations and building on virtual connectivity, this transnational collaborative

research enables co-creation of new knowledge and addition of youth voice on issues even in the sphere of academics which apparently seems an uncharted territory. Guided by experts in the field, young people also employ their independent thoughts while building a unique community that democratizes learning, research and knowledge generation.

The learnings produced through this transnational exchange are shared with various organizations, international development agencies and other global platforms such as conferences, panel talks and peer reviewed journals.



**Luz Daniela Ruelas Acosta**

YCR Fellow 2021  
Mexico



As a 2021 participant on the Summer Research program, I believe YCR helped me learn new perspectives on issues I thought I had learned everything about. The speakers who joined various sessions came from different, interesting and rich backgrounds, which not only helped with the process of deconstruction, but also aided my individual development as an internationalist.

The interactions I had during the program are priceless to me. I really enjoyed working with my team and every speaker I had the chance to talk to. I appreciate the welcoming attitude of experts who joined the program, since my earlier interaction with experts and intellectuals was more distant and hierarchical in regards to treating people with less experience such as myself.

## YOUTH ASSUMING SEAT AT THE TABLE CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Conference on 'Democracy, Identity and Power' organized by IAPSS Asia in partnership with the Department of Political Science, National University of Mongolia – 2021



**Harshana Ghoorhoo**  
YCR Fellow 2020  
Seton Hall University, USA  
Mauritius



**Ayesha Katpar**  
YCR Fellow 2020  
Institute of Business Administration  
Pakistan



**Amine Tabsissi**  
YCR Fellow 2020  
Morocco



**Abdulmumin Edidi**  
YCR Fellow 2020  
Kwara State University, Maletе  
Nigeria



**Fatima Zahra Outaiss**  
Future Leaders Connect Fellow  
Research Advisor  
Morocco

### Research Topic:

#### Landscape of Digitalization on Democratic Participation: Establishing a Framework for A New Era of Youth Political Engagement

The research focused on analyzing the role of the youth in policymaking and political engagement. In view of contemporary technological advancements, digital technology was examined as an emerging force driving alternative means of political participation. The study critically examined the rising interest of the youth in politics while there is a noticeable decline in formal participation. The study identified that structural and individual challenges encourage youth to resort to alternate means, which are not always welcomed by authorities. Primary research was conducted via online surveys spread across four continents and six countries: Pakistan, Brazil, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Kenya, and Nigeria, targeting young adults aged between 18-35 years old. The research was further complemented with qualitative data through in-depth virtual interviews conducted with eight politicians/policymakers from the target countries. Based on an in-depth result analysis, recommendations pertaining to civic education, campaign financing, and youth training centers were put forth

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

Conference Title Mapping the Global Dimensions of Policy conference  
 Paper Title What the South Asian Regional Refugee Framework Can Look Like:  
 Lessons to Learn from the LAC Region  
 Organized By Department of Political Science, McMaster University, Canada  
 Dated: 11-12th March, 2022



**Nahian Salsabeel**

YCR Fellow 2021  
 University of Saskatchewan,  
 Bangladesh



**Bushra Ali Khan**

YCR Fellow 2021  
 SOAS, University of London  
 India



**Soadekin Rishan**

YCR Fellow 2021  
 University of Dhaka  
 Bangladesh



**Annesha Mahanta**

Research Facilitator  
 India



**Rutaba Tariq**

Young Engagement Exert  
 Research Advisor  
 Pakistan

### What the South Asian Regional Refugee Framework Can Look Like: Lessons to Learn from the LAC Region

The absence of an effective refugee protection regime in South Asia has defined the refugee crises in the region, rendering them relatively more intricate than the refugee crises in other parts of the world. Firstly, the authors take an insight into the possibilities and scopes of a regional refugee framework in the region. We study the case of the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region and the Cartagena Declaration due to the regional similarities that the two regions have. Secondly, we draw from the lessons that can be adopted from the Cartagena Declaration of the LAC region for a South Asian regional refugee framework. Keywords: Effective refugee protection, South Asia, LAC, human rights, modern geopolitics

