



11th Five Year Plan

One of the goals of the 11th Five Year Plan is to provide comprehensive opportunities for the development of youth in India.

11th Five Plan-Goals for Youth

- **Health:** Promote health and nutrition during pregnancy; impart knowledge and skills to health service personnel to address adolescent reproductive and sexual health; advocate for the delay in adolescent marriage; integrate adolescent issues into RCH training materials; and provide adolescent specific services at PHCs and CHCs.
- **Secondary Education:** Provide universal access to secondary education to all students; improve quality of instruction and focus on key subjects; reduce gender, social, and regional disparities.
- **Vocational Education:** Revamp the existing programmes to focus on practical training, soft skills, computer literacy, and other skills sets that are marketable in multiple sectors; allow for flexible courses and degree programmes; and expand vocational education courses to more schools.
- **Higher and Technical Education:** Increase opportunities for students across professional sectors; improve quality in higher educational and technical institutions; increase public and private investment in education; and create new technical universities, polytechnics, and community and degree colleges.
- **Skill Development:** Create a pool of skilled labour based on the needs of industry, trade, and service sectors; launch the Skill Development Mission which will focus on enhancing training opportunities for employment in high growth sectors.

Sources: 11th Five Year Plan, Planning Commission; PRS.

Employment & Education

There are currently 378 universities in India, which meet only a fraction of the demand.⁶ The National Knowledge Commission and the Planning Commission set targets to increase this number.

Table 2: 11th Five Year Plan Targets

Educational Institutions	Target
Central Universities	30 total; 16 in states without a central university; 14 to be established as world class standards schools
Degree Colleges	370 degree colleges focused in areas with low gross enrolment ratios
Technical Schools	8 IITs, 7 IIMs, 10 NITs, 3 IISERs, 20 IIITs, and 2 SPAs
Polytechnics	One in every district without a polytechnic
Community Colleges	210 primarily in the northern, western and eastern sections of India

Source: 11th Five Year Plan, Planning Commission.

There are 947 employment exchanges in India that notify job-seekers of vacancies in the public sector and certain private sector companies. In 2006, approximately 73 lakh persons registered with the exchanges. Of the total registered job-seekers (4.14 crore), about 1.77 lakh were placed in jobs in 2006.⁷

Endnotes

1. *Population Projections for India and States 2001-2026, Report of the Technical Group on Population Projections Constituted by the National Commission on Population, Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, May 2006.*
2. *National Youth Policy (2003), See <http://yas.nic.in/yasroot/policies/policies-index.htm>.*
3. *Reproductive and Child Health II: The Principles and Evidence Base for Sate RCH II Programme Implementation Plans, Adolescent Health, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.*
4. *Integrated Child Development Scheme, Ministry of Women and Child Development. See <http://wcd.nic.in/>*
5. *Skills Development and Training, Eleventh Five Year Plan, Planning Commission.*
6. *Education, Eleventh Five Year Plan, Planning Commission.*
7. *Annual Report 2007-08, Ministry of Labour and Employment.*

YOUTH IN INDIA

Issue Brief

Context

- In 2001, about 556 million people (54% of the population) were below the age of 24. Of this, 19% were between 15-24 years and 35% were below 14 years of age.
- The current demographic scenario is likely to change significantly over the next twenty years. Demographic projections indicate that the median age will increase from about 23 years in 2001 to 31 years in 2026.
- The National Youth Policy (2003) focuses on four areas: (i) youth empowerment; (ii) gender justice; (iii) inter-sectoral approach; and (iv) information and research network. Government schemes for youth focus on education, employment and skills development, and youth affairs.
- The Reproductive and Child Health Phase-II (RCH-II) includes adolescent health as one of its components. RCH-II seeks to improve the health and development of adolescents who are either married or out of school.
- The health targets include addressing adolescent reproductive and sexual health, promoting nutrition and health during pregnancy, and integrating adolescent specific services in PHCs and CHCs.
- Central schemes for the secondary education include Kendriya Vidyalayas, integrated education for disabled children, adolescent education and life skills, and improved boarding facilities for girls. The National Knowledge Commission and the Planning Commission set targets to increase the number of universities in India.
- The Ministry of Labour implements schemes related to vocational training, apprenticeship, and skills development. Employment exchanges have been established to help job-seekers locate jobs in the public sector and in some private companies.
- The budget for RCH, ICDS, and nutrition programmes was Rs 6654 crore. This figure may include spending for other groups besides youth and adolescents. In addition, other general health programmes may spend on youth.

