

The Role of Youth: an Agent for India's Development

Mohit Sharma, Shashi Punam*

Department of Law, Career Point University Hamirpur (H.P.), India-176041

**E-mail: khushi12.p@gmail.com*

ABSTRACT: Youths are the period between childhood and adulthood, spring of life and are the most important and dynamic segment of the population of any country. Youth is the age of discovery and dreams have the power to transform the nation into a better place. We can indisputably say that today's young are tomorrow's innovators, creators, builders and leaders of the nation. They fight for an identity in society, equality, Justice, homelessness, unemployment, exploitation, poverty and have to fight with other social problems like Female Foeticide, dowry, human rights and gender issues which the youth of India as well as Himachal Pradesh faces today. Youth have now more responsibilities towards their own country. We need to learn from yesterday and live with hope for a better tomorrow. We can learn from our past how the young warriors shed their blood for the country. Keeping in view the above said facts this present study has been design with the objectives: (1) to study the role of the Youth in Nation Building (2) to explain the role played by youth of (Career Point University) for the adopted village of Mehal Panchyat. The data for this purpose was collected through primary as well as secondary sources. An analysis of the data reveals and concludes that it's very true that Youth is important pillar for India's development.

Keywords: Childhood; adulthood; youth; panchayat; human rights

INTRODUCTION

Annually deforestation has risen to dangerous levels. It is said that youths are the pillar, future and good resource of the country since they have potentialities to bring the change. Youths are the period between childhood and adulthood, spring of life and are the most important and dynamic segment of the population of any country. Each period of a human's life has its different features. Childhood is known for its innocence, Adolescence for spurt in growth and for its characteristic enthusiasm of energy, aggressiveness, the will to fight and overcome difficulties and to do brave activities. I (<http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in>) described the period of youth as "characterized by the spirit of adventure and the shine of energy, tempered by a growing sense of responsibility and maturity. "Age is basically a biological factor, contributes to social differentiation. It distributes privileges, and responsibilities, rights and duties, in term of separate statuses. Age statuses, like sex statuses are ascribed and not achieved. In almost all societies following age groups are recognized: 1- infancy 2- childhood 3- adolescence 4- adulthood 5- old age (<http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in>).

Each activity that youths perform has direct impact on following generation. So youths have opportunities to shape the behavior and attitudes of this generation. Also, youths can adopt norms, values, attitudes, behavior of older generation since youths are immediate generation after the old. Youth can bridge the gap between these two generations by passing what they receive from older generation to younger generation. Youth is the age of discovery and dreams have the power to transform the nation into a better place.

Definitions of Youth:

- According to United Nations General Assembly, "Youth are the persons falling between the ages of 15 and 24 years inclusive".
- M. G. Olujide (2002) observes that investment in the youth is the only way to ensure the future growth and development of any country. He further asserts that increasing number of young people must be trained and as quickly as possible, to provide leadership in agriculture, industry, government and rural development projects.
- The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English describes 'youth' as the period between childhood and full manhood. Youth is the period between childhood and adulthood, described as the period of physical and psychological development from the beginning of puberty to maturity and early adulthood. Definitions of the specific age range that constitutes youth vary. An individual's actual maturity may not correspond to their chronological age as immature individuals exist at all ages. The age in which a person is considered to be a "youth" and is thus eligible for special treatment under the law and in society varies around the world.
- **As stated by (Nicholas, Stephen, & Baryan),** "The Second World War, there has been increasing emphasis in many countries on describing 'Youth' as a distinct Social category. In many countries, young people between the ages of 12 and about 20 have acquired a distinctive social identity.

Objectives: Keeping in view the about fact present study have objectives:

- To study the role of the Youth in Nation Building

- To explain the role played by youth of (Career Point University) for the adopted village of Mehal Panchayat.
- To suggest measures to improve the status of villagers of Mehal Panchayat.

