



ODISHA STATE YOUTH POLICY

Framework-2013*

Department of Sports and Youth Services
Government of Odisha

*The narrative under the thematic areas is indicative and subject to change by Drafting Committee based on inputs received from key stakeholders.

ODISHA STATE YOUTH POLICY

CONTENTS

- I. Preamble
- II. Rationale for the Policy
- III. Definition of Youth
- IV. Vision
- V. Mission
- VI. Objectives of the Youth Policy
- VII. Guiding Values and Principles
- VIII. Special Focus Groups
- IX. Thematic Areas
 - A. Education and Life Skills
 - B. Skill development, Training and Employment
 - C. Health and Wellbeing
 - D. Sports and Physical Education
 - E. Active Citizenship and Community Engagement
 - F. Environment and Safety
 - G. Heritage, Culture and Diversity
 - H. Gender Justice and Equality
 - J. Globalisation and Technology
- X. Policy Implementation and Coordination mechanism
- XI. Key Strategies for the Implementation
- XII. Monitoring and Evaluation

ODISHA STATE YOUTH POLICY

Abbreviations

AICTE	All India Council for Technical Education
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ART	Anti Retroviral Treatment
DYS	Department of Youth & Sports
HIV	Human Immune Deficiency Virus
IIT	Indian Institute of Technology
LGBT	Lesbian-Gay-Bisexuals and Transgender
LSE	Life Skill Education
MBA	Master in Business Administration
MCA	Master in Computer Application
NIT	National Institute of Technology
NISER	National Institute of Science, Education and Research
OSYP	Odisha State Youth Policy
PGDM	Post Graduate Diploma in Management
PYKKA	Panchayat Yuva Kridaaur Khel Abhijan
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
STD	Sexually Transmitted Disease
USIS	Sports Infrastructure Scheme
WHO	World Health organization
WSHG	Women Self Help Group

ODISHA STATE YOUTH POLICY

I. Preamble

1. More than forty percent of the state population is represented by youth (13 to 35 years). The state has recognized that the potential, energy and ideas of young people are vital for the development of the state. The government of Odisha is formulating a Youth Policy to respond effectively to the needs of young people.
2. Our youth have excelled in different arenas like science and technology, art and culture, sports and literature, etc at the national and international level. While the state is making policies and programmes for the general population, it is felt a focused attention to youth is required to take advantage of the demographic dividend and put them at the center of the state's growth and development. Inclusive and broad-based development would ensure that young men and women do not become cynical and nihilistic, but instead develop a sense of belonging to the development process and try to get the problems resolved through democratic and constitutional means.
3. The present endeavor is to develop a comprehensive Youth Policy for Odisha, drawing upon earlier policies and the vision enshrined in the Constitution. The policy would address the existing gaps in the needs and concerns of youth in terms of human development and active citizenship through civic, political and economic and social participation and bring them to the center state of its development process. The challenge is to restructure systems and processes in order to enable every young person to realize his/her full potential, shape his/her destiny and that of the state.
4. The Odisha State Youth Policy 2013 is a step forward from the earlier draft policy formulated in 2003. It aims to give a strategic direction and make timely interventions to enable the youth to get the best out of the changing scenario in the state and the country due to globalization, rapid technological advancement, greater exposure to communication and information technology and emergence of India as a global economic power. The State government in partnership with other stakeholders like civil society groups, voluntary organizations and the corporate sector would extend wide range of opportunities for the constructive participation of the youth in the political, social and economic development of the state. The State Youth Policy is aimed at engaging young people, channeling their potential, energy and enthusiasm and enabling them to become responsible citizens.

II. Rationale for the Policy

Our endeavor is to build Odisha based on its strong cultural heritage, united by bonds beyond boundaries of caste, creed and religion, and liberated from the stigma of poverty and socio-economic inequality in order to be a front-runner in the development of all sectors of the economy. The youth centric programs representing commitment of the state and its ability to enhance the energy, potential and strength of youth will determine the pace of social capital formation.

1. The state is passing through a historic window of opportunity under a demographic transition. The comprehensive youth policy will provide direction to channelize energies of youth for their wellbeing and their full participation in the socio-economic development of the state.
2. The Odisha State Youth Policy will pave the way for expanding opportunities through youth centric programs and judicious investment in the youth by underlining their needs across all sectors and in the context of state and national development policies and programs.
3. The state has discernible differentials among young people from different geographical locations. The youth policy strives to make the youth participate in the mainstream growth process by accessing opportunities provided by government and created by the market forces.
4. The youth are a heterogeneous group. Hence the need of each group has to be addressed in order to make the policy more inclusive and effective.

