

A COMPILATION OF DISTRICT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

STRENGTHENING NEHRU YUVA
KENDRA SANGATHAN AND
NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME
IS A JOINT PROJECT OF

Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
United Nations Volunteers
United Nations Development Programme





Photos courtesy of UNDP India and UNV India

ACRONYMS

CSO	Civil Society Organizations
CDO	Community Development Organisations
DRDA	District Rural Development Agency
FRA	Forest Rights Act, 2006
MoRD	Ministry of Rural Development
MoTA	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
MoWCD	Ministry for Women and Child Development
MoYAS	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
NDMA	National Disaster Management Agency
NRLM	National Rural Livelihood Mission
NSS	National Service Scheme
NULM	National Urban Livelihood Mission
NYKS	Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan
NYP	National Youth Policy, 2014
PESA	Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas Act, 1996
RSETI	Rural Self-Employment Training Institute
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
UNV-DYC	United Nations Volunteers- District Youth Coordinator

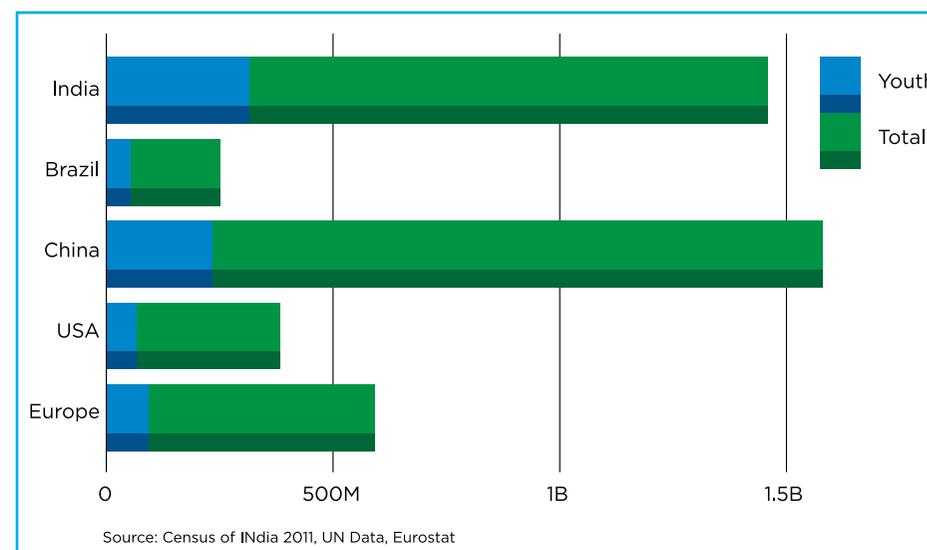
INTRODUCTION

The Oxford English Dictionary defines ‘youth’ as “the period between childhood and adult age.” While the word denotes both an age-group and the members of that group, it is also defined by the qualities of vigour, freshness, and energy associated with being young. As active citizens, youth are also agents of change in society. Their well-being is determined not only by the essential needs of health, education and employment, but also modes of participation, empowerment and the means to exercise their own volition.

Volunteering has historically been an important form of participation for young people. According to the first State of the World’s Volunteerism Report 2011, “healthy societies need young people who are involved with their communities. Volunteer action can be a highly effective route towards such involvement.”¹

The Government of India’s National Youth Policy (NYP) 2014 sought to define the vision of the government of India for the youth of the country and “identify the key areas in which action is required, where not enough is being done, to enable youth development and to provide the framework for action for all stakeholders.”

PROPORTION OF YOUTH IN TOTAL POPULATION



¹ State of the World’s Volunteerism Report: Universal Values for Global Well-being, Pg 58, United Nations Volunteers: 2011

Youth in the age group of 15-29 years comprise 27.5% of the Indian population. At present, about 24% of India's Gross National Income (GNI) is contributed by the youth. The NYP 2014 recognized the huge potential of this class of the nation's citizenry and sought to increase their productivity and design a course of action empower the country's youth to be drivers of change for theirs and their communities' futures.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

With the overarching aim of taking forward the NYP 2014, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Volunteers (UNV) partnered to strengthen existing youth volunteering institutions in the country. The project 'Strengthening Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and National Service Scheme (NSS)' was launched in 2014 and aims to support and strengthen youth volunteering infrastructure in the country through the foundational schemes of NYKS and NSS, which together reach over 11 million youth in the country.

Under this project, 29 UN Volunteers were placed as United Nations Volunteer - District Youth Coordinators (UNV-DYC) in 29 different districts - one in each state, in December 2015. These UNV-DYCs are instrumental in revitalizing the youth volunteering infrastructure in their respective districts by studying social issues on the ground, meeting and organizing NYKS clubs and volunteering networks and developing a platform for interaction between the youth, government institutions and development bodies and experts.

A couple of months into their work as UNV- DYCs, they submitted detailed analysis reports describing the development scenario in their districts, the potential for intervention on key areas and an action plan for volunteering work and other youth engagement. This study is a compilation of the 29 district reports, analyzing the common challenges emerging from these regions and the specific interventions that can be made targeting the youth in each. At the outset, it must be noted that the youth, particularly in a country as linguistically, religiously and ethnically diverse as India, are not a homogenous group. Different segments of the youth have different needs and concerns, which need to be addressed.

The State of the World's Volunteerism Report 2015 by the UNV Programme defines volunteerism as "activities... undertaken of free will, for the general public good and where monetary reward is not the principal motivating factor." The history of UNV in India began in 1971 when the first Indians were deputed as international UN Volunteers.

Since then the UNV programme has worked consistently in the country, contributing to disaster relief efforts (in Orissa cyclone, Gujarat earthquake and 2004 Tsunami, to name a few), on HIV/AIDS awareness programmes and several initiatives on decentralized governance.

Nehru Yuva Kendras were established in the year 1972 with the objective of engaging rural youth in the process of nation building, to provide them with employment skills and give them the opportunities to develop their personality. In the year 1987-88, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) was set up as an autonomous organization under the Government of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, to oversee working of these kendras. The organization has a state office in each of the 29 states and a district office in each of the 623 districts across the country, overseeing a corps of nearly 12,000 volunteers and 2.73 lakh youth clubs.

National Service Scheme (NSS), also supported by the MoYAS, was launched in 1969 with the primary focus of engaging students in community service. Initially launched in only 37 universities around the country, today the NSS has more than 3.2 million volunteers on its roll spread over 298.

As the UN's report on the state of volunteering in the world pointed out, the ability of a country's volunteers to engage in and support development progress depends on the willingness of their government to ensure that the space and supportive environments which encourage their participation and initiatives are available. The process works best when governance is decentralized and grass-roots democratic institutions are strengthened, and when freedom of speech and association and an atmosphere of vigorous political debate are already in place.



NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY 2014

The National Youth Policy 2014 (NYP 2014) presents the Government of India's vision for the youth of the country for years to come. A framework for concerted polity engagement with this diverse and crucial segment of the population, it was conceptualized after several rounds of national and state-level consultations. As the NYP 2014 notes, India is on the cusp of a great demographic transition, with 27.5% of the population now aged between 15-29 years, and "India's ability to find its rightful place in the community of nations depends upon how well we as a nation can harness the latent power of the young people of our country."

The document identifies 11 priority areas for action, from education and health to sports, entrepreneurship and social inclusion. These areas were identified keeping in mind the core objectives of the Policy:

- Create a productive workforce for sustainable economic development
- Develop and strong and healthy youth population
- Instill social values and promote community service
- Facilitate participation and civic engagement in governance
- Support youth at risk and create equal opportunity for vulnerable groups

Although the United Nations defines 'youth' as those aged between 15-24 years and the previous National Youth Policy of 2003 defined the same as persons between 13-35 years, the NYP 2014 chose the age bracket between 15 and 29 years so as to better direct policy interventions suited to the demographic profile of the country.



In keeping with the overarching aim of taking forward the NYP, this project too uses the same definition of 'youth'. It also follows the government's lead in adopting skill development as a national priority. In listing out the various government schemes and programmes for skilling and promotion of entrepreneurship, the policy points out the crucial role of the NYKS and in spreading awareness about these programmes using their cross-country network.

Youth participation in local governance can bring the much-needed accountability in local governance. As noted in the NYP, the funds to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) in the current five-year plan has increased 10-fold over the previous plan, from Rs 636 crore to Rs 6,437 crore, further stressing the importance of social mobilization at the grassroots. The youth can be engaged as active citizens in monitoring the implementation of government schemes and pointing policy toward issues that directly concern them.

After detailed consultations with all stakeholders from the government, civil society and youth community, four action plans were developed to implement NYP 2014 in the following thematic areas:

- Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction
- Gender Justice and Equality
- Social Entrepreneurship
- Social Inclusion

OBJECTIVES

- Assess youth participation in the economy, local communities and overall development.
- Take stock of NYKS and NSS programmes in each district and identify potential areas for youth involvement.
- Recognize diversity of youth across and within the 29 districts, highlight their specific concerns within the four broad areas of Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction, Gender Justice and Equality, Social Entrepreneurship, and Social Inclusion.
- Suggest partnerships with other development institutions and targeted programmes suited to the youth of each district.

RATIONALE AND METHODOLOGY

It must be noted that the choice of the 29 districts where the UNVs would be placed was determined in consultation with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, and NYKS based on vacancies in the State, the availability of suitable personnel, their familiarity with their areas and access to information and state infrastructure, as it was by the following social factors being studied:

- Representation - Foremost, the intention was to include all 29 states in the country so as to get a cross-section of views and concerns from diverse linguistic/religious/ethnic groups. An attempt was also made to ensure that most UNV-DYCs were at present or at some point had been residents of their respective districts and could provide first-hand knowledge of local issues.
- Rural-urban divide - Most districts in the study are predominantly rural. Rural India has more acute challenges of under-development and access to healthcare, education and better livelihoods. The concerns of these districts could then be contrasted with those of urban districts like Ernakulam, Kolkata and Mangalore.
- Poverty - Perhaps the most important characteristic of the districts in the study is their high proportion of the poor, owing to a largely agricultural workforce and the lack of other employment opportunities. There are also reasons more specific to individual districts or regions-neglected tribal populations in Gumla or the North-East, remoteness of certain districts, or a history of conflict and insurgencies like in Anantpur and Tamenglong, etc.

Primary research was in the form of interviews with local administration, youth volunteers, youth development organizations, and other stakeholders; secondary research relied on district census handbooks and other official sources for data on demographic and development indicators.

COMMON TRENDS AND CHALLENGES IN THE DISTRICT REPORTS

The districts chosen for the project, though diverse in their socio-economic and cultural scenarios, present several common challenges for the development of youth infrastructure in the country. Deprivation and chronic

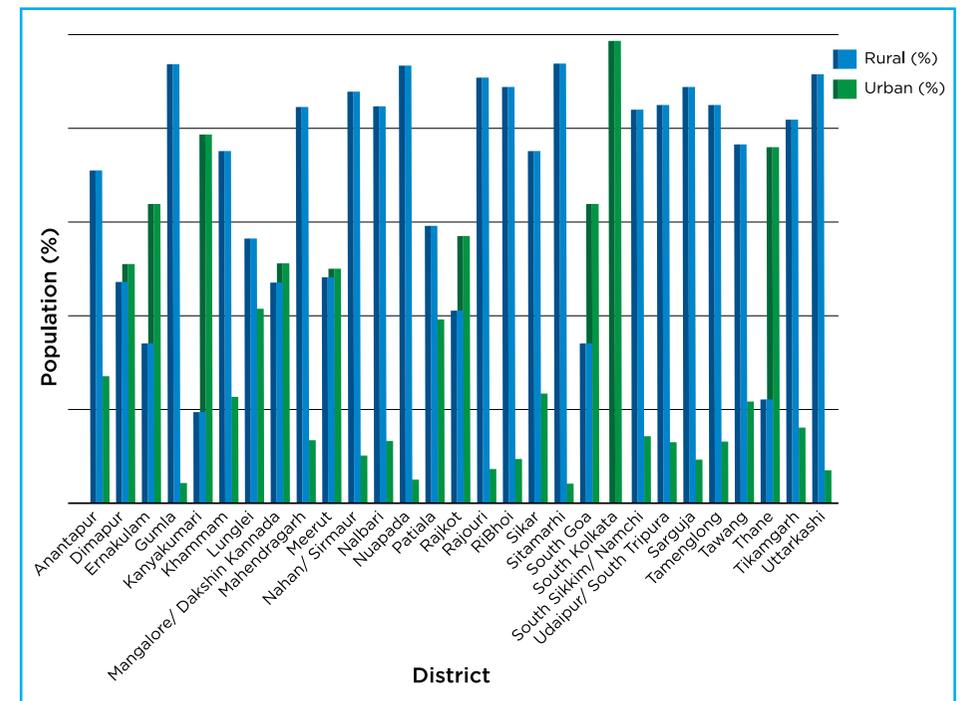
under-productivity, for example, could inhibit young people's inclination to contribute to society. On the other hand, the same conditions could also lead to undesirable popular movements - in the form of identity politics and social unrest - further undermining democratic institutions and the rule of law.

CHALLENGES

UNEMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR MIGRATION

As agriculture becomes unsustainable in many parts of the country, we've witnessed large scale migration to urban centres in the last two decades. The young and able make up the largest numbers in this group, driven by the prospect of better livelihoods and the excitement of life in the city. Migration, even if only seasonal, often cuts the young people's ties to their homes and communities and with that, their involvement in local development. A noticeable phenomenon in almost all districts in this study, the problem, though, is more acute in poorer ones like Sitamarhi, Meerut, Anantpur, Nalbari, Gumla and Surguja, all places on the country's migrant corridor.

DISTRICT RURAL-URBAN POPULATION



POVERTY

Related to the first point, poverty can be both a motivating factor for social action and a handicap when all of one's energy is spent to make ends meet. Tribal districts like Surguja and Gumla meet several deprivation criteria including kuccha housing, malnutrition and illiteracy². The same can't be said of prosperous districts like South Goa and Ernakulam or even Mahendragarh and Rajkot, which are underperformers in development indicators but where the youth enjoy more opportunity and mobility.

RURAL - URBAN DIVIDE

The majority of districts in the study are rural, but there are also several others that are highly urbanized, like Kanyakumari, Ernakulam and Kolkata. The focus of much developmental work in the Third World has been on bridging the gap in standards of living between the countryside and the city. Within most districts, the starkness of the divide is visible in differences in access to healthcare, like in Dakshina Kannada (Mangalore), or sanitation and drinking water, like in Dimapur (Dimapur town). Many rural youth are enamoured by the prospects offered by the city: better pay, more freedom, an escape from farm labour. On the other hand, cities overwhelmed by population explosions present many of the hazards of modern city life, especially for poor migrants, with informal housing, no access to basic civic amenities and even parochial attitudes, like in Thane and lately, even in Ernakulam.

DIVERSITY IN THE VOLUNTEER NETWORK

Several UNV-DYCs reported that only a few women participated in youth clubs and volunteer work in their districts. This, even in regions where the gender divide is much less stark, like in South India or the North East. Previous experiences of success in volunteer-led movements - whether it's women agitating against sexual violence, members of the LGBTQ community demanding equal rights or people with disabilities speaking out for access to public space - shows that diversity has had a transformative effect on social mobilisation.³ The absence of such diversity makes the activities of youth clubs unidimensional. A multiplicity of voices and modes of expression provides a composite picture of the cultural diversity of states and regions.

² Socio Economic and Caste Census 2011

³ State of the World's Volunteers Report 2015

STRENGTHS

Many districts have already existing systems, those both indigenous and founded by government policy, which can be useful tools to access the youth and motivate them into social action.

