Chapter-1
INTRODUCTION

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1.0 Introduction

In the contemporary world, economy is, essentially, knowledge based. In this system, the youths constitute the most invaluable asset of a developing country like India and they are comprised, therefore, of vast human resource and investment on them in any form is, undoubtedly, a rewarding investment on matters of progress. Admittedly, India is credited with unmatched advantages in terms of demographic dividend. History has recorded the genesis of the first generation of reforms during early 90’s against the backdrop of burning issues like acute forex problem, poor GDP growth, to name a few. Remedy came in the form of LPG. However, LPG came with a price tag. Against mounting opposition to WTO conditions, they had to be accepted. Over a period of time, a different scenario emerged. The present demographic dividend started tasting the fruits of WTO conditions.

It is a commonplace knowledge, which is buttressed by several surveys and statistical analyses, that there is a very wide gap in all respects between urban and rural societies. The gap has devastating impact upon qualitative and functional components of education. It is a fallacy to assert that the gap is only between urban and rural societies. The statement asserting such gap holds good with respect to any two cross sections of the society, no matter what the parameter is to divide. Social exclusiveness coupled with inequality with respect to income, consumption, access to health care services, etc., defeated the policies aimed at social welfare.

As per the 2011 census, more than 65% of population in India is below the age of 35 years, and 44.2% of the youth population live below the poverty line. This is the highest rate in the world. In India the literacy rate is 74.04% as per 2011 census; the youth literacy rate is 81.1% which is below the world youth literacy rate of 89.6%. Again, there is a wide disparity between urban literacy rate (85%) and rural literacy rate (68.9%). Even as to employment level, rural India is far behind the urban India as per 2011 census. The unemployment rate is 66% in rural as against 50% in urban segment. In terms of poverty level, urban India is in a better condition when compared to rural
India. As per the RBI Bulletin (2012)\(^2\) at national level average is 21.92% of youth live below poverty line and it is 13.70% in urban area as against 25.7% in rural area.

In Karnataka the picture is not very different. Situation is pathetic because positive factors are absent and negative factors dominate in rural India, while in any healthy society it should have been the other way round. Quality education, training, sports, health care services and employment opportunities are abstaining positive factors whereas lack of interactive and organisational skills, prevalence of many social evils like child marriage, female feticide, alcohol etc. are dominating negative factors. Rural youths, therefore, suffer from confidence crisis and they fear to take independent decisions. This has resulted in a sense of insecurity and consequently, they are unable to shoulder responsibilities.

The agenda should focus on bringing the youth population to the mainstream. In the globalised world scenario, youths enjoy a plethora of opportunities in the form of quality education, attractive job opportunities, liberalised international laws, high rate of labour mobility, rapid social transformation, cross cultural exchanges etc.

More than 70 percent of the total population of India lives in rural areas and hence more youths live in villages than in cities. Though youths are at the forefront of social transformation, their radical social consciousness has often been underestimated. Consequently, today young generation experiences widening social gaps and faces manifold challenges. It is a truism that “today’s youths are the future of our nation” and “the real strength of the nation lies in Rural India” as they are considered the real agents of change. Therefore they ought to be empowered. On the contrary, the rural youths have been neglected completely in India. If they are given proper guidance and advice they can be moulded to become responsible citizens and a great asset to the nation. The stakeholders have the responsibility to create an environment which is favourable to rural youths to achieve their goals and thereby assist them in their
all-round development. Apart from spread of literacy, the focus should be on the benefits of ICT, soft skills, etc.

Today youth’s life style is quite different from that of youths in the past; also, their lives are more complex and challenging than ever before. At the same time modern youths spend longer time preparing for adulthood than the previous generations. However, the transition to adulthood is also laden with risks and challenges. Therefore the youth has become the most vulnerable group than any other social group. The main problems encountered by the youths relate to education, unemployment, health, social and cultural issues.

In India and elsewhere in the world the stated policy of the stake holders is to empower the youths. In this direction, in India government - both central and state governments - along with for-profit organisations and non-profit organisations [NGOs] are making efforts to empower youths. The National Youth Policy (NYP)\(^3\), 2014 strongly advocates for the concerted efforts from all the stakeholders to empower youths. It is highly difficult for the state alone to shoulder and discharge the responsibility of empowering youth in the country. It is imperative for the state to take the help of NGO and other voluntary associations in the youth empowerment process.

