

A Critical Exploration of National Youth Policy of India – 2003 and 2014

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Abstract

The National Youth Policy was formulated in the year 1988; in 2003 and subsequently in 2014. The changes in the socio-economic and other conditions in the country call for a reformulation recurrently so that the contemporary situation is taken stock of and absorbed into the policy for the youth well-being. India is the world's highest youth densely populated country. The Census 2011 mentions youth population in the age group of 15-24 amounting to 231 million and the decadal growth is +22.1 % while the sex ratio is 908 (882) in 2011. It is an urgent call to all stakeholders interested in youth development to take a serious look into the policies, programmes and schemes crafted for the youth along with the pros and cons of the implementation and review them in accordance with the rising needs and demands of the youth population in the country. In it their participation, cooperation, contribution and inclusion should be the main approach. This paper shall primarily have a relook into the policies of 2003 and 2014 and present an analysis of them for better understanding of the same.

Keywords: Youth, National Policy, 2003, 2014, Critical exploration, Analysis

INTRODUCTION

Youth is considered to be a very important segment of the society. They are constantly changing and evolving considerably over a period of time. Youth are currently the most influential factor when it comes to social change and it shall continue to be the same, hence their energies have to be tapped and directed constantly towards a positive force for both their own and the national development. The UNFPA Executive Director considers youth as “young people who are the innovators, creators, builders and leaders of the future”. He believes, only if the youth have “skills, health, decision-making and real choices in life” will their future be transformed (Rukmini, 2014). India's youth matter, politically and economically. India

is one of the youngest nations in the world, which has a population of 65 per cent under the age of 35 years (Nayyar, 2011).

It is pathetic to see in some cases where the children at times are just dragged or pulled into the adult age due to their family conditions. More over the process of industrialization has also seen a lot of deviant behavior problems emerging during this phase as a result of changing scenario at various levels which is having a harsh effect on the youth all over the globe. The need for systematic research on different aspects and problems concerning youth is clearly indicated (Atal, 1989). He adds that there is so much to talk about youth but when it comes to research on the same there is very little done in this area.

Simhadri (1989) mentions the demands of industrialization is such that it looks into whether individuals have the technical knowledge, task expertise and know-how. How despite its presence in the education system the urban youth manage to get jobs on comparison with the rural youth is another question? It is also been noticed that skills shortage is primarily the leading reason for having difficulties in having an entry into the first level vacancies which is a clear indication that the educational system has to be more job oriented and not just theoretical in nature.

PTI (2014) mentions that the developing countries with large youth populations could see their economies soar provided they invest heavily in young people's education and health and protect their rights. This is why it is equally important for the respective Governments to come up with a clear cut policy clearly realizing the situation and also identifying what needs to be done and prioritize its plans accordingly. The National Youth Policy 2003 and 2014 was no doubt a step in this move to review the situation,

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highlight its priorities and then envision programmes accordingly. Hence this paper proposes to present its salient features, comparison of the policies, list out the similarities and differences to guide for future course of action.

NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY 2003: A CRITICAL EXPLORATION

The Introduction clearly highlights the fact that there is a need to establish an All-India perspective to fulfill the aspirations so that the needs of the younger population are adequately met. Youth have to rise up to the contemporary challenges and become active participants in the task of National Development. It looks for the contribution of the youth towards their well-being and their participation to ensure effective coordination between the Ministries, Departments and other Agencies. ‘Youth Empowerment’ in varied spheres of national life is the major thrust of this policy. If India has to keep abreast of the challenges in the global scenario then programmes targeted towards personality development and qualities of citizenship of the youth needs to be focused with an emphasis to enhance commitment towards Community service, Social Justice, Self-reliance, National Integration and Humanism. The policy aims to recognize the above mentioned inter-related values and principles as its basic premise.

The Policy serves as a guideline to harness the energies of the youth in the right direction identified in the contemporary context of national development. The policy calls for the participation of the youth in the processes of decision-making and execution at local and higher levels. The Policy aims to cover all the youth in the age group of 13 to 35 years and they shall be catered to in sub groups of 13-19 years and 20-35 years. The youth belonging to the age group 13-19 which is a major part of the adolescent age group, will be regarded as a separate constituency.

