

Family Policy for Positive Youth Development

Prepared for UNDESA Division for Inclusive Social Development
Expert Group Meeting on
“The Role of Families and Family Policies in
Supporting Youth Transition”

Doha, December 2018

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Family Policies for Positive Youth Development

- Positive Youth Development
- Settings for Positive Youth Development
- Family as the Primary Setting
- Community for Positive Youth Development
- Family Policy and Policy Making Process
- Recommendations - Policies Supporting Families and PYD



Positive Youth Development

Positive Youth Development has formed from an intentional process that promotes positive outcomes for young people by providing **opportunities, relationships and support** for youth to fully participate in their own development. (Foundation for Youth Development, Great Plain IDEA)



Positive Youth Development Approach

“Youth development occurs in environments that provide constructive, affirmative, and encouraging **relationships** that are sustained over time with adults and peers, while concurrently providing an array of **opportunities** that enable youth to build their **competences** and become engaged **as partners** in their own development, as well as the development of their communities.” (Villarruel, Perkins, Boarden, & Keith, 2003).



Youth Development Setting

- Youth are reflections of the environments where they live, learn, work and play
- Youth development takes place in many settings, **families**, with peers, in school, community, recreation/park, and work place, and on the street and on social media



Family Setting

- Families are the primary environment/immediate/micro in the human ecosystem
- Families interact with other youth settings/systems, e.g., school, peer, community, recreation facilities/park, work place, and on the streets

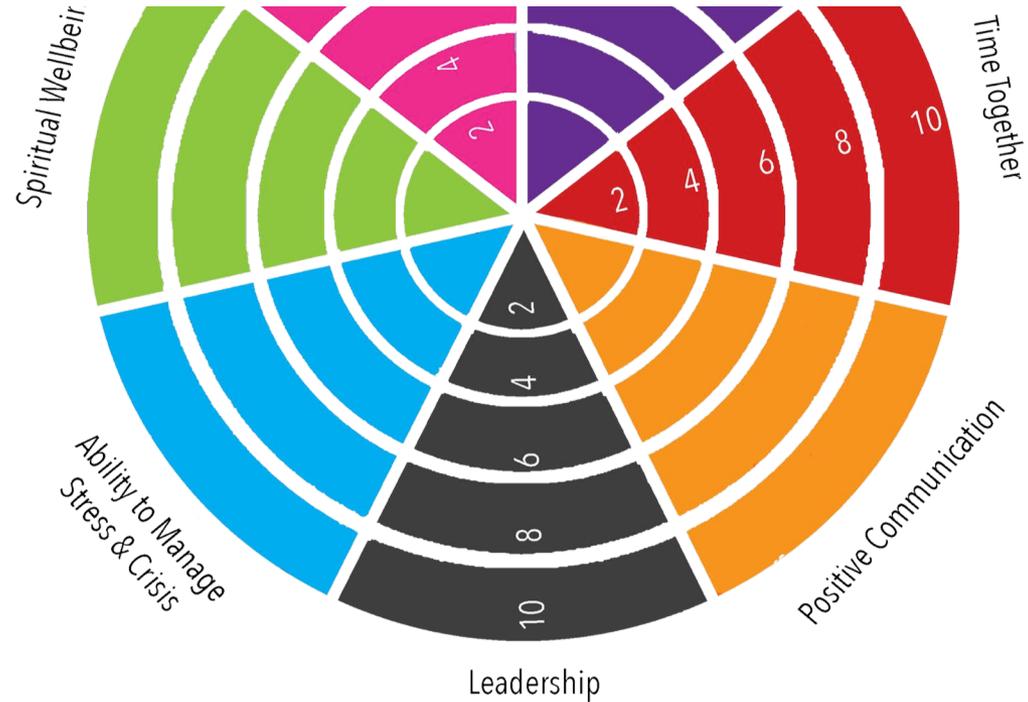


Strong Families around the World

- Appreciation and Affection,
- Commitment,
- Enjoyable Time Together,
- Positive Communication,
- Spiritual Wellbeing, and
- Ability to Manage Stress and Crisis Effectively
(DeFrain, & Asay, 2007)



Family Strengths Wheel



STRENGTH WHEEL

Out of Balance



These seven domains represent a balanced strong family:

- Commitment
- Time Together
- Leadership
- Positive Communication
- Ability to Manage Stress & Crisis
- Spiritual Wellbeing
- Appreciation & Affection



Charateristics of PYD settings

- Physical, sexual and psychological safety
 - Safe facilities, safe peer interactions, eliminating/minimizing unsafe and unhealthy interactions
- Parents and youth professionals
 - Be consistent and predictable, clear rule and instruction, clear boundary, monitor and interact in age appropriate manner



PYD settings-Supportive Relationships

- Characteristics
 - Warmth and connectedness
 - Caring, support, and guidance
 - Respectful of appropriate boundaries
 - Secure attachment and responsiveness (younger children)
- Parenting
 - One critical element of parenting adolescents is for parents to recognize their needs for the development of identity and exercising autonomy.