METHODS

In this section, information related to research design, universe of the study, sample, data collection have been presented. In this study we have used the exploratory as well as descriptive design

Universe of Study (Study Area): Mehal Panchayat was selected and 11 villages of Mehal Panchayat were selected.

Data collection: The study was based both on Primary as well as Secondary data sources. Primary data was collected from various gossips with the villagers. Primary Data was collected with the help of interview scheduled, interaction and discussions with the village peoples for the purpose of study. Respondents were randomly selected for purpose of primary data collection. The interview schedules originally were printed in Hindi and the questions were asked in their local dialect i.e. local language and Hindi. Interview schedule have 18 questions. At the close of each interview the interview schedule was re-checked to ensure that all the information was recorded. Secondary Data was collected from books statistical outline of Himachal Pradesh, internet, published and unpublished books etc.

Focus Group Discussion: In-depth interaction was undertaken with the respondents as male, female and children respondents to gather insight into the cultural norms, group dynamics and decision-making processes.



Figure 1: Interaction with the respondents

Role of Youth in National Development: The term nation building or national development is usually used to refer to a constructive process of engaging all citi-

zens in building social cohesion, economic prosperity and political stability in a nation in an inclusive and democratic way. Almost thirty four percent of Indian population consists of youth. They have the power to change the nation and nation building. Youth are a valuable human resource in every country. They carry the aspirations and bear responsibility for change, progress and innovation. Youth can make or mar society. There is always a tussle between tradition and modernity because of which youth are often misunderstood by the older generation. Immaturity, inexperience and thoughtless actions are some of the characteristics attributed to them by their elders. According to Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), India is a Young Nation and its youth form an integral and essential part of the country's development process. As per Census of India 2001, the size of youth population in the country is 422.3 Million (219 million males and 203 million females), which is above 41 % of India's population. The youth population in the age group 15-34 years is expected to increase over the coming years as per population projections. In the 2011 census, the youth population is expected to increase by 77 million. In the period 2011-21, this number would increase by a further 34 million (Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), 2010) (<http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in>). Young mind will be more fresh, bright, modern and innovative which helps in the progress of the nation. But adequate opportunities should be given to the youth to represent their ideas and policies for the upliftment of the nation. Only way to express the ideas and to implement their policies is politics. If the ruling power is given in the hands of the youth, then definitely India will become developed nation in 2020. Youth should be motivated to consider politics as a means to serve the nation. They should be oriented on anti-corruption drives with focus on prevention, education and strategies for fighting corruption. Good governance is realistic with youth empowerment. Considering the energy and human resource potential of youth, the United Nations Organization passed a resolution in 1980 designating the year 1985 as the International Year of the Youth. The United Nations Organisation directed its member countries that IYY programme should begin in 1980 itself and that the year 1985 should see the culmination of the programmes. In 1998, the National Youth Policy was formulated to fulfill the following objectives: 1) To still in youth awareness of and respect for the principles and values enshrined in the Indian constitution. 2) To promote among youth awareness of India's historical and cultural heritage and fill a sense of pride and national identity. 3) To help youth to develop the qualities of discipline, self-

reliance, justice and fair play. 4) To provide youth with maximum access to education; this, apart from developing their all-round personality, would equip them with suitable professional and vocational training to enhance employment and self-employment opportunities. 5) To make youth aware of international issues and involve them in promoting world peace. Fulfillment of these objectives would result in transforming India's youth into a force that would drive the country's progress and development.

The National Youth Policy, 2003 is designed to galvanize youth to rise to the new challenges and aims at motivating them to become active and committed participants in task of National Development.

The National Youth Policy, 2010 was framed after a review of policies in respect of school curricula and the non-formal education Sector. It stressed on popularization of science among all sections of youth and provided for support mechanisms to enable youth to develop a scientific temper(<http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in>).

