

Ways and Means of Public Policy and Programmes for Youth in India

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Abstract

Youth is the key factor in development of a country and plays a significant role in growing Indian economy. Many policies and programmes have been framed for youths and still are being framed. These policies and programmes provide opportunities to develop their skill and provide a chance to show their potential in industry, economy, polity, trade etc. Youth should have been paid special attention while framing policies. As India is a developing country, role of youth becomes more crucial in development of our country. Policies and Programmes like National Youth Policy 2014, TULIP, Digital India, Skill India highlights the importance of the youth and guidethem to appear in the world of employment. These policies and programmes describe some specific features for youth as TULIP is administered in Urban Local Bodies/smart cities only. This does not cover rural local bodies. Similarly, in National Youth Policy 2014, male youth were in centre of attention. In this article, author discussed National Youth policy 2014, and TULIP conducted under Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and Ministry of Education jointly.

Keywords- NYP 2014, Youth, TULIP, etc.

Introduction

India is the largest populous country at the globe. In the report projected by the **Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2022), United Nations, India will overtake China as world's most populous country.** Data based on **Worldometer elaboration of the latest United Nations data**, India's population is **1,429,948,789** as of **Monday, August 7, 2023.** It is not only the largest populous country but also one of the youngest populations in the world. This can provide an opportunity of window to lead the world. Youth is the most important human resource not only in population structure but also in social structure. Youth is the key agent in social change, national development, cultural growth, technological innovation, economic growth etc. It is a viable force for all round development and also reverberates in 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Youth, generally, represents the population of young age. **National Youth Policy (2014)** defines youth as people between ages of **15-29 years.** While, **National Youth Policy (2023)** defined youth as people between ages of **13-35.** **United Nations** defines youth as people between ages of **15-24 years.** There is no particular definition of youth which is accepted universally. Different type of organizations have given their definition regarding youth. Youth is subjective term and used by the various organizations for their own point of view. Youth is the productive and energetic section of the society which has force to change the world. They are reflective and creative thinker. They are the creator of the future. Youth is playing its significant role in every aspect of life. They are change-

maker, creative thinker, innovator, communicator, leaders etc. that can shape the society in desirable forms. It is the driver of Indian economy.

Objective of the Study – For the current study, objective of the study is to analyze National Youth Policy 2014 and The Urban Learning Internship Program (TULIP).

Methodology- . For the current study, secondary data has been used in analysing the policies and descriptive analytics method was used to conduct the present study as it is in descriptive and analytical in the nature . Report **Youth in India** published by **Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, Government of India** projects the data regarding population with its sub sectors. It can be overviewed in brief in following table:

Table 1

Section		Value	Year	
Percentage of youth in total population	Person	27.2	2021	
	Male	27.8		
	Female	26.7		
BMI of male and female aged between 15-29	Male	15-19	52.6	2019-21
		20-29	66.6	
	Female	15-19	54.9	
		20-29	61.9	
Labour Force Participation Rate (15-29)	Person	41.4	2020-21	
	Male	60.1		
	Female	21.1		
Unemployment Rate (15-29)	Person	12.9	2020-21	
	Male	13.0		
	Female	12.5		
Literacy Rate (15-29)	Person	88.8	2011	
	Male	91.2		
	Female	86.2		

(Source: Youth in India, Report 2021 Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, Government of India.)

Data projected in the table shows that No. of youth in overall population is 27.2 and their literacy rate is 88.8 which is a large and educated portion of the population and has force to grow Indian economy. Government has implemented various programmes and policies such as The Urban Learning Internship Programme under Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sanghathan, National Youth Corps, National Programme for Youth and Adolescent

Development, Rashtriya Yuva Shasktikaran Karyakram, National Young Leader Programmes, Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development etc. to enhance youth's competencies in every aspect like leadership, technological innovation, self-employment etc. Framing policies and programmes for youth is no doubt appreciable but it will not get its objective until it is implemented at grass root level with its clear vision. Transparency, honesty, availability of resources, funds, efficiency of youth etc. are some key factors in proper implementation of the policies and programmes framed for youth.

