

Subject Acceptance letter of Publication of Article in Reputed Refereed Research Journal.

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9142

- JIGYASA ISSN 0974.doc (60 KB)

Respected Sir,

Sub:Phd Scholar(Commerce) PH/09/9142

I am happy to inform you that I have Received Acceptance From Renowned Refereed Research Journal

'JIGYASA' ISSN 0974-7648 regarding Publication of my Article '**Assessing Developmental strategies for**

Adolescence in India'.in their coming issue in last week of September-2011.

I am sending the acceptance letter send by them along with this mail as an attachment.

Please acknowledge the same.This also to bring to your notice that i have already submitted four copies of my

Thesis to the University.My full fee's is also deosited to the University for my Phd course.

Hence I request your honour for further Proceeding for Awarding Phd.Degree to me from your Esteemed University.

Thanking you

Yours Sincerely

Deepak Srivastava

(Ref.No.PH/09/9142)



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P.T.O.

Deepak Srivastava

ISSN 0974 - 7648

JIGYASA

A Refereed Research Journal

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Ref.: 22/Art/Sept-2011.....
Date:14/9/2011

To,
Deepak Srivastava
Phd.Scholar,
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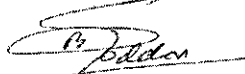
Dear Sir,

With reference to your article 'Assessing Developmental Strategies for Adolescence in India: The Role of Right Based Approach.' Which, was received for publication in the **JIGYASA**, I have to communicate you the decision of the Editorial Board, follows as:--

---We are very happy to inform that the Editorial Board has accepted your article which will be published in the coming issues of '**JIGYASA**'

With best wishes,

Yours Sincerely,



Executive Editor:
'**JIGYASA**'

JIGYASA

The title of the article: **ASSESSING DEVELOPMENTAL STRATEGIES FOR ADOLESCENCE IN INDIA: THE ROLE OF RIGHT BASED APPROACH**

- a. Abstract (about 200 words) with 3-5 keywords. Enclosed
- b. Name of the author/s: 1. Deepak Srivastava, Phd.Scholar Nims University Rajasthan.
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Abstract:

The paper discusses that there is a need for a departure from the traditional approach of viewing children as assets of the future who need nurturing in order to grow to be contributing adult citizens. We urge that children are viewed as citizens of today on par with any adult citizen, who cannot be denied access to any right or service just because he or she is a child. At the same time recognizing that certain rights may not be applicable to children by virtue of their tender age and lack of maturity there need to be special measures to taken to protect and secure the childhood of children. In the light of that the paper reviews the existing plans , programmes and policies of the government. It also analyses their achievements for the adolescence and at the end it concludes that all plans or government interventions requires an effective implementation.

KEY WORDS:

Adolescence , development, programmes, child labour.

ASSESSING DEVELOPMENTAL STRATEGIES FOR ADOLESCENCE IN INDIA: THE ROLE OF RIGHT BASED APPROACH

Introduction

Adolescence, a vital stage of growth and development, marks the period of transition from childhood to adulthood. It is characterized by rapid physical changes resulting in sexual, psychosocial and behavioral maturation. Adolescence is also the stage when young people extend their relationships beyond parents and family and are intensely influenced by their peers and the outside world. They are also the years of experimentation and risk taking, of giving in to negative peer pressure, of taking uninformed decisions on crucial issues, especially relating to their bodies and their sexuality. A desire to experiment and explore can manifest in a range of behaviours-exploring sexual relationships, alcohol, tobacco and other substances abuse. The anxiety and stress associated with achievement failure, lack of confidence etc are likely to lead to depression, anger, violence and other mental health problems. As adolescents mature cognitively, their mental process becomes more analytical. They are now capable of abstract thinking, better articulation and of developing an independent ideology. These are the years of creativity, idealism, buoyancy and a spirit of adventure. Thus, if nurtured properly youth can be mobilized to contribute significantly to national development.

The world is home to 1.2 billion individuals aged 10-19 years. The vast majority of adolescents live in developing countries and India has the largest national population of adolescents. Studies show that millions of adolescents today do not enjoy access to quality education, basic sexual and reproductive health care, support for mental health issues and disability, protection from violence, abuse and exploitation, and forums for active participation. Adolescents who are marginalized or poor are less likely to transition to secondary education and are more likely to experience violence, abuse and exploitation. While adolescents are often referred to as the „future generation“ of adults, they are also firmly part of the present generation- living, working, contributing to households, communities, societies and economies. Hence they deserve recognition, protection and care, essential commodities & services, and opportunities & support.

