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PROBLEMS FACED BY INDIAN YOUTH: A REVIEW

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Abstract

It is not enough to say that the youth or the young generation is the future of the country, rather this should become a reality, and it will only become so when the youth would be enough empowered and strengthened. the government and the society is quite hopeful with regard to the capacities of the Indian youth since they have the best suitable potential that can facilitate the growth and progress for the country but both the government and the society should analyse that whether the youth are properly developed or not, is the youth getting the sufficient opportunities and facilitates from their sides? According to the surveys and demographic statistics; Indian youth constitutes of more than 50% who are under 25 years, 30% who are of the age 10-25 years and apparently 40% who are of the age 16-30 years thus, with having such a high magnitude the participation of the youth just cannot be neglected in the process of development of India. And it becomes a high-priority for the government to look forward to the development of the youth at first.

Key Words: *Youth, Policy, Problems, Behaviour*

Introduction

Particularly in the Indian scenario the Indian youth can be classified into two big groups of individuals or categories: 1. Educated and Developed group of Youth, 2. Illiterate and Undeveloped group of Youth. Our society and country at large struggling from various social, political and economic issues and these issues have also affected the conditions of the Indian youth immensely. If we believe that the progress of the country lies in the hands of the youth then we cannot ignore their own problems, ignoring the issues of the youth is just like giving rise to other problems instead of minimizing them. And also we cannot neglect the undeveloped section of the youth and make the developed section of the same; wholly responsible for the growth of the country. thus focussing upon both of the sections of the youth is must and, see the irony that

not even a single but both of the sections of the young generations are facing various problems in the present time which hinder their own growth, progress and improvement. Following are the various problems that the Indian youth are facing today:

Methodology

The research paper is based on secondary data. The data is taken from different research reports, journals, websites and research papers, Magazine and daily Newspapers, and other educational text books

Objectives of the Study

1. To understand the concept of Youth
2. To understand the problems of youth
3. To know the National Youth Policy

Concept of Youth

YOUTH is best understood as a period of transition from the dependence of childhood to adulthood's independence. That's why, as a category, youth is more fluid than other fixed age-groups. Yet, age is the easiest way to define this group, particularly in relation to education and employment, because 'youth' is often referred to a person between the ages of leaving compulsory education, and finding their first job.

Youth is the time of life when one is young. The word, youth, can also mean the time between childhood and adulthood (maturity), but it can also refer to one's peak, in terms of health or the period of life known as being a young adult. Youth is also defined as "the appearance, freshness, vigor, spirit, etc., characteristic of one, who is young". Its definitions of a specific age range varies, as youth is not defined chronologically as a stage that can be tied to specific age ranges; nor can its end point be linked to specific activities, such as taking unpaid work, or having sexual relations.

Youth is an experience that may shape an individual's level of dependency, which can be marked in various ways according to different cultural perspectives. Personal experience is marked by an individual's cultural norms or traditions, while a youth's level of dependency means the extent to which they still rely on their family emotionally and economically.

I- PROBLEMS OF EDUCATED INDIAN YOUTH

- **Jobs:** the foremost problem that our youth faces is the lack of better jobs and that too in the public sectors. A huge number of youth gets graduated every year but the number of jobs is comparatively less. Since jobs in public sector provide better facilities, perks and incentives and prestige most of the young people want to avail government jobs. And the jobs which are available in the government sector; demand for working experience of many years, many competitive levels are attached with them

and are very high profile jobs. Only a post graduate student or a Ph.D. scholar or an experienced person can aspire to grab those jobs, and thus graduates have to look into the private sector which is even though full of jobs but also invite with many other issues.

