



A Study of Strategic Approaches for National Youth Policy During a Transition Period¹⁾

Hwang, Yeo-jung Senior Research Fellow

Lim, Heejin Senior Research Fellow

Summary

- ▶ This study aimed to investigate the direction and strategies for future youth policy in the face of a policy transition period between the 6th Youth Policy Basic Plan (2018-2022) and the 7th Youth Policy Basic Plan (2023-2027), as well as significant social changes such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and climate change. The primary objective was to support the development of the 7th Youth Policy Basic Plan, a five-year plan which will be implemented beginning in 2023. Furthermore, the study aimed to provide a long-term direction for youth policies, going beyond the five years.
- ▶ To this end, in terms of the research content, there was an analysis of the environment surrounding youth and the circumstances they face, and a review of domestic and international trends in youth policy. The study comprehensively incorporated the opinions of experts (academics, practitioners in the field, government officials responsible for youth policy) and surveys targeting youth. To present the research content effectively, a range of methods were employed, including a literature review, review of secondary data, surveys, expert Delphi surveys, focus group interviews (FGIs), expert consultations, and policy discussions. Considering the results derived through these processes comprehensively, this study presented the vision and strategies for national youth policy.
- ▶ As a result, the following vision of future youth policy was derived: "Youth as participating citizens, youth who enjoy happy lives, youth who lead the future." Taking into account the significant environmental changes surrounding youth policy and the policy demands derived from the study, five major strategic goals to realize the policy vision were presented: ① Sustainable youth policy; ② Youth policy that proactively responds to environmental changes; ③ Youth policy that guarantees the rights of youths as citizens; ④ Inclusive and non-discriminatory youth policy; and ⑤ Establishing a system to promote efficient and effective youth policy. In addition, 21 detailed action strategies were derived to achieve these goals.

1) This Bluenote is an excerpt and summary of "A Study of Strategic Approaches for National Youth Policy During a Transition Period," a research task of the NYPI in 2022.

Korean Youth Policy Review

1. Research Need and Purpose

■ Youth policy faces significant changes in terms of policy conditions and the macro-environment:

- With the end of the 6th Youth Policy Basic Plan (2018-2022) and the start of the 7th Youth Policy Basic Plan (2023-2027), youth policy has entered a period of significant policy transitions.
- Notably, a new government was launched through the 20th presidential election in 2022, and the heads of local governments and education superintendents were newly elected through the 8th local elections. Furthermore, discussions were held regarding the transfer of the jurisdiction over youth policy from the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family, which had been responsible for youth policy since 2010, to other ministries. These changes in the policy landscape are expected to lead to substantial transformations to youth policy, from the central to the local level.

■ Proactive response is needed considering the rapidly changing social environment:

- Furthermore, social changes such as the changes in population and family structure due to low birth rates and the aging society, deepening social disparities between different socioeconomic groups, the rapid development of the fourth industrial revolution and other science and technology, and climate change are predicted to have a significant influence on the lives of youth.
- The COVID-19 pandemic that unfolded over the past three years rapidly shifted and expanded the living space from offline to online, while also exacerbating psychological and emotional issues due to social isolation.
→ Youth policy is facing significant changes both in terms of policy conditions and the social environment.

■ There is a need for a mid- to long-term perspective that reflects environmental changes in youth policy direction and strategies:

- This study aimed to explore the direction and strategies of youth policy from a mid- to long-term perspective, considering the significant policy and social transitions at hand.
 - Specifically, the primary objective was to support the establishment and implementation of the new 7th Youth Policy Basic Plan, which will start from 2023. To formulate a fundamental plan that will have a profound impact on the youth sector for several years, the study aimed to gather diverse opinions from academia, experts in the field, and policy stakeholders, and to derive policy strategies based on the findings to provide the necessary information for the 7th basic plan.
 - Furthermore, the study aims to present a long-term direction that youth policy should strive for, looking beyond the next five years to offer a vision for the future.

2. Research Methods

■ Literature Review

- Through a review of relevant domestic policies, the study examined the evolution, trends, achievements, and limitations of existing policies. Also, by analyzing international youth policies, the study identified the major trends, principles, and directions of youth policy, investigated how these trends are realized and applied in the youth policies of different countries, and considered the implications that can be derived from such analysis.

- Materials reviewed: (Domestic) “Youth Policy Basic Plan,” “Child Policy Basic Plan,” “Young Adult Policy Basic Plan,” and other related policy plans
(International) Policies from international organizations such as the UN and the EU, as well as major countries such as Germany, France, the United States, Australia, and Japan

■ Survey

- A survey was conducted targeting youth, who are the focus of the policy, in order to assess the effectiveness and necessity of existing youth policies and to identify expectations and demands for future youth policies. The survey was conducted on 3,024 elementary, middle, and high school students nationwide (grades 5-6 of elementary school, grades 1-3 of middle school, and grades 1-3 of high school).

■ Expert Delphi Survey

- Two rounds of Delphi surveys were conducted targeting experts from academia and the field to establish mid- to long-term directions and strategies for youth policy. A total of 27 people participated in the survey, including 16 academic experts with expertise in relevant fields and research experience, and 11 experts from the field.

■ Focus Group Interview (FGI)

- Focus Group Interviews (FGIs) were conducted to gather specific and detailed opinions on the direction and challenges of youth policy from the policy stakeholders, including youth themselves and the government officials and experts responsible for youth policy in the field. The FGI sessions included a total of 25 participants, including 16 youth participants (divided into four groups based on their characteristics), and nine experts (four field experts and five local government officials).