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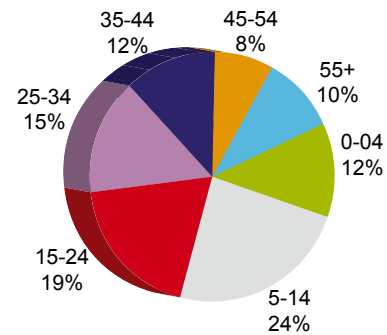
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Demographic Scenario

Youth in India account for over half of the country's total population. In 2001, about 556 million people (54% of the population) were below the age of 24.¹ Of this figure, 19% are between the ages of 15-24 years and 35% are below the age of 14 years of age.

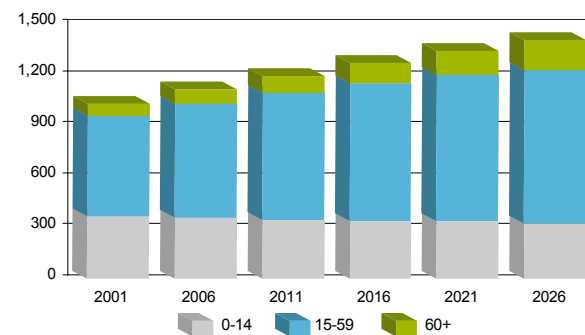
Figure 1: 2001 Population by Age



Source: Census of India, 2001.

The current population breakdown is likely to change considerably over the next 20 years. India is set to experience a decline in fertility, which will reduce the number of people under the age of 15. In turn, the population above 15 years will increase considerably.

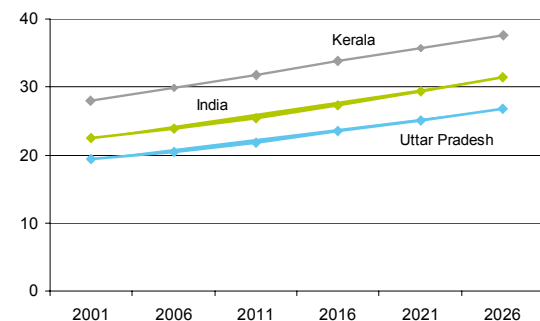
Figure 2: Population Projections 2001-2026 (in millions)



Source: Population Projections for India and States 2001-2026, Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, May 2006.

The median age is projected to increase from about 23 years in 2001 to 31 years in 2026, with significant variation across states.

Figure 3: Median Age Projections 2001-2026



Source: Population Projections for India and States 2001-2026, Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, May 2006.

National Youth Policy

The National Youth Policy (2003) focuses on four broad areas: (i) youth empowerment; (ii) gender justice; (iii) inter-sectoral approach; and (iv) information and research network. It covers youth from 13-35 years. The policy states that all youth should be provided with education, training, employment, and other opportunities that will enhance their personal and professional development. The eight key areas for youth development are: (i) education; (ii) training and employment; (iii) health and family welfare; (iv) environment; (v) sports; (vi) arts and culture; (vii) science and technology; and (viii) civic responsibility.²

Government Schemes

Government schemes relating to youth focus on four broad areas: (i) health; (ii) education; (iii) employment & skills development; and (iv) youth affairs.

Health: One of the largest health programmes is the Reproductive and Child Health Phase-II (RCH-II), which includes adolescent health as one of its components. RCH-II seeks to improve the health and development of adolescents who are either married or out of school. The programme focuses on adolescent growth and development, nutrition, reproductive and sexual health, marriage and parenthood, and life skill education.³ The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) focuses on early childhood development and includes a scheme to improve health and nutritional habits of adolescent girls.⁴

Education: Education is a concurrent subject with the responsibility shared by both the state and central governments. At the central level, the Ministry of Human Resource Development implements nine schemes for primary education including Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, mid-day meals, education of girls, teachers' welfare, and merit scholarships. Central programmes for the secondary level include Kendriya Vidyalayas, integrated education for disabled children, adolescent education and life skills, and strengthening boarding facilities for girls. In 2004, the government created a 2% cess on central taxes for elementary education, and subsequently in 2007, a 1% cess for secondary and higher education.

Employment & Skills Development: Skills development and employment also fall under the concurrent list. Training is currently provided by over five thousand industrial training institutes (ITI), of which 2,000 are state government operated.⁵ At the central level, the Director General of Employment & Training in the Ministry of Labour is the nodal agency that creates policies, standards, trade testing and certification in vocational training. State governments are responsible for implementing vocational and skill training programmes.⁵ Some central schemes include the national employment exchanges which provide career counselling and job placement for the work force and the skill development initiative to train one million workers.

Youth Affairs: The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

implements 12 schemes for the promotion of youth and sports in India. These schemes focus on developing skills, leadership, service activities, and youth clubs.

The goal of these schemes is to incorporate youth into development activities as well as increase their access to information and employment opportunities.

