

# **Jharkhand Youth Policy**

**2007**

# Contents

**Preamble**

**Rationale**

Situation of youth in Jharkhand

- Employment and Livelihood
- Arts, Sports, and Culture
- Institutional Arrangements
- Youth Vulnerability
- Disadvantaged Communities

**Vision**

**Goal**

**Objectives**

**Strategic Direction**

- Art, Culture, and Sports
- Education
- Health
- Livelihood and Employment
- Institutional Capacity Building
- Mission Orientation
- Protection of Youth

**Implementation Mechanism**

## **Preamble**

Youth are the key ingredients and most important beneficiaries of national development. They also form the largest segment of the population. The Jharkhand Youth Policy 2007 reiterates the commitment of the State of Jharkhand to promote holistic development of youth in the state in consonance with the National Youth Policy, 2003.

The policy seeks especially to secure the rights of disadvantaged and marginalised youth. They will be assisted to overcome real or perceived discrimination, achieve their personal goals, and meaningfully contribute to national reconstruction and social change. . The policy will help create a positive environment for promoting right of young people, equipping them with knowledge, self-esteem and life skills and advocate for provision of necessary services. A proactive approach, attention to rights, gender responsiveness, focuses on reinforcement of national and civic values, etc. are significant characteristics of this policy.

Thrust areas of the policy cover art and culture; sports; education; employment and livelihood; health; protection of youth; mission orientation; and improving youth-friendly services. Youth organisations will be empowered for the purpose. In the design of services and delivery mechanisms, the emphasis will be on promotion of equity, efficiency, quality, friendliness, and accountability. The Department of Art, Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs will be the coordinating agency.

## **Rationale**

Youth are defined as individuals between ages *10 to 30 years*. Youth constitutes the largest segment of the population of India and Jharkhand. Youth being the primary productive human resource the socio-economic development of youth contributes directly to the development process. It is, therefore, necessary to make youth the principle focus of developmental endeavors of society.

The state of Jharkhand has a diverse youth population in terms of ethnic origin, religion, and socio-economic milieu. There are 32 scheduled tribes and hundreds of other communities with their distinctive customs, cultures, and values. Such diversities require customised initiatives to meet the needs of youth. While the National Youth Policy 2003 addresses the needs of youth comprehensively, in implementation it needs to be tailored to the unique circumstances of any state. The policy will seek to harness the strength of the youth of Jharkhand such as the dedication, honesty, simplicity, interest in sports and cultural activity and love for culture and values.

## Situation of youth in Jharkhand

The state of Jharkhand came into existence as the 28th state of the Indian republic in AD 2000. It accounts for 40% of the mineral resources of the nation. It also has 2.38 million hectares of forests spread over nearly 29.0% of land area. Cultivable land is about 37.5% of land area. The net sown area measures 29.74 lakh hectares. Assured irrigation is available for over one-tenth of the cultivable area.

In spite of this bounty of natural resources, the state remains underdeveloped. About 12.5% of households do not get two square meals a day (NSSO, 55th Round) and 46% of the population lives below the poverty line. Only 75.4% of households have safe drinking water and 16.8% have toilet facility. Approximately 15.2% households have electricity connection and only 15% of rural areas have electricity supply. The road network density is 21.40 km per 100 sq km. There is a shortage of 37% health sub-centres, 64% primary health centres, and 82% community health centres.

Infant mortality rate is 50 per 1000 live births. Maternal mortality rate is 504 per 100,000 deliveries. The median age at marriage is 15.8. Total fertility rate is 2.76. Couple protection rate (CPR) is only 27.6%. Anaemia among women is high at 72.9%.

At the count of the Census of India, 2001, the state had a population of 26,945,829, of which youth constituted 37.97%, of them 51.9% male and 48.1% female. A sizable majority of them (75.34%) reside in rural areas and 24.66% in urban areas. 25.35% of the youth belong to scheduled tribes and 11.65% to scheduled castes. The sex ratio is 926.

