

## YOUNGSTERS IN POLITICS

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**Debashrita Manik\***

### ABSTRACT

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Political involvement today by the youth is taking place within the confines of a diminishing space for civil society, digitization, advancement of socialist ideologies, and a rise of global youth motions. Political participation also can have many diverse emotions and activities in which people develop and express their opinions. It can be conventional as well as unconventional, including activities such as voting, being members of political parties, serving people on a local youth council, getting engaged with a youth organization, or taking part in the political activist program, boycotts, or a protest movement. India, the state is governed by young, eligible hands of the state may grow rapidly towards being a developed country. Many people don't completely go in favour of being governed by a government of the youth but the idea behind the same is quite different.

**Keywords:** Participation, Young hands, Ideologies, Civil society, Activist.

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\*BA LLB, FIRST YEAR, KIIT UNIVERSITY, BHUBANESWAR.

## INTRODUCTION

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India is a democratic republic and needs much of youths' participation in politics, than the traditional ones. Prashant Kishor, an Indian Political Strategist, has started an initiative 'Youth in Politics' to provide the youth of India a versatile platform to join politics and fight elections under his guidance and he focuses to bring around 1lakh young people into the electoral process by making them fight elections from the local bodies to legislative assemblies. However, the emergence of youngsters in politics will bring a new kind of confidence and enthusiasm among the people of India.

Being one of the developing countries in the world, India has a huge hold in the political world, even in international politics. Participation of the youngsters, for the future of the country, is much needed for a developing country like India for a better outcome. Today, the youth needs real opportunities to participate in political agendas and come up with practical and reliable solutions to advance the development. When given an opportunity to conduct, their opinions and voices play a meaningful role in political decision-making, young people consistently demonstrate their willingness and ability to encourage positive and long-lasting change. People have always been a victim of the traditional political leaders faking promises to gain the trust of the common people and certainly, today, the people may seek a new leadership whom they can rely upon. But, there is one important thing the young politicians have in hand, it is that they can easily motivate and inspire the youth of the entire country and be their role models for years.

## RESEARCH QUESTIONS

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- What is the future of India if handled by a youth Prime Minister and President?
- What is the current picture regarding youth participation in politics?
- Why is there a lack of public support regarding youth participation?

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

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This is a doctrinal researched paper based on secondary data collected from books, journals, articles, and online sources.

## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

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The aims and objectives of the youths' active participation in politics shall be:

1. To promote democratic values and human rights, and for the participation of youths in achieving them.
2. To broaden the platform of youth participation in politics
3. To encourage youth to participate in all the national issues that affect the youths of this country.
4. To change the perception of the society towards youth governance.

## ANALYSIS OF THE STUDY

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One of the important issues hovering in the country is the pervasiveness of dynastical politics. Currently, most of the young politicians in India belong to politically dominated families where his/ her relatives have played an active part in politics. It is a remarkable challenge for the youth of the country to obtain stable party tickets and contest elections without political backing.

In 2004, 50% of the total population of India comprised people aged between 30 years or maybe younger, however, only 35 out of 543 of the Lok Sabha members which are 6%, were aged below 35. Nevertheless, the proportion of people aged between 18–24 who identified themselves as "very" or "rather" interested in politics was around 50, an increase of 15% since 1990 (World Values Survey).<sup>1</sup>

In new democratic systems, younger generations are facing the challenge of creating solidity in the place of the persistent instability from the past. In Latin America, many countries have alternated between democracy and dictatorship or, to be more precise, between different forms of semi-democratic rule, democratic persistency is the most important goal. In post-Communist societies, the collapse of the old government and gain in freedom has been attended by the creation of new political and economic uncertainties. The role of youth, therefore, has very different consequences in old and new democracies. In the former, young

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<sup>1</sup> The Indian Express, Ritika Chopra October 14, 2019

people facing the challenge of fitting into a traditional political system or making changes. In new democracies, a dishonored government is no more, but young people have the challenge of promoting their country's new freedom.

Many dynamics were taken in the schools to develop interest among students to enter into Indian politics and to give them a rough idea about how the nation works. In high schools or junior colleges, pupils are made prone to the system of the Parliament by setting Youth Parliament in schools, Model United Nations, and many such events to provide a platform for the students. The field of politics in India is usually recognized as something that ~~is~~ doesn't suit the educated masses, people often don't understand these concepts as they don't fit into the school or colleges' syllabus, and this perception is being changed by many school students who opt for the idea of politics as their career and help to promote the cause to their fullest.

To understand the participation of youth in politics, one must compare the behavior and values with those of middle-aged and older citizens in order to see how much or how little difference there is between all types of generations. While grandparents, parents, and the kids of the present generation in the same family share blood ties, they often differ altogether in their political experiences and views. This is especially true in the new democracy. In the traditional democracy of Europe, the great majority of citizens, whatever their age might be, have only known life in a democratic government. Also in many Latin American countries, most adults have lived under democratic and undemocratic governments, and only the youngest generation had come of political age with the new beacon of democracy. For them, the old undemocratic government can be a part of the past which is dead rather than an active point of reference of what is to be avoided.

