

YOUTH
in
CONTEMPORARY
INDIA

Issues, Challenges and Opportunities

Vikash Kumar



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Youth in Contemporary India

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by *Vikash Kumar*

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An Appraisal of the Execution of Government Policies for the Empowerment of Indian Youth

□ Dr. Sadaf Khan*

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Abstract

Dr. APJ. Abdul Kalam, former President of India (2002-2007) states that "the resource of the youth is an important building block for transforming India into a developed nation". India is the most populous democracy in the world and also has the world's largest youth population, with 70% below 35 years. A country's ability and potential for growth is determined by the size of its youth population. The share of youth population in total population has been continuously increasing from the level of 30.6% in 1971 to 34.8% in 2011.

The National Youth Policy initially (in 2003) defined the youth as in the age group 13-35. However, National Youth Policy, 2014 modified it and defined 'youth' as persons in the age-group of 15-29 years. In the present report, we have adopted 15-34 years as youth as adopted in the earlier report in order to show trend and changes over long period of time.¹ After given these wide varieties of factors here we are able to define youth. The age group of 15-30, from all the sex, has constituted the category of youth.

Contemporary youth has been facing such problems in present scenario some major issues are education, employment, drug abuse, alcoholism, rate of crime and terrorism etc. Youth

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has always been of vital concern of the Government of India. Various youth development programmes undertaken by the Union Government after Independence, like National Cadet Corps (NCC), National Service Scheme (NSS), Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and the schemes for financial assistance to NGOs engaged in youth development bear ample testimony to this fact. This paper is analyzing the same, the policies of government and requirement of youth. How much government is planning and how much it is working, to resolve the problems of youth.

INTRODUCTION

Dr. APJ. Abdul Kalam, former President of India (2002-2007) states that “the resource of the youth is an important building block for transforming India into a developed nation”. India is the most populous democracy in the world and also has the world’s largest youth population, with 70% below 35 years. A country’s ability and potential for growth is determined by the size of its youth population. The share of youth population in total population has been continuously increasing from the level of 30.6% in 1971 to 34.8% in 2011.² It considered as two aspects for each and every country first, a ‘problem’ and second a ‘human recourse’. Now it depends on the government policies and the execution of those policies. How is the country dealing with the youth population? Either Tasking it as a human rescors it become productive or taking it as a problem it become curse for any country. This research paper is analyzing the same on the prospects of India.

It is estimated that by 2020, the average Indian will be only 29 years, compared with an average age of 37 years in China and the US, and 45 years in western Europe and Japan.³ Young people are the future of any nation and they contribute to the development of the country. Around the world, the terms “youth”, “adolescent”, “teenager”, and “young person” are used interchangeably, often meaning the same thing, only occasionally differentiated. Youth generally refers to a period of life that is neither childhood nor adulthood, but rather somewhere in-between.⁴ Generally youth is a period of training or education but in contemporary societies,