III. Definition of Youth

All people in the age group 13-35 years can be defined as the youth of Odisha. This age bracket covers a wide range and therefore needs to be further sub-divided:

1. The first sub-group of 13-20 years covers adolescents whose needs and concerns are substantially different from those of youth in the other age-groups.
2. The second sub-group of 21-25 years includes those youth who are in the process of completing their education and taking up a career.
3. The third sub-group of 26-35 years comprises young women and men most of whom have completed their education and are fairly settled in their job and personal life.

IV. Vision

To promote the holistic development of the youth of Odisha so that they realize their full potential and engage, with energy and idealism, in building a prosperous, just and caring society.

V. Mission

To provide an enabling environment that recognizes the diversity, multidimensional needs, experiences and aspirations of youth and puts in place processes, modalities and structures for unleashing their potential to be socially responsible, morally aware, economically independent and an active partner in the progress of the state.

VI. Objectives of the Odisha State Youth Policy

1. To integrate and mainstream youth development, and take into consideration the diverse needs of special sub-groups for formulating government policies, programs and budgetary commitments.

2. To create systems and institutional mechanisms at all levels to support growth, development and empowerment of youth.
3. To strengthen the capacity of key youth development institutions and ensure their integration and coordination with the delivery of youth services.
4. To enhance the capacities of youth to enable them to take charge of their own well being and realize their potential to the fullest.
5. To promote a culture of active citizenship among youth and help them become responsible adults who care for their families and the society.
6. To ensure the physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development of the growing adolescents in the family, school, and community and nurture their talents in various areas like art, literature, music, sports and games, etc.
7. To enhance the skills of the youth and expand opportunities (economic, social, life skills, behavioral skills, etc) in the context of a changing and globalizing society.
8. To ensure gender justice and eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women.
9. To ensure access to quality education, health care, employment and other basic entitlements.
10. To encourage leadership, entrepreneurship, volunteering, civic engagement, and active citizenship among youth.
11. To expand the scope of youth participation and engagement in economic, political, social and cultural spheres.
12. To provide safe spaces for young people to meet.

VII. Guiding Values and Principles

The Odisha State Youth Policy (OSYP) is guided by the national development paradigm, the framework of the draft National Youth Policy, principles and values enshrined in the Constitution of India and fundamental human rights.

Values

1. The **inherent dignity of the youth**. The policy would reflect dignity of youth as human beings who need to be supported to unleash their inherent strengths and potential.
2. The empowerment of **youth as assets** for building a prosperous state and a caring society. The programmatic interventions should raise the confidence of youth so that they can contribute meaningfully to their own development, shape their own destiny as well as that of the state and broader society.
3. **Youth are key stakeholders in the family and community structure**. Hence it is critical that support systems facilitate and ensure holistic development of the youth.
4. The promotion of **social and economic inclusion and integration** of youth, specially marginalized sub-groups into the mainstream of society and the economy.

5. The promotion of **moral and spiritual regeneration** in line with the civilizational value system of our country.

Principles:

1. **Accessibility:** Youth from diverse backgrounds should be able to access resources and services with level playing fields available to them in all spheres and at all levels crucial to their holistic development.
2. **Responsiveness:** All youth development service-providers should respond to the needs and concerns of youth and be guided by the intention to act in their best interests, thus maximizing their human potential.
3. **Holistic:** Youth development initiatives must encompass all aspects of a young person's life and respond to their physical, psychological, social, economic and spiritual needs, thus ensuring that they gain the necessary knowledge, skills and experience to negotiate safe transition into adult life.
4. **Integration:** The need for different key role players such as government, civil society, private and corporate sectors to coordinate their efforts to ensure synergy and greater impact in developing the youth.
5. **Diversity:** Youth development interventions must recognize and acknowledge the diverse backgrounds from which youth come and celebrate the roles played by socialization, tradition, culture and spirituality in the development of young women and men.
6. **Non-discrimination:** All youth development initiatives would guard against discrimination on the basis of age, gender, race, caste, creed, sexual orientation, ideological proclivities, disability or any other form of discrimination. This principle acknowledges the impact of socialization and promotes respect for human rights.
7. **Sustainable:** Youth potential, capacity and capability must be maximized so that they can respond effectively and efficiently to life's challenges without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
8. **Transparency:** Institutions and organizations involved in youth development and other spheres of governance should operate in a transparent and accountable manner.
9. **Participation and Inclusion:** Youth should be active partners in the design of policies, strategies and programs for the youth. The state is to facilitate this by sharing information, creating opportunities and involving them in the decision-making process. Youth should view human rights as a fundamental basis for human development.
10. **Social Cohesion:** Promotion of social cohesion would be one of the important corner stones of all development initiatives including youth development.
11. **Social Protection:** Different youth development interventions should seek to promote the well-being of youth by putting in place measures that seek to address the needs of the youth, especially those of the disadvantaged ones, thus reducing their vulnerability.
12. **Youth Service:** Youth need to be involved in meaningful activities that benefit communities while developing their sense of belonging.

