The background features several hands in various colors (blue, pink, red, orange, purple, green) holding and placing colorful puzzle pieces (teal, pink, yellow, blue, orange, purple). A yellow key is positioned above a blue puzzle piece on the right. A blue horizontal bar with white text is centered in the lower half of the image.

# **Status Review of the Implementation of the National Youth Policy & Youth Vision 2025 Strategies**

**November, 2022**

## Status Review of the Implementation of National Youth Policy & Youth Vision 2025 Strategies

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## Acknowledgment

In addition to being a crucial resource for the state, youth also act as change agents. The youth are the change-drivers and economic, social, political, and cultural transformation pioneers. With slightly more than 40.3 % of its population being under 25, Nepal, a small nation in South Asia, has enjoyed a demographic dividend for the first time in history. In 2010, Nepal launched its National Youth Policy, which was updated in 2015 and 2021.

The National Youth Policy's policy-drafting committee team included AYON. Following the policy's adoption, AYON has been actively involved in a variety of worthwhile youth engagement initiatives around Nepal.

In order to track the changes in the situation of young people from 2010 to 2021, this status review of the implementation of National Youth Policy and Youth Vision 2025 strategies is being implemented.

I sincerely pass my gratitude to all the respondents who were able to provide their opinion during the interviews.

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**Punya Bhandari (Consultant)**

July 2022



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## Abbreviations and Acronyms

AIDS:	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AYON:	Association of Youth Organization Nepal
CBS:	Central Bureau of Statistics
COVID:	Corona Virus Diseases
FY:	Fiscal Year
GBV:	Gender Based Violence
GDP:	Gross Domestic Products
HIV:	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICC:	International Cricket Council
ILO:	International Labour Organization
KII:	Key Informant Interviews
MoYS:	Ministry of Youth and Sports
NPC:	National Planning Commission
NYC:	National Youth Council
NYP:	National Youth Policy
ODI:	One Day International
SDG:	Sustainable Development Goals
UNFPA:	United Nations Population Fund
WHO:	World Health Organization



## Glossary of Terms

- Janajati:** The word Janajati or Jati refers to the group of people outside of caste system and Adivasis are the ancient inhabitants or the indigenous people." (Gurung et al, Janajati, Janajati Vikash Samanwaya Kendra 1999: 1)<sup>1</sup>.
- Aadivaasi:** A member of any of the aboriginal tribal peoples living in India before the arrival of the Aryans in the second millennium BC<sup>2</sup>.
- Chhaupadi:** The practice of banishing a woman to cowshed outside the house during her menstruation and childbirth, a harmful practice highly prevalent in the Sudur Paschim Province Sudur Paschim province of Nepal.
- Dalit:** The ethnic group that are considered untouchables in Nepal, meaning people of so called upper class cannot allow them to enter their home or drink water that has been touched by them.
- Madhesi:** The indigenous ethnic group of people who are usually the residents of the plain or the Terai or in the Madhesh Province of Nepal.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://parivartannepal.blogspot.com/2012/01/adibashi-and-janajati-indigenous-people\\_04.html#:~:text=The%20word%20Janajati%20or%20Jati,Samanwaya%20Kendra%201999%3A%201](https://parivartannepal.blogspot.com/2012/01/adibashi-and-janajati-indigenous-people_04.html#:~:text=The%20word%20Janajati%20or%20Jati,Samanwaya%20Kendra%201999%3A%201)).

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.google.com/search?q=adivasi+meaning&sxsrf=ALiCzsbLkoj6tR2QOGVZ6Qx6Uce6Z-hSCA%3A1669624986463&ei=mnSEY4nfG\\_-Ez7sPzPa54AE&og=adivasi+meaning&gs\\_lcp=Cgxnd3Mtd2l6LXNlcnAQARgAMgoIABCRAhBGEpkBMgUIABCRAjIFCAAQgAQyBggAEAcQHjIGCAAQBxAeMgYIABAHEB4yBggAEAcQHjIGCAAQBxAeMgYIABAHEB4yBggAEAcQHjoKCAAQRxDWBBCwAzoHCCMQsAIQJzoFCAAQhgM6CAgAEAgQHhANSgQIQRgASgQIRhgAUNIGWPwTYOglaAFwAXgAgAGYAYgB5gmSAQMwLjmYAQCgAQHIAQjAAQE&sclient=gws-wiz-serp](https://www.google.com/search?q=adivasi+meaning&sxsrf=ALiCzsbLkoj6tR2QOGVZ6Qx6Uce6Z-hSCA%3A1669624986463&ei=mnSEY4nfG_-Ez7sPzPa54AE&og=adivasi+meaning&gs_lcp=Cgxnd3Mtd2l6LXNlcnAQARgAMgoIABCRAhBGEpkBMgUIABCRAjIFCAAQgAQyBggAEAcQHjIGCAAQBxAeMgYIABAHEB4yBggAEAcQHjIGCAAQBxAeMgYIABAHEB4yBggAEAcQHjoKCAAQRxDWBBCwAzoHCCMQsAIQJzoFCAAQhgM6CAgAEAgQHhANSgQIQRgASgQIRhgAUNIGWPwTYOglaAFwAXgAgAGYAYgB5gmSAQMwLjmYAQCgAQHIAQjAAQE&sclient=gws-wiz-serp)



## Executive Summary

With the aim to review the extent to which the National Youth Policy and Youth Vision 2025 strategies have been implemented in Nepal and to give a way forward before the effective implementation of the policies, AYON conducted a review study of NYP and Youth Vision 2025 in July-August 2022. The review study work was devoted to analyzing secondary data on youth development and meaningful participation. However, the four Key Informant Interviews (KII) activities among the purposively sampled respondents were also conducted to obtain the primary data from the field. Besides the census data produced during 2011, the study was unable to discover youth-specific data and information that would demonstrate the status of youth of Nepal. The study found that to strategize the National Youth Policy (NYP) into concrete action, Youth Vision 2025 was introduced by the Government of Nepal, Ministry of Youth and Sports and implemented by National Youth Council (NYC). Hence, it is now a high time to provide concrete recommendations on next steps to achieve the indicators set forth by the Youth Vision 2025 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### Key findings:

On the basis of the study, several findings were discovered such as the Youth Vision 2025 has prioritized five strategic Pillars:

- a. Qualitative and Professional Education,
- b. Employment, Entrepreneurship and Skill Development,
- c. Health and Social Security,
- d. Mobilization, Participation and Leadership Development, and
- e. Sports and Entertainment of the young people taking into account the development made in the youth sector at the international level and the situation in Nepal. Based on the findings, the study has advised some tangible recommendations.

In the year 2010, the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS) promulgated the country's first National Youth Policy, which focused solely on the rights and needs of youth. This policy defined youth on a national scale. Initially it defined youth as the population between the age group 16-40 years. Though the definition is still somewhat contentious, its creation and existence show that Nepal recognizes the importance of youth in society. In the later amendment done in 2015, the age was revised to 16-35 years.

After the issuance of National Youth Policy, some inventive steps were taken by the government of Nepal. For example, formation of National Youth Council and annexing district committee chapters of



youth councils in 71 districts of Nepal<sup>3</sup>. It is a positive step towards implementing National Youth Policy, Youth Vision 2025, and SDGs that the National Youth Council is extending to all the local levels of Nepal.

