

Youth Matters

Youth Policy Drafting Guidelines



Developed by
Commission on Youth
National Council of Churches in India

Youth Matters : Youth Policy Drafting Guidelines
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Foreword

Facilitating the Process of Articulating Guidelines for a National Ecumenical Youth Policy

“Youth are the Leaders of Tomorrow!” “Youth are the Leaders of Today!” Such clichés are quite often heard in speeches that are made from political, social and even ecclesial platforms. Yet the reality is that youth are not given space to take part in decision making bodies. If they do not have the opportunity to voice their views and be involved in decision making, how can they be considered leaders?

“Youth are the strength of our society!” “We are proud of the contributions of our youth!” Such declarations are often made in public gatherings. However more often than not, youth are used as ‘foot-soldiers’ to implement the plans and strategies of the elders. In many ecclesial contexts, there is hardly sufficient budget allocation made for youth programmes. Questions are raised when youth organize programmes that do not gel with the traditional perspectives and practices of organizations. When youth are not empowered, how can they be the strength of our society?

In the context of the above mentioned and other related concerns, voices have been heard time and again during the programmes of the NCCI Commission on Youth that a youth policy should be adopted by churches which would give due recognition to the position and participation of youth. Therefore the Commission has embarked on a process which would facilitate churches to come up with relevant, edifying policies on youth.

Efforts have been made in several countries to introduce national youth policies. However the policies have been found to be inadequate on account of several reasons, some of which are cited below:

- Problems in defining ‘youth’ and its subgroups as well as in determining their needs and aspirations and in distinguishing between children and youth.
- Lack of systematic national review of the problems and needs of youth with base-line data and with cross-sectoral as well as sectoral indicators.
- Lack of sufficient participation of all stakeholders (especially youth and youth organizations) in the process of formulation, visions and strategies as well as plans for implementing and evaluating integrated national youth policies.

- Absence of knowledge of models of best practices for involving youth in all aspects of a youth policy process and of actions to promote such youth participation.
- Insufficient training opportunities for personnel from youth-related ministries to design, implement and evaluate a national youth policy and to deal effectively with the needs and aspirations of young women and young men; low budgetary support for the design and delivery of national youth policies to the target constituencies at all levels and marginalization of youth issues and potentials in national development.

Therefore the NCCI Commission on Youth is endeavoring to serve as a catalyst in enabling the churches to come up with and implement relevant and edifying youth policies.

Any youth policy would do well to promote the following values:

- The inherent worth and inborn dignity of youth
- The empowerment of young people as assets for ecclesial and national development
- Young people as instruments and agents of their own development
- The network of structures such as family and community providing support and ensuring proper development of the youth
- The cultivation and nurturing of a just, inclusive and integral spirituality

In order to ensure that such values are incorporated, the following principles would have to be followed:

- Accessibility – young women and men of diverse backgrounds must have access to resources and services crucial to their total development.
- Responsiveness – churches and all youth development service-providers should respond to the needs and concerns of young people and be guided by the intention to act in their best interests, thus maximizing their human potential.
- Holistic – youth development initiatives must encompass all aspects of a young people's lives and respond to their physical, psychological, social, economic and spiritual needs within the socio-political environment, thus ensuring that they gain the necessary knowledge, skills and experience required to ensure smooth transition into adult life.

- Diversity – youth development interventions must recognize and acknowledge the diverse backgrounds from which young people come and celebrate the roles played by different agents of socialization, tradition, culture and spirituality in the development of young women and men.
- Non-discrimination – all youth development initiatives should not discriminate against young people on the basis of age, gender, race, caste, sexual orientation, disability or any other form of discrimination as enshrined in the Constitution of the country. This principle acknowledges the impact of socialization and promotes respect for human rights.
- Sustainable development – young people’s assets, potential, capacity and capability must be maximized so that they can respond effectively and efficiently to life’s challenges without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- Transparency – institutions and organizations involved in youth development should operate in a transparent and accountable manner.
- Participation and inclusion – churches and service-providers must design policies, strategies and programmes for and with young people by sharing information, creating opportunities and involving them in decision-making as active participants in their own development. Young people should own the outcomes of the development process and should view human rights as a fundamental basis for human development.
- Social protection – different youth development interventions should seek to promote the well-being of young people by putting in place measures that seek to protect and address the needs of the youth, thus reducing their vulnerability.
- Youth service – young people should be involved in meaningful activities that benefit communities while developing their sense of patriotism and their abilities through learning and service.
- Redressal – it is essential to recognize the different ways in which young people have been affected by the injustices of the past and address these injustices through equitable policies, programmes and resource allocation.

However, a National Ecumenical Youth Policy on its own is not sufficient. It is also essential to have an action plan for policy implementation with appropriate budgeting. Youth participation is a core element in the development, implementation and evaluation of youth policies.

Rev. Dr. Roger Gaikwad
General Secretary
National Council of Churches in India

Introduction

The world today has become younger with approximately about 1.7 billion in the world are young people, and the world has more young people now than ever before. Asia & Pacific region has about 45% of the world's youth which accounts to about 700 million young people, and South-Asia is the most youthful region in the world, a home to 26% of world's youth, with youth representing 20% of their population. One-fifth of the South Asian Population is young between the ages of 15-24, which is the largest number of young people ever to transition into adulthood, both in South Asia and in the world as a whole. 47% of Indian population are below the age of 40, and 10% of the world population is an Indian under 25, makes India a potential hub of young people. Youth across the globe makes an important demographic presence, for with them any change is possible.

The same trends of young people correspond to the settings of ecumenical and ecclesiological contexts today. But the unfortunate story of these our movements are that they are under represented by young people, for the aged longstanding leaders are unwilling to give up their positions for the youth, for they have tasted the power so long and also feel threatened by the creativity of youth today. We see lots of vibrancy in the local congregations and among the youth groups in terms of their involvements in the life of the churches. Youth when given sufficient space to express and participate in the governance and decision making process, one can see a change in the life and witness of the churches today. This directs to a phenomenal change in the demography of the church, and necessitates for the upsurge of the voices of youth be it in governance, community building or any other facet of life.

