

YOUTH VOLUNTEERING INDIA

June - August 2016

Welcome to third quarterly edition of *Youth Volunteering India*! We're now more than eight months into the project 'Strengthening Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and National Service Scheme (NSS)' which has placed 29 UN Volunteer-District Youth Coordinators (UNV-DYC) across all 29 States in India (one district in each State) along with 3 UN Volunteer Management Associates at NYKS Headquarters in New Delhi. These UNV-DYC have been working closely with NYKS and NSS to promote youth volunteering and work for youth development in their districts. In this edition, we bring you some of emergent examples of innovative youth work being done across the nation.



UNV-DYC Toney Thomas interacting with young volunteers in Ernakulam, Kerala



Major General Dilawar Singh (DG, NYKS) along with Anand Prakash (UNV-DYC Rajkot) planting a sapling in Rajkot, Gujarat

Greening the Earth, One Sapling at a Time

In 2015-16, NYKS youth volunteers managed to plant around 15 lakh saplings across India! This year, in their latest massive tree plantation drive, they hope to surpass this number and encourage youth to take care of their environment and mitigate the effects of climate change. Massive plantation drives have been undertaken across all 29 districts under the project and will continue over the months to come.

Youth Volunteering for Sustainable Development Goals

The [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) were adopted by world leaders in September 2015 which will build on the success of the Millennium Development Goals and go further to end all forms of poverty. The 17 goals mirror much of India's development agenda and young people are at the forefront for ensuring the achievement of the goals in the nation. Leading the conversation about the SDGs and the role of youth volunteering in achieving the goals, 25 thematic debates have been organized with youth in 25 States of India. These debates focused on one or more of the SDGs, their relevance to youth, and how young people can play a vital role in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Linking it to the existing NYKS work in the districts, the UNV-DYCs plan to continue their engagement with the youth around the selected SDGs over the coming months. For example, in Sikar, Rajasthan, UNV-DYC Gajendra Singh Shekawat led the debate around SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth. The debate created a platform to understand the skills that young people need in Sikar and Gajendra will channelize the work of the Sikar NYK in that direction.



Thematic debate on SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth in Sikar, Rajasthan

Reaching out to Tribal Communities in Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu

Dhinesh Kumar, UNV-DYC in Kanyakumari, has been working to reach out to the marginalized tribal communities in his district through NYKS. He has conducted an awareness campaign for tribal youth and community in Melpuram block having 48 tribal settlements in between Kerala and Tirunelveli district located in Tamil Nadu. The awareness was created on availability of different schemes of state and central government for tribal community. The campaign saw active participation of 150 people. To bring the tribal community to forefront, the UNV DYK Kanyakumari has also formed 6 new youth clubs for tribal youth development and motivated them to continue their education.

UN Volunteers at the Second BRICS Youth Summit 2016 at Guwahati, Assam

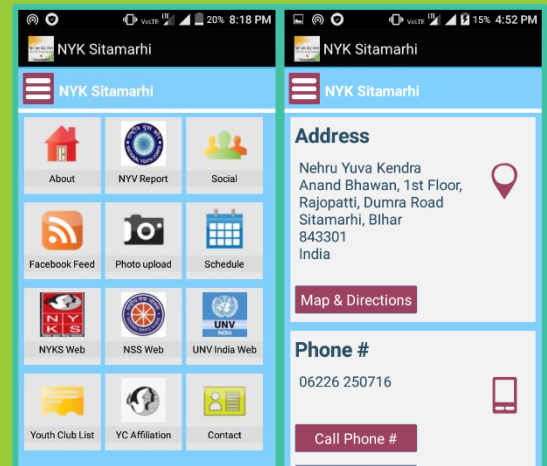
"We came up with a lot of good recommendations and in three days we learnt a lot from each other. Most importantly we have built really good friendship and from there we want to take this forward in the next summit."