All the agencies involved in the programme formulation and implementation must keep in mind that the way the

youth will be encouraged so will be their outcome. The youth should also have a role in decision making and execution at local and higher levels. The Policy has also made a mention of the population in the respective age group over the years.

13-35 years – 1991 census – 34 crores 1997 census – 38 crores 2016 census – 51 crores

Total Youth Population

37 % - 1997

40 % - 2016

The youth require suitable infrastructure for their development. The Policy has spelled out nine objectives which focus on the below mentioned:

- Awareness and adherence on secular principles and values
- Develop qualities of citizenship
- Promote awareness in the fields of Indian History, heritage, arts and culture
- Provide youth with academic guidance and teaching opportunities with respect to employment, entrepreneurial guidance and financial credit.
- Facilitate access and information on youth, health information and services, facilitate availability of sports and recreational facilities
- Foster spirit of volunteerism
- Create an international perspective in youth
- Develop youth leadership in various spheres
- Promote participatory role for youth in protection and preservation of nature and encourage youth to take travel excursions within India and outside

Thrust Areas of the Policy

<p>Youth Empowerment</p>	<p>Youth need to be better equipped with Knowledge, Skills and Capabilities</p>	<p>Attainment of higher educational levels and access to employment opportunities Adequate nutrition for holistic development and promotion of good health Development of youth Leadership pertaining to National Development Equality of opportunity and respect for human and fundamental rights without any discrimination</p>
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Gender Justice	The prevailing gender bias is the main factor responsible for poor status of health and economic well-being of women in society	Every girl child and young women should have access to education and also serve to spread literacy Women will have access to adequate health services and will also be promoted to have a say in the size of the family Domestic Violence shall be seen in the context of human rights violations Necessary steps shall be taken towards women's effective decision-making process and other professional opportunities Young men shall be sensitized to respect the women Action would be pursued to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women Promoting family system ensuring rights to all
Inter-sectoral Approach		Coordination with various Ministries and other Departments is also essential
Information and Research Network		Well-organised Information and Research Network to be initiated Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development shall serve as the apex information and research centre

The Policy also Acknowledges Certain Privileges and Responsibilities of the Youth

- Education and Training
- Employment and Opportunities for Personal Development
- Shelter and Clean Environment
- Social Defence and Protection
- Participation in decision-making bodies
- Adequate Allocation of funds
- Access to sport and other recreational opportunities

Responsibilities

- Contribute to self and social development
- Respect to teachers and elders
- Uphold unity and integrity of nation
- Respect other faith and religion
- Promote ethical conduct in individual and social life
- Preserve and protect the environment
- Devote time and energy in nation building activities

The Policy proposes the following key sectors of youth concern

1. Education

The Education provided should promote quality citizenship, a sense of patriotism, adherence to moral and ethical values develop respect for the country's culture and national heritage. The policy also envisages a stress free education and promotion of sports and other activities for learning. Infrastructure, equipments for their utility is also emphasized. Vocationalisation of higher education and increase in technical institutions is also targeted. Greater uniformity in academics across the nation, proper career guidance and counseling, strengthening of links between the educational system and the employers should also be developed. Strengthening of the skills of the young artisans and rural orientation in terms of agriculture and agro processing also needs to be looked into. Women's health issue needs to be focused on and more youth need to be involved as members to promote universalization of primary education and also book reading habits among the youth.

2. Training and Employment

Unemployment and Underemployment of the youth is considered a serious issue, especially in the rural areas, it has also highlighted that the labour force has increased but the employment rates have not kept pace with the population. The critical issues have been identified, how the advancement of technology has impacted employment but the youth do not have support in terms of 'seed money' for entrepreneurship is also projected. Training programmes for youth with disabilities, youth from urban areas moving back to rural areas and other young people

in need are also mentioned. Data Bank to tap employment opportunities also needs to be created and maintained.

3. Health

Among the youth 78.4 per cent lived in the rural areas and 21.6 per cent lived in the urban areas. The mean age for marriage in the rural areas have been 21.56 for males and 16.67 for females whereas in the urban areas it has been 24.32 years for males and 19.92 per cent for females (Census, 1991). As most of the adolescent girls get married it is more crucial to focus on the a) General Health b) Mental Health c) Spiritual Health d) AIDS, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Substance Abuse and e) Population Education. Nutrition intake, iodine deficiencies, anaemia and discriminatory practices among adolescent girls have to be checked and prevented. Awareness generation activities have to be initiated. Hygiene and sanitation mass awareness campaigns have to be undertaken with a focus on urban slums and rural areas. Health education and health consciousness in both theory and in practice in academic curricula needs to be promoted.

