

# Building life skills/soft skills/21st century skills at scale and sustainably in LMICs

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# Key Soft Skills within the Context of Positive Youth Development (PYD)



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CIES 2019



*Advancing solutions to transform the lives of young people*



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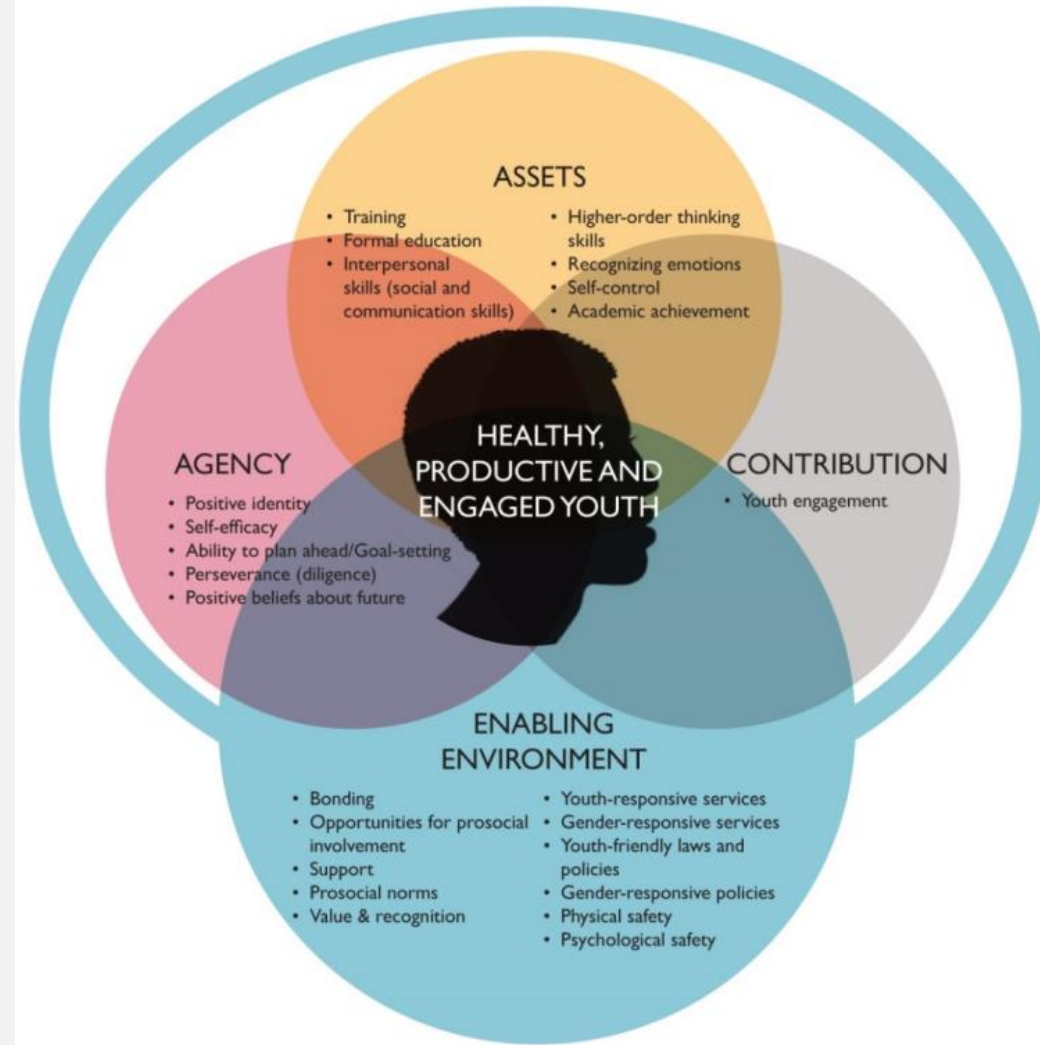
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# YouthPower Learning: Advancing Solutions to Improve Young Lives

## What is Positive Youth Development (PYD)?

PYD programs recognize youth's inherent rights and result in youth who have assets, the ability to leverage those assets (agency), and the ability to contribute to positive change for themselves and their communities, surrounded by an enabling environment that supports them

<http://www.youthpower.org/positive-youth-development>







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# Systematic Review Summary Findings

Domain	N	
Assets	107	
Agency	87	
Contribution	54	
Enabling Environment	93	

And all but one study included soft skills components.