In India, as in other countries, a good number of voluntary organisations are engaged in improving the lives of deprived sections in the society. The voluntary sector is expected to support and promote the welfare programmes of the government like health care, education, water supply, sanitation facilities, etc., in remote areas targeting the marginalised segment of the society. They are expected to educate the community with regard to their entitlements and also improve efficiency and efficacy of the plans and policies of the government. The literature which states the functions and work done by NGOs in India and the world over discloses that these NGOs have significantly contributed to nation building exercise. Many NGOs are working hard to bring children with disability to schools, end caste-based stigma and discrimination, eradicate social evils like dowry and child marriage, prevent child labour and
promote gender equality. Emphasis upon the promotion of gender equality has resulted in women receiving wages on par with men. During natural calamities they played an active role in relief and rehabilitation efforts. They provided empathetic care and support to the disaster affected people. NGOs have also been instrumental in the formation and capacity building of Farmers and Producers’ Cooperative societies and Women’s Self-Help-Groups (SHGs).

1.1. Conceptual Framework

1.1.1. Definition of Youth:

Youth is a stage in the life cycle which varies from one culture to another in its significance and age-frame. In general, the youth is viewed as a very specific stage between childhood and adulthood; the transition from dependence to independence. So it is claimed that ‘YOUTH’ is a more fluid category than a fixed age-group. [UNESCO]⁴

The United Nations, for statistical purposes, “defines those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 as youth without prejudice to other definitions by Member States.”[UNO]⁵

According to National Policy of Youth (2005)⁶, the term youth refers to “all individuals in the age-group of 13-30 years”. According to Commonwealth it is 15-29 years⁷. According to National Policy of Youth (2014)⁸, the term youth refers to “all individuals in the age-group of 15-29 years”.

However, the legal status of a youth within a country varies from one purpose to another like for marriage, voting rights, land rights, criminal offences, employment purpose or consent for medical services.

From the point of view of this study, the term youth refers to individuals aged between 15 and 35 years.

1.1.2. Empowerment:

The concept of empowerment first came to limelight during the World Women Conference held at Nairobi in 1985. This concept was extensively used in development scene in the early 1990s to mean self sufficiency and self efficiency with self awareness in all kinds.
From the point of view of this study, empowerment means all round development in terms of educational, economic, political, social, cultural and psychological wellbeing of youth.

The World Bank defines empowerment as follows: “Empowerment is the process of enhancing the capacity of individuals or groups to make choices and to transform those choices into desired actions and outcomes. Central to this process is actions which both build individual and collective assets, and improves the efficiency and fairness of the organisational and institutional context which govern the use of these assets.”

How is it possible to enhance capacity of individuals? Enhancement of capacity can be achieved through ‘full participation of people’. It is characterised by two categories of values; instrumental and intrinsic. Therefore empowerment is significant not only from the point of view of economics but also public morality. The latter has the potential to force the government and voluntary organisations to accept it on moral grounds. Hence it is not only a legal obligation but also moral. Further, empowerment is relevant at the individual and collective level, and can assume economic, social, or political form. Against this background, we can understand why empowerment must be total for the all-round development of the youth.

- **Empowerment in education**: Empowerment in education is understood as the process of creating awareness of its importance, providing opportunities to receive quality education. Only such education can lay the foundation for strong general and technical knowledge and promotion of skills of a person. When the target group is youth, the youth is entitled to this privilege.

  The questionnaire consisted of questions pertaining to various dimensions of empowerment such as level of awareness on education, accessibility to educational facilities, spending significant amount of income on education. The responses of beneficiaries have been recorded.
• **Economic Empowerment**: Economic empowerment is the capacity of people to participate in, contribute to and benefit from growth processes in ways that recognise the value of their contributions, respect their dignity and make it possible to negotiate a fairer distribution of the benefits of growth. In this study, economic empowerment is referred to mean the empowerment in economic aspects like economic opportunity, personal savings, and decision about purchasing, opportunity for economic development, financial management skills, and financial security. The responses to these factors of empowerment were recorded.

• **Social Empowerment**: It is understood as the process of developing a sense of autonomy, self-confidence; acting individually, collectively to change social relationships. Poor people’s empowerment, and their ability to hold others to account is strongly influenced by their individual assets and capabilities of all types; human and social. Also, important are people’s collective assets and capabilities such as voice, organisation, representation and identity.