The youth also undergo a lot of pressure in terms of education and other opportunities, hence depression and suicidal tendencies seem to be on the high rise. Counselling services to the adolescents are aptly required and capacity building is required for this age group. Yoga and meditation needs to be promoted.

Proper education and awareness of various high risk behaviors is necessary for the youth. The policy envisages education and awareness for prevention, proper treatment and counseling, curative services and rehabilitation to be promoted. Adolescent clinics at hospitals/ rural areas are also becoming a need. Responsible sexual behaviour, right age for marriage, planning pregnancy and childbirth, spacing between children, ante-natal, natal and post-natal services for young women have all to be focused on adequately.

Hence the Policy proposes to strengthen organizations who could work at the grass root level, strengthening of IEC component, and also considers youth to be promoted as 'Health Promoters'. Facilities like toilets, water points, dispensaries and wells, cleanliness and hygiene are promoted. Safe blood donation, nutritional practices, prevention campaigns and peer education is also needed. The Policy aims at universal accessibility of accessible, affordable and quality health care services for the youth in the country.

4. Environment

Understanding the need to safeguard the children and the youth from unplanned industrialization and environmental degradation more community involvement in the preservation of the environment is planned. As men tend to migrate for employment the women suffer from other issues like water and scarcity of fuel wood hence action is looked forward in areas like: imparting of knowledge in school curricula, in training programmes, motivating youth to elicit data on environmental issues and to create mass awareness, devising vocational opportunities through waste management practices, also guiding youth in agriculture related practices and water conservation and water harvesting practices.

5. Sports and Recreation

The Policy also supports activities like sports, recreation, physical education and adventure as areas of human resource development. It aims to foster sports and games as a mass movement, it could be made compulsory in academic institutions, facilities and infrastructure to be promoted, provision of play grounds in municipal and civic areas, youth from geographically disadvantaged areas to be attended to, involvement of scouts and guides, Nehru Yuvak Kendra Sangatan and other panchayat institutions to develop and maintain facilities, national youth festivals to be organized each year from block to national level, youth hostels to be promoted in places of historical and cultural interest, youth organisations to be initiated, inculcation of leadership qualities, courage and other values to be encouraged.

6. Arts and Culture

The youth have to be provided with opportunities to understand and follow various forms of culture. They need to be encouraged to learn various arts and cultural activities, heritage, facilitate them with railway concessions, encourage them to visit artists and attend seminars, conferences, workshops, encourage Govt. and NGO participation in promoting presence of artists in several platforms. National youth centres to be promoted where people can come and discuss on fine arts, films, theatre and music. State centres should also be initiated on the same lines.

7. Science and Technology

The policy envisages to support the youth with adequate facilities for research. For this science needs

to be adequately popularized, promoting and providing exposure to the youth, train talented and gifted youth in the system, promotion of ICT, promoting multi-sectoral approach to orient towards scientific and technological research, upgrading science curricula in academic institutions, developing link between projects of young scientists and problems of the people, ensuring co-ordination between various ministries and government depts. also promoting documentation of the knowledge based resources is needed.

8. Civics and Citizenship

The values of the young people have to be promoted which includes family life, education, work, gender, class, religion and many others on similar lines. Anti-social behavior crops up in absence of the values which do not form a part of the youth attitude and culture. For this the policy aims to embody instruction of values, motivate the youth to resist the fragmentation of youth on several grounds, mobilise the youth to create local pressure groups to fight corruption and other anti developmental issues, laying emphasis on the economic and social security of the youth from underprivileged sections and also the specially abled.

9. Priority Target Groups

The policy shall focus on a) Rural and Tribal Youth b) Out-of School youth c) Adolescents particularly female adolescents d) Youth with Disabilities e) Youth under special difficult circumstances like victims of trafficking, orphans and street children.

