



nyda

NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
OUR YOUTH. OUR FUTURE.



YOUTH OUTLOOK REPORT

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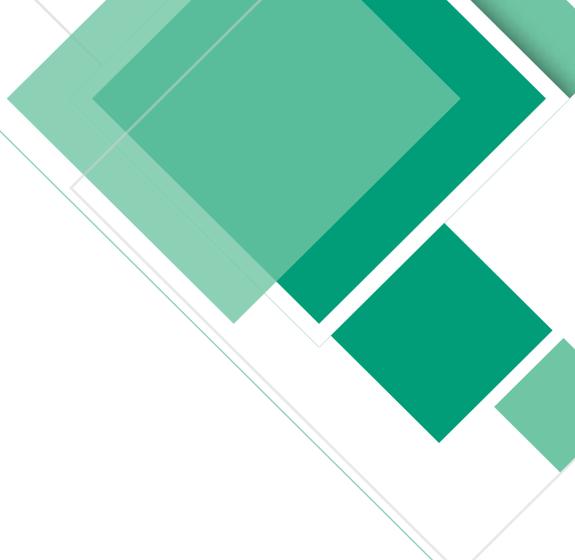
The strategy (IYDS) seeks to provide guide on how the NYP 2020 will be implemented through identifying roles of all key players in youth development sector

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Abbreviation and Acronyms

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ART	Antiretroviral Treatment
B-BBEEE	Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment
CWP	Community Work Programme
DAC	Department of Arts and Culture
EDD	Economic Development Department
EEA	Employment Equity Act
EPWP	Extended Public Works Programme
ESSA	Employment Services South Africa
ETI	Employment Tax Incentive
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEM	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor
HEI	Higher Education Institution
HIV	Humane Immune Virus
IYDS	Integrated Youth Development Strategy
NARYSEC	National Rural Youth Service Corps
NASFAS	National Student Financial Aid Scheme
NCS	National Curriculum Statement
NDP	National Development Plan
NEETS	Neither in Employment, Education and Training
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NGP	New Growth Path
NSF	National Skills Fund
NYDA	National Youth Development Agency
NYP	National Youth Policy
NYS	National Youth Service
SAQA	South African Qualifications Framework
SAYC	South African Youth Council
SMME	Small, Micro and Medium Enterprise
SOE	State-Owned Enterprise
SSP	Sector Skills Plan
StatsSA	Statistics South Africa
SYR	Status of Youth Report
TEA	Total Early-stage Entrepreneurial Activity
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training



Foreword

The Report provides insight into the critical role of young people in the context of the implementation of the 2030 for Sustainable Development and related frameworks, the National Development Plan (NDP) 2030 and the Integrated Youth Development Strategy

Advancing Youth Development

Far from being mere beneficiaries of the NDP, young people have been active architects in its development and continue to be engaged in processes that support its implementation, follow-up and review. At the level of global policy, finance and measurement are major issues to be addressed as part of worldwide youth development efforts. At the national level, policy and programmatic responses to the youth issues have been effectively implemented.

In employment, about 71 million young people are unemployed globally; and millions more are in precarious or informal work. Disparities within and between countries in education and employment among youth are stark, with gender, poverty, rurality, disability, and migrant/refugee status all being major elements of disadvantage. The percentage of youth aged between 15–24 years who were not in employment, education or training (NEET) increased from 32,4% in the first quarter of 2018 to 33,2% in the first quarter of 2019. In this age group, the NEET rate for males increased by 1,9 percentage points, while the rate for females decreased by 0,2 of a percentage point. The NEET rate for females was higher than that of their male counterparts in both years.

Evidence-based youth policies, tailored and adapted to national and local contexts, help ensure that youth development challenges are addressed. Key elements that help ensure an effective youth policy include providing political leadership and strategic vision; securing adequate budget and resource allocations; using timely and accurate data on the situation of young people; utilizing the knowledge, experience and expertise of young people in the design, implementation and evaluation of the youth policy; mainstreaming and integrating youth policies across sectors; taking into account the linkages and impacts of policy objectives; and developing a transparent monitoring and accountability framework.