The attempt of the NCCI-Commission on Youth in bringing out a draft guidelines as a policy on 'youth matters' emerges with a view of strengthening the resolve of the youth in the churches in asserting their commitment and also of accompanying the elder church leaders in providing space and opportunity for the young people to lead the church. These guidelines are also aimed at making the Church to recognise the agency of change among the young people today, for it is high time to harness the latent potential of the youth and streamline them in all sectors of the ministries in the church. These guidelines portray the roles and responsibilities of young people in the church and society today and encourage the young people to affirm their leadership qualities for the betterment of the church and society. The churches need to own these guidelines and start implementing them to see the unfolding of a radical future, where youth, women and children will have their voices heard. These guidelines are not exhaustive in it, rather they are invitational and

inspirational for the churches to act upon these, so that the youth in the churches are acknowledged their due, and will provide an opportunity to prove their talent for the widening of God's reign here on earth.

Our hope is that each church leader shall make sure to adopt or adapt these guidelines in their given local contexts so that, we can experience a change in our theological, liturgical and ecclesiological dimensions, for church becomes younger, relevant, creative, dynamic and vibrant.

Rev. Raj Bharath Patta
General Secretary
Student Christian Movement of India

Executive Synopsis

We have very carefully chosen the title of the youth policy drafting guidelines to be, 'Youth Matters'. In very simple terms it may refer to the 'matters relating to young people', on the other hand it strongly sends out a strong message that for a meaningful survival and future of any society 'the contributions, participation and leadership of young people indeed matters'. Youth are the foundation and the greatest assets of a society. Their energy, inventiveness, character and orientation define the pace of development of any society. Through the creative youth talents and resources, a community makes giant strides in every sphere of development. In the dreams and hopes of young people, a society finds its motivation, on their energies, it builds its vitality and purpose, and because of their dreams and aspirations, the future of society is assured. The extent of their vitality, responsible conduct, utilization of talents and roles in society is positively correlated with the holistic development of any society. It is for this reason that the formulation and implementation of a viable youth policy is not only a moral responsibility but also an imperative for any community or organization.

Youth policy guidelines is purely an example, guide, resource or model to the churches, organizations, youth departments etc. in formulating and framing their own youth policies. The youth policy guideline should be used as a helping tool to imbibe partially or wholly of the document to draft a youth policy to suit their respective contexts to empower youth organizations and departments. This must be done by taking into consideration the respective context, culture, works conditions and thereby provide tailored policy interventions. This youth policy guidelines humbly tries to take into consideration wide range of challenges and opportunities faced by the youth, it has tried to anticipate the challenges that they are likely to confront and tried to outline appropriate policy interventions, goals, youth target groups and implementation plans, to empower the youth to take charge of their own destiny and make them active participants in the shaping their own and of their own community's destiny. The youth policy guidelines have tried greatly to recognize that young people are not a uniform category; therefore, it contains provisions that will address the specific and special needs of each of several identified target vulnerable youth groups. It is humble compilation of reflections and aspirations of multitude of young people.

Youth resource management is the basic aim of the youth policy guidelines. Youth policy tries to enable and empower young people to realize their full potential and understand their roles and responsibilities in the society. The challenges faced by youth will require short, medium and long-term solutions. Therefore, the youth policy guideline is highly committed in its all-inclusive dream of generating maximum youthful creativity and productivity, empowerment and equality by providing just-environment for self-expression, self-sustenance and self-actualization. The youth policy guidelines represents our genuine commitment to place on the agenda the crucial issues and concerns faced by youth; therefore we must do all within our capacity to ensure that we take right ownership of these policy guidelines. The youth policy guidelines contain a history of youth struggles as well as a vision for a brighter future for our young people.

Vineeth Koshy

Executive Secretary - Commission on Youth
National Council of Churches in India

Segment 1 Understanding Young People

Defining Youth

The youth policy guidelines define all female and male aged between 18 to 35 years as young people. This is a period where radical emotional, physical and psychological changes happens, thus requiring a high level of societal support for a safe passage from teenage to adulthood. The definition does not look at youth as a homogeneous group with clear-cut age brackets but rather as a phase of change or as phases of change of time where an individual's potential, vigor, adventurism, experimentation, creative talents, resources with increased risks and vulnerabilities exhibit in a socially and spiritually meaningful pattern.

The definition of youth considers them as a potential as well as a vulnerable group that needs care and support from the community. It seeks to prepare and empower the youth to take part active participation and leadership in social-cultural-economic-political-religious roles in full freedom. The definition of youth takes into account programmatic issues that they face in the modern world and at the same time is in harmony with a number of international strategic definitions of youth organizations. However, the operational definition and meaning of the term 'youth' often vary depending on multiple factors from region to region, organization to organization.

- ✓ **United Nations General Assembly** - Youth are those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years
- ✓ **National Council of Churches in India's Constitution** - Youth are those persons who are not less than 18 years and not more than 35 years
- ✓ **Commonwealth Youth Program** - Youth are those persons who are aged between 15 to 29 years
- ✓ **World Health Organization** - Youth are those persons who are between the ages of 15 and 34 years
- ✓ **Governments of India's National Youth Policy** - Youth are those persons who are in the age-bracket of 13 to 35 years

Philosophy of a Youth Policy

The philosophy of any youth policy is that, young people should not only be considered as mere beneficiaries but also as active change-makers of a society. The policy proposals are intended to create the conditions that would seize the opportunity to capture the youth resources through comprehensive and concrete efforts, resulting in an overall development and formation of young people. Looking ahead, youth policies must respond to the social and economic forces that shape global and national developments. In a commitment to international and national human rights and social development, young people must be placed at the centre of development in any approach to public policy. It is also equally critical that there must be greater integration and coordination among various key role players like religious heads, political leaders, civil society participation, governments in providing and facilitating quality youth services.

Background of Youth Policy Guidelines

This youth policy guidelines is evolved and developed in broad consultations with young people, youth leaders, youth activists, through many years of toil, compiling together the visions and aspirations of many young people. Especially, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming the year commencing on 12 August 2010 as the International Year of Youth, with the slogan 'Our Year Our Voice', International Year of Youth was aimed at encouraging dialogue and understanding across generations, promote the ideals of peace, respect for human rights and freedoms and coming together for youth solidarity.

Commission on Youth of National Council of Churches in India also took this as a unique occasion to celebrate youth solidarity, for ecumenical formation, to understand the opportunities and challenges faced by youth in their respective contexts and to commit all youth for meaningful social engagement. Despite the facts of these celebrations and commemorations and many efforts to rejuvenate youth empowerment, a closer examination of the present scenario would reveal that youth participation and leadership has been constantly trimmed down or is getting reduced in every fields. In this context the concept of preparing a youth policy guidelines is relevant and significant. This youth policy guidelines is designed for all individuals, groups and organizations that work at all levels with young people on youth issues and concerns.

