

INTRODUCTION:

Youth has always been in the vanguard of progress and social change. This distinct group is always impatient for quicker pace of progress with thirst for freedom. Youth constitutes a vibrant and vital segment of the society which if harnessed properly will boost the overall development of the nation. Society has to play a very important role to make the youth socially useful as well as economically productive. Ample opportunities should be provided to help them to develop their overall personality and functional capability. Today, more than 33% of the total population is of youth which is facing the challenge of economic development and technological progress with social justice.

2. In view of the existing environment, it has become imperative that the programmes related to youth are strengthened. Hence massive programmes related to youth have been launched visualizing social, economic and cultural transformation. First and foremost step would be to encourage their participation in order to maximize their contribution to national development. Opportunities have to be created on a large scale, to cover a wide scope of areas of human endeavour. These opportunities have to be made available to youth belonging to all segment of society, especially, underprivileged/down-trodden.

3. All these programmes if implemented properly will make the youth productive, self confident and a committed force for development. It is only possible with integrated and inter-disciplinary approach at all levels. To achieve requisite results Government departments, organizations and sector outside the Government such as family, educators, leaders, voluntary agencies and youth organizations need to be involved actively.

4. Till today no Youth Policy has been framed in the state. In the absence of youth policy it is difficult to formulate various programmes and schemes for the welfare of youth. It is strongly felt that State Youth Policy be framed with the aims and objectives concerning youth of the State.

5. OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY:

The policy shall be directed to fulfil the following objectives:-

- (a) To inculcate amongst the youth a deep awareness for the principles and value enshrined in our constitution with an abiding commitment to national integration and harmony.

- (b) To instil awareness in the youth about our historical and rich Cultural heritage and imbibe in them a sense of pride and honour with deep commitment towards their preservation.
- (c) To formulate various youth programmes for the promotion and preservation of environment and ecology.
- (d) To impart vocational and professional training to enable them to avail employment and self employment opportunities.
- (e) To make the State committed towards youth concerns and to develop an integrated approach to meet the challenges faced by the youth.

6. **AREAS CONCERN YOUTH**

The following are the areas of youth concern.

- (a) Education and training.
- (b) Youth Empowerment.
- (c) Tackling unemployment
- (d) Health and population
- (e) Gender justice
- (f) Environment
- (g) Drug abuse
- (h) Art and Culture
- (i) Recreational and leisure facilities.
- (j) Sports

7. **PLAN OF ACTION:**

THE PLAN OF ACTION for the implementation of policy will be based on the following Coordinates:-

- (a) Special efforts will be made to foster and develop contacts between youth from different parts of the country, with a view to inspire them combat regionalism, communalism, linguistic chauvinism and other divisive and fissiparous tendencies, through participation in the Programme of constructive and developmental activities.
- (b) Training programmes will be organized, aimed at imparting requisite skills to youth for self-employment; improving their employability and enhancing their productivity, while making them appreciate the dignity of labour.

(c) Programme will be undertaken to offer opportunities to the youth for leadership training through personality development and character building, and to motivate them for voluntary social community service.

(d) Parents will be particularly sensitized towards their responsibilities and their role as catalysts of social change by involving them in movements against various social evils, harmful practices, superstitions and by adopting small family norms and appropriate family welfare measures.

(e) Outstanding work done by young persons and voluntary agencies in various fields will be recognized and rewarded through a system of awards etc.

IMPLEMENTATION:

8. The State Government through the Department of Youth Services, will be the Nodal Agency of the Government of Punjab for the implementation of the State Youth Policy and providing such guidance and assistance as may be required.

9. Systematic and scientific monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Policy will be done regularly to assess the impact of the different programmes.

10. Maximum participation by non-governmental institutions, public and private, will be encouraged and in fact sought, in the mobilization of youth in specific areas of national development. Programmes of youth organizations will be encouraged through financial and organizational support.

CONCLUSION:

11. It is significant that the State Youth Policy is formulated /stemmed, as it will govern/monitor the constructive activities of the youth aimed to boost the overall standards of the State and also to create conducive, productive and rich environment for the betterment of each Punjabi.

Schemes under Youth Services, Punjab

National Service Scheme (NSS)

<u>Sr. No</u>	<u>Name of Scheme</u>	<u>Participants</u>
NSS of Units Regular Programme Special Camping Programme Any other Activities		
1.	Youth Leadership Training Camps/ Hiking Trekking Camps/ Mountain-ring Courses	Student/Non-Students College, School, Youth clubs etc.
2.	National Youth day/week	Students/Non-Students
3.	Inter-state Tour	Students/Non-Students
4.	Financial assistance to College/School Youth clubs	Students
5.	Youth Festival/Awards	Students/Non-Students, Eminent youth workers
6.	Teacher Training Camps	Teachers Associated with youth Activities
7.	Punjab State Youth Training and Development Centre.	Youth club office-bearers/members

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