  In this study social empowerment is used to mean the act of empowering the youth in social aspects like self-respect, freedom to work outside family, freedom to mix with friends, decision making in family, social status, participation in community activities, organizational skills, interactive skills, awareness of rights, social values and moral standards, etc. The responses to social empowerment aspects were recorded.

• **Political Empowerment**: Political Empowerment is the promotion of the participation of youth in formal politics, alongside support to broad programmes of democratisation and good governance with a focus on developing civil society. This is possible only when the youth is apprised of his fundamental rights and duties. This is the pre-requisite. Secondly, the youth must become aware of his role in nation-building. Realisation must be translated into action. This is the way political empowerment leads the youth from one stage to another.
From the point of view of this study, political empowerment means empowering the youths in political aspects like freedom of participation in active politics, Awareness of human rights, constitutional knowledge, awareness of political institutions, desire to vote, participation in family and community decision making etc. The responses of the respondents to political empowerment aspects were recorded.

- **Cultural Empowerment:** Cultural empowerment means empowering youth in cultural aspects of freedom to develop certain food habit, freedom to interact with persons outside family, actual participation in festivals, freedom to performing religious ceremonies, to choose dress style, freedom to make a pilgrimage, respecting the elders, etc. The responses of the respondents on cultural empowerment factors were recorded.

- **Psychological Empowerment:** It is a very important aspect of personality development which stimulates self confidence and belief in self-efficacy. It creates awareness and knowledge of problems and solutions and ways that individuals can address problems that deal with their quality of life. This dimension of overall empowerment of youth aims to give youth the skills to acquire knowledge.

   The psychological empowerment is concerned with empowering youth in psychological aspects like self-confidence, courage, self-reliance, feeling of security in family, career ambition, self-image, etc. The responses of the respondents on psychological empowerment factors were recorded.

1.1.3. **Youth Development:**

The Report by the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP)\(^{10}\) defines Youth Development as “enhancing the status of young people, empowering them to build on their competencies and capabilities for life. It will enable them to contribute and benefit from a politically stable, economically viable and legally supportive environment, ensuring their full participation as active citizens in their countries”.
1.1.4. Youth Empowerment:
Meeting of Commonwealth Heads of Government (CHOGM)\textsuperscript{11} 1997 has defined “Youth Empowerment” as “empowering young people, means creating and supporting the enabling conditions under which young people can act on their own behalf, and on their own terms, rather than at the direction of others.”

It is an attitudinal, structural and cultural process whereby young people gain the ability, authority and agency to make decisions and implement change in their own lives and the lives of other people including youth and adults.

1.1.5. Youth Empowerment Index:
YEI is used to measure progress / improvement on youth empowerment by aggregating the results across seven key empowerment domains/dimensions- education, economic, culture, society, politics, health and psychological. In each area/domain some indicators are used to quantify the performance/role of NGOs in that particular domain of youth empowerment.

India rank 98 in the World Youth Development Index [YDI]\textsuperscript{12} out of 170 countries where information is available, with overall YDI score of 0.58 and 25\textsuperscript{th} rank in the Commonwealth Youth Development Index [YDI] among 51 commonwealth countries with YDI score of 0.58.

1.1.6. Civic society Organisations:
According to International Monetary Fund (IMF)\textsuperscript{13}, Civic Society Organisations (CSOs) to include “business forums, faith-based associations, labour movements, local community groups, nongovernmental organisations, philanthropic foundations, and think tanks”.

According to World Bank, Civic society Organisations (CSOs)\textsuperscript{14} “are the wide array of non-governmental and not-for-profit organisations which have a presence in public life, expressing the interests and values of their members or others, based on ethical, cultural, scientific, religious, or philanthropic consideration.
Therefore the Civic Society Organisations (CSOs) refer to a wide array of organisations, community groups, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), labour unions, indigenous groups, Charitable Organisations, faith-based organisations, professional associations, and foundations”.

1.1.7. Non-Governmental Organisation:
United Nations Organisation [UNO] defines (1945) Non-Governmental Organisation as “any kind of private organisation that is independent from government control can be termed as “Non-Governmental Organisation [NGO]”, provided it is not-for-profit, non-prevention, and not simply an opposition political party”\(^{15}\)

One of the most widely used definition is given by Operational Directive 14.70 of the World Bank: “private organisations that pursue activities to relieve suffering, promote the interests of the poor, protect the environment, provide basic social services, or undertake community development” (World Bank 2001)\(^{16}\).

