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INDIAN YOUTH: IGNORED CONSTITUENCY

Report on the renewal of Youth Agenda in India

Report by

Youth for Policy & Dialogue

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Indian Youth: Ignored Constituency

Report on the renewal of Youth Agenda in India

The State of the Youth Report was commissioned as part of a response to the Steering Committee & Working Group set up by the Planning Commission & the National Youth Policy 2012 by the Youth Affairs & Sports Ministry.

This report is a product of numerous interactions, pilot project and experience sharing between young people and other stakeholders. The report is divided into two parts:

- 1- Recommendations for the Planning Commission & Youth Affairs & Sports Ministry which are in process of devising 12th Five Year Plan & National Youth Policy 2012 respectively.
- 2- Current status of various Youth issues which has lead to the recommendations and require further probing.

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Contact: info@youthpolicy.in or +91 9999428096



Youth for Policy & Dialogue

Youth for Policy & Dialogue is India's first think tank of young people. The organisation was formed in 2010 and believes in the fundamental tenets of public policy & dialogue. The organisation runs four initiatives viz. G20 Research Group, Skill Development Initiative, Economic & Finance Initiative & Youth Policy Initiative in a non-partisan, independent and apolitical way. We are a proud affiliate of the G8&G20 Youth Network.

Youth for Policy & Dialogue

India's First Think Tank of Young People
House No. 885, Sector – 29,
Arun Vihar – Noida (U.P.)

Tel: (91-11) 4248739

Mob: (91-11) 9999428096

Email: info@youthpolicy.in

Website: www.youthpolicy.in

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Indian Youth

An ignored constituency

**Report to the Planning Commission of India
& Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports**

CONTENTS

1. Preface
2. Recommendations

Youth Issues

- Unemployment & Youth
- Sexual Health & Youth
- Politics & Youth
- Volunteering & Youth
- Entrepreneurship & Youth

ANNEXURES

PREFACE

Youth in India

India is in the middle of transitions: its economy, society, politics are being shaped by a changing demography; various reports put the number of young Indians to be 780 million in 2008 and will grow to 950 million by 2026.

But beyond these numbers is a reality that reckons India in its face; as the economy, society and demography are shaped by 300 million young people there is an emergence of a challenge as well as a GREATER opportunity: Challenge of an uneducated, largely untrained population, and an Opportunity to have trained, skilled young people as drivers of nation building.

Organisations, government and nongovernmental alike are working on realizing this dream but are missing a step: **A comprehensive Analysis, Engagement and Investment of the Youth led Sector.**

The United Nations has declared the Year 2010-2011 as the International Year of Youth. The impetus during this year has been on building active citizenship amongst Youth, sensitizing governments and the civil society towards recognizing and building capacities in this sector.

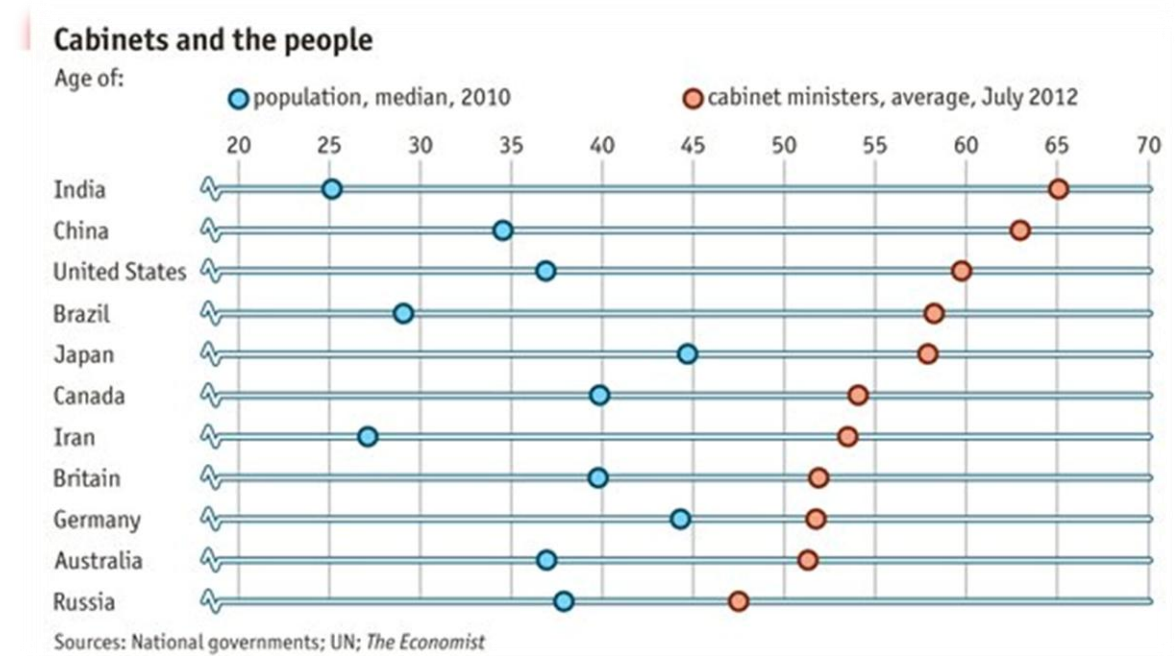
A new Paradigm

Currently the National Youth Policy 2012 & the various panels of the Planning Commission through 12th Five Year Plans are in the process of creating a new paradigm of Youth Development. **But sadly Youth has been kept out of these discussions with not one of the 79 members of the planning Commission belong to youth category or are part of youth civil society movements. In such a scenario a report on status of youth was pertinent.** This report is the outcome of months of research and ground action put together by the team to suggest changes to make Youth engagement in India better.

Institutions like National Social Service (NSS) & Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) have outlived themselves. There is an urgent need to make them relevant in the 21st century. Volunteerism has adopted a new meaning & so has management of youth clubs. This dynamism is missing in these institutions, which can only be redressed by involving youth in the recreation process.

In an article in *The Economist* recently, India's median age rank was ranked with the politicians of the day. **Unsurprisingly, politicians are strikingly older than the people they**

govern. There is a divide between the rich world, with its young leaders, and the emerging one, with its legions of greybeards. This makes the need for youth-government interaction all the more critical. In absence of such a mechanism, this void is susceptible to be exploited by unscrupulous elements which would be contravening to the development paradigm.



Sourced from the Economist issue July 2012

Failing Institutions – Opportunity & Challenges

The sections in this report look at various youth issues and then suggest changes that can be targeted at redressing the same. There is an opportunity in which hard hitting reforms can be instituted to strengthen youth engagement in India. The subsequent sections are full of statistics and data which support the arguments for reform.

I sincerely hope the report is put to good use.

Bhanu Joshi
President
Youth for Policy & Dialogue

Recommendations

Involve Youth in Policy Making

- 1- **Separate Youth Affairs & Sports:** Currently the Youth Affairs is secondary to the Sports Ministry. An analysis of the Ministry's budget for the last 5 years showcased heavy investment in sports at the behest of cost cutting in NYKS & NSS. While Sports & Youth are complementary, there is a need to enlarge the mandate of Ministry of Youth Affairs to not limit itself only as a maintenance department but to become a proactive facilitator of youth empowerment & development.
- 2- **Planning Commission of India:** Widely regarded as the 'Think Tank of India Government', Planning Commission has little to currently offer on youth issues. One example of its apathy can be demonstrated from the fact that the Planning Commission appointed a 41 members **Steering Committee for Youth Affairs & Sports**. It also constituted a 38 member **Working Group (WG) on Adolescent and Youth Development**. Of the total 79 members none of them was 'young', and not one youth organization had been nominated to be a part of the deliberation. In addition, the committees had a strong bias towards sports. **Urgent need hence to establish a dedicated youth wing within the planning commission.**
- 3- **Involve Youth in Policy Making:** There are no formal structures of interaction with the government and youth organisations. Retrospective in approach, there are limited sectors of engagement which further compounds interaction. Issues like environment, education, volunteerism, finance etc. are important to youth development & having them on board these discussions is important for any growing country.
- 4- **Form a Youth Consortium of India:** Pursuant to Agenda21 of the United Nations, there is a need to form Youth Consortium of India, an organisations which shall be government's focal point for youth interaction. Mandated to be formed in 2011 during the International Year of Youth, the UN has asked each country to form such consortiums which give youth of the country an opportunity and space to become serious stakeholders in policy debates and interactions. The Youth Consortium shall be elected every two years and will have serving youth members from different streams viz. arts, culture, industry, social work, environment etc.

