



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT: CATALYST FOR CHANGE IN INDIA

Dr. Asutosh Pradhan

Aiph University, Bhubaneswar

“**Youth**” refers to all those between the ages of 15 and 29, as reflected in the national youth policy, 2014, government of India.

Youth is often linked with vitality, passion, strength, and zeal.

Also popularly regarded as the hope of a nation because they have the power to bring the required change and for that, we, collectively as a nation, need to support them.

“**Youth empowerment**” is a process where children and young people are encouraged to take charge of their lives. They do this by addressing their situation and then take action in order to improve their access to resources and transform their consciousness through their beliefs, values, and attitudes.

- **Goals of empowerment**

Youth empowerment programs are aimed at creating healthier and higher qualities of life for underprivileged or at-risk youth.

The five competencies of a healthy youth are:

- 1) Positive sense of self,
- 2) self-control,
- 3) decision-making skills,
- 4) a moral system of belief, and



5) pro-social connectedness

Youth: a demographic dividend

Almost one in five people in the world is aged between 15 and 24, the majority living in developing countries.

India has the largest youth population in the world; around 66 per cent of the total population (more than 808 million) is below the age of 35.

Nearly 40 per cent of the Indian population is aged 13 to 35 years (defined as youth in the national Youth Policy).

The median age in India in 2010 was just 25.2 years.

The Role of Indian Youth in Achieving the Vision of Dream India @2047

- ❖ India's youth bulge is an unparalleled demographic advantage, with a staggering 65% of our population below the age of 35. This vibrant cohort possesses an untapped wellspring of creativity, innovation, and resilience.
- ❖ To harness this immense potential, it is imperative to channel their energy towards constructive avenues and provide them with the necessary tools and platforms for self-expression

Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai once remarked, **"One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen can change the world."**

- ❖ The youth possess the capacity to initiate dialogue, challenge the status quo, and propel societal transformations.
- ❖ By encouraging a culture of innovation and providing incubation support, we can unleash the latent entrepreneurial spirit of our youth.

As business magnate Ratan Tata aptly put it, **"I urge young people to become entrepreneurs and help create jobs."**



❖ Quoting Mahatma Gandhi, "**Be the change you want to see in the world,**" the youth can inspire transformative actions and bridge the gap between intent and impact.

let us recognize the power and agency of our youth. They are the torchbearers of our dreams, the harbingers of a radiant future. To quote former President Dr. A.P. Abdul Kalam, "**Dream, dream, dream Dreams transform into thoughts, and thoughts result in action.**"

The youth are considered to be the people who will represent the future as they pump new ideologies as well as energy and skillset which would add to the pool of knowledge that is present.

The new ideologies are:

1. Jump to grassroot level for empowerment
2. Unwavering the support for youth
3. Race for a delightful future
4. Accelerate the process of empowerment
5. Social harmony
6. Socio civil involvement
7. Influence and innovation
8. Creating a favorable environment

1. Jump to grassroot level for empowerment

Grassroots empowerment encourages citizen participation in governance processes, ensuring policies are responsive to the needs of the most marginalized and vulnerable sections of society. We must focus on strategies to mobilize communities against child worker at the grass root level and ensure the reintegration of children.



2. Unwavering the support for youths

Its full potential through strategic empowerment. Investing in the skills and education of the youth is not just an investment in individuals but a commitment to the overall growth and prosperity of the country.

Atul malikram's campaign, "rising youth, rising India" " which aims to address these issues and empower young individuals to participate in Indian politics.

3. Race for a delightful future

An environment should be created to facilitate Gig working to solve unemployment. They should encourage youth in the areas of their interests

The government should create a congenial atmosphere and required infrastructure to facilitate the youth to work in the country without leaving our country for better opportunities elsewhere.

Therefore, we can stop the brain drain and retain our creamy layer to work for our country and create a spirit of nationalism and entrepreneurship among young and talented people.

4. Accelerate the process of empowerment.

Empowering youth can help in the development of the nations as they are the steppingstones towards the better nation

The nation can develop if the economy of the country is strong, and the economy of the country can only get strong when the GDP growth per person is good.

5. Social harmony

A society will be secured enough when youth is empowered because an empowered youth will never give any harm to the society in which they are living. Youth empowerment creates a sense of responsibility and leadership skills due to which they can feel and identify the actual practical problems of the society from which many people are suffering.



6. Socio-civic Involvement

Youth empowerment may also be done by introducing the youth sector to socio-civic organizations and encouraging them to take part in programs that help the communities. Through this, we are making them realize that they can contribute greatly to their community and that they can make a change. Their strengthened connection and partnerships with organizations also gives them the sense of community engagement.

7. Influence and innovation

Young India with a large digitally enabled business network needs to build the skills and capabilities of youth necessary to drive innovation and entrepreneurship. Youth can create capabilities for growth and new solutions, then the opportunities domestically and abroad are endless.

Youth should strive hard and focus on gaining expertise and knowledge in emerging Technologies.

8. Creating a favourable environment

Creating a favorable environment that provides an opportunity for youth leadership will enable them to develop skills needed for change in the society as well as providing opportunity to providing their services to others. Youths can also be empowered by offering ideas concerning work and education.



Vidhyayana - ISSN 2454-8596

An International Multidisciplinary Peer-Reviewed E-Journal

www.vidhyayanaejournal.org

Indexed in: Crossref, ROAD & Google Scholar



"Arise, awake and stop not till the goal is reached."

Conclusion

In the grand tapestry of India's future, the role of youth emerges as the thread that weaves progress and unity.

Young people have led and participated in movements that have shaped the course of history.

In today's world, with so many challenges facing humanity, youth have a crucial role to play in creating a better future.