



TAMIL NADU STATE YOUTH POLICY

Youth Welfare and Sports Development Department

Government of Tamil Nadu



- Tamil Nadu will be amongst India's most economically prosperous states by 2023, achieving a three-fold growth in per capita income (in real terms) over the next 7 years to be on par with the Upper Middle Income countries globally.
- Tamil Nadu will exhibit a highly inclusive growth pattern – it will largely be a poverty free state with opportunities for gainful and productive employment for all those who seek it, and will provide care for the disadvantaged, vulnerable and the destitute in the state.
- Tamil Nadu will be India's leading state in social development and will have the highest Human Development Index (HDI) amongst all Indian States.
- Tamil Nadu will be known as the innovation hub and knowledge capital of India, on the strength of world class institutions in various fields and the best human talent.
- Tamil Nadu will preserve and care for its ecology and heritage.

CONTENTS

1. Executive Summary	-	04
2. Preamble	-	07
3. Rationale for an Exclusive Youth Policy	-	08
4. Vision	-	12
5. Mission	-	12
6. Objectives	-	12
7. Definition of Youth	-	13
8. Guiding Principles and Values	-	13
9. Target Groups	-	16
10. Priority Groups	-	16
11. Strategy	-	17
A. Enabling Knowledge Dissemination And Civic Participation	-	18
B. Action on Thrust Areas	-	20
C. Evaluation, Monitoring and Review	-	32
12. Implementation Plan	-	33
13. Review of Tamil Nadu State Youth Policy	-	35
14. References	-	36

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The greatest wealth and strength of any nation are its youth. The calibre of a country's youth is a crucial determinant of its future. As they form the creamiest layer of human resources, it is imperative for countries to strengthen their commitment towards empowering young women and men to work together to drive social innovation and change, thus participating fully in the development of their societies.

Youth is often indicated as a person between the age where he/she leaves compulsory education and the age at which he/she finds his/ her first employment. Often, youth age group is defined differently by different countries/ agencies and by the same agency in different contexts. United Nations defines 'youth' as persons between 15 and 24 years of age.

In the National Youth Policy 2014, 'youth' has been defined as a person in the age group of 15-29 years with a view to have a more comprehensive approach, as far as various policy interventions are concerned.

The Tamil Nadu State Youth Policy defines persons in the age group of 15–35 years as youth in view of its demographic profile.

Tamil Nadu is one of the leading states in terms of its potential to exploit demographic dividend, with approximately 74% of its population falling in the productive age group. Being the eleventh largest state by area and the seventh most populous state in India, it is the second largest state economy in the country as of 2012.

The State Youth Policy aims at reinforcing and accomplishing the broader objectives of "Vision Tamil Nadu 2023". It focuses on enhancing human resources in order to transform the state into an innovation hub and knowledge capital of India.

The vision of the policy is to shape the future of the state by empowering every youth in the state to become a responsible and participating citizen to drive a new era of development, growth, and productivity. The key goal is to harness the potential of youth in creating an enabling environment for holistic and sustainable development of the state by ensuring a healthy, peaceful, productive, positive and value-based ambience. Further, it visualizes an active and productive life for youth, both within and outside the state. This necessitates the youth to get educated, skilled and empowered with values, knowledge, and attitude. Their pursuits for excellence should be directed towards a sustainable social, political and economic development of the state, thus leading them to an enhanced quality of life in all spheres.

The policy aims at addressing students, out-of-school youth, rural and urban youth, SC/ST youth, youth in coastal, sensitive and most backward areas, unemployed youth, migrant and transgender youth. Special attention will be given to young women, unskilled youth, slum youth, differently abled youth and youth at risk.

The thrust areas of the policy are promoting values and culture amongst the youth; facilitating maximum access to formal education and promoting opportunities for non-formal and lifelong learning; developing the attitude and skills for employment by providing training and creating more career avenues; creating cognizance towards healthy and balanced lifestyle choices; encouraging involvement in sports and recreational activities in their neighborhood through infrastructure development and sensitizing them towards human rights, gender equality and equity; encouraging participation in local governance and management of local community needs; involving them in issues related to conservation and preservation of environment; and using science and technology to achieve the objectives of Vision 2023 of Tamil Nadu.

Creating awareness about the youth policy plays a vital role in implementing it. In line with this, all major stakeholders and communication channels will be involved. Youth participation in programmes under the youth policy will be supported and encouraged through various measures.

Periodic monitoring and evaluation has been proposed to ensure physical progress of implementation, assess its impact and plan for mid-term revision, if required.

The policy will be reviewed after five years and modifications will be effected based on future needs.

2. PREAMBLE

Youth are the catalysts of social change, driving the route to socio-economic, political, environmental and technological development in all spheres of life. Tamil Nadu State Youth Policy aims at reinforcing and accomplishing the broader Vision 2023 of Tamil Nadu through these change-makers. The policy focuses on upgrading the human capital of the state by building on the intellectual and creative potential of youth in various fields, thereby transforming Tamil Nadu into the innovation hub and knowledge capital of India. The policy will forge the generation of gainful and productive employment opportunities for the youth while inculcating sound values of discipline, honesty, civic awareness and nationalism.

Youth should be offered wide ranging opportunities for constructive and creative participation in building a strong local community and in the larger canvas of nation building, by channelizing their energy and enthusiasm. The policy will prevent the youth from being led astray by fringe groups and help them evolve into responsible citizens based on values enshrined in our tradition and culture.