VIII. Special Focus Groups¹

1. Young Girls & Women

The relatively high female infant mortality rates, sporadic practice of gender biased sex selection, relative neglect of female children with regard to access to health services, nutrition and education are some of the critical issues that need to be addressed. Measures are required to be taken to make public spaces, work places absolutely safe for young women.

2. Youth from ST, SC and Minorities

Tribal youth suffer from certain disadvantage despite the ongoing programmes of inclusion and development. Efforts would be required to speed up the pace of inclusive development in tribal areas. Similarly, the disadvantages of young men and women belonging to SC and minorities have to be addressed with a sense of urgency.

3. Youth in Urban Slums

A large category of youth comprises migrants and slum dwellers. While there are some basic concerns that are common across these sections, each of these sub-groups also has specific set of problems that would be addressed. In the context of migration and the subsequent disconnect from the family, youth need guidance and counselling. Crime among the youth, and even teenagers living in urban slums is a matter of great concern. Youth living in slums are bereft of normal civic amenities. Many of them may not also have access to quality educational facilities and are forced to take up low paying and small-time jobs. Life without hope may render them vulnerable to antisocial forces and therefore it is important their problems are addressed on priority basis.

4. Migrant Youth

On the one side, planned migration opens new avenues for young people, but on the other hand their families need special attention and care (old parents, women and children). Migration in the unorganized sector poses challenges to young people. Young people especially from KBK+ region migrating in search of livelihood often lose out on social security provisions implemented by the state. There is lack of adequate facility at the destinations exposing them to innumerable risks.

5. Youth Drop-outs from Formal Education and the Unemployed

Due to social and economic circumstances, adolescents may be forced to abandon their studies midway. A sizable section of the school or college dropouts have the desire to continue their studies and also have the ability and potential to perform well but are compelled to discontinue. As a result, they either have nothing to do or they are compelled to take odd jobs to support their families. In both cases, they lose out on opportunities to shape their future. Their social and economic development is compromised. The situation is worse for young girls. In many families, their education is not given priority.

¹ Adapted from Exposure Draft – National Youth Policy 2013

6. Youth with Disability

Youth with disability are often pushed to the margins of the society and even within their families because of their physical and mental state. Most often a welfare approach rather than a right-based approach is taken. Whenever they are cared for, it is out of sympathy rather than a concern to bring them into the mainstream and creating the opportunities to be self-reliant. Imparting vocational skills to them will be a priority of the state. Although there are provisions for job reservations for the differently-abled youth, expansion of opportunities for them remains a need.

7. Youth at Risk

- Working in hazardous occupations and in unhealthy conditions poses risk to the health of young men and women.
- Human trafficking – Despite efforts of various agencies of the state to combat human trafficking, it remains a social evil. Youth fall a prey to trafficking, more so when they are from poor families and are lured by false promises.
- Substance misuse among youth needs to be monitored especially in border districts. Youth engaged in Flesh trade are vulnerable and stigmatized with little access to health, education and other services and facilities.

8. Youth that suffer from moral or social stigma

Youth infected and affected by HIV/AIDS and TB face isolation. People who are HIV+ are stigmatized that impinges negatively on their education and employment. These groups need to be supported and linked to treatment centers where free counselling and medication is available to them.

9. Youth in institutional care, orphanages, prisons

Youth above the age of 15 in institutional care, orphanages, correctional homes, etc also need handholding so that their energy can be directed into positive streams. They have limited opportunities for higher education and quite often, they become objects of physical and sexual abuse, more so the young girls. After their release from these institutions they require support and guidance.

10. Lesbian-Gay-Bisexuals and Transgender

Transgenders have for long virtually lived a life of complete segregation from the mainstream society. Gays and lesbians also suffer from stigma. However, in recent times, there is greater understanding about their problems. The policy strives to address issues of inclusion of Lesbian-Gay-Bisexuals and Transgender (LGBT).

IX. THRUST AREAS

A. Education and Life Skills

Education should lead to the creation of social capital. The parents/guardians expect that education should lead to employability of their ward. Teachers who are the backbone of the education system often fail to connect with the students and help them recognize their strength, potential and aptitude and align them with the opportunities the education system offers. Many students who are the first generation learners need motivation and support to sustain their interest in education.

There is a huge challenge to check the dropout rate after primary education. Only about 18% of the students enrolled in primary schools reach college level in the state (Economic Survey 2011-12). About one sixth of dropouts get into vocational or modular skill development trainings, which are heavily skewed in favour of male candidates.

