

**Exposure Draft
National Youth Policy 2012
(NYP 2012)**

**Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports,
Government of India.**

Draft

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“Young men, my hope is in you. Will you respond to the call of your nation? Each one of you has a glorious future if you dare believe me. Have a tremendous faith in yourselves, like the faith I had when I was a child, and which I am working out now. Have that faith, each one of you, in yourself—that eternal power is lodged in every soul—and you will revive the whole of the country.” – (Swami Vivekananda)

1. Preamble

- 1.1 It is evident that the future of India is intimately connected with that of its young people. It is in this context that Government of India is formulating its youth policy that responds effectively to the changing conditions of the young people in the 21st Century. This national policy aims to put young people at the center of Country's growth and development.
- 1.2 The NYP 2012 is a step forward from the earlier Policy formulated in 1988 and, later, in 2003. It reaffirms commitment of the nation to the rights and holistic development of the young people of the country. This document aims to reinforce existing policies and programmes of the current Policy that continue to have relevance; and propose new strategic policy and programme interventions, keeping in view the changing scenario in the country due to globalization, rapid technological advancement during the last two decades, and the emergence of India as the global economic power.
- 1.3 The former Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi addressing youth had said, ***“We have brought down the age of voting from 21 to 18. This will make your thoughts come up and help in raising your voice, so that a government is formed that helps you”***. Lowering of voting age coupled with institutionalizing Panchayati Raj institutions proved to be the most defining events in empowerment and enabling of youth in the country. Subsequent to the year 1985 being declared The International Year of Youth, the first youth policy was brought out under the then Prime Minister's guidance in 1988. These events proved to be precursor to the subsequent youth policies in the past as also the present one.
- 1.4 The Central and the State governments, in partnership with other stakeholders of the society – voluntary organizations, civil society groups and the corporate sector – should ensure that equal opportunities for growth are extended to young people for their overall development, growth and empowerment where they are productively engaged in activities aimed towards national development.
- 1.5 It is important that the society should give due consideration to their needs, views, and aspirations and accord them appropriate representation and meaningful contribution in different policy-making and decision-making forum, from local (Gram Panchayat) to the

national levels. They should be extended wide-ranging opportunities for constructive participation in the larger arena of community life and in political, social and development processes of the country. Young people should be assured that they are key constituent of the community and are equal stakeholders in its welfare.

- 1.6 Though India is being recognised as an emerging world economic power, young people need to be actively associated - through their groups and organisations - with the efforts to further improve social parameters of growth and development, such as, education opportunities; health facilities, lowering of the rate of infant mortality; child and maternal care; social justice; status of women in the society; and transparency and accountability in public life.
- 1.7 The NYP 2012 will also help in creating a bond between young people, on the one hand, and the community, on the other. There will be greater acceptability of the young people in the community and as a result, it will be able to make optimum use of their potential, energy, and enthusiasm. On their part, young people will get enhanced understanding of the constraints and problems of the community. The NYP 2012 visualises to develop responsible citizenship among the youth based on the values enshrined in the constitution.

2. Rationale for the Policy

“We are one of the world’s oldest civilizations and one of the youngest nations. Our country’s demographic profile has undergone a major evolution. Now, there is a preponderance of youth. This is a decisive factor in determining our nation’s destiny.

A century of endeavour beckons us. A great country is not one with which merely has a great past. Out of that past must arise a glorious future. Let us build an India-disciplined and efficient; - fortified by ethical and spiritual values; - a fearless force for peace on earth; -a new civilization with the strength of our heritage, the creativity of the spring time of Youth and the unconquerable spirit of our people

Let us build an India proud of her independence; powerful in defense in her freedom; strong, self-reliant in agriculture, industry and front-rank technology; united by bonds transcending barriers of caste, creed and region; liberated from bondage of poverty, and of social and economic inequality.” (Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister)

2.1. A comprehensive National Youth Policy will provide direction to youth-focused interventions by the Central and State governments and the voluntary sector beyond the present, empowering young people for affirmative and positive action and transforming their life.

2.2. Recognising the need for an integrated and collaborative approach to youth development programmes in the country, it is necessary that a comprehensive and distinct framework is made available to all youth-related ministries, departments, agencies and voluntary organisations to translate their policies into workable action plans. It is hoped that the

suggested course of action will ensure full and effective implementation of policies, and all key stakeholders, especially Department of Education including state-sponsored youth development agencies, voluntary organisations, and the corporate sector, will carry out their roles and responsibilities with full earnestness and zeal. It is imperative that not only Department of Education but the Ministry of Human Resource Development has to play a predominant role in realizing the Youth Policy.

2.3. The NYP 2012 seeks to ensure that youth needs and concerns are mainstreamed into overall national development policies, underscoring the need for the wholesome development of the young people and optimum utilization of their potential for national development.

2.4. The NYP 2012 emphasizes the need for developing suitable mechanism, criteria and indicators by the Central and State governments for measuring the progress of the implementation of the policies, especially with regard to the impact of the programmes on the overall development of young people and their contribution to the country, at large. This will ensure greater accountability of these agencies and continuous improvement of programme initiatives.

