Annual Progress Report 2018

“Strengthening NYKS and NSS”
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Background

The project titled ‘Strengthening NYKS and NSS’ is a joint project between the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Volunteers (UNV). It seeks to provide catalytic support to the existing youth volunteering schemes of the MoYAS. Whilst instilling a keen sense of civic engagement and facilitating greater youth participation in achieving sustainable development goals, it intends to support young people in realizing their social, economic and human potential. Overall outcome of the project is to establish increased recognition and diversified opportunities for youth volunteerism in the project districts. The project aims to strengthen the infrastructure for youth volunteerism, increase the number of youth volunteers and increase recognition of youth volunteering in India.

The Project has been aligned to the Government’s National Youth Policy 2014 that aims to empower youth of the country to achieve their full potential, and through them enable India to find its rightful place in the community of nations. The project also seeks to address the challenges faced by youth in India particularly women, marginalized youth, youth with disability and youth at risk of substance abuse and hazardous living conditions.

To contribute to UN Sustainable Development Framework (2018-2022) and UNDP Country Programme Document (2018-2022) and achieve the objectives of the National Youth Policy - 2014, the project has been focus on the key components of:

- Strengthening existing volunteer infrastructure at various levels for improved delivery of services;
- Instil social values, promote community service and facilitate participation and civic engagement of youth;
- Channelize youth energy towards creating a productive workforce;
- Promote inclusive development and rights of women, youth with disability, marginalized youth, and youth at risk to substance abuse and hazardous living conditions;
- Improve access to skill development thereby increasing employment opportunities and promoting social entrepreneurship among youth;
- Develop a strong and healthy generation through raising awareness for sanitation, health, nutrition, etc.;
- Create equitable opportunities for disadvantaged and marginalized youth;
- Promote social harmony, peace and cohesiveness;
- Promote social inclusion and social safety nets

Intervention through the Project has been at two administrative levels, making sure volunteering programmes are revitalized and are more effective. At the Central Government level, it work with the line ministries to improve institutional design for promotion and recognition of volunteering and for mainstream volunteering in their respective schemes to better harness the potential of youth. At the State and District level, it channelize increased voice and participation of youth through NYKS and NSS. Youth in rural areas as well as urban areas are actively involved through the network of NYKS and NSS to address various social development challenges.
## Project Output and Indicators

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Activities undertaken during 2018

National Level Activities

1.1 Strengthening National Youth Volunteer Infrastructure of MoYAS

With the vision of the National Youth Policy 2014 of empowering youth to achieve their full potential, and through them enabling India to find its rightful place in the community of nations, since late 2015, the MoYAS, UNV / UNDP, under the joint project “Strengthening NYKS and NSS”, have been working towards supporting youth volunteering schemes of the MoYAS to facilitate youth participation towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

As part of this project, the National Youth Volunteer (NYV) infrastructure of the MoYAS was strengthened by building a core national programme management team based out of NYKS HQ in New Delhi. The team comprised of one National Project Manager along with three United Nations Volunteers (UNV) at MoYAS and 29 UNV District Youth Coordinators (DYCs) (one UNV in one district in each of 29 states of India).

Within one year of its implementation, the project demonstrated visible value addition on across all 29 intervention districts thereby highlighting and recognising rejuvenation of the system by UNV District Youth Coordinators. The work done by UNV-DYCs led to the formation of additional youth clubs and presented innovative ways of engaging youth in volunteering for community development, skills development, and awareness generation on schemes offered Government of India’s on grassroots levels. The progress in these 29 intervention districts was further validated by State Directors, NYKS in a performance assessment done for UNV-DYCs under the project.

Taking the success of the pilot project in the 29 intervention districts, the project has now been expanded to additional 29 districts, making the reach of the project to 58 districts of 27 intervention states.

This year the reach of the project has been reduced to 27 States of India (excluding Jammu and Kashmir and South Goa) with more aspirational district been added under the project. Out of 115 Aspirational districts which has been identified by NITI Ayog, the project has been allotted 31 Aspirational districts.

For the year 2018, as part of strengthening the volunteer structure, 992 new Youth Clubs were formed, registering 16869 youth volunteers (12594 male, 4268 female volunteers and 7 person with disability). Also, as part of strengthening existing youth clubs, 1101 existing youth clubs were activated, registering 24404 youth volunteers (18303 male, 6078 female volunteers and 23 people with disability).

During the period of four years between 2018-2022, the project is expected to result in strengthened volunteer infrastructure in 58 select districts.
1.2 Formulation / revision of State Youth Policy including Volunteerism in select 5 states

It is evident that the future of India is intimately connected with that of its young people. It is in this context that Government of India formulated a youth policy that responds effectively to the changing conditions of the young people in the 21st Century. The National Youth Policy (NYP) - 2014 provides a holistic vision for the youth of India which is “to empower the youth of the country to achieve their full potential, and through them enable India to find its rightful place in the community of nations.” The NYP-2014 lays down 5 objectives and 11 priority areas. The objectives include instilling social values and promoting community service among youth in India to build national ownership and facilitate participation and civic engagement of youth at all levels of governance. Within these two objectives, the NYP-2014 identifies four distinct priority areas namely; promotion of social values, community engagement, participation in politics and governance and youth engagement. The NYP-2014 recommends a number of imperatives under each of these priority areas.

