

**Perception of Beneficiaries Form N.Y.K Towards Youth Empowerment:
A Study in Dharwad District of Karnataka**

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Abstract:

Youth empowerment raises young people's position and gives them the freedom to develop their skills and capacities for life. They will be able to participate fully as active citizens in their nations and gain from a politically stable, economically viable, and legally favourable environment. The ability to make decisions about one's life is referred to as empowerment. It improves one's or a group's capacity to make decisions and translate those decisions into desired actions and results. The paper is based on the following objectives those were to understand the youth circumstances in Indian society, to know the role of N.Y.K in empowering youth and to analyse the status of youth in Dharwad district of Karnataka. The paper's methodology is that it displays the empirical context. It is based on the accomplishment of the objectives and took into account secondary sources from journals, books, papers, etc. as well as primary data from the NYK beneficiaries in the Karnataka district of Dharwad. On descriptive research methodology. Youth empowerment is an attitude, structural, and cultural process that gives young people the capacity, authority, and agency to take charge of their own lives and the lives of others and to make decisions and bring about change.

Keywords: Youth, Empowerment, NYK.

Introduction:

Youth empowerment has grown to be a well-liked strategy for developing youth-targeted programmes and policies that will support their development of leadership abilities, self-esteem, and strong relationships to their communities. Youth empowerment techniques are particularly appealing in high-poverty metropolitan areas where young people feel excluded and underserved by the institutions of society. In such settings, giving them more influence over decision-making is particularly successful. Youth clubs use resources from a variety of government departments and other organisations, including national, state-level, and global entities, to implement their programmes and activities based on local needs and requirements. In order to promote community development

projects involving activities with a particular emphasis on young input, youth clubs were created. Through its volunteer club, NYK offers assistance and organises numerous programmes. Youth empowerment is the process by which young people acquire the capacity, power, and agency to make choices and bring about change in their own lives and the lives of others, including other young people and adults. The process of empowering youth involves mental, structural, and cultural factors.

According to the Planning Commission's 12th plan document, India's labour force increased from over 478 million in 2011 to over 502 million in 2017. Of this labour force, over 85% only have educational credentials up to the secondary level, over half only have credentials up to the primary level, and only 2% have received vocational training. According to a World Bank report, India is one of the few nations where the working population would increase through the year 2050. Over 37 million jobs are anticipated to be added between 2012–13 and 2016–

17, or 9.25 million new employment year. India's rural areas, which are abundant in natural resources, have the potential to be the most effective engines for societal development. Other statistics include total fertility rates, the fact that more pregnancies occur in rural than in urban areas, and the difference in age between the two populations. Young people today have a great urge to speak up for themselves, their opinions, and their beliefs. Because they believe in the freedom of speech and expression and know that it is their right, they have the courage to speak out against all types of injustice, inhumanity, social issues, racism, inequality, differences in religion, and other issues.

Objectives of the Paper:

The paper is based on the following objectives:

1. To understand the youth circumstances in Indian society
2. To know the role of N.Y.K in empowering youth
3. To analyse the status of youth in Dharwad district of Karnataka

Methodology:

The paper illustrates the empirical setting. It is based on the accomplishment of the objectives and took into account secondary sources from journals, books, papers, etc. as well as primary data from the NYK beneficiaries in the Karnataka district of Dharwad. On descriptive research methodology. A total of 300 people were included in the sample; of those, 50 were drawn from implementation and training agencies and staff, and the remaining 250 were participant samples.

Review of Literature:

Malathi R and Ramadas, V (2019) Youth, according to the study, is a good seed in a particular type of culture. A good tree grows from good seed. A healthy tree produces more seeds. A good youth, on the other hand, can build a well-organized society. Mangala T and Nari, S. (2016) Young people's standing is elevated through youth empowerment, which allows them to develop life skills and competencies. It will enable them to contribute to and profit from a politically stable, economically successful, and legally supportive environment,

allowing them to participate fully as active citizens in their own countries. Morton, M. and Montgomery, P (2011) the literature on youth empowerment pulls from a variety of theoretical frameworks in order to illuminate the pathways. The concept of youth empowerment originates from ecological models of human development. Isiaka, A.O. (2015) India is one of the African continent's most resource-rich countries, with natural and human resources capable of empowering and developing youngsters to contribute effectively to long-term socioeconomic and political growth. Jayalakshmi, M (2013) This descriptive research was carried out in the Virudhunagar District to analyse the Role and Social Responsibilities of Social Welfare Organizations in lifting the disadvantaged. Jaiswal, B., Bhasin, S., and Sharma, A. (2015) Youth Empowerment is a hot topic of debate and reflection around the world, and it has been at the top of most government plans, initiatives, and policies. Young people can obtain practical information and learn how to improve their livelihood through empowerment and capacity building.

The need for youth empowerment emerges for the following reasons:

1. To give youth the opportunity to gain knowledge, skills, and practises that will support their personal and social development and increase their sensitivity to societal issues.
2. To foster youth leadership and international understanding by giving young people from different backgrounds a platform and promoting national integration.
3. To encourage regional cooperation and international exchange amongst citizens of different nations.
4. To support activities that help young people realise their full potential via ongoing self-evaluation and self-exploration.
5. To advance youth work research.

