

International Conference

on

ACHIEVING YOUTH SPECIFIC SDGs: KEY CHALLENGES AND POLICY RESPONSES

15-17 February, 2018

Concept Note

Sustainability as an agenda for youth development

The initial interpretation of the word 'Sustainability', as an attempt to close the gap between development and nature, has broadened in the present context to embrace all aspects of development. The journey from Brundtland commission to 'Agenda 2030' has been remarkable as it resulted in all nations accommodating sustainable development in the national development agenda. Yet the journey so far has been filled with challenges such as unaccomplished/ partially accomplished targets, stressful ecosystem and looming climate change. This challenge creates a pressure on development experts to broaden the concept of development and accommodate more innovative ways of addressing developmental issues. It has been a proven fact that sustainable development requires dialogues among all stakeholders and the dialogue needs to be positioned from the premise of intrinsic values. The signposts/milestones to development need to be identified from the people who are denied the opportunity to realise the benefits of development. The Agenda 2030 is a step forward in this direction and the success in achieving SDGs largely depend on how young people in the world embrace the concept of sustainable development.

The youth of today are the change agents of a more developed, better world and they will be the leaders of tomorrow. The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) look at the young persons over the world to participate in leading the change. SDGs represent a collective best vision for the future – a vision that promises the generations a safe, hospitable planet, on which every person has the chance for a prosperous and peaceful life. Providing the youth with the expertise and institutional knowledge to carry out the plan we've built to sustain our planet through 2030 is the need of the hour. For the reason that the youth today will also bear the consequences of any inaction, it is imperative that they become the flagbearers for achieving the SDGs as they have the biggest stake in their success.

The pivotal role played by the youth in achieving the SDGs is evident from the fact that almost all the 169 targets, directly or indirectly, influence the youth specific goals and their importance in pushing the agenda towards 2030. To achieve this, youth mainstreaming requires an institutionalized focus. In addition, youth mainstreaming principles need to be incorporated as an important agenda in policy documents. This will result in achieving social equality, addressing the concerns of equality and justice.

SDGs and targets focussed:

SDG No	Target
Goal No 4	4.4 By 2030 increase by (x) percent the no of youth and adults who have relevant skills including technical and vocational skills for Employment, Decent Jobs and Entrepreneurship
	4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development
	4b. By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries
Goal No 5	5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.
Goal No 8	8.5 By 2030 achieve full and productive employment and Decent Work for all Women and Men including for young people and persons with disabilities and equal pay for work of equal value
	8.6 By 2020 substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or Training
	8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment
	8b By 2020 develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the global jobs pact of ILO
Goal No 10	10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average
	10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
	10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard
	10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality
	10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies
Goal No 13	13.b Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective Climate Change related planning and management in less developed countries including focussing on women, youth and marginalised communities
Goal No 16	16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children
	16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels
	16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision making at all levels

	16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements
	16.A Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime
	16.B Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

The **International Conference on Achieving Youth Specific SDGs: Key Challenges and Policy Responses** being hosted by Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development Sriperumbudur from **15-17th February 2018** looks at youth as partners in implementing the SDGs.

Objectives:

- Situation/context analysis of youth specific SDGs
- Create an interface between experts and researchers working in the identified thematic areas to present their work and initiate discussions
- To assess existing roadmap towards youth as partners in implementing SDGs
- To propose Policy Briefs in the selected thematic areas

Conference Tracks: The conference will have two tracks on the following:

- Track 1: Paper presentations
- Track 2: Symposium on Achieving Youth Specific SDGs

Track 1: Paper Presentations

Call for papers

Papers are invited on any of the following subthemes with focus on SDG targets. It may please be noted that youth, gender, marginalized communities and disabled section are themes cutting across the subthemes mentioned below:

Themes & Sub-themes:

