

ODISHA STATE YOUTH POLICY - 2013

1. Preamble

- 1) Young people (13-35 years) constitute about forty two per cent of the state's population. Recognizing the role of youth in the progress and development of the state, the Odisha State Youth Policy aims at responding effectively to the needs and aspirations of young people of Odisha and mainstreaming them in social, economic, cultural and political processes.
- 2) Focused attention on the youth is required in order to reap the benefits of the demographic dividend. Inclusive and broad-based development will encourage young women and men to inculcate a deeper sense of belongingness to the endeavours at the state and national level and to participate in overcoming challenges through democratic and Constitutional means.
- 3) The Odisha State Youth Policy (OSYP) 2013, which is a product of an elaborate consultative and iterative process, provides a road map through which the State Government, in partnership with other stakeholders such as civil society, voluntary organizations, development partners and the corporate sector, will extend a wide range of opportunities to the young people. The challenge is to restructure systems and processes to enable, engage and empower every young person to realize his or her full potential and make a positive contribution in various spheres of life.

2. Rationale for the Policy

Odisha has a distinctive culture characterized by a long tradition of tolerance, peaceful co-existence, respect for diversity and pursuit of excellence. The Youth Policy seeks to build on the foundation of these values and create social capital essential for achieving a sustainable and humane social and economic order. The rationale of the policy is to –

- 1) Capitalize on the demographic transition which presents the state with a historic window of opportunity to enable, engage and empower the youth in channelizing their energies for building a vibrant and prosperous Odisha.
- 2) Guide different departments of the State Government in aligning their initiatives, programmes and policies to encourage youth development and youth participation, as well as for bridging the gaps and improving the effectiveness of existing interventions.
- 3) Expand opportunities for youth through appropriate programmes and judicious investment in the youth, taking into account their needs across the sub-groups and thrust areas.
- 4) Recognize the diversity among the youth and provide them with tailor-made policy and programme responses.

3. Definition of Youth

The OSYP 2013 aims at addressing the age-bracket of 13-35 years as three separate sub-groups as stated below:-

- 1) The first sub-group of 13-19 years comprises adolescents whose needs and concerns are different from those of the young in the other age-groups because of their critical transitions from childhood to early adulthood at these ages.

2) The second sub-group of 20-25 years includes youth who are in the process of completing their education or are outside of the education system and are engaged in unpaid and paid work within the household or in the workforce.

3) The third sub-group of 26-35 years comprises young women and men most of whom are expected to have been fairly settled in their lives. The sub-group also includes those who have not found a clear direction and livelihood opportunities.

4. Vision

Young people of Odisha to be fully enabled, motivated, engaged and empowered to accomplish their full potential, have healthy lives, progress far in education, secure productive livelihoods, participate in their communities, have a say in their future and contribute to the growth and development of the State.

5. Mission

To create an enabling environment that recognizes the diversity, multidimensional needs and aspirations of young people, and put in place the processes, modalities and structures to secure their fundamental rights, to unleash their potential to lead fulfilling lives, and to become active partners in the progress of the State.

6. Objectives

1) To mainstream youth development in designing appropriate government policies, programmes and interventions, while recognizing the special needs of the sub-groups.

2) To create systems and institutional mechanisms at all levels of government, civil society (particularly youth SHGs, youth clubs and youth network), corporate sector and development partners, to facilitate development and empowerment of youth.

3) To establish and strengthen the capacity of key youth development institutions and improve their integration and coordination for optimizing avenues for the youth.

4) To ensure the physical, cognitive, emotional and social development of adolescents in the family, school and community and nurture their talents in various spheres.

5) To promote a culture of active citizenship among the youth and help them become responsible adults who care for their families and society.

6) To promote access to quality education, health care, employment opportunities and other entitlements.

7) To ensure gender justice and eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women.

8) To enhance the skills of the youth to equip them to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing and globalizing India.

7. Guiding Values and Principles

The Odisha State Youth Policy derives guidance from the national development paradigm, principles and values enshrined in the Constitution and fundamental human rights.

Values

1) Recognition of the **dignity of the youth** as human beings who need to realize their inherent strengths and potential.

2) Recognition of **youth as assets** for building a prosperous state and a humane and just society.

3) Recognition of **youth as playing a responsible role** in their families, communities and the larger society.

4) Recognition of **youth as a force to promote peace, equality, democracy and good governance.**

Principles :

- i) **Accessibility** : Youth from diverse background should be able to access resources and services, particularly the most marginalized and vulnerable segments.
- ii) **Holistic** : Youth development initiatives must encompass all aspects of a young person's life and respond to his/her physical, psychological, social, economic and spiritual needs, thus ensuring that they possess the necessary knowledge and skills to navigate a safe transition into adult life.
- iii) **Diversity** : Youth development processes must recognize the diverse background from where youth come and factor the roles played by tradition, culture and spiritual values in the development of young women and men.
- iv) **Non-discrimination** : All youth development initiatives should guard against discrimination on the basis of age, race, caste, creed, gender, sexual orientation, ideological proclivities and disability. Respect for human rights should form the basis of all interventions.
- v) **Participation and Inclusion** : The youth should be active partners in the design and implementation of policies, strategies and programmes with active engagement in decision-making processes.
- vi) **Social Protection** : Different youth development interventions should promote social cohesion and well-being of the youth by taking measures that address needs especially those of the disadvantaged, thus reducing their vulnerability.
- vii) **Transparency and Accountability** : Institutions and organizations involved in youth development and other spheres of governance should operate in a transparent and accountable manner, and be particularly open with and answerable to the groups they seek to serve.
- viii) **Sustainability** : Youth potential, capacity and capability should be maximized so that they can respond effectively and efficiently to the challenges of life without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

8. Special Focus Groups

A. Girls and Young Women : Girls and young women should enjoy equal opportunities, life chances and status with equal access to resources as men. In addition, public spaces and work places should be made safe and secure for girls and young women.

