

## YOUTH DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND, BURDEN, OR STRENGTH TO NATION: A SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

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### ABSTRACT

India has a dubious proportion of youth at present when compared to many other countries across the world. India's youth population is enormous and many countries in the world ever do not have the entire total population on their own. The large and increasing relative share and absolute numbers of the youth population in India makes it even more necessary that the nation ensure that the youth of India become a vibrant, constructive force that can address social and economic issues and contribute to sustained and just governance and nation building. If youth is unnoticed they may be turned as unwanted citizens of the country. But the role of youth is at the most important point in time. It has underplayed itself in the field of politics. It should become an aspiring entrepreneur rather than mere workers. It can play a vital role in elimination of terrorism. Young participation is important because youth is the country's power. In this line of thinking the paper throws its lights on the positive and negative side of the youth population.

**KEYWORDS:** Youth, Demographic Dividend, Nation

### INTRODUCTION

India has a dubious proportion of youth at present when compared to many other countries across the world. India's youth population is enormous and many countries in the world ever do not have the entire total population on their own. The large and increasing relative share and absolute numbers of the youth population in India makes it even more necessary that the nation ensure that the youth of India become a vibrant, constructive force that can address social and economic issues and contribute to sustained and just governance and nation building. Youth are relevant because they can be diverted as employees, employer, human resource, etc. If youth is unnoticed, they may be turned as unwanted citizens of the country. But the role of youth is at the most important point in time. It has underplayed itself in the field of politics. It should become an aspiring entrepreneur rather than mere workers. It can play a vital role in elimination of terrorism. Young participation is important because youth is the country's power. Youth recognize problems and can solve them. Youth are strong forces in social movements. They can educate children about their rights. They can help other young people attain a higher level of intellectual ability and to become qualified adults.

The responsibility for change, progress and innovation lies on today's youth's shoulders. Youth can make or mar the society. The educated youth should initiate steps to teach the illiterate people in their neighbourhood. They could teach them elementary reading and writing and also educate them about hygiene and the need for cleanliness. They should also be informed about the harmful effects of drinking, smoking and chewing tobacco. The youth of every country are its valuable human resource. There has always been a tussle between tradition and modernity and the youth have often been misunderstood by the elders. The elders feel that, being immature and inexperienced, the youth usually, indulge in thoughtless activities. However, the youth have the zeal to initiate revolutions. The youth of our country also played a significant role in the freedom struggle and other significant events.

## **Youth and Education**

According to French Social thinker, Emile Durkheim, education is transforming the knowledge from one generation to the next. In this line of thinking, the educational attainment of a population, particularly of the young population, is an important indicator of the society's stock of human capital and its level of socioeconomic development. The educational attainment of youth in the age group 15-24 also reflects the achievement of the educational sector in the past 20 years. A large number of programmes for young and adolescents' education have been taken up by the Ministry of Human Resource Development and other Ministries, Departments of Government of India in recent years. Also the numbers of private educational institutions like Engineering colleges, Medical colleges and other Universities established in India recently. The young people have more opportunity to get their higher education near to their places. Many professional opportunities also they get as soon as they finish their education. Unfortunately, if not getting the formal education on their young age they can learn education in many ways like distance learning, self-learning, E-learning, to upgrade their knowledge. The phrase Knowledge is power has been changed as Information is power. In many ways we can update our knowledge.

Above all the young people who are in the age group of learning must get the education on time, and afterwards we can achieve the expected change through the education. The government as well as other non governmental agencies also taken many initiatives to improve the number of enrollment in school education and it has been shown in the results in recent Higher Secondary and Secondary School education. The district employment exchanges and other central government institutions are providing the vocational training for youth to start self business and showing the way for their future life.

## **Youth for Family**

In every institution youth can bring the changes in all ways. The institutions like family, organisations, and industries will have the changes and development through the enthusiastic nature of young people. The educated youth can empower the family. The family can produce the best citizens consists of youth in the nation as meaningful citizens. The bureaucrats, scientists, technocrats and others are the products of the families. The youth who come from the families can shape the areas, children, women and others as the important citizens of the nation. An insider in the family the youth can build up the morale amongst the members to enhance the family norms as desired by the society. In this scenario, youth should not waste their time going behind the anti-social activities and think positively about the social transformation. The family plays a very significant role in socializing the children as well the youth as much. Family is the first institution to give more moral support to the youth to face all obstacles in the society.