Family Setting-Parental Autonomy Granting

- Parental autonomy granting (from fathers and mothers) predicted higher self-esteem of youth in both European-American in the U.S. and China (Bush, 2000).
- Autonomy support predicted 7th graders academic and emotional functioning in U.S and China (Cheung, Pomerantz, Wang, & Qu, 2016).



Cultural Values

- Cultural values can moderate the relationships between parenting behavior and children's appraisal of such behavior, which then predicts child outcomes (Soenens, Vansteenkiste & Van Petegem, 2015).
- Chinese children tend to view parental control as an expression of love and care instead of intrusion (Cheung & McBride-Chang, 2008; Lam, 2003).
- Autonomy granting predicted fewer problem behaviors, such as substance use and delinquency, among American adolescents (Silk, Morris, Kanaya, & Steinberg, 2003).



Community and Society

- Opportunities to belong
 - Social inclusion, social engagement, and integration
 - Opportunities for socio-cultural identity formation
 - Support for cultural and multicultural competence and increase cultural literacy among youth and community members
 - Policies for social inclusion promote PYD



Community

- Support for youth self efficacy and autonomy
 - Empowering – Creating a culture and practices. “Youth matters”
 - Providing opportunities for youth to make a difference and to show responsibilities
 - Providing opportunities to learn



Youth As Partners: leadership and decision making

- Role of youth (Foundation for Youth Development by Great Plain IDEA)
 - As Recipients: An approach that focuses on youth receiving the services that adults have designed for them
 - As Resources: An approach that utilizes youth as people to help adults design and implement programs, with adults still being in charge of the outcomes.
 - As Partners: An approach in which youth form partnerships with adults, with both youth and adults responsible for the design and implementation of programs and activities, and of the outcomes achieved.



Involving Youth in Decision Making

- Youth as partners benefit from involving in decision making about programs and activities, and are more likely to have positive developmental outcomes, e.g., leadership, responsibility, empathy, volunteerism
- How can policies promote youth involvement in decision making?
 - Support communities and programs that involve youth as partners
 - Characteristics of these communities and programs



Promote Youth Involvement in DM

- Commitment to youth governance, both organization and adults
- Adult leaders –have vision, value youth talents and abilities, view youth as able and willing, and they are ready to learn from and work with youth
- Inclusion of youth in decision making
- Foster change by providing youth with leadership opportunities



Community Action Framework for YD

1. Build community capacity for change, which includes building stakeholder awareness and competence.
2. Implement community strategies to enhance supports and opportunities for youth.
3. Improve youth development outcomes, namely learning to be productive, learning to connect and learning to navigate.
4. Improve long-term outcomes in adulthood, namely economic self- sufficiency, healthy family and social relationships, and community involvement.

(Cornell and Gambne, 2002)



Community

- Social Expectations
 - Emphasis on character and values
 - Respect and empathy for others
 - Volunteerism and contribution
- Policy implications
 - Consistent messages from family, school and community
 - Policy to support integration and coordination of the efforts of family, school and community



Social Media

- A new setting plays an active role in youth's lives.
- Little is known about how youth behavior and their interactions on social media, and how this setting interacts with how others like family, school and community.
- Need policy research



Family Policy

- “all the individual policies that affect families, directly or indirectly”,
- “a perspective for understanding and thinking about policy in relation to families...” (Zimmerman, 1992)
- Research-supported policies



Policy Making Process

- Created as a response to policy problems
- Formulated based on ideology
- Re-conceptualizing youth decision making
 - Youth are not problems but assets, resources and contributors.
 - From a top-down approach to a democratic and interactive process where youth and families are engaged and their voices are heard.
- Policy initiatives supporting research on youth and family policy issues



Policies Recommendations

- Policy initiatives for public campaign of education about family life development including PYD
- Policies for social inclusion to promote equality in access to quality education, housing employment, and safe and clean environment for all
- Policies to promote youth leadership by supporting programs committed to youth as partners in policymaking
- Policy to support integration and coordination of the efforts of families, schools and communities
- Policy initiatives for youth professional training



Recommendations (cont'd)

- Policy initiatives to support independent policy research in order to develop research supported and effective policies
- Policy initiatives to support policy issues about social media



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