#### Recommendations:

The National Youth Council at the federal level should invest resources to disseminate information about the National Youth Policy and Youth Vision 2025 at the province and local levels. The youth, stakeholders, provincial government representatives, and the representatives of the provincial and local levels require awareness sessions about the existence of NYP and Youth Vision 2025. As a result, the study advises Nepal's federal, provincial, and local governments to invest and sensitize and sensitizing concerned representatives and employees about the NYP and Youth Vision 2025. In addition on, extension of youth chapters to provincial and local level is a must to ensure meaningful youth participation in all spheres of the decision making process. The study has also discovered that the National Planning Commission (NPC) has estimated a financial deficit of NRs 585 billion per year to achieve the SDG for the entire period of 2016 to 2030, it is challenging for Nepali youth to find their needs being addressed. Hence, the Government of Nepal needs to show political commitment to invest in youth and achieve the SDGs and the targets set by the Youth Vision 2025 strategic document.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports is one of the youngest ministries with a limited annual budget. To consider youth as major change agents, there is the necessity of greater coordination among ministries across three tiers, federal and sub-national line ministries. Also, youth organizations, civil society organizations, private sectors, and other stakeholders are required to take collective measures to meet the Youth Vision 2025 targets. This will be a first step toward establishing coordination and reducing duplication of efforts. Youth programmes should be designed based on based on evidence generated via -province-level youth status surveys to be conducted on a quinquennial basis. These programmes for youth should consider youth as a diverse group rather than as a homogeneous group addressing the specific needs of the Dalit, youth with disability, LGBTIQ+ youth and other vulnerable groups. To address the growing entrepreneurial skill needs and aspiration of Nepali youth, the local, provincial, and federal government should invest more on education, employment and entrepreneurial skills. As a result, an effective education policy for youth is recommended, with a focus on education that can lead to employment. Education and training should concentrate on skills and technical areas relevant to local job opportunities. The local levels to create more demand on Adolescent and Youth Information Centers, the centers that are

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<sup>3</sup> <https://nyc.gov.np/en/district-committee/>





established in local levels, should allocate sufficient technical, financial, physical, technological, human resources. The majority of Youth Information Centers mentioned in the National Youth Policy are nearly nonfunctional. As a result, it is past time to invest in such innovative centers where youth can better utilize their time and advance to the utilization of their skills.

CSOs and stakeholders should prioritize youth development projects, programs, and budgets so that they are included in advocacy actions and opinion formation. This requires building capacities of youth capital. Hence, the stakeholders need to invest in youth leadership, capacity building and development of youth human capital. It is strongly advised to engage the local and national media in disseminating information about youth development and participation issues utilizing social media platforms that are popular among the youth. To make the Youth Vision 2025 a reality, youth, CSOs, and stakeholders should collaborate closely with local, provincial, and federal governments, particularly with young parliamentarians, youth focal points, and newly elected local representatives, to make them partners of local change. Youth programs and budgets are frequently cut when there are no active youth advocacy initiatives at the local level. As a result, the study advises youth organizations such as AYON to take the lead in advocating with Nepal's local levels to ensure that budgets and programs for the youth are prioritized.



## Chapter 1: Introduction

### Background:

National Youth Policy (NYP) was first promulgated in 2010 by the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS) Government of Nepal. The NYP was promulgated by forming a drafting committee comprising youth representing CSOs, political parties, corporate sectors. The committee organized several nation-wide consultations and meetings to draft the NYP. In order to implement the mandates governed by the NYP, MoYS established an apex body called National Youth Council in 2072 B.S. The National Youth Council (NYC) introduced Youth Vision 2025 in 2015 A.D.

Nepal is currently receiving the largest demographic dividend in its history. The National Youth Policy defines youth as the population between the ages of 16 and 40 which makes up 40.3 % of the total population. Having biggest proportion of youth in the national population is known as the "youth bulge" or "population dividend" and it is a rare opportunity for Nepal to engage, mobilize and gain optimum benefit for the nation<sup>4</sup>.

The Government of Nepal revised the National Youth Policy in 2015. In order to implement National Youth Policy, Ministry of Youth and Sports issued a strategic document called Youth Vision 2025 on October 6, 2015. The Youth Vision 2025 is a 10-year-long strategic plan document prepared by National Youth Council<sup>5</sup>.

Over 550,000 young people enter the workforce each year, and 91% of them choose to work abroad, particularly in Malaysia and the Gulf<sup>6</sup>. More than 30% of the country's GDP comes from remittances (payments or money sent back to Nepal from this exodus), and in the informal economy, this contribution is significantly higher (usually money sent through relatives and friends). The most problematic aspect is that more than 25% of the population can't cast the votes since they are outside of the nation. This indicates that youth involvement in civic spaces is quite low in Nepal, which is experiencing the biggest youth bulge in its history<sup>7</sup>.

### Objectives of the review:

The aim of this study is to examine the implementation status, process and background of youth policies in Nepal, how these policies affect young people's standing within the country, the current state of implementation and coordination of these policies, strategic plan of action such as Youth

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<sup>4</sup> <https://nepal.unfpa.org/en/node/10811>

<sup>5</sup> [https://moys.gov.np/sites/default/files/nitiheru/Youth%20Vision-2025\\_2.pdf](https://moys.gov.np/sites/default/files/nitiheru/Youth%20Vision-2025_2.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> <https://kathmandupost.com/money/2022/07/19/policy-failures-drive-nepalis-to-seek-their-fortunes-abroad>

<sup>7</sup> <https://wearerestless.org/2016/11/23/meaningful-participation-the-potential-of-youth-in-nepal/#:~:text=According%20to%20Nepal's%20National%20Youth,under%20the%20age%20of%2035.>



Vision 2025 and the various perceptions of youth and youth policy within the country. This study is also to be used to provide analysis and recommendations.

- To review the extent to which the National Youth Policy and Youth Vision 2025 strategies have been implemented in Nepal;
- To analyse the gaps and challenges in implementation of the policy and strategies
- To give a way forward on ways that would be effective in implementing the policies.

### **Rationale of the study:**

External factors such as socio-economic, political and demographic context have changed and no specific research and study pertaining to implementation of NYP and Youth Vision 2025 have been conducted in the past decade. Hence, the study has tried to trace the status of implementation of NYP and Youth Vision 2025 with regard to commitments made by the Government of Nepal for empowering, engaging and educating youth at local, provincial and federal level structures.

### **Key Questions of the study:**

1. What commitments are in place for empowering, meaningfully engaging and educating youth among the government and Civil Society Organizations? Are there any avenues of partnerships between the youth and the government?
2. How the National Youth Policy and Youth Vision 2025 has been implemented at province and local level?
3. Are there any studies/researches conducted to determine the status of youth of Nepal? Has the status of youth of Nepal improved over the past decade?

### **Methodology:**

The implementation status review of the NYP and Youth Vision 2025 assignment used a variety of methods, including interviews, discussions, and the utilization of secondary data that was readily available. The study's approach heavily relied on secondary sources, however, recommendations were derived on the basis of primary data obtained via discussions and interviews.

### **Desk Review**

The study conducted desktop review of the relevant and available books, policy documents, research, and journals in addition to project documentation to analyze implementation status of NYP and Youth Vision 2025,



## **Field Assessment**

The information gathered from the field and delivered to the respondents, who are either key or secondary stakeholders in the execution of the National Youth Policy, formed the basis for this review and assessment report. The information included in this report's analysis is firsthand data gathered from the key respondents working to execute the NYP. This NYP and Youth Vision 2025 status review framework was based on two key methods:

- a) Consultation Meeting with the project team, and
- b) Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)

### **Simple random sampling among the purposively sampled respondents:**

The review study employed straight forward procedures among the simple sampled respondents who were purposely sampled from a selected list of stakeholders to get data from the field. The study has included respondents from National Youth Council, Youth Action Nepal, Youth Development Center, AYON to extensively analyze and contrast the data's conclusions.