Korean Youth Policy Review

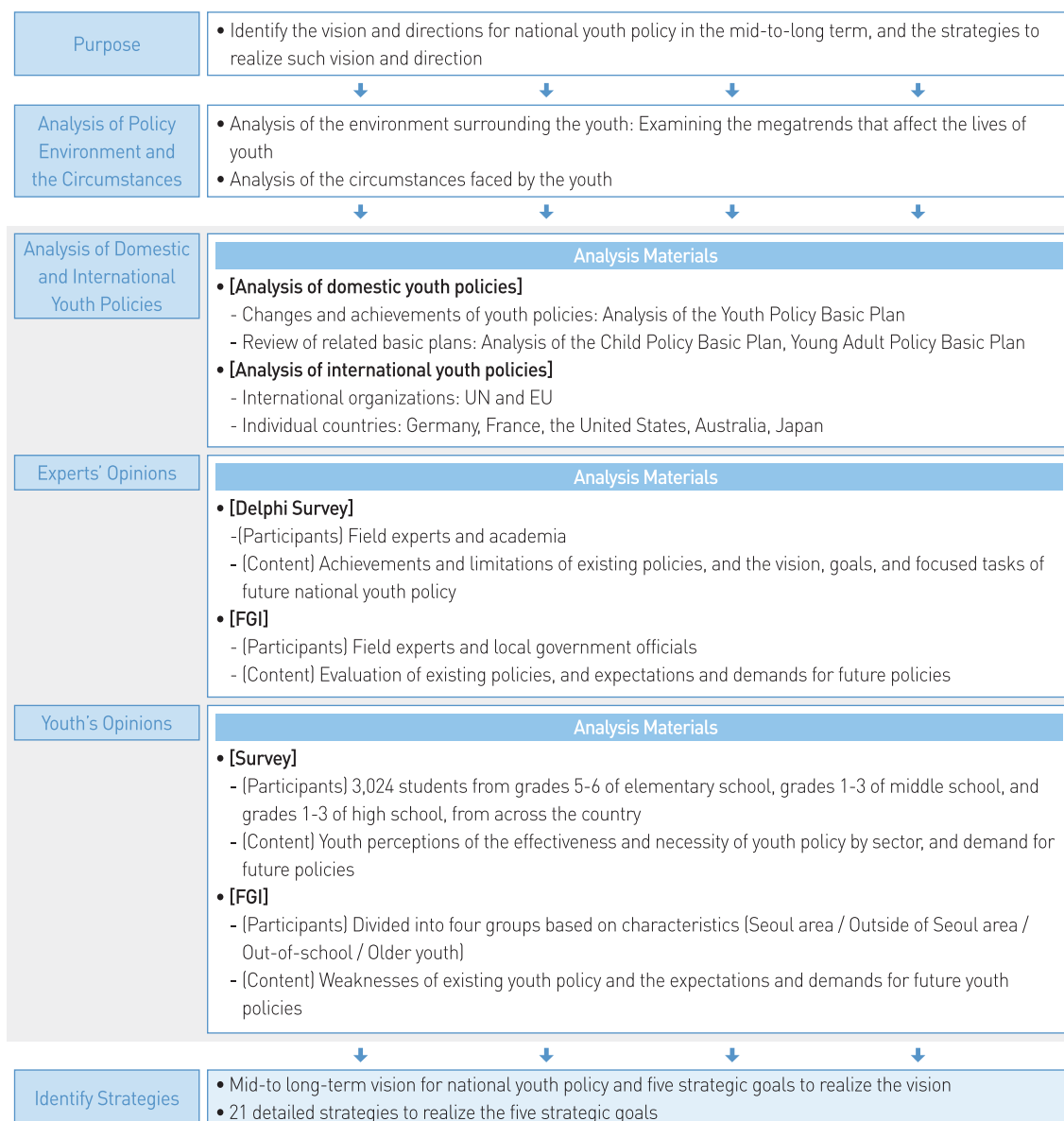


Figure 1 Overview of the Study

3. Results

■ Results of Analysis of Domestic and International Youth Policies

- After a review of domestic and international youth policies, it was found that recent youth policies have emphasized the rights and participation of youth, as well as placing a special emphasis on establishing a foundation for independence and identifying and supporting marginalized youth. The approach has been based on a life-cycle perspective, with significant attention given to comprehensive support for various aspects of youth life. Furthermore, there has been a focus on systematic performance management to ensure effective policy implementation, and there were also mechanisms to secure flexibility in mid- to long-term policy planning.