3. Overarching principles of NYP 2012

- 3.1 National Youth Policy is consistent with the overall national goals, policies, plans, and social and cultural ethos.
- 3.2 Youth development programmes should be fully integrated into the mainstream of policies and programmes of all youth-related initiatives of various ministries of Central and State governments.
- 3.3 Youth development policies and programmes are to encompass all aspects of the life of young people and respond to their physical, psychological, social, economic and spiritual needs.
- 3.4 It must be recognised that youth is not a homogeneous group and there are numerous differentials based on their habitat, environment in which they live, socio-economic status of the families they belong to, and their own lifestyle.
- 3.5 Young people should be considered as objects as well as subjects of the youth development programmes. They are important resource of the country and should be nurtured to become active partners in the national development processes. At the same time, they should also be the beneficiaries of the programmes and services sponsored by state agencies and voluntary organisations, aimed at addressing their needs and concerns.
- 3.6 Youth development programmes should reach out to all sections of the youth population and be accessible to them. These should be free from all forms of discrimination – based on gender, caste, ethnicity, language, or physical or mental condition – in the spirit of the Constitution of India.
- 3.7 Sustainable development should be the underpinning factor in all youth-related initiatives.
- 3.8 It should help create an environment in which young people are not vulnerable to anti-social and

anti-national forces and elements in the country. Their capacity to fight against all forms of exploitation and discrimination should be fortified.

3.9 Creation of appropriate platforms for youth to participate in development processes.

3.10 Encourage youth from rural and urban background to engage in development processes that affect their community by enhancing their voice and active participation.

4. Definition of youth

4.1.1 The National Youth Policy document of 2003 covers the age group of 13-35 whereas the NYP 2012 aims to cover the age-bracket of 16-30 years. However, it needs to be recognised that all young persons within this age-group are unlikely to be a homogeneous group, sharing common concerns and needs and having different roles and responsibilities. It is, therefore, necessary to divide this broad age-bracket into three sub-groups:

- The first sub-group of 16-21 years also covers adolescents whose needs and areas of concern are substantially different from youth under the other age-groups.
- The second sub-group of 21-25 years includes those youth who are in the process of completing their education and getting into a career.
- The third sub-group of 26-30 years comprises of young women and men most of whom have completed their education, including professional, and are, more or less, settled in their job and in their personal life.

5. Goal and objectives of National Youth Policy 2012

5.1 Goal

5.1.1 The National Youth Policy aims at empowering the youth of the nation by bringing holistic development.

5.2 Objectives of the National Youth Policy

5.2.1 Strengthen the culture of patriotism among young people and help them to become responsible citizens of the country who care for their families and communities in which they live.

5.2.2 Instill a sense of national unity and social cohesion in the young people while recognizing and respecting the diversities – in religion, language, culture, ethnicity, lifestyle and habitat – in the country. They should be groomed to become promoters of peace and harmony in the community in which they live.

- 5.2.3 Foster in young people not only an abiding commitment and adherence to the values enshrined in our Constitution but also develop them as key promoters of these values in all sections of the society. They should play a significant role in advancing appropriate standards and values of ethical conduct in individual and social life.
- 5.2.4 Through a sustained programme of education and training and appropriate support services, help young people become economically self-reliant and productive units of the country, either by taking up employment or by setting up their own business enterprises.
- 5.2.5 Empower youth to take up the challenge of eliminating all forms of social and economic discrimination and exploitation; counter forces that threaten to undermine national harmony; and launch a crusade against unhealthy social practices, evils and becomes sensitive towards human rights.
- 5.2.6 Through a programme of training and education, guide them in a manner that they become active partners in promoting sustainable development, contributing productively to national and local initiatives in maintaining harmonious balance between ecological and environment considerations, on the one hand, and developmental needs, on the other.
- 5.2.7 Facilitate access to all sections of youth to basic nutrition and health especially related to reproductive and sexual health information, facilities and services including access to mental health services ; promote a healthy lifestyle, free of substance abuse and other unhealthy addictions, and dissuade them for engaging in harmful sexual practices.
- 5.2.8 Enhance the availability of facilities in sports and constructive recreation for all sections of youth with special focus on disabled youth and female youth.
- 5.2.9 Instill and nurture a spirit of volunteerism among the youth; develop their competencies in various areas of social development; and extend opportunities to enable them to contribute productively to the welfare of their communities.
- 5.2.10 Through a wide range of initiatives, including educational and training opportunities, instill in young women and men a culture of scientific thinking, critical analysis, and rational attitude in their day-to-day life; and make them sensitive to the needs and concerns of socially and economically disadvantaged sections of the society.
- 5.2.11 Help youth to develop an international perspective on issues of global significance and work for promoting international understanding and a just and non-discriminatory global order.
- 5.2.12 Through affirmative action and measures, extend support to priority groups – young women, socially and economically disadvantaged youth, and youth living

with physical, sensory and intellectual impairments and ensure that they become part of mainstream development process.

5.2.13 Encourage voluntary sector to create appropriate platforms which promote youth volunteering and support recruitment and training of youth for social action in the community.

5.2.14 Encouraging youth engagement in monitoring and evaluation process of development work undertaken by government and non-government structures including the PRI.

6.1 Target groups

The concerns of target groups and the priority groups therein shall be addressed through a subsequent action plan based on policy interventions mentioned in the thrust areas of this policy.

6.1.1 Student youth

- a) Although the existing system of education has been greatly reformed by introducing the grading system, students still face great anxiety due to the competitive examination system. This segment is vulnerable to many mental and physical maladies.
- b) Enable the enhanced participation of youth in the process of decision making and development. Timely conduct of union elections in all universities provide an opportunity to the youth to contribute to nation building and develop as responsible and accountable leaders as well as voters. Democratic opportunities among the youth will in time bring out capable and responsive leadership,
- c) Youth at present have also to contend with frequent absence of teachers from schools and colleges. A matter of further concern to them, courses are not completed on time, leading to a state of uncertainty among them. Also, most of these institutions use teaching methods that are outmoded. Methodology of teaching, materials for teaching, teacher training etc. needs special attention.
- d) Peer pressure plays a significant role in the lives of young people, especially adolescents. Positive peer pressure may exhort students for higher academic performance and towards excellence in other fields, such as arts and crafts and creativity.