Results of the Study:

Table No. 01: Education level of the Beneficiaries of Nehru Yuva Kendra, Dharwad District

Sl. No	Education	N	Percentage (%)
1	Secondary	64	25.6
2	Higher Secondary	76	30.4

3	Graduate And Pursuing Graduate	62	24.8
4	Professional	23	9.2
5	Post Graduate	16	6.4
6	Others	9	3.6
	Total	250	100.0

Table 1 shows the education level of the beneficiaries of Nehru Yuva Kendra, Dharwad District. Out of a total of 250 beneficiaries, the majority of them completed higher secondary education (N=76, 30.4%), followed by Secondary education (N=64, 25.6%), graduated and pursuing graduation (N=62, 24.8%), Professional (N=23, 9.2%), post graduate (N=16, 6.4%), and others (N=9, 3.6%). The majority of them have completed higher secondary education.

Table No 02: Employment Status of the Beneficiaries of NYKDharwad District

Sl. No	Employed/Working	N	Percentage (%)
1	Yes	204	81.6
2	No	46	18.4
	Total	250	100.0

An observation of Table 2 reveals the employment or working status of beneficiaries of Nehru Yuva Kendra, Dharwad District. Out of 250 beneficiaries, 204 beneficiaries are working or employed (81.6%), and 46 beneficiaries are not working (18.4%). Therefore, it is clear that the majority of the beneficiaries are employed. Through the study, youth have been actively taking responsibility, showing the empowerment process in the context.

Table No 03: Various Sectors of the Beneficiaries of Nehru Yuva Kendra, Dharwad District

Sl. No	Sector of Engagement	N	Percentage (%)
1	Agriculture & Allied	115	46
2	Manufacturing	45	18
3	service Sector	43	17.2
4	Hospitality	38	15.2
5	Others	9	3.6
	Total	250	100.0

The above table shows the Various Sectors of the Beneficiaries of Nehru Yuva Kendra, Dharwad District. Forty-six per cent of the beneficiaries belong to Agriculture & Allied, 18 per cent of the beneficiaries belong to Manufacturing, 17.2 per cent of the beneficiaries belong to the service sector, 15.2 per cent of the beneficiaries belong to Hospitality, 3.6per cent of the beneficiaries belong to others like contract-based work in the organized and non-organized organization. Most of the respondents belong to agriculture and allied because India has the economic backbone by this sector.

Table No 04: Association with NYK of the Beneficiaries of Nehru Yuva Kendra, Dharwad District

Sl. No	Association With NYK	N	Percentage (%)
1	Yes	217	86.8
2	No	33	13.2
	Total	250	100.0

An inspection of Table 4 shows the association of beneficiaries with Nehru Yuva Kendra. Out of 250 beneficiaries of the study, 217 (86.8%) respondents have an association with NYK. Only 33 (13.2%) beneficiaries of the study do not have an association with NYK. Most respondents have an association with NJK, which is a good sign.

Table No 05: Importance NYK of empowering the youth of the Beneficiaries of Nehru Yuva Kendra, Dharwad District

Sl. No	Importance NYK of empowering the youth	N	Percentage (%)
1	Awareness among Society	167	21.17
2	For Social Change	189	23.96
3	For Economic Independence	155	19.64
4	Enabling progress	108	13.69
5	Overall Development	127	16.09
6	Others	43	5.45
	Total	789	100.0

The above-displayed table 5 reveals the importance of NYK in empowering the youth of the Beneficiaries of Nehru Yuva Kendra, Dharwad District. Out of the 250 beneficiaries, each beneficiary agreed on many reasons for importance.

Most respondents agreed with the reason for social change (N=189, 23.96%). Following this, 167 (21.17%) are agreed with Awareness among Society, 155 (19.64%) are for Economic Independence, 127 (16.09%) for Overall Development, 108 (13.69%) are for Enabling progress, and 43 (5.45%) are for other reasons.

Discussion and Suggestions:

Youth empowerment varies from youth development in that empowerment focuses on the establishment of community change and relies on individual capacity development whereas development focuses on the growth of people. Young people are encouraged to take charge of their life through youth empowerment. In order to do this, they first address their circumstances, improve their access to resources, and alter their consciousness by changing their ideas, values, and attitudes. The level of national development in any given country is determined by how well the government utilises the enormous potential of its youth to foster and sustain economic growth and social progress. Young people's attempts to actively contribute to national growth in India have been hampered by the country's endemic unemployment (Muhammed, I.A. and Tersur, V.J. 2013). The field of social work focuses on addressing the fundamental needs of individuals, families, groups, communities, and society as a whole in order to improve social functioning, find solutions to social problems, and promote social responsibility among young people. It is both an academic discipline and a practice-based profession. The solutions listed below can be taken into consideration to improve NYK effectiveness. 1. Provide club members with thorough information so they can participate effectively. 2. Raise youth involvement in rural development and social awareness. 3. Regular and ongoing support for the club's members promotes individual and societal fulfilment. 4. The government ought to focus on rural areas with weak economies.

Conclusion:

The government, in collaboration with other stakeholders, should prioritise financial support for young entrepreneurs in order to boost youth empowerment and community development. In

addition, the government, in collaboration with other stakeholders, should aid to provide work opportunities and give professional skills to encourage youth entrepreneurship and inventiveness. Although the government of India is investing heavily in skill development projects for the future, there is widespread fear among industry and academia that these efforts may not be sufficient to avert a skill shortage in the future. The opportunity for India is largely in skilling the country's youth. In India, skill development should aim to create an ecosystem of empowerment by skilling on a wide scale at a rapid pace with high standards and encourage a culture of innovation-based entrepreneurship producing wealth and employment and providing sustainable livelihoods for all.

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