

National Seminar on
FISSURES IN DEVELOPMENT: YOUTH-AT-RISK

1-3 February, 2017, Sriperumbudur

Organized by:

Department of Development Studies

Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development

Introduction

According to various estimates, it is assumed that 40% of all youth and children in India, are in need of some care and protection. Transitioning from adolescence to adulthood is complex. It involves growing out of old identities and putting on new shoes of responsibility. Poverty, lack of access to resources including education among other family members push a large number of youth in the country into a cycle of abuse, early entry into labour force, and developing difficulties in adjusting to the mainstream society. Then there are the section of youth who are institutionalized who suffer from a loss of family networks and driven by neglect, are at risk of being anti-social.

An **at-risk youth** is defined as one who is less likely to transition into adulthood successfully. Defined within the Indian context, success can include acquirement of basic educational qualification and job readiness, as well as the ability to be integrated healthily into the larger society. It also can refer to the ability to become a positive member of society by avoiding a life of crime.

The process by which youth come to be at risk is one that needs be studied systemically. The reasons for youth disempowerment and exploitation often lies in deep rooted structural issues, that affect the society's political and economic systems. Inaccessible geographies, societal hierarchies, class inequalities play a dominant role in engendering vulnerability in youth from various communities,

because of the ways, these factors exclude youth from accessing resources much needed for their psychosocial development. There are specific mediators and indicators of processes that put youth at risk too. For instance, research has shown that detachment from the labour market and school—or disconnectedness—may be the single strongest indicator that the transition to adulthood has not been made successfully. Social unrest/conflicts is another mediating factor. Children, adolescents and young adults who witness civil, political and religious unrests grow up disillusioned and distrustful of the social fabric of their society and country. They find it difficult to resolve the discrepancy in self-image and public image which necessitates them to join agitation to get some recognition. This situation can initiate a process where the youth involved become susceptible to anti-social activities ranging from drug abuse to insurgency.

Gender disparity and the challenges thereby faced by young women is another pertinent area of concern. Information on India from *The World's Youth 2013 Data Sheet* related to marriage and fertility and health risks indicates towards a building disregard for the social norms and slow disengagement from the society. Early marriage and adolescent pregnancies force young women to focus on family and children from a very young age, thus refraining them from growing to their full potential by gaining education and employment. The curbing of their social, economic and physical independence eventually primes them in accepting their 'fate'. One of the fallouts of such acceptance is young women agreeing to wife beating and domestic violence.

Today, 90% of the world's youth live in poorer countries of the developing world where there is a replication of these scenarios. For the sustainable development of the world as a whole, it is highly imperative that the problems marginalizing youth are addressed effectively. It is for this reason that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have the need and rights of children, adolescents and young adults central to all their goals and targets. Enrolment of youth in education, imparting of employment skills are seen as high priority goals. Goals 3 and 8 combined, fashion

an approach that seek to tackle gaps in inclusive education and employment for youth. Gender equality through policies and programmes that ensures no girl child is left behind in the path to sustainable development is emphasized in Goal 5. Other than these, every other Goal among the 17 SDGs conceptualizes a unique role as well as commitment to the youth of the world. What is needed as we chart a path towards the targets set by the goals is a priority approach, and youth who are at risk, need be the critical population targeted at the earliest.

About the Seminar

India is at the cusp of a youth bulge in its population. Sagacity in policies and programmes envisioned for developing the youth potential in the country has a critical role in determining whether this youth population of this country becomes a dividend or a challenge. The seminar seeks to engage academicians, practitioners and students on themes related to Youth who are at risk, whose needs be addressed on a priority basis. Vulnerabilities are often intersected, and it is expected that this conference shall facilitate valuable sharing of information, ideas and practices on critical themes of risk preventions arising from multiple causalities.

Call for Papers

The Seminar welcomes proposals for paper presentation by research scholars and academicians.

A workshop for the sharing of best practices and lessons learned by the Civil Society Organizations will also be organized during the seminar. Papers are invited from Non-governmental organisations (NGOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and other Civil Society Institutions, including media for the Workshop.

Dates to Remember

For Research Scholars/Academicians

- Dates of the Conference: 1-3 February 2017
- Last Date for Submission of Extended Abstracts: 31 October, 2016
- Communication about Acceptance of Extended Abstract: 10 November, 2016
- Last Date for Submission of Full Paper: 15 December 2016
- Last Date for Registration: 22 December, 2016

For Civil Society Organizations

- Dates of the Conference: 1-3 February 2017
- Last date for submission of Papers: 31 October 2016
- Communication of Acceptance: 15th November 2016
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Seminar Themes and Sub-themes

- **Education and Employment:** *Out-of-School Youth, School Dropouts, Youth Neither in Education Employment or Training (NEET)*
- **Gender, Youth and Social Inclusion:** *Disabled Youth, LGBT, Forced Migration, Refugees*
- **Youth in Conflict with Law:** *Naxalism, Terrorism, Youth Delinquency, Youth living in Conflict Affected areas*
- **Health and Well-being:** *Malnutrition, Substance Abuse, Human Trafficking*

Timings of the Seminar

The Seminar will start with an inauguration ceremony in the evening of 1 February 2017, followed by an inaugural dinner, and will conclude on 3 February 2017.

