

# Youth Festival: A Symbol of Integration

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The term 'festival' derives from Latin word 'festum' and festivals are broadly recognized as celebratory events. (Pickard and Robinson: 2006). Cudny (2016) describe the term of Emile Durkheim who saw festivals as effervescence... The intensity of which cements solidarity of a group of people, a representation of the invisible relationship between man and the laws of nature, a veritable institution whereby the bonds between the members of a society are maintained, regenerated and reproduced.

Youth festival promotes brotherhood, nation unity, mutual respect, cultural transformation, exchanging idea, creativity among youth generation. It is vibrant energy and artistic expression of young people. The youth festivals serve platforms for young individuals to explore their talents, creativity, and cultural identity among young participants. It's known as societal integration. These festivals are taken role in equality, harmony and community integration. It is a spirit of peace and development. Boje defined "Festival as the pragmatics of long-term sustainability in a non-violent culture, in balance with the whole planet".

The youth festival strives to spread the idea of global unification, social peace, fraternity resilience and expedition among youth by showcasing their artistic abilities on a unified platform. Youth festivals promote culture and the arts. They are important in academic routines from schools and colleges to districts and states level. This competition showcases dance, music, painting, modeling, writing, mimes and theatre. Students can showcase their writing and art at festivals (Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, 2022). Festivals contribute to the preservation of our diverse cultural heritage. (Singh and Koushik:2022)

The program of the World Youth Festival organized on the values of unity, equality, justice, mutual assistance, teamwork and charity. In India, the National Youth Festival began in the year of 1995 as a major part of National Integration Camp. The National Youth Festival celebrates to memories Swami Vivekananda. The India celebrates National Youth Day on 12<sup>th</sup> January every year on the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. As a part of National Youth Day celebrations, India organizes an annual National Youth Festival during January 12-16 every year. The motives of youth festivals are encouraging values, principles and beliefs among young generations.

The youth festivals provide opportunities for the students. Young students have great energy and creativity. It creates an atmosphere of creativity and group participation. This concept propagates of national integration, spirit of communal harmony, brotherhood and courage among young generations. It is a platform of cultural harmony and identity.

## **Boje laid down five assumptions of festivals:**

1. Festivals can create and earn profit without harming the ecology.
2. Global and local stakeholders by expressing their non-violent preferences can balance the corporate monopolies of power through their market behavior.
3. The myopic focus of short-term gain is replaced by understanding of the living whole.
4. In festival citizens are catalysts in creating an environment for others to flourish.
5. The non-violent work, fun and leisure are possible.

Youth Festivals play a significant role in a student's life. It helps to benefit students in different sectors.

- Social and cultural benefits: The social and cultural benefits focus from the cultural awareness and appreciation. It identifies fosters national unity and integration. It helps to encourage social interaction, bonding, teamwork and collaboration skills.
- Personality development: The youth festivals help to build confidence, creativity, innovation, leadership quality, opportunities of self expression and organization skills in such level. It is the basic steps of personality development.
- Extracurricular activities: The youth festivals give the supplements in academic learning. It gives the opportunities to explore extracurricular activities, problem-solving skills as well as presentation skills.
- Psychological benefits: The youth festivals help in emotional as well as psychological benefits. It gives the supplements for intelligence, empathy, motivation and moral support. It helps to reduce anxiety and stress level in different area.

- Career opportunities: This festival provides platforms for talent search, new opportunities in different skills. The management skills like event management, public speaking, career development are growing from these participants.
- **Self-Expression:** The engaging in creative activities such as- painting, creating best out of waste, card making, collage making, awareness reels or shortfilms can reduce stress and improve mental well-being, promoting a healthy work-life balance.

The celebration of any festival by a group or community is primarily a presentation of select artistic expressions of its collective culture, which are widely related to the lifestyle its community life. The youth festival encouraged to social gatherings connect individuals of different economic and social category and gives the sense of belongingness to the community. On the other hand, the cultural, literary, technical and creative activities play a significant role in university as well as youth fests. These events provide a platform for students to showcase their talents, learn new skills and interaction with peers from diverse backgrounds engaging in cultural activities often involve collaboration and teamwork, improving student's interpersonal skill. Participation in cultural activities can boost confidence, improve communication skills, enhance self-expression and also provides opportunities to develop leadership skills. The festivals participation identified and explores cultural identity, socialize within known groups, external interactions and familial bonding between peer groups.

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