- **Corruption:** corruption has eaten up all the moral values of the human beings today, it has immensely affected the youth since it also gulps the good opportunities of their progress. The opportunities, facilities, jobs, authority, growth, or even the education can be bought by simply bribing some of the corrupted administrators/bureaucrats/officers.
- **Educational issues:** higher education in India is still very complex, not easily approachable and involves long process; that is why a large number of young individuals do not prefer to study after graduation since they want to become independent right after passing out their colleges. A very less number of youth want to get involve in research studies and higher education particularly those who have sheer patience and want to grab the most prestigious jobs after completing the studies.
- **Increasing Competition:** comparatively in public sector the factor of competition is increasing day by day, there is a whole lot of elimination done in the competitive exams than the selection. May it be NET/JRF, UPSC, SSC, IT competitive exams, a huge number of young individuals is eliminated and only a less number of them is selected; that creates a lot of frustration, dejection and disappointment among the youth. Moreover, Reservation issues are also faced along with the aforesaid issues, because the people applying in General Category feel more insecure as compared to the people of Reserved Category.
- **Mental Pressure:** frustration of grabbing a good job, settling in a permanent career, lack of opportunities somewhere create a mental pressure for the young people, they become insecure and perplexed about their growth and success.
- **Lack of Opportunities:** in the Indian scenario much of the attention and weightage is given to education and less attention to extra-curricular activities. It is believed that only through education one can settle his/her career but the youth of today is multitalented and have different aspirations. Education is an indispensable factor that cannot be ignored but if the person has the strong interest in sports, dance, writing, singing, painting, etc., then there is nothing wrong to choose those as the career streams. And that is where the youth faces a lack of opportunities, our government provides numerous of opportunities in educational sector but the aforesaid streams still need a whole lot of development so that the individual, parents and families see some sort of permanency in those.

II- PROBLEMS OF ILLITERATE INDIAN YOUTH

- **Juvenile Crimes:** due to illiteracy the youngsters are found to be involved in crimes especially the small children under the 15 years get involved in stealing, bluffing, looting and sometimes even murders.
- **Drug Addiction:** drug/substance abuse and addiction is most commonly found among the illiterate and undeveloped youth, they at a very young age start smoking and drinking alcohol. There is no one to stop and guide them, the parents are themselves illiterate thus they do not feel guilty nor they punish their children for involving in bad company and unethical activities.
- **Beggary:** most of the illiterate people face the vicious cycle of poverty, they have no work to do, and they also do not have enough dignity to work at their own thus they find a simple way of begging for earning a livelihood. Beggary in India has increased in the recent years.
- **Poverty:** poverty becomes a cycle for the illiterate youth, they are poor because they have no education, that leads to joblessness, unethical activities, and finally back to poverty.
- **Trodden Lives:** life of the youth that is undeveloped and illiterate is completely messed up there is no progress, no improvement and thus life seems a bundle of burden. The living conditions are very poor, lifestyle has no definition, and then how can one expect such a part of the youth to become helpful in the process of development of the country?

III- PROBLEMS FACED BY INDIA'S YOUTH AFTER THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The Covid-19 pandemic has not just been about health issues caused by the coronavirus, it has had far-reaching impact on human society worldwide be it financial, physical, emotional or psychological. There has been no end to the misery caused by the pandemic. And India is no exception. As the new Covid-19 variant XBB.1.5 has started spreading, people have started taking precautionary measures while panicking about the possibility of one more lockdown and its consequences. While everybody from an infant to a 95-year-old has been impacted by the pandemic in some way or the other, the pandemic has severely hit India's youth. On National Youth Day 2023, The CSR Journal takes a look into the problems faced by India's youth during Covid-19 and in the post-pandemic period.

Job loss, pay cut: A major blow caused by the nationwide lockdown (starting March 2020) was on the job market. The youth lost jobs, experienced paycuts, increment was stopped and hiring almost came to a halt and a lot of small, medium businesses were shut down. "The post pandemic era is one of uncertainty in terms of employment or entrepreneurship. India is the land of millennials, but the pandemic has made a large section of the youth averse to entrepreneurial risks," observed Sreparna Zamindar, a Chennai-based freelance writer.

Lower disposable income: “High inflation has resulted to lower disposable income among the youths. If you see in the last couple of years, from food to fuel, from beauty parlour bill to restaurant menu to fresh fruits and groceries, the price of everything has gone up and considerably. Products and services everything has become so expensive that now we don’t have much money left after paying our taxes and all the monthly expenses because our salary didn’t increase as much,” shared Mumbai-based banker Avirupa Jha.

Adjustment issues after WFH: Work from home (WFH) became the new normal during the lockdown in 2020 and there are companies which even till date have their employees operating from home in hybrid mode or permanently. However, for people who have gotten used to the comfort of operating from home, commuting daily on public transport to and from work, sitting for a certain hours at office, they are having adjustment issues.

Rising crime rates: In the present day, a lot of people around us no longer practice the same profession they were associated with till before the lockdown. There are many examples around us where an engineer has turned into interior designer, a school teacher has turned into home baker, a journalist has started selling clothes online or a graphics designer is delivering grocery in order to earn a living and a lot of underprivileged female students living in urban slums have quit learning to take up jobs as domestic help and other part time jobs. However, not everyone who lost their job, found another one.

