



Maharashtra State Youth Policy Declaration

Presented to,

Hon'ble Chief Minister

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

Hon'ble Minister (Sports & Youth Affairs)

Hon'ble State Minister (Sports & Youth Affairs)

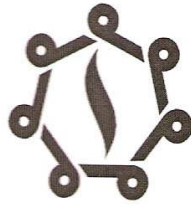
Maharashtra State

Presented by,

Yashwantrao Chavan Pratishthan, Mumbai

Navmaharashtra Yuva Abhiyan

Tuesday, 12th January 2010



I believe that future of the nation is secured with young generation. Because, youth have great sense of social realities. They demonstrate capacity to work with enthusiasm, honesty and commitment. All it needs is right opportunity

-Hon'ble Yashwantrao Chavan

Yashwantrao Chavan Pratishthan, Mumbai is actively functioning in Maharashtra since 1985 with inspiration from Architect of Maharashtra, Sri Yashwantrao Chavan's thoughts and initiatives. The institution is working through its various departments to give direction to the development of different sections of the society and to increase the efficiency of developmental work. The institution is also engaged in continuous efforts for dialogue and exchange between the government and different other sections of the society which would lead to concrete action.

Navmaharashtra Yuva Abhiyan, a department of Yashwantrao Chavan Pratishthan, Mumbai is working with youth of Maharashtra for last 20 years. It leads to development of various programs for youth and motivated committed workers for the society.

It was felt after extensive work for youth development that there is a need for state to decide its policy for the largest group of population, youth, for their development and rights. Navmaharashtra Yuva Abhiyan is on task considering this urgent need. It has been more than a year since the Abhiyan has triggered the discussion for Maharashtra State Youth Policy. We expect that that State Youth Policy should have the vision of a progressive society and at the same time it should give justice to the needs and aspirations of the youth of Maharashtra.

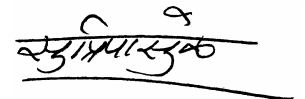
A team of 100 committed youth is working constantly for State Youth Policy for last one year. Navmaharashtra Yuva Abhiyan has submitted a primary draft of youth policy to the Hon. Chief Minister Mr. Ashok Chavan, Hon. Deputy Chief Minister Mr. Chhagan Bhujbal, Hon. State Minister (Ministry of Sports & Youth Affairs) Dr. Satish Patil in the program on 8 August 09. The draft was prepared with policy recommendations from 30 experts across Maharashtra working on different aspects of youths' concerns. 22 workshops were organized in different districts. In this process 3000 youth have expressed their views and gave recommendations in writing and these are scientifically analyzed. A drafting core team of 10 people working in the field of youth development, research and also having experience of work with youth have compiled all these to form a holistic working draft of Maharashtra State Youth Policy.

Announcement of primary draft of the policy declaration has initiated wider discussion and debate in the society. Media, both print and electronic, has played crucial role and helped us to reach to different sections of the society. Next task was to get recommendation from all the sections of the society and to make the policy more youth centric. In this process again,

the committed cadre of Navmaharashtra Yuva Abhiyan has reached to youth all over the state through direct contact and consultations in 19 regions of the state with reaching out to 5000 youth. Telephone, mobile, internet, post and courier were also the important mediums to be in contact with youth from remote places. Youth from diverse background have expressed themselves through these consultations and regular communication. Participation of the groups such as boys, girls, students, non-students, urban, rural, tribal, dalit, minority, disabled, trans-gender and other marginalized groups are ensured.

The process went beyond having direct contact with youth. Many youth organizations, NGOs, youth groups have studied this draft carefully and forwarded their comments to us which were of great use. Navmaharashtra Yuva Abhiyan is very well aware that the state policy needs support from the people's representatives and efforts have made to reach out to the Members of Legislative Assembly in this direction. A team of youth had meeting with 110 MLAs about the first draft and positive response of MLAs from all parties, especially young MLAs was motivation for the team. Issues raised by youth and discussion on these issues were great learning for us. State government has also taken the proactive steps in this direction by starting discussions at secretary level and forming a committee for structure of Youth Policy. I take this opportunity to thank all the people engaged in this campaign including media, youth organizations, Youth Groups, NGOs, people's representatives and most importantly youth of Maharashtra for their support.

It gives us immense pleasure to present this Maharashtra Youth Policy Declaration to the Hon. Chief Minister Mr. Ashok Chavan, Hon. Deputy Chief Minister Mr. Chhagan Bhujbal, Hon. Minister (Sports & Youth Affairs) Mr. Suresh Shetty, Hon. State Minister (Sports & Youth Affairs) Mr. Bhaskar Jadhav. We are aware that Declaration of Youth Policy by the State is just a beginning. There are miles to go for youth to realize their rights. We hope that with support from the likeminded organizations, we will have the society as envisioned in the policy.



Supriya Sule
Convener
Navmaharashtra
Yuva Abhiyan

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1. PREAMBLE

- 1.1. The State of Maharashtra, as its commitment to the youth, proposes this youth policy in the golden jubilee year of the formation of the State. This policy is based on our faith in youth, their courage to dream a just social order, their willingness to question themselves and strive towards a society where pluralism, democracy, good governance, gender justice and social justice become an integral part of our social fabric.¹ It reaffirms the human rights perspective as an underlying philosophy and focus on youth empowerment.
- 1.2. This is an inclusive policy, which recognizes diversity in gender, caste, class, religion, language and reiterates the commitment of the State to this vibrant and significant population group and looks at the challenges ahead, in terms of identifying and recognizing the specific needs, concerns and aspirations of the youth. The emphasis of this policy is to work **with** the youth rather than **for** the youth.

2. RATIONALE

- 2.1. India is a 'young' country with those between 13-35years, accounting for 40.6% of the total population [Census 2001]. The State appreciates the significant contribution of the National Youth Policy [2003] in acknowledging the importance of youth empowerment, and making certain constructive recommendations for the same. Since 2000, the Government of India has instituted several policies for the wellbeing of the youth. The National Population Policy [2000], the Eleventh Five Year Plan [Planning Commission [2006], the Education Policy [2002] the National Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health Strategy [2006] and the National Rural Health Mission [2005-12] are some of the policies and schemes which specifically mention the young people as those to be included in these endeavors. The state of Maharashtra has also formulated Women policy, Industrial Policy, Agriculture

¹ Critique of National Youth Policy (2004), National Youth Foundation

Policy, Irrigation Policy, Employment and Self Employment Policy, Sports Policy, Tourism Policy, Child Development Policy and Information Technology Policy. In order to take cognizance of the youth population there is a need to link these further to the implementation of these policies, and consciously relate these to the concerns of the youth.

