

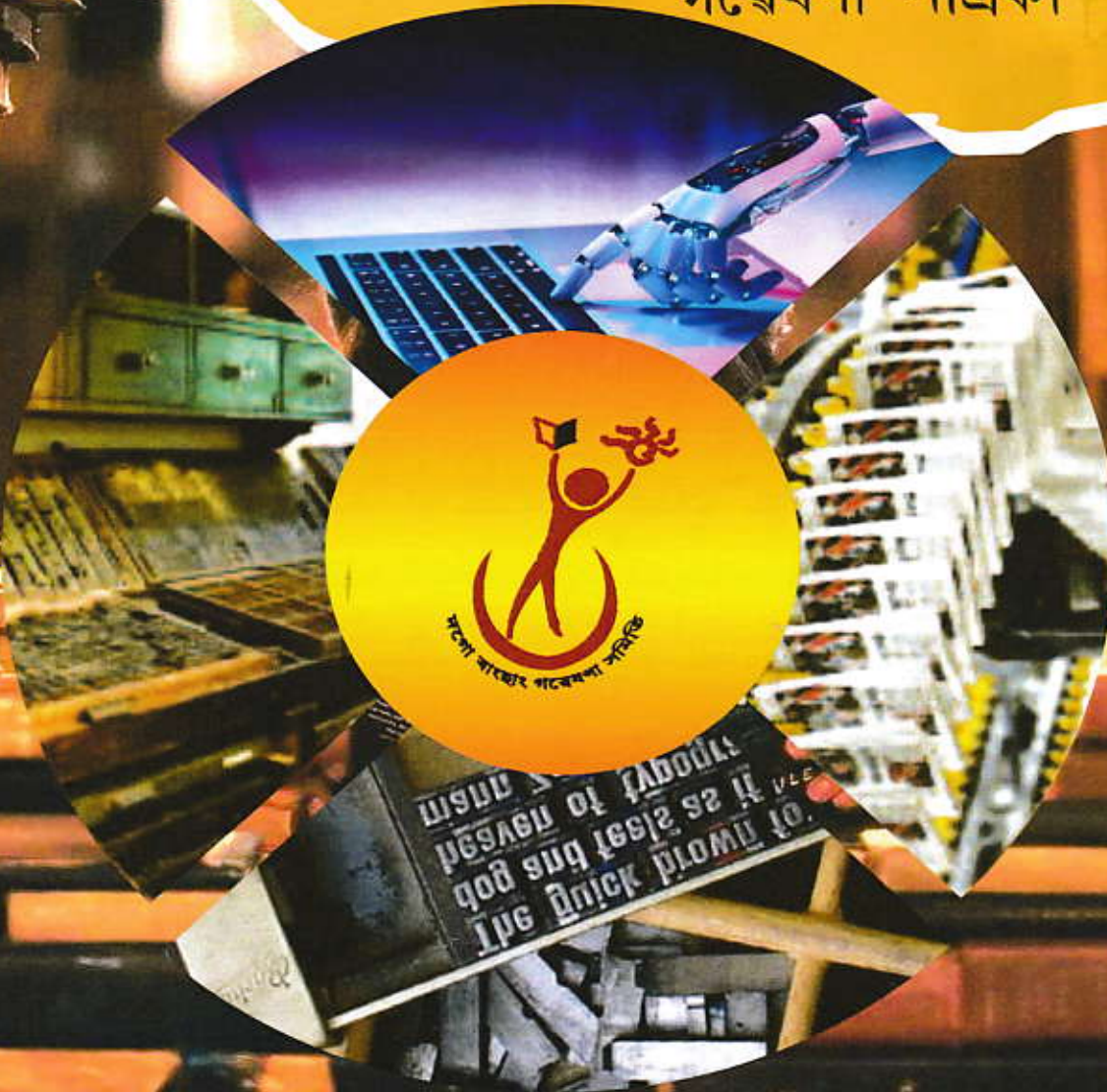
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“YOUTH’S SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT”.

