

NSS Enriching Knowledge for the
Health Management and Social Care
Curriculum Series: (2) Elective Part
- Youth Policies (New)

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■ Youth policy

What is youth policy?

- **Not only government initiatives and legislation, but a set of attitudes which determine the ways in which adults and young people interact**
- **implications on practices or services**
- **the use of youth impact statements at national or local level**

Basic ingredients of youth policy

- **A wide coverage which affects all walks of life**
- **needs and aspirations of youth**
- **community's expectations**
 - **a good policy is well accepted, known and non-contentious**

Issues of youth policy

- . Liberal/person-centered or national interests/containing?**
- . Can it be value-free? Or who can determine what is good for the youth?**
- . Practitioners may interpret policy differently and thus work differently**

Issues

- . **Voluntary or direct role from government?**
- . **A single policy or scattered?**
- . **Central administration or coordination?**
- . **Boundaries of relevant agencies?**
- . **Youth voices? Can they be heard?**
- . **Role of youth workers in making youth policy?**

What are the age range of youth?

- Canada
- Turkmenistan
- Malaysia
- China
- Taiwan
- UK
- Australia
- India
- Singapore
- US

Singapore: Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports (15-29)

- Objectives: attain their full potential, be socially responsible and be rooted in Singapore
- Strategies: assist youth to develop a **stake** in society by keeping them involved with the community, by catalyzing youth initiatives and volunteerism, and facilitating opportunities for youth to positively influence their environment
- Ensure that youth have a **say** in national affairs and recognizing the contributions they can make, by involving them in the process of consultation
- Provide youth with the **support** they need to develop and participate meaningfully in society, through facilitation, mentorship and other assistance mechanisms.

Singapore: guiding principle

- Empower our youth
- Embrace diversity
- Be inclusive
- Think youth development

NewZealand: Ministry of Youth Development (12-24)

- Actively seek and promote opportunities for youth to contribute to the cultural, social and economic policies and services that affect the country's development
- By listening and responding to the needs of young people, to build a better world, a country where young people are valued, nurtured and challenged to realize their full potential.

NewZealand

- Vision: Young people are vibrant and optimistic through being supported and encouraged to take up challenge
- Principles:
 1. youth development is shaped by the values and systems, the broader environment.
 2. Youth development is about young people being connected
 3. Youth development is based on consistent strengths-based approach (reduce risk factors, increase protective factors)
 4. Youth development happens through quality relationships
 5. Youth development is triggered when young people fully participate
 6. Youth development need good information

NewZealand

- Outcome: young people gain a
- Sense of contributing something of value to society
- Feeling of connectedness to others and society
- Belief that they have choices about their future
- Their own identity

National Youth Policy of India:2003

Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

- To instill in youth (13-35), at large, an abiding awareness of, and adherence to the secular principles and values enshrined in the Constitution of India, with unswerving commitment to Patriotism, National Security, National Integration, Non-violence and Social Justice.
- To develop qualities of Citizenship and dedication to community service amongst all sections of the youth.
- To promote awareness, amongst the youth, in the fields of Indian history and heritage, arts and culture
- To provide the youth with proper educational and training opportunities and to facilitate access to information in respect of employment opportunities and to other services, including entrepreneurial guidance and financial credits.

India

- To facilitate access, for all sections of the youth, to health information and services to promote a social environment which strongly inhibits the use of drugs and other forms of substance abuse, wards off disease, ensures measures for de-addiction and mainstreaming of the affected persons and enhances the availability of sports and recreational facilities as constructive outlets for the abundant energy of the youth.
- To sustain and reinforce the spirit of volunteerism amongst the youth in order to build up individual character and generate a sense of commitment of developmental programmes

India

- To create an international perspective in the youth and to involve them in promoting peace and understanding and the establishment of a just global economic order
- To develop youth leadership in various socio-economic and cultural spheres and to encourage the involvement of NGOs, cooperatives, and non-formal groups of young people,
- To promote a major participatory role for the youth in the protection and preservation of nature, to channelize their abundant energies in community service to improve the environment and foster a scientific, inquisitive reasoning and rational attitude and to encourage them to undertake such travel excursions as would better acquaint them with cultural harmony, amidst diversity, in India, and overseas.

