

**YES INDIA NETWORK
COUNTRY REPORT
FROM EGYPT TO MEXICO, 2002 - 2004**



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YES India Network

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About YES India



YES India was launched at the “National Consultation on Youth Employment”, held on 23rd July, 2002 in New Delhi. It was sponsored by the global software and training group, NIIT Ltd. Prominent speakers at the consultation included the Union Minister of Labor (Government of India), Dr. Sahib Singh Verma, the Egyptian Ambassador, Honorable Gehad Madi, , Chief Operating Officer, NIIT Ltd, Mr. P Rajendran, the former Ambassador of India to the USA, Mr. Naresh Chandra, Prof. Anand Kumar of JNU and Mrs. Raka Rashid of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

In the 2nd year of YES Campaign in the country, India is the host to the biggest event of the YES Campaign in 2003, “YES Regional Forum, 2003. The “YES Regional Forum was held in the Indian city of Hyderabad, during December 14-18, 2003 It brought together up to 650 development professionals, youth, ministerial delegates and business leaders from 22 countries in Asia . The event was hosted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh in partnership with YES Campaign, Education Development Center, Inc USA. The agenda of the Forum focused on six themes: information & communication, rural development, water & sanitation, renewable energy, HIV/AIDS and gender.

On a national level YES India is in the early stages of drawing together a coalition of multi-stakeholders to promote youth employment and livelihood in the country. However, YES India has already contributed a number of strategic interventions at regional and national level.

- **Alexandria Summit in 2002:** The fledgling YES Network succeeded in alerting the Labor Ministry and the Youth Affairs and Sports Ministry on the importance of participating at the launch of the YES Campaign at the Alexandria Summit in 2002. Over forty Indians formed the national delegation at YES 2002 in Egypt led by the Honorable Union Youth Minister, Shri. Vikram Verma.
- **Launch the Hyderabad chapter of YES India:** In January 2003, an introductory meeting in Hyderabad drew one hundred participants to launch the Hyderabad chapter of YES India. Over 85 organizations are now members of the YES Hyderabad Network. A YES Hyderabad Network Committee was constituted with H E Shri S.S. Barnala, the Governor of Andhra Pradesh as the Chief Patron and top corporates and high profile dignitaries as advisors.
- **Green Enterprise Project Design Training Workshop:** In April 2003 YES India organized the Green Enterprise Project Design Training Workshop in Chennai, in partnership with The M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) and the YES Campaign Secretariat (YES). The one-week workshop trained twenty selected participants from seven countries in project design and implementation skills in eco-entrepreneurship.
- **Regional Consultations:** Two multi-stakeholder Regional Consultations were organized as a prelude to the “Hyderabad YES Regional Forum 2003”. The first “YES Consultation to Promote Employment in Emerging Sectors”, sponsored by UNFPA, was held New Delhi on October 11, 2003. This was followed by the second consultation meeting to formulate ideas for launching a YES Academy at the Hyderabad YES Regional Forum. The second

consultation was organized on June 16, 2003 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Chandrababu Naidu, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. Prof. Swaminathan - Chairman of MSSRF, Ms. Poonam Ahluwalia, Executive Director of YES Campaign and Senior Bureaucrats of the Andhra Pradesh government participated in the consultation among others.

➤ **YES SAARC Network – Signing of Memorandum of Understanding**

The YES Country Networks of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka signed an agreement under the auspices of the decade long Youth Employment Summit (YES) Campaign, which is a project of Education Development Center (EDC), Inc. Boston, Massachusetts, USA to have more regional cooperation on Youth Employment issues following the



Hyderabad Regional Forum in December 2003. These seven YES Country Networks agreed to first communicate then cooperate and finally collaborate to undertake projects, which would be mutually beneficial and take these seven YES Country Networks towards fulfilling the YES Campaign objectives and the Alexandria Declaration.

Potential avenues of collaboration

Information, materials and technical exchanges: Sharing of information/knowledge on their YES Country Networks' and other organizations' activities of their respective countries.

Exchange Visits: Making efforts for individuals and member organization representatives to visit each other's countries and observe the projects in action.

Training programs and workshops: Arranging joint training programs and workshops in various sectors of focus of the YES campaign

Joint program undertaking: Implementing of joint projects part of which can be implemented in one country and the remaining part in the other(s).

International business networking for budding entrepreneurs: Agreeing to assist each other's nation's young and promising entrepreneurs by helping to carry out market studies to assess demand and scopes for international trade in products.

Mutual promotion: Agreeing to promote each other in their own countries.

➤ **“India Report on Youth Employment”:** The Youth Employment Summit in its drive to build the research capacity of the YES Country Networks and to inform the policy and practice to take up effective measure to create opportunities for youth, invited the YES Country Networks to develop Country specific “Report on Youth Employment”. The “India Report on Youth Employment” was prepared and was presented at the Hyderabad YES Regional Forum held during December 10 – 14, 2003.

