

Custom Discovery Research

Andhra Pradesh, India





OneHope
Field Research & Discovery Report
Andhra Pradesh, India

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ONEHOPE

OneHope is a non-profit organization with a mission to *affect destiny by providing God's eternal Word to all the children and youth of the world.* With programs in over 125 nations OneHope has reached over 500 million children and young people with a special presentation of the life of Jesus. Committed to presenting God's Word in a format that is relevant and dynamic, research is a critical step in the development of country and age specific products and programs.



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 contact info@metadigmgroup.com.

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Section I: Project Overview

Rationale for 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 groups¹, will provide information on the possibility of improving Book of Hope'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 such, this research model is considered ideal for understanding the nature and needs of a population through the people groups deemed most informed.

The information may also be valuable for ministries involved in outreach to children and youth in Andhra Pradesh effectively plan outreach strategies that will address the needs of this population.

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 Andhra Pradesh:

- Members of Secular NGO's
- Members of Mission Organizations
- Government Leaders
- Clergy and Youth Pastors
- Students
- Teachers

Data gathered from these groups was supplemented with interviews from the following group:

- Denominational 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 included in this study are as follows:

- Hyderabad
- Adilabad
- East Godavari

Leadership and Facilitators

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

Reni John, Sarosh Philip, Gus Peters, and Nora Ecka conducted the focus group training on May 12-14, 2008 at the Divya Deepthi Spiritual Centre in Kazipet, Andhra Pradesh. Nine 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 these demographic profiles (e.g. students).

¹ A focus group is a meeting of people, typically five to ten, who have something in common and are called together to speak on how they feel or think about an issue or idea

Interviews were conducted in lieu of focus groups when it was not feasible to convene a particular demographic (e.g. denominational leadership).

In this report, findings from multiple groups of a single demographic profile are consolidated to provide a consensus account for that 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 areas², focus group participants were encouraged to share their personal experiences and knowledge of the subject matter. Each focus group had approximately 4-8 topic areas that were included for discussion. Moderators were asked to facilitate discussions to identify commonalities and areas of difference between participants.

Upon completion of a session, each focus group moderator and assistant moderator completed a focus group report. These reports, in turn, were reviewed 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- April 2008, meetings were convened in Pompano Beach, Florida (USA), New Delhi (India), and Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh (India) to identify topics for focus group discussion. Ministry leadership (Book of Hope and others active in Indian ministry) and experts in the field of child outreach in India 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 Andhra Pradesh.

Focus groups were organized under the guidance of Gus Peters and Nora Ecka with assistance from the following persons in the identified areas: Paul Wiig (Outreach Map) in Hyderabad, Pastor K. (Suresh (Sharon Assembly of God Church) in Adilabad, and M. Emmanuel Raju (India Abundant Ministries) in East Godavari.

Groups were conducted from May 15-22, 2008. The following people served as focus group moderators and assistant moderators: M. Albert (Youth With a Mission), B. J. Christopher (Outreach Map), K. John Christopher (Indian Abundant Ministries), Nora Ecka, J. Ilangovan (Book of Hope India), P. Krupanandam (Outreach Map), K. Raj Kumar (India Abundant Ministries), Prasanna Kumar (Outreach Map), Gus Peters, M. Emmanuel Raju (India Abundant Ministries), and K. Suresh (Sharon Assembly of God Church).

The draft report was completed on May 26, 2008. The draft version will be reviewed by key personnel at the Book of Hope strategic planning session to be held at the Grand Solitaire Hotel in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh on May 29-30, 2008. Any comments and corrections from these experts will be incorporated into the final report.

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. Information from these reports were compiled and evaluated by the research team (Reni John, Sarosh Philiip, Gus Peters, and Nora Ecka). Ministry leadership in Andhra Pradesh and designated focus group leaders who participated in the project will review this document prior to publication.