National Youth Policy (2014)- National Youth Policy (2014), (NYP-2014) framed by Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India advocates the importance of youth in growth of Indian economy and provides a roadmap to the stakeholders of Indian economy how they can seek potential of youth and may utilize this potential to grow the national economy to enter the window of apex nation in the world. **Sultana (2015)** analysed in the study entitled "A Critical Exploration of National Youth Policy of India – 2003 and 2014" in which he mentioned that this policy aimed to take benefit of the competencies of Indian youths to enhance social and national development by meeting its 5 objectives with 11 proprieties with in the stipulated time.

Vision of NYP 2014 - Vision of the policy as mentioned in the document of the policy is "To empower youth of the country to achieve their full potential, and through them enable India to find its rightful place in the community of nations". It provides a holistic vision for youth to make India enable to hold its right place among the nations.

Objectives of the policy – This policy has five objectives to fulfil its vision for which 11 Priority areas have been proposed as follows:

Objectives of the policy	Priority areas of the policy
1. Creating a productive workforce to make a sustainable contribution to India's economic development.	1. Education 2. Skill Development and Employment 3. Entrepreneurship
2. Developing a strong and healthy generation equipped to take on future challenge.	4. Health and healthy lifestyle 5. Sports
3. Instill social values and promote community service to build national ownership.	6. Promotion of social values 7. Community engagement
4. Facilitating participation and civic engagement at levels of governance	8. Participation in politics and governance 9. Youth engagement
5. Supporting youth at risk and create equitable opportunity for all disadvantaged and marginalized youth	10. Inclusion 11. Social justice

(Source: National Youth Policy 2014 Report Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India.)

In the light of objectives and priority areas, this policy focused to educate youth at academic and industrial level to inculcate capacities, competencies and other necessary skills. Various programmes like Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), lifelong teaching, providing education and vocational education, loan, etc. were discussed for inclusive education to youth. But it was not suggested how to frame the policies and how to implement them. It was left to the concerned Departments/Ministries. Further, it is necessary to define the role of Government and private sectors and should provide a roadmap so that each one may aware to implement its action. Also, it was not recommended by the policy that how much funds should be spent on higher, secondary and vocational education. This policy highlights various programmes and drives like PradhanMantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) scheme, National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) etc. which play a significant role to control the diseases like Polio, HIV/AIDS, TB etc. Women were also focused for health perspectives. Many programmes were suggested to maintain youth health still a lot of is left to achieve the rest. A health insurance policy with sufficient amount from Government side for the youth should be suggested so that they may take benefit whenever they need. It does not recommend to stop the production of drugs/ alcoholic substances so that not only youth but also one can be able not to take drugs/alcoholic substances. If it happens so, there will be no need make people aware about ill-effects of drugs/alcoholic substances.

This policy mentions the importance of sports stakeholders like Rajeev Gandhi Khel Abhiyaan, Sports Authority of India, National Institute of Sports etc. in promoting sports among youth. Rani Luxmi Bai National Institute of Physical Education provides Under and Post Graduate courses in sports but providing such courses in a single institution is not sufficient. Providing sports courses in more institutions must be recommended or establishment of such more sports education institutions should be recommended in this policy. Social morality and moral values are the crucial elements of human behaviour which help in following the norms and standards of society. NYP 2014 gives importance of social morality and moral values and discuss the ways like formal and informal education, NCC, NSS and other policies to cultivate them in youth. NSS, NCC, NYKS etc. schemes help youth in community engagement which help in developing social values. NGOs and media are also a powerful resource to develop social morality and moral values in youth but this policy does not discuss the role of these resources to cultivate social morality and moral values in youth. Youth participation in politics and governance may lead the country for better future. This policy advocates for the participation of those youths who are already elected leaders or in any type of politics which is appropriate in democratic point of view. All youths having politic attitude and aptitude, should be provided platform to enter the world of politics. They should also be assigned as the post of particular leader for one or two days or as case may be to realize the practical perspective of the same. Such thing is not mentioned in this policy.

