**Custom Discovery Research**

**Tamil Nadu, India**

OneHope

**Custom Discovery Research
DATA REPORT**

**Tamil Nadu, India**

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## ONEHOPE

OneHope was founded in 1987 by missionary Bob Hoskins and is reaching the world's children and youth with Scripture that speaks directly to their lives and culture. In collaboration with churches and ministries — and working with local governments, schools and non-governmental organizations — through OneHope a message of hope has been given personally to a half billion children and young people in 125 countries through its *Book of Hope* publications and *The GodMan* animated film. Using outcome-based research, OneHope continues to innovate its ministry model and offers its expertise and resources to other child-focused organizations.

## METADIGM GROUP

The Metadigm Group is a non-profit research organization with the goal of equipping other organizations to conduct research and improve their efficacy.  Processes necessary to achieve organizational priorities and embed research skills into day-to-day organizational operations are developed through seamless processes offered in data collection, strategic planning, market profiles, and outcomes development.  For more information, visit www.metadigmgroup.com or email info@metadigmgroup.com.

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## Section I:  Project Overview

**TAMIL NADU FOCUS GROUP PROJECT**

### *Rationale for the Project*

In order to design the most effective programs to reach children and youth, it is important to capture pertinent information prior to commencing a program or designing a new product.  Research, such as that gathered through focus groups[1], will provide information on the possibility of improving OneHope's distribution ministry. Unlike surveys where respondents are oftentimes limited in their answer choices, focus groups allow for any and all ideas to be introduced on a particular topic.  As this type of research is ideal for understanding the nature and needs of a population through the people groups deemed most informed, focus groups will be conducted with, among other demographic profiles, pastors, teachers, and students in rural and urban areas to learn broadly what they perceive to be 1) the biggest challenges young people face, 2) identify barriers and opportunities to ministry, as well as 3) the current reality of young people in Tamil Nadu.

The information gathered can help ministries, such as OneHope, effectively plan outreach strategies for children and young people that will address their heart-felt needs.

### *Convened Groups*

In Discovery research, focus groups are convened to provide information on the social, economic, and ministry dynamics of a particular area.  Following a multiple-category design, the following focus groups were convened in Tamil Nadu:
- NGO & Missionary Groups
- Clergy
- Youth Workers
- School Administrators & Teachers
- Students

Data gathered from these groups was supplemented with interviews from the following groups:
- Government Leadership
- Ecclesial Leadership

### *Regions for Focus Groups*

Along with multiple categories of participants, the Metadigm group utilized a double-layer approach in conducting this project.  The geographic areas identified for inclusion in this study are as follows:
- Chennai
- Vellore
- Madurai

### *Leadership and Facilitators*

OneHope contracted The Metadigm Group to conduct this research project.  Allen Reesor (Executive Director, The Metadigm Group), and Reni John (Senior Research Manager, The Metadigm Group) facilitated the project in conjunction with the following members of the OneHope India office: Joel and Karen Hayes (Regional Directors), Sarosh Philip (Research & Networking Coordinator), and Nora Ecka (Research Facilitator).

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[1] Five to eight people who have something in common and are called together to speak on how they feel or think about an issue or idea

Reni John conducted the focus group training on April 14-15, 2008 at the International Centre on St. Thomas Mount in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.  Approximately 15 people were trained as focus group facilitators (herein referred to as moderators).

### Focus Group Composition

Persons of similar characteristics comprised each focus group.  As much as possible, groups included no more than eight persons and efforts were taken to minimize social and economic disparities among participants.  As some participant groups were deemed to be especially information rich, multiple groups were conducted for some demographic profiles (i.e. students).

When it was not feasible to convene a group (i.e. government and denominational leadership), interviews were conducted with members of these groups.

In this report, findings from multiple groups of a single demographic profile are consolidated to provide a consensus account for the group.  Additionally, no identifying information is included in this report.  As such, the names, identities, and opinions of all participants are protected.

### Format

Each focus group session was approximately 90 minutes in length.  After a brief welcome and overview of the topic areas[2], focus group participants were encouraged to share their personal experiences and knowledge of the subject matter.  Each focus group had approximately 4-6 topic areas that were included for discussion.  Moderators were asked to facilitate discussions within the group to identify commonalities and areas of difference between participants.

Upon completion of a session, each focus group leader and assistant moderator completed a focus group report.  These reports, in turn, were reviewed by the Metadigm research team for common and reoccurring themes within and across groups.

The findings from all focus groups and interviews are included in this report.

### Schedule for Data Collection

From December 2007- March 2008, meetings were convened in Pompano Beach, Florida (USA), Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh (India), Delhi (India), and Chennai, Tamil Nadu (India) to identify topics for focus group discussion.  Ministry leadership (OneHope and others active in Indian ministry) and experts in the area of Indian children and youth reviewed the topics prior to their inclusion in the final project design.  The final research questions and topic areas were then reviewed by ministry partners familiar with Christian outreach in Tamil Nadu.

Focus groups were organized under the guidance of Sarosh Philip with the assistance of Sunder Singh (My Hope India) in Chennai, Jean Jepagnanam (Kuruni Illam Ministries) in Vellore, and Pastor John Vincely (Light House Assemblies of God Church)  in Madurai.  Groups were conducted from April 17-May 5, 2008.  The following people served as focus group moderators and assistant moderators: Vimal Allen (Trinity Worship Center), Grace Chrysilda, Nora Ecka, Adline Fredy (Scripture Union), D. John Nehemiah (Seva Bharat), J. Ilangovan (OneHope India), Reni John, Johnson Kalai (Trinity Worship Center), B. Caleb Karthikeyan (Scripture Union), Wesley Lucas (Metro Missions), D. Manivanna (OneHope India), D. John Nehemiah (Seva Bharat), Michael Philbert (Trinity Worship Center), Sarosh Philip, Anbu Rajamani (OneHope India), and B. Thiyagu Ronny (Metro Missions).

The draft report was completed on May 12, 2008.

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[2] See page 5 for topic areas per demographic groups

*Data Analysis and Reporting*

A moderator's assistant recorded information shared in each focus group. Information from each group was consolidated into a focus group report which was forwarded to Metadigm for analysis. Information from these reports were compiled and evaluated for the draft report by Allen Reesor and Reni John.

This report addresses the questions and topic areas identified by OneHope and India ministry partners as essential for decision-making, distribution planning, and outcome design. Common and/or recurring themes from focus groups were identified and compared across demographic profiles. Additionally, when possible, information from secondary sources is included to provide greater clarity for future planning.

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*Focus Group Research Questions*

1. The felt needs, hopes, and fears common to children and youth in Tamil Nadu
2. The impact of a child's home life on his openness to ideas and his availability to engage in free time activity
3. Barriers to engaging children and youth in Tamil Nadu
4. Best practices of media appeal to children and youth in Tamil Nadu
5. Changes and trends in the interests of children and youth in Tamil Nadu
6. Entertainment (music, TV programs, and movies) that appeals to children and youth
7. Emerging behaviors of youth and their impact on the state/nation
8. Areas of need in character education
9. Changing family dynamics in Tamil Nadu
10. Capacity to fund and develop new projects and areas that merit resource investment
11. The message of Christian faith (Old Testament/New Testament biblical accounts) that needs to be communicated to children and youth
12. Avenues to evangelize non-Christian children and youth
13. The willingness of ministries to collaborate
14. Effective programs/events conducted by ministries in Tamil Nadu
15. Current state of ministry to children and youth in Tamil Nadu
16. The potential for children and youth to reach their peers
17. The priority of churches on evangelism and discipleship for children and youth in Tamil Nadu
18. Programs and materials needed by local churches to transform the lives of children
19. Language of appeal, literacy, and vocabulary necessary by region, gender, or population density
20. The optimal quality of material for pricing and appeal

*Focus Group Themes*

### Government

- Government projects for youth in Tamil Nadu
- The availability of public record demographics for youth and children
- Challenges faced by youth and trends for the future
- The benefit of international programs for children
- Effective moral formation and values for youth

### Ecclesial leadership

- Common Christian moral values shared by denominations
- Collaborative programs between secular and religious organizations (i.e. schools, funding)
- Interdenominational function of churches within Tamil Nadu
- Projects for youth in Tamil Nadu (current and future)
- International influences on churches and Christian practices in Tamil Nadu
- Local youth and children's programs involvement/disengagement

### NGO & Christian ministry leadership

- Value/benefit of international organizations and need for contextualization
- National/regional function of organizations
- Difficulties working in Tamil Nadu
- Cultural concerns internationally, in India, and Tamil Nadu
- Trends in youth perceptions of culture and language
- Emerging issues for children and youth that should be addressed

### Teachers

- Administrative challenges in meeting the educational needs of students
- Social challenges in addressing the needs of students
- Challenges faced by students in and out of the classroom
- Issues of student behavior
- Influences on students' values and behaviors
- Support and/or pressures of families on children and youth

### Pastors

- Effectiveness of church programs & interdenominational collaboration (particularly for youth)
- Is the emphasis in children's work on discipleship or evangelism?
- Youth activity and involvement in churches
- Spiritual opposition to the development of Christian youth
- Programs that are producing good results in children's lives
- Challenges/pressures faced by youth in Tamil Nadu and/or regionally

### Youth

- Post-school plans
- Pressures in relationships, clothing, housing
- Typical day
- Activities of interest
- Relevance of church/religion and hopes for personal religious development
- Influences that shape values & role models that demonstrate them
- Meaningful activities in school and church

## Section II: Executive Summary

*General Information*

Tamil Nadu, located on the Eastern coast of India, is the sixth most populous state in the nation.  As such, it is the fifth largest contributor to India's gross domestic product and one of the country's most urbanized states.

The primary language in Tamil Nadu is Tamil; however, the vast majority of people in the state speak more than one language and English serves as a second language for many.  The majority of the population is Hindu; however, other religions, such as Christianity and Islam, are practiced by approximately 10% of the population.

Overall Tamil Nadu has a good human rights record (particularly in comparison with other states in India); however, reports of caste discrimination continue to plague the state.  In the 1960s, a backlash of anti-Brahmanism swept the state.  In more recent years, continued discrimination against the Dalits (untouchables), particularly in rural Tamil Nadu, has been a cause of criticism from the international community.

Like many of the southern states, literacy rates in Tamil Nadu are well above the national average and most of the population has access to primary education, although females from poorer areas tend to leave school at an earlier age than their male counterparts.  This, however, is the case across India.

| QUICK FACTS | |
| --- | --- |
| Area (Sq KM) | 130,058 |
| Population Density (per Square KM) | 480 |
| Total Population | 62, 405, 679 |
| Male Population | 31,400,909 |
| Female Population | 31,004, 770 |
| % of population that is 14 or younger | 26.8% |
| % of population that is 15-24 | 19.2% |
| Ratio of Females to Males | 974/1000 |
| Literacy Rate | 73.45% |
| Percentage of Workers (to total population) | 44.67% |
| Percentage of Scheduled Castes (to total population) | 19% |
| Infant Mortality Rate | 37/1000 live births |
| Gross Domestic Product (Rupees in lakhs) | 19,340,393 |
| Per capita income (Rupees in lakhs) | 29,557 |
| Number of Students in primary & secondary school | 175/1000 |
| Languages | Tamil, English, Telugu, Kannada, Urdu, and Malayalam |
| **Drop Out Rates** | |
| Primary School | 13.85% |
| Middle School | 32.10% |
| High School | 57.37% |
| Higher Secondary School | 75.81% |
| **Religious Groups (of total population)** | |

| Hindus | 88% |
|---|---|
| Christians | 6% |
| Muslims | 6% |
| Jains | <.2 % |
| Buddhists | <1% |
| Sikhs | <1% |
| *Information Sources:  Government of Tamil Nadu, Department of Economics and Statistics, 2004 Statistical Outline of India and the 2001 Tamil Nadu Census, bharatonline.com* ||

### *Social Issues*

#### *Suicide*

Youth suicide and suicide ideation is of increasing concern in Tamil Nadu.  While rates of suicide and reporting standards differ across India, a 2005 study conducted by the Christian Medical College (Vellore, Tamil Nadu) found suicide to be the leading cause of death among young people, accounting for approximately 50% of all deaths of young women and 25% of deaths among young men in southern India (Aaron et al., 2004).  These findings place Tamil Nadu and Southern India with a suicide rate that is five times more than the rate of Western countries and almost three times the rate of China (World Health Report, 2001; Philips et al., 2002).  Unlike the West where the most employed methods for suicide tend to be potentially treatable (i.e. slashing wrists, overdose of pills), in Tamil Nadu, the majority of these deaths occurred through hanging, poisoning with lethal insecticides, or setting oneself on fire.  All three of these methods are oftentimes impossible to treat, particularity given the local reality of much of Tamil Nadu (i.e. bad roads or lack of transportation may result in an inability to access medical treatment once an attempt has been made).

The growing rates of teenage suicide can be attributed to a variety of stress factors, including family conflicts, domestic violence, academic failures, unfulfilled romantic ideals, and mental illness.  These factors, however, are characteristic of suicidal behaviors across countries and cultures.  Increasingly, evidence suggests that socio-cultural, economic, and political upheavals are also suicide stress factors.  "Intergenerational and gender conflicts are more intense in a traditional agricultural society transforming into an egalitarian industrial society than in a stable developed country (Kim & Singh, 2004)." Likewise, countries that were characterized as poor but have undergone periods of rapid development and economic prosperity are more likely to experience high suicide rates (Bhattacharya, 2004).  As such, Tamil Nadu's high suicide rates may be linked to the rapid economic development India has experienced in the past decade.  Lastly, stress factors that are particular to Indian women, such as issues of marriage and dowry, are also likely causes for the increased suicide rates among young women in the state.

#### *HIV/AIDS*

The first case of AIDS in India was reported in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (Samarajalingam, 2000) in 1986.  In 2007, the United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) estimated that between 2 million and 3.6 million people live with HIV in India.  Approximately 25% of all HIV cases in India are women.  Tamil Nadu, along with Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Karnataka, accounts for approximately 63% of all people living with HIV in the nation (NACO, 2007).

Tamil Nadu has launched a multi-stage education and prevention program (both government and NGOs) to staunch the spread of the disease.  While HIV prevalence has stabilized in Tamil Nadu, it is an increasing problem in at-risk populations across India.  For Tamil Nadu, the spread of AIDS among injecting drug users continues to serve as a major driver of the epidemic.  In a 2003 study conducted in Chennai, approximately 64% of those who injected drugs were HIV positive (UNAIDS, 2007).

While the early years of HIV/AIDS in India were primarily restricted to high risk populations (intravenous drug users, homosexual males, sex workers), in the early 90s, the disease spread to the general population. Increasing rates of HIV among married women is thought to be linked to the number of husbands who engage in sexual intercourse with commercial sex workers.

Little work has been done to study rates of HIV/AIDS among children and young people (most figures regarding AIDS in India are conducted in populations of persons 18 or older); however, young people in India are increasingly reporting engaging in premarital sex. A 2001 study conducted by the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare found that approximately 15% of young people engage in premarital sex. States like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, have banned sex education from the CBSE and state syllabus. This, in turn, has left many young people without accurate information about the transmission of HIV/AIDS.

*Tobacco Use*
The smoking of cigarettes, particularly bidis (tobacco rolled in a temburini plant) has been widespread for decades across India, particularly among men. A study of urban males in Tamil Nadu estimated that 50% of smokers died from smoking-related causes. It is believed that, across India, smoking has resulted in 700,000 deaths in 2000; this number doubled between 2000 and 2005 (Gajalakshmi, 2003).

Under the leadership of the World Health Organization (Tobacco Free Initiative) and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Office of Smoking and Health), in 2000, the Global Youth Tobacco Survey was administered to youth studying in standards 8-10 across Tamil Nadu to determine the prevalence of tobacco use in this demographic as well as their attitudes and beliefs about tobacco.

Approximately 10% of students reported ever using tobacco. Of those that reported using tobacco products, 3 in 4 indicated a desire to stop smoking. Approximately 80% of students think using tobacco is harmful to their health. Only half of students reported receiving education in school about the harmful effects of tobacco. Exposure to environmental tobacco smoke and pro-tobacco advertisement (across a variety of mediums) was very high across all demographic profiles of students (Gajalakshmi, 2004).

### Focus Groups and Meetings
Approximately 18 focus groups and 4 interviews were conducted from April 17- May 5, 2008 in Chennai, Vellore, or Madurai. Focus groups included: representatives of NGO's/Missionaries involved in youth services, clergy, youth workers, teachers, and students. Denomination and government leaders were interviewed to augment information gathered from the focus groups.