1.1.8. Beneficiaries:
It refers to individuals and organisations receiving the benefits from the programmes and schemes of any government or non-government organisations.

From the point of view of this study, youth in the age group of 15-35 years are considered as ‘beneficiaries’

1.2. Problems of youth in India:
India is fortunate in having demographic dividend. More than 65% of population out of India’s total population is below the age of 35 years. No other country except China has this dividend. Today life is highly turbulent and violent where life, especially, youth life is neither so simple nor free from adversities. It is also quite different from the life of youth in the past and much more challenging than ever before. In spite of this situation, we neglect to nurture this invaluable resource and thereby fail to make this a productive asset. Indian youths are facing numerous problems. The common place view is that the economically, socially and politically backward,
educationally deprived, culturally low and psychologically weak youths are victims of alcoholism, tobacco use and have become a prey to anti-social elements leading to socio-economic and political problems in the country.

The important ones being-

- Illiteracy
- Poverty
- Unemployment
- Inadequate health facilities
- Child marriage
- Alcoholism
- Diffidence and negativism

1.3. Need for youth Empowerment:

Youths are the back bone of any country; developed or under developed. The success of a nation depends upon liberation and empowerment of youth. As the present day youths are facing numerous problems, it is the need of the hour for all the stakeholders to take suitable actions to address these problems.

As per the Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment [PAYE]¹⁷, the key areas of youth development and empowerment are; education, health, employment, civic participation and political participation.

- Youth is in the transitional phase from childhood to adulthood and it is a crucial stage in the life cycle. During this phase any individual ought to be psychologically, moulded. However, it is a commonplace knowledge that psychological maturity brings with it social and behavioural maturity during this phase only some rights are often irremediably damaged or violated and cannot be restored.
- It is needed to reduce the social, economic and political crimes in the society, only through empowerment we can avoid youth from engaging in anti-social acts.
- Needed to inculcate life skills among the youth which is the need of the hour today
• Youth empowerment process leads to self-employment, development/creation of new generation entrepreneurs and thereby solve unemployment problem.
• Youth empowerment is needed to instill vital tenets and social values among the youth
• Needed to reduce poverty and thereby improve the living conditions in the country
• Youth empowerment in any programme focusing on development is imperative for national development. The empowerment is otherwise necessary also because the transitional period from childhood to adulthood is quite a challenge. If the potential of the youths are not profitably harnessed and marshaled towards development, there is bound to be trouble (Ojikutu, 1998)\textsuperscript{18}.
• Millennium Development Goals also aim at the empowerment of youth. Among the goals of MDG such as eradication of poverty and hunger, promote gender equality and empowerment of women, achieve universal primary education, combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases are having positive impact on youth empowerment.
• Youth empowerment needed to promote national integration and helps in nation building and national development process. The empowered youth can maintain and sustain country’s integrity.
• Needed to promote regional co-operation and to have better international understanding
• Empowerment of Indian youth is needed to encash demographic disadvantage of developed countries
• Needed to create value in Young women and men so that they can contribute to the economic, social, political and cultural advancement of their own, their families and countries.

In this direction there is a need to empower youth of the nation to make them more productive and responsible citizens. Thereby we can overcome
the social, cultural, economic and political problems prevailing in the society.

1.4. Stake holders of youth empowerment in India:

The youth empowerment is a multi-faceted, continuous, complex task and this cannot be accomplished by any single agency or single setup like family, community, social organisations, educational institutions, government agencies or private organisations or non-governmental organisations (NGOs). It is needed to coordinate the efforts of all these stakeholders to make youth empowerment programmes and schemes more effective and bring desired results. In the modern welfare states, all these stakeholders are making concerted efforts to empower youth thereby contributing to the welfare of the youth and the society at large. The following chart shows the combined efforts of key stakeholders in youth empowerment process.
Each stakeholder has a crucial and key role as well as responsibilities towards the youth at different stages of youth empowerment and development. The roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder is stated as under-

