

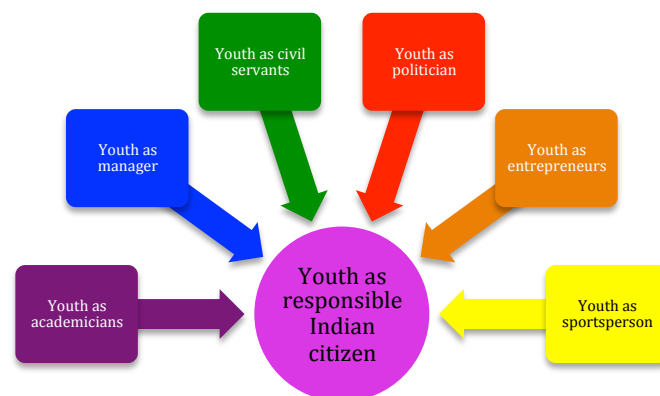
## The Role Of Youth In India In Achieving The Sustainable Development Goals

With 356 million 10-24 year olds, India is having the highest number of youth population in the world. The potential of this huge brigade can be realized if every segment contributes in his/her capacity to the fullest. Lets see how by simple changes in the way we think and work can bring this much needed change for India.

Education is one stop solution to almost every problem in India. Education can be imparted to the illiterates only when they are made aware of what education can do to their lives. India needs sustainable business models for providing education to the needy ones. Initiatives like Each One Teach One should be made mandatory for 6 months for all employees of established Indian firms. We also need startups that improve sanitation in slums and rural areas. In this context, **technology startups** must focus on innovative products like thermoelectric stoves for cleaner and economic cooking as 40% of India still uses traditional stoves to cook food. Indian **youth as entrepreneur** should venture into recycling revolution taking cue from examples like Sweden which recycles 99% of household waste and turns it into energy.

**Youth as politician** should become the influencers in the way the politics is perceived in India. From ensuring effective implementation of basic government schemes like MNREGA, Rural electrification projects, PMGSY etc, passing of important legislatures like Women representation bill, Lokpal bill, Road safety bill to ensuring proper spending of public exchequer in their constituency; young politicians have a lot of onus to make a difference.

**Youth as manager** working in CSR functions should analyse the impact of their CSR activities and to what extent it is bringing the change in the society. Top 20% of Indian youth in terms of education and well being are the ones who should drive the leadership for change in rest of the 80% of youth. Government alone cannot take up the burden of improving basic infrastructure like opening up educational institutes, hospitals, building roadways, power plants among others. Indian firms should be involved in this mission of making India a developed country. If each Indian MNC opens 1 educational institute and takes up the funding of 1 hospital with world class facilities, the change could be seen within years.



Corruption is the root cause of almost every problem in India. **Youth as civil servants** is the most important segment responsible for executing developmental work at the ground level. If each block development officer makes sure of proper work execution in her/his block, if each district collector with help of police force ensures maintainance of law and order in his territory, if each public works department official is ensuring satisfactory redressal of complaints; cities will prosper at a faster pace. **Youth as academicians** constitutes of teachers, professors and researchers. India children today need proper sentizing towards their role in society. Teachers should give moral and ethics education about respect for other gender, sticking to right values and conservation of mother nature. Ignorance, fear,

prejudice and apathy, if left unchecked, are fertile ground for breeding hatred and extremism which are the root causes of the world's ills. We are a multi-ethnic, multi-religious, multi-linguistic country and hence we are more vulnerable to these problems. Each student should be taught to value and respect various ethnic identities of every community in India and regard them as assets to be proud of.



Health is wealth and more healthy a country's citizen more it will benefit from their productive and efficient work. Average life expectancy of India is 66 years which is significantly less. We should learn from health initiatives (Symbiocare) by government and corporates in countries like Sweden (Average life expectancy of Sweden is 81 years). Today Sweden has around 350 companies and organizations representing the entire health care spectrum – from small startup, universities, county councils and global corporations, working with everything from biotech to medical technology, pharmaceuticals, and healthcare services. **Youth as sportsperson** who have achieved glory for India at International championships must motivate the youths and provide them with proper coaching and training tools. Central sports authorities must make sure that all sports receive equal importance in funding and constructing world class stadiums in all Indian states.

**Finally, youth as responsible citizen is at the core of every role that needs to be played.** Doctors, engineers, shopkeepers, farmers or any citizen employed in other occupation should do their job diligently. The ecosystem has become most favourable for Indian youth in terms of opportunities and resources available. Never before there were this much youth in India and never ever there will be this much potential to change the face of India! This is the time to revolution and became an example for other emerging economies.