List of countries which created dedicated Youth Affairs Ministries

Country	Is	Was	Year
Italy	Ministry of Youth	Ministry of Youth, Fashion & Sports	2008
Ghana	Ministry of Youth Welfare	Ministry of Youth & Sports	2005
Brazil	Youth & Culture	Youth Affairs, Sports & Child Development	2009

Revamp NSS

1-Meet the 21st Century Challenges: Setup in the 1960's volunteering has undergone change & NSS in India hasn't been able to keep the pace. Firstly, technological developments are opening up spaces for people to volunteer in ways that have no parallel in history. These developments enable people to relate to one another globally and more rapidly than ever before. Secondly, there is the role of the private sector in development and its interest in volunteering as an aspect of corporate social responsibility. Thirdly, unprecedented global movements of people and the expanded opportunities for travel, combined with more leisure time, are two phenomena which are impacting on traditional forms of volunteering everywhere.

2-Measure volunteering: There has been no report instituted by the government or civil society on the status of NSS in India. Youth for Policy & Dialogue undertook a sample study of three NSS Units located in Himachal Pradesh, Delhi & Maharashtra. Results suggested that there is no incentive to volunteering. Most of the units have compulsory 100 hours programme which doesn't produce desired results. Our survey showed that students preferred Skill Development & entrepreneurship training during NSS hours.

3-Promote cross-country travel: Travelling helps young people to understand and evolve. India being a diverse society requires youth to travel and volunteer at various places in the country. Currently no such structures for **urban-rural travelling** exist. In absence of such structures an important learning paradigm is being lost.

4-Follow the European Model: The European Voluntary Service (EVS) provides young Europeans with the unique chance to express their personal commitment through unpaid and full-time voluntary activities in a foreign country within or outside the EU. In this way, it seeks to develop solidarity, mutual understanding and tolerance among young people, thus contributing to reinforcing social cohesion in the European Union and to promoting young people's active citizenship. This model can be adopted within India for intra state/region volunteer promotion. (Annexure – I Attached)

Volunteering = Economic Development!

In 2010 the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) conducted a comprehensive national survey on volunteerism, the first of its kind ever carried out in the country. The survey addressed rural and urban volunteering; age, gender and education level of volunteers; volunteering rates; formal organizational and NGO volunteering; annual volunteering hours; and monetary valuations.

The results were discussed at the National Volunteering Conference in Dhaka in July 2011. The main recommendation was the establishment of a National Volunteer Agency responsible for planning, guiding and managing all volunteer activities in the country. Its purpose will be to enhance the contribution of volunteerism to individual and social welfare and well-being in Bangladesh.

The survey estimated the contribution of volunteering to the Bangladesh economy in 2010 at approximately 1.66 billion US dollars. The findings also showed that the economic value of

Create Indian Youth Foundation

1- Create Indian Youth Foundation:

The Indian Youth Foundation (IYF) will be a fund granting authority which will provide financial support to Indian youth activities. It should have appropriate funding at its disposal and should have an annual budget approved. Its purpose would be to encourage co-operation among young people in India by providing financial support to such Indian youth activities which serve the promotion of peace, understanding and co-operation in a spirit of respect for Constitution of India's fundamental values such as human rights, democracy, tolerance and solidarity. (ANNEXURE – II)

2- Support Youth Organisations & Entrepreneurs:

The Indian Youth Foundation thus provides financial support to the following types of activity undertaken by non-governmental youth organisations or networks or by other non-governmental structures involved in areas of youth work relevant to the India's youth policies and work:

- a. educational, social, cultural and humanitarian activities of a Indian character;
- b. activities aiming at strengthening peace and co-operation in India;
- c. activities designed to promote closer co-operation and better understanding among young people in India, particularly by developing the exchange of information
- d. activities intended to stimulate mutual aid in Indian states and in the underdeveloped districts for cultural, educational and social purposes;
- e. studies, research and documentation on youth matters.

Case Study: Indian Youth Foundation can help?

Project Naritva – an initiative conceptualized with great enthusiasm and vigorous zeal ahs found no takers lately. Despite being recognized at a National Competition – ITC Classmates Ideas for India, the project has been in the lurch. Various problems being faced by Project Naritva, :

- 1- Economic – The initial cost of procuring a machine from Mr. A Murungnathan would be somewhere around 1.25 Lakhs. Apart from it renting, electricity, training and marketing would exaggerate it to 1.75 Lakhs for one SHG having 7-8 women. It has been really difficult to fundraise about such a cause. Even if the production is increased, the real challenge is to find rural customers who trust the product.
- 2- Political – Recently, Menstrual Hygiene Management has caught the eye of Union and State agencies. But when these schemes would be able to kick off, there is no idea. Also, Aanganwadis and Primary Health Centres are non-cooperative as they are provided with meager incentives.
- 3- Cultural – In India discussing menstruation has been a taboo for rural and urban women .Moreover, gender disparity further aggravates such situation. It is a daunting task as we have to create a culture of free discussion and expression minus shame and guilt. It is a challenge to penetrate the mindsets of people.

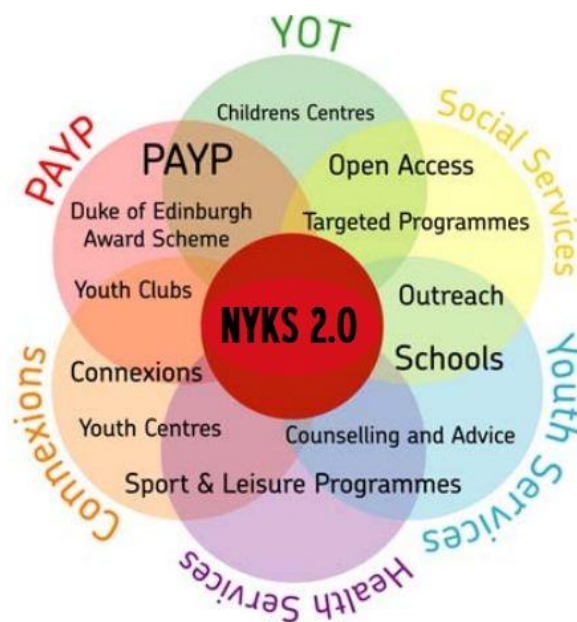
National Youth Policy 2012

- 1- **Vision Missing:** The National Youth Policy misses the point: Young people should make the best of their potential. This vision is addressed to all, but the actions should focus on those with fewer opportunities. Thus the current National Youth Policy should have two approaches:
 - a. **Investing in Youth: putting in place greater resources to develop policy** areas that affect young people in their daily life and improve their well being.
 - b. **Empowering Youth:** promoting the potential of young people for the renewal of society and to contribute to EU values and goals.
- 2- **Greater collaboration:** between youth policies and other policy areas such as education, employment, inclusion and health should be developed, with youth activities and youth work playing a supporting role. The new Youth Policy should encourage 'joined-up' policy making by 'feeding in' the other processes of policy coordination with its specific expertise and by providing young people with an opportunity to have a say and make their voices heard.
- 3- **Better knowledge is a must for sound policy:** No tools exist currently like Eurostat data, national reports, European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy (EKCYP), which are a first step, to evaluate youth policy. There is an urgent need to have quarterly or biannual state of the youth report carrying data on youth employment, health, empowerment etc. There is an equal need to share research results and for networking of researchers throughout India in which the **Rajiv Gandhi NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT** should be put to use. Youth for Policy & Dialogue proposes:
 - Consolidate National Youth Policy by providing a framework to design State Youth Policies
 - Review existing trends for the priorities through data collection from states & central government
 - Design a dashboard of existing indicators and benchmarks concerning youth in education, employment, inclusion and health
 - Set up a Working Group to discuss possible 'descriptors' (light indicators) for the priorities of participation, volunteering, creativity and youth in the world, as well as for NEETs (youngsters Not in Education, Employment or Training)

RAJIV Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development should be made the nodal agency to document youth related issues and measure volunteering, youth empowerment and other issues which will help create strong youth policy.