1. Introduction

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), a national statistical service of South Africa, recently released a trend report on the Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) for the first quarter of 2019. The report aims to highlight the current economic status of South Africa which indicates a significant increase in the unemployment rate compared to the last quarter of 2018. The report reveals that the increase in the unemployment rate is a result of a decline of 237 000 in the number of people in employment and an increase of 62 000 in the number of people who were unemployed between the fourth quarter of 2018 and the first quarter of 2019. Numerically, unemployment increased by 0,5 of a percentage point, bringing the rate to 27,6%.

Furthermore, the unemployment rate of youth aged between 15 and 24 increased in the first quarter of 2019, a bulk of which is not in education, employment or training (NEET). The number increased from 32,4% in the first quarter of 2018 to 33,2% in the first quarter of 2019 for youth aged between 15 to 24. The YEA Report (2013 -2018) indicates that the implication is that the increasing number of youth labour force far outweighed the economy's absorption capacity and females were the most affected.

The graphic by Stats SA below indicates that the NEET rate for males increased by 1,9 percentage points, while the rate for females decreased by 0,2 percentage point. The NEET rate for females was higher than that of their male counterparts in both years.

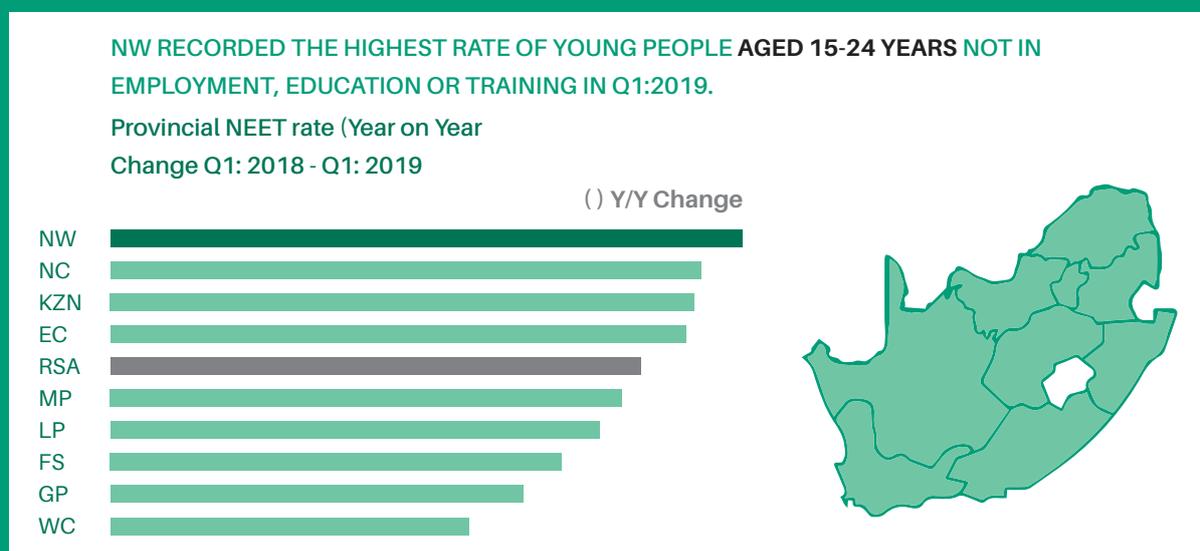


NEET Rates for Youth Aged 15-24 Years by Gender

The different provinces are impacted directly by the state of unemployment of the youth most importantly the NEET group. North West had the highest percentage of youths not in employment, education or training with their NEET sitting at 40.3% and the Western Cape registered the lowest percentage of youths not in employment, education or training, with the province's NEET sitting at 27.6%.