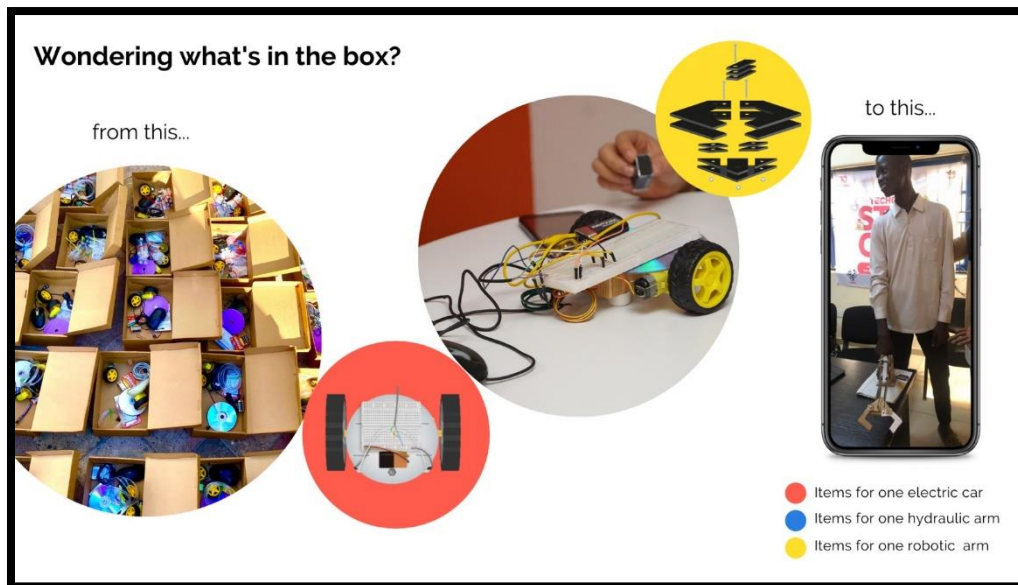
## OUR RESEARCHERS: THEIR IMPACT

### STEM IN A BOX – Intervention from El Salvador to Nigeria



I, Jesse, have been affiliated with YCR since 2020. I joined in as a participant and was later designated as a Non-Resident Research Fellow. In this role, I assisted the Center in the execution of the Summer Research Program 2021. The prime task under this engagement was to facilitate transnational teams in their coordination, team-building and research. I had two teams and 7 researchers from 7 countries working on the theme of Conflicts and Education. In order to facilitate effective teamwork, it was important to get to know the researchers and the work they do both professionally and at the community level as change-makers.

It was in one of these interactions that I came to learn that Maria Theresa, Research Fellow from El Salvador, was doing tremendous work in education called STEM IN A BOX.



This initiative provides students with some of the direct applications of Mathematics, Physics, and Computer Science. This also serves as a great motivation to boost students’ love for math, sciences, and tech. As someone who is passionate about education and already doing some work in my community to promote education and literacy, I engaged with Maria on how we could partner and start the STEM in the box in Nigeria as El Salvador shares similar educational challenges as that of Nigeria.

## YCR IMPACT



After the conclusion of SRP 2021, we engaged through a series of meetings and design thinking planning to ascertain what the real problem is, who is affected, and to what extent and how can the initiative benefit the participants. After we successfully completed these stages, the boxes

have been shipped down to Nigeria. Here in Nigeria, we are currently mobilizing our own part of the boxes to begin the project. Schools have been contacted and volunteers trained to engage students in the project.

The cross-national impact of the Summer Research Program of the YCR is significant. This program connects change-makers from across the world and gives them a chance to look at global issues from their national lenses and attempt to find a unifying solution that could be implemented in most of the affected countries.