Revamp NYKS:

- 1- An elaborate structure under the NYKS exists which is largely untapped. World over youth centres are being used as centres of empowerment and innovation. The NYKS scheme needs a rejig and alternate thinking on establishing quality centres aimed at:
 - a. **Skill Youth:** India is at a cusp of a demographic dividend, where an opportunity to skill youth awaits us. NYKS can collaborate with local bodies, local NGOs & industry groups to start Skill Centres, Language Centres & other Soft Skills Centres. NYKS can provide the infrastructure for Skill Development of the local youth and a standardised programme is required to be created and implemented by the Ministry.
 - b. **Establish Projects:** There is a need for the local community to begin working on community based and centred projects **focused on auditing the state or the central government schemes like MGNREGA, SSA, ASHA etc.**
- 2- A service that is based on the active and continuous involvement of young people in all aspects of their centre; An out of school/college hours facility for 11-16 year olds operating before/after school on a regular basis that is safe, welcoming, accessible, dynamic and contemporary;
- 3- An up-to-date range of information, advice and guidance for young people on personal, social, careers and health issues; Opportunities for young people to volunteer in the community; A membership scheme, that enables young people to take ownership; f Access to specialist services required; and f A service that is sustainable but affordable to all young people



NYKS 2.0: YPD IMAGERY

YOUTH ISSUES

Demographic Dividend: Challenge & Opportunity

Consistent and moderately high GDP growth rates during most years since 1980 have encouraged optimistic projections about India's future growth potential. The argument is as follows: just as India transited from the "Hindu rate of growth" of around 3.5 per cent during the first three decades of planned development to a higher growth trajectory of close to 6 per cent over the last 25 years, it can now move on to a new growth trajectory along which growth could average as much as 9 per cent per annum.

Needless to say, such projections must be based on an assessment identifying potential sources of the new dynamism. One such assessment turns on conventional sources of dynamism in developing countries during the post-war years. It points to recent improvements in India's merchandise export performance and the growing attractiveness of India as a destination for global foreign direct investment (FDI) flows. Attributing these to the effects of economic liberalisation it argues that once this process crosses some critical threshold level, India could replicate the experience of many East Asian countries and China.

A second assessment points to new sources of growth in financial, software and information technology-enabled services (ITES), with leadership performance in the latter two. The strength of this source of dynamism is seen to be reflected in the fact that even at its relatively low level of per capita income, services account for more than 50 per cent of GDP. India, it is argued, is experiencing an altogether new trajectory of growth intensive in intangibles

such as knowledge and skills, because of its unique advantages in the current conjuncture. To quote a study by the

World Bank (2005: 10), India "has a critical mass of skilled, English-speaking knowledge workers, especially in the sciences. It has a well-functioning democracy. Its domestic market is one of the worlds largest. It has a large and impressive diaspora, creating valuable knowledge linkages and networks." It combines this with other key ingredients including: "macroeconomic stability, a dynamic private sector, institutions of a free market economy, a well-developed financial sector, and a broad and diversified science and technology (S&T) infrastructure". In this view: "Building on these strengths, India can harness the benefits of the knowledge revolution to improve its economic performance and boost the welfare of its people".

A third assessment, which is the concern of this paper, while not necessarily denying the importance of the other two, suggests that the effects of these are likely to be amplified because of the demographic advantage that India currently has relative to the developed countries and also countries like China. India is and for some time will remain one of the youngest countries in the world. A third of India's population was below 15 years of age in 2000 and close to 20 per cent were young people in the 15-24 age groups. The population in the 15-24 age groups grew from around 175 million in 1995 to 190 million in 2000 and 210 million in 2005, increasing by an average of 3.1

million a year between 1995 and 2000 and 5 million between 2000 and 2005.

This notion of a “demographic dividend” overturns the older popular perception that a large and “excess” population is a problem rather than a benefit from an economic point of view [see for example, Coale and Hoover 1958]. For those in search of simplistic explanations of underdevelopment, excess population has always provided an easy way out. Large populations are seen to result in high levels of aggregate consumption even at low levels of per capita income, resulting in small surpluses.

Since these surpluses must be spread thin across the population, their effects in terms of growth of employment and income are seen as limited. Moreover, with limited resources thinly spread because of large numbers, the tasks of feeding the population, ensuring universal access to education and health and delivering basic services like water and sanitation are seen as near impossible.

The conclusion then is that the growth of population has to be controlled if economic growth has to be triggered and the quality of life improved.

The pithy response to this argument was that every mouth to be fed comes with two hands that can be put to work. But in addition, a range of arguments have been advanced against various versions of neo-Malthusianism [Crenshaw et al 1977; Simon 1977; Kelley 1988]. The problem of development has been seen as that of employing more workers in more productive activities that can yield larger surpluses, without depriving them of the basket of goods they currently consume. If the larger surpluses thus garnered are invested, growth will accelerate. The economic problem in poor countries then becomes that of identifying and

implementing a strategy that can make this happen.

If the production of wage goods falls when workers are shifted to new activities, or if those remaining in the wage goods sector increase their self-consumption, the process of structural diversification can run into a wage goods bottleneck. Once that problem is resolved, the concern shifts to ensuring the availability of the capital goods needed for the labour employed in newer and more productive activities.

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Average Annual Increment in Youth Population

	UN Population Database			Registrar General of India		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
2001-06	4028.8	2022.6	2006.2	5406.2	3025.2	2381.2
2006-11	2680.8	1330	1350.4	3532.4	1670.4	1861.8
2011-16	1312.6	621.2	691.8	-212.8	-343.6	131
2016-21	226.4	76	150.4	-1857.4	-777.2	-1080.2
2021-26	45.2	-8.8	54	-1112	-290.2	-821.6

Table – I

Highest increment in youth population is projected between 2011 – 16. The 12th Five Year Plan being made during this time thus is an important exercise in engaging this population.

Source: UNDP & YPD calculations.

UNEMPLOYMENT

In the International Labour Conference (ILC) 2005, the discussion on youth employment concluded that there were many young workers who did not have access to decent work. A significant number of youth are underemployed, unemployed, seeking employment or between jobs, or working unacceptably long hours under informal, intermittent and insecure work arrangements, without the possibility of personal and professional development; working below their potential in low-paid, low-skilled jobs without prospects for career advancement; trapped in involuntary part-time, temporary, casual or seasonal employment; and frequently under poor and precarious conditions in the informal economy, both in rural and urban areas (ILO, 2005a).

Youth, defined by the United Nations as persons between the ages of 15 and 24, is a transitional period from childhood to adulthood, represents almost 18 per cent of the current global population. About eighty-four (84) per cent of the world's youth live in developing countries (UN, 2007). According to ILO (2005b), in 2000 approximately a quarter of the world's estimated youth population, or 238 million youth, were reported to be living in In the International Labour Conference (ILC) 2005, the discussion on youth employment concluded that there were many young workers who did not have access to decent work. A significant

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One of the most obvious economic implications of changes in the absolute and relative numbers of young people is in the youth labor market. The way in which the increasing youth population is absorbed into or adjusted in the labour market is a matter of concern.

As on 1st January 2005 the estimated total population (all Ages) is around 1092.94 million. The NSS 61st round estimates shows that the share of youth (15-24) in the total population is around 18.6 per cent and size of the youth population is 203.63 million. But the information based on the Registrar General of India's (RGI) population projections one would project the youth population at 215.5 million as on 1st January 2005 and it would be around 19.8 per cent of the total population of India.

