

Youth-Led Social Movement and Political Expression

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Youth social movements have turned out to be strong agents of change in transforming the face of politics, democratizing civic space, as well as having a voice that questions the established power in society. In most parts of the world, youth are re-conceptualizing the form of political engagement- in most cases, it involves the integration of digital activism and community mobilization to seek social, political and cultural reform. These movements do not only destabilize the pre-established political orders but they also increase the possibilities of participatory citizenship.

The key characteristic of young-led activism is the re-construction of citizenship. Abu Moghli and Shuayb (2022) believe that the global movements by young people force educators and policymakers to rethink the issue of citizenship education, focusing more on participatory and justice forms of engagement instead of passive national belonging. This re-conceptualization suggests general sociological interpretations of youth as active agents who form the identity of politics by engaging in collective struggles and not necessarily through institutional teachings.

Youth movements in most of the national environments have directly affected political transitions. Through mobilized youth, Acharya (2024) demonstrates the role of politics in Nepal, the young Nepali population stood out to oppose corruption, transparency, and official bodies to act on the demands of the grassroots groups. A similar trend can be seen in more global contexts of transition: according to Shadabi (2025), youth activism is a force driving democratic transitions, particularly in situations in which conventional political elites fail or refuse to address social dissatisfaction. These findings highlight the youth as an incidental political player and not a marginalized player.

The formation of social identity is also important. Mei (2021) illustrates that the engagement in youth-led movements leads to the development of shared identities and enhancing of solidarity and collective purpose. The digital platforms enhance this identity-building. According to Chitukutuku (2022), the social media has revolutionised the African youth movements because it has allowed them to quickly share information, decentralize leadership, and establish virtual public squares in which political debate can take place. Digital activism is then a form of mobilization and construction of identity.

In addition to the political changes, the youth movements lead to the social change at the community level. According to Al Naqbi and Awashreh (2024), youth innovation, especially when it applies to local development projects, is a channel of empowerment of a community and the redefinition of the social principle. Tadesse (2022) also highlights the fact that social movements are used by youth in Ethiopia to express demands to social justice, employment, and rights, which indicates how they are involved in societal negotiations.

These studies, when combined, explain that social movements headed by youth are not fringe movements. They are long-standing sociopolitical forces that put to challenge exclusion, re-configure citizenship, and increase the repertoire of political expression. The trends of youth mobilization in both the online and the offline world will keep on taking a center stage in determining future politics.

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