**Nkwiri Jesse Chukwu**  
Non-Resident Research Fellow  
Nigeria



**Maria Theresa Villatoro**  
YCR Fellow 2021  
Founder, STEM IN A BOX  
El Salvador



## ONE OF 100 INFLUENTIAL PERSONS IN LAGOS, NIGERIA

As a Research Fellow at the YCR who had contributed to a Research on Youth Political Engagement with 3 team members focusing on 6 Countries across 4 different Continents, the findings from our research have been tremendously significant in my on-ground advocacies and works.

As someone who is interested in political affairs, I had a certain understanding of issues facing political participation of the youth in general and Nigeria in particular. The research helped me test my assumptions and deepen my understanding on various dimensions of political engagement.

I realized that the Nigerian Youth Legislative platform had not been working to its potential. **I started discussions around youth participation, which gave me the opportunity to become a member of the Nigerian Youth Parliament, where I currently serve as Chairman Ad-hoc Committee on Research and Policy Development.** I am currently working to improve the operating terms of the Nigerian Youth Parliament, and other youth leadership platforms to incorporate some of the solutions developed through our research to improve efficiencies of these youth leadership platforms and design effective means of youth Political Inclusion.

As part of this platform, the parliament is currently producing policy from the youth perspective to address the prevalent issue of

drug



*Abdulmumin Edidi, YCR Fellow 2020 & Non-Resident Fellow 2021 Nigeria*

abuse among young people. We are also working on multiple policies in parallel such as National Youth Security Policy among others. I am also using knowledge from the research findings to reorganize Youth Constituency engagements, as well as bridging the gap between youth and political leaders in the country.

My research-driven interventions earned me recognition as one of Lagos State Youth Parliament 100 most Influential Youth Persons in Lagos for the year 2021.



## RESEARCH PUBLICATION

YCR Fellows from the year 2020 undertook extensive discussions and research on the issue of mental health facing young adults. Their collaborative research drew members from Ghana, Egypt, Pakistan, India and the Philippines. ***The multi-country research was published in the international journal titled Middle East Current Psychiatry in 2021.***

**Title:**  
 COVID-19 and mental health: a multi-country study—the effects of lockdown on the mental health of young adults

Authors	Institutions
Areeba Shaikh	Ziauddin University, 4/B, Shahrah-e-Ghalib, Block 6, Clifton, Karachi, Pakistan
Ellen Peprah	School of Medicine and Dentistry, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana
Rawan Hamed Mohamed	University of Pécs, Pécs, Hungary
Abeeha Asghar	University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Sub Campus, Jhang, Pakistan
Noor Viresh Andharia	Osmania University, Hyderabad, India
Niel Anthony Lajot	Silliman University, Dumaguete, Philippine
Dr. Muhmmad Fazal Hussain Qureshi	Ziauddin University, 4/B, Shahrah-e-Ghalib, Block 6, Clifton, Karachi, Pakistan

### Abstract

Lockdown conditions due to the COVID-19 pandemic have affected the mental health of people, especially the youth. This study examined the effect of lockdown on mental health of the youth in Egypt, Ghana, India, Pakistan, and the Philippines and assessed the coping strategies practiced by them.

The results show that the Philippines had the highest mean score on stress, anxiety, and depression followed by Egypt, Pakistan, India, and then Ghana. There was a significant association of gender with stress, educational status with depression, and anxiety with stress. Students were associated with anxiety, and the history of close friends/family infected with COVID-19 was found to be associated with depression and stress scores. The most common coping strategy for the Philippines was self-distraction; for Pakistan was religion; and for Egypt, India, and Ghana was acceptance. Using linear regression model, the highest scores observed in all three domains were associated with avoidant coping.