Rationale for focus on Adolescents

The interventions for the adolescents have been advocated largely on ethical, political, economic and equity grounds. It has been argued that since the ultimate goal of public policy should be the well-being and fulfillment of the rights of all citizens, particularly children, it is ethical imperative on the part of the State to design policies and programmes for the protection and development of its children including adolescents. The economic argument seeks to highlight the complementary links between social and economic policy, and the positive implications of social investment for economic development and productivity. Investing in the adolescents can accelerate the fight against poverty, inequity and gender discrimination. Almost half the world's adolescents of the appropriate age do not attend secondary school and end up having inadequate skills which is incompatible with high-level competencies increasingly required by modern globalized economy. The skill deficit contributes to the youth unemployment. It is argued that the investment in adolescents is a political imperative. Inadequate social investment, high levels of inequality and severe poverty, compound to become a real obstacle for the development and consolidation of democracy. This condition of social deprivation does not only weaken the institutional dimension of democracy, it also diminishes participation and solidarity, which are essential values for democratic life. Hence investments in adolescents will lead them to a well-informed and empowered citizenry. Last but not the least, interventions on adolescents is an equity issue. Inequity is a major barrier to the fulfillment of adolescents rights outlined in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Adolescent girls are particularly vulnerable. The importance of equal access to education, health, employment, juvenile justice are key to the positive development of the adolescents. According to the UN Convention on Child Rights, all children are equal, and have human rights such as the right to food, shelter, health care, education and freedom from violence, neglect and exploitation. The Convention also states that children have the right to participate in decision-making and due weight should be given to their opinions, according to their age and maturity. Hence adolescents' issues require to be seen from survival, protection and care, participation and developmental perspectives.

Demographic Profile

As per Census, 2011(provisional), there are more than 225 million adolescents in India, who account for almost 21 per cent of the country's population. Sex-wise proportion of adolescents and adolescent sex ratio is available from Census, 2001, which shows that female adolescents comprise almost 47 per cent of the total population and the sex ratio in the 10-19 years bracket is 882 females for 1000 males. The strong preference for a male child, which manifests itself in the form of sex selective abortions, infanticide, malnutrition, neglect and exploitation of girls and women, is a major cause behind the adverse sex ratio. Gender disparities are persistent at all levels. India ranked 122 in the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Gender inequality index (GII) in 2010. It is therefore becomes imperative to consider the gender dimension in any plan/programme for adolescents.

Crimes committed against Children which are punishable under Special and Local Laws (SLL)

TABLE-1 Crimes against Children in the country, 2009

	Crime Head	Sl. no
1	Murder	1488
2	Infanticide	63
3	Rape	5,368
4	Kidnapping & Abduction	8,945
5	Foeticide	123
6	Abetment of Suicide	46
7	Exposure & Abandonment	857
8	Procuration of Minor Girls	237
9	Buying of Girls for Prostitution	32
10	Selling of Girls for Prostitution	57
11	Other Crimes	6,985

POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR ADOLESCENTS

Adolescents under the constitution There are certain constitutional guarantees under Indian constitution for children which include Adolescents. Article 24 states that, no child below the age of 14 years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or

engaged in any other hazardous employment. Article 23 states that, traffic in human beings and beggar and other forms of forced labour are provision shall be an offence punishable in accordance with the law. Article 39 enunciates the rights of children and the young to be protected against exploitation and to opportunities for healthy development, consonant with freedom and dignity. Article 39E states that the state shall direct its policy towards securing that the health and strength of workers, men and women and the tender age of children are not abused and that they are not forced by economic necessity to enter vocations unsuited to their age and strength. Article 39F states that Children shall be given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity and that childhood and youth shall be protected against moral and material abandonment. Article 45 states that the state shall endeavor to provide within a period of ten years from the commencement of the constitution for free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of fourteen years.