## **Youth Can Change the Industry**

Article 23 of the Declaration of Human Rights, gives everyone a right to work, to free choice in employment, to just and favorable conditions of work, and to protection against unemployment (United Nations, 1948). However, in India, employment, unemployment and under-employment are all challenging youth issues. Adequate and appropriate employment at the appropriate ages is key to successful development and exploitation of the human capital that youth represents. India is faced with a dual challenge in this regard: on the one hand, it needs to prevent youth from entering the labour force and working in exploitative and unskilled jobs before they have had an opportunity to mature, complete their education, and develop marketable skills; and on the other, it must provide for the full and appropriate employment of the youth population that has successfully completed its education or has acquired the requisite skills and is ready to enter the labour force. A large unemployed youth population not only puts the nation at risk of instability, but also costs the country

in terms of productivity and health expenses. But now many health promoters, health representatives are young people and more physical laboured works have been done by young people. The target oriented works can be achieved only by youngsters. Young people can work hard and faster than elders.

### **Youth in Society**

The youth in any nation is significant for its continued economic development and demographic evolution. The youth population, which typically constitutes the entering cohort in the country's labour force, is expected to bring in freshly learned and updated skills that will help renew and improve the country's stock of human capital. Youth has also represented the age group that forms the basis of demographic renewal, as these young people form unions and begin child bearing. In terms of reference groups, if the youth spend their young age nicely, they will be peace in their old age. Those who are not solving their problem in young age that will continue in their old age and become a big burden in their remaining years.

### **The Economic Progress and the Youth**

The economic progress of the country is by and large in the hands of the youth on a number of grounds. When they are in a position to develop the best qualities and work culture they can do the best for the social institutions in general and nation building process in particular. The young people in India are searching for suitable employments and working as unemployed. The need of the hour is proper planning and strategies to bring out their best in the form of motivating themselves and start the initiatives for the industrious. The youth should come forward to help the social sectors and governmental and non-governmental organizations to change the face of India. For instance, the government has initiated various programs to bring the economically backward people into the national mainstream, but the reforms have failed to percolate to the masses. One best example is the family planning programs of the government have not been totally accepted and adopted by the masses. The governmental machinery has failed to reach out to the grassroots. Youth organizations should take up the responsibility of educating the poor about the benefits of family planning. It has been found that the rural folk are usually suspicious about the intentions of the government officials, nurses and doctors. Hence, it is the duty of the youth to further the government's efforts. Low status of women in society, high degree of illiteracy and denial of basic amenities to the rural folk has been a result of unawareness among the masses about their rights and privileges. The schemes framed by the government for their benefit never reach the needy. The educated youth should initiate steps to teach the illiterate people in their neighbourhood. They could teach them elementary reading and writing and also educate them about hygiene and the need for cleanliness. They should also be informed about the harmful effects of drinking, smoking and chewing tobacco.

The government has become conscious of the need to tap the youth power. With the lowering of the voting age to 18 years, the youth has suddenly become politically important because they can decisively tilt the political scales in a general election. Realizing this, all the political parties are trying to woo the youth by including the issues relating to the youth in their political agenda. The youth should not become a pawn in the hands of the politicians, but should remain judicious. The youth should cast their vote after serious deliberations on the character and policies of the politicians. Undoubtedly, in the India of tomorrow the youth are going to play a decisive role in choosing their leaders.

### **Youth for the Nation Building Process**

We cannot build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future. (Franklin D Roosevelt). The youth can make the changes in society. The youth is the most vital human resource of the nation on whom the present and the future of the country depend. The National Youth Policy seeks to provide the youth with new opportunities to

participate in nation building.

Youths are the backbone of a nation. They can make or destroy a nation. Society has three parts. These parts are children, youth; and olds. Children and old person cannot build a nation because they are emotionally and physically dependent in nature. Swami Vivekananda said, "*young persons are like steel or stone.*" They can break rock. Today, India suffers with several problems like poverty, population explosion, unemployment and violence. Indian youths have misled with media system. They are forgetting their culture and moral values after flowing into the water of western culture. So, the Indian youth should respect our cultural values for the progress of India. Youth can easily integrate India, but youths are also suffering the problem of violence. Educated youths enable us to understand and milestones the modern society has achieved and links common people with the scientific achievements and technological breakthroughs made by our youths. The role of youth is a very important key factor for nation building. Silence or calmness is much important for youth. Youth that unity among them will be the unity of India. Youth should also obey the rule of unity of command. They should respect their government rules and regulation. Each religion gives us this authenticity of love and affection youths of India must be integrated not only our nation but the whole the world.

## CONCLUSIONS

The major focus of all of us in general and governance in particular is bringing up the youth as human resource or human capital. This is not an easy task which requires a lot of commitment and dedication of youth themselves. They are the ambassadors of the nation when are working in abroad and elsewhere. The planning with them may be the key when we are planning for youth development. The youth is standing in the second stage after the childhood in the man's life journey. Certainly each state is very important and the youth consists of a lot of energy, enthusiasm and labour. The labour is perishable and if the youth misses the same carelessly he or she is going to miss a lot. So, the relevance of labour to convert is as a resource is important. We should think about the resource or asset, not for liabilities. The demographic dividend of youth is certainly the asset of our nation when they have been employed to work with all the level.

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