

Introduction to Youth

LECTURE-2



The beginning of scientific interest on youth could be traced to the West. The interest on the scientific study of youth sprung up during the industrial revolution and had been influenced by introduction of mass education at the peak of the industrial period.

The United Nations, for statistical purposes, defines 'youth', as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years.

The National Youth Policy (NYP-2014) launched in February 2014 proposes a holistic 'vision' for the youth of India, which is "To empower youth of the country to achieve their full potential, and through them enable India to find its rightful place in the community of nations". The NYP-2014 has defined 'youth' as persons in the age-group of 15-29 years.

The National Youth Policy initially (in 2003) defined the youth as in the age group 13-35.

Sociologically, those who are trying to bridge the gap between dependent childhood and sufficient adulthood.


Hollingshead in his study "Elmtown's Youth" (1949: 6-7) defined youth as " the period in the life of the person when the society in which he functions ceases to regard him as child and does not accord him full adult status, roles and functions".

According to Rosynmayr (1972: 227), the term 'youth' could be viewed from two main aspects: on one hand it refers to a phase in the development of individuals, and on the other, it designates a group in society.

Youth is an outcome of societal reproduction and as an agent of social transformation.

The sociological study of youth is also the study of broader continuity and change.

A country's ability and potential for growth is determined by the size of its youth population.



Youth is not just a biological category; it's also a societal invention. As we have changed from an agricultural to post-industrial society our definition of youth has evolved. Young people used to be parental property; nurtured by domestic folk practices then forced into work and afforded no legal rights.

Youth today is a public institution; objectified by the state, preserved in law, commodified by business and studied and monitored by rational, scientific expertise. Youth have been transformed from disempowered mini-adults to today's objects of expertise.

Population of Youth (15-24 Years)

Country	Population (in million)	Youth (15-24 yrs) Population (in million)	Proportion of Youths (%)
China	1358.8	242.2	17.8
India	1205.6	229.0	19.0
USA	312.2	43.9	14.1
Indonesia	240.6	40.5	16.8
Brazil	195.2	33.6	17.2
Pakistan	173.1	37.2	21.5

World Population Prospects – The 2012 Revision, UN 2013

HIGHLIGHTS FROM CENSUS 2011

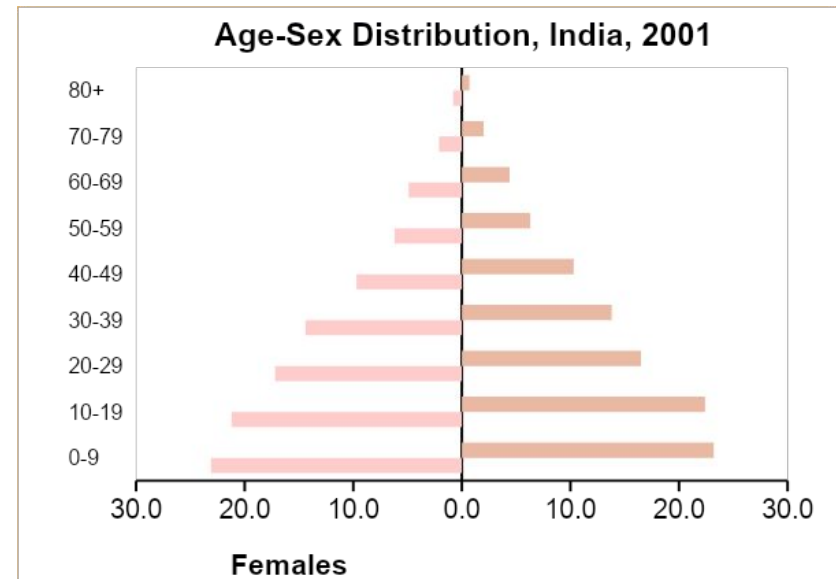
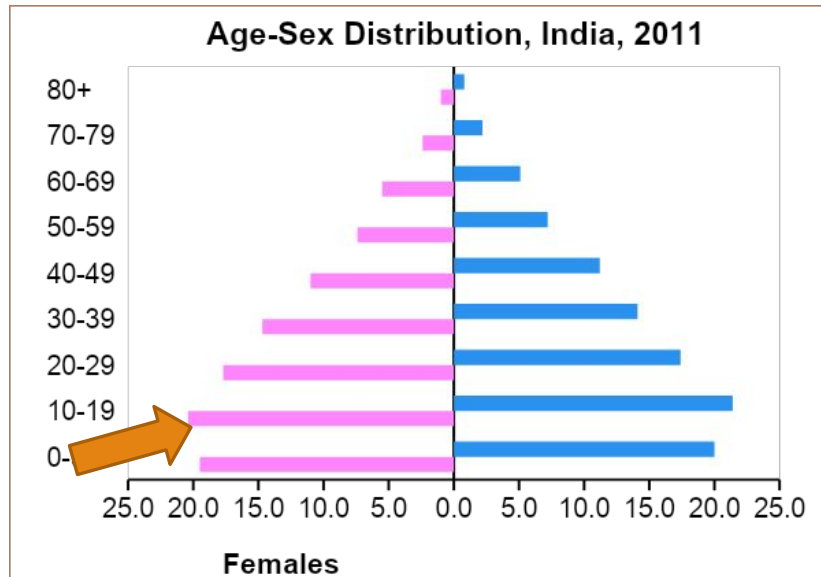
Today, every fifth person in India is an adolescent (10-19 years) and every third – a young person (10-24 years)