*Responses to Research Questions/Areas*

1. **The felt needs, hopes and fears common to children and youth in Tamil Nadu**
   Children and young people lack knowledge about social issues, like HIV/AIDS and sex. This is reflected in the rising number of young people suffering from AIDS and cancer. Students desire information about these issues but do not want to ask their parents. Consequently, while young people express the opinion that schools should not be so strict, they desire teachers to provide support for them outside the boundaries of the traditional teacher-student relationship.
   Most young people are uncertain or fearful of their future prospects but desire to have high earning potential in their future careers. Students are also aware of and influenced by the social, economic, and caste differences that exist within their communities. These serve as additional stressors for many young people.

   Peers play a large role in young people's lives. While relationships with peers meet emotional needs not met in the home, youth indicate that this also makes them more susceptible to peer pressure. Young people are increasingly angry at the limits placed on their involvement and interaction with the opposite sex and in some cases, particularly in the case of males, express real anger towards the opposite sex because of this.

   Indian culture continues to place female children in a secondary role to their male counterparts. Across economic strata, participants indicate that females are given more responsibility in the home for taking care of the needs of the family than males. For families that are impoverished, if a child is taken out of school to enter the workforce, the likelihood is that the child will be female.

2. **The impact of a child's home life on his openness to ideas and his availability to engage in free time activity**
   As more families become dual-income households and the level of disposable income increases within the family, more young people have access to luxury items, such as MP3 players, video games, cell phones, and the internet, than earlier generations. More families are able to have televisions and computers in their homes. Consequently, youth are increasingly influenced by the media and Western culture, drawing role models from popular media personalities and adapting Western styles of dress and behavior. Children that have lived abroad for a period of time due to their parents' professions are even more susceptible to international cultures and oftentimes, desire to be identified with these cultures over their Indian heritage.

   With more parents working longer hours and outside the home, children are left alone or supervised by hired help. Across focus groups, a lack of affection, encouragement, and love on the part of parents to their children is of growing concern. In some cases, this has resulted in more children acting out against their parents (i.e. not acquiescing to parents' wishes for their futures, engaging in deviant and/or illegal behaviors) and a desire among young people to spend as much time as they can in school with their friends.

   In spite of this, young people indicate being influenced by their parents; particularly their fathers. Many expressed learning and emulating behaviors learned in the home and from their families. In homes where children spend a significant amount of time with their parents, young people are more likely to take cues from their parents regarding their leisure time activities and future goals. Overall, young people expressed a willingness, in most cases, to receive counseling and advice from their parents.

   There is a belief that children are restricted in their home life. Parents, in spite of the decreased time they spend with their children, still monitor their child's activities outside the classroom. Many children are busy with tuitions after school in preparation for state and school entrance exams, leaving little time for leisure time activities.

3. **Barriers to engaging children and youth in Tamil Nadu**

   There is a prevailing belief that young people in Tamil Nadu are resistant to things that represent Indian tradition; rather, a growing number of youth prefer Western lifestyles and products. Due in part to the strain in parent-child relationships and the failure of parents to instill Indian culture in their children, more youth are abusing drugs and engaging in deviant behaviors. Across groups, adults report that more youth are lacking in good manners and respect for elders. Such behavior is only encouraged and exacerbated by the media which glamorizes violence and sex. Additionally, young people seem disinterested and ignorant of the current state of Indian affairs (political, social, cultural, and economic). The rate of young people testing positive for HIV/AIDs or cancer, being sexually abused, or experiencing suicidal ideation are also pressing concerns.

   Parents continue to serve as strong influences and primary decision-makers in their children's lives; however, parents are not actively supporting or encouraging their children emotionally. In Christian households, this is also the case. While children will attend church with their families, the Word of God is not deeply rooted in their lives. As a result, a growing number of young adults are reportedly leaving the church when they leave their parents' homes. Moreover, with increased stressors in the parent-child relationship, more children are adapting an attitude of disobedience against parental structures and domination (which serves as another catalyst for young people leaving the church).

   Children desire church to be entertaining and many youth lack a strong circle of Christian friends to whom they can be accountable. While independent churches are responding to this on some level, most mainline churches have not changed their approach nor are they formulating programs that will effectively engage children. Young people say that there is no life in the church. While some of these youth shift to charismatic churches, others leave the church altogether.

   Academic pressures and after-school schedules (i.e. tuitions) inhibit leisure time, leaving children with fewer opportunities to engage in church. Instead, children express a strong desire to have economically stable futures as opposed to a strong relationship with God.

   The societal effort to keep young men and women from interacting is causing a great deal of friction and anger between the genders. Sometimes young men act out violently against young women as a result of this. Both genders expressed frustration and a lack of understanding at the need for a separation between the sexes.

   Historically, girls are considered less valuable in Indian culture. In many ways, this is still the case in Tamil Nadu. Girls are still given in marriage at a young age. If a family is financially needy, young girls are more likely to be pulled from school to join the work force (most often factories).

   The caste system, while not overtly present everywhere in Tamil Nadu, continues to divide the state. Young people are exposed to these prejudices in schools and even in churches. In many ways, the church is hindered in their ability to attract and evangelize to non-Christians because of the incorporation of the caste system into church practices. Additionally, some pastors and denominational leaders believe that current church attendees are alienated by the social divisions perpetuated in the church by the caste system. Economic disparities also serve as a divisive factor.

   Few youth believe religion is doing an effective job in instilling moral behaviors in young people. Instead, the church has stagnated and there is a lack of growth. Young people express a belief that churches need to be less concerned with their outward appearance and more inclusive in the practice of faith.

   NGO's that have effective programs in meeting the needs of young people do not wish to align with churches or Christian organizations given the dominance of non-Christian faiths in India. The prevailing

attitude among these organizations is that affiliation with Christian-based entities will limit their ability to work in India. Similarly, churches are unwilling to work outside their denominations.

4. **Best practices of media appeal to children and youth in Tamil Nadu**
   The media has saturated youth culture in a way that the current church in Tamil Nadu (even the charismatic church) has not. Most focus group participants (primarily adults) view the media as a negative influence on children and youth as it perpetuates and glorifies violence, sex, and abuse.

   It is believed that many young people mimic the behaviors and attitudes of people they see in magazines, movies, and on television. As a result, when movies are presented with a good moral lesson, children and young people are just as likely to emulate these practices as they are to adapt negative behaviors portrayed in the media into their daily lives.

   On a positive note, some teachers indicate that increased access to the media has resulted in students that are more knowledgeable of current affairs and better able to perform in school.

   The media has successfully built up individuals that are viewed by young people as role models. Moreover, with children facing pressures to succeed academically, media (i.e. television, movies, music, and the internet) has become a popular relaxation activity. Most youth stated that television, along with sports, is one of the activities they employ most frequently in free their time.

   Across groups, there is a strong belief that the media serves as a catalyst for change in Indian culture.

5. **Changes and trends in the interests of children and youth in Tamil Nadu**
   Increasingly, children are shifting from an interest in Indian activities to activities favoring international cultures. Young people are attending dance clubs and prefer activities that involve their friends over their families.

   Cinema and television are popular among children and teens with many student focus group participants indicating a preference for humorous television shows or cartoons. The internet, web-surfing, and text-messaging are common activities as well. Although uniforms are utilized in most Indian schools (both private and government), young people desire to dress well and mimic styles seen in the media.

   While some teens queried indicated an interest in using their free time to serve the needy or help their parents with household chores, most teens use what free time they have to listen to music, go to the cinema, or watch television (which is used by many teens as a means of relaxation).

   In the religious context, young people are increasingly unsatisfied with life in the traditional church. Many, particularly when independent from their parents, are attending charismatic churches for their modern styles of worship (i.e. music). Additionally, the messages presented in these churches are perceived to be more relevant to daily life by young people.

6. **Entertainment (music, TV programs, and movies) that appeals to children and youth**
   Activities that have been favored by Indians for generations, like cricket, caroms, football, newspapers, and Tamil movies, are still popular among young people. Young women also indicate an interest in traditional activities, like creating rangolies, cooking, embroidery, and stitching.

   Yet teenagers and children are also drawn to Western cultural activities. Internet cafes and surfing the web are favorite pastimes for many youngsters. More children utilize cell phones and text-messaging as a means of entertainment and to communicate with friends outside of school. Television shows, particularly quiz

shows, cartoons, and the Pogo[3] channel are popular to this demographic and serve as a means of relaxation. Listening to music is also a pastime that many students indicated doing in their free time.

7. **Emerging behaviors of youth and their impact on the state/nation**

As young people are not finding emotional support in their homes or the church, more are turning to political parties for acceptance and purpose. The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)[4] is popular among young people although there is a belief that these types of political and social organizations draw on the neediness of young people and brainwash them into providing unquestioned loyalty to the party.

More children live in homes where items previously viewed as luxury possessions (televisions, computers, and cellular phones) are increasingly commonplace. As a result, young people indicate desiring high-paying jobs for their future to support such lifestyles. Alternatively, students also stated a desire to have professions that satisfy them and allow them to spend time with their families. It can be inferred from this that a lack of parental involvement in their own lives has made more children desirous of not doing the same to their children.

8. **Areas of need in character education**

Across groups, an emerging concern is the breakdown of the Indian family. Divorce and parental separation are becoming more common in Tamil Nadu and more parents are working longer hours outside the home. Parents still place an inordinate amount of pressure on their children to succeed academically and fulfill parental desires regarding future careers and life partners. Consequently, children and young people are not receiving the emotional security they require from their parents.

Socially, HIV/AIDS, cancer, and premarital sex are on the rise. Overall, participants indicated that young people do not receive education around these social concerns and oftentimes learn these lessons when it is already too late (they have contracted HIV and/or become pregnant outside marriage). More young people are experimenting with drugs and alcohol, yet are aware of the consequences of trying these substances.

Additionally, young people are lacking in an awareness of appropriate boundaries for male-female relationships. While parents and society force young people to alienate themselves from the opposite sex, this is not having the desired effect (i.e. the prevention of romantic relationships between young people). Instead, more young people are rebelling against these strictures by engaging in illicit relationships or growing emotionally angry at the opposite sex (the latter found most often in young men).

The government has attempted to educate the population on the need to forego child/teen marriages. In spite of this, there is little change in this area, particularly in the case of young women in rural communities.

As India has developed into a technological leader in the last decade, much of the prosperity from this development is found in the southern states, including Tamil Nadu. While this increased national prosperity has had many positive impacts on the state, the economic disparity in many communities is also widening. Many young people are aware of the social and economic differences that separate them from their peers; divisions in schools and social groups are often practiced along these lines. Similarly, the caste system continues to perpetuate an environment of separatism and distrust.

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[3] A channel aimed at children operated by the Turner International India (a subsidiary of the Turner Broadcasting Company). It includes dramas, comedies, movies, animation and documentaries and programming is divided into young kids, kids primetime, and family and special events.

[4] Also known as the Sangh, the RSS is a Hindu nationalist organization that is active throughout India. Founded in 1925, their philosophical outlook supports cultural nationalism as a means to preserve the spiritual and moral traditions of India. Hinduism is considered not only a religion but a way of life. The organization is considered controversial as they have, in the past, reacted violently to stop the conversion of Hindus to other religious practices.

9. **Changing family dynamics in Tamil Nadu**
   In the past, many Indian households consisted of joint family units (grandparents et al.).  With shifting cultural dynamics, more Indian homes are becoming nuclear family households.  While young people can see the benefit of being part of joint families (more people to turn to for advice), many prefer the intimacy found living in single family households.

   This shift to smaller families however has not manifested in closer relationships between parents and children.  Divorce and parental separation are more prevalent in Indian society.  More parents work longer hours outside the home, leaving children alone in the house or under the care of with household staff.  This has resulted in a feeling of alienation, loneliness, and insecurity in young people.  Unlike previous generations where children were taught the essential themes of cultural life from their families, parents are not educating their children on Indian society or culture. As a result, parents no longer serve as role models and children are increasingly embracing Western modes of thought, dress, and behavior.

   Teachers are finding that more children prefer to spend as much time as possible in school.  They attribute this to the lack of companionship many children have at home.  At school, students can receive emotional succor from their teachers, and friendship and acceptance from their peers.

   With the increasing prevalence of alcohol and drug abuse in Tamil Nadu and India, violence within the family is on the rise.  Some focus group participants indicate that fathers, under the influence of alcohol, abuse their children.  Many participants across groups indicate that children are attacked emotionally by their parents.  Parents require children to perform well academically yet fail to praise them for their achievements.  While children express some desire to rebel against their parents, many, in particular girls, continue to allow parents to make important life decisions for them.  Many children express a sense of obligation to follow a career path designated by their parents; multiple youth participants indicated seeking a career path that would fulfill the unaccomplished dreams of their parents (particularly in the field of medicine).

   In spite of the adaption of Western lifestyles into the India household, females continue to suffer from traditional practices.  In cases where the family is in need of an additional income, females are more likely to be pulled from school to join the workforce.  In both affluent and poor households, females, more so than males, are expected to assist with household chores.  In economically impoverished areas, men continue to take multiple wives, leaving women in subservient positions.

10. **Capacity to fund and develop new projects and areas that merit resource investment**
    NGO personnel and government leaders indicate a need for foreign investment in youth projects. Most government aid is allocated for programs that address the basic needs of the needy.  As a result, funds are not available for character development programs.

    Churches could benefit from materials that empower members to engage in evangelism efforts.   For such materials or projects to be successful in Tamil Nadu, they must be regional in design rather than national.  Projects supported by a genuine collaborative will be most successful.

    Programs that utilize new media outlets to communicate the gospel, offer support to develop continuing outreach, and address discipleship needs are the most desirous. The development of these materials and programs should be local and involve youth, many of whom are creative and express a desire to be involved in the arts and sports.

11. **The message of Christian faith (Old Testament/New Testament biblical accounts) that needs to be communicated to children and youth**

There is an unprecedented foreign influence on the thoughts, behaviors, and desires of children and youth. While attracted to foreign ideas and culture, young people have a hard time integrating these ideas with their own culture and values. They are also facing issues of restructured family life which elevates the emotional stress in their lives.

Biblical narratives that deal with assimilating new ideas while maintaining biblical standards, and stories that address the fatherhood of God and His care of those in need of wisdom and direction will be helpful.


12. **Avenues to evangelize to non-Christian children and youth**

Due to the segregated nature of Indian culture, it will be difficult to evangelize to non-Christian children and youth.

As the attraction of the international youth culture is appealing to all segments of the youth population, it is possible to evangelize to non-Christian youth by offering products and programs that propagates a message within the framework of the international youth culture. Utilizing both electronic and print media, popular among both children and youth, would be particularly advantageous.

Some youth focus group participants indicated that they were once Hindu but are now Christian. Clearly, there are outreach programs that have succeeded in bringing non-Christian families to the church. These programs are characterized as being non-judgmental, focused on the felt needs of children and youth, and providing a support network for new believers.

Programs that focus on sermonizing are less appealing.


13. **The willingness of ministries to collaborate**

Typically, ministries in India do not collaborate across denominational lines. While the number of Christian organizations in India is growing, the church is not. As a result, the introduction of new ministry organizations is not considered to be a viable or needed solution to spreading the gospel in India. Intentional efforts, however, to increase collaboration, encourage foreign agencies to collaborate, and reward collaborative efforts may increase the efficacy of the church.

Programs that are characterized by collaboration tend to be the most efficacious. Obstacles both within and external to the church are clearly present and must be considered when creating partnerships.


14. **Effective programs/events conducted by ministries in Tamil Nadu**

While there are some collaborative programs between churches and ministries, these seem intermittent and are limited across denominations and among congregations. Those programs that are consistent and collaborative should be considered helpful models for program design.


15. **Current state of ministry to children and youth in Tamil Nadu**

Ministry for children and youth is generalized as short-term and sporadic rather than consistent. It is not clear that a general and consistent Sunday school or other discipleship program is part of many church ministries.

There is evidence that pastors would like support in developing or access to more comprehensive discipleship and outreach programs and/or materials.

16. **The potential for children and youth to reach their peers**
    While youth develop close and potentially influential relationships with their peers, Tamil Nadu is still a culture in which children do not make significant decisions independent of their parents. For this reason, it is unlikely that a strong peer evangelism program can be developed.  Children will seek non-parental advice when the child-parent relationship is not strong; however, youth are more likely to seek the counsel of related or respected adults over their peers in regards to life decisions and/or changes (i.e. religion).

    Overall, there is little evidence that churches permit youth to take leadership or directive roles within the church ministry. Churches that do allow youth participation and leadership seem to have better success in outreach programs.

17. **The priority of churches on evangelism and discipleship for children and youth in Tamil Nadu**
    Generally, churches do not have nor are they developing strong programs for either evangelism or discipleship. Sunday school classes are used to give children knowledge of the Bible but usually fall short of discipleship.