**Research Paper has been Accessed almost 17000+ times by scholars, news outlets, academics among others.**

# YCR PANEL TALKS

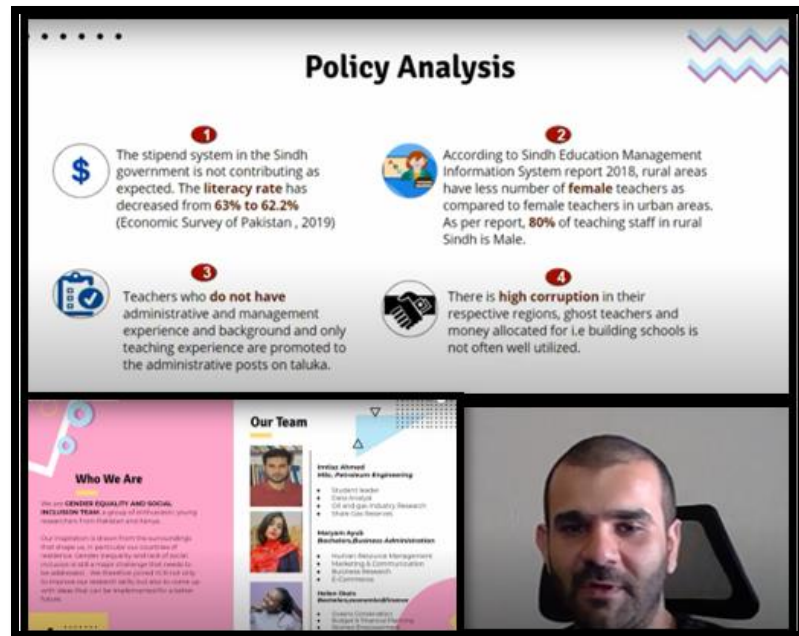
Young Change Makers at the Youth Center for Research take their stage along with the notable experts from their respective fields. These talks enable young people to table their thoughts, ideas, reflections, critiques and suggestions regarding development challenges facing the world.

They also utilize this platform to share their researches and to address concerns raised by the field experts to deepen discussion around issues of significance.

Topics for these talks are drawn from the SDG 2030 agenda and contemporary challenges that not only concern or impact young people, but also demand a responsible response from them.



Young Researchers in Conversation with Dr. Roy, Senior Lecturer, University of York, UK to discuss the Role of Youth in Attaining Sustainable Development, 2021



Imtiaz Ahmed (Pakistan), Maryam Ayub (Pakistan) and Hellen Okelo (Nigeria) undertook research on Gender Equality & Social Inclusion focusing on the state of education in Sindh, Pakistan. Expert Umar Nadeem (bottom right), Head of Advisory at TABADAB (Pakistan) enriched the discussion with his expert comments and advice.



Annesha Mahanta (India), Batool Tasneem (Pakistan), Abhinav Shrivastav (India), Hamza Qureshi (Pakistan), Priyata Talukdar (Bangladesh) researched on Outreach of Microfinance System and Women Empowerment in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. Dr. Vaqar Ahmed, Joint Executive Director of Social Development & Policy Institute was the expert to enrich the discussion.

30+

Youth-expert engagement sessions have been conducted covering multiple aspects of development discourse

## GOING GLOBAL – INDIVIDUAL ACTION PLAN

Young people from across the world gather virtually to engage in a community of collective learning and exchange. This interaction not only exposes them to new ideas, solutions and challenges it also helps them design interventions to test and try in their immediate vicinity to put their research to practice. This research driven approach to societal challenges arrests the individuals from making assumptions and employing personal biases at the expense of community interest. At YCR, young participants conceived such interventions catering to various aspects of sustainable development in the context of their respective countries and communities. Some of the are given below:

1. “To provide accessible healthcare in the rural areas of India such as Bihar to uplift community living standards”  
**Abhinav Srivastav, India**
2. “To undertake research to provide policy solutions to make educational spaces more inclusive and accessible for the differently abled individuals in Pakistan. “  
**Batool Tasneem, Pakistan**
3. “To work on developing rehabilitation and skill development center for the prisoners in Pakistan to facilitate their readjustment and acceptance in the society as productive citizens.”  
**Humza Qureshi, Pakistan**
4. “To democratize research for the students hailing from Sukkur, Sindh to enable them to undertake independent learning and critical understanding of issues facing them and the society.”  
**Areeba Shaikh, Pakistan**
5. To lead research in order to understand the dynamics of gender inequality in Rwanda  
**Hellen Okelo, Nigeria**
6. To undertake research-driven advocacy intervention to generate more awareness about the realities of the slum dwellers in Guwahati and Assam at large and the human rights violations they face. The intervention shall also accentuate the positive role of these dweller by altering perceptions about them for a more sustainable community.  
**Annesha Mahanta, India**
7. To reduce the Digital Skill Gap for the underprivileged students by increasing equal learning opportunities for all in the remotest areas of Bangladesh by building a conduit to channelize private resources towards education.  
**Shuvra Sarker, Bangladesh**
8. To provide leadership and capacity building for young teenagers and youth to advocate for quality and accessible education in vulnerable

communities.