### **The technique of data collection:**

#### **Tools used:**

The implementation status review study involved Key Informant Interview guidelines and a set of questionnaires.

## **Consultation Meeting**

During the development of the assessment tools and desk review activities, the review study set up several in-person and online meetings with the relevant AYON staff members. These consultation sessions covered the strategy and study priorities in addition to offering suggestions and direction for data collecting.

## **Draft and final report preparation**

- NYP implementation status draft report: A preliminary report was drafted based on data collected from the initial desk review, which includes evident gaps and hypothesis discovered from the review of secondary data and literature.
- Finalization of the NYP implementation status report: Suggestions and recommendations provided by the selected respondents were incorporated along with the results and findings derived from the implementation status review of the National Youth Policy and Youth Vision 2025 study to prepare the final report.



### **Data/ information management, and analysis:**

Based on the interviews given by the respondents included in the assignment, a narrative project assessment study report has been created. Utilizing information gathered from desk reviews, key informant interviews with members of National Youth Council, Youth Development Center, Youth Action Nepal, and consultative sessions with the AYON team, the narrative analysis for this report was prepared.

### **Limitations:**

The results of the implementation status review of the NYP and Youth Vision 2025 are based on a small sample of respondents, therefore they might not represent the views of all those who were not included in the study. Additionally, the study's conclusions were drawn from secondary data that was accessible at the time.

Only future youth policy implementation plans may be developed using the results of this review study as it suggests concrete recommendations to the stakeholders responsible to localize National Youth Policy and Youth Vision 2025.



### The National Youth Policy

The nation's youth workforce is a priceless resource. In addition to being a crucial resource for the state, youth and adolescents also act as change agents. The youth are the change-drivers and economic, social, political, and cultural transformation pioneers. Given that young people are the nation's foundation from both qualitative and quantitative viewpoints, it is crucial to prioritize their general development and integrate them into the core of national development.<sup>8</sup>

With the objectives to develop and expand the role of the youth and their prospects in nation building and national development, the NYP has been revised in 2015. The policy also aims to make the youth responsible and accountable by making them dedicated and committed towards the nation and nationality, the people and the Federal Democratic Republic. In addition, it has highlighted the competence inherent in the youth class by establishing them as the basic power of the nation through the development of creativity, entrepreneurship and investigative competence in them. To add more, the policy targets to prepare competent youth who are of ethical, cultural, creative and professional nature through proper development of their physical, mental, intellectual, ethical and emotional sides by developing the culture of respecting labor. The NYP has also aimed at guaranteeing the basic rights of the youth and ensuring their access to productive resources, to involve them at all levels of policy and decision-making and implementation relating to political, economic, social and cultural sectors and to establish the youth as the agents of national development by promoting their leadership capacity through gender sensitivity. The policy further adds up to assist the youth who are in the process of gaining education and in the sensitive state of establishing their identity in the society in personal and social development including their education, employment, profession etc. And finally, it has also aimed to bring the youths belonging to the priority and the special priority groups in the main stream of development by empowering them through the means of positive discrimination<sup>9</sup>.

### Youth Vision 2025

A concrete and unique strategic work plan called "Youth Vision 2025" was launched with a long-term vision in order to fulfill youth rights, needs, and ambitions. It has internalized the four "A"s and four "S"s of the Directive Principle. However, during the review, no concrete relation with four "A"s and four "P"s could be found either in abbreviated form or in a correlated version. The Youth Vision 2025 has placed an emphasis on the national spirit, unity, equity, justice, courtesies, and other qualities necessary for the country's prosperity. In order to achieve economic opulence by investing heavily in

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<sup>8</sup> [https://www.youthpolicy.org/national/Nepal\\_2010\\_National\\_Youth\\_Policy.pdf](https://www.youthpolicy.org/national/Nepal_2010_National_Youth_Policy.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.moys.gov.np/sites/default/files/nitiheru/National%20Youth%20Policy%202072\\_2.pdf](https://www.moys.gov.np/sites/default/files/nitiheru/National%20Youth%20Policy%202072_2.pdf)



the youth, it has put the issue of raising responsible youth at the forefront. "Youth Vision 2025" has established five strategic Pillars viz.,

- a. Qualitative and Professional Education,
- b. Employment, Entrepreneurship and Skill Development,
- c. Health and Social Security,
- d. Mobilization, Participation and Leadership Development, and
- e. Sports and Entertainment of the young people taking into account the development made in the youth sector at the international level and the situation in Nepal.

While international organizations like the United Nations and the World Bank regard the age range of 15 to 24 years to be the youth, most countries have set the youth age to be between 15 and 35 years. The National Youth Council Act, 2072(2015), which was passed in Nepal, established the age range of 16 to 40 as the youth age. When looking at the population of Nepal, those between the ages of 16 and 40 appear to make up 40.3 % of the total, and in the upcoming decade, this number is certain to rise even further<sup>10</sup>.

"Youth Vision 2025" has divided it into two age groups of 16 to 24 years and 25 to 40 years, and the group-wise priorities have been defined in accordance, in the context of uniformity that has yet to be adopted with regard to the growth age group in various bodies of the Government of Nepal<sup>11</sup>.

### **Status of Youth of Nepal as described by Youth Vision 2025**

Nepal is ranked 145th in the world for youth development. Even when compared to South Asian nations, Nepal's index for young development appears to be lacking<sup>12</sup>. Despite the fact that the government only lists 2.3 % of young people in Nepal who are entirely unemployed, the percentage of young people who are semi-employed is close to 36%<sup>13</sup>. The International Labor Organization states that while there are 19.2% totally unemployed people, there are 28.3% semi-unemployed people. Nearly 36% of Nepal's youth labor force is unemployed and not involved in economic output or skilled labor. Youth with disabilities from minorities, or who are marginalized experience greater rates of unemployment. The survival of about half of the young labor force still depends on agriculture<sup>14</sup>. During review, employment data disaggregated by caste and ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation were not available.

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<sup>10</sup> MoYS, Youth Vision 2025, Pg 4.

<sup>11</sup> [https://moys.gov.np/sites/default/files/nitiheru/Youth%20Vision-2025\\_2.pdf](https://moys.gov.np/sites/default/files/nitiheru/Youth%20Vision-2025_2.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> MoYS, Youth Vision 2025, pg. 5

<sup>13</sup> CBS 2008; MOYS 2014(Restless Development and UNFPA); and ILO 2014.

<sup>14</sup> MoYS, Youth Vision 2025, Pg. 6



According to the NLSS III (2010/11), 56% of Nepalese households receive remittance and one in every two rural households receives remittance (CBS 2011). Poverty reduced from 25.2% in 2010 to 16.6% in 2019 (CBS 2011; MoF 2020)<sup>15</sup>.

### **Directive Policy put forward by the Youth Vision 2025**

The four 'A's and four 'S's as stated by Youth Vision 2025 are described below. However, the study was unable to correlate the 'A's and 'S's either in the sub-headings or in the explanation.