The NYP-2014 is a step forward from the earlier Policy formulated in 1988 and, later again, in 2003. It reaffirms commitment of the nation to the rights and holistic development of the young people of the country. It also seeks to suggest a framework for appropriate policy interventions by Government and non-Government stakeholders, to empower the youth to enable them to realize their full potential as also to contribute to the progress of the nation.

Under the guidelines and recommendation of NYP-2014, it has been recommended that each state should also enunciate its own State Youth Policy, keeping in mind the diversity of the country and the need to address region-specific needs and concerns of young people that are not adequately reflected in the NYP-2014. This will also ensure in keeping the overall national perspective set out in the NYP-2014.

However, it has been pointed out during the baseline study on State Youth Policies of India which was conducted under the project “Strengthening NYKS and NSS” that there are currently eight states who are yet to formulate their state youth policy as recommended under NYP-2014.

Taking this forward, under the project “Strengthening NYKS and NSS”, formulation of three state youth policy was initiated for the states of Tripura, Uttarakhand and Gujarat. The respective Governments of these three States agreed to formulate their youth policy with technical support and guidance of UNV / UNDP India.

The first meeting which was initiated with Gujarat State Government was organised with the Department of Sports, Youth & Cultural Activities, attended by key officials of the Department and NYKS and chaired by Mr. V. P. Patel, Secretary, Department of Sports, Youth & Cultural Activities, Government of Gujarat on 5th June, 2018 at Ahmedabad. This was soon followed by a similar meeting with the State Government of Uttarakhand which was organised with Department of Sports, Youth & Cultural Activities, Government of Uttarakhand and chaired by Ms. Bhupinder Kaur Aulakh, IAS, Secretary Sports and Youth Welfare, Government of Uttarakhand on 19th June, 2018 at Dehradun Secretariat. The third meeting for the State of Tripura was organised on 9th July, 2018, chaired by Mr. Bhowmik, Secretary (Youth Affairs) Government of Tripura.
Post the meetings with the State Secretaries, it was mutually agreed to organise consultation workshops involving all the key stakeholders including government officials and civil society organisation.

The state consultation was spread over two days. The first day was dedicated on capturing inputs of the Government officials invited for the consultation. Key areas of intervention with regard to formulation of the policy were identified. The second day was focussed on capturing the inputs of civil society organisations working on-ground in various districts.

All the three state consultation was conducted between November-December, 2018 and was attended by all the respective district officials.

1.3 Youth Parliament at District and National Level

One among the eleven priority areas in NYP-2014 is that of ‘participation in politics and governance’, which mostly talks about facilitating participation and civic engagement at all levels of governance. As guided under the NYP 2014, youth are the future of the nation and must be encouraged to participate in politics at local and national levels. They must be provided the necessary training and tools to become effective policy makers and to be able to execute Government schemes and programs.

Youth Participation in the political discourse is looked upon as a cornerstone in the long term vision of India becoming a true participative democracy where each individual is aware of the policies that govern our country and is involved in the policy making and governance process. The need of the hour is the maximum involvement of the youth in decision making and changing of age old policies that have become redundant over the years. Responsibility in exercising rights and the need to be aware about the various laws that are instrumental in running the country should be inculcated in the current generation.

Globally, National Youth Parliaments have emerged as credible mechanisms to promote active-citizenship. Despite differences in structure, composition and operating procedures youth parliaments across the globe, essentially provide platforms for young people to articulate, specific youth related issues and concerns but most importantly, to share their perspectives on matters of national importance.
Youth Parliament intends to create a permanent forum on local and national levels where all young people can discuss and reflect on topics that concern them and to address themes arising from the current affairs and share their opinions with others. This helps the youth analytically examine the society they inhabit. In India too, there has been a growing focus on civic engagement of youth and a clear strategic push to enhance participation of young people in matters of national interest including in politics and governance.

Taking the initiative forward of strengthening the roots of democracy, inculcate healthy habits of discipline, tolerance of the views of others and to enable the youth to understand the working of the Parliamentary institutions, UNV India in collaboration with Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports conducted Youth Parliament in 2018 at two levels - District and National level covering 24 states of the country under the GoI-UNDP Project “Strengthening NYKS and NSS”.

The overall objective behind organising the Youth Parliament was to develop a broad understanding of procedure and insight into the working of parliament among youth in India and inculcate leadership qualities among youth to enable them to realize their full potential and in the process, to contribute to the nation building. This initiative was also introduced to develop youth’s ability to build consensus through deliberations and develop youth to have respect and tolerance for the views of others.

**Key Steps Taken for Conducting Youth Parliament**

**Background Research**

To realize the aim of materializing and executing a National Youth Parliament, necessary steps had to be taken for collection of required data, preparing the personnel as well as the Young participants to be able to participate effectively. One of the first steps taken for the same was to conduct secondary research of different districts of India to get a preliminary understanding of various socio-economic issues that are affecting the youth of the region. Various governmental reports, census and survey results along with data of different NGOs working in such districts were used to compile information and analyse the situation of the youth in these districts. For further understanding, the UNV-DYCs, were contacted to get their understanding and experience of working with the youth of the districts and their analysis of the situation. This helped in comprehending better the secondary data that was collected and provided a wholesome picture of the socio-economic status of different youth in various parts of the country. The reports on every district were shared with the respective UNV-DYCs as a necessary research document that would serve as a starting point and would help the UNV-DYCs discuss these issues with the youth of their districts and get the perspective of the youth and encourage them to think of solutions on how to deal with them.