10. Implementation Mechanism

The policy also proposes that all ministries in central and state government will strive to make alterations in the budgetary allocations for youth developmental programmes. A National Committee on Youth Policy and Programmes is proposed to be planned to review and assess various programmes and schemes focusing on youth. It shall also guide the government to prepare the plan of action of the National Youth Policy. The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports shall be the nodal ministry for all programmes and schemes and shall also oversee the implementation of programmes. A mechanism to coordinate the activities of the Depts /Ministries/ and other organizations is essential to facilitate timely execution of youth development activities. National Youth Development Fund needs to be created which could be

utilized for youth development activities. Tax exemption could be sought towards this contribution.

11. Review: This policy needs to be reviewed every five years.

National Youth Policy 2014: A Critical Exploration

The National Youth Policy 2014 was introduced in the 150th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda who had a great vision and passion for the youth of this country and strongly believed that they had a potential to take the nation forward. The Policy highlights the fact that the nation has had a major demographic shift and using the power of the youth in a constructive manner is very much essential to promote social and national development. The Policy is extensive and exhaustive and is a document of various consultations put together at several platforms across the country. The policy showcases a vision and it steps to carry forth the vision by the Government of India and its concerned Ministries. The National Policy 2014 has identified 11 priority areas and seeks immense participation from the youth to carry it forward.

This policy envisages in building a strong and resurgent India and makes a call to the youth to envision what Vivekanadaji thought for the youth of the country. It shall also serve as a framework for action for all stakeholders involved in them. As the Policy is a continual document of revisiting and reviewing priorities of the respective stakeholders it is necessary that this Policy also is reviewed in every five year to re-identify the priorities. At present five objectives have been identified and the Policy insists that these objectives need to be met in the next five years. To deliver these five objectives eleven priority areas and action in these areas have been chalked out. The main aim of the policy is ‘youth mainstreaming’ in all sectors for that baseline assessment needs to be done and annual targets and have to be set and monitored. It also proposes to bring out the biennial report of the targets set, achieved and the met and the unmet challenges and also track the progress so that all youth are mainstreamed into the society for a nation to prosper on its own.

The Executive Summary has the main objectives of the policy followed by detailed explanation of the same in more depth. They are presented in the below mentioned pattern:

Part – 1 is titled as the ‘Importance of Youth’ (Section 1.1 to 1.4). In this part the United Nations definition of ‘Youth’ as persons between 15-24 years of age is clearly mentioned. In the National Youth Policy 2003 it was defined as a person of age between 13-35 years but in National Youth Policy 2014 it is defined as 15-29 years. Such a mention demands more focused approach as far as policy interventions are concerned. The Policy makes a clear mention of the heterogeneity of the group and also asserts about the different needs and concerns of the youth. It further assumes that the youth are no doubt going to make a significant contribution to the economic development of the country as 27.5 per cent of the population fall in the age group of 15-29 years. This is the most potential age group and if tapped on can be a great economic boon to the nation.

The Part 2 is titled as ‘Youth Related Efforts in India’ (Section 2.1 to 2.6) where the Government of India claims that around 37,000 crores of money are being spent on schemes targeted towards development of youth in areas of education, skill development and engagement and Rs 55,000 is also spent on non-targeted schemes designed for various other segments benefitting the youth and the total amount sums upto Rs 90,000 crores. (Source: Union Budget, 2011-12; pg. 13). The Ministry of HRD and the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment provides grants to various schools and universities and direct cash benefit to the students in the form of scholarships and fellowships for secondary and higher education and for skill development, employment, health and engagement. This comes under the Targeted Expenditure.

Under the Non-targeted Expenditure Food Subsidies, Employment programmes like NREGA, health programmes related to infrastructure development, disease control and family welfare constitute a significant share and the above mentioned are carried out through the Ministry of Drinking water and Sanitation, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Labour Employment and Ministry of Rural Development.

The Central and State Governments put together is a higher aggregate expenditure on youth and the key players in the development and empowerment of the youth are the a) Central Government b) State Government c) Non-Government stakeholders (Small and Fragmented) and d) Multiple stakeholders

The National Youth Policy 2014 has clearly mentioned that there has been no systematic assessment carried out to understand the status and present challenges and also the inter-linkages between various areas. Also the identification of the range of stakeholders, how they can impact and how to align them together has not been done earlier and this has been mentioned in the policy clearly. Hence the policy suggests mapping of a stakeholder exercise, what kind of activities they are engaged in and also how to orient them to benefit the target group – the youth. The stakeholders and the impact on the beneficiaries is the major focus in this section.