- 2.2. Maharashtra is one of the most developed states in the country. It is the second most populated state [97million and 9% of the country's population as per the 2001 census], and is projected to be 106 million by 2007 [office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, 2006]. The sex ratio of the state, in 2001, was 922. In 2001, 42.43% of state's population resided in urban areas. In 2001, 54.96 % of the labor force was in agriculture. In 2001, Maharashtra ranked fourth in the country on HDI with a score of 0.523. While analyzing the HDI at district level, the backwardness of Vidharba (except for Nagpur) and Marathwada gets highlighted. The districts of Mumbai-city and suburbs, Thane, Raigad, Sindhudurg, Pune, Satara, Sangli, Kolhapur and Nagpur scored above the state average HDI. Maharashtra contributes 19% of India's industrial output, 15% of service sector output and 13% of India's GDP [Maharashtra Development Report, 2007].
- 2.3. In 2001, the youth population of Maharashtra was, 41,347,821 (42.68 % of total state population). Youth is not a homogenous group and can be categorized based on location (urban, rural, tribal); shelter (those with shelter, homeless); economic class (upper, middle, lower); gender (male, female and other sexual orientations) and role [student, non-student, employed, unemployed, parent and citizen]. There is a significant proportion of youth, who are socially marginalized. Globalization has brought about changes in the youth's perceptions, aspirations, functions and roles, which often accentuate the anxieties of youth.
- 2.4. A separate state youth policy is necessary for a state like Maharashtra, especially in the golden jubilee year because:
 - 2.4.1. Youth is a critical stage in life which is high on enthusiasm, idealism and high energy and also full of insecurities, confusions and challenges. Societal norms manifested through institutions as the

family, school/college and such others exclude youth from participating in decisions related to issues pertaining to his life.

- 2.4.2. The State has indirectly focused on youth while framing certain policies on education, employment and social justice but not considered "youth-hood" as the basis.
- 2.4.3. The abundant creative energies and talents of youth are neither fully tapped by society nor realized by the youth themselves resulting in detrimental effect on self as well as society. Inclusion of this nearly 43% of the state populace, while framing policies would be a great asset to the state.
- 2.4.4. It is imperative to demonstrate, in action, the intent of considering youth as priority; enable youth empowerment through strategic direction and to address, in a holistic manner, all the issues concerning youth.

3. DEFINITION OF YOUTH

- 3.1. This policy recognizes that youth is a phase in life. This phase of "youth-hood" comprises not only a physical and psychological change but also role change in family and social life. Geographic, gender, social and cultural diversities prevailing in the society make it complex to assign an unambiguous age-range to define "youth".
- 3.2. In consonance with the National Youth Policy (2003) of India, this Maharashtra State Youth Policy defines youth as all human beings in the age group of 13 to 35 years.
- 3.3. As acknowledged by the National Youth Policy (2003), this policy also recognizes that 13 to 35 years is a wide range of age group for youth, hence needs to be further divided into two sub-groups viz. adolescents (13 to 19 years) and young adults (20 to 35 years).
- 3.4. This state policy wants to note here that priority should be more on youth in the 20 to 30 age group. However it is recognized that there is a significant number of young persons in the age group of 30 to 35 years, who are in

difficult circumstances, marginalized and who have not had access to, and not reaped the benefits of schemes and programs. These youth could be included in the definition of youth. However, inclusion of young adults in the 30 to 35 age group as youth needs to be debated and eventually reviewed.

4. VALUES

The policy reaffirms the values enshrined in the Indian Constitution. Youth Empowerment is the approach of this policy with following core values:

- 4.1 Gender Equity:** Status and opportunities irrespective of sex, gender and sexual orientation.
- 4.2 Youth Participation:** Youth' right to participate in decision making on issues concerning them and the society.
- 4.3 Inclusiveness:** Equitable opportunities for all, to live in dignity with an emphasis on rights of physically, geographically, socially, economically, politically, culturally, marginalized groups.
- 4.4 Respect Diversity:** Respect for cultural, spiritual, linguistic and religious diversities as a basic tenet of development.
- 4.5 Sustainability:** Harmonious co-existence with nature so as to meet needs of the present generation without compromising on the ability of future generations to meet their needs.
- 4.6 Accountability:** Responsibility to youth and that of youth towards society.

5. RIGHTS OF YOUTH

This policy is based on human rights perspective and enables realization of following rights:

- 5.1 Right to citizenship of the country and therefore guaranteed fundamental rights stated in the constitution of India.
- 5.2 Right to participate in decision making in the relevant schemes and programs for self and society's development.

- 5.3 Right to an enabling environment and equal opportunities to access and quality education.
- 5.4 Right to livelihood in order to lead a dignified and productive life.
- 5.5 Right to organize and participate in democratic, autonomous student and non-student organizations and governance mechanisms.
- 5.6 Right to live a healthy life and clean environment.
- 5.7 Right to exercise choice in their sexual and reproductive life.
- 5.8 Right to be protected from all forms of discrimination, abuse and exploitation.

6. DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF YOUTH

This policy recognizes that youth have an important role to play in society's development; hence in addition to the rights of youth, the following responsibilities and duties of the youth have been put forth:

- 6.1 To promote peace, security and development.
- 6.2 To promote human dignity and respect for all.
- 6.3 To contribute in building a society free from all forms of violence, crime, discrimination and exploitation.
- 6.4 To appreciate and respect diverse cultures, languages, religions and political affiliations.
- 6.5 To contribute constructively to the development process through national and state services, community service and voluntary endeavors.
- 6.6 To respect public property and the properties of others.
- 6.7 To be sensitive to ecological balance and protect and preserve the same.
- 6.8 To be a responsible citizen.

7. STATE'S AND SOCIETY'S OBLIGATIONS

This policy recognizes the obligations of the state and society to support youth for their physical, emotional, social and spiritual well-being. It is also expected that adults' act as a positive role model to youth in society and encourage their

participation in community life. This policy also expects the society to assist youth not only in realization of their goals and full potential but also view youth as equal partners in development process of today, rather than as leaders of tomorrow.

