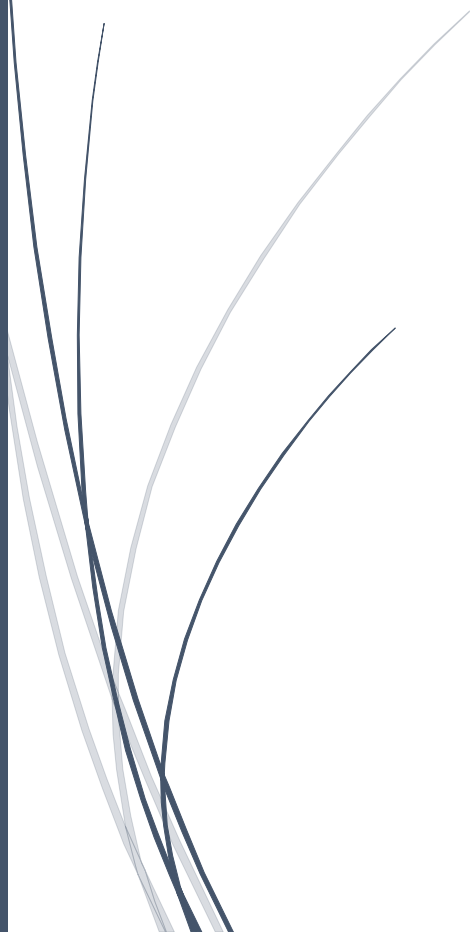




Policy Brief

Youth's Voice on Climate Change: Public Policy and Budget



Backdrop

Climate change, one of the most urgent issues has its impacts ranging from affecting agriculture, further endangering food security, to sea-level rise and the accelerated erosion of coastal zones increasing the intensity of natural disasters, species extinction, and spread of vector-borne diseases¹. This issue carries mammoth significance for every global citizen.

Why Youth Engagement is Crucial in Combating Climate Change?

In order for the youth to actively and meaningfully participate and influence development into the direction of climate resilient development it is important that they understand the issues and the challenges related to climate change. Given this scenario, there is need to allow the youth to actively participate in addressing the climate change problems, not as victims but more importantly as solution providers.

The Context of Odisha

Everybody has a role to play to combat climate change and youth has a significant role to act upon the climate change issues. In order for the youth to actively and meaningfully participate and influence climate resilient development practices, it is important that they understand the issues and the challenges related to climate change, the institutions, schemes /programmes that address those challenges, and play an active citizenship role for creating awareness and advocating for better climate resilient practices in the state.

Initiatives Taken in Odisha

The state of Odisha has taken some initiatives to combat climate change issues.

- In total, 11 departments are identified and prioritized in Climate Change Action Plan 2010-15.
- A new sector namely Waste Management has been introduced in SAPCC 2018-2023 as per the mandate of “Clean India Mission” or “Swachh Bharat Mission”.
- The state has established a Climate Change Cell to coordinate State’s response to this important problem.
- Following the commitments in the SAPCC, the state has introduced a Climate Budget Statement to align the resources for climate mitigation actions.

Climate Relevant Programme Expenditure by Various Departments

As 11 departments identified and prioritized in Climate Change coding exercise, the climate change relevance share has also been identified within the departmental budget. Of them, the Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department has the major share i.e. 50.56 percent and Revenue and Disaster Management Department has the lowest share i.e. 0.55 percent towards climate relevant programme expenditure (Details are given in Annexure-2).

Odisha is the first State in the country in formulating a Climate Change Action Plan (SAPCC) in the year of 2010-15

¹ Harshal T. Pandve, Poonam R. Deshmukh, Rahul T. Pandve & Neha R. Patil, Role of youth in combating climate change, Indian Journal of Occupational & Environmental Medicine, 2009 Aug; 13(2): 105.

Role of Youth on Combating Climate Change

As youths are accounting for half of global population, they can play a crucial role in combating climate change. In the state of Odisha, a platform is already in place in form of climate coding exercise, a combined initiative by the youth mass at different level i.e. state, district and panchayat would be a boon towards combating climate change issues.