    There are few efforts by local congregations to evangelize to youth and children. This is less true of Pentecostal and charismatic churches. Much of the work with children and youth is carried out by para-church organizations and include Bible studies, weeklong discipleship events, and special events (i.e. camps).

18. **Programs and materials needed by local churches to transform the lives of children**
    While programs and materials are available, oftentimes, these are used in the context of special events in partnership with para-church groups. Most churches do not have the financial resources to purchase materials.  Additionally, children's ministry training is not commonly available.

    The interest in films and outreach materials is evident. It seems there may be more single event or short-term material available than regular discipleship materials for churches.

19. **Language of appeal, literacy, and vocabulary necessary by region, gender or population density**
    All materials must be developed within a regional context as variations within India are too significant for the development of a common product.  Differences are present in language and variations can exist within single language groups.  For example, Tamil as it is utilized in Sri Lanka is significantly different then that used in Tamil Nadu.  Additionally, cultural and social differences also exist from state to state.

    As this study was conducted within a single language group and state, it is difficult to accurately determine which areas will require differentiation by region.

20. **The optimal quality of material for pricing and appeal**
    There is significant variation across the country and state.  In some areas newsprint media is appealing; while, in others the print media must be high quality for effective outreach. Similarly, in some parts of Tamil Nadu, the best appeal is through the electronic media.

    In poor rural areas, where young people leave school at an earlier age, products will have to be developed that are linguistically simple.  In urban areas with a high degree of economic prosperity, outreach will be most successful if material quality follows the standards of Western culture.

    Regional programs are advised to test products for market appeal to determine the best application in each region.

# Section III:  Synopsis of Data and Findings

*Synopsis of Government Representative Interview*

The government of Tamil Nadu is aware that the needs of young people and children are to such an extent that they cannot be met by government agencies alone.  Outreach and intervention by non-governmental agencies and/or international programs to address these social needs are welcomed by the state governing body.  While government programs are in effect to assist those considered to be the most marginalized and disenfranchised in Tamil Nadu (young women and children), these programs are most often intended to address basic needs (i.e. hygiene, food programs, prenatal care).  Resources are not available for moral, character or social development programs, particularly for young men.

Social issues that are common to India around gender (girls taken out of school early, female children killed at birth) continue to plague the state.  While the government has begun programs to address these concerns, very little change has been demonstrated (i.e. girls are still married at a young age, men with multiple wives, etc.).  Such concerns are far more prevalent in rural economically challenged areas than in urban areas, although such behaviors are also found in the slum areas of major cities.

Regardless of social or economic class, across the state, the number of families with both parents working outside the home has left many children unsupervised and lacking parental involvement in their daily activities.

*Synopsis of NGO Focus Groups and Interview*

As Western influence saturates Tamil Nadu's culture, dynamics within the family are shifting.  Children are moving away from unquestioned obedience to parental authority and adapting Western styles of dress, language, and entertainment.  More young people are engaging in deviant behaviors and drug use, actions only exacerbated and encouraged by the media.  The increased alienation between parents and children is also believed to be linked to the growing number of parents (both mothers and fathers) working outside the home and parents' unwillingness or inability to provide the affection and emotional support that children require.  There is a growing concern that overwhelmingly, parents are critical and unkind to their children.  As such, more children do not see their parents as role models and are more likely to form unhealthy relationships with others (i.e. peers, non-family adults, political organizations, etc).

Yet parents still act as decision-makers in their children's lives, oftentimes forcing their own unfulfilled dreams (i.e. future career) onto their children.  Moreover, cultural practices and beliefs around gender, such as the deferential treatment afforded males over females, persist in spite of Western influence and further strain family relationships.

Focus groups participants indicated a belief that the rise of diseases in young people is directly linked to their ignorance of issues such as HIV/AIDS and cancer. Consequently, gaps and/or a lack of moral education, the need for family counseling and training, and AIDS, sex, and drug education are all areas in which international organizations can provide assistance.   While these organizations would have to adapt their programs for Tamil Nadu's youth, most NGO;s do not find great difficulty in working trans-regionally.  Collaboration between NGO's and churches are minimal, partially due to NGO's determination to remain unaffiliated with a particular religion given India's turbulent history with non-Hindu faiths.  Moreover, the scope of work undertaken by NGO's (AIDS education, etc.) far surpasses the work of churches.  This is due in part to the opportunities for these organizations to raise money in ways that churches cannot (i.e. tax rebates for contributions to NGO's but not to churches)

*Synopsis of Christian Ministry Leadership Focus Groups*

Organizations do make efforts to providing social and spiritual guidance to children and youth. This is done in a variety of ways, including providing some leadership opportunities for young people to church activities.

Overall, regional, as opposed to national, organizations are more able and effective in reaching local communities. International organizations, however, have greater access to resources (i.e. financial) and organizational capacity. As such, these partnerships are greatly valued. While international organizations are viewed to be more prayerful; these organizations need greater diligence in ensuring that the resources they provide are in fact reaching those in need. It is essential for any agency seeking to work in India that difficulties and differences in language (and translation), culture (role of men and women, interaction between sexes) and traditions be considered regionally, not just nationally.

Regarding youth culture, more young people in Tamil Nadu are attracted to foreign cultures and incorporate practices seen in the media (dress, detachment from family, interests, etc) into their own lives. Similarly, more young people desire high wages and/or an affluent lifestyle in their future with seemingly no consideration for how this will impact their adult lives or the moral ramifications of such lifestyles (i.e. materialism, etc.).

*Synopsis of Ecclesial Leadership Interviews*

Growth in the church primarily occurs within independent churches, instead of traditional mainline churches. This is due in part to the willingness of independent churches to make their services attractive to young people and adapt to youth preference for foreign cultural practices. The traditional church is much slower to incorporate new methods for reaching young people (different music et al.) into their church practices. As such, independent churches have the greatest success rates in attracting young people and non-Christians. While the traditional church focus on teaching the content of the Bible, independent churches emphasis morality and Biblical living.

Within Tamil Nadu, and India in general, there is a lack of willingness to work across church denominations. While mainline churches focus on politics, independent churches, due to their charismatic nature, are unable and/or unwilling to adapt their worship practices with the traditional churches, resulting in a lack of cooperative ventures.

The caste system continues to be the biggest threat to the church and evangelism in Tamil Nadu. In the traditional church, castism is used by corrupt church leadership as a tool to ensure power. In part, the prevalence of the caste system in the church is why young people leave the traditional churches that they were raised in for charismatic churches or abandon Christianity altogether. While all churches have some aspect of castism in their framework, it is less obvious in the independent churches. To counter this, churches must teach their young people that God created all in His image and all are equal.

Churches programs, like camps and current issues seminars, have been successful in reaching children. In spite of these programs, it is difficult to make church a priority for children and youth. Young people are so busy during the week with school activities that church activities are not viewed as important; rather, instead of attending church programs, youth use that time to pursue their own interests (seeing friends, watching television, etc.).

Overall, the body of Christ is not growing. Christians are merely shifting spiritual homes. While the number of Christian organizations in India is growing (and are willing to go to areas the church does not go), there is a lack of growth in the church. Churches are open to partnering with such organizations as they have resources that are badly needed. Additionally, as more people are not interested in reading the Bible; tools that provide Biblical teachings in a manner that will be easily understood by a majority of people would be valuable to the church in doing outreach.

### *Synopsis of Pastors' Focus Groups*

Pastors feel that church programs are helpful for children and youth; however, they also recognize that youth desire programming that is not always (and in some cases rarely) offered by churches. Programs that are more holistic in nature and include more intentional follow-up could improve the impact of church activities on the lives of young people. Overall, programs for youth are primarily geared to those already attending churches. Youth may not have a solid foundation or knowledge of the Bible and its teachings. Moreover, young people that are active in the church and assist with church activities are not always recognized for the work they do which can leave them feeling unappreciated. Pastors also suggest that youth are apathetic and do not participate in church programs or activities.

There is a general belief that the media and sports are of strong interest to many children and youth. While parents have served as a primary influence in many children's lives, increasingly, young people are influenced by role models portrayed in the media (i.e. secular role models) and by their own peers (those who are in socially more viable positions then they themselves). Additionally, stressful family situations are concerning for many youth and pose a serious challenge to their emotional well-being.

Pastors recognize that youth programs need to be updated; yet, efforts to update programs are hundred by a lack of financial resources. Additionally, there is a lack of consistency and follow-up with programs for children and youth in many churches.

### *Synopsis of Educators' Focus Groups*

Teachers believe that their primary job function is to prepare students for examinations and future careers. Increasingly teachers are finding that both parents and students expect teachers to assist in the psychosocial development of students. Moreover, educators are expected to provide career counseling services to students. Most teachers indicate feeling ill-equipped to meet these demands.

Teachers express a feeling that their work is not valued. The status and low pay afforded to teachers in Indian society also hinders young people from choosing teaching as a future profession. New curriculum is also pointed to as a significant problem in education.

School is a primary social center for many youth. It is a place where young people not only form their attitudes towards society and life, but also the venue in which they socialize with friends and form the relationships (outside their families) that they most value.

Teachers are finding that the current student body is significantly different from earlier generations due to the influence of the media (music, movies, internet and cell phone) and other cultural influences that are stratifying the student population. Oftentimes, this stratification occurs along lines of caste, economics, color, and/or scholastic performance. In some cases, this stratification is manifested through bullying and social isolation.

The influence of other cultures and the international community (i.e. students living abroad and then returning) has both positive and negative influences both in and out of the classroom. Overall, the infiltration of international culture on Tamil Nadu culture has left students more independent and confident, less compliant and better informed. Academically, students are under a great deal of pressure to succeed and make good marks in order to (in many cases) enter family professions.

While parents want to (and particularly in the case of females, continue to) dictate the decisions of young people, parents as a whole are less involved in the daily lives of their children. In some cases economics are a significant factor for parents and students. There is less contact and communication between parents and children and the current Indian family is less structured and supportive then previous generations. While school and religion are viewed by teachers as positive influences, many teachers expressed a belief that most students do not have enough adult (particularly parental) interaction.

*Synopsis of Students' Focus Groups*

Students expressed a range of feelings and beliefs about their futures. While some indicated fear and uncertainty about their future possibilities, many expressed a desire to have a career that will provide emotional and financial security but also desire that their future career be one they enjoy. For many teenagers, career choices are influenced by parents or role models.

Young people desire emotionally intimate relationships with parents and the adults in their lives, such as teachers. It is from these adults that they seek information on decision-making. While parents are expected to offer direction in regards to future careers, many students indicate that they have limited interaction with their parents. As a result, many youth are turning to other persons for mentoring relationships. While many students desire to have teachers fulfill such a role, there is some concern that this is not possible. Regardless, school plays a significant role in young people's lives and is considered integral for future success. Outside of teachers, students indicate relatives or friends as those they turn to for advice and emotional support. Females are more likely to actively seek these relationships while males seem to take their security somewhat more for granted.

There is an indication that young people are actively seeking role models among family members and close relatives. When these role models are not found in the home or family, in some cases, youth look up to community leaders, both religious and nonreligious. These role models seem to serve as a substitute for more intimate mentors.

While family and friends have a strong influence on young people, many students indicate that music, sports and media also influence their thoughts, attitudes and beliefs. Across groups of students, young people indicate spending a significant portion of their free time around these activities.

## Section IV: Findings from Second Round of Focus Groups

1. **Do churches have the resources and training to conduct family training programs (i.e. effective parenting skills, etc)?**
   - Parents report that church activities are generally not interactive
   - They desire a range of resources for improved family life including: parents' roles and relationship, children understanding parents, sexuality, family love, and function
   - Churches primarily provide adult programs to strengthen families
   - Counseling is offered by some churches
   - Families events where all are involved are most often picnics
   - Ministry to the family as a unit is rare
   - Some pastors report programs have been initiated
   - Mothers are more likely than fathers to attend family training
   - The church calendar is generally filled
   - Although pastors estimate interest of families in family forums are about 50-70% no churches reported having such forums
   - Teachers indicate that schools provide little family training function
   - Teachers feel churches and religious schools emphasize religion more than family values
   - Students are very interested in family-based programs
   - The students had suggestions for such programs
   - Students indicate that church programs for families are rare

2. **Do churches and ministries have the resources to do online searches for ministry resources?**
   - Churches either do not use the internet or use it to promote the church
   - Most are unaware of any resources for the church on the internet
   - Some are either unable to access the internet or very suspicious of its content

3. **Of churches and youth that have internet access, do they use it to research opportunities for ministry to children and youth?**
   - Parents indicate that children have access to internet but TV is more frequently a media source (reading has declined)
   - Pastors believe children use the internet, but not for spiritual resources
   - Churches do not tend to use the internet
   - Desire among youth to incorporate web content into daily and congregation spiritual life

4. **Do other regional ministries have a website that offers access to available resources for children's and youth ministry**
   - Pastors have little awareness of any web-based resources
   - Children are open to using ministry websites if they are available

5. **Will children engage in a Christian website to discuss social issues?**
   - Parents report that children use the web and play internet games
   - Some children are unfamiliar with the internet; in one group, only one student had access
   - Boys are more likely than girls to use the internet to get information
   - Interest was expressed in using the internet to get spiritual answers and some children report that they have already done so

- Students expressed great interest
- Students suggested many topics they would like to see online ranging from general know, through relationships, to specific biblical information (see raw data)
- Children desire moral content and youth websites geared towards instruction  and information in sex, family issues, personal advice, and decision-making
- There is a need for online spiritual guidance and advice: HIV, suicide, depression, and disease
- Children desire web content using a variety of media, such as short film and music videos with moral and spiritual purpose
- Children want current and relevant content
- Students enjoy video/online games; suggested games with activities promoting spiritual values and biblical truth

6. **Do children create media products (i.e. media content, short films, music videos, etc.)?  If so, what kinds?**
- Media and media stars are very influential with children and youth
- Youth aspire to media exposure
- Teachers and students both cite media as a strong influence
- Some students express an interest in music and dance; however generally they are more committed to sports as a pastime and interest
- Pastors think kids are very interested in media
- Teachers indicate that students are very interested in creating media
- Some teachers think instruction is available and others that it is not; urban students have more access than rural students to media instruction
- Teachers indicate that students are very interested in peer developed media
- Youth have limited opportunity to create or learn to create media, but express interest
- TV, short films, and animated content are particularly appealing to youth
- Parents are indentified by teachers and students as barriers to learning more about media

7. **Are children interested in learning about media in order to create content (including performance, development, producing, etc.)?**
- Youth are very busy with school, so any program would need to accommodate their scholastic responsibilities
- Youth are interested in media and preparing media for personal and peer entertainment
- Churches place low value on youth contributions to church
- Pastors report that some programs exist, usually operated by para-church organizations
- Pastors would be generally supportive of media content involving their youth
- Some pastors report outreaches using media and that also involve youth
- Teachers indicate that media training should be structured, supportive, and promote sound moral values
- Students express high interest in creating media
- Barriers are parents' priorities that they must deal with and expense/inaccessibility to training
- Youth express high interest in such activities but lack opportunity
- They will need encouragement and resources, but have many ideas
- Lack of confidence restrict creativity for youth
- Students do not have career path freedom and cannot pursue their own interest

8. **Are there partnerships that can organize media training for churches and/or youth?**
   - Churches that appeal to youth tend to have greater emphasis on music, media, and arts
   - Church programs are generally focused on churched youth; little attention or effort is given to reaching unchurched children and youth
   - Youth are only aware of remote or expensive programs

9. **Are churches prepared to be involved?**
   - Churches are generally not involved with other churches, particularly cross denominational, in programs
   - Pastors indicate that mainline church will not participate in interdenominational functions and programs
   - Churches tend to have reactive and passive programming for youth
   - Pastors cite lack of creativity, diminished awareness, and low energy as factors preventing proactive programming
   - Pastors recognize that media based programming, particularly contests, would be good
   - There is sufficient manpower, but limited technical knowhow and resources

10. **Are parents and youth willing to participate in church-sponsored forums on family relations?**
    - Youth indicate an interest in participation with families in events and activities that are relevant to their interests
    - Most church events are designed to serve adult congregants, although children attend some of these programs
    - Parents report that they do not generally get involved as a family in church activities; for some, community is a better place to find family functions
    - Family and personal calendars are filled
    - Pastors think forums are a good idea, but they don't have them
    - Some pastors think the church calendar has no room for more programs
    - Students express very strong interest in such programs
    - Students do not want to be forced to go church programs
    - Students suggested gender and age-appropriate opportunities for discussion would be most helpful
    - Youth feel such a program is needed, but does not happen in their churches
    - Youth are turned off by programs promoted by "hypocritical" leadership

