

# Combating Inactive Participation for National Growth: Unleashing the Potential of Youth

written by Hamna Seyyed | June 9, 2023



A nation's most vital and dynamic resource is its youth population. Young people's active involvement is essential for national progress and sustainable development. However, in many nations, youth engagement is hampered by a lack of appropriate platforms and chances, which results in unrealized potential and squandered opportunities. The effect of inactive youth engagement on a nation's growth will be examined in this article, along with practical solutions.

## The Importance of Youth

Young people are any country's future. They are forces for advancement and change because they have new viewpoints, creative ideas, and endless energy. Engaging young individuals in decision-making processes and providing them with opportunities to contribute actively not only benefits the youth themselves but also the nation as a whole. Youth participation fosters social cohesion, promotes inclusive development, and ensures the continuity of societal progress.



### **Impact of Inactive Youth Participation:**

- **Economic Consequences:** Restricting young people's access to economic opportunities reduces their potential contributions to the workforce and slows down national economic expansion. Inactivity limits the growth of abilities and talents, impeding the development of the innovative and competitive workforce required for a flourishing economy.
- **Social and Political Disengagement:** Lack of opportunities for youth involvement can result in apathy, disappointment, and disengagement among young people. By separating the young people from the rest of society, this separation weakens social cohesion and the foundation of a country's democratic system. For the development of responsible citizenship and the preservation of a strong democracy, active youth participation in political processes is essential.
- **Missed Solutions and Innovation:** Young people possess fresh perspectives and creative problem-solving abilities. By excluding them from decision-making processes and denying them opportunities to contribute, societies miss out on innovative solutions to pressing challenges. Youth participation is essential for driving social change, addressing issues such as climate change, poverty, and inequality.

### **Tackling Inactive Youth Participation:**

- **Creating Accessible Platforms:** Governments, civil society organizations, and educational institutions must collaborate to create accessible platforms and spaces for youth participation. These platforms can include youth councils, mentorship programs, entrepreneurship initiatives, and community engagement projects. Such platforms should be inclusive, diverse, and encourage the active involvement of young individuals from various backgrounds.
- **Strengthening Education and Skills Development:** An effective education system is crucial for nurturing the potential of young individuals. Education should not only focus on academic knowledge but also emphasize the development of critical thinking, problem-solving, and entrepreneurial skills. By

equipping youth with the necessary tools, they can actively contribute to the country's growth.

- **Improving Civic Education:** It's critical to advance civic education in communities and schools to create responsible citizenship and promote young involvement. Young people should learn about their rights, obligations, and the value of actively participating in the political processes of their country through civic education.
- **Strengthening Youth-Led Initiatives:** By assisting and strengthening youth-led initiatives and groups, we can give young people a place to participate actively. To help young people start and maintain their own initiatives, governments and institutions should offer them financial support, mentoring, and assistance in building their capacities.

### **Why Youth Involvement Is Important:**

- **Leveraging Innovation:** Young people bring new viewpoints, imaginative ideas, and technological know-how. Societies can access these resources thanks to their active participation, which fosters innovation and advancement across a range of industries.
- **Social Inclusion:** Active youth participation promotes social inclusion, providing opportunities for marginalized groups to have a voice and contribute to decision-making processes. This inclusion fosters diversity, tolerance, and understanding within societies.
- **Sustainable Development:** Youth participation is essential for achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. Engaging young individuals in environmental initiatives, poverty reduction efforts, and social justice movements strengthens