6.1.2 Urban youth in slums; migrant youth

- a) There is a large category of youth that comprises of different sections, including migrants and those living in slums. While there are some basic needs and

concerns that are common across these sections, each of these sub-groups also has a distinguishing set of interests and problems that would be addressed by the subsequent action plan.

- b) Due to migration and the subsequent loosening of family bonds youth need guidance and support which is not easily available. This has disastrous effects on the life of young people. Youth crime, even among the teenagers is a matter of deep concern in metros and cities; young people are generally in the forefront of street agitations and protests that often result in violence. Frustration and emotional turmoil can land them in situations where they can even come in conflict with law.
- c) Youth living in slums do not even have normal civic amenities. Many of them may not have access to quality educational facilities and may be forced to take up small-time and low-wages jobs. Thus they often live in a state of frustration and turmoil, rendering them vulnerable to the designs of anti-social or criminal elements.

6.1.3 Rural youth

- a) Rural youth form a larger share of the youth population but have comparatively lesser access to information, educational and career opportunities, and training facilities. They find it difficult to compete with urban youth in terms of opportunities for jobs and higher education because of tough competition.
- b) Full information about state policies and programmes is often not available to them. The government has many programmes like MGNREGA, Total Sanitation, RTE, NRHM etc. about which they have little information and therefore the benefits of these state sponsored schemes are not known to them.
- c) India has a great strength in its Information Technology and telecom sector, though connectivity has improved substantially yet vast sections of rural youth are deprived of the benefits of IT revolution.
- d) Although the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports through its PYKKA Scheme is addressing the need for sports facility at the rural level, it should be aimed to further expand the same.

6.1.4 Tribal youth

- a) Many young people belonging to tribal communities often find themselves at cross-roads in their lives. While on one hand they are faced with problems of unemployment and displacement on the other hand rampant left wing extremism further disrupts their life.
- b) Although the recently enacted Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest

Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights Act 2006) provides for land entitlement for tribals, livelihood limitations have emerged due to the dwindling forest habitat.

- c) Poor connectivity in their habitat is an impediment to development reaching them and further alienates the Tribal Youth. Ironically, the same connectivity endangers their rich cultural heritage due to unwanted influence that comes in once connected.
- d) Absence of political activities amongst tribal youth often leads them into the hands of propagators of Left Wing Extremism.

6.1.5 Youth at risk – substance abuse, human trafficking, working in hazardous occupations, sex workers

- a) Young people working in hazardous occupations and in unhealthy conditions run grievous risk to their health and life as they are easy prey to a wide range of diseases and physical disabilities.
- b) Human trafficking – at national and international levels - though being effectively challenged by various agencies of the state, remains a social malign. Youth yet fall prey to trafficking as they are generally from poor families and later they are lured by false promises and exploited physically and economically.
- c) Substance abuse among young people particularly in some border districts is on the increase. That could be due to peer pressure or stress and frustration or due to deliberate endeavors from across the border.
- d) Youth engaged in sex trade/ sex work are vulnerable and stigmatized community with little access to health, education and other services and facilities.

6.1.6 Youth in violent conflicts – participants or victims

- a) Due to a number of factors, chiefly economic, young people are drawn to armed conflicts or violent activities and align with organizations and groups that spearhead these disruptive activities. Young people with little means of subsistence may be easily lured by the promise of proper meals, shelter and clothing by these organizations. Several categories of young people appear to be particularly at risk: unemployed university graduates; young people who have migrated from rural to urban areas; tribal youth; young people who have been victims of discrimination or injustices or youth who have been misguided by concerted propaganda by perpetrators of separatism and militancy.
- b) Regardless whether they are participants in violent conflicts or their victims, young

people are, undoubtedly, the worst sufferers. Their very future gets severely compromised. Even when they desire to return to normal life after realising that they had wrongly got themselves inducted into conflict, the society does not offer them an opportunity. As a result, they continue to being a part of these violent conflicts against their wish. In the aftermath of such conflicts, in many cases, youth and adolescents are forced to take on adult roles and responsibilities long before they reach the age.

6.1.7 Out-of-school or drop-outs from formal educational mainstream

- a) Due to social and economic circumstances, adolescents or young people may be forced to abandon their studies midway. A sizable section of the school or college drop-outs have the desire to continue their studies and also have the necessary ability and potential to perform well but they are compelled to discontinue. As a result, they either have nothing to do and engage in unproductive or even unsocial activities or are compelled to take odd jobs to support their families. In both cases, they lose out on opportunities to shape their future. Their social and economic development is compromised. The situation is worse for young girls. In many families, their education is not the priority and often they have to give way to their male siblings, regardless of their interest and capability.

6.1.8 Groups that suffer from social or moral stigma - transgender, gays and lesbians, those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis (TB)

- a) Transgenders have for long been the butt of ridicule and derision of the society. They have virtually lived a life of complete segregation from the mainstream.
- b) The gays and the lesbians have never been accepted in the society as same-gender sex has always been treated in our society as perverted and immoral behaviour. The result of these deeply embedded stereotypes and biases has been that gays and lesbians are reluctant to express their sexual preferences openly. However, in recent time, there have been some changes and these groups are coming out in the open through special events and campaigns. There is some degree of acceptance of these groups though, by and large, the prejudice remains.
- c) There is also lack of acceptance of the young people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS and TB. They face isolation though for different reasons. People are disinclined to socially interact with HIV+ people because of general misconceptions like the disease can be contracted even through casual physical contacts. They face social rejections which has a negative implication on pursuit for education, employment etc. All of these groups can be provided a helping hand so that they are in touch with the ART treatment centers and the DOT awareness programmes where free counseling and medication is provided to them. Similarly the issue of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) can be addressed through government clinics and counseling.