~ Gayatri Bhuyan, UNV-DYC Nalbari, Assam

The Second BRICS Youth Summit was held in Guwahati, Assam from 1-3 July 2016 with over 50 young leaders from the five BRICS nations – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. Five UN Volunteers working with the project ‘Strengthening NYKS and NSS’ – Hindaprabha Karve (UNV-DYC Thane), Gayatri Bhuyan (UNV-DYC Nalbari), Bhavya Goswami (UNV Management Associate), Vriti Vasudevan (UNV Management Associate), and Rubina Singh (UNV Management Associate) – had the privilege of representing India at the Summit. Based on the theme for this year’s summit - Youth as Bridge for Intra-BRICS Exchanges – the delegates facilitated the creation of a ‘[Call to Action](#)’ to be shared at the 8th BRICS Summit in Goa this October.

Mobile Application for NYKS in Sitamarhi, Bihar

To enhance visibility of NYKS in his district and facilitate administrative processes for National Youth Volunteers, a mobile application has been developed in Sitamarhi district by UNV-DYC Parimal Kumar. The app will to highlight the activities of NYK Sitamarhi. The application hosts features such as Daily reporting of volunteers, Youth club details, Facebook and social media activities, event reporting etc. The future plan is to upload it on the play store and make it avail be for the android users and make it available for other Kendras under NYKS.



Snapshots from the application

Rain or Shine – International Yoga Day Celebrated with Fervour



Youth celebrating International Yoga Day inside the school auditorium in South Sikkim

Second International Yoga Day was celebrated with much fervour across the country including all the 29 NYKS district Kendras under project, ‘Strengthening NYKS and NSS’. Over 4000 young people gathered across the 29 districts on 21 June to commemorate and practice yoga. Their enthusiasm was unparalleled, with some districts celebrating the day even under extreme weather conditions. For example, in South Sikkim, over 250 youth gathered for International Yoga Day despite heavy rain and thunderstorms and performed yoga in four different halls of the school instead of the originally planned venue.

Tackling Unemployment by the Roots in Gumla, Jharkhand

In an effort to address the pressing issue of unemployment in his district, UNV-DYC Raja Gupta has facilitated the creation of a youth club which also functions as a self-help group. The group of 30 youth have combined their resources to create a seed fund used for community development activities and income generation activities for the members.

To further address the issue of unemployment, UNV-DYC has also facilitated a loan of INR 1.06 Crore (approx. USD 1,50,000) for 17 marginalized youth under the Prime Minister’s Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP). The loan received under the programme will allow them to set up their own ventures in the field of steel furniture, readymade garments, wood furniture, etc.



UNV-DYC Raja Gupta (extreme left) interacting with government officials for facilitation of loan for marginalized youth



A session on first aid from the training at Nahan, Himachal Pradesh

Training on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in Nahan, Himachal Pradesh

Himachal Pradesh is vulnerable to 22 out of 33 types of hazards identified by the High Powered Committee of Government of India including floods, landslides, and earth quakes. Keeping this in mind, Mukul Sharma, UNV-DYC for Nahan district conceptualized and organized a four day Master Trainer Training Program for NYK Volunteers in Collaboration with District Disaster Management Authority in August. The programme trained 50 young volunteers in DRR, Search and rescue, and First Aid. These youth will further train NYKS volunteers and other community members in DRR.

Addressing Malnourishment in Thane, Maharashtra

During her visits to the field in Thane and Palgar, Maharashtra, UNV-DYC Hindaprabha Karve noticed that the Anganwadi Centres in some of the blocks could use some support. She approached the Women and Child Development Department, the Block Development Officer, and the Block Education Officer to voluntarily assess the areas for improvement in three blocks – Jawhar, Mokhada and Vikramgar. With the support of NSS volunteers, she surveyed 123 Anganwadi centres from these blocks, where they found 18 acutely malnourished children. With support from the Anganwadi centres, ASHA workers and the district officials, these children were admitted to the nearest public health centres for further treatment.