The labour force participation (LFPR) and work participation rates (WPR) based on usual status among the youth population (15-24 age) in India were around 50 and 46 per cents respectively in 2004-05. Thus the size of the youth labour force i.e. the persons available for the labour market was 107.3 million and the size of the work force i.e. persons working or employed in one or other kind economic activity was 98.7 millions. The difference between labourforce and workforce indicates the unemployed (i.e. those who are willing to work and available for the labour market but could not find employment or work) which was about 8.6 million young persons (15-24) in 2004-05.

In the total unemployed (all age groups) estimated at 13.4 million in 2004-05, the share of youth (15-24 age) was around 64.1 per cent. In other words the lion's share of the unemployed persons in India was the contribution of unemployed persons in youth age cohorts.

The work participation rate among the youth (15-24 age) found to be higher than the overall WPR (all ages) but it has been lower than the WPR of all adult (15 + age) and senior adults (25 + age). This pattern has been observed in last two decades across locations (rural-urban) and gender (male-female). The work participation rate among the youth during the last two decades indicates that it has been declining (see Table 4.1). It declined 9

percentage points from 55.5 per cent in 1983 to 46.0 per cent in 2004-05. The decline in WPR during this period was sharper among the male youth (11.4 percentage points) in general and rural male youth (12.4 percentage points) in particular and the decline in WPR of female youth was very minimal. The WPR of urban female youth remained almost constant between 1983 and 2004-05. The decline in WPR was higher among the rural youth when compared to their urban counterparts.

Increase in attendance rate alone may not explain for the decline in WPR. Particularly, the highest improvement in the attendance rate during the period between 1983 and 2004-05 was among female youth but there was not corresponding sharp decline in WPR of female youth in this period. Therefore one may have to search the reasons elsewhere.

Employability

The concept of employability is gaining momentum in the labour market literature. It indicates the person's capability of gaining initial employment, maintaining employment and moving to new employment by choice. It depends on the knowledge, skills and attitudes possessed by the individual, and also the labour market information (Weinert *et al* 2001). There is a changing policy agenda related to labour market from the „job protection“ to „security through employability“. The policy agenda needs to equip the job-seekers with skills that match the demand in the market. It is definitely a challenge in the context of increasing pace of globalization and technological change, both of which increase the job insecurity and job displacement where the unskilled are getting excluded from the labour market. Skill formation involves schooling, professional or technical education, and vocational training.

The level of human capital in terms of literacy, educational levels and specific skills raise the productivity and incomes of workers in the labour market. Though the literacy rate among the young workers seems to be better off than the other age groups, yet a large chunk, about one fourth of them remained illiterate. Of the total young (15-24 age) work force in India, 25.9 per cent were illiterates and the remaining 74.1 were literates in 2004-05 (see Table 4.2). The

improvement in literacy rate among the youth has shown a significant increase of about 26.4 percentage points during the last two decades, from 47.8 percent in 1983 to 74.1 percent in 2004-05. The improvement was higher (about 15.2 percentage points) during eighties i.e. between 1983 and 1993-94 than the improvement during nineties i.e. between 1993-94 and 2004-05 (about 11.1 percentage points).

With respect to the levels of education among the youth workforce in India, only 4.9 percent of young workers had post-secondary level of education in 2007-08 (see Table 4.2). It is about 3.6 percentage point increase from the base 1.3% in 1983. The young workers those who had completed secondary level of education were about 18.8 per cent; it is 19.6 percentage points increase from 7% in 1983. About 24.2 percent of the young workers completed the middle school education. Those who had the education level middle school and above in the elementary school education formed about 21% and increased to 45% in 2007-08. It was 24 percentage points improvement in the young workers who completed elementary school

education during the last two and half decades between 1983 and 2007-08.

The nature of labour market has been transforming from unskilled to highly skilled. There has been increasing demand for skilled labour and declining demand for the unskilled ones especially in the non-agriculture sector. The human capital in addition to literacy and education the possession of specific skills comes to advantage for the person in the labour market. **However in the Indian context, skill formation for the youth seems to be a distant phenomenon so far. According to NSS 61st (2004-05) round, about 89 per cent of the youth have not taken any kind of vocational training and among the rest about half of them have received through hereditary practices (Fig.6). It indicates a negligible level of formal vocational training for the youth.**

Employment & Indian Youth

10 Facts

(1) Labour force and work participation rates have fluctuated between 40 to 44 per cent during the last three and half decades. The share of youth outside labour force increased.

(2) The literacy rate for youth population rose from 56.4% in 1983 to 80.3% in 2007-08. The percentage of youth attending educational institutions increased from 17.4% to 32.8% during the same period. **Regarding employability, only 4.9% of young workers had post-secondary level of education in 2007-08.**

(3) The self employed form the majority of youth workers (50%). Casual labourers form the next highest category among youth workers (35%). The share of youth regular salaried/wage employment increased over time.

(4) However, the share of agriculture in youth employment declined faster than adults. **It was 54.4% for youth and 57% for adults in 2007-08. It is interesting to note the share of industrial sector increased faster for youth as compared to services.** Unlike for adults, the share of industry for youth is higher than services in the year 2004-05.

(5) India has 459 million workers in 2004-05. Out of this, 423 million (92%) are unorganized workers. Most of the youth are also in the unorganized sector.

(6) **The number of youth unemployed in India increased from 6.5 million in 1993-94 to 9.5 million in 2004-05.** Out of this, 61% are in rural areas while 70% of them are males. The youth unemployed make up almost half (49%) of the total unemployed despite the fact that, the youth share of the total adult workers was only 21%. The share of youth unemployed to adult unemployed declined from 52.2% in 1993-94 to 49.0% in 2004-05.

(7) Joblessness (27%) is much higher than unemployment rate. In absolute number, of the total 203.6 million youth

(8) Literacy and educational levels are increasing for Indian youth. However, we still have many illiterates and only few workers had education above secondary and graduation. **About 89 per cent of the youth have not taken any kind of vocational training and among the rest about half of them have received through hereditary practices. It indicates a negligible level of formal vocational training from the youth.**

(9) Wage levels of Youth Employed are lower than those of adults. 26% of youth employed suffer from poverty (around 22 million)

(10) Around 40% of youth population are vulnerable. They include 11% of working poor, 4% of unemployed and 25% of not actively seeking jobs. Unemployment of youth is only one of the problems of youth labour market. Since many of them are in the informal/unorganized sector, the income and productivity of workers, conditions of work and social security have to be improved

SEXUAL HEALTH & YOUTH

The youth in any nation are critical for its continued economic development and demographic evolution. The youth population, which typically constitutes the entering cohort in the country's labour force, is expected to bring in freshly learned and updated skills that will help renew and improve the country's stock of human capital. Youth also represent the age group that forms the basis of demographic renewal, as these young people form unions and begin child bearing.

With declining fertility and a large population base, India is in a unique phase of its demographic transition. The transition has led to significant changes in the rate of growth of population, but also, and importantly, in its age structure. The population growth rate, which was over 2 percent from 1971 to 2001, declined to 1.6 percent in 2007, and is expected to fall further to less than 1 percent by 2016. The recent transition to lower fertility has led to a reduction in the proportion of population below age 15, and hence, to a lower dependency burden. Of the total projected increase of 371 million in India's population between 2001 and 2026, 83 percent of the increase will be in the working age group of 15-59 years (Office of the Registrar General, 2006). This increase in the share of the population in working ages represents a potential —demographic dividend for economic growth in the form of increased productivity of the nation's population as a whole. However, the youth of the nation— their skills, knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours, all elements of their human resource capacity— are essential to whether, and how well, the demographic dividend is successfully exploited and converted into sustained increases in productivity and economic growth.