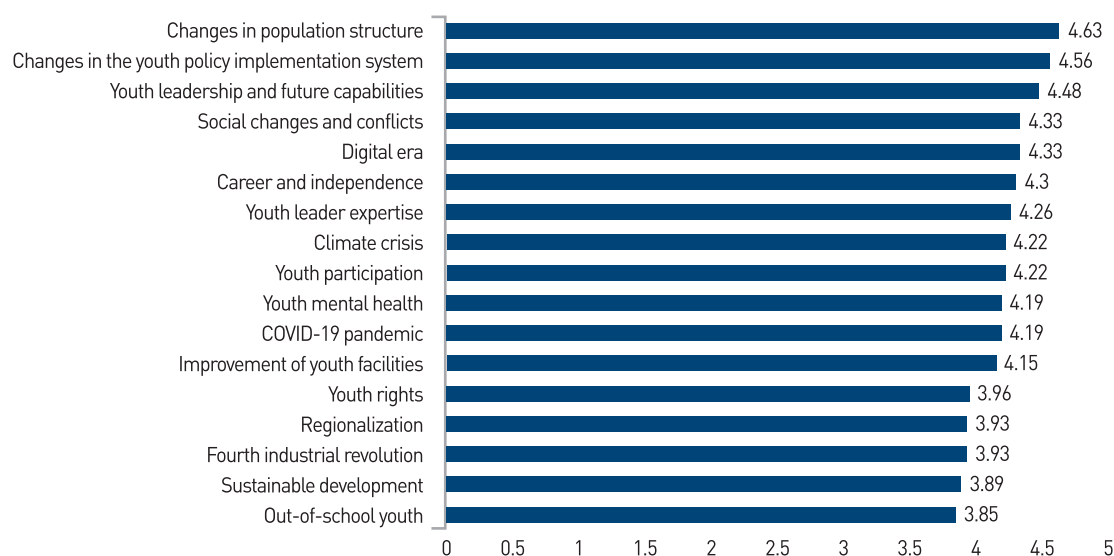
Table 1 Major Implications from the Analysis of Domestic and International Youth Policies

Major Implications	Details
Emphasis on the Rights and Participation of Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The trend has been to emphasize the leadership, rights, and participation of policy stakeholders in Korean policies for children, youth, and young adults. • This emphasis on youth participation is also seen in international examples, particularly with a focus on empowering youth and enhancing their rights.
Securing a Foundation for Independence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • France's youth policy plan emphasizes interdepartmental coordination, and is ultimately aimed at promoting youth independence. - The plan focuses on addressing inequalities in independence conditions and providing support for independence across various aspects of life, aiming to help youth to stably enter society.
Identifying and Supporting Marginalized Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Germany and Australia, there are support measures for youth who take on caregiving responsibilities within their families, or unpaid care responsibilities for other family members. • The Australian Youth Policy Framework explicitly pledges support for marginalized youth.* * Marginalized youth: Indigenous youth, minority youth, rural youth, out-of-school youth, family caregiver youth, facility-using youth, incarcerated youth, homeless youth, youth with disabilities, youth with chronic illnesses, at-risk youth with mental health issues, substance-abusing youth, LGBTQ+ youth, low-income youth, and NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) youth
Life-cycle Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A life-cycle approach is necessary to understand adolescence as an extension of childhood and a transition to young adulthood. - In the United States, youth policies consider the life-cycle perspective by distinguishing between early, middle, and late adolescence and establishing a framework for policy support.
Comprehensive Support for Various Aspects of Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth policies in various countries comprehensively support the lives of youth across diverse areas such as education, employment, safety, and health, aiming for a successful transition into adulthood. - In France, rights-based approaches are emphasized, considering education, employment, housing, healthcare support, and even vacation time as rights; government support for individuals' balanced lives is regarded as a fundamental principle behind policies, ensuring equal opportunities and societal responsibility.
Securing Flexibility in Mid- to Long-term Policy Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing institutional mechanisms to flexibly adapt to changes in the policy environment and crisis situations. - In Japan, the Promotion Plan for Child and Youth Development is revised approximately every five years, but it is also explicitly stated that modifications and improvements will be made based on a midterm evaluation in the third year.
Systematic Performance Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance management should be implemented to transparently and objectively evaluate task performance when implementing mid- to long-term policies, and to serve as a basis for identifying future improvements. - The United Nations has introduced a scorecard to assess the performance of UN agencies and countries as a performance management tool. - Japan sets detailed indicators for various domains such as individual children and youth, families and relatives, schools, workplaces, local communities, and the internet; these indicators are included in the annual Child and Youth White Paper, and are visualized using an index board.

Korean Youth Policy Review

■ Results of Expert Surveys

- The major results and implications from expert surveys based on the Delphi survey targeting academia and experts in the field, as well as FGIs targeting field and local government officials, are as follows:
- First, based on the results of the first and second rounds of Delphi surveys conducted on the social environmental changes that should be considered when formulating national youth policies, it was found that the experts considered the most important environmental change to be “Changes in population structure.” This may be due to rising concerns regarding the rapid decline in the youth population due to falling birth rates and an aging population, resulting in the shrinking size and demand of the policy target group.
- The next important factors identified were “Changes in the youth policy implementation system,” “Youth leadership and future capabilities,” “Social changes and conflicts,” “Digital era,” “Career and independence,” “Youth leader expertise,” “Climate crisis,” “Youth participation,” “Youth mental health,” “COVID-19 pandemic,” and “Improvement of youth facilities.”
- Among these factors, some could be considered as challenges to be addressed rather than social environmental changes. When examining the findings in consideration of this, it can be inferred that there is a sense of crisis regarding the absolute reduction in the size of the policy target group due to the decline in the youth population. Also, there is a need for innovation in the policy implementation system to respond to this crisis situation. Furthermore, it is necessary to consider the conflicts arising from social changes, including issues of wealth disparity, inter-generational gaps, gender gaps, and regional disparities. Additionally, there are concerns regarding the transition to a digital society accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the climate crisis. These can be identified as social environmental changes that should be considered when formulating future youth policies. To address these social environmental changes, enhancing youth leadership and future capabilities, as well as providing support for career development and independence, is necessary. This requires an increase in the expertise of youth leaders and greater youth participation.

