



**ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER**

**Political Science**

**THE FACTORS INFLUENCING ON YOUTH POLITICAL PARTICIPATION**

**KEY WORDS:** Political Socialization, Civil Society, Political Maturity, Political Process.

**Dr. Deekshith Kumar M**

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science Bengaluru North University, Kolar-563 103

**ABSTRACT**

The youth have immense power to achieve their political goals. Youth have different perspectives towards politics which is determined their goals and objectives in the politics. The role of youth in field of politics has to reflect by their representation in all political process and make sure of their confidence about good administration and government itself. This is a quality that can be used by the political parties. Primarily the youth have political awareness from the time they are in school and college. They are socialized about politics while participating in co circular activities. The informal political education prepares them to understand their role. The political socialization helps them join a political party, vote in elections, become aware of the programmes of Government, public administration, policies and its implementation and also in participating with the politically affiliated groups of civil society. While there is no fixed age for youth to become politically aware, there is an age at which they can vote or contest elections. While youth may have their impressions about politics and the change it can or cannot bring, it is only when they participate in politics through voting and contesting elections that they understand politics, political parties and the political process. It is this participation in the political process that brings about a political maturity in them.

**INTRODUCTION:**

“The youth have potential to bring out changes in society”. Young people between the age group of 16 to 30 years are called youth. (Karnataka Youth Policy, 2012)The youth are active partners of civil society, contributing in all social fields. India has different types of youth spread over a little more than one-third of the population. In politics, youth must act as an inseparable group of society which has social concern and should uphold the democratic principles as practically in public sphere. The organization and functions of the youth wings has already been discussed. It ensures homogeneity and unity among the members in the political process of the state within the legal setup. As of today, in India, only a few leaders are identified as 'youth icon' irrespective of socio-political process of the state and it differs with reference to the political culture from region to region.

Youth are the active social partner today and their immense attitude towards the politics is different than the other groups of civil society. In contemporary period young generation identify the politics based on their opinions, ideas and reviews which brings the principles of democracy in real. Hence, the young people are facing number of problems in changing political environment that has continuously offers them in more number to prior participation in politics.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century youth were recognised more in the field of politics in order participation of all the political and non-political activities majorly conducted by the political parties, its affiliated groups, and other groups of civil society. Youth were influenced by the politicians and leaders based on their idealistic nature. The youths were directly participated in the policies and programmes of the government in the form of its formulation, implementation and criticize. Youth had optimistic political aspirations and with the political beliefs. Youth were attracted more by the political values and ethics, the political structure formulated based on ideas and opinions of the 'political statesman' and they treated politics without any kind of political abuses.

**REVIEW OF LITERATURE:**

Glenn H. Utter (2011), in his book, 'Youth and Political Participation: A Reference Handbook', studied the role and performance of youth in politics with the impact of non political sectors of society. He analysed the role of youth not only in politics but also with other social sectors of society because a man, before entering into politics, was a social man. Man was involved by different social activities which helped in the development of their personality and growth.

Especially in the field of politics, a man understands his role and responsibility and becomes a responsible citizen. Therefore, the author's views on youth regarding politics are significant for the growth and development of youth politics.

**METHODOLOGY:**

The present study used the 'Historical and Explanatory method' for the collection of data and its interpretations. This study needs to understand the political aspirations of youth's in contemporary period. The study is based on conducted earlier research work in order to understand the youth political participation hence it helps to analyse the factors influencing on youth to participation in the political process and to determine the perceptions of youth towards politics.

In India, for a youth to become politically significant has challenges such as socio-political issues. The social and economic background of youth plays a role when they enter in to politics. Political parties, through their youth wings, act as a stepping stone for youth to start the political process. When joining a political party, the factors that play a role are age, class, education, family, friends, political interest and faith, employment, and other social network. We can broadly classify the factors that influence youth political participation into three. (Fahmy, E. 2016) They are:

- 1) Socio-demographic factor
- 2) Psycho-Political Orientations
- 3) Motivational Factor

The socio-demographic factors of youth that influence political participation are age, gender, race, class, family, language, marital status, education, and employment. These elements affect them as internal and external factors regarding their political awareness and participation. The youth wings of political parties try to consider all these criteria when a youth enters the political party. The political parties follow some of the above mentioned criteria in a limited way during the time of political recruitment to a political party. The number of members may not make a political party significant. What matters is the qualitative aspect regardless of the political performance including recruitment to political parties in the state.