Key Guiding Principles in a Youth Policy

Promotion of Good Governance The youth policy must try to seek and promote the values of good governance, accountability and a spirit of fraternity. In addition, the policy must serve as a channel of conscientiousness, inclusiveness, selflessness and volunteerism.

Mainstreaming Youth Issues The needs, opportunities and challenges faced by youth are concerns of the whole society. The youth policy should be aiming to ensure youth issues that are reflected at all sectors of development i.e. both on micro and macro levels within the religious and secular institutions.

Maintaining Equity & Accessibility The policy is ought to promote the ethos of equal opportunities and equitable distribution of programs, services, and resources for the youth in their respective churches and organizations.

Encouraging wider Youth Involvement The youth policy is obliged to promote wider youth participation through democratic processes, to ensure youth programs and projects are truly youth centered.

Promoting Democratic Spirit Youth policy guidelines have to suggest organizations to design policies, strategies and programs for and with young people by sharing information, creating opportunities and involving them in decision.

Advocates Youth Empowerment The youth policy should advocate youth empowerment in socio-cultural, economic, religious and political environment, but not to be mere spectators in society.

Promote Teamwork and Partnership The youth policy must recommend the promotion of teamwork and group work in collaboration among all the key role players of youth development.

Inclusion of Marginalized Youth Young women and men of all backgrounds, without discrimination and prejudices must be able to access resources and services for their healthy development.

Respecting Cultural, Belief Systems and Values The youth policy is required to respect cultural, religions, customs and ethical background of the people and conforms to universally recognized human rights without discrimination based on origin, ethnicity, caste, political affiliation or social status.

Supporting Gender Inclusiveness The youth policy guidelines must highly recommend the need of advancing gender equality, including elimination of gender discrimination and violence.

Promote Integration & Cross-fertilization The youth policy must be able to integrate different key role players such as religious organizations, government, civil society, corporate sectors to coordinate their efforts to ensure greater impact in developing the potentials of young people.

Enabling Social cohesion Youth policy developments and interventions should promote the ideals of social cohesion to sustain societal structures by teaching them the values of unity and fellowship.

Scope of the Youth Policy This scope of the youth policy is to facilitate the process of continuous improvement of the youth policies, institutional frameworks and programs designed to create conditions for the propagation, protection and advancement of the rights of the youth. Also, this youth policy guidelines should be used only as a guide in religious institutions, ecumenical organizations, educational institutions, non-governmental organizations etc. in formulating a youth policy by adapting to their own context, need and culture.

Legislative Framework

- ❖ Every institutions, organizations, Church and congregation is obliged to have a full-fledged working Youth Departments/ Commission /Desk.
- ❖ There must be a full time paid coordinator/ secretary/ director to execute youth activities, programs and projects.
- ❖ Youth departments/ commission/ desks should be fully funded with annual budgetary allocations by granting them proper autonomy to function.
- ❖ The age criteria of youth and the heads of the youth departments should ideally fall within the age bracket of 18 to 35 years.
- ❖ Every Church & Institutions must ensure at least 30% constitutional privilege of youth participation in all the decision making bodies like councils, synods, associations and committees.
- ❖ If there is a substantial absence of young people in the decision-making bodies, the decisions and resolutions of such committees/ bodies must be made null and void.

Diversity of Young People

Any organization that wishes to draft a youth policy must take into consideration the diversity of youth such as their:

- ❖ gender
- ❖ age
- ❖ ethnic background
- ❖ language
- ❖ region - urban, rural
- ❖ cultures and values
- ❖ religious affiliations and spirituality
- ❖ sexual orientation and identity
- ❖ physical, intellectual or learning ability
- ❖ mental - physical health
- ❖ level of educational achievement
- ❖ socio-economic-political background
- ❖ lifestyles & interests
- ❖ employment

Rights of Youth

- ❖ Right to a holistic life
- ❖ Right to a meaningful education
- ❖ Right to a better health
- ❖ Right to marriage at the consented legal age
- ❖ Right to protection from any forms of exploitation and abuse
- ❖ Right to seek employment without discrimination
- ❖ Right to adequate shelter, food and clothing
- ❖ Right to freedom of speech, expression and association
- ❖ Right to participation in making decisions that affect their lives
- ❖ Right to protection from social, economic, religious and political manipulations
- ❖ Right to individual ownership and protection of property
- ❖ Right to good parental care
- ❖ Right to representation in decision making bodies

Responsibilities of Youth

The rights of youth always come with responsibilities. The youth policy while promoting youth rights also encourages them to understand and fulfill their responsibilities.

- ❖ Create and promote respect for humanity and sustain peaceful coexistence
- ❖ Take steps to protect the environment
- ❖ Engage in supporting and protecting the disadvantaged members of society
- ❖ Promote democracy and the rule of law
- ❖ Take advantage of available education, training and employment opportunities
- ❖ Avoid high risk behaviors
- ❖ Develop, appreciate and respect cultural norms and traditional values
- ❖ Cultivate leadership values, tendencies and capacities
- ❖ Be good citizens and contribute to community development

Segment 2 Youth Policy Guidelines

Demographic Dividends

Today's world is becoming a predominantly youth population, today there is a growing awareness in the world, that the wider participation and encouragement of young people is very necessary, if humankind need to have a brighter future.

One billion (approximately) youth live in the world today. The census of India showed that the population under 34 years was around 41%, many view this large proportion of youth as 'Demographic Dividend'. According to some estimates the current proportion of population under 25 years in India is 51% and the proportion under 35 is about 66% and this predominance of youth in the population is expected to last until 2050.

The 'demographic window' period varies from country to country, like industrialized nations such as Japan and Italy it was closed about ten years ago, China has just left with a few years of its window period still remaining, but India, with a younger population, it still has ahead thirty years. Demographic dividend contributes in the growth of any nation. Therefore, the demographic dividend youth resources should be fully productively utilized; otherwise it will remain as another figure on paper. Notwithstanding the consequences of these facts and figures, it is shocking to see that youth leadership, youth voices and youth participation have been constantly marginalized or discouraged at many levels in organizations, community and society.

Youth - Leaders of Today

Young people are not leaders of tomorrow only but also leaders of today. However to realize this truth, we must start working towards their empowerment today itself, otherwise youth will remain isolated and marginalized even tomorrow like today. Therefore it's high time that the society must recognize and develop the potential of the dynamic youth force. Youth is the most attractive period of a human being with full of energy and enthusiasm. This energy and enthusiasm of youth should be regulated and channelized constructively for the good of any society; otherwise they would be influenced by negative forces and might be utilized for destructive purposes. Even though they face lots problems and difficulties, but out of depression and frustration they must not waste their invaluable talents, resources and energy for destructive purposes. We must ensure that young

people are given proper support, encouragement and opportunity to utilize these resources and talents in a constructive manner.