8. VISION

This youth policy envisages a society where youth are self-reliant, empowered, instilled with values of equity and social justice and are committed to the spirit of volunteerism and holistic development of the state and society.

9. MISSION

To create an enabling environment for youth to realize their rights, potentials and duties so as to contribute in self and society's development as productive, healthy and responsible citizens, committed to the values of equity and social justice.

10. OBJECTIVES

- 10.1 To enable youth to access rights and entitlements regardless of their religion, creed, caste, class, gender, geographic location and level of ability.
- 10.2 To ensure access to quality education, health, livelihood, housing and recreational facilities for youth.
- 10.3 To develop decision making, democratic participation, rational thinking and leadership capacities of youth.
- 10.4 To create opportunities for realizing the aspirations, needs and concerns of youth.
- 10.5 To reduce vulnerabilities of youth and facilitate creation of support systems in order to provide chance to youth.
- 10.6 To encourage and promote volunteerism and participation of youth in state and the national development including planning, decision making and implementation of all development programs initiated by government and civil society.
- 10.7 To develop an integrated and multi-sector coordination, support systems and response mechanisms in order to address issues concerning youth.

11. PRIORITY AREAS

Youth empowerment is a multi-faceted process dealing with diverse aspects of youth's life; hence this policy prioritizes the following key youth concerns:

- Education
- Training and Skill development
- Livelihood
- Social security
- Health and lifestyle
- Environment
- Recreation and Sports
- Arts and Culture
- Science and Technology
- Citizenship and Participation

12. PRIORITIZATION OF YOUTH PROFILES

(Henceforth referred to as special groups/priority groups/vulnerable groups)

The policy recommends special focus on the following youth:

- Female Youth
- Youth from remote areas as tribal youth
- Youth from minority populations
- Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Vimukta Jamati and Nomadic Tribe youth.
- Youth from urban slums, street and homeless youth
- Youth drop outs from formal schooling
- Youth with disabilities
- Socially stigmatized youth, for example, LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender), commercial sex workers, criminals
- Youth under especially difficult circumstances like victims of trafficking, wards of criminals, adolescents and young adults in conflict with law, youth from insurgency affected areas and youth displaced due to natural or manmade disasters

13. EDUCATION

Next to the family as an informal system for inculcating education for life and living, the formal education system is a major socializing agent in the life of children and youth. The education levels in Maharashtra are higher than in India as a whole, and the gender differentials in enrolment are relatively narrow. Maharashtra ranks fifth in the country in terms of literacy and yet, there are certain groups such as seasonal migrant children and youth who lack assured access to the formal education system. There is almost universal enrollment in primary education but high rate of drop out at secondary and tertiary stages. This policy recognizes that various sections of youth mentioned in section 12 are still out of the purview of higher education. It is also seen that there is a status divide created by the language medium of instruction. This policy provides directives on enhancing access and quality.

Policy directives

- 13.1 State should ensure the right to free, compulsory and quality education to all in the age group of 0 to 18 years.
- 13.2 State should ensure imparting of constitutional values through education and if necessary revise the curriculum accordingly.
- 13.3 State should ensure necessary efforts to prevent drop out rate during secondary and tertiary education.
- 13.4 State should ensure equitable access to education with special focus on vulnerable youth group through scholarships, free ships and hostel facilities. The scholarship amount should be reviewed periodically based on Wholesale price index (WPI).
- 13.5 State should ensure inclusion of differently-able disabled youth in mainstream education.
- 13.6 State should provide for and encourage youth to take up subjects from diverse streams during tertiary education to build a wider skill base among youth.

- 13.7 State should ensure provision of non-formal education programs for drop out and non-student youth as entry points to participate in formal education system.
- 13.8 State should ensure regular review and update of curricula at different levels of education through the SCERT (State Council for Education Research and Training) and equivalent institutions. This curricular up gradation should be based on contextual flexibility, promoting values and understanding the needs of youth.
- 13.9 State should ensure that education courses promote scientific temperament, experience-based learning, environmental consciousness, increased learning of vocational trades and respect for indigenous knowledge systems.
- 13.10 State should ensure inclusion of Life Skills Education including sex education as part of curriculum in schools and colleges.
- 13.11 State should ensure equivalence in the various educational systems and standards across the state. State should ensure the necessary infrastructure (rooms, furniture), sanitation, educational facilities (library, laboratories) and teacher student ratio which will facilitate the teaching - learning process in all the educational institutions.
- 13.12 State should ensure the effectiveness of teachers through relevant training and provision of qualified teachers, who will be subject matter experts and also well versed in holistic education and youth-centric pedagogy.
- 13.13 State should evolve standards and regulatory mechanisms for governing the private sector coaching classes.
- 13.14 State should ensure that every educational institute should have a sexual harassment redressal committee and SC/ST Cell as mandated by the law. The policy recommends stringent monitoring and implementation of the law with reference to ragging and eve teasing and violence.
- 13.15 State should make provisions to ensure that loans and other financial aid is available to the vulnerable groups at a nominal interest rate, without procedural requirements like mortgage and guaranty.

- 13.16 State and Universities should make provisions for youth to appear for higher education in Marathi and make special provisions for availability of reference and study material in Marathi.
- 13.17 State should consider incorporation of new subjects in school curriculum as Agriculture, Management, Communication Skills, Legal Literacy, citizenship and Community Service with practical aspects.
- 13.18 State should ensure mechanisms for encouraging youth for voluntarism and community services and make incentivized provisions in the education system.
- 13.19 State should ensure the implementation of recommendations of respective government committees for specific categories of youth.
- 13.20 State should ensure establishment of a center for personal counseling, career guidance and grievance redressal in every educational institution.
- 13.21 State should provide opportunities to the youth to appear in competitive exams for government, semi-government and private sector in Marathi.
- 13.22 This policy recognizes need of distance learning and open education for providing access to higher education and recommends that state should encourage distance learning and open universities/institutes with the significant component of practicum.
- 13.23 State should conduct a review of formal and non formal education curricula and suggest changes to make learning of science enjoyable including promotion of scientific outlook and temperament

14. TRAINING AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT

At present, formal education system is largely knowledge based (cognitive-skills) with minimal scope for acquiring new skills (psychomotor / specialized) and development of professional attitudes. It is observed that career pathways and means of possible livelihood are usually de-linked from the formal education. Further, in the present era of globalization managerial skills, holistic approaches, multidisciplinary skills, inter-sector applicability skills, personality enhancement skills have emerged as common professional skills essential for quality human

development. In this context, it is essential to strengthen the training and skills' development of youth.