The figure below provides a demonstration of young people (NEET) impacted per province.

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NEET Rates for Youth Aged 15-24 Years by Province from Q1 2018 to Q1 2019

The South African Market Insight iterated that the only thing that will lift people out of unemployment and poverty is economic growth and job creation through the right policies, political programs and efficient government and efficient government spending needs to be in place to foster and maintain an environment in which businesses and individuals can flourish in.

According to the OECD, long-term unemployment causes significant mental and material stress for those affected and their families. It is also of particular concern for policymakers, as high rates of long-term unemployment indicate that labour markets are operating inefficiently.¹ Once a person has been in long-term unemployment, the probability of finding a job declines, leaving them at risk of being permanently detached from the labour market."

The NYDA derives its mandate from the NYDA Act (54 of 2008). Section 3 of the Act mandates the Agency to develop policy and an "Integrated Youth Development Plan and Strategy". The Act further mandates the NYDA to "initiate, design, coordinate, evaluate and monitor all programmes aimed at integrating the youth into the economy and society, guide efforts and facilitate economic participation and empowerment, and the achievement of education and training".

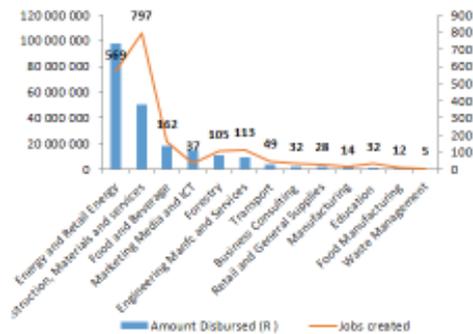
The NYDA continues to offer grants as a form of fund that enables development of entrepreneurs who are willing to open business enterprises that will facilitate job creation opportunities. The YEA Report (2018) as indicated by the figure below show that direct financial investment from the NYDA yielded value in sustaining young entrepreneurs and cooperatives relative to other partners in the industries which are IDC, SEFA and NEF.

Youth entrepreneurship and cooperatives

Dedicated programmes to promote and support youth enterprises and co-operatives

IDC	Approved over R4.5 billion for youth enterprises since the signing of the Accord and 7 158 jobs have been saved/created
SEFA	Over R1.1 billion disbursed for SEFA youth owned enterprises since the signing of the youth, creating 63 222 jobs
NEF	R216 million disbursed for NEF youth funded businesses since 2013 with 1 960 jobs created
NYDA	2 694 youth enterprises received funding and 179 677 benefitted through business development support

National Empowerment Fund (NEF)



Small Enterprise Finance Agency (SEFA)

Year	Disbursed Amount	Jobs Created	Jobs Maintained
2013/14	157 387 091	15 806	390
2014/15	292 197 068	22 099	12 972
2015/16	288 465 948	11 558	9 660
2016/17	217 720 230	6 861	7 900
2017/18	204 476 273	6 898	5 872
Total	1 160 246 610	63 222	36 794

National Youth Development Agency (NYDA)

- From the period 2013/14 to 2017/18, NYDA supported 4 044 youth-owned enterprises through grant funding.
- NYDA further supported 197 030 aspiring young entrepreneurs. To date, 2 011 enterprises, 930 individual businesses and 338 Cooperatives received funding.



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The NYDA will continue to strive for mobilisation of more resources by engaging in order to:

- Lobby and advocate for integration and mainstreaming of youth development programmes in all spheres of government, the private sector and civil society;
- Initiate, implement, facilitate and coordinate youth development programmes; and
- Monitor and evaluate youth development interventions across the board and mobilise youth to actively participate in civil society engagements.