12 August is declared as the International Youth Day by United Nations
12 January is declared as the National Youth Day (India)

Youth Life Cycle

There is a range of stages of physical, emotional and psychological development happens in human beings. A young person passes through three major developmental phases i.e. childhood, adolescence and youth.

Childhood The early years of a person's life is characterized by rapid physical and mental development. The children are usually defined as persons 0 to 12 years of age.

Adolescence The period of adolescents is persons between 12 to 18 years of age. This period is critical for drastic physical and psychological growth and development.

Youth The range of youth persons could be defined broadly between 18 to 35 years of age. This period can be described as a stage where persons pass from adolescence to the adulthood. It is a time when young people confront 'new life issues' including drastic physical and psychological changes, new expectations, decision-making roles, new social relationships and new experiences.

Youth Living Environments

All positive or negative outcomes experienced by youth are usually associated with the fruits of environments, society, community and family in which they live. In these settings youth begins to build their identities and acquire characteristics which are further influenced by the wider society. Therefore, the social support systems which exist at these levels are important in protecting the youth and ensuring a positive development in them. Unfortunately, not all youth have the support of an intact and stable family life. Many live in households without or with parents, without suitable role models and some live within impoverished, un-healthy communities and environments, which cannot contribute to their healthy development. Thus the youth policy must seek to promote the message and importance of a stable family life, good education, healthy nurturing, and an enabling living environment in the life of a youth.

Envisioning Youth Mission

The mission of a youth policy is basically ‘youth empowerment’. The vision is one of developing positive present and future role of the youth in the society. Also at the same time, it must be the vision of the youth to fully realize their potentialities and positively contribute to the overall development of the society in which they live. The mission of the youth policy is to build a youth with a sense of hope, self-confidence, imagination, creativity and pride. The mission is for molding youth who are well-disciplined, well-focused, law-abiding and good citizens. Youth policy must enable youth to live full of the spirit of entrepreneurship, self reliance, mutual cooperation, understanding and respect. The young people youth should not be corrupt and self-serving. Young people must be given equality of opportunity, freedom from gender and other forms of discrimination, exploitation and abuse. They should be enabled to imbibe a culture of democracy and good governance and committed to the ideals of unity, fellowship and fraternity.

Values & Ethos

The youth have a right to participate in issues that affect their life; they must have a right to explore their potentials. Their responsibilities and rights are however needed to be strongly grounded on foundations of time-tested values and ethos of the society.

- ◆ Social Justice
- ◆ Equality of Opportunity
- ◆ Transparency and Accountability
- ◆ Self-reliance and Selflessness
- ◆ Hard-Smart Work
- ◆ Spirit of Entrepreneurship
- ◆ Youth Empowerment
- ◆ Unity, Cooperation & Fellowship
- ◆ Democracy and Good Governance
- ◆ Respect for Human Rights

Rationale of Youth Policy Guidelines

The youth policy guidelines is prepared for the entire youth sector, with the intention of closing the identified gaps and loop holes, strengthening the

existing interventions by introducing new ones, shedding those ideas that have not worked and enhancing the quality of the youth services by extending maximum youth coverage. As a strategic document, the present youth policy guidelines will consequently offer a set of policy priorities, interventions and recommendations as way forward in order to turn the general concept of youth development into action.

- ◆ Define the targets of interventions for youth works that are innovative and creative
- ◆ Address the continuous needs of the youth by focusing on areas where supplementary action is required
- ◆ Ensure mainstreaming of youth development in programs run by different key role players
- ◆ Position policy implementation in the institutional responsibilities
- ◆ Map the process through which progress on youth policy implementation will be assessed
- ◆ Specify the monitoring and evaluation mechanism for the purposes of accountability and continuous improvement through amendments and interventions in youth policies

Goals of Youth Policy

Youth problems have always continued to increase despite the efforts to address them. The major obstacles has been the lack of a comprehensive youth policy to provide a broad framework on how to address youth issues and integrate them in societal/organizational development process. Young people vary dramatically in their skills, experiences, lifestyles, problems and capacities. They are the most precious resource and the key to any society's long term development. Therefore, there is an urgent need to promote and support the development of all our young women and men.

- ◆ Setting up a mechanism in the organizations where youth policies would be designed, articulated, and implemented through well-defined methodologies
- ◆ Recognize the rights of youths to make decisions without external pressures or manipulations
- ◆ Inculcate in the youth the virtues of patriotism, discipline, selfless service, honesty and integrity
- ◆ Develop and implement a comprehensive programs and projects for youth empowerment so that they become productive individuals
- ◆ Inculcate in the youth the spirit of adventure, resourcefulness and inventiveness

- ◆ Promote the development of individual talents and infuse the youths with a keen sense of inquiry
- ◆ Encourage youth to join voluntary, community-oriented youth organizations and encourage them to participate actively in these programs
- ◆ Facilitate interaction and cross fertilization between youth organizations at regional and international levels
- ◆ Advocate, provide and protect the legal, constitutional, and legislative instruments as well as the framework for the implementation of the policy's programs
- ◆ Create a wider range of learning pathways to provide young people with multiple routes and exit opportunities for making smoother transition from youth to adulthood
- ◆ Youth policy must create a safe environment free from discrimination, abuse, and violence, and an environment in which they feel protected.
- ◆ Youth development must go into the mainstream of institutional policies, constitutions, programmes
- ◆ Youth policies must ensure to curb the marginalization of young people and provide equal opportunities
- ◆ The welfare of the youth and youth rights must be safeguarded in accordance with international human rights standards
- ◆ The quality of youth programs should be upgraded through increased income generating ventures, annual budgetary allocations for youth programs
- ◆ It must ensure to study the problems and challenges faced by youth in a more scientific manner, to offer effective solutions to such problems

Approaches of Youth Policy

Youth research has identified a spectrum of approaches to youth engagement.

- ◆ Youth - Serving
- ◆ Youth - Contributing
- ◆ Youth - Engaged
- ◆ Youth - Led
- ◆ Youth - Empowering
- ◆ Youth - Connecting

Overview of Youth Policy Guidelines

The purpose of preparing blue print youth policy guidelines is basically to enable the institutional leadership to recognize youth resources, talents, youth voice, participation and leadership. If young people are correctly guided, adequately mobilized and fully integrated into the fabric of society, they will bring radical changes in these institutions. Their talents and resources is a great reservoir of energy, resourcefulness, creativity, and dynamism, however if they are allowed to drift, they are lost forever.