Table 1: Government Schemes

Scheme & Programmes	Ministry	Main Objectives
Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Phase-II	Health & Family Welfare	Reduce the maternal mortality ratio, the infant mortality rate and total fertility rate; develop an adolescent approach guided by key elements in the National Population Policy
Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)	Women & Child Development	Targets children, pregnant women and nursing mothers, rural areas, tribal areas, and urban slums to improve nutritional and health status
Kishori Shakti Yojana (KSY)	Women & Child Development	Empowers adolescent girls and implements programmes for nutrition, health, education, literacy, recreation, and skill development; sponsored under the ICDS scheme
Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls (NPAG)	Women & Child Development	Provides 6kgs of food grains and other health and nutritional education to under nourished adolescent girls, pregnant and nursing mothers
Balika Samridhi Yojana	Women & Child Development	Encourages a positive attitude towards girl children in BPL families; provides an at-birth grant of Rs 500 and education scholarships up to secondary education
Nutrition Education and Training Through Community Food & Nutrition Extension Units	Women & Child Development	Instil nutrition awareness among women and adolescent girls; provide education and skills for achieving adequate nutrition; train women and adolescent girls in fruit and vegetable preservation
Skill Development Initiative (SDIS)	Labour & Employment	Identify the minimum skill set needed for successful employment and train or test existing skills of one million workers
National Employment Service	Labour & Employment	Focus on the network of employment exchanges, which provide career counselling, vocational guidance, job placements, and other employment services
Upgradation of ITI Centres	Labour & Employment	Improve existing ITIs into "Centres of Excellence" by introducing new courses in multiskilling and advanced/specialised modular courses; the scheme focuses on the quality of vocational training, systemic reforms, and project management and evaluation
Industrial Training Institutes (ITI) in the Northeast and J&K	Labour & Employment	Train youth to meet qualitative and quantitative requirements of industry, service sector, self-employment, etc
Craftsmen Training	Labour & Employment	Train workers to have employable skills for the labour market and increase the quality of crafts and industrial production
Apprenticeship Training	Labour & Employment	Expand the availability of training seats for trade, graduate, technician, and vocational apprentices; include 50 additional trades under this scheme
Women's Vocational Training	Labour & Employment	Provide skills training in for women in secretarial practice, electronics, architectural assistantship, computer operator, dressmaking, instrument mechanics, etc
Advanced Vocational Training	Labour & Employment	Upgrade skills of current industrial workers
Computer Training for SCs & STs	Labour & Employment	Train SC/ST workers who are registered with the employment exchange with computer skills
Special Coaching for SCs & STs	Labour & Employment	Provide special coaching to SCs/STs to appear for exams for Group C government postings
Universalisation of Access to and Improvement of Quality Education	Human Resource Development	Develop infrastructure, quality learning in school, and additional support for education of girls, rural, and SC/ST students; accommodate the growing number of students in secondary schools
Vocationalisation of Secondary Education at +2 Level	Human Resource Development	Provide diversified educational programmes to increase employable skills, decrease the difference between demand and supply of skilled labour, and provide diverse options for higher education
Information & Communication Technology (ICT) in Schools	Human Resource Development	Enhance access to technology for students of diverse socio-economic and geographic backgrounds
Scheme for Upgrading Polytechnics	Human Resource Development	Promote education and skills training opportunities for persons with disabilities
Apprenticeship Training	Human Resource Development	Provide practical and other necessary skills training for engineering graduates, diploma holders, and vocational graduates
National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship	Human Resource Development	Select students through a nationalized test after VIII for Rs 6,000 scholarship to apply towards secondary and higher secondary education expenses
National Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education (SUCCESS)	Human Resource Development	Promote secondary education for girls by providing incentives; covers all SC/ST girls who pass VIII exams and all girls who pass VIII exams from Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas for secondary education
Revised Girls Hostel	Human Resource Development	Create one girls hostel in each educationally backward block; provide financial support to voluntary organisations for running girls hostels for secondary and higher secondary students
Distance Education & Web Based Learning	Human Resource Development	Develop web based curriculum for technical education to improve technical education at IITs and IISc
Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan	Youth Affairs & Sports	Implement development programmes for non-student rural youth such as youth clubs
National Service Scheme	Youth Affairs & Sports	Encourage school and university students to participate in regular community service activities and develop civic responsibility
Rashtriya Sadbhawana Yojana	Youth Affairs & Sports	Develop the leadership capabilities of rural youth; covers all 500 district with NYKS
National Programme for Youth and Adolescent Development	Youth Affairs & Sports	Merge the Promotion of Youth Activities and Training, the Promotion of National Integration, the Promotion of Adventure, and the Development and Empowerment of Adolescents into one programme

Sources: Annual Report 2007-08, Ministries of Health and Family Welfare, Women and Child Development, Labour and Employment, and Human Resource Development; Expenditure Budget Vol. 2, Union Budget, 2007-08, 2008-09, Government of India; PRS.