➤ **YES Network chapter in Medak district:** Launched the YES Network chapter in Medak district - one of the most backward district of Andhra Pradesh in the month of August, 2003.

YES consultation meetings were held at Sangareddy, Medak, Siddipet on November 12, 13 and 14, where about 150 youth participated.

- **YES Network chapter in Karnataka:** Bangalore city played host to a YES Consultation Meeting on 6th February 2004. Thanks to the efforts of Ms. Kamamma, Chairperson of Karnataka Women Development Corporation, Government of Karnataka and Ms. Prabhavathi, CEO of Gramya TS Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore city played host and organized a YES Consultation Meeting on 6th February 2004. Participants included women SHG leaders, NGO leaders, business leaders and Karnataka state government officials. Praveen Kumar Prithvi, Coordinator, YES India gave a presentation on the YES campaign and invited the participants to become actively involved in whatever ways possible in the YES campaign to ensure “Employment For All Youth In India” over the next decade. In order to give further impetus to the YES campaign in the state of Karnataka, the YES India Coordinator and YES Karnataka Network members represented by Ms. Kamamma and Ms. Prabhavati met with Ms. Mottamma, Hon’ble Minister for Women Development and Mr. D. Shiva Kumar, Hon’ble Minister for Urban Development, Government of Karnataka and briefed them about the YES Campaign and solicited their support for youth employment issues in the state of Karnataka.
- **YES Network chapter in Nalagonda District, Andhra Pradesh :** On 19th of February under the leadership of Mr. P.K. Joseph from YES Campaign, Mr. Ch. Buggaiah, Convener - YES Network Nalgonda District, District Youth Welfare Officer Mr. Venkat Narayan Goud, Chairman, Nalgonda Municipality, and Mr. D. Balaji - Loksatta Nalgonda YES Network was launched in the Nalagonda District of Andhra Pradesh. Almost 400 participants including 59 NGOs and 60 Youth Organizations attended the launching ceremony. Pallati Eshwar, Executive Director, from AREDDNA an NGO hosted the launching ceremony. The launching ceremony was followed by the official releasing of the YES Oath taking and YES Nalagonda Blueprint. The members joined hands to eliminate poverty and decided to work with the motto of “From Poverty To Prosperity”.

- **YES Network Chapter in Meghalaya -** Bremley Lyngdoh, an active YES Campaign member participated in a YES Camp, which was kicked off at Kharsati Nature Park in Meghalaya on 22 March 2004. Meghalaya is a state in the Northeastern part of India in the hills of eastern sub-Himalayas and is one of the most beautiful states of India. The word Meghalaya means “Land Where The Clouds Come Home” in Sanskrit, an ancient Indian language. The YES Camp



had an overwhelming response with 40 participants. The Deputy Commissioner of the Ri Bhoi District, Mr. W.L. Lyngdoh inaugurated the YES Camp and gave an excellent inspirational speech. The participants were formed into 4 groups of 10 each to discuss on youth related topics. There was also a live band performance “Dance with Nature” at the camp site. A YES Consultation Meeting was held at the State Institute for Rural Development Campus near the Umiam Lake in which 80 participants participated. Mr. Paul Lyngdoh, the Minister for Youth and Sports Affairs, Government of Meghalaya inaugurated the YES consultation and gave a welcome address outlining the Hyderabad Blueprint.

- **YES Network chapter in West Bengal** - The launch of YES India Regional Chapter (East) was organized with the active participation of Government Officials, International Agency Representatives, Corporate Body Executives, Youth Groups, CBOs and NGO functionaries. Noted personalities like Mr.S.Sen, Joint Secretary, Government of West Bengal, Mr.P.Pandey, Joint Commissioner of Police, Mr.J.Banerjee, Administrative



Officer, Nehru Yuba Kendra Sangathan, Mrs.N.Sen, Deputy Director, Indian Chamber of Commerce-Calcutta Foundation, Mr.R.Maxfield, Director, GOAL-Ireland-India, Mr. A. Bhattacharya, Secretary, CLPOA under UNICEF and many others participated in the launching ceremony. At the outset participants were informed about the purpose behind launching of this YES chapter. YES chapter in Bengal will focus on issues like promoting, creating and supporting youth employment. To initiate better livelihood programmes for the youth through awareness generation. To develop the chapter with active members to carry forward the YES mission. There were wide ranging interactions on the issue of employability and employment scenario in the eastern region on which the Resource Speakers gave their inputs. The members were delegated with the work to meet the ministers in charge of youth affairs, the respective government officials, Corporates, Youth groups and NGOs and to enroll the active youth into the chapter as members.