Current Status of Higher Education: At present there are 12 State Universities, one Central University, 3 Institutes of National importance (IIT/ NIT/ NISER), 2 Private Deemed Universities, 43 Govt. Colleges, 262 Aided Non- Govt. Colleges, 308 Unaided Colleges, 142 Professional Colleges, 164 Sanskrit Colleges and 31 Law Colleges (Dept of Higher Education, Govt. of Odisha, 2009). In addition to these, state has AICTE approved 68 Engineering/Technology, 29 MBA, 37 MCA, 10 Agriculture and allied, 15 pharmacy and 15 PGDM Colleges. The enrolment scenario in Odisha stands at 2,81,686 at junior level, 1,96,287 at degree level, 3,496 at Postgraduate level and 3,347 in professional colleges. The gross enrolment ratio is 13.66.

Critical Issues relating to higher education in Odisha are the following:

- Equity: Inadequate information, bench marking for admission.
- Profit motive versus quality of education.
- Infrastructure: inadequacy of Infrastructure for quality education, sports, outdoors teaching, skill training, physical training etc.
- Appropriateness of the curriculum with the changing market situation.
- Teaching-Learning process: which might undermine the preferences, creativity and choice
- Less importance on voluntary activities, life skill education, art, literature, music , heritage and aesthetics.
- Enrolment and retention.
- Higher education leading to entrepreneurship.
- Disconnect of education from employability.

Efforts of Government of Odisha to empower young people through education ----- (brief about existing schemes and programs)

Future Directions

1. There is an urgent need to identify dropout students and support them for their continuing education.

2. Education at secondary and higher secondary level should have a high degree of vocationalization, consistent with the market requirement to enhance the employability of youth.
3. The service sector is fast expanding and in order to reap benefits of the opportunities, soft skills management should become an integral part of the education system.
4. Secondary level examination filters and leaves behind a large number of students. Special efforts are required to help young people to cross this level. An enabling environment is required to continue education.
5. Space for youth to debate and discuss various issues.
6. At every level original and creative thinking are to be encouraged.

B. Skill Development, Training and Employment

Youth have been recognized as a vital section of the community. Full employment for the youth is a cherished goal of the state government. In spite of significant action on this front, unemployment remains a challenge. Prolonged periods of unemployment and under employment cannot only cause economic miseries but can also be socially and mentally debilitating for a young person. It can also affect family ties. It is, therefore, necessary that, prudent and urgent measures are put in place to match the changing demands of the society and employment creation.

The fast changing global and national market often create a mismatch between existing skills and skills required to avail of the market opportunities. This needs corrective action to align skills of young people with the ever expanding and changing market. Business acumen and entrepreneurship among young people is critical to generate more opportunities for gainful employment. Cooperative models need to be promoted vigorously with entrepreneurship development. The access to appropriate technology and active linkage with potential markets needs to be provided through proactive actions and programs.

Challenges

The youth of the State face three major challenges with regard to employability. Firstly, in spite of the best efforts of the state, a portion of the youth remains unemployed. Secondly, there is prevalence of underemployment and thirdly, there is mismatch between market needs and available skills.

Current Status

Nearly 7.32 % of the labour force in the year 1999-2000, was unemployed. In absolute terms the number of the unemployed stood at 26.58 million. The educational and skill profile of the existing workforce is very poor. Only about 8 % of the total employment is in the organized sector. More than 90 % are engaged in informal sector activities, which are, largely outside the reach social security benefits. The youth working in the unorganized sector have limited access to institutional facilities and other support facilities.

Efforts of the Government of Odisha to help young people for enhancing their employability and entrepreneurship ----- (brief about programs and schemes)

Future Directions:

1. Entrepreneurship Development programs need to be taken-up in all districts involving line departments of government and banks. There is need for specially designed trainings for WSHGs and young women
2. Regular skill based trainings, both short and medium term, are required to prepare the youth to meet the service sector requirements.
3. Youth Development Center (YDC) in each district can provide information and support under a single window system.
4. A resource center at the block level for Business Opportunity guidance and handholding the first generation entrepreneurs and aspirants could be envisaged.

5. The employment office to be equipped to scan opportunities both in public and private sector and provide information at the GP level.
6. Looking at the opportunistic and forced migration, skill centers to be promoted at both sources and destinations for migrant youth, so as to enable them to face and negotiate the market with the required set of skills. Additionally database has to be created on the migration and skill requirements at different levels and places.
7. Economies of scale through youth led collectives and cooperatives can be promoted and supported
8. Entitlement and safety need to be designed especially to support self-employment drive in the backward regions like KBK.

C. Health and Wellbeing

According to the definition of the World Health Organization (WHO), 'Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.' By this definition, health is an important determinant for the overall wellbeing of individuals and society.

The youth of Odisha constitute one third of the population and therefore their health and wellbeings bound to have a bearing on the wellbeing of the society.