3. RATIONALE FOR AN EXCLUSIVE YOUTH POLICY

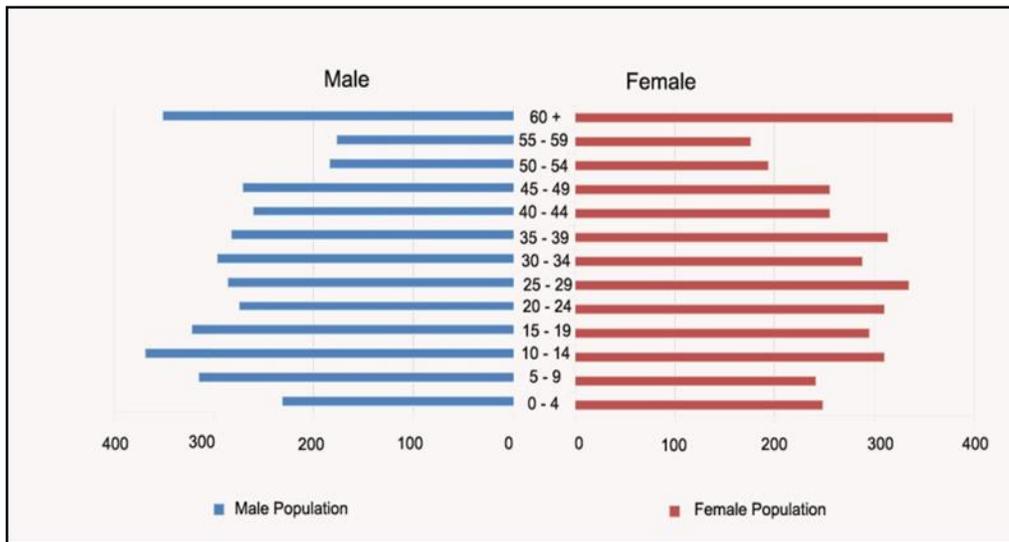
The Tamil Nadu State Youth Policy clearly echoes the Vision 2023 of Tamil Nadu

- The Vision 2023 of Tamil Nadu is to become India's most prosperous and progressive state with no poverty, where its people enjoy all the basic amenities of a modern society and live in harmonious engagement with the environment and with the rest of the world.
- To achieve universal secondary education and enhance enrolment in colleges (including vocational education) to over 50%.
- It will be ensured that the youth population of Tamil Nadu is sufficiently skilled at their jobs.
- An economic and institutional regime shall be established to induce creation of new knowledge and entrepreneurship to utilize the same.
- A conducive environment shall be created for protecting intellectual property rights and celebrating successful innovations, thus fostering a risk taking culture.
- Setting up an innovation fund that rewards innovation by students, businesses, academic institutions and others.
- Towards this end, Tamil Nadu will partner with other states in the country and the rest of the world on multiple dimensions, such as increasing the flow of workforce and goods/services across its borders, enhancing the levels of exchange of ideas and culture with other regions, and facilitating the natural movement of people to and from Tamil Nadu.
- It envisages training and skilling 20 million persons over the next 7 years at a cost of Rs. 11,000 crores. This will include 15 million people entering the job market and 5 million who are already part of the working population.
- About 65% of the persons targeted for skill development, who would have studied upto secondary school, would be provided with training on basic

skills for a variety of livelihoods. About 33% would have already undergone formal education as part of vocational training programmes or in colleges, while the remaining top 2% would be top echelon professionals.

- Agriculture and allied activities provide the subsistence for around 40% of Tamil Nadu's population and contributes 12% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This is envisaged to be a large scale skill development initiative, covering around 0.6 million people annually and seeking to impart basic training to unskilled labour (primarily agricultural workforce) so that they can take up jobs in the state's industrial and service sector units.
- Setting up 10 Centres of Excellence at a cost of Rs. 3,000 crores.
- Tamil Nadu has a relatively high capacity for skilling students, due to the presence of some of the most reputed institutions for higher education like IIT, IIM, IIIT, 23 state universities, and 40 private universities including Deemed Universities with more than 500 engineering colleges and over 1000 ITIs and polytechnics. Perhaps this is the reason why a significant proportion of the skill pool of the state was assessed to be employable. With more than one third of the skill pool employable, Tamil Nadu fares better than the overall average of the country. With the skill pool proficient in individual skill areas of employability like communication, logical ability etc., the state is also amongst the top 10 states, having a high percentage of female candidates who are employable.
- An age wise distribution of the state population indicates that around 74% of the population is in the working age group of 15-59 years signifying a favorable demographic dividend. However, owing to a stable birth rate, Tamil Nadu is likely to exhaust this demographic dividend in the coming decade, much before the rest of India. Therefore, to sustain a high rate of growth, it is essential to best leverage this current advantage by encouraging labour participation and improving labour productivity.

Gender Distribution in Tamil Nadu



- The growing youth population in Tamil Nadu assumes utmost importance in view of the contribution a productive age group is capable of in a developing nation. The demographic profile of the state indicates around 50% of the total population to be young and majority of them are undergoing formal education. The policy envisages providing youth with empowering education, employable skills, positive health, enabling environment and value based living. This will enhance their knowledge, attitude, skills and practice towards ensuring sustainable development.
- Every young person in Tamil Nadu should rise as a valuable intellectual asset in the global community.