## Section V:  Raw Data from First Round of Focus Groups and Interviews

**NGOs & Missionaries**
- The value and benefit of international organizations and the need for contextualization
  - Provide counseling (around future career, strained family relationship, future plans, etc)
  - Awareness programs like AIDs awareness, cancer awareness, the need to stand for their rights against various kind of corruption
  - Awareness and education on sexual relationships
  - Help to rebuild the gap in the family relationship
  - Awareness programs on the consequences of alcoholism, smoking, sex outside of marriage and the media
  - Teachings on peaceful living in the family
  - Provide moral education to young people
- The national and regional function of organizations
  - Provide awareness to children & youth on their struggles (many agreed to it)
  - Teach parents how to behave with their children (few agreed to it)
  - Provide counseling to children who are spoiling their lives (many agreed to it)
  - Help young people make right decisions for their life (many agreed to it)
- Difficulties in working trans-regionally
  - Most of them agreed that they don't have difficulties working trans-regional and organizationally
  - There are cultural concerns internationally and trans-regionally
  - Culture is difference (wide range internationally and less regionally) (everyone agreed to it)
  - Youth and children are attracted to and influenced by other cultures
  - Young people copy international cultures or other regional cultures (many agreed to it)
  - Parents fail to teach their children about their own culture (few said so)
- Trends in youth perceptions of culture and language
  - There is no freedom in the family for children & young people (few agreed to it)
  - Children and youth are attracted by Western culture (few agreed to it)
  - Young people do not obey their parents' words (few agreed to it)
  - Most youngsters are trying to adopt other cultures and want to learn other languages (few agreed to it)
  - Young people copy whatever they see in their families and in society everyone agreed to it)
- Emerging issues for children and youth that need to be addressed
  - Children & youth are ignorant of HIV & Cancer and need to have an awareness of these things (almost everyone felt that)
  - Nobody is giving them any moral education/training (few said so)
  - Young people have fears about their futures (few said so)
  - Many young people are addicted to drugs and wrong doings (almost everyone agreed to it)
  - Youth don't have a clear knowledge about the present status of the country
  - Young people are forced by the media and the society to not to listen their parents
  - Teenagers generally copy what they see around.  They are most influenced by the media.  The media shows many things which are not useful to society (i.e. violence, sex, abuse etc) (almost everyone said so)
  - Working parents, to earn more money, don't spend time with their children (they usually take their work home); this makes the child feel all alone and uncared-for.  In such situations, if the child gets the love and affection which they are supposed to get from their parents from someone outside the

family, then they form attachments to these outsiders.  This ultimately leads to their stubborn nature.  Those people may even misguide the child (most of them agreed to it)
- o Nobody practices simplicity.  All want to copy the millionaires' lifestyle and are not satisfied with their own earnings (few agreed to it)
- o The media is spoiling the lives of children & youth by showing things that are harmful to society, like violence, sex, and abuse (Many agreed to it)
- o Children & youth are sexually abused (few said so)
- o Children & youth don't care about their lives
- o Parents do not appreciate their children for their best performances (few said so)
- o Parents are not kind to their children so children chose wrong relationships (few said so)
- o Many children are living aimless lives (many agreed to it)
- o Parents are not acting as role models for their children (many agreed to it)
- o Parents treat male & female children differently
- o Parents carry their office work home.  They forget to spend time with their children.  This leads children to seek out  companions who may be right or wrong for them (many agreed to it)
- o Lack of care for children (many agreed to it)
- o People in the present society complain but the behavior of young people but do not correct them even when they see a young person doing something wrong (few said so) [said in a discussion of when neighbors envy/do not have good relationships]
- o There is no real love in the family or in society (many felt so)
- o Parents force their children to fulfill their own wishes (many agreed so)
- o There is no encouragement in the family or in society (many felt so)
- o Parents distinguish between males and females regarding freedom and work (few agreed)
- o Children and youth (most cases) don't listen to their parents or elders (all agreed) due to lack of parenting (in absence of love, care, concern, appreciation, guidance and recognition)
- o The rise in the number of AIDS and cancer among children and youth is due to a lack of awareness about these diseases

**Christian Ministry Leadership**
- The national and/or regional functions of organizations
    - o To give proper guidance and counseling to children and youth, both socially and spiritually
    - o By giving young people the opportunity to take the lead or participate in church activities, it will help them build their leadership qualities
    - o By allowing young people to be active in the church, this will help them feel that they are not overlooked and are recognized by the church elders [as members able to contribute to the church]
    - o To equip children and youth with many technical skills
    - o As compared to national organizations, regional organizations do a good job in reaching out to common people
- The value/benefit of international organizations and the need for contextualization
    - o International organizations are more focused in their vision and committed to their work (but sometimes this may not fit in the context of the regional culture or need)
    - o These organizations are appreciated for their commitment to their work
    - o International organizations have more power in terms of money and materials as compared to national or regional organizations
    - o International organizations have more committed people to sponsor them
    - o International/national organizations have more financial power and are appreciated for the sponsorships they give local ministries (everyone agreed)

- o People working in other (related) organizations are attracted to international/national agencies as they have money and status (almost everyone felt sad about it)
  - o International organizations are more prayerful in nature and are ready to sacrifice their lives to serve the Lord (everyone appreciated it)
  - o Most of the participants felt that their way of communication is good
  - o Most of the participants felt that their planning is strategic in nature (participants liked it)
  - o It was also a matter of concern in the discussion that when foreigners sponsor anyone or any organization, they should make sure that the money amounts is used.  They should ensure that it is really benefiting the needy and not going somewhere else
- Difficulties working trans-regional
  - o There are many difficulties working trans-regional.  Almost everyone agreed that there are difficulties in language and understanding (affected by family, culture, traditional background).  They said that even in North India what people may see as good may not be viewed as good in South India (in terms of dress code, freedom with the opposite sex, etc.)
- Cultural concerns internationally and trans-regional
  - o Every region has its own culture so there is a difference both internationally and trans-regional.  But the difference lies in its degree (everyone said so)
  - o Few people talked about movies made in foreign countries and shown in India.  Even though the movie talks about the Word of God, the way it is presented cannot be adopted/accepted by Indians (on the basis of their dress and outward appearance)
  - o Even translations done into the local language sometimes do not meet the requirement (they were talking about a book which was written in English by a foreigner and was later translated into Tamil for Tamil speaking people in India.  The person who translated the book into Tamil was from Sri Lanka; so even though the book was translated into the Tamil language, it did not met the needs of people living in Tamil Nadu due to linguistic differences (in spite of the use of one language)
  - o In foreign countries, people don't mind if a young man and woman stay together even if they are not married.  In the Indian context, this would be very bad
- Trends in youth perceptions of cultural & language
  - o Present day youth are easily attracted to foreign cultures (in terms of leading a more independent life, going to night clubs and spending leisure time with friends)
  - o Young people copy things they see around, either in their families or in the changing society but mostly in the media (i.e. television, magazines, movies etc.)
- Emerging issues for children and youth that need to be addressed
  - o Children and youth copy western culture (including their dress code and trying to lead a more independent life as mentioned earlier)
  - o  Children and youth want to earn more money (without even knowing what they are getting into and where they will land in future)


**Pastors and Clergy**
- Effectiveness of church programs & interdenominational collaboration for youth
  - o Encourage area wide regular youth programs at times (6)
  - o Conduct interesting programs like cricket, tennis etc (3)
  - o Train youth for spiritual commitment and teach the Bible.  Give young person a Bible as a gift and ask them to read it  (3)
  - o Career guidance program
  - o Church programs need to be more lively
  - o Invite non-Christian youth and have special youth programs (3)
  - o Involve youth in praise and worship.  Delegate responsibility to young people (4)

- o Visit old age homes and lead children's club and Sunday school (3)
  - o We conduct camps to develop self confidence in young people (3)
  - o Many young people want to study well and earn more money.  This is what has become a threat to the church
  - o Interdenominational Bible quiz (2)
  - o They conduct youth meetings every week in their church
  - o We train youth to reach other youth and children (3)
  - o We have counseling sessions for young people and guide them in the right way. We have to develop a friendship with them and understand their hearts.  We need to show them love and bring them to Christ (4)
  - o We involve our youth in visiting nearby villages and neighbors in our outreach work (3)
  - o Our church just began with only a Sunday school ministry
  - o We conduct youth meetings once in a year
  - o We allow young people to take ownership of the church
  - o We do not have any interdenominational youth programs because of the disunity among pastors and denominations (2)
  - o When all the churches come together for any program we face doctrinal deviations so we don't have interdenominational programs. And also there is a concern with church politics (2)
  - o We do more discipleship for children
  - o First we do evangelism and then we disciple them slowly. We share the gospel for the first time but sometimes, they won't come
  - o When it comes to church management, it is different. Without church, they will be happier to talk to people.  If we go from a church, they will get scared of us.  So doing ministry without a church banner is very effective
  - o When doing something interdenominational, Catholics do not get involved
- Emphasis on discipleship or evangelism in children's ministry
  - o Through Sunday school
  - o Cultural programs like singing, skits, dance, puppet show, etc
  - o Through media, VCD, CD's, music, visual aids, etc
  - o Presentation of God's word using different methods
  - o Through games and activities
  - o Teach memory verses in easy ways
  - o Tell them missionary or Bible stories
  - o Quiz competition (2)
  - o Regular fellowship for children
  - o Counseling for children
  - o Pastors conduct children's services every Sunday
  - o Sunday school program, vacation Bible programs during the holidays, children's clubs (4)
  - o In some schools,  there is a subject called moral science
  - o We should earn their attention and encourage them to share the gospel with young people
  - o They do evangelism through film shows (2)
  - o Teach them some interesting songs
  - o Puppet shows, playtime, dance (3)
  - o Be a friend to the children and form relationships with them (2) and teach them the gospel
  - o They provide some food at the end of each program
  - o Visit the children's family and pray for their parents
  - o Discipleship yields more because we can bring them fast.  Out of all the children, we can at least yield 70% of what we have saved

- More than discipleship, evangelism will give more yield in children
- We can teach them the gospel first. We should start with the gospel for children. It would be too hard for them to follow discipleship in the beginning. In villages, children are the major source for the family to come to Christ (2)
- Discipleship can be concentrated [the focus] in the future. When they are small, we teach them small things like being good in their schools, colleges, or hostels
- We can teach them and bring them to God
- The kids have a lot of grasping power
- We cannot make them sit for a long time
- Because of children's ministry only, we have brought a lot of harvest. We should be careful in doing God's ministry. Whatever we sow in children will stand forever. It is the power of all ministry
- Youth activity and involvement in church
  - Give different responsibilities in church activities like technical set-ups, playing instruments, choir, etc (3)
  - Christian gym classes, game clubs, spoken English classes, music classes, etc (2)
  - Bible study clubs
  - Conducting youth leadership and training camps (2)
  - Today's young people want good music
  - We pay personal attention to each young person in our church and help them develop their life spiritually
  - We have to have small conversations on their interests like cricket matches, TV programs, and Movies. We have to share the gospel with young people (2)
  - Talk with them about great personalities and share about Christ
  - When we invite young people for youth programs and ministry, about 75% will not come (3)
  - They are not getting what they expect from the church so they are not involved in church activities
  - Youth are mostly not involved in church because of their studies, career and tuitions. It all happens at the same time
  - Youth organize Sunday service (2)
  - Youth meeting once a week (3)
  - We have to use their common interests to reach young people
  - Youth do not care about the Sunday school ministry
  - They watch the attitude of the pastor to see if his/her life and actions match up with the word of God (3)
  - The first and the foremost problem with youth is that they are falling in love. If they are with bad company, they will form bad habits. They cultivate these things in them and spoil their lives. We should come down to their level and talk with and then teach them in their way of understanding
  - We should not lose our calling too
  - They first see how the pastor leads his life and then they change
  - I conduct youth meeting outside the church because youngsters today hate coming to the church. If we keep it outside, even the non Christians would attend and know Christ
  - The style of ministry has to be changed (2)
  - If we make the meetings interesting, the youth will naturally stay
- Spiritual opposition to the development of Christian youth
  - God's word is not deeply rooted in them
  - Youth want church to be a place of entertainment
  - They lack good Christian friends and are involved with bad friends (5)
  - Parents pressure the young people (2)

- o Parents force them towards their studies. They do not let their children put church activities above their studies (2)
  - o Love affairs with the opposite sex (2)
  - o The media- television, movies, sports in TV, and dramas- take most of their time and spoils them (5)
  - o They are very much addicted to sports like cricket. They want to play it and they follow world class cricketers
  - o They spend most of their time in cafés and on the internet chatting. It all leads them to be distracted in their minds (5)
  - o College context – they leave their spirituality for the sake of their friends' comments
  - o Parents do not bother with their children lives. In some cases they oppose their children
  - o As the parents go to Hindu temples to worship, they too will go to temple (as they may be only person who has received Jesus into their life in the whole family) (2)
  - o Social bondage – fear of other families in their surroundings
  - o Christians are not example for the younger generation as they do not maintain a good testimony (2)
  - o Drugs
  - o Alcoholism
  - o They think if they come to church they cannot continue their immoral activities
  - o There is a generation gap between pastors and youth. The young people are not recognized by leaders (2)
  - o Some churches do not allow youngsters to perform in the church
  - o Cell phones
  - o We should not keep on talking about the Bible all the time
  - o Future planning should not force them. Youth will have a negative thinking and will not come to God
  - o Young people will have many expectations for their lives. We should not crush them; rather, we should be an example to them and help them happily. There are so many hindrances that would take them away from Christ
  - o Pastors should not force youth to do many things. It will also take them away from God. We should always help them to feel free (2)
  - o When they share their problems with us we should keep what is discussed as confidential (2)
- Programs that are producing good result in children's lives
  - o Children's rallies and retreats
  - o Evangelism & exposure for kids
  - o Need based evangelism should have a holistic approach
  - o Need to keep in regular contact with the children
  - o Dramas and story-telling are good programs for children's ministry (5)
  - o Games will attract children more (5)
  - o Children really like cartoon & animation movies. Today's children watch television channels like Chutti TV[5] and the cartoon network
  - o Youth of the church will go to the villages and conduct children's programs & distribute materials
  - o About 50% of church youth are interested in church activities
  - o Film, magic, animated movies, and other media ministries are bringing more results (6)
  - o Bible games
  - o Puppets (2)
  - o Action songs & music (3)

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[5] The Chutti channel is a 24-hour Tamil cartoon channel. This channel is owned and operated by the Sun Network. The target audience for this channel is between 2-14.