Segment 3

Youth Policy Interventions: Priority Groups

Young people are not a homogenous group, hence they have diverse needs. In the same manner, there should be equally diverse and unique policy interventions designed to address those diverse needs. It is therefore crucial that policies and programs across all different sectors should work synergically towards addressing the multiple needs of young people. Youth policies must recognize various challenges and problems faced by youth from diverse backgrounds. Thus youth policy will require involvement of inter and multi disciplinary approaches to address youth problems. Therefore it would be important to identify and provide specialized and tailored youth policy interventions.

Leadership, Participation and Decision Making

Research analysis shows that though many times youth participation is emphasized, at the levels of leadership and decision-making roles youth involvement is often downsized, often leadership and decision-making roles are assigned for namesake and provided as a tokenism. Youth resource management needs to transcend these narrow understandings of tokenism leadership roles to young people. There must be genuine full-fledged partnership of young people at all levels of the organization and community.

- ◆ Inculcate the practice of effective youth leadership and partnership
- ◆ Involve youths in decision making at all levels of the society and especially in the matters that affect them
- ◆ Advocate for increased resource allocation and support for youth programs and activities
- ◆ Identify isolated zones of youth leadership and locate places where role of youth is neglected and thereby bring them to frontline by giving them proper recognition to their participation
- ◆ Teach the idea that leadership is more about serving than power and leading

Students in High Schools (*Pre-Youth Stage*)

The focus to students who are in the age category of 13-17 years is basically to provide equitable access to relevant and qualitative education for them. Relevant education means expansion of enrollment and adequate provision of classrooms, trained teachers, good structures, instruction materials, and curricula. Providence of these resources will produce well-informed,

enlightened, responsible, intellectually-able, vocationally-skilled, mentally sound and physically competent young citizens.

- ◆ Provide basic education freely and compulsorily for all needy students
- ◆ Promotion of games and sports, for recreational and competitive, for healthy mental and physical development through voluntary associations and clubs
- ◆ Reintroduction of moral instructions, civics and civility, in the curricula
- ◆ Introduction of sex and health education in the regular school curriculums
- ◆ Enforcement and encouragement of enrollment of female education

Students in College & Working Youth

This category of youth, who are predominantly in the age category of 18-34 years, are the youth who are prepared for a gainful employment, contribute significant leadership and will assume citizenship roles in society. The absence of a good teaching and learning environment has to some extent compromised youth's healthy development. Highly skilled and well-educated and trained manpower in all fields of human endeavor is an important asset to any community.

- ◆ Promotion of the use of new information technology in all aspects of teaching and learning in educational institutions
- ◆ Reforming the teaching methodologies, so that students get access to innovative methods of learning
- ◆ Provision of career options guidance, vocational guidance and counseling

School Drop-outs

There is no reliable data on out-of school youth due to the fluid nature of the lives of these youth. However, these young women and men can be described as those who have dropped out of school prematurely and are unskilled. They are mostly unemployed since they do not have the basic qualifications. They have no adult supervision, have poor level of general welfare and well being and experience increased levels of stress. They are also exposed to high risk behavior, abuse, violence, exploitation, and often run a risk of being in conflict with the law. Since some of these youth lack basic literacy and numeracy, and are mostly unskilled, they remain

marginalized from economy since they lack the capabilities to access economic opportunities. At present, there are limited programs aimed at addressing the needs of these youth. On the other hand, the further education and training could absorb these youth.

- ◆ Promote programmes for skill acquisition for the unemployed youths such as enrollments in employment exchanges and promotion vocation guidance's
- ◆ Promote programmes that provide financial and/or material assistance to train and educate unemployed/under employed youths so that they can become gainfully self-employed.
- ◆ Create a social security programs to assist unemployed youths lessen their burden of meeting basic needs, as well as prevent them from resorting to un-lawful activities to cope up with the burden of unemployment and underemployed.

Un-employed and Under-employed Youth

The India economy is reported to be growing at a notable annual rate. However, many times market forces are unable to absorb the current growing labor force. It is worrying that a significant number of young people are unemployed and therefore vulnerable to poverty. Conditions of poverty further hamper access to basic services and needs. Taking into consideration the fact that the youth constitute the largest segment of population groups, their non participation in the economy of the country will definitely pose serious negative consequences. Unemployment is one of the greatest problems facing young people today, which is resulting in mass migrations to distant cities and towns, especially unemployment amongst young people is considerably high and that young women are far more disadvantaged in this regard than are young men.

- ◆ Efforts must be taken at implementing employment and skills development programs
- ◆ Mobilize and concretize the youth, parents and school authorities to take advantage of available free education and training opportunities at all levels
- ◆ Eliminate child-labor and early parenthood
- ◆ Reform must be made in the curriculum of educational institutions with a view to establishing an appropriate symmetry between formal education and the requirements of job opportunities and creating alternative work options

Vocational Training & Career Guidance

The provision of educational opportunities for youth is a fundamental prerequisite for building a strong, just, equitable, stable, viable, and vibrant society. This is in respect of both formal and non-formal education, basic, as well as technical and vocational education. A significant percentage of Indian youths are having poor educational backgrounds. This is a concern, not just because these young people are missing out on the benefits of formal and vocational education, but also because they are more likely to be at risk in terms of unemployment, health problems and participation in unlawful activities.

- ◆ Advocate for increased accessibility to career guidance and vocational training for rightful employment
- ◆ Support vocational training and establishment of internship and apprenticeship to enable the youth acquire a range of skills
- ◆ Promote appropriate and special training for youth who are illiterate, migrants including the internally displaced persons, refugees, street children and the disabled
- ◆ Guarantee of equitable access to educational opportunities irrespective their backgrounds
- ◆ Promotion of basic, cheap and compulsory computer literacy programs at all levels

Entrepreneurial Development

Empowering the capacity of youths for gainful employment is another area that is given priority by the youth policy guidelines. The provision of employment opportunities and work experience for the youth will, to a large extent, lessen dispositions to youth-related vices in society. Though gaining employment is necessary, it is also highly essential to develop entrepreneurship spirit among youth. It could be done by developing creative business ventures, initiating vocational enterprises among rural youth, supporting projects that have innovative ideas of young people.