In view of the above, the Tamil Nadu State Youth Policy will adopt the broader objectives of Vision 2023 of Tamil Nadu, particularly the following 5 vision themes:

- 1) Tamil Nadu will be amongst India's most economically prosperous states by 2023, achieving a three-fold growth in per capita income (in real terms) over the next 7 years.

- 2) Tamil Nadu will exhibit a highly inclusive growth pattern – it will largely be a poverty free state with opportunities for gainful and productive employment for all those who seek it, and will provide care for the disadvantaged, vulnerable and the destitute in the state.
- 3) Tamil Nadu will be India's leading state in social development and will have the highest Human Development Index (HDI) amongst all Indian states.
- 4) Tamil Nadu will be known as the innovation hub and knowledge capital of India on the strength of world class institutions in various fields and the best human talent.
- 5) Tamil Nadu will preserve and care for its ecology and heritage.

4. VISION

To shape the future of the state by empowering every youth in the state to become a responsible and participating citizen to drive a new era of development, growth and productivity by ensuring equity and equality in all spheres of life, thereby stimulating and facilitating self actualization and enabling the youth to realize their dreams of attaining heights of excellence in their endeavor towards holistic progress.

5. MISSION

To facilitate capacity building amongst the youth in the state in terms of education, skill development, value based knowledge and productivity with excellence.

6. OBJECTIVES

- To evolve a comprehensive integrated approach towards physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, socio-cultural, political and economic development of the youth.
- To create adequate opportunities for life skill development.
- To instill the importance of family, social and moral values in the youth.
- To provide career guidance and counseling for an ideal occupation and sustenance.
- To facilitate acquisition of skills for employability.
- To develop the spirit of entrepreneurship amongst youth, offer training and hand-holding services for setting up their own enterprises.
- To inspire the youth to pursue lifelong learning.
- To promote inclination towards a balanced lifestyle based on physical and mental wellbeing.
- To sensitize the youth on gender justice, equality and equity.
- To advocate ecological sustainability through sensitization and participation of youth.
- To support effective participation of youth in local governance.
- To enable contribution of youth to community wellbeing.

7. DEFINITION OF YOUTH

The National Youth Policy 2003 covered the age group of 13-35 years. The National Youth Policy 2014 recommends the age group of the youth to be 15-29 years. Age classification of the United Nations Organization (UNO) for youth is 15-24 years. The Commonwealth of Nations has categorized 16-24 age group as youth. The Tamil Nadu State Youth Policy covers the age group of 15-35 years. They have been further segregated into 3 groups: 15-21, 22-28 and 29-35 years.

8. GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

The Tamil Nadu State Youth Policy is guided by the following principles and values:

Principles

- **Inclusiveness**

Youth from various backgrounds should be able to access available resources, services and opportunities with equal ease.

- **Accountability**

Promoting accountability in all youth development activities.

- **Affordability**

Making resources, services and opportunities affordable for the youth.

- **Availability**

Making resources, services and opportunities available to youth for optimum utilization of their potential for self and societal development.

- **Collaboration**

Working in collaboration with related institutions for the overall development of youth.

- **Empowerment**

All the activities and programmes will be focused towards youth empowerment.

- **Integration**

Integrating all development programmes towards youth empowerment.

- **Participation**

Ensuring effective participation of youth in planning, implementation and evaluation at all levels.

- **Transparency**

Institutions involved in youth development will ensure transparency.

Values

- **Commitment**

Valuing the commitment of youth towards the development of self and the society.

- **Empathy**

Empathetic understanding of the needs and challenges of youth.

- **Responsibility**

Enabling the young people to take up more responsibilities.

- **Equality and Equity**

Providing equal opportunity and promoting equity among the youth.

- **Honesty**

Recognizing honesty among youth in all walks of life.

- **Love**

Including the spirit of love and brotherhood among youth.

- **Non-Violence**

Promoting the attitude of non-violence among youth.

- **Mutual Respect**

Respect to each other irrespective of colour, caste, religion, gender, physical, mental and socio-economic conditions.

- **Service**

Acknowledging the contribution and services of youth.

9. TARGET GROUPS

The policy aims at addressing the various challenges faced by youth, particularly in the following groups:

- Student youth (rural & urban)
- Drop out youth (rural & urban)
- Scheduled caste (rural & urban)/ Tribal youth
- Youth in coastal areas
- Youth at risk (rural & urban)
- Unemployed youth (rural & urban)
- Street children
- Special children
- Delinquent youth
- Migrant youth
- Transgender youth

10. PRIORITY GROUPS

While the policy caters to all members of the target groups, efforts would be more focused towards the priority groups, considering their socio-economic background and deprivation of equal opportunities. These include:

- Young women (SC/ST)
- Youth lacking in employable skills
- Youth in slums
- Differently abled youth
- Youth at risk (victims of substance abuse, human trafficking and working in hazardous occupations and sensitive areas)