- o Skits
- o Workbook activities for children & cartoon books (2)
- o Hero worship – create heroes for children in films
- o Media (TV)
- o The broadcasting network has 24-hour children's programs.  They know that the media attracts children over anything else
- Challenges/pressures faced by youth in your community and/or India
  - o Media and cinema (3)
  - o Internet (2)
  - o Friends and peer pressure
  - o Wrong heroism
  - o Strained family relationships
  - o Parents do not discipline their children or serve as good role models.
  - o Parents do not spend enough time with their children (4)
  - o Sexual attraction and infatuation (2)
  - o Misuse of money and mobile phones
  - o Financial struggle & unemployment (6)
  - o Rejection from the family & from society
  - o Nobody understands them
  - o Drug addicts
  - o Local culture
  - o They are not interested in spiritual activities
  - o Ministry among children has become seasonal
  - o None of the churches has a complete concentration on youth and children's ministry (3)
  - o Churches do not have enough resources to attract young people to spiritual things
  - o Earning money is the main ambition of today's generation
  - o Insecurity
  - o Disobedience
  - o One of the things that youth are facing is marriage. When a girl accepts Jesus, they may still have to marry someone who is Hindu or a boy from another religion
  - o Misunderstandings between parents and children
  - o There is insecurity about the future.  They fall in love and it fails so they have suicidal tendencies and lose hope.  A lack of love pulls them down (2)
  - o They don't listen to the preaching.  They hate listening to God's word because so many rules have been put forth by the church (5)
  - o The caste privilege that they lose if they become Christian stops them from coming to Christ (3)
  - o They don t get help at the right time from the so-called Christians

**Educators**
- Administrative challenges in meeting the educational needs of students
  - o In our school, 40% of the students go abroad.  Three or four years later, they return
  - o This school is very unique compared to the other schools in Vellore
  - o Teachers should act as facilitators.  Children should learn by research and through projects.  This may not be applicable for all subjects but whichever it is possible, this is a good approach
  - o This school is unique but like any other management school, it is managed by CMC and it is run the way they want it run. But CMC does not interfere in the day to day activities of the school. However, their influence is felt at the school
  - o For standards 9,10, 11 and 12, the council states using particular books (2)

- State from 1st onwards
- After the 8th standard, they go away (2)
- The books in 10th are introduced in 9th
- These are used mainly for entrance examination
- 99% are very pathetic and disobedient (2)
- Syllabus is very high/tough and not effective (8)
- Teachers are struggling to make the subject matter understandable for students (4)
- We are not supposed to punish students for their disobedience
- Government laws against teachers is leading today's generation to the pit (2)
- Young teachers are not concerned with discipline. They do their job and that's it
- The administration of our school is irresponsible (2)
- Children have to get the best results; it does not matter whether they understand or not
- Teachers feel very insecure
- Social challenges in addressing the needs of students
    - When students come back after studying in foreign countries, they bring cultural inputs from these places which influences the rest of the student body
    - Children coming back from abroad bring both a negative and a positive impact. The negative impact is less
    - There are divisions by caste, economics and scholastic achievement. This is prevalent and sometimes leads to bullying in schools (7)
    - There is no foundation for many students. Children need a strong foundation
    - Broken families (5)
    - Financial crises (2)
    - Media and movies (5)
    - Child abuse
    - Love and affection of the opposite sex
    - Cell phones are a big problem with today's generation (2)
    - Students are skipping classes. A boy and a girl will skip class together and go anywhere they want.
    - Many students are smoking and using drugs (2)
    - Bad students are spoiling good students
    - Students break school property and join together to do wrong doings
    - Parents are illiterate
    - Parents and children steal
    - Parents don't spend enough time with their children
    - Parents are more concerned with earning money than the future of their children. Parents are least worried about the moral issues of their children. (2)
    - A whole family will sit and watch television together. They are not concerned with whether or not the program is rated for children or for adults. So children will sit and watch whatever their parents are watching (3)
    - Ten years ago children were very obedient but now things have changed
    - We are not supposed to use corporate punishment but sometimes they are threatening teachers
    - We try to be friendly but children take advantage of our friendships with them. Also, they don't respect us
- Challenges faced by students in and out of the classroom
    - Creativity in students has lessened compared to ten years ago
    - Children who come back from other countries have good communication skills but they are very poor in their writing and listening skills

- Children coming back from abroad have problems with writing and the spellings of words (i.e. labor v. labour)
- Children who return from abroad are, overall, friendly with all their peers
- Students make their own groups. Children of Doctors (at CMC) are friends with other doctors' children. So there is some joining around this. There is somewhat of a division between CMC children and non-CMC children
- The remaining 60% of students (non-CMC) are the local students. These children have more problems with spoken English comparatively. But they are very good with memorization and so score point percentages on exams (2)
- Once children return from abroad, they are bold and very confident
- The students here have a CMC and non-CMC differentiation
- The parents of CMC children are professionals so there is no major problem for these children in their academics
- As the children go to higher classes, there is more interaction between boys and girls. This does affect their studies
- As the children come to higher classes from 8th onwards, they are hesitant to answer loudly in class. They are okay until about the 7th standard
- Here we see that children do not want to go home. They will stay here until 5:00 pm to be with their friends. Even if they do go home, there is nobody there. So the students stay a long time at school. This is unlike our time when we would look forward to returning home from school. In our time, we wanted to reach home early
- There are negative influences on children. The CMC differentiation is not good. Two years back it was even worse but now it is somewhat better
- Corporate punishment- throwing children out of the class or school for small mistakes does not happen in this school but it is very much in other schools
- Twice a week, we have a test. So we are very eager to complete the lessons
- Parent's pressure
- Mentally disturbed and lack concentration (2)
- More (too much) homework
- More students in the class
- Lack of teachers
- Lack of discipline
- Work at home (for girls)
- Poverty
- Compared with other good students
- Students are not willing to sit in one place for their classes (2)
- Students are not interested in subjects or their future career
- They don't concentrate during the teachings
- Teachers don't have security when they discipline students (and do they may not even though it is needed)
- There are some teachers that don't teach properly. They work only to get through what they must do
- Students are forced to memorize the subject teachings rather than understand the material
- There is more copying compared to earlier times
- They are taken advantage of because they are children
- Some of the modern gadgets like cell phones and computers can be distracting. Also, attraction towards the opposite sex can keep them from their studies
- The way of dressing is very bad when compared to some years back

- o   Heroism in the classes or hero worshippers
- o   Peer pressure
- Issues of student behavior
    - o   Students have a lot of access to the media.  It has both a positive and negative impact.  The positive impact is that students know more about current affairs.  When we ask them questions, they are ready to answer
    - o   They try to act what they see in the media (2)
    - o   Patriotism has changed
    - o   We have to be very patient in disciplining them
    - o   They have an attitude of disobedience (2)
    - o   They like to have a free environment and freedom to interact
    - o   Children have enough money to spend
    - o   They have access to all modern electronic gadgets like cell phones, iPods, video games, etc
    - o   Much access to internet
    - o   Very mechanical and no affection or love
    - o   Even the teachers feel that it is not good to discipline students (behavior) except around subject matters
    - o   Even if teachers do not speak to children about their home life, students come and share these details with the teachers.  So they try to really listen in these cases. But teachers do not usually take initiative and inquire about students families
    - o   One student shared with me that he didn't see his dad for one month.  He had tears in his eyes. They are missing the love of their fathers and mothers
    - o   The problem that children today face is the attraction to the opposite sex.  This is normally seen more in the children where parents are separated.  Also, families, even though they may stay together, they are separated in affection
    - o   Outside of the school, students sleep over with their friends
    - o   Peer pressure
    - o   Teachers are not respected
    - o   Teachers are the least paid yet they have more responsibilities and so much is expected of them. This is everywhere (world)
    - o   Students do not want to become teachers (2)
    - o   As students go to higher classes, they lose respect for their primary teachers
    - o   Respect for teachers is lacking in comparison to other professions
    - o   In Asia, elders are respected but even that culture is changing
    - o   Bullying is a problem in schools.  Sometimes this can go to the extreme and turn into major fights
    - o   Students are late to school
    - o   Taking cell phones to school
    - o   Taking bikes to school
    - o   There is no discipline in classrooms
    - o   Passing comments to their teachers
    - o   Bad company
    - o   Students are imitating their teachers
    - o   They copy on their examinations
    - o   They use their talents in wrong ways
    - o   Sexual abuse
    - o   Alcoholism
    - o   They don't have an interest in learning
    - o   Few students are very competitive in the classroom

- o Some are very lazy
- o They are very aggressive (2)
- o Students are very sensitive in some areas. For example, when they are beaten, they are prone to commit suicide. If they are disciplined, they commit suicide and the teachers are sued
- o They want to take revenge on teachers when they are punished
- o Students' hair styles are changing according to the style of film heroes
- o Sometimes, they appreciate teachers (2)
- o Boys are more helpful than girls
- Influences on student values and behaviors
    - o In our time, it was not like today. Students have knowledge of almost all the things we are going to teach, even before we ask them about it
    - o Students (returning from abroad) possess good communication skills
    - o When they return from abroad, they are very bold. They are bold enough to ask questions and confident in the work they do
    - o But when we see our culture here in Tamil Nadu, children are told to be timid. Children returning from aboard come with boldness. This impacts both positively and negatively. Sometimes they are challenging in the classroom
    - o They are bold enough to point out if teachers make a mistake
    - o If they ask a question and the teacher is not able to answer their question, they expect the teacher to say "I don't know" rather than changing the subject and speaking about something else. When we do that, they appreciate it
    - o I teach geography. I have around five students who have gone abroad and come back. I find it very easy to teach them because they have lot of information
    - o These children (returning from abroad) are a real asset to the school. It depends on the teacher how the potential to use these children in the classroom is explored
    - o CMC kids are better in language than other children
    - o The students returning from abroad are lovable and extremely good (comment of an English teacher)
    - o Perhaps they are loved because the teachers are lovable
    - o Good interaction between children and teachers
    - o We do not have any corporate punishment
    - o There is no terrorizing and we are not biased
    - o The remaining 60% of students that do not go abroad (non-CMC students) talk to each other in Tamil unlike the CMC students that use English mostly
    - o In our school, junior students mix freely with senior students
    - o Sometimes what we see is a junior bullying a senior.
    - o In our school there is little to no bullying
    - o We have a good assembly where we have religious matters addressed. We have seen changes in their values through these assemblies
    - o In our schools, malpractice during exams is very low
    - o Values are communicated very well during the assembly
    - o Children are from good families. Parents teach them good morals. Also, teachers are very loving and friendly
    - o Schools are a big influence on the life of children
    - o Teachers are a big influence on the lives of children
    - o Some children, even though they go to abroad and study and then come back, we see that they missed their teachers and they are happy to come back and join us
    - o The Word of God can build good behaviors in students

- o Teachers should be a friend to their students
- o There needs to be love and concern in the family
- o Good friends
- o To have confidence in themselves
- o Broken families
- o Illegal relationship of father and mother
- o Father spoils his son through his immoral behaviors
- o The father and mother have sex in front of their children if the family has only one room shared by all.  Most of the villagers are like this
- o The media influences students' behavior (2)
- o Some parents sell their children to work
- Support and/or pressures of families on children and youth
    - o The biggest problem we see is the money disparity
    - o Parents are decision-makers in the lives of their children.  If the parent is a doctor, they want their children to be doctors also even if the child does not want to be a doctor.  Parents disagree with the ambitions of their children (5)
    - o Parents force their ambitions on their children
    - o Our culture is one in which parents dominate children
    - o Because parents do not spend much time with their children, children become rebellious against their parents
    - o It is our suggestion that a child should have the freedom of choice around their future career
    - o One parent commented that she cannot think of any profession other than the medical profession for her child
    - o In general, schools do not expose children to different professions (i.e. arts, etc).  Students are unaware and do not know what they could do
    - o There is no career guidance. A professional counselor should be appointed in all schools. Schools need to do this as an extra activity
    - o Teachers do not think it is their responsibility to give career guidance to children.  They think their only responsibility should be to complete the lessons
    - o Sometimes people from outside the school are invited to come and provide sessions around their expertise.  This is not in every school but this is applicable to all schools
    - o Broken families
    - o Parents do not spend time with their children (2)
    - o Students are pressured to perform better in their studies
    - o Students are comparing with other students who do well in studying or in sports
    - o Financially, families support their children for their education (2)
    - o Many parents force their children to fulfill their own desires in studies (2)
    - o Poverty is a problem
    - o Parents ask their children to work after their school hours and to also care for the family (2)
    - o They expect more marks than they are capable of (also from parents)
    - o Some parents don't care about their children's education or future
    - o Families are broken
    - o Fathers are drunkards
    - o Parents sell their children as child labors
    - o Students carry heavy load of books
    - o They are not concerned about the books  because the government gives them free books

**Young People/Students**

- Future plans after school
    - Not yet decided about the future, never sat down and thought about it (4)
    - Medical: doctor, lab tech nurse- because their parents or family members were in medical professions (8)
    - We should fulfill the wish of our parents; if not that, we should at least try to fulfill it
    - Want to do youth ministry, work among kids and help people or I am also interested in journalism
    - Higher Studies, B.Com and work in the area of finances/banking (2)
    - I want to become a computer/software engineer to earn money (7)
    - 2 out of 8 said that they want to earn more money and want to be well settled in the future
    - One wants to become a pilot because of a love of flying
    - Few want to become professional sportspersons
    - I want to become a police officer (2)
    - I want to become a teacher (3)
    - Counselor – Because society needs counseling
    - B.A. in literature and then I want to do a Bible college degree and minister for God
    - BSC Physics – Her aim is to earn a lot of money
    - Artist – He wants to learn about art as his interest is art
    - Marine Engineer
- A typical day and pressures faced by youth in relationships, clothing, housing, etc
    - Teachers are like friends so we do not have any fear of them and sometimes do not respect them.
    - A teacher should be like a mother or father to me because I am away from my parents
    - I am very comfortable with my teachers and friends. If any of them hurt me, I get depressed very easily
    - We do not want to get hurt; especially when we do not do any mistake. This is the age that we are molded up
    - I talk with my cousin sister at least once in a week because I am away from home and I need to share my worries and feelings
    - I am close with my God and my cousin, sister
    - In regard to making decisions, parents are an influence. Also, school friends and books on decision making
    - Boys don't share things, but girls are not like that. We share our problems
    - Boys take things easier. Only some are studious
    - Our feelings and the way boys feel is different
    - Boys take things for granted. Only some boys take things seriously
    - Many of my friends' parents do not spend time with them
    - When I am at home, I feel freer. When I was in the hostel, it was very strict. There were restrictions even for calling our parents
    - A comment of one of my friends – "My friend was longing to spent time with his parents. He wants to be with them but because they are working, he cannot. When I hear my friends talking about their parents like this, it is painful for me. I get only Sundays so I get very depressed. Why can't my mother be like others? Why can't my father be like others?"
    - No personal interaction with parents and their lives. There is a lack of correction with mistakes in life as parents are busy
    - Experience suicidal tendencies as parents do not spent time with them
    - The things that distract us are friends, the net, movies, bad websites, TV
    - Due to family conflicts, parents don't allow us to speak with their enemies but I want to have good relationships with my neighbors & relatives

- I will obey the restriction of clothing (2)
- We should obey the words of our elders
- We should behave according to the customs of a place; customs have come from the experience of our elders
- We hate marriages based on love.  Parents are there to find a good life partner for us so do we need to select our own
- In public places, we should not hold (boy & girl) hands with friends.  We should not speak & laugh loudly in the public places
- I want to do whatever is right for me.  I don't want to obey anybody for my personal decisions.
- All that I meet are bad so I don't want friends
- We should accept everybody
- Elders will give a lot of advice but we should not listen to their advice
- To be specific and clear in relationships with the other gender
- We should not avoid bad / poor guys; we should help them and lift them up
- I want keep long hair but am not allowed to in my school.  So now I will keep my long hair (Young man who just completed his school studies)
- Restricting boys/girls to not speak to the opposite sex is not good; this hurts a lot to them (almost everyone said so)
- Because of rules of not mixing with the other sex, it stirs up bad feeling towards the opposite sex
- There needs to be enough teaching on how to behave to the opposite sex (2)
- Almost everyone said that standards that are too strict in schools are not good
- Teachers should be more casual and transparent with their students. This will create more interaction and room to share their problems with teachers
- Most of them liked to be well-dressed
- Most of them prefer to live in small/nuclear families. This allows them to feel more cared more (love, care and affection), and also affords them more privacy and less conflicts in the family
- Few liked to live in a joint family but acknowledged that doing so would give them more counseling/advice, more ideas, and more support in times of need
- Friends- when parents tell us to be away from some company, it is for good because they are more experienced than us  (3)
- When they say not to join with one particular girl naturally I will have the tendency to go and join with her and be friendly with her to know what is wrong with her.  I would be anxious to know.  But if they are really bad, I will maintain my limits.  But sometimes I would take their advice at the first instance and stay away from who they say (2)
- When my mom says no then I won't join with them because I know that what she says is only for my good. Plus my mother has gone through some very bad experiences when she was young and she shares her experience with me so I have learned a lot from her experience
- On the whole, I listen to my parent when I feel it is the good way.  But sometimes, they are forcing on us the don'ts and we get irritated and then we tend to go into bad habits
- Basically girls are warned to be disciplined
- In villages, both the sexes are having good relationship
- Girls are always in need of security
- They are very much advised to have good character people to relate to
- The basic advise of parents is not to have relationships with the opposite sex
- If parents says not to have a relation with so and so person, we will obey our parents
- But some disagreed on parents advice on relating with good people
- All kind of relationships are very important
- Friendship is the most wanted relationship

- o If parents are disagreed on any kind of relationship some (6/10) will obey their parents, some (4/10) don't want to listen to their parent's advice
- o In choosing our career, we want to fulfill our parents' wishes
- o Youngsters are willing to wear fashion dresses
- o If parents advise on the dressing, sometimes we accept it if the dress is irritating to others. Otherwise we use our own choice to dress
- o We should understand the local culture and customs of the place where we live. We have to change our way of dressing to that
- o I won't style up much and don't listen to what my parents keep telling me about the way I dress. I will do whatever I feel is good for me. Now the trend has changed so we should also change slightly but not totally so that we will also fit in this world
- o I just hate wearing saris and traditional dresses. When my mom asks me to wear them, I don't like to wear it because I feel more comfortable in churidhars. I will dress up well so that I won't draw people to my attention because that is dangerous in this world
- o If parents advice on dressing we will accept it if it is necessary
- o Activities that are of interest (music, drama, verbal, video, personal interaction)
    - o Helping the poor and the needy
    - o I love to hear good melodious songs especially when I am tense, I love Hillsong, Petra, etc
    - o During the school day we make up study and timetables and things like that
    - o During holidays we do what we want, like watching TV (2)
    - o I watch cartoons and the pogo channel
    - o I help my mother or put on music and jump around. It makes my father irritated- that is my hobby.
    - o During my holidays and when I am back at home, I tutor the physically handicapped and sleep well.
    - o Muslim girl -We do our prayers, study for some time, and go to school
    - o Holidays – read newspapers, if friends are there, we do group studies, watch TV, or listen to songs. I like to see cinema. If not, I watch some program, like quiz shows or something like that. I also like national geography and I watch it in the evening or I go to my cousin's who is near
    - o Enjoy music (many said this)
    - o I make sure that I have bed coffee. I am addicted to that and then I do my devotion. I read newspapers. I like to play shuttle and caroms. I like Sherlock Holmes, gospel music, Don Moen, Ron Kenoly, and watching films- usually Tamil TV- that kind of entertainment
    - o Drawing, embroidery, stitching, painting
    - o Science (2)
    - o Students go to the cinema theatre, shopping
    - o They spend hours together in the internet café
    - o Like to cook in my free time
    - o Want to ride my bike
    - o Spend time with friends and chat with them (2)
    - o Like to play with children
    - o Watch Television (2)
    - o Play football & cricket (4)
    - o Learn musical instruments (key board, drums & guitar)
    - o Dancing is my favorite thing (2)
    - o Learning new rangolies (a form of art that women do in front of their houses every morning)
    - o Attending church activities (2)
    - o Gardening
    - o Learning animation
    - o Most of the boys love to play different types of sports