This brief is specifically targeted at young people and identifying opportunities through which they can play a role on Risk Resilience & Climate Change – Perception Making of Youth in the Upcoming Budget from one-day consultation with 120 youths all across the state of Odisha.



The consultation was conducted with a context setting session along with three focused group



Climate Change has become so visible now that soon we will be paying for soil, air, and water which Mother Nature provided us for free.

It's time to act NOW.

Snehalika
Student, KIIT University

KEY QUESTIONS FOR THE GROUP WORK

- ❖ What are your perceptions of climate change in relation to its causes and impacts on Odisha?
- ❖ What are the important information and awareness required for youth to act on climate change issues?
- ❖ How can youth play an important role in making the local level institutions (i.e. panchayat and urban bodies) more climate sensitive?
- ❖ According to you, in Odisha's context, what may be some strategies of climate change adaptation with respect to water, Agriculture. Health and WASH?

discussion sessions. In total 120 youth from different academic institutions, volunteers and development practitioners participated and expressed their take on climate change.

Through three different focused group discussions followed by three consolidated group presentations, the youth mass were whole heartedly expressed—(i) their perception regarding cause and impact of climate change, (ii) what are the information and awareness they require, (iii) what is their idea in making the local level institutions more climate sensitive, (iv) what strategies of climate change adaptation with respect to Agriculture, Health and WASH may be adapted and how young people may be more involved.

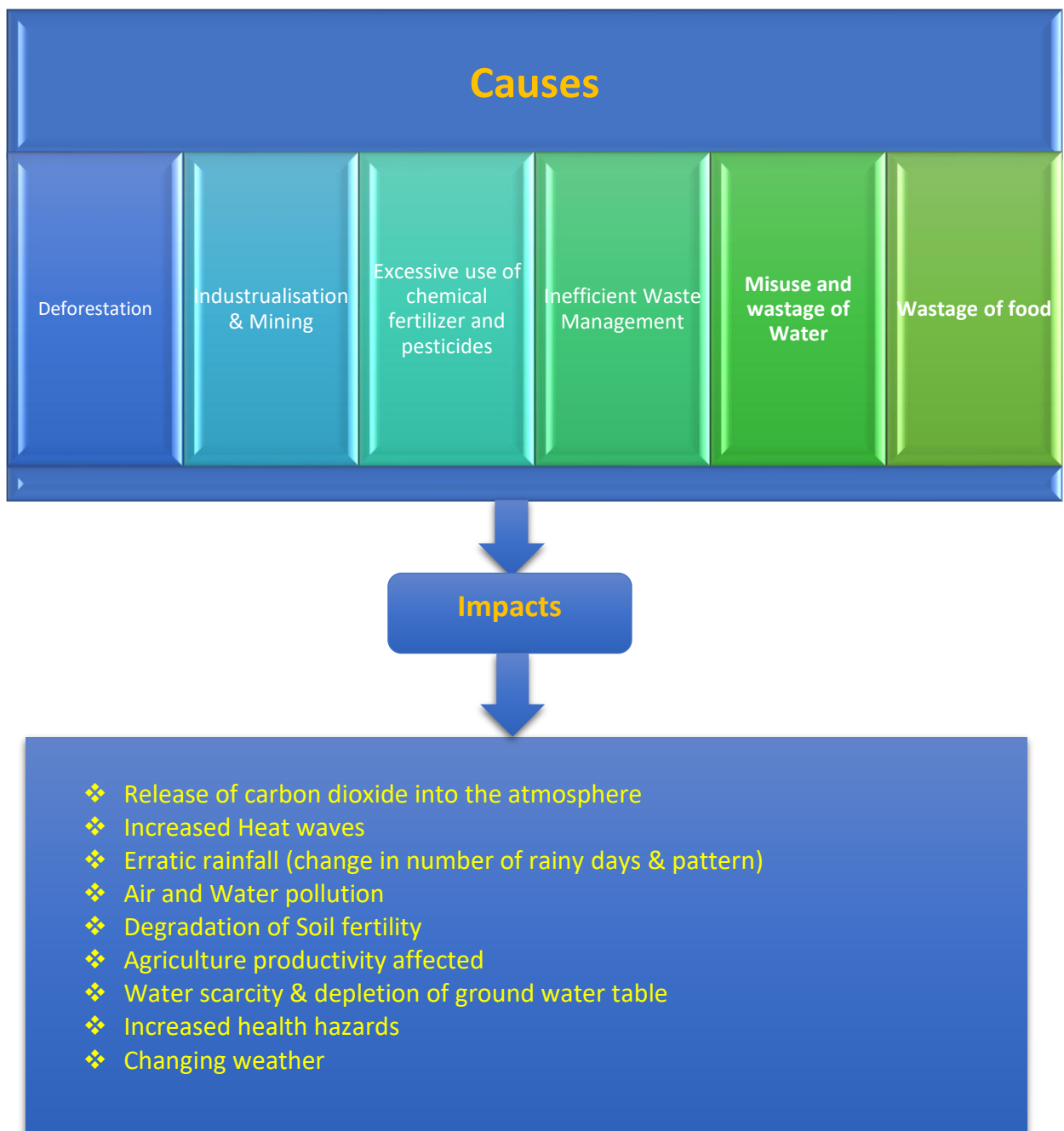
What Youths Can Do??

