

National Youth Summit: Leave No One Behind

Organising Youth for Socially Inclusive Society (OYSIS)

Date & Venue

**14th Sep 2015, Deputy Speaker Hall, Constitution Club, New Delhi
7761960931**

More than 200 young women and men from Dalit, Tribal and Muslim communities from ten states of India gather together to declare their agenda to 'Leave No One Behind' at the national and global level as the world is finalizing the Sustainable Development Goals 2030.

This national youth summit is a call to the national and global leaders by marginalized Dalit, Adivasi, Muslim young men and women to bring attentions on their development concerns being put forth in association with National Equity Forum (NEF) led by more than 150 Community Led Organisations (CLOs) across 10 northern states. The summit will be reviewing national and global goals, targets and provisions from the three lenses of 'social exclusion-equity-social inclusion', the young people declare their agenda to '**LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND**'.

We are convinced that the concerns of the marginalised young people need to be centre-staged in all national youth related policies. The young people review national and the UN SDG goals in the realms of poverty, health, education, skill development, employment and entrepreneurship, urbanization, environment, peace and inclusive societies. They are releasing a blueprint for promoting social equity and inclusion in the above spheres for realizing the youth population dividend and true growth potential of India, both nationally and globally.

The summit is also bringing various representative/leaders from Government departments, commissions, development sectors, UN bodies, CSR and experts to share their strategies and listen to young people articulating strategies to include their concerns and development agenda.

At the end, a press meet is called to articulate young people's concerns and voice which will be further taken at International Youth Exchange along with a week long programme to address caste, religion and ethnicity based inequalities in implementing SDGs.

I

Background and Introduction

Dalit, Adivasi and Muslim youth comprise 35%, 23.8% and ...% respectively in the age group of 15-34 out of total population of around 360 million together in this country. They mostly live in rural area with a considerable growing population in Urban India with migration. Majority of these youths are first generation learner, living in extreme poverty where family support is almost negligible once they go beyond 10th standard of education. It is important to make note of the fact that together these three communities comprise more than 40% of India's population and average of youth among these communities are considerably higher than the country average. Poverty, discrimination, exclusion from educational institutions, violence and conflict, migration and left out from majority of youth development programmes – are some of the major concerns these youth deal in their every day life. Only 5%

Dalit, 3 % among Adivasi and another 4 % among Muslims are graduate among these communities, again indicating towards the fact that they are “filtered out” from educational institutions at a very early stage of their adulthood. They are completely dependent on education and state provisions such as scholarships; affirmative actions for any kind of change in their living standard and that are why “study and work” has become their part of life growth process. Apart from arranging money to support their education, some of them even start supporting their family during study. Life of a socially excluded young person revolves around family and study only, and they lack any kind of exposure to larger society, being limited to their habitation and community youth, completely left out youth engagement or development interventions. Quest for getting a decent employment force them to spend a considerable time in “study and work” frame but despite of those 20-25 years in education process, majority of them end up working in unorganized sector as labour or migrate to urban areas in search of some employment. This vicious cycle of poverty, exclusion and discrimination have even entrenched into other spheres of a young persons life where her/his self, identity and social relevance are being questioned every day. Young women among these youth are further subjected to bear the load of social evils and discrimination such as early drop out and early marriage, violence and stigmatization of self and identity under strong patriarchal values around her.

II

Existing promises and provisions

The constitution of India, starting from its preamble to Art 15, 16, 17, 41, 46, 47 has provided various provisions, legal safeguards against discrimination and mechanisms to promote social and economic interests of these youth. The flagship programme of GoI in the form of pre matric and post matric scholarship is the largest support system available for socially excluded youth where majority of students studying in educational institutional are entitled to receive this. Apart from this, residential schools, and hostels are another schemes which has been promoting first generation learner from these communities to move ahead in education system.

The national youth policy has put one of its focus to consider youth as important population dividend and preparing them to become productive workforce is reiterated several times. Skill development initiative of GoI at large scale is currently ongoing programme across Indian states.

Department of Youth affairs have following programmes

- i) ‘National Young Leaders Programme (NYLP)’ has been formulated with a view to develop leadership qualities among the youth to enable them to realise their full potential and in the process, to contribute to the nation-building process.
- ii) Nehru Yuva Kendras (NYKs). Programme is to develop the personality and leadership qualities of the youth and to engage them in nation-building activities.
- iii) National Youth Corps: Under the Scheme, youth in the age-group of 18-25 years are engaged as volunteers to serve upto maximum 2 years in nation-building activities.
- iv) National Service Scheme (NSS) with the primary objective of developing the personality and character of the student youth through voluntary community service.

- v) National Programme for Youth and Adolescent Development (NPYAD) is an “Umbrella Scheme” of the Ministry under which financial assistance is provided to Government/ non-Government organisations for taking up activities for youth and adolescent development.

III

Gaps and the need for focused attention

Dalit, Tribal and Muslim youth are not

Although these programmes do focus on youth, marginalized Dalit, Tribal and Muslim youth are rarely aware about it and the outreach is also not specified by the department.

IV

The National Equity Forum (NEF) along with Centre for Social Equity and Inclusion (CSEI) primarily engage with marginalized Dalit, Tribal and Muslim children and youth towards promoting equity and inclusion in the area of education, skill and entrepreneurship development. The CLOs members have strong linkage with community at grass root and they have been part of Action2015 since January through #UpForSchool campaign and signature and have reached out to more than 30,000 youth to stand up for their education rights. Recently NEF members reached out to more than 10,000 youth to assess their need in terms of skill development and other support mechanism required for their self and community development.

The National Youth Summit is a call timely placed by NEF to bring the attentions of national and global leaders when they adopt sustainable development goals (SDGs) at the 70th UNGA in September this year. It is important for growing generation (youth) among Dalit, Tribal and Muslim to raise their voices and put forth the strategies, which they think is most appropriate for them, in solidarity with youth of the world.

Objectives of the Summit:

- i. Dalit, Adivasi and Muslim Youth come together to review the existing policy provisions/schemes from their perspective of its availability, accessibility, adaptability and accountability
- ii. Evolve a proactive agenda of their development concerns in the form of “Youth Declaration” and release it to demand for national and international commitment around these concerns.
- iii. Initiate a preliminary dialogue and process to evolve an advocacy platform led by socially excluded youth by involving youth across Indian states through National Equity Forum (NEF) and OYSIS programme

The summit is divided into two parts, on 13th September 2015, a workshop is organized where all the youth will discuss and share their experiences with an expert on following thematic group:

- i) Poverty and Inequalities
- ii) Universalising Education (Elementary and Higher Education)
- iii) Health
- iv) Employment, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Opportunities
- v) Urbanisation and Youth
- vi) Youth in Difficult Circumstances
- vii) Youth and Media

The expert will help these youth to understand the current trends, status and conceptual clarity on each theme. Thereafter, all the youth will prepare their specific demands in each theme and strategies to address issues/problems.

On 14th September 2015: National Youth Summit

The blueprint/declaration prepared by youth through the workshop will be released on this day along with Action2015 and Wada Na Todo Abhiyaan in solidarity with more than 200 people present on that day. The release will followed by panel discussion with sector specific dignitaries and youth in each panel.

Tentative Schedule

The schedule will be share with you soon.