



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH



National Institute of Urban Affairs



SHAPING
YOUTH FUTURES

International Conference on Youth Engagement for Creating Inclusive Cities

December 8-9, 2022

India Habitat Centre, New Delhi





Context

UN-Habitat Executive Director Maimunah Mohd. Sharif recently remarked at the 11th World Urban Forum that in most countries, young people make up the largest and most dynamic portion of the population. It is estimated that by 2030, 60% of the population will be under 18, which means young people are our urban future. According to theory, developing nations with a sizable youth population may experience rapid growth if they make investments in health, education, and protection of the rights of the young people. India currently is one of the nations with the highest young population in the world, with a median age of 25 in 2020, compared to 40 in the USA, 46 in Europe, and 47 in Japan. This gives India a demographic dividend advantage over other countries. In case of other ODA countries such as Brazil, while urbanization reaches its apex in the country, with 84.3% of its population living in urban areas, studies show that Brazil is enjoying a demographic “bonus”, i.e., the proportion of working age population has grown at higher rates than the decrease in dependency rates, thus creating a favourable scenario for economic development that should last until 2050. Having said that, it is also observed that the majority of youth in developing countries face problems of unemployment, poverty, lack of access to education, gender bias and class divide, among others.

The Shaping Youth Futures project was initiated to promote the welfare and rights of young people through a youth-led understanding of livelihood options and policies to create inclusive cities. It builds on established research partnerships and existing community initiatives, with longstanding engagement with youth in India and Brazil. The project involved conversations between young and adult stakeholders on (1) how youth-led social innovation can better explore understandings of young people’s lived realities and intersectional positionalities, (2) contributions that young people can, and do make to policy development to improve young people’s experiences and access to livelihoods in the city, and (3) methodologies for in-depth engagement of young people with their communities, as well as local and national stakeholders to raise awareness, critique, recommend and advocate for policy development for inclusive cities.

Since March 2020, project partners have been engaged in activities involving young members directly and indirectly to realise the project aims. While partners such as the Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA) from Mumbai, India and the International Centre for Research and Policy on Childhood (CIESPI) from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil organised and conducted 8-10 months long City Caravans in the cities of Mumbai and Volta Redonda respectively, that supported youth-led innovation projects; Fields of View (FoV) based in Bengaluru, India supported these activities through innovative youth engagement models and ways to analyse policy; and the National Institute of Urban Affairs, being the knowledge partner on the project produced a Collection of Youth Engagement Practices in India and a few Latin American countries. In order to amplify and enable cross learnings between partners and identify wider applicability of the research, the project



coordinator University of Edinburgh, has produced peer-reviewed publications addressing specific disciplinary audiences on youth livelihoods and inclusive cities.

Concept

With a range of project outputs achieved, the project in its final leg is aiming for knowledge exchange (KE) activities that will further impact youth futures in other ODA countries, particularly in South America and South Asia. The first of such KE activities was organised in Rio de Janeiro in May-June 2022. Experts from neighbouring ODA countries, such as Mexico and Argentina, who specialise in children and young people’s rights and participation, came together to assess and reflect on the findings from the young people’s research projects, and also share parallels they see within their own work as well. A similar culminating KE event is planned in New Delhi, India for December 2022. It shall bring together experts and youth organisations from India and the neighbouring countries, namely Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka to witness the processes, methods and tools adopted in the project to achieve youth engagement, as well as participate in the discourses on livelihood opportunities for young people in urban contexts and youth participation with the aim of creating inclusive cities.

The 2-day event will see the young researchers from India and Brazil come together to present their research findings and outputs to a wide range of stakeholders, including national Governments, academicians, civil society organisations and multi-lateral organisations. The event is planned with an objective to gain a holistic understanding of inclusion of the young population while realising the aim of building inclusive cities. It shall also encourage discourses on youth engagement models, and on equitable and easy access for youth to livelihood opportunities in urban contexts, one of them in India being the National Urban Livelihood Mission that aims to address livelihood concerns in the urban contexts by facilitating access to suitable spaces, institutional credit, social security and skills to the disadvantaged.

