

YM Discussion Community Page

The following questions and responses can be added to the youth discussion community channel to trigger more viable inputs, commentaries and insights from active members.

Q1. Do you think involving youth in political decision-making is the right approach for the “Shared Future” agenda?

Ans. Firstly, youth can be quite a dynamic and creative force for any country that seeks positive growth and development. Moreover, throughout history youth have taken an active part in all kinds of national challenges, power-sharing dynamics, for instance, colonial rulers in India in the 20th century or anti-racial rallies on the ‘Black Lives Matter’ movement across the United States of America in 2021.

Did you know that only 1.65% of parliamentarians around the world are in their 20s and 11.87 % are in their 30s.

- Youth involvement and representation in the political process and policymaking come with many pros like
- Solidifying the understanding and action for democratic rights in youngsters.
- Helping to ensure good political decisions as youth are best placed to express their unique ideas and views.
- More accountability and relevance will be adopted while forming policies and reforms.

For example, in Bangladesh, a special youth parliament has been formed to empower active citizens at the national level. It allows them to contribute in the framing of national policies through direct dialogues with parliamentarians.

Comments

“I think that’s quite significant to have a young person’s perspective invited and respected in political decision-making. It not only feels like a moment of pride but also honours the fact that youth energy is considered genuine by the governments.” – Tamanna Jaiswal, New Delhi

“What about youth representation in actual elections too, people? We see and hear a lot of mishandling of votes by these so-called electoral representatives nowadays, how about we as youth citizens take an initiative and participate in the electoral process to guarantee some level of transparency between the voters and party representatives.” – Akash Sengupta, Ranchi

“Youth participation in decision-making sounds feasible only and only if we are given some level of autonomy and meaningful power to show our side in front of the leaders. You see time and again we are seen as too juvenile or immature to have any depth of understanding of our country’s state, but

that's not true. We can collect and present facts on social, economic and political situations more easily thanks to social media. Something to think about!" – Raj Kumar Singh, Bihar

Q2. To what extent healthcare sector has been rebranded in a post-pandemic environment?

Ans. A lot of things took a 360 turn during and after the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, decades-old foundations were shaken be it in business, politics, or economics. However, the healthcare sector took a massive hit on all fronts and it magnified the fault lines in local, national, and global health systems, while simultaneously reinforcing the importance of fostering health system resilience.

Despite the pervasive challenges, the proactive and efficient use of effective 'digital health' solutions is key to progress on the path to safe, higher-quality care, just as digital solutions have been transformative in other sectors.

For instance, In India, the launch of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Mission (ABDM) by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has triggered a potential digital transformation in the healthcare industry. The Mission's USP lies in the new features like electronic medical records (EMRs) and unique health IDs for all citizens that would strengthen the backbone of the nation's healthcare infrastructure.

On the other end, many government supported social initiatives like Aadhaar and Digital India have attracted funding support and assisted in fostering an ecosystem of digital health start-ups.

Take a look at some of the famous healthcare campaigns launched during and post pandemic environment as follows:

- **Aarogya Setu** – App developed to help citizens identify their risk of contracting coronavirus
- **National Health Stack (NHS)** – a digital framework with a holistic approach to supporting healthcare across nations
- **E-Sanjeevani** – App developed by the government for a pan-India telemedicine rollout.

Comments

"I feel that ongoing challenges in vaccine distribution and monitoring are the most current and urgent examples of the existing limitations of data visibility, fluidity, transparency, and access. It could be solved if the government can have a more user-friendly awareness programme in works for the general public to follow." – Aashna Jaggi, Punjab

"I think the way India has tackled the whole Covid outbreak situation in the second half of the pandemic is quite inspiring. Also, let's not forget vaccination apps like CoWin by the Indian government which is a good example to show the world that digitising the healthcare infrastructure will standardise the system and enforce interoperability, right?" – Ajmal Kamaal, Mumbai

“Digitising the entire healthcare sector is an ambitious move and so far it looks promising if you are a millennial or Gen Z who is up-to-date with all new forms of communications out there, but what about our grandparents and parents’ lack of technical understanding of these new waves of digital health steps? I think there needs to be more policy framing for that age group as well.” – Gurcharan Singh, Kolkata

Q3. Can someone give me a brief insight into the Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) initiative launched by the government recently?

Ans. Hi, so basically, LiFe is a call to action for every citizen to practice sustainability and mindful utilisation of resources over ‘mindless destructive consumption.’ Prime Minister Narendra Modi coined it during the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow 2021.

LiFE mission empowers the spirit of the P3 model, that is, Pro-Planet-People. In simple terms, it aims to unite those people under the initiative who think, act in unity while consuming Earth’s gifted resources. It also seeks to implement such foundation techniques into the regular habit to have a more powerful impact. It is designed and formulated to mobilise almost every single citizen of India and the globe for taking collective action towards environmental conservation.

Interestingly, India is presiding as the G20 president this year and the LiFe initiative is one the prime themes for the 2023 G20 Summit.

Also, in LiFE mission context, a 21-Day Challenge is launched to enable Indians to take one simple environment-friendly action per day for 21 days and eventually develop an environment-friendly lifestyle. Some of those 21 steps are as follows:

- Carry a non-plastic bottle while stepping out of homes
- Use cloth bags for grocery shopping instead of plastic bags
- Use stairs instead of an elevator
- Donate old clothes and books
- Practice segregation of wet and dry waste at home

Comments

“This initiative is one true step to achieving sustainable development and green planet dreams of our world. I applaud the Prime Minister for thinking and implementing this mission into our lives. I hope we all get to follow these steps and strive for a better tomorrow. Jai Hind.” – Shreya Sreekanth, Kerala

“I believe that translating our intention to do good for the environment is not always easy to translate into action. However, it is not impossible. By taking one action at a time and making one

change daily, we can change our lifestyle and inculcate long-term environment-friendly habits.” –
Christie Gareth, Chennai

“LiFe mission in the G20 is an important agenda to prioritise as the world’s ecosystem is at stake at the moment due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Warming temperatures and yes, let’s not forget post-pandemic stress in our lives which is still ongoing. I hope we get to have worthy recommendations in this direction during the G20 Summit.” – **Yash Gehlot, Ajmer**