Psycho political operations of youth related to political interest, political participation, efficacy, political awareness, political attitude, behavior, political leadership, political ideology, and political beliefs such as voting, elections, government and political discussions. These factors bring about social justice among youth in the state. The political

parties have neglected the above factors before youth joins a political party. There is no utilisation of testing tools to see if they are genuinely interested in being part of the political process, unless a youth is influenced by factors such as self actualization, there is not much application of the political ideology and its principles. The role of youth wing is very important to scrutinize a youth for becoming a political leader. Hence, the youth wing of political parties has to give more priority and emphasis on the following points:

Identify youth who are interested in politics, train them in providing good political knowledge, create best politicians. It should encourage youth to work for people. Work towards and uphold the value-based politics among the minds of youth. However, Political parties also act as a 'facilitators' where to good politicians are created.

Motivational factor of youth is political participation related to politics which applies from the 'Two-Factor theory' of Frederick Herzberg about the factors of satisfaction and dissatisfaction. Tools of mobilization of youth in to the politics such as school, family, friends, and other formal and informal groups of society, social media such as Twitter, Face book, and What sup and social network such as mass media, internet.

There has been a failure in living up to the hopes of the youth in politics so far as their aspirations and objectives in politics are concerned. Example, party corruption, regarding youth policies do not reach the maximum level of target groups for implementation in state.

Youth have self actualization and self esteem towards the politics in order to participation in political activities. The social environment of the state facilitate to young generation being a part of political environment. In the global level many countries were attracted to the youth in the maximum number of political participation by the several policies and programmes. The word 'Youth Icon' is not only recognized by the theoretical aspect but it should be in realistic. When youth appeared voluntarily in the politics then we can achieved the dream of Mahatma Gandhi's "YOUNG INDIA".

In the modern era of globalization based on technology, activities of the political parties in state have not reached the maximum level, except in a few circumstances such as the election campaign. When a youth joins a party, he has to be aware about its official website to get the membership of party through online service.

**FINDINGS:**

- To politically educate the youth get in to the politics
- The social environment is the cause to affect on youth political participation
- The significant role played by the agents of political socialisation
- To provide more political opportunity irrespective of caste, gender and religion.

**CONCLUSION:**

The government of India (2010) stated that 'A significant feature of our changing society is the transformation taking place in the country's demographic profile'. Hence, the change has taken place by the electorates in more number who enrolled in the process of elections and it helps to create awareness among the citizens of the state to ensure the popular democracy. Therefore the above factors influence youth and their participation in politics but in reality the factor need not be criteria for the youth wing while admitting a member in to their party across the state. Russell. (2005), the youth wing started in 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Youth wing is a recruitment source for future politicians. 'Youth force' indicates a positive force that can uphold the principles of democracy.

**REFERENCES**

1) Megyeri, K. (1991). Youth in Canadian Politics: Participation and

Involvement. Dundrun Group Limited.  
 2) Mello, D. M. (1971). Some Aspects of Youth and Society in India. Delhi: University of Delhi.  
 3) Utter, G. H. (2011). Youth and Political Participation: A Reference Handbook ABC-CLiO. California: LLC.  
 4) Kumar, S. (2014). Indian Youth and Electoral Politics: An Emerging Engagement. New Delhi: SAGE Publications India Private Limited.  
 5) Chowdhry, P.D. (1988). Youth-Participation and Development. Atma Ram.  
 6) Kumar, A. (2006). Indian Women in Politics. New Delhi: Anmol Publications Private Limited.