Organising Partners:	Project Partners:
University of Edinburgh/British Academy	Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA)
National Institute of Urban Affairs	Centro Internacional de Estudos e Pesquisas sobre a Infância (CIESPI)
	Fields of View



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AGENDA

(Note: Programme timings are in IST)

Day I

December 8, 2022, Thursday

Time	Activity	Speaker
09:30-10:00	Registration Networking with Tea-Coffee	
10:00-10:15	Welcome Address	Hitesh Vaidya <i>Director-NIUA</i>
10:15-10:30	Special Inaugural Address	Hardeep Singh Puri (TBC) <i>Hon'ble Minister-Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs</i>
10:30-10:45	Keynote Speech	André Aranha Corrêa do Lago (TBC) <i>Hon'ble Ambassador of Brazil to India</i>
10:45-11:00	Context setting and Expectations from the conference	Sukanya Krishnamurthy <i>Principal Investigator (Shaping Youth Futures) and Chancellors Fellow/Senior Lecturer at the School of Geosciences, University of Edinburgh</i>
11:10-12:30	Conversations with the youth from Volta Redonda, Brazil & Mumbai, India	Youth representatives from Volta Redonda and Mumbai, chaired by CIESPI and YUVA
12:30-13:00	Open Discussion with the audience (Q&A)	
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-14:45	Reflections on City Caravans and Research with the YEG and the young researchers	Irene Rizzini <i>Professor at Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (PUC-Rio) and Director at The International Center for Research and Policy on Childhood (CIESPI) at PUC-Rio</i> Alicia Tauro <i>Project Lead for Child and Youth rights at YUVA</i>



14:45-15:00	Release of project research outputs <i>(Screening of films/documentaries developed by the young people from Volta Redonda and Mumbai and display of other material)</i>	
15:00-15:30	Tea-Coffee break	
15:30-16:45	Reflections by experts on the project work (Moderator: Sukanya Krishnamurthy <i>Chancellors Fellow/Senior Lecturer at the School of Geosciences, University of Edinburgh and Principal Investigator (Shaping Youth Futures)</i>)	Nazrul Haque <i>Azim Premji University (Bangalore)</i> Dr. Anita Patil-Deshmukh <i>Executive Director And Principal Investigator, Pukar (Mumbai)</i> Janardhana Kesaragadde <i>Programme Lead- Youth Work Promotion and Youth Rights Advocacy, Samvada, (Bangalore)</i>
16:45-17:00	Closing Remarks for the day	NIUA
19:00 onwards	Dinner	

Day II
December 9, 2022, Friday

Time	Activity	Speaker
09:45-10:15	Welcome: Networking with Tea-Coffee	
10:15-10:30	Briefing from Day 1 and expectations from Day 2	NIUA
10:30-10:45	Special Address	Sanjay Kumar (TBC) <i>Additional Secretary, National Urban Livelihood Mission-Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)</i>
10:45-11:45	Overview of the research work by the young participants	Youth from Volta Redonda & Mumbai
12:00-13:00	Panel on Youth Development and Livelihood Opportunities for the young in South Asia (Moderator: Young Researcher-India)	Sanjay Kumar (TBC) <i>Additional Secretary, NULM-MoHUA</i> Dinesh Ghimire <i>Under Secretary, National Youth Council, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Government of Nepal</i> Dr Imran Matin



		<p><i>Executive Director, BRAC Institute of Governance and Development, Dhaka, Bangladesh</i></p> <p>Dhuwarakha Sriram</p> <p><i>Chief of Generation Unlimited (YuWaah), Youth Development and Partnerships, UNICEF, New Delhi</i></p> <p>Dorji Ohm</p> <p><i>Executive Director, Bhutan Youth Development Fund, Thimpu, Bhutan</i></p>
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-15:00	<p>Panel Discussion on Young people and Inclusive Cities (Moderator: Kay Tisdall, <i>Professor and Chair of Childhood Policy, Moray House School of Education and Sport, IECS, University of Edinburgh</i>)</p>	<p>Natasha Blanchet-Cohen <i>Concordia University, Montreal, Canada</i></p> <p>Kath Hall <i>University of Cape Town, South Africa</i></p> <p>Patricio Cuevas-Parra <i>Director, Child Participation and Rights, World Vision International, Nicosia, Cyprus</i></p> <p>Roshni Nuggehalli <i>Executive Director, YUVA, Mumbai</i></p> <p>Youth Representatives (India & Brazil)</p>
15:00-15:30	Tea-Coffee break	
15:30-16:00	Summarisation and Vote of Thanks	University of Edinburgh

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