Important Policies, Programmes and Acts

National Policy for Children (1974):

The National Policy for Children 1974 was founded on the conviction that child development programmes are necessary to ensure equality of opportunity to children. It provides the framework for assigning priorities to different needs of children, and for responding to them in an integrated manner and recommends the State to provide adequate services to children, both before and after birth and through the period of growth, to ensure their full physical, mental and social development and that the State shall progressively increase the scope of such services so that, within a reasonable time, all children in the country enjoy optimum conditions for their balanced growth.

The measures that are to be adopted towards the attainment of these objectives are that all children shall be covered by a comprehensive health programme, programmes shall be implemented to provide nutrition services with the object of removing deficiencies in the diet of children, the State shall take steps to provide free and compulsory education for all children up to the age of 14 for which a time-bound programme will be drawn up consistent with the availability of resources. Special efforts will be made to reduce the prevailing wastage and stagnation in schools, particularly in the case of girls and children of the weaker sections of the society. The programme of informal education for pre-school children from such sections will also be taken up, children who are not able to take full advantage of formal school education should be provided other forms of education suited to their requirements, physical education, games, sports and other types of recreational as well as cultural and scientific activities shall be promoted in schools, community

centres and such other institutions, to ensure equality of opportunity, special assistance shall be provided to all children belong to the weaker sections of the society, such as children belonging to the SC / STs and those belonging to the economically weaker sections, both in urban and rural areas, children shall be protected against neglect, cruelty and exploitation, no child under 14 years shall be permitted to be engaged in any hazardous occupation or be made to undertake heavy work, facilities shall be provided for special treatment, education, rehabilitation and care of children who are physically handicapped, emotionally disturbed or mentally retarded, children shall be given priority for protection and relief in times of distress or natural calamity, etc.

National Policy on Child Labour

In consonance with the enactment of Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act -1986, a National Policy on Child Labour was formulated in 1987. The Policy seeks to adopt a gradual & sequential approach with a focus on rehabilitation of children working in hazardous occupations & processes. The Action Plan outlined in the Policy for tackling this problem is as follows:

- i. Strict enforcement of Child Labour Act and other labour laws to ensure that children are not employed in hazardous employments, and that the working conditions of children working in non-hazardous areas are regulated in accordance with the provisions of the Child Labour Act.
- ii. Focusing of General Developmental Programmes for Benefiting Child Labour
- iii. Project Based Plan of Action envisages starting of projects in areas of high concentration of child labour. The Scheme envisages running of special schools for child labour withdrawn from work by providing formal/non-formal education along with vocational training, a stipend of Rs.100 per month, supplementary nutrition and regular health check ups so as to prepare them to join regular mainstream schools.

National Youth Policy, 2003

The National Youth Policy, 2003 reiterates the commitment of the entire nation to the composite and all-round development of the young sons and daughters of India and seeks to establish an All-India perspective to fulfil their legitimate aspirations so that they are all strong of heart and strong of body and mind in successfully accomplishing the challenging tasks of national

reconstruction and social changes that lie ahead.

This Policy covers all youth in the country in the age group of 13 to 35 years. It is divided into two broad sub-groups viz. 13-19 years and 20-35 years and the age group 13-19, which is a major part of the adolescent age group is regarded as a separate constituency. The Policy enunciates for adequate nutrition for the full development of physical and mental potential and the creation of an environment which promotes good health, and ensures protection from disease and unwholesome habits. In the chapter entitled Key Sectors of Youth Concerns, the policy recognizes the following areas as key sectors of concern for the youth:-

(i) Education

(ii) Training and Employment;

(iii) Health and Family welfare;

(iv) Preservation of Environment, Ecology and Wild life;

(v) Recreation and Sports;

(vi) Arts and culture;

(vii) Science and technology; and

(viii) Civics and good Citizenship.

Right to Education Act

In line with the goal of nation building, India has been committed to providing free and compulsory education to all children, Indian Parliament has enacted a legislation Right to Education Act (RTE, Act) making free and compulsory education a Right of every child in the age group 6-14 years which has come into force from 1st April, 2010. The Act describes the modalities of the provision of free and compulsory education for children between 6 and 14 in India under Article 21A of the Indian Constitution. With the enforcement of this Act, India became one of 135 countries to make education a fundamental right of every child. One of the provisions of RTE is the arrangements for special training for older children within school and time; eventually to mainstream them to age appropriate class.

Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act 1986

Considering the magnitude and extent of the problem of child labour and that it is essentially a socio-economic problem inextricably linked to poverty and illiteracy, way back in 1979, Government formed the first committee called Gurupadswamy Committee to study the issue of child labour and to suggest measures to tackle it. The Committee observed that as long as poverty continued, it would be difficult to totally eliminate child labour and hence, any attempt to abolish it through legal recourse would not be a practical proposition. The Committee felt that in the circumstances, the only alternative left was to ban child labour in hazardous areas and to regulate and ameliorate the conditions of work in other areas. It recommended that a multiple policy approach was required in dealing with the problems of working children. Based on the recommendations of Gurupadaswamy Committee, the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act was enacted in 1986. The Act prohibits employment of children below fourteen years of age, in certain specified hazardous occupations and processes and regulates the working conditions in others. The Act has identified 57 processes and 13 occupations which have been considered dangerous to the health and lives of children.

National Programmes and Schemes for Adolescent Development

Although all Department and Ministries in some manner or other may be implementing programmes that are benefiting adolescents, only four Departments have actively integrated adolescents in their programmes. These are Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs, Ministry of Women and Child Development, and Ministry of Human Resource Development and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Other departments take care of adolescents as subsidiary target groups in their programmes covering specific areas within their purview .

Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health (ARSH) Programme

The government has launched a Programme called the Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health Programme under National Rural Health Mission as a part of RCH. This focus on ARSH and special interventions for adolescents was in anticipation of the following expected outcomes: delay age of marriage, reduce incidence of teenage pregnancies, meet unmet contraceptive

needs and reduce the number of maternal deaths, reduce the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases and reduce the proportion of HIV positive cases in the 10-19 years age group.

Adolescent Anemia Control Programme

The Adolescent Anaemia Control Programme is a component of the National Nutritional Anaemia Control Programme. It provides adolescent girls with micronutrient supplements for prevention of iron and folic acid (IFA) deficiency. The programme strategy includes weekly IFA (100mg elemental iron + 500 microgram of folic acid), biennial de-worming (Albendazole 400mg) for prevention of helminthes infestation and information, counselling and support on how to improve dietary intake and how to prevent anaemia.

School Health Programme

The School Health Programme attempts to provide easy access to health, nutrition and hygiene education and services to children in school in a simple and cost-effective way. It includes various components i.e. screening, healthcare and referral, immunization, micronutrient (Vitamin A & Iron Folic Acid) management, de-worming, Health Promoting Schools, capacity building of teachers and the health personnel involved, monitoring & evaluation and mid-day meal.

Adolescence Education Programme (AEP)

AEP is implemented by the Department of Education in collaboration with the State AIDS Prevention and Control Society. The major components of the Adolescence Education Programme (AEP) are providing guidance and counseling to adolescents, both boys and girls regarding the process of growing up during adolescence, prevention of HIV/AIDS and prevention of substance/drug abuse.

Mid Day Meal Scheme

The Mid Day Meal Scheme has been introduced with a view for providing cooked mid day meal to the children studying in classes I - VIII for 220 working days (on each school day). The key objectives of the programme are: protecting

children from classroom hunger, increasing school enrolment and attendance, improved socialisation among children belonging to all castes, addressing malnutrition, and social empowerment through provision of employment to women. It is also envisaged that children would learn important social values and foster equality as they learn to sit together and share a common meal.

Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV)

Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) is a scheme launched in July 2004, for setting up residential schools at upper primary level for girls belonging predominantly to the SC, ST, OBC and minority communities. The objective of KGBV is to ensure access and quality education to the girls of disadvantaged groups of society by setting up residential schools at upper primary level. The scheme is being implemented in educationally backward blocks in 24 States of the country where the female rural literacy is below the national average and gender gap in literacy is above the national average.

National Programme for Youth and Adolescent Development Programme (NPYAP)

Ministry of Youth affairs and Sports has two sets of programmes for the adolescents at present:-One set covers the programmes conducted in the UNFPA project no. IND7R51D and the other set draws its programmes from the National Programme for Youth and Adolescents (NPYAD).

