

Factors Influencing Political Participation of Youth's in Karnataka

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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. By engaging in decision making, young people are learning about the political processes in society, but are also developing necessary skills, such as self - esteem, confidence, negotiation skills, a sense of autonomy etc. Thus participation is considered a tool for individual development of a young person as a citizen. Youth participation in politics encompasses a wide range of activities that allow individuals to form and express their views on the state of the world and how it is run, as well as to influence the decisions that directly affect their daily lives. This study discusses the factors that could influence political participation among youth. The purpose of this study is to examine the intuitional and exogenous factors of youth's influencing political participation of youth's. A total of 260 youths were participated in this survey, with a response rate of 100 % at the district level in Karnataka. Finding from multiple linear regression demonstrate that the influence of intuitional factors such as youth's decision - making skills and political knowledge, youth's technological sophistication and information literacy, political participation starts at the local, personality traits and attitude towards society, breaking a political nepotism, family background, voluntary activities and exogenous factors of youth's such as contacting public officials, campaign activity, communal activities, role of students' unions/schools/colleges, political party programmes, financing and support, social environment, youth peer groups and associates, participation through voting have a substantial influence on political participation.*

Keywords: Youths, Intuitional factors, Exogenous factors, Political, Participation

1. Introduction

In a country such as India, which has the highest ever youth population in the entire world, it is of paramount importance that the government lends an ear to the young people of the land. Today's young generation is more vigorous than the prior generation. Inconsideration with - respect - to future of the country in upcoming years it is indispensable to being an engaged citizen of modern India. Youth are the most important and dynamic segment of the population in any country. It is believed that developing countries with large youth population could see tremendous growth, provided they invest in young people's education, health and protect and guarantee their rights. We can undoubtedly say that today's young are tomorrow's innovators, creators, builders, and leaders. The positive theory of youth development shows that appreciation for youth involvement and participation in the development process is insufficient and more effort is needed for youths to channel their strength into 'positive guidelines' while creating a sense of accountability among youths.

2. Literature Review

The positive theory of youth development shows that appreciation for youth involvement and participation in the development process is insufficient and more effort is needed for youths to channel their strength into 'positive guidelines' while creating a sense of accountability among youths (Advani, R.2013). Peer groups and associates seemed to be a less commonly cited source of information about politics, although the extent to which young people engaged in discussions about politics varied. Young people in the interested groups did sometimes report discussing politics with friends, or colleagues on courses. The topic of their discussions varied from focusing on a particular political

issue or topical news event to a subject which related to some aspect of a course they were undertaking. Sometimes young people talked about having heated political discussions with friends (Africa, S.2017). There are many reasons why a lot of attention is paid to youth and their participation in the democratic process. Among the citizens of any country, the young occupies very important place and plays a vital role in the continuation and strengthening of democracy (Checkoway, B., Allison, T., & Montoya, C.2005). Political participation can be classified into two categories. The first is traditional or conventional participation, which can be defined as behavioural routine within government - established institutions taking place in accordance with specific national traditions and norms. Campaigning, voting and membership to a political group are examples of conventional political participation. Nonconventional or non - traditional political participation is a behaviour that is not widely performed, which challenges or opposes established institutions. This category tends to go beyond norms, is more aggressive, and may be illegal. Demonstrations, revolutions, and political violence are examples of non - traditional participation (Chowdhry, P. D.1988). Political parties seek young voters as their main target in every election due to their high level of technological sophistication and information literacy.