This report addresses the questions and topic areas identified by Book of Hope International and India ministry partners as essential for decision-making, distribution planning, and outcome design. Common and/or recurring themes from focus groups are 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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² See page 5 for topic areas per demographic groups

Focus Group Research Questions

- What are the felt needs, hopes, and fears of children and youth in Andhra Pradesh?
- What is the impact of a child's home on his openness to ideas and his availability to engage in free time activity?
- What are the barriers to engaging children and youth?
- What are the best practices of the media in reaching children and youth in India?
- What are the interests of children and youth?
- What entertainment appeals to children and youth?
- What are the emerging behaviors of youth and what is the impact of this on Andhra Pradesh and India?
- What are the state's character education needs?
- What are the changing family dynamics in the state?
- What is the capacity to fund and develop new projects and programs that merit resources?
- What are the new and exciting programs churches and ministries are doing for children and youth?
- What are the interests (i.e. events, activities, places) of non-Christian youth and how will it assist the ministry?
- What is the level of collaboration between ministries and how willing are they to collaborate on programs/events?
- What is the possibility of targeting specific sub-populations of youth (e.g. those with leadership potential)?
- What is the current state of children's and youth ministry in Andhra Pradesh?
- What is the skill level of youth workers and what are the training needs?
- What is the potential for children and youth to conduct peer evangelism?
- Is the priority set on evangelism or discipleship of children and youth in churches in Andhra Pradesh?
- What are the programs and materials needed by local churches to transform the lives of children?
- What is the need for new print and electronic media materials that will reach and appeal to children and youth?
- What organizations are developing new materials and how are these materials tested for effectiveness?

Focus Group Themes

- Government
 - Government projects for youth and children in Andhra Pradesh
 - Challenges of youth and trends for the future
 - The implementation and benefit of international programs for children.
 - Effective programs for the moral and values formation of youth
 - Commonalities and characteristics of emerging leaders
- Ecclesial leadership
 - Common Christian morals shared by denominations
 - Collaborative programs between secular and religious organizations
 - Interdenominational function of churches within Andhra Pradesh and India
 - People that work in youth programs (skill sets, needs)
 - International influences on churches and Christian practices in India
 - Local children's and youth programs involvement/disengagement with Christian/non-Christian families
 - Effective programs that are reaching young people
- NGO & Christian ministry leadership
 - The value/benefit of international organizations and their need for contextualization
 - The national/regional function of organizations
 - Regional difficulties working with children and youth
 - International and transnational cultural concerns
 - Trends in youth perception of culture, language, and family
 - Emerging issues for children and youth that need be addressed

- Effective programs that are reaching young people
- People that work with youth programs (skill sets, needs)
- 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
 - Interests of children and the appeal of these interests
 - Relationships within the family
 - Changes (generational) in children and young people
- Pastors and Youth Workers
 - Effectiveness of church programs and interdenominational collaboration for youth ministry
 - Emphasis in children's ministry (discipleship vs. evangelism)
 - People that work with youth programs (skill sets, needs)
 - Youth activity and involvement in churches
 - Spiritual opposition to the development of Christian youth
 - Programs that produce good results in children's lives
 - Challenges/pressures faced by youth and changes in young people
 - Changes (generational) in children and young people
- Children and Youth
 - Future plans after school
 - Typical day and pressures (social, cultural, academic, etc.)
 - Activities of interest (music, drama, verbal, video, personal interaction)
 - Relevance of church/religion and hopes for personal religious development
 - Influences that shape values & role models that demonstrate them
 - Openness of peers for evangelism

Section II: Executive Summary

General Information

Andhra Pradesh (AP), located in southern India, is bordered by Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Orissa in the north, the Bay of Bengal in the East, Tamil Nadu to the south, and Karnataka to the west. The fourth largest Indian state in both area and population, Andhra Pradesh is divided into three major regions, Coastal Andhra, Rayalaseema, and Telangana. The Twin Cities, Secunderabad and Hyderabad, the capital city of the state, are the largest cities in the state.

Historically, agriculture has served as the state economy's chief source of income. AP, one of the most mineral rich states in India, leads the nation in the generation of hydroelectricity. The 1990s saw a shift by the state government to develop AP into one of the leading information technology (IT) and biotechnology locales in the world. Today, AP is the 4th leading state in India for the export of IT; it is believed that this sector is expanding at a rate of 52.3% every year. In a November 2002 article entitled "Emerging Global Cities of the World," National Geographic named Andhra Pradesh as one of the high-tech capitals of the Asian sub-continent."