**Training of Trainers**

UNV India organized, in collaboration with The Dais Foundation, a three-day (25–27th June 2018) Training of Trainers (ToT) for UNV-DYCs on Conducting Youth Parliament at district level, the overall idea of the training programme was to enhance the understanding and capacity of UNV DYC’s on conducting district Youth Parliament. The training programme was initiated by three facilitators from Dais Foundation, the facilitators were introduced to the group of 23 UNV DYC’s who then helped them
understand the context of each district which the UNV’s were representing. The training was focused on the specific outcome that by the end of the 3-day training programme, the DYC will be well equipped to conduct district level Youth Parliaments with a high clarity and understanding of different procedures which will also be reflected in their session plans.

The ToT program adopted a range of activities for ensuring active engagement of the participants, dissemination of content, brainstorming and noting down the opinions of the participants, working group discussions and presentations besides reflections on each day.

The ToT aided the participants in acquiring comprehensive understanding of the critical aspects of Youth Parliament. The ToT was also helpful in providing the necessary perspective of bridging the Indian Parliament’s processes and policy issues in local governance with the role of youth in the same. The focus of the YP and ToT was to enable the DYC to be able to introduce and expose youth to legislative processes and certain tips for association-based learning and content delivery timelines were also discussed with DYC’s. For convergence, the UNV Team assured the DYC for a more regular feedback-based system will be used to set the final structure for the National Youth Parliament.

The training session was concluded by providing each UNV DYC with the final copy of district research, the idea behind this was that it would give the DYC an understanding about the themes to be followed in the District Youth Parliament. The DYC were also given the freedom and flexibility on finalizing their local structure for simulation as per their knowledge and experience of the district.

Simulation Design

Post ToT, a Guidance Note was developed and shared with UNV DYC which included guidelines to conduct the district youth parliament in terms of aims and objectives of the program, selection criteria for selecting youth for block level, district level and national level Youth Parliament, processes and period of youth parliament, logistical arrangements for it and desired outcomes from the entire program. A template was also shared with the UNV DYC for them to make a concept note based on it describing how they will conduct the youth parliament in their districts, timeline and budget of the same, number of participants and topics to be focused on during the discussion.
Handbook on Conducting Youth Parliament

A Handbook for Conducting Youth Parliament was developed on the standard procedure of Parliamentary Affairs and each session has been designed to introduce the concepts of parliamentary structures based on the literature of Youth Parliament, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

Conducting District Youth Parliaments

The District Youth Parliament simulation was designed by the respective UNV-DYCs according to the socio-economic structure of their district. It was organized among the 24 districts, to provide a platform to the youth to make them understand about the issues affecting them and to have a better understanding about the parliamentary procedures.

The UNV DYC provided a draft before the DYP to the National UNV Team which included the details for simulation design, the total number of candidates, the venue, the issues selected for the District Youth Parliament. This draft helped the National Team and the District Team to have standardized structure to conduct the District Youth Parliament and evaluate their educative content, and their efficaciousness in encouraging political participation among the youth.

After the completion of DYP, the DYCs shared a report with the national team mentioning the details of 2 days during which the parliament was conducted, Issues discussed and recommendations for the same. By October, District Youth Parliament was successfully conducted in 25 districts by their respective DYCs and UNV national team.

District Youth Parliament conducted in Udaipur district, Tripura

District Youth Parliament conducted in South Kolkata district, West Bengal

The major thematic areas of discussions included the following:

1. **Unemployment and Skill Development**: A growing trend these days is ‘unemployment of educated youth’. This forces a lot of young people to enter the informal sector and indecent living and work conditions. Skill Development is seen as one solution for this but for that the skill training system and policies should be implemented effectively. The government, civil society and private institutions should come along to generate more livelihood options and make the skill development sector stronger.

2. **Education**: Lack of quality education and high drop-out rate amongst students especially in the age group of 10-15 years is a major concern to be focused on. Government schools and low
end private institutions lack the basic infrastructure to provide quality education and mostly students are seen to drop out of schools after 8th or 10th standard. Right to education being a basic right of all citizens of India, this issue has to be deliberated upon to understand the deeper causes of it and realize potential and innovative solutions for the same.

3. **Human Trafficking:** Transporting youth especially girls across states, cities and countries has become a common practice these days despite it being a crime in India. It is usually done for labor purposes and sexual exploitation and youth fall for it due to lack of basic services and infrastructure, lack of information about livelihood options, government policies and schemes and heavy migration and poverty. The government should make stricter laws pertaining to human trafficking and awareness about it should increase amongst the citizens.

4. **Agriculture:** News about farmer’s suicide, crop failure, inflation in prices etc. are often heard. India being an agriculturally dominated country needs to take up this issue on priority and continue to provide required support for the same. The youth who are now moving away from agriculture industry needs to be attracted to it for it to grow. Cost effective agriculture training, promotion of agri startups, water and food storage techniques and warehouses, subsidies and policies and action research should be encouraged and promoted through Government, civil society and active citizenry.

5. **Health:** Health issues of youth and women are major focus areas to be discussed upon. Malnutrition in women, lack of pre and post-natal care, lack of basic health services, substance abuse by the youth and spread of HIV were few topics on which health component was discussed.

6. **Environment:** Issues like Environment protection bill, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, sanitation and hygienic values, waste management and ban on plastic were discussed. With growing focus on sustainability, these topics were debated upon in detail and possible recommendations were suggested taking into the local factors into consideration.