I. Programmes with the UNFPA support:-

- i. A project with UNFPA has been underway since 2007, under which 3840 teen clubs have been formed with 60 teen clubs in two Blocks of each one of 64 districts in the country. Teen club activities included:-
- ii. Counselling sessions in the teen clubs on Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health (ARSH), and on Life Skills;
- iii. Peer education on the above matters and on general health concerns;
- iv. Wall Magazines in the Teen Clubs to provide a platform for creative understanding of the above and related matters;

- v. Teen Club theatre activities, in that scripts have been written by the teen club members on the themes of Life Skills and ARSH;

National Charter for Children 2004

National Charter for Children is to secure for every child its inherent right to be a child and enjoy a healthy and happy childhood, to address the root causes that negate the healthy growth and development of children, and to awaken the conscience of the community in the wider societal context to protect children from all forms of abuse, while strengthening the family, society and the Nation. The Charter provides that the State and community shall undertake all possible measures to ensure and protect the survival, life and liberty of all children. In particular, all appropriate measures will be undertaken to address the problems of infanticide and feticide, especially of female child and all other emerging manifestations that deprive the girl child of her right to survive with dignity. Further, the State shall move towards a total ban of all forms of child labour and recognizing that all children have a right to be protected against neglect, maltreatment, injury, trafficking, sexual and physical abuse of all kinds, corporal punishment, torture, exploitation, violence and degrading treatment, the State shall take legal action against those committing such violations against children even if they be legal guardians of such children.

For empowering adolescent, the Charter states that the State and community shall take all steps to provide the necessary education and skills to adolescent children so as to equip them to become economically productive citizens. Special programmes will be undertaken to improve the health and nutritional status of the adolescent girl.

Analysis of Existing Policies and Programmes/ Schemes

- i. Adolescent age-group has a scattered presence in Policy Frameworks, weather it is the National Policy for Children 1974 or the National Charter for Children 2004. The Youth Policy includes adolescents 13 years onwards, which too needs to be strengthened.
- ii. Lack of common age definition and comprehensiveness for adolescent programming. Dismal convergence in programmes to reach out to adolescents from different Ministries departments. Disparate adolescent programming by

different Ministries. For example, while National Policy for Children 1974, National Policy on Child Labour, Child Labor Prohibition and Regulation Act - 1986 and Right to Education Act cover children only till 14 years, there is negligible convergence between the programmes for the same population of adolescents by Ministry of Health (ARSH and Adolescence Education Programme) or Department of Education (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan) or Ministry of Youth Affairs (Adolescence Education Programme). Further, the Ministry of Women and Child Development's scheme Sabla and the NPEGEL and KGBV of Department of Education focus only on girls and there is no specific focus on weaker / marginalised sections of the adolescent population.

- iii. There is a tendency to over emphasize reproductive health needs, due to vulnerability of the age group to risks in policy statements. The "adolescence" have several other developmental and psychosocial needs which are equally important.
- iv. During the last two decades, gender disparities and discrimination within Indian culture have received considerable attention of the policy makers. Girls and females have been identified as a target group in all developmental efforts; a positive indication that deserves appreciation. But when it comes to needs of adolescents, boys and the male youth, they are virtually „missing“ in policy frame work related to adolescents during this stage and they also need attention. Boys have very distinct and different needs as compared to girls. Little empirical evidence is available on impact of programmes, imposing constraints in reorienting implementation strategies or formulation of new policy thrusts. The need of such a feedback should be built into all intervention programmes.
- v. Skill up-gradation of the service providers to address issues of adolescents in a comprehensive manner not planned. While this is covered in terms of policy in the Youth policy, programmes-wise the vocational training parts needs to be strengthened.
- vi. Standardisation of adolescent programmes and implementation at various levels is not ensured. For example issues like nutrition, life-skills, empowerment are being covered differently by programmes of Department of Education, WCD and Health.
- vii. Weak distribution network of services for adolescents. For example under the ARSH programme of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, adolescent friendly health clinics should be functional in all public health facilities for taking care

of the health needs of all adolescents. This has not become operational even in the past 5 - 7 years

- viii. Convergence is one of the largest gaps in the implementation of the programmes for adolescents

Conclusion: It is therefore clear that while the existing policies and programmes encompass almost all aspects important for the overall growth and development of the adolescent population, it needs to be strengthened in its implementation through the various existing mechanisms. Introduction of a new policy would only be re-inventing the wheel in terms of all the aspects outlined above. A separate programme focussed on interventions for adolescent boys and girls, however based upon a right based approach, is very essential.

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