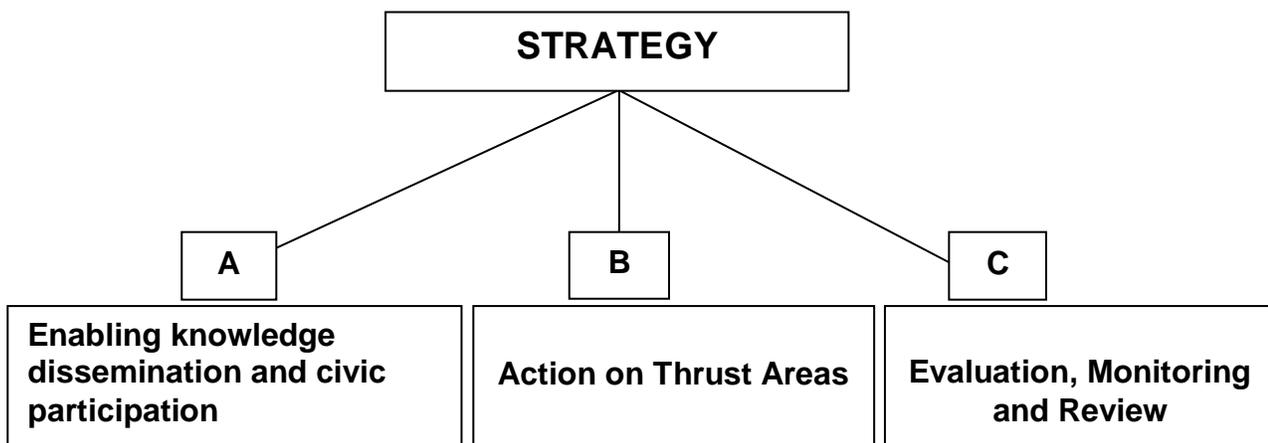
11. STRATEGY

The strategy covers the period from 2017 to 2023, and provides the framework for constructive partnerships to be developed with and between youth organizations and other stakeholders in youth development. It is built on the premise that youth are key partners and actors for development and peace.

The Tamil Nadu State Youth Policy is designed to facilitate the youth in three groups:

- i) The first group falls between 15-21 years – this is a transitional stage from childhood to adulthood. This period can bring up issues of independence and self-identity. It is a period of multiple transitions involving education, training, and employment as well as transitions from one living circumstance to another.
- ii) The second group lies between 22-28 years, including youth who are in the process of completing their education and looking for employment opportunities. It is a period of transition from dependence to autonomy and awareness of interdependence as members of a community.
- iii) The third group ranges from 29-35 years, mostly leading a settled life and with a sense of social and political accountability. This group would also include those who lack livelihood opportunities.

The strategy puts forward three multidisciplinary and complementary axes of work which incorporate the full range of expertise in education, culture, natural, social and human sciences, and communication and information.



(A) ENABLING KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION

A.1. Create an Enabling Environment for Engagement with Youth

It is critical for the Government to create an enabling environment for engagement with youth across the state. There are different objectives for engagement, and therefore, different engagement models must be piloted and implemented.

- Government should engage with all the youth in the state to provide them information and do a regular “pulse check”. This can be achieved by including youth forums at various levels through an interactive online portal and Wikipedia-style forums. The Government can leverage partner organizations like Self-Help Groups (SHG), Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), *National Service Scheme* (NSS), Non–Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and educational institutions to connect with the youth. Technology and social media can be used in order to achieve this objective.
- The Government should engage with a representative cross section of youth to get inputs on specific policy issues. This can be done by conducting thematic workshops, putting out calls for policy notes through information and communication technology (ICT) based channels, etc. Based on the issue, the Government can identify representative educational institutions, youth groups and other partners to create a channel to engage with the youth.
- Youth Welfare and Sports Development Department should identify a sub-section of youth who interact knowledgeably, possessing the ability to support its programmes and activities. It should set up a Youth Advisory Council, represented by exceptional individuals. This council can provide more detailed inputs to Government on key policy issues, implement

programmes to mobilize youth and engage more regularly with diverse segments of the youth.

- All stakeholders should review their strategies in line with the priorities for youth development identified in the National Youth Policy 2014. They should create action plans, design programmes in specific areas and monitor and evaluate their impact on the youth.

A.2. Create a Mechanism of Governance that Youth Can Leverage Through Participation in Community Affairs

- It is important to build awareness on the importance of an active citizenry. Educational curricula must be revised so that the civic component is made more relevant. Youth must be made aware of the various channels available to them to engage with Government agencies.
- Youth monitoring and accountability in the areas of Government expenditure and social welfare schemes must be institutionalized. Public expenditure records must be made more transparent and accessible for all segments of the population.
- The youth should be involved in Gram Sabha / Mahila Sabha meetings for monitoring the implementation of programmes at the village level. Monitoring, evaluating and informal feedback channels must also be created between the bureaucracy and the citizens. A separate Youth Gram Sabha should be held.

A.3. Promote Youth Engagement in Urban Governance

There has been a significant focus on the functioning of rural governance mechanisms that engage the citizenry. However, a similar focus on urban governance and the role of the citizenry in supporting Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)

is missing. Given the increasing urbanization and anonymity that characterizes urban life, it is all the more important for the Government to act as an intermediary and create channels and processes by which young Indians can engage with the decision makers and contribute to urban governance.

(B) ACTION ON THRUST AREAS

B.1. Fostering Values and Culture to Inculcate the Spirit of Unity and Equality

The state has a rich cultural heritage and Tamil has been accorded the status of being a classical language. Family values and communal harmony have been the underlying factors for prosperity of the people living in the state. However, the present socio-economic transitions justify the need for systematic transfer of values and culture to the youth of the state. While globalization, industrialization, information explosion and urbanization have definitely helped youth to surge forward in education and employment, it becomes the predominant duty of all concerned to preserve and sustain the very basic values and culture of the Tamil tradition. Threats to the institution of marriage, negligence in taking care of the elderly, pleasure seeking life styles that threaten healthy living necessitate actions that would preserve and sustain the values and culture of the state and the country.