- **YES Network chapter in Bihar and Jharkhand** - YES Network was launched at Patna on 16 April 2004. The YES Network of Bihar and Jharkhand was formed with



partnership among youth development practitioners, business leaders, government officials, media, NGOs, PRIs and youth leaders at Patna, Bihar on 16 April 2004. These two states are popular for their low developmental index and high population growth, as International Labour Organization calls it “Demographic Bonus”. This “Demographic Bonus” is creating major problems of extreme poverty, extreme unemployment and unskilled labourers. The rural youths are moving to the metros in for few and poorly paid jobs in the informal sectors. The YES Network in these states will strive to reverse this migration and establish employment opportunities in rural areas through entrepreneurship development so that they can become self employed by the YES Network’s concerted awareness building, programmes, and policy changes Yes Network of Bihar and Jharkhand is headed by Dr. Minakshi Swaraj, an active NGO leader of the region. Dr. N.A.Khan of the region is also supporting her YES efforts. Currently Bihar and Jharkhand Network is establishing a trend of volunteerism which can improve the quality of their skills and time management for better performance: Volunteerism is an opportunity for innovative contribution with enthusiasm to achieve success in their professional life.

- **YES Consultation Meeting in Tamil Nadu** – A YES Consultative Meeting involving various stakeholders from Chennai city and districts of Tamil Nadu was held on 3rd July 2004 at Shankar's Academy an institute dedicated to creating employable youth. The members decided to take up membership drive and organize sector-wise workshops.
- **YES Members At The UNIDO Workshop on Renewable Energy**– A “National Consultation on Renewable Energy and Youth Employment Opportunities” was organized by United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Ministry of National Energy Services and India Habitat Centre on 8th and 9th July 2004 in New Delhi. UNIDO had invited 20 members from the YES Networks from different parts of India to attend this two day Renewable Energy Seminar focusing on generating project ideas and linking YES Network Members with donors, practitioners and capacity building organizations in Renewable Energy. Some of the topics covered in the workshop included
 - Employment Challenges in Renewable Energy Sector
 - Biomass Technologies and Employment Opportunities case study on Gasifier Technology
 - Biogas Projects for Rural Energy
 - Biomass Gasifier & Solar and Entrepreneurship
 - Sustainable Development Alternatives
 - Micro Hydel Projects & Youth Employment Opportunities
 - Barefoot Engineers – Employment Opportunities for Rural Women
 - General Employment opportunities in new and Renewable Sources of Energy
 - Wind Energy Projects
 - Role of Self Help Groups & related NGOs in Renewable Energy in Andhra Pradesh .
 - Employment General & Socio Economic Development through Biomass Power Project
 - Socio-Economic Cost Benefit Analysis of Bio Mass Projects
 - Small Hydro Project
 - Institutional and Framework: Enabling Environment for Renewable Energy linked employment and Enterprise Capacity
- **YES Network in Andhra Pradesh** - On 12th of July 2004 YES Andhra Pradesh Chapter was formed seeing the participation of representatives from the various districts of Andhra Pradesh. The meeting discussions focused on how to stabilize and how to move forward with the Andhra Pradesh YES Network and YES Mexico Summit 2004. The members consented to work on the six sectors for creating employment opportunities. Participants were divided into six groups focusing on the six sectors. Each group gave their recommendations and plans to accomplish the YES Campaign goals through the six sectors of ICT, Rural Development, Urban Development, Renewable Energy, Water and Sanitation, and HIV/AIDS. Mr. Santha Kumar, CEO, GUESS, addressed the gathering and offered to help youth with 150 job openings in dry land farming.
- **YES India Network gets legal status** – On 2nd September 2004, the YES India Network was officially registered as a NGO under the Societies Act of India. The YES India Network Secretariat will temporarily function out of Hyderabad and Chennai.
- **Formation of YES Zonal, State, District Chapters and their leaders**
The following YES chapters have been established in India and they are headed by the active people who are willing to work for the accomplishment of the YES campaign

Name of the Coordinator	Zone Chapters
Mr. Mohan Rao	South Zone
Ms. Niraja Mattoo	West Zone
Ms. Savita Singal	North Zone
Mr. Goutham Ghosh	East Zone
Ms. Iba Blah	North East Zone
Name of the Coordinator	State Chapters
Ms. Minakshi Swaraj	Bihar
Dr. N.A.Khan	Jharkhand
Ms. Niraja Mattoo	Maharashtra
Ms. Prabhavati	Karnataka
Mr. Rath	Orissa
Mr. K.M.S. Rao	Andhra Pradesh
Mr. Haribasker	Tamil Nadu
Ms. Savita Singal	Haryana
Mr. Goutham Ghosh	West Bengal
Ms. Iba Blah	Meghalaya
Name of the Coordinator	Districts in Andhra Pradesh
Mr. Pallati Eshwar	Nalagonda
Ms. Jayashree	Karimnagar
Ms. Yamuna Pathak	Hyderabad
Mr. Madhu Surendar J	Ranga Reddy
Mr. Hari Babu	Guntur
Mr. Pal Banerjee	Krishna
Mr. Vidya Sagar	West Godavari
Mr. N.John Victor	East Godavari
Dr. K. Chandra Mouli	Srikakulam
Mr. Sanyasi Raju	Vishakapatnam
Mr. A Chandrashekhar	Vizinagaram
Mr. Krupa Verma	Medak

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