Policy directives

- 14.1 State should ensure mechanisms to enable youth with or without formal education to acquire skills consistently, in all relevant professions and work-situations.
- 14.2 State should ensure establishment of "Maharashtra Skills Development Institute" linked to the proposed National Skills Development Organization and National Knowledge Commission of Govt. of India.
- 14.3 State should ensure that the training & skill development program should include fundamental and cross-cutting skills development training, beneficial in technical, non-technical, managerial, non-managerial and self entrepreneurship sectors in response to the current developmental stage of the state.
- 14.4 State should consider restructuring of ITI (Industrial Training Institutions), DIC (District Industrial Centre) and MCED (Maharashtra Centre for Entrepreneurship Development) with focus on equipping youth with entrepreneurial and "market-relevant skills". State should explore public-private partnership with the social and private sector, in the proposed restructure, including need-based curriculum development for these institutions to enhance better livelihood opportunities.
- 14.5 State should ensure provision of appropriate stipend to youth, as prioritized in section 11 above, for participating in the training and skill development programs.
- 14.6 State should ensure skills and entrepreneurship development courses to be inclusive and useful for illiterate, semi-literate and differently-abled youth.
- 14.7 State should ensure curriculum development and module preparation for training and skills development based on specific learning objectives including self awareness, communication skills, negotiation skills, team spirit, emotional intelligence, values and strategic planning using quality parameters.

- 14.8 State should ensure that training and skill development process should be continuous and decentralized to include locally relevant needs.
- 14.9 State should encourage and support NGOs in conducting skills development courses.
- 14.10 State should ensure that youth who have successfully completed training and/or skills development course, should be formally recognized and supported in self-entrepreneurship and forming youth self-employment groups, by banking and other financial systems, to ensure credit access at affordable and reasonably low interest rates including promotion of micro finance and micro credit.
- 14.11 State should ensure the creation, maintenance, regular updating and dissemination of the data base of trained youth, at district and state level for utilization by prospective employers.
- 14.12 State should ensure steps to ensure skill building of female youth by their enrolment in a wide range of skill training.

15. LIVELIHOOD

The onus of the state is not only to create enabling and conducive environment for employment and livelihood opportunities but also to equip the youth to access and avail the opportunities created. It is the responsibility of the state to ensure that children are not forced into the labour force before the age of 18 years , due to socio-economic factors. State shall endeavor to ensure access to skills' enhancement, finance / credit and "level playing field" in order to ensure social protection and minimize vulnerability of youth.

Policy directives

- 15.1 State should develop a 5-year, "Maharashtra State Youth Livelihood Action Plan", to be reviewed and evaluated every five years for efficiency and effectiveness of execution. State should consider establishment of a special task force for the proposed plan. State should also explore involvement of social and private sector in the proposed plan.

- 15.2 State should consider review of current 'Employment Exchange Center' program to ensure ease in availing schemes of employment and / or self employment by youth through a "single-window" approach. The program should include regular updating of the potential opportunities to ensure maximum employment opportunities for youth.
- 15.3 State should explore employment potential at village level making effective use of technological advancement to create livelihood opportunities for youth.
- 15.4 State should make special effort to provide local livelihood opportunities for youth to avoid forced migration due to unemployment.
- 15.5 State should ensure provision of wages to youth as per the Minimum Wages Act. For the same, the State government should revise the wage rate as recommended by government of India including periodic review based on WPI and Cost of living index.
- 15.6 State should consider constitution of a Task Force to develop a 'Human-power needs and assessment report', which identifies the gap between skills acquired through the current education in the state and the actual skills requirements of various sectors, especially agriculture, manufacturing and service.
- 15.7 State should promote the "earn and learn" approach at every university and college level and encourage desirous youth to start working part-time while in college, if required by restructured the courses.
- 15.8 State should proactively regularize employment opportunities in temporary, low-skilled and low-paid jobs including youth working in the unorganized sector.
- 15.9 State should ensure an enabling environment for mobility for youth with diverse job profiles across different sectors.
- 15.10 State should establish Career counseling and guidance centers at tehsil level which may be linked with all the departments and ministries and private sector for provision of information of respective schemes and programs. NGOs should also be encouraged and supported to start such centers.

- 15.11 Considering the agrarian crisis in Maharashtra, State should make special efforts to promote agriculture and allied professions as career opportunities for youth including agriculture-based industries like food processing and packaging, warehousing and transportation and agro-eco-tourism.
- 15.12 State should ensure establishment of Agriculture research centers focusing on development in agronomical practices, organic / natural farming and scientific farming at division level as encouragement and support to progressive young farmers.
- 15.13 State should ensure financial and / or in-kind incentives for young farmers practicing rain-fed agriculture without access to irrigation and ensure agriculture as a productive and gainful means of livelihood for them.
- 15.14 State should recognizes and acknowledges the productive contribution of housework in family economy by young women, hence recommends that a committee should be constituted to study the productive contribution of young women in the family's economy and understand the means of sharing of assets and power equitably with women.
- 15.15 This policy, recognizing the pioneering role of Maharashtra in bringing in a Rural Employment Guarantee Act, recommends the exploration of its applicability in the urban settings.
- 15.16 State should reserve space, during town planning, in commercial zones for youth starting self employment enterprises.
- 15.17 State should encourage and strengthen cooperative schemes, involving youth groups in the production and marketing of goods and services including collateral linkages with government and private organizations.
- 15.18 State should ensure effective implementation of the 'Forest Act' to ensure livelihood options tribal youth based on forest with having access to forest and ownership of forest products.
- 15.19 State should explore feasibility of providing land owned by government departments for community farming for youth groups.

16. SOCIAL SECURITY

The provision of social security for youth is based on the human right to life and livelihood. Since, marginalized groups in general and youth in particular are excluded from opportunities, it is the responsibility of state to not only correct these structural and societal flaws but also to erect a safety net. Many studies and researches point out the frustrations of youth emanating out of the lack of direction, opportunities and recognition. Conscious efforts are necessary to obliterate the ill-effects of non-inclusive perspective towards certain sections of youth.