6.1.9 Youth in institutional care, orphanages, correctional homes and prisons

- a) Youth above the age of 16 in institutional care, Orphanages, correctional homes and institutional care also need handholding so that their energy and enthusiasm can be directed into positive streams.
- b) After release from the institutions the external environment is not very receptive to these young residents and their needs. They have limited opportunities for higher education. And to make the matters worse for them, a number of cases of physical and sexual abuse of children, especially of young girls, keep coming to light.

6.2 Priority groups

Within the above nine target groups the comparatively weaker and vulnerable groups viz. young women, young belonging to socially and economically disadvantaged communities and groups and differently-abled youth become a priority group and they will be specially attended to with appropriate programmes.

6.2.1 Young women

- a) The problems and issues related Indian women and their vulnerability are too well known. It is recognized that the problems are deep-rooted in the society and will require enormous efforts to weed them out of our society. The high female infant mortality rates, the practice of female foeticide, neglect of female children with regard to access to health services, nutrition and education and the sexual abuse of girls are some of the critical issues that need to be urgently addressed.
- b) At the workplace, young women face sexual abuse and harassment from their male colleagues and superiors. Even in the family, they face discrimination and unequal treatment. Parents restrict their movement outside home and as a result, they are not able to take full advantage of educational and work opportunities.
- c) The security of young women is assuming the proportion of concern as they are constantly in danger of being stalked by anti-social elements.

6.2.2 Youth belonging to socially and economically disadvantaged communities and groups

- a) This is a group that calls for special programmes on a priority basis. Because of the status of the families they belong to, they are often left out of the mainstream. Because of their lack of information on their entitlements, they are not even able to access the benefits that should legitimately accrue to them. They need to be

empowered through special measures and affirmative action to bring them out of their present state of economic and social backwardness and help them come on terms with the other sections of the society. All the efforts should focus on helping them achieve better socio-economic and healthy lives.

6.2.3 Differently-abled youth

- a) They feel pushed to the margins of the society even within their families because of their physical or mental state. Whenever they are cared for, it is out of sympathy rather than a concern to bring them into the mainstream and getting them on their own feet. There is discrimination in the family between the disabled youth and others. There is a lack of provisions for education, healthcare. They feel marginalized. Even the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs of the United Nations) make no mention of this important section of the society. Vocational skills and support from government agencies, their rehabilitation and bringing them into the mainstream should be the priority of the state and the voluntary organizations working in the field of youth. Other young people and the teachers are not sensitive to their special needs.
- b) Although there are provisions for job reservation for the differently-abled youth, including blind and those with hearing impairments, but these numbers are not enough to take care of the needs of this group. Another problem that they face relates to their mobility.

7. Thrust areas

7.1 Promotion of national values, social harmony and national unity

- a) India is a country of diversities in terms of ethnicity, religion, language, caste, and culture. These differential elements, sometimes, serve as basis for tensions and even conflicts among diverse groups or communities. These differences can be further accentuated by a perception of some groups that they are being discriminated against; they do not have equitable access to resources of the State; they are not getting their legitimate dues; or they lack opportunities for participation in political and economic processes.
- b) Some regions, states and tribal communities have the feeling of alienation, partly due to lack of infrastructure and connectivity, and partly because they do not feel that the economic benefits of the country are reaching them.
- c) One of the deepest social divides in India is on the basis of caste. While the Constitution of India guarantees equal rights to people from different castes, the ground realities are different. Those belonging to lower castes still face some forms of discrimination in different aspects of political, social and economic life.
- d) There are a lot of forces in the country that have the agenda of dividing the people on the basis of religion, caste, language, and ethnicity. They need to be effectively countered.

Policy interventions

- a) Initiate affirmative and positive action to ensure that our cherished national values are regularly fostered in all young people, especially among members of the large youth volunteer force working under the aegis of leading youth development agencies of the country.
- b) Take appropriate initiatives to prepare young people as crusaders of these values that are crucial not only for national harmony but also for instilling national identity. While macro-level action can set out broad policies and directions, it needs to be recognised that local level action can bring in better and more enduring results. Youth clubs and large volunteer force available with the youth development agencies can play a pivotal role in this endeavour.

7.2 Empowering youth through employable skill development and providing entrepreneurship opportunities

- a) In spite of significant improvement from the past, unemployment remains an issue and young people are the most affected group. Prolonged period of unemployment and under employment not only brings economic miseries but can also be socially and mentally debilitating for a young person. It can also affect the family ties. It is, therefore, necessary that urgent, productive measures are put in place that help address the problem of unemployment, under employment among youth, acting as complementary to other endeavors of state agencies.
- b) Empowering young people will really mean providing them opportunities to enhance their capabilities through a programme of education and training, including skill development thus enabling them to make choices so that they can become more productive; and offering them the option of engaging in business enterprises.

Policy intervention

- a) The 21st Century youth have to be efficient and need to be skilled including in life skills. This is of top priority and coordinated action for skill development has been undertaken by the Prime Minister himself. The Prime Minister's National Council on Skill Development and the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) have been put in place with the goal of creating 500 million skilled people by 2022. It is also coordinating the private sector initiative in skill development.
- b) To help young people enhance their employability for full-time or part-time jobs, they should be provided access to training and education facilities in areas that are consistent with the new emerging possibilities of gainful employment. India is now a growing economic power and with a general boom in the economy and the emergence of new economic activities, especially in the service sector, young

people have enormous prospects for new productive pursuits in their career. Training programmes should be accordingly designed and implemented.

- c) To promote entrepreneurship among young women and men, set up a network of training institutions or agencies providing technical and/or entrepreneurship training; financial institutions; voluntary organisations engaged in youth entrepreneurship programmes; and corporate sector to prepare young people for taking up small business enterprises and related activities. There is a need for strengthening coordination among these agencies for optimal utilisation of resources.
- d) In the employment and entrepreneurship programme for the young people, special attention will be paid to marginalised youth; those belonging to areas/communities where the full benefits of economic development in the country have not reached the people; young women; and drop outs.