The literacy rate of the state is 53.6%, with 38.9% female literacy and 67.3% male literacy. Total work force participation is 37.5%. Total male workforce is 48.0% and female workforce is 26.4%. Employment in the state stands lowest in the country at 63.8% of main workers to all workers; conversely, the share of marginal workers (36.2%) is the highest in the country. About 38.5% of the employed persons are cultivators and 28.2% agricultural labour as compared to 4.3% of industrial workers.

Key concerns related to youth in Jharkhand are lack of educational facilities, lack of information, lack of recreational avenues, and inadequate health services. Coupled with these are issues of gender discrimination, superstition, including witch hunting, unsafe sex and unsafe motherhood. Poor employment prospects are a major cause of high level of migration, increasing incidence of substance abuse, especially in urban areas, and increasing crime.

### EMPLOYMENT AND LIVELIHOOD

Current daily status (CDS) unemployment is higher in Jharkhand than the national average. Unemployment is higher in urban areas than in rural areas. Rural females had the lowest CDS unemployment rate (5.1%), whereas urban females had the highest CDS unemployment rate (11.5%). There is gender disparity in employment opportunities.

It is seen from Table 1 that in the age group 15-19, unemployment (25.28%) is much higher than the national average (14.40%). Roughly one in every four youth is unemployed.

**Table 1. Unemployment across Age Groups, 1999-2000**

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Jharkhand</i>	<i>India</i>
15-19	25.28	14.40
20-24	16.91	13.50
25-29	10.53	9.20
30-34	5.72	5.80
35-39	3.72	4.60
40-44	3.75	4.20
45-49	4.36	3.90
50-54	4.02	3.90
55-59	5.05	4.00
60 and above	4.83	3.50

*Source:* The estimates of employment and unemployment by NSSO are derived on three concepts. Under the *Usual Status* concept the reference period is one year and the activity status of a person as employed, unemployed or out of labour force is determined on the basis of activity pursued by him for the major part of the year. On the *Current Weekly Status* criterion, a person is considered as employed or unemployed if he has worked or has not worked though was available for work, respectively, even for one hour during the week. Under the *Current Daily Status* approach, the unit of classification is half a day.

Most of the workforce is engaged in agriculture; wage labour, major and minor forest-produce-based livelihood, animal husbandry, household industry, mining and quarrying. Employment in service and industrial sectors is generally limited to urban industrial pockets of the state.

Some of the livelihood options of rural households, such as agriculture and non-timber forest produce (NTFP) are under threat because of considerable depletion of the resource base. There is excessive and unsustainable 5-7% deforestation each year. Many tribal groups were once used to primarily forest-based sustenance livelihood. Because of the declining resources base there is large-scale seasonal and concurrent migration to urban areas.

#### ARTS, SPORTS, AND CULTURE

The youth of Jharkhand retain the resilient spirit and basic urge for creative self-expression of the state. The state has a rich heritage of traditional arts, visual and oral history preserved through numerous dialects and local languages. Natural paintings such as Pyatkar, Sohrai, Kohbar and Jadopatia are excellent media of oral history. The festivals and fairs are closely related to the ethos of the tribal lifestyle and cultural identity.

Sports persons from Jharkhand have been flag-bearers of national teams in various international sports events. The traditional and modern sports are closely attached with the identity of young people of Jharkhand. Sports like Archery, Football, Hockey, Kho-Kho, and Kabaddi have witnessed the successful participation of Jharkhand youth. But the recent

trend of overemphasis on a few sports and the lack of incentives and infrastructure have stunted the growth potential of sports talent.

#### INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Among the programmes focusing on the development of character, leadership, and management of civil services, diagnose social maladies and mobilise responses among youth are the following:

*National Cadet Corps:* This has enrolment of About 26,000 cadets of both the sexes from high schools and undergraduate institutions. This aims at exposing cadets to armed forces as also developing strong character, leadership qualities, problem solving skills etc.

*National Service Scheme:* This too caters to college going students and endeavors to sensitise them to social issues around them, develop skills to diagnose social maladies and formulate and mobilise cogent responses to them. It has an enrolment of is about 25,000.

*Scouts and Guides:* Scouts and Guides cater to school going students. Its aims are similar to above schemes; however, there is a focus on skills to handle emergencies and disasters, management of civic services etc.

*Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan:* This organisation caters to out of school rural youth, and promotes youth clubs as the main instrument for its activities. There are over 6000 youth clubs in Jharkhand with approximate enrolment of about 2 lakh youth.

A skeleton staff deals with these programmes. They have, by and large, little exposure to new thinking. District-level advisory committees for youth development are mostly concerned with programmatic aspects related to government. There is little interaction with civil society organisations. The reach of the latter is limited partly due to lack of funds, lopsided coverage, lack of technical and organisational resources, and shortage of institutions offering such services.

The two major state-level institutions engaged in capacity building of government and non-government functionaries, i.e. Shri Krishna Institute of Public administration (SKIPPA), also known as Administrative Training Institute, and State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD), are mostly meant for government employees.

#### YOUTH VULNERABILITY

The vulnerability of youth is mainly due to lack of formal schooling, poor access to information, early marriage, lack of decision-making power, poverty leading to migration, and presence of sexual exploitation at home and work. In the absence of adequate support and services at home and society, youth are susceptible to risky behaviour, including substance abuse, migration, and trafficking, delinquency, and mental and physical challenges.

Many in the name of culture and traditions support the practice of “Hadiya” alcohol consumption. Alcoholism is the root cause of poverty, premarital sex, and domestic violence. Smoking, gutkha consumption and other substance abuse also are increasing. Rural

youth are more prone to cannabis. Urban youth are more habituated to synthetic opiates such as heroin, brown sugar, etc. Consumption of substitutes—schedule H medicines, shoe polish, dendrite, etc. has also been increasing. More than 60% of substance abuse occurs in the age group of 10-25. Neglected children get easily trapped in the vicious cycle of substance abuse and deviant behaviour. Injectable drug abuse and sharing of needles is a major reason of HIV infection among youth.

Migration and trafficking problems are more prominent in youth and adolescents. Migration is mainly caused by poverty and lack of education facilities and livelihood opportunities. The reported level of trafficking from Jharkhand is the highest in India. In the year 2004, over 500,000 migrants in Delhi and Mumbai each were reported from Bihar/Jharkhand. 89% of them were from rural areas and 50% were in the age group of 15-25. 55% of the male migrants and 32% of female migrants originated in Bihar and Jharkhand. (Source: National Labour Institute, “Migration and Vulnerability to HIV/AIDS”, 2005, Ministry of Labour. Note: Bihar figures include Jharkhand.)

Displacement due to industrial development projects is also a major problem. During 1960-80, 22.5 lakh acres of land was acquired for different industrial development projects. Due to land alienation the proportion of wage labourers went up from 9% to 21%. The worst affected by this displacement were the youth.

The reported figures of the National Crime Records Bureau depict a substantial number of youth engaged in crime like rape, kidnapping, dowry death, domestic violence, molestation, etc. The youth and adolescents are the victims as well.

Twenty-one out of 22 districts in the state are Naxal affected. There has been considerable loss of life in recent years due to Naxal violence. The youngsters join these extremist groups, in the absence of appropriate livelihood or recreational opportunities. Poor socio-economic development also contributes to such deviant behaviour.

Physically and mentally challenged youth fall prey to several kinds of exploitation. Lack of empathy among family and society makes them more vulnerable.

#### DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

Over one quarter of the youth population in the state belongs to the tribal communities. They have a close association with nature, hardworking lifestyle, distinct and wholesome cultural practices and love sports and games. Most of them reside in rural areas, some in very remote areas.

The tribal youth today is disillusioned due to lack of basic amenities of life, unavailability of livelihood opportunities and long and continuing tradition of exploitation. The literacy level among tribal youth is quite low in comparison to average literacy in the state. Especially among tribal women it is as low as 10% in some parts of the state. The major reason behind low literacy among women is high drop out rate of tribal girls. The illiteracy and low awareness among them make them more vulnerable towards various problems like, malnutrition, poor health status, superstitions etc.



