



Vidhyayana - ISSN 2454-8596

An International Multidisciplinary Peer-Reviewed E-Journal

www.vidhyayanaejournal.org

Indexed in: Crossref, ROAD & Google Scholar

53

Youth Empowerment for Viksit Bharat: Areas and Strategies

Ms. Meghna Nadda

Student,

Department of English, Hans Raj Mahila Maha Vidyalaya (Jalandhar) India

Dr. Ramnita Saini Sharda

Associate Professor

Department of English, Hans Raj Mahila Maha Vidyalaya (Jalandhar) India

Abstract

This paper envisions a revolutionary path for India's future by harnessing the immense capabilities of its youth. This paper delves into an all-encompassing approach to youth empowerment, starting with a humble proposal to reintegrate the Gurukul system's ethical and creative teachings into the contemporary educational framework, aiming to nurture knowledgeable, wise and morally grounded leaders. It proposes the idea of including financial literacy, recommending government-backed programs that blend economic education with real-world applications to wing youth with decisive budgeting skills and entrepreneurial insight. If we embrace technology and Artificial Intelligence as partners, India will, therefore, reach its target before the desired deadline. It accentuates the transformative power of social service, encouraging mandatory community engagement to encourage empathy and community responsibility. With a futuristic view, it advocates for sustainable development education, influencing youth to become stewards of the environment for future generations. Political activism is also emphasised, promoting vigorous student participation in policy-



making and governance. Significantly, the paper argues that efficient population control, including a future one-child policy, is indispensable for mitigating poverty and unemployment, ensuring a focus on fostering and developing India's obtainable human resources. Together, these strategies present a gripping proposal for leveraging youth empowerment as the catalyst for India's vibrant and sustainable future.

Keywords – LGBTQI+, Gurukul System, Financial Literacy, Eco. Friendly Development, Activism, Gender Egalitarianism, Accountable.

INTRODUCTION

The youth represents the most pulsating and lively sector of the population, with the potential to compel transformative change. India, which is the world's leading youth population, faces the exclusive opportunity and challenge of harnessing this demographic advantage. According to the Technical Group on Population Projection by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, youth aged 15-19 years constituted 27.2% of India's population in 2021. Though this percentage is predicted to decrease to 22.7% by 2036, the absolute number of young people approximately 345 million remains ample, highlighting the call for focused youth empowerment initiatives.

Youth empowerment is defined as the process of equipping young individuals with the skills, resources, and opportunities necessary to contribute efficiently to society. In the context of India's vision for viksit Bharat 2047, which aims to renovate the nation into a developed country, empowering the youth is central. This vision encompasses reforms across various sectors, including employment, education, technology and economic development, aiming to facilitate India's coming out as a global leader.

The Viksit Bharat concept aligns with the national motto of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Parayas" (Together, Development for all, Trust of All, Efforts of All), emphasising a wide-ranging approach to progress. Key policies such as the National Youth Policy (NYP) of 2014 focus on creating a productive workforce, instilling social values, and enhancing civic commitment. These policies are designed to develop a robust, hard-wearing generation competent in tackling future challenges.



Prime Minister Shree Narendra Modi's concentration on skill development and entrepreneurship further underscores the significance of the skilled workforce. His revelation aims to create job opportunities and foster entrepreneurship, dazzling the belief that investing in youth is investing in the nation's future. The national policy seeks to scale and accelerate skilling efforts to meet evolving workforce demands, complementing initiatives like Skill India, startup India and various other programs.

Despite the growth made through initiatives such as the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan and the national apprenticeship portion scheme, these programs need continued enhancement and decentralisation. This paper will explore the role of youth in India's development, identify the key areas where engagement is critical and provide practical recommendations for enhancing youth empowerment. The objective is to offer actionable insight to guide policymakers and stakeholders in creating a more inclusive and effective framework for youth empowerment.

RESEARCH REVIEW

The paper All-Inclusive Equitable Education, Learning for All, National Education Policy 2020 by Prof. Dr. Ranjit Kaur and Sushil Kumar emphasises the NEP 2020's assurance of inclusive education, aiming to incorporate students from various backgrounds, including marginalised groups like transgender and tribal students. It also highlights the need for creative teaching approaches (Kaur & Kumar, 2022). Similarly, Dr. Charanpreet Kaur stresses the value of ethical and moral education in Ethical and Constitutional Values Among Learners, which aligns with value-based education in the NEP 2020 (Kaur & Rani, 2022). Dr. Dharmendra Kumar Singh's NEP 2020: A New National Highway for the Youth of India views the policy as essential for India's progress, focusing on provisions like increased education expenditure and regional language promotion (Singh, 2021). Mihir Madhikar explores integrating traditional Gurukul methods with modern education in the insight amalgamation of the Gurukul System in Modern Indian Education, suggesting this could augment educational quality (Madheker, 2020).