- ◆ Creating and equipping additional institutions that can provide special training for youths with disabilities, as well as soft credit facilities for trained ones to enable them start off on their own
- ◆ Promote income generating activities for entrepreneurship among the youth by supporting appropriate micro credit financial institutions that extend credit facilities to the youth
- ◆ Promote youth enterprise development through enterprise education and establishment of information services

Marginalized Youth-Dalits, Tribals, Adivasis

India is the land of diverse religions, culture, traditions, regions and languages, with the existence of local, autonomous, distinct culturally sustaining connections between geographical place and cultural experience. Modern and narrow economic, new trade and investment agreements and interests have marginalized Tribals, Adivasis and Indigenous communities through destruction of forests and displacement from farm lands. Caste system has marginalized the Dalits from the society and they were subjected to inhuman suppression and oppression right from their birth. It is an undeniable fact that Tribals, Adivasis, Dalits is suffering displacement, marginalization and exploitation at all levels throughout the ages. The tripartite of politicians, bureaucracy, and capitalist is also an undeniable fact and many times the mechanism of compensation and rehabilitation as a supportive kitty has only pauperized the poor than bringing any drastic changes in their destiny.

- ◆ The promotion of ideals of Indian constitution like justice, equality, liberty, and fraternity, as a guarantee to all citizens' as human rights that must be ensured regardless of caste, creed, gender, or ethnicity
- ◆ The forest occupies a central position in tribal culture and economy and the tribal way of life is very much dictated by the forest right from birth to death. Therefore, the rights of Tribals, Adivasis and all Indigenous communities over the forest land must be re-asserted
- ◆ The perpetrators of crimes against the marginalized sections often walk scot free, therefore justice must be ensured to such victims and perpetrators of crime
- ◆ It must be ensured that these youth enjoy equal rights, protections, government policies on land reforms, budget allocations for the economic empowerment, special consideration for government jobs and education opportunities reach the young people

Migration & Youth Concerns - Urban Youth

Human migration is the movement of people from one place in the world to another for the purpose of taking up permanent or semi-permanent residence, usually across a geographical boundary. Migration shifts affects changes in the population patterns and characteristics of social, religious, economic and cultural patterns. As people move, their cultural traits and ideas diffuse along with them, creating and modifying cultural landscapes, and usually young people migrate for the purpose of education and job opportunities. Life in rural areas can be very different life from their

respective regions. Therefore youth policy must recognize these conditional shifts and differences, thereby promoting ways to ensure that such variations in the life of youth are given adequately addressed through proper care among the migrated youths.

- ◆ Assistance to migrant youth for better social services and amenities like education, health service, job opportunities, accommodation facilities and social support to new migrants
- ◆ Provide social security and counseling for needy youth who are staying far away from the parents through inter-linking of youth and religious bodies

Gender Justice

The rights of the girl child have long been a major problem and deserve priority of attention. Many times young women have been victims of harassment, physical violence and abuse, labor exploitation, gender discrimination, as well as negative attitudes and evil traditional practices. Therefore youth policy must protect and promote the interest and aspirations of the female adolescent-youth. Traditional attitudes toward the roles of women require maximum re-examination. There is a great need of ensuring the contribution of young women toward societal development, as well as their own development, and importantly communities must not limit or restrict women participation and leadership roles due to their gender.

- ◆ Establishment, improvement and promotion of programs that are aimed at ending gender-based discrimination and promoting the rights and dignity of the female adolescent-youth
- ◆ Promotion of programmes that are aimed at addressing the peculiar social, educational, health, cultural, religious hurdles that obstruct women partnership
- ◆ Elimination and awareness building about the harmful traditional practices that affect women involvements in the life of family, society and community

Youth & Disability

Young people with disabilities should participate equally in society alongside with their 'able-bodied' peers. This could be achieved if disability is approached as a human right and developmental issue. Although, there is also a greater appreciation of the invaluable role played by young people with disabilities in society, despite real challenges they face every day. If an enabling environment is created for these youth, they will certainly

contribute towards betterment of society. There is a greater need to do more by mainstreaming disability issues and prioritizing issues affecting young people with disabilities. The society owes a special responsibility towards those with mental and physical disabilities especially to the youths. The youth policy must create opportunities for taking care of the special needs of this category of youth, so that they may not be left out or abandoned.

- ◆ Provision of adequate facilities, educational programs, institutions and scholarships for the training disabled young people
- ◆ Establishment of healthcare institutions and educational centres to provide for the needs of disabled
- ◆ Encouragement of researchers to come out with creative solutions aimed at addressing the problems of disabled
- ◆ Promotion of skills and leadership training aimed for self-and gainful employment for the disabled and elimination of all forms of discriminatory practices against employment and educational opportunities for disabled

Youth Heading Households/Families

The youth (including children) are vulnerable and at risk when young people are living alone or heading household abruptly since their biological mother, father or both parents have died or unable to take care of them due to ill health or have abandoned them. As a result, youth in such circumstances may be forced to assume responsibility not only for themselves, but also for their younger siblings and or for their sick parents, thus consequently running households. These youth requires special attention, care and support as they are also at greater risk of abuse, exploitation, unemployed, under-employed and dropped out of school/college thus being excluded from proper education and proper vocational training.

Rural Youth

Young women and men in rural areas face many constraints with regard to both accessibility and availability of modern services and facilities. This has often resulted in fewer opportunities and less information and employment than youth of urban areas. There is also a great concern over the rural-urban migrants who are predominantly young. This is in turn affects much under-development of rural provinces, lack of opportunities and slow pace of reforms. As a result, young people are attracted by possibilities that urban areas can offer. In some cases, these youth, particularly if they are unskilled,

end up being destitute and those who are educated and skilled leave their areas communities in search of lucrative offers. This reproduces the cycle of rural impoverishment and intensifies the urban bias.

- ◆ Investments in rural youth development programs must be encouraged
- ◆ Awareness building programs must be conducted among rural youth about special programs and projects for rural youth welfare in the fields of education, employment and health care

Juvenile Justice, Delinquency & Abuse Prevention

The increasing involvement of the youth in substance abuse, violence, crimes, conflicts, robbery is a disturbing phenomenon. Also there is increase in the abuse of young people at many forms and at all levels like child labor, physical abuse, sexual abuse etc. These social vices are, to a considerable extent, by-products of our un-planned economy, political instability. To reverse this trend, opportunities and incentives must be provided which can discourage and dissuade the youths from such social vices and un-lawful conducts. Youth policy must motivate them towards law-abiding and responsible citizens.