**Jesse Nkwiri, Nigeria**

9. To develop a center for African psychology students and laureates to boost psychological research to outcome and enable African youth representation in academic and scientific discussions.

**Rawan Hamid, Egypt**

10. To create an online Mental Health Camp for Peer Counseling to teach basic peer counseling to those closer to us, such as friends, who may as well be suffering from depression. This is also aimed at normalizing mental health discussions while at the same time, breaking stigma of seeking professional help.

**Niel Anthony Lajot, Philippines**

11. To document the effect of media freedom on anti-corruption efforts in Kenya to understand how politics and media interplay through financial and administrative arrangements of media houses.

**Allen Mwaniki Maina, Kenya**

12. To explore Islamic Micro-Financial services as an option to cater small businesses to spur economic activities.

**Talha Ahmed Shaikh, Pakistan**

13. To create awareness and address the epidemic of rabies in Pakistan which is a prevalent yet neglected disease in the country and also the cause of almost 2 to 3000 deaths a year.

**Abeeha Asghar, Pakistan**

14. To mitigate the heated nationalist sentiment in China and address the biased news reports and public opinions that advocate discrimination, stigmatization, and demonization of other nations and ethnicities by creating a public sphere that is exposed to varied content for a more rational, inclusive, and internationalistic citizen perspective.

**Wenbo Wu, China**

15. To undertake political training of the youth to make them more politically aware and less politically polarized for better advocacy of socio-economic challenges facing the country.

**Clifton Dawanyi, Zimbabwe**

16. To develop an all-encompassing, and all-inclusive definition of migration, so that it is acceptable to all, and does not have any biases associated with it in terms of government policy.

**Nahian Salsabeel, Bangladesh**

## YOUNG CHANGE MAKERS' EXPERIENCE



Sabahat Ali Wani  
YCR Fellow 2021  
Kashmir

My experience as a researcher in the field of 'Politics of War and Conflict' at the Youth Centre for Research, influenced and alleviated my research skills as it equipped me with the tools to learn and understand the nuances of literature review, theoretical framework, issue conceptualization in drafting and preparing the academic papers. This experience motivated me and positioned my interest in an alliance with the issues underpinning the international system and global politics, with respect to war and conflict. It further strengthened my prime motivation to delve into the research, which stresses upon the ethical dimension of the academic study, where research is not a mere social science exercise but underlines the emotional truths behind the tragedy of conflict and absence of peace. Above all, the diversity of opinions and experiences that I experienced during the Summer Research Programme'21 has become an indispensable part of my academic and professional interests. And, the YCR community is one of the most supporting and welcoming space that supports your research interests, respect your lived experiences and gives you more room to grow



My experience at the Youth Center for Research was certainly a turning point in my academic and professional life. During the SRP, I met several brilliant researchers, academics, professors and professionals from all over the world – people I would never have had the opportunity to have contact with if it weren't for the YCR. Each of the lectures was extremely enriching, with important thinkers from the most diverse universities and international organizations. It was also really challenging for myself, especially given the difference between Pakistani and Brazilian time zones, but it was definitely worth it because it was one of the most different and incredible experiences of my entire life.

I chose the theme "Refugee Crisis, Human Rights and Peacebuilding" and I researched about "Mental health of refugee children in Pakistan" along with three other wonderful women and young researchers, Frazeen (Pakistan), Ananya (India) and Samiha (Bangladesh). I learned a lot about group work, commitment, international research, intercultural dialogue and I greatly improved my English skills. Thanks to the experience I had at the YCR, today I am an intern at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR).