- o Few girls love to play different types of sports
  - o Almost all of them love music and drama
  - o Very few of them showed interest in quizzes and personal interaction
  - o Almost all of them liked funny video
  - o Some of them like games
  - o Learning to use and improve their proficiency on the computer (2)
  - o Reading books
  - o Competitions
  - o Stamp collection
  - o Coin collection
  - o The National Service Scheme (NSS) is a useful way to do social service
  - o The National Cadet Corps (NCC) is a good way to learn about national duties
  - o Drawing
  - o Using library hours to read and know many things (Head Knowledge)
  - o Computer classes for the medium students to learn about basic computer programs
  - o Prayer cells
  - o Word games
  - o Family education period
- Relevance of church/religion and hopes for personal religious development
  - o God is first, parents follow, then I consider myself, and then my friends
  - o Want to do God's ministry in the future
  - o Religion teaches the way we have to live (2)
  - o God gives us wisdom to study
  - o God listens to our prayers and He answers (2)
  - o God protects us
  - o Religion gives us peace (2)
  - o Religion helps us to live a good life (3)
  - o Religion shows us the way to enter heaven
  - o Few felt that the religion is doing a good job in directing teenagers in a moral way
  - o Few felt that religion is creating diversity between people as it expects people to depend on God rather than their own abilities
  - o They felt that there should not be strict rules concerning dress code and one's outward appearance in church
  - o It was also said that Christian schools give preference to Christian children. Hindu schools give preference to Hindu children and so on
  - o When I was a Hindu, I was eager to know all about Hindu worship and their activities. After becoming a Christian, I am more eager to know about our Savior. The best reason why I love the Christian life is that it teaches us to set an example to others. It teaches us to love. It helps us come out of anxiety and other problems (2)
  - o People in the present era consider religion to be doctrine and follow these teachings. I don't like such activity. I want it to be a part of my life but not everything. I learn how I should live, love people, how to forgive others, and how we should communicate with others in words and action when I do wrong. The Bible corrects my actions. God's Word pricks me and helps me come back to Him. It comforts me when I feel bad about something. The life I have now is much better than my earlier life
  - o Our faith teaches the difference between right and wrong. It helps us live a pure life
  - o It helps us to be disciplined
  - o It helps us get rid of our sin

- o It gives us happiness and peace in our hearts
- o Religious activities give us freedom in our minds
- o One among them said that he worships his parent as a god
- o It is easy way to achieve success
- Influences that shape your values and role models that demonstrate them
  - o I can manage time well
  - o I am very close with my family. Time with my family is not like time spent with friends.
  - o I know I give respect to the teachers. I advice my friends who do not do this to respect their teachers
  - o In school, we are very happy. Being in school gives us relaxation
  - o Some friends are there who are very stubborn but we can change them. It is the place where we can mingle with them and can change them
  - o Most of our time is spent in school
  - o Some students look to many people like Abdul Kalam[6] He was a good man and I admire his character and ways. Some have their fathers as their role models. Some select helping people like Mother Teresa and Ida Scudder. Some look up to cinema stars
  - o Important decision- to study and fully concentrate on studies as our family has a lot of expectations kept on us and we need to fulfill them
  - o We spend our time balanced. We study for four hours, then take some rest and then study again. Studying is not a burden for us and our parents do not compel us
  - o School life is the best life. We have not entered into any other life (i.e. don't have an awareness of any other lifestyle). Right now, we are very happy here (2)
  - o School teachers influence us much. One wants to become a teacher in her life and teach others. (2)
  - o Friends influence me. They have lot of talents so I want to become like them
  - o Former chief minister of Tamil Nadu (Mr. Anna) has influenced me so much. I want to become like him
  - o Movies are influential. There are good lessons in the movies
  - o Church pastor has influenced her. She wants to preach like her pastor
  - o Pastors and their parents (especially their father) are role models for their commitment to serve people
  - o Most teenagers are influenced by celebrity heroes and try to copy them
  - o Most teenagers feel the need for a role model in their lives but few teenagers feel that they don't want to follow any particular person
  - o My chemistry madam - I always wanted to teach the way she teaches because I am very fond of her teaching. Many children and I are influenced by her life and actions. It is very good and her advice helped me a lot
  - o I wanted to be like one uncle who is so spiritual. I wanted to be like him because he spends more time reading the Bible and doing God's will
  - o I always desired to be like a nurse aunty who lives next to my house. She is a very helpful and really sweet. She helps every single patient. I always desired to be like her and do things the way she does
  - o I desire to as brave as Kalpana Chawala[7].
  - o One of them said her sister is her role model because her sister is very advisable (gives her advice) and is always happy
  - o One of them said her mom is her role model. She is the very homely woman (does a lot in the home)

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[6] Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam served as the 11th President of India from 2002-2007. He was popularly known as the People's President.
[7] Kalpana Chawla was an Indian-American astronaut and space shuttle mission specialist. She, along with six other astronauts, was killed in the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster in 2003.

- o Some did not have anything to say on this
- o A person desiring to be a marine engineer in his future said that one of his uncles works as marine engineer and he is greatly influenced by him
- o My dad has influenced me a lot by his love and concern and so I want to be like my dad
- o Her pastor influenced her by doing ministry abroad. She wants to do ministry like her pastor in the future
- o A school teacher influenced a boy because had special concern for him and students who did poor in her subject
- o Police officers influence young people because they have authority and power over society

- Meaningful school activities
  - o My father is a pastor and I want to help his ministry. I find that is more meaningful
  - o Games in school are useful (2)
  - o Hand works are useful in school
  - o Learning other languages helps us to work in other states
  - o Other activities like NSS, NCC & Scout will help us get good jobs in the future (i.e. the certificates one receives from such activities and affiliations)
  - o In church, youth meetings are good. In youth meetings, they give us guidelines on how to live according to a particular situation
  - o Coaching classes help develop them (most of the teenagers said so) (2)
  - o Devotion/prayer time in school gives them a godly conscious (3)
  - o Most of them like inter-school activities that demonstrate their talents while developing their skills
  - o Most of them like youth meetings, outreach, retreats, outings, and counseling sessions. These are good in churches
  - o Most of them feel the music and songs should be in a contemporary style
  - o They would like relevant messages which are based on practical issues
  - o Most of them feel church worship should be more vibrant and enthusiastic (2)
  - o Few feel that responsibility should be given without having any partiality
  - o We have music classes, physical training, handicraft competitions, scouts, guides, etc
  - o Volleyball and football are my favorite games. I love handicraft works like making basket dolls. I love games and I am good at them. I love them because I can teach people and help them know more
  - o NSS is useful as a way to do social service
  - o NCC is good for learning about national duties
  - o Drawing
  - o I like computer classes for medium students. It helps them learn basic computer programs
  - o Word games
  - o Family education period
  - o Game period is used to refresh themselves

- Things that affect today's young people the most
  - o If friends are not faithful or spread rumors
  - o If they are blamed for their good works
  - o If they are mocked or seduced
  - o If their parents scold them

**Interview Notes**

**Government Interview**

The following information was collected from an official with the social welfare department of the Government of Tamil Nadu. She has been with the department for approximately 25 years and currently works as a director of projects addressing maternal and child welfare (an initiative of the government that has been active for seven years) for one block of Tamil Nadu.

- Government projects for youth
    - Provide education for children between the ages of two and five
    - Free play and school is provided for downtrodden children in rural areas of Tamil Nadu
    - They have educational camps for young people (females) from April to May. They have conducted 30 camps. In each camp, 30 people are educated
    - Education is done through recreation and special lectures on health and nutrition
    - Special emphasis is given to pregnant women to educate them on appropriate food habits during pregnancy
    - The government has run this program since 2000
    - The government is involved in educating women, giving them awareness about malnutrition, and personality development. They do some training around how to get live cooperatively with parents and how to manage their family life. This is done all over Tamil Nadu, in both urban and rural areas
    - As we continually work in these villages, we can know which villages need such educational programs
    - Government enforces laws (as they are able) and educates women about their rights
    - Relationship between parents and their children – generally, they are good relations but girls have to try to adjust with their parents
    - Midday meals are provided for children through government programs and just to get this meal, children are sent to school
- Availability of public records (demographics on youth and children)
    - Records are available and can be accessed through the government
    - This program is launched from Chennai to Kanyakumari
    - Each person is responsible for a block.
    - One block contains between 1-1½ lakh people (I am responsible for one block)
    - The camps are conducted during April and May
    - It is done village by village
    - This starts from the block to the district and from district to the state
- Challenges faced by youth and future trends
    - We have programs for girls but do not have such programs for boys
    - The most affected people are girls. They are subjected to things like early marriages and are pulled from school because they are girls
    - In some parts of Tamil Nadu, the killing of female children is still very prevalent (for example, in some districts like Salem)
    - Even after awareness and education is given about this, there is not much change in the rates of early marriages
    - Usually the girls are very anemic. They are not fed properly. The girl child will get less compared to the boy child
    - Even while they are studying in 8th, 9th or 10th standard, they are getting pregnant before marriage
    - These girls do not have the strength to deliver the baby and this is a danger to both the mother and the fetus

- They do not give nutrition to the girl child but to the male child. Boys are well fed. Usually, what is remaining after the boys are served is what is given to the girls in the home
- Most of the families are poor. Parents are illiterate and do not have knowledge about nutrition.
- Poor family back grounds
- They go to school maximum until the age of 15
- Some, when they are in 5th or 6th standard, get married and their education is discontinued
- Girls, after a minimal education, will either stay home or go work in factories (leather, garments, etc.)
- Boys are allowed to study up to the 12th class
- Girls do not get a share in the property. This goes only to boys
- We want to do a lot of follow up [with the people they work with] but there is no time. Also, supervisors are not there to supervise as there is a lot of work to be done
- Parents, not children are the decision makers
- Parents and children are not able to spend time together because both parents work and only return home late in the night when they are already tired. Most children only spend time with their parents in the morning and in the late evening
- It is rare for families to have food together in the night
- Regarding the morality of children, some are stable minded but very few have good manners
- In both rural areas and Chennai, families are experiencing problems. Either the father is a drunkard or he will have illegal relationships with other women. It is very common in the slums for men to have more than one wife

- Benefit of international programs for children and their implementation
  - NGO's are also working in these areas (where the government works). Sometimes, these organizations are the ones that call the government to work in a particular area
  - There are a lot of NGO programs that do outreach to children and youth
  - NGO outreach is more comprehensive than government programs as they address a wider range of needs
  - NGO's are helpful and benefit the state. Their work does not hinder the work of the government
  - Some programs offered by NGO's include free tuitions, making houses for the needy, etc.
  - World Vision, Hand in Hand, Asaifa- these are just some of the NGO's working in my block
  - There are no funds available in the government to do more. What we do is the maximum that the government can do
  - The World Bank and Bank Sweden were helping us with some funding a few years back but no more. We are still continuing the activities we did with that money but now the government pays for it
  - People are educated about family planning. Now, most families (across economic lines) limit themselves to two children

- Effective moral programs and values for youth (beyond education programs)
  - Across Tamil Nadu, we have reduced the mortality rate
  - Teenage girls receive training around nutrition, health, change in marriage, and sexual awareness
  - Immunization and health education
  - Mother and childcare programs are also done
  - There are also programs done by the health department which is separate
  - Education with recreation is provided
  - Special lectures on health and nutrition
  - Provide prenatal education and healthcare

**Interview with a Ministry Director**

The following information was collected from an interview with the head of a non-denominational ministry that among its many ministries does outreach to children.  He is also a denominational pastor with a mainline church.

- How do churches address morality issues with young people?
    - There is a lot of cultural change in India.   We have seen great growth in science and economic wealth
    - Cinemas and television programs have resulted in a growth in immorality.  This is a condition of the current day
    - In church, we handle this by teaching Sunday school as well as other teachings
    - In independent churches, there is much more emphasis on morality teaching.  There is less of this in the mainline churches.  In these churches, it is more stories and other Bible teachings.  Emphasis is not placed on application, not the way independent churches address this
    - I work with many denominations, including the Catholics, and I see that this is true.  The mainline churches do less on morality than independent churches
    - The truth of Christianity is not always given in mainline churches [i.e. life application of Biblical teachings].  The charismatic churches do address this
- View on Mainline Churches (Denominational Churches)
    - Mainline churches do not give emphasis on moral teachings.  There is more emphasis on politics
    - There is a level of corruption in mainline churches in India
- The interaction of churches and secular organizations
    - They [secular organizations] have their own world.  Christians don't really interact with them
    - They [secular organizations] don't want to invite Christians to work with them as Christians because are comfortable with their [non-affiliated] identity.  They do not want to be affiliated with any religion or identified as a Christian religious group
    - India is mainly non-Christian.  If they identified themselves with a church or Christianity, they would be unable to get funding
    - When they first began their work, we, Christians, taught them (i.e. CRY, Help India) how to work here in India.  Now, we need to learn from them
    - Secular organizations do a lot of work that the church is [not doing, not able to do].  They do a lot of work with HIV and with widows for example
- As a Denominational minister, what is your involvement with other church denominations?
    - I, personally, am open-minded to work with anyone
    - What I am as a Denominational minister and as the director of this place is different.  What I see in the field, it is different
    - If I go to a CSI church or group, they see me as a Denominational minister.  If I go to a Denominational church, they see me as [his church affiliation] and don't think I am part of their church.  This attitude and way of behaving is born out of ignorance
    - Everyone identifies with a particular group
    - For some occasions, we unite for things and we can come together, like the United Carol Service or if we are attacked by the government.  In general, however, it is not like this
    - The mainline churches and independent churches will even come together on some occasions but again, this is not always the case
    - Some time back, the Roman Catholic Church- their priests and nuns- were attacked in Orissa. The Roman Catholic Church sent invitations for a protest meeting to be held here in Chennai.  I had just moved here and received an invitation.  I went, unaware of the existing divisions.  At that meeting, everyone was Roman Catholic.  I was the only Protestant person there.  The next day, the CSI and Denominational ministers called for a meeting and the only people that attended were the

Protestants.  This was 7-8 years ago.  I went to the Roman Catholic meeting because I was moved for the situation and went to show my solidarity as a Christian but later I learned that this division exists