What they need??

Where can they act??

Perceptions of Youth on climate change in relation to its causes and impacts on Odisha

The Youth of Odisha have expressed the causes and impacts of climate change and they are clubbed in two sections.



Information and awareness the youths required to act on climate change issues

- **Awareness on Government Schemes & Programs is of utmost Important**

In order to act upon the climate change, concern the youth mass may be provided the required information about the schemes and programs designed by the Government.

- **Updated data at public domain**

Data related to loss of bio-diversity, amount of crop loss, amount of land degradation occurred in a year need to be uploaded in the public domain.

- **Demystification of Government documents**

Demystification of Government documents such as budget documents, plans and programmes to combat climate change concern for the youth to act upon.

- **Dissemination of best practices and empirical research**

Dissemination of best practices and empirical research of nearby states may be planned to spread awareness among the youth.

- **Periodical sharing of report on Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning**

From time to time, several schemes and programmes are being designed and implemented by both state and central Government. The monitoring and evaluation report along with learning gathered from each scheme/programme need to be shared by the Government on a frequent basis.



Emphasis should be on research and creating empirical evidences on this burning issue and the result should reach the public (primarily youth) who should understand the situation and then bring innovative solution to any arising problems.

Smrutimayee Sarangi
Development Practitioner

Perception of Youth in making the local level institutions more climate sensitive

- **Climate sensitive Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP)**

The Gram Panchayat Development Plan need to include funds for traditional tree plantation, proper disposal of household waste, preparation of organic manure etc. within its annual plan.

- **Engaging standing committee both at gram-panchayat and state level**

Engagement of youth mass with Gram Panchayat level and state level



The issues related to climate change needs to be emphasized from the grassroots level (i.e. panchayat and urban bodies), by the backbone (YOUTH) of the country...

Purusottam Mohanty
Student, Utkal University

standing committees can initiate discourse on climate change which may bring some positive changes.

- **Orientation of Personal hygiene through respective educational institutions**

Youth should get information and orientation on managing personal hygiene which will help them to contribute towards reduction of climate change from their respective educational

institutions.

- **Discourse on causes and impacts on climate change**

Discussion about various causes and impacts of climate change and its solutions at the ground level platforms such as Palli Sabha & Gram Sabha need to be initiated by the youth mass.

- **Awareness through local festivals and cultural programmes**

The local festivals and cultural programmes may be used as platforms to discuss on climate change issues and create awareness.