Policy directives

- 16.1. State should undertake "Mapping of Youth Mobility" (in, out and within the state) on a regular basis and designing policies considering the youth mobility patterns within the state.
- 16.2. According to the proposed Social Security Bill by Government of India, 92% of workforce works in the unorganized sector. In order to ensure social security for these workers, this policy recommends the following-
 - 16.2.1. Youth workers in unorganized sectors should be enabled and protected through social safety nets like provident fund, maternity leave, accident compensation etc including bringing under the ambit of existing legislations like the Labor Welfare Act.
 - 16.2.2. State should ensure provision of basic amenities by employer/ organization providing work to workers in the unorganized sectors at the site of work as well as locations of seeking work.
- 16.3. State should ensure that youth are protected from all forms of abuse including physical abuse, emotional abuse and sexual abuse at private, public places and at workplaces.
- 16.4. State should ensure observance of ergonomic principles and high standards for work safety by the employer at workplaces.

- 16.5. State should ensure that youth are provided with adequate free time, weekly off, stipulated number of work hours; holidays as per the state regulations, and other facilities to rejuvenate youth.
- 16.6. State should establish effective and professionally managed need-based hostels for students, working and migrant youth considering the lack of availability of temporary residence.
- 16.7. State should ensure support and revitalize traditional professions which are under threat of extinction due to changing social, economic, cultural and political conditions, by specific support systems and enabling mechanisms should be developed for the protection of the same.
- 16.8. State should ensure social security, timely and just rehabilitation as well as education, housing and livelihood, for youth affected and displaced by any state policies and decisions or natural and human-made disasters.
- 16.9. State should develop special programs for correction and reintegration of youth in conflict with law, first time offenders and young delinquent homeless/street youth, orphan youth, wards of commercial sex workers, victims of trafficking, youth in drought prone areas, predominantly tribal areas, insurgency infected areas with special focus on dealing with social stigma, livelihood opportunities and acceptance by the society.

17. HEALTH AND LIFESTYLE

Health is a state of physical, mental, social and spiritual wellbeing and not merely absence of disease or infirmity². Youth are characterized as enthusiastic, vibrant, impatient, restless and indulging in risk taking behavior; thus susceptible to a wide range of morbidities and health deviations. This requires holistic approach towards health comprising universal access, equitable distribution, local community involvement, use of appropriate technology and accountability to youth. Hence, the youth policy must meaningfully utilize health component for overall socio-economic development of youth.

² Constitution of the World Health Organization as adopted by the International Health Conference, New York, 19-22 June, 1946

Policy Directives

- 17.1. State should effectively implement the National Rural Health Mission, especially considering the needs of the youth.
- 17.2. State should encourage youth as motivators, peer educators, link workers, health messengers, facilitators, coordinators at all the levels in implementation of national health programs to develop volunteer base for relief and rehabilitation during disasters, epidemics and regular health services.
- 17.3. State should confer awards for youth, in recognition of achievements in management of health programs.
- 17.4. State should ensure baseline health data collection as 'Health Census', including risk behavior patterns of youth, at village level and its regular publication for better planning and implementation of health programs.
- 17.5. State should ensure that reproductive rights of female youth are protected and they are enabled to take decisions regarding their reproductive health.
- 17.6. State should conduct regular studies to map nutritional status of youth, especially young women and adolescents and take corrective measures including strengthening the Public Distribution System.
- 17.7. State should ensure programs for mental health of youth and establish counseling centers at PHC level as well as virtual counseling centers. State should establish de-addiction and rehabilitation centers at tehsil level.
- 17.8. State should ensure establishment of trauma and rehabilitative care centers at tehsil level considering the high burden of accidents in youth.
- 17.9. State should train school and college level teachers in health promotion and disease prevention activities including identification of physical and cognitive disabilities, early warning signs of ill-health, common psychological deviations and suicidal tendencies.
- 17.10. State should encourage and provide incentives for delaying the age of marriage and age of first pregnancy.
- 17.11. State should encourage habit of healthy diet by mandatory display of calorific and nutrient values of the components on ready to eat food items.

- 17.12. State should ensure that all public utility places including work spaces facilitate mobility and access for the disabled.
- 17.13. State should ensure effective implementation of "*Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana*" with special reference to youth.

18. ENVIRONMENT

The environmental deterioration has caused a major concern for young people world over. The natural environment must be maintained and preserved for the present and future generations. For this environmentally friendly use of natural resources should be promoted to improve better quality of life. Increasing the participation of youth in environmental protection depends on strengthening opportunities for young people to participate in the formulation and implementation of eco-friendly policies and programs of the govt. and civil society. Considering the importance of community involvement in preservation of the environment, the state should encourage young people to play an increasingly significant role in mobilizing the public, at large, in this endeavor.

Policy directives

- 18.1. State should ensure implementation of Rashtriya Harit Sena in true spirit including transparency in fund disbursement and encourage availability of plants suitable for local condition.
- 18.2. State should encourage youth to form and promote nature groups in villages, towns and schools and colleges to create awareness about environment protection, implementation of Biodiversity Law.
- 18.3. State should promote green lifestyle for youth through different channels as teachers trained in environment and systems to counter Climate Change.
- 18.4. State should encourage youth groups and organizations (including NSS, NYK, NCC) to protect and preserve environment including water bodies and water harvesting.
- 18.5. State should encourage youth involvement in the Green Rating Project (GRP) of their village, educational institutions including school and college,

industries where they are working and also the town and city, on the basis of their environment friendliness.

- 18.6. State should encourage career opportunities in environment sector- research, employment and businesses (eg. waste recycle).
- 18.7. State should promote for use of renewable energy sources for private and community use by youth groups.

19. RECREATION AND SPORTS

Engagement in recreation and sports is a key characteristic of youth hood. It is also important component for overall development of youth and thus major concern for human resource development. Above all, youth have right to rest and leisure and access to opportunities for entertainment and sports.