The state has a booming film industry. It is believed that over 200 movies are produced annually in Andhra Pradesh. Additionally, the state is also known for having more cinema halls than any other state in India.

The importance of education in the state is demonstrated through the more than 20 leading institutes of higher education that award both first degrees and postgraduate awards. While science and engineering are popular fields of study for many students, programs in the arts, humanities, law, and business are also available. Additionally, the state introduced several new institutes of higher learning, such as the International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) and the Indian School of Business (ISB).

QUICK FACTS	
Area (Sq KM)	275,000
Population Density (per Square KM)	277
Total Population	76,210,007
Male Population	38,527,413
Female Population	37,682,594
Sex Ratio	978 females/ 1000 Males
Literacy Rate	60.5%
Male Literacy Rate	70.3%
Females Literacy Rate	50.4%
Total Workers	34,893,859
Percentage of Workers (to total population)	45.78%
Scheduled Tribe Population	5,024,104
Percentage of Scheduled tribes(to total population)	6.59%
Scheduled Caste Population	12,339,496
Percentage of Scheduled Castes (to total population)	16.19%
Infant Mortality Rate (SRS 2007)	56
State Gross Domestic Product (in crores ³)	117,434
Per capita Income (in rupees)	13,135
Students enrolled in Schools (Elementary to Higher Secondary Schools)	13,411,068
Languages	Telugu, English, Urdu, Hindi, Tamil
Religious Groups	
Hindu	89.1%

³ A crore is a unit of measurement in the Indian numbering system. 1 Indian crore = 100 lakh = 10 million

Christian	1.9%
Muslim	8.9%
Other	0.1%
Information Sources: 2007 Sample Registration System of the Office of the Register and Census Commissioner, India; Andhra Pradesh 2001 Census; and <i>Operation World</i> by Patrick Johnstone	

Facts on Social Issues In Andhra Pradesh

DRUGS

- The 2000 National Survey on the Extent, Patterns and Trends of Drug Abuse found that while the majority of drug users across Indian states were men, Andhra Pradesh, along with Manipur and Mizoram, was one of the few states in which a significant portion of the drug population is female (10.5%). According to a November 5, 2005 article, "Women drug addicts on the rise," published in The Hindu, the majority of these women hail from Hyderabad and Secunderabad.

CHILDREN AND POVERTY

- Vijayaqwada, the third largest city in Andhra Pradesh with an estimated population of over 800,000 people, has approximately 8,000 children living on the streets without families⁴
- Children living on the streets are at increased risk for HIV/AIDS

AIDS

- According to the annual site surveillance programme⁵, Andhra Pradesh is considered one of India's high prevalence states for the incidence of HIV/AIDS. An area is deemed as a high prevalence state when 1% of a low-risk group, such as women attending antenatal clinics, test positive for HIV/AIDS. Over the past seven years, the prevalence of AIDS in women who attend antenatal clinics has consistently remained over 1%, indicating that HIV/AIDS is on the rise in the general population of Andhra Pradesh, and not just high-risk populations (e.g. intravenous drug users, homosexual men).
- Out of an estimated 5.1 million cases of HIV/AIDS in India, approximately 10% is believed to be persons residing in Andhra Pradesh (National AIDS Control Organisation)
- In a study of 6,661 men in 61 urban and rural settings of various sizes across Andhra Pradesh, researchers examined the behavior of men who have sex with other men (MSM) to determine the most efficacious steps for AIDS education and prevention programs. 41% of those surveyed were married men and 50% of participants indicated engaging in both MSM and sexual relations with women. Approximately 23% of those queried, across settings, indicated having sex with their spouses or other women after an unprotected MSM event. This type of behavior is believed to be a contributing factor to the rise of female AIDS patients in Andhra Pradesh⁶

OTHER HEALTH CONCERNS

- A study examining the prevalence and demographic association of eye disease in Andhra Pradesh found that women and girls, people of decreasing socioeconomic status, and members of rural communities were significantly more likely to have moderate visual impairment than persons of other demographic groups.⁷
- A study examining deaths occurring in 45 villages in Andhra Pradesh concluded that the rise in non-communicable and chronic disease is related to the rapid epidemiological transition occurring in rural areas. This in turn is linked to the rapid economic and social changes that have occurred in Andhra Pradesh⁸.