Real Climate Action
Are we ready for stop using AC?

Mother earth knows how to heal her and it will. But we should learn how to protect ourselves because what we are doing, ultimately we are the sufferers.

Subhashree Subhasmita
Research Scholar, CUTM

Idea of Youth on strategies of climate change adaptation with respect to Health WASH and Agriculture

- **Incentivizing the best practices**

Review of best practices and change stories may be done and incentivized accordingly to promote climate change adaptation activities.

- **Need of Climate Budgeting**

The climate budget statement is providing a glimpse of climate change concerns of the state and the schemes and programmes that are dealing with directly or indirectly to combat climate change. However, climate budgeting should be initiated having clear cut role of Gram Panchayat, District Administration, Planning & Coordination Cell of district and state etc.



Time has come for implementing the policies into reality and that too from grassroots level to bring the change...

Satyabrata Samal
Development Practitioner

- **Discourse and Debate**

Discourse and discussion on climate change concern need to be initiated at the panchayat, district and even village level to spread awareness and to discuss about the immediate actions needed.

- **Reclamation and Recycling**

Recycling plan need to be in place to address the recycle of plastics, sanitary products, household waste (wet & dry) etc. reutilize them.

- **Promotion of Social Enterprises**

The Government of Odisha need to promote climate based social enterprises where the youth mass can play major role in combating climate change issues in the state.



Youth need to be taught The 'Need' for conservation and preservation of natural things to act on climate change...

Ayush Pattanaik
Student, XIM University

- **Bottom to top approach need to be adopted**

Budget need to be prepared by looking into the bottom to top approach and involving development practitioners, CSOs and planning committees.

- **Budget Allocation towards Climate Resilient Agriculture**

Promotion of Climate resilient agriculture (Like millet mission/ indigenous cropping system etc.

- **More Focus towards Green Cover**

More focus should be given on the allocation of fund towards increasing green cover in the state.

Annexure-1

Total Departmental Budget (Rs in Crore)

Departments (Rs In Crores)	2020-21 (A)	2021- 22(RE)	2022- 23(BE)	2020-21 (A)	2021- 22(RE)	2022- 23(BE)
Agriculture	5949876	7982382	12976284	594.99	798.24	1297.63
Revenue & Disaster Management	5601	55816	83133	0.56	5.58	8.31
Energy	9402505	15370811	8640512	940.25	1537.08	864.05
Fisheries & Animal Resource Development	1442000	1880292	2824197	144.20	188.03	282.42
Forests & Environment	2658110	9575417	11212342	265.81	957.54	1121.23
Health & Family Welfare	20231395	30632148	34524939	2023.14	3063.21	3452.49
Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water	51148584	75693194	82049574	5114.86	7569.32	8204.96
Rural Development	8964940	7710426	15363145	896.49	771.04	1536.31
Transport	1680596	1789030	3811354	168.06	178.90	381.14
Housing & Urban Development	9033363	10235042	16908485	903.34	1023.50	1690.85
Water Resources	24594840	33158229	44233954	2459.48	3315.82	4423.40
Total	135111810	194082788	232627919	13511.18	19408.28	23262.79

Annexure-2

Climate Relevant Programme Expenditure by Various Departments

	Total Department Budget 2022-23 BE (Rs in crore)	Climate Change Relevance Share (Rs in crore)	% of Dept. Share
Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment	6646.12	1297.63	19.52
Revenue and Disaster Management Department	1511.26	8.31	0.55
Energy Department	3482.48	864.05	24.81
Fisheries & Animal Resources Development Department	1657.54	282.42	17.04
Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department	2217.72	1121.23	50.56
Health and Family Welfare Department	12342.46	3452.49	27.97
Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Department	22741.44	8204.96	36.08
Rural Development Department	6966.64	1536.31	22.05
Transport Department	1192.35	381.14	31.97
Housing and Urban Development Department	7267.23	1690.85	23.27
Water Resources Department	10050.8	4423.4	44.01