#### **Directive Policy: Four 'A'**

1. **Guarantee of Rights and Realization of Obligations:** For the sake of advancement of the youth, youth's access to education, employment, health, sports, entertainment and information technology should be ensured. Besides ensuring political, social, economic and cultural rights, this principle stresses on the role of the youth in nation building and realization about its obligations and internalizes the international commitment and collective concept related to the rights of the youth.
2. **Common Affluence, Sustainable Development and Peace:** Common affluence, sustainable development and peace are the route of progress for the new generation. This principle believes in protecting the nature and environment and transferring the same to the coming generation. It lays stress on the Millennium development goals, sustainable development and youth participation in the implementation of international commitment regarding global environmental change. Directing the programs towards conflict management, this principle shall incorporate a peace sensitive approach.
3. **National Unity among Diversity and Co-existence:** Diversity among the Nepali youth is natural as Nepal is a rich in geographical, social and cultural diversities. 125 castes and races, 123 language speakers and believers in 10 types of religions inhabit Nepal which is full of geographical diversities. It is the need of today to build a strong national identity by allowing these diversities and sub-identities to flower and flourish. Only through co-existence built amidst diversities, strong national unity and integrity can be maintained. The spirit of nationality can be made stronger only in the context of the history, geography, arts, literature and the totality of cultural diversities. "Youth Vision 2025" accords special significance to the role of the youth for awakening the spirit of nationalism by maintaining the nation, nationality, national unity and national integrity.
4. **Searching the Truth through Experience and Facts:** We should learn from the good practices and experiences of the national and international sectors. A Youth advancement plan should

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.nrb.org.np/contents/uploads/2021/08/NRB-WP-53-Impact-of-Remittances-Rohan-and-Mira-1.pdf#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20NLSS%20III,catalyst%20for%20reducing%20rural%20poverty.>





be designed by ascertaining the truth from actual facts. A scientific method should be followed to achieve the objective of advancement of the youth. In regard to youth advancement this principle stresses on specific to general and bottom up approaches.

**Directive Policy: Four ‘S’**

1. **Social Justice and Equality:** This principle brings forward the values of providing guarantee of justice and equality to the common youth. It also ensures prohibition on any type of discrimination practiced among the youth. Ending discriminations among the youth on the grounds of caste, region and sex, it brings forward the values which are determined on the basis of social security, justice and equality.
2. **Inclusion and Equitable Development:** This principle lays emphasis on inclusion in order to provide social justice and basic rights to the youths who are physically challenged, exposed to risks, gender and sexual minority, dalits, Madhesi, Muslims, adivasi janjatis, minorities and the marginalized and those who belong to Karnali and backward areas. Ensuring equitable development of every region through the process of inclusion, it also determines the basis of equitable advancement of the youths who are living below the poverty line.
3. **Protection and Promotion:** This principle ensures the rights of the youth belonging to the special priority group (such as physically challenged, exposed to risk, minorities, indigent and oppressed, dalits, Muslims, those belonging to Karnali) and internalizes the value of seeking their role as well in nation building by protecting, promoting and advancing them.
4. **Participation and Collaboration:** It is necessary to ensure participation of the common youth in the areas of economic, political, social and cultural development. Youth leadership can be established by bringing about economic and social transformation through youth's participation, collaboration and leadership. In a country like Nepal having level wise structures and diversities, it is necessary to promote the culture of youth's participation and collaboration. In order to push forward Nepal on the multi-dimensional world stage emerging in the 20th century, active international participation and collaboration of the young generation is essential. It lays emphasis on youth's participation and collaboration through democratic values, norms and procedures.

*Excerpt derived from Youth Vision 2025 document.*



## Chapter 3: Findings of the Status of Implementation of National Youth Policy and Youth Vision 2025

### Targets and achievements of Youth Vision 2025

"Youth Vision 2025" main strategic goal is to eliminate institutional discrimination and develop competent, competitive, and vocational youth resources. Institutional discrimination refers to social, economic, and cultural discrimination experienced by poor women, Dalits, Adibasi Janajatis, minorities, Muslim youth, and youth from Karnali and other less-developed regions. The main strategy of "Youth Vision 2025" is to achieve total economic advancement to create youth employment, as well as to create an investment-friendly environment for achieving equitable economic affluence and youth development by introducing political stability.

### Quantitative Goal Indicators set by Youth Vision 2025

Treating the main Pillars of youth advancement as the basis, "Youth Vision 2025" has fixed the following quantitative goal measuring indicators for every five years. Only the main areas were emphasized in the next ten years for youth advancement by including in the quantitative goal indicators by the Government of Nepal, Ministry of Youth and Sports. These five pillars including the corresponding quantitative goal indicators are set by the government that are illustrated in the Youth Vision 2025 strategic document.

#### Pillar 1: Quality and Vocational Education

Table 1: Quantitative Goal Indicators of the first Pillar:

Quality and Professional Education (Indicators)	Existing position	Goals	
		2020	2025
1. Percentage of those who have received skill oriented education from among the persons who have received formal education	5 <sup>16</sup>	15	25
2. Percentage of investment of the total budget for education in technical and skill-oriented education	2.3	10	15
4. Youth literacy (percentage)	71 <sup>17</sup>	100	100
Gender inequality (in youth literacy)	0.90	1	1
4. a) Pass percentage of students in higher education	12.7	38	50
b) Pass percentage in Higher Secondary School examination (Class 12)	47.55 <sup>18</sup>	65	75
5. Proportion of male and female students in higher education	0.71 <sup>19</sup>	0.90	1

(Source: Youth Vision 2025 And Ten-Year Strategic Plan, Nepal Government, MoYS)

<sup>16</sup> MoYS, 2014

<sup>17</sup> MOE/GoN, 2013/2014

<sup>18</sup> MoE, 2014

<sup>19</sup> ILO, 2014



Interviewing the representatives of the Youth Development Center and AYON, it was understood that the Government has invested a significant proportion of its annual budget for education. However, the result is yet to be satisfactory. Most of the budget is invested for formal education and less than 10% of education budget is invested for informal education. Mr. Khadka, President of Youth Development Center stated, it is hard to disaggregate education by the age group of the population. But, we find the statistics as per level of education. Ms. Thapa, Programme Manager of AYON, stated “drop-out rate among school-going children is still very high.”

The urgency of education reform lies in making drastic improvements in educational quality to ensure that the country's labor force has access to gainful jobs that provide career advancement opportunities and significant savings for their retirements. In Nepal around 12% of the youth aged 15-24 are uneducated, 10% have never completed primary education and 41% of the children leave schools before completing secondary education. Higher drop-out corresponds to unlikeliness to have the necessary skills to engage in gainful employment particularly among youth. In Nepal such a proportion of youth is 63%<sup>20</sup>.

The National Planning Commission has projected that the average financing gap to achieve the SDGs is estimated to be NRs 585 billion per year for the entire period of 2016 to 2030 (SSDP, 2016)<sup>21</sup>. It is an average 8.8% of GDP for 2016-19, 12.3% of GDP for 2020-22, 13% of GDP for 2023-25, and 16.4% of GDP for 2026-30. The overall annual financing gap is estimated at 12.8% of GDP throughout the period of 2016 to 2030 (NPC, 2020)<sup>22</sup>. As compared to 2014-15, the Government of Nepal has reduced the budget on education by 3% in the fiscal year 2021/22. The election manifesto of the current ruling party also mentions allocating at least 20% of the total national budget and at least 6% of GDP to the education sector<sup>23</sup>. However, this has not been translated into actions while declaring the budget from the government, hence education sector in Nepal is still under financed<sup>24</sup>. As stated above, almost 63% of youth never completed secondary level education and might therefore lack necessary skills for obtaining decent jobs. In order to fulfill the gap of lack of education among youth, the Government of Nepal needs to invest more on informal education.