2. SADC Status of African Youth Report

The roadmap was developed to ensure the sustained implementation of the 2017 theme “Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through investments in Youth”. It is informed by interconnected pillars that are critical in facilitating the increase in youth investments and these are as follows:

- **Employment and Entrepreneurship:** employment indicators for SADC have not improved, with worsening positions notably in the case of youth unemployment rate. There is a need for the region to promote descent jobs for youth. The youth Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) show worsening trends suggesting that there is a need to focus policy and programmes on NEET.
- **Education and Skills Development:** a number of indicators have improved including effective transition rate from primary to secondary and public expenditure on education
- **Health and Wellbeing:** indicators on youth maternal and mortality rate have improved and those that have worsened include high risk sex remains prevalent and HIV/ AIDS amongst youth in the SADC region was 5.74% per 1000 population for the year 2017. Females were more susceptible with a prevalence rate of 8.55 compared to that of males at 3.21. There is a need to continue making investments in the area of youth health and wellbeing as well as focus on responsible sexual behavior.
- **Rights, Governance and Youth Empowerment:** youth participation and leadership as members of parliament is recommended. There is still a need to promote access to development initiatives and opportunities. Continued promotion on policy coherence and coordination across the continent remains key. There is a need to promote youth participation in socio economic development, including and through patriotism and volunteerism.

SADC Youth Forum

The SADC Youth Forum (13 - 14 December 2018) deliberated on how best the SADC Theme of Promoting Infrastructure Development and Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development can be operationalized by member states. The key issue is to involve youth in infrastructure development to enhance youth participation in the productive sectors and ensure employment creation. The involvement includes:

- Promoting youth involvement in business ventures by allocating a percentage of public tenders
- Enhancing participation of youth in SADC business forums in order to facilitate youth entrepreneurship capacities
- Facilitate access to markets and professional networking spaces
- Developing knowledge transfer and mentorship programmes to prepare young people who are entering labour market and entrepreneurship fields

The Youth Forum resolutions were as follows:

- Youth Coordination structures to operationalize the Youth Union, establish a directorate on Youth Development within SADC Secretariat, ensure sustainability of youth programmes national youth coordinating bodies should be representative of all youth, lead youth coordination bodies as well as government ministries responsible for youth and national Youth Councils to actively prioritize monitoring and evaluation of youth programming
- Youth Innovation and entrepreneurship skills and capacity development should be mainstreamed, preferential budget to be towards SMME, social entrepreneurship should be promoted, exchange of best practices in the region and implement youth entrepreneurship through apprenticeship and leadership programmes
- Youth Employment to be promoted through public, private, partnerships to increase employment opportunities, abolish work experience for entry level positions, build a culture of volunteerism and national patriotism, design and develop a SADC Qualifications Framework to harmonize qualification standards, strengthening minimum wage systems, match skills training with curriculum, acquisition of skills through mentorship and workplace experience, offer free and quality education and technology development.
- Youth Participation through established youth parliaments, advocacy on SADC Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights strategy, utilizing social media platforms and promote good governance

The SADC Industrialization Strategy and RoadMap 2063 is implemented through the forum jointly organized by SADC Secretariat during the SADC Industrialization Week where a platform was created to provide a comprehensive, integrated and inclusive platform for intense policy and programme development focused dialogue. A broad representation from private sector, member states governments, financial institutions and development partners were in attendance. The essence of the discussion was on how the private sector can be the driver

The following observations were made:

- Youth, women and private sector must be involved in the policy making processes on regional integration, industrialization and economic development
- Provision of incentives for private sector and training institutions to build capacity of youth and women entrepreneurship
- Need to develop regional initiatives to enhance youth and women to access capital and credit for start - up businesses
- Expedite approval of trade regime where 70% of the beneficiaries are women

Youth Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Leadership in SADC

An assessment and analysis study of the situation on youth innovation, entrepreneurship and leadership in SADC was conducted between March and June 2018. The rationale was to establish levels of participation and empowerment of youth (ages between 15 and 35 years) as innovators, leaders of business and social enterprises as informed by the Revised SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2015-2020 and the Industrialization Strategy and Road Map 2015 to 2063.