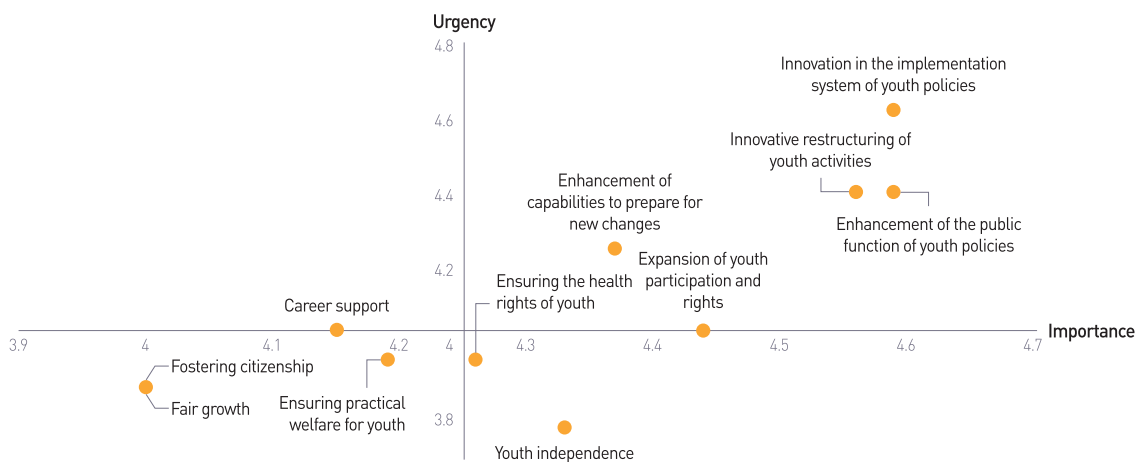


Note: The scores shown are based on a 5-point Likert scale from “Not very important” (=1) to “Very important” (=5)

Figure 2 Delphi Survey Results on the Social Environmental Changes that Should Be Considered when Building National Youth Policy (Unit: Score)

- To gather opinions on policy goals, a first-round Delphi survey was conducted to identify candidate policy goals, followed by a second-round Delphi survey to assess the importance and urgency of each policy goal. As a result, policy goals such as “Innovation in the implementation system of youth policies,” “Enhancement of the public function of youth policies,” “Innovative restructuring of youth activities,” “Enhancement of capabilities to prepare for new changes,” and “Expansion of youth participation and rights” were identified as relatively important and urgent.

-At the same time, while “Ensuring the health rights of youth” and “Youth independence” were deemed important, their urgency was relatively lower. “Ensuring practical welfare for youth,” “Career support,” “Fostering citizenship,” and “Fair growth” were relatively lower among the listed items, both in importance and in urgency.

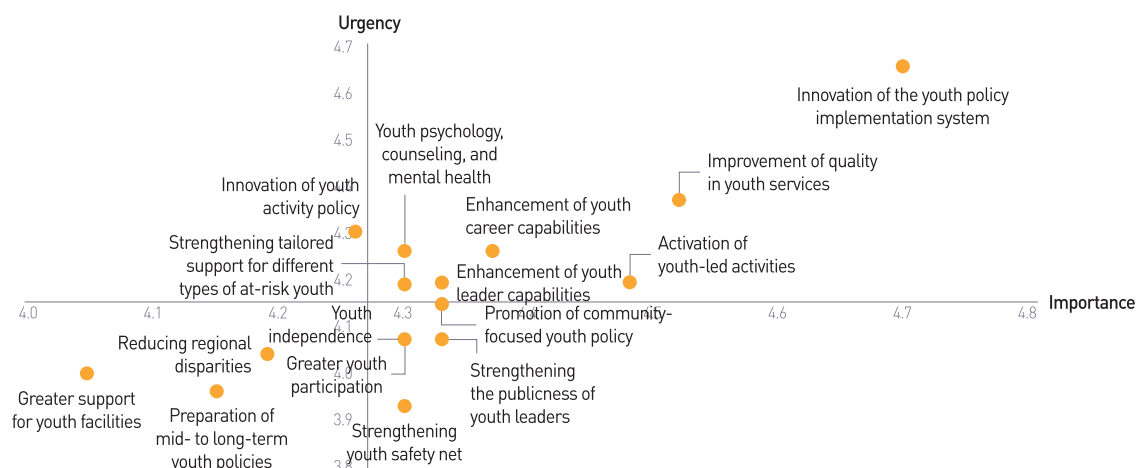


Note: Importance and urgency were measured using a 5-point Likert scale. The horizontal axis represents importance, while the vertical axis represents urgency, and the points are the intersection of the two.

Figure 3 Summary of the Expert Delphi Survey Findings on the Urgency and Importance of Policy Goals

- According to the results of the Delphi survey on the importance and urgency of key tasks to be reflected in the mid- to long-term youth policy, “Innovation of the youth policy implementation system” emerged as the most important and urgent task. Other tasks such as “Improvement of quality in youth services,” “Activation of youth-led activities,” “Enhancement of youth career capabilities,” “Youth psychology, counseling, and mental health,” “Enhancement of youth leader capabilities,” “Strengthening tailored support for different types of at-risk youth,” and “Promotion of community-focused youth policy” were also classified as relatively important and urgent tasks.