Thematic Area	Sub-themes
I: Skill Development & Entrepreneurship	(i) Technical and Vocational Skills (ii) Policies on Skill Development (iii) Entrepreneurship
II: Employment & Labour Market	(i) Youth Employment/ Unemployment (ii) Decent Jobs (iii) Youth & NEET (iv) Disabled & Working Conditions (v) ILO & Global Job Pacts (vi) Labour Rights & Safe Working Environment
III: Youth & Climate Change	(i) Environment Security Assessment (ii) Green Jobs (iii) Blue Economy (iv) Environmental Justice
IV: SDGs through the lens of Migration	(i) Student migration (ii) Trafficking & Migration (iii) Migration Policies (iv) Worker Rights (v) Peace & Conflict Resolutions

V: Gender	(i) Equal Pay for Equal Work (ii) Women and Work (iii) Violence and Exploitation against women and girls (iv) Gender Discrimination
VI: Education for Sustainable Development	(i) Cultural Diversity (ii) Peace & Non-Violence Education (iii) Global Citizenship (iv) Sustainable Development and Sustainable Lifestyles
VII: Youth Centric Institutions & Strengthening Social Equality for Youth and Communities	(i) Inclusion – covering social, economic and political dimensions (ii) Addressing Inequalities (iii) Law, Policies and Institutional Practices (iv) Social Protection Policies (v) Youth Participation in Public Policy Making

Researchers and academicians, including those from outside India, are invited to contribute papers on any of the themes mentioned above. Interested scholars may send an abstract of 500 words and the full Papers submitted should not exceed 8000 words (including tables and appendices).

Publication Opportunity:

The shortlisted papers will be submitted to Routledge for academic review. **Routledge (Taylor & Francis Group)** has shown initial interest and would like to see and review the complete manuscripts to be published by Routledge. In case more number of quality papers are available, Routledge would be interested in publishing them as a separate volume.

Track 2: Symposium on Achieving Youth Specific SDGs

Methodology

- It will be a frontal and interactive symposium where morning sessions will introduce the core issue of the workshop through panel presentation by experts, which will facilitate background setting for breakout sessions. Interactive sessions in the afternoon aim to discuss and design possible structure and content of proposed policy briefs.
- The symposium will begin with plenary sessions by lead experts in the thematic areas identified, which will be followed by comments/observations from experts and open discussions.
- Each breakout session will be coordinated by an expert in respective thematic areas. The discussions in the breakout sessions will be focusing on the structure and content of policy briefs to be developed post-workshop.
- The guiding questions to be discussed in the breakout sessions will be developed by a team in consultation with experts. The guiding questions will be indicative in nature and the group members are free to add/ modify guiding questions.
- In each of the Breakout sessions, the participants will be provided 4-6 leading questions to deliberate and come up with 5-6 key points on each of the questions. The Chair/Co-chair will then present the groups' perspective at the plenary.

Intended Outcomes:

- It is planned to develop policy briefs in selected thematic areas by a team comprising experts working in the respective thematic areas. The teams will be led by renowned experts from the representing countries.
- The proposed policy briefs will highlight the urgency of the problem and the need of action in proposed thematic areas, which will serve as an impetus for future course of action.

Important Dates:

Call for Abstracts: 28 October 2017	Last date for submission of abstracts: 28 November 2017
Notification of selected abstracts: 2 December 2017	Last date for submission of full papers: 2 February 2018
Last date for Registration: 2 January 2018	Conference Dates: 15-17 February 2018

Registration Details:

Paper Presenters	Registration Fee*	On-the-spot Registration Fee*
Academicians & Practitioners	INR 2000/-	INR 2500/-
Ph.D. Scholars	INR 1000/-	INR 1500/-
Foreign Delegates		
Academicians & Practitioners	USD 200	USD 250
Students (PhD/Post doc)	USD 150	USD 200

*This amount covers seminar kits, food and refreshment and boarding and lodging. Details for paying registration amount will be made available at a later date.

Travel Allowance (TA) will be available for a limited number of paper presenters.

Target Audience

The symposium will bring together different actors working in the youth development sector. This will include: Academicians and researchers, Community of Practitioners (CoP), policy makers and representatives from Non-governmental Organizations.

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