1. In Odisha, **early marriages** are still prevalent. About 30 per cent of the girls get married before 18 years of age, but there are wide inter-district variations. The prevalence appears to be more in the interior districts than in coastal districts.
2. Although disaggregated data is unavailable, prevalence of genetic disorders like sickle cell anemia and thalesemia are a concern in tribal areas.
3. Tobacco use and alcohol consumption is an emerging issue, particularly among youth.
4. Nutritional Issues: On the one hand, there is under nutrition and anemia among disadvantaged communities. On the other hand, the urban youth have a different set of problems such as attraction of junk food.
5. Youth, particularly single male migrants and their families have a risk of STIs/and HIV due to unsafe sexual behavior.
6. With 2.5% of the population of the state belonging to the differently abled category, providing them with basic facilities and opportunities is a priority area. There are challenges with regard to access to basic living standards and opportunities of life.
7. Sexual violence against young women.

Efforts of the Odisha Government to improve the health and wellbeing of Odisha People - ----- (brief about programs and schemes)

Future Directions:

1. Promote strategies that seek to involve young people actively in programs that are aimed at improving their health status and environment of the community in which they live.
2. Integrate age appropriate gender sensitive life skills based reproductive and sexual health programs at various levels of education.
3. Emphasis on health and appropriate eating habits targeting urban and rural youth.
4. Mental health is an emerging issue for young people. This needs focused and targeted intervention.
5. Develop mechanisms to prevent, register and act against domestic and sexual violence.
6. Promote community action to prevent early marriage and teenage pregnancies.

D. Sports and Physical Education

1. The importance of sporting activities among youth to aid their physical and mental development cannot be over emphasised. Both the central and the state government have Schemes and Programs for promotion of sports among youth in urban and rural areas which need to be adequately accessed.
2. Sports and recreational activities are key elements of human resource development. They make positive impact on the youth and promote productivity, foster social harmony and promote team spirit among young people.
3. The sports and other forms of art and entertainment provide wholesome recreation and opportunity for healthy social interaction and may become a rewarding career option for young people. Engagement in such mentally and physically stimulating activities keep young people away from aggressive and violent behaviour.
4. Besides the popularity of mainstream sports and scheduled games Odisha has many indigenous games such as Gudu, kabadi, Kelibadi, RasiTana(Rope Pulling), Nadia Phinga(Coconut Throwing), Bagudi, KhoKho and Puchi to mention a few in earlier line. Games like KhoKho, Kabadi and Gudu were popular among rural youth and competitions were held in the villages at regular intervals. Odiya martial arts such as Banati, PaikaAkhada, etc. are vigorous and demanding. These games were an inherent part of the culture of the people and no festivals were complete without these sporting events. The waning interest of today's youth in these traditional games could be attributed to the absence of platforms and avenues for promoting such games and to the penetration of high profile games like Cricket and Hockey.

Critical Issues

1. Lack of encouragement, incentives and systematic capacity enhancement through training and availability of infrastructure for identified games.
2. Availability of facilities and financial support to promote games and sports.

Efforts Government of Odisha to enhance opportunities for sports and physical education ----- (brief about programs and schemes)

Future direction:

1. A clearly laid down road map with short, medium and long term plans to promote sports as a means of recreation and specialized training for youth to pursue this as a career option.
2. Talent hunt at the grassroots and initiating a sports culture from the very beginning
3. Promote sports for youth from the village level to the state and beyond.
4. Like the PYKKA scheme of Govt. of India, an exclusive drive to promote the rural, traditional games & martial arts can be promoted at GP, District and State level

E. Active Citizenship and Community Engagement

It is well known that youth is a state of idealism and the idealism and energy of youth should be promoted and harnessed for creating a progressive and caring society. Under the universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and constitution of India, the youth enjoy certain rights. At the same time it must be underscored that rights and responsibilities go hand in hand. Youth have to be encouraged and incentivized to actively take responsibility for solving problems and challenges in the society and not see themselves merely as passive beneficiaries of welfare and development programmes. It must be recognized that the youth can shape their own destiny as well as that of the state.

Right & Responsibility Matrix for the Youth

Rights	Responsibilities
To develop leadership potential and community pride	To be represented and involved in the community with efforts toward inter-generational solidarity To be committed to fight all forms of corruption, social evils and practices.
Nurture and develop individual self-esteem	To recognise their own capabilities and strive for self development
Quality education	To channelize efforts for excelling in academics
To exercise legal rights	To be aware and become involved in the political process
Enjoy constitutional rights Article 21 (a), Article 23 (1), Article 23 (2), Article 24, Article 28 (1), Article 29 (2), Article 30 (1), Article 30(2), Article 39 (a), Article 39 (c), Article 39 (f), Article 41, Article 42, Article 44, Article 45, Article 46	To abide by the constitutional duties and uphold the unity and integrity of the nation, maintain peace & harmony. To respect others faith, beliefs in the religious, cultural and social spheres. To neither exploit nor be instrumental in the exploitation of fellow citizens especially women.
To seek and receive employment opportunities	To actively participate and contribute to the organisation & society at large
To a positive family, society and school/college environment	To preserve, participate & contribute to family and institutions To preserve & protect the environment
Right to information on healthcare, hygiene, sanitation	To make informed choice about their wellness

Youth and Civic Participation - Civic participation is important for healthy youth development and for the inclusive development of the state. Civic participation provides youth with opportunities to gain work experience, acquire leadership skills, and to inculcate responsibility and accountability - all the while contributing to the good of their communities.