The Primitive Tribal Groups (PTG) have a population of 1,92,425. Approximately 70% of PTG families belong to below poverty line. The literacy rate in the state is 54.6% but literacy among PTGs is merely 16.87%. PTGs are prone to malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea, TB and the like and face the threat of extinction. Lack of basic amenities, non-availability of livelihood opportunities and long history of exploitation have disillusioned the tribal youth. The overall socio-economic and cultural scenario in the state indicates the backwardness of the larger populace. There is a mutually beneficial relationship between the larger development and the youth development. The development of state and nation and youth development are the two interdependent aspects and needs to be addressed in a holistic manner. The proposed policy suggests a comprehensive approach of overall development of the youth and to address the larger goal of socio-economic and cultural transformation of state and nation.

## **Vision**

The Government of Jharkhand commits itself to helping the youth of the state to achieve the highest level of physical, mental and social attainments through processes that will empower local communities, be affordable to the state and its citizens, be equitable and gender sensitive, and improve the quality of life of its citizens.

In this endeavour, the state shall respond to the needs of young people and will be guided by principles of transparency, accountability and community participation involving stakeholders from the public, private and non-Government organisations to create a society wherein individuals enjoy healthy productive lives in harmony with their social responsibilities and contribute to a national resurgence.

## **Goal**

The policy will foster a culture of youth empowerment and participation in decision-making by providing an enabling environment, which reduces vulnerabilities and increases the capacity of service providers to provide accessible, relevant and high-quality youth-friendly services. The approach will be multi-sectoral, by inculcating values and respect for culture and nation building. The endeavour will be to achieve parity with the national average indicators in the areas of literacy, employment level and income, health and nutritional levels and gender equality in the next five years; and to lift these indicators to match the best of the country among the large states by 2020. The necessary institutional capacity will be developed.

## Objectives

- To reinforce in the youth the spirit of volunteerism and adherence to secular principles and inculcate a commitment to the goals of national reconstruction in general and that of Jharkhand in particular.
- To promote formal education, vocational education and training opportunities for youth and facilitate access to information, guidance and employment.
- To provide comprehensive youth-friendly health services ensuring universal access to promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative healthcare.
- To create an enabling environment for sustainable, rightful and gainful livelihood, employment, financial credit and other services.
- To preserve and promote traditional art, culture and heritage and promote healthy lifestyle through engagement in sports and physical activities, including traditional sports.
- In this endeavour, to involve the youth closely in planning and implementation.

## Strategic Direction

### ART, CULTURE, AND SPORTS

*Art and Culture.* To encourage the youth of the state to protect, preserve and promote its rich cultural heritage and traditions efforts for excellence will be promoted in different arts and crafts. The policy supports and encourages folk, classical and modern art and culture and their harmonised growth. Promising artisans will be encouraged to present their work in various platforms. Master craftsmen and artisans and traditional artists will be encouraged to train young performers. There will also be emphasis on including heritage appreciation in the formal education curriculum. Traditional performing, visual and fine arts will be promoted at the state, national and international level. Use of local dialects and tribal languages will be encouraged.

Textiles and handicrafts will be promoted through community-based enterprises. Infrastructure will be promoted for training of traditional artisans and crafts persons in the use of effective technology and better packaging. Brand identity of indigenous handicrafts, food and beverages will be promoted and markets identified. Regional arts institutes and academies on traditional art forms will conduct the required surveys.

A college of visual and performing arts will be set up. Other envisaged institutions are a resource centre, exhibition parks and kalagams (crafts village) to undertake and facilitate training programmes. The resource centre will house facilities of rehearsal, library, and reading room. There will be greater coordination with art and culture institutions at the national level such as Sangeet Natak Akademi, National School of Drama, Film and Television Institute, and zonal cultural centres. State youth festivals will be organised on the lines of national youth festivals. Incentives to promising talent will include scholarships and awards. A committee comprising experts on tribal and folk culture will advise the Government.

*Sports.* Physical education and sports will be included in the school and university curriculum. Universal norms will be set for schools and colleges for provision of sports and recreational facilities. Coaching facilities and scholarships will be made available to talented youth. Sports academies will work to promote excellence in traditional sports to meet national and international standards. Private-public partnerships will be encouraged to create sports facilities. Special training camps for students will be organised during vacations. A cadre of qualified sports trainers, sports scientists, umpires and referees will also be created.