⁴ Reported by Railway Children, an international nonprofit that partners with national organizations to stop the abuse of children living on the streets, through early intervention.

⁵ This study is a program of the Andhra Pradesh State AIDS Control Society (APSACS)

⁶ Dandona, L., Dandona, R., Gutierrez, J., Kumar, A., McPherson, S., Bertozzi, M. (2005). Sex behavior of men who have sex with men and risk of HIV in Andhra Pradesh, India [Epidemiology and Social. *AIDS: Official Journal of the International AIDS Society*, 19(6), 611-619.

⁷ Dandona, R., Dandona, L., Srinivas, M., Giridhar, P., Prasad, M., Vilas, K., McCarty, C., Rao, G. (2002). Moderate visual impairment in India: the Andhra Pradesh eye disease study. *British Journal of Ophthalmology*, 86(4), 373-377.

⁸ Joshi, R., Cardona, M., Iyengar, S., Sukumar, A., Raju, C., Raju, K., Raju, K., Reddy, K., Lopez, A., Neal, B. (2006). Chronic diseases now a leading cause of death in rural India—mortality data from the Andhra Pradesh Rural Health Initiative. *International Journal of Epidemiology*, 35(6), 1522-1529.

Focus Groups and Meetings

20 focus groups and 3 interviews were conducted from May 15-22, 2008 in Hyderabad, East Godavari, and Adilabad. Focus groups included: government leaders, representatives of mission organizations, secular NGOs, pastors involved in youth ministry, teachers, and students. Denominational leaders were interviewed to augment information gathered from the focus groups.

Key Issues

Strengths & Opportunities

- Opportunity to use media to influence youth
 - Television is highly influential and serves as a source of education
 - Lack quality children's films - HopeGiver is popular for the whole community
- Opportunity for the Church to provide youth-friendly community activities
 - Sporting events
 - Social interaction
 - Library resources
- Christian youth practice better dating relationships than non-Christians
 - Opportunity to provide biblical principles for healthy dating
- Youth are experiencing more freedom and can make more personal decisions permitting non-Christian youth the opportunity to engage with the Gospel
 - Need more training/education for handling freedom
 - Youth have access to disposable income independent of their parents
- Christian youth desire ways to positively express their faith
- An opportunity for churches to provide mid-week programs
- Church-sponsored after-school programs addressing educational needs are successful because they help with education as well
- City churches have successful Sunday School and VBS programs
- Opportunity to provide English language courses in rural areas
- Youth are uncertain about their religious convictions offering an opportunity to present the relevance of Christian truth
- There is a need for the Church to prepare youth workers for rural areas
 - Skilled youth works with the ability to teach English are particularly valuable
- Families in rural areas are more extended. Parents work closer to home and families work together in fields, so there is more interaction.
- An opportunity to engage with parents in rural areas, as they need help to tutor and train their children.

Weaknesses & Threats

- Parents are not spending time with children and pressure children to perform for the sake of the family
- Urban and rural parents are both working
 - Both urban and rural lack quality relationships with children
- Children do not have good role models in family or school
- Peer pressure and the lack of church programs results in youth being exposed to negative peer influence
 - No distinction between Christian and non-Christian youth
- Lack of peer-to-peer evangelism because there is no training by Churches
- Legalism in the Church leaves a negative impression of Christianity
- Pastors' messages are not relevant or oriented to youth
 - Pastors do not have the time or ability to interact and relate to youth
- Rural churches do not have opportunity for Sunday School and VBS programs
- Church limits opportunities for youth to serve
- Youth experience caste discrimination within Church structure

- Deteriorating relationships between parents and children due to:
 - Lack of time together
 - Cultural gap
 - Knowledge gap
 - Generation gap
 - Lack of commonalities/understanding
 - Lack of parenting skills
- Lack of moral foundation/teaching in the homes and in schools
 - Parents expect teachers to teach
 - Teachers expect parents to teach
 - Lack of interest in religion in general
 - Becoming disillusioned
 - Militant religion becoming more popular for the solid stand they take (not lukewarm)
- Students see hypocrisy in the church
- Youth are increasingly dealing with the following felt needs and environmental influences:
 - Loneliness
 - Bullying, even to the point of resulting in suicide
 - Pornography
 - Pre-marital sex
 - Drugs & alcohol
 - Discos
 - All-night parties
 - Teenage pregnancies and abortions
 - Prostitution (in rural areas)
- Educational opportunities in rural areas are lacking, the government schools are not sufficient and private schools are usually too expensive
- Rural parents are illiterate and cannot prepare their children to access the opportunities available in urban contexts
- Attitudes and behaviors are significantly influenced through television programs.
 - Morally corrupt characters are often given “Christian” names