Source: Systematic Review on Positive Youth Developing in LMICs, <http://www.youthpower.org/systematic-review-pyd-lmics>



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# Many PYD Constructs Are Connected to and Based on Soft Skills

*Domain>Feature>Construct*

## Domain: Assets

### Feature: Skill Building

Training

Formal education

Interpersonal skills (social and communication skills)

Higher order thinking skills

Recognizing emotions

Self control

Academic achievement

## Domain: Agency

### Feature: Skill Building

Positive identity

Self efficacy

Ability to plan ahead/goal-setting

Perseverance (diligence)

Positive beliefs about the future

## Domain: Enabling Environment

### Feature: Healthy Relationships and Bonding

Bonding

Opportunities and pro-social involvement

### Feature: Belonging and Membership

Support

### Feature: Norms, expectations and perceptions

Prosocial norms

Value and recognition

Source: Positive Youth Development Measurement Toolkit, <http://www.youthpower.org/positive-youth-development-toolkit>



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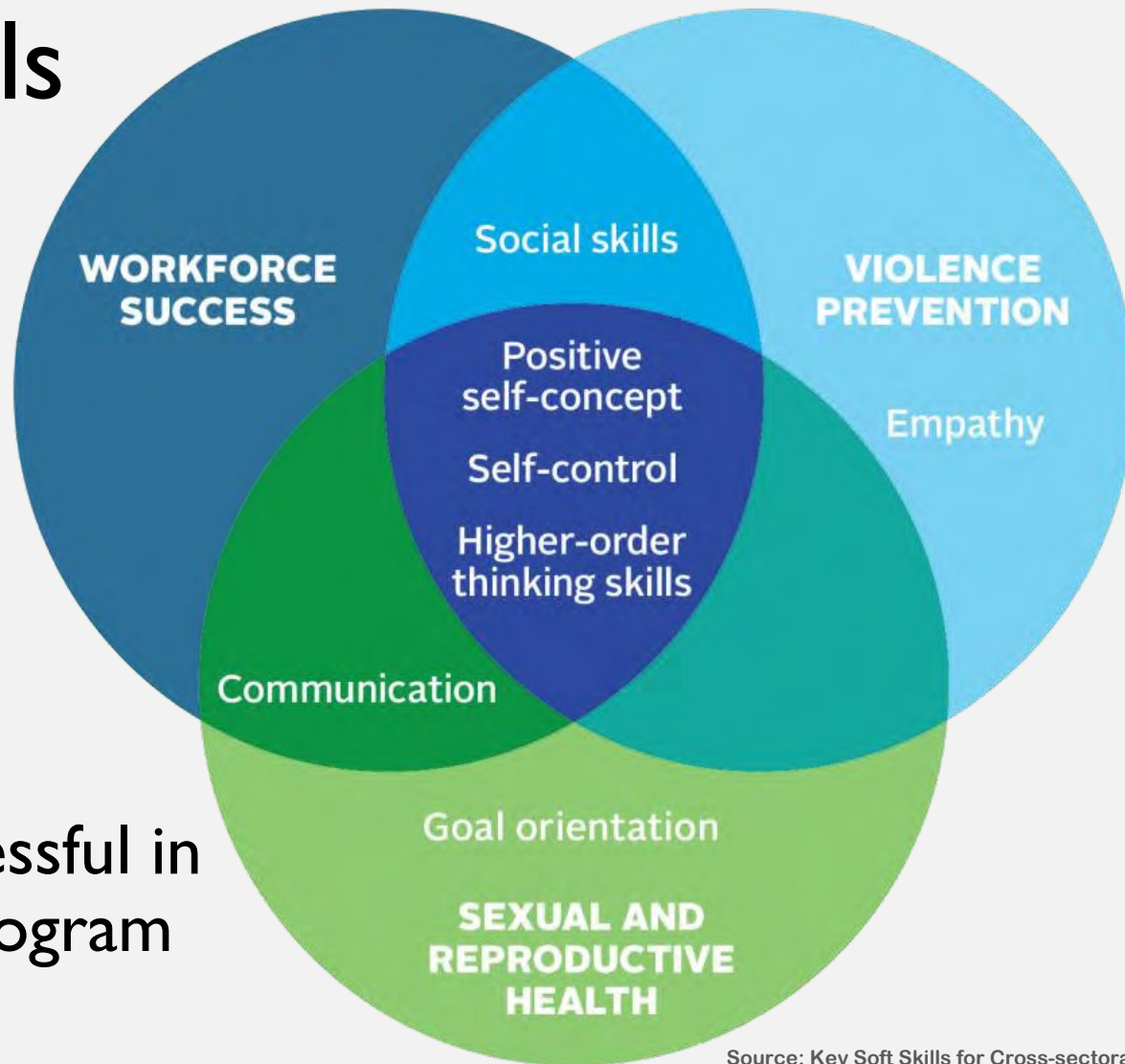