Korean Youth Policy Review



Note: Importance and urgency were measured using a 5-point Likert scale. The horizontal axis represents importance, while the vertical axis represents urgency, and the points are the intersection of the two.

Figure 4 Summary of the Expert Delphi Survey Findings on the Urgency and Importance of Key Tasks

- The major implications identified based on opinions received from experts are as follows:

Table 2 Summary of Major Implications Based on the Opinions of Experts

Major Implications	Details
Comprehensive renewal of the youth policy implementation system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand financial resources and diversify funding sources • Central government must engage in substantial policy coordination and linkage among relevant ministries and agencies • Establish an organic communication system between the central government and local governments • Improve policy performance management system and significantly enhance public promotion of policies
Form and implement of customer-oriented policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition to policies that are sought after by the beneficiaries and policies that will result in benefits strongly felt by the policy recipients • Highlight "career" as a key policy agenda to build and implement customer-oriented policies • Quantitative and qualitative improvements in career support policies are needed
Innovate and activate youth activities policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective policy measures are needed to address the decline in the youth population, changes in educational policies, and the reduction of face-to-face activities due to factors such as the COVID-19 pandemic, which have led to a decline in youth activities • Consider environmental changes such as youth-led activities, climate crisis, and digital transformation
Support for at-risk youth and youth mental health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand support for vulnerable youth groups that are falling through cracks in support policies • Continuously implement and strengthen tailored support for different types of at-risk youth • Develop policy measures to enhance youth health rights and support mental health
Improve youth leaders' treatment and capabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attract excellent personnel by improving the treatment of youth leaders • Provide support to secure competitiveness in the rapidly changing youth policy environment, with systematic and continuous retraining

■ Results of Youth Surveys

- As part of the process of gathering opinions to guide the direction and strategies of youth policies, an opinion survey was conducted on the youth who are the stakeholders of these policies. The aim was to assess how the youth evaluate the achievements of the previous policies, and to identify their thoughts on the future policies that are deemed necessary.
- Based on the survey conducted to assess the effectiveness and need for the existing policies, the youth rated the effectiveness and need for policies designed to “Strengthen youth independence and protection support” as the highest. They also recognized the policies designed to “Increase youth-led activities” as having high importance, followed by policies designed to “Promote youth participation and rights.”

Table 3 Results of Youth Surveys on the Effectiveness and Need for Each Policy Area

[Unit: Points]

Classification		1. Promote youth participation and rights		2. Increase youth-led activities		3. Strengthen youth independence and protection support	
		Effectiveness	Need	Effectiveness	Need	Effectiveness	Need
Total		3.06	3.18	3.19	3.25	3.24	3.36
Gender	Male	2.97	3.09	3.09	3.16	3.13	3.24
	Female	3.14	3.27	3.27	3.34	3.35	3.47
School Level	Elementary	3.14	3.20	3.24	3.25	3.36	3.40
	Middle	3.02	3.12	3.16	3.21	3.19	3.30
	High	3.04	3.23	3.17	3.30	3.20	3.39
Region	Large Cities	3.06	3.19	3.20	3.27	3.23	3.36
	Middle to Small Cities	3.05	3.18	3.17	3.24	3.24	3.35
	Rural Areas	3.07	3.19	3.19	3.26	3.25	3.36

Note: 1) The figures show the average of the items in each area.

2) Only those in grades five and six were targeted for elementary school students.

- According to the results of the youth FGIs, it was necessary to focus more on policies that meet the demands of youth, and that they can perceive the effects of in their daily lives. In this regard, there was a strong hope that “career support” policies, for which there is high interest and perceived need among youth, can be effectively implemented. Furthermore, there was a need to strengthen the guarantee of youth rights and activate more youth participation. Ensuring equity in policy support among the target youth population to prevent disparities also received significant attention.

Korean Youth Policy Review

Table 4 Summary of Major Implications Based on the Opinions of Youth

Major Implications	Details
Policies to meet the demands of the youths: Strengthen career support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need to focus more on meeting the needs of youth → Substantializing career support policies • Enhance the quality of career education, career exploration, and free semester systems provided in schools • Expand the quantity and improve the quality of career support for youth who are not in school • Diversify and solidify career activities and career exploration opportunities provided in youth facilities
Policies with high perceived impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand policies with a focus on those that have a high perceived impact in the lives of youth • High demand for creating a safe environment: developing measures to address youth crimes such as online gambling, drug-related issues, and promoting the protection of labor rights • Promote sports activities and cultural arts activities
Paradigm shift in guaranteeing youth rights and youth participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize youth as individuals with rights as citizens today, rather than future prospective citizens" • Move beyond participation centered around existing participation mechanisms and transition to "everyday participation" and "community-centered participation" • Strengthen youth leadership throughout the youth policy → Establish policy implementation strategies that prioritize "youth-led participation" as the guiding principle of youth policy operations
Youth policies considering the life cycle and developmental stages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies need to be pursued from a life cycle perspective, spanning from early childhood to adolescence (pre-adolescence to adolescence to young adulthood). • A strategic approach is needed that emphasizes policies specifically required at each developmental stage
Address relative disparities in youth policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address regional disparities in youth policies (disparities between metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas in access to career experience and participation activities) • Remedy disparities in benefits and policy support received by youth within and outside of school • Resolve disparities arising from differences in the responsible ministries or agencies despite the fact that they are essentially targeting the same policy beneficiaries