TRIBAL VILLAGE COUNCILS AND DECENTRALIZED PANCHAYAT GOVERNANCE

According to the customs and traditions of most of the north-eastern states in India, land is under the ownership of communities and controlled by the village council. The same practice exists among tribes in central India. The councils also hold tremendous sway in the inter-tribe relations and over customary practices. The youth from these communities, equipped with their knowledge and an awareness of their rights, can play an important role in sustainable development and conservation of their proud heritage. As a means to self-governance, the Panchayat Extension Scheduled Areas Act (PESA) 1996 and the Forest Rights Act 2006 accords powers over land, resources and forest produce to these councils.

A model for decentralized governance was presented by Kerala: in 1996, the state government decided to devolve 35% of its development budget down to local elected bodies at the village, block and district levels, as a part of the radical People's Plan Campaign. The move led to the creation of thousands of gram sabhas, several development seminars and the mobilization of over a lakh through task forces at the village level.

STATE SUPPORT

A push for youth development and participation cannot be successful without a supportive environment. The National Youth Policy is an important step in that direction. Every year, the Government of India (GoI) already spends Rs 37,000 crore nationally on schemes targeted specifically at youth education, health, skill development, etc. Separately, there are several non-targeted programmes that also benefit youth.⁴ A pro-active citizenry is necessary to monitor the implementation of these schemes; and central and state governments can push for greater transparency and accountability, while also doing more to empower panchayats to implement more such programmes.

⁴ National Youth Policy 2014, Pg 13

YOUTH AND VOLUNTEERISM

While volunteerism is universal, performed by a people of all ages and representing a multiplicity of skills and local knowledge, the focus of the “Strengthening Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan and National Service Scheme” project has been youth-led development, a concept that fuses the agency of an empowered youth citizenry with the development concerns of that demographic.

In North Eastern states, the youth have historically been at the frontlines of agitations demanding support from central government or recognition of cultural sovereignty, like during the Assam Movement of the late 1970s or in numerous uprisings in Meghalaya and Manipur today. Student unions are very powerful and vocal in these regions, like in the case of the All Assam Students Union or the Khasi Students Union, Meghalaya.

Volunteer led development projects launched by governments have had remarkable success. Take the importance of self-help groups for women in meeting the health concerns of mothers, the nutritional needs of their infants and economic independence of rural women across the country. The Kudumbashree movement in Kerala covers 50% of households in the state and has built a network of over 40 lakh women and some 35,000 microenterprises.⁵

The unique social and cultural dynamics of each region presents opportunities and challenges for youth participation. The UNV-DYCs encountered diverse interests among the youth in their districts when it came to volunteering: from disaster management training in Uttarkashi, (Uttarakhand) or Sitamarhi (Bihar), both prone to severe natural disasters like landslides and earthquakes, to de-addiction and rehabilitation programmes for drug users in Patiala and several states in the North-East.

Research shows that young people’s capacities develop when they volunteer; they become active agents of change and development in their communities.⁶ They widen the scope of their engagement with the world, have new experiences and make the changes that they need.

HISTORY OF VOLUNTEERISM IN THE DISTRICTS

The NSS and NYKS were launched in 1969 and 1972 respectively and individual district units were formed at various points in the 1980s and 90s, some as

⁵ “Kudumbashree: Kerala’s all-women Rs 2,262 crore savings group finances microenterprises of members,” *Economic Times*, 14 September 2014

⁶ State of the World’s Volunteerism Report 2011, United Nations Volunteers, 15-16

late as the mid-2000s. Although the UNV-DYCs started their journeys for this project only in December 2015, each district has had a unique history of volunteering, whether as a part of official groups or in smaller, but crucial, interventions.

Skill upgradation and training has been a major area for NYKS activities as it was felt that unemployment was an issue that the youth was deeply anxious about. The NYKS runs a Skill Upgradation Training Programme (SUTP) exclusively for women in 200 backward districts of the country. Each district has a minimum of 11 training centers which admit 30 women each for a duration of 6 months.⁷ Several districts have also conducted individual training sessions on youth leadership and community development.

Healthcare, particularly for the women’s and reproductive health, is often neglected by the local administration in rural and remote districts and has been addressed by the NYKS. For example, In the Bihar’s Sitamarhi district, the NYK has conducted HIV-AIDS awareness programmes with the support of the Bihar State AIDS Control Society in Patna. In Tikamgarh (Madhya Pradesh) volunteering efforts have focused on sanitation drives because 90% of the district population defecates in the open or lacks proper toilets in the home.⁸

Civil Society Organisations (CSO) and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) play an important role in filling the gaps in welfare delivery by using volunteer networks to reach the vulnerable. Gaon Unyan Sangha, a voluntary organisation in Nalbari (Assam) runs schools and a fisheries cooperative for the community and provides employment for widows. The role of these organisations isn’t limited to economic help alone. In Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh) several tribal youth clubs and Buddhist societies have tried to preserve traditional dances and other cultural forms, besides holding regular tree plantation drives and health and educational awareness campaigns.

Youth have historically been at the forefront of cultural movements, whether it’s the spirit of experimentation in art or the celebration of heritage. Across the 29 districts, youth clubs held several cultural festivals and conventions celebrating important days for national integration like Ambedkar Jayanti, Gandhi Jayanti, and International Women’s Day, as well as World Environment Day.

PARTNERSHIPS AND LINKAGES

Active cooperation and support to already existing infrastructure and programmes for the youth and development is one of the chief modes of channeling volunteering

⁷ Annual Report 2010-11, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, Pg 17

⁸ District Census Handbook 2011, Tikamgarh

activity into productive initiatives in the districts. Besides the NSS and the National Cadet Corps (NCC), which are official spaces for youth volunteerism, young people can reach out to other agencies to building partnerships and help link government policy with ground-level knowledge.

The Indian government spends about Rs.37,000 crores on schemes specifically targeted at the education, health and skill development of youth. Spending per capita is about Rs 1,100.⁹ The implementing agencies for these schemes are primarily the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS).

In predominantly rural districts, youth clubs can work with gram panchayats, who implement most government schemes or the District Rural Development department (DRDA), the nodal agency for planning and implementing schemes under the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) or even the NREGA, Indira Awas Yojana, Swachh Bharat Mission, etc. In several districts the UNV-DYCs have tied up with Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETI), managed by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), to develop skilling programmes, leading to placements in many cases. The Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati is developing employment programmes for North-Eastern states on a Cluster Development basis. In Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh), the NYKS is liaising with IIE to get sanction for one such cluster in the district from the MoYAS.

In several districts, like in Tawang, South Goa, and South Sikkim, NYKS has established linkages with the tourism departments, an industry that is a major source of employment for the youth.

The Ministry of Women and Child Welfare oversees several initiatives for the development of women, whether it's maternal health - the Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) and Reproductive and Child Health Programme - or education and skilling - Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls Sabla - and economic self-reliance - Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (The National Credit Fund for Women). Active state and district commissions for women are also extremely important in monitoring the safety, health and well-being of women.

In several districts where the tribal populations are high, like in the North East or Suguja (Chhattisgarh) and Nuapada (Odisha), the Department of Tribal Welfare

⁹ It spends an additional Rs.55,000 crores on non-targeted schemes designed for various demographic segments, including the youth. National Youth Policy 2014, Pg 13

oversees all programmes for the development of those communities and monitor any violations of their rights.

Past experiences in youth- and volunteer-led development have proved how volunteer programmes can be linked to policy frameworks on a sustainable basis.¹⁰ Youth volunteers can act as both independent observers of governance so as to hold elected officials accountable, thus strengthening democracy at the grass roots, and as repositories of local knowledge on the welfare needs of the community, which can be used by policymakers to fine-tune and improve the delivery of services.

UNDERSTANDING THE CORE THEMATIC AREAS

DISASTER AND ENVIRONMENT RISK MANAGEMENT

Across the globe, as climate change and unpredictable weather phenomena have become common occurrences, high risk populations, especially in poorer countries must seek out solutions to manage disasters and protect against further environment degradation. India has seen several major and minor natural disasters since the early 2000s (2001 Gujarat earthquake, 2004 Tsunami, 2005 Mumbai flood, 2013 Uttarakhand flood, 2014 Kashmir flood and 2015 Chennai flood, to name a few). Districts like Nalbari in Assam witness large scale destruction and loss of life due to flooding almost every year. While informal volunteering efforts have saved many lives and helped thousands of people in distress

in all these cases, an organised volunteering force is a valuable asset at such times. At the same time, youth participation in conservation and environment management efforts is essential in districts that don't see such dramatic phenomena but where natural resources like water and forests are at risk.

GENDER JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

While India's GDP has steadily grown and it has made impressive gains in female literacy and women's representation in higher political offices, female workforce participation has declined in several sectors and regions.¹¹ At the same time, the same obstacles of the past remain for millions of women, like with inheritance and divorce laws or the inability to make decisions on bodily and sexual autonomy. Early marriages have been reported in some districts, like Gumla, where security is a concern in the ongoing Naxal conflict. In remote

¹⁰ The State of the World's Volunteerism Report 2011, Pg 14-16

¹¹ Global Employment Trends 2013 report: ILO

villages in districts in the North East or Orissa, women have low access to antenatal care.

On the other hand, good practices and state government programmes need to be emulated. For example, Kudumbashree, the Kerala government’s micro credit and entrepreneurship scheme, launched in 1998, has been successful in wiping out absolute poverty and is one of the largest women-empowering projects in the country.

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Expert Committee on Innovation and Entrepreneurship, set up by the NITI Aayog in 2015, advocates for redirecting the focus of entrepreneurship on social change. Social entrepreneurship, as the committee defines it, is the recognition of a social problem and the use of entrepreneurial principles to manage a venture working toward social change. Most such ventures have been non-profits but this doesn’t always need to be so. The direction of business funding (through the Corporate Social Responsibility tax) into social enterprises, along with the support of social start-up incubators like UnLtd, Dasra and Khosla, can be used to harness local innovations and talent in solving problems. Several successes have been achieved on the government’s side, too. Between 2009 -10, 2.9 lakh people were trained under the Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises’ entrepreneurship development programmes. The Prime Minister’s Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) generated employment for an additional 2.67 lakh people and the Rajiv Gandhi Udyami Mitra Yojana assisted 4000 first generation entrepreneurs.¹²

SOCIAL INCLUSION

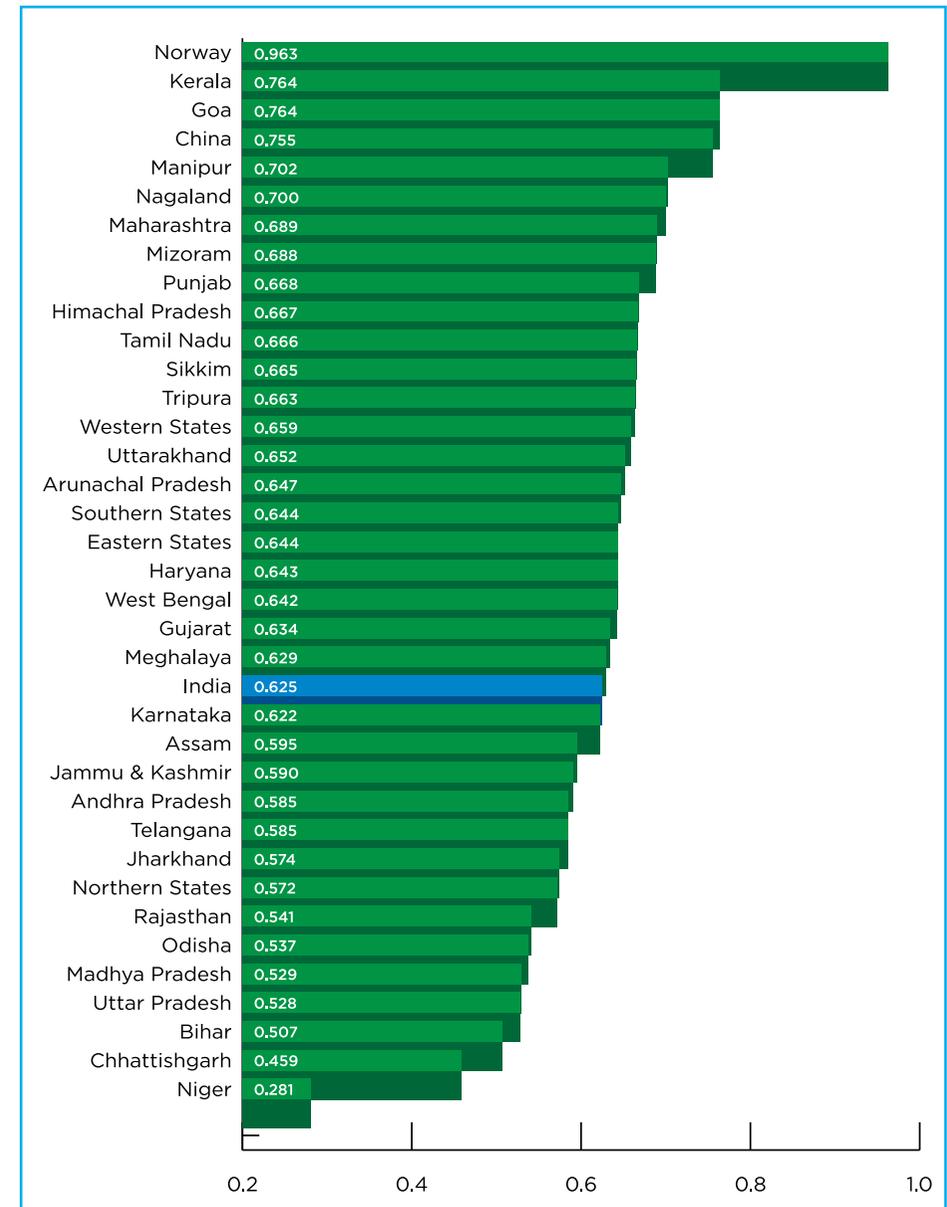
Deprivation has many markers, but most of them are economic. In over 90% of rural households in India, for example, the top earning family member makes less than Rs.10,000 per month. Another one: just over 3% of households have a family member who is a graduate.¹³ Exclusion, on the other hand, cannot as easily be measured. For many of the 29 districts, the multi-dimensional nature of social exclusion emerges in the study, whether in the form of caste discrimination (for Sitamarhi’s Dalits, for instance) or as suspicion and intimidation during times of conflict (like it is for the tribals of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Orissa) or the lack of access to public spaces and equal opportunity (for people with physical and mental disabilities). Any programmes to mobilize youth must be cognizant of these issues, while working with the agenda of including the most vulnerable groups in the country’s development discourse.¹⁴

12 MSME Results Framework Document: quoted in NYP 2014, Pg 38.

13 SECC 2011 data, quoted in “SECC not Irrelevant Just Yet,” The Hindu: 6 July, 2016.

14 The Human Development Index (HDI) is a summary measure of average achievement in key dimensions of human development

STATE HDI RANKINGS



- a long and healthy life, being knowledgeable and have a decent standard of living - assessed by life expectancy at birth; mean of years of schooling for adults aged 25 years and more and expected years of schooling for children of school entering age; and the gross national income per capita. These indices are then aggregated to arrive at a geometric mean.

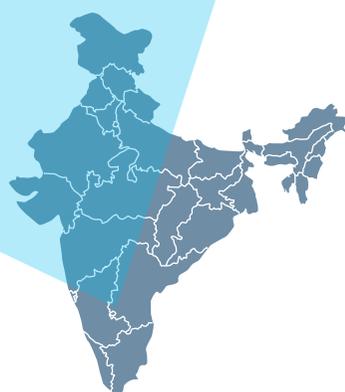
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ANANTAPUR/ ANDHRA PRADESH



STATISTICS¹⁵

District Population	40,81,148		
Youth Population (% of total)	11,38,096 (27.9%)		
% SC and ST Population	14%	4%	
HDI + (national average)	0.458 (0.609)		
Literacy Rate + (national)	63.5% (73%)		
Female Literacy + (national)	58% (65%)		
Female Workforce Participation + (national)	41% (32%)		
Sex Ratio + (national)	977 (940)		
Households using improved sanitation facility + (national)*	46.5% (57%)		
Primary schools with girls toilet	57.4%		
Incremental Workforce Demand & Supply Gap (2012-22)	Skilled	Semi-Skilled	Unskilled
	1,99,618	40,244	-3,73,999

* Sewer system, septic tank, pit latrine, ventilated improved pit/biogas latrine, pit latrine with slab, or twin pit/composting toilet not shared with other households.