The part 3 of the Policy is titled as ‘Vision, Objectives and Priority areas of NYP 2014’ and it presents the following:

- The state of the youth aged 15-29 years in India
- The key issues and challenges faced by the youth
- Present how all stakeholders can support the youth which in turn can ensure positive development of the society both present and the future.

The Policy clearly states the Vision 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”.

Inclusive Policies from the Government is necessary for youth development.

The Part 4 of this policy is titled as ‘Current Policies and Future Imperatives’ (Section 4.1 to 4.11) presents the identified priorities with details:

1. Education – Current Status and Future Imperatives:

Youth represent diversity and their needs are different and varied. The Government of India intends to mainstream the Specially abled, women and minorities. Multiple stakeholders like the Government, Private sector and the Civil society have played a key role in delivering education and providing financial support to students. The focus is to have an upward transition of students and also support lifelong learning, vocationalizing education and promote skill development. Capacity and quality in the system, certification and accreditation, Promotion of skill development and lifelong learning is also listed. The 12th plan shall also focus on a) increasing access b) ensuring equity c) improving the quality of inputs and outcomes d) promoting greater governance and accountability. Physical infrastructure improvements, teacher selection,

recruitment programmes and also expanded reach to lower education enrolments and outcomes shall be stressed upon. The role of the government vis-à-vis private sector in the delivery of education has to be clearly defined.

2. Employment and Skill Development - Current Status and Future Imperatives:

Skill development has been acknowledged as a national priority and the GOI has taken a two-pronged approach namely a) Enabling skill development and b) Implementing direct employment programmes for lower skilled individuals. In 2008 a three tier structure was created consisting of the PM's National Council on Skill Development (NCSDD), National Skill Development Coordination Board (NSDCB) and the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), in 2009, GOI launched the National Skill Development Policy (NSDP) with a target for skilling 500 million people by 2020. Subsequently in June 2013 the creation of National Skill Development Agency (NSDA), the NCSDD, the NSDCB, and the Office of the Adviser to Prime Minister on Skill Development have now been subsumed in NSDA.

Ministry of Labour and Employment has also taken a number of initiatives in the field of skill development and employment. The National Employment Service run through network of employment exchanges is also modernized and being converted into National Career Service and the apprenticeship regime is also being significantly improved. In addition, the Ministry is also bringing out a National Employment Policy. MGNREGA provides 100 days of guaranteed employment to all rural households willing to work on labour-intensive projects. Besides this critical area has been prioritized (a) ensuring youth benefit from skill development opportunities, (b) clearly defining stakeholder roles, and (c) building interlinkages between systems and stakeholders. The funding opportunities and financial assistance schemes have also to be sensitized among the youth. The policy intends to focus on a) Targeted youth outreach & awareness programmes b) Build linkages across systems and stakeholders c) Define role of government vis-a-vis other stakeholders.

3. Entrepreneurship – Current Status and Future Imperatives

The Policy intends to promote entrepreneurship to accelerate economic development and for that the following factors are identified: a) Access to training b) Incubator

support c) Credit to finance their ventures. The Prime Ministers' Employment Generation Programme administered by the Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises is one of the largest credit-linked subsidy schemes for promoting entrepreneurship among youth in India. GOI mentions that about 50% of the labor force is currently self-employed and small and Medium Enterprises employ 70 million people which is approximately 15% of the labor force in its Report on Employment and Unemployment Survey, Ministry of Labor and Employment. The National Rural Livelihoods Mission and the Rural Self-Employment Training Institutes facilitate training for self-employment. However the Policy aims to strengthen on a) outreach & information provision (b) scale & inclusion (c) programme quality and relevance and (d) monitoring and evaluation to provide an encouraging support to the budding youth entrepreneurs.

4. Health and Healthy Lifestyle – Current Status and Future Imperatives

Most of the youth find it difficult to meet the health related expenditure. Hence the policy aims to include (a) promoting a healthy lifestyle among youth to combat non-communicable diseases attributable to lifestyle disorders like obesity, cardio-vascular diseases, diabetes, stroke, chronic lung diseases, cancer, etc. which have been increasingly affecting young adults, (b) creating awareness about family planning, birth control, STDs, HIV/AIDS and substance abuse, especially in rural areas and (c) addressing issues concerning emotional and mental health (e.g. risk of depression and potential suicide attempts), especially in the case of adolescent youth. Several plans have been initiated like the setting up of 6 AIIMS like institutions and up gradation of 13 medical colleges under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana and so on. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare plays a crucial role in the delivery and maintenance of health care services and it is hoped that the youth of the nation have access to the multiple services offered. The Policy prioritises a) Improved Service delivery b) Targeted awareness program for youth and c) Targeted disease control programme for youth which aims at improving the health scenario of the youth.