The challenges identified related to youth innovation, participation, entrepreneurship and leadership were noted as limited policy implementation, high levels of youth unemployment, limited funding, inadequate youth participation, lack of access to resources, lack of skills and mismatch between the skills being developed and those required by the labour market. The youth have limited access to knowledge and information on entrepreneurship. In general the education system of SADC member states does not inculcate a culture of innovation, entrepreneurship and leadership.

Existing opportunities for IEL and P

- Drawing lessons from or create partnerships for the AU agenda 2063
- Create market access through implementation of initiatives related to African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) 2025
- Engage with AIESEC which offers and develops leadership potential of youth through experiential learning, volunteer experience and cultural exchange programmes
- Establish standards and benchmarks adopted from South Africa for the SADC region
- Strengthen regional integration, cooperation, social integration, inclusion, exchange of knowledge and networking
- Youth becoming job creators within the small business sector

The following were recommendations :

Developing minimum standards for youth Leadership and Participation will include:

- Policy alignment and harmonization
- Adopt definition of youth in the region
- Create a regional basket fund
- Establish youth leadership structures (regional/national/provincial and local levels)
- Integrate youth leadership into policy
- Create SADC database for all the 3 sectors of entrepreneurship, employability leadership, participation, Science, Technology and Innovation

Developing a programme on Youth Innovation & Entrepreneurship Development will include:

- Policy alignment and harmonization
- Strengthen coordinating mechanisms
- Create networking information exchange and experience sharing
- Strengthen Human Capital Development
- Research and development capability
- Strengthen regional integration and cohesion
- Standardization, benchmarking, monitoring and evaluation

The young people in Africa are dynamic, forward looking and best positioned to find innovative solutions to indigenous challenges by utilizing science and technology but they are unfortunately not well empowered and equipped on these. SADC member states must create conducive environments where barriers of self - actualization are removed. The role of youth in tomorrow's societies needs to be prioritized through:

Entrepreneurship: it is an important driver for economic growth. It will be key to identify untapped sources of development for the continent by harnessing young people's potential. Its success should be characterized by innovation, change, introducing new technologies, products and services in different industries. There ought to be existing opportunities that can be exploited which will create long term and sustainable livelihoods for the youth. The member states must create enabling regulatory frameworks supported by business environments, capital and skills development. Education is critical component of entrepreneurship development and information needs to be provided all the time through different platforms of engagement.

3. Status of Youth

3.1. Economic Transformation and Participation

Analysing and understanding youth demographics form the basis of structuring policies and programmes for youth development and empowerment. The 2018 mid-year population estimates for South Africa show that the youth (15-34 years) represents 20.6 million or 35.7% of the 57.7 million South African population (Statistics South Africa, 2018). Despite a slowdown in the growth rate of the youth population between 2002/2003 and 2017/18 (see figure 1), the youth population bulge exclaims the importance of this vulnerable group from a demographic, economic, political, social and cultural perspective. This further highlights the importance of young people as primary contributors to economic growth, increased employment and poverty eradication. It is evident that lack of investment in the youth population will result in disastrous effects for the country's social, economic and demographic environment.

Persistent Challenges – Entrepreneurs

Entrepreneurship is often put forward as a solution to a country's rising youth unemployment figures. Despite this, data indicate that youth participation in entrepreneurship remains very low. When disaggregating the early-stage entrepreneurial activity (TEA) of the latest Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) report on South Africa according to age category, the most notable of these is the slump in participation in entrepreneurial activities in the 25 – 34 year age cohort – a decrease of over 40%, compared to 2015. This is the age category in which entrepreneurial activity tends to peak – however, South Africans aged between 25 and 34 years are the least entrepreneurially active in 2016, with rates lower even than the 18 – 24 year olds. Entrepreneurial activity in the 25 – 34 year age cohort is less than a third of the Africa average as well as considerably lower than the average for efficiency-driven economies (17%). In this case, South Africa is ranked 58th out of 65 economies in terms of entrepreneurial participation amongst the 25 to 34 year olds.