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➤ **Abstract**

Nearly half of all people in the world today are under the age of 25. Effectively addressing the special need of these youth is a critical challenge for the future. Youth, individuals between the ages of 15 and 24 make up over one-sixth of the world’s population, but they are seldom recognized as a distinct group for the important role they will play in shaping the future. The vision of our country lies in the hands of youth. It will be a huge amount of losses of human resources if these youths are not allowed to perform and exercise their talent. Swami Vivekananda says that take risk in your life, if you win; you may lead, if you lose; you may guide. So, give a chance to the youth to utilize human and other resources. This land requires youths for our soil to become a brighter one. Youths are strong forces in social, political, economic, educational and technological movements. Youths are the problem solver; most of the problems which are faced by the Nation are solved by the youths. They should be given an opportunity to perform in different sectors as per their skills and ability, so they can discharge their responsibility towards society. National development is the overall improvement of different sectors of the Nation. Youth have the capability to develop the Nation; we can say that today’s young are tomorrow’s innovators, creators, builders and leaders of the Nation. We need to learn from yesterday and live with hope for a better tomorrow. This article reveals how youth’s participation is important towards Nation-building and concludes the youths are a very important pillar for the development of the entire Nation if they allowed using their skills and abilities to perform.

Keywords: Youth participation, National development, National integration, Opportunity, youth’s responsibilities, Youth role.

➤ **Introduction**

Today’s generation of young people is the largest in history; almost 90% of all young people live in developing countries. Young people are a valuable asset to their countries and investing in them brings tremendous social, economic and political benefit. According to United Nations General Assembly, “Youth are the persons falling between the ages of 15 and 24 years inclusive.” According to UNESCO defines” youth is the period in which a person develops capabilities and social skills required to be ready for the financial gain and responsibility to be bought by the status of adulthood.” The active, informed and voluntary involvement of people in decision making and the life of their communities, Participation means, work with and by people, not merely work for them. Young people are empowered to play a vital role in their development as well as in that their communities. Youth can be deemed as a special period of life with unique social, economic and political characteristics rather than a period limited to determining age boundaries. Youths have strong tendencies in the matter of social, economic and political changes; they have easily relied on simple solutions and trial behind false leaders to accomplish their goals.

Youth participation is very important for modern society as well. This is because social exclusion and youth participation are considered to be two opposing concepts, and it is emphasized that social inclusion policies cannot be successful unless they ensure youth participation. Social inclusion refers to ensuring the participation of individuals who have difficulty in participating due to reasons such as poverty, lack of education, language, and race in social life. Youth participation in the political sector is also very important; youth is a positive force for transformative social change and aims to help enhance youth political participation. Youth has not only voting power, but they also have some duties concerning society and their political participation needs to be meaningful and effective going beyond token gestures. The socio-economic costs to society are going out of control. Many countries feel shattered by the deep challenges that came with the miss managed youth economy which created chronic issues like poverty, poor quality of life, violence, unemployment and crime. Lots of efforts

are even wasted towards trying to improve the rights for better lifelong and sustainable employment; youth can eradicate poverty.

According to Usman Saeed, the youth is the heartbeat of a Nation. In contrast to the old society where the elders used to make all the important decisions regarding day-to-day life, in modern society, the youth play an active role in this process. The youth actively participate and partially drive political, social and economic development.

➤ **Objectives:**

- 1 To efficiency of the role played by the youth in this process is however dependent on the investment made by the countries in the human capital, which should be focused on the youth.
- 2 To identify how youth's participation is important in economic, social and political development.
- 3 To know the responsibilities of youth towards community development.
- 4 To identify the importance of youth in Nation-building.

➤ **Research Methodology :**

The research methodology is the most important factor to understand the research problem scientifically. The researcher has used descriptive research design to understand the Exploring therapeutic effects of Youth Participation and its Impact on Nation-building by the way of Socio-economically and politically.

➤ **Responsibilities of Youth:** Youth have so many responsibilities towards society, which are enumerated below:

- To contribute to sectoral, family and self-development; and to promote social and intergenerational understanding as well as gender equality;
- To extend respect to teachers, elders, parents and family in consonance with our cultural norms and traditions;
- To uphold the unity and integrity of the Nation, maintain peace and harmony, observe Fundamental Duties & respect the Fundamental Rights and Freedoms guaranteed under the Constitution to all sections of the people;
- To respect others' faiths and beliefs in the religious, cultural and social spheres and different schools of thought; and to neither exploit nor instrumental in the exploitation of fellow citizens and other persons, especially women;
- To promote and practice appropriate standards of ethical conduct in individual and social life, to maintain honesty and integrity of character and be committed to fighting against all forms of corruption, social evils and practices.