¹⁵ Sources: Census 2011, UNDP Human Development Report 2015, District Human Development Reports, District Level Household and Facility Survey 4, National Family Health Survey 4, Sample Registration System Bulletin 2011-13, District Health Services data, District Information System for Education 2013-14.

DISTRICT PROFILE

Anantapur is the largest district in Andhra Pradesh, with a majority rural population (72%) and most workers engaged in agriculture (63%). Agriculture is largely rain-fed and with the primary sector accounting for the most employment, and consequently Anantapur's contribution to the state GDP is relatively low. But the tertiary sector has steadily grown since the early 2000s and now is the biggest contributor to the Gross District Domestic Product.

But, as the district skill gap figures show, the supply of unskilled workforce, especially in agriculture, is in excess of the demand since 2012 and will be so going forward to 2022. Large numbers of the youth population migrate to the cities as seasonal labour but the need for skilled workers in the district will be acute in the coming years.

AREAS FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION

ENVIRONMENT AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION: Anantapur district receives the second lowest rainfall across the country. With only 11% of the cropped area under irrigation, its farmers are highly susceptible to drought. The district administration can experiment with innovative ways of water conservation and ground water regeneration, with the participation of the youth. Already existing schemes like the NREGA can be tapped into to build rain-water harvesting infrastructure, ponds and wells.

GENDER JUSTICE AND EQUALITY: Although Anantapur has a better sex ratio than the national average, there needs to be an improvement in female literacy (58%) and workforce participation (41%). Most women workers are engaged as agricultural labourers. The focus of skilling has to be on this population segment. In recent years, distress migration from the district has also led to a several cases of sex trafficking and bonded labour in the brick kiln industry around urban areas - with women especially at risk. Youth intervention, in the form of awareness programmes, health camps and school enrollment drives can go a long way in addressing these.

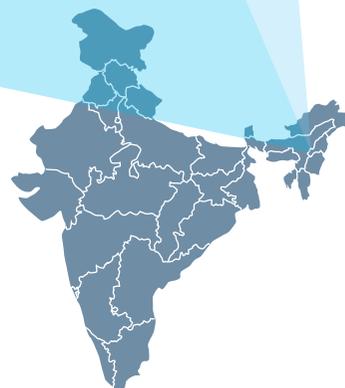
SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: Entrepreneurial activity in the district is still low because of low per capita incomes and lack of sufficient bank credit and the same is true for ventures like non-profits and social for-profits. There is a need for vibrant social entrepreneurship in areas like micro finance, solar power and self-employment training. The district Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI) is dedicated to impart training and skills for entrepreneurship but so far there hasn't been an association between it and the NYKS clubs.

SOCIAL INCLUSION: The UNV-DYC noted that the coverage of vulnerable groups in government schemes has been low. Trafficking cases are reported to be particularly high among the Sugalis, a semi-nomadic tribe in Anantapur district. Better outreach to the youth population among these vulnerable groups, their participation in training programmes and volunteering work is necessary to build a generation of motivated social mobilizers.

LOOKING AHEAD

There are 1070 NYKS clubs in the district. The need to develop skill upgradation programmes has been identified as the priority in the district. The UNV-DYC has initiated English language training and computer education - directed at the children of sex workers in Anantapur town. Local interventions for drought mitigation like digging wells and check dams have been underway in the district. The local NYKS is also collaborating with youth services at the district level and the Indian Red Cross to train youth in disaster situations: firefighting, first aid, water conservation, etc.

DIMAPUR/ NAGALAND



STATISTICS

District Population	378,811		
Youth Population (% of total)	125,134 (33%)		
% SC and ST Population	0%	59%	
HDI + (national average)	0.81 (0.609)		
Literacy Rate + (national)	85% (73%)		
Female Literacy + (national)	82% (65%)		
Female Workforce Participation + (national)	28.5% (32%)		
Sex Ratio + (national)	919 (940)		
Households using improved sanitation facility + (national)	97% (57%)		
Primary schools with girls toilet	100%		
State Incremental Workforce Demand & Supply Gap (2011-21)	Demand	Supply	Gap
	98,153	10,01,000	-9,03,000

DISTRICT PROFILE

Dimapur district, with the commercial hub of Dimapur town, is the most important and populous district in Nagaland. Nagaland's native population is almost entirely tribal, but the district is more heterogeneous with the majority comprising of Naga tribes from all over the state (59% tribal population.). Dimapur town is one of the fastest developing townships of the North East and is also a gateway to Nagaland and Manipur states.¹⁶

The district contains almost 50% of the state's industries, which are mostly dedicated to furniture, weaving apparel and fabricated metal products.¹⁷ District skill gap statistics are unavailable but the state's figures show that there will be great demand for skilled and semi-skilled workers, especially in the food processing, agro- and forest-based industries. Dimapur's sizeable youth population (33%) can be the catalytic force in improving infrastructure and inter-tribal relations in the area. Previous volunteering activity has been focused on the planting of trees, sanitation and cleanliness drives, blood donation camps, etc.

AREAS FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION

ENVIRONMENT AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT: Landslides and flooding are routine occurrences in the state, especially in the hilly regions. Large tracts of forest land are also being lost to hydro power projects on the rivers of the North-East. The youth can be important actors in bringing awareness about resource management through implementation of laws like the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act 1996 and the Forest Rights Act 2006. Tie-ups can also be initiated between state and district disaster management agencies and the NYKS and NSS at the time of natural disasters.

GENDER JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT: In Dimapur, only 22% of rural women and 30% of all women had institutional child deliveries. Several women also suffer from problems like anemia, low body weight and lack of awareness about reproductive health. Despite greater gender equality among tribal populations, workforce participation in the district is barely 30%.

¹⁶ Dimapur District Census Handbook 2011, Pg 9.

¹⁷ Nagaland Skill Gap Report 2012, Pg 36.

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: There are several NGOs working in the region but their work and the potential for social enterprises hasn't been studied yet. (The NSDC 'Skill Gap' report are an exception, but the study focuses on general economic activity rather than social entrepreneurs.) Most social work is conducted by Christian missions and charities; their work needs to be extended by members of the local population.

SOCIAL INCLUSION: In some remote areas, health services do not reach the people, because of which access to treatment for both major and minor ailments is very difficult. Opportunities for higher education and skilled employment are lacking in the North East, because of which many young people migrate to cities across India. Within the state, relations between the Nagas and minority tribes is often fraught and conflicts often erupt over scarce resources and government jobs (which account for almost 25% of salaries jobs in the district).¹⁸

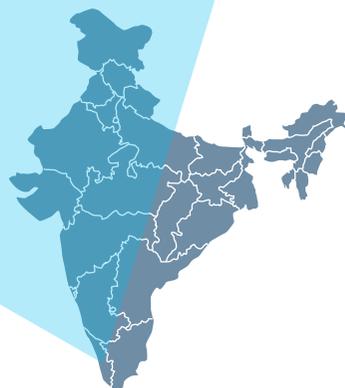
LOOKING AHEAD

The district has a total of 44 youth clubs. Skill upgradation programmes, especially for women between the ages 15-29 are underway, in vocations like basket and jewelry making, paper bag-making, weaving and other handicrafts.

Disaster risk management and preparedness training efforts have also been started, especially for NYKS and NSS trainers, in communication, first aid, etc. The UNV-DYC has also held meetings with tribal councils in villages - very important bodies in the region - to discuss how youth can be engaged in local issues and community development.

¹⁸ Socio Economic Caste Census 2011.

ERNAKULAM/ KERALA



STATISTICS

District Population	32,82,388		
Youth Population (% of total)	7,03,753 (21.5%)		
% SC and ST Population	8%	0.5%	
HDI + (national average)	0.801 (0.609)		
Literacy Rate + (national)	96 (73%)		
Female Literacy + (national)	94.5% (65%)		
Female Workforce Participation + (national)	20% (32%)		
Sex Ratio + (national)	1027 (940)		
Households using improved sanitation facility + (national)	97% (57%)		
Primary schools with girls toilet	97.5%		
Incremental Workforce Demand & Supply Gap (2012-22)	Skilled	Semi-skilled	Unskilled
	27,000	1,20,000	91,300

DISTRICT PROFILE

Ernakulam, home to the commercial hub of Cochin, was the first district in the Country to achieve 100% literacy. Both the state and district have had phenomenal successes in human development, particularly in education, health-care and living standards. Despite an educated and politically aware youth population, Kerala's challenges remain in access to specialized jobs and a diverse economy. (The state GDP is shored up, in large part by remittances from Gulf countries – 36% according to the Centre for Development Studies in Thiruvananthapuram.)¹⁹

According to one estimate, there were 2.4 million Keralites living and working abroad in 2014²⁰. An equal number work in other Indian states in skilled occupations. As the district skill gap analysis shows, Ernakulam has the unique advantage of demand exceeding supply in workforce requirements across manufacturing and service industries.

AREAS FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION

ENVIRONMENT AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT: With over 65% population already urbanized and the rest of the area in transition, the district will increasingly have a heavy burden on its natural resources, especially water. Pollution is a major concern in Cochin city.

GENDER JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT: Despite major gains in women's literacy, sex ratio and women's health, female workforce participation remains low, as does women's engagement in politics. Kerala's women are poorly represented in the Lok Sabha and in the state legislature. Only 2% of the NSS volunteers are girls.

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: The concept isn't easily digested by the local population, especially as most young people are geared towards conventional careers. Government efforts like the Kudumbashree scheme for women have been great successes and must be emulated and expanded in other states.

SOCIAL INCLUSION: Ernakulam has a high share of urban population (68%) and successive governments have spent heavily on welfare schemes, because of which most sections of the population have uniform access to basic services. But, some cases of class and caste backwardness remain. The under 1% ST population (concentrated in Kutampuzha village) tends to be excluded from government schemes and development.

LOOKING AHEAD

The district's 1208 NYKS clubs can be harnessed to tap into youth potential. The UNV-DYC has pushed the NYKS to work on extending open defecation free status to tribal populations. The NYKS has helped 100 tribal families to construct toilets. On the environment management front, efforts are on for the rejuvenation of natural ponds.

¹⁹ "Like Manna from Heaven," The Economist, 5 September 2015

²⁰ Kerala Migration Survey 2014, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram

GUMLA/ JHARKHAND



STATISTICS

District Population	10,25,656		
Youth Population (% of total)	2,53,140 (25%)		
% SC and ST Population	3%	69%	
HDI + (national average)	0.376 (0.609)		
Literacy Rate + (national)	66% (73%)		
Female Literacy + (national)	56% (65%)		
Female Workforce Participation + (national)	43.60 (32%)		
Sex Ratio + (national)	993 (940)		
Households using improved sanitation facility + (national)	9.5% (57%)		
Primary schools with girls toilet	92%		
Incremental Workforce Demand & Supply Gap (2012-22)	Skilled	Semi-skilled	Unskilled
	-1,482	7,665	-97,583

DISTRICT PROFILE

Gumla, a tribal-dominated district in Jharkhand, has a majority rural population (95%). The district's location in the Naxal affected 'red corridor' of central India presents unique problems to its population-most of them tribal who are often caught in the cross-fire between the government and the insurgents in a never-ending war. Only 10% of households use toilets or latrines.

Despite severe hardships, Gumla's tribal society does accord higher status to women, with sex ratios and female workforce participation much higher than the national average. The primary sector is the biggest contributor to the district economy (42%), chiefly agriculture, forestry and mining. The manufacturing industry is mostly mineral-based. The district skill gap analysis estimates that growth opportunities are limited to metal industries, construction and some handicrafts, with demand chiefly for semi-skilled labour.

AREAS FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION

ENVIRONMENT AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT: Central India, home to India's tropical forests and ancient tribes, has seen the forest cover rapidly depleting over the years due to a burgeoning mining activities and unplanned industrialization. The local administration and volunteer force must involve the local tribal in conservation efforts, building on indigenous practices like protecting sacred groves and ponds, sustainable agriculture, etc.

GENDER JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT: Low literacy levels for women (only 56%) remains a cause for concern. Women are particularly at risk in the tense security situation. Many girls over 15 years do not live in the villages but move in with relatives or to hostels in Gumla town. Early marriage is also a problem. Only 7% of Jharkhand's tribal women go to hospitals or PHCs for child deliveries. Only 25% of women ever discussed family planning issues with their family or health experts.²¹

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: An ecosystem for entrepreneurship hasn't developed in the district due to low per capita incomes and educational attainment. The UNV-DYC reported that Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme is almost defunct in Gumla.

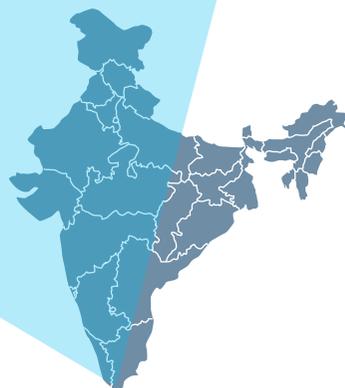
SOCIAL INCLUSION: Caught in the middle of the ongoing insurgency, tribals tend to be isolated and targeted by both Naxals and security forces. Development efforts in the form of schools, hospitals and employment opportunities are sorely missing in the district. Youth outreach, through folk festivals and awareness drives, can bridge the gap in communication.

LOOKING AHEAD

There are 637 youth clubs in district. The focus is to upgrade the skills of youth and assist the implementation of government schemes in the district.

²¹ District Level Household Survey 2007-08, Jharkhand.

KANYAKUMARI/ TAMIL NADU



STATISTICS

District Population	18,70,374		
Youth Population (% of total)	4,69,232 (25%)		
% SC and ST Population	4%	0.4%	
HDI + (national average)	0.711 (0.609)		
Literacy Rate + (national)	92% (73%)		
Female Literacy + (national)	89% (65%)		
Female Workforce Participation + (national)	16.5% (32%)		
Sex Ratio + (national)	1019 (940)		
Households using improved sanitation facility + (national)	86% (57%)		
Primary schools with girls toilet	100%		
Incremental Workforce Demand & Supply Gap (2012-22)	Skilled	Semi-skilled	Unskilled
	1,47,000	1,49,000	2,25,000

DISTRICT PROFILE

Kanyakumari, the southernmost district in the country, is one of Tamil Nadu's most developed districts in terms of human development indicators. One of the few Indian districts with almost 50% Christian population, Kanyakumari has a highly urbanized (80%) and literate population (92%), though per capita educational infrastructure is lower than in other parts of the state.

The district is also among 6 that contribute 60% of the state's fish production though most of it is on a small scale and contributes only 1% to the GDDP (Agriculture, too, is just 6% of GDDP.). Transport and logistics is the biggest contributor (40%), followed by manufacturing and services.

AREAS FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION

ENVIRONMENT AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT: The district was badly affected by the 2004 Tsunami and it still is susceptible to tidal waves and cyclones, which regularly hit the eastern Indian coastline. Disaster preparedness is very important, with greater coordination between the populace and NDMA and coast guard. Volunteering efforts during cyclone and flood relief can also be a valuable intervention.

GENDER JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT: Female workforce participation in the district (16.5%) is the lowest in the state despite high rates of female literacy and sex ratio. More work needs to be done on skilling women and ensuring higher rates of enrolment in colleges and vocational training institutes.