Responses to Research Questions/Areas

What are the felt needs, hopes, and fears of children and youth in Andhra Pradesh?

Teachers, students, and government leaders agree that children and young people in Andhra Pradesh face a tremendous amount of academic pressure. Parents' have unreasonable expectations for their child's academic performance which exceeds the child's capabilities and leaves him feeling inadequate. As free time is missing from some schools, children feel that they are constantly studying but have no leisure time or opportunities to unwind. Along with academic pressures, unhealthy competition with peers, abuse from teachers, and bullying also serve as stress factors for many young people. Students report that in the case of bullying, it can sometimes escalate to the point where young people feel so persecuted that they attempt suicide.

Along with feelings of inadequacy, young people express a greater sense of loneliness. With more parents (both mothers and fathers) working outside the home, children are left unsupervised, under the care of grandparents or hired caretakers, or sent to residential schools. While children have more access to luxury items with the increased household income, with a lack of parental guidance, this can mean an inordinate amount of time on the part of young people surfing the internet or watching television and movies unsupervised.

Relationships between teachers and students, particularly in the case of government schools, are also deteriorating. More students are rebellious and disrespect teachers in the classroom, leaving teachers with little motivation to do more for students than what is required (e.g. teachers will not foster a relationship that will encourage students to share their life problems). Teachers also disrespect students as students report some teachers drink or smoke in class (in government schools).

As the traditional adult figures in children's lives are increasingly alienating themselves from young people, teenagers and children today need a strong adult presence in their lives. Children need solid adult role models who will take an active interest in their lives and provide affection and direction.

Children and young people are also conscious of the economic and social divide that can exist within their peer group. Students tend to create friendships with peers of a similar socioeconomic class and avoid interaction with other groups. Teachers indicate that these barriers make children conscious of how they rank in comparison with others, resulting in psychological stress for children who are economically disadvantaged in comparison to their friends. This is exacerbated in students' eyes as they feel that sometimes, teachers show some partiality for wealthy students and are less likely to punish these students than they are students of an inferior economic background.

Youth are frustrated by their elders. Participants across student focus groups indicated that they are judged and misunderstood by the older generation because of their preference for Western culture.

In many poor areas, children work outside the home to assist their parents. Many of these young people, if they are able to stay in school, work in their families fields afterwards, leaving little time for study. Many pastors state that, due to this, many rural children are unable to adequately comprehend English which makes it very difficult for them to continue with higher education. For children of these backgrounds, even if they do have a desire to pursue their schools, many of their parents are illiterate and poor, so children receive no assistance from parents with their school work and are unable to get tuitions as they cannot afford it.

Youth are confused about religion and god. While some youth indicate strong views on the authenticity of Christ, many youth view religion and Christ as fallible, a significant portion of young people express a desire to know more about faith. According to Christian students, teaching their peers about faith is difficult, as often times, young people will not explore religions outside their own out of a fear of their parent's reactions.

Young people in Andhra Pradesh desire acceptance. They want an adult presence in their life that genuinely loves them and displays this love in actions and words. Future success is important for this technology-hungry group, however, they are quickly reaching the point at which parental, academic, and cultural pressure will be too much for them.

What is the impact of a child's home life on his/her openness to ideas and his/her availability to engage in free time activity?

Home life in Andhra Pradesh is different than what it was a generation ago. While previously, at least one parent (typically the mother) spent a significant amount of time in the home, today, both parents work outside the home. As such, children are often left unsupervised, left under the care of grandparents or servants, or sent to residential schools. While the increased family income allows parents to provide their children with more luxury items (cellular phones, home computers, televisions, etc.), parents are less involved in the day-to-day activities of their children. While this type of home situation is directly linked by many focus group participants of the Westernization of youth culture (i.e. youth adapting to new ideas of fashion, behavior, and attitudes), this has also left youth seeking direction from other organizations or people.