A transparent selection process for sporting talent at every level will be established in association with different sports bodies. Educational institutions, local self-government bodies and private bodies will be involved in universalising sports. The focus would be on promoting rural sports persons and sports like hockey, football, long distance running, and archery. The media will be mobilised for popularising sports.

All high schools will be provided with physical education teachers. In middle schools at least one teacher will be trained in physical education. State and district-level sports libraries will

be set up with scope of networking between them. Incentives for distinguished sports persons will include insurance and job opportunities.

## EDUCATION

Free and universal elementary education, access to secondary education, and vocational training to all out-of-school youth will be ensured. Radical steps to improve enrolment, attendance, universal retention, reduce dropout rates and substantial improvement in quality of education will be the mainstay of the policy. The major thrust of these programmes will be to promote literacy among young females, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, and first-time learners, particularly in rural areas. The policy aims to bridge gender and social category gaps in elementary education by 2010.

The Government will ensure location of middle and high schools to provide reasonable access. Enrolment and retention in the programme will be encouraged through scholarships, bridge courses, remedial camps, hostels, well-equipped schools with interesting pedagogy, parental motivation, library and such other measures. Youth clubs, mahila mandals, and self-help groups will be encouraged to involve their members in programmes like Sarva Sikhshya Abhiyan and Total Literacy Campaign.

Secondary and higher education will have a high degree of vocationalisation. The syllabus in high schools will provide for curricular and co-curricular activities. Economically backward sections of society will be provided free education till secondary education.

Technical institutions will be strengthened and increased keeping in view regional balance and the emergence of the state as a major workforce. Non-profit, non-partisan professional development organisations will be encouraged to provide information and network opportunities for skill development and help youth to participate in the democratic processes in the state. The curriculum will include special courses on art, music and traditional handicrafts. The educational system will address the varied needs of agriculture, agro industries and other areas of rural economy while also promoting new thrust areas like Information Technology, Management, Marketing, and Finance.

Open and distant learning will be recognised on par with on-campus education. Polytechnics, community colleges, and technology parks will be established at the state and district level. The quality of education being imparted will be constantly monitored.

Special facilities like scholarships, hostel facilities etc. would be provided to female students to promote higher education among females. Specially designed vocational courses for girl students will be run in educational institutions. Tribal groups will be provided non-formal learning centres with focus on livelihood, life skills and health. All districts will be provided with a well-equipped library with internet connectivity.

A State Council for Education Research and Training (SCERT) will be set up to develop curriculum. The role of state educational resource centres in adult education will be expanded. The state will encourage and provide financial assistance to voluntary agencies to

run post-literacy and continuing education programmes at district levels to provide greater opportunity for youth and reduce youth migration.

## HEALTH

The State commits itself to comprehensive youth-friendly primary healthcare, ensuring universal access to promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative healthcare linked to good referral systems responsive to the health needs and aspirations of youth. The commitment implies equitable distribution, community participation, inter-sectoral coordination, use of appropriate technology, and accountability. Curative care at primary level will include access to essential drugs, trained healthcare provider access to a centre providing hospitalisation, and basic emergency care for injury or accidents.

Information regarding healthful practices and health services for youth will be widely disseminated through youth clubs and similar youth institutions. Promotion of healthy lifestyle and protection from harmful addictions such as tobacco and liquor would be important components of comprehensive healthcare.

The greatest cause of malnutrition among youth is hunger caused by poverty and the best remedy is equitable development. The key to food security is strengthening and universalising the public distribution system and ensuring employment guarantee or unemployment benefits. Efforts are also needed to improve public understanding of good dietary habits. These would be promoted through appropriate nutrition education programmes.

The policy will ensure providing information, guidance and counselling services to youth and orienting parents about the needs, issues and constraints of youth. Specific programmes on nutrition, anaemia, delaying age at marriage and reproductive health will be introduced. The services will be made youth-friendly, non-judgmental, guarantee privacy, and affordable and convenient to access.