Young men are more likely to be entrepreneurs than young women. There seems to be correlation between education level and the level of TEA – with 67.4% TEA rate for those who have completed secondary education and beyond while the level of TEA for those without education is at 4.4% (NYDA, 2018). Despite much policy attention and a range of public and private interventions having been implemented, youth employment rates have remained high since the country's transition to democracy. The situation is now considered chronic. The poor levels of economic empowerment in this group also reflect the lack of consistent budget allocation and reporting by government departments and agencies, responsible for driving enterprise development at the national, provincial and local government level. Lack of education in entrepreneurship; Lack of awareness of government initiatives supporting youth entrepreneurship; Lack of access to business development support services are some of the key issues that have been highlighted as critical issues affecting youth entrepreneurs.

Recommendations on entrepreneurship

The youth are generally associated with start-up businesses, they need to be encouraged to roll-out of more start-up businesses in the economy, then we need to equip the youth with the necessary skills to build these small to medium enterprises (SMEs) that are critical in our growth-strapped economy. While South Africa's education system does include some basic entrepreneurial training (through craft, entrepreneur days at primary-level, and business and economics subjects at a secondary level), the overall reach of this type of education needs to expand much further, explains Engelbrecht. "There are skills that entrepreneurs require to be successful, and many of these can only be learnt outside of the classroom, through real-life, practical work experience. However, there are critical skills that should be expanded on at an early stage, to encourage more young people to explore entrepreneurial career paths after school."

Such skills include the know-how on the practicalities of starting a business, such as writing business plans, conducting market research, how to register and license a business, labour law, how to develop a network, pitching a business to investors and when and how to scale a business, to name just a few. This commendation to offer opportunities for young businesspersons also closely aligns with the sectoral approach advocated by the NYP (2020). These initiatives will further enhance the participation of young people in the economy, through targeted programmes initiated by government, business and civil society, as well as support for programmes that encourage youth innovation and entrepreneurship development, including income-generating and wealth-creating activities

3.2. Education and Skills Development

Persistent Challenges

It is worth noting that, the major contributor to intergenerational poverty, inequality and unemployment amongst the youth in South Africa is low levels of education attainment and skills development. This is shocking, given that educating and skills development equals providing youth with the first chance to successfully navigate smooth transition into adulthood. In this regard statistics show a decline in the proportion of learners reaching Grade 11 and 12. This suggests high drop-out or early movement out of the schooling system.

Official government statistics show that drop-out rate of learners increased from Grade 9 upwards, reaching almost 12% in both Grades 10 and 11. Low literacy and numeracy skills, poor quality education at primary school level, troublingly low proportion of learners moving into post-secondary education, low uptake and pass rates for Mathematics and Science at Grade 12 level. Insufficient number of graduates (artisans) from TVET Colleges to meet immediate needs of the economy and poor throughput at higher education level impacting on the supply of high-level skilled graduates

Furthermore, there is a significant number of young people who are not in employment, education or training (NEET). In Quarter 1 of 2018, approximately 10.3 million youth (32.4%) aged 15-24, were in the NEET category, with females constituting 35.3%, while their male counterparts constituted 29.6% of youth in that category. For males, this figure indicates a decline of 0.9% from 30.5% in Quarter 1 of 2017, whereas for females, the figure represented an increase by 1% from 34.3% during the same period. Between 2012 and 2016 the NEET rate increased from 4.2 million to 4.4 million, especially for the age cohort 25 to 34 years.