- ◆ Empowering and awareness building programs to youth on the dangers of violence and other forms of crime and delinquency
- ◆ Establishment of rehabilitation centres with proper care for chronic juvenile offenders
- ◆ Provision of right education, skill-training and gainful employment opportunities for youths in juvenile correctional institutions
- ◆ Ensuring speedy trials for youth offenders
- ◆ Observance of the United Nations standard minimum rules for the treatment of offenders

Youth Healthcare

Healthy mind and body are basic requirements for the survival of any human being. The main objective of the health component of the youth policy is to enhance accessibility to basic hygiene, healthcare and health education. Good healthcare is aimed at providing information, education and of healthy living habits and recreation activities. It is also essential to promote public enlightenment programs which provide knowledge and awareness about holistic health.

- ◆ Advocate for the improvement, provision and expansion of access to services including information, guidance and counseling that make youth friendly health services
- ◆ Equip the youth with appropriate life skills and mobilize adults, families, communities, institutions and policy makers to create a safe and supportive environment for growth and healthy development of the youth
- ◆ Build partnerships and coordination among key role players involved in youth health practices and advocate for an implementation of the adolescent health policy

Sports & Leisure Time

Leisure time, games and sports activities greatly facilitate and enhance both physical and mental growth and development of the youth. The objective of including sports and recreation time in a youth policy guidelines is to develop and promote a mentally fit, alert, and physically strong and agile youth that can favorably compare with any other youth group of the world. It is also aimed at promoting sports spirit and the value of team-work, through sporting competitions in educational institutions and work places. Therefore, the emphasis is on the development of sports and other recreational activities, the provision of infrastructure and facilities for a healthy environment. Lack of participation in sports and recreation can lead to boredom and even the pursuit of less desirable forms of behavior.

- ◆ Expansion and development of sporting and recreational facilities and related infrastructures in educational institutions
- ◆ Encouragement of sporting events and facilities for youths with disabilities
- ◆ Inculcation of the value of sports and leisure as productive alternatives to aimlessness, idleness, drug abuse and crimes
- ◆ Encourage organizations to promote development of sports, traditional and modern, for recreations and competition among the youth
- ◆ Preservation and promotion of traditional sports

Arts, Tradition & Culture

India is a diverse country with multiple cultures, traditions, religions and regional pluralities. The promotion of arts and culture is an important vehicle for appreciating and respecting the good aspects of our heritage since no society could afford to discard its cherished past and traditional values. Youth policy must introduce ideals aimed at inculcating in our young

ones the need to appreciate and respect the good aspects of our cultural heritage. The introduction of foreign cultures and the increasing urbanization have diminished other cultural norms. This can leave young people without clear understanding of their own traditions, leading to undermine their own self identity and ability to deal with the pressures of life. Changing family structures and the increasing urbanization of towns and regional centres are challenging traditional patterns of behavior.

- ◆ Promote the teaching of cultural heritage and traditional ethos in families and educational institutions
- ◆ Encourage artistic and cultural exchange of activities among the youth and promote understanding of, and respect for, diverse cultural-artistic differences
- ◆ Encourage the utilization of the good aspects of our cultural values to serve as the ingredients for national integration and unity

Greening Young Minds

The youth policy must be essentially eco-friendly. It must provide lessons for the inculcating of the virtues of environmental preservation, protection and conservation among the youth. The aim is to encourage youth to play active leadership roles in improving the environment and the ecosystem.

- ◆ Promote programs and projects that create awareness among the youth with regard to the dangers of pollution and environmental degradation
- ◆ Encourage the participation of the youth in programs that are aimed at cleaning the environment of pollutants and reduce rubbish dumps
- ◆ Encourage the establishment of environment protection clubs and sustainable development education for youth in educational institutions
- ◆ Promote conservation of the natural resources-soil, forest, biomass, water, wildlife, wetlands, etc. through such activities as a forestation and proper waste management

Polity, Citizenship & Youth Engagement

Every youth is a responsible citizen, who must not only be aware of their rights and obligations, but also actively engage in the political affairs and nation building. Youth policy must place emphasis on the training of youths for leadership and citizenship responsibilities for national unity and development, especially, with regard to political involvements.

- ◆ Nurture in youth to have a deep sense of responsibility towards nation, and encourage values of self-sacrifice, hard work and creativity in dealing with public and national issues
- ◆ Promote growth and development of youth with good leadership qualities at disposition for working for public and national issues and concerns
- ◆ Inculcate the universal values of democracy and good governance among the youth
- ◆ Encourage youth participation in political activities, especially educating young people about exercising voting rights to select and elect right leaders of people

Social Cohesion & Community Development

The pillar of any society is the principle of self-help, self-reliance and cooperation in developing our communities. Our communities have long and cherished tradition of mass participation in decision making and implementation on matters that affect our collective well-being. The youth must actively participate in creating a social cohesion, especially in times of communal hatred, regional dynamics, internal conflicts etc. As the youth clearly represent core asset in the effort of improving the living and working conditions of people. Therefore, youth policies must promote the spirit of youth involvement and participation in developing social cohesion.

Talented/Gifted Youth

There are many creative, gifted and talented youth whose vast potentialities are not being adequately harnessed and utilized. The youth policy therefore should provide encouragement to gifted and talented youth in developing their talents. All the talented youth must be given adequate incentives and facilities to assist them actualize their potential, through training, education and incentives.

Youth, Internet & Social Networking

Youth engagement and networking has taken a huge leap and growth over the past years with the advent of social networks. Today's youth are able to connect with any other youth in any other part of world through current social network sites. Social network sites engage activity such as individual presentation of oneself, articulating and building outside networks, creating work-related collaboration, building romantic relationships, expressing opinions, provoking political debates, connecting college student

populations and opportunities, promote social causes, sharing hobbies and interests, and essentially forming anything that meets the imagination, made possible through the innovative capacities of current technology.

The robust growth of this current technology is steadily growing and becoming a greater percentage of daily youth interactions. One of the most important debates that involve youth today is the so called digital divide of the 'information rich' and 'information poor'. The spread of internet also raises a number of other ethical questions for young people, especially about matters like privacy, the security and confidentiality of data, copyright and intellectual property law, hate sites, the distribution of rumor and character assassination under the guise of news, and much more.