Training of Trainers on Skill Development for Rural Youth

10 UNV-DYCs recently attended a Training of Trainers programme on Skill Development for Rural Youth organized by the National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR) in Hyderabad, Telangana. The training focused on strategies for increasing production capabilities and self-employment opportunities for rural youth. The UNV-DYCs will use the learning from this training while working with youth in their respective districts.

“As we work primarily with rural youth, it is important that we are aware of all central and state government schemes, especially those related to employment generation and skill building. Such trainings allow us the opportunity to build our own skills as trainers and share relevant knowledge with youth.”

~ Zo Mouna, UNV-DYC Lunglei, Mizoram



UNV-DYC D. Siva Kumar (second from right) interacting with youth for the Ripple Project

The Ripple Effect – Volunteering for Change in Anantapuramu, Andhra Pradesh

A unique peer-learning project has been initiated in Anantapur district, Andhra Pradesh by UNV-DYC D. Siva Kumar. The ‘Ripple’ project operates on the philosophy of each one, teach ten where youth are trained in English language and communication skills and in turn are encouraged to pass on the training to 10 more young people in their community. Till date, this one of a kind project has 30 youth who are further training 300 more young people in their communities.

Sustainable volunteering in Ernakulam, Kerala

When Toney Thomas joined NYKS Ernakulam as UNV-DYC, he noticed a small area of land within the Civil Station compound where the NYKS office was located with many other government offices. This land was in a state of neglect, but Toney recognized this as an opportunity to create sustainable agriculture. After many meetings to convince the district administration, on 10 August 2016, Toney along with a team of more than 40 volunteers, cleaned up the area and planted grow-bags for vegetables and some fruit bearing trees in the compound.



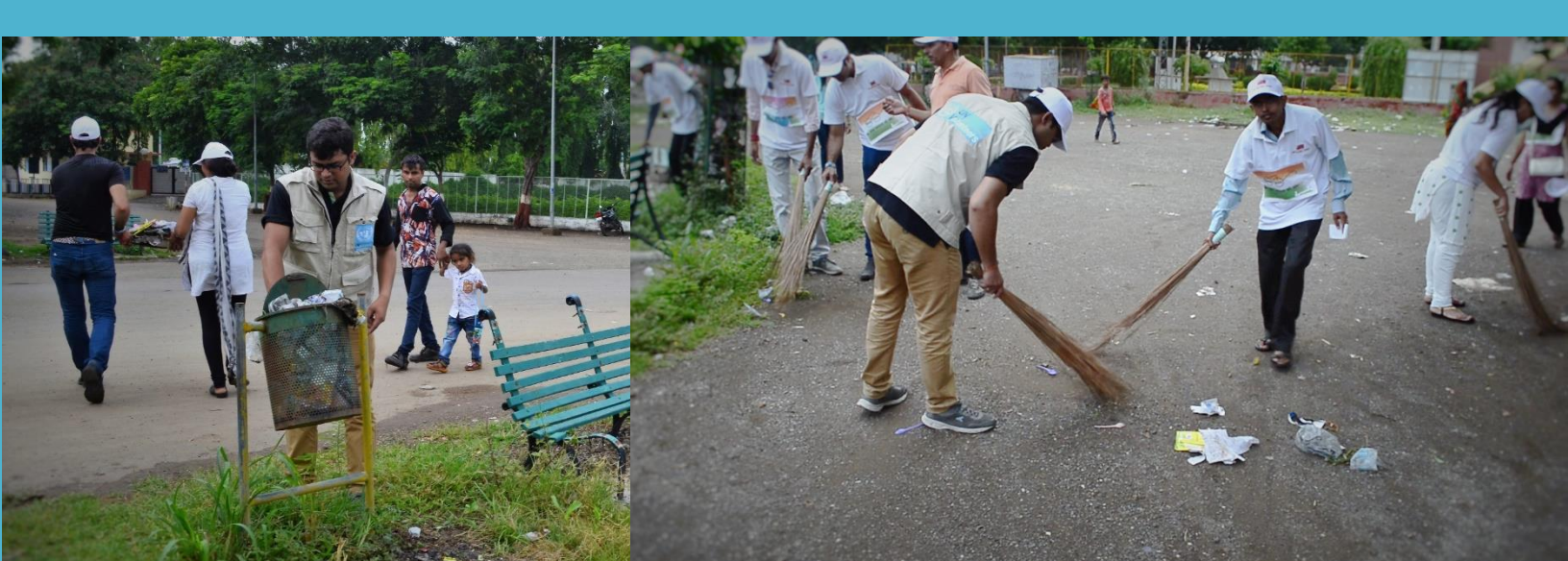
Volunteers working at the Civil Station Compound