Ana Letícia Szkudlarek  
YCR Fellow 2021  
Brazil

## YOUNG CHANGE MAKERS' EXPERIENCE



Sadaf Shabbir  
YCR Fellow 2021  
Pakistan

My experience as the Young Researcher in YCR Summer Research Program 2021, that focused on Peace and Conflict, made me aware of the intersectionality of the existential threats which we are exposed to as the global citizens residing in multitude of diverse geographies. My experience with young researchers from different countries having eminent grip over research, dialogue, policy analysis and briefing made me critically examine and understand the nature of looming gender inequality, unprecedented climate crisis, extremism and terrorism, and other forms of traditional and non-traditional security threats. And this all was made possible by the conduct of in-depth collaborative youth based transnational practices which included discussion forums supervised by the world's renowned experts, analysts and social and political scientists on the issues with adverse consequences.

Without efficient research understanding and programs aimed at enhancing the skills of the youth to critically analyze and challenge the preconceived notions and narratives, it is difficult to build an inclusive society. The Youth Center for Research is one such platform which makes one realize this indispensability. Collaborating and working with the researchers from different socio-cultural standings made me experience the true colors of diversity and the difference of opinions, mindsets and ideologies people carry and practice. This assortment made me understand the distinct range of community dynamics and working mechanisms.



## OUR INTELLECTUAL CONTRIBUTORS

### **Agnes Alick Mwangoka**

Co-Founder & Director  
Involve Me (M&E Company)  
Chevening Scholar  
Tanzania

### **Antonita Lewandowska**

Sexual & Reproductive Health &  
Rights Advocate  
Future Leaders Connect Fellow  
2019  
Poland

### **Mr. Ashraf Jehangir Qazi**

Former Diplomat  
Pakistan

### **Cherisse Francis**

Attorney at Law and Educator  
Future Leaders Connect Fellow  
Barbados

### **Dr. Christopher Taylor**

Former Dean of Faculty  
Habib University  
Pakistan

### **Guísela Pereira**

Human Rights Consultant  
Chevening Scholar  
Brazil

### **Hassan Ould Moctar**

PhD Candidate & Teaching  
Assistant  
SOAS, UK

### **Hatoon Ajwad Al Fassi**

Historian & Associate Professor  
of Women's History  
Chevening Scholar  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

### **Hur Hassnain**

Senior Evaluation Advisor  
European Commission  
United Kingdom

### **Husne Akgol**

(Former) Senior Protection  
Assistant, UNHCR  
Chevening Scholar  
Turkey

### **Jacob Parakilas**

Author & Security Analyst at  
The Diplomat  
USA

### **Kajri Babbar**

Filmmaker & Future Leaders  
Connect Fellow  
India

### **Nafula Wafula**

Vice Chairperson Policy &  
Advocacy  
Commonwealth Youth Council  
Future Leaders Connect Fellow  
2019  
Kenya

### **Prince Gideon Olanrewaju**

Founder, Aid for Rural  
Education Access Initiative  
(AREAi)  
Chevening Scholar 2017  
Nigeria