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<sup>20</sup> <https://www.globalpartnership.org/sites/default/files/2019-05-nepal-education-sector-analysis.pdf>

<sup>21</sup> <https://thehimalayantimes.com/business/annual-financing-gap-of-rs-585-billion-to-meet-sustainable-development-goals-targets-national-planning-commission>

<sup>22</sup> [https://www.npc.gov.np/images/category/SDGs\\_Costing\\_Final\\_Version.pdf](https://www.npc.gov.np/images/category/SDGs_Costing_Final_Version.pdf)

<sup>23</sup> <https://kathmandupost.com/valley/2019/05/18/on-education-government-looks-generous-with-words-but-stingy-with-funds>

<sup>24</sup> [https://ncenepal.org.np/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Analysis-of-Federal-Education-Budget-FY-2021\\_22.pdf](https://ncenepal.org.np/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Analysis-of-Federal-Education-Budget-FY-2021_22.pdf)



**Table 2: Education budget of Nepal over time:**

Year	Total budget (in billion)	Education Budget (in billion)	% of Education Budget
2014-15	618.1	86.03	13.92%
2015-16	819.46	98.64	12.04%
2016-17	1048.9213	115.83	11.04%
2017-18	1278.9948	126.74	9.91%
2018-19	1315.1617	134.1875	10.20%
2019-20	1532.9671	163.7559	10.68%
2020-21	1474.6454	172.1922	11.68%
2021-22	1647.5767	180.0411	10.93%

(Source: National Campaign for Education)

The budget for education has increased almost by two and a half folds from NRS 86.03 million in 2014/15 to NRS 180.04 million in 2021/22. However, the education budget in 2014/15 shared 13.92% of the total national budget which is only 10.93% in 2021/22. Over the years from 2014/15 onwards, the education budget remained below 13.92%.

The share of the education budget to non-formal education has decreased in FY 2021/22 by 11.40% and also the share of uncategorized education has decreased by 11.64%. The reduction of the budget in this sector indicates that non-formal education, adult learning and lifelong learning is not a priority of the government. Apart from this, the share of the budget to subsidiary service to education has been dramatically increased by 32.56%. However, the services that comes under this subsidiary services could not be detailed out and extracted from the information available in the red book<sup>25</sup>.

Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) provides a full range of information, life skills and values to enable young people to make informed choices about their health and sexuality. . It is rights-based, age appropriate and gender-sensitive education that covers six key concepts as per the international standard: (1) Relationships; (2) Values, attitudes and skills, (3) Culture, society and human rights; (4) Human development; (5) Sexual behavior; and (6) Sexual and reproductive health<sup>26</sup>. However, the NYP and the Youth Vision 2025 strategic document has not mentioned anything about CSE.

<sup>25</sup> [https://ncenepal.org.np/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Analysis-of-Federal-Education-Budget-FY-2021\\_22.pdf](https://ncenepal.org.np/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Analysis-of-Federal-Education-Budget-FY-2021_22.pdf)

<sup>26</sup> [https://nepal.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Factsheet%20sexuality%20education\\_0.pdf](https://nepal.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Factsheet%20sexuality%20education_0.pdf)



## Pillar 2: Employment, Entrepreneurship and Skill Development

Table 3: Quantitative Goal Indicator of the Second Pillar:

Skill Development, Employment and Entrepreneurship (Indicators)	Existing position	Goals	
		2020	2025
1. a) Youth full unemployment ratio (15-29 years)	19% <sup>27</sup>	12%	5%
b) Youth semi-unemployment ratio (15- 29 years)	28.9% <sup>28</sup>	18%	10%
2 Unemployment ratio of those having higher education	26.1 <sup>29</sup>	13	5
3 Foreign employment number of persons going daily to foreign countries:	1500 <sup>30</sup>	750	375
• Skilled	1%	20%	50%
• Semi-skilled	25%	70%	50%
• Unskilled	74% <sup>31</sup>	10%	0
4 Annual direct employment generation	35 thousands	2 lacs	3 lacs
5 Ratio of investment in reproduction from remittance	2% <sup>32</sup>	10%	20%
6 a) Small enterprises and youth self-employment	28 thousand	60 thousand	1 hundred and 20 thousand
b) total investment	2 billion 67 million <sup>33</sup>	10 billion	20 billion
7 Ratio of youth participation in economic production (percentage)	55.4 <sup>34</sup>	65	75
8 Ratio of unemployment among the marginalized, the minority and the physically challenged youths	23 <sup>35</sup>	9	5

<sup>27</sup> ILO, 2014

<sup>28</sup> ILO, 2014

<sup>29</sup> MOF/GoN 2071 Economics Survey, 2070-2071

<sup>30</sup> CBS, National Living Standard Survey 2011/2012

<sup>31</sup> Nepal life Standard Assessment Survey, 2011/2012

<sup>32</sup> MoF/GoN, 2014, Economic Survey 2013-2014

<sup>33</sup> MoYS, 2014, Nepali Youth in Figures, Kathmandu: Ministry of Youth and Sports, (based on CBS data 2011.)

<sup>34</sup> ILO, 2014

<sup>35</sup> MoYS, 2014, Nepali Youth in Figures 2014



9 Ratio of gender inequality in general employment	0.50 <sup>36</sup>	0.75	1
10 Youth employment sector percentage			
• Industry	6.8%	10%	13.6%
• Services	19.3% <sup>37</sup>	23%	30%
11 Percentage of total young women engaged in domestic chores ( of 16 to 40 years age group)	34.2% <sup>38</sup>	22%	17.1%
12 Annual skill- oriented trainings (at government level)	68 thousand	1.5 lakh	2 hundred thousand

(Source: Youth Vision 2025 And Ten-Year Strategic Plan, Nepal Government, MoYS)

According to the Nepal Labour Force Survey 2018-19, the country's unemployment rate is 11.4%. Males make up 511,000 of the overall unemployed population, while females make up 397,000. Male unemployment is 10.3%, while female unemployment is 13.1%<sup>39</sup>. The overall participation rate is 38.5 percent, with males making up 53.8% and females 26.3% of the labor force. The participation rate reveals the amount of people who have finished their education and are prepared for full-time employment<sup>40</sup>. The bureau claims that past polls included self-employed people in the labor force as well. According to the report, there are 11.6 % urban unemployed people and 10.9% rural unemployed people<sup>41</sup>. Nearly 39.3% of the labor force that is employed is underemployed. Those who work fewer than 40 hours a week but would be willing to work extra hours are said to be underutilizing their labor. Underemployment rates for men and women are 32% and 48% respectively. This demonstrates that there are more women doing part-time employment<sup>42</sup>. Ratio of female to male youth unemployment rate (% ages 15-24) (modeled ILO estimate) in Nepal was reported at 77.67% in 2020<sup>43</sup>.

The quality of employment, which is linked to the prevalence of employment in the informal sectors of the economy where productivity and incomes are low and working conditions are subpar, presents a greater challenge for Nepal. The result of this is that many people are underemployed, or what are known as the working poor. Additionally, improving these workers' productivity, pay, and working

<sup>36</sup> ILO, 2014, Labor market transition of young women and men in Nepal

<sup>37</sup> MoYS, 2014, Nepali Youth in Figures, 2014.

<sup>38</sup> PMO/GoN 2012. A study conducted in selected districts of Nepal about gender violence

<sup>39</sup> [https://nepalindata.com/media/resources/items/20/bNLFS-III\\_Final-Report.pdf](https://nepalindata.com/media/resources/items/20/bNLFS-III_Final-Report.pdf)

<sup>40</sup> <https://kathmandupost.com/money/2019/04/27/nepals-unemployment-rate-estimated-at-114-percent>

<sup>41</sup> <https://www.ceslam.org/national-surveys/report-on-the-nepal-labour-force-survey-2017-2018>

<sup>42</sup> <https://kathmandupost.com/money/2019/04/27/nepals-unemployment-rate-estimated-at-114-percent>

<sup>43</sup> <https://tradingeconomics.com/nepal/ratio-of-female-to-male-youth-unemployment-rate-percent-ages-15-24-modeled-ilo-estimate-wb-data.html>



conditions is a significant component of the employment dilemma. Therefore, the Government of Nepal needs more investment on youth skill development. Many workers, particularly young people, have chosen to migrate abroad for better pay and job dignity. Because they are not as well protected as our employees at home, they cannot receive the full benefits<sup>44</sup>.