Recommendations on Education and Skills Development

Post school institutions should align curriculum development at pre and post-school levels with current and future skills demands to improve quality and increase its relevance to the labour market by emphasizing highly developed cognitive, financial, entrepreneurial, and integrity skills. A sector based Master Skills Plan on the current and future skills required by every sector must be urgently developed and informed by the needs of various industries based on engagements between SETAs and employers, government, private sector, and post school institutions. TVET colleges and CET colleges must offer more occupational programmes in line with, amongst others, the Continental Strategy for Technical, Vocational Education and training, as these are the skills regarded as useful for growing the economy e.g. electricians, welders, tilers, boilermakers, diesel mechanics, fitters and tuners, automotive motor mechanics, plumbers, mechanical fitters, bricklayers, millwrights, riggers, carpenters and joiners. The provision of these skills should be in line with signals from industry, based on data collected by SETAs from employers. There must be multiple exit points in the education system to enable young people to exit the system at a given point which will lead to meaningful progression either to employment or articulation into other programmes at relevant levels. Compulsory digital skills training must be introduced from primary to tertiary school levels, with students having access to laptops.

Each state-owned enterprise should set a target of absorption of artisans and training professionals – This annual target should be 10 000 youth up to 2024 and 25 000 per annum post that and Basic Education curriculum should introduce national examinations at the end of primary and secondary school with a certification of competency in subject areas of examination.

3.3. Social Cohesion

Persistent Challenges

With regard to Social Cohesion and Nation Building, research suggests that the lack of social connectedness and social cohesion (i.e. “bonding” social capital) among South Africa’s youth negatively impacts on work readiness. Of concern is the shrinking political interest and low voter turn-out among young South Africans, between the ages of 18 to 34 years in both municipal and general elections. Also, many disenfranchised youths still display cynicism towards mainstream politics and disbelief in national leaders’ willingness to listen to their voices. There is worryingly poor social integration and participation in sport, with available information showing youth participation in civic matters to be lower than the other age groups.

Recommendations on Social Cohesion

The focus of Social Cohesion and Nation Building is on creating unity of purpose to overcome the obstacles preventing prosperity and equity. Government conceptualised and implemented the National Youth Service (NYS) Programme in partnership with the civil society organisations, in order to instil a culture of service and inculcate patriotic citizenship amongst young people so they become responsible adults who contribute to the development of their families and communities.

National Youth Service Each department, private sector entity and civil society should be encouraged to invest in National Youth Service programs. National Youth Service purpose is to build social cohesion, encourage patriotism, create social capital and enhance skills base. National Youth Service can happen at any point in young person’s life. NYS can be built into the Presidential campaign for community clean up days as we work towards a clean environment.

It can be incorporated into the higher education sector where students are encouraged to respond to community needs in and around their campuses. In the working environment professionals, can be encouraged to plough back to communities. Youth Service should be both recognised and rewarded within a framework. Programs such as NARY-SEC and Rural Coorps should be enhanced for impact. The NYS program should target 100 000 youth per annum in medium term and 1 million youth in ad hoc volunteer work.

The promotion of youth participation in civic matters requires good-quality data about the basis on which youths engage with civil society so that programmes resonate with young people. There is currently insufficient information to plan wide-reaching, effective policy interventions. It is vital to undertake large-scale studies that examine issues of social trust among youths, race relations, national identity, inequality, social tolerance, and the importance youths place on participating in religious, cultural, civic, and digital forums.

3.4. Health and Wellbeing

Persistent Challenges

On Health, it is evident that if young people are healthy and productive, they will come up with innovative solutions that will contribute to economic growth of their country. In South Africa, it is crucial to address the persistent youth health challenges. One of the key health concerns which is not given as much attention is Tuberculosis (TB). This is despite TB being the leading cause of death among the youth. Notably as well, there are undesirably high levels of teenage pregnancies alongside high HIV prevalence among teenagers in South Africa. While 8.5% of South Africans between the ages of 15 and 24 are living with HIV, it is estimated that only 33% of the sexually active youth practise consistent condom use. Again, the first National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (NYRBS) of 2002, found the prevalence of pregnancy to be at 16%, while the MRC study (2008) reported 19% of participants to have been pregnant or made someone pregnant.