a. **Families**

In Indian society youth dependence on family is very high; there is more parental control on youth in every walks of their life. Families have vital role and responsibilities in bringing up the youth to the real life situation in the society. Home is the first school and parents are the first teachers for...
children where they nourish with love and care and are brought up with dedication. Family members especially parents have a key place and more responsibility and it is their duty to educate, to provide a healthy, loving & nurturing environment for the youth to bring them as healthy as possible. Parents’ positive behaviour has positive influence on emotional, behavioural and psychological development of youth. Effective parenting through providing basic needs, respecting basic human rights and rights of a youth, giving moral guidance, support, counselling, mentoring. Proper socialization of youth has positive impact on their empowerment. The research studies reveal that negligent parenting has negative influence on emotional, behavioural and psychological development of youth. Lack of communication between youth and adults in the family are the major challenges in youth empowerment in India.

b. Youth Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)

Non-Governmental Organisations are contributing a lot for the empowerment of weaker and unprivileged sections like women and youth in the society through improving the lives of these sections. The voluntary sector is engaged in filling gaps in the government’s welfare schemes. The voluntary groups work for marginalised communities in providing them access to basic services, are empowering the community about their entitlements and review efficiency and efficacy of the government plans and policies. Many NGOs are working hard to bring children with disability to schools, end caste-based stigma and discrimination, eradicate social evils like dowry & child marriage, prevent child labour and promote gender equality resulting in women receiving equal wages for the same work compared to men.

c. Government and Public Sector

World over especially in emerging, developing and poor economies it is the duty and responsibility of the state to achieve welfare of all in the society. It is Governments’ responsibility to enact legislation and bring effective regulatory framework to protect the disadvantageous youth
affected by lack of opportunities, violence, discrimination, and sexual harassment. India, being a democratic state, is working for the welfare of citizens and is enshrined in our constitution. The preamble to our constitution reads as “We, the People of India, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a sovereign socialist secular democratic republic and to secure to all its citizens: justice, social, economic and political; liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; equality of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all, fraternity assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the nation; In our Constituent Assembly this twenty-sixth day of November, 1949, do hereby adopt, enact and give to ourselves this Constitution”. In India, central government and state governments are playing leading role in promoting youth empowerment through various schemes and programmes. Central government has National Youth policies for the development of youth. Again it is the state which can guide, carry out, regulate and monitor the functions of other stakeholders of youth empowerment such as Inter-governmental organisations, non-governmental organisations, private sector, media and educational institutions.

d. Inter-Governmental Organisations

India is a member country in various inter-governmental organisations like Commonwealth of Nations, SAARC, Asian Development Bank, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, UNO and its specialized agencies – United Nations Education, Scientific and cultural Organization(UNESCO), World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Labour Organisation( ILO) International Maritime Organisation (IMO). In India these inter-governmental organisations are providing technical, advisory and financial assistance to various stake holders to carry out youth development programmes.

e. Civil Society Organisations and Networks
Apart from NGO’s the civil society organisations like business forums, faith-based associations[e.g. Mutts, Ashrams, Church, Madrasas] labour movements, local community groups, philanthropic foundations are having important place in the development of youth and development of economy because they come in between the family and the government. They are contributing a lot for the economic development and poverty reduction in developing world. In India too these organisations and their networks are doing a commendable job in youth development process and in achieving welfare of the society. Again these civil society organisations (CSOs) are crucial for empowerment process as these are having strong influence on youth and the public. These organisations (CSOs) through advocacy, community awareness, moral and spiritual guidance, technical support and instilling life skill are contributing to youth empowerment in India.

f. Private Organisations and Media

Private organisations and media are playing very important role and responsibilities in the youth empowerment and development. In the modern Information & Communication Technology era, media is considered as social and cultural resource. Moreover, media is considered as the driving force of community development. The media has greater responsibility too in moulding and shaping life of youth in the society. Both print and electronic media have strong influence on people especially youths in rural society in a number of ways. It brings to door steps of the youth all that is happening in the world over. Media is an effective tool to highlight social, political and economic issues prevailing in the society. It creates awareness on social issues, health problems, education, and civic rights and inspires the youth to recognise the importance of education, their civic rights, to become leaders in their community. Media makes the youth of a country to aware of the innovations, research and experiments being carried out in various fields aiming at development of youth and humanity at large.