4. Policy Proposal

■ Policy Vision

- After putting together the research findings from each stage, the mid- to long-term national policy vision has been set as "Youth as participating citizens, youth who enjoy happy lives, youth who lead the future."
- "Youth as participating citizens" embraces values such as expanding youth participation and guaranteeing their rights. It emphasizes that youth are not just prospective citizens of the future, but should fully enjoy their rights as citizens in the present. It reflects the high interest and demands of youth regarding participation and portrays youth as active citizens who think and act proactively.
- "Youth who enjoy happy lives" encompasses values such as creating an environment for youth to grow safely, providing youth with diverse experiences to grow through various activities, ensuring youth's right to health, protecting youth from harmful environments both online and offline, and ensuring comprehensive welfare for youth that covers all, with no gaps. It aims to create a society in which no one is left behind, and all youth can enjoy a happy life.
- "Youth who lead the future" embodies values such as youth initiative, future, dreams, and career. It implies that youth not only can pursue their own dreams and take the lead in shaping their own future, but also can play a pivotal role in leading future society.
→ The presented vision comprehensively covers all areas of youth policy, including youth activities, protection and welfare horizontally, and encompasses both the present and future of youth vertically (in terms of time).

■ Strategic Goals

- Based on the major environmental changes surrounding youth policy and the policy demands derived through research, the following five strategic goals were established to achieve the policy vision:

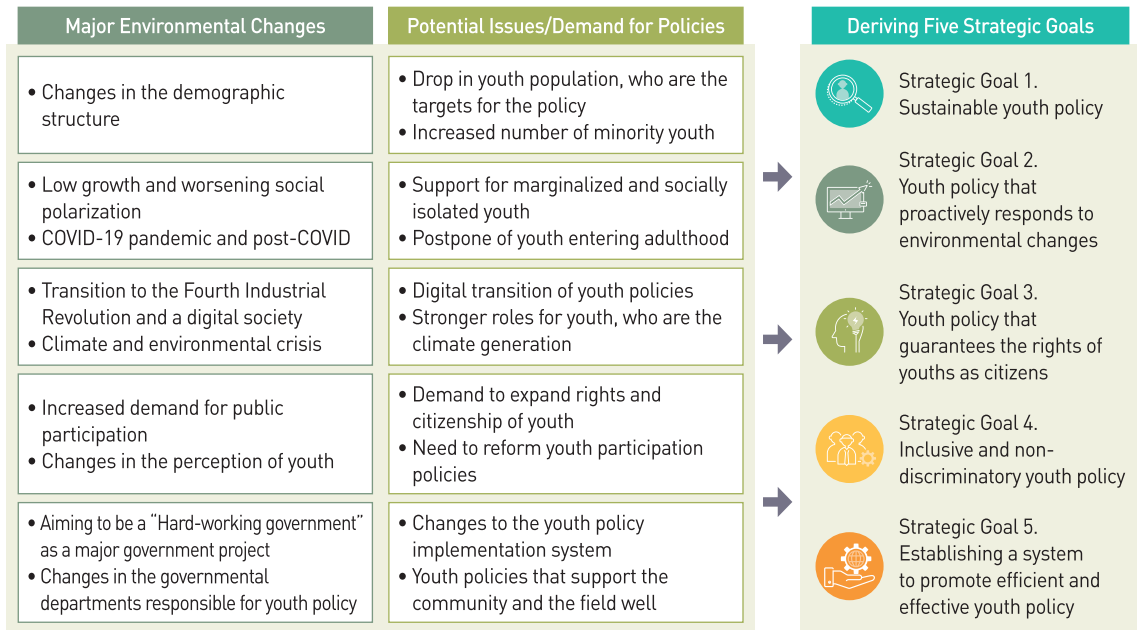


Figure 5 Deriving the Five Strategic Goals to Realize the Policy Vision

Korean Youth Policy Review

■ Strategies

- To realize the policy vision and strategic goals, the following 21 detailed strategies were proposed