For the National Youth Parliament, each DYC was asked to shortlist 3 participants from the DYP based on the criteria shared with them before in the concept note.

**National Youth Parliament:**

The National Youth Parliament was organised on 15th and 16th November 2018 in New Delhi which was attended by 54 youth representing from 24 states of India. The first day was dedicated on role allocation and stimulation process; wherein mock parliament was organised.

The mock session was held to provide the participants with a firsthand experience of conducting a Parliament session with all its rules and proceedings. The theme for the mock session was Education.

**Issues Identified (Education Theme)**

- Difference in Rural and Urban education system
- Low women literacy rate
- High dropout rate in higher education
- Lack of employment opportunities leading to unemployment among the educated youth
- Lack of skilled based education
- Lack of proper infrastructure facilities in the rural areas
- Inadequate pupil teacher ratio teachers.

The second day which was the final day of Youth Parliament was attended by dignitaries from the Ministry and UNDP. The dignitaries included presence of Ms. Francine Pickup, Resident Representative
2.1 International Youth Day

The International Youth Day (IYD), celebrated on 12th August each year, was established by the United Nations in 2000, as a means of raising awareness of issues affecting young people around the world as well as providing a platform for the celebration of Youth and their contribution in the development of society. The theme for the year 2018 is ‘Safe Spaces for the Youth’ as decided by the Secretary General of the United Nations. Taking inspiration from the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals which clearly talks about the requirement of provision of inclusive and sustainable urbanization, safe spaces reflect upon the idea of requirement of spaces wherein youth can participate and present their diverse opinions with dignity, respect and equality. It is understood that Youth needs safe spaces wherein they can engage with other young members of the society and carry out activities related to their diverse needs and interests and be able to freely express themselves and engage in decision making processes in a democratic manner. Digital Safe Spaces allows the youth to engage in meaningful interaction with other young members of the society virtually, spread across the world. The session organized was designed to make the participants understand the concept of ‘safe spaces’ especially in the Digital world.

The workshop was focused on three key elements of identifying the core issues affecting young people in digital space, designing mechanism to create a safe digital space for youth to participate in meaningful discussion and defining the core space of digital space and how it impact and influence the youth participation.

**Key Objectives of the Workshop:**
The workshop seeks to come up with recommendations for fostering a safe, positive, and inclusive space for young people to participate where the risks of encountering inappropriate behavior and harmful speech (e.g. cyberbullying) are minimized. The key objectives of the Consultation are:

- To build awareness of the growing trends of cyberbullying, stalking or trolling and its impact on young minds.
- To help design a consortium to discuss perspectives, challenges and priorities to ensure safety and dignity of youth in digital space.
- To facilitate create a youth network through collaboration in between different stakeholders to promote safe digital space.
- To connect like-minded peers and organisations to advocate for creating a robust mechanism to promote safe digital space for youth to participate.
As part of the workshop, a youth engagement toolkit -Let’s Young Age- a youth workers’ toolkit for facilitating youth engagement & participation was released. The toolkit is meant to provide Technical guidance to facilitate youth engagement and participation in democratic governance and various development initiatives. It provides various easy to use tools for youth volunteers and organizations working with the youth to engage them in diverse voluntary activities and community work. The manual is intended to serve as handy guide for different youth related organizations and state agencies that are working in diverse areas of youth development in different parts of the country.

During the celebration, V Award was official launched. The V-Awards were introduced to celebrate the efforts of various Youth volunteers for their active engagement in different developmental sectors and to empower them for their pro-active participation in a sustainable manner. The official website was launched by the Joint Secretary (Youth Affairs), Mr Asit Singh.

The event was attended by the Deputy Country Director, UNDP, Marina Walter and Joint Secretary (Youth Affairs), Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India Shri. Asit Singh.

Also, as part of celebration of International Youth Day, six workshops were organized in some prominent colleges of Delhi University to sensitize the youth and create awareness about Digital safe spaces among youth. The workshops focused on experiential learning about the need for creating safe spaces, the threats in the digital space and the measures to be taken.

the workshop reached out to 425 students across six colleges.

2.2 Establishment of Youth Resource Centres (YRCs)

Youth engagement and participation is increasingly recognized as an important development objective. The opportunities for participation that young people experience in their communities may influence their development and the kind of transitions they make to adulthood. For example, evidence that comes largely from developed countries indicates that youth who participate in community activities or are connected to their communities are less likely than others to engage in risk-taking behaviors.

It has often been noticed that rural youth have limited information and exposure to different job roles, scholarship options, skilling & training avenues, higher education opportunities etc. One of the key interventions which was proposed under the project ‘Strengthening NYKS and NSS’, was to strengthen the capacity of rural youth clubs for increasing and diversifying the opportunities for youth volunteers to
participate in the development process. In this regard, Youth Resource Centre (YRC) was conceptualized under the project to serve as an Information and Learning Hub for the youths from the community.

As part of this activity, two Youth Resource Centres were set up under the project in Ernakulam and Nuapada. The YRC was designed to support rural youth in providing learning opportunities by introducing life skills, soft skills and vocational skills. It will also provide them with a platform to share and exchange youth-related experiences in a more structured way which will not only empower them but will also contribute significantly to the social, economic and subsequently national development.

The first YRC was launched on 18th December 2018 in Nuapada which saw participation of 140 youths. The centre was inaugurated in presence of dignitaries from various Government Department lead by Dr. Poma Tudu(IAS), District Collector (DC)- Nuapada.

