

MEANINGFUL  
**YOUTH**  
ENGAGEMENT  
IN ANTI-CORRUPTION WORK



Practical Example :

# ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION BHUTAN

## The Strategic Youth Integrity Program

As part of its National Integrity and Anti-Corruption Strategy (NIACS), the Anti-Corruption Commission of Bhutan has implemented a strategic Youth Integrity Programme (YIP) that focuses on series of programmes targeting all sections of children and youth starting from three years to 24 years old. These programmes include, amongst other activities, Integrity Clubs, curriculum development, teacher and sectoral training in formal schooling programme thus effectively bringing a continuous integrity education programme. Integrity Clubs, which are featured below, bring young people together to develop public information and advocacy campaigns. Integrity values have been integrated in school and tertiary subjects such as in Scouting Program and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). Training for teachers/instructors are conducted before the roll out of these programmes. The programme has also targeted young people's concern for the environment, and offers accessible training on professional ethics in forestry and climate change. These programmes are complemented through out-of-school programmes, inclusive of employed as well as unemployed youth.



## Background

In keeping with the government's strategic goals to create a peaceful, harmonious and a happy nation with Gross National Happiness (GNH) at its core, the YIP tackles corruption from the earliest age. In recognition of the high proportion of young people in the population, this comprehensive YIP has been developed to actively engage young people in anti-corruption efforts. The strategy seeks to establish a strong foundation of integrity, beginning at the formative age by strengthening integrity education in various avenues through the development of curriculum, related education material, and training of facilitators. Further, it aims to educate and instill values (Ethics, Integrity and Professionalism) in youth to become anti-corruption advocates and integrity champions. A glimpse of strategic overview of the principles and their manner of implementation are explained in the DAMTSI (Developing Accountable and Moral, Trustworthy and Successful Individuals) Activity Book which has been rolled out to ECCD centers throughout the country.

## How the young people contribute

- The Integrity Clubs serve as just one example of how young individuals are empowered to become ambassadors of anti-corruption within their educational establishments and in the local districts surrounding their schools.
- Currently there are 21 Clubs, with two club coordinators and more than 5000 club members including schools which have adopted whole-school approach.
- The impact of the Integrity Clubs is evident through reports of unethical behaviors being brought to attention.
- A youth integrity assessment was conducted, which includes the comparison of schools with Integrity Clubs to those without. The assessment revealed a notable disparity in awareness and the quality of values pertaining to anti-corruption, showcasing the effectiveness of the Integrity Clubs in fostering a stronger culture of integrity among the youth.

## Youth Integrity Programme and the meaningful youth engagement themes

### Diversity and inclusion:

- Bhutan's approach to youth engagement in anti-corruption efforts ensures that participation is open to individuals of all ages, ranging from the youngest to the elderly, and in-school to out-of-school youths, including employed youths. The programmes are co-created and collaboratively implemented by different keyholders including the civil society organizations and youth groups.

### Enabling environment:

- Bhutan establishes an enabling environment for youth empowerment in combating corruption through the implementation of a national youth policy and the establishment of a dedicated youth-focused team.

### Intergenerational collaboration:

- The presence of intergenerational collaboration is a cornerstone of Bhutan's anti-corruption initiatives. Integrity Clubs work in partnership with teachers, while an advisory board acts as a valuable source of feedback for the programmes.

### Quality youth participation:

- Youth actively contribute to the fight against corruption by participating in various anti-corruption programmes such as the Integrity Clubs. They engage in campaigns to raise awareness about various anti-corruption aspects such as the concept of corruption, anti-corruption principles, values, policies and approaches within their school compound as well as beyond.

### Youth empowerment:

- Bhutan prioritizes youth empowerment by providing capacity-building opportunities through diverse projects. Notably, both young participants and adult stakeholders receive training equipping them with the necessary knowledge and skills to combat corruption effectively.

## Lessons Learned

Having a well-defined policy and strategy for strengthening youth integrity enables the government to prioritize and engage young individuals more effectively in the fight against corruption. This policy allows the government to invest in numerous education projects that nurtures a heightened interest among young people in matters related to anti-corruption. Through this policy, the Anti-Corruption Commission encourages the development of projects specifically tailored to the needs and aspirations of young people, with the involvement of relevant boards, agencies, and other stakeholders focused on youth development. These projects are designed through a consultative process, incorporating inputs from young people themselves as well as representatives from relevant organizations. This inclusive approach fosters a sense of ownership and empowers young individuals to actively participate in shaping and implementing anti-corruption initiatives.



Young people in Bhutan are engaged in Strategic Youth Integrity Programs (YIP) through which the values of ethics, integrity and professionalism are educated and instilled.

### For more information:

- Homepage of Anti-Corruption Commission of Bhutan:  
<https://www.acc.org.bt/strategy/>
- Youth Integrity Program:  
[https://www.acc.org.bt/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/YIP\\_Final.pdf](https://www.acc.org.bt/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/YIP_Final.pdf)
- Education web-page:  
<https://www.acc.org.bt/youth-integrity-program/>