

## YOUTH

Shifting concept, point of contention

borders between childhood, adolescence aka emerging adulthood and adulthood are shifting

definition by age - 18, 21, 16

definition by legal status - marriage

definition by level of education - degree

definition by level of dependency - family

two competing notions: youth as a social category, and youth as a phase in life.

more transitions, longer transitions, less linear transitions: economic independence, independent living, separate family formation is gone). sense of uncertainty is growing.

The many attempts to produce a discrete definition suggests consistency in relation to young people's access to rights, but such homogeneous equality does not exist.

Qintuples - richest and poorest 20%

The reality of young people is inconsistent, disparate and heterogeneous, and therefore any critically reflective analysis of young people's conditions and rights - a sociology of youth, a youth sociology - as well as any policy responses need to be highly contextualised and respect the heterogeneity of youth.

"Recognize, address and respond to youth as a distinct but heterogeneous population group."

Guide for the Implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth

Life stories as illustrations of reality, of the range of life chances and life styles.

## POLICY

What is youth policy?

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You cannot not have a youth policy. There will always be one, either by neglect, by default or by intent.

If youth is dealt with by different governmental departments inherently to their policy work, the result would be a fragmented, disconnected youth policy by default.

The universally proclaimed aspiration is for an "integrated" youth policy. The United Nations argues that this now characterises the youth policy in over 90% of its member states, makes though the concession that many are still dominated by preoccupations with education and training.

Universally proclaimed as well that, like any public policy, it should be anchored in the conditions and aspirations of its target group.

Responses to inequality of access to human rights and inequality of opportunities

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## DELIVERY

Definitions of policy

"deliberate plan of action to guide decisions and achieve rational outcomes"

"statement of commitment to a broad requirement"

"written statement that communicates intentions, objectives, requirements, responsibilities, principles, and standards"

"anchored in the conditions and aspirations of its target group"

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trying to influence a complex, oftentimes chaotic, and adaptive system that is subjected to a huge variety of influences

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## USUALLY REFERS TO THE ENTIRE POLICY CYCLE

Problem & Needs Analysis  
Policy Development & Formulation  
Policy Adoption & Ratification  
Policy Delivery & Implementation  
Policy Assessment & Evaluation

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## FRAMEWORK (differentiating, contextualised analysis)

Policy intentions  
Policy objectives  
Policy principles  
Policy rationale  
Policy strategies  
Policy outcomes  
Policy guidelines  
Policy instruments  
Policy resources

-- Budgetary framework! --

## IMPLEMENTATION (differentiating, contextualised responses)

Policy delivery  
Policy intervention

Instruments, programs and projects for policy delivery and intervention

Evaluation

Policy indicators  
Policy assessment

## YOUTH POLICY

youth policy trajectories  
youth policy evolution

delivery through a cascading process from central to local levels, across a set of relationships between governmental and non-governmental structures and organisations

Some key definitions of a national youth policy:

- a principle
- a foundation
- a guideline
- a manifestation of political will
- a blueprint
- a framework
- a vision statement

Ultimately a youth policy should serve to empower, enable and inspire youth and youth-serving organizations.

Policy dimensions / domains

SYP2 p. 67

- Education
- Youth work and non-formal education
- Training and employment
- Health
- Social protection
- Values and religion
- Leisure and culture
- Military and alternative service
- Family policy and child welfare
- Housing
- Youth justice

Cross-cutting issues / domains

SYP2 p. 68

- Youth participation and citizenship
- Social inclusion
- Youth information
- Multiculturalism and minorities
- Mobility and internationalism
- Equal opportunities
- Radicalisation and reaction
- Local v. global pressures
- The role of new technologies

Centre–periphery relationships  
Urban–rural polarisation  
Elites and outsiders  
Environmental issues  
Diasporic influence

Complementary to that - WPAY 15 Priority areas

WPAY p. 3

Education  
Employment  
Hunger and poverty  
Health  
Environment  
Drug abuse  
Juvenile delinquency  
Leisure-time activities  
Girls and young women  
Full and effective participation  
Globalization  
Information and Communication Technology  
HIV/AIDS  
Armed Conflict  
Intergenerational Issues

Complementary to that - Millennium Development Goals

>>> Ombudspersons

What would Youth Policy normally want?

Policy rationale

“To tackle the challenges of tomorrow, young people need political capital today...”

Policy intentions & Policy objectives

From Guide for the Implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth

Guarantee to all young people the full enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

Eliminate all forms of discrimination and remove all obstacles to ensuring equality of opportunities;

Build the capabilities and expand the choices of young people by enhancing their access to and participation in all dimensions of society;

Catalyze investment in youth so that they consistently have the proper resources, information and opportunities to realize their full potential;

Change the public support available to youth from ad-hoc or last-minute to consistent and mainstreamed;

Promote partnerships, cooperation and the strengthening of institutional capacity that contribute to more solid investments in youth;

Support the goal of promoting youth themselves as valuable assets and effective partners;

Include young people and their representative associations at all stages of the policy development and implementation process;

Transform the public perception of young people from neglect to priority, from a problem to a resource, and from suspicion to trust.

#### Policy principles

Ensure that policies relating to young people are informed by accurate data on their situation and needs, and that the public has access to such data to enable it to participate in a meaningful fashion in the decision-making process.

Consider young people as key agents for social change, economic development and technological innovation.

Employ a rights-based approach by expressing linkages to rights, respecting accountability and the rule of law, concentrating on empowerment, participation, inclusion.

#### Policy strategies

Focus on priority themes - participation, development and peace 1965-1975 in the UN culminating in the International Youth Year 1985

Focus on priority target groups - particularly vulnerable groups, high-risk youth

#### Policy guidelines

Proposals for action - improve level of basic education, promote human rights education, make farming attractive, develop health education, promote good sanitation, combat malnutrition, strengthen youth participation

#### Policy instruments

Programs, projects, plans - often outlined in a youth action plan (World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond -- WPAY)

#### Policy resources

The dilemma of resources -- measures to the maximum of the available resources ALWAYS MEANS SOMETHING CAN BE DONE!

-- Budgetary framework! --

IMPLEMENTATION (differentiating, contextualised responses)

Policy delivery & intervention

Policy actors & partners

## THE CONTENT OF A NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY

### ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC YOUTH POLICY FORMULATION MANUAL

#### III. THE CONTENT OF A NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY

- A. Foreword
- B. Rationale for the policy
- C. Definition of youth
- D. Youth profile
- E. Historical and contemporary issues which impact on youth participation
- F. Reference to other policies and documents
- G. Principles and values supporting the policy
- H. Goals and vision statement
- I. Policy objectives
- J. Rights, responsibilities and obligations of young women and men
- K. Key strategies
- L. Priority target groups
- M. Implementation and coordination mechanisms
- N. Summary

The international youth sector is a complex web of relationships between non-governmental and international institutional actors with programs run for, by, and with young people in support of the active contribution young people can make to their societies and of “good governance” in the sphere of youth policy making. In principle, it seeks to promote effective evidence-based action by governments and other relevant actors (e.g., international nongovernmental youth organizations, international institutions, the research community) to address the needs and concerns of young people in terms of human development and civic, political, and social participation.

In an ideal world, international and national youth policy would be made collaboratively among governments that have the executive mandate to prepare and implement policy, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) that legitimately represent the needs and concerns of young people, and the academic community, which provides evidence of the situation of youth—in other words, those actors in the Magic Triangle.