Rukmini Bhaya Nair's Bringing English into the 21st Century: A View from India underscores the continued relevance of English despite regional languages gaining reputation, emphasising its global significance (Nair 2012). Aya Okada's Skill Development for Youth in India



addresses the challenges in India's skill development system, advocating for reforms to progress youth empowerment and worker integration (Okada, 2012). Prakash Bhattacharya's Implications of an Aging Population in India explores the demographic challenges an ageing population poses and suggests that youth-focused policies can help diminish these issues (Bhattacharya, 2005). Similarly, Mamta Rani and Manoj Sivaj's review of financial literacy in India points to the call for improved policies, aligning with Neha Garg and Shweta Singh's findings in Financial Literacy Among Youth that highlight the low financial literacy levels among young people globally (M. Rani and M. Siwach, 2023) (N. Garg and S. Singh, 2018).

Nancy M. Levenberg and Thomas V. Swarsh's study on entrepreneurial orientation reveals a growing interest in entrepreneurship among Indian youth (Levenberg, 2008). Prof. Pushpalatha V and Dr. Bhuvaneshwari P's Modi's Make in India for Youth Empowerment discusses how the Make in India initiative aims to create jobs and foster entrepreneurship (Thala, 2017). The role of youth in artificial intelligence is explored through studies like Youth and Artificial Intelligence by Hasse et al., which demonstrates how AI can aid youth development (Hasse, 2019).

The convergence of social inclusion and youth empowerment is supported by studies like Youth Inclusive Growth and Youth Empowerment by Sudeep P. Chandranarna, showing how community service and volunteering foster youth skill development (Chandramana, 2020). Moreover, the Role of Youth in Indian Politics by Vinayak Verma shows how youth participation strengthens democratic processes and political transformation (Verma, 2024).

RESEARCH GAP

The research on youth empowerment, while extensive in certain areas, reveals quite a few gaps that future studies must address. Firstly, there is a need for a focal point on the intersection of youth empowerment with marginalised communities, particularly rural youth, women, and LGBTQI+ individuals, who face exceptional challenges in availing opportunities. Secondly, many studies spotlight hypothetical frameworks but fail to provide convenient strategies for overcoming barriers like socio-economic constraints, lack of infrastructure, and biased access to education. Moreover, the role of digital literacy and technological advancements in



empowering youth is often unexplored, especially in rural areas and depressed sections of society.

Another significant gap is the deficient attention to policy execution. While studies emphasise the importance of youth involvement in politics and entrepreneurship, they often are deficient in actionable recommendations for integrating youth voices into policy-making and governance. Additionally, most studies do not explore the enduring impact of youth empowerment programs, leaving questions about their sustainability and effectiveness. Finally, there is limited focus on universal best practices and how they can be adapted to the Indian context.

Future research should tackle these gaps by focusing on marginalised youth, exploring innovative, technology-driven solutions, and mounting practical strategies for policy integration and implementation. Researchers should also prioritise longitudinal studies to assess the long-term impact of youth empowerment initiatives and add in general insights for creating a broader framework.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND VIKSIT BHARAT

The Youth Empowerment and Viksit Bharat 2047 initiatives are profoundly interconnected, with one complementing the other. A developed India is inconceivable without empowered, skilled, and transformed youth. To realise this, India launched the National Youth Policy, emphasising Aspiration, Enthusiasm, and Energy, aimed at harnessing the youth's potential to bring about societal revolution. This policy creates an enabling environment where youth can have a say in inclusive economic growth, responsible governance, and creating a new India. The current Kartavya Kaal provides an exclusive opportunity for youth to accomplish this, sprouting society's aspirations actively.

Empowerment, especially in relation to youth, is a multifarious and personal concept. Over the years, it has evolved from being primarily associated with adults to now encircling young people, particularly those deemed vulnerable or at risk. While widely used in social sciences, empowerment remains a comprehensive term with dissimilar interpretations. This paper delves



into the concept of empowerment, exploring how its meaning varies across individuals and contexts, and its grave role in shaping youth.