In the present global socio-economic scene private organisations, second sector in the economy, are the important stakeholders, having strength and
responsibility to contribute to the socio-economic development of a nation. Private organisations provide job opportunities for youth, training, mentorship and work-study opportunities, technical and financial support for youth initiatives, develop youth entrepreneurship and human resource. In India, under the new companies Act, 2013, it is compulsory for corporate entities to spend 2% of their net profit to carry out socially responsible activities like eradicating hunger, poverty and malnutrition, promoting preventive healthcare, promoting education and promoting gender equality, setting up homes for women, orphans and the senior citizens, training to promote rural development, for reducing inequalities faced by socially and economically backward groups. Again private sector is providing job opportunities to youth.

g. Educational Institutions and youth empowerment

Education institutions are playing a key role in shaping the destiny of a nation. The Kothari committee in its report says that “India’s destiny is being shaped in Four Walls”. The philosophers, educationists and social thinkers view that the educational institutions are the centres of human resource development and the learners who come out of these institutions are expected to go to the society and take up responsibilities. It is observed world over that it is the educational institutions, through providing education, can ensure the development of knowledgeable, self-reliant, skilled, disciplined, and a healthy population with the capacity to drive and sustain the socio-economic development of the nation.” In India educational institutions are playing a constructive role in youth development process.

1.5. Youth empowerment programmes by central government and Karnataka government:

In India, central government and state governments are making collective efforts since independence to empower youth and spending large sums on youth development programmes. Government of India has designed number of programmes for youth empowerment and development schemes under
five year plans-to harness Yuva Shakti in nation-building tasks. Several programmes for national discipline, leadership training, expansion and strengthening of the NSS, NCC, NYKS, launching NSVS and effective coordination amongst different programmes were introduced in successive plan periods.

The schemes and programmes for the development of youth and adolescents received a boost during seventh plan period. The national youth policy was enacted and in 1992 Youth Action Plan was formulated. During eighth and ninth plan periods the thrust was on harnessing the youth power by involving them in various community-based nation building activities.

In the 10th plan, GOI under the ministry of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship, Youth Affairs and Sports, introduced programmes for promotion of youth activities & training, Promotion of National Integration, Promotion of Adventure and Development and Empowerment of Adolescents. The Eleventh Plan envisages a holistic approach and comprehensive strategy to enable the development and realisation of the full potential of the youth in the country and channelise their energy towards socio-economic development and growth of the nation.

In the 12th plan all these programmes were merged and new scheme namely National Programme for Youth and Adolescent Development was launched. And also various central youth empowerment programmes are implemented through Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, National Service Scheme, State Government Youth Organisations and Bharat Scouts & Guides in schools and colleges. Adolescents and youths from other established youth organisations or NGOs were also considered if they are the registered members of such organisations.

Promote self-entrepreneurial skills among the youth by equipping them with the management skills, designing and planning micro-enterprises in conformity with local skills to channelise youth energies for effective participation in national development. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, GOI has a scheme for empowerment and rehabilitation of youth
through providing financial assistance for promotion of youth activities and training, to provide vocational training to the youths so that they can function better as productive youths and also help rural youths to develop new skills so that their migration to the cities may be prevented on at least they may be dissuaded. This scheme is implemented through state governments, union territory administrations, recognised educational institutions, and polytechnics, Regional Centres of National Service Scheme / Constituent Colleges, Nehru Yuva Kendra, Bharat Scouts and Guides, Panchayat Raj Institutions, Non- Government Organisations and Public Trusts registered under relevant Act of the State.

The National Youth Policy(2014)\(^9\) has identified 11 key areas for youth empowerment- Education, Entrepreneurship, Employment & Skill development, Health & Healthy Lifestyle, Sports, Promotion of Social Values, Community Engagement, and Participation in Politics & Governance, Youth Engagement, Inclusion and Social Justice. Central government has set up two agencies, NSDC & NSDA for youth Employment & Skill development.

As per NYP-2014, Government of India has spent Rs. Nine hundred billion for Youth Development through education, food subsidies, employment programmes, and health and family welfare schemes. Besides central government, all state governments are also spending considerable amount on education, health and youth services. It is extremely difficult for the state alone to shoulder and discharge the responsibility of empowering the youth in the country. Therefore, it is imperative for the state to take the help of NGOs and other voluntary associations engaged in the youth development process.

