

## Policy Framework – One Pager'

The following outlines the policy inputs to be incorporated into an election manifesto of the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB).

### ***Democracy, Governance and Political participation***

1. Reaffirm the need to proactively engage youth in national matters and provide for a parliamentary led consultation mechanism for: youth in general, youth political representatives and youth organizations to provide clear and direct input on legislation;
2. Introduce a mandatory 25% PLUS youth quota at local and provincial council level;
3. Pledge and adopt to the constitution of the SJB that every national, provincial and local level election to have 25% PLUS quota of youth as candidates from each district and ensure gender balance within the representation;
4. Institute a Parliamentary Select Commission to Inquire into the Status of Youth Post Covid-19.

### ***Education***

1. Work towards ensuring access to higher education for all;
2. Increase state expenditure on developing public education infrastructure and resources with the aim of increasing University entrants particularly on Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, Management, Social Sciences and Liberal Arts;
3. Increase state funding for research and development for Universities;
4. Increase state support rendered to vocational training institutes;
5. Formulate a policy to support school students to reduce the number of dropouts and ensure that they are not left behind;
6. Introduce a loan scheme for higher education for students who are unable/choose not to attend state universities;
7. Establish a career guidance system within the national secondary school system;
8. Adopt a ZERO tolerance policy on ragging as well as other forms of violence and strengthen university stakeholders, law and order entities, relevant national and sub national entities to fully implement the Prohibition of Ragging And Other Forms Of Violence In Educational Institutions Act (1998);
9. Mandate and establish psychosocial support units in every state university, campuses, institutes listed under the University Grants Commission to provide services to victims of ragging and other forms within 3 years;
10. Establish a campus policing system to ensure the physical safety of students with the aim reducing response times to address incidents of ragging and other forms of violence. (creation of a violence free environment)

### ***Sustainable Livelihoods and Employment***

1. Provide an incentive scheme (time-bound tax exemptions for youth employment, partial salary subsidization, duty exemptions etc.) to the private sector to increase youth employment and employability;
2. Institute a national action plan to develop employment skills and employability of youth;
3. Institute a national action plan together with private sector entities and respective chambers of commerce to re-train and re-absorb individuals who have lost jobs due to the onset of COVID-19;
4. Ensure the Ministry of Finance institutes access to finance measures for youth entrepreneurs, youth social entrepreneurs and youth startups via the national and cooperative banking system and encourage the participation of private banks;
5. Explore options to institute a temporary youth safety net via the provision of an essential sum to supplement the needs of Youth who have lost their jobs owing COVID-19;
6. Ensure access and delivery of a state led programme towards the development of and diversification of livelihood options for youth choosing to/engaging in primary industries.
7. Ensure state support for small and medium sized businesses.

### ***Social well-being and equality***

1. Ensure delivery of district level programming on addressing sexual and reproductive health, substance abuse, communicable and non-communicable diseases and mental health well-being;
2. Provide space for public private partnerships towards establishing day care systems to support working parents;
3. Ensure, post consultations with relevant stakeholders, an awareness agenda highlighting the necessity and evolving nature of the role of young women in society and affirming them as second to none.