



## Urban political responsiveness –strategies to sensitize urban youth – a historical perspective

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### Abstract

Urban youth in India lag behind their rural counterparts in political responsiveness. Their ratio of participation in political activities is very poor & their attendance in voting is too meager. The reason behind these may be various but Indian urban youth need to speed up in their political involvement. Urban youth comprise 52 % of the urban population & they play a key role in Indian political scenario. This paper examines the reasons behind their poor involvement & addresses the strategies which can be stimulating to make the urban people more responsive.

**Key words:** political activities, government, NGOs

### Introduction

India is a country of youth. But the participation of youth especially urban youth in political decision making process is very less. Urbanites with their busy schedules of profession life neglect their political duties. The responsiveness is very meager Hence the government & NGOs have been working round the clock to make the urbanites involve in political life with eagerness & responsibility. The creation of this accountability is a very challenging job & India being a multi-faceted& culturally plural country needs to frame an integrated &comprehensive policy towards this. ( Arveen shaheel - Research Methodology Report On Understanding Voting Behaviors In Urban Youth 2014).

### Key indicators:

1. Urban Indians voter turnout is very less. nearly 75 % of the youth stay away from voting
2. urban youth comprise nearly 65 % of the total urban population but their involvement in political associations is very less
3. Urban youth stay away from political participation because they are not satisfied with the present political scenario which is full of false promises & corruption.
4. Youth do not have icons or ideal leadership which they could consider their patrons
5. Youth are dissatisfied with the governmental policy towards employment generation.



6. Youth anger towards policy framers neglecting their key role in nation's advancement towards progress has caused youth to stay away from politics.
7. Youth lack trust in present political setup as there is no transparency in governance.
8. they have no direct influence in politics their initiatives are not taken seriously
9. they do not have platforms to voice their political involvement
10. Participation is not tapped in time political parties instead of using their potentialities to harness development, misuse their power.
11. Youth deter from political because they lack time > the chunk of their time is sent in academics & rest of the time they are busy with their computers & internet.
12. Politics is an institutionally dependent system but in India this reliance has been badly represented.
13. Participation youth is not taken seriously by elder politicians
14. Lack of information on political developments also causes disinterest.

But recent election in Delhi (2014) has shown a new change towards urban youth involving themselves in politics with voter

turnout of 72 %. This was a clear indication of youth if convinced of transparency in governance will definitely support politics & involve in policy making. ( Is youth revolution brewing in India – press report by New York times 2014).

**The Strategies** - urban youth being very high in academics need to understand & identify the importance of their involvement. ( Arveen shaheel - Research Methodology Report On Understanding Voting Behaviors In Urban Youth 2014). As a major shift in policy making the youth should be given an active role in all phases of decision making.

1. They are India's future hence they need all attention . all legislative & policy framers should give top priority to youth issues.
2. They should be stimulated to share the political arena through participation in debates personal interest , collective stimulation
3. A sustainable democratic system with a focus on the integration of minorities & all sections of youth irrespective of caste / creed is necessary
4. Government should stand for renewal of standards of participation strengthen institutions which the youth can consider their own
5. Youth concerns are sidelined their role as key actors in



developmental process in to be recognized

### **Role of Education in Mentoring Youth**

1. Educational institutions play a vital role in stimulating & creating awareness about political developments.
2. education of political process should a be a part of the academic curriculum
3. Political associations at school & college level must be formed to educate youth about political theories.
4. Youth should be given experimental knowledge about working of parliament, session s, question hours , political debates , passing of budget etc. These initiatives will provide a healthy platform for youth to open up /
5. this enhances their belief & conviction in democratic principles
6. they learn to become participatory through involvement .A mock parliament can instill a sense of political leadership in youth
7. youth should be made to learn the o principles of freedom of expression right to objective information reasoning
8. The renewed education system should promote debates &

healthy discussions on political matters .

9. open minded atmosphere can make youth to come up with their issues such as campus ragging , drug addiction , liquor trading near campus , gender equity , etc ( Is youth revolution brewing in India – press report by New York times 2014).
10. educational Institutions should reinforce fair information on all contemporary political developments
11. Introduction of a course on dedicated to democracy would be very supportive. Some urban colleges provide mandatory paper on Indian constitution , public administration , international relations , foreign affairs , Indian national movement , local self-government , panchayat raj institutions
12. Government should allocate funds to educational institutions on resources means to guarantee independent teaching methodologies.
13. College campuses as should be made to deliver an analytical view of the political legislation. This helps youth to gather objective information about legislations. (Sanjay



- kumar Indian youth & electoral politics 2013).
14. All faculties should have training in democratic ideals which in turn will help to facilitate youth.
  15. The government should provide for reservations for youth if youth representation becomes a reality it will supplement further participation
  16. The youth are techno savvy hence political involvement through e-participation should be speeded up with online tools, direct feedback mechanism, voting with public computers, etc
  17. The youth should be informed on the process of decision-making with full transparency in election process is needed. This calls for bureaucratic simplification & user friendly administration structure is needed
  18. But improving socio economic policies for youth who need employment, education, good housing, good livelihood assurances from government, hence government should focus in these issues in policy making so that youth can promise themselves to be a part of the community. (Sanjay kumar Indian youth & electoral politics 2013).
  19. Both central & state governments should uniformly provide solid & valuable initiatives with structured dialogue process with youth which assist youth to know their ability is streamlined.
  20. Youth need civics education even from elementary level & they need capacity building through trainings & orientations. The prevailing access communication lacks feedback information base hence feedback gaps in legislations have to be handled immediately. This equips the youth with analytical reporting skills common tools online platforms fulfillment of constitutional roles (Research foundation for governance in India - report 2013).

**Conclusion:** Youth participation in Urban India needs a total review. Governance should be accountable before bringing about any other reforms. Youth are a nation's futuristic treasure hence their key role should not be neglected. Democracy has to be made a strong impact on the answering the challenges of youth. The changing modes of political mobilization in urban India can be best utilized through use of technology. As urbanites are techno savvy extensive use of technology can draw urban people towards voting, deliberations, etc Electoral consciousness can be



increased through technology based political canvassing. Social media which is very popular among urban youth can be utilized for increasing political awareness.

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