Mass screening and counselling would identify and immediately minimise anaemia caused by iron deficiency. It would also contribute to identifying sickle-cell diseases among youth, leading to a reduction of the disease in the next generation.

Population stabilisation goals like adequate spacing and delaying age of the women at marriage and at first birth and the goals of HIV/AIDS control programmes can be made only in a context where youth are fully informed and can make responsible choices on sexual and reproductive matters. In this regard priority will be given to sharing information and building life skills. This will be done by incorporating such issues in the formal education curriculum, non-formal education, and peer education approaches.

To minimise road accidents from deviant driving habits the youth will be educated, through curricular and extra-curricular activities as through the media, to modify behaviour. Good quality trauma and rehabilitative care will also be established at district and higher-level institutions. Similar facilities will be developed to deal with sports and occupational injuries. Rehabilitative and counselling facilities will be strengthened to enable youth incapacitated by accidents to lead a productive life.

The health delivery mechanism will be made gender sensitive by incorporating special provisions and infrastructure. The state will run a special drive for the formation of women groups and clubs to inculcate information and skills. Special programmes for youth and adolescent girls will be designed based on experience gained.

#### LIVELIHOOD AND EMPLOYMENT

The state will create for the youth an enabling environment for livelihood and employment opportunities that is rightful, gainful and sustainable. It will ensure that regional disparities are minimised for livelihood opportunities. Female youth will be provided greater access to banking facilities and savings mechanisms. The state will create avenues of diversification of agriculture for increasing the share of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of the primary sector. Irrigation facilities will be provided by promoting water conservation measures, watershed development, and power supply.

Departments concerned with agriculture and agro-based industries and institutions will promote warehousing, food processing, packaging, and branding of agricultural products. Assured credit, market linkages and inputs will support horticulture, floriculture and medicinal plant cultivation. The youth will be provided with technical skill through self-help groups and youth clubs. Animal husbandry, beekeeping, lac culture, sericulture, fishery, bamboo product development, etc. will be strengthened by technical inputs, credit and market linkages and value addition of the products. Training schemes in micro insurance, technical services related to agriculture like para-veterinary, soil testing etc. will be started

Investment in the non-farm and service sector by increased investment of state and private players will be increased and supporting infrastructure and security for the investments will be ensured. Local youth will be imparted employable skills. Handicrafts products with a good market potential will be promoted. Market linkages of farm and non-farm produce and products will be ensured through Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED), and cooperatives. The state will also take protective measures through minimum support price for agricultural and major and minor forest produce and link with upcoming industries.

The state will create and strengthen institutions like industrial training institute (ITI), polytechnics, district industries centre, block-level vocational and training institutions, and agricultural extension services to promote skill building of youth. Specially designed courses to be introduced with market orientation will include fashion designing, hospitality management, telecommunications, information technology, computer hardware and software, micro insurance, crop insurance, soil-testing, agri clinics, para veterinary service, masons, pump mechanics, driving of light and heavy vehicles and short-duration training programmes for illiterate and semiliterate youth. These will be promoted through self-help groups, youth clubs, mahila mandals, and farmers' groups.



A state-level Entrepreneurship Development Institute will be promoted with linkages with financial and marketing institutions. Specially designed entrepreneurship development programmes will be integrated with existing state and national employment schemes.

#### INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING

The Directorate of Youth Affairs will be the nodal agency for coordinating activities related to youth. The performance of the state and district advisory body for youth development will be regularly monitored. A state-level autonomous youth resource centre will advocate youth issues, build capacity of organisations, conduct research and documentation, undertake information dissemination, and promote convergence of government and non-government programmes. Linkages will be established between state-level institutions working on youth with the national and international level institutions like Rajiv Gandhi National Institute for Youth Development, UN agencies, and Global Forum on Youth.

Integration will be fostered between NCC, Nehru Yuva Kendra, NSS, Scouts and Guides. Measures will be taken to increase the membership of youth organisations with focus on gender balance. The Administrative Training Institute and State Institute of Rural Development will be encouraged to undertake youth-focused training programmes and induction and refresher courses for officials. Local self-government bodies will also be sensitised to the needs and issues of youth.