Social activism has played a key role in furthering democracy, as activists seek to engage civil society in a discourse about key issues. Hence, it doesn't come as a surprise that many of these influential reformers decided to join politics, to make a direct impact and generate change (Kaur, S., & Kaur, M.2013). Activism here refers to behaviours of student collective action through various political engagements, whereby students take action in favour of or against a particular cause. As reported by students, getting involved in politics at this age helps them succeed in this field, notably since several Indian politicians

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have emerged out of student politics (Kumar, S.2014). Family background – the experience of being brought up in a family where there is some level of political discussion and interest at home does seem to have a bearing on young people's interest in politics. Political discussion had arisen in the context of general discussions with parents and other family members, when young people sought clarification about an issue to do with politics, or when young people were present whilst their parents were watching the news, or some other programme connected with politics (Madhukar, N., & Assistant, R.2021). The literature on citizen participation offers various classifications of the modes through which people get involved in politics. For the study the following forms of political participation have been included as indices to measure young people's degree of participation in electoral activities such as voting, membership in political party, campaigning for a candidate or political party, attending election meetings/rallies, taking part in political discussion with others (Megyery, K.1991). Many researches revealed that variety of subgroups have some type of guarantees, such as women, youth, individuals based on location, interests, class, race, and caste. Although the degree varies according to the party ideology (Mello, D. M.1971). The effective functioning of democracy depends on people's right to choose their representative, which is possible through voting by the citizens of the nation irrespective of caste, race, gender, class (Naik, S. B.2023). Political mobility within the constituency can influence the participation of youth in national parties.

Emerging technologies like social media connections through the internet or even wireless handheld devices are branded as (Web 2.0), in various ways, they also induce participation in democracy (Parakh, D.2020). Citizens have the capability to take part in politics not just by casting votes or joining parties but through abundant other activities. Their suggested typology consists of voting, campaign activity, and contacting public officials, and cooperative or communal activities (Participation, P.2022). Participation in various voluntary activities, such as a youth forum, and campaigning groups or organisations, such as animal welfare charities or organisations safeguarding human rights, had also raised awareness about politics and sometimes brought young people directly into contact with politicians (Forrer B.,2022). Youth's own insecurities and personal aspirations are often the factors that drive them towards politics. Influence of social environment and mass media on how young people can obtain relevant resources to contribute positively to the activities they participate in, particularly in politics (Forrer B.2023). Youth political participation is gaining importance in terms of participating in political activities, such as joining political or civic groups, volunteering, communicating with politicians, participating in campaigns, or supporting in terms of voting or petitioning online. Religion also largely impacts how the youth engages with politics and those representing it, just as it does for the total vote bank (Paschou, M.2022).

Voting was seen as the only legitimate way in which young people could express their views and take part in politics. Others, however, based their judgement on whether the government would be directly involved in some way (Singh, V.2019). Young people cited the media as one of the main

sources of information about politics, although their willingness to engage with it varied. It seemed that some of the negative images that young people had about politics and politicians (see Chapter 4) had arisen from the media (Sorenson, J. G. B.2006). The social environment can be considered to have influence on youth participation in politics. Young people are influenced by their social environment, which includes peers and parents, social relationships, counsellors or role models, etc., all of which can have a long - term influence on their behaviour, such as leadership involvement (Sozhiya, S., & Jasmin, K. S. S.2018). Political parties play a key role in recruiting, supporting and championing younger candidates. Many parties use 'youth wings' to build a talent pipeline. Studies have shown that where youth wings are well thought out and nurtured, they produce good outcomes. Research shows that for many young people, political participation starts at the local or regional level. This is where young people get a chance to see the direct impact of their involvement and participate in a small - scale democracy. Local communities and schools can also educate youth on leadership participation by exposing them to social network connections that shape their self - esteem, such as meetings and discussions from club activities (M. & M (021). Nepotism poses a serious challenge to engaging the youth in politics as it promotes disparity and prevents new narratives, free of party politics. As stated by a stakeholder, nepotism may increase the percentage of youth leaders in the politics, but it does not translate to the youth's representation in the politics. Young people identified a range of different ways in which politics had been taught at school and college. These included formal classes about politics, which were incorporated into either modern studies, as well as discussions about politics as part of another course, such as History, Law or Sociology. As part of these various courses, they sometimes had been encouraged to write to politicians, or to take part in a mock election. In addition, some young people had elected to pursue a course in politics (Undesa 2012).