Evidence from assessments of the current state of the physical, psychological and mental well-being of youth show that there is excessive abuse of dependency creating substances, namely: drugs, alcohol and tobacco among youth, with alcohol being the most abused substance in South Africa. The prevalence of substance abuse is made worse by insufficient treatment facilities, with only seven (7) public treatment centres found in the country.

Recommendations for Health and Wealth

The health and wellbeing of the youth is an important measurement of the health status of a nation. The lack of recent national data on health indicators makes it difficult to provide an accurate and complete account of youth health and wellbeing. The health sector needs to have functional systems for collecting vital statistics for health in the country.

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South Africa's vital statistics show very high mortality rates among young people in the country. The deaths are attributed to conditions that are preventable and, in some cases, require changes in behaviour. This indicates a need to strengthen the primary healthcare system in the country to ensure that young people have access to preventative programmes in the facilities available to them.

The youth risk behaviour data indicate that young people are prone to engage in behaviour that could have the potential to put their health at risk. South African youths engage in risky behaviour, such as substance abuse, unprotected sex, violence, and the abuse of alcohol. Research shows a strong link between substance abuse and unprotected sex, which, in turn, puts the youth at increased risk of HIV infection. Youth-friendly and easily accessible community- and school-based interventions, which address both risky sexual behaviour and alcohol use, should therefore be implemented. This requires the country to re-prioritise behaviour and good health



4. Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) impact on Youth Development

Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR)

Introduction

The Fourth Industrial Revolution is upon us. It is characterized by a combination of cyber-physical systems. This is what people are calling the Internet of Things: a network of physical devices, vehicles, home appliances, and other electronics with software and sensors connected to each other, all exchanging data. Many analysts foresee the major breakthroughs of this revolution being made in the fields of autonomous vehicles, nanotechnology, quantum computing, 3D printing, artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics. All this means that South Africa will play a leading role in the development of new technologies that will be part of the Fourth Industrial Revolution

Challenges

There is a huge backlog of service delivery on the part of government and ICT provides an opportunity for government to look for innovative ways of delivering service to citizens whose majority are youth. The Print Media sector remains one of the most untransformed sector and therefore needs urgent attention for transformation. The barriers for transformation are numerous ranging from policy and regulatory frameworks, to difficulties in implementing the current policy and its regulatory provisions.

Lack of access to information - there is a general lack of awareness, amongst the youth, of career and entrepreneurial opportunities that are available within the various sectors of the economy. There is also a general lack of role models for young people across various sectors and within their families and communities, which is critical for entrepreneurial development. High data costs in South Africa's mobile network operators are hindering young people from adequately accessing information. The network operators are not only charging more for data relative to the other countries in which they operate, but the gap between those prices keeps widening as data costs fall faster in other countries.



Proposed Recommendations

1. Generating an enabling environment through policy and regulatory approaches that opens up the ICT sector and markets to new innovative start-ups and SMMEs. This will practically mean that youth owned SMMEs should be encouraged through policy enabling environment and at the core of the policy should be funding that facilitates new entry SMME.
2. Collective Internet access and roll-out of broadband to reach all areas of South Africa. Since majority of youth are unemployed, the facilitation of access is going to assist discouraged job seekers to ease many opportunities that were not accessible to them.
3. An ICT Skills Development Framework will be developed to ensure that country's education system is positioned to prepare young South Africans for digital future. Unemployed youth in this space will be presented with an opportunity for retraining in the ICT sector.
4. Government will establish a 4th Industrial Revolution Commission to make recommendations on the immediate, medium, long term priorities and goals. Youth should be fully represented in the envisaged commission to make meaningful contribution on their future.
5. Approximately 65.5% of youth (15-35) live in urban areas, with 34.5% living in rural areas . The number of young people in rural areas would increase if 14-year-olds were included in the definition of youth. A large portion of youth, from rural areas, migrate to urban areas, in search of employment. Therefore, it is necessary to consider ways in which to encourage youth to stay in their communities and contribute to the growth and development of the rural areas.