Parents, when they are involved in their child's life, often focus on their children's academic performance. Children are pressured by their parents to not only do well in school, but earn the top rankings. Given this, for many children, free time is often spent in lessons, studying, or taking tuitions.

Children desire the independence to make their own life decisions, yet traditional ties linger, and parents continue to play a significant role in their child's life decisions. While pastors report that more children are marrying and engaging in romantic relationships without their parents consent, multiple participants indicate that youth are still strongly influenced by their parents. Consequently, while children may desire to engage in activities of interest, oftentimes, they are considerate of their parents when deciding what to do with their free time.

In poor areas, children often work either in the family's fields or in a paid position. Oftentimes, these children also work in the home. As these children may work six days of the week, most children and young people in these areas do not have a great deal of recreational time.

Across student groups, young people report preferring activities and hobbies that involve their friends. Given the lack of time youth spent with their parents, it can be inferred that a child's home life will impact how influenced and dependent he is on his network of friends.

What are the barriers to engaging children and youth?

In most geographic settings across the state (with the exception of poor areas), most parents emphasize academics in a child's life, and religion and religious activities, are at best a secondary priority. Given this, most youth spend their time at school, doing homework, or taking part in tuitions. While parents spend significantly less time with their children than earlier generations, in many households, parents continue to be the primary decision-makers for their children. As such, while a child might desire to take a more active interest in church-related activities, parents would not allow this. Additionally, young Christians who attempt peer evangelism report that friends are sometimes unwilling to join them at church because of a fear of what their parents will think. For Christian converts, oftentimes, they are unable to attend church because of their non-Christian families. In extreme cases, their families will attack them violently or force them to marry a non-Christian.

Pastors see the lack of parental involvement in children's lives as directly linked to a variety of social issues with young people. Young people are mimicking the moral behaviors of celebrities in the media (i.e. the rise in romantic relationships between males and females outside of marriage). Family prayer is no longer a constant in the home which raises the concern that Christian parents give little notice to the spiritual development of their children, beyond attending church on Sundays. Additionally, the lack of parental involvement in a child's life, along with unemployment in the young adult population is responsible for many young people becoming involved in fanatical religious movements, like the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sang (RSS) or the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP).

In poor rural areas, while some households stress academic excellence with their children, many children are forced to enter the workforce to provide an additional income and meet the basic needs of the family. Female children, in particular, may be expected to not only work outside the home but also assist in the care of younger siblings during their home time. As a practice of these communities is six days of work, Sunday, for many families is the only day of rest. Rural pastors state that because of this, many families choose to skip Sunday worship.

In church, pastors argue that many of their colleagues are out of touch with young people or have no interest in ministering or growing their churches. Pastors preach messages that are irrelevant or uninteresting for young people. While youth desire teachings on social issues relevant to their lives, pastors argue that many of their colleagues do not do this. Young people, with their ready access to the internet and other media outlets are far more informed than older generations; as such, many pastors are not as well-informed as their youth members. Similarly, pastors, unable to comprehend youth culture, can be critical of youth because of their non-traditional appearance. While a church may desire to do more for their youth, pastors are often overscheduled and thus, unable to allocate more time for youth outreach. Within churches, it is not uncommon for discord to exist between the pastor and the youth pastor, making the growth of children's and youth ministry even more difficult.

While it is recommended by participants that pastors become familiar with youth culture (e.g. aware of television shows, what young people do with their friends, etc.), across groups, pastors identify the media, particularly television as detrimental to youth and the activity that most draws children away from church. While young people state the media has in some ways had a negative impact on their peers, they are not as strident as pastors in this opinion.

Churches also lack resources to engage children and youth. As more youth are exposed to technological advancements and modern media, activities to engage youth must meet these standards. As such, many pastors feel that to engage a child in worship, the church must utilize modern types of music and instruments. Many churches, however, are unequipped to provide this style of worship. Additionally, many participants in the pastors' focus group also state that they lack materials that will engage young children with the Bible, like puppets, movies, or games.