Policy Interventions

- Efforts will be taken to inculcate and sustain social and ethical values among youth through educational institutions and programmes.
- Support will be provided to young artists to showcase their talents at the district, state, national and international levels.
- Promotion of harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst youth, transcending religious and linguistic diversities; to renounce practices that defame the dignity of women.

- Engendering the practice of valuing and preserving the rich heritage of our Tamil culture, especially through sensitizing them towards cautious and critical analysis of media influences that are inappropriate or derogatory to upholding Tamil culture.

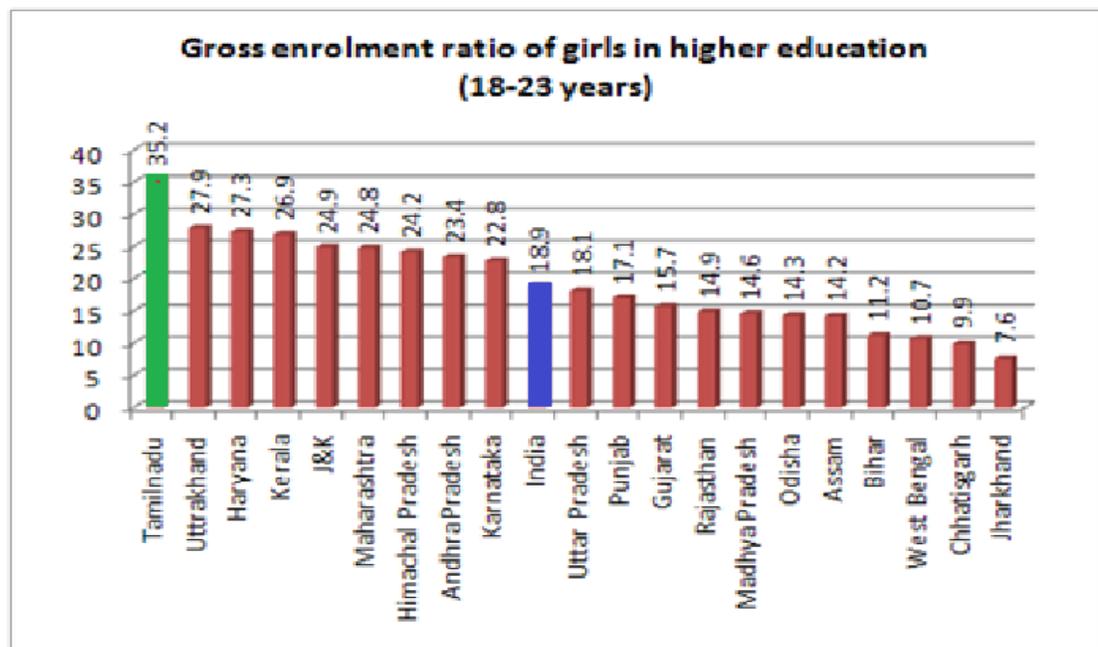
B.2. Facilitating Maximum Access to Formal Education and Promoting Opportunities for Non-Formal and Lifelong Learning

While opportunities for education (formal and vocational) are available to a greater extent in urban areas, infrastructural facilities require enhancement in rural and tribal areas. In formal education, the recent trend is increased focus on academic oriented learning than skill and attitude. Burgeoning growth of tuition centres, tutorials and residential schools do not match with opportunities for skill development, vocational education and lifelong learning. Life skills and employable skills have taken the back seat. As Tamil Nadu competes to remain at the top of the country in terms of literacy and education, it must ensure the access of holistic education to all sections of the youth - male and female, urban and rural, the privileged and the underprivileged.

Policy Interventions

- Improving Gross Enrolment Ratio-GER in higher secondary and higher education.
- Ensuring that Right to Education (RTE) is implemented with the support of the youth population.
- Identifying out-of-school youth and directing them towards enrolment or skill development.
- Providing professional counseling and career guidance to youth.
- Harnessing the potential of peer counseling to enable emotional competence, thus facilitating an overall sense of self regulation and sense of responsibility for individual action.

- Creating a conducive environment for promoting the spirit of scientific temper and research among youth.
- Instituting an innovation fund to encourage innovation by students and academic institutions.
- Rendering vocational education by linking employability skills to every stage of education so that at any terminal point of education, the youth become employable.



B.3. Developing the Attitude and Skills for Employment by Providing Training and Creating More Avenues

Tamil Nadu is among the foremost states in the country with respect to rapid urbanization. While this has been a boon in terms of economic growth for those living in urban areas, it has opened widespread unsafe migration to urban areas and unemployment in rural areas. A similar situation exists in the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu and in tribal areas. In addition to unemployment, under employment has been an area of major concern. This has not only accentuated economic concerns but has also resulted in social concerns. The divide between those who possess education and employment skills and those who do not possess such knowledge have to be addressed objectively. While higher education has opened the doors of knowledge acquisition, it has limited the scope for self-employment or being an entrepreneur. Many youth expect to get government jobs and monthly salaried jobs. The remarkable growth of opportunities in the service sector and self-employment require youth with employable skills and a positive attitude to initiate and take forward such opportunities.