The country is in serious need of young leaders who are energetic and are dedicated to serve the nation with all that they could. There is no doubt that India has progressed economically, agriculturally, in terms of trade and commerce, marketing, and many such since 1947, the year of independence, but had it been ruled or governed by some of the young torchbearers, the progress would have been even faster than the present. For the present unworthy situations, there can be two assumptions. One can be that the future of the nation or the youngsters is themselves not keen on performing a developmental change for the betterment of the country. However, they are also much aware of the issues and challenges that the

nation faces and also about the worldwide issues. The second reason is they are not taken into confidence for an excuse that they are not much sufficiently experienced to govern the entire country. The monopoly of the old leaders is what's accepted by almost every citizen of the country.

However, the youngster in politics refers to the people aging from 30-40, who have energy as well as enthusiasm to bring a change to the traditional governance system. However, in no way it is meant that the old politicians' monopoly should be debarred entirely; of course, they are needed for proper guidance and implementation, but at the same time the young ones are also to be given opportunities and situations to prove themselves. In short, there shall be a retirement age for every individual in this forum, so as to provide a new platform for the fresh ones, and most importantly, the nation with the world's second-largest population will always need a person both socially and educationally talented to solve not every but most of the country's issues. As it cannot be expected or given the pedestal to illiterate people to govern the country of culture. India has also witnessed some of its politicians having heinous criminal backgrounds, but is that really rational? A nation can never be safe in the hands of a criminal.

### **FINDINGS OF THE STUDY AND LITERATURE REVIEW**

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Youngsters are the future of society. They have the power to mould the entire world in a positive as well as negative way. There are certain aspects which only the young generation can change in this world. A view with different perspectives is what the nation needs to be developed.

The first and foremost basic need is education. The education system in India shall not be student-friendly but shall be the one that would indeed be the career-maker for the students. Action learning-oriented activities shall be allowed for gaining practical knowledge rather than being only confined to books.

Youth as policymakers can really empower people to participate as full-fledged policymakers including educating the non-traditional young leaders, training adults as allies, substantial development, etc. When the young minds are systematically involved throughout their communities, applying a touch of their innovation and knowledge, adding to their energy and

enthusiasm and all the required powers, they can shift the government into proper action and encourage powerful transformations.

The youth and children are never given importance, especially in this sector. Given the opportunity, they do have the power to change the entire perception of the world with a better tomorrow.

There had been a recent survey on youth participation by famous organizations to encourage the fact. The UNDP or United Nations Development Programme, Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund (DGTF) proposed a call of proposals from the UNDP offices in support of innovative and catalytic projects on youth to inform public policy-making, training youth as effective leaders, extending access to justice, opening space for youth empowerment and democratic governance. 37 proposals were accepted, out of which 9 are in Africa, 8 in the Arab States, 5 in Asia and the Pacific, 8 in Central and Eastern Europe/Commonwealth of Independent States, and 7 in Latin America and the Caribbean.<sup>2</sup>

Recognizing young people as the stakeholders nationwide, the UNDP Regional Service Centre in Bangkok implemented the Asian Young Leaders for Governance (AYLG) initiative over the period 2005-2009.<sup>3</sup>

## CONCLUSION

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The politicization of people based on their peer social group has always been practiced in India, traditionally. With every political party, youth is the most sought-after social group by every party. Every other party focus on their young leaders as key allies in regard to the campaigns and promotions for the elections, rallies, new members' recruitment, union elections, etc. It is often seen that young leaders are utilized for the purpose of marketing and public relations but the matter of concern is that the ones who are utilizing it are themselves empowering the concept of youth participation in politics?

Despite the huge participation, enthusiasm, and innovation, the youngsters are never given much importance and consideration in regards to politics, or any political agenda. For the majority of the youth, active engagement with political parties or taking politics as the sole

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<sup>2</sup> United, 2013, Youth, Political, Participation, Youth and Political participation 2013 11

<sup>3</sup> <https://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/participation/encouraging-involvement/identify-stakeholders/main>

source of income does not persuade a regular way of earning whether through an elected position or through the parties. Secondly, politicians and elected representatives have the sole and moral responsibility to fix the broken and diluted education system and find ways to create employment opportunities for the needy unemployed citizens, which isn't initiated at the local level. Thirdly, the most surprising part is that even the young political activists do not raise some of the heated issues which primarily affect them and their generation, such as lack of high quality and proper education in public-funded colleges and universities.

Moreover, politicians are not infused in some of the issues that affect the future of youth may it be within or outside politics. Political leaders and elected representatives seem to be unaffected by the condition of the aided schools starting from the primary level to the tertiary level, which shape the future of the youth of lower middle class and below poverty line kids. As kids of most of the politicians today go to private schools or so-called posh schools and colleges, they have no skin in the game and are hardly affected by the quality of education in public institutions.

With this, it can be estimated that the youth generation is much eligible for working in the fields provided if given proper forum, chance, and trust. For a developing India, active youth participation is what is needed for faster development worldwide. Youth leaders also need to act responsibly. If they are taking up the leadership area, then the quality of education, shouldn't be compromised which is a prime reason for young people to be in academic institutions. It is high time that engagement of youth in politics be seen and treated as a means to serve the larger purpose of nation-building, utilizing the energy, passion, and enthusiasm of young Indians or the youth section of the country. Youth leaders should not remain just a channel for serving the agenda of the already made political heroes. They must adjure their own voice, in the interest of the youth and the nation.