

Youths participation in rural community development: A study in Gomati District, Tripura

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Introduction: Youth can have a significant impact on social transformation and the development of rural communities. Youth, according to Umeh and Odom (2011), is the period of a person's life that occurs between the end of childhood and the start of adulthood. According to the United Nations (2008) and World Bank (2010), around 1.2 billion people in the world are between the ages of 15 and 24 and make up about half of the total population. Youth can have a significant impact on social transformation and the development of rural communities.

Rural Community Development is a strategy to enable rural residents to understand their potential, identify their issues, and ultimately use available resources to improve their quality of life. Community development includes a number of crucial elements, including self-help, mutual support, neighbourhood development, integration, and the training of political decision-makers. Rural areas can benefit from the involvement of youth. Recent research on youth participation has turned its attention to the convergence of youth development and community development (Nitzberg, 2005). Youth guidance and nurture through intentional intervention is now more important than ever.

In order to better understand how young people may play a role in community development, the current study has been carried out.

Youth

Young people aged 15 to 29 make up 27.5% of the population. By 2025, India is anticipated to overtake the United States, China, and Japan as the fourth-largest economy in the world, with a GDP contribution of 5.5% to 6%. As a result, the Indian government funds a variety of youth-focused initiatives.

The GoI implements numerous youth development programmes through Ministries that include initiatives geared towards young people in the areas of involvement, education, and health. A variety of non-governmental players, in addition to the government, are involved in youth-related issues. These include business and industrial associations, as well as civil society organisations. These stakeholders want to encourage youth development through initiatives in education, skill development, health care, sports, and other areas. This is the first of their two goals. The second goal is to encourage young people to get involved in politics, governance, and other topics that are important to them.

Rural Community Development

The term "rural community development" refers to a variety of strategies and initiatives intended to enhance the welfare and standard of living of rural residents. These strategies focus on social issues, notably community organisation, as a subset of community development. In contrast, some types of rural development emphasis technology and public works, such as rural roads and electrification, and agricultural production methods and instruments.

Youth Clubs

Youth Club is a community- based organisation working to accomplish goals which has significant contribution towards community development. It is created, run, and managed by youths for the growth and development of youth specifically and the community as a whole. Male and female youth make up the Youth Club membership. While a Youth Club may also be referred to as a Yuva Mahila Mandal if it only comprises female members. For all intents and purposes, the Youth Clubs and Yuva Mahila Mandals have the same status.

Review of Literature

According to the sociologist, youth is a special time when a person is comparatively unburdened by duties and obligations and is free to prepare for adult tasks in accordance with his or her aptitudes, talents, interests, and potentials. According to Erickson (1950), youth serves as a period of psychological moratorium, a socially sanctioned transitional stage between childhood and adulthood, during which the individual experiments with a variety of roles, values, norms, and ideologies, in preparation for adult roles such as becoming an earning member, parent, citizen, etc. Franklin (1952) noted that through introducing better agricultural practices, the youth club work had enhanced businesses and rural communities. Mead (1953)

claimed that the way in which the young person is socialised in culture determines whether or not adolescence will be a time of stress and strain. Community development is increasingly seen as a dominating practise in social development, according to Gaik (1981). Practices for community development create social capital, aid in the growth of active citizenship, and offer an alternative to passive welfare. Youth clubs' participation in the development sector is crucial, according to Purao's report from 2000, which claimed that it is necessary to combat widespread poverty in rural India. She believes that youth clubs and volunteer organisations are the most efficient means of reaching the underprivileged since they are better able to recognise their true needs and provide appropriate programmes.

According to the studied literature, community development is a set of actions intended specifically at the local level to raise the quality of life of its residents in all spheres (social, economic, political). Community development utilises communal empowerment, collective leadership, and guiding change via discussion as its methods, and its successful implementation depends on young participation and the youth club.

Study Area (Gomati District, Tripura)

Tripura became a full-fledged State on January, 1972. Tripura was divided into three districts viz. North, South & West Tripura District. In 2011 census the South Tripura District had eleven (11) Development Blocks and five (5) Subdivisions. South Tripura district has been divided in two district namely South Tripura (8 block) and Gomati District (8 blocks) with effect from 21st January, 2012. South Tripura is the tribal dominated area with the population of 39.36% of the total population and Schedule caste population contribute 16% in the total population. . The total population of South Tripura is 876001

Youth Population in the State& District

According to 2011 Census, the total population of Youth in the age group of 15-29 years is 2.53 lakh out of which 1.27 lakhs male and 1.25 lakh females. The total population of youth at the age group of 15-29 years is 29.12.percent of the total population in the district. In south Tripura District, 2.97 of the total youth population between the age 15-29 are graduate and above. 4.4 per cent are graduate and above in the age group of 20-29.