Activities to foster meaningful and effective youth participation should aim to be:

- **Transparent:** Youth should be informed about the purpose, scope and procedures of the process they are participating in. It should be clear from the beginning what the potential impact of the exercise is.
- **Respectful and rights-based:** Youth should be approached as active agents who have the rights to participate and be heard.
- **Accountable:** So that participation is not a one-off event, mechanisms need to be in place to ensure follow-up, implementation of youth decisions and accountability to youth constituencies.
- **Youth-friendly and relevant:** Activities to enhance youth political participation should be as youth-driven as possible. Young people themselves can decide on their priorities, methods and tactics. The environment and working methods can be adapted to participants' capacities and needs.

- **Inclusive:** Appropriate methods can be applied to give marginalized groups of youth equal chances to participate, such as young women, ethnic minorities, illiterate youth, rural dwellers and youth with special needs.
- **Voluntary and safe:** Capacity development can be an integral part of any strategy for meaningful participation. The UNDP approach to capacity development “reflects the view that capacity resides within individuals, as well as at the level of organizations and within the enabling environment.

➤ **Nation Building or National Integration and youth participation:**

Youth participation ensures National integration with mobilization of natural resources and integration of human resources for National development. According to Ake (1979:9), Nation-building is the problem of winning for the political system, the loyalty and commitment of its subjects. In this sense, Nation-building is synonymous with National integration. National integration refers to the process of bringing together culturally and socially discrete groups into a single territorial unit and the establishment of National identity. In this sense, National integration presumes the existence of an ethnically plural society. In this sense, National integration presumes the existence of an ethnically plural society. Youths are strong forces in social movements. Youths are problem solvers. Our Nation needs them to resolve most of our problems. The Nation is facing lots of problems. The youths are capable of solving them. They just need to be given a chance to prove themselves. Youths have the power to unite individuals of different ethnic groups. Racism is an ongoing issue around the world. Individuals are fighting against each other because of the complexion of their skin and the texture of their hair. Religion is another issue; the youths can convince their fellow man to live in peace and love. All of us are one and we should not allow these little differences to push us away from each other.

➤ **Importance of Youths in National Development**

1. **The Role of the Youths in Human Capital Development:** Youths could be a source of labour inputs as well as human capital in production, which would improve total factor productivity in a region of the world where the capital formation is limited. When employed, youths could be a reliable source of demand for the economy through their consumption activities.

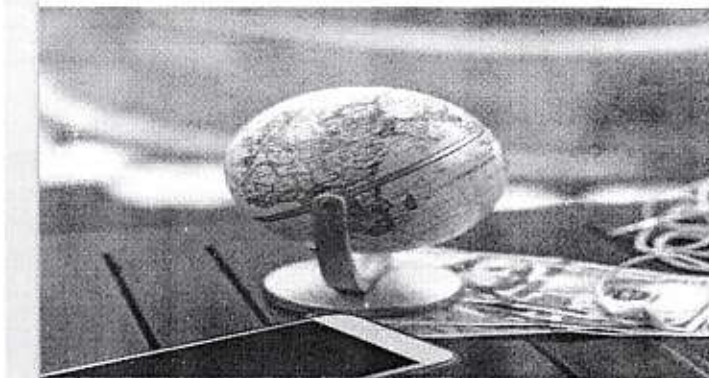
2. **The Role of Youths in Peace Building:** Youths occupy a prominent place in any society. Apart from being the owners and leaders of tomorrow, they outnumber the middle-aged and the aged (Onyekpe, 2007). Besides numerical superiority, youths have energy and ideas that are society's great potentials (Onyekpe, 2007). The National Youths Development Policy asserts that: Youths are the foundation of a society. Their energies, inventiveness, character and orientation define the pace of development and security of a Nation. Through their creative talents and labour-power, a Nation makes giant strides in economic development and socio-political attainments. According to Eberly and Gall (2007), young people in National youth's service organizations can play a vital role in post-war community reconstruction, in maintaining peace intense situations, and perhaps in preventing post-conflict squealed.

3. **The role of youth in community development:** Some of the contributions of youths in community development projects include:

- Educating the rural community on the use of improved seeds or farming techniques through the Young Farmers Club.
- Clearing and draining of drainages/culverts
- The sinking of ordinary dug-out wells
- Renovation of clinics, health centers'/dispensaries in the rural areas
- Construction of roads
- Assistance to the less privileged in the society and
- Other community programs include; Youth clubs that enlighten fellow youths and women on HIV/AIDS, Women and Children trafficking, child labour and VVS
- Mobilizing members of the community for National development.
- Strengthening community resource management.