Changing Mind-sets for a Clean Rajkot

“I used to see other Swachh Bharat campaigns when areas were cleaned once and within a week they were dirty again. I believe that as volunteers, we have to ensure that our work genuinely benefits the community. During the campaign, we engaged in conversation with many people about the importance of cleanliness. Some visitors even joined us. We managed to inspire others to work towards the betterment of their community. That was the true achievement.”

~ Anand Prakash, UNV-DYC Rajkot, Gujarat

Dr. Kalpana Chawla Memorial Garden is quite a popular spot in Rajkot, Gujarat. It is regularly frequented by young people, tourists, as well as families and children. Anand Prakash – a UN Volunteer-District Youth Coordinator with Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), Rajkot – noticed that the garden was getting littered and full of trash. He approached some young volunteers who work with him through NYKS and they decided to take some corrective action. Rather than simply doing a one-off event, about 20 volunteers got together on 27 August to clean the park and use this opportunity to make a lasting impact.



Paving the Road to Volunteering in Udaipur, Tripura

33 young people came together in Udaipur, Tripura along with UNV-DYC Jiaul Islam Chowdhury to build a road in Hadra Village. While interacting with youth from the district, Jiaul realized that volunteering could play a major role in community development and he decided to organize a work camp in coordination with a local organization and two NYKS youth clubs. Through the camp, the young volunteers built a 200 metre road to connect their village to the main road, in just two days! Not only did the community benefit, there is also a greater sense of appreciation for young volunteers and NYKS in the village.



Volunteers building the road in Udaipur, Tripura

Other Highlights from the 29 Districts

Tikamgarh, Madhya Pradesh: During his visits to the field, UNV-DYC Tikamgarh, noticed that young women were not as keen as the young men to form youth clubs and work with NYKS. While speaking to the girls, he realized their key interest lied in skill training. He reached out to Rural Skill and Entrepreneurship Training Institute (RSETI) in June to train 20 young women as beauticians. In two months, the girls were inspired to form 3 youth clubs with NYKS support and are now keen to empower more young women from their communities.



Anantapuramu, Andhra Pradesh: UNV-DYC recently organized a meeting with 5 *Varadhi* Community Coordinators associated with Centre for Advocacy and Research (CFAR) representing over 5000 sex workers from the district. In the meeting, the coordinators expressed the need for skill training for the children in these communities which motivated UNV-DYC to reach out to a local training institute and facilitate free training for 6 young women starting in August. This has also motivated 6 community based organizations working for the empowerment of sex workers, to affiliate with NYKS.

Thane, Maharashtra: With the help of 16 volunteers, NYKS Thane has facilitated the filing of approximately 5000 job cards for migrant workers from the Tribal community under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in the last three months. This has helped in reducing the level of temporary migration of workers to other districts which would earlier lead to high drop-out rates and health issues for their children.

Ernakulam, Kerala: NYKS Ernakulam conducted 14 Block level Youth Parliament where about 1200 youth from about 120 youth clubs participated. While Block level youth parliaments are mostly conducted with NYKS volunteers, UNV-DYC was also able to encourage many NSS volunteers to participate.