1.6. Challenges of youth empowerment:

Though government and non-government organisations are making consistent efforts to empower youth through various schemes and programmes, still there are some problems and challenges in empowering the youth in the country. Some of these challenges are:
• Bad governance of youth empowerment schemes and programmes: both at center and state level not only government sponsored schemes but also of the NGOs, Non –Profit Organisations, Civil Societies, Corporate Youth Empowerment schemes and programmes

• Lack of sufficient resources: the stakeholders in youth empowerment are facing the shortage of resources both financial and non-financial.

• Lack of committed volunteers: there is lack of determined, committed and dedicated volunteers and bueraucrates to implement various youth empowerment programmes.

• Misuse of Funds: There is leakages in grants and aids provided and donated by sponsors and donors at all stages of implementation of these programmes.

• Politicisation of schemes and programmes: It is one of the major problems in implementing youth programmes in India.

• Nepotism: Prevailing caste system has resulted in favoritism which influences in the selection of beneficiaries and in the delivery of benefits to the needy.

• Deterioration of philanthropic spirit: There are some not-for-profit organisations like educational Institutions and charitable trusts which are not performing in true philanthropic spirit

• Multiple regulations: Multiple regulations have made making it difficult to implement and monitor empowerment schemes. Therefore proper evaluation has become near impossible.

1.7. Importance of the Study:

In India, like other countries world over, youths form the most vulnerable section of the society and this is well known for paradoxes. The youths are in precarious situation. They are the victims of disparities and are deprived in terms of education, economic, political, social and cultural and confidence status.

In India research has been pursued on the contribution of the NGOs and the role played in women empowerment and other fields. The research
findings showed that the NGOs did a commendable job in uplifting women folk in the country. The NGOs have not only engaged themselves in women empowerment but also engaged in empowering the underprivileged and youths in the society. A great deal of research is done at international level. However, in India research work done on the youth empowerment is not really impressive. So there is need to conduct a comprehensive study on the role of NGOs in the youth empowerment in India. This study not only emphasises on the NGOs role in youth empowerment but findings of the study helps the governments and other stakeholders to frame appropriate policies and programmes for the empowerment of youth thereby helps in raising the standard of living of people in Bangalore rural district.

The findings of the study intend to stimulate the youths to take part in productive activities in the society. The study also assists the youths to understand the development goals in the new millennium and there by become important contributors to improve per capita income and overall development process in India. This study has made prompt efforts to fill this gap.

1.8. Statement of the problem:

The literature review revealed that in India different agencies are working for empowering disadvantageous people. NGOs are playing important role in this empowerment process. The literature review indicates that more research work is carried in the area of women empowerment and little research work is done on the role of NGOs in rural youth empowerment. Hence the present study is undertaken and finds the answers to the following questions:

(1) What is the role of NGOs in the society?
(2) What is the level of youth empowerment in the study area?
(3) How is youth empowered through Non-Governmental Organisations?
(4) What are the challenges faced by NGOs in youth empowerment?
1.9. Objectives of the Study:

In the post globalised world development scene the voluntary organisations and Non-Governmental Organisations are playing crucial role in the upliftment of underprivileged and disadvantaged sections in the society. The present study considered it important to examine the various aspects of Non-Governmental Organisations [NGOs] activities and this study focuses on how these activities ultimately help in the empowerment of youths in Karnataka. The study is guided by the following objectives.

1. To study the various youth empowerment programmes implemented by the NGOs
2. To study the demographic characteristics of the youth beneficiaries
3. To estimate the impact of the NGOs on empowerment level of youths
4. To study the association between demographic characteristics and the level of empowerment of the youth beneficiaries
5. To identify the problems confronting the NGOs in the implementation of Youth Empowerment Programmes in Bangalore Rural District

1.10. Hypotheses:

The hypotheses which form the main principles of the study mainly consider the suspected correlation between the levels of empowerment on the one hand, and the following factors on the other. a) social stratum of the family b) Income c) Impact of NGO d) education e) Physical and mental health f) Economic status g) Awareness of political development h) Quality of culture i) Personality trait. Considering these variables the following Hypotheses are constructed for this study.

H1: There is no significant association between type of the family and level of empowerment of the respondents.

H2: There is no significant association between income and level of empowerment of the respondents.

