

Youth Policies in the Middle East and Russia Leveraging Young Leaders for Socioeconomic Development

By Eng. Ahmed Barrani, B.A.

Abstract

This paper examines youth policies in the Middle East and Russia, focusing on the role of young leaders in driving socioeconomic development. It explores the current state of youth policies, the challenges faced by young leaders, and strategies to enhance their effectiveness in leadership positions.

Keywords : Youth, Middle East, Leadership, Developments

Introduction

Youth policies are essential for fostering the development and empowerment of young individuals. In regions like the Middle East and Russia, where youth populations are significant, effective youth policies can lead to substantial socioeconomic benefits. This paper aims to analyze the current youth policies in these regions, identify the challenges faced by young leaders, and propose strategies to enhance their roles in leadership positions.

Literature Review

The historical context of youth policies in the Middle East and Russia reveals a diverse landscape of approaches and initiatives. In the Middle East, youth policies have evolved from traditional, family-centered structures to more formalized government and NGO-led programs. Russia, on the other hand, has seen a shift from Soviet-era youth organizations to contemporary policies that emphasize civic engagement and entrepreneurship.

Theoretical frameworks such as the Youth Development Model and the Leadership Pipeline Model provide a basis for understanding the dynamics of youth leadership. Case studies from countries like Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Russia highlight successful youth leadership initiatives that have led to positive social and economic outcomes.

Methodology

This study employs a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative data collection methods. Surveys and interviews with young leaders, policymakers, and experts in the field provide insights into the effectiveness of current youth policies. Case studies of specific youth leadership programs offer detailed examples of best practices and lessons learned.

Findings

Current State of Youth Policies: In the Middle East, countries like Egypt and Saudi Arabia have implemented various youth policies aimed at education, employment, and civic engagement. These policies are often supported by international organizations and NGOs, which provide additional resources and expertise. In Russia, youth policies focus on promoting entrepreneurship, innovation, and political participation.

Impact of Youth Leadership:

Youth leadership has a significant impact on socioeconomic development in both regions. Socially, young leaders contribute to increased civic engagement and improved social cohesion. Economically, they drive job creation and entrepreneurship, particularly in sectors like technology and social enterprises. Politically, youth participation in governance and policy advocacy leads to more inclusive and representative decision-making processes.

Challenges Faced by Young Leaders:

Despite the positive impact, young leaders face several challenges. In both regions, there is a lack of resources and support for youth initiatives. Societal and cultural barriers, such as traditional views on leadership and gender roles, also hinder the effectiveness of young leaders. Additionally, limited access to education and training opportunities restricts the development of leadership skills.

Discussion

The findings highlight the need for comprehensive and inclusive youth policies that address the unique challenges faced by young leaders in the Middle East and Russia. Strategies to enhance youth leadership include capacity building and training programs, mentorship and networking opportunities, and policy recommendations for governments and NGOs

Strategies to Enhance Youth Leadership

1. Capacity Building and Training Programs: Implementing leadership development programs that focus on skills such as communication, project management, and strategic thinking can empower young leaders to take on more significant roles in their communities.

2. Mentorship and Networking Opportunities: Establishing mentorship programs that connect young leaders with experienced professionals can provide guidance, support, and valuable insights. Networking opportunities, such as conferences and workshops, can also facilitate knowledge sharing and collaboration.

3. Policy Recommendations: Governments and NGOs should work together to create policies that support youth leadership. This includes providing funding for youth initiatives, promoting inclusive leadership practices, and ensuring that young leaders have a voice in decision-making processes.

Conclusion

Youth policies in the Middle East and Russia play a crucial role in shaping the future of these regions. By addressing the challenges faced by young leaders and implementing strategies to enhance their effectiveness, these regions can leverage the potential of their youth populations for socioeconomic development. Future research should focus on evaluating the long-term impact of youth policies and identifying additional best practices for supporting young leaders.

About the Author:

Eng. Ahmed Barrani, B.A. Assistant to the Executive Director for African Affairs.
National Training Academy, Arab Republic of Egypt.
<https://ahmed.barrani.net>

Engineer Ahmed Barrani is an Electronics and Communications Engineer, interested in public work for over ten years. He participated in establishing many entities and civil society institutions from 2011 to 2013.

In 2014, he joined the Government of Egypt with the Minister of Communications and Information Technology.

In 2015, he was Advisor to the Minister of Urban Renewal and Slums, and then assistant to the Deputy Minister of Housing for Urban Development and Slums.

In 2016 he was Director of the Youth and Volunteering Unit in the Technical Office of the Deputy Minister of Housing

He is nowadays working as a Coordinator for governmental and international communications at the National Training Academy.

In conjunction with his work at the Ministry of Housing, Barrani joined the first batch of the Presidential Leadership Program, which was launched by the President of Egypt in 2016.

He was the Head of the Ambassadors group, for the Presidential program, at the First National Youth Conference held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.

From 2017 -2019 he was Head of the International marketing campaign for the World Youth Forum