7.3 Education – formal, non-formal and continuing learning

- a) In many states, in rural areas the educational facilities, including infrastructure, need further improvement. Attention is needed in Government and private sector, which plays a dominant role in the field. The dropout rates, especially among young girls are challenging and needs to be addressed.
- b) Education has recently received great attention with the launching of the Right to Education (RTE). Now, it should be ensured that all the deserving and needy population has access to education at their doorsteps through effective implementation by the State governments.
- c) As India vies for a status of world power, we need good infrastructure and best talents in all schools and universities of India. These resources should not remain limited to a handful of IIT's or IIM's and few higher learning institutions.

Policy intervention

- a) There is an urgent need for greater uniformity in the educational system and standards across the country.
- b) Developing educational opportunities and ensuring that the benefits reach the deserving and the needy will be deemed to be a collaborative mission of the government and civil society. The corporate sector should take up the challenge as part of its social responsibility. Efforts to strengthen this approach will be initiated.
- c) Education, above the secondary level, should have a high degree of vocationalization, consistent with the existing requirements, to enhance the employability of youth.

- d) Inclusion of the socio-cultural sector in the syllabus and also based on an individual's liking, a subject on politics, social sector, art and culture, environment, military sciences and technology should be added in the curriculum with a very high weightage.

7.4 Health and healthy lifestyle

- a) As youth constitute substantial percentage of our population, their physical, mental and spiritual health will, to a large extent, determine the current and future vitality of our communities, indeed, of our country. Youth health issues, therefore, are clearly of critical concern for both young people themselves and for the society and should be high on the agenda of any comprehensive youth development programme.
- b) Young women and men are steadily emerging as one of the most vulnerable groups for the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Increasing drug abuse, susceptibility to TB, other communicable diseases among the young people is also a cause of concern. A segment of youth population constitutes of school drop-outs. These young people are sexually active and are often exposed to negative peer pressure and risk environment.
- c) Regular consumption of unhealthy diet (rich in salt, sugar and trans-fat) has become common among young women and men. Need for regular physical activity for prevention and control of obesity and other lifestyle diseases is also of prime concern for young women and men in the country.

Policy interventions

- a) Develop education and training materials that integrate information and skill-based approach with one that stimulates action by the young people to bring about appropriate changes in their behaviour and actions. The materials prepared for the purpose will be culturally sensitive and take into account the lifestyle of the young people living in different social settings and belonging to different strata of society.
- b) Establish on-going functional linkages with specialised agencies –government and non-government and international organisations - dealing with health issues and seek their support in terms of resources, training and educational materials, and services of experts.
- c) Consolidate data and information about behaviour and situations that place the young people, including adolescents, at risk of HIV/AIDS and STD infection and the reasons for such behaviours.
- d) Build up the capacity of community-based organizations so that they become key instruments in education and action at the local level (grass root level), creating awareness about the HIV virus and its social and health-related

implications.

- e) Promote strategies that seek to involve young people actively in programmes that are directed at improving the health and environment of the community in which they live.
- f) Develop programmes addressing special health needs and concerns of the differently-abled young people and migrants.
- g) Through School Health Services and other similar programmes annual health checkups may be conducted to monitor the Health periodically.

7.5 Sports and recreation facilities

- a) The ministry recognizes the importance of promoting sporting activities among youth so as to aid the physical and mental development. In the PYKA and USIS Scheme promoted by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the sporting needs of urban and rural youth are sought to be channelized and realized.
- b) The importance of sports and recreational activities for the health and physical well-being of the young people cannot be underestimated. These activities are also a key element of human resource development. They make a positive impact on youth; improve productivity; foster social harmony; and promote self-discipline and team spirit and enhancing national image.
- c) While for some young persons, sports and other forms of arts and entertainment, such as music, drama, arts and crafts may become rewarding career, for others, these activities may provide wholesome recreation and opportunities for healthy social interaction. By engaging in such mentally and physically stimulating interests, young people may be dissuaded from getting involved in harmful or anti-social pursuits.
- d) India has earned a place in sports through its recent performances in the Commonwealth and the Asian Games, but to improve its position and move ahead, it must progress in all matters relating to sports and recreation – training facilities, equipment for the athletes and sportspersons, infrastructure for sports and other recreational activities. Sports and recreational activities should be integrated with youth development programmes.

Policy interventions

- a) Ensure training and basic coaching facilities for rural youth in various sports and recreational activities.
- b) Promote traditional sports, folk arts and local cultural activities.

7.6 Promoting gender justice and equality

- a) The problems and issues related to Indian women and their vulnerability are well known. It is recognised that the problems are deep-rooted in the society and will require enormous efforts to weed them out of our society. The high female infant mortality rates; the practice of female foeticide; neglect of female children with regard to access to health services, nutrition and education; violence in the family and outside it; and sexual abuse of girls are some of the critical issues that need to be urgently addressed.
- b) Because of their accessibility and direct communication with the communities, young people are, perhaps, in a uniquely advantageous position to play a very crucial role in educating local communities on the problems and concerns of young women, including adolescent girls and LGBT Youth and empowering them for action.

Policy interventions

- a) Set up a functional and vibrant network of state-sponsored youth development agencies, voluntary organisations, and civil society groups that are engaged in activities focusing on gender justice and equality, both at the national and local levels. It needs to be acknowledged that action at the local level where the problem is rooted is crucial.
- b) Another aspect of this approach is that as part of the family, young people themselves can be instrumental in shaping attitudes and fostering values that will eliminate all forms of discrimination against women.
- c) Youth clubs and the youth volunteer force should be engaged in intensive educational programme – through massive campaigns, media interventions, and use of traditional arts – to focus on issues and problems related to the growing up of a girl child and of young women, such as, female foeticide, domestic violence, care of young mothers, and education of girl child.
- d) Mainstream and minority gender concerns should be on the agenda of all youth development activities. The functioning of the agencies to bring about qualitative change in the attitude towards women and sexual minorities should be prioritize.