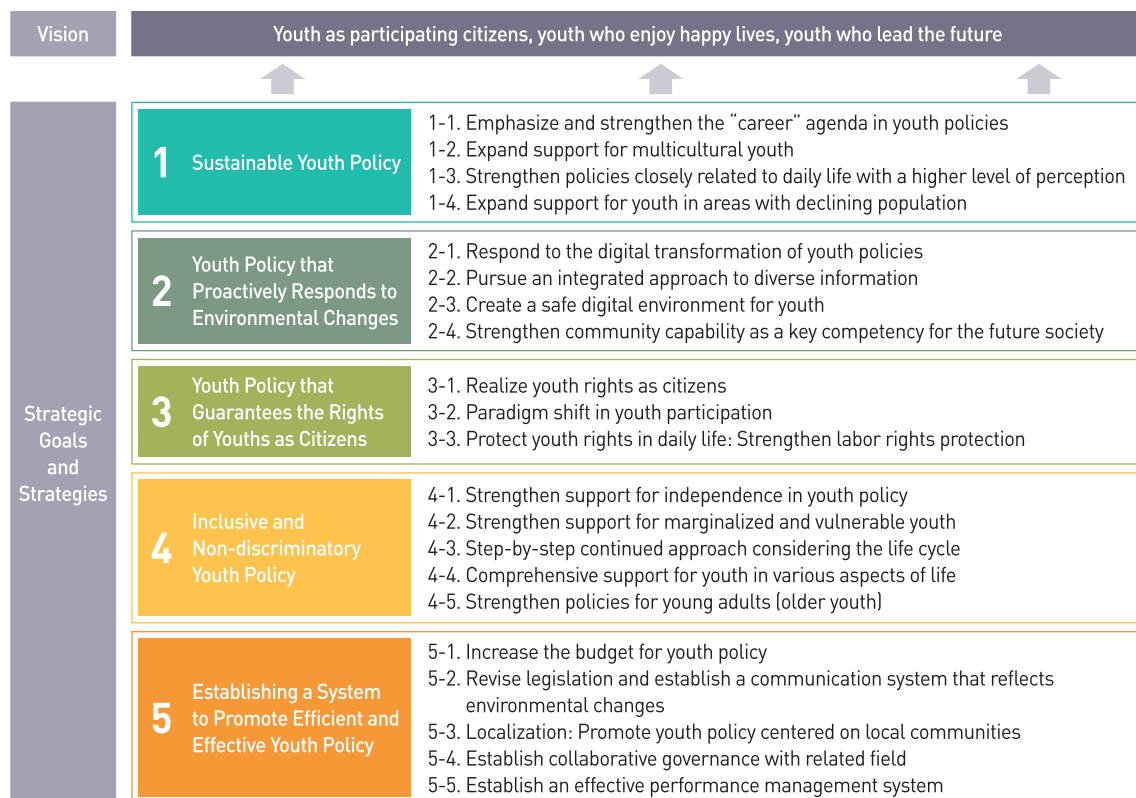


Figure 6 Vision, Strategic Goals, and Strategies for National Youth Policy (Draft)

■ Strategies for “Strategic Goal 1: Sustainable Youth Policy”

- In the future, youth policies should strategically aim to be “sustainable youth policies.” With the youth population decreasing, and the implementation of similar policies and programs in related areas such as education, it is essential for youth policies to undergo a paradigm shift towards a customer-centered approach to become sustainable.
- There should be a greater focus on meeting the needs of youth (and parents), who are the customers, and on actively discovering and implementing policies that have a higher perceived impact. From this perspective, prioritizing the “career” issue which is highly demanded by youth as a key agenda in policy-making and implementation can provide substantial results. Additionally, it is important to actively explore policy areas that youth can tangibly experience in their daily lives.
- Taking these considerations into account, the following specific strategies are proposed to achieve the first strategic goal of “sustainable youth policies.”

Strategy	Details
1-1. Emphasize and strengthen the "career" agenda in youth policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the concept of "career" in youth policies and integrate it throughout the policy domain • Provide career support tailored to different target groups and establish a seamless connection with school education • Improve the quality of career experiential activities, such as linking them to emerging industry trends and local industries
1-2. Expand support for multicultural youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an environment and provide systematic support for multicultural youth to fully demonstrate their capabilities in Korean society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Standardize Korean language education, support school adaptation by minority youth, and ensure substantial support for youth who arrived in Korea during their school years • Create and operate collaborative networks focused on the local community to support multicultural youth
1-3. Strengthen policies closely related to daily life with a higher level of perception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance policy implementation in the areas of youths' daily lives to improve the perception and experience of policies by the target audience • Introduce youth policy impact assessments to evaluate and incorporate the effects of legislation, government policies, and local policies on the lives of youth
1-4. Expand support for youth in areas with declining population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement support programs for youth in areas with declining populations • Establish legal provisions, such as amending the "Special Act on Support for Areas with Declining Population," to expand support for youth in areas with declining populations

■ Strategies for "Strategic Goal 2: Youth Policy that Proactively Responds to Environmental Changes"

- Youth policies in the future should be able to respond proactively to rapidly changing policy environments. It is necessary to anticipate and prepare for societal and environmental changes such as the Fourth Industrial Revolution, digital transformation, and the climate crisis, and to effectively respond to challenges such as the declining youth population, the decline in the population of rural areas, low economic growth, social polarization, and the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - To achieve this, it is necessary to prepare for a digital transformation of youth policies, while pursuing an integrated approach to consolidate fragmented information across different areas.
 - Considering the trend to an emphasis on the online environment, proactive measures should be taken to create a safe digital environment for youth. Additionally, given that today's youth are climate-conscious, proactive measures to address climate change should be actively pursued within the scope of youth policies.
 - Furthermore, as social conflicts among different groups persist, attention should be given to enhancing youth's community-building capabilities.