Role and Responsibility of Youth: The Policy exhorts the youth to fulfil their responsibilities, which are enumerated below:

- To contribute to sectoral, family and self-development; and to promote social and inter-generational 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 be instrumental in the exploitation of fellow citizens and other persons, especially women;
 - To promote and practise appropriate standards of ethical conduct in individual and social life, to maintain honesty and integrity of character and be

committed to fight against all forms of corruption, social evils and practices.

- To preserve and protect the Environment
- To commit themselves to creating a discrimination and exploitation-free environment, and to devote their time and energy in nation-building activities (<http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in>).

About Mehal Panchyat: Mehal panchayat is situated in Hamirpur District. Peoples of this village are living in very peaceful manner. The village having very proud history. Agriculture is the main profession of this village. Still this village is waiting for industrial development. Mehal Panchayat consists of 11 villages and whole panchayat is adopted by Career Point University for development. Still this village is waiting for Industrial development. Education, Drinking water, Road and Electricity are the main concern of this village. Young generation is more attracted towards mobile, Laptop and computer technology these days. If banks and finance institutions proved loan and other financial support to the villagers, this village will see the real development. Medical and health services have to be improved. (<http://brandbharat.com>) Mehal is a Village in Bhoranj Tehsil in Hamirpur District of Himachal Pradesh State, India. It is located 11 KM towards East from District head quarters Hamirpur. 6 KM from Bhoranj. Mehal is surrounded by Bamson Tehsil towards North, Hamirpur Tehsil towards west, Bijhri Tehsil towards South, Tira Sujanpur Tehsil towards North. Hamirpur, Sundarnagar, Mandi, Nangal are the nearby Cities to Mehal. This Place is in the border of the Hamirpur District and Mandi District. Mandi District Dharmpur is north towards this place. (<http://www.onefivenine.com/india>).

Importance of Training for Youth:

- Increasing young people's understanding of their community,
- Developing their sense of empowerment specially women empowerment,
- Encouraging their future participation in community affairs,
- Enhancing school-community relations.
- Rural communities have increased economic opportunities and improved quality of life.



Figure 2: Rally about save girl child and awareness about Swachh Bharat programme at Mehal Panchyat



Figure 3: Swachhta rally by Career Point University Hamirpur

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- They are backward.
- They are considered to be poor.
- They are exclusively dependent upon agriculture as their source of income.
- No better education at all.
- Government, institutional support for their upliftment.
- Politically also they have little representation.
- Only few families are engaged in income from other sources than agriculture.
- They have no permanent source of income.
- Still they are unaware/ ignorant about the various policies of Govt.

The results also showed that 60% of the respondents had an education from primary to matric (tenth examination) and above level. Slightly more than one fourth 67.2% of the respondents were labourers, farming, farming and playing respectively.

Suggestions:

- Farmers should be made tax free that makes reform in agriculture.
- Job oriented education should be started.

- They are very backward so they should be included in special backward classes.
- Government should also initiate policies, programs for the village peoples.
- Government should develop agricultural industry in villages for better employment chances for villagers.
- Technical and vocational institutes should be established in villages for the training of Rural Youth as well as villagers.
- Engage youth as partners in their own development and the development of their communities;
- Promote positive development so youth will be engaged in their communities and more likely to promote the well-being of other young people.
- All institutes should adopt at least one village for the betterment of rural villages.
- Government should be given an opportunity to expose youth's intelligence to the world and make themselves into someone.



Figure 4: Youth should take part in making NGOs for the development of village

CONCLUSIONS

Youth in India play very important role in the political, economic and social development of the country. The contribution of the youth is essentially important in the development of rural areas. On the basis of conclusions it was recommended that for first of all the educational level of the study area should be increased. Youth have some responsibility towards their country. We need to learn from yesterday and live with hope for a better tomorrow. We can learn from our past how the young warriors shed their blood for the country. To establish the cottage industry in villages so that maximum numbers of villagers get employed there and initiate various agricultural developmental programmes for the betterment of rural villagers.

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