

Glossary

Activism: Taking action to effect social change. It can be conducted by individuals, but is most often a collective effort. In the case of youth, activism in its most visible form is undertaken by youth movements which focus on addressing social injustice. Activism can be mainstream, such as lobbying the government, participating in public meetings etc., or less mainstream, such as forms of civil disobedience, protests, occupations, campaigns, boycotts, demonstrations etc.

Development planning: All aspects of development, including policy and strategy development, legislation and implementation/service delivery (programming).

Developmental rights: Human rights that define rights to physical, mental, moral and social development, and associated responsibilities of society and institutions.

Diversity: Understanding and recognising that everyone is unique and different. Regarding youth, this means designing ways to capture different 'youth voices', e.g. young women's, or those from a particular ethnic group etc.

Equality for youth: Equal enjoyment of human rights for youth. Equal social and development outcomes for young people, including intergenerational equality, respect and understanding, non-discrimination, and equality of access to services and resources, irrespective of age or other attributes. It means that young people are given the same as their elders in terms of fulfilment of human rights.

Equity for youth: Fairness in the treatment of young men and women that considers their specific rights and aspirations and prevents age-based and other inequalities caused by social class, gender, caste, sexual orientation and other identity markers. Equity measures must consider this intersectionality. Equity is about giving young people what they need.

Intersectionality: The study of overlapping or intersecting social identities and related systems of oppression, domination or discrimination, e.g. examining how gender, caste, class, ethnicity, age and so on can reinforce and compound exclusionary practices, and then seeking ways to address this.

Good youth mainstreaming approaches, for example, never treat young women and men as a homogeneous group.

Safeguarding rights: Human rights that define young people's right to safety, security and confidentiality in their interactions with society and institutions.

Sociodemographic focus: A demographic focus relates to analysis, planning and implementation based on implications for variables such as age, sex, ethnicity, caste, class, religion, education status etc. Sociological data refer to group affiliations, household status, interests, values etc.

Unaffiliated youth: Young people in all social groups who are not part of organised groups such as youth clubs, youth councils, youth movements and so on. They may also be classified as young people in informal employment, migrants, refugees etc., whose needs are not articulated formally as youth interests and therefore are not met by policy processes. They may, however, have informal means of gathering which are not consciously organised.

Youth: The chronological, social, political, economic and cultural attributes and opportunities that are associated with being at a transition stage between childhood and adulthood. Age definitions vary from culture to culture.

Youth-adult partnerships: Ethical partnerships where young people and adults work with each other in professional settings as equal partners. While the responsibility is with both parties, there is an additional onus on adults to ensure equality and respect.

Youth agency: Young people exercising autonomy in expressing opinions and taking action for change.

Youth-centric analysis: An analysis that centres around evidence-based, collective youth interests, most often pegged against international conventions relating to youth rights. This analysis emerges from a keen understanding and knowledge of young people's lived and experienced realities, particularly in the context of marginalised youth groups. A youth-centric analysis is not possible without the involvement of young men and women themselves.

Youth empowerment: Enhancing the status of young people, helping them empower themselves to build their competencies

and capabilities for life. This involves social, political, cultural and economic empowerment. It will enable them to contribute to, and benefit from, a politically stable, economically viable and legally supportive environment, ensuring their full participation as active citizens.

Youth-led: Young people lead and design research, programmes and civic action. Where adults are involved, they play a supportive, guiding role.

Youth mainstreaming: Strategies for intergenerational equity and justice that enable young people's capacities, participation and human rights to be an integral dimension of the analysis, design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in inter-sectoral planning across all social, political and economic spheres. It enables young people and adults to benefit equally from, and contribute equally to, development outcomes.

Youth participation: Young people's involvement in their families, communities, education institutions, work places and institutional governance at all levels and in all sectors in influencing attitudes, policies and practices that affect their lives and society.

Youth work: A profession that involves competencies of youth engagement. The Commonwealth defines it as youth engagement approaches that build personal awareness and support the social, political and economic empowerment of young people, delivered through non-formal learning within a matrix of care.