7.7 Participation in community service

- a) Youth volunteering is an effective strategy for building strong youth and strong communities. Through volunteering, young people not only help the community in realising its full potential and addressing its problems, but they also emerge with:
 - A strong sense of civic responsibility;
 - Social and interactive skills;
 - Professional skills in new areas of their work;
 - Greater sensitivity to the needs and concerns of the community, especially of those belonging to socially and economically depressed

- sections of the society;
- Enhanced self-esteem and self-confidence;
- Stronger commitment and dedication to national development
- A sense of purpose and a desire to reach their goals; &
- Positive and affirmative behaviour and attitudes.

Policy interventions

- a) Promote youth volunteerism through a set of initiatives and incentives that will help them take to voluntary service, empower youth clubs through a programme of training, counseling and guidance, to make them effective instrument of social change and active partner in the economic development of the community, thus enhancing the level of their social and economic inclusion.
- b) Take necessary steps to ensure that the experiences provided to the youth volunteers has value beyond the period of volunteerism and they are assisted in developing traits and competencies that will help them confront challenges of life with self-belief and in an effective manner.
- c) Undertake a comprehensive review of the existing programme of the Ministry through which young people are engaged in community service and bring about such changes that will make this participation an enriching and stimulating experience for the volunteers and create an impact in the life of the communities.
- d) Community service and social entrepreneurship will be adopted as a major programme of all state-sponsored youth development agencies. A set of incentives will be evolved to strengthen the programme further.

7.9 Social justice and action against unhealthy social practices

- a) There exist certain unhealthy social practices like dowry child marriage, female infanticide and honour killings and decisions by Khap Panchayats which need to be addressed.

Policy intervention

- a) The task of rooting out long-embedded unhealthy social practices from the community requires concerted local action through a sustained programme of education of the community people and dialogue with leaders and elders. The role of voluntary organisations working in the community and officials of various related departments is also crucial and should be adhered to.

7.10. Issues related to environment, its conservation and preservation

- a) As recognised by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the involvement of youth in environment and development decision-making is critical to the implementation of policies of sustainable development and many aspects of the MDG. Young people should be involved in designing and implementing appropriate environmental policies.
- b) Around the world, the confluence of improved information technology, access to education, and the rise of civic organisations have led to an increased awareness by youth and their communities as to their potential contribution through voluntary action. In India, a number of voluntary organisations (Chipko movement, Narmada Bachao Andolan etc) have come up during the last two decades that are emphasising the crucial role young people can play in environment-related programmes; and in working with communities in creating greater awareness about environment issues.

Policy interventions

- a) The Ministry of Youth Affairs will work closely with the Ministry of Environment and Forests, International organisations, and voluntary organisations for the implementation of environment-related programmes and projects with enhanced involvement of young women and men. These agencies have access to a wide-range of resources, including information on environment issues, expertise in the field and funds.
- b) Have a close working relationship with NDMA so as to train youth on disaster management and related issues.
- c) Associate with local-level self-government agencies, community-based groups, and voluntary organisations for concerted action and convergence of efforts and resources at the local level.

7.11 Youth and local governance, including support to state-sponsored programmes and schemes

- a) It is important that youth are encouraged to take interest in decision-making activities at the local level and that opportunities are created to ensure their active participation in civic matters. For the continuing health of our robust democracy, youth engagement in representative bodies at the local level operating in rural or urban areas is important. They can bring in a perspective that will look not only at present but at future as well.
- b) Participation of young people will also mean that there is greater accountability of these bodies to the people. Young people should get productively engaged, preferably through youth groups or organisations, directly or indirectly in assessing the performance of the service provider or programme-implementing

agencies. Individual voices may not carry the message strongly to these agencies but if the feedback is supported by the majority of the beneficiaries, there will be positive results.

- c) Participation of young people and interventions on behalf of the community will integrate youth with their communities and establish a bond. Youth need to be involved in monitoring the programmes at village / Panchayat level, which will improve the quality and bring down misuse and corruption.

Policy intervention

- a) The youth selected/elected in Local Government will be provided training through RGNIYD and its partner institutions so as to ensure that they can work effectively in the local panchayats and municipal bodies.

8. Policy implementation and coordinating mechanism

8.1 Key strategies for the implementation

- a) The NYP 2012 sets out broad parameters for policies and for planning programmes for the youth across the country. In our country, there are numerous variables that impact the life of young women and men and as a result, there may be some state or region-specific needs and concerns of young people that are not adequately reflected in this document. It is, therefore, suggested that, keeping the overall national perspective set out in this document in view, each state should enunciate its own State Youth Policy. Accordingly, the states may also develop additional programmes to respond to the specific needs of the youth of the respective state.
- b) Many Central Ministries, such as, Ministries of Human Resource Development, Rural Development, Women's Welfare, Environment, Health, Labour, and Industry, have significant components of their policies and programmes that are relevant to young people. Keeping this in view, inter-sectoral approach is imperative for dealing with youth-related issues. In view of this, the NYP 2012, consistent with the suggestion made in earlier Policy documents, advocates the establishment of a strong coordinating mechanism at the Centre and state levels. The State Coordinating Committee may be chaired by the Chief Minister of the state or a senior member of the cabinet. This will ensure optimum utilisation of resources available with different ministries and departments and streamline policy and programme interventions. For monitoring the implementation of the programmes under the Policy 2012, these Coordinating Committees (national and state levels) may also set up special Task Force for each of the thrust areas. This task force may set out criteria and draw up a list of indicators for measuring the progress at the national, state, district and panchayat levels in the implementation of programmes under respective thrust area. Relevant data may be collected from different implementing agencies and collated to prepare annual reports – indicating the progress, identifying gaps in the programmes, and recommending

further action. The programmes may be evaluated on the basis of 'Youth Development Index' developed by the RGNIYD.