Preparing the youth for a successful transition to adulthood is both a key responsibility and an important investment for policymakers. Creating opportunities for youth to grow into responsible adults will increase the well-being of the next generation, and ultimately translate into formation of social capital.

Youth empowerment is an attitudinal, structural, and cultural process and is gateway to intergenerational equity, civic engagement and democracy building. Activities involved therein may focus on youth-led media, youth rights, youth councils, youth activism, youth involvement in community decision-making and so on.

There are a variety of youth empowerment initiatives underway in the State. Youth empowerment begins at home, at schools, through youth organizations, government policy-making and community campaigns. Major structural activities where youth empowerment happens throughout society include an environment for community decision-making, organizational planning, and educational reform.

The Odisha State Youth Policy seeks to strengthen the democratic system with effective involvement of youth in all spheres of governance and there is need for structures to facilitate incorporation of youth inputs in policy making. The policy is intended to encourage youth to participate in social development. It is also intended to encourage youth participation in social audits and public hearings. Essentially, what is important is to develop youth leadership committed to selfless public service.

Critical Issues

1. Inadequate platforms for involving the youth in decision-making processes.
2. Staying away from cynicism and play an active role in various civic activities.
3. Though women's representation has improved in local self government greater dynamism and self confidence are required to be instilled in them.

Policy Interventions

1. Existing activities like Scout and Guides and NCC to be expanded and made mandatory for all students to enable young women and men inculcate a culture of discipline and team work.
2. Something like a Commission on Civic Education could be thought of to educate students on the importance of citizen involvement in social development and to promote communication and collaboration among organizations in the state that conduct civic education programs.
3. Create and support State Youth Advisory Councils: To ensure that the voices of youth are heard and they play a meaningful role in shaping the future of the state.
4. Promoting involvement of youth in decentralized planning process.
5. Creation of diverse forums for youth service. Youth who participate in service activities are more likely to become engaged in the community and are more likely to develop a lasting sense of civic responsibility.
6. State to host youth summits to elicit the views of the youth on upcoming policy and planning processes, to provide for learning around a particular issue of interest or as a way to kick-off new youth focused initiatives.

7. Arrange pre registration of the young people at the age 16. Pre-registered voters would be automatically added to electoral rolls when they reach the voting age.
8. Opportunities for the youth, especially young women, to participate in the elections at all levels.
9. State to institutionalize youth involvement and participation in social audits and public hearings at the local level.
10. State to generate awareness and enhance access to information for the youth for analyzing issues that affect their lives and environments as well as strategies to act as change agents in their communities.

F. Environment and Safety

Situation Analysis: Odisha is well-endowed with forests, rivers, beaches, lakes and lagoon. The state has about 37% of its land covered with forests, supporting around 86 species of mammals, 473 species of birds, 110 species of Reptiles, more than 3000 species of plants including 132 species of orchids, 60 species of Mangrove Plants and 350 species of Medicinal Plants. The rich biodiversity of the state is conserved through a network of protected areas comprising 2 National Parks and 18 Sanctuaries. This network is complemented by wilderness areas, wetlands and other bio diverse sites along the coasts including mangroves and turtle rookeries.

Issues: For the sustainable development of the state, economic activities like mining, industrialization and modernization of agriculture will have to be pursued in harmony with nature and in a prudent, planned, and sustainable manner.

Conflicts between conservation and livelihood strategies will have to be resolved and community conservation initiatives will have to be recognized.

Lack of incentives for conservation leads to alienation of youth from conservation and environment protection.

Involving the youth in documentation of traditional knowledge and preparation of the inventory of local resources will have to be pursued with vigor. The local youth will also have to be familiarized with IPR and Patent issues.

Displacement: A study suggests that roughly one in every ten Indian tribals is a displaced person. Tribals constitute 8% of the country's population, but more than 40% of the displaced persons belonging to STs. Currently Odisha is witnessing big ticket investments owing to its mineral wealth. In view of this it becomes even more critical to address the concerns of displaced people, especially the youth.