Political awareness, or understanding of, and interest in current events and concerns, determines individuals' attitudes and whether they actively engage in a democracy. Individuals in a democracy ought to have a basic grasp of the political system through which they express their views and elect representatives since knowledge is required for effective political participation. Citizens who are not aware of what is happening around them inevitably become non - participatory citizens. A well - informed public is thus the 'backbone' of every democracy (Utter, G. H.2011). Younger generations are said to have gained enough knowledge to transcend beyond the realm of traditional politics to become more actively involved in unconventional forms of political actions. Individuals typically become politically engaged spontaneously when they are passionate about political topics related to their own values and concerns or matters that incite a feeling of civic duty. However, more frequently, individuals become active via recruitment directly by others or via social media (Wagner, A. L.2015). Subnational Politics in India, thus, vary from state to state depending on party structure, ideology and level of citizen participation in politics. Within the state, we find another level of political administration, namely the Panchayati Raj Institutions

(PRIs). Panchayati Raj institutions represent India's attempt at direct democracy at the grassroots and are believed to increase local public participation in the planning and implementation of developmental programmes (White, C).

Personality traits and social attitudes have demonstrated a vital role in an endeavour to participation of youth in political system. Young people have depressingly low levels of political interest and knowledge. Youths unfortunately remain amongst the marginalized groups that do not get enough attention from the authorities and the legislator (Jayalakshmi 1997). And while young people get usually involved in various non - formal political activities such as organized protests and civic events, they still do not get adequate representation in formal political institutions such as the parliament, its various committees and within the political parties commanding structures. The lack of proper preparation of youth to leadership positions and poor capacity building programs caused young people to be either fearful or indifferent to getting involved to improve their political participation (Yadav, A.2021).

3. Research Problem

Young citizens are less likely to participate in traditional institutions such as labour unions and religious denominations. lastly, some research even goes as far as accrediting adolescents with an insufficient degree of political knowledge compared to older individuals. For some, this decline in youth engagement in mainstream politics is associated with the hypothesis of youth apathy. This view assumes that the youth are politically ignorant since numerous young individuals are disengaged from political activities, show low levels of political concern and are poorly represented at all levels of government. The absence of meaningful research on youth political engagement in India has led young people to be labelled as an 'apathetic' generation like youngsters in other democracies. Politics has become as a last career invoke among the youngsters, due to uncontrolled corruption, nepotism, caste politics, and lack of accountability and lack of openness. As a result, most of our potential human resources choose to go abroad for settling their permanently as soon as they complete their education. Politics need to open and should promote the younger generation into mainstream politics.

Young leaders personify energy and enthusiasm and can be immeasurably effectual in forming policies for themselves concerning contemporary issues and problems. Young people have the right and the opportunity to speak up about their concerns and opinions since they can receive proper justice in the community. Every individual youth will have their own autonomy, cultural independence, and philosophy, particularly when it comes to choose their path. As a result, youth participation has been identified as essential to achieving an ideal democracy, particularly in the political process. Over the last decades, scholarly debates across democratic nations have focused on young people's political involvement, and many of these studies confirm that the younger generation is indeed less likely to vote in elections than their older counterparts.

Young people's reluctance to vote is echoed in other formal political activities as well; Young individuals exhibit lower party identification and are less likely to join political parties or come in personal contact with politicians. Youngsters creativity and innovation contribute significantly to the democratic process. However, many young people are not drawn to political issues and hence do not participate in the democratic process. Many observations in the studies revealed that youth do not have faith in representative institutions or politicians, and they choose to focus on education and jobs that provide them with a better living. Serious consideration needs to be given to ways to further engage the youth in a vast plethora of political activity and social work. Party preference, or partisanship, is a strong indicator of how the youth involve themselves in conventional political activities. Young generation should be the backbone of our future India, more ideas to be generated and they should be responsible for choosing which cultural beliefs are going to work for the benefit of humanity. Participation of young people will also make certain a larger sense of comprehensiveness in the democratic system. While many social scientists vouch for the active engagement of all citizens for a democracy to properly function, they are simultaneously witnessing the problem of low youth participation throughout the democratic world.