Strategy	Details
2-1. Respond to the digital transformation of youth policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design a framework for digital transformation to be considered or examined in the youth field with "Comprehensive Study on Digital Transformation in the Youth Sector" (tentative title) • Establish an integrated digital platform for youth policies • Create and utilize youth spaces in the digital environment
2-2. Pursue an Integrated approach to diverse information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a comprehensive support information system for at-risk youth (Youth Safety Net) • Build an integrated support system for youth who are not in school • Utilizing empirical data such as various fact-finding surveys produced by the government for youth policy
2-3. Create a safe digital environment for youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen measures to address violence and sexual violence in the harmful digital environments • Develop prevention policies to curb the proliferation of online gambling • Expand digital citizenship education and enhance the protection of youths' personal information

Korean Youth Policy Review

Strategy	Details
2-4. Strengthen community capability as a key competency for the future society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support capacity-building for climate crisis response and social conflict resolution • Support the enhancement of community capabilities

■ Strategies for “Strategic Goal 3: Youth Policy that Guarantees the Rights of Youths as Citizens”

- Third, there need to be policies to ensure the rights of youth citizens. A review of youth policies by international organizations and various countries has found that strengthening youth rights and ensuring their participation are the most emphasized common trends. Expert opinions also highlight the shift in perspective that recognizes youth as citizens today rather than future potential citizens, and the demand to enhance youth rights and ensure substantial participation has been raised when gathering youth opinions. Therefore, the key strategic goal derived for future youth policies is to guarantee the rights of youth citizens through policy measures.
 - To achieve this, there needs to be a paradigm shift in youth participation policies and improvements in policies that ensure youth participation, including within schools, so that youth can perceive their involvement.
 - Additionally, special attention should be given to areas that have high interest and awareness among youth, but inadequate protection, such as labor rights.

Strategy	Details
3-1. Realize youth rights as citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure student representation in school operating committees
3-2. Paradigm shift in youth participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition from “participation as a policy project” to “participation as a principle of youth policy operation” • Shift from “participation focusing on Youth Participation Organizations” to “everyday participation” • Transform “formal participation” into “actual participation”
3-3. Protect youth rights in daily life: Strengthen labor rights protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure legislative measures to protect the labor rights of youth • Develop protective measures that cover youth working in new forms of employment

■ Strategies for “Strategic Goal 4: Inclusive and Non-discriminatory Youth Policy”

- It is necessary to strive for an “inclusive and non-discriminatory youth policy” to ensure equal benefits for all youth, without any marginalized or excluded groups.
 - To achieve this strategic goal, it is necessary to expand support for vulnerable youth while ensuring no gaps in such support, develop policies that encompass the entire life cycle from childhood to youth to young adulthood, and strengthen policies that broadly cover the living areas of youth. Also, it is necessary to provide enhanced policies targeting the late stages of youth, which have received relatively less attention in existing youth policies.

Strategy	Details
4-1. Strengthen support for independence in youth policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the scale of special support programs for youth and ease the support criteria • Enhance customized support for crisis-prone and vulnerable youth • Establish and support an effective system for identifying and supporting non-academic and unemployed youth • Expand economic and financial education for youth and support independence in a wider sense with support for youth employment and entrepreneurship
4-2. Strengthen support for marginalized and vulnerable youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance support for existing targeted welfare recipients (out-of-school youth, youth from disadvantaged families, runaway youth, minority youth, (single) parent youth, low-income youth, youth living alone, etc.) • Provide comprehensive support for newly identified policy beneficiaries who have been excluded from support in existing policies (youth caregivers for the elderly or disabled, youth with parents in correctional facilities, etc.)
4-3. Step-by-step continued approach considering the life cycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and implement support measures that prioritize policies tailored to the needs of youth at different stages of development
4-4. Comprehensive support for youth in various aspects of life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote policies spanning various aspects of life, including education, safety, health, employment, and leisure • Ensure access to cultural, artistic, and sports activities
4-5. Strengthen policies for young adults (older youth)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the age limit for support in youth policies from a maximum of 18 years of age to 24 • Enhance mental health counseling services for young adults, with a focus on youth counseling and welfare centers • Activate support for policies that are in high demand among young adults (policies related to protecting labor rights and transitioning to independent living)

■ Strategies for “Strategic Goal 5: Establishing a System to Promote Efficient and Effective Youth Policy”

- In terms of overall policy implementation system and governance, there is a demand to establish an “efficient and effective policy implementation system.” Given the imminent significant governance changes such as the transfer of responsibilities among government ministries, there is a need to address the limitations of the existing policy implementation system and build an advanced policy infrastructure.
 - To create a policy environment in which youth policies can yield tangible results, the most critical requirement is to secure sufficient financial resources by increasing the budget.
 - Furthermore, considering that the nature of youth policies requires close collaboration with local communities, future youth policies should actively aim for “localization” by reducing dependence on the central government.
 - Additionally, given the nature of target-centered youth policies, collaboration with relevant sectors such as education and welfare is crucial. To ensure effective policy implementation, there is a need to enhance the performance management system more than before.

Korean Youth Policy Review

Strategy	Details
5-1. Increase the budget for youth policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand financial resources to foster youth • Link education funding support with local self-governing bodies
5-2. Revise legislation and establish delivery system that reflects environmental changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a delivery system that reflects environmental changes • Revise youth-related laws to reflect environmental changes
5-3. Localization: Promote youth policy centered on local communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the mandatory placement and coordination of dedicated youth policy departments and specialized government officials in joint evaluations by local governments to secure organizations and personnel • Publicly designate youth-friendly cities, such as “Youth-friendly City” or “Happy City,” as regions where youth can live well • Apply manifesto approaches and strategies that are organically linked to local government pledges
5-4. Establish collaborative governance with related fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen coordination and collaboration among relevant ministries at the central government level • Enhance coordination and collaboration among relevant agencies at the local government level
5-5. Establish an effective performance management system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set appropriate performance indicators and activate monitoring and feedback mechanisms • Overhaul the evaluation system in the field of youth policy