B. Youth from ST, SC and the Minorities : Tribal youth suffer from multiple disadvantages, as do youth from SC communities and other religious and ethnic minorities despite several initiatives meant to empower them. Development efforts in regions with concentrations of this sub-population must deliberately reach out to these groups and ensure that they benefit from any youth programmes.

C. Migrant Youth : Planned migration certainly opens up new avenues for young people but it also places them at risk in specific ways. Migrants in the unorganized sector face special challenges. Young people migrating in search of livelihoods often do not benefit from social security provisions offered by the State. They also remain vulnerable and insecure at their new places of work. Further, it should be recognized that in their absence, their families (old parents, women and children) may need special attention and care.

D. School Dropouts and the Unemployed : Adolescents may be forced to abandon their studies prior to completion, even when they want to continue, on account of a number of social and economic circumstances. As a result, they either have nothing to do and thus become vulnerable to negative social influences, or they are obliged to take low skill, low pay jobs to support their families. In both cases, they miss the opportunity to shape their future and end up being socially and economically disadvantaged. The situation is worse for young girls who are more likely to drop out and less likely to benefit from remunerative work due to gender bias. The challenges faced by these groups of youth thus need to be addressed with a sense of urgency.

E. Youth with Disability : Youth with disability are often pushed to the margins of the society and even within their families. Most often a welfare approach rather than a rights based approach is taken towards them. Imparting appropriate educational and vocational skills to them and facilitating their easy mobility and use of public spaces will be a priority for the State. Although there are provisions for job reservations for persons with disability, opportunities for them need to be expanded.

F. Youth at Risk : Young people working in hazardous occupations and / or in unhealthy conditions face grievous risk to their health and safety. Moreover, youth exposed to such unfavourable conditions particularly, those living in slums also become vulnerable to the dangers of human trafficking, substance abuse and crime including sex trade. It therefore becomes imperative to specifically address the risks faced by young people finding themselves in such situations. Further, the risks and uncertainties faced by girls and young women working in the informal sector would also require special measures including registration system to ensure their safety and welfare.

G. Youth that suffer from moral or social stigma : The policy recognizes the special needs of marginal groups such as lesbians, gays and transgender and take steps to integrate them into the mainstream. The youth infected and affected by HIV/AIDS and leprosy face isolation. People who are HIV+ are stigmatized and are often deprived of educational facilities and employment opportunities. These groups need to be supported and given access to treatment centres, where free counseling and treatment are available.

H. Youth in institutional care, orphanages and prisons : Young people in institutional care, orphanages, prisons and correctional homes face complex challenges that are not easily addressed by standard mainstream policy. They have limited opportunities for education and often they, especially girls, are subjected to physical and sexual abuse. They must be protected within these institutions, and they require continued support and guidance after they leave these institutions.

9. THRUST AREAS

To achieve the vision of the youth policy nine critical areas have been identified. These priority areas are interrelated, and addressing them can create synergies to enable, engage and empower youth for safer, informed, healthy and resilient lives. The government of Odisha shall make concentrated efforts to create a continuum of information and services for achieving expected results in the critical priority areas identified below.

9.1. Education and Life Skills

9.1.1. With a total literacy rate of 73.5 per cent, the state is more or less at the national average. However, the low literacy rate among girls and young women from scheduled tribes and scheduled castes is still an area of concern.

9.1.2 Odisha is home to 62 tribal and 13 primitive tribal communities. The challenge is to strengthen the multi-lingual education system and to build a stronger cognitive base for learning among about one-fourth of the state population which is represented by scheduled tribes.

9.1.3 Although Right to Education has led to enhanced enrolment of children in primary education system, only one out of five young people advance to higher education. Large number of dropouts between primary and secondary, and higher secondary levels, point to a critical window in the educational trajectory of young people. Higher dropout among girls poses many challenges to the achievement of an inclusive education system.

9.1.4 Education is supposed to build the human capital of individuals. In addition, parents perceive the functional outcome of education as enhanced employability. Moreover, during formative years of life, adolescents also need critical knowledge and skills to manage physical, mental and social changes. The life skills based adolescent sexual and reproductive health education help adolescent to manage changes experienced during adolescence and enrich education system to meet expectations of key constituencies.

