

Training of Trainers Programme on Engaging Youth & Adolescence in Disaster Risk Management & Climate Change Adaptation

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Resilient India - Disaster Free India

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BACKGROUND

WHO defines 'Adolescents' as individuals in the 10-19 years age group and 'Youth' as the 15-24 year age group. While 'Young People' covers the age range 10-24 years. In India, as per Census 2011, adolescent population (10-19) is 253.2 million and that of the youth (15-24) is 231.9 million, constituting 20.9 per cent and 19.2 per cent of the total population respectively.³ The population of the young (10-24) is 364.6 million (30.1%). The young people are becoming a transformative force for social change and progress in India and around the world. Contribution of Adolescents/Youth in disaster response is considerable.

Despite the risks and vulnerabilities young people face, especially in disaster situations, it would be short-sighted to view Adolescents/Youth simply as victims or passive beneficiaries of assistance. Adolescents/Youth can make important contributions to Disaster Prevention, Mitigation, Preparedness and response activities. Crisis situations can actually prove to open up new spaces for young people to contribute in ways that are meaningful and empowering. Though rarely acknowledged or recorded, young men and women have social and cultural resources for adaptation and have exhibited tremendous courage, resilience, and leadership skills in disaster situations. Tsunami, Kerala Flood and Cyclone Fani and Cyclone Gaja is and examples of Adolescents/Youth involvement in natural disasters and crisis situations. There are many examples of Adolescents/Youth serving networks who, immediately following a disaster, have volunteered their services to help rebuild their communities.

YOUTH & ADOLESCENCE INSTITUTIONS AND VOLUNTEERS

Government of India has promoted various Adolescents/Youth forums such as National Service Scheme (NSS), Bharath Scouts and Guides, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYK) National Cadet Corps (NCC) and Indian Red Cross Society to promote volunteerism and involve Adolescents/Youth in community development work. Large number of Adolescents/Youths were enrolled them as a volunteers in above-mentioned Adolescents/Youth forum and they were actively engaged in Disaster Risk Management activities. The detail of Youth & Adolescence membership in various Youth & Adolescence forum is given below.

YOUTH & ADOLESCENCE VOLUNTEERS IN VARIOUS FORUM

S.No	Youth/Adolescence Forum	No. of Members
1	National Service Scheme	3925500
2	Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan	3528642
3	Bharath Scouts and Guides	3395139
4	National Cadet Corps	1281298
5	Civil Defence Volunteers	425000
6	Indian Red Cross Society	DNA
Total		12555579

Source: Ministry of Youth affairs and Sports