Udaipur, Tripura: While youth in Udaipur have more opportunities for education there is a disconnect between the passion of the young people and their higher education. UNV-DYC has organized five counselling programmes with over 800 students to facilitate their higher education aspirations in collaboration with the District Education Department, Employment Exchange, Red Cross and others.



Nuapada, Odisha: NYK Nuapada has been working actively for the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan in the district. The team has cleaned local water bodies and village drains with over 40 youth volunteers with the aim of clean, sustainable villages.

Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand: NYK Uttarkashi has mobilized over 200 *Vahini* Youth Motivators (volunteers) for the National Clean Ganga Mission. After the official launch of the programme in July, NYK has been developing a proposal to work with the volunteers for the mission.

Meerut, Uttar Pradesh: NYK Meerut in collaboration with District Forest Department, Neer Foundation and Dainik Jagaran initiated tree plantation at 12 blocks each of Meerut district. On 12 August 2016, the plantation drive was launched by planting 50 saplings at Kheri Maniharan village of Mawana block with 30 young volunteers.



Mahendragarh, Haryana: With a view to make Mahendragarh an Open Defecation Free district, UNV-DYC along with NYKS Mahendragarh staff and 40 National Youth Volunteers and Youth Club members, participated in an Orientation programme organized by the District Administration. They are now working to make Mahendragarh an Open Defecation Free District by end of October!

Tamenglong, Manipur: One of the remotest districts in the project, the UNV-DYC with NYKS Tamenglong has been regularly meeting with young people in the far-flung villages of the district to talk about the impact of youth volunteering. In July, he met with 27 youth from five different villages to highlight the importance of volunteering and share information related to relevant government schemes.

Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh: 15 new youth clubs have been formed by NYK Tawang in last 7 months and affiliated with the NYKS, Tawang to create information about the NYKS work in some of the remotest parts of the Himalayan district.



Patiala, Punjab: As of December 2015, Patiala has the second highest number of people living with HIV in the State of Punjab. To address this, NYK Patiala with UNV-DYC have conducted multiple sessions on HIV and AIDS awareness with schools, colleges and universities on topics such as the difference between HIV and AIDS, modes of transmission, myths and misconceptions, services testing, treatment, helplines, etc.

Sitamarhi, Bihar: To promote healthy living, NYK Sitamarhi has been working closely with the District Health Department for Mission Indradhanush which aims to ensure immunization for children against seven life threatening diseases. UNV-DYC recently organized an orientation programme for 23 National Youth Volunteers with the District Immunization Officer to implement the programme in Sitamarhi.

Gumla, Jharkhand: UNV-DYC under the Pradhan Mantri Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) has helped 17 youth of different block from villages belonging to SC and ST categories to get sanction letter of amount INR 1.06 Crore for trade in the areas such as steel furniture, grills and gate making, readymade garments shop, wooden furniture shop, stationary shop, beauty parlour, etc.

South Goa: In an attempt to address one of the biggest problem among youth in South Goa, i.e. drug abuse, UNV-DYC organized a flash mob to mark International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking with the participation of around 50 young people reaching around 2500 people in five places across the state of Goa.

Lunglei, Mizoram: UNV-DYC organised a School Sanitation programme to highlight the importance of volunteering for health and sanitation. 40 people participated in the programme held in the Government Primary School in Lunglei RD block including school students, National Youth Volunteers and others.



Nahan, Himachal Pradesh: UNV-DYC has initiated a volunteer development campaign– “Be a Volunteer for Sirmaur” in Nahan. He has reached out to youth, different communities and shared with them the role of volunteers in nation building activities At present 30 volunteers are associated with this campaign. These volunteers will be given training in areas such as Computer Training, Interpersonal Communication Skills, Personality Development, Capacity Building Exercise, and Disaster Management, Skill development, SHG or Enterprise Development, and Sustainable development Goals.

Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu: NYK Kanyakumari has facilitated 30 youth in enrolling for training programmes with RSETI in Kanyakumari district. This is a self-employment training programme which will help the youth to avail loan to set up their businesses. The training will be imparted in areas such as veterinary training, goat rearing, mushroom cultivation, technical training, computer hardware, tailoring training etc.



