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Creating Synergy for Youth Empowerment

Summary

We live in an era where youth plays a vital role in the world, whether it's a positive or negative role we are, in this paper the main factors that lead young people to contribute to the development and positive impact of the nations through creating a synergized ecosystem that will allow youngsters to utilize the resources and their own potentials for the rise of their nations.

Through a synergetic social, economic, governmental and cultural mechanism that is necessary to be built in order to reach the maximum potential and performance of youngsters and their contribution to sustainable development.

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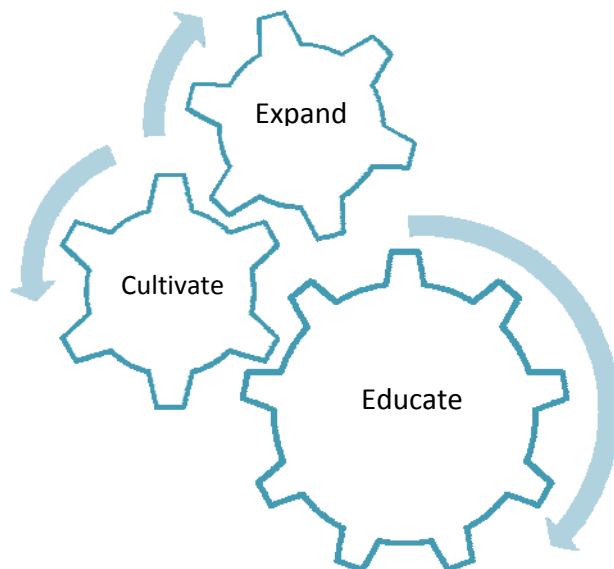
At this day and age youth play a vital role in development of nations, we are looking at youth as the prime mover of revolutions that swept ruling systems and they are the inventors of virtual communities that encompasses millions of people. I believe today's youth are the leaders not for tomorrow but for today, countries and societies are moving and tending to take youth perspectives and opinions on decision making processes, for now this movement is not fully equipped in our side of the world, the region needs to understand the needs of the current generation to be able to predict the upcoming generations most famous trends, hence cater to their needs, and this is where the essence of sustainability comes from.

Currently in Qatar, there are many institutions big and small that support many youth endeavors, through leadership development, education, community awareness and many more. Government and non-government initiatives are there to support youth. However the main concern is that these we lack synergy in all of these initiatives and between the institutions the develop them.

In a recent seminar that was organized by the GSDP, UNDP and Qatar University, discussion where the main highlight was the lack of synergy between the local government, corporate and non-corporate sectors in their quest to support youth, which create confusion, miss direction and lack of awareness in most cases.

All sectors, initiatives and opportunities need to be made in sync in order to create a sort of ecosystem to support the young individual, the ecosystem will be defined as the set of

individuals, factors, entities and instruments that are all formulated and designed to serve, support, encourage and challenge young people. The mechanism needs grooming but for the time being it will have the following purposes:



Educate

The current education system need to be improved, we all know there are a lot of endeavor to evolve the education system, however, it should be compatible with the abilities and expectation of the current generation. Nowadays, teachers are competing with social network, HD visual technology, animation and all sorts of cutting edge technologies. Moreover, education institutions are not only to conduct lectures or classes but are there to groom one's skills and equip him/her with the necessary set of knowledge and competencies through a different approaches in education. One of the effective ways is open space which is what youth need at the moment, a space where they can share, discuss and most importantly innovate what they is relevant to them. These platforms can be in a form of university's clubs, communities or youth run organizations.

Cultivate

Furthermore, the open space is considered a high priority because this generation is more to thinking outside the box and wants to explore his capabilities, therefore the current environment, starting from the government should engage youth in decision making as part of the sustainability aspect, when it comes to making relevant decisions, members of the young generation should be invited to be part of committees that set national strategies and policies, in order to consolidate the wide spectrum of opinions, backgrounds and age groups in the process.

Another important aspect is, there should be a defined government body or entity that should voice out young people's concerns and challenges along a side to that, gather all youth

initiative under its umbrella where young people can approach and relate to for their matters. This body or entity will act as an overview watchman for youth issues, as well as a provider for all development opportunities for youth throughout the different entities that work under it and as an incubator for talent to grow according to the countries needs and national direction of the country.

Expand

The world has become a small village as people used to say, right now this is no longer the case, I can bring the whole world to my living room or class room or my work station, and by that virtual space is getting smaller and more challenges are coming in but as well more opportunities arising. I come from a multicultural environment, in AIESEC there is about more than 111 countries around the world and one of our strongest attributes is the strength of our network. This space allowed me interact and understand the different cultures, mind sets and believes all around me, it truly opened my eyes to new horizons and new perspectives, it made me realize our culture is not the only culture and our believes are not the only one in this planet, which is fascinating to not only know it but live it in a young age. Hence, allowing this generation to interact across culture is a massive part of the ecosystem. In this region traveling or studying abroad from many youngsters is impossible because of their family's approval of the idea and it goes back to culture. Families are more supportive to boys traveling than girls due to culture and traditions. On the other hand, culture or traditions should not act as a gag rather it should act as a guide to formulate or add the uniqueness to our identity, after all culture and tradition is what makes us different. However, it should not be a reason to not share it with the rest of the world, in early Islam era people used to travel all around the world for education and knowledge sharing and by this approach; we had the best scientist the world ever had. Parents should be educated and told of the importance of connecting with the world around us; moreover, institutions should be able to provide the right opportunities for this connection to happen. There is several institution that offer opportunities to young people to travel whether to study or work or promote cultural understanding, these projects should be monitored for quality and supported by the government to ensure the current generation is exposed to the right environment.

All in all, Qatar is a small country in size but massive in magnitude, all sectors should be linked together and synergize their activities and the opportunities they give to youth in order to obtain to develop a strong and cohesive ecosystem that result in the maximum impact and performance by youth and from youth. Further studies and efforts should be conducted by the strategy making bodies, experienced youth organization and relevant entities of the countries to activate this ecosystem to its ultimate power, and it should be NOW.