Policy Directions

- 1) Initiate affirmative and positive action such as door to door tracking of school-age children, particularly girls, to enroll and retain them in the education system.
- 2) In 118 tribal concentrated blocks, ST and SC students and others considered at risk of non-completion of secondary education should receive instruction in smaller class sizes and in an accelerated format for particularly challenging subjects or sections of subjects.
- 3) Girl students from ST and SC communities who have to travel long distances to pursue higher secondary education will get conveyance support for improved mobility for reaching educational institutions. Moreover, concentrated efforts will be made for enhancing provision of residential facilities in educational institutions.
- 4) Provision of scholarship to ST, SC and deserving girl students for pursuing technical education in recognized /accredited institutions.
- 5) School and Mass Education Department will work towards introducing a Multi-Lingual education policy to help tribal students overcome language barriers.
- 6) The state open schooling system shall be strengthened. A State Institute of Open Schooling (SIOS) will be established to take appropriate initiatives for expanding the outreach of the open schooling system with special focus on vocational education linkages to cover entire State.
- 7) Age-appropriate life skills based adolescent sexual and reproductive health education will be integrated with the formal education system for students of secondary schools, starting with the academic session of 2014-15. Priority will be given to cover all residential Ashram Schools and Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas catering to the education needs of children from disadvantaged communities. The career counseling, guidance and promoting patriotic values will be an integral part of the life skills based SRH education.
- 8) Initiative to build capacity of District Institute of Education and Training (DIETs) to infuse new energy for quality education in schools by imparting skills to teachers for improved teaching pedagogy and training on life skills-based sexual and reproductive health.
- 9) In order to ensure quality of higher education steps will be towards initiating quality audits of recognized universities and affiliated colleges for accreditation and rank on well defined quality parameters.

9.2 Skill Development Training, Entrepreneurship and Employment

9.2.1 In spite of significant improvement in enhancing vocational skills and employment opportunities, under employment and unemployment remains an issue mostly affecting young people. It is therefore, imperative to take effective measures for enhancing universal access to employment opportunities that match the abilities of young people.

9.2.2 An important complement to expanding opportunities for young people is the improvement of their basic as well as advanced skills, which can be achieved through an intensive programme of education and training, thus positioning them well for market requirements.

9.2.3 There is need to nurture entrepreneurship among the youth and enable them to access finance and technology and promote business and employment opportunities for youth in the state.

9.2.4 A large number of young people migrate within and outside the state in search of a livelihood. The majority of them are employed in the informal or unorganized sector. This poses risks, brings uncertainty and puts them outside the scope of usual welfare systems and social safety nets.

9.2.5 There is a large population of dropout youth and many of them opt for vocational training to join skilled workforce. Unfortunately, less than five per cent young girls were found in the vocational training system. Training offerings in typically male oriented trades and non-existence of organized facilities for young women to stay away from home still remain deterrents for girls to take up vocational training.

9.2.6 There lies huge untapped potential of young women to enter traditional trade and improve their chances of engagement with long term employment including self-employment and entrepreneurship.

Policy Directions

- 1) An “Odisha Youth Innovation Fund” will be created towards promoting innovative entrepreneurship among youth. Further, a “Youth Entrepreneurship Development Agency” (YEDA) will be established to initiate specialized entrepreneurship training programmes in the accredited universities through linkages with reputed national institutions. The YEDA will promote innovations among young entrepreneurs and provide mentoring support, market linkages and facilitate soft loans through existing schemes and financial institutions. The agency will also develop “incubation centres” to promote innovations and consortium marketing support for the young entrepreneurs.
- 2) In each district a ‘Youth Counseling Centre’ (YCC) will be opened by restructuring the employment exchange through Public Private Partnership (PPP) model. A single window system will provide access to information for young people pertaining to education, scholarship, employment and entrepreneurship. This institution at district level will coordinate career *melas* and all youth-related special initiatives.
- 3) In all government universities, a ‘Student’s Advisory Bureau’ will be opened to guide students on higher education and provide career counseling. All affiliated colleges will have “career counseling cell” which will be linked to the student’s advisory bureau of the concerned university. Similar initiatives will be taken up through the Council for Higher Secondary Education.
- 4) ‘Mission Yuva Shakti’ – a SHG scheme for rural male youth will be initiated on the lines of Mission Shakti – movement of women groups. This will aim to cover young men engaged in agriculture and allied sector for technology, credit and subsidiary support. The youth of urban slums and those living in extremely deprived and remote areas will be brought into the ambit of Mission Yuva Shakti on a priority basis in a time bound manner.
- 5) The ‘State Employment Mission’ will create a centralized mechanism to offer placement linked skill development training programmes to youth in a variety of trades requiring, high, medium, and low skills with special emphasis on trades having high market demand. The mission will develop a comprehensive skill development portal for youth to access training and placement opportunities. A robust data base on the youth availing themselves of training will be prepared for tracking and monitoring coverage of services.
- 6) Capacity building and skills enhancement of youth living in urban slums will be taken up on a mission mode. Apart from that steps will also be taken up to set up micro business centres in select slums on a pilot basis to act as incubation centres as well as training cum production centres. This will enable youth living in urban slums to set up micro enterprises.
- 7) “Migrant Support Centres” (MSC) will be opened in states such as Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal. The migrants going out of the state for livelihood in unorganized sector will be registered for group health insurance, accident coverage policy and emergency health funds. Special attention will be towards girls and women migrating outside the state for work. The migrating youth registered with MSC will receive counseling for HIV/AIDs, training for protection from health hazards at workplace, provision of free legal services and support when encountered with exploitation from the employer through sustainable mechanisms. This will also cover cases pertaining to human trafficking.
- 8) Girls pursuing vocational training from Below Poverty Line (BPL) families will receive annual scholarship up to Rs.40,000/-. The girls from other segments of the society will be entitled to a soft loan of equivalent amount for pursuing vocational training. This will be initiated on a pilot basis and later scaled up.
- 9) In all district headquarters a “Young Women’s Hostel” will be established in next two years, with assured provision of safety and security in hostel premises. The management of these hostels will be entrusted to identified SHG groups of Mission Shakti or NGOs.