H3: There is no significant association between occupation and level of empowerment of the respondents
There no a significant difference in the level of empowerment of the youth beneficiaries before and after joining the NGO

**1.11. Research Gap:**

On the basis of the various research works reviewed in chapter-2, it evidenced that the NGOs did a commendable job in uplifting women folk in the country. In this context, some of the important research gaps found include the following:

1. The role of NGOs in various levels of development and particularly youth empowerment has not been attempted in the context of Karnataka state and particularly in Bangalore Rural district.

2. The role of NGOs is multifaceted task which includes several activities and the reasons for success and failure of the empowerment of various sections of the society differ from sections to section. It needs further investigation.

3. The studies on the youth empowerment and the role of NGOs in Karnataka as well as Bangalore Rural district have not been undertaken. A study on financial support and the youth programme of NGOs deserves an investigation.

4. The literature review indicates that more research work is carried out in the area of women empowerment and little research work is done on the role of NGOs in rural youth empowerment. So that there is a need to throw light on this issue.

5. The problems of youths and the indicators of youth empowerment have not been studied extensively. Youth empowerment studies are very few in theoretical as well as empirical sense. Thus there is a need to study in this context.

**1.12. Limitations for the Study:**

1. The present study is restricted by the normal limitations of time, funds and other facilities commonly faced by researcher.
2. This study focuses only the youth in the age group of 15 to 35 years are considered.
3. The limitations led to the purposive selection of only 10 NGOs working in Bangalore rural district as the locale of the study.
4. Majority of NGOs are urban-oriented. Obviously, sample size is also one of the limitation
5. The sample size of beneficiaries is limited to 30 members only in each of the selected NGO and this study is limited to member beneficiaries of NGOs only, it has not covered non-members.
6. There are no NGOs which are purely working for youths alone. The NGOs are working for the well-being of all sections of deprived and underprivileged in the society.

1.13. Organisation of the Thesis:

The outcome of the research study forms the body of the thesis which is divided under the following seven chapters.

**Chapter-1: Introduction:** This chapter provides a general description of Introduction, Meaning & some definitions for Youth, Empowerment, youth empowerment, problems of youth, need for youth empowerment, Stake holders of youth empowerment in India, Government efforts to achieve youth empowerment, challenges of youth empowerment and importance of the study, statement of the problem, scope of the present study, objectives of the study, hypotheses and organisation of the report.

**Chapter -2: Review of literature:** this chapter lays out related literature review-Reviews of Empowerment, Reviews of role, issues and problems of youth, Reviews of NGOs –role in general, Reviews of youth empowerment programmes, Reviews of NGOs role in Youth empowerment and the research gap.

**Chapter-3: Theoretical background and Research Methodology:** This chapter covers theoretical background for operation of NGOs in development aspect. Some of the theories such as market failure theory, public goods theory
or the 'performance failure theory', the subsidy theories are discussed in relation to the nature and motives of NGOs. Further this chapter also throws light on different youth empowerment models such as Dover Youth to Youth Empowerment Model-or One Voice Youth Empowerment Model, Youth Empowerment Theory, Critical Social theory of Youth Empowerment (CYE) theory, Adolescent Empowerment Cycle and Youth Development and Empowerment Program Model. An Integrated Youth Empowerment Model is also presented. This chapter also lays out the research design, methodology, sources of data, sampling design, variables used in the study; development of scale, data collection instruments, pilot study, plan of analysis is discussed in detail.

**Chapter-4: An Overview of NGOs in India:** Evolution of NGOs in India, Theoretical frame work of NGOs empowerment programmes, legal structure of NGOs, challenges of NGOs presented in this chapter.

**Chapter -5: Financial Strength and Youth-Centric Activities of NGOs:** This chapter deals with the profile of Bangalore Rural District and profile of the selected NGOs working in Bangalore Rural District.

**Chapter-6: An analysis of impact of NGOs on youth empowerment:** In this chapter the outcomes of various youth empowerment programmes of NGOs and their impact on youth empowerment is analysed and interpreted. Hypotheses are tested objectively and thoroughly before arriving at conclusion. The significance of result explained.

**Chapter -7: Findings, conclusion, Suggestions and Implications:**

The major findings of the study along with suggestions and conclusions are presented in this chapter.
References:
7. Commonwealth Secretariat, commonwealth youth programmes, the commonwealth.org (accessed on 21 September, 2015)
8. Ibid
17. Ibid