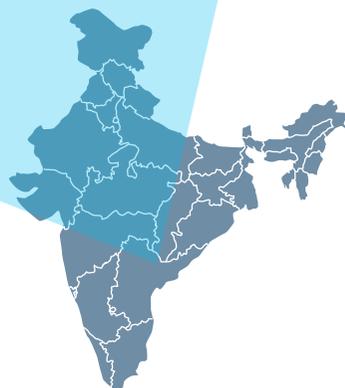
SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: Several NGOs and charities operate in the district working with vulnerable groups and women, to form self-employment ventures, SHGs and supplement incomes for the poor. There is scope for more work in this area, especially if taken up by the local population.

SOCIAL INCLUSION: The Church's missionary work has helped raise literacy levels in the state and district. Many lower castes Hindus converted to Christianity generations ago driven by oppressive upper caste practices but issues of exclusion and deprivation remain. Many fishing villages are isolated and don't receive government welfare.

LOOKING AHEAD

A sizeable youth infrastructure exists on the ground with 150 youth clubs. The UNV-DYC is working on building connections between youth organisations and state actors like NDMA, DRDA and Fisheries Department.

KHAMMAM/ TELANGANA



STATISTICS

District Population	27,98,214		
Youth Population (% of total)	8,25,050 (29.5%)		
% SC and ST Population	16.5%	27.5%	
HDI + (national average)	0.559 (0.609)		
Literacy Rate + (national)	65% (73%)		
Female Literacy + (national)	57.5% (65%)		
Female Workforce Participation + (national)	43% (32%)		
Sex Ratio + (national)	1010 (940)		
Households using improved sanitation facility + (national)	47% (57%)		
Primary schools with girls toilet	78%		
Incremental Workforce Demand & Supply Gap (2012-22)	Skilled	Semi-skilled	Unskilled
	2,32,317	29,078	-3,08,935

DISTRICT PROFILE

Khammam, with a high rural population of 76.5% and among the districts with the highest proportion of tribal population in the state (28%), is largely agrarian district. Nearly three-quarters of its workers are engaged in agriculture, though productivity is low – only about 5 % of sown area is irrigated by canals, the rest mostly through wells or rain-fed.²²

Part of India's 'Red Corridor', Khammam has a history of Maoist violence. Vast disparities still exist between rural and urban education levels (only 31% of rural youth have secondary or higher levels of education) and access to healthcare. These need to be addressed if the district is going to be able to make up the skill deficit in the labour market, as its skill gap analysis shows.

AREAS FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION

ENVIRONMENT AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT: In districts such as Khammam, which are not highly susceptible to natural disasters, the focus needs to shift to conservation and environment protection. The exploitation of vast mineral resources under the earth in Khammam and other districts threatens the fragile forest ecosystems. (Forested area is already down to 25%.) The Forest Department's Haritha Haram programme to increase forest cover could be an area for youth participation.

GENDER JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT: Despite a high sex ratio and female workforce participation, many areas of gender empowerment remain to be addressed: higher education, skilling, health and family planning coverage, etc. Youth can participate in monitoring and aiding on-ground schemes like the Integrated Child Development Services, Supplementary Nutrition Programme, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Kasturba Gandhi Baalika Vidyalaya, etc.

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: An as yet unexplored area, there is tremendous scope in the district for entrepreneurship if there is access to seed funding and rural credit mechanisms.

SOCIAL INCLUSION: Isolated from government welfare measures, the tribal populations and land and habitats are, however, increasingly sought after by the mining industry. Youth can participate in implementing laws empowering tribals and monitor local democratic institutions. Under Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas Act (PESA), 78 mandals with scheduled areas are spread over 4 Districts, including Khammam. 690 gram panchayats have been identified and 1,594 villages have been declared for the purpose of gram sabhas.²³

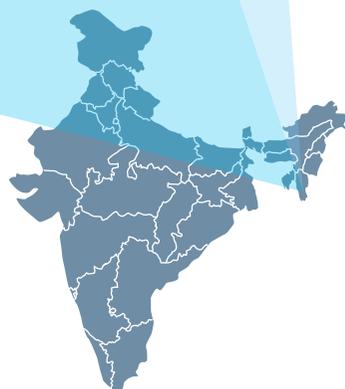
LOOKING AHEAD

There are 815 youth clubs affiliated to NYK Khammam. The UNV-DYC is taking forward NYKS's partnership with the District Youth Services to implement the government's 'Yuva Chetna' programme.

²² Reinventing Telangana: Socio Economic Outlook 2014, Pg 40.

²³ Reinventing Telangana: Socio Economic Outlook, Pg 94

LUNGLEI/ MIZORAM



STATISTICS

District Population	1,61,428		
Youth Population (% of total)	8,25,050 (29.5%)		
% SC and ST Population	0.1%	95%	
HDI + (national average)	0.692 (0.609)		
Literacy Rate + (national)	89% (73%)		
Female Literacy + (national)	85.5% (65%)		
Female Workforce Participation + (national)	41% (32%)		
Sex Ratio + (national)	947 (940)		
Households using improved sanitation facility + (national)	62% (57%)		
Primary schools with girls toilet	99%		
Incremental Workforce Demand & Supply Gap (2012-22)	Skilled	Semi-skilled	Unskilled
	-16,532	-2,40,013	-1,188

DISTRICT PROFILE

Located in South Mizoram, Lunglei is second most populous district and one of the two oldest administrative units in the state- the other being Aizawl. Almost 80% of the majority Mizo tribal population is Christian. Due to early missionary work, literacy levels are high for both men and women.

Seventy-two percent of the Lunglei population lives on incomes below the poverty line.²⁴ Despite relatively high HDI and living standards, rural Lunglei households still remain without toilets (73%) and in-door drinking water facilities (96%).

AREAS FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION

ENVIRONMENT AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT: Landslides and flooding are routine occurrences in the area, more so in the hilly regions. Large tracts of forest land are also being lost to hydro power projects on the rivers of the North-East. The youth can be important actors in bringing awareness about resource management and customary rights of tribal communities.

GENDER JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT: Literacy and workforce participation rates are higher than the national average but in traditional Mizo society, women lack the power to make decisions. One example of the inequality is in matters of inheritance: according to the customary law, women are not entitled to inherit family property. If there is no son in the family, the property goes to the nephew of the father. The Mizo Divorce Ordinance that was attempted to be passed into law several times since 2008 was finally made an Act in 2014, giving women some hope.

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: An as yet unexplored area, there is, however, a lot of potential to promote self-employment and local business, especially in handicrafts and agro- and forestry-based enterprises.

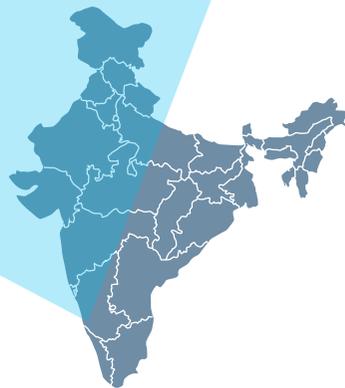
SOCIAL INCLUSION: Youth activities should strive to include vulnerable groups like disabled youth, migrants, etc. and also conduct special training sessions for members of these groups. Celebration of national days and diverse festivals can also help integrate various communities.

LOOKING AHEAD

The UNV-DYC has used the network of 123 youth clubs in the district to launch activities like the celebration of World Environment Day, sports events, youth parliaments and skill development training.

²⁴ Tendukar Committee 2004-05 poverty estimates, in Mizoram Human Development Report 2013, Pg 63

MANGALORE/ DAKSHINA KANNADA - KARNATAKA



STATISTICS

District Population	20,89,649		
Youth Population (% of total)	5,94,167 (28.4%)		
% SC and ST Population	7.1%	3.9%	
HDI + (national average)	0.687 (0.609)		
Literacy Rate + (national)	88.5% (73%)		
Female Literacy + (national)	84% (65%)		
Female Workforce Participation + (national)	36% (32%)		
Sex Ratio + (national)	1020 (940)		
Households using improved sanitation facility + (national)	92.5% (57%)		
Primary schools with girls toilet	100%		
Incremental Workforce Demand & Supply Gap (2012-22)	Skilled	Semi-skilled	Unskilled
	26,218	-41,264	-1,15,119

DISTRICT PROFILE

Dakshin Kannada, whose headquarters is the city of Mangalore, is a highly developed district, that leads the state in literacy, sex ration and other indicators. Though 48% of district population is urban, over 90% of them are in the Mangalore taluk. Despite the higher development indicators for education and living standards, the district has a lower index value in health. Urban centres have easily accessible private health care facilities and tertiary public health facilities, but these remain out of reach for rural areas, who can only access primary and community health centres (PHC and CHC).

The district's skill-gap report suggests that manpower will be required both in the short term and medium term in building and construction; but more so in the service sector, particularly transportation, logistics and warehousing, organised retail, and tourism and hospitality. The problems of the manufacturing industry are multi-faceted: on one hand, despite there being 30 industrial training institutes (ITI) in the district, their graduates don't acquire the requisite skills for more specialized jobs. The report also notes the shift towards the service sector and the migration of skilled labour to other states like Maharashtra or abroad to the Middle East.

AREAS FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION

ENVIRONMENT AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT: Dakshin Kannada is blessed with several rivers like the Phalguni, Nethravathi, Kumaradhara, Nandini and Shambhavi, as well as rich biodiversity due to its location on the Western Ghats. These are in danger as urbanization and large industrial projects threaten natural ecosystems and people's access to clean water and other resources. The focus of environment management efforts must be on protecting and conserving these. Youth interventions through awareness drives and activism can be powerful way to direct policy towards sustainable development.

Gender Justice and Equality: With a high female literacy rate and sex ration, Dakshin Kannada ranks above most districts in this study in performing against persistent gender bias. But inequality remains a concern in many ways: female workforce participation, like in a lot of urban centres, remains very low. (Only 36% are main or marginal workers according to the last Census.)

Apart from improvements in reproductive health and higher education, and enhancing their participation in the community and politics, the district also needs women's self-employment ventures and entrepreneurial support.

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: The district provides very fertile ground for social entrepreneurs, with its rapidly urbanizing population and access to capital. New ventures in women's self-employment and training can go a long way in bettering female workforce participation. Some of the well-known NGO's include Sri Kshetra Dharmasthala Rural Development Project (SKDRDP), Navodaya Grama Vikas Charitable Trust, Nagarika Seva Trust, Bhoomi Foundation, Ramakrishna Seva Samaj, Seva Bharati and Child Aid and Research Trust.²⁵

SOCIAL INCLUSION: As the district development report notes, Dakshina Kannada has made great progress in implementing Central and State social programmes to ensure that the SCs and STs are not lagging behind in school education, housing and access to drinking water, electricity and sanitation. "They, however, still lag in higher education, access to healthcare, high-end job market, access to productive assets and credit and standard of living."²⁶ The district has a high Muslim population (22%) and the district has a history of friction between them and the majority Hindu community. Muslims also remain ghettoized and socially isolated in urban centres, where access to higher education and jobs is difficult, especially for women. The youth's involvement in fostering communal harmony, especially at times of tension, through common programmes and encouraging participation in clubs and volunteer activities.

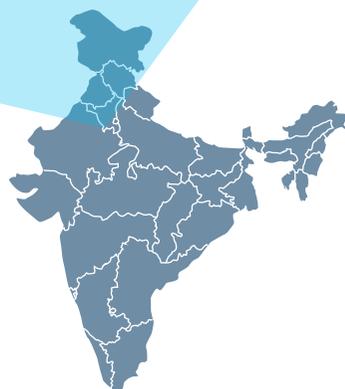
LOOKING AHEAD

Programmes for youth volunteerism can be taken forward with the help of the developed infrastructure in the district: 762 clubs in Mangalore alone, and several colleges and institutes for higher education. Training sessions are now on to build a youth corp and the district coordinator is also conducting theme-based awareness drives in women and child health and social media, among others.

²⁵ Dakshina Kannada District Human Development Report 2014, Pg 291.

²⁶ Ibid. Pg 10.

MAHENDRAGARH/ HARYANA



STATISTICS

District Population	9,21,680		
Youth Population (% of total)	2,69,497 (29%)		
% SC and ST Population	17%	0%	
HDI + (national average)	0.552 (0.609)		
Literacy Rate + (national)	78% (73%)		
Female Literacy + (national)	64.5% (65%)		
Female Workforce Participation + (national)	24% (32%)		
Sex Ratio + (national)	895 (940)		
Households using improved sanitation facility + (national)	44% (57%)		
Primary schools with girls toilet	100%		
Incremental Workforce Demand & Supply Gap (2012-22)	Skilled	Semi-skilled	Unskilled
	-20,601	11,764	16,076

DISTRICT PROFILE

Mahendragarh, a part of the state's Gurgaon Division, along with the districts of Rewari, Gurgaon, Mewat, Faridabad and Palwal, is a predominantly rural district (85.5% rural population) with almost 70% of the people employed in agriculture and allied activities. The district has a high youth population despite the steady migration to Delhi, Gurgaon and other nearby cities.

A semi-arid region, much like Rajasthan that neighbours it, Mahendragarh's hardy agrarian workforce is dominated by males. The rapid development of Haryana's districts bordering the National Capitol Region has led to the launch of a number of public and private universities, providing opportunities of Mahendragarh's youth.

AREAS FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION

ENVIRONMENT AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT: Drought conditions, which routinely strike this region, is a major threat to Mahendragarh's majority agrarian population, especially because its reverse slope topography makes canal irrigation difficult. Volunteering activity can focus on awareness generation, water conservation and other drought mitigation measures.

GENDER JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT: Haryana has made significant progress in raising female literacy levels from 10 % in 1971 to an impressive 64% in 2011. But it still remains below the national average. More alarmingly Mahendragarh's sex ratio has declined from 918 females per 1000 males to 894 in the same period. Haryana's worrying gender indicators, widely covered in the national media as a case of "missing girls" has even led to a Prime Minister-led initiative, the "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" campaign.

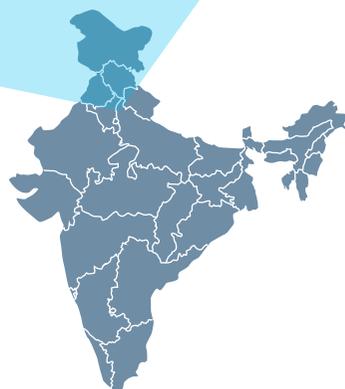
SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: According to the district skill gap report, the youth in Mahendragarh exhibited a higher preference towards employment as compared to entrepreneurship owing to poor financial capacity, and other socio-cultural factors. Youth aspirations are oriented towards government jobs because of the low penetration of industries. Mahendragarh is one of only two districts in Haryana that come under the Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme.

SOCIAL INCLUSION: Although Haryana and Mahendragarh have a higher proportion of land-owning cultivators to labourers (pointing to more equitable land distribution), scheduled castes tend to be lag behind in education and employment opportunities. Skill development programmes targeting backward castes and women, specifically, are needed in the district.

LOOKING AHEAD

Mahendragarh has 374 youth clubs affiliated to NYKS. Partnerships are planned with district departments for Health and Family Welfare, Social Welfare and Disaster Management for youth programmes and training.