- c) There is a need for convergence of efforts and resources of the state-sponsored youth-related agencies, voluntary sector engaged in social development activities, international agencies, and the corporate world for the promotion of youth development programme in India. This calls for the establishment of a functional mechanism for coordinating these efforts as part of an on-going, productive, and valuable partnership at the state level. However, networking with voluntary organisations and collaboration with them has to be at the micro as well as macro levels and on a sustained basis and not just for a project or a programme. This will help democratise youth development and make it broad-based by bringing in more agencies as partners and stakeholders.
- d) National Youth Forum like NYKS and NSS will provide a formal and on-going platform to young people from different states and regions, to deliberate on their emerging needs and areas of concerns. This Forum will also provide the Central government with an active mechanism to consult youth and get their perspective on matters and issues of national importance.
- e) RGNIYD has been tasked for mobilizing fund from different sources like donor agencies, corporate sectors, international agencies, donation, contribution, etc. for the wide implementation of the policy and the action plans related to youth.
- f) In the NYKS scheme the mentor youth clubs will be specially responsible for sourcing for—information on youth-related issues and programmes and disseminate it to the rural clubs or young people living in the area covered by the centre. State government can support by identifying suitable land at ideal place at District Headquarter. Funds from MPLAD/MLA can utilize for infrastructure facilities. Similarly for every block, there will be a Youth Information and Resource Centre (YIRC). Greater cooperation among the youth clubs and people's institutions, such as, panchayats and other community-based organisations shall be effected for more concerted action at the local level. It needs to be acknowledged that action at the local level where the problem is rooted is crucial and young people's energy and zeal should be fully utilised for the purpose. Empowering the people at that level and making them accountable are crucial for optimum results.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

- a) The NYP 2012, upon finalization will set out a comprehensive Plan of Action, indicating programmes and activities that may be undertaken in each of the 11 thrust areas. It is likely that the some of these programmes are already been implemented by the state-sponsored youth development agencies, such as, NYKS, NSS, and the RGNIYD. It is suggested that after a process of analysis and assessment, the programmes that are found to be useful in keeping with their objectives should be further strengthened or extended. Other suggested

programmes may be implemented in phases over the next few years as this document is designed to look beyond 2012.

- b) For effective monitoring and evaluation of each of the programmes, the implementing agency may draw up a set of criteria and prepare necessary tools and instruments for the purpose. Accordingly, 'action taken' reports may be prepared for future planning and reference.
- c) A specifically designed Youth Development Index (YDI) shall be utilized to compare and evaluate the effectiveness of the various action plans undertaken as a part of the National Youth Policy.

10. Role of the RGNIYD

- a) There is a need to provide a sound professional base to the functioning of the NYKS, NCC, NSS and NGOs working with youth and strengthen the various management processes. The RGNIYD has a major role in helping the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports to realise this goal.
- b) The RGNIYD should extend professional support to enhance the capacity of the youth development agencies, especially NYKS, NSS, NCC and NGOs for effective implementation of programmes and services envisaged in the Policy. This will include:
 - i. Organising short-term and long-term training programmes for senior and middle-level functionaries of youth organisations that do not have their in-house training facilities;
 - ii. Providing documentation and allied materials on youth-related issues;
 - iii. Developing models of good practice in programme areas;
 - iv. Extending consultancy services; and
 - v. Assisting these agencies in developing more responsive programme initiatives for the young women and men.
- c) Set up a Resource Centre on information related to youth. This resource centre should bring together quantitative as well as qualitative data on all aspects of the life of Indian youth, youth-related issues and matters, and on the organisations engaged in youth development activities. This could be done by designing and carrying out research projects on youth-related issues. These data will help the Ministry and other agencies, state-sponsored or voluntary, in determining various policy and programme options.

- d) Establish and nurture a network of youth-related agencies for enhanced agency-agency interaction and collaboration for furthering youth development programmes under the National Youth Policy 2012.
- e) Prepare the Youth Development Index (YDI), for evaluation and monitoring of the plans under the National Youth Policy.

11. Review of the National Youth Policy

The NYP 2012 may be reviewed in 2022 after collation with the data generated through census 2021.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

Youth form an integral part of any society and are an essential part of the development process. India is a 'young' nation. As per Census of India 2001, the size of youth population in the country is 422.3 million, with 219 million males and 203 million females comprising of above 41 percent of the total Indian population. Youth population in the age group 16-30 years is expected to increase over the coming years as per available trends.

The creation of a youth development index is expected to contribute in three ways. One, it would help to recognize youth as a population category that requires separate consideration. For instance, despite the existence of a national youth policy for the past 20 years, in many quarters youth as a significant category have not got recognition. Second, development of a summary index would help to make comparison possible across geographical areas and categories, as human development index has done in comparing the development situation across regions, nations and localities. Third, the proposed index, apart from measuring the achievement made (in comparison with other societies and in comparison with the past), would help in advocacy activities related to youth development in general and of specific categories in particular.

The youth development index would provide a basic idea of the relative level in a particular society or a category of youth within a society, a comprehensive understanding of youth development could be achieved only if the index is studied along with information on so many other facets of youth development.