5. Sports – Current Status and Future Imperatives

Sports strengthen both physical and mental health. Many stakeholders like the Government, Private companies and NGOs are playing a crucial role in promoting sports and also providing access to sports infrastructure, coaching

and training facilities. In this process both urban and rural areas are also focused and many schemes and programmes are also implemented. Better participation of youth are targeted in both national and international events and also promoting sports culture as a career option is also thought about. Identifying sports persons and training and facilitating their infrastructure is also being targeted.

6. Promotion of Social Values-Current Status and Future Imperatives

Diversity of the country needs to be encouraged along with promotion of social values and moral standards. Inner values, quality of life and appreciation for arts, aesthetics tradition and culture is being emphasized on. The National Curricular Framework and the Framework on Values in Schools introduced by NCERT and the scheme of Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation has been also extending its scope towards holistic education among children. The NYKS and the NSS continuously motivates youth through their programmes. The proposed action is to a) have a formal system for imparting values b) Strengthen youth engagement programmes c) Provide support for NGOs also to spread values and harmony. Promotion of social values can eliminate social evils and other issues and can strengthen the social fabric of the community is emphasized.

7. Community Engagement - Current Status and Future Imperatives

Self-development and community development is also identified as one of the components of development in this policy. There are many programmes run by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. Some of the agencies also train the youth volunteers and institutionalizing community engagement is also considered seriously. The NYKS, National Programme for Youth and Adolescent Development and NSS are also carrying out work on similar lines. Some of the future plans are to a) promote and leverage the existing community development organisations b) Promote social entrepreneurship.

8. Participation in Politics and Governance – Current Status and Future Imperatives

Youth in politics, democracy, accountability and governance is envisioned in the policy for the youth to become great leaders. Such programmes shall be initiated at rural areas to bring in many youth in politics and money is planned to be spent in this direction to promote more participation of youth to check discrepancies and promote

accountability. The policy aims to a) engage youth that are outside the political system – from grassroots level to the national stage. b) Create governance mechanisms that youth can leverage – the youth should be brought into to monitor, contribute, participate and undertake monitoring of the programmes at various levels c) promote youth engagement in urban governance.

9. Youth Engagement - Current Status and Future Imperatives

The Government of India intends to engage youth and facilitate them with adequate and necessary information and have them involved to seek inputs on issues, policies and specific programmes. It is hoped to involve youth who are willing to be committed to civic, social and political progress. The training and development initiatives need to be undertaken by the RGNIYD and the inter collaborative engagements have to be strengthened. The Policy also intends to a) measure and monitor the effectiveness of the various development schemes implemented by the Govt of India and b) then create a platform to engage the youth.

10. Inclusion - Current Status and Future Imperatives

The youth who continue to remain vulnerable and who do not have access to the government programmes are as follows: a) Migrant youth and women b) SC/ST/OBC youth c) Out of school and drop outs d) Youth in conflict affected districts e) Specially abled youth f) Youth in hazardous occupations, sex workers g) Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender youth, Youth living with HIV/AIDS h) Youth in orphanages, correctional settings. The policy has proposed to a) enable and capacity build the skills of the disadvantaged youth b) ensure economic opportunities for youth in conflict-affected region c) develop a multi-pronged approach to support the youth with disability and d) create awareness and opportunities to prevent the youth being put at risk.

11. Social Justice-Current Status and Future Imperatives:

Illegal social practices continue to disrupt the functioning of the society and hence providing education and awareness at the grassroots is essential to eliminate unjust social practices. Reporting of the evils is also essential and they have to be monitored accordingly. Access to justice is also an essential component for youth well-being.

This part presents the priorities rightly identified as part of the policy matters. It presents a roadmap for the development of the youth across the country so that their

future development is assured.