10) Coaching and training centres will be started for young boys and girls from ST and SC communities, with appropriate residential facilities. These coaching centres will prepare these young boys and girls for competitive examinations.

11) Accredited Engineering and Management colleges will conduct short-term certificate courses on specific subjects, in line with the National Vocational Education Qualifications Framework (NVEQF) and Modular Employability Skills (MES) to hone skills of young women and men with a view to match market requirements of advanced skills and certification to recognize prior learning (RPL).

12) Systematic efforts will be made to identify viable women's self-help groups and provide required skills and resources to enter traditional and evolving trades. These WSHGs may opt to work on different management models.

13) Special skill development and entrepreneurship development programme will be introduced to address the needs of youth with disabilities.

9.3 Health and Wellbeing

9.3.1 Youth symbolizes a healthy phase of life. This is also a phase characterized by experimentation leading to risky behaviours and habits that can have a lifelong impact. Information and knowledge amongst young people regarding their sexual and reproductive health, influences their choices about sexuality, relationship, marriage and child bearing, is therefore, essential for healthy youth development.

9.3.2 Nutritional status is a major determinant of health of young people. While undernourishment is a more serious issue for rural youth, particularly young rural women, overweight and obesity is a growing concern among urban youth. High prevalence of anaemia among young women has a negative impact on future child bearing.

9.3.3 The state is facing a rising burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), which are largely influenced by food habits, physical inactivity and life style of the young populace. Substance abuse, tobacco and alcohol consumption is a growing menace among youth that needs to be curbed.

9.3.4 The youth of today are experiencing much higher stress levels due to societal and peer pressure, the disconnect between their everyday reality and the illusory world portrayed in the electronic and digital media, and the premature movement out of childhood into adolescence and young adulthood. The provision for addressing mental health of needs to be a priority of public health system.

Policy Directions

1) Initiatives under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) targeting adolescents and young people will be intensified through Bal Swasthya Yojana and adolescent-friendly health clinics at appropriate health facilities. The mental health facilities will be progressively expanded to cover at least the District Headquarter Hospitals.

2) Outreach activities to improve health and nutrition of out of school adolescent girls and young women will be strengthened through convergent schemes and programmes of the Departments of Women and Child Development and Health and Family Welfare. Youth with disability will receive specific attention to health care facilities for meeting their health care needs.

3) Age-appropriate gender sensitive life skills based sexual and reproductive health education will be transacted through *Balika Mandals* organized at each Anganwadi centre for out of school adolescent girls. By 2015, all *Balika Mandals* will be covered with required interventions for Life Skills based SRH. Similar efforts will be made to reach out of school boys through appropriate institutional mechanisms.

4) An enabling environment will be promoted to prevent youth from falling prey to habits of substance abuse, alcoholism and tobacco use. Tobacco control will be strengthened through implementation of appropriate legislations and ban of *gutka* will be intensified. Victims of substance abuse will be assisted through de-addiction centres and community level support mechanisms for rehabilitation and prevention of relapses. A spirit of collective action will be fostered among youth to

build model villages that are free from substance and alcohol abuse. By 2015, all districts will be covered through need based de-addiction centres managed under public private partnership mode.

- 5) Life skills education promoting safe and healthy behaviours, proper food habits including physical activity and practice of *yoga* will be promoted among youth to remain physically and mentally fit. Special attention will be given to provide information and services for youth of urban slums. In order to build self-confidence and promote good health among young girls and women, self defence training will be imparted. Counseling will be promoted in educational institutions to address specific issues of health and well being of young people.
- 6) Out of school young people including migrating youth will be reached through community-level targeted interventions with an emphasis on avoiding risky sexual behaviour, handling peer pressure, promoting proper nutrition and healthy living.
- 7) Youth will be engaged to promote environment hygiene and sanitation through existing platforms of youth collectives formed under various schemes and programmes. Initiatives of youth and youth groups to improve environment (preventing water stagnation and mosquito breeding, maintaining clean water bodies, making habitations open defecation free) will be encouraged, recognized and rewarded.
- 8) Special efforts will be made to organize youth living in urban slums to play a proactive role in community mobilization and motivation activities for slum rehabilitation including gaining access to sanitation and affordable housing.
- 9) Road, fire and industrial safety will form an important part of the education of the youth, who are going to live in a much more industrialized and urbanized society, with increasing use of motorized transport. Youth both in rural and urban areas will be proactively involved in road safety campaigns.

9.4. Sports and Physical Education

9.4.1. The State assigns high importance to promote sports activities among youth for ensuring their physical and mental development. However, sports and physical fitness remains an underdeveloped domain largely due to lack of basic infrastructure at the grassroots level, academic-centric education system, and apathetic attitude of parents and wider society towards participation in sports.

9.4.2. Sports and fitness offer benefits to youth. They not only promote healthy lifestyles but also promote discipline, team spirit, honesty, respect for others, healthy competition and leadership qualities among youth. Sports offer career options for some whereas for others it provides healthy recreation and opportunities for constructive social interaction. It can also act as a powerful medium to deter vulnerable youth from harmful or anti-social activities. This warrants provision of adequate infrastructure and systems for promoting mass participation in sports, school sports, competitive sports and commercial sports, which the government is committed to achieve in a time-bound manner.