Mr. Ashok Rana, Vice-Chairperson of Youth Action Nepal, during interview, stated that the Nepali youth are highly mobile vis-à-vis finding decent jobs. They find it more convenient to go abroad rather than find jobs locally. To add more, he said that more than 30% of the GDP comes from abroad, hence it is essential to develop skills among the youth who wish to be employed abroad. Similarly, the NYC representative said that the Ministry of Youth and Sports lacks such technical expertise and needs increased coordination among line ministries.

### Pillar 3: Youth Health and Social Security

**Table 4: Quantitative Goal Indicators of Third Pillar:**

Health and Social Security (Indicators)	Existing position	Goals	
		2020	2025
1. The percentage of total treatment expenses borne by the state for the youth suffering from the non-transmitted disease of serious type	25 estimated	50	75
2. Percentage of victims of gender violence	28 <sup>45</sup>	14	<5
3. Percentage of the youth involved for the first time in drug addiction (15-19 years)	53.4 <sup>46</sup>	26.7	13.3
4. Percentage of adolescent boys and girls having knowledge about HIV and AIDS	29.8 <sup>47</sup>	80	98
5. Reproduction rate (in remote areas and Madhesh)	4.6 <sup>48</sup>	3	2.3
6. Sustainable access to reformed cleanliness	62 <sup>49</sup>	80	<95

(Source: Youth Vision 2025 And Ten-Year Strategic Plan, Nepal Government, MoYS)

Gender-based Violence (GBV) occurs as a result of each gender's normative role expectations, as well as unequal power relationships between genders, within the context of a specific society. Domestic violence, marital rape, dowry-related violence, child marriage, polygamy, female infanticide, witchcraft accusations, Chhaupadi, and sexual exploitation of women and girls are all common GBV

<sup>44</sup> <https://www.ilo.org/kathmandu/areasofwork/employment-promotion/lang--en/index.htm>

<sup>45</sup> MoWCW/GoN, The state of Children of Nepal 2011

<sup>46</sup> Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2011

<sup>47</sup> CBS, 2011

<sup>48</sup> MDGS, GoN, 2014

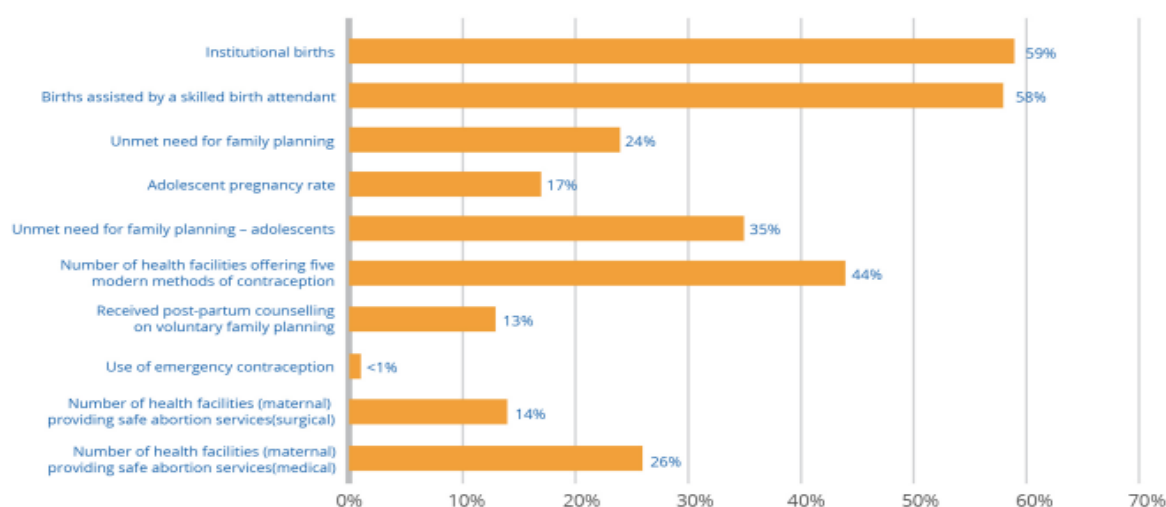
<sup>49</sup> Youths to be mobilized by National Planning Commission, Self-Employment Fund etc





and harmful practices in Nepal. Survivors of violence may suffer from both physical and psychological trauma<sup>50</sup>. Women and girls in Nepal may suffer from sexual and reproductive health issues such as forced and unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions, traumatic fistula, sexually transmitted infections such as HIV, and even death<sup>51</sup>.

The impact of met and unmet needs for family planning services, reproductive health, and ultimately national future strength in terms of human resources and national progress is influenced by the age at first marriage. Nonetheless, according to Central Bureau of Statistics (2015), 15.5% of women aged 15 were first married, and 48.5% of women were first married or in union before the age of 18. Similarly, the percentage of women aged 15 to 18 who are currently married or in a relationship was 24.5% (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2014). It emphasizes that there are still many tasks to be completed in order to promote adolescent health. Low marriage age is not just a life event; it also carries many potential risk factors such as early motherhood, unintended birth, and unsafe abortion, and complications. In Nepal, early marriage has been associated with early childbearing, with an age-specific birth rate of 71 for women aged 15-19 and 16 for women aged 20-24 who had at least one live birth before the age of 18<sup>52</sup>.



(Source: <https://nepal.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/factsheet-final.pdf>)

The United Nations Population Fund has stated that the Maternal Mortality per 100,000 live births stands at 239. It illustrates that every year 1200 women die due to puerperal causes which is three women per day. It also mentions that many women and girls in remote areas and from marginalized groups are unable to exercise their choice over their bodies, their lives and their futures as nearly one

<sup>50</sup> <https://un.info.np/Net/NeoDocs/View/7466>

<sup>51</sup> <https://nepal.unfpa.org/en/publications/fact-sheet-gender-based-violence-nepal>

<sup>52</sup> <https://www.wvi.org/sites/default/files/Child%20Marriage%20in%20Nepal-%20Report.pdf>





in three rural women who want to delay or postpone pregnancy are not using a modern method of contraceptive – this figure is significantly higher in hard-to-reach populations in Nepal<sup>53</sup>.

**Pillar 4: Mobilization, Participation and Leadership Development**  
**Table 5: Quantitative Indicators of the 4th Pillar**

Mobilization, Participation and Leadership Development (Indicators)	Existing position	Goals	
		2020	2025
1. Annual volunteer's mobilization number: • Regular volunteers • Casual volunteers	750 <sup>54</sup> ---	1500 150000	2500 200000
2. Percentage of youth participation in local bodies  Percentage of budget in local bodies for youth promotion	--- None	25 10	50 10
3. Number of participations in youth exchange program	300	600	1200
4. Percentage of youth in Parliament (of less than 30 years age group)	7% <sup>55</sup>	10%	15%
5. Number of youth taking leadership training(Annual)	---	500	1000

(Source: Youth Vision 2025 And Ten-Year Strategic Plan, Nepal Government, MoYS)

Volunteerism is leveraged to help achieve societal changes through active and selfless contribution by the volunteer. In February 2020, the cabinet of Ministers announced the interested students completing bachelors' and master's degree to contribute for teaching volunteerism. During the review, no further data on the progress on volunteerism was found. In addition, it was known through the desk review that in 2021, the Government of Nepal is in the process of drafting National Volunteer Policy<sup>56</sup>. From the part of the government, promoting volunteerism among the youth population is little observed. However, several organizations have promoted youth volunteerism in their organizational projects and programmes. During the KII with the representative of Youth Development Center, Mr. Arun Khadka said that volunteerism in Nepal is mainly promoted by the Civil Society Organizations including the UN.