The Part 5 which is titled as 'Monitoring, Evaluation and Review' (Section 5.1 to 5.10) lays its focus on documentation as a step towards youth development. Though the policy shall be serving as a guiding document all the stakeholders should take this as a framework for action and move forward. The National Policy also advocates for states own policies so that region wise specified youth problems can be attended to. The Policy also proposed to constitute a state coordinating committee headed by the Chief Minister of the State or a Cabinet minister and a similar kind at the national level so that there is proper streamlining of programmes and effective policy interventions.

The policy also intends to map the leading and the lagging factors and measure the impact or success of the policy. The following are the leading indicators: a) Number of States that have created a youth policy? b) Number of times has NYP-2014 been referenced in other Central/ State policy documents, reports and Results Framework Documents? c) Number of times NYP-2014 has been referenced in stakeholder documents, including media, civil society, private sector? d) Number of policies/ programmes that have been initiated to close gaps identified in NYP-2014?

The lagging indicators shall be: a) Creating a productive workforce b) Develop a strong and healthy generation c) Instill social values and promote community service d) Promote participation and civic engagement e) Ensure inclusion and social justice

Baseline assessment needs to be undertaken, annual targets shall be met to measure each of the indicators. The State should present the Status of the Youth Report every two years, so that every five years a review needs to be made to understand the progress made and to speed up the action.

'Recommendations on the Way Forward' is the title of Part – 6 (Section 6.1 to 6.4) where supporting and enabling the youth is considered to be the foremost priority. The mode of action shall remain focused on the eleven identified areas. Appropriate interventions needs to be chalked out and gaps have to be identified. Stakeholders have to be motivated and helped to perform better. As per NYP, 2014 the GOI is currently spending approximately Rs 2,710 on every young individual through various Ministries of which 1,100 is through several targeted programs. If

the situation has to improve then the investment needs to go up. Youth are a national priority and hence inter collaboration between ministries should not be a problem and use of ICT should be encouraged and continuously monitor if the stakeholders are doing their best to empower the youth. Constant monitoring and evaluation of the stakeholders shall strengthen the youth.

2003 and 2014: A Comparative Analysis

2003:

- Rising youth population is acknowledged and risks associated have also been noted
- Youth Empowerment' in varied spheres of national life is the major thrust of this policy.
- Development of the youth is chalked out as a priority and unemployment and underemployment is also rightly identified
- Personality development and qualities of citizenship of the youth deserves special attention
- Youth have to participate in decision making and implementation at lower and higher levels
- Youth are categorized into sub groups (13-19 years) and (20 -35 years)
- Nine objectives have been created and four thrust areas have been identified
- Key Sectors are – Education, Training and Employment, Health, Environment, Sports and Recreation, Science and Technology, Priority target groups, Review of the policy in every five years
- Youth in Education, Employment, Governances, Politics, Social, Economic and National Development is stressed

2014:

- Special Significance to Swami Vivekanandaji on his vision towards the youth
- Major demographic shift in the country is observed
- Five objectives have been identified to be covered in the next five years
- Eleven priority areas have been chalked out with respective action frameworks
- Youth mainstreaming in all the sectors is the thrust of this policy
- Youth are categorized as 15-29 years in this policy

- No systematic assessment available to highlight the present challenges is brought out
- Stakeholder mapping exercise is also mentioned as a priority
- Identified Priorities – Education, Employment and Skill development, Entrepreneurship, Health and Healthy lifestyle, Sports, Promotion of social values, Community Engagement, Participation in Politics and Governance, Youth Engagement, Inclusion, Social Justice
- Monitoring, Evaluation and Review is also stressed in this policy
- The way forward also provides a clear picture of the same.

CONCLUSION

The National Youth Policy of 2003 and 2014 has been well crafted and designed to suit the needs of the youth of the nation. As the gap between the policies is more than ten years it has taken stock of the situation and the areas which need subsequent action. The gaps have also been identified and the roadmap has been created for inter sectoral coordination between Ministries' and Departments. As India is continuously going to have the highest population for at least in the years ahead it is very crucial that clear cut objectives are made and they be followed strictly. They can improve the social fabric of the nation to a larger extent, their energies need to be channelized and the policies have clearly earmarked their needs and action plans to be taken forth. If youth are developed, then the nation can soar ahead in terms of economy in the world. It is hoped that India can succeed in this initiative as a lot of ground work is witnessed in the framing of both these policies, what remains to be seen is implementation and the will of the Governments to take it forward.

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