Youth Clubs in Gomati District

Youth club plays a very important role in community development in India. Youth club is a voluntary youth group registered or not registered (Society Registration Act) working for the community development since many decades. It is local based VYO mainly focus in village in sensitising various development activities. As per the record of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan , more than 1.25 lakhs youth club and mahilamandal working under NYKS in India as per Annual progress report of NYKS, New Delhi in 2018-19. Youth club play a tremendous role in community development in the country. In Tripura 1022 youth clubs were affiliated under NYKS, Tripura (As per online registration under NYKS) such as North Tripura- 279, West Tripura –239, Dhalai-148 and South Tripura-356 as per online data of youth clubs under NYKS, Tripura.

Methodology

Objectives of the Study

- To understand about the contribution of the youths towards the community development of the area.
- To study the problems and challenges encountered by the youth in implementing the services.

Universe of the study

The universe comprises of the youths of the Gomati District of Tripura who are working for the Youth clubs. The Youth clubs Gomati district has been selected purposively by the researcher because the Youth clubs are active in the district and to understand youth contribution in the community development, youths working in the youth club are a good source.

Sample Size

For the proposed study the researcher selected those youth who were working for rural community development in the Gomati district during the study period (i.e. 2021-2022) through the youth clubs affiliated under NYK. Out of the 189 affiliated youth clubs, 30 youths were selected by snowball sampling method.

Research Design

The study will be descriptive in nature to obtain accurate and precise information concerning the objectives of the study.

Methods and Tools of Data Collection

In this study, both qualitative and quantitative method will be applied to gather data. For collecting primary sources of data, the researcher will interact and collect information from the youths who are members of the youth clubs through semi structured interview schedule. For secondary sources of data collection, the researcher will consult previous research works, relevant books, journals, and publications, Government reports, mass media products, web information, websites, etc.

Discussion of findings

To understand about the participation of the youths towards the community development of the area.

- The study was based on 30 youth clubs. Out of 30 youth, 80% (24) of the members of the club are within the age group of 20-24. Remaining 12 % (4) are within 15-19 years and 8 % (2) between 25- 30 years.

SL No	Age group	Frequency	%
1	15- 19 years	2	8
2	20 – 24 years	4	12
3	25- 30 years	24	80
TOTAL		30	100

Table 1: Age of the respondents

- 77 % (23) of the youths are students. 12% (4) for them are working in agriculture and 11% (3) of them are unemployed. The unemployed group comprises the students who just passed out and seeking jobs , and mostly the house wives.

SL No	Occupation	Frequency	%
1	Students	23	77
2	Employed	4	12
3	Unemployed	3	11
TOTAL		30	100

Table 2: Occupational Status of the respondents

- The study identified that 93 percent (28) of the youth are enthusiastic to run community based program in Gomati district like awareness programs, health camps, sports programs, cleanliness drives while 7 percent (2) are interested to run individual based program like skill development, educational program, employment opportunities etc.

SL No	Choice of Programs	Frequency	%
1	Community based program	28	93
2	Individual based program	2	7
TOTAL		30	100

Table 3: Choice of Programs

- 90 percent (27) of the 30 youths are men, while only 10 percent (3) are women. In the Gomati district of Tripura, this demonstrates that men are more involved in club activities than women are.

SL No	Gender	Frequency	%
1	Male	27	90
2	Female	3	10
TOTAL		30	100

Table 4: Gender

- The 100 % (30) of the Youths in Gomati district are mainly working on awareness generation programs and sports. 78.7% (23) are working on capacity development program. 73% (22) of the youths initiate programs running on health. The other activities where 50% of the youth are working are mainly Art and Cultural program..

SL No	Programs	Frequency	%
1	Awareness Generation	27	90
2	Sports	3	10
3	Capacity Development	23	78.7
4	Health	22	73
5	Art & Culture	15	50
TOTAL		30	100

Table 5: Youth involvement in programs

- The study explains that 55 % (16) of the youths network with district administration while implementing the programs. However, 45%(14) of them do not show extra efforts in developing network as they just coordinate with the youth clubs and youth clubs members does the coordination part.

SL No	Networking with District Administration	Frequency	%
1	Yes	16	55
2	No	14	45
TOTAL		30	100

Table 6: Youth involvement in programs

- The youth were interviewed regarding their expectation from the GOs and NGOS that will support them in effective operation of the community program and services. The study explains 33%(10) of the Youth expects the District Administration for inclusive work in PRI and ADC, 45%(13) expects proper documentation support to all collaboration, 52%(15) expects more program from NYK and other line departments, 72(26) of the youths expects the district administration to be more involved at the grass root level while running any Govt. programs, 75(22) of the youths expects proper monitoring and evaluation support, 82%(24) of the youths seeks support in training the community youths and 100%(30) of the Youths seeks minimum fund to run community programs.