- How do secular organizations raise their funds?
    - o Open calls [for money]
    - o They also receive support from businesses
    - o Secular organizations are also able to get support from the government.  Their income is tax-exempt
    - o In my case, this is not the case.  There is no tax-exemption for me
    - o Rich people, if they give money to CRY, they get a tax concession. So they give money to places like CRY.  But if they give to us, there is no benefit for them like this.  So raising funds for them [secular non-profits] is not difficult as compared to Christians [and Christian organizations]
    - o Among Christians, FMDB gets a lot of local money (their "motto" is Indian money for Indian ministry) and this attracts lots of Christians.  They are very active in North India
- Programs that affect youth culture in India
    - o Political parties attract youth in both the North and West.  This is what I see in the papers
    - o I understand that political slogans are attractive to youth.  They are brain-washed by the RSS
    - o Youth don't know what culture is but simply they believe [what they are told] and [they] get good fellowship there
    - o They get mutual respect, honor, and help [from these organizations]
    - o In the church, the caste system is the worst thing.  This is especially true in Tamil Nadu
    - o The political party can unite youth in the name of politics.  The church cannot do this
21. Hurdles for evangelism in India
    - o The church's worst enemy is the caste system in Tamil Nadu
    - o Some 2 weeks back, there was a police firing. What happened is this- Christians from the same congregation share a graveyard.  But this graveyard is divided by castes- between the dalits and the high class.  If the high class wants to bury a high class person, they can use the front gate to come in and bury their dead.  But the dalits cannot go through the front gate.  Educated youth protested this practice.  But the high class would not allow this to change.  So the political party got involved and protested this
    - o The church was not ready to listen to the educated youth of the upper class.  These youth want everyone to enjoy the same freedom in the same church (regardless of caste).  The priest did not stand up and speak out to change what was being done.  He, himself, is upholding these practices [whether actively or by silently following the desires of the upper classes]
    - o The priest, himself, was not living the Christian faith as he is following the caste system
    - o The biggest hurdle for evangelism in India is the caste system.  Indians, living in foreign countries, (Muscat, Dubai) practice the caste system.  We had a girl visiting one of these countries and found this to be true.  In the church, they uphold caste levels.  Caste controls our society.  Indians, regardless of where in the world they are, follow this caste system.  Even after following the Lord, they are still like this
    - o All churches follow the caste system.  Even in the independent churches- the Assemblies of God churches- you can see this
    - o The economic difference also enters into this.  When people of different economic classes come together in a church, how do they behave?  They are divided in the church
    - o In the church, those who are doing well economically- these are the highly educated people- they go for their own lifestyles
22. The Influence of the Caste System
    - o In schools, children are taught that they belong to a certain community.  The worst thing is that this belief and practice is growing.  I do not know why this is but this is certainly the case

- o In my college days, we never had this to the extent it is today.  We knew which community we belonged to but it was never given importance.  But now, I see that the issues of caste are exacerbated around issues of survival and the quota system. It irritates them.  There are quota systems for entrance into medical schools and when people do not get a seat, classes will blame each other.  This problem with the castes is the worst thing in India
  - o I have been a pastor for over 25 years and it is my belief that castism is what causes a lot of problems in the church.  It is something I pray for a lot
- Action steps to take to combat this
  - o Churches must teach the young generation that God created each of us in his own image and we are all equal.  We should not discriminate on the matter of race or class or anything like that
  - o With proper training, the caste mentality in the church can be changed
  - o Outer-church organizations can help with this
- The impact of the international community on the Indian church
  - o They [foreigners/foreign organizations] taught us many good things
  - o There is no international influence in my opinion [today in how ministry is done].  We receive their money but there is no influence, not even with culture
  - o Over the course of time, we adopt something that is Christian
  - o If someone has enough money, he follows the Western style.  If I have enough money and my son wants to wear jeans, he thinks that he is Western
  - o Economic freedom and the adoption of Western culture have had an influence on us
  - o In the beginning, the Western culture did impact us but now, that is not the case
  - o Once the missionaries left, we forgot everything they taught us- what is the meaning of Christian faith (loving your neighbor et al., the virtues of Christian faith).  When the foreign missionaries were here, they bought many properties for the India church but now that they left, our brothers are selling them off to put money in their own pockets
  - o The curse of the India church is that our people want power and want to grab money.  For that, they will go to any extent and so immorality entered the church.  It is for that reason that the caste system is bought up.  It is ego and selfishness that is causing this.  It is a means of keeping power
  - o So because of this, people can say, "oh he is not part of our church." It is this type of thing that keeps the church divided
- How do other denominations get involved in the activities of youth?
  - o Some churches have programs- YMCA type programs, arranging camps, seminars on various topics (around current issues like politics, health)- that have been successful
  - o The Roman Catholics are the most successful at this and in the front line [of all churches in doing work like this]
  - o The charismatic movement puts the most emphasis on spiritual [development]
  - o The mainline churches go for both aspects (social and spiritual)
  - o The charismatic movement is seeing changes in the moral development of children.  These charismatic churches attract more youth than other churches.  These churches include the Assemblies of God and the Pentecostals.  They are all part of the charismatic movement
- How do these movements influence non-Christians?
  - o They (independent churches) are successful, more so than mainland churches in reaching kids
  - o These churches are not that obvious or visual in displaying the caste system (even though it is there)
  - o Non-Christians are attracted to charismatic churches, more than other/ kinds of churches
  - o The mainland churches follow traditional practices.  They use the traditional church worship
  - o The charismatic churches give emphasis to miracles.  People are attracted to this and so these churches attract younger people and more of them

- What are some things that attract young people?  What hinders them**?**
  - The monotonous life of the church keeps youth from church
  - Young people say there is no life in services
  - These same youth go to Assemblies of God churches; they like the singing, the hallelujahs.  In these churches, they feel some sort of spiritual satisfaction; they feel some new thing
  - [For mainline churches] to have success in this [and to reach young people], we need to change with the times.  Previously, the music used in services was very rhythmic, but now, the music has changed.  They use drums and it is fast.  We need the same fast music.  We must adapt and change.  It is important to change with the times
  - In the US, the Denominational church has a traditional worship but then after 10:00, they hold a service with no regular order of worship.  We can do the same to attract young people.  We need to adapt according to the change of time and not follow 500-year old traditions
- Are you saying that this is why youth are not active?
  - Yes
  - Children, under the control of their parents, follow family traditions.  They worship and go to church where their families go to church.  When they get independent and leave their villages, they don't go back to their traditional church but go to others
  - In one sense, they leave because of castism.   In one place, the CSI has two churches.  One is by the bus stand.  The main road church is meant for dalits.  The other is meant for the "famous" – the nadar[8] community.  So whatever church you go to stamps you as being of a particular group.  If you are a stranger and go to one of these churches, people will think you are that thing.  People will tell you where you should go to church so you are with the right people
  - This can make young people insecure.  Let's say there is a young man.  He might be an engineer but because of his birth caste, he is seen as the lowest caste.  So he doesn't want to go to the CSI church [that he has grown up going to] because he will be labeled a particular way.  Instead, he goes to a charismatic church
- Are there any Christian youth or children that do not go to church because of this?
  - Yes, there are
  - So many young people say what is the meaning of being Christian?  Because they [the church] never see me as a fellow man (i.e. equal).  So why should I follow [them or attend them]?  I don't need help from God. If I go to this church, they see me as this way.  If I go to another, they seem me another way.  So why go?  This is the attitude that some have
  - This hinders non-Christians from coming to church as well
  - As long as the missionaries were here, they taught us and lead us in a good way.  But when Indian people came to power, to secure their positions, they played the caste system to hold onto power
  - All churches in Tamil Nadu have this system but in the charismatic church, they have less of this.
  - Growth of Churches
  - The independents are the fastest-growing churches here.  When I speak to them, they say, the future is theirs.  And in many ways, this is true. Of course, this is a threat to me and my church.  We cry- the pastors- about this.  But the church politicians- the leaders- they gather corrupted people- and form the power center.  So the ordinary man's cry is never heard.  Every day we pray for [this to change].  [We cry] Lord, help us
  - I've lived in many places and I see this to be the greatest threat to the church.  It ruins the church
  - Real fellowship, an understanding among believers, and shedding all the differences- religion, language- would make a difference

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[8] The Nadar is one of the prominent castes of Tamil Nadu.

- o When I was in Bombay, people saw me one way.  It is the way things are in India.  People see each other "one" way
- o People are not satisfied in their churches.  They are suffocated for different reasons.  The church is not growing.  It is divided.  It is not that a church- like the charismatic ones- are growing, it is that people from one denomination leave that church and go to another.  So the number of Christians does not change
- o As a Denominational minister, I am not interested in more denominations coming up.  As a man of evangelism, I support this.  The small churches are doing a better job than mainline churches [of reaching people and teaching them what God wants us to live]
- o The body of God has stagnated and there is no growth in the church.  Organizations are growing (i.e. Seva Bharat) but not the church
- What is needed?
  - o Something that tells people that we are all the same would work.  This kind of teaching needs to be implanted in the minds of children.  Satan is very powerful.  He is not outside the church, he is inside it.  I have 30 years of being a pastor and that is what I feel.  The church itself is its own enemy.  Our problem isn't outside, it's inside
  - o We are 3% of the nation, but the whole nation is scared of our strength.  If we are united and stand in one voice, we will make a great difference.  So this is what we need to break down
  - o The charismatic churches have had some impact but mainline churches are only interested in institutional management
  - o Small groups, like Seva Bharat- it is run by a layman [not a church] - go into villages and places the church will not go.  So these organizations are growing and doing work that the church is not doing
- Final Thoughts
  - o This is my understanding and experience with the church regarding the caste system and everything else.  As a pastor, I have experienced all this.  When I go to churches, I see the sting of this.  This is something that became part of the India church after the missionaries left
  - o There is an opening for non-denominational organizations to partner with churches because churches want the resources that come with these organizations.  If a church wants to change its caste mentality, then organizations can impact this.  But if a church doesn't want to change this, then outside organizations will not be able to change this
  - o The secular world is influencing the church; the church does not influence the secular world.  This is upside down.  The corrupted society influences the church.  Our politicians want to sell everything; they want to cut down the forests.  In the church, our leaders are selling properties and they are cutting down the trees on the campuses.  It is the same thing
  - o It should be real Christian values that impact the church
  - o The caste system is not just in the churches, it can be found even in Christian organizations.  It is all over India
  - o Regarding the passage of leadership roles, the mentality is I want to find a person from my own community.  We all think we want to go to my own community man.  Language is not a problem here but the other mentality is there.  Even in FMBB.  If you are from Tamil Nadu, you wouldn't mind putting a Kerala guy as long as he is the same caste system as you
  - o I have lived in many states as a pastor and I know that this is there.  Even top marriages are stopped in the church in the name of caste.  This is the way it is

**Interview with a Denominational leader and the Denomination's Communications Director**

- Needs of the church
  - This organization oversees an evangelical denomination in Tamil Nadu
  - Both with congregants of the church and those outside the church, people don't want to read the Bible. They see 66 books and they do not want to study it
  - Something that talks about the life of Christ will be helpful for both young people and adults
  - Currently, a greater emphasis is placed on orality so if a story is told simply, even pictorial, it would be great. In modern times, the visual is very important
  - Right now, we are training 30,000 pastors on how to be church planters
- Programs of this denomination to reach young people
  - They are starting a theology-centered program for children from nursery on up. It will include music and other curricular things. Right now, we have just one coordinator working on this. We hope to start in June but if not that, then in October
  - It is like Sunday school but not quite. It is geared to theology. We will provide training on computers and music. There is an element that the children will be trained to serve in the church but the real purpose is to give them the theology needed for their Christian life. It is to give them a strong foundation for Christ
- Denominational information
  - We give children a strong foundation and by this, we hope young people will come back to the church
  - 50% of our church are children and young people (25% children, 25% young people)
  - In our denomination, when we have meetings or programs, we specifically say to bring the children. So we try to include them in what we do
  - There are international foundations that do work for young people but I do not know if we have partnerships with them per say
- How do young people view the church?
  - They go to church because their parents go. They go because they are born to it. Sometimes Sunday school can help to change this
  - Right now, children will come to church and take part in choir but few come to reach the villages. More children are busy with school activities so they can earn money. They have tuition or other things. On Sundays, it might be their only time that is free and so they watch television

## Section VI:  Raw Data from Second Round of Focus Groups

**Fathers and mothers urban and rural**
*1. Current church family activities*
- Cell groups
- Sunday service
- Evening services
- Cottage meetings
- Birthday celebrations
- Family visiting
- VBS final day program
- Christmas Program
- Regular ladies fellowship and men's fellowship
- Having parents meeting with Sunday school teachers
- Every month first day we have blessing meeting
- Women have special counseling sessions
- Family counseling with individuals
- Once in a year they have family blessing camp
- Family programs during vacation  like family get together
- We do not have any programs in the church, but Scripture Union conducts the program once in three months, so we send some of our families to those meetings
- One of the parent commented that we do not have anything for family relationship
- Family counseling with individuals

*2. Family involvement in church activities*
- As a family we come for annual day celebration
- Harvest festival
- VBS and Christmas
- We feel it is important, most of the time we do not find time in doing such activities
- But when we find time the churches does not have time
- When there are some activities to be done at church we practice and discuss the same at home
- Rarely do we get opportunities to get involved in church activities except the Sunday services
- Most of the times families do not pay more importance to church activities
- Sometimes our commitments for outside the church keep us away from getting involved in such activities
- If it is an occasional program we prefer to attend if otherwise we will give priority to other things
- We give importance to church activities at home too
- Sometimes kids are involved in church activities
- Mostly everybody will not get opportunity to get involve in Church activities
- According to the congregation we get chance in church activities
- We feel strongly that all families should get involved in church activities
- We feel it is very important to get involved
- Most of the time our commitments with other things keep us from getting involved in the church activities
- When we are free our children are busy and vice versa

*3. Family activities (outside the church)*

- Wedding ceremonies
- Going to hometown
- We go out to the restaurants with the family some commented every month and some once in two months
- We go out for shopping with the family to the malls
- Marriage, birthday invitations we prefer to go as a family
- Sometime we go out to clubs like lions club
- Birthday celebration
- Approximately we spend 10 hours/month for such activities
- And some commented they will spend only 3 to 4 hours for such activities
- Sometimes only fathers and children will go out
- Picnic once in a year
- Spending one day in a month for such activities
- Visiting family friends
- Family get together
- For school annual day programs
- Go to the beach when all the rest of the family members forces even though we do not have time
- Sometimes in the family itself we set apart a particular time so that we all will sit together watch the movies instead wasting time in going to cities because of the lack of time
- We go out for shopping with whole family because of financial constraint we are avoiding going to such activities specially mentioned in the rural parents
- Very rarely we are able to spend time in such activities
- One person commented if my wife asks I may deny but when the children asks I cannot, so the wives use the children to get permission to go out for such activities
- Once in a week we will go to the nearest park as a family


*4. Interest of children in church activities media etc.,*
- Children are interested in attending Sunday schools
- Youth meetings, choir
- VBS programs
- Taking offerings
- Take part in skits
- When the studies and the church activities falls in the same time we do not take decision instead we allow them to take decision as of how to do it as they are responsible for it (3)
- If some programs occasional then we allow our children to come to church more than their tuitions and things like that, and if it is usual then we don't make it compulsory to attend the program.
- One thing I make it sure is that they should attend at least one service in the church may be any time according to their convenience
- Children are interested in media such as TV (3), movies and they are even interested to watch TV 24 hours in the weekend; also interested browsing internet
- Children are very much interested in media such as TV short films computer games and animated movies
- On an average they spend 1-3 hours before the Television every day (2)
- They are more interested in watching movies and playing computer games
- Some parents do not encourage the children to concentrate on church programs but instead more on their studies (3)
- Now a day's parents hesitate to give priority to church activities
- Reading habit of children towards the magazines has come down

- One person commented in my house even though they have freedom to watch television I restrict on time basis and also on the channel basis
- One parent was telling I see that I give importance to his practice as an athlete because if he does not practice one day his stamina will go down so I see he should be national athlete so I don't compel him to go to church
- Friendship, timings, guest, exams, and cricket are major reason why young people are not attending such programs
- Sometimes their studies keeping them from the church activities
- A lot less people are interested in reading print media
- They spend maximum two hours in front of the TV and in the weekends they spend whole day and night
- As they grow their interest is varying like when they are small they are very interested in church activities like attending VBS Sunday school etc but as they grow up they stop such things
- Youngsters are busy with their work
- They use internet for the purpose of home work and project work
- They play computer games on the internet

## 5. Parents knowledge of children's activities in and outside the school

- Not all the activities parents are aware of (2)
- It all depends on the age factor if they are small we make sure we know them very well
- When they are grown up we are not able to know what all they are involved in
- As parents we need to believe our children
- When they are grown up we can know them not as a detective but as a father with concern for their child
- They help them in school activities like projects, covering the note books, studies, competition (4)
- We need to respect their commitments even with their friends, first allow them and know what commitment, if it is not right correct them
- Parents have the knowledge to some extent (2)
- More often neglect the children when the they come with some suggestion may be good or bad and do not listen to them (3)
- In schools we don't know what they are doing
- But we feel that we should have an eye on them
- We encourage them to stand in their own feet
- We help them to develop their creativity
- Sometimes we don't want to be disturbed by our children, so we ask them to watch TV(2) so that we can be free of their irritations
- Spending time with friends
- I sit with my child when he accesses the internet too
- Even though they are at home we will be busy with work but if they ask some questions we definitely help them
- We help them in day to day needs like waking them up, preparing and feeding them

## 6. Interest in possible family programs through church (i.e. family forms family empowerment training etc.)

- They are very interested in having family programs but it should be quite interesting and attractive exclusively for families (4)
- Usually what happens is the preacher preaches for a long time and goes off we do not have any involvement apart from listening to what he or she speaks
- The issues that have to be addressed are love relationship
- Sessions on sexual relationships for the new couples