MEERUT/ UTTAR PRADESH



STATISTICS

District Population	34,43,689		
Youth Population (% of total)	10,33,683 (30%)		
% SC and ST population	18.12%	0.10%	
HDI + (national average)	0.36 (0.609)		
Literacy Rate + (national)	73% (73%)		
Female Literacy + (national)	64% (65%)		
Female Workforce Participation + (national)	12% (32%)		
Sex Ratio + (national)	882 (940)		
Households using improved sanitation facility + (national)	67% (57%)		
Primary schools with girls toilet	100%		
State Incremental Workforce Demand & Supply Gap (2012-22)	Skilled	Semi-skilled	Unskilled
	20,88,763	-34,28,585	-17,51,814

DISTRICT PROFILE

Meerut lies 70 km northeast of the national capital, New Delhi, and lies in the sugarcane growing and more prosperous western Uttar Pradesh. The district has a high urban (51%) and youth (30%) population, the latter because Meerut city is a hub for colleges and educational institutes.

Also a manufacturing hub, known for sports goods, and textile industry, Meerut is seeing high growth in the construction industry. Despite the industrial and manufacturing boom, Meerut is among the districts with the lowest female workforce participation in the country (12%). This, mixed with a low HDI, especially in health and living standards, are areas that need to be addressed.

AREAS FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION

ENVIRONMENT AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT: The district meets most of its water needs with the help of tubewells and little from the canals and tributaries of the Ganga. The increasing demand for agricultural and domestic use has led to a fall in the levels of the water table. Due to rapid urbanization, the district also faces sewage and pollution problems, particularly in Meerut city. Youth can get involved in water conservation, sanitation and environment protection efforts in conjunction with the local administration. The government's Clean Ganga Mission is one major such project.

GENDER JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT: Gender issues remain a major concern in Meerut and other Uttar Pradesh districts. Coupled with cultural factors that disadvantage the girl child, the rapid changes in the rural economy have also led to a fall in female workforce participation. Similarly, girls' participation in volunteering and social mobilization is also low. With the spread of education and social media, these barriers can be broken by the youth.

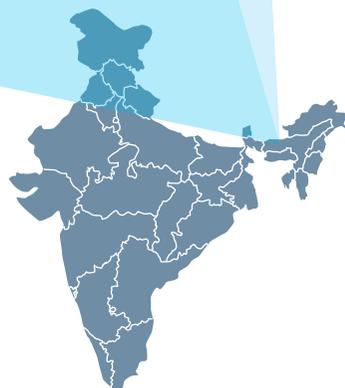
SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: An as yet unexplored aspect of the area's development, NGOs and social entrepreneurs can play a crucial role in creating awareness and facilitating delivery of state benefits, especially in sanitation, women's self-employment and microfinance.

SOCIAL INCLUSION: Historically, UP society has seen deep divisions of caste and religion. Political power arrived for certain groups, but in Meerut as in the rest of the state, the divisions remain in everyday life. Urbanisation has broken some of the rigid caste barriers and several state programmes exist for the welfare of disadvantaged communities.

LOOKING AHEAD

The district has a network of 332 youth clubs, whose members can be mobilised to launch activities in skill development, sports, awareness programmes for gender equity, and local art and cultural promotion.

NALBARI/ ASSAM



STATISTICS

District Population	7,71,639		
Youth Population (% of total)	2,20,266 (28.5%)		
% SC and ST Population	7.2%	3.3%	
HDI + (national average)	0.555 (0.609)		
Literacy Rate + (national)	79% (73%)		
Female Literacy + (national)	72.5% (65%)		
Female Workforce Participation + (national)	15% (32%)		
Sex Ratio + (national)	949 (940)		
Households using improved sanitation facility + (national)	40% (57%)		
Primary schools with girls toilet	81%		
State Incremental Work- force Demand & Supply Gap (2011-21)	Skilled	Semi-skilled	Unskilled
	-2,36,000	-58,79,000	-19,05,000

DISTRICT PROFILE

Located in the lower Brahmaputra valley and watered by the river's many tributaries, Nalbari is a fertile agrarian district (86% rural population) nearly 80 kms from the capital city of Guwahati. The district is famous for its cane-based handicrafts, especially Jhappi (traditional woven hat) making.

Nalbari has better penetration of government programmes and institutions due to its proximity to the capital but economic uncertainty and the state's history of sectarian clashes has resulted in underdevelopment and unprecedented levels of migration to other states.

AREAS FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION

Disaster Risk and Environment Management: The vagaries of the mighty Brahmaputra annually cause havoc for the farmers of Assam as the flooding river changes course and displaces lakhs of people. The district disaster management agency has a detailed flood plan, which youth can contribute by participating relief and rescue efforts and in developing a disaster warning system for timely updates to the local population.

GENDER JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT: Reportedly, human trafficking and violence against women is high in the state and district. Female literacy remains at least 10 percentage points below that of males and female workforce participation is among the lowest in the country (15%), possibly due to males migrating outward. Volunteering efforts need to include women so as to reach out the population on gender issues.

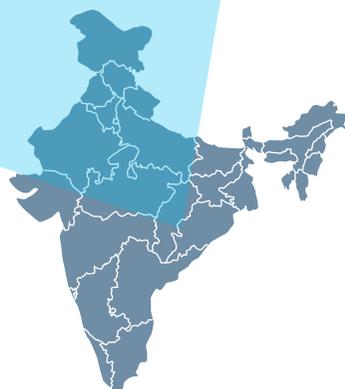
SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: The government has initiated efforts to market the region's rich tradition of handicrafts and handlooms. Social enterprises organising women weavers can bring women into the workforce and raise household incomes.

SOCIAL INCLUSION: Periodic ethnic conflict between the region's tribal and Muslim population over scarce resources and land reached fever pitch in the past few years. Sustained efforts by youth are necessary to promote harmony and heal frayed bonds in the community.

LOOKING AHEAD

Youth from a network of 863 youth clubs in the district have been tapped into for awareness programmes on education, health and the environment. The UNV-DYC is in the process of developing cluster development plans and entrepreneurial training for the handloom and handicraft trade.

NUAPADA/ ODISHA



STATISTICS

District Population	6,10,382		
Youth Population (% of total)	1,48,544 (24%)		
% SC and ST Population	13.5%	34%	
HDI + (national average)	0.581 (0.609)		
Literacy Rate + (national)	57% (73%)		
Female Literacy + (national)	45% (65%)		
Female Workforce Participation + (national)	44.5% (32%)		
Sex Ratio + (national)	1021 (940)		
Households using improved sanitation facility + (national)	11% (57%)		
Primary schools with girls toilet	29.5%		
State Incremental Workforce Demand & Supply Gap (2011-21) (%) ²	Skilled	Semi-skilled	Un-skilled
	-22%	56%	-22%

DISTRICT PROFILE

One of Odisha's westernmost districts, bordering Chhattisgarh and bound by Bargar, Bolangir and Kalahandi, Nuapada falls is one of least developed regions in the country. Large tribal populations inhabit the district's forested regions (48% of land area). The area is also home to several rain fed rivers like Jonk, Udanti, Indra and Sundar which feed its fertile plains.

Youth volunteering and development work needs to address problems of forest rights, tribal welfare, literacy and women's health. Every year, thousands of families migrate to cities in Gujarat, NCR and Andhra Pradesh. Sustained efforts at livelihood creation and securing land rights can change this around.

AREAS FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION

DISASTER RISK AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT: Aggressive mining and industrial activity in the region threatens the forest cover, biodiversity and habitats of local tribes. The government can reach out to youth to understand their development needs. Nuapada's forest cover hasn't been harmed the same way as other districts. Conservation efforts and sustainable agro-based industries are key to bringing development to the region.

GENDER JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT: Tribal women are doubly excluded from the region's development programmes because of their caste and gender status. The problems of low literacy and participation in industry and governance, coupled with nutritional and healthcare challenges need to be addressed.

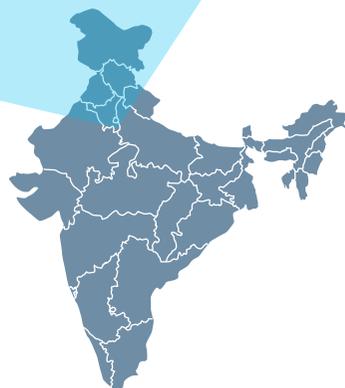
SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: The district has a majority agrarian population, most of whom are very poor and several are tribals who haven't had access to modern banking services and markets. Entrepreneurial training would have to be provided alongside efforts to infuse capital through micro finance, low interest loans, etc.

SOCIAL INCLUSION: According to the district administration, 88% of migration from the district is caused by distress. Out of this 50% are from the tribal community. Youth can aid the administration in measuring and facilitating migration, checking child labour trafficking, seeking local knowledge on livelihood alternatives and promoting tribal culture.

LOOKING AHEAD

The district has a network of 325 youth clubs and the UNV-DYC is in the process of reactivating their members, conducting youth camps and awareness drives on volunteerism, community development, leadership and gender equality.

PATIALA/ PUNJAB



STATISTICS

District Population	18,95,686		
Youth Population (% of total)	5,62,004 (30%)		
% SC and ST population	24.5%	0%	
HDI + (national average)	0.661 (0.609)		
Literacy Rate + (national)	75% (73%)		
Female Literacy + (national)	70% (65%)		
Female Workforce Participation + (national)	12% (32%)		
Sex Ratio + (national)	891 (940)		
Households using improved sanitation facility + (national)	83% (57%)		
Primary schools with girls toilet	92%		
Incremental Workforce Demand & Supply Gap (2012-22)	Skilled	Semi-skilled	Unskilled
	-992	22,166	3803

DISTRICT PROFILE

Patiala, in south east Punjab's Puadh region, is a rapidly urbanizing district (40% urban population) and one the state's most important trading hubs. Thus, the tertiary sector contributes to nearly half of the economy of the district and agriculture makes up about 33%, with 39% of the population engaged in farming.

Rapid changes in the economy since the big gains of the Green Revolution has led to unemployment of rural youth and imbalances in family structures due to female feticide and other cultural factors. Despite these setbacks, the district's sizeable youth population, which is very aware if not highly educated, can be a potent force in social change.

AREAS FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION

DISASTER RISK AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT: Years of chemical and resource intensive agriculture has depleted soil fertility and led a fall in the water table in many parts of Punjab, including Patiala. Though most of the state's agricultural land is irrigated, drought remains a major concern. Many farmers are now moving to organic farming, which the youth can spearhead. More linkages between the youth and agricultural extension workers, the IMD and other government agencies can help farmers avert crop loss.

GENDER JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT: The sex ratio in the district (891 per 1000 males) is lower than that of the state (895) and the child sex ratio is even lower at 837, suggesting widespread use of gender determination tests and female feticide. Similarly female workforce participation (12%) is much lower than the rest of the country and the gender disparity in education attainment levels is prominent.

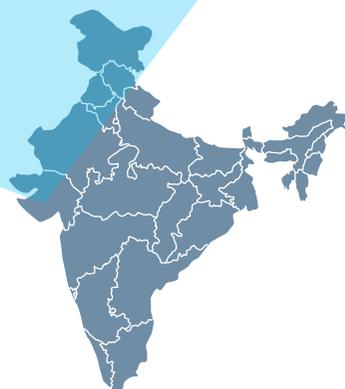
SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: Efforts to fight drug addiction, a widely reported but little understood phenomenon in Punjab, needs novel ideas, which only the youth can generate because they are the most affected. Employment generation along with attempts at counseling, awareness building and the promotion of sports can go a long way in solving the problem.

SOCIAL INCLUSION: Despite the presence of a number of large and medium-scale farmers in the district, several landless and tenant farmers (especially from SC communities) do not receive the same benefits from government subsidies and private contractual agreements. They need to be included and provided with alternate livelihood support. The stigma around drug addiction, too, needs to be addressed by initiating a wider and more inclusive debate around its causes.

LOOKING AHEAD

Youth clubs in the district have previously worked on drug de-addiction camps, female feticide awareness and the promotion of sports. These efforts have scaled up with the UNV-DYC working on reactivating the 390 youth clubs in the district.

RAJKOT/ GUJARAT



STATISTICS

District Population	38,04,558		
Youth Population (% of total)	10,80,929 (28.5%)		
% SC and ST Population	8%	1%	
HDI + (national average)	0.616 (0.609)		
Literacy Rate + (national)	81% (73%)		
Female Literacy + (national)	74.5% (65%)		
Female Workforce Participation + (national)	17.5% (32%)		
Sex Ratio + (national)	927 (940)		
Households using improved sanitation facility + (national)	69% (57%)		
Primary schools with girls toilet	95%		
Incremental Workforce Demand & Supply Gap (2012-22)	Skilled	Semi-skilled	Unskilled
	-1,717	1,13,684	49,493

DISTRICT PROFILE

Located on the Western coast of Gujarat, bordering Kutch, Rajkot is the third most populous district, and has a high human resource potential. Fifty eight percent of the population lives in urban areas, most of which is accounted for by Rajkot city (36%).

Rajkot is an important industrial and manufacturing and service sectors together contribute to half of GDP and employment. Manufacturing units are primarily for chemicals, machinery tools, metallurgical industries and electronics. Government thrust in the services sector has been towards education, healthcare and banking.

AREAS FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION

DISASTER RISK AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT: Rajkot falls in zone three of Gujarat's seismic mapping, which though not as serious as Kutch, can still be hit by major earthquakes. Youth can play a major role in disaster response and preparedness. Urbanisation and intensive water use in industry and agriculture has also led to a strain on water resources. Youth can contribute to water conservation, rain water harvesting and awareness generation efforts.

GENDER JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT: Gujarat's cultural milieu and entrepreneurial history has led to women playing a much more domestic role. The district has low female workforce participation but on the other hand, it is safer for women than most other parts of India. Historical practices such as Sati, Jauhar and child marriage are a few examples reflective of the gender imbalance. Girls' enrollment in higher education and skill development for employment is crucial.

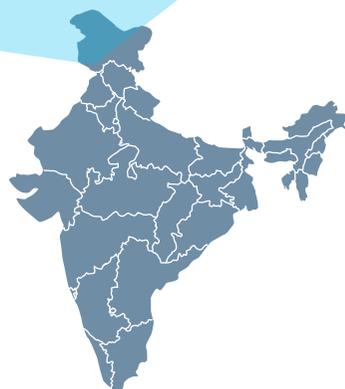
SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: Gujaratis are an entrepreneurial people but community oriented work tends to be limited to religious organisations. This could change if initiatives targeting women's work and education can be started.

SOCIAL INCLUSION: Though SC's and ST's make up only a small part of the population, they remain excluded from most development initiatives. Of all dropouts from secondary school in the district, about 80% are among tribal youth.²⁷ Educational and skilling programmes should be directed toward the vulnerable sections that need them most.

LOOKING AHEAD

The district has only 75 functioning youth clubs but there is scope for activating more and affiliating them to NYKS. Skill upgradation training for women, observance of World Water Day and Ambedkar Jayanti are some the activities that have been conducted.

RAJOURI/ JAMMU & KASHMIR



STATISTICS

District Population	6,42,415		
Youth Population (% of total)	1,77,056 (27.5%)		
% SC and ST Population	7.5%	36%	
HDI + (national average)	0.648 (0.609)		
Literacy Rate + (national)	68% (73%)		
Female Literacy + (national)	57% (65%)		
Female Workforce Participation + (national)	36% (32%)		
Sex Ratio + (national)	860 (940)		
Households using improved sanitation facility + (national)	13% (57%)		
Primary schools with girls toilet	47%		
Incremental Workforce Demand & Supply Gap (2012-22)	Skilled	Semi-skilled	Unskilled
	-11,573	-7,486	3,557

DISTRICT PROFILE

Rajouri is a part of the Jammu region of the state and falls on the foothills of the Pir Panjal mountains. Forty-eight percent of the area is covered with forests. The district has a high tribal population (35%) composed mainly of Bakarwals and Gujjars. As the district skill gap analysis shows, industrial activity is underdeveloped in Rajouri and the demand for skilled labour is far short of supply.

Literacy levels are lower than the national average and particularly so for women (only 57%). Going forward there is a high demand for skilled teachers in the education sector. Rajouri's breathtaking natural beauty also holds immense potential for the tourism and hospitality industry.