SL No	Expectation from GO NGO	Frequency	%
1	Inclusive work on PRI and ADC	10	33
2	Documentation	13	45
3	NYK and Line department sponsored programs	15	52
4	Involvement of district administration	26	72
5	Monitoring and evaluation	22	75
6	Training community youths	24	82
7	Funding support	30	100

Table 7: expectation from GO / NGO

- This study further explained the satisfaction level of the youths on the services offered by the Youth clubs for their community development.43 % (13) of the respondents are not satisfied, 35%(11) of them are partially satisfied and partially not. Some services they feel are beneficial while some services they complain are not fruitful and properly executed. However, majority of the respondents, i.e.52 % (16) of the respondents are satisfied with the services of the Youth clubs of Gomati district.

SL No	Satisfaction level	Frequency	%
1	Satisfied	16	52
2	Partially satisfied	11	35
3	Dissatisfied	13	43
TOTAL		30	100

Table 8: Satisfaction level from services of Youth clubs

To study the problems and challenges encountered by the youth in implementing the community services.

The youths have faced a numerous problems while implementing the community development programmes for Gomati district. The problems have been studied in terms of manpower, Motivation for community service, Skill for community mobilization; Coordination & Cooperation with other organisations, Financial matter etc.

Man Power: Out of 30 youths 85% (25) youth clubs communicated that they have members and friends supporting them in the initiatives but due to pre occupied activities, everybody cannot provide equal time and hence major portion of work remains in the handed of selected youths and there is no division of labour. 15% (5) youths considered themselves as under qualified for which they face difficulties to implement the programmes at the community level.

Motivation for community service: 7 0% (21) of youths are not exclusively committed to community service, whereas 30% (9%) are. According to the findings, 70% of people who do are not exclusively community in

community service are primarily victims of poverty due to under-employment and thus would use most of the time in thinking of their livelihood.

Mobilisation of Resources: The data indicates that 15%(5)of the youth can mobilize their resources, whereas 85 %(15) of youths are dependent on their partner organization for resource mobilization. The findings highlighted the importance of providing adequate knowledge to the youth clubs on resource mobilization so as to respond to community issues immediately with their available resources.

Cooperation of the community people: The data depicts that 51%(16) of the youths claim to get full community support but 49%(14) of the youths find it hard to mobilise community people to participate in the programs.

Fund issues: All the youths claim they do not have sufficient fund to implement their programs and have to depend on partner organisation or donations. Often they are unable to raise the targeted amount and hence needs to compromise with the planned program.

Monitoring by Youth Clubs: 70%(21) of the youth viewed that youth clubs are monitoring the progress of the work whereas 30 % (9) of the youths are of the opinion that the youth clubs are not monitoring the progress as per scheduled time which hinders the progress of the work.

Suggestions:

The suggestions for better participation of youth for community development program is mentioned below

1. Youth needs to be employed by Youth clubs are decided the objectives of every program after need assessment of the community and resource mapping
2. Proper proposal must be prepared and funding support to be sought in consultaion with district administration to either government or NGOs or corporate.
3. Youths must be skilled and trained with professional qualification to be able to serve their community better.
4. The program the youth decide for the community development must have goals that are doable and the resources available must be taken into consideration while setting the goals.
5. Along with youths, the community people must participate in the programs and support the goals set for their development.
6. The goals must be respectful towards community culture and must invest in building social capital.
7. Liasoning and networking must be an important agenda if the youth needs to grow andimplement sustainable development programs.
8. The goals must be set such that each activity must ensure maximum community participation.

Concluding Discussion

Youth have a significant impact on societal transformation and the development of rural communities. RCDs are programmes that assist rural inhabitants in realising their ability to identify their problems and utilise the resources available to them to enhance their quality of life. In rural locations, young people can contribute to community development. The concept of youth has been used to refer to the period of time between the end of childhood and the start of adulthood.

The shifting demographics of the world have opened up a window of opportunity for India. India will continue to have the highest percentage of young people worldwide over the next 20 years. It has always been crucial for young people to get involved in local change activities if they are to learn how to make a positive contribution to society. Youth involvement in community development programmes is crucial given their size. A larger, younger workforce that can accelerate socioeconomic growth and make a substantial contribution to national security, leadership, and the social development of their communities can be improved in this way.If these youths are brought out under fewer covers, such as a youth organisation, effective consequences for community development can be envisaged. Numerous youth clubs, often known as community-based organisations, have been active on a local level. The public and the government, however, have yet to recognise their services.

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