- Improving the general skills of youths to be productive.
- Promoting sustainable human development.

➤ **Political participation:**



Source:<https://www.idea.int/sites/default/files/publications/youth-participation-in-political-processes.pdf>

Participation is a fundamental democratic right. It should be an end in and of itself to remove existing barriers to youth political participation. From a more purely pragmatic perspective, if young people have the perception that formal political processes are not accessible and/or attractive for them; this can shape their attitudes for a lifetime, with potentially long-lasting negative impacts on a country's political culture. It has been found that in new and emerging democracies, the inclusion of youth in formal political processes is important. Through their active contributions, democratic values can come to life, paving the way for the overcoming of authoritarian practices. In countries where youth-led protests have forced authoritarian regimes from power, significant frustration is likely to arise if youth are not included in new formal decision-making procedures. This might have a destabilizing effect on democratization.

Youth's importance in the political environment

- To be successful in the fight against corruption and the negative impacts of money in politics, young people should ideally focus on long-term strategic issues.
- The fight against corruption requires changes to behaviour, relationships and practices vis-à-vis the politics of young people.
- The commitment to fight corruption requires a lot of energy and enthusiasm from young people. The fight has to start at the top and must be rooted in an understanding that governments get their power from society. To win the fight, the spaces for civil society must be kept open.
- We need to spend more time building the correct ethical values among people. At times we place too much attention on structures and not enough attention on the values of individuals. We must spend more time encouraging positive ethics and ensuring that younger people uphold positive values.
- Effective change must start with self-reflection among young people. As young politicians, we need to choose what we want to do and our behaviour. We cannot become like those who have been in power for a long time. We need to create networks for supporting each other from across party political lines.

➤ **Economic Participation :**

The youth have an important role in the eradication of poverty, investment of capital and human resources and community development. Economic and social development requires youth to be able to find opportunities commensurate with their skills and abilities, allowing them to transition into stable livelihoods. This requires economic growth and diversification of the economy (economic transformation). Designing and producing products, selling services, paying taxes, making consumer choices and saving money are some of the ways young people affect the economy. Through education, action and empowerment, youth and economics can lead to social transformation and engagement in a range of ways.

Opinion | Turbocharge India's youth for a sustainable economic comeback



Source:<https://www.livemint.com/opinion/online-views/turbocharge-india-s-youth-for-a-sustainable-economic-comeback-11595862154140.html>

The knowledge and skills of young people today allow them to create legal economies and navigate the larger economies around them in ways never possible before. Youth creating economies are responsible for creating, designing, producing, marketing, selling and reinvesting in things they care about, in ways they care for. This can change the world in powerful ways by fostering dynamic and descriptive new ways.

Youth have the ability and skill to perform economic activities, explained as below.

- **Role of Youth in improving Quality of Life:** Arabella and Emona founded the team and were both the main leaders that drive creating a model in the role of youth in improving the Quality of Life (QoL) thus show how youth could have a positive influence on society wellness. The team focused on the journey of youth in creating better socio-economic status through focusing on selective indicators as Youth Health, Youth Education, Economic and Physical Safety, Governance and Youth Basic Rights, Natural Living Environment, Leisure and Social Interactions, Overall Experience of Life, Productive & Functional in Main Activities and Living Conditions. With the increasing number of young graduates, we have an opportunity to spread the QoL practices amongst them which later would impact the way we deal with turbulences in the economy. The QoL case shows that once we manage to bring in youth participation in development, we can strengthen their abilities to meet their own needs we are reducing their vulnerabilities to economic instability and build communities of trust and strong social capital.
- **Role of youth in Nation economy:** A Nation's productive capacity depends on a healthy capital formation. Robust savings rate coupled with good capital mobilization is the key macroeconomic variables, which play a significant role in economic growth. A Nation's savings and investment propensities also play a key role in achieving dynamic stability in the capital market. Per Capita Income in India has been on the rise since all of the last decade. With the growth in the PCI, savings and investment in the country to has shown a northbound movement. At the same time, there has been a phenomenal rise in the youth population. This has made India the youngest Nation with a demographic dividend appearing to be a reality. This young workforce is expected to drive the engine of growth. In Economics, investment is generally held to mean the formation of capital. As such, from a pure economics point of view, the formation of physical assets is important when considering investment. Investment in shares and securities aimed primarily at earning income rather than enhancing production. Under this, the words savings and investment come closer in meaning than traditionally seen. However, a slight difference remains which is that while savings is simply setting aside funds for the future, investment also involves mobilizing them so that somebody else may use them for productive purposes. Economic and social development requires youth to be able to find opportunities commensurate with their skills and abilities, allowing them to transition into stable livelihoods. This requires economic growth and diversification of the economy (economic transformation). Economic growth and development in rural areas are inextricably linked to growth and development in urban areas. However, rural economies have special features which affect all economic opportunities, including those for youth.