Policy also highlights the inclusion and social justice of all the youth as OBC, SC/ST, handicap, marginalized, suffering from different diseases, gay, transgender etc. in different engagements for betterment of the society and are being facilitated through various organizations/institutions, programmes/policies like Rajeev Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), NSS, NCC, NYKS etc. still there is need of more improvement in all these programmes and policies for desired outcomes at practical and grassroot level for effective implementation of the policy. **Roopesh, P.P.** also analysed this policy and found that although policy focused on increasing access to education,

vocational education, lifelong learning, equality, promoting skill development and building capacity yet this policy lacked a clear focus on rural areas, no priority areas for sources of employment generation, lack of improving the measures of unrecognized labour segment.

National Youth Policy (2014) encapsulates the holistic development of youth and makes various suggestions to fulfil its objectives with the different Ministries/organizations. It is a guiding and leading document for all youth stakeholders still there are some challenges in perspectives of implementation as honesty and will power of the policy stakeholders to implement the policy, to mould the youth for desired outcomes, sufficient funds to implement the policy, evaluation of the policy on time, social challenges, political influences etc.

The Urban Learning Internship Program (TULIP)– The Urban Learning Internship Programme is an internship programme which was launched by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs; and All India Council for Technical Education (Ministry of Education) on 4th June, 2020 in pursuance of the Budget by the Government. This provides internship opportunities to fresh graduates in urban local bodies. **Editor of Insights (2020)** described TULIP as a programme which provides experiential learning to fresh graduates in urban sector. This programme is limited to Smart City and Urban Local Bodies which helps fresh graduates in providing internship opportunities in urban sector like urban planning, environment, transport engineering, municipal finance etc.

Features of the Programme –

- Connecting youth with urban governments.
- Providing Government and industry a pool of skilled professionals.
- To make future city leaders more market ready.
- Exposing the youth to real life learning in urban environment.

The graduates who want to register on TULIP, may register through its portal but they, however, should note that they should not cross the 36 months from the declaration of their result while making registration on TULIP portal. Candidates have Online option only at present for their registration on TULIP. Offline registration facility is not available at present. Candidate can apply for up to seven internship requirements. After screening/shortlisting process, candidate may be invited for the interview by ULB/Smart City and may be provided internship offer on the basis of performance in interview. More than 1,00,000 students have registered on TULIP portal having access to 27,000 internship opportunities offered by more than 1800 ULBs across the country since its inception. 5,730 internships have been offered in various domains like engineering, IT professionals, public relations, architects, etc. of which 3,823 candidates have completed their internship as far 1st March, 2023.

TULIP proved a milestone giving hands-on experiences to youth by providing internships and preparing skilled youth for job-oriented markets. It has provided a number of internships in various states like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamilnadan etc. No doubt, TULIP is beneficial for youth and enhancing skills for particular sector yet all the youths are not getting benefit from this programme as it is administered for only Urban Local Bodies not in Rural Local Bodies and limited for only seven sectors. Further, providing stipend to interns depend on the purview of Urban Local Bodies/Smart City one has applied to. A fix stipend may encourage more to youth for registering on TULIP portal for internship and concerned Ministry/Ministries i.e., Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and Ministry of Education should make some directions for the same to

make this programme more effective. TULIP should also be extended for Rural Local Bodies so that Youth belongs to these local bodies may get benefit from this programme and may get chance to develop market-oriented skills.

Conclusion – No doubt, youth play a vital role to develop Indian economy. These are the backbone of nation which hold the entire Indian economy. Many policies and programmes for development of youth have initiated and are being initiated by Government, NGOs and other stakeholders to skilled youths to use their full potential to develop the nation. National Youth Policy 2014, Skill India, TULIP, Digital India etc. are some examples for the same. But these policies have some limitations which policy stakeholders should pay attention during framing them to fulfil the objectives of the policies and programmes.

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