Khammam, Telangana: To support the massive plantation drive, NYK Khammam organized a plantation programme in 9 blocks of the district by National Youth Volunteers and youth clubs where total 4000 saplings planted which were procured from District Forest Department after meetings with UNV-DYC.

Nalbari, Assam: UNV-DYC Nalbari has initiated a Cluster Development Approach Gap Analysis Study to assess the possibility of scaling up the infrastructural and production chain of existing handloom clusters which have remained unorganized. The proposed gap analysis study has been done in collaboration with NYK, Nalbari affiliated youth club called Nalbari Hasta Silpa Samovay Samiti and door to door surveys have been conducted in four clusters. The gap analysis study will help in formulating a proposal to be submitted to Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati. This partnership is expected to support market linkages and product diversification.

Rajouri, Jammu & Kashmir: UNV-DYC Rajouri has mobilised 20 youth club members and 2 National Youth Volunteers to repair two damaged water bodies in block Darhal. Through the programme, the water bodies were repaired and the platform was also used to create awareness about the need for preserving water bodies.

Sarguja, Chhattisgarh: Assessing the need for employment and skill building in Sarguja, UNV-DYC has initiated an English Learning Centre. At the Centre, youth club members teach English to children under five years of age in an informal pre-school setting. The centre engages unemployed youth in a way that they can further develop their own soft skills and also provides a learning platform for the most marginalized young children to prepare them for formal education.



Ri Bhoi, Meghalaya: The UNV-DYC along with other youth clubs provided relief to one family which lost all their possessions due to a fire. One youth club from Jirang block raised funds and provided the family (a single mother with three daughters) with 50 kg Rice, utensils, buckets, several blankets, 4 kg sugar, and other daily essentials.

Mangalore, Karnataka: While supporting the work of NYK in Mangalore, UNV-DYC has also been actively supporting NYKS in neighbouring districts. UNV-DYC participated in National Youth Volunteer selection committee for two neighbouring districts (Udupi and Karwar) as State Director nominee where a total of 27 volunteers were recruited.

Dimapur, Nagaland: UNV-DYC organized a one-day thematic debate on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in June with 28 young people in Dimapur. In collaboration with North East Institute of Social Science and Research, the debate focused on understanding the skill requirement of youth in the district and the relevance of SDGs in their daily lives.

Rajkot, Gujarat: 600 Saplings planted through youth clubs and NYVs throughout the month. On 26 July, one plantation drive was conducted to commemorate Kargil Vijay Divas where Major General Dilawar Singh (DG, NYKS) was chief guest. One plantation was also done in the presence of DG, NYKS.

South Sikkim, Sikkim: UNV-DYC has been actively supporting the training of young National Youth Volunteers (NYV) with NYKS. She has attended a Training of Trainers on conducting training of the NYVs which allowed her to successfully conduct a 15-day induction training for newly recruited NYVs in Sikkim as well as a 7-day refresher training.



Sikar, Rajasthan: UNV-DYC has regularly visited villages in Sikar to enhance visibility of NYK Sikar. He recently visited four villages and engaged with 20 youth to facilitate the formation of new youth clubs in these villages. At least three new youth clubs are under formation after UNV-DYC's visit.

South Kolkata, Kolkata: In order to enhance visibility of NYKS and promote youth volunteering, UNV-DYC has collaborated with Indira Gandhi National Open University to regularly orient the students about NYKS programmes and activities for youth in Kolkata. The first orientation session was held on 19 September where the students also had the opportunity to visit and interact with youth club members.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports www.yas.nic.in; **Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD)** www.rgniya.gov.in; **National Service Scheme (NSS)** www.nss.nic.in; **Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS)** www.nyks.org; **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** www.in.undp.org; **United Nations Volunteers (UNV)** www.in.undp.org/unv

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