9.4.3. There are many traditional games in Odisha like Gudu, Kabadi, Belibadi, Rasi Tana, Nadia Phinga, Bohu Chori, Chata, Dala Mankudi, Dagar Pua, Doli, Bagudi, Khokho, swimming and Puchi. Odia martial arts such as Banati, Paika Akhada and archery were equally popular. In addition to these games being an integral part of the local culture, they are also a low-cost affair. These games are losing popularity among rural youth, which needs to be revived.

Policy Directions

- 1) For creating an enabling comprehensive sports ecosystem and fostering a stronger sports culture, a "Sports Authority of Odisha" will be formed. The sports authority will coordinate all endeavours to promote young talents and provide special training for excellence in sports, protect and promote traditional games and provide support to optimize implementation of various initiatives and schemes.
- 2) Sport and physical education shall be made an integral part of school curriculum and sports period will be made compulsory. A special programme will be initiated to promote physical fitness among youth by introducing a robust physical fitness training and evaluation system in the school and college education system. A special drive will be undertaken to fill up the vacancies of physical education teachers and part-time physical instructors. The competition system for school sports will be strengthened.

- 3) Existing government schools of physical education will be strengthened. Additionally, short-certification courses will be introduced to promote coach development.
- 4) A scheme will be implemented to construct mini stadiums in all the 314 blocks. In the coming year, mini stadiums will be constructed in at least 50 blocks.
- 5) The implementation of the ongoing Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhijan (PYKKA) supported by Government of India will be further expedited by taking up higher targets, with additional support under the state plan, and a particular focus on tribal sub-plan areas. The PYKKA programme is intended to cover youth in all Gram Panchayats in state by 2017 instead of 2020 as envisaged under PYKKA. The Kridashrees or honorary sports volunteers will be given sports kits to enhance their sense of belongingness to the programme. The government is committed to host as many national level competitions in Odisha as possible to promote a strong sports culture in the state.
- 6) A special drive will be taken up to make all sports facilities in the state accessible to persons with disabilities. Necessary measures will be taken to promote sports among youth with disabilities by providing for specially trained coaches, special equipments and such other support. Efforts will be made to make sports competitions inclusive, besides organizing competitions for persons with disabilities. Cash awards and incentives will be offered to sports persons with disabilities at par with other sports persons.
- 7) The government will promote playing fields in urban areas as well, by strengthening the movement under the State Playing Fields Association.
- 8) Effective steps will be taken to promote high quality sports infrastructure in the State by setting up state of the art sports academies in select disciplines. To start with, a hockey stadium will be established in Bhubaneswar; weightlifting academy at Berhampur; aquatic sports academy at Sambalpur; and archery academy at Sundergarh. Public-Private-Partnership mode will be encouraged in setting up sports academies across the state.
- 9) The sports hostel scheme will be strengthened by doubling the current intake capacity and improving the training and coaching facilities.
- 10) A cell will be set up in the Sports and Youth Services Department to monitor the implementation of sports reservation in State Government and state public sector jobs. Similarly, a special drive will be undertaken to raise Odisha Police sports teams in select disciplines.
- 11) A "Sports Academy for Women" will be established in Bhubaneswar to encourage, facilitate and support more young women to participate in sports.
- 12) A district and state level sports meet will be organized every year for traditional games. This will be connected with Tourism Department to provide visibility to the local culture and traditional games. Further, adventure sports will also be promoted in the state.

9.5. Active Citizenship and Community Engagement

9.5.1. Youth are conceived of as active citizens, rights-bearing individuals, who also have obligations and duties, and must assume responsibilities towards the family, community and society at large. The 'active' component of citizenship distinctly includes taking responsibility in the public space, leadership, deliberative engagement, volunteering, community service and participation in community and civic processes for promoting the common good.

9.5.2. It is imperative for a healthy democracy to encourage young people to engage in decision-making processes for development at the local level and provide them with ample opportunities for active participation in civic matters and community development. Young people can infuse renewed energy and forward-looking perspective in the growth and development of the State.

9.5.3. Lack of opportunities to groom youth in community empowerment makes them passive recipients of services rather than active partners. Young people should be productively engaged in the systems and structures of development with greater accountability of public system to young people reciprocally.

9.5.4. The energy and potential of tribal youth must be harnessed for vibrant and progressive society. The growing disconnect between youth and the institutions and structures of governance in the society may lead to cynicism and alienation, a problem more acute in remote rural areas, which needs to be addressed with urgency.