The YRC for Ernakulam was officially inaugurated on 26th December 2018 which saw participation of 21 youth who participated in the digital literacy programme of 15 day which was inaugurated as part of the YRC activity. The digital literacy programme was initiated in association with District Literacy Mission Ernakulam. The inauguration was done in presence of Mr. K Mohammed Y Safirulla IAS, District Collector for Ernakulam district.

![Youth Resource Centres in Nuapada, Odisha and Ernakulam, Kerala](image)

### 2.3 National Youth Fellowship / Award

Volunteers are constantly contributing and positively influencing India’s social development. While volunteering continues in the background it has been highlighted that promoting volunteerism by rewarding and recognizing volunteer efforts towards creating a conducive is looked as one of the crucial elements towards encouraging people to volunteer. Efforts have been promoted both by Government agencies and private institution to channelize the effort of volunteering by celebrating, rewarding and promoting volunteerism and volunteers in India.

[http://vawards.in/](http://vawards.in/)

The Government of India has affirmed its intention to ensure that youth volunteers are a part of the conversation and action in meeting India’s development goals. It formulated the first National Youth Policy during the seventh five-year plan and launched the National Service Scheme (NSS) and Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), both volunteer based programmes which now have a volunteer base of almost 3.2 million volunteers, and 1.25 lakh youth clubs across the country, respectively. Additionally, a strong Indian civil
society complements the government’s macro social safety net using youth volunteers in many ways to tackle many of India’s needs in human and social infrastructure.

In this regard, under the project “Strengthening NYKS and NSS” V-Awards was constituted. V-Awards, an initiative by the UN Volunteers India, aims to celebrate young people, who are making the world a better place for all, through their acts of volunteerism, every day and everywhere.

Supported by UNICEF and development agencies, such as Mash Project, Bhumi, iVolunteer, ComMutiny – The Youth Collective, Pravah, Restless Development, SBI Foundation, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and VSO India, the V-Awards recognize extraordinary young people, who are changing their lives and of the communities around them.

On 5th December, 2018, United Nations Volunteers (UNV) India celebrated International Volunteers Day (IVD). The IVD theme for 2018 was “Volunteers Build Resilient Communities” and aimed at recognizing and celebrating volunteers with a special focus on local community volunteers – those who contribute to making their communities more resilient against natural disasters, economic stresses and political shocks.

As part of the International Volunteering Day (IVD) 2018, UNV India hosted ‘V-Awards’ to recognize local community volunteers from across India who have conducted exceptional work at the grassroot level. This year, more than 450 applications from various regions of India were received for this prestigious award and a five-member expert jury was constituted to carefully select the most deserving candidates. The shortlisting process was grueling yet rewarding and the ten finalists were revealed in a grand event hosted at the UN House in New Delhi on the occasion of IVD.

As an extension to the award, the awardees were also given an opportunity to interact with and get to know the inner-workings of our partner organizations UNICEF, iVolunteer and MASH through a series of workshops conducted over a 3-day period.

Also, in the spirit of exploring the theme of, IVD-2018, UNV India hosted ‘Youth Adda’ in collaboration with partner organizations Pravah, CYC and Restless Development. ‘Youth Adda’ is an informal platform consisting of motivated youngsters who, through a participatory approach, discuss, learn, assimilate and form a consensus around a Sustainable Development Goal (SDG). In line with the theme of IVD-2018, this iteration of ‘Youth Adda’ was based around SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities. The workshop helped participants realize the importance of resilient communities and the roles they may play in strengthening the same through volunteering.
3.1 Partnership and Market Linkage for SHGs through Youth Clubs in 5 pilot districts

In the era of globalization, entrepreneurship development has often been seen in the rural context as an opportunity and challenge together. According to 2011 Census 68.84% people are living in rural areas of India which compromise mostly youth population. One of the key issues which has been highlighted over the years pertaining to rural youth is lack of opportunities when it comes to employment and available of infrastructure facilities. Rural youth are a widely untapped resource for improving their household’s livelihoods and transforming the skills base in rural areas. The rural farm and non-farm economy plays a significant role in providing employment and income for the poor in rural areas wherein it has emerged as a very important source of income and employment and, consequently, as a critical factor in rural poverty reduction.

Young women and men in rural economies are powerful catalysts for inclusive growth and sustainable development. Approximately 88 per cent of the world’s 1.2 billion young people those aged 15 to 24 – live in developing countries, many of which, despite rapid urbanization, remain largely rural. Such a demographic dividend offers a unique opportunity to advance rural economies and shape the process of rural transformation.

The rural youth are often constrained by their lack of understanding of the markets, their limited understanding of the functions of the market and negotiating skills. There are many small groups at different levels which are involved in the creation of various products but there is a lack of structured mechanism which links these groups to the existing market places.

The crucial role of market linkages for rural poverty reduction has only recently received the attention it deserves in the development arena. More needs to be done, especially on the implementation side wherein measures should be taken towards effectively increase the market share of the rural poor and improve the terms in which they participate in markets; and achieve greater market access and market development for the rural poor.