Further, the large and increasing relative share and absolute numbers of the youth population in India makes it even more necessary that the nation

ensure that the youth of India become a vibrant, constructive force that can address social and economic issues and contribute to sustained and just governance and nation building. In recognition of the important role for youth in nation building, the preamble of India's 2003 National Youth Policy —reiterates the commitment of the entire nation to the composite and all-round development of the young sons and daughters of India and seeks to establish an All-India perspective to fulfill their legitimate aspirations so that they are all strong of heart and strong of body and mind in successfully accomplishing the challenging tasks of national reconstruction and social changes that lie ahead. The thrust of the policy is youth empowerment in different spheres of national life (National Youth Policy, 2003).

Education, employment, and health, including sexual and reproductive health, are all key elements of youth empowerment.

Education: Educational attainment not only affects the economic potential of youth, but also their effectiveness as informed citizens, parents, and family members. Article 26 of the 1948 Declaration of Human Rights gives everyone the right to education, and further states that, —Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit (United Nations, 1948). It points to continuing and unacceptable differentials in education by residence and gender. In particular, it recognizes the need to address the great disparity in primary and higher education between rural compared with urban areas, and for females compared with males. Contributing to low educational access and attainment, particularly of girls, is the low age at first marriage.

Although, the age at first marriage has been increasing over time, a sizeable proportion of girls in India continue to be married at an age when they should still be in school or completing their education. Another important element contributing

to low educational attainment is the mismatch between the numbers who need admission to quality higher level educational institutions and the ability of available institutions to them in large numbers.

Employment: Article 23 of the Declaration of Human Rights, gives everyone a right to work, to free choice in employment, to just and favorable conditions of work, and to protection against unemployment (United Nations, 1948). However, in India, employment, unemployment and under-employment are all challenging youth issues. Adequate and appropriate employment at the appropriate ages is key to successful development and exploitation of the human capital that youth represent. India is faced with a dual challenge in this regard: on the one hand, it needs to prevent youth from entering the labour force and working in exploitative and unskilled jobs before they have had an opportunity to mature, complete their education, and develop marketable skills; and on the other, it must provide for the full and appropriate employment of the youth population that has successfully completed its education or has acquired the requisite skills and is ready to enter the labour force. A large unemployed youth population not only puts the nation at risk of instability, but also costs the country in terms of productivity and health expenses. Some research suggests that one year of unemployment among youth reduces life expectancy by about five years (Sahni, 2005).

Marriage and family formation: The youth ages are also critical because they represent a period when sexual activity typically begins and family formation and child bearing is initiated. Too early an age at marriage can hinder healthy and responsible family life and parenthood, however. It is recommended that marriage and family formation be initiated after the legal age at marriage, and, preferably, after completion of education and the attainment of economic independence. For women in particular, an early age at marriage not only hinders the completion of education and the acquisition of marketable professional skills, but also pushes women into motherhood at ages when their bodies are not mature enough to safely bear children. Although, in India the legal minimum age at marriage for girls and boys is 18 years and 21 years, respectively, a sizeable proportion of women and men marry at much younger ages.

Reproductive and sexual health: Reproductive and sexual health is an important component of the overall health of all of the adult population, but is particularly cogent for the youth population. Youth is a period of life when heightened emotions, a sense of invulnerability, and an intensively heightened sex drive often lead to high-risk taking and sexual experimentation. Despite the resulting need for information on sex and sexual and reproductive health, youth, particularly unmarried youth, face many social barriers to obtaining accurate and complete information on these subjects. As a consequence, many youth enter marriage without even the basic knowledge about sex and reproduction, let alone the knowledge necessary to negotiate a safe and healthy sexual and reproductive life. While limited access to information on sex and sexual health is often more of a barrier for girls than for boys, even boys lack accurate and pertinent information on sexual health issues. As a result, many preventable reproductive health related problems, including unwanted teenage pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases (STD), persist. Some research suggests that youth account for a high proportion of new STD infections (Sahni, 2005). The emerging trends in new HIV cases in India shows that nearly two-fifths of new infections are reported among people below 25 years of age (NACO, 2004).

Additionally, the life-cycle approach adopted by the Reproductive and Child Health Program of Government of India recognizes that health status during any phase of life impinges upon health status in the next phase. Thus, although the reproductive and sexual health issues that concern women and men may differ, it is equally true for both women and men that good health during the adolescent years provides the foundation for good health during the reproductive years.

Ensuring reproductive and sexual health for the youth population is particularly challenging in India. As noted, a large proportion of marriages are still taking place during the adolescent ages, a period when body and mind are not yet mature enough for parenthood. Putting young parents at a further disadvantage is the fact that women and men married at young ages are less likely to be educated and are more likely to have had only limited exposure to any communication media. As a result, young couples often lack even minimal information on contraception and the need for birth spacing with consequences for infant and child

health and survival, as well as the survival of mothers. Further, ignorance or misinformation on sex related matters can put sexually active youth at a higher risk of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.

Other health-related issues: Even during late adolescence, the bodies of boys and girls are continuing to mature, with most still putting on height. Proper nutrition, in the form of a balanced diet rich in nutrients, including iron, is key to the health of youth. Not only are malnourished youth unlikely to contribute to their full potential to the economic growth of the nation, but their malnourishment can also threaten the health of the next generation. Most female youth in India have either already initiated childbearing or are only a few years away from initiating it. Thus, the extra nutritional demands of pregnancy and breastfeeding are already here or not too far in the future for most female youth. Of particular concern are the high rates of iron-deficiency anaemia among adolescent females after menarche. For all of these reasons, the nutritional status of youth should be of grave concern.

Another issue of grave concern among youth is substance abuse. Drug use, smoking and irresponsible alcohol consumption are common problems associated with youth. Substance abuse has many negative effects on the health of youth as well as on their educational attainment and productivity.

Messages about family planning are not reaching all youth

- Only 65 percent of women and 84 percent of men have heard or seen a family planning message on TV, radio, wall paintings, or in newspapers/magazines.

Many youth have not heard of available modern contraceptive spacing methods

- Ninety-three percent of women know of female sterilization, but only 83 percent know about pills and 71 percent each know about IUDs and condoms.
- Ninety-three percent of men know about condoms, but only 78 percent know about pills, and 37 percent know about the IUD.
- Only 8 percent of women and 15 percent of men know about emergency contraception.

A majority of youth lack comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS

- About two-thirds of women and 88 percent of men have heard of AIDS
- Three out of four men know that the risk of HIV/AIDS can be reduced by condom use and by limiting sex to one uninfected partner; however, less than half of women know about these means of HIV/AIDS prevention.
- Only 20 percent of women and 36 percent of men have comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS, i.e., they have correct knowledge of all the ways of transmission and prevention of the infection.
- In many states, less than one-half of women have heard of AIDS.

Source: NACO & Youth 2011

Figure 3.2 Awareness and Knowledge among Youth of Fertile Period by Marital Status