Policy Directives

- 19.1. State should ensure that all formal and non formal educational institutions should have adequate facilities for sports and recreation and encourage traditional sports.
- 19.2. State should ensure that one-fifth of the time spent by a student in an educational institution should be earmarked for outdoor and / or co-curricular activities.
- 19.3. State should recognize the community youth groups as unit for entertainment and sports activities organized by state level program and support such youth groups
- 19.4. State should ensure provision of and access to community spaces by youth at village and at urban community level by the town planning department including efforts to avail community spaces for young girls. We recommend provision of one playground per 5000 population in the master plans of all civic and municipal areas and rural areas. Local self government institutions and local sports groups should be responsible for planning and management of these grounds.

- 19.5. State should encourage and support should be provided to youth groups for local theatre, street theatre, open theatre and cultural groups.
- 19.6. State should ensure additional support for the promotion of sports and games in remote areas.
- 19.7 State should ensure special efforts to increase the participation of female and disabled youth in sports.

20. ARTS AND CULTURE

Arts and culture is the basis of society's enrichment. The State should facilitate and encourage all forms of arts and culture in line with the Indian Constitutional priorities. This policy creates spaces for youths to critically engage with our cultural heritage in order to conserve those aspects which are conducive to social justice and discard those aspects that impede equity and dignity for all (*NYF critique of NYP point 2.9*).

Policy directives

- 20.1. State should encourage youth to be appreciative of cultural diversity in Maharashtra and India through encouraging Youth Festivals and Youth exchange programs
- 20.2. State should encourage cultural tourism including tribal and agro tourism.
- 20.3. State should review and redesign all schemes and programs promoted by *Sahitya Sanskruti Mandal* to encourage youth literature.
- 20.4. State should ensure youth expression through the proposed Maharashtra state Cultural Policy including participation of youth in the proposed policy.
- 20.5. State should encourage and explore employment opportunities for youth specializing in arts and culture.
- 20.6. State should ensure art and cultural exchange through *Lalit Kala Kendra* instituting art galleries, amphitheatres, libraries and halls at tehsil level for youth.
- 20.7. State should organize workshops and seminars at state level for fine and performing arts to encourage creation of youth artists and performers.

20.8. State should launch a new television channel dedicated to youth issues which will provide space for youth and youth groups to voice their issues and opinions, cultural expressions and dissemination of information of youth concerns.

21. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

In the 21st century world and especially Maharashtra is rapidly moving towards adapting technology as part of daily life. However, digital divide will increase if majority youth are not in the know of latest development in technology. This policy recognizes that youth are the major conductors of new ideas and innovations hence put forth following directives.

Policy Directive

- 21.1. This policy recognizes the importance of use of information technology in all domains of life including government sector and recommends that the state should ensure the use of "Unicode software" developed by C-DAC (Center for Development of Advanced Computing) to enable uniform use of Marathi language in computer, and training.
- 21.2. State should constitute a task force to explore avenues for adoption of computer applications in day to day administrative work and reduce the use of paper.
- 21.3. State should explore partnership with NGOs and private sectors to establish science centers,
- 21.4. State should create a database of the digitalized formats of certificates and formal documents required for education, training, employment and social security for seamless transition and utilization across all the universities and government/ semi-government bodies free of cost for the youth.
- 21.5. To bridge digital divide, the state should ensure that computer literacy, accessibility of internet services should be propagated across the state.

21.6 Government should support and monitor institutions for computer and information technology education and ensure that the access of these courses are available to marginalized youth through social justice measures.

22. CITIZENSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

Youth are the key citizens of any state hence they should participate in development of the state. Youth are valuable members of the community so should not only be engaged in activities and programs that encourage and develop informed decision-making, skills development and leadership abilities but also should be encouraged to contribute through meaningful participation opportunities. Ultimately, it is important to develop and enable youth to become responsible parents and spouse and engage as responsible citizens. This policy recognizes the contribution of and role played by the civil society in promoting awareness on youth issues and citizenship amongst youth.

Policy Directives

- 22.1. State should ensure representation of one-third seats for youth in all local self government institutions and various co-operative.
- 22.2. State should set up a committee to review existing Acts governing civil society, political and social organizations in order to explore the role of youth in governance and management structures of these organizations registered under these Acts.
- 22.3. State should ensure that youth have developed understanding and awareness in promoting volunteerism, adopting democratic principles through 'Citizenship Programs' with special campaigns, NSS camps, NYK initiatives and support of awareness activities taken up by NGOs and CBOs. Linkages with the initiatives undertaken by the State Election Commission should be established.
- 22.4 State should ensure and encourage democratic processes at the colleges and universities levels to promote youth participation and nurture youth leadership.

- 22.5. "Youth Councils" should be evolved and supported by government at tehsil, district and state level. The purpose of these youth councils is to participate in formulation of government policies and the implementation of the same.
- 22.6. Participation of the local resident youth in quality control of civic works taken up at ward and village level should be insisted upon. There should be a clearly defined active role for youth in managing basic public utilities like playground, public-park, common-land, overseeing of waste management and maintenance of electricity lines, water supply pipelines, sewage and drainage systems.
- 22.7. State should encourage youth participation in disaster management and provide required training.
- 22.8. State should ensure provision of Fellowship to youths to actively engage in research, social action program and experiential learning.
- 22.9. State should make provisions for registration and regulation of local youth groups with Local Self Governing Institutions and avail support for these registered youth clubs.
- 22.10. State should promote and protect inter-caste, inter-religious and inter-faith marriages.

23. IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM

- 23.1. The objectives of youth policy can not be achieved in isolation by any one ministry or department considering its holistic spectrum, access, across the ministries and with planning commission. To ensure equity, proactive youth participation and to promote youth friendly appropriate technologies, it is essential to have a coordination mechanism at the state level to converge, channel, implement, monitor & evaluate impact of all policy-centered projects. This mechanism should draw its strength from Ministry of Finance, Youth Affairs & Sports, Health, Education, Industry, Agriculture, Social Welfare and Ministry of Women & Child Welfare.
- 23.2. This policy reiterates the need for creative thinking and micro-planning by all concerned ministries to provide inputs for youth development. Further, the

schemes and programs in all ministries should be evolved or have provision for youth participation in their programs.

