

Framework for a New National Youth Development Policy (Outline)

Basic Conceptual Approaches

(1) Give primary consideration to the position of youth

- For their parents and families as well as for society, youths are precious embodiments of possibility
- Implement support that is first and foremost from the perspective of these youths, in order that they can grow up in good health and achieve their individual potential to the maximum extent in Japanese society today

(2) Provide youths with support so they can develop in good health with the goal of achieving social independence

- Provide support for their growth into socially independent individuals who are healthy in body and mind, who have compassionate care for others, and who, through a process of challenge and trial and error, establish their own selfhood with the capability to realize their own possibilities

(3) Implement seamless support that is appropriate to the circumstances of each individual youth

- Seamlessly implement measures that are adapted to the circumstances of each individual youth and that will assure their development in good health
- It is the responsibility of society as a whole to support youths so they can develop in good health, and every organization and individual must act in the awareness of its own direct involvement so that, having gained the trust of the youths, it can fulfill its own respective roles and responsibilities while complementing the others and cooperating with them



With the above items (1) to (3) as a basis, aim to realize a society in which all youths are watched over with love and caring by the people around them as they undergo the process of growth, so that they can overcome their difficulties and realize their potential within a network of bonds with people they trust.

Main Pillars of Policy Promotion

(1) Ensure the development in good health of every individual youth

Measures related to ensuring the development in good health of every individual youth are to be carried out seamlessly and in accordance with individual circumstances.

(2) Formation of the foundation for development in good health and with trust in parents and guardians, self-esteem, an orderly lifestyle, etc.

- Acquisition of basic lifestyles, physical strength, basic academic abilities, sociality, etc., by means of learning and activities.
- Improvement of an environment for raising children (child-raising support, harmony of work and everyday life, etc.)

(3) Enhancement of activities, exchange, and other experiences to foster the capabilities, strength, and creativity for living in society

- Enhancement of nature activities, social experiences, group activities, interchanges with different generations, career education, international exchange for the purpose of understanding different cultures, etc.

(4) Coordination among related agencies and other organizations to provide support for troubled youths

- Early detection of problems and prompt actions in response
- Support for youths, to include “re-raising” them, provided seamlessly and according to their upbringing and other individual circumstances until they achieve social independence, and conducted through close coordination among related agencies and other organizations

(5) Full commitment by society to support the development of youths in good health as well as promotion of home building and issue resolution

- Related agencies and other organizations coordinate in an organic manner and utilize resources in various local communities
- Rebuild relationships among households, schools, and local communities
- Improvement of the societal environment by measures to address harmful environments, town development conducted with safety and security, etc.
- Develop a movement in society as a whole to treasure youths, watch over them with compassionate care, and give them support

Directions for Promotion of Individual Measures

1. Support Adapted to the Stage of Development

(1) Promote the development of a foundation for healthy growth by youths (from infancy to adolescence)

Cultivating a healthy body and mind / cultivating regular and varied dietary habits/ developing and improving communication abilities / assure opportunities for recreational activities and other activities and exchanges, etc.

(2) Promote measures for social independence (from adolescence to young adulthood)

Support for acquisition of advanced specialist knowledge, etc. / support for preparation to hold a job / support for preparation to hold a job / enhancement of international exchange, etc.

2. Support for Troubled Youths

Support youths with disabilities / support children who are in need of protection / measures against juvenile delinquency / support victims of crime, etc. / measures against school non-attendance and social withdrawal / support NEETs and job-hopping part-timers (referred to as “freeters”), etc.

3. Improvement of the Environment for Society-Wide Support of Youths' Development in Good Health

- Rebuild relationships among households, schools, and local communities
 - Foster an open environment in households (build homes that serve as a foundation for tranquility and growth): support for families raising children, single-parent families, etc. / harmony of work and every day life / early detection and prompt action in response to child abuse, social withdrawal, etc.
 - Foster an open environment in schools (mobilize outside as well as inside forces to reinforce functionality): create open schools / enhance education and consultation systems and functions (promote assignment of school counselors, etc.), etc.
 - Increase the breadth of local communities (expand opportunities and occasions for contact with other people, society, and nature): create occasions for a variety of recreational activities, experiences, exchange, etc. / coexistence and interaction between cities and rural communities engaged in farming, fishing, and forestry / town development with safety and peace of mind, etc.
- Comprehensive network building
 - Develop networks that provide comprehensive, continuing support in accordance with the circumstances of each individual youth / train and assign specialists and others who youths can consult with a sense of security, etc.
- Take measures to counter harmful environments surrounding youth

4. Frameworks for Promoting the Measures

- Coordination and cooperation among the administrative organs concerned, local governments, private bodies, etc.
- Promote survey research, provision of information, and publicity/awareness-raising activities
- Reflect the opinions of youth in the measures
- International coordination and cooperation
- Inspect and evaluate the status of implementation of related measures, reevaluate guidelines and principles