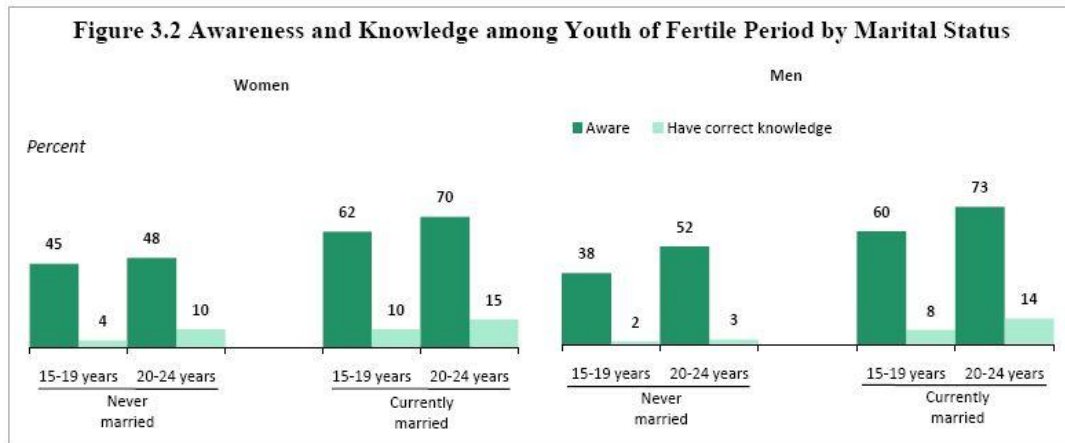


Figure 3.5 Media Exposure of Youth to Family Planning Messages

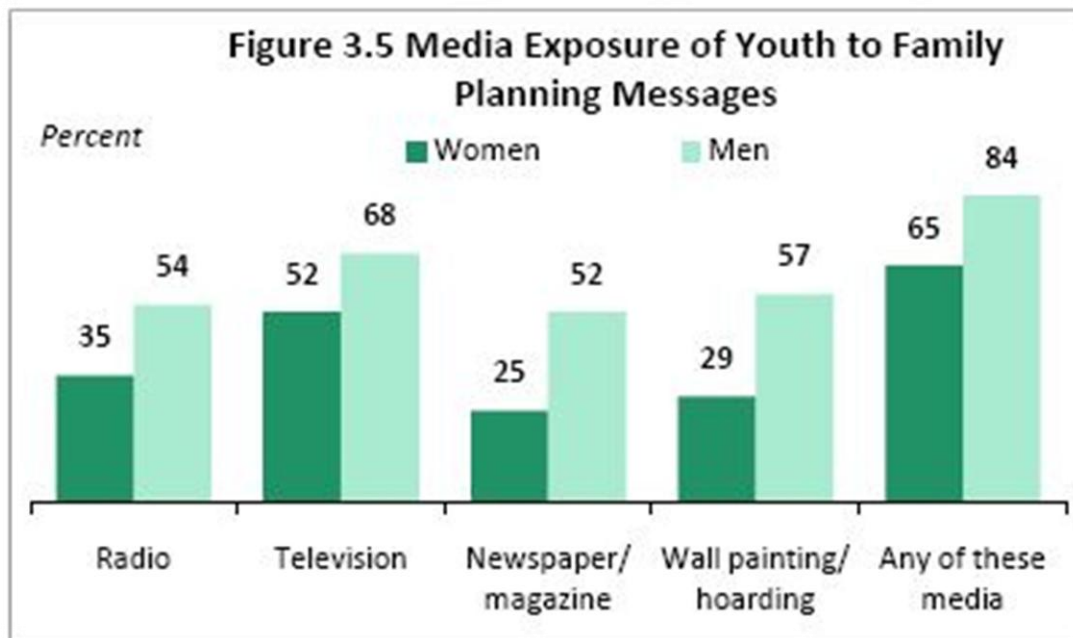
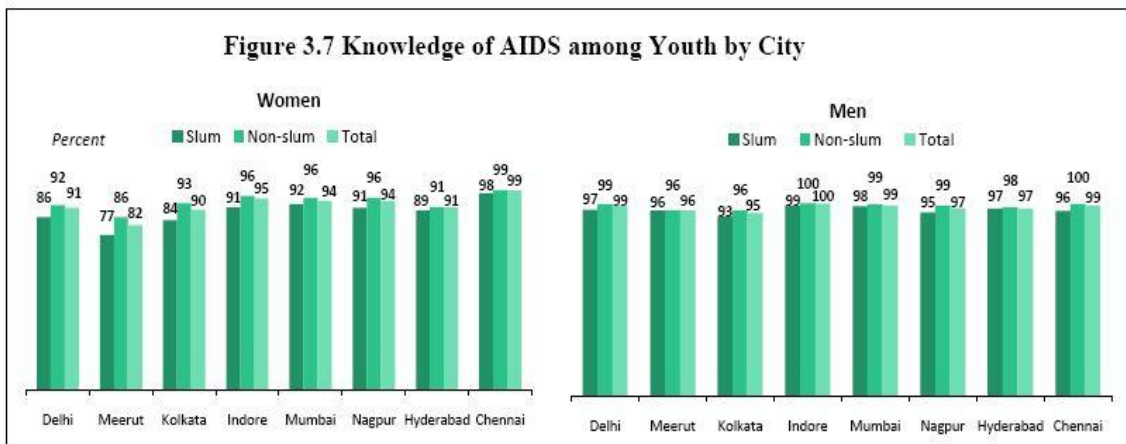


Figure 3.7 Knowledge of AIDS among Youth by City



Politics & Youth

Contrasting the demographic importance vis a vis political opinions of the youth is the revelation of the fact that youth as a political community, distinct, solely on the basis of their age has as yet not emerged. On various parameters the young continue to think and act in ways similar to the older generation. In the political arena youth do not have choices which unite them despite their social co ordinates. In other words political choices of the youth are determined by factors other than age such as location, caste, education attainment and class. This in turn deters youth across the country to identify with choices that are specific to young people. Voting patterns analysed in this study suggest that youth per se do not show leanings towards any single political ideology or affiliate themselves with any political party in particular which would distinguish them from their older counterparts located within the same socio – political co ordinates. Locality, class and level of education and gender intersect with the variable of age creating a matrix which reflects diversity rather than uniformity of thought and action within the category of youth.

Factors affecting diversity of opinions among youth are not only limited to those mentioned above, rather age itself seems to be creating an effect profound enough on various counts, for us to believe that on certain issues the category of youth (defined in this report as those between 18 to 33 years) can be further divided into two separate age segments – the younger group consisting of all those aged 18 to 25 years and a more mature segment of those aged between 26 years to 33 years. We are yet to ascertain whether this is an age or a period effect but on a number of significant parameters like participation in politics,

interest in politics and ideas regarding electoral reforms youth in the age group of 26 to 33 years voice opinions rather distinct from the younger age group. It is difficult to determine whether this age group behaves more like those above the age of 33 or are more aligned with the youngest segment due to lack of any such consistency. However the distinctness of their opinion on certain occasions and the significant juncture of socialization in terms of their life cycle that they presently find themselves highlight their importance as a sub group of youth which needs further attention.

Not only is the category of youth wrought with diversity but also with internal contradictions especially when arena of ideas is contrasted with that of actual action. While participation in voting remains consistent across time, interests in politics is observed as rising among youth over the years. To further engage with this idea, while youth political leadership as an idea is strongly supported by the youth, across all constituencies with young leaders in the run, the youth voter turnout either remains comparable to the overall turnout or dips lower in some cases. Support for the idea of a young leadership does not seem enough to mobilize the young to exercise their vote even in situations where young candidates are contesting elections.

What here is suggested as a gap between ideation and action could also in turn be conceptualized as a specific emerging engagement of the youth with politics at an ideation level. Three indicators observed across various facets of this study strongly suggest the same. Youth across categories are a lot more opinionated than their older counterparts. Secondly the support for young

political leadership and finally an overwhelming agreement with the idea of electoral reforms such as right to reject and the right to recall seem to suggest a certain unity within the ideas of youth. Young political leadership and electoral reforms prove as significant nodes where this faint and as yet emerging engagement between the arena of politics and country's young can be further strengthened.

Gender matters. We cannot say this more emphatically, as across themes – interest, participation and opinions, women and men continue to occupy different worlds both on the arena of ideas and more so in the arena of action. While instruments of modernization like education and exposure to media, help to a limited extent, in making women more opinionated however none of these factors have any significant impact upon women when it comes to actual participation in public sphere. Far less young women as compared to young men participate in protests or demonstrations or in any electoral activities. Though a number of women have political aspirations, this is lower than that of young men. The fact of invisibility of young women from the public sphere, whether physical or ideational, and more so among the world of politics stands unchallenged as according to our study.