4. Research Objectives

The main objective of this study is to contribute to an evidence - based analysis of the young people's Intuitional factors and Exogenous factors determining political participation in the context of Karnataka Politics. More specifically, this study will analyse factors and forces influencing youth political participation in Karnataka state that exhibit distinctive patterns relative to established democracies. After the intensive literature review, the following objectives for the study have been set.

- 1) To know Intuitional factors affecting Youth's Political Participation in Karnataka
- 2) To examine the Exogenous factors of Youth's influence the Political Participation in Karnataka

Hypothesis for the research

H1: Intuitional factors of youth's influences the Political Participation in Karnataka

H2: Exogenous factors of youth's influence the Political Participation in Karnataka

Research Methodology

The data for this study are taken from the youths who are eligible to cast their votes during the elections. The data collection techniques used in this study consist structured questionnaires on Google form. This study employed a variety of questioning techniques to encourage and ensure youth attentiveness towards politics. A total of 260 youths were participated in this survey, with a response rate of 100 % at the district levels of Karnataka. Finding from multiple linear regression In - depth interviews were therefore used to explore views and behaviour at the individual level. These allowed for example more detailed examination of young people's motivations for choosing whether to engage with the political process.

5. Data Analysis

Descriptive statistics were used both to determine the frequency of various methodological parameters, as well as to identify variations due to the time of study, geographic focus, and product type. SPSS software was used for the measurement of the data collected. regression analysis was used to analyze the relationships between variables of the

research model. Cronbach’s Alpha also used to test the reliability of the scales. Each scale had satisfactory reliability with Cronbach's Alpha above 0.70.

Intuitional factors

Intuitional factors refer to the youth’s inner attitude, internal strength and drives towards active participation in politics.

Table 1: Intuitional factors of Youth’s Political Participation

Model Summary					
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	
1	.957 ^a	0.917	0.91	0.30888	

ANOVA ^b						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	253.017	18	14.056	147.335	.000 ^a
	Residual	22.993	241	0.095		
	Total	276.01	259			

b. Dependent Variable: Youth Political Participation

Coefficients ^a						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	-0.435	0.146		-2.974	0.003
	<i>Own insecurities and personal aspirations</i>	.023	.016	.032	1.397	.164
	Youth’s decision - making skills and political knowledge	-0.14	0.026	-0.155	-5.404	0
	Youth’s technological sophistication and information literacy	0.148	0.033	0.152	4.432	0
	Political participation starts at the local	0.09	0.043	0.103	2.11	0.036
	Personality traits and attitude towards society	0.117	0.03	0.12	3.914	0
	Breaking a political nepotism	-0.067	0.03	-0.082	-2.271	0.024
	<i>Addressing community problems and fighting for issues</i>	.032	.03	.037	1.078	.282
	<i>Family Background</i>	-.003	.038	-.004	-0.088	.93
	Voluntary activities	0.19	0.034	0.251	5.565	0

a. Dependent Variable: Youth’s Political Participation

The regression analysis shows that, the value of “R” indicates high degree of correlation co - efficient (.957^a) between Intuitional factors of youth’s and their political participation. R² measure the variation explained by the regression model is (.917) being high indicating model fits the data well. Significant of F change is less than 0.05 which indicates Intuitional factors of youth’s have significant relationship with political participation in Karnataka.9 variables of Intuitional factors of youth’s were used to predict youth’s political participation.