India

- Thrust areas:
- Empowerment: attainment of higher educational level, and expertise, access to employment opportunities, adequate nutrition, creation of environment and protection for good health, development of leadership and participation, equality of opportunity and respect for Human and Fundamental Rights and access to facilities
- Gender justice
- Intersectoral approach
- Information and research network

Youth policy in China

- Youth policy was firstly presented in the Constitution: the state will cultivate youth, juvenile, children to achieve moral, intellectual, and physical development comprehensively.
- Other youth policies are also elaborated in other laws and regulations formulated by National People's Congress and Central Government, i.e. education, adoption, etc.
- Approved by the Central Government in 1994, a charter for youth which formulates detailed goals and programs on education, employment, environment protection, health and hygiene, rights and interests protection, participation in politics, economic and social development, etc was included in the 21 Century Agenda of China
- No specific ministry on youth, but depends on youth work mechanism like All-China Youth Federation, Communist Youth League of China.
- Chinese youth policies fully encourage youth to participate in the political life.

Youth Policy in Hong Kong

- **Central Committee on Youth was established in 1986 and published a report on youth policy in 1988.**
- **Definition of youth : 10-25 years of age**
- **identification of youth needs as:**
 - **physical and mental health**
 - **education opportunities**

Youth needs

- **Employment and career guidance**
- **recreational and cultural pursuits**
- **social and political awareness and participation**
- **international perspective**

Three recommendations:

- **Preservation of the status quo**
- **formulation of a comprehensive youth policy and the formation of a central body for the implementation of the policy and provision of youth services**
- **formulation of a youth policy with a set of principles for youth development and the formulation of an advisory body to help review and update the policy**

Commission of Youth

- Set up in Feb. of 1990
- Terms of reference:
 1. Advise the CE
 2. Exchange ideas/information with other government departments and advisory bodies
 3. Encourage better coordination between gov. depts, NGOs, district orgs. private orgs.
 4. Data collection and research
 5. Focal liaison point with other international youth orgs.
 6. Enhance civic awareness
 7. Promote leadership training

Charters for Youth

- Promulgated in July, 1993.
- Enunciates the principles and ideas on youth development and provides a point of reference
- Voluntary subscription by individuals or orgs.
- 10 principles and ideals, 11 major rights of youth, 12 goals for youth development

Recommendations from Dr. Choi Yuen Wan (2002 Youth Summit)

- **Common conviction - giftedness, connectedness, rootedness**
- **action- holistic education, participation**
- **common goal, contribution- human capital, social capital, cultural capital**
- **Space - developmental, relational,**
- **earth - knowledge, care, social, culture**
- **color - multi-----in all aspects**

Recommendations from Dr. Choi

Yuen Wan (2004 Youth Summit)

- **Social service**
- **Social voice**
- **Social action**

Areas to be covered in youth
policies???

Benefits of youth policy

- Clear goals and objectives, services same direction
- Coordination of service, prevention of wastage of resources due to overlapping
- Promote better communication and cooperation between departments
- Encourage positive atmosphere, foster counter-culture
- Promote youth development for the betterment of the society

Negative effects of youth policy

- Uni-direction, less innovation
- Mode youth development and image, neglect individual uniqueness
- Neglect the needs of other age
- New mechanism for coordination, which may be too complicated
- Social control
- Impact of policy will not be too great if the nature of the society does not change (individualism, materialism, etc)

Principles in setting youth policy

- Comprehensive (family, social, edu. Employment, cultural, etc)
- Balance between individual and societal needs
- Balance of preventive, remedial and fostering work
- Commitment of government
- Participation of youth
- Based on comprehensive analysis
- encouragement rather than compulsion
- Full utilization of social resources
- Long term, strategic, systematic, active, initiative, and at the same time, continuous evaluation and modification due to changing needs
- Coordination between youth policies and/or with social policies

- Canada 15-30
- Turkmenistan 13-37
- Malaysia 15-40
- China 15-29
- Taiwan 10-24
- UK 13-19
- Australia 12-25
- India 13-35
- Singapore 15-29
- US 10-24