While studying youth, it seems one cannot over emphasise the importance of studying the effect of media on the youth. Exposure to media instantly raises awareness about political events, interest in politics, makes one opinionated regarding electoral reforms and greater support for young political leadership. The importance of media exposure lies in the fact that it has an instantaneous impact on an individual rather than gradual. The sudden increase in proportion of respondents aware about political events, having opinion on political reforms or having interest in politics between those not exposed to media and

those having low media exposure is unmatched and far beyond the impact of education or urbanization.

As evident this particular study is an exploration in the world of youth through tapping their attitudes, perceptions and behaviour. It is a systematic study of the opinions of the young on topics such as political awareness, interest and level of participation in politics, voting pattern, and political leadership by the young and ideas on electoral reforms.

It is observed that there was no significant change in proportion of young MPs in parliament in recent years as hyped by media, rather the number of young MPs has declined compared to early years. The 15th Lok Sabha is only significant due to an increase in numbers of young MPs with higher level of educational qualification and increased proportion of women parliamentarians in Lok Sabha.

Various studies have indicated that youth are more aware about political events compared to those older than them. Higher awareness is not merely a function of the young being more educated as compared to the rest, since even with similar level of education, youth as compared to their older counterparts rank higher on awareness. Young men are more aware compared to young women and this too is not merely due to a difference in the level of education attainment. Urban youth are more aware compared to rural youth across education categories.

This shows that gender and locality matter in the attainment of awareness about political events in the country.

While interest in politics among youth is rising, electoral participation in terms of youth voter turnout has remained consistent ever since. Participation in electoral and extra

electoral activities like protests and demonstrations seems to be on rise though. Again gender matters; political participation is lower amongst young women compared to young men. This difference remains despite of women being urbanised and educated. Attaining education does not necessarily increase the presence of women in the political sphere. Overall urban youth is more interested in politics but rural youth outnumber urban youth in political participation.

The voting pattern of the youth is not very different from voters of other age group; they do not seem to be inclined for or against any political party in particular. The mid 1990's witnessed a distinct shift of the youth towards the BJP, (1998 and 1999 Lok Sabha election) more amongst the urban and educated youth. But BJP seems to have lost its advantage amongst the urban and educated youth in recent years. The gender divide is quite evident amongst the youth; young women are more in favour of the Congress while the young men more inclined towards the BJP.

There is a preference for the young candidate amongst all voters across age groups however youth are more supportive of the young candidate compared to the older age groups of voters. Over all young respondents evaluate the young candidates more positively compared to the older candidate in-terms of taking care of voters in their constituency. While all are in principle against dynasty politics when it is between choosing young dynastic leader over an old non dynastic one, young leader seem to be a unanimous choice. However very few admit to the idea that young age of a candidate can be a sole attribute or the most important one for electing a candidate.

If there is an issue on which youth across age, gender, and level of educational attainment come together, it is in their support for ideas of electoral reforms. While the various kinds of ideas or proposed electoral reforms get approval both amongst the youth and the older age groups, the support for such proposed reform is more amongst the youth as compared to people from older age groups. The proposed electoral reforms get greater approval amongst the urban and educated youth. There is more support, than opposition for all four electoral reform ideas suggested in the survey. The consensus upon right to recall is highest among both the young and older age group whereas the support for setting an upper age limit of 65 years for contesting elections is the lowest, among both young and old.

VOLUNTEERING & YOUTH

History of NSS

National Service Committee was launched in the year 1959-60 under the chairmanship of Dr. C. D. Deshmukh, had recommended that National Service for a period of 9 months to a year should be made compulsory before a student enters the university or employment. The Saiyidain committee (1961) Appointed by the ministry of education did not favour compulsion and recommended National or Social Service for a minimum period of 12 weeks on a voluntary basis.

The National Service Scheme was launched in 1969. It aims at the involvement mainly of undergraduate students on a voluntary basis in various activities of social serviced and national development which while making a contribution to socio-economic progress would also provide opportunities to the students to understand and appreciate the problems of the communities, awaken social consciousness and inculcate in them sense of dignity of labour. There has been a great deal of enthusiasm among the students in various programmers taken up under the scheme. At the same time, there has been a demand from several quarters that opportunity should be provided to the youth going out of the universities and colleges to engage themselves on a whole time basis for a specific period in activities of social and national service. Some attempts in this direction have been made in some states during last few years.

The post-independence era was marked by an urge for introducing social service for students, both as a measure of educational reform and as a means to improve the quality of educated man-power. The University Grants Commission headed by Dr.Radhakrishnan recommended introduction of national service in the academic institutions on a voluntary basis with a view to developing healthy contacts between the

students and teachers on the one hand and establishing a constructive linkage between the campus and the community on the other hand.

The idea was again considered by the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) at its meeting held in January, 1950. After examining the various aspects of the matter and in the light of experience of other countries in this field, the Board recommended that students should devote some time to manual work on a voluntary basis and that the teachers should also associate with them in such work. In the draft First Five Year Plan adopted by the Government of India in 1952, the need for social and labour service for students for one year was further stressed. Consequent upon this, layout and social service camps, campus-work projects, village apprenticeship scheme etc., were put into operation by various educational institutions. In 1958, the then Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in his letter to the Chief Ministers, mooted the idea of having social service as a prerequisite for graduation. He further directed the Ministry of Education to formulate a suitable scheme for introduction of national service into the academic institutions.

In 1959, a draft outline of the scheme was placed before the Education Minister's Conference. The Conference was unanimous about the urgent need for trying out a workable scheme for national service. In view of the fact that education as it was imparted in schools and colleges, left something to be desired and it was necessary to supplement it with programmes which would arouse interest in the social and economic reconstruction of the country. It was viewed that if the objectives of the scheme were to be realised, it was essential to integrate social service with the educational process as early as possible. The Conference suggested the

appointment of a committee to work out details of the proposed pilot project. In pursuance of these recommendations, a National Service Committee was appointed under the Chairmanship of Dr.C.D.Deshmukh on August 28, 1959 to make concrete suggestions in this direction. The committee recommended that national service for a period of nine months to a year may be made compulsory for all students completing high school education and intending to enroll themselves in a college or a university. The scheme was to include some military training, social service, manual labour and general education. The recommendations of the Committee could not be accepted because of its financial implications and difficulties in implementation.

In 1960, at the instance of the Government of India, Prof.K.G.Saiyidain studied national service by students implemented in several countries of the world and submitted his report under the title " National Service for the Youth " to the Government with a number of recommendations as to what could be done in India to develop a feasible scheme of social service by students. It was recommended that national or social service should be introduced on a voluntary basis and extended as widely as possible with a provision for rich and varied programmes of activities. It was also recommended that social service camps should be open to students as well as non-students within the prescribed age group for better interrelationship.

The Education Commission headed by Dr. D.S. Kothari (1964-66) recommended that students at all stages of education should be associated with some form of social service. This was taken into account by the State Education Ministers during their conference in April 1969 and they recommended that at the university stage, students could be permitted to join the National Cadet Corps (NCC) which was already in existence on a a voluntary basis and an alternative to this could be offered to them in

the form of a new programme called the National Service Scheme (NSS). Promising sportsmen, however, should be exempted from both and allowed to join another scheme called the National Sports Organisation (NSO), in view of the need to give priority to the development of sports and athletics.

The Vice-Chancellor's Conference in September,1967 welcomed this recommendation and suggested that a special committee of Vice-Chancellors could be set up to examine this question in detail. In the statement of national policy on education of the Government of India, it was laid down that work experience and national service should be an integral part of education. In national service should be an integral part of education. In May, 1969, conference of the student's representatives of the universities and institutions of higher learning convened by the Ministry of Education and the University Grants Commission also unanimously declared that national service could be a powerful instrument for national integration. It could be used to introduce urban students to rural life. Projects of permanent value could also be undertaken as a symbol of the contribution of the student community to the progress and upliftment of the nation.

The details were soon worked out and the Planning Commission sanctioned an outlay of Rs.5 crores for National Service Scheme (NSS) during the Fourth Five Year Plan. It was stipulated that the NSS programme should be started as a pilot project in select institutions and universities.