Furthermore, despite the National Youth Policy's positive impact, it faces some analysis. Changing socio-economic conditions call for episodic updates to ensure the policy remains relevant to present-day challenges. This paper will examine six key areas: education and skill development, economic empowerment, technology and AI, social inclusion, sustainable development, and political activism, providing insights into how youth empowerment can drive India's transformation.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EDUCATION, SKILL DEVELOPMENT, AND POPULATION CONTROL

Education is the core of youth empowerment and national progress, and integrating aspects of the traditional Gurukul system into current education can help cultivate respect for teachers and promote holistic learning. The Gurukul system emphasised experiential learning in natural settings, cheering students to engage in creative, hands-on activities rather than focusing solely on textbooks. By adopting this model, education can incorporate practical experiences, such as visits to political institutions or cultural sites, to enhance learning evocatively. Furthermore, this approach would reintroduce moral and ethical values into the curriculum, counteracting the present trend where students often lack respect for elders and hug Western ideologies at the cost of Indian traditions.

Sports, too, must become a fundamental part of education, addressing the current imbalance where India underperforms in the global athletic arena despite its large population. Education must not only pay attention to academic success but also focus on integrating artistic talents, confidence, and problem-solving skills. It should empower students to apply knowledge to real-life situations and promote inclusivity by ensuring that each student, regardless of caste, gender, or socio-economic background, obtains equal opportunities. Teachers should also be skilled in supporting students from gender-fluid and marginalised communities, creating an evenhanded learning environment. The assortment for higher education and competitive exams should



prioritise talent and merit rather than obsolete caste-based reservations, with reservation policies focusing on economically disadvantaged individuals who justly need support.

Additionally, education must address critical societal challenges, such as population control, by raising awareness about sustainable family planning and policies like the two-child or one-child norm. Vocational training and entrepreneurial skills should also be provided importance, enabling students to become employers rather than employees. Language must not be a barrier in education, and students should be free to learn in their mother tongue or any language of their choice while still understanding the importance of English as a global language for communication and professional success. English should be viewed not as a colonial remnant but as a necessary tool for global interaction, allowing India's youth to prosper internationally while staying grounded in their cultural heritage.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND EMPOWERMENT THROUGH TIME MANAGEMENT

Economic empowerment of India's youth begins with financial literacy, a critical yet often ignored skill. Many young people in India are alien to basic budgeting and financial management, largely because they are secluded from financial responsibilities by their families. To address this gap, schools and universities must slot in financial education, focusing on how to budget, save, invest, and manage money judiciously. In conjunction with this, students should be exposed to real-world earning opportunities, whether through part-time jobs, freelance work, or entrepreneurial ventures. Such experiences would promote financial independence and implant a greater understanding of hard work and responsibility, helping young people switch into adulthood with stronger financial habits.

Equally important is time management, another critical aspect of youth empowerment. Effective time management enables young people to poise their academic responsibilities with earning opportunities, skill development, and personal growth. By teaching students how to manage their time efficiently, schools can empower them to attain more in less time, leading to increased efficiency and reduced stress. Time management also prepares students to take on numerous roles, whether in studies, work, or personal life, fostering a holistic loom to success.



Financial literacy and time management form the foundation of economic empowerment, arming youth with the tools they need to contribute eloquently to their personal development and the nation's progress.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT THROUGH TECHNOLOGY AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI) should not be seen as opponents of the human race but as allies that enhance our capabilities and pave the way for greater proceeding. Far from subjugating us, AI and technology are tools intended to serve us, making our lives more competent and our work more convincing. They have the talent to revolutionise every sector, from healthcare and education to business and governance, by providing quick, precise, and authentic information that enables speedier decision-making and problem-solving. By utilising AI, we can computerise repetitive tasks, analyse large datasets in seconds, and unlock hidden possibilities that were earlier unimaginable. This symbiotic relationship, where better humans create better AI, enabling humans to progress their skills and efficiency, is vital to modern development. For India, integrating AI and technology into the educational curriculum is necessary. Students must know about AI's untouched potential and vast opportunities. By understanding tools like ChatGPT and other AI platforms, students can boost their research abilities, explore new fields, and even generate income through promising technologies. We need to understand that AI is not our competitor; it is an expansion of human potential, and when used wisely, it can bump up our intellectual and creative capacities to new heights, facilitating innovation and driving the country's evolution in the global digital economy.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SOCIAL SERVICE

Youth empowerment through social service theatres plays a significant role in shaping the future of India by harnessing a sense of responsibility and collective well-being among young people. Social service engages youth to energetically participate in addressing grave societal issues such as poverty, educational inequality, healthcare access, and environmental sustainability. By being involved in social initiatives, youth contribute to societal upliftment and develop crucial life skills like empathy, leadership, cooperation, and problem-solving.