Disasters: Odisha has always been vulnerable to natural and manmade disasters owing to its geographical setting and socio-economic profile of its people. Frequent disasters in the state necessitate a multi-pronged approach and collaborative efforts to reduce disaster risk among the communities. Fortunately, there exists a structured disaster response mechanism at the state and local levels at present. It is worth mentioning that a cross-sectoral initiative for disaster risk reduction, especially with substantial participation of youth of the state, is the need of the hour.

Climate Change: The impact of climate change is quite evident manifested in sea level rise, coastal erosion, and increase in the frequency and intensity of disasters, loss in agricultural productivity, depletion and degradation of resources, and extinction of flagship species. Vulnerable people with their traditional knowledge and resources are trying to adapt to the impacts of climate change but there is a gap in the inheritance of traditional wisdom from older generation to younger mass leading to alienation of youth from the villages.

Local specific adaptation models needs to be devised with the engagement of youth.

Efforts of Odisha Government to engage young people in Environment protection and safety -----((brief about programs and schemes)

Future Directions:

1. Environment education and sensitization among the youth
2. Promote Environmentally Sustainable Practices – ensure environmentally sustainable practices at the community level; ensure promotion of conservation and flow of tangible returns to the local communities.
3. Eco tourism has good potential in the state and the youth can be gainfully engaged in this sector.
4. Youth should be encouraged to develop a perspective of green economy and work towards it.
5. Active involvement of the youth in community based disaster management processes and practices.
6. Capacity building and engagement of youth Eco-tourism, green enterprise, bio-inventory mapping etc.

G. Heritage, Culture and Diversity

The present of a society is based on the past and the future will be based on the present. Daily life, its rhythm and tempo, its direction and momentum is directed by culture, which is the centripetal force binding each individual member of the society to its core values.

Situational Analysis: Odia society, religion and culture have been enriched through centuries of exchange between tribal and non-tribal culture, which has created and nurtured the tribal- folk- classical continuum. In Odisha, varieties of such folk traditions and tribal culture to give Odisha a distinct identity at the national and international levels and at the same time they no doubt provide the matrix, deliver the nourishment for the people's creativity and help to promote our way of life.

It could be said that 'Fourth world' tribal culture happens to be the most delicate culture in the world. Of all the states of India, Odisha has the largest concentration and variety of tribes. There are as many as 62 tribes in Odisha who constitute 22% of the population of the state. These tribes mainly inhabit the Eastern Ghats hill range that runs in the north-south direction. More than half of this population is concentrated in three districts of Koraput (undivided), Sundergarh and Mayurbhanj. Tribal life and culture of Odisha have unique vitality.

36% of the area of Odisha is categorized as forests. Residing amidst the natural landscapes of the state are its primitive dwellers. What a significant role these aborigines have played in the evolution of the state can be gauged from the fact that the presiding deity of Odisha, Lord Jagannath owes His origin to the Sabaras.

Diversity:

Odisha is a rich repository of an amazing wealth of cultural tradition mainly sculpture, dance, music & crafts surviving ravages of time and nature. At different periods of history different races and tribes have come down to the land, got rooted to the soil. The Jagannath culture has transcended boundaries to bring harmony amongst all sections of people.

Focus Components of Culture

- **Language:** Besides Odia, the major Language of the state, there are numerous other languages that are spoken, by the inhabitants of Odisha in geographically demarcated regions.
- **Art & Crafts:** Art and craft in the state are the manifestations of a long historical process in which the spiritual, philosophical and the human dimensions have merged to yield the finest products of a cultured and civilized life. These sculptures art and craft, especially found on the temples and monuments, visual arts such as chitta, jhoti, pattachitras, etc have made the state a land of rich and diverse artistic achievements. Youth should be encouraged to work for preserving and promoting such art and crafts.
- **Dance & Music:** Dance and music form an inseparable part of the rich culture of Odisha. The exotic classical Odissi dance form has evolved over decades. Folk dances like 'Chhow' and 'Sambalpuri' along with tribal dances like 'Ghumura' & 'Paraja' are popular both in the state and outside. However, there exist numerous forms of tribal music that

are wilting and fading into oblivion due to lack of platforms and encouragement. Clear policy guidelines are required to revive and revitalize the dance forms.

- **Fairs & Festivals:** With numerous religions, ancient temples, shrines, and an array of sacred places, Odisha observes a number of festivals and fairs round the year. Fairs and Festivals like 'BaliJatra' remind people of their ancient maritime links with Bali, Indonesia. The universally acclaimed 'Rathyatra' has become synonymous with Odia culture. Dhanu yatra and Chaitra parba celebrations are equally grand and entail participation of diverse communities, especially youth in large numbers.

Critical Issues:

1. Standardized Interventions by the State might adversely affect the cultural diversity, especially the tribal way of life in Odisha.
2. Onslaught of globalization invading native cultures
3. Migrating Youth population, especially from the tribal belt in search of livelihood to bigger cities
4. General process of Acculturation

Future Directions:

The youth are to be groomed as appreciators, contributors, entrepreneurs and propagators in the context of preservation and continuation of culture. The policy aims to make the youth aware of the uniqueness and significance of their own heritage and contribute towards their protection.