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# Key Soft Skills



What is most successful in different sectors/program areas?

Source: Key Soft Skills for Cross-sectoral Youth Outcomes, YouthPower Action 2016.



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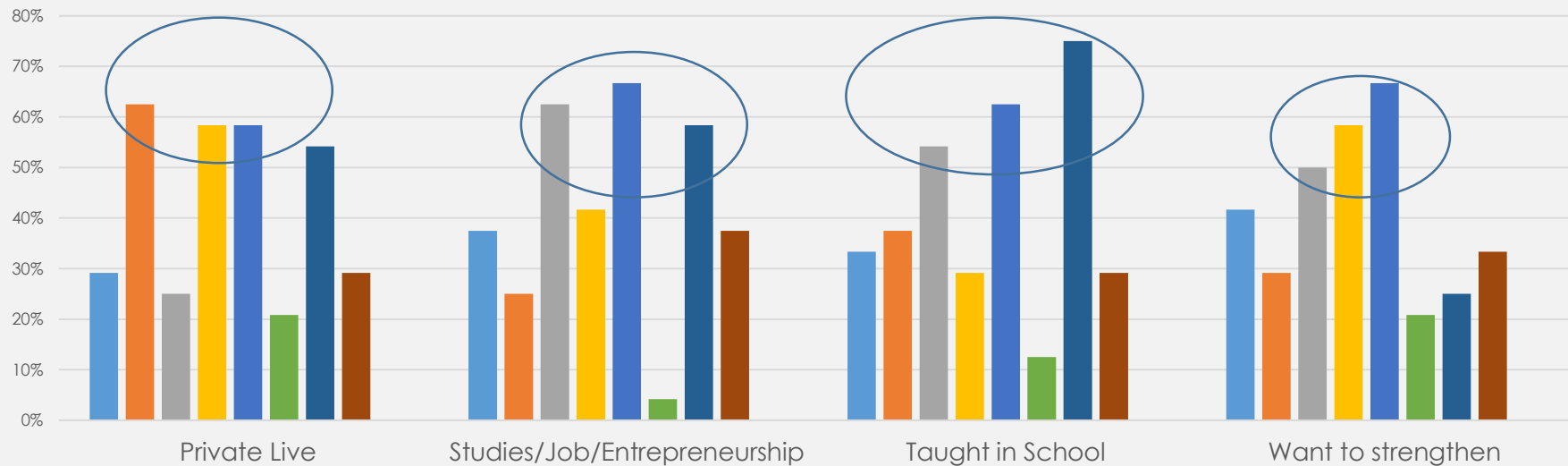
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# Youth select different skills as important for different environments

% of total responses

“Select the three most important skills ...”



- Self-control / Autocontrol
- Positive self-concept / Autoestima positive
- Higher order thinking skills / Habilidades de pensamiento de nivel superior
- Social skills / Habilidades sociales
- Communication / Aptitudes de comunicación
- Empathy / Empatía
- Responsibility / Responsabilidad
- Positive attitude / Actitud positiva
- Other (please specify) / Otra

Source: YouthLead Survey, 2019; n=27



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# Scaling soft skills teaching and training for sustainability

- Many projects are small in scale
- Scaling up and embedding soft skills in a national curriculum is challenging
- Successful example: IYF's Passport to Success



# Measuring soft skills

- Measurement tools may be used for different purposes
- Different types of measuring, e.g., self-reports, observations by others
- Tools often not adapted to local context
- Successful example: Life skills measurement at Girl's Education Program, Room to Read
- Measuring self-efficacy and empowerment – comparing boys and girls based on longitudinal data

## Useful resources:

- [Measuring Soft & Life Skills in International Youth Development Programs: A Review and Inventory of Tools](#)
- [Soft Skills for PYD](#)



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