AREAS FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION

DISASTER RISK AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT: Rajouri stands to be impacted by disasters like earthquakes, landslides, cloud burst and flooding of the Tawi river which flows through the district. . Emphasizing and reinforcing the centrality of environmental concerns, like conserving the rich forest cover, in disaster management is key to volunteering efforts in the area.

GENDER JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT: Rajouri has very low female literacy and workforce participation rates. NYKS must prioritize gender justice and women's rights by working toward girls' education and skilling and pushing for their involvement in local governments.

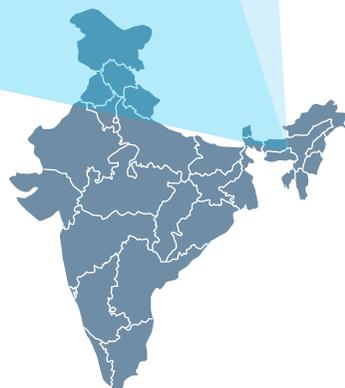
SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: Most educated youth in the district migrate to urban centres in the state or outside for better opportunities. Rural entrepreneurship can stem this movement and also channel capital and economic development to the rural population.

SOCIAL INCLUSION: In Rajouri, the SC and ST population together make up almost 45% of the population. Yet, the gains of economic prosperity haven't accrued to them as they have for the rest of the population. Schemes like the NRLM must be targeted at vulnerable and impoverished populations.

LOOKING AHEAD

The district's older network of 285 youth clubs has grown to 371. Several awareness programmes on volunteerism, skill development and women's health have been conducted to lay the groundwork for initiatives in the future, including Sadbhavana training from the Indian army, women's participation in Swachh Bharat campaigns and sanitation drives.

RIBHOI, MEGHALAYA



STATISTICS

District Population	2,58,840		
Youth Population (% of total)	73,898 (28.5%)		
% SC and ST Population	0.23%	89%	
HDI + (national average)	0.55 (0.609)		
Literacy Rate + (national)	76% (73%)		
Female Literacy + (national)	75.5% (65%)		
Female Workforce Participation + (national)	34% (32%)		
Sex Ratio + (national)	953 (940)		
Households using improved sanitation facility + (national)	34.5% (57%)		
Primary schools with girls toilet	99%		
State Incremental Workforce Demand & Supply Gap (2011-21)	Skilled	Semi-skilled	Unskilled
	25,820	4,46,000	-69,301

DISTRICT PROFILE

RiBhoi, one Meghalaya's youngest districts, borders Assam on its North and East. The district gets its name the Bhoi, the indigenous and predominant Khasi sub-tribe inhabiting the area. Mostly agrarian and forested on about 35% of its land area, the district has only a few industries: horticulture, bamboo based handicrafts and fruit processing.

RiBhoi and other tribal districts have immense potential to spread an organised volunteering network. In Meghalaya's tribal village structures, the Dorbar Shnong - the highest decision-making body at the village level - is assisted by the Seng Kynthei (women's group) and the Seng Samla Shnong (village youth clubs). These are voluntary organisations that work for the welfare of the community. Another traditional practice, trei samla (trei meaning to work; samla meaning youth), has village youth working in the community's fields as voluntary labour.

AREAS FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION

DISASTER RISK AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT: The district is sometimes affected by natural disasters like earthquakes, landslides and flash floods. More importantly, a common feature of north-eastern states is the unplanned damming of rivers for hydro power, which has led to displacement of people, loss of bio-diversity and forest land, etc. Youth volunteers can work closely with the administration to come up with sustainable solutions to meet the development needs of the people.

GENDER JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT: The Khasi tribes traditionally follow a matrilineal system: the youngest daughter inherits, children take their mother's surname, and once married, men live in their mother-in-law's home. Yet, in modern Meghalayan society, women face several problems - early marriage, health care and nutritional issue, unequal access to the job market, etc. Local volunteering activity would have to reimagine old practices keeping modern realities in mind.

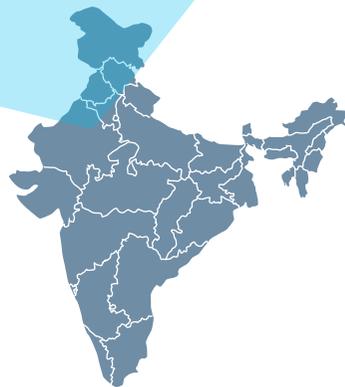
SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: An as yet unexplored area, there is still tremendous scope in the district for entrepreneurship if there is access to rural credit mechanisms.

SOCIAL INCLUSION: Unemployment and shifts in the culture of the region has led to an acute problem of drug abuse in several areas. The issue needs sensitive and informed solutions from the youth who are the most severely affected. Similarly, development has uneven between sub-tribes in the region. Vulnerable groups in remote regions can be included in youth activities.

LOOKING AHEAD

The district's 75 youth clubs can be reactivated to conduct a range of activities for the youth: cultural meetings, youth leadership training, organising and skilling street vendors, etc.

SIKAR/ RAJASTHAN



STATISTICS

District Population	26,77,333		
Youth Population (% of total)	7,92,244 (29.5%)		
% SC and ST Population	15.5%	3%	
HDI + (national average)	0.698 (0.609)		
Literacy Rate + (national)	72% (73%)		
Female Literacy + (national)	58% (65%)		
Female Workforce Participation + (national)	36% (32%)		
Sex Ratio + (national)	947 (940)		
Households using improved sanitation facility + (national)	49% (57%)		
Primary schools with girls toilet	98%		
Incremental Workforce Demand & Supply Gap (2010-17)	Skilled	Semi-skilled	Un-skilled
	6,552	11,404	66,040

DISTRICT PROFILE

Located about 100 km north-east of Jaipur, Sikar is a historical city in the Shekhawati region of Rajasthan and is popular for its old havelis, attracting a large number of tourists. The district is predominantly agrarian (76% rural population).

Sikar has become a hub for education in Rajasthan: numerous government colleges and private institutes play a vital good role in imparting education for students from several districts. Besides agriculture, food processing, electrical work and manufacturing units are the biggest employers. The recent manufacturing and industrial boom in Rajasthan has led to a rise in demand for labour across skills and sectors.

AREAS FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION

DISASTER RISK AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT: Sikar district is prone to drought conditions every 5 years.²⁸ The state government's Mukhyamantri Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan to conserve and harvest rain water is a positive step to meet the water needs of farming and households. Youth volunteering to build awareness and contribute to infrastructure development is crucial.

GENDER JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT: Despite a relatively high HDI ranking in the state, Sikar's Gender Development Index (GDI) is in the lower side of the state rankings. The dowry system is persistent problem in Rajasthan despite a government ban, and the educated youth are key to spreading awareness and abolishing it once and for all.

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: Rajasthan is home to several social enterprises that work on a range of issues: from women's employment and water conservation to solar power and the promotion of handicraft. With adequate support and financing Sikar too can have opportunities for social entrepreneurs from among the youth.

SOCIAL INCLUSION: The youth can capitalize on a newly revitalized administration and bureaucracy in the state to ensure delivery of welfare programmes like PDS grain, NREGA employment and pensions to vulnerable groups, especially from the disadvantage castes and tribal communities.

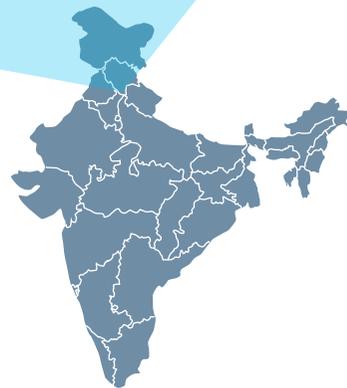
LOOKING AHEAD

The district has 398 youth clubs, of which 62 are active. The UNV-DYC has undertaken programmes like a tribal youth exchange, women's day celebration and a girl child protection event, etc. There is a need for skill training in line with the interests of the youth.

²⁸ Disaster Management & Relief Department, Government of Rajasthan

<http://www.dmrelief.rajasthan.gov.in/index.php/irrigation-calender/frequency-of-drought>

NAHAN/ SIRMAUR - HIMACHAL PRADESH



STATISTICS

District Population	5,29,855		
Youth Population (% of total)	1,53,783 (29%)		
% SC and ST Population	30%	2%	
HDI + (national average)	0.67 (0.609)		
Literacy Rate + (national)	79% (73%)		
Female Literacy + (national)	71% (65%)		
Female Workforce Participation + (national)	44% (32%)		
Sex Ratio + (national)	918 (940)		
Households using improved sanitation facility + (national)	60% (57%)		
Primary schools with girls toilet	97%		
Incremental Workforce Demand & Supply Gap (2012-22)	Skilled	Semi-skilled	Unskilled
	190	-40,005	-73,814

DISTRICT PROFILE

Sirmaur, with its headquarters at Nahan, is bounded by Shimla in the north, Uttar Pradesh in the east, Haryana in the south and by Solan in the north-west. Despite a majority agrarian population, Sirmaur has an active manufacturing industry, mainly in pharmaceuticals, cement and lime-stone, contributing to 41% of its economy. (The district has the highest number of industrial units in the state, after Solan.²⁹)

Migration from the district, to industrial centres like Solan or to other cities in North India remains high, especially among the youth. Skilling, especially for the industries in the area, and development of tourism can address this situation.

AREAS FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION

DISASTER RISK AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT: Being a mountainous region, Sirmaur routinely experiences earthquakes, landslides and cloud bursts, leading to loss of life, property and environmental damage. There's tremendous scope for youth involvement in disaster preparedness and rescue missions, besides conservation efforts for forests, water and other resources.

GENDER JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT: Female workforce participation, though higher than the national average, is still lower than the rest of the state. Possibly due to its proximity to states like UP and Haryana, the district also has a low gender ratio. Education and skill upgradation programmes for women can ensure a more prominent role for them in the community.

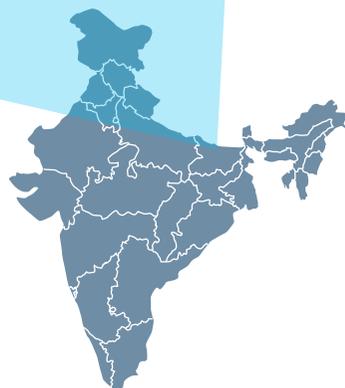
SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: Like other agrarian districts with low skilling and business penetration, youth in Sirmaur show a preference for employment rather than entrepreneurship. But there is a lot of potential for enterprises, especially in sustainable tourism, social forestry and women's employment, which could lower migration, raise income levels and include women in the workforce.

SOCIAL INCLUSION: Sirmaur has a high SC population (31% compared to 25% in the state), who remain primarily agrarian, with lower literacy levels, land ownership and incomes. Youth can work closely with village panchayats to deliver social services to vulnerable families, ensure enrollment in schools and also conduct skill training programmes for SC youth.

LOOKING AHEAD

Through a network of 375 youth clubs in the district, programmes have been launched for skill development, Swachh Bharat Mission, search-and-rescue and first-aid training jointly with local disaster management agencies, etc. Several awareness building programmes have also been undertaken as a first step to mobilize youth.

SITAMARHI/ BIHAR



STATISTICS

District Population	34,23,574		
Youth Population (% of total)	7,91,875(23%)		
% SC and ST Population	12%	0.1%	
HDI + (national average)	0.536 (0.609)		
Literacy Rate + (national)	52% (73%)		
Female Literacy + (national)	42% (65%)		
Female Workforce Participation + (national)	15% (32%)		
Sex Ratio + (national)	899 (940)		
Households using improved sanitation facility + (national)	20% (57%)		
Primary schools with girls toilet	64%		
Incremental Workforce Demand & Supply Gap ³	Skilled	Semi-skilled	Unskilled
	NA	NA	NA

DISTRICT PROFILE

Sitamarhi is one of Nepal's nethermost districts and is bordered by Nepal. Known as a sacred site in Hindu mythology, the district is a meeting point for the Mithila, Vajji and Bhojpur regions of the state. Ninety-five percent of the population is rural, most of them engaged in agriculture and allied industries. The district witnesses large-scale seasonal migration after the harvest months. The district youth face several problems, like unemployment, low literacy levels (52%) and many other development indicators

AREAS FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION

DISASTER RISK AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT: In the year 1934, Sitamarhi faced one of its worst natural calamities when it was rocked by the earthquake. The town was so badly damaged that the fear was that it unsafe to even rebuild and would have to be abandoned. The district was again badly affected during the recent Nepal earthquake. The district only devised a disaster management plan in 2015. The administration can employ youth volunteers to organize risk mitigation and rescue operations.

GENDER JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT: Only 42% of Sitamarhi's women are literate. This combined with the lack of any employment opportunities, has resulted in low female workforce participation in the district. Volunteering activities can focus on school enrolment drives for girls, skill upgradation training and awareness programmes on reproductive health issues, family planning, etc.

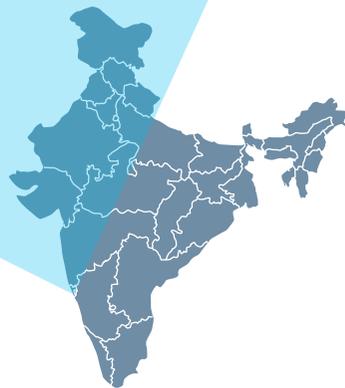
SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: The lack of capital and access to formal credit has thus far inhibited entrepreneurial activity in Sitamarhi. Social enterprises for women's education and employment, micro finance, etc. would be a welcome addition to state development and welfare initiatives.

SOCIAL INCLUSION: According to the district administration, the proportion of lower castes among the migrating men is quite high and their reasons for migration are often to escape from exploitative working conditions or other types of distress. Caste violence had also been very high in Bihar compared to other states. Youth volunteering must work with an inclusive agenda, with programmes directed at vulnerable groups.

LOOKING AHEAD

The district has about 399 registered youth clubs through which the UNV-DYC plans to scale up capacity development programmes for immunisation, Swachh Bharat Mission and disaster risk reduction.

SOUTH GOA/ GOA



STATISTICS

District Population	6,40,537		
Youth Population (% of total)	1,68,330(26%)		
% SC and ST Population	1.2%	14.5%	
HDI + (national average)	0.70 (0.609)		
Literacy Rate + (national)	87.5% (73%)		
Female Literacy + (national)	83.5% (65%)		
Female Workforce Participation + (national)	22% (32%)		
Sex Ratio + (national)	986 (940)		
Households using improved sanitation facility + (national)	78% (57%)		
Primary schools with girls toilet	97%		
Incremental Workforce Demand & Supply Gap (2012-22)	Skilled	Semi-skilled	Unskilled
	10,730	28,800	30,880

DISTRICT PROFILE

South Goa is one of two districts that were delineated for the little state of Goa, on the western India coast, when it attained statehood in May, 1987. Sixty-five percent of the population resides in urban areas and only about 15% of Goans are engaged in agriculture.

One of India's most famous tourist destinations (Tourism is the biggest employer and accounts for at least 19% of state GDP. Goa received 12% of all foreign tourist arrivals in India in 2011 and it annually hosts over 2.5 million tourists though its own population is less than 1.5 million. Unfortunately Goa hasn't developed many other industries and thousands of locals (Goa has a highly literate and college-educated youth population) migrate to other states and abroad in search of work.

AREAS FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION

DISASTER RISK AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT: Historically a mining zone for iron ore, the Goan countryside has in recent times been plundered by illegal mining activity and unplanned tourism, destroying its forests, coastline, rivers and bio-diversity. After the Supreme Court intervened, mining operations have been on a stand still since 2012. Goa's ecology (home to several bio diversity hotspots on the Western Ghats) needs the protection of the youth, though awareness building, monitoring of illegal diversion of forest land and irresponsible tourist ventures, etc.