Taking this initiative forward, under the project “Strengthening NYKS and NSS”, partnership and market Linkage for SHGs through Youth Clubs was conceptualised on the three main pillars: based on the proposals which were submitted through competitive process, two districts- South Sikkim and Rajkot were selected as pilot district which were supported under the project.
Project Selected:

Low-cost units set up to make sanitary napkins, ensuring both health and livelihood for rural women in South Sikkim

Suraksha SHG was formed at Menglee South Sikkim on 3rd March 2014 which constitute 11 members. The SHG unit which compromise of young women had decided to open a unit of sanitary napkin pad at Menglee and named it as “Suraksha”.

Suraksha has been set up to produce low cost sanitary napkins which can be promoted in the schools at a very reasonable price, which will not only ensure better health but it will also promote livelihood opportunities for women who will be engage in the process.

Technical support to women Self Help Group (SHG) group to market their products through enhancing their marketing skills and better packaging.

The mahila mandal of Rajkot have initiated a programme called “Utthan” where their are working towards promoting local handicrafts in the larger online platform. However, as reported by the mahila mandals that, one of the drawback which there were facing over some years was lack of understanding to promote their products on e-commerce platforms. Taking this forward, technical training has been proposed for all the mahila mandals who will go through an extensive training programme on how to market their products better. The women SHG will further be oriented on the process of better packaging which can be shipped all across India and abroad. The initiative is on the implementation stage.

3.2 Research on Impact of Social Media on Youth Development

The popularity and development of social media has revolutionized the way of communication especially among youth. The concept of sociability has gained a renewed interest with the emergence of the Social Networking Sites (SNS) wherein interpersonal interaction and communication has been getting replaced slowly by online communication. According to social media statistics of 2014 out of 1,256 million Indian population 106 million are active social media users. There's a growing body of evidence that has highlighted how social networking has impacted the way the youth-lives, socializes and shares.

Social media should not be considered merely as technological tools for exchanging messages –even if at one point in time they were– but rather as contemporary means for communication, interaction and global participation. Social media is a potent tool for youth participation and engagement. Social media also helps create content and opportunities young people can easily share with their friends through the different social networking tools.

To capture the impact of social media on youth, a in depth research was conducted to capture the voices of young people. Primary field research was conducted across the project intervention districts which had reached out to over 1000 youth from 15 districts. The Study also captured the national perspective from various youth based organisation. The report also gives a detailed analysis of various
organisation who has been using social media as a important tool towards dissmenting important information.

This research applies cutting edge data science tools, social media analytics along with the traditional social science research methods to understand the trends, patterns and future scope of social media to promote youth participation and civic engagement. The approach is unique because it adopts evidence based, technology driven, digital market research strategies to publish key statistics on youth in social media, which is presently missing in India. It is a millennial approach to study the social media strategy to instil social values and community service amongst Indian youth.

This report is divided into four categories that discuss various aspects of social media in the context of Indian youth. The first chapter explores social media in India from the context of youth, prominent social media platforms, analysis of demographics of social media users, geographical distribution of the social media youth users and uses of social media as perceived by Indian youth. The second chapter analyses various positive and negative impacts of social media on Indian youth using social media analytics, case studies, research papers, primary survey, and voices of youth. The third chapter explores the extent to which social media can be used as a tool to promote civic engagement--by analysing the various initiatives of social media companies, government departments, civil society organizations and youth organizations. Civic engagement concepts like micro-volunteering and online volunteering are explored in this chapter, and recommendations are provided based on best practices in digital marketing and possibilities through artificial intelligence. The fourth chapter explores the risks associated with social media especially from the context of digital safety and cybercrime in India, and discusses strategies that can be employed by various stakeholders to mitigate the risks of social media.
3.3. South-South Cooperation- International Youth Exchange Peer Learning (IYEPL)

International youth exchange is a recognized form of cultural exchange and sensitization of youth on opportunities and practices in various countries on youth development and volunteering. Under the project an International Youth Exchange through Peer Learning (IYEPL) has been implemented in 2018 with the support of UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC) India, UNRC, Cambodia, UNV/UNDP. India and UNV/UNDP Cambodia organize the exchange of International Youth Exchange through Peer Learning (IYEPL) to Cambodia, in the spirit of South-South Knowledge Exchange Cambodia as part of the UNV project on “Poverty reduction among youth in Cambodia – Development of youth volunteers’ skill sets for increased employability,” funded by the India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) Fund and supported by Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS). This collaboration serves as a volunteering promotion between two countries Cambodia and India, channeled through the UNV and UNDP. Since UNV and UNDP are jointly working with the Government on the youth volunteering promotion, volunteer infrastructure development by focusing Youth Policy of the country, this IYEPL will be a good opportunity to exchange knowledge and experience, as well as suggest ideas to take forward.

The objectives of IYEPL are to gain understanding of and compare landscape of youth and volunteerism in India and Cambodia, to deliver knowledge to Indian volunteers on traditional forms of volunteering present in Cambodia in addition to the latest youth-led volunteering innovations which can be replicated, to exchange innovation approaches, and good practices related to youth volunteering and recommendations to improve the volunteer infrastructure of both India and Cambodia.

Under the exchange programme 04 selected youth volunteers from four states in India with experience in volunteering on social issues visited Cambodia for two week extensive field experience with the objective of contributing towards strengthening of NYKS work at their own respective districts. The four volunteers were placed in the three youth centres from 25th November to 12th December 2018. The placement of volunteers in each Youth Center is based on the expertise of each volunteer and demands from provincial Youth Centers. Youth Centre in Cambodia are run by Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS) to promote wellbeing and trained youth for the future of Cambodia.