- 23.3. The review and regulation of youth policy directives can be through an autonomous State Youth Commission which needs to be formulated. It is recommended here that representation from academia, administration and NGOs working on youth issues is essential on this Commission.
- 23.4. State should ensure that two separate Departments for Sports and Youth Developments should operate independently within Ministry of Youth Development and Sports.
- 23.5. "District Youth Center" should be formed to co-ordinate various initiatives under the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, who will coordinate the convergence of youth development programs at district level. An official of rank of Class-I officer should be in charge of this district level youth centre.
- 23.6. Youth clubs/cooperatives should be encouraged and supported at village/ward level and be involved in the various initiatives under the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs. These youth clubs should be the nodal platform to implement various initiatives undertaken at the village level by the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs.
- 23.7. State should declare 'youth budget' statement where every ministry and departments will provide budgetary provisions and expenditures for youth development.

24. REGULATION OF YOUTH POLICY

- 24.1 A "State Youth Commission" having quasi-judicial power should be constituted. This commission should consist of varied stakeholder's viz. civil society representatives, academicians, social scientists, legal experts and people engaged in youth work. Inclusion of representatives from marginalized and underprivileged sections of society should be ensured.
- 24.2 Role of this commission is to be a regulator for this state youth policy. This youth commission should undertake the following key responsibilities:

- 24.2.1 Monitor, Review and Evaluate the implementation and impact of this youth policy.
- 24.2.2 Issue directives to concerned ministries and institutions for effective implementation of youth policy and programs.
- 24.2.3 To act as a grievance redressal cell for youth issues.
- 24.2.4 To provide cooperative and collaborative support to consultative sub-committees, monitoring units and nominated advisors to ensure effective implementation of this policy.
- 24.2.5 Commission would promote research pertaining to youth issues and paradigms on a regular basis.
- 24.2.6 Commission would issue directives during policy formulation of various ministries and ensure budgetary allocation in the interests of youth development.

25. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- 25.1. This policy recommends outcome-based monitoring and evaluation of all initiatives undertaken under this policy. Monitoring of the policy programs should be undertaken biannually through analysis of monthly reports submitted by concerned stake holders. Intention behind this monitoring should be to provide inputs for effective program implementation and facilitation in achievement of proposed results. Youth Commission should play an important role in this monitoring process. A consultative sub-committee comprising government officials and representatives from civil society and youth clubs should be formed for this purpose.
- 25.2. Standing Committee of young members of Legislative Assembly and Legislative council should be constituted for monitoring of the youth policy directives.
- 25.3. Evaluation should be undertaken every three years. Evaluation indicators should be based on extent of achieving objectives and effectiveness in relation to the priority elements of the policy.
- 25.4. "Youth Development Index" and "Youth Development Report" should be published in every 3 years.

26. CHALLENGES

This policy could face the following challenges:

- 26.1. This youth policy will be effectively implemented only if it is conceptually “mainstreamed” in all developmental sectors.
- 26.2. Lack of wider political will and consensus for acceptance of the separate youth policy.
- 26.3. Expected implementation structures as directed in the policy would be subject to *red-tapism*. Implementation of the policy might not get due priority.
- 26.4. Resource allocation is key for success of any policy thus lack of resources could prove to be a major implementation hurdle.
- 26.5. Participation by youth would show variance depending on their context.
- 26.6. For the successful implementation of the policy it is important to work with adults in family and social life. Their non co-operation and resistance to share and give up space and power in decision making may create barriers in the implementation process.
- 26.7. Youth policy can not do away with or substitute the expanding private sector and commercialization of leisure-time and related activities of youth.

27. REVIEW

This policy shall be reviewed five years after declaration to gain practical insights in achievements of various components proposed in the policy and consider requisite refinement for future policy implementation.

