The national youth policy (2011) of Bhutan defines youth as between 13-24 years.

## DEFINITION OF YOUTH

### Marriageable Age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Without Parental Consent</th>
<th>With Parental Consent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Candidacy Age

- **Lower House:** 25
- **Upper House:** 25

### Majority Age

- **18**

### Criminal Responsibility

- **Minimum Age:** 10

### Voting Age

- **18**

## SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

### Net Enrolment Rates (Secondary School)

- **56.79%**
- Male (15-24): 52.88%  
  Female (15-24): 60.81%

### Literacy Rates

- **74.41%**
- Male (15-24): 80.04%  
  Female (15-24): 67.96%

### Youth Development

- **0.55**
  104 out of 170 countries.

### Tobacco Use

- **18.8%**
- Male (15-24): 27.6%  
  Female (15-24): 11.6%

### Prevalence of HIV

- **0.1%**
- Male (15-24): 0.1%  
  Female (15-24): 0.1%

## YOUTH POLICY & LEGISLATION

The vision of the national youth policy (2011) is of young people “nurtured with love and care, the benign image of the useful and the graceful, the living, flowing breath of the ideal of Gross National Happiness”. Bhutan has adopted a Gross National Happiness (GNH) development philosophy, in addition to Gross Domestic Product, and the national youth policy (2011) incorporates these values.

The policy focuses on eight key sectors: Education; Health & well-being; Employment; Environment; Social environment; Culture & identity; Recreation & sports; Participation. However, an article on 1 June 2012 voiced concerns that little progress has been made on the National Youth Action Plan since the launch of the youth policy.

## Is there a national youth policy?

**Yes**

The national youth policy of Bhutan was drafted in 2010 and launched in 2011. An action plan will follow.
YOUTH POLICY FACT SHEET

Is there a governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth?

Yes

YOUTH & PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

The Department of Youth & Sports (DYS) within the Ministry of Education is responsible for youth affairs. According to the national youth policy (2011), the DYS is “the lead agency for facilitating convergence in youth related schemes” including the development, implementation and evaluation of the youth policy. They also have responsibility for developing the National Youth Action Plan. The DYS coordinates action between government ministries and other stakeholders, including supporting a Youth Advisory Committee.

No national youth council nor national participation structure exists. The Bhutan Youth Development Fund (BDYF) works with national organisations and international institutions and is “Bhutan’s leading youth organization”. It is focused on providing “equal access to education, meaningful employment and opportunities to develop [youth] potential.” The BYDF also delivers advocacy work, focusing on youth participation and youth policies. However, it remains unclear how representative the organisation is, and what role young people have within it.

According to the Financial Statement 2011-2012, the Ministry of Education was allocated BTN 1.3 billion (USD 22 million), however it is unclear what proportion was allocated to the Department for Youth & Sports.

According to the World Bank, Bhutan spent 11.46% of its government expenditure and 4.65% of its GDP on education provision in 2011.

YOUTH BUDGET & SPENDING

What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or youth programming?

Unclear

—

Total Expenditure on Education as a Percentage of Government Spending and GDP

Source: World Bank

Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed August 2013).

Footnotes

1) A Human Development Index (HDI) value of zero means low human development, and a value of 1 means very high human development. HDI is a composite index measuring three dimensions: a long and healthy life, knowledge and a decent standard of living. (UNDP)

2) An Income Gini coefficient of zero means absolute equality, and a coefficient of 100 means absolute inequality. Note: figures multiplied by 100 for OECD data. (World Bank/OECD)

3) A Corruption Perception Index (CPI) value of zero means that a country is perceived as highly corrupt, and a value of 100 means it is perceived as very clean. (Transparency International)

4) A Press Freedom Index (PFI) value of zero means the highest degree of freedom that journalists, news organisations and netizens enjoy, and a value of 100 means the lowest. (Reporters Without Borders)

5) A Youth Development Index (YDI) value of zero means little or absolutely no youth development, and a value of 1 means the highest possible level of youth development attainable. YDI is a composite index measuring five domains: education, health, employment, political, and civic participation. (Commonwealth Youth Programme)

Visit our library for further reading:
http://www.youthpolicy.org/library/bhutan

For full citation list & more information, visit:
http://www.youthpolicy.org/factsheets/country/bhutan

Last Updated: 11-Jun-14