Youth’s political participation = (- .435) + (.023* ***Own insecurities and personal aspirations***) + (- .140* Youth’s decision - making skills and political knowledge) + (.148* Youth’s technological sophistication and information literacy) + (.090* Political participation starts at the local) + (.117* Personality traits and attitude towards society) + (- .067* Breaking a political nepotism) + (.032* ***Addressing***

community problems and fighting for issues) + (- .003* ***Family Background***) + (.190* Voluntary activities).

Since the above regression model indicates the Intuitional factors of youth’s political participation and except the values highlighted in bold and italic are < than p value 0.05. Therefore, hypothesis statement. i. e, *H1: Intuitional factors of youth’s influences the Political Participation in Karnataka* is accepted.

Regression equation:

$$Youth's\ political\ participation = +\beta_1 (OIPA) +\beta_2 (YDMSPK) +\beta_3 (YTIL) +\beta_4 (PPL) +\beta_5 (PTAS) +\beta_6 (BPN) +\beta_7 (ACPM) +\beta_8 (FB) +\beta_9 (VA) +\mu$$

Exogenous factors: Exogenous factors refer to the youth’s behaviour towards active participation in politics due to drives from the outside the individual environment which means external factors affecting political participation among the youth.

Table 2: Exogenous factors of Youth’s Political Participation

Model Summary				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.941 ^a	0.886	0.881	0.35684

ANOVA ^b						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	244.558	12	20.38	160.051	.000 ^a
	Residual	31.451	247	0.127		
	Total	276.01	259			

b. Dependent Variable: Youth Political Participation

Coefficients ^a						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	-0.385	0.165		-2.34	0.02
	Contacting public officials	-0.273	0.075	-0.267	-3.641	0
	Campaign activity	0.805	0.149	0.604	5.396	0
	Communal Activities	-0.167	0.063	-0.142	-2.636	0.009
	Role of students' unions/Schools/Colleges	0.108	0.041	0.112	2.652	0.009
	Political party programmes, financing and support	-0.109	0.054	-0.118	-2.007	0.046
	Social environment	0.246	0.045	0.259	5.462	0
	<i>Mass Media</i>	<i>-0.048</i>	<i>0.042</i>	<i>-0.064</i>	<i>-1.162</i>	<i>0.246</i>
	Youth Peer groups and associates	0.228	0.049	0.293	4.644	0
	Participation through Voting	0.32	0.044	0.311	7.323	0
	<i>Local communities and schools</i>	<i>-0.041</i>	<i>0.03</i>	<i>-0.047</i>	<i>-1.382</i>	<i>0.168</i>
	<i>Political party ideology</i>	<i>0.013</i>	<i>0.026</i>	<i>0.017</i>	<i>0.499</i>	<i>0.618</i>
	<i>Educated masses</i>	<i>0.019</i>	<i>0.027</i>	<i>0.023</i>	<i>0.705</i>	<i>0.482</i>

a. Dependent Variable: Youth Political Participation

The regression analysis shows that, the value of "R" indicates high degree of correlation coefficient (-.385) between Exogenous factors of Youth's and youth political participation. R² measure the variation explained by the regression model is (.886) being high indicating model fits the data well. Significant of F change is less than 0.05 which indicates Exogenous factors of youth's have significant relationship with youth's political participation. 12 variables of Exogenous factors of youth's were used to predict youth's political participation.

Youth's political participation = (-.385) + (-.273* Contacting public officials) + (.805* Campaign activity) + (-.167* Communal Activities) + (.108* Role of students' unions/Schools/Colleges) + (-.109* Political party programmes, financing and support) + (.246* Social environment) + (-.048* ***Mass Media***) + (.228* Youth Peer groups and associates) + (.320* Participation through Voting) + (-.041* ***Local communities and schools***) + (.013* ***Political party ideology***) + (.019* ***Educated masses***). Since the above regression model indicates the exogenous factors of youth's and except the values are highlighted in bold and italic are < than p value 0.05.