#### MISSION ORIENTATION FOR YOUTH

The policy seeks to develop youth into responsible citizens of the state and promote leadership among them for involvement in economic and social development. The state will create opportunities, possibilities, and platforms for youth, especially rural and tribal youth, for greater involvement in development programmes and reconstruction efforts. Special programmes will be developed to involve youth in various National Service Schemes and campaigns related to education, health, environment, and village development and reconstruction programmes. Youth development initiatives will build upon the strength of traditional tribal institutions such as Dhumkuria, Gitiora, and Ghotul. At the grassroots youth will be the Vikas Prahari to act as the key motivator.

#### PROTECTION OF YOUTH

The state will work to ensure protection of its youth from physical, mental, social, and psychological abuse. It will curb dependence on alcohol, drugs, tobacco, and toxic petroleum products as substitutes for drugs. The state will mobilise its departments concerned to conduct awareness programmes and preventive actions. Civil society organisations and self-help groups will be encouraged to educate the community to avoid alcoholism. Law enforcement agencies will coordinate with agencies of neighbouring states to curb drug peddling.

The state will establish de-addiction and rehabilitation centres. Organisations such as Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous will be encouraged and supported to

ensure that rehabilitated youth do not lapse into addiction. Parents of youth and community elders will be oriented to deal with current and rehabilitated substance abusers. Civil society organisations, particularly NGOs, will be supported to implement campaigns against various forms of substance abuse. Rehabilitation centres will provide livelihood opportunities, educational facilities and other developmental opportunities.

Deviant youth will be reoriented through positive engagement in social services. District-level rehabilitation-cum-counselling centres will be constituted for deviant youth under public-private partnership with civil societies. The highest priority will be accorded to faster socio-economic development in insurgent areas. Special attention will be given to preventing youth from falling victims to conflicts, especially those between the law-enforcing machinery of the state and the extremist groups. Activities to build peace, promote a culture of peace, and ultimately prevent conflict will be strengthened and supported. Youth who have returned to the mainstream will be given financial support, non-formal education, and counselling to cope with post-conflict trauma, and therapeutic leisure activities that accord with local customs. The administration of juvenile justice will be decentralised to integrate young offenders in society through support projects, with the ultimate aim of fostering responsible citizenship. Special programmes and schemes will be designed for the rehabilitation and bringing into the mainstream of mentally and physically challenged youth.

The state will seek to minimise migration of youth by providing to their needs in their place of residence and promoting avenues of education and livelihood. It will develop a mechanism to ensure safe migration by tracking the migration of youth and ensuring safety of health, dignity, and equitable wages.

Stringent laws and regulations will be formulated and enforced to prevent trafficking of girls. Community-based organisations will be sensitised to combat trafficking in their area. Information on various risks and kinds of exploitation will be disseminated and registration of migrants ensured. Adequate rehabilitation package will be designed to ensure the right to dignified life for cheated and abused migrants. This will include medical care, counselling, skill development, victim support groups, economic empowerment and legal assistance.

## **Implementation Mechanism**

A detailed operational plan will be prepared for each policy intervention. Roles and responsibilities and the timeframe for outcomes will be laid down. A Coordination Committee in the Department of Art, Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs will be constituted, with the Minister as Chairperson, the Secretary as Member Secretary, and representatives of organisations such as NCC, NYK, NSS, and NGOs as members. A report on action taken will be submitted to the cabinet every year.

The district youth advisory committees will be entrusted with the responsibility of planning, monitoring and the implementation of the Jharkhand Youth Policy 2007 at the district level.

The State is judged by the well being of its youth, as reflected in levels of health, nutrition and education; by the civil and political liberties enjoyed by their citizens; by the protection guaranteed to youth and by provisions made for the vulnerable and the disadvantaged. The youth of Jharkhand can be its greatest asset if they are provided with the means to lead a healthy and economically productive life. The state and the society owe to the youth their duty to create conditions such that youth flower; attain highest level of excellence; contribute to the society and create a fairer and spiritually endowed society.