- ◆ Check, read and understand carefully the security guidelines and privacy policies of the internet sites
- ◆ Carefully publish or reveal confidential information like bank account details, passwords/key words of any sort, contact details, pictures, videos and posts in the in websites
- ◆ Ethically utilize the time spent on the social networks and internet browsing during study, office and working hours
- ◆ Abstain from promoting or utilizing social media for promoting offensive, humiliating and nasty messages, forums, pictures, videos etc.

Segment 4 Youth Policy Review

The youth policy requires periodic monitoring, review and assessment to ensure that it remains contemporary and responsive to the needs, aspirations and capacities of young women and men. With this purpose, a mechanism for youth policy review will have to be created; one which involves those key role players involved in youth development and one which integrates with the organizations youth development plans. Also the youth policy should be reviewed periodically (ideally every five years). The review will examine progress made in achieving the indicators defined by the plan of actions. The goals will be reviewed to ensure relevance to the situation of young people. In this way, the youth policy will remain contemporary and relevant. Though, monitoring and evaluating youth policy will not be an easy task. The review process should also be democratic and inclusive, and involve wide-range consultations and discussions with all the stakeholders, especially the youth.

Resource Mobilization

The youth policy and the success of the achievement of its set objectives will also greatly depend on the ability to mobilize and commit financial and human resources for implementing youth programs and projects. Therefore, no effort must be spared in the task of generating sufficient resources to facilitate efficient and timely execution of all the programs associated with the young people. Especially financial resources must be mobilized through annual budgetary allocations, grants, assistance from national/international donors/agencies and contribution from persons of good-will.

Youth Policy Guidelines

The aim of youth policy is to take a radical approach to youth development, for that a number of factors best to the successful achievement of policy goals and objectives should be utilized.

- The youth policy must lead in developing youth potentials through comprehensive programs, institutional capacity-building, institutional linkages and liaison, youth research, human rights advocacy, democratic practices, project management and economic protection of the youth.
- The youth policy should emphasize the need to strengthen the responsible youth development and institutions involved in youth work.

- Inter-institutional linkages and co-ordination of youth departments/ organizations/ desk/ commissions must be strengthened.
- Reduce the overlapping of responsibilities and programs of implementation, which have in the past resulted in poor achievement of critical goals and objectives in youth programs, this will ensure the inter-institutional liaison, defined responsibilities, and wider coverage of youth programs and activities.

Windows of Opportunity

Youth have great aspirations and expectations. They also have great frustration with the slow and ineffective manner in which the societies and communities have mishandled in actualization their aspirations. The existence of selfish interests, depressed economy, oppressive social systems, spiritual vacuum and weak political environment have greatly contributed in marginalizing the youth concerns. However, there is high level of optimism that with the implementation of youth policy, the necessity of designing concrete youth projects and implementing them in organizations and communities will become a matter of urgent concern. It has particularly become necessary to consciously and systematically address the serious problems that have disoriented and dis-empowered our young people. The youth policy will advocate for the mobilization of human and financial resources to promote youth participation and integrating them into the mainstream life thus bringing a holistic youth development and empowerment.

The present youth policy guidelines has tried its level best to incorporate, harmonize, enhance and promote the distinctive yet complementary actions and roles of all the stakeholders and partners at all levels of youth development. The youth policy guidelines has attempted to set broad guidelines as well as general and specific objectives for meeting the needs of the youth, resolving the problems afflicting them, and enabling them to become active participants in the task of socioeconomic, religious development and ecumenical unity. The youth policy should also be especially mindful of the critical role of an empowered and contented youth in holistic development and therefore must strive to bring the objectives to this policy to fruition.

It must be remembered that it has taken a long time for the youth problems to pile up and become compounded and for the condition of our youth to deteriorate to the present level. It will therefore also take time, patience and a lot of hard work before all the constraints can be removed and the problems solved. The inherent policy interventions and proposals is not a magic wand to offer solutions for all the youth problems, but it is a simple compass to give directions towards the way forward.

Together we can make a difference

National Council of Churches in India Constituent Members

Member Churches

1. Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church
2. Arcot Lutheran Church
3. Baptist Church of Mizoram
4. Bengal-Orissa-Bihar Baptist Convention
5. Chaldean Syrian Church of the East
6. Church of North India
7. Church of South India
8. Convention of Baptist Churches of the Northern Circars
9. Council of Baptist Churches in North East India
10. Council of Baptist Churches of Northern India
11. Evangelical Lutheran Church in Madhya Pradesh
12. Good Samaritan Evangelical Lutheran Church
13. Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chotanagpur
14. Hindustani Covenant Church
15. India Evangelical Lutheran Church
16. Jeypore Evangelical Lutheran Church
17. Malabar Independent Syrian Church
18. Malankara Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church
19. Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church
20. Mar Thoma Syrian Church
21. Mennonite Brethren Church
22. Mennonite Church in India
23. Methodist Church in India
24. Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church
25. Presbyterian Church of India
26. Salvation Army
27. Samavesam of Telugu Baptist Churches
28. South Andhra Lutheran Church
29. Tamil Evangelical Lutheran Church
30. The National Organisation of the New Apostolic Church

Regional Christian Councils

1. Andhra Pradesh Council of Churches
2. Bengal Christian Council
3. Bihar Council of Churches
4. Chhattisgarh Christian Council
5. Gujarat Council of Churches
6. Jharkhand Council of Churches
7. Karnataka Christian Council
8. Kerala Council of Churches
9. Madhya Pradesh Christian Council
10. Maharashtra Council of Churches
11. North East India Christian Council
12. North West India Frontier Christian Council
13. North West India Christian Council
14. Santalia Council of Churches
15. Tamil Nadu Christian Council
16. Utkal Christian Council
17. Uttar Pradesh Council of Churches

All India Christian Organizations

1. All India Association for Christian Higher Education
2. Association of Theologically Trained Women of India
3. Bible Society of India
4. Board of Theological Education of Senate of Serampore College
5. Christian Association for Radio and Audio Visual Services
6. Christian Union of India
7. Christian Endeavour in India
8. Ecumenical Council for Drought Action and Water Management
9. Indian Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge
10. Inter-Church Service Association
11. Leprosy Mission
12. Lott Carey Baptist Mission in India

13. National Council of YMCAs of India
14. National Missionary Society of India
15. Student Christian Movement of India
16. United Evangelical Lutheran Church in India
17. Young Women's Christian Association of India

Related Agencies

1. All India Sunday School Association
2. Christian Institute for the Study of Religion and Society
3. Christian Literature Society
4. Christian Medical Association of India
5. Church's Auxiliary for Social Action
6. Ecumenical Church Loan Fund - India
7. Henry Martyn Institute