<sup>53</sup> <https://nepal.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/factsheet-final.pdf>

<sup>54</sup> Youths to be mobilized by National Planning Commission, Self-Employment Fund etc.

<sup>55</sup> Those belonging to 16-40 years age group considered as youth

<sup>56</sup> <https://en.setopati.com/view/155256>



Regarding the youth participation in political affairs, recently conducted local elections in May 2022 had 41% of local candidates as youth<sup>57</sup>. To this day, only 5% of the Nepali youth is represented in the federal parliament, as opposed to the global average of 13%<sup>58</sup>.

## Pillar 5: Sports and Entertainment

**Table 6: Quantitative Goal Indicators of the 5th Pillar:**

Sports and Entertainment (Indicators)	Existing position	Goals	
		2020	2025
1. Position in South Asian Games	Fourth	Third	Second
2. Number of medals in Asian Games	1	5	10
3. Cricket	ACC twenty 20 Qualifier ICC Division 1 Qualifier	ICC 20 Twenty World Cup ICC world cup	ICC top 12 Rank
4. Number of Sports to qualify for the Olympics	--	5	7
5. Percentage of the total budget investment in Sports	0.23	1.5	2

(Source: Youth Vision 2025 And Ten-Year Strategic Plan, Nepal Government, MoYS)

Nepal has participated all 13 South Asian Games and has been 2nd-ranked two times. Nepal performed best in the 2019 South Asian Games standing in second position with a medal tally of 207 including 51 Gold Medals<sup>59</sup>. Nepal first competed at the Asian Games in 1951 and was able to secure 11 medals<sup>60</sup>. Nepal made its first One-Day International (ODI) appearance against the Netherlands. After becoming an Associate member of the International Cricket Council (ICC) in 1996, Nepal's national cricket team achieved the status for the first time in 22 years<sup>61</sup>.

Nepal made its maiden appearance in the ICC global event at the 2014 ICC World Twenty 20 in Bangladesh. Nepal holds the 13<sup>th</sup> position in the ICC ranking<sup>62</sup>. Nepal has never missed a single Summer Olympics event. However, with a near-perfect attendance record since its debut in

<sup>57</sup> <https://english.onlinekhabar.com/local-elections-young-and-old.html>

<sup>58</sup> <https://www.freiheit.org/south-asia/youth-participation-politics-shared-vision-and-sustainability-federalism-nepal>

<sup>59</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nepal\\_at\\_the\\_South\\_Asian\\_Games](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nepal_at_the_South_Asian_Games)

<sup>60</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nepal\\_at\\_the\\_Asian\\_Games](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nepal_at_the_Asian_Games)

<sup>61</sup> <https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/nepal-embarks-on-new-journey-of-odi-cricket/>

<sup>62</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nepal\\_national\\_cricket\\_team](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nepal_national_cricket_team)



1964, Nepal is yet to win its first ever Olympic medal<sup>63</sup>. The government has allocated Rs. 2.46 billion for the Ministry of Youth and Sports for the Fiscal Year 2079/80. The budget allocated for the Ministry of Youth and Sports is 280 million less than the previous year<sup>64</sup>. Interviewing with the NYC representatives, it was known that MoYS has not done any research and study particularly on youth and depends upon the national census data. It has also planned to extend the youth council offices in each of the local levels of Nepal.

## **Youth Civic Engagement and Political Participation**

The NYP in its Article 10. Strategy and Action Policy, clause (E) Participation and Mobilization, sub-clause (3) has stated that it aims to increase the meaningful participation of the youth in the peace process of Nepal, reconstruction of the state and the act of nation building thereafter, emphasis shall be laid on the leading role of the youth in its implementation<sup>65</sup>.

Currently there are a large number of registered Non-Governmental Organizations in Nepal. Social Welfare Council has registered 49,739 NGOs in Nepal. However, there is always a debate about the exact number of CSOs that currently exist<sup>66</sup>.

Active engagement of young people in civic and political processes and spheres of life in the first hand is very crucial to ensure governments are representative of youth and aware of their priorities and holding the duty bearers accountable on the other<sup>67</sup>. Political participation includes a broad range of activities through which people develop and express their opinions on the world and how it is governed, and try to take part in and shape the decisions that affect their lives. People with disabilities, minority groups, representatives from LGBTIQ communities may face many barriers to political participation, and many choose not to participate in politics because the issues that concern them are often ignored and/or they feel they have limited power to influence change and decision-making<sup>68</sup>. Therefore, it is inevitable to ensure more young people with disabilities, representatives from LGBTIQ communities, minority groups and others participate at all levels of decision-making processes so that their voice is heard, they are seen, and they are meaningfully engaged in matters relating to their growth and development.

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<sup>63</sup> <https://english.khabarhub.com/2022/20/233409/>

<sup>64</sup> <https://www.collegenp.com/article/youth-and-sports-budget-for-the-fiscal-year-2079-80/>

<sup>65</sup> National Youth Policy 2072. Pg. 14

<sup>66</sup> [https://www.britishcouncil.org.np/sites/default/files/nepal\\_csos\\_landscape\\_study\\_final\\_report.pdf](https://www.britishcouncil.org.np/sites/default/files/nepal_csos_landscape_study_final_report.pdf)

<sup>67</sup> <https://www.ifes.org/news/increasing-youth-political-participation-nepal>

<sup>68</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK310967/#:~:text=Political%20participation%20includes%20a%20broad,decisions%20that%20affect%20their%20lives.>



### Summary and Conclusions

Nepal saw historic political changes and transition in recent years particularly after 2010. Since then the country has made tangible progress in emphasizing youth rights and increasing its policy focus on youth. In the year 2010, the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS) launched the country's first National Youth Policy, which focused solely on the rights and needs of youth. This policy defined youth on a national scale. Initially it defined youth as the population between the age group 16-40 years. Though the definition is still somewhat contentious, its creation and existence show that Nepal recognizes the importance of youth in society. In the later amendment done in 2015, the age was revised to 16-35 years.

After the issuance of National Youth Policy, some inventive steps were taken by the government of Nepal. For example, formation of National Youth Council and annexing district committee chapters of youth councils in 71 districts of Nepal<sup>69</sup>. It is a positive step towards implementing National Youth Policy, Youth Vision 2025, and SDGs that the National Youth Council is extending to all the local levels of Nepal.

### Recommendations

Implementation of National Youth Policy is still in process and the implementation has been weak. It is now a high time to prioritize effective implementation of the youth policy with concrete actions and measures at all spheres. On the basis of the study, it has recommended the following:

#### Recommendations to the three levels of Government of Nepal:

##### At the federal government level:

- Nepal's federal, provincial, and local governments need to invest in educating concerned representatives and employees about the NYP and Youth Vision 2025.
- Nepal's federal, provincial, and local governments need to increase investment in educating concerned representatives and employees about the NYP and Youth Vision 2025. Since the NPC estimated a financial deficit of NRs 585 billion per year to achieve the SDG for the entire period of 2016 to 2030, it is challenging for Nepali youth to find their needs being addressed. Hence, the Government of Nepal needs to show political commitment to invest more in youth and achieve the SDGs.