Delegates are advised to reach Sriperumbudur by the morning of 1 February 2017 and schedule their departure for the evening of 3 February 2017 or the morning of 4 February 2017.

Paper Submission Guidelines for Research Scholars/ Academicians

Researchers and academicians, including those from outside India, are invited to contribute papers on any of the Seminar themes mentioned above. The extended abstracts/ full papers should be emailed to nsdds2017@gmail.com.

Extended abstract should not exceed 3000 words. Full Papers submitted should not exceed 8000 words (including tables and appendices). All papers should also include a summary of between 500 and 1000 words.

The extended abstracts of all accepted papers will be compiled into a publication which will be distributed among the participants of the Seminar.

Paper Submission Guidelines for Civil Society Organizations

The document shall not exceed the word limit of 2000 words. The paper to be written shall abide a framework that includes the following components - An overview, which includes identification of the problem and the approach that the organisation have taken to address it; Brief introduction of the project/program (highlighting your focus, methodology, coverage area, timeline, objectives, target population etc.); Strategies and intervention planned and implemented; Outcomes of the intervention; Challenges, lessons learnt and scope for replication and scaling up;

Case studies with photographs and relevant documents.

Please email your papers to nsdds2017@gmail.com.

Seminar Registration

The registration fee (non-refundable) for the Seminar is Rs. 750/- for Research Scholars and Rs. 1000/- for Academicians and other Professionals. Registration will entitle participants to modest boarding and lodging as well as the conference kit.

The registration fee for the Seminar includes payment towards a conference kit (comprising the extended abstracts of all the papers presented at the Seminar, a conference bag, stationery, etc.), and modest accommodation and meals. Accommodation will be provided on sharing basis.

Boarding and lodging will be available from 29 January 2017 till the morning of 4 February 2017. All participants need to arrange for local travel on their own. The Seminar will not arrange from travel to and from Railway Station/ Airport. Those who would prefer to arrange their own accommodation need to take care of the relevant logistics themselves. No train/ flight tickets will be reimbursed.

About RGNIYD

The Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu was set up in 1993.

The Institute functions as a vital resource centre with its multi-faceted functions of offering academic programmes at Post Graduate level encompassing various dimensions of youth development, engaging in seminal research in the vital areas of youth development and coordinating Training Programmes for state agencies and the officials of youth organisation, besides the Extension and Outreach initiatives across the country.

The Institute functions as a think-tank of the Ministry and premier organization of youth-related activities in the country. As the apex institute at the national level, it works in close cooperation with the NSS, NYKS and other youth organizations in the implementation of training programmes. The Institute is a nodal agency for training

youth as a facilitator of youth development activities in rural, urban as also tribal areas.

The RGNIYD serves as a youth observatory and depository in the country thereby embarking on youth surveillance on youth-related issues. It has a wide network with various organizations working for the welfare and development of young people and serves as a mentor.

About Sriperumbudur

Sriperumbudur is a town panchayat in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu located 40 kms southwest of the city of Chennai on the National Highway 4. It is known for being the birthplace of Sri Ramanuja, one of the most prominent Hindu Vaishnava saints. The former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated here in 1991. Since 2000, Sriperumbudur has seen rapid industrialisation. The old name of Sriperumbudur is "Bhoodhapuri".

Places of interest in Sriperumbudur are:

- Adikesava Perumal Temple is the birthplace of Saint Ramanuja. Sriperumbudur is the birthplace of Sri Ramanuja, the Hindu saint and philosopher known as one of the foremost proponents of the Vaishnavism branch of Hinduism. Sri Ramanujar's vigraha was installed in this temple during the saint's lifetime and is, therefore, called "Thamugantha Thirumani" (literally, "cherished by himself form").
- The Rajiv Gandhi Memorial is a memorial to Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi at the site where he was assassinated. The Memorial was dedicated to the nation by former president of India Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam in 2003.
- Vallakottai Murugan temple, 9 km from Sriperumbudur, is known for the tallest Lord Murugan statue in India (9 metres [30 feet]).

- Madras Motor Sports Club, located at the village of Irungattukottai near Sriperumbudur, organises world class racing events every year, including the South India Rally and the All India Motor Race Meet. Fédération Internationale de Motocyclisme (FIM) and the Fédération Internationale du Sport Automobile (FISA) have licensed the club for races up to Formula Three for cars and all classes for motorcycles. The club also has a dirt track for autocross events.

How to Reach RGNIYD, Sriperumbudur

- By Train: The nearest railway station is Chennai Central.
- By Air: Chennai International Airport is the nearest airport.

Pre-paid taxis and buses are available from both the railway station and airport to Sriperumbudur.

<p>Patron of the Conference Dr.Latha Pillai Director RGNIYD</p>	
For Further Information:	
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