Policy Directions

1. A “State Institute of Youth Development” will be established to develop and implement “Youth Leadership and Development” programmes. A capacity development programme on 'Leadership and Development for one hundred thousand young boys and girls will be organized in the next three years to cover all 18,000 tribal sub-plan villages. The trained youth will have full knowledge of government schemes and will act as “Bare Foot Development Managers” at village level. The identified youth will be provided vocational training for their livelihood to promote self employment.
2. The recently launched “Biju Yuva Sashaktikaran Yojana” aims to channelize youth energy in a positive direction and also to include youth in community development process. Top begin with support will be extended to 4000 youth clubs and efforts will be made to gradually intensify the programme to cover all villages in the next five years. The scheme will also provide support for 5000 internships annually in order to provide ample opportunity to youth for engagement in various development processes.
3. Learning opportunities for community service will be created in colleges and schools whereby students will have to opt for compulsory field work for community service in the form of an action project. A corpus fund will be created to support community action projects.
4. A “Directorate of Youth Affairs” under the Department of Sports and Youth Services will be created. The Directorate will act as the fulcrum to steer processes enable and engage youth through various schemes and programmes.
5. Youth clubs/groups will be motivated to create model villages by convergence of different programmes of government and with community initiatives. Each year a model village award will be given to at least one youth club per district demonstrating change in their village whereas other youth clubs will be motivated to emulate success.
6. Efforts will be made to double the enrolment under NSS during the next 3 years by bridging the resource gap from the state budget.
7. Youth exchange programmes will be promoted and the existing youth award scheme will be further strengthened to encourage excellence among youth in various fields. A youth exchange and exposure programme will be introduced for promoting cross learning, fostering better understanding and social harmony and exposure to the heritage and culture of the state.
8. State and district youth festivals will be organized to promote art, culture and inherent talents of the youth.

9.6. Environment, Sustainable use and Conservation

9.6.1. Environmental issues present some of the most profound and complex challenges requiring attention today and in the coming decades. This policy recognizes the need for a sustainable natural environment to ensure the wellbeing of the present and future generations.

9.6.2. Young people have important environmental concerns and responsibilities that they must actively address. Youth have inherent aptitude for innovative thinking and development of new forms of action that can generate more effective responses to environmental issues. In addition to their intellectual contribution and ability to mobilize support, they bring unique perspectives that need to be taken into account.

9.6.3. Odisha has a wealth of natural forests with rich biodiversity spread across wide ranging ecosystems. Historically, tribal communities and other forest dwellers maintained a symbiotic relationship over the use of natural resources. Over time, heavy biotic pressures, rapid economic

growth and development needs resulted in to unsustainable use of natural resources. Therefore, the challenge is to ensure engagement of young people for sustainable development and wellbeing of future generations.

9.6.4. Promotion of environmental education and creation of knowledge base among youth will enable future generations to build their capacities to address and cope with environmental issues. Building capacities of youth councils to sustainably manage and use natural resources at local levels through community participation will be specifically supported.

Policy Directions

- 1) The potential of eco-tourism will be expanded to provide livelihood opportunity to local youth. In particular, steps will be taken to attract young tribal men and women towards ecotourism as means of livelihood.
- 2) Encourage youth to invest in micro, small and medium enterprises involving green technology and environmentally sustainable activities like waste recycling certified organic farming, renewable energy businesses and green transportation. A green and clean Odisha campaign will be taken up with active engagement of youth.
- 3) Sensitize and encourage involvement of youth bodies in fighting against pollution levels, toxic emissions and waste discharges into the natural environment at local levels.
- 4) Train youth at various levels to support and assist disaster management by coordinating with State government, voluntary organizations and other stakeholders.

9.7. Heritage, Culture and Diversity

9.7.1. The culture and tradition of Odisha is shaped by centuries of cultural exchange between tribal and non tribal people and contact with other cultures through trade, commerce and mobility. A blend of folk, tribal and classical features, which is common heritage of people, provides the matrix for daily life nourishes their creativity and promotes an Odia way of life. The young people should be aware of precious heritage and feel rooted in the culture, while being willing to explore possibilities available in the modern and changing world.

9.7.2. The young people should be aware and informed about Odisha's rich heritage, history and culture. In the absence of a deeper appreciation of own culture the youth are prone to becoming shallow imitators of fleeting trends. There is need to open new channels for young people to expose and experience different parts of the state to understand diverse culture and heritage.

9.7.3. Young people have talent in traditional art and craft like *dokra*, bell metal and brass work, stone carving, wood carving, silver filigree work, sand art, *patta chitra*, handloom designing and tribal art forms. There is need to nurture, support and provide economic viability to traditional arts for their survival and growth.

9.7.4. The young artists need exposure, support and sponsorship to link their talent with creative economy, for pursuing their passion and preserving the rich cultural heritage of the state.

Policy Directions

1. In order to preserve local folk culture and link with economic viability in each district of the state, a District Kala Abom Sanskruti Sangha (DKASS) with block level affiliates will be formed on the cooperative model with block level affiliates in every district following experience of Ganjam district. All social communication activities of the development sector will be organized through District and Block level units formed by bringing local folk artists together. A corpus fund will be created and capacity building of District and Block level Kala Abom Sanskruti Sangha (BKASS) will be ensured to cover all districts by 2015.
- 2) In order to spot and recognize budding talents in dance, music and painting, Department of Culture conducts "Pratibha Anwesana" competition. The scope of above competition will be extended to drama and other art forms. Scholarships and other incentive schemes will be expanded to cover more of such talents.

- 3) A campaign for heritage mapping will be undertaken through Gram Panchayat or youth organization coordinated by reputed organization like INTACH. Local youth will be encouraged, educated and trained to look after the heritage sites with necessary skills and sensibility.
- 4) The Department of Culture will support exchange programmes among young artists to provide opportunity for displaying their talents at national and international level. This will be done in partnership with organizations promoting different art forms and corporate sector.
- 5) Odia film industry will be encouraged to promote the art, culture and heritage of the state and promote a deep sense of pride and belongingness to the state.