Objectives

1. Construct Youth Development Index which can be used across the country by the State, academia, and other organizations/institutions in civil society, to ascertain the status of youth vis-à-vis the systemic dimensions which influence their growth and empowerment.
2. Understand and analyse the status of youth in the country vis-à-vis the objectives of the National Youth Policy 2012 (NYP2012).
3. Obtain perceptions of youth about the factors that facilitate/impinge on their growth and empowerment.
4. Provide policy makers with a tool and data to formulate programmes for youth.

Principles for Construction of YDI

The Youth development index aims at substantial contribution to the situational analysis of development of youth across the sections of society. In order to build a comprehensive index, the following principles are considered.

1. The YDI would be 'youth centered'.
2. Youth are not a homogenous group and differences across the categories mentioned below would be studied.
 - *Location: urban, rural , tribal*
 - *Terrain : hills, plains*
 - *Shelter : those with shelter, homeless*
 - *Economic class : upper, middle and lower*
 - *Gender : male, female,*
 - *Sexual orientations*
 - *Role :student, non-student; employed , unemployed*

Among the categories mentioned above, there is a large proportion of youth who are socially marginalized.

These are rural and tribal youth; out of school youth; adolescents particularly female youth; youth with disability, and youth under specially difficult circumstances like victims of trafficking, orphans and street children.

1. Youth are shaped by all their experiences from birth.
2. The dimensions of the YDI would consider and include two facets of 'youth'.
3. A group that has specific life goals and tasks related to their stage of growth. e.g., education, identity, work, family (Youth Development)
4. A group that can be mobilized for social and cultural change e.g., participation in societal issues (Youth for Development).
5. The YDI will aim to obtain objective data [e.g., access to systems and services, status

in each dimension] and subjective interpretations [e.g., factors facilitating/ blocking access and participation] by the youth.

6. The themes are derived from the major documents which have addressed the issues related to youth, globally in the Indian context.
7. The YDI will be based on the HDI model, but certain themes would be added considering the youth's specific characteristics and Rights. It would be a standardized tool to measure certain critical areas of youth development. It is not intended to study and evaluate all aspects of youth development.

The five domains of the YDI would be Health, Education, Employment, Amenities and Participation. Since there would be several indicators within each domain, comparing variation in data would filter out those indicators that would show meaningful variability.

Two Youth Development Indices could be constructed. One for states with primary data available for all domain indicators and the second for states with secondary data available for all domain indicators. Gender dimension as well as a correction for sex ratio in the youth population, would be considered while computing the youth development indices.

Selected Indicators

Health:

- % Assisted/Institutional delivery (represents access)
- Life expectancy at age 15 (represents outcome)
- % youth- Non-Anemic (represents outcome)
- Body Mass Index (represents outcome)

Education:

- Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER secondary +GER tertiary) (represents access)
- Level of education attained (literate, primary, secondary, tertiary, vocational) (represents outcome)

Work:

- Work participation rate (represents outcome)
- Available days of work in a year per youth (represents access)

Amenities

Basic Amenities

- Access to safe water
- Type of house
- Access to electricity
- Toilet facility

Youth Amenities

- Information
- Communication
- Technology

Participation

- Percentage of youth aged 18 and above who have enrolled as a voter
- Percentage of those voted in the last election among those enrolled as a voter
- While the chosen dimensions would be given equal weights in the YDI, differential weights would be given to sub indexes within a dimension and to indicators within sub-dimensions.

The sub-indexes are:

YHIf = Youth Health Index for Female

YHIm = Youth Health Index for Male

YEIf = Youth Education Index for Female

YEIm = Youth Education Index for Male

YWIf = Youth Work Index for Female

YWIm = Youth Work Index for Male

YAIIf = Youth Amenities Index for Female

YAIIm = Youth Amenities Index for Male

YPIIf = Youth Participation Index for Female

YPIIm = Youth Participation Index for Male

YDIIf = Youth Development Index for Female

YDIIm = Youth Development Index for Male

YDI = Youth Development Index

Considering four (health, education, work and amenities) dimensions based on secondary data, the YDI for males would be calculated as follows:

$$YDI_m = 1 - \frac{\sqrt{(1-YHI_m)^2 + (1-YEI_m)^2 + (1-YWI_m)^2 + (1-YAI_m)^2}}{\sqrt{4}}$$

In the same way YDI would be computed for females.

In case of considering five (health, education, work, amenities and participation) dimensions, the YDI for males and females would be computed as

$$YDI_m = 1 - \frac{\sqrt{(1-YHI_m)^2 + (1-YEI_m)^2 + (1-YWI_m)^2 + (1-YAI_m)^2 + (1-YPI_m)^2}}{\sqrt{5}}$$

YDI = Youth Development Index

= (Proportion of Female * YDI_f) + (Proportion of Male * YDI_m)

$$YDI = P_f * YDI_f + P_m * YDI_m$$

YGDI = Youth Gender Development Index

$$YGDI = \left(P_f * (YDI_f)^{-1} + P_m * (YDI_m)^{-1} \right)^{-1}$$

YGDISR = Youth Gender Development Index adjusted for Sex-ratio

= Sex-ratio Correction Factor * YGDI

$$YGDI_{SR} = \gamma * YGDI$$

$$= \frac{\min(P_f, P_m)}{0.5} * \left(P_f * (YDI_f)^{-1} + P_m * (YDI_m)^{-1} \right)^{-1}$$

Firstly, the YDI would be computed with the four dimensions of health, education, work, and amenities. This index would then be adjusted initially for gender disparity (Youth Gender Development Index) and sex ratio (Youth Gender Development Index Adjusted for Sex ratio). Subsequently, the YDI would be calculated. This will also be adjusted for the gender disparity and sex ratio. In both the cases, the YDI would be initially computed separately for males and females.

The process of construction of the index would be conducted periodically to provide an opportunity to regularly and comprehensively assess the situation of youth across the country.

“Arise! Awake! And stop not till the goal is reached”

Comments and suggestions may be sent at

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