Therefore, hypothesis statement. i. e, **H2: Exogenous factors of youth's influence the Political Participation in Karnataka is accepted.**

Regression equation:

Youth's political participation =
 $\alpha + \beta_1 (CPO) + \beta_2 (CA) + \beta_3 (CommA) + \beta_4 (RSU) + \beta_5 (PPPF) + \beta_6 (SE) + \beta_7 (MM) + \beta_8 (PTV) + \beta_8 (YPGA) + \beta_8 (PTV) + \beta_8 (LCS) + \beta_8 (PPI) + \beta_8 (EM) + \mu$

6. Findings

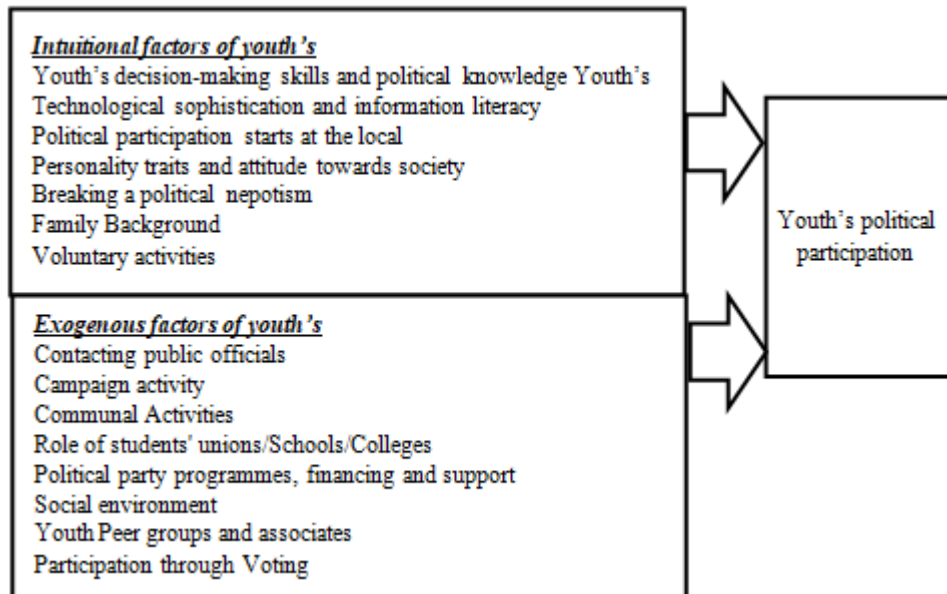
Having roots in the community would likely increase the wish of knowledge and the concern about the local political situation and therefore would be more politically involved.

Which would mean that highly mobile people feel less belonging to a community and less likely to participate in elections. Youngsters are not even contributing a day for the welfare of the poor in present scenario. They speak much about politics, criticize the political actions and the leaders which they think would change the evil practices in the society and generally, their participation in active politics is very little in India. a declining interest in politics among youth is not a concern in India where youth exhibit several interesting attitudes: high participation in politics, high trust in democracy, high continuity and engagement in politics across generations, especially where there is a family tradition and - like the general population - a high trust in the army as an institution in contrast to the lowest trust in the police and political parties. Family has not the same influence as education has, but the political encouragement from homes have also a big contribution to political activity. Political activity runs from generation to generation, it can be through the education that the parents are providing but also through the political environment around the dinner table. Youth participation in public policy is a process of involving young people in the institutions and decisions that affect their lives. It includes efforts by young people to take initiative and organize around policy issues that concern them, by adults to involve them in policy proceedings of public agencies, and by youth and adults to work together in intergenerational policy partnerships. In recent days, 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. In spite of engaging in manual work they remain unemployed and enter in politics and making money by doing others work in daily life or take some small contracts with the help of officials who belong to their castes or society. The campaigns were on the television, advertising celebrities discussing voting and talking about why it is important, with the slogan "I Vote for India".