9.8. Gender Justice and Equality

9.8.1. The policy recognizes the advancement of young women as a critical input for the development of the state. To ensure gender equality, it is important that young women are associated, and their views and opinion incorporated in all decision making forums. There has been limited engagement of both girls and boys during early adolescence to challenge and shift gender norms and stereotypes.

9.8.2. Gender discrimination constitutes the widest and most serious threat to women and in some cases to their very survival. Gender biased son preference has resulted in a sharp decline of child sex ratios particularly in several districts of the state.

9.8.3. Issues related to safety, job insecurity, work place harassment, lack of child care facilities, wage differentials in the unorganized sector need attention. Near absence of safe, clean and functioning toilet facilities for women in public spaces, safe public transport system, eve teasing and crime against women remain major challenges for women in everyday life.

9.8.4. Odisha accounts for four per cent of the total crimes against women reported in the country. Dowry deaths, domestic violence, trafficking, rape, and sexual harassment are concerns that need to be addressed. Inadequate legal service for protection of these victims and lack of awareness among the women about their rights and remedies make the situation worse.

9.8.5. Although the state has made sincere efforts for women's empowerment through participation in local governance, access to micro-finance and financial inclusion of women, particularly those belonging to weaker sections most of whom are in the informal or unorganized sector needs attention.

Policy Directions

- 1) Gender sensitization efforts and programmes will be taken up more vigorously, targeting all classes, sections and age groups of people, including community, religious leaders and service providers. Specific programmes and methodologies will be designed for different target groups. By 2015, administrative and key public service Officials will undergo gender sensitization training.
- 2) Attention will be given to address the nutritional needs at all stages of life of women, enrolment of girls in schools, completion of secondary education, opportunities and support for vocational training or higher education, employment options and also to develop and promote a sense of women entrepreneurship. Compulsory registration of marriages and linking benefits provided by government to adherence of age at marriage and birth of girl child.
- 3) Asset ownership and programmes relating to land allotment and housing will receive special attention. Priority will be given to single women, destitute, widows, women with disability and women-headed households.
- 4) The safety and security of girls and women being one of the highest priorities of the government, systems and structure will be strengthened to address violence against women such as domestic violence, sexual harassment, rape, dowry, and trafficking.
- 5) Government will work towards flexible work schedules, career re-entry prospects for working women, social security benefits, child care support, safe public transport, and availability of adequate toilet facilities at work and public places.

6) The transgender community will be assisted to access various government schemes and programmes and to integrate them into the society.

9.9. Globalization and Technology

9.9.1. Globalization is increasingly influencing economic and social processes. This has opened new opportunities for young people for improved access to knowledge and communications. Young people are at the forefront of technology and cultural changes that are associated with globalization. The young people need platforms to learn, engage and understand the changes and opportunities offered by globalization.

9.9.2. Today's youth are more connected and tuned in to the world than any generation before. They are growing up fast with advancing technology in a world that is changing even faster. Fortunately for all of us, young people see the challenges before them in fresh way and are responding with enthusiasm and imagination. Young people have the potential to transform the social and economic fortunes of their communities.

9.9.3. Globalization has impacted education, trade, industry and management and business practices. Technological advancement has opened up new vistas for innovation and excellence. The internet is increasingly becoming the passport into the knowledge economy. Globalization and technological advancement have solidified knowledge-based industry as a basis of new economic order for the present and future generation.

9.9.4. Making globalization work form the rural poor, especially young women and men, is a critical challenge and needs careful planning and policy intervention. Within the state, there already exists unevenness in the process of development, which globalization may further worsen. It is vital that young people from rural areas have access to technology and digital literacy skills to operate in the competitive environment.

Policy Directions

- 1) The state government has taken several initiatives from last decade to promote e-governance, strengthen technical education, facilities for IT companies to operate. Efforts will be made to engage young people for bringing transparency by use of technology in rural areas. During 2013-14 all government secondary schools of the state will have facility for training of students in digital skills.
- 2) Students belonging to ST and SC communities and those belonging to BPL families passing secondary school will be given laptop with prepaid data card on merit basis at the Block level.
- 3) In 118 tribal sub-plan blocks, assistance will be provided for opening at least 4 computer training institutes in each block. Young entrepreneurs particularly women and persons with disability will be trained and provided with basic equipments to start computer training centres by the year 2014. Initially up to 2015, each student of ST and SC communities will receive scholarship for paying course fee in the above computer training institutes for a three months certificate course.
- 4) The government will work towards expanding the services of the export promotion agencies, with a focus on rural, agro and artisan products of the state. The micro, small and medium producers will be trained to access global markets through e-commerce and given opportunities to participate in international trade fairs. This will attract more youth in Odisha to enterprise development.
- 5) The state will promote a 'Youth-to-Business' programme linking different categories of youth to corporate houses, knowledge centres and scientific laboratories as part of creating greater opportunity in employment and business. National and international internship and youth exposure and exchange programmes will be taken-up under this model.
- 6) Awards and prizes will be instituted to promote innovation, creativity and leadership amongst youth.

- 7) The Government will introduce a young professional's programme to ensure timely availability of skilled human resource for a predetermined tenure into government offices for assisting in strengthening management processes towards improved effectiveness of service delivery.
- 8) In association with computer professionals, educational institutes and NGOs, youth will be made aware about the dangers associated with the misuse of technology. New forms of both technical and social control for deterrence of criminal activity in the electronic and digital domains will be implemented.

