India-Urban Youth Report 2015
Towards youth-centric change

Research Note
Context

- **Demographic context:** The beginning of a decade when demographically youth will dominate. Also a decade when India will also see a bulging older population and growing high dependency ratios.

- **Urban Growth:** India’s cities are in the next decade projected to grow much more rapidly than in the last decade. A quarter of urban growth in the last decade is due to in-migration of young people in search of jobs and education and this proportion is rising.

- **Employment and Livelihoods:** Even though industrial growth has risen, employment has stagnated in the sector. New employment opportunities are being largely created in the informal sector with all its attendant risks, and insecurity.

- **Governance and human rights:** With an increasing number of young people attaining majority and the right to vote, there is a greater awareness of democratic rights, institutions. With their greater participation in people’s movements and citizen’s groups the rights debate has taken a vibrant new direction.

- **Equity and Inequity:** Rapid development without adequate safety nets and distributive plans have worsened long existing inequity even as family income in some sections have risen. This impacts on economic, social and political institutions and systems posing serious challenges to their functioning and pushing for reform. Economic divides that earlier followed old ‘fault lines’ of caste and community increasingly cut across them.

- **Social Institutions:** Even as urbanisation is leading to greater cross-cultural and regional interactions, it is also giving rise to social tensions exacerbated by stagnant access to resources. This in turn has shaken social institutions of family and community and the social support systems of old.
Focus

• Three cross-cutting dimensions:
  Youth as purveyors of cities and consumers;
  youth as city changers
• Youth-led challenge to institutions and systems. Recording transitions and understanding the dimensions of youth-led transformation of institutions.
Broad contours

• Economic change: Income levels, spending patterns, access to financial resources and institutions, expectations wrt to employment, livelihoods and incomes; housing, sustainable urban environment, new technologies esp ICT

• Social change: Urban living, family, marriage, interpersonal relations, cross regional, community, caste relations, social expectations of urban youth, stress factors and mental health, health care.

• Political dimensions: politics of change, aspirations, participation in political institutions and in governance, attitude to democratic institutions, access to institutions.
Questions/Issues

• What is and will be the economic environment and opportunities in cities for the young in coming times? How will/should the urban environment respond to youth aspirations?
• Is Indian urban youth capable of taking the lead in transforming urban India?
• How is youth voice to be heard and incorporated in the broad change perspective? What opportunities are to be created for youth?
• How is the wideranging, if diffuse, youth challenge to social and economic institutions be streamlined and made more effective? How are solutions to be sought? What opportunities are to be created for youth to be allowed to contribute actively?
• What are the ongoing and existing youth initiatives and innovations aimed at social and economic change? How are they to be expanded and harnessed to the larger urban growth agenda?
• Can tomorrow’s Indian cities be youth-centric with active participation and decision-making among youth?
Draft

• Data-rich sections on economic and social sectors drawing age-wise data from existing databases. The focus will be on the present with projections for the next five years.

• Case-study narratives of youth-led innovations in the social and economic urban environment towards change.

• Youth survey of five cities of across population size: current selections are one southern city; two or three from the northern ‘Hindi belt’, the most populous region, one from the north east. [see next slide]

• Case studies of urban Kerala and Chhattisgarh. Kerala because of its unique development model and pattern of urban development. Chhattishgarh because it is a new state and data is revealing high tribal migration to urban areas of the state and outside---as a case study of a mineral resource rich state that is the target focus of industrial interests conflicting with environment and ecological interests. Presenting a case for structuring new youth-led models of urbanisation.
Survey

- Cities: Lucknow and Allahabad or Varanasi, Gauhati, Coimbatore, Delhi (?) and Mumbai. [Final selections will be on data and resource available etc.]
- Sample size will be small and will not be rigidly structured (since size is small) but will cut across economic and social categories. Where a city is segregated care will be taken to include all. Equal proportions of men and women.
- Questionnaire based. Analysis will use standard tools with programming. Relevant Chapter writers will be involved with the survey so that the results may be incorporated.
- Wherever possible FGDs will be conducted.
- All field surveyors will be youth who will be involved in the design of tools at some level.
- We are also exploring an online survey for specific focused information – eg ICT and youth.
Timelines

• Need to be worked out keeping in mind university holidays/exams, availabilities of resources etc.
• Broadly, survey will be conducted in september/october and analysis by november.
• Draft chapters by December.
• Seminar by december end
• Report will be out before March 2015.