Becoming a part of community service produces a character of volunteerism and public responsibility, encouraging young people to take ownership of the challenges faced by their communities and work towards solutions that benefit every single person.

To tackle societal evils, youth-driven social service initiatives are needed to bring a transformative change. Empowering youth through social service can bridge gaps in ignored regions by improving literacy rates, enhancing healthcare awareness, and promoting sustainable practices. Government and non-governmental organisations can play a crucial role in providing such opportunities by creating platforms where young individuals can supply their time, ideas, and skills. When youth are encouraged to participate in social service, they strengthen the fabric of civilisation and gain a philosophical sense of life, nurturing a generation of socially mindful citizens ready to lead the nation toward inclusive growth.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT VIA SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Youth empowerment and sustainable development in India hold immense potential because the younger generation is well-accustomed to driving the nation forward to progress in its sustainable development goals. By vigorously connecting youth in sustainable development initiatives, India can harness their energy, creativity, and forward-thinking viewpoint to address challenges like climate change, resource exhaustion, and socio-economic inequality. Youth's contribution to sustainable practices, such as renewable energy projects, waste management, conservation efforts, and green entrepreneurship, not only drives them with significant skills but also creates a more answerable and eco-conscious generation. This relationship fosters a deeper understanding of the interconnection between human activities and environmental health, installing values of sustainability.

Additionally, by adding sustainable development into education, skill-building, and vocational training, India can equip its youth with the knowledge and tools to escort initiatives that endorse long-term environmental and economic well-being. Youth-driven innovations in clean energy, sustainable agriculture, and eco-friendly development support national goals for sustainable growth, create jobs and address ecological issues. Empowering youth as leaders in these areas



fosters a healthier planet and promotes inclusive progress, paving the way for a more sustainable future in India.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT BY POLITICAL ACTIVISM

Youth empowerment through political activism in India is reshaping the future by creating a more inclusive democracy. As the largest demographic group, young people must tackle issues like education, employment, and climate change through activism, advocating for reforms, and holding leaders accountable. Their involvement in movements and policy decisions drives legislative changes that reflect their aspirations.

Furthermore, political activism enhances the growth of leadership skills, decisive thinking, and a sense of civil conscientiousness among the youth. It provides them platforms to unite with their communities, work collectively, and champion the rights of marginalised groups, contributing to democratic growth. This strengthens their position as informed citizens and ensures that their voices contour India's political landscape, leading to a more progressive and just society. The rise of youth-driven movements in India, such as those advocating for gender egalitarianism, environmental safety, and anti-corruption reforms, highlights the preeminence of young activists to influence optimistic change on both local and national scales.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A PROGRESSIVE FUTURE

Several policy changes are fundamental to addressing India's pressing need for youth empowerment. Firstly, executing a one-child policy could help control population growth and reduce unemployment and poverty by focusing on the development of present citizens rather than expanding numbers. In the education sector, integrating the Gurukul system, with teachings of the Vedas and Puranas as elective options and modern curricula, would enhance moral and ethical development. Financial literacy camps and AI workshops should be organised at school and college levels to equip youth with imperative economic skills. Additionally, obligatory participation in social service activities could raise empathy and diminish student egoism. Sustainable development should be promoted through workshops encouraging youth to consider long-term resource preservation for future generations, view



Earth as a planet, and foster motherhood. Political activism should be advanced by holding public speaking competitions, youth parliaments, and referendums on key educational reforms, ensuring student voices are heard. Largely, youth empowerment is not limited to one gender or sector but is an inclusive concept that transcends nationality, race, and occupation, enabling planned change for a more resourceful and trustworthy governance model.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this paper has analysed the complex dimensions of youth empowerment, emphasising the critical roles that education, economic empowerment, technology, social service, sustainable development, and political activism play in determining a transformative future for the nation's youth. By integrating of traditional values such as those from the Gurukul system with contemporary educational practices, encouraging financial literacy, and nurturing skills in technology and AI, India can better prepare its young population to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Social services initiatives and sustainable development efforts underscore the importance of nurturing empathy and environmental stewardship among the youth. Additionally, encouraging active political participation will enable students to voice their concerns and contribute meaningfully to governance and policy-making. Population control also emerges as a vital factor, ensuring that resources are efficiently utilised to enhance the quality of life for the current and future generations. Ultimately, a detrimental effort by the government in these areas will empower the youth and drive them towards a more equitable, prosperous, and sustainable future, laying the groundwork for a lively and inclusive society.