10. Implementation and Coordination Mechanism

10.1. Key Strategies for the Implementation

- 1) The Odisha State Youth Policy (OSYP) - 2013 spells out broad parameters for planning programmes and schemes for the youth across the state. In Odisha, there are numerous factors that impact the life of young women and men and as a result, there may be some region specific needs and concerns of young people that may emerge in the times to come. It is therefore imperative that after a span of every three years policy provisions should be reviewed and realigned to the evolving needs.
- 2) The OSYP-2013 follows a multi-sectoral and holistic approach to enable, engage and empower all sub-groups of different segments of young women and men of the state. The Department of Sports and Youth Services will function as the nodal department and the "Directorate of Youth Affairs" under it as the nodal agency for the implementation of the policy by establishing an appropriate coordination mechanism.
- 3) The Departments of School and Mass Education and Higher Education, ST and SC Development Department, Department of Women and Child Development, Department of Technical Education, Employment and Training, Health and Family Welfare Department, Panchayati Raj Department, Rural Development Department, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Environment and Forest, Department of Culture, Department of Tourism, Department of Information and Technology, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Department, Agriculture Department, Revenue and Disaster Management department, Home Department and Labour and Industry Departments have significant components of their policies and programmes that are relevant to young people. Keeping this in view, a High Powered Committee will be set up.
- 4) A High Power Committee will be chaired by the Honourable Chief Minister with the Ministers of all concerned departments as members apart from the Chief Secretary, Development Commissioner and Finance Secretary. The High Power Committee will review the implementation of youth policy and give it future direction wherever required. The Secretary, Sports and Youth Services Department will be Member Convener of the High Power Committee.
- 5) A task force under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary will be formed with Secretaries of concerned departments representing each thematic area of OSYP. The Director, Youth Affairs will be the convener member of the task force. The task force will set out criteria and draw up a list of indicators for measuring the progress at state, district, block and sub-block levels for the implementation of the programmes under respective thrust areas. At district level, the District Collector will be responsible for coordination among different line departments. At all level of coordination and review committees subject matter specialists will be involved.
- 6) The Directorate of Youth Affairs will develop a five-year perspective plan supported by annual work plans and maintain data base on the progress made in each thematic area. This will become the basis for reporting to the High Power Committee biannually and the State task force quarterly. The annual report will be submitted to the High Power Committee indicating the progress, identifying gaps in the programmes and schemes and recommend future action.
- 7) There is a need to mobilize and bring more and more agencies as partners and stakeholders for a democratic youth development process. This will entail convergence of efforts and resources of the state sponsored youth-related agencies, international agencies, corporate sector, non-governmental

organizations and community based organizations. This warrants the establishment of a functional mechanism for coordinating these efforts as part of an on-going, productive and valuable partnerships network in the state. The Directorate of Youth Affairs will be entrusted with this responsibility of networking and collaboration at the micro and macro level. For this purpose the Directorate will be provided with the support of a Project Management Unit for transforming the Perspective Plan into annual action plans and their timely implementation.

8) The active engagement of NCC, NSS, IRCS, Bharat Scout and Guide will be ensured at school and college level, in addition to coordination with NYKS programme in the state by the Directorate of Youth Affairs.

9) The 'State Institute of Youth Development will be an independent and autonomous institution under Department of Sports and Youth Services. It will design high quality capacity building programmes in collaboration with renowned national and international institutions. In order to ensure equitable geographical coverage of the state, collaborations with both government and private institutions will be made. The quality assurance of the trainings will be responsibility of the institution.

10) In every district there will be 'Youth Counselling Centre' (YCC) that will work under the stewardship of the District Collector. The YCC will also ensure greater cooperation among the youth clubs, public institutions and local self government. Funds from MP/MLA Lad may be utilized for developing necessary infrastructure facilities, including ward or village-level library. Empowering young people at grassroots level and their engagement and accountability will be critical for optimizing results of YCC.

10.2. Monitoring and Evaluation

1) The Odisha State Youth Policy (OSYP)-2013 will be translated into a comprehensive Plan of Action including programmes and activities that will be undertaken in each of the thematic areas with clear roles and responsibilities of identified respective departments. There will be some interventions to complement ongoing programmes, some interventions to augment ongoing programmes like the IRCS, NYKS, NSS and some new programmes and schemes. The monitoring and evaluation framework will be developed to objectively track progress of the interventions under each thematic area and present findings to the task force in a timely manner for taking mid-course corrections. The key performance indicators will be regularly generated by data collection, compilation and analysis by the Directorate of Youth Affairs.

2) The Evaluation of the Youth Policy will be carried out through neutral and credible agencies once every three years and the results will be placed before the State Coordination Committee. The programmes and interventions will be tweaked and redesigned on the basis of these results and as per evolving needs of young people in the state.

11. Review of Odisha State Youth Policy

The Odisha State Youth Policy - 2013 will be reviewed in the year 2016 for appropriate changes warranted by the situation.

Interpretation of the Policy

Doubts relating to interpretation of any term and/or dispute relating to the operation of any provision under the Odisha State Youth Policy 2013, shall be referred to the Department of Sports and Youth Services, Government of Odisha for clarification and the decision of the Government in this regard will be final and binding on all concerned.