Job loss due to lockdown and lack of access to alternate source of income led to a rise in crime rates across the country soon after the first wave of Covid-19. “Talking about the youth, we have seen rising crime rates and mental health issues arising from unemployment and social insecurities. Post-COVID sequelae (better known as long COVID) has led to symptoms like memory fogging, persistent hair loss, etc. among many people,” observed Bengaluru-based scientist Dr Pritha Ghosh.

Increased screen time, exposure to violent content: During the lockdown, due to work from home, digital education and watching TV/OTT, the screen time of people knew no bounds, which led to a sudden rise in eye problems across all age groups in India.

Gender gap a barrier for digital learning: Children and young adults experienced a shift to digital or online education, the inconveniences of which are many. Due to lack of access to digital tools required for online learning, a lot of students from low income families, especially female students have had to quit education during or after the initial phase of the pandemic.

Weight gain, Mental health, addiction, hormonal issues: Integrative Nutritionist and Health Coach from Mumbai, Karishma Shah highlights the problems relating to mental health, addiction and hormones experienced by the youth during and after the pandemic. Karishma said, “There has definitely been a rise in

mental health issues in the youths when we struck because movement was restricted and they couldn't go out to meet their friends and family members. This isolation led to a lot of mental health issues and physical health problems.”

NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY

As other countries grapple with ageing populations, India's future growth trajectory depends on how it nurtures and invests in its youth. To address this, the Government of India's Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports drafted the NYP 2021, envisioning a 10-year vision for youth development by 2030.

Historical evolution of the National Youth Policy

1. **NYP 1988:** The first NYP was drafted in 1988, aimed at addressing youth development issues, but specific details were not provided.
2. **NYP 2003:** The NYP was updated in 2003, emphasizing patriotism, morality-oriented values, and gender justice. However, it lacked specific action plans.
3. **NYP 2014:** The policy was revised in 2014 with a more focused approach, defining the youth age group as 15-29. It identified objectives and priority action areas but faced criticism for lack of detailed plans.
4. **NYP 2021:** The most recent version, drafted in 2021, takes a holistic approach and aligns with the UN SDGs. It covers diverse aspects, but challenges in implementation were noted.

Significance of the NYP

- **Youth Empowerment:** The NYP recognizes the youth as a critical demographic and aims to empower them to actively participate in shaping the nation's future. By focusing on their development, the policy harnesses the potential of the youth as a dynamic and vibrant force.
- **Vision for Future Growth:** Each iteration of the NYP builds upon the previous one, adapting to changing times and needs. The policy's forward-looking approach helps India prepare its youth for the future, enabling them to contribute to the nation's growth and development.
- **Alignment with Global Goals:** The NYP 2021 aligns with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), reflecting India's commitment to international development agendas.
- **Holistic Development:** The NYP 2021 takes a holistic approach, covering various aspects of youth development, such as education, health, skill development, and social welfare. This comprehensive approach ensures that the youth receive well-rounded support and opportunities.
- **Fostering Inclusivity:** The policy recognizes the diverse backgrounds and challenges faced by the youth, including socially and economically disadvantaged sections. By focusing on inclusivity, the NYP strives to provide equal opportunities for all young individuals.
- **Policy Evolution:** With each iteration, the NYP evolves to address emerging issues and incorporate feedback from previous policies. This continuous improvement ensures that the government's youth-related initiatives remain relevant and effective.

- **Social Cohesion:** By promoting values of unity, integrity, and respect for diverse faiths and cultures, the NYP fosters social cohesion among the youth. This contributes to a harmonious and cohesive society

Conclusion:

The above mentioned factors certainly prove that Education is the crux of this whole phenomenon. And to fulfil the dream of becoming a developed country every single young individual should become educated, in fact the government must set this as its highest priority and should pledge to make our India; an Illiteracy free nation. Besides this, the problems of the undeveloped youth should be dealt with seriousness and at first; they are the ones who need the desperate attention and focus of the government. In fact the educated youth can help the government in this big task; they also can participate in uplifting the undeveloped youth by volunteering in the different plans and strategies. The process of development of the country can only be attained in the state of equilibrium and this balance can be obtained only when the issues of the youth are better and properly resolved.

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