Investing in this segment of population is the best way to leverage the nation's competitive advantage – its demographic dividend.

As per India's Census, the total youth population increased from 168 million in 1971 to 422 million in 2011.

Population Pyramid (By 10 Years Grouping)

India : 2001 & 2011 Censuses



The broad base is gradually shrinking and the bulge is moving upwards indicating an increase in the median age

Youth (15-24) : India

- **Population (2011)** **231 mn (189 mn)**
- **Decadal growth (2001-11)** **+ 22.1%**
- **Sex Ratio (2011)** **908 (882)**

	2001			2011			2021*			2031*		
Age Group	Pers ons	Male s	Fem ales	Pers ons	Male s	Fem ales	Pers ons	Male s	Fem ales	Pers ons	Male s	Fem ales
15-34	347676	179181	168496	421960	217572	204388	479406	251789	227617	490423	258333	232090

*Population projection by World Bank

Note: 1. The 1981 Census could not be held in Assam owing to disturbed conditions. The population figures for 1981 of Assam were worked out by ‘interpolation’.

2. 1991 figures excludes the State of J&K where 1991 census could not be conducted.

3. 2001 figures excludes Mao Maram, Paomata and Purul sub-divisions of Senapati district of Manipur;

Characteristic Features of Youth

Energetic, courageous and hardworking people

Active and proactive participants

Interrogators and challengers of the *status quo*.

Shapers and moulders of society

Sources of brilliant, new and progressive ideas

Takers of calculated positive risks

Change initiators and forward looking people

Change agents and change drivers

Defenders and preservers of societal values and norms

Fast learners and adapters of progressive ideas

Youth for development

More than 1.2 billion youth, aged 15-24: largest generation of young people the world has ever known

As per India's Census, the total youth population increased from 168 million in 1971 to 422 million in 2011.

Their opportunities for communicating, acting and influencing are unprecedented.

Young people as *agents of positive change* in society.

They can provide the energy, creative ideas and determination to drive reform.

They can increasingly develop their own solutions to global challenges

Also, the challenges they face are unprecedented, from climate change to unemployment to multiple forms of inequalities and exclusion.

Youth participation is crucial to achieving sustainable human development



Challenges faced by youth

Social Challenges

Personal Challenges

College Challenges

Family Challenges

Unemployment

Youth Roles and Responsibilities in Society

Articulating and aggregating interests

Influencing public policies and decisions

Forming and shaping public opinions

Emancipating and mobilizing public for desirable legitimate action

Weeding out undesirable behaviour

Playing and advocacy role for matters of public interest

Reforming and transforming society and its systems

Organizing for legitimate collective action

Defending and preserving desirable societal values and norms

Peer moulding and shaping behaviour

Active participants in development programmes

Educating the public in its entirety