The first step in developing effective youth employment approaches is to diagnose the economy and the employment opportunities, deriving a clear picture of how transformation is occurring and where the future opportunities will appear.

The second step is to diagnose the youth-specific challenges within this economic landscape. For the most part, the youth-specific challenge – the challenge youth face that older adults do not – is entry into employment. Youth employment interventions should first diagnose and then address the actual constraints that youth face in accessing the specific segments of the economy where employment opportunities exist.

▪ **Youth social participation**

Youth Empowered For Social Change



Source: <https://www.gettingsmart.com/2018/03/youth-empowered-for-social-change/>

Youth's inclusion in development processes should be built on the understanding that young people are not merely a target group but also initiators, participants, decision-makers and leaders.

Henceforth, including a youth perspective ensures that young people are recognized as a resource for change in society. Social change is a transformation of cultures, institutions and functions. In other words, social changes are changes in human interactions and relationships that transform cultural and social institutions. Youth have the power and skill to transform cultural and social institutions. And youths can reduce the poverty with their skill and ability.

Young people today are growing up in different circumstances to those experienced by previous generations; changes which are significant enough reconceptualization of youth transitions and processes of social reproduction. In other words, in the modern world young people face new risks and opportunities. The traditional links between the family, school and work seem to have weakened as young people embark on journeys into adulthood which involves a wide variety of routes, many of which appear to have uncertain outcomes. But the greater range of opportunities available helps to obscure the extent to which existing patterns of inequality are simply being reproduced in different ways. Subjective feelings of risk have also become a much more significant feature of young people's lives and this has implications for their experiences and lifestyles. With traditional social divisions having become obscure, subjective risks stem from the perceived lack of collective tradition and security. Whereas subjective understandings of the social world were once shaped by class, gender and neighbourhoods relations, today everything is presented as a possibility. The idea that perceptions of risk are culturally constructed and that there is an inevitable mismatch between objective risks and subjective perceptions of risk is controversial and it is necessary to develop scientific methods which bridge the gap between objective and perceived risk.

In this context Adams (1995) suggests that people's perceptions of the risks involved in different types of behaviour are socially constructed and affected by experiences and norms associated with their social groups. Applying for a place at university, for example, maybe perceived as risky by a young person from a lower working-class family, whereas a young person with similar qualifications from an advantaged family may take their acceptance for granted. Similarly, this mismatch between subjective and objective dimensions of risk is reflected in reactions to the use of illegal drugs by young people: socially accepted drugs like alcohol and tobacco pose far greater health risks. Individual accountability and achievement are values that are constantly reinforced by the school and the media, yet in reality, individuals often remain powerless. The combined forces of individual responsibility and accountability, on the one hand, and vulnerability and lack of control on the other,

lead to a heightened sense of risk and insecurity. Conditions of doubt penetrate all aspects of social life and self-identity becomes fragile and subject to constant reinterpretation (Giddens 1991).

Young people from all social classes tend to remain in full-time education until a later age and higher education is becoming a mass experience rather than the preserve of a small elite. Education is increasingly packaged as a consumer product with costs to be borne by individual beneficiaries and people are encouraged to treat services as products. Although we identify some sources of individualization which have an impact on young people's experiences, we argue that the traditional determinants of educational 'success' still have a powerful effect on educational pathways and outcomes.

➤ **Conclusion :**

Youth plays an important role in the social, political and economic development of India. The youth's contribution is significant towards the development of a country, they are accountable to do something better for the proficiency of the country. Young people collectively can be an asset to development at local, national and international levels. When youth political participation is mentioned, what that come into mind first are voting, the effectiveness of youth programs, encouragement to participate in decisions and actions, increasing voluntary activities and encouraging active political participation in these activities. Youth economic participation is also important to improve in National income, per capita income, foreign direct investment and reduction of poverty etc. and Youth social participation help in changes in the society towards education, community development And changes in the behaviour of people etc. Youth can solve the problem, so they are treated as creator, innovator and problem solver.

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