The Indian volunteers also got the opportunity to attend the 8th National Forum and International Volunteer Day 2018 with the theme of “Volunteer for our Communities”, which was celebrated at Institute of Technology Cambodia (ITC). The event was a sharing platform for both knowledge and experience on volunteerism in Cambodia and across the world. During the event, the Indian volunteers were introduced with relevant speakers and partners such as as AIESECs, YRDP, HFHC, Youth Star, VSO and MoEYS.
Accomplishment of the four UNV Volunteers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Volunteer and Youth Center</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Community Project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Ms. Rachana Shetty placed at Takeo Youth Center | ● Teach computer to students at Youth Centre  
● Conduct workshop on “Major Career Guidance” and promote volunteerism  
● Teach English for students in grade 10 & 11  
● Support youth and community  
● Motivate students and promote volunteerism  
● Help volunteers in making their Community Project & International Volunteers Day | ● Create awareness about Zero waste management  
● Segregate wet waste and dry waste  
● Reduce use plastics |
| | Total beneficiary reached out: 40 (25 F & 15 M) | Total beneficiary reached out: 100 (70 F & 30 M) |
| Ms. Priscyla Shongwan, Kampong Cham Youth Center | ● Teach English at Bright British High School  
● Teach computer to the local youth and students at Youth Centre  
● Provide workshop on leadership skill and formation of school clubs  
● Support community service project  
● Help volunteers in making their community project & International Volunteers Day | Reading Skills in English |
| | Total beneficiary reached out: 93 (34 M & 59 F) | |
| 1. Mr. Rojan Pradhan  
2. Ms. Manisha Bezbaruah, Kampong Thom Youth Center | ● Organize career guidance & counselling  
● Promote volunteerism, HIV & AIDS, and blood donation  
● Introduce program “5 minutes to Earth”  
● Support youth and community  
● Help volunteers in making their community project & International Volunteers Day  
● Form debate club with VSO and local volunteers  
● Cleanliness and plantation drive in Youth Centre  
Help volunteers in making their Community Project & for International Volunteers Day | ● Create awareness about environment  
● Protect and promote on conserving forest reserves  
● Waste and dry waste  
● Reduce the use of plastics |
| | | ● Cleanliness and Plantation drives  
● Protection and Promotion on conserving forest reserves.  
● Waste and Dry waste  
● Reduce the use of Plastics |
| | Total Beneficiaries: 408 (220F & 180 M) | |
Annexures - 1

Taking forward the output indicators, activities were further demarcated at the National level and District level in all the annual work plans.

The Annual Work Plan for the year 2018 was focussed on the key 3 outputs which are listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Output</th>
<th>Level of Engagement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Output 1** Project Management Team (1 Project Manager and 3 UNVs) and 29 UNV District Youth Coordinators recruited and in place | **National and District level-**  
  - Formulation/revision of States youth policy including volunteerism in select 5 states.  
  - Youth Parliaments at District, State and National level |
| **Output 2** Increase recognition of the contribution of youth volunteering     | **National and District level-**  
  - International Youth Day  
  - Setting up of Youth Resource Centre  
  - National Youth fellowship/awards |
| **Output 3** Strengthened capacity of rural youth clubs for increased the diversified opportunities for youth volunteers | **National Level:**  
  - Partnership and market linkages for SHGs through youth clubs in 5 pilot districts  
  - Research on impact of social media on youth development  
  - South-South Cooperation - International Youth Exchange through peer learning (IYEPL) |
Annexure – 2

District Level Activities

At the District level, 29 UNV District Youth Coordinators (DYC) have been working towards strengthening the core activities of Nehru Yuva Kendra which are basically focused on providing rural youth avenues to take part in the process of nation building as well providing opportunities for the development of their personality and skills. Some of the core programme activities were conducted as part of the NYKS are listed below:

**Strengthening capacity of rural youth clubs for increased and diversified opportunities for youth volunteers:**

One of the key core programme of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) is towards strengthening and building the capacities of rural youth clubs towards nurturing active citizenship amongst its members and increase the participation of youth in democracy. Youth Club provides a platform for the youth in a particular area to come together, meet, discuss and plan activities for their own development as well as that of the society.

Activities of Youth Clubs can be broadly divided into programmes directly benefiting the youths towards their individual development and programmes benefiting the community. All the programmes of a club focus on either of them or both.

For the year 2018, 992 new Youth Clubs were newly formed under the project which saw registration of 16869 youth volunteers. Also as part of strengthening and activating the old youth clubs, for the year 2018, 1101 existing youth clubs were activated with registration of 24404 youth volunteers.
Skill Upgradation Training Programme (SUTP)

Skills and knowledge are considered as the driving forces of economic growth and social development for any country. Countries with higher and better levels of skills adjust more effectively to the challenges and opportunities of world of work.

As the proportion of working age group of 15-59 years will be increasing steadily, India has the advantage of “demographic dividend”. Harnessing the demographic dividend through appropriate skill development efforts, Government of India has been promoting various schemes towards vocational and skill development.

One of the core activities, under Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan is towards promoting Skill upgradation of youth with focus on women wherein activities are envisaged under to mobilize youth into viable groups, improve their skills, arrange for support services, provides awareness and education on the key focus areas, etc.

This programme provides an opportunity to upgrade their skills for a better living and self-esteem. Besides, there is an increasing emphasis on making the young women and men self-reliant and self-employed so that they can establish income generating units for their livelihood. Over the years, Skill Development Programme has become one of the most popular programmes of NYKS.