- Psychiatric counseling
- Wanted to deal with issues like fellowship, unity, sharing, and bearing one another
- Children should understand the problems of parents
- Children's cooperation with the parents
- Deal with egotistical issues between father and mother
- Peace
- How to overcome misunderstanding within the parents
- Mothers need more counseling how to be faithful to their husbands and children.
- Mothers need to respect father's decision in advising the children
- Because children ask everything to the mothers and they serve as the mediator to the father, an unseen barrier is developed between the children and the father
- Character awareness seminar for the teens
- How to overcome worldly pleasures
- Building love within the family
- If mother is earning more: submissiveness
- Harmony in the family
- Submitting to each other
- Caring elders in the family
- If the program would be somewhere out of the church would be good to participate
- The programs addresses the issues like unity, character, disputes, quarrels with in the families, affect of alcoholism and parent-children relationship
- Understanding the feelings of the parents and children
- A teaching on value of money (2)
- If they deal about the good and bad companions
- Behavior of parents
- We need programs specially on subjects like love and affection between parents and children
- Programs like skits
- Addressing issues like sharing the events in the family itself
- About the love within the family
- Importance of parents being a good listener to their children
- Unity in the family
- The importance of having sacrificial love among the family members
- Educating the parents as of how to give money to the children
- Children using modern gadgets like mobile
- Disadvantages of cinema
- Partiality amongst the children in the same family

**Pastors**

1. *Descriptions of current offerings by churches for families or current church programs that entire families participate in*
   - We have three programs every year for husbands and wives in which they discuss about family relationship and misunderstanding, then they divide and split into groups deal with specific issues for them
   - They have VBS final day program where the families are told to come together
   - Family conference 4th or 5th week of every month
   - Family outing and conference, picnic and they have session of counseling in those places
   - Once a year they invite good speakers to address family values
   - Regular cell groups are going on where they deal with family issues

- Children have special programs there they are taught to obey and to be a better child, IBCM
- As church we all come together once in six months
- Even though we have so many programs in general we do not have specific programs for families.
- We find it difficult to bring all the families together
- The most effective program is picnic and having counseling sessions in the picnic (4)
- Good to have some changes in the church pattern
- Some programs for spiritual development
- 50% people are co-operative for family program ready at any time 20% come when they are free 30% never turn up
- Once in year have family counseling and the local pastors will take the sessions
- As our congregation has a huge strength around 8,000 people it is practically difficult to take them out for picnics
- Whatever we counsel or family programs the family should speak each other and solve their problems
- When there are issues in the family we counsel them
- We will not neglect the families coming for counseling
- Unless they come with some issues in the family we do not counsel them
- What we were trying to do was bringing together the Sunday school teachers and the parents to know about their children's characters and issues so that we can counsel them, once to some extent it was successful but later on it was not effective. They are trying to conduct such programs once in six months
- Birthday celebrations if somebody is celebrating their birthday we insist them to celebrate it in church so that all can get involved
- As far as AG churches are considered we have family seminars once in every year and somebody comes from outside to take this session
- Scripture union has family conference we found it very effective, some people from our church attend it
- Many from different churches are attending these conferences
- Weekly once we have men's and women's meeting separately
- The maximum impact that we see is the personal counseling at home
- Taking families to a different places like retreat centers, resorts etc is found interesting where we will have games, messages some visiting places because all families wants to go out

2. *Current programs to address family issues*
   - We have Ladies meetings
   - Every Last Sunday is separated for the families
   - We have regular family visit
   - In messages they address the family issues
   - Disputes in the families
   - Separation in the families
   - Alcoholic parents
   - Drug addictions
   - Disobedient children
   - Lack of relationship between parents and the children
   - All that we have to deal with such issues of parent children relationship is the VBS and Sunday school
   - Sunday school teachers will visit the students' families who are attending the Sunday school
   - Arranging the teachers and parents meeting to understand the spiritual need of the children; many agreed that such programs have to be conducted
   - Families are interested in type of programs that speaks about family issues
   - As a whole 25% of the families are interested in such programs

- What we see is that fathers are not much interested but mothers are interested in such kind o f programs
- If we have open forums they are not interested to talk
- Misunderstanding between husband and wife
- Problems by young children in the family
- Problem within the children relationship
- To have good understanding in the family
- Healthy family relationship
- So far we thought that parent child relationship program was not necessary, but now feel that we should have something like that

3. *Willingness of families to participate in church forums on family relationships*
   - So far do not have any family forums in our church
   - We would really like to have something of that kind

4. *Interest for churches to run parent child relationship building programs*
   - 50%  to 70% of the people will definitely show interest in such programs(if conducted)
   - One person said we have enough resources like big church, equipments etc., but we are not able to do anything for the families
   - Lack of ideas to conduct such programs
   - The strict church pattern and all the programs for the whole year is already set so all of a sudden cannot change the set church pattern
   - We could not think of this kind of programs because of our routine programs
   - Lack of creativity
   - We as pastors and parents are not effective in handling them
   - Churches are interested to conduct such kind of programs
   - Our church lacking in that area of parent child relationship programs
   - What we see is lack of awareness and lack of motivation for such kind of programs
   - Now we feel that we should definitely have such kind of programs
   - One said it is very necessary how are we going to have we do not have such programs

5. *Church use of internet for ministry resources*
   - We have heard of the internet but we have never used it
   - We do not have any idea how to use the Internet
   - Sometimes we use power point presentation in churches
   - We never use Internet for church development or spiritual info
   - Church youth use the Internet, but not for spiritual information
   - For spiritual thing we use only 5% of the Internet
   - We do not know, in what websites what resources we get
   - There are many websites but we have a knowledge only few websites
   - Most of the churches has websites which is used for advertisement of their churches and for online funding
   - And also for posting their prayers request
   - One person commented that we have just begun using the Internet for spiritual purposes
   - One person commented recently I was searching the Internet for the prayers walk and I felt it is very useful for spiritual things. And found that there should be lot of other things similar to this
   - As the church we are not encouraging to go for the websites as we are not aware which are safe and unsafe

6. *Young people's interest in websites and media to discuss social issues to do ministry outreach*
   - Most of them are interested in short films than other type of films (2)
   - Children are interested in animation movies
   - If you would make one animation television program for children it would be very effective
   - Commented on the hope giver as good and they want to have such films in future
   - They are interested in serials
   - We do not have enough resources to reach through media
   - We have big secular channels for the children and the youth and incase we have substitute channels for such channels it would be very effective
   - It will be good to have books on current issues
   - Many times what we see they are not open to ask certain questions but if we ask them to write it in a sheet of paper put it into a box we see many questions coming up from the young people

7. Church interest in participating in youth media contest
   - Interested
   - We have youths who are able to gather and they can have a contest
   - We may be able to raise some money from all the churches and they can conduct united talent programs
   - Yes, we can have media contest interdenominational
   - Lack of awareness about the media contest in the churches (2)
   - One church commented that  we have a van ministry – we have projectors, materials and the people from their church are  going to hills to reach the tribal, the youths are doing these programs, are also going to North India for ministries for short period of time
   - They have enough manpower to organize, has good place and they have skilled youths in the churches
   - Need to find interested and talented youth who will take part in the media contest
   - We have an organization named "City Transformation Network (CTN)" they are organizing such programs in our city
   - ICCC are also conducting such programs
   - Joyce Meyers ministry also has conducted kids games here it is also effective
   - ICCC is conducting bible quiz name "BIBLE QUEST"
   - Interdenominational contest the main line churches would never co-operate with the other churches.
   - It is good to have seminars like sex, love and marriage
   - Short Christian videos
   - We have manpower to conduct such programs
   - What we see is that people do not have time to go and attend such programs but if we get it right in the television in our homes it would be very good
   - It would be effective if we are providing the documentaries which addresses the moral issues and put it in the common websites so all can view it

**Teachers**
*1. Children's knowledge of creating media*
- They are interested in movies, short film (2) of maximum one hour and movie magazines.
- Animated movies(2), live events(2), wrestling
- They want to create cultural events (2), inaugural program in schools they themselves organize things.
- Skit, singing, folk dances, mono act, writing poems
- Visual communication students are very interested in making films and short films
- They have the base knowledge of creating media
- They even have the knowledge of some computer programs like power point, photo shops, web designing, c++
- The children themselves encourage mutually if some are interested in it (2)
- Live shows
- More attracted to fairy tales
- Comics and puzzles to be solved
- They are interested in creating their own media
- If it is a good school, they will definitely have the basic knowledge here in urban we get that unlike the rural areas

*2. Children's interest in creating media*
- In schools they are thought the advantages and disadvantages of the media
- But students refuse to listen from watching media
- Some schools have training in media like communication skills
- Professional from IT companies come and take some special sessions on media in the school
- Variety of trainings are available out of the schools like one month, three months and six months training on media
- Opportunities are given to people who are well talented, skilled and financially sound
- Most of the time what we see is the parents are not allowing children to take such courses
- Some time religions also play some role in it
- Lack of time for such trainings even though they are interested
- Having debates on the advantages and disadvantages of having media
- Through media they can bring the impact of their lives good or bad
- They get trainings on media outside the school generally
- Most of the schools do not have training
- But the training is definitely available
- One of major training in creating media is visual communication
- Very few get chance to get into it because the parents discourages such courses even though are interested
- Financial status hinders them from having such trainings
- Parents have their minds fixed on what they have to do like to make them an engineer, doctor or some other profession

*3. Best practices for engaging children in creating media tools- how they can be involved in creating media. In what role they can be in*
- The need of motivation to create their own media
- Children need motivation in creating their own media and materials
- They need suggestions as of how to begin with certain things
- Needs to self confidence in them even though they are interested
- Websites for morality

- Street play to bring awareness on the moral issues
- Makings short films with good morals
- And the people who are really interested do not get chance.
- And the one who is not interested in media is compelled to get into it for the fame in the society. Eg: Actress Shalini
- And the favorable environment
- They need to get opportunities
- Guidelines
- Emphasizing them to be healthy competitors
- Bring good moral music that speaks the value of life
- Encouraging their ideas based on the scripture
- We as teachers feel it is the parents who can impact maximum on the media development in the children than we impact

4. *Current educational programs on family relationships*
   - One person commented when I was teaching Social Studies in which civics was one of the subjects it which speaks about undivided families what I did is that I gave some good suggestions about how to behave in the families
   - No syllabus in our curriculum for family relationships (2)
   - They have some moral activities in the school like cleaning, social work but not on the family values
   - Today what we see is religions are more emphasized than the moral issues let it be a Hindu school or a Christian school
   - Children are really interested in taking part in the family programs
   - They would like to have counseling in the programs
   - About separations in the family
   - Alcoholic parents
   - Disunity in the family
   - Misunderstanding in the father and the mother
   - Misunderstanding of children and the parents
   - But we have moral education we teach how to behave in the family and be in the family
   - Mostly parents choose Christian institute for their children
   - 30% of the students respond to the family relationship
   - Parents need to be discipline, and their role is crucial
   - Parents need to  be good friends with their children

**Students**
1. *Interest in church activities for families*
   - Interested in having church activities for the families
   - Programs like harvest festival, sing song service, family meeting, house visiting
   - Special family services once in a month
   - Christmas programs
   - Church anniversary programs
   - Want to have programs like youth exposure
   - Programs which focuses exclusively on family values
   - They like the churches to do some programs for families like the responsibility of father, caring the children, children respecting the parents, decision making in families
   - How to get rid of root cause of family issues
   - Parents to understand the feeling and the emotions of the children

- Family seminars
- Family singing, especially at Christmas and New Year
- Prayer
- Sessions on how to maintain the family - Catholic Church
- Family get together
- Cottage meetings
- Get together for married men after church, and similarly for married women
- Skits on family relations
- Every Friday evening, the women gather to discuss and solve family problems
- Financial aid for those in need
- Scripture Union conducts a family values program
- Skits
- Family Singing
- TV shows – one person felt that the family enjoys watching TV family serials
- Meetings and speeches
- Family tours
- Counseling
- Personal house visiting
- Family retreat
- One girl felt that first families need to be taught to "seek first the kingdom" and the rest would be taken care of

2. *The use of internet for their spiritual development*
   - Among the group there was only one student using the Internet
   - Sometimes that person uses it for spiritual information like watching songs in YouTube and getting counseling
   - Use it for checking mails, chatting, downloading songs
   - Getting study resources
   - If a website is made - how to face the problem, getting solution for the problem
   - If parents doubted me why they suspect how should deal with that
   - Dealing of some personal problems – online advise
   - Tips for making decisions
   - When the opportunities are there which to choose
   - Girls said they don't use it except for studies
   - Boys use it in their spiritual growth – when the have doubts about something in the Bible or to prepare for Bible quizzes and messages
   - Boys felt the Internet was very useful to get information, as they cannot sit and go through hundreds of books to find an answer, but the Internet gave them instant answers to their questions – especially Google Search

3. *Interest in teen website to discuss social issues*
   - How to have good relationship with others
   - Job opportunities
   - Good thoughts from the great philosophers, scholars and Bible
   - Want social issues to be addressed as harmful such as alcohol, smoking, drugs, hygiene, technology, emerging inventions
   - Sex
   - Healthy use of technology such as mobiles, computers, etc

- Behavioral patterns
- On line competitions – objective type
- Sins and it's after effects
- Tips to reach their different ambitions
- Unwanted relations with the opposite sex
- Solutions for depression- words of encouragement
- Respecting and accepting each other
- Issues relating to discrimination in caste and financial status
- Unhealthy relationships before marriage
- Prevention of diseases like AIDS, etc
- Awareness about some deadly diseases
- Usually weekends we use computers for other purposes than spiritual information
- Once they come to know about the spiritual web sites they will start using it
- But one of them commented he uses the internet at least one hour each day
- The LATEST devotional songs
- Scientific things
- Good photos
- Testimonies of people
- Stories, especially real-life stories
- Miracles
- Prophetic fulfillment
- Movies based on the Bible
- Advice and tips
- Questions & Answers to youth problems
- Success stories of Christian achievers
- How to overcome temptation
- Proof and evidence of Biblical facts and the existence of Jesus
- How to deal with suicide
- Games
- How to share the gospel
- Online counseling
- Encouraging words

*4. Willingness to participate in church forums on family relationships*
- They have interest but they are not willing hear from who are not practicing it
- Expecting some people to come from outside
- We are not interested by compulsion
- Because of compulsion we are fed up to attend church activities
- We love to have family forum, but till now we do not have it in our churches
- We have a strong feeling that it is very necessary
- In programs like open forums may be that boys can express but it is very difficult for the girls to tell things in open forums
- It can be freely expressed when the parents and the children are separately dealt with
- Making parents who have problems to come to the church
- Youth meeting
- One girl felt it's not good for a 3rd person to be involved in the family's problems, and it's better the couple solves the problem on their own by talking and settling issues. However, she agreed that if they were not willing to talk and sort things out, it would be ok for a 3rd person to be involved

- All the youth said they would like to have more family activities

5. *Knowledge and interest in media and film*
   - They are interested in movies, live shows, serials, short films, songs
   - First preference to television rather than films
   - Bring up things connected with AIDS awareness
   - Of course we definitely like to create our own medias
   - As we are in rural setting we do not have the basic knowledge of media
   - We are sure that some training are available for media
   - And the these trainings are expensive which we cannot afford to
   - Parents are not allowing to get to such professions
   - Lack of freedom to decide
   - They want to make us engineer or doctor or some other professions
   - But we are interested
   - Real events
   - Videos of things like the tsunami
   - FM – Christian songs and values replacing the secular FM programs
   - TV programs in secular channels rather than Christian channels, and that too, at primetime
   - Roadside hoardings
   - TV & radio shows that involve the local people
   - Christian magazines are no use – people look for film and sports magazines most of the time – if you have a Christian magazine, you need to deal with issues, have an attractive title
   - Daily verses alongside other religious articles in the Newspapers
   - Christian Serial
   - Many of the youth were interested in creating such media, and would like to do it themselves, as they themselves are good actors, but they have no technical knowledge
   - Places in Chennai that offer courses with technical training in media were Loyola College (Visual Communication), Madras Christian College
   - Barriers to gaining education or knowledge of media are mostly financial. Some said that even if they would like to study media, their parents force them to study engineering or medicine

6. *Interest and resources to participate in media contests- like to participate in media contest which brings out issues that is relevant*
   - Yes we would like to do provided someone is there is to motivate and encourage
   -  no opportunities to do
   - In case we get such opportunities we would like to participate
   - We would like to create our own media regarding the social issues
   - The participation depends upon our talents
   - Skit
   - Singing
   - Music
   - Skit
   - Choreography
   - Jokes
   - Mime
   - In order to produce good media themselves, they need:
   - Encouragement
   - Media Training