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<sup>69</sup> <https://nyc.gov.np/en/district-committee/>



- Government of all three spheres need to increase sectoral budgets and programs, particularly to meet the Youth Vision 2025 indicators. Although the youth policy document emphasizes the rights of Nepali youth and Youth Vision 2025 as an action document, it is unlikely that this policy will be implemented because the government of Nepal has reduced the budget for education by 3% and youth development programs.
- Greater coordination among ministries across three tiers, federal and sub-national line ministries, youth organizations, civil society organizations, private sectors, and other stakeholders is required to meet the Youth Vision 2025 targets.
- Government should take measures for the establishment of effective communication and coordination mechanism among various organizations to facilitate proper information sharing and effective communication reducing miscommunication and duplication of efforts. For this, the Government of Nepal needs to extend the youth committee chapters to the local levels as well.
- In order to reach and meaningfully engage local youth, the National Youth Council should take a lead role to establish youth chapters in all the local governments of Nepal.
- All government ministries should recognize youth as a priority population segment. This allows each ministry to act for meaningful participation of youth in all decision-making levels, such as local, federal, and provincial. There is also a need to orient the youth focal points of Nepal's various ministries recommends Nepal's government to hold sensitization events for its employees, youth focal points, and newly elected representatives at the local level to ensure that youth issues are prioritized in their respective programs and policies.

#### **At the provincial government level:**

- During the study, it was also found that no youth-specific study and research were implemented by the Government of Nepal. Hence, it is recommended to the Provincial Government of Nepal to design and implement a province level youth status survey rather than depending upon census data. This generates knowledge on the status of the specific group of youth population in each province level.
- Nepalese youth require both education, employment and entrepreneurial skills. As a result, an effective education policy for youth is recommended, with a focus on education that can lead to employment. Education and training should concentrate on skills and technical areas relevant to local job opportunities. Province level governments should design specific policy and programmes that address unique needs of the youth at the province levels.

#### **The local government level:**

- The local government should invest in youth and ensure that there is meaningful participation of youth in all their diversity such as LGBTIQ community, minority groups, rural, uneducated,



living with HIV, Dalit, Janajati, Muslim, Madhesi, and person with disabilities in all stages of governance, decision-making and developmental process – policy, plan and legislation development. and

- In addition, all three levels of government should take adequate measures to engage youth constructively in sector such as sports, cultural preservation, tourism, or other activities to strengthen their agency and reduce the risk and vulnerability of abuse, violence and other negative outcomes social activities.
- Adolescent and Youth Information Centers that are established in local levels currently lack resources and funding due to a declining budget and the government's priority on youth and adolescent issues. It is strongly recommended to increase budgets and programs so that these agencies have adequate resources to attract more youth. The majority of Youth Information Centers are nearly nonfunctional. Therefore, the government needs to invest in such innovative centers where youth can better utilize their time and advance to the utilization of their skills.

#### **Recommendations to the Civil Society Organizations and stakeholders:**

- In the last decade, the youth movement in Nepal has grown in strength and recognition. To capitalize on the spirit of the youth movement, CSOs and stakeholders should prioritize youth development projects, programs, and budgets so that they are included in advocacy actions and opinion formation. This requires building capacities of youth capital. Hence, the Government of Nepal needs to invest in youth leaderships.
- It is strongly recommended to engage the local and national media in disseminating information about youth development and participation issues utilizing social media platforms that are popular among the youth.
- To make the Youth Vision 2025 a reality, youth, CSOs, and stakeholders should collaborate closely with local, provincial, and federal governments, particularly with young parliamentarians, youth focal points, and newly elected local representatives, to make them partners of change. Youth programs and budgets are frequently cut when there are no active youth advocacy initiatives at the local level. The study recommends youth organizations such as AYON to take the lead in advocating with Nepal's local levels to ensure that budgets and programs for the youth are prioritized.
- When stakeholders consider developing programs for youth, they should consider them as a diverse group rather than as a homogeneous group. The programs should thus be developed to meet the diverse needs of various groups of youth based on their education, skills, knowledge, interests, sexual orientations, caste, and place of residence.





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### 1) The KII guidelines and set of questions

Guidelines for Focused Group Discussions/ KIIs:

#### INTRODUCTION:

Introducing each other among the status review consultant, moderators, note keepers (translators if necessary), and the participants

Sharing general information about the study process

Asking for oral and written consent to take notes and photographs

The only purpose of note-taking is to ensure that the information collected is precise and not missed.

#### AGREE ON GROUP NORMS:

Participation is voluntary – any participant can leave whenever they want to

No one is obligated to respond to any questions if s/he does not wish

Participant/s can leave the discussion at any time

No one is obligated to share personal experiences if s/he does not wish

If sharing examples or experiences, individual names should not be shared

Be respectful when others speak: speak one at a time

Everyone has an opportunity to speak and no one person should dominate the discussion: avoid interrupting or monopolizing

There is no right or wrong answer

We shall consume approximately an hour of this day

There is no provision of remuneration for the participation

#### AGREE ON CONFIDENTIALITY:

Keep all discussions confidential and use the obtained information only for this study

Do not share details of the discussion later, whether with people who are present or not

If someone asks, explain that you were speaking about the "Status Review of the Implementation of National Youth policy and Youth Vision 2025 strategies".

Filling up of consent form

#### A) KII with the representative of the National Youth Council and youth organizations:

Date:

Venue:

Time:

Purpose: This example includes questions for representatives of NYC and youth organizations who are either responsible to implement National Youth Policy or advocate for its implementation. The questions need to be tailored to the person being interviewed.

Venue: The same place where the participants/respondents are available (E.g., Students and teachers when they are at school or in the community setting).



Respondents' number: 1 Nos.

Interviewer: 1 Nos.

Rapporteur: 1 Nos. (if any)

Photographer: 1 Nos. (if any)

Time frame: 45 - 60 minutes

Introduction to the interviewee: Thank you for taking the time to meet with me. We are keen to listen to your views and experiences on the status of "The Implementation of National Youth Policy and Youth Vision 2025 Strategies". The findings will be kept anonymous if you wish to, and all the information will be used to recommend the Government of Nepal to prioritize youth programmes for the effective implementation of National Youth Policy and Youth Vision 2025.

(The interviewer should make sure that s/he is well aware of the questions, has a recording device, and gets oral permission from the respondent/s if they are comfortable with the recording work done of the discussion thereafter. Snapping pictures is done with written and oral permission.)

### Potential questions:

Please briefly introduce your name and job role

- How is your organization working with youth and young people?
- How is your organization empowering, engaging and educating youth?
- Has your organization involved with MoYS for the implementation of National Youth Policy and Youth Vision 2025?
- What data are available about the status of youth of Nepal?
- Has the status of youth of Nepal improved over the past decade? How can you assure it?
- How can the government work more on youth issues?
- Have you realized the importance of youth partnerships? How?
- Could you please suggest youth related projects and programmes with respect to implementation of National Youth Policy and Youth Vision 2025?
- Has your organization implemented any research related to youth? If yes, could you please share it?
- Are there any barriers for the implementation of National Youth Policy and Youth Vision 2025?

Thank you very much for your time.

## 2. List of Respondents

S.No.	Name of Respondents	Organization	Designation
01	Jagdish Kumar Ayer	National Youth Council	Member
02	Arun Khadka	Youth Development Center	Chairperson
03	Ashok Rana	Youth Action Nepal	Vice-chairperson
04	Asmita Thapa	Association of Youth Organizations Nepal	Programme Manager