GENDER JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT: Despite high levels of literacy and the equalizing effect of Christianity on the population, women remain underrepresented in the workforce and in higher levels of government and bureaucracy. Women have taken leading roles in social and environmental movements

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: Goa is home to several NGOs that work on ecological issues, tribal welfare, promotion of arts and culture, etc. The youth can find many channels for their creativity and innovation.

SOCIAL INCLUSION: The spread of education and access to good jobs has been uneven for the tribal communities (14% of the district population). While they are politically well-represented in some parts, development efforts need to reach out to these groups, whose land and livelihoods are often at the mercy of predatory mining and industrial interests.

LOOKING AHEAD

The district has a network of 212 youth clubs affiliated to NYKS. The UNV-DYC is working on linkages with the Khadi and Village Industries Board and the Centre for Incubation and Business Acceleration, an incubator established with support of the Goa government's Department of Science, Technology and Environment, to promote entrepreneurial ventures.

SOUTH KOLKATA/ KOLKATA



STATISTICS

District Population	44,96,694		
Youth Population (% of total)	11,77,159 (26%)		
% SC and ST Population	5.5%	0.25%	
HDI + (national average)	0.78 (0.609)		
Literacy Rate + (national)	86% (73%)		
Female Literacy + (national)	84% (65%)		
Female Workforce Participation + (national)	18% (32%)		
Sex Ratio + (national)	908 (940)		
Households using improved sanitation facility + (national)	94% (57%)		
Primary schools with girls toilet	87%		
State Incremental Workforce Demand & Supply Gap (2012-22)	Supply	Demand	Gap
	6,12,874	5,29,000	-83,874

DISTRICT PROFILE

Kolkata, formerly Calcutta, is the capital of the Indian state of West Bengal. Located on the east bank of the Hooghly River, it is the third-most populous metropolitan area in India and major commercial, cultural, and educational hub of East India.

Kolkata, whose population is highly literate (86%) and urbanized (100%) is the second highest contributor to the state GDP. The tertiary or services sector makes up 87% of the district's economy. Nevertheless, due to an underdeveloped manufacturing industry, Kolkata's incremental supply of labour has outpaced its demand.

AREAS FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION

DISASTER RISK AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT: Pollution is a major concern in Kolkata, especially of its air because of suspended particulate matter and toxic carbon and sulfuric gases, and of its water because of untreated sewage flowing into the Hooghly River. According to one recent study, 18 out of every 1,00,000 persons in Kolkata fall victim to lung cancer annually.³⁰ Youth volunteering can be directed toward changing people's lifestyles and habits, city clean-up and sanitation drives, etc.

GENDER JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT: Women's literacy is almost on par with that of men in the district. Yet, their participation in the workforce is very low (18%), a common feature in urban populations. Many of the uncouncted women would be productively employed at home and this reality can be used as an opportunity to involve the younger women in volunteering work - by roping them in to build awareness on various development programmes.

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: Some social enterprises can work best in cities, where connectivity and a large population base can easily be organised. Organisations like SEWA and others work with women in the unorganized sector, even providing loans to support little businesses. Education, sanitation and water conservation are other areas that can be explored.

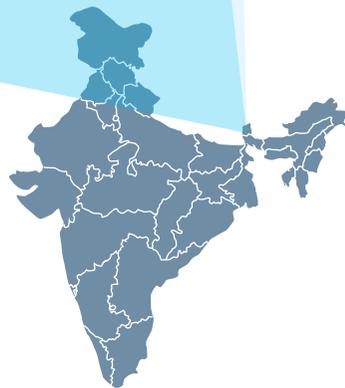
SOCIAL INCLUSION: Kolkata provides a model for some of the inequities and deprivations common to urban centres: development of slums, contentions over space and resources, wage gaps, etc. Volunteering efforts can be tailored to work for vulnerable populations in the city, inclusive of poor children and their needs.

LOOKING AHEAD

Kolkata (South) has over 276 youth clubs. Several initiatives have been launched by the UNV-DYC, addressing awareness on HIV/AIDS and other health risks, environment protection, skilling, etc.

³⁰ "Air Quality and Mobility in Kolkata Center for Science and Environment, 2012.

SOUTH SIKKIM/ NAMCHI - SIKKIM



STATISTICS

District Population	1,46,850		
Youth Population (% of total)	46,446 (31.5%)		
% SC and ST Population	4%	28%	
HDI + (national average)	0.665 (0.609)		
Literacy Rate + (national)	81.5% (73%)		
Female Literacy + (national)	76% (65%)		
Female Workforce Participation + (national)	42% (32%)		
Sex Ratio + (national)	915 (940)		
Households using improved sanitation facility + (national)	79% (57%)		
Primary schools with girls toilet	99.5%		
State Incremental Workforce Demand & Supply Gap (2011-21)	Skilled	Semi-skilled	Unskilled
	-6,440	-1,56,487	31,670

DISTRICT PROFILE

One of four districts of the tiny Himalayan state of Sikkim, the south is the smallest in land area and has three sub-divisions: Namchi and Ravangla and Yangang. It's famous for its sprawling Temi Tea gardens. The district has a predominantly rural population (85%), many of whom are cultivators. Sikkim is one of 26 biodiversity hot spots in the world. It attracts over 7 lakh tourists every year and has responsibly managed its tourist economy by popularizing eco-tourism.

The administration's ability to involve the local citizenry in development efforts has earned the state awards for becoming free of open defecation and helped make its agriculture entirely organic.

AREAS FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION

DISASTER RISK AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT: Like with other states in the North East, the Sikkim government's big gamble has been on hydro power: 35% of the state's revenue comes from water. Its biggest river, Teesta, flows no more than 175 kms but has 26 hydel projects running on it. All of Sikkim falls in seismic zone IV (a rating of V carries the highest risk). Informed voices from the youth must address issues of unplanned development and ramp up initiatives to map and protect ecology.

GENDER JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT: Sikkim Human Development Report (2001) had observed a slow spread of education among girls in Sikkim. Today, the gender gap has been filled at all levels of education. Sikkim also has the highest female workforce participation rates in the north east. These indicators need to be maintained by encouraging women to participate in social moments and governance, providing skill training to the unemployed and addressing health issues among vulnerable groups.

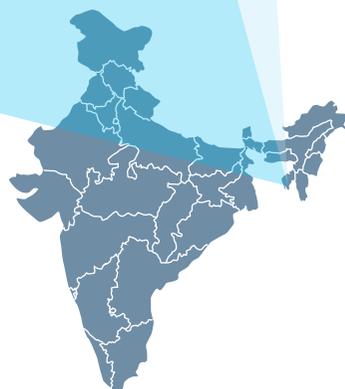
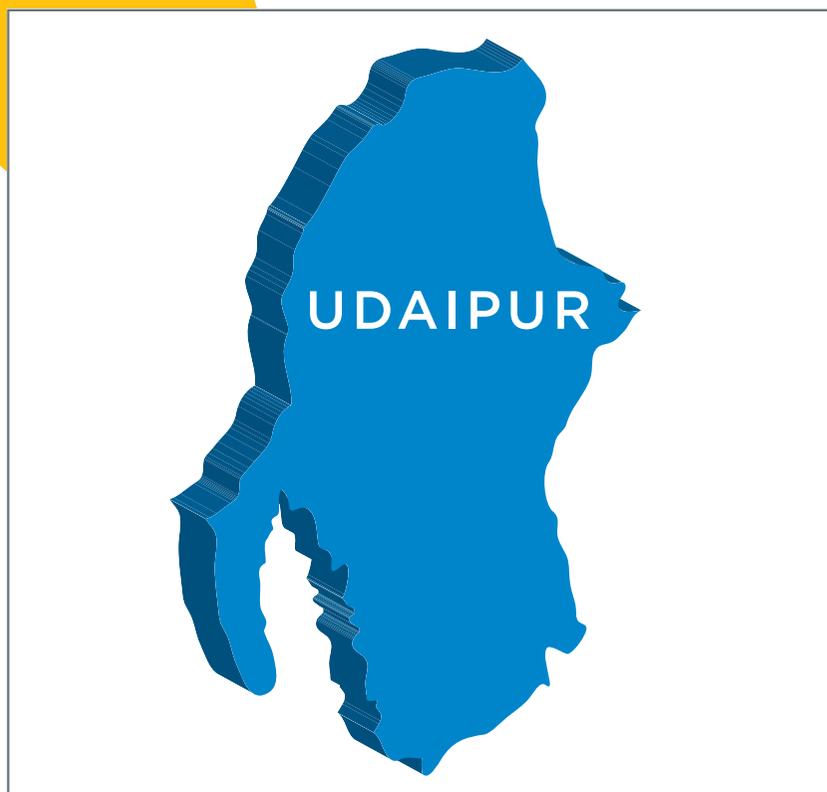
SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: The district already has some excellent infrastructure for entrepreneurial support especially for tourist ventures and agricultural marketing. There is scope for more such enterprises: in women's employment, solar and wind energy, etc.

SOCIAL INCLUSION: Though all forms of untouchability and discrimination have been abolished, concerns of financial inclusion of the poor still exist. Youth can work closely with the state bodies like the Sikkim Scheduled Tribes and All Other Backward Classes Financial Development Corporation.

LOOKING AHEAD

There are 129 NYK affiliated youth clubs in the district. The UNV-DYC aims to conduct training sessions in disaster management, health, etc. and also encourage online and social media mobilization.

UDAIPUR/SOUTH TRIPURA - TRIPURA



STATISTICS

District Population	8,76,001		
Youth Population (% of total)	2,53,985 (29%)		
% SC and ST Population	16%	39%	
HDI + (national average)	0.65 (0.609)		
Literacy Rate + (national)	84.5% (73%)		
Female Literacy + (national)	79% (65%)		
Female Workforce Participation + (national)	26.5% (32%)		
Sex Ratio + (national)	957 (940)		
Households using improved sanitation facility + (national)	69% (57%)		
Primary schools with girls toilet	100%		
State Incremental Workforce Demand & Supply Gap (2011-21)	Skilled	Semi-skilled	Unskilled
	-35,387	-12,17,000	-17,47,000

DISTRICT PROFILE

South Tripura, formed in 1970, borders Bangladesh on its East and lies about 60 km south east of the capital Agartala. The district headquarters is Udaipur, known as “the Lake City” and a famous tourist destination in the state. Eighty-six percent of the district is rural. Hinduism is the majority religion (84%), followed by Islam (5.7%), Buddhism (5.7%) and Christianity (4.4%).

A majority of workers are engaged in rubber plantation, tea and horticulture. The district shares a long border with Bangladesh, which could be employed to boost trade between the two countries. Rail connectivity giving access to the Chittagong port holds the potential for international trade, too.

AREAS FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION

Disaster Risk and Environment Management: Forty five percent of the district is forested. Tripura is home to projects like the Jiban Deep Melaghar Forest Range, the first Joint Forest Management (JFM) project in the North Eastern region, started in 1989, which mandates committees to police forest patches and allot land rights to cultivators. The state also has a Forest Development Agency, which youth can work with for afforestation and conservation activities.

Gender Justice and Empowerment: Female literacy and workforce participation is significantly lower than that of males in the district. The UNV-DYC also reports issues like dowry system and child marriage still being prevalent in Tripura. Volunteers can work closely with state women’s commission and other equipped agencies to tackle these problems, while simultaneously designing activities to include girls in schools and colleges.

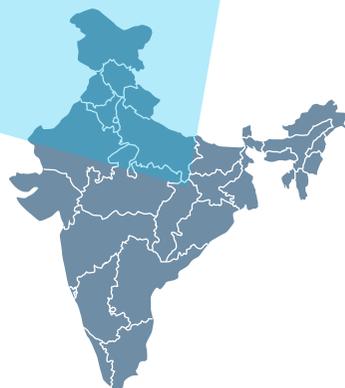
SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: Being a largely pastoral and tribal community, there hasn’t been much work done through social enterprises in the area. Most development work is undertaken by the state. Youth can contribute by exploring areas for entrepreneurial activity in the district.

SOCIAL INCLUSION: Scheduled castes and tribes together make up about 55% of the population. Tripura has begun to implement a range of forest-based livelihood programmes as part of its effort to address the economic vulnerability of jhumia households (tribes that practice shifting or jhum cultivation) through the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) formed in 1979 to institutionalize tribal autonomy. Youth can participate by acting as observers and monitoring the implementation of Forest Rights Act 2006 which along with other measures, empowers tribal populations.

LOOKING AHEAD

Udaipur has about 223 youth clubs which need to be reactivated in order to conduct training sessions and conventions on career development, sanitation, promotion of sports, etc.

SURGUJA/ CHATTISGARH



STATISTICS

District Population	23,59,886		
Youth Population (% of total)	6,12,374 (26%)		
% SC and ST Population	5%	55%	
HDI + (national average)	0.489 (0.609)		
Literacy Rate + (national)	60% (73%)		
Female Literacy + (national)	50% (65%)		
Female Workforce Participation + (national)	43% (32%)		
Sex Ratio + (national)	978 (940)		
Households using improved sanitation facility + (national)	23.5% (57%)		
Primary schools with girls toilet	92.5%		
Incremental Workforce Demand & Supply Gap (2012-22)	Skilled	Semi-skilled	Unskilled
	-8,000	-13,400	-16,200

DISTRICT PROFILE

Surguja district, located in northern Chhattisgarh, is a hilly and heavily forested area, with a rich tribal cultural history. Eighty-five percent of the people are engaged in agriculture in the district. Others work as casual labour, in mining, stone quarrying, collection and sale of forest produce, etc. Major tribes in the region include the Kanwar, Oraon, Nagesia, Korwa, Saunta, Saur and Gond.

Trade, real estate, mining and quarrying and small manufacturing are the major contributors to the GDP, followed by agriculture (26%). The district has very low literacy rates (although it has dramatically increased from what it was two decades ago) and enrollment in higher educational institutes.

AREAS FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION

DISASTER RISK AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT: Forests account for 45% of the total geographical area of the district. Sustainable forest management, though the proper implementation of forest and environmental laws, keeping in mind the tribal communities' customary rights over their lands, is necessary. The region boasts of one of the last stretches of contiguous tropical forests in India.

GENDER JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT: Though female workforce participation is high in tribal and agrarian societies like Suguja's, they lag behind in literacy (50%), representation in government jobs (just 14%³¹), and access to health care. Tribal women have the lowest indicators for institutional deliveries, anemia, malnutrition, etc. Volunteering efforts must keep the concerns of women in mind in their activities.

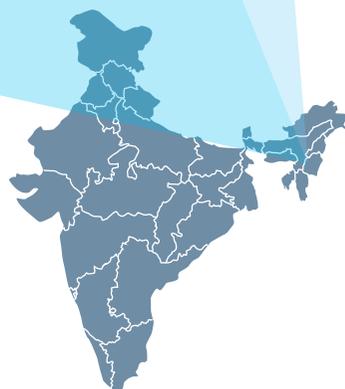
SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: An as yet unexplored area, there is tremendous scope in the district for entrepreneurship if there is access to seed funding and rural credit mechanisms.

SOCIAL INCLUSION: Fifty-five percent of the district population is tribal, who have very low levels of literacy are mostly cut off from amenities like schools and hospitals. Chhattisgarh's ongoing bloody war with Maoist insurgents has made the tribal communities doubly vulnerable to abuse and violence. Youth volunteering efforts must aim to allay their fears and bring them into the mainstream. Surguja has been categorized a scheduled V area to safeguard tribal rights over natural resources under the PESA Act.

LOOKING AHEAD

The district has over 700 registered youth clubs. The network of youth volunteers can be used to spread awareness on health, education, sanitation and women's empowerment. The UNV-DYC has made special efforts to reach out to disabled youth promote entrepreneurship among tribal youth.