For the year 2018, 173 skill upgradation training programmes were organised in 22 intervention districts which has reached out to 6264 participants.

District Youth Convention

The program aims at introducing and highlighting issues of social and national importance which needs to be taken up jointly with the spirit of volunteerism and addressed in a time bound manner. The platform is used for disseminating information and orientation on existing and newly introduced programmes and schemes of NYKS as well as other departments and to evolve strategies for effective
participation of youth in development process.

The main objective of this program is to provide opportunity and platform to rural youth leaders to express themselves, share experiences and suggest best practiced programmes for youth empowerment.

In the year 2018, 313 youth conventions were conducted in which 7401 youths participated, out which Male participation was 4241, Female was 3142 and Person with disability 18

Training on Youth Leadership and Community Development (TYLCD)

With an objective to enhance capacities of young people to take leadership role to help others and contribute to national building process, TYLCD programme provides opportunity to rural youth to come together, share their experiences and exchange ideas for community welfare activities. It is one of the important flagship programme of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan which has been designed to establish a cadre of dedicated, motivated and trained youth leaders who are willing to engage for Nation Building activities.

For the year 2018, 13 TYLCD programmes were organised in 8 intervention districts which saw participation of 939 youths.

Promotion of Sports

To promote sports culture and spirit of sportsmanship among rural youth, Nehru Yuva Kendra, Nehru Yuva Kendra promotes promotion of sports under three major components of :

1) Providing Sports material to Youth Clubs.
2) Assistance for organising Block level Sports Meet
3) Assistance for organising State level Sports Meet

the first component of providing sports materials to youth club was conceived with the idea of promoting the spirit of game among rural youth. The main objective of the first component is to

- Encourage and promote sports culture and spirit of sportsmanship among rural youth to adopt it as a way of life.
- Popularize and Promote Football
for the other two component of organising block and State level sports meet, there is a provision for organizing sports tournaments both at Block and District levels. The theme of the programme would be Youth Signify Sportsman Spirit.

NYKS endeavour in this regard to promote sports activities among rural youth, facilitate the process to produce sports personalities and to identify rural talent in different areas of rural sports, who can further be nurtured for excellence by other designated departments. The objective behind organising block and state level sports meet is to:

- To provide opportunity to rural youth to take part in sports meets to exhibit their talent
- To promote sports culture and sportsmanship among rural youth
- To popularize such rural sports which require minimum infrastructure, equipments and finances
- To propagate the message of healthy body & healthy mind among the youth
- To provide platform which can be utilized by other sports department to select talented youth for their further nurturing into excellence

As part of this initiative, for the year 2018, at the district level, 24 events were organised, which saw participation of 4607 youths; out of which male are 3759 and female are 848.

Out of 24 district level sports event:

![Sport meets organized]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District name</th>
<th>No. of district level sports meet organized</th>
<th>No. of block level sports meet organized</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asansol</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burdwan</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durgapur</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ernakulam</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garhwa</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jalpaiguri</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kollihat</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medinipur</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malda</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haripur</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nasirabad</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nabarhat</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nandigram</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rajnagar</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rajmahal</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raihat</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rimbir</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sariuli</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sankrampur</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sambalpur</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sallabhamukha</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sardaha</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siltanpur</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South 24 Parganas</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tilmon</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamluk</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thakura</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tihra</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Udaipur</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Other Impacts under the project:

UNV-District Youth Coordinators have also strengthened and enhanced the visibility of the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) through the usage of social media including creating and updating the social media page of their respective kendra’s (Facebook pages, WhatsApp groups) for greater coordination with NYC volunteers and youth clubs and receiving regular coverage in local media—newspapers and radio.

Celebration of International Women’s Day at the National and District level:

On 8 March 2018, as part of the project, International Women’s Day was celebrated both at the National level and district level under the theme "Rural and Urban Activists Transforming Women’s Lives". To achieve the Global Goals and leave no one behind, emphasis was given on promoting gender equality & women’s rights.
As part of celebration, following activities were conducted:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Detail</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Mar</td>
<td>Online quiz on Gender</td>
<td>Conducted quiz in Twitter and Facebook (similar to a ‘Tweetathon’)</td>
<td>Total tweets: 15&lt;br&gt;Total impressions: 213K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Facebook Live</td>
<td>Online streaming session in Facebook</td>
<td>Views: 345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Photo album campaign (with UN Women)</td>
<td>Created a campaign sign-board which volunteers can take their photos with and add to our photo campaign album.</td>
<td>Over 444 Photos submitted (More than 444 individuals throughout India). Volunteers from Bangladesh also showed their support by submitting their photos.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Facebook profile frame (with UN Women)</td>
<td>Created and distributed a IWD2018 Facebook profile frame.</td>
<td>847 Facebook profiles used this photo frame.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Activities in the field</td>
<td>UNVs in the field supported government/community lead activities related to IWD</td>
<td>Over 14 UNVs in 14 districts organized various activities celebrating IWD.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Mar</td>
<td>‘Youth Adda’ Event in Delhi (with UN Women)</td>
<td>We will hold a ‘Youth Adda’ event in Delhi, partnering with UN Women, and the University of Delhi to discuss SDG 8 from a gender perspective.</td>
<td>Over 90 youths from Delhi University and the Delhi area participated. This was the first Youth Adda in collaboration/partnership with Delhi School of Social Work, Delhi University.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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