### **Lt Col (R) Rizwan Ahmed**

Social Entrepreneur  
Pakistan

### **Rhea Mahanta**

Founder & President  
Peacebuilding Project  
India

### **Shailesh Kumar**

Legal Researcher  
Birkbeck University, UK  
Commonwealth Scholar  
India

### **Dr. Shama Dossa**

Associate Professor  
Habib University,  
Pakistan

### **Dr. Severine Minot**

(Former) Assistant Professor  
Canada

### **Syeda Nazneen Jahan**

Development Professional,  
BRAC  
Commonwealth Scholar 2017  
Bangladesh

### **Sikander Bazinjo**

Co-Chair, Davos Lab  
Member, Global Shapers  
Advisory Council  
Pakistan

### **Tolu Walula**

Founder,  
My internally Displaced Persons  
Nigeria

### **Dr. Vaqar Ahmed**

Joint Executive Director  
Social Development & Policy  
Institute  
Pakistan



## **YCR Researchers' Institutional Affiliation**

1. African Leadership University, Nigeria
2. Ambedkar University Delhi, India
3. Bangladesh University of Professionals  
Bangladesh
4. Asian University for Women, Bangladesh
5. BRAC University, Bangladesh Open  
University, United Kingdom
6. Bradford University, United Kingdom
7. Central South University, Bangladesh
8. ESCP Business School, El Salvador
9. Federal University of Akure, Nigeria
10. Federal University of Paran i, Brazil
11. Great Zimbabwe University, Zimbabwe
12. Habib University, Pakistan
13. Institute of Business Administration,  
Pakistan
14. Institute of Business Management,  
Pakistan
15. IP College for Women, University of Delhi
16. Khazar University, Azerbaijan
17. Kwame Nkrumah University of Science  
and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana
18. Kwara State University, Malete, Nigeria
19. Lady Shri Ram College for Women,  
University of Delhi, India
20. Lahore University of Management  
Sciences, Pakistan
21. National Research University Higher  
School of Economics, Russia
22. National University of Study and Research  
in Law, India
23. Osmania University, Hyderabad, India
24. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law  
University, Lucknow, India
25. Seton Hall University, USA
26. Silliman University, Dumaguete,  
Philippine
27. SOAS, University of London, United  
Kingdom
28. Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Guwahati  
India
29. The University of Nottingham (China)
30. Universidad An huac Quer ctaro,  
Mexico
31. University of Dhaka, Bangladesh
32. University of Jos, Nigeria
33. University of Karachi, Pakistan
34. University of Nairobi, Kenya
35. University of Okara, Pakistan
36. University of P cs, P cs, Hungary
37. University of Pennsylvania, USA
38. University of Saskatchewan, Bangladesh
39. University of Veterinary and Animal  
Sciences, Sub Campus, Jhang, Pakistan
40. XIM Bhubaneswar, India
41. Ziauddin University, Pakistan

## **MOVING AHEAD**

### **CLAIMING THE FUTURE**

In view of the challenges facing us, it is important to realize that development is not an exclusive process. In fact, collective emancipation of human dignity requires holistic and inclusive approach towards developmental progress beyond any differences on the basis of geographies, religion, color, creed and other identities. In this progress, it is also pertinent to realize that the youth make an important stakeholder both as the beneficiaries and contributors to the process of development.

Since the world is highly interconnected, intra and international connections and networks are essential to achieve shared prosperity and sustainable development. Youth Center for Research is providing that transnational connectivity spearheaded by the youth and shared by experts and other intellectuals to carve a participative space to anticipate, discuss, approach, understand and resolve development challenges. The platform of YCR is a breeding space for the youth to nurture their research, analytical and teamworking skills and to prepare a future leadership to partake and lead the development discourses.

The international network built by the YCR will continue to expand over the years. However, this expansion is now seeking partnerships across academia, think tanks and other government and non-government entities to channelize the energies, experiences and competencies of the youth to conceive and implement development solutions driven by active research.

The underlying philosophy of YCR is that research precedes advocacy to expand perspectives and avoid parochial and unilateral approach to socio-economic and political

issues. This approach does not only inculcate humility but also enables indigenous representation and exposes one to plethora of existing knowledge to better contextualize issues with a solution-oriented mindset. The philosophy particularly aims at emancipating the youth and preparing them to assume positions of responsibility in development discourses and policy debates to advance, represent and guard their concerns. This preparedness is to ensure that the youth does not only demand a seat at the table, but is also ready to assume it.

**Youth Center for Research, therefore, aims to expand its community and ensure that the YCR researchers continue to bridge connections and design solutions for transnational developmental impact. YCR welcomes like-minded scholars, practitioners, experts and institutions to this network to explore possibilities of collaborative approach towards achieving sustainable development goals which can utilize the youth both as potential beneficiaries and more so as partners and contributors to the process of developmental progress.**



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