TAMENGLONG/ MANIPUR



STATISTICS

District Population	1,40,651		
Youth Population (% of total)	45,252 (32%)		
% SC and ST Population	0%	96%	
HDI + (national average)	0.60 (0.609)		
Literacy Rate + (national)	70% (73%)		
Female Literacy + (national)	64% (65%)		
Female Workforce Participation + (national)	49% (32%)		
Sex Ratio + (national)	943 (940)		
Households using improved sanitation facility + (national)	43% (57%)		
Primary schools with girls toilet	99%		
State Incremental Workforce Demand & Supply Gap (2011-21)	Skilled	Semi-skilled	Unskilled
	-35,139	-6,04,754	-2,24,148

DISTRICT PROFILE

Tamenglong, in north western Manipur, is the least populous district in the state. It shares a border with Nagaland and Assam on its North and West respectively. The entirety of its population resides in rural areas, mostly hilly forested land (90% forest cover). The district is famous for its oranges and orchids. The district population is almost entirely tribal, the major ones being Kabui, Kacha Naga, Thadou, Gangte and Chiru. Kabui is the most predominant tribe in the district.

Infrastructure development still has a long way to go in the district: less than half its villages are electrified and only about that many use toilets or improved sanitation facilities.

AREAS FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION

DISASTER RISK AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT: Tamenglong district falls under seismic zone and is highly vulnerable to earthquakes. Its forests are a precious source of food, medicine and other produce and they need to be protected against deforestation by timber mafias, poachers and destructive projects. The youth's involvement through organised volunteering efforts and through village councils is crucial to protect the ecology.

GENDER JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT: Tamenglong has the lowest literacy levels in the state and female literacy is only 64%. In Manipur women play important roles at the level of the household, the village and in the economy. Women enjoy comparative mobility but they are disadvantaged in terms of education and health because of a lack of awareness.

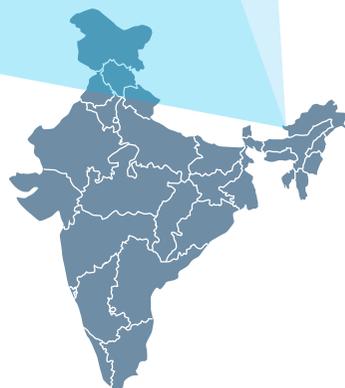
SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: An as yet unexplored area, there is tremendous scope in the district for entrepreneurship if there is access to seed funding and rural credit mechanisms for tourism, handicrafts, horticulture, etc.

SOCIAL INCLUSION: Volunteering activities must strive to include all vulnerable sections of the population, particularly the disabled, the aged and those youth who are affected by drug abuse, which is rampant in many parts due to unemployment and the smuggling of drugs from Myanmar.

LOOKING AHEAD

The UNV-DYC has used a network of 204 youth clubs in the district to initiate activities on Women's Day, World Environment Day and International Yoga Day. New programmes are being planned for disaster management training and skill development.

TAWANG/ ARUNACHAL PRADESH



STATISTICS

District Population	49,977		
Youth Population (% of total)	17,032 (34%)		
% SC and ST Population	0%	69.5%	
HDI + (national average)	0.72 (0.609)		
Literacy Rate + (national)	59% (73%)		
Female Literacy + (national)	46.5% (65%)		
Female Workforce Participation + (national)	43% (32%)		
Sex Ratio + (national)	714 (940)		
Households using improved sanitation facility + (national)	50% (57%)		
Primary schools with girls toilet	60%		
State Incremental Workforce Demand & Supply Gap (2011-21)	Skilled	Semi-skilled	Unskilled
	-17,521	-1,65,000	-4,21,000

DISTRICT PROFILE

Tawang, a district that lies over 3000 metres above sea level, borders Bhutan on the West and China on the North. The place occupies a unique status amongst the Mahayana seat of Buddhism, all the more so because Dalai Lama was born here, at Urgelling village near Tawang town.

The tribal population (69%) is mostly from the Monpa Tribe. Some parts also have a large number of exiles from Tibet. Agriculture and animal husbandry are the fundamental means of livelihood of the Monpa people, though the district also thrives on tourism. The Tawang Monastery is one of the most important elements in social and religious life of the Monpas and is one of the largest Lamaseries in Asia

AREAS FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION

DISASTER RISK AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT: The district has two major rivers: Tawang and Nymjang. Several hydro power projects planned on these rivers threaten to displace people, submerge forest land and affect the bio diversity of the region. Other districts have witnessed fierce environmental movements to conserve the state's rivers and forests. The youth have always spearheaded these movements.

GENDER JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT: Tawang has among one of the lowest gender ratios in the country. Though no sustained research has been carried out on the reason for this imbalance, evidence suggests that there is a preference for male children among the Monpa tribes and women are also disadvantaged in health indicators and nutrition. Consequently their life expectancy is lower. They need to be empowered through livelihood support and awareness building on gender issues.

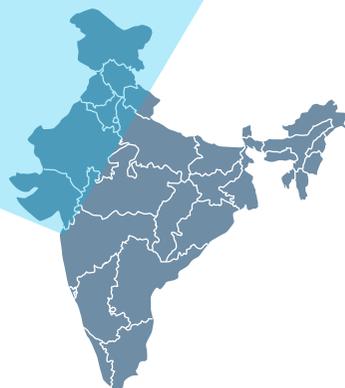
SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: Tawang is the least industrialised district in the state and access to banking and formal credit is very low because of a host of reasons. An as yet unexplored area, there is tremendous scope in the district for entrepreneurship if there is access to credit.

SOCIAL INCLUSION: Development initiatives must include vulnerable like the disabled, the aged and infirm, etc. Tribal areas such as these have unique administrative problems: for example, in Arunachal Pradesh, bank loans are almost impossible to get because land rights regulations prohibit banks from attaching property as against loans. Youth must be made aware of local issues and their energies directed to resolving problems on the ground.

LOOKING AHEAD

The district previously had no youth clubs but the UNV-DYC has succeeded in forming at least 15 new clubs and has initiated skill development activities and also formed linkages with the tourism department to conduct workshops for hospitality training.

THANE/ MAHARASHTRA



STATISTICS

District Population	1,10,60,148		
Youth Population (% of total)	32,81,718 (30%)		
% SC and ST Population	6.5%	14%	
HDI + (national average)	0.80 (0.609)		
Literacy Rate + (national)	84.5% (73%)		
Female Literacy + (national)	80% (65%)		
Female Workforce Participation + (national)	22% (32%)		
Sex Ratio + (national)	886 (940)		
Households using improved sanitation facility + (national)	65% (57%)		
Primary schools with girls toilet	99%		
Incremental Workforce Demand & Supply Gap (2011-21)	Skilled	Semi-skilled	Unskilled
	4,96,408	2,83,021	56,307

DISTRICT PROFILE

Thane, the most populous district in the country, consists of 51 towns and over 1700 villages. One of the most industrialised districts of Maharashtra, it accounts for 13% of state GDP. The district has three areas: one connected to the Mumbai metropolis and includes suburban parts like Thane, Kalyan and Ulhasnagar talukas; another that includes the industrially developing areas of Vasai, Bhiwandi, Palghar and Dahanu; and finally the peri-urban and rural areas with village and agro-base industries.

The district has a high youth population, which is linguistically and culturally diverse and includes many tribals from within Maharashtra. It has a thriving economy, which is primarily service-based (63% of GDP), followed by manufacturing (35%). Due to this, the working age population is much higher than the state's (64%).

AREAS FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION

DISASTER RISK AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT: Urbanisation and industrial activity has led to both the scarcity of water and other resources and the contamination of the air and water. One study as early as 2001 showed that at least 4% of the Thane city's drinking water was contaminated.³² This has only gone up. At least 30% of the district population defecates in the open. Water logging is a persistent issue every monsoon; suburban regions like Kalyan had seen severe flooding during the floods of 2005.

GENDER JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT: The district shows several discrepancies on the gender development index: low sex ration and female workforce participation but high female literacy. On the other hand, the schooling gap between the rich and poor is remarkable in Maharashtra: the gap between rich and poor girls between 15-19 years who have completed Grade 8 was 66% a decade ago.³³

³² Maharashtra State Development Report 2005, Pg 328

³³ Ibid. Pg 12

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: Maharashtra is home to the largest number of social enterprise incubators in the country. In 2013, Social Infrastructure Policy was developed with a goal of training 50,000 youths to develop self-employment each year by the Maharashtra Centre for Entrepreneurship Development.³⁴

SOCIAL INCLUSION: The hilly blocks like Shahapur, Mokhada and Jawhar, which have high tribal populations, are faced with water scarcity. The stress on resources because of urbanization has left the rural population (still 23%) behind, troubled by scarcity, rising land prices, etc. Volunteering activities must reach out the rural areas, especially to marginalized groups like tribals and backward castes.

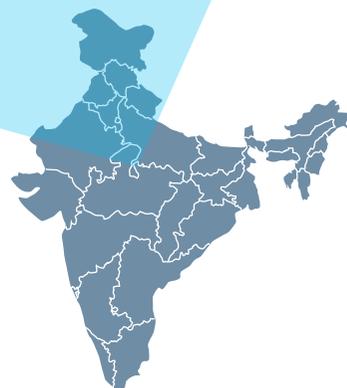
LOOKING AHEAD

The district has a network of 395 youth clubs. The UNV-DYC has started several new activities like the celebration of Women's Day, Labour Day, Ambedkar Jayanti, etc. Going ahead, programmes will focus on adolescent health, malnutrition, water conservation, etc.

³⁴ Social Enterprise: An Overview of the Policy Framework in India.

British Council India: 2015. Pg 44

TIKAMGARH/ MADHYA PRADESH



STATISTICS

District Population	14,45,166		
Youth Population (% of total)	3,85,047 (27%)		
% SC and ST Population	25%	5%	
HDI + (national average)	0.556 (0.609)		
Literacy Rate + (national)	61.5% (73%)		
Female Literacy + (national)	50% (65%)		
Female Workforce Participation + (national)	37% (32%)		
Sex Ratio + (national)	901 (940)		
Households using improved sanitation facility + (national)	10% (57%)		
Primary schools with girls toilet	100%		
State Incremental Workforce Demand & Supply Gap (2011-21)	Skilled	Semi-skilled	Unskilled
	-4,07,000	2,24,000	-1,11,000

DISTRICT PROFILE

A part of the Bundella kingdom till Indian independence in 1947, Tikamgarh is a predominantly rural district bordering the UP districts of Lalitpur and Jhansi. The service sector dominates the district economy (41%), in hospitality, healthcare and public administration, though most number of people are employed in agriculture.

Seasonal migration of young working age population is significant from among the farming community. Skilled youth also migrate for better opportunities to Sagar, Gwalior, Indore, Bhopal and other cities. As the skill gap analysis shows, there is an excess supply of unskilled labour in the state and district.

AREAS FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION

DISASTER RISK AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT: Drought mitigation and protection of precious water resources must be the focus of youth volunteering in this area. About 6% of the total land in the district is covered by forests: earlier the area had dense forests but most of it was lost due to the rising demand for wood and agriculture expansion. The Bundelkhand region has historically been drought prone. The district received only 50% of its average rainfall last year and three consecutive years of crop losses have hit the farmers hard.³⁵

GENDER JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT: The district's gender index is very low due to a very poor sex ratio, women's literacy rate and other indicators like health, representation in local bodies, etc. NYKS and NSS activities have been marked by very poor participation by women. New programmes specially designed around women's issues is key to increasing female participation.

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: The Bundelkhand region has several small NGOs working on farmers' rights, delivery of water, etc. but these are thinly scattered. An as yet unexplored area, there is tremendous scope in the district for entrepreneurship if there is access rural credit mechanisms.

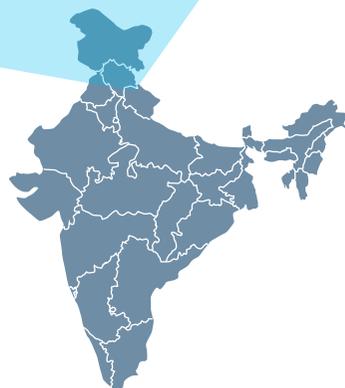
SOCIAL INCLUSION: The caste system remains entrenched in the villages of Bundelkhand. Discrimination and violence against backward castes and Dalits is routinely reported from the districts in the region. Education and conscious efforts to include vulnerable groups is crucial abolishing caste conflicts.

LOOKING AHEAD

The district has 453 youth clubs and the UNV-DYC has initiated programmes for skill upgradation training in computers, tailoring and stitching for the district's youth. Awareness building on government schemes like the Swachh Bharat Mission, Jan Dhan Yojana and Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao are also being carried out.

³⁵ "9,600 handpumps, 20 mechanics, a caste divide: How one district in MP is dealing with drought," Scroll, 4 May 2016

UTTARKASHI/ UTTARAKHAND



STATISTICS

District Population	3,30,086		
Youth Population (% of total)	93,114 (28%)		
% SC and ST Population	24.5%	1%	
HDI + (national average)	0.56 (0.609)		
Literacy Rate + (national)	76% (73%)		
Female Literacy + (national)	62% (65%)		
Female Workforce Participation + (national)	45% (32%)		
Sex Ratio + (national)	958 (940)		
Households using improved sanitation facility + (national)	43% (57%)		
Primary schools with girls toilet	89%		
Incremental Workforce Demand & Supply Gap (2011-21)	Skilled	Semi-skilled	Un-skilled
	-2,933	-7,009	-42,512

DISTRICT PROFILE

Uttarkashi, situated at an altitude of 1158 metres in northern Uttarakhand, is named after the sacred site of eponymous village which lies on the mythological Bhagirathi River and attracts thousands of Hindu pilgrims every year. It is the least densely populated district in the state, with over 90% of its population living in rural areas and 80% engaged in agriculture.

Apart from agriculture, the main industries are small garment and embroidery units, wood shops and food processing factories. Tourism is a major contributor through hotels and restaurants for the visiting pilgrims. The district has only one polytechnic and six ITI's for vocational training.

AREAS FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION

DISASTER RISK AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT: Landslides caused by cloud bursts are very common and extremely dangerous in this region. The district has an 86% forest cover but bad planning and unregulated construction has led heavy soil erosion and overcrowding around river banks. A lack of awareness is the primary cause for a lot of these problems. Youth volunteers can work closely with environmentalists and the administration to monitor deforestation and illegal construction, educate the populace and help in rescue missions.

GENDER JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT: Women are central to the rural economy in the district, with an overwhelming number of them being the main workforce in agriculture, forestry, cattle rearing and dairying. But they lack educational, financial and social empowerment. Women oriented programmes like skilling, health camps and drives against dowry and early marriage should be the focus of work in this area.

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: Most social work in the area tends to be undertaken by religious and charity institutions. An as yet unexplored area, there is tremendous scope in the district for entrepreneurship if there is access to credit mechanisms.

SOCIAL INCLUSION: The district has a sizeable Dalit population and like in other states in the North, they lack access to higher education, professional employment and better standards of living. The division of caste roles is even more marked in ritualistic pilgrim towns like Uttarkashi. Such groups need to be included in youth volunteering plans.

LOOKING AHEAD

The district has 300 youth clubs, some of which have been active in previous years. The UNV-DYC is now working on engaging youth in programmes like sports events, skill training for beauticians, tailors, youth parliament sessions, etc.

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(FOOTNOTES)

1 Sewer system, septic tank, pit latrine, ventilated improved pit/biogas latrine, pit latrine with slab, or twin pit/composting toilet not shared with other households.

2 The demand-supply gap is tabulated in percentages in the assessment for the state of Odisha.

3 Bihar's Skill Gap Assessment is underway.





Photos courtesy of UNDP India and UNV India

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