The objective of skill development is to create a workforce empowered with necessary and continuously upgraded skills, knowledge and internationally recognized qualifications to gain access to decent employment and ensure India's competitiveness in a dynamic global market. It aims at increasing the productivity and employability of workforce (wage labour and self-employed) in both the organized and the unorganized sectors. It seeks increased participation of youth, women, disabled and other disadvantaged sections and synergized efforts of various sectors so that the present system is equipped with enhanced capability for innovation, investment, enterprise, economic diversification and to adapt to changing technologies and labour market demands.

Skill development and training programmes in the state will focus on the following sectors to alleviate unemployment in the state, in co-ordination with the respective government departments and other private agencies.

- a) Agriculture
- b) Automobile industry
- c) Beauty and wellness
- d) Construction
- e) Electronics
- f) Gems and jewellery making
- g) Healthcare
- h) Plumbing
- i) IT
- j) Leather
- k) Media and entertainment
- l) Rubber
- m) Security services
- n) Telecom

Youth may choose the skill sector compatible to his/her academic background or aptitude. This will enable the youth to get an edge in their career and the extra push that is indispensable in a competitive job market.

Policy Interventions

- Motivating young people to develop positive attitude towards self-employment to dispel myths and misconceptions regarding one's inadequacy and become self-reliant.
- Identifying potential areas of training in entrepreneurial and skill development and designing such programmes.
- Providing outcome oriented soft skills and life skills training to youth, thereby bolstering holistic personality development.

- Networking with existing schemes and coordinating their efforts towards self-employment and other employment initiatives.
- Facilitating quick sanction of loans to channelize the spirit of entrepreneurship.
- Enhancing awareness regarding feeless civil service coaching programmes and Overseas Manpower Corporation services for securing employment abroad.
- Encouraging the practice and sustenance of traditional arts among the youth.
- Addressing unsafe migration by promoting rural livelihood opportunities in agriculture, animal husbandry and allied industries by outsourcing production units at village level and a solid tie-up with industries.
- Promoting complementary livelihood opportunities for youth living in coastal areas.

B. 4. Creating Health Awareness amongst Youth Towards Their Holistic Well-being

The emerging fast paced life style coupled with changing food habits pose a threat to the holistic well being of youth. The Government is taking steps to prevent anaemia. A significant proportion of the youth in urban areas and the emerging population of the youth in rural areas are exposed to the hazards of junk foods that have less calorie value. Increased television watching and lack of sufficient physical activity are leading to a sedentary life style that serves as a breeding ground for new life style diseases. The competition that prevails in academics and employment has created stress and emotional imbalance as indicated by the increasing number of youth turning towards substance abuse. There is an upward trend in suicide attempts among youth, as they experience high levels of stress when trying to meet parental and societal expectations, career demands and interpersonal frictions. Going by the dictum of ‘a healthy mind in a healthy body’ there is a great need to create awareness among the

youth to nourish their body, mind and spirit as they aim for economic prosperity and social well being.

Policy Interventions

- Conducting health awareness campaigns to enable young people to recognize the significance of healthy body, mind and spirit so that they navigate safely through the period of youth.
- Enhancing the effectiveness of health systems in the state to support improvement of hygiene and nutritional status amongst youth.
- Providing access to health care which involves promotion, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation.
- Addressing the health concerns of the young in the area of reproductive health.
- Promoting safe and healthy behavior, proper food habits, physical activity, practice of yoga and meditation among youth.
- Propagating mental health awareness among youth and enabling them to seek early intervention for their psychosocial problems through counseling services.
- Promoting Yoga in the state as a practical aid and not as a religion. It is an ancient art based on harmonizing the body, mind and spirit. The continued practice of yoga will lead youth to a sense of peace and well being and also a feeling of being unified with their environment.

B.5. Encouraging Youth to Involve in Sports and Recreational Activities in their Neighborhood by Strengthening and Creating Infrastructure

Sports and recreational activities form an integral part of overall development in youth. The field of sports is emerging as a lucrative profession where youth not only feel proud to exhibit their talents but also get an opportunity

to make a decent living out of it. While cricket as a game has been dominant in the past, many track and field events and other games and sports are gaining momentum with increasing number of youth opting for a career in sports. The Government of Tamil Nadu is also promoting games like chess to be played by school students. While increasing number of athletes and sportspersons in Tamil Nadu are gaining top slots at the national level, it becomes the responsibility of the Government to sustain and promote this momentum through an organized approach.

In addition to sports and games becoming a career based profession for a few, it is imperative for every youth of the State to get involved in it as a recreational and physical activity. Playing games and involving in physical exercise, yoga, pranayamam and other forms of exercises involving body and mind keep the young in good health and they are potent productive forces to reckon with. To revive and accelerate the momentum in this dimension, there is a need for adequate infrastructure, trained personnel, manuals, equipment and financial support.

Policy Interventions

- Promoting sports, games and daily physical fitness activities among the youth of Tamil Nadu.
- Utilizing existing resources and creating new resources in terms of sports and games infrastructure and equipment.
- Spotting talented youth at an early stage and encouraging participation in the district and state level competitions.
- Periodic orientation to the elected members of local bodies and youth clubs about the schemes and facilities available for rural sports and games.
- Youth Clubs at every village so as to engage youth in sports.