On September 24, 1969, the then Union Education Minister Dr.V.K.R.V.Rao, launched the NSS programme in 37 universities covering all States and simultaneously requested the Chief Ministers of States for their cooperation and held. It was appropriate that the programme was started during the Gandhi Centenary Year as it was Gandhiji who inspired the Indian Youth

to participate in the movement for Indian independence and the social uplift of the down trodden masses of our nation.

Revamping NSS

The National Service Scheme started in 1960s has outlived its life. The scheme is not in tandem with the approaches that have outlined volunteerism in other countries. The European Union can be considered an example in this regard.

Volunteerism benefits both society at large and the individual volunteer by strengthening trust, solidarity and reciprocity among citizens, and by purposefully creating opportunities for participation. There is a need to for the recognition of volunteers, and advocacy of integrating volunteerism into development programming, and mobilizing an increasing number and diversity of volunteers throughout the country.

An ethic of volunteerism exists in every society in the world, albeit in different forms. Since 2001, wide-ranging research has added greatly to our understanding of the phenomenon. Nevertheless, fundamental misperceptions remain widespread in the Western world and beyond as to its nature and contributions. There is no agreed methodology for measuring the extent of voluntary engagement. However, most studies attest to the universality of volunteerism, its universal spread, massive scale and impact.

Opportunities for people to engage in volunteer action have been expanding in recent years as a result of factors such as globalization, the spread of new technologies and initiatives associated with corporate social responsibility from the private sector. The advent of mobile communication technologies and online volunteering, for example, has enabled many more people to participate for the first time. Mass short message service (SMS)

communication is one form of “microvolunteerism” that contributes to the production and sharing of information. It is frequently used by people to raise awareness, inform choices and monitor public services.

Online volunteering, i.e. volunteer work done via the Internet, has eliminated the need for volunteerism to be tied to specific times and locations, thus greatly increasing the freedom and flexibility of volunteer engagement. The sharing of information through social networking sites such as Twitter, Facebook and Orkut has helped people to organize around issues ranging from the environment to democratic change, most recently in some Arab states. The Internet facilitates volunteerism by matching the interests of people who seek to volunteer with the needs of host organizations, through programmes such as the UN Volunteers Online Volunteering service. Membership of virtual, Internet based communities can also engender feelings of belonging and well-being. While international volunteering is not new, it has manifested itself in new forms and has taken on new dimensions in an age of globalization. “Volunteerism” or student “gapyear” volunteerism, often undertaken for short periods, are new manifestations and their impact is open to question. Corporations, NGOs, universities and faith-based organizations have become increasingly engaged in facilitating internationally based volunteer placements. Furthermore, there is diaspora volunteerism in which experts from emigrant communities undertake short-term assignments to transfer knowledge to their countries of origin.

Another relatively new phenomenon is involvement of the private sector. Today, roughly one in three large companies offers some type of employer-supported volunteerism. There is a growing trend of longterm collaboration between private sector enterprises and local NGOs.

Annexure I

European Volunteer Service

EVS - European voluntary service. Started as a pilot project in the late 90s, the full program was created between 2000 and 2006, and the second generation is now, 2007-2013. The name of the programme is "Youth in Action". It is composed by 5 different sub actions, and EVS occupies proudly action 2.

Basically, a young person from anywhere in the European Union can travel to another country and spend 2-12 months there, supporting a social project and getting a strong learning experience. The programme covers everything, since it aims at social inclusion and it's not only for privileged young people who can afford to travel and see the world.

European volunteers get full reimbursement of travel, a total insurance for health and risks, free food and accommodation. They also receive a small amount of personal money for small expenses (at the moment in Italy is 115 euros per month). They also get preparation before the departure, training on the arrival (that's my job) about intercultural, conflicts, the local culture etc.

It's a very enriching experience as a whole and I really recommend it as a good practice. At the end the volunteers get a certificate, called Youthpass (<https://www.youthpass.eu/en/youthpass/>). This is getting more and more popular within public and private sector, and some universities also accept it for credits. EVS is action number 2. But maybe you can find the whole programme interesting for you and your perspectives.

Links:

Programme Guide:

http://ec.europa.eu/youth/youth-in-action-programme/programme-guide_en.htm

The official webpage of the european commission about EVS:

http://ec.europa.eu/youth/youth-in-action-programme/european-voluntary-service_en.htm

This is a few basic information about it.

There is a vast network of trainers in Europe whose job is to support and train volunteers on their arrival and during their service. One database of trainers is on SALTO's website

<http://www.salto-youth.net/tools/toy/>

Annexure II

Creation of Indian Youth Foundation – A Primer

Provide Funding for International youth meetings (Category A)

- The IYF may provide financial support for organising international youth meetings for youth leaders, including seminars, conferences, workshops, camps, festivals, etc.

Youth activities other than meetings (Category B)

- Apart from meetings, the types of youth activities eligible for IYF financial support are studies, research projects and the production of information and documentation on youth issues. In this category the Foundation may support, for example:
 - a. specialized publications (such as training manuals);
 - newsletters or magazines produced by international youth organisations or networks;
 - b. information campaigns;
 - c. exhibitions and the production of audio-visual materials etc;
 - d. the development of websites or the production of CD-ROMs;
 - e. the production of posters, badges and stickers; research projects on youth-related issues.

In the same category, the IYF can also grant study visits enabling youth organisations and networks to make new contacts in India and thus extend partnerships and develop co-operation.

Administration of international non-governmental youth organisations and networks (Category C)

- The Indian Youth Foundation may, on an annual basis, grant international non-governmental youth organisations or networks a contribution to cover part of the general administrative costs involved in running their activities at Indian level.
- The Foundation may also contribute to the administrative costs of international non-governmental youth organisations and networks, during a maximum period of three years, in order to help them to establish a European structure (Category C bis).

Pilot projects (Category D)

- Provide financial support to pilot projects carried out in the form of meetings between young people or activities other than meetings (documentation, research and publications).
- These priority objectives are:
 - to help young people, particularly disadvantaged young people, deal with the challenges facing them and fulfil their own aspirations;

- to encourage new forms of youth participation and organisation;
- to make a contribution to social cohesion, including through the fight against exclusion and the prevention of phenomena affecting young people more particularly;
- to adapt and broaden programmes and structures in line with changes in society.

WHO CAN APPLY FOR AN IYF GRANT?

- An international non-governmental youth organisation or network
- A national or local non-governmental youth organisation or network
- Non-governmental structures involved in youth work

PROCEDURE FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS TO THE IYF

A computerised system to manage the registration of youth NGOs, grant applications and follow up. On the web site of the IYF, youth NGOs can register with the IYF, submit their projects online and monitor the progress of the applications and the administrative follow up.

EXAMINING AND DECIDING ON THE APPLICATIONS

Grant applications are considered first by the IYF Secretariat, which ensures that the applications are complete and sufficiently well documented.

In addition, especially for Category A projects, the Secretariat checks to what extent the application corresponds to certain criteria. These include:

- clearly set out educational aims and learning objectives
- coherent and feasible budget
- geographical balance of participants
- international preparatory team
- multiplying effect.

All applications received are summarised in a document with the Secretariat's recommendation and forwarded to the members of the Programming Committee on Youth. This committee comprises eight government representatives and eight representatives of non-governmental youth organisations, networks and other non-governmental youth structures. It normally meets twice a year, in June and December, in order, among other things, to examine applications and make decisions regarding the amount of financial support to be granted, if any.

Youth NGOs are informed of the Committee's decision immediately after the meeting and a list of the projects accepted for funding is published on the web site

TEAM YOUTH FOR POLICY & DIALOGUE

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www.youthpolicy.in

www.facebook.com/YouthPolicy

info@youthpolicy.in | +91 9999428096

Youth for Policy & Dialogue is an apolitical, not for profit youth forum established in 2010. We currently run four initiatives in India and are a proud affiliate of G8&G20 Youth Networks, a group of 20 Youth Organisations working in top 20 economies of the world.



*****End of Report*****