Vidhyayana - ISSN 2454-8596

An International Multidisciplinary Peer-Reviewed E-Journal

www.vidhyayanaejournal.org

Indexed in: Crossref, ROAD & Google Scholar

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Dr. Ramnita Saini Sharda, my research supervisor for her invaluable guidance consultant encouragement and insightful feedback throughout this research. Her expertise and patience greatly contributed to the completion of this research. I am also grateful to HMV College, Jalandhar for providing me resources and conducive research environment. I wish to extend my appreciation to my friend Dr. Priyanka Marwaha for her genuine support during this project. Lastly, I am incredibly thankful to my parents whose encouragement and patience give me the strength to complete this journey.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The author(s) declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this paper. The research was conducted independently and no external funding or influence was provided that might effect the interpretation or presentation of this content. The author(s) declare no competing interests related to “Youth Empowerment for Viksit Bharat : Areas and Strategies”.



REFERENCES

1. Bhattacharya, P. (2005). Implication of aging population in India: Challenges and opportunities.
2. Chandramana, S. P. (2020). Inclusive growth and youth empowerment: A development model for inspirational India. *Journal of Science, Technology and Management*, 7(1), 1-10.
3. Garg, N., & Singh, S. (2018). Financial literacy among youth. *International Journal of Social Economics*, 45(1), 173-186.
4. Hasse, A., Cortesi, S., Lombana, A., & Gasser, U. (2019). Youth and artificial intelligence: Where we stand. Berkman-Klein Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University.
5. Kaur, C., & Rani, K. (2022). Ethical and constitutional values among learners. In R. Bala, C. Kaur, R. Singh, & P. K. Verma, *Equitable, a step towards equitable and inclusive society: NEP 2020, seminar proceedings* (pp. 6-11).
6. Kaur, R., & Kumar, S. (2022). Inclusive and equitable education, learning for all: NEP 2020, a splendid version. In R. Bala, C. Kaur, R. Singh, & P. K. Verma (Eds.), *a step towards equitable and inclusive society: NEP 2020, seminar proceedings* (pp. 1-5). Shah Satnamji College of Education.
7. Levenberg, M., & Walsh, T. V. (2008). Entrepreneurial orientation among the youth of India: The impact of cultural education and environment. *Journal of Entrepreneurship*, 15(1), 15-35.
8. Madhikar, M. (2020). Perception of integration of Gurukul system in modern Indian education: A study into quality education. *International Journal of Research and Analytical Reviews*, 7(3), 244-257.
9. Okada, A. (2012). Skills development for youth in India: Challenges and opportunities. *Journal of International Cooperation in Education*, 15(2), 169-193.
10. Rani, M., & Sivaj, M. (2023). Financial literacy in India: A review of literature. *Regional and Economic Studies*, 16(3), 446-448.



Vidhyayana - ISSN 2454-8596

An International Multidisciplinary Peer-Reviewed E-Journal

www.vidhyayanaejournal.org

Indexed in: Crossref, ROAD & Google Scholar

11. Singh, D. K. (2021). NEP 2020: A new national highway for the youths of India. Jeyma Saraswati Gayan Dayani, 7(2), 12-15.
12. Thala, P. V., Bhubneswari, P., Nikhil, S. D., Shweta, H. R., Subhas, M., & Vinod, K. (2017). Modi's Make in India for youth empowerment in employment generation. International Journal in Management and Social Science, 5(8), 154-157.
13. Verma, V., & Srivastava, A. (2024). Role of youth in Indian politics: A catalyst for change. International Research Journal of Humanities and Interdisciplinary Studies, 5(4), 209-215.
14. Nair, R. B. (2012). Bringing English into the 21st century: A view from India. International Journal of Language Translation and Intercultural Communication, 1, 103-122.