B.6. Sensitizing the Youth towards Human Rights, Gender Equality and Equity

The basic tenet of Tamil culture recognizes the importance of gender equality that has found profound expression in classical literature. However, when it comes to practice, male members have better opportunities in education and employment which determine one's socioeconomic status. Decision making at the family and community level is still dominated by male members. As youth form part of the microcosm of the society, such a disparity is prevalent among them too. However, the situation is changing rapidly in the recent past with the emergence of self-help groups and participation in local self-governance, leading women towards socioeconomic and political advantage.

Gender equality and equity is no more seen as an effort of women fighting for their rights against men, but as a combined effort by both the sections to restore human dignity. This spirit of equality and equity has to be inculcated in the young minds and they must be sensitized to carry forward this ideal. This would address issues such as high female infant mortality rates, the practice of female foeticide, refusing education to female children, neglecting their nutritional needs and restricting their career opportunities, sexual abuse and violence against them inside and outside the family.

Policy Interventions

- Creating awareness among the youth about human rights and gender equality.
- Involving participation of families and institutions of education, employment and governance in ensuring gender justice.
- Encouraging young women to take up leadership roles within and outside the family setting.

- Ensuring the safety and security of young women through systems and structures that will address issues such as domestic violence, sexual harassment, rape, dowry and trafficking.
- Encourage access to and utilization of programmes for youth development by differently abled youth and also young people belonging to disadvantaged communities and categories.
- Ensuring accessibility for the differently abled youth in educational institutions, sports facilities, work places, modes of transport and in all public places.

B.7. Encouraging Youth to Participate in Local Governance and Manage Local Community Needs

The Asian society in general and Indian society in particular places a lot of importance on the role of elders in leadership and decision making. This has resulted in decreased participation of youth in addressing community issues, taking up leadership and involvement in politics. With youth segment emerging as a major force both in terms of statistics and productivity, the Government is creating systems and mechanisms which will foster positive orientation for the youth to get involved in community development.

The young people have the spirit of idealism, altruistic tendencies and volunteerism in them. This has to be harnessed for the betterment of the society. The widespread use of social networking in expressing their views for and against recent social turmoil in the country has already exposed the urge of the youth in taking up community issues. It is for the Government and the society to exploit this trend and harness it constructively.

Policy Interventions

- Creating awareness among the youth about the need to participate in local governance structures.
- Facilitating young people to actively get involved in democratic processes.
- Motivating young people to identify, highlight and address local community needs.
- Introducing youth parliament in educational institutions to sensitize youth about governance.

B.8. Involving Youth in Issues Related to Conservation and Preservation of Environment / Heritage

Youth participation in the conservation of scarce resources like water and energy has gained worldwide momentum. Environment conservation and sustainability form the major part of development efforts throughout the country. In keeping with the global and national priorities, the state is keen to ensure the participation and involvement of youth in safeguarding and enhancing natural resources. Industrialization and emission have resulted in greenhouse effect and global warming. Youth have a predominant role in managing this crisis. Sustainable development that includes sustainable agriculture, sustainable consumption, renewable energy, etc., have to be spearheaded by the youth.

Policy Interventions

- Sensitizing the youth about pollution management and sustainable development.
- Involving youth in water conservation, rain water harvesting and safeguarding the natural water resources in their locality.
- Enhancing the role of youth in afforestation and sanitation.

- Encouraging youth to adopt sustainable agricultural practices including waste management practices, organic farming, etc.
- Motivating youth to set up businesses that promote sustainable development including sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, etc.
- Right knowledge and exposure to state and Indian history, heritage and culture.

B. 9. Globalization and Technology

To transform Tamil Nadu into a knowledge hub, the policy will strive to encourage the ongoing technical and professional education towards research based innovations. With more than 550 engineering colleges in the state, the youth policy aims to tap professional skills for developing a knowledge based society.

Globalization is increasingly influencing economic and social processes. This has opened new opportunities for young people in terms of improved access to knowledge and communications. They need platforms to learn, engage and understand the changes and opportunities offered by globalization.

Technological advancement has opened up new vistas for innovation and excellence. The internet is increasingly becoming the passport for entry into the knowledge economy. Globalization and technological advancement have solidified knowledge based industry as the basis of a new economic order for the present and future generation.

Today's youth are more connected with and tuned to the outside world than ever before. They are rapidly adapting to fast paced technology. Fortunately, young people view the challenges before them afresh and are

responding with enthusiasm and imagination. Young people have the potential to transform the social and economic fortunes of their communities.

Policy Interventions

- Promoting e-governance, strengthening technical education and facilitating the IT companies to operate.
- Engaging young people for bringing transparency through use of technology in rural areas.
- Training to access the global market through e-commerce and providing opportunities to participate in international trade fairs so that more youth are attracted towards enterprise development.
- Ensuring availability of skilled human resources for assisting the Government offices in strengthening management processes for effective service delivery.

(C) EVALUATION, MONITORING AND REVIEW

The policy document will be translated into operational plans with details of which department / sector will be initiating action, resources needed for such action, and indicators of effectiveness. These indicators will be used as parameters for monitoring the programmes based on the policy. Different stakeholders will be involved in developing the indicators, collecting data for the indicators, processing them and arriving at decisions which will be fed back into the programmes to serve as the basis for necessary modifications in the programme.

The State Government will initiate a mid-term evaluation and a final evaluation during the policy period of over 5 years. The mid-term evaluation will take stock of the achievements and gaps in the programme. This would help in the efficient translation and implementation of the policy. Final evaluation will be done at the end of the policy period.

12. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

12.1. Creating Awareness about Youth Policy

The successful implementation of Tamil Nadu State Youth Policy depends upon the participation of all major stakeholders. For this to happen, priority must be accorded to enabling adoption of the policy by all stakeholders, i.e., Government departments, non-government organizations, educational institutions, corporate / sports bodies, local self-government institutions and, most importantly, the energetic youth. Since a majority of the youth are involved either in education or employment, efforts will be taken to disseminate the youth policy through educational institutions. Youth policy needs to be incorporated in the curricula of these institutions. Mass media will be used to reach out to all other segments of the population. Youth Welfare and Sports Development Department as well as each of the concerned Departments will carry forward the mission of creating awareness about the youth policy. Communication options like web portal, mobile platform, social media and electronic media will be used to sensitize the stakeholders.

12.2. Enhancing the Involvement and Participation of Youth

Youth have always been keen to contribute in all the programmes they involve themselves in. The Government should reach out to youth through the existing programmes such as NCC, NSS, Youth Red Cross, Red Ribbon Clubs, Scouts & Guides, Nehru Yuva Kendra Youth Clubs, Citizen Consumer Clubs, National Green Corps registered with the Government, NGOs and Sports Clubs to promote initiatives under the youth policy and enhance youth participation and involvement. The District Advisory Committee on Youth Programme will be involved in monitoring the schemes. A youth help line with a toll free number would help in providing support and services to youth. A youth web portal and social media pages will be established with the main objective of communicating Government schemes and programmes that would primarily serve to elicit feedback and suggestions of youth about effective implementation of these programmes.

12.3. Convergence of Efforts of Various Stakeholders

While the Youth Welfare and Sports Development Department would coordinate implementation of youth policy through various schemes and programmes, most of these would be run by the Departments of Higher and School Education, Labour & Employment, Health & Family Welfare, Municipal Administration, Rural Development, etc. The Government would also identify and involve educational and other institutions and NGOs in youth development at the state, national and international levels to carry forward activities under the youth policy.

This calls for the Youth Welfare & Sports Development Department to give evidence based inputs about the needs and requirements of the youth to other ministries and departments while they design and execute schemes and programmes with specific reference to youth. Ultimately the implementation strategy needs to be institutionalized.

12.4. Mobilizing Resources

Implementation of the youth policy will necessitate identifying and mobilizing resources – human, financial and infrastructural. Apart from utilizing its own resources, the Government will identify and mobilize resources available with multilateral and bilateral donors, trusts and foundations, and by taking advantage of the component of corporate social responsibility. In addition to the monetary and infrastructural resources, the Government is also keen to mobilize a vast majority of youth who will be willing to volunteer their time, energy and commitment.

12.5. Region Specific Approaches

The youth are heterogeneous in nature not only in terms of age but in many other aspects which include geographical landscapes too. For instance, various regions of Tamil Nadu – Chennai, Tiruchirappalli, Madurai, Tirunelveli and Coimbatore differ in terms of major occupations of the people and the

attitude, knowledge, skill and resources that call for different skill sets for carrying out their respective occupations. Bearing in mind these unique requirements, the Government will initiate appropriate skill development centres in these regions. These centres will serve the purpose of training the youth in entrepreneurship and self-employment. In this context, the community colleges under the Tamil Nadu Open University in each district could serve as nodal points to carry out these programmes at district level.

12.6. Research and Development

Research studies done on various issues concerning youth provide a basis for policy formulation. Evidence based studies not only highlight the real and felt needs of youth but suggest the roadmap to future directions and needed corrective actions that have to be taken. Keeping this in mind, the Government recognizes the need to initiate action research on youth issues through universities, research organizations and NGOs throughout the policy period. The research studies will focus on the thrust areas mentioned in the policy and also on a few other emerging social issues of relevance.

12.7. State Youth Award

To acknowledge and recognize outstanding activities pertaining to development and social service, Chief Minister's State Youth Award has been instituted and is being awarded to 3 men and 3 women in the age group of 15 to 35 years on the occasion of Independence Day every year. The Award comprises a cash amount of Rs.50,000/-, a citation and a medal.

13. REVIEW OF TAMIL NADU STATE YOUTH POLICY

This policy will be reviewed after 5 years and necessary policy changes would be initiated on the basis of future needs.

14. REFERENCES

Action Plan and Statistics 2013-2014, Department of School Education, Government of Tamil Nadu.

Census of India – 2001

Census of India – 2011

Karnataka State Youth Policy – 2013

Kerala State Youth Policy – 2011

Maharashtra State Youth Policy – 2010

National Youth Policy – 2014

Odisha State Youth Policy – 2013

Parthasarthy.K. (2013), Entrepreneurship and Skill Development (ED), IECD Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli.

Reghu .V. (2011), Empowerment of Youth (ED), RGNIYD, Sriperumbudur.

Sarasvathi.S (2008), Indian Youth in the New Millennium, RGNIYD, Sriperumbudur.

Senthil Kumar. G. (2006), The Participation of the Youth in Village Development in Dindigul District (Unpublished Ph.D. Thesis).

Tamil Nadu 12th Five Year Plan – 2012-2017.

Tamil Nadu Planning Commission Report – 2013

Tamil Nadu Vision 2023, Strategic Plan for Infrastructure Development in Tamil Nadu, Government of Tamil Nadu.

Youth Policy Jharkhand – 2007

Youth Welfare and Sports Development Department Policy Note, Government of Tamil Nadu, 2013-2014.