These campaigns could be found on Facebook, Google, Twitter as well as other popular websites. Some may join a party for personal interest, some under the influence of family members or friends, still some may become member of a party with a commitment that they may be able to do something for the community. Whatever may be the reasons for joining a political party, being a member is likely to generate an interest to take part in electoral activities. The new school curriculum was supposed to promote democratic values as well as others constitutional values, excluding non - racialism and non - sexism. With the new school system would the youth of Karnataka have a good political understanding as well as requisite to vote, although are they abstainers. The social environment of the state facilitates 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. Civic forms of participation include group membership, volunteering with civil service organizations, and working towards solving community problems. Electoral indicators include voting in elections, donating to political candidates/parties, and campaigning alongside political candidates/issues during an electoral cycle. It is observed that, an educated person is more knowledgeable, observant and more likely of respondent in an election compare to the uneducated.

Research Model



7. Suggestions

A number of suggestions were made for engaging young people in the political process. These were concerned with bringing young people in contact with politicians, as reported above, lowering the age of electoral eligibility and empowering young people to make their own decisions and to take responsibility for issues which directly affect them. Other suggestions were concerned with giving young people some control over aspects of their lives, so as to learn about civic responsibility and decision making. The experience of sitting on a school's council or youth forum was felt to encourage young people to take responsibility for some of the issues which affect them, even if it did not result in contact with politicians. Concern, however, was registered that these forums have the potential to raise expectations, on the part of young people, which sometimes cannot be met. It was said, for example, that the failure of politicians to respond to recommendations from a youth forum had increased individual cynicism and apathy about politics. Integrating youth voices in issues facing their local communities and promote their participation in their local government. Building youth capacity and enhancing their leadership, communication and management skills. Literacy campaign and movement is notable in peoples planning campaign, this is the time of social media literacy campaign in Karnataka. People awareness is very less in cyber laws

and healthy usage of social media; it includes a political education also. Youth welfare board announcing youth icon awards, Local self - Government department should use these youth icons as the ambassadors for Gramasabha empowerment. Formulate Panchayati Raj Volunteer clubs in education institutions and these volunteers should be maintaining a progress card which is helpful for their extra curriculum activities. It will help to improve the status of child friendly local governance concept volunteerism among the youth. Formal knowledge about local government process is very less in youth organisations. Panchayat can conduct workshop on this subject.

Youth coordination committee have crucial role in this. Annual Panchayathi Development seminar and discussion is one of the reputed programme in panchayat, Days of this seminar should be increase and conduct special session for youth. Formation of Youth coordination committee in Ward level helps to increase youth participation. Internship programmes are the chance to knowing different administrative activities and functioning of institutions. District collector internship programmes and various other institutional internship programmes are improving the knowledge level of youth. Introducing internship programme in Panchayat Raj Institutions helps to create student's society attention, professionalism in political activities, participatory planning and leadership quality among the youth. It also creates a relation with these

institutions. Instituting mechanisms that report on gender - equality commitments and ensure accountability for increasing women's political participation are essential for tracking progress and collecting data at the local and state levels.

8. Conclusions

Finally, this study offers valuable insights into potentially significant indicators to enhance youth political participation. youth's decision - making skills and political knowledge, youth's technological sophistication and information literacy, political participation starts at the local, personality traits and attitude towards society, breaking a political nepotism, family background, voluntary activities and exogenous factors of youth's such as contacting public officials, campaign activity, communal activities, role of students' unions/schools/colleges, political party programmes, financing and support, social environment, youth peer groups and associates, participation through voting have a substantial influence on political participation.

Finally, involving the youth in politics can only be fully done by eliminating the mind - sets of ageism and over - dependence on experienced politicians in society. It must be recognized that the youth have a voice, and that they are capable of enacting social change by bringing in inclusive, unprecedented, and fresh ideas to the table. If young people are to become more interested in politics, they need to be persuaded that the subject has greater relevance within their lives. It also needs to be delivered in a more enjoyable and entertaining way than at present. Politics therefore needs to be framed in terms which resonate with the issues and concerns of young people.

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