Possible Options for Action:

- Encourage the youth as prime stakeholders in promotion of indigenous culture by creating avenues for showcasing them; promoting the traditional games, dance & music, art & craft, cuisine through traditional fairs and festivals.
- Create avenues to encourage youth volunteerism for preservation, promotion, propagation & exposure of culture across components.
- Provide platforms for promotion of regional & tribal languages through literature and other forms in collaboration with relevant institutions and CBOs.
- Outline a Culture Policy in tandem with the youth policy promoting the participation of youth in various components of culture .
- Create avenues for eco tourism, rural and adventure tourism thereby diversifying livelihood options for local youth.
- Revive the district level youth welfare boards, State Youth Welfare Board etc and include culture in their agenda. These nodal agencies could organize seminars, workshops and training in soft skill.
- Convergence between environment, tourism and culture.
- Build an enabling environment for livelihood and employment opportunities for youth in cultural dimensions.
- Expand the youth hostel network to facilitate the movement of youth.

H. Gender Justice and Equality

The social conditioning and gender inequality are manifested in the form of gender biased sex selection, neglect of female children with regard to access to education, health, income generation and participation in decision-making processes. Further, sexual abuse of girls and women is also one of the concerns that need to be urgently addressed. Youth with their unique position in the society can play a pivotal role in promoting gender justice and equality.

Critical issues

1. Gender inequality is evident from preference to son and other forms of gender stereotyping.
2. Crime against women including domestic violence, evils like dowry etc.
3. Safety, security and morbidity issues
4. Women's ownership of assets and control over natural resources.

Efforts of Odisha Government to promote gender justice and equality ----- (brief about policies and programs)

Future Directions:

1. Help the youth understand the issues of gender stereotyping.
2. Engaging youth in creation of awareness against unhealthy social practices like dowry, child marriage, sex selective abortion, domestic violence and other forms of gender discrimination.
3. Incorporate gender sensitivity in the curriculum at various levels of education.
4. Strengthen mechanisms and create an enabling environment for effective implementation of laws, policies and programs concerning young women.

Set up vibrant network of youth development agencies and other voluntary organizations towards promoting gender justice and equality between women and men.

I. Globalization and Technology

Situational Analysis

Globalization of economy and culture has brought about new vistas of development and opportunities for the youth as also a set of challenges. Technology is now playing an overwhelming role in every day life of people. From rural to urban areas, from agriculture to industries and to service sectors, technology has become an all-encompassing phenomenon. On one hand, high-end software parks have come up in the state to meet the demands of the industries. On the other hand, use of smart cards, attempt to connect all the Panchayat offices through internet, and the diverse use of mobiles have their own impact in rural areas. At the same time technology is misused by some to violate other's privacy and for the purpose which are detrimental to the community.

Critical Issues

Globalization has posed challenge for the state to cope up with the rising demands of technically qualified youth.

The misuse, abuse and wrong use of technology comes as challenge

How to have technology with human face and how to make it serve the community.

How to bridge the digital divide

Efforts of Odisha Government to promote use of technology for community good and reap benefits of Globalisation ----- (brief about policies and programs)

Future Directions:

Globalisation and technology should be tuned to addressing the basic need of people like ensuring food security, health, electricity and water and other basic necessities in the villages and urban areas, providing employment and create scope for entrepreneurship to the youth.

Efforts to make technology user friendly so that women, farmers, tribals, and disadvantaged section of youth, and people who have not received any formal education can also use it.

Create safeguards to tackle the misuse of technology like female foeticide, hacking, circulating objectionable MMS clips, stealing money from ATMs, use of technology for the purposes which are illegal

Make proper analysis of the existing laws and address the grey areas to protect society from the misuse of technology?

Impart technological literacy to youth from different groups, especially out of school youth

Develop technology which is simple and can be accessed easily

Identify various forms of existing technology (e.g. mobile technology, genetic engineering, mobile and internet banking) on which youth could be trained and opportunities be created?

Create information hubs in every Panchayat on welfare schemes and career and employment matters and ensure that the kiosks are operational and accessible by youth.

Visualize role that youth could play in spreading awareness about the government schemes by use of technology, MIS system and tracking their performance.

Exclusive programme for the youth on life skill training, counseling etc to through video conferencing where Youth could participate in Panchayats. Expertise of the youth could be used for the same.

There can be a TV channel by the government dedicated to youth

Use technology to provide a voice to the youth and recognizes/responds to grievances/ views of citizens through the digital platform

Steps need to be taken to strengthen/expand e-governance in the state and expand the role of youth in the process.