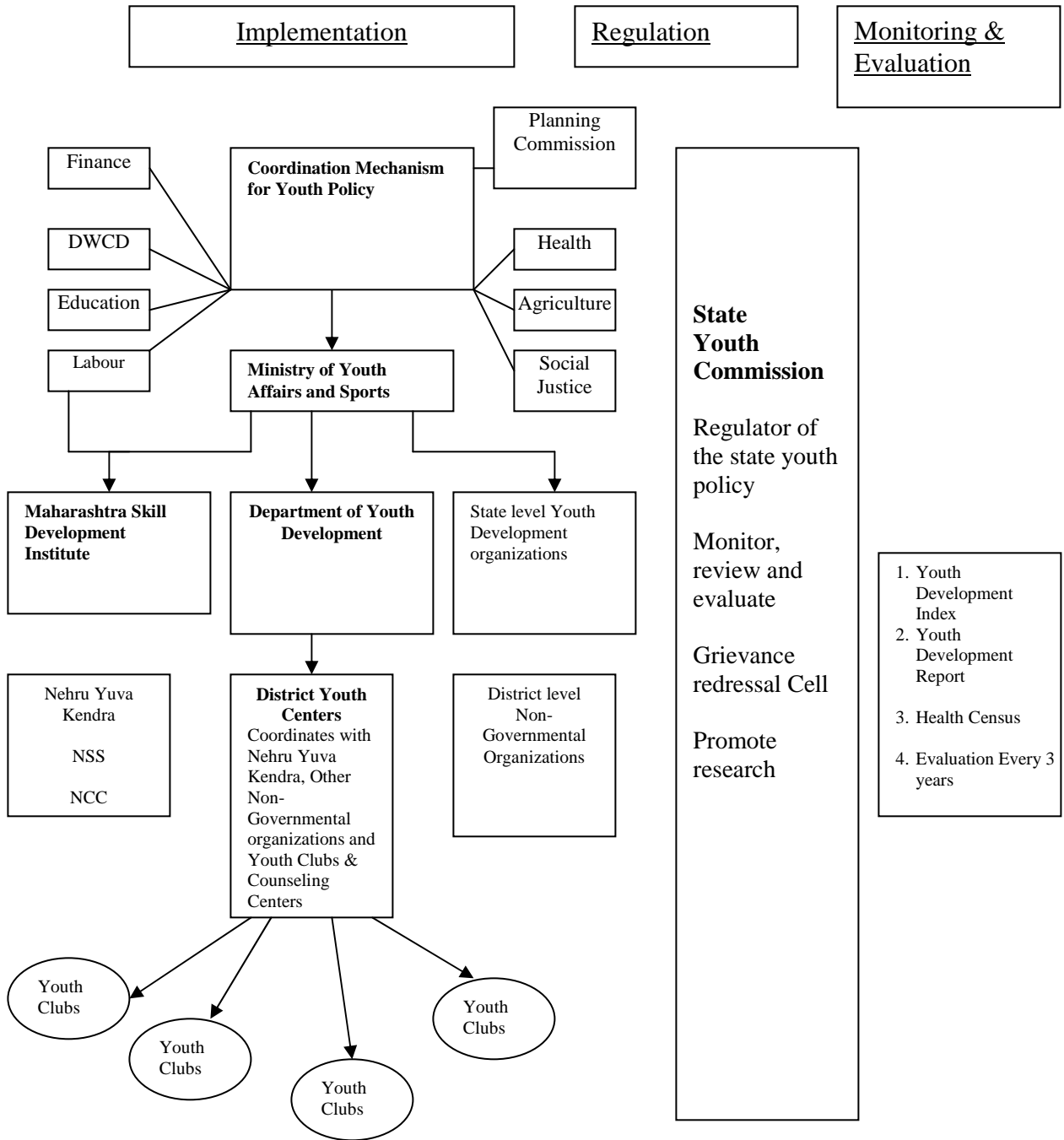
28. ANNEXURE (I) : ACTION PLAN

This policy recommends the following action plan so as to translate the policy directives into reality:

- 28.1. Name of the existing "Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs" should be changed to that of "Youth Development Ministry". This is necessary in order to change the orientation of the existing Ministry from working in "welfare" mode to that of "empowering youth" mode.
- 28.2. Two separate departments should be constituted within this ministry to focus on sports and youth development separately. This (formation of two separate departments) has already been done by Government of India. Both departments should be headed by an official of Secretary Rank.
- 28.3. A State Youth Commission should be constituted in order to guide and assist in implementation and oversight of the various initiatives of Youth Development Ministry.
- 28.4. District Youth Office should be established at each district level in order to coordinate all the initiatives concerning youth. This should be based on the pattern of existing District Sports Officer.
- 28.5. The "State Youth Award Scheme" given earlier by the Ministry of Sports and Youth Welfare for exceptional youth at state level should be restarted. This "State Youth Award" should be given to one male and one female youth at division and state level through transparent selection process.
- 28.6. Ministry should ensure that this youth policy should be widely disseminated and shared with youth across the length and breadth of the state. Copies of this policy should be printed and disseminated in all schools, colleges, NGOs and youth wings of all political parties of the state.
- 28.7. A coordination committee comprising members of legislative assembly should be constituted in order to ensure smooth implementation of all the schemes formulated for youth.
- 28.8. A task force should be constituted in order to study and review all existing schemes initiated, by state and union government, for employment and self-

- employment generation should be undertaken. This task force should also recommend improvements in the same and new schemes if necessary.
- 28.9. In accordance with the Lingdoh Committee recommendations, open elections should be conducted in all educational institutions and universities to facilitate democratic processes in educational institutes and universities.
- 28.10. District Youth Centers should identify gaps in existing programs of Nehru Yuva Kendra, programs of other departments and NGOs and conduct programs in these directions. District level advisory committee should be formed and function with representations from youth clubs, NGOs working with youths.
- 28.11. Department of Youth Affairs should constitute a committee for which minister of youth affairs and sports will be the president and officers of Neharu Yuva Kendra, National Service Scheme, National Cadet Course and Scout Guide Organization working on issues of youth. The committee will coordinate for implementation of the policy.
- 28.12. An inclusive awareness campaign should be organized on health issues of youth with NGOs.
- 28.13. NGOs should be encouraged and supported to start De-addiction centers.
- 28.14. Single window information system should be developed for youth to avail information about schemes and programs under different ministries and departments.
- 28.15. A state level residential youth training center should be started with the capacity of training 200 youth. This center will avail infrastructure for training on values enshrined in the policy.
- 28.16. Government should publish Youth Development Report and Youth Development Index in every 3 years.
- 28.17. A detailed manual should be published by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports for youth clubs to guide for functioning and annual plan of the ministry.
- 28.18. Youth hostels should be established in all district places.
- 28.19. Funds available at local self government level should be utilised only after prior consultation with youth clubs and youth councils.
- 28.20. Earn and Learn Scheme should be announced by all the colleges and academic institutes.

ANNEXURE (II): FLOW CHART



ANNEXURE (III) : DRAFT CORE TEAM

Convener - Mrs. Supriya Sule
Coordination - Mr. Nilesh Puradkar
Members - Dr. Lata Narayan Mr. Mathew Mattam
Mr. Kaustubh Devale Dr. R. R. Shinde
Mr. Datta Balsaraf Mr. Vishwas Thakur
Mr. Nilesh Raut Dr. Anand Bang
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Mr. Vijay Kanhekar Mr. Sameeran Walvekar
Mr. Jayu Bhatkar Prof. Suresh Patil
Mr. Dinesh Shinde Dr. Anwar Shaikh
Mr. Umakant Jagdale Mr. Abhijit Raut
Mr. Amit Samant Mr. Nitin Kalel
Mr. Abhijit Khanvilkar Ms. Sheron Menezes
Mr. Rajiv Khandekar Mr. Mandar Fanase
Mr. Ameya Tirodkar Mr. Vishwas Deokar
Mr. Bhausahab Patil Mr. Ashok Survase
Mr. Padmabhushan Deshpande Mr. Dattatraya Helaskar
Mr. Subodh Jadhav

Partner Organizations -

- T.I.S.S.-Mumbai
- Yuva-Mumbai
- CORO-Mumbai
- C.Y.D.A.- Pune
- Navnirman- Mumbai
- Vishwas Dnyan Prabodhini And Research Institute- Nasik
- Abhyudaya Foundation- Aurangabad
- PIMSE- Pune
- Mahatma Gandhi Seva Sangh- Parbhani
- Chalo Yuva Kuch Kar Dikhaaye- Yawatmal
- Yuva Hit- Pune
- Youth to Youth-Pune
- C.C.D.T.- Mumbai
- Prayas-Mumbai
- Koshish Foundation-Nagpur
- Hanuman Wyayamshala-Amaravati
- PUKAR-Mumbai
- Manavi Hakka Abhiyan- Maharashtra
- Savitribai Phule Mahila Mandal-Beed
- Anubhav Shiksha Kendra
- College of Social Work, Nirmala Niketan
- BAIF-Jawhar, Thane
- Janmudra Pratishthan-Pune
- Shantidoot Pratishthan-Hingoli
- Association of Muslim Professionals- Maharashtra
- Dhyeya Pratishthan-Sindhudurga

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