Both Christian and non-Christian youth indicate that the lack of accord between what is preached in Christianity and practiced by church attendees repels many people, particularly, youth from welcoming evangelistic efforts. The practice of the caste system in the church is also disheartening for both pastors and youth. Pastors indicate that it is not an uncommon for a talented young person to have his family background examined before he will be considered for a leadership position in ministry.

What are the best practices of the media in reaching children and youth in India?

Across groups, participants agree that the media has gained a foothold in youth culture in a way that other outlets, academic, cultural, and social activities have not. Young people spend more time on the internet, playing video games, watching television and movies, and communicating with their friends through SMS, cellular phones and the internet.

As multiple focus groups believe that creativity is high in the current generation of young people, it is possible that young people view Western culture and the media as creative outlets. Additionally, the variety of programming available in the media also appeals to young people.

With increasing pressure from teachers and parents, young people seem to seek television shows, like cartoons, sports matches, and movies as a means of escape or relaxation. While youth today have more freedom to pursue leisure time activities in a way that earlier generations did not have, some parents continue to restrict and determine young people's use of free time. This, along with the increased disposable income available to many youth, has given rise to the growth of text messaging. Increasingly, it is a major means of communication for many young people.

While young people in poor rural communities are not as exposed to the media to the extent of their urban counterparts, many still identified television and movies, particularly Telugu films, as favorite leisure time activities.

Across groups, multiple participants state that the media greatly influences the thoughts, behaviors, and attitudes of young people. As such, outreach efforts by churches and other ministries that are high quality and utilize youth's interests in the media to evangelize may reach this generation. A further analysis of media programming (i.e. what programs are most popular with youth and why they appeal to young people) may prove beneficial.

What are the interests of children and youth?

Sports, particularly cricket, sports-related activities (i.e. coaching), and games are favorite pastimes for many young people across geographic areas, economic strata, gender, and age. Student focus group participants also indicate that music, both performing and listening to it, is both relaxing and enjoyable for them and something they enjoy utilizing alone or with others. Traditional Indian pursuits, like dance, crafts, and assisting in the home are also activities that young people, particularly females, state enjoying.

Competition is still popular with young people. Although students report that competitiveness in academics is stressful, young people report enjoying quiz shows and quiz competitions. Pastors report that competitions in singing and Bible knowledge are popular youth programs with their young people.

Youth also indicate a level of social consciousness and responsibility in their choice of leisure time activities. Time spent in community outreach work, like visiting orphanages or providing counseling to younger people, are pastimes that youth enjoy (although this was listed more so by females). Additionally, students indicate enjoying programs that encourage patriotism, like national integrity programs. Activities that will assist youth in their education or career paths, like special holiday seminars or educational tours, were also mentioned as preferred leisure time pursuits.

Atypical of earlier generations, young people have a strong partiality for the entertainment offerings of modern technology. Chatting online, surfing the internet, text-messaging friends (SMS), and computer games were overwhelmingly reported as “activities of interest” across various focus groups of students, teachers, and pastors, NGOs, and mission workers. While this has made today’s young people more informed of world events, young people also watch pornography and shows like WWF, which is perceived by pastors to be detrimental to the moral foundation of young people. Likewise, discos are also popular meeting places for young people. Some adult participants argue that these types of places are partially responsible for more young people experimenting with drugs, alcohol, and premarital sex.

Youth are also changing in their fashions. Traditional-wear, like sarees, is eschewed for Western wear. Additionally, youth are dressing more casually, indicating that comfort is more important to them than following traditional norms.

Socially, adult groups report that more young people spend time in illicit activities, like experimenting with drugs and alcohol, attending all-night parties (after lying to their parents about where they are), and having romantic relationships (again, oftentimes without parental consent).

What entertainment appeals to children and youth?

Young people express an interest in playing a variety of games, including those that are sports (cricket identified as the most popular across groups), on the computer, or more traditional in nature (i.e. chess). Television, movies (both home and cinema), surfing the internet and other media ventures are also popular means of entertainment. Additionally, across groups, adults indicate the number of young people that have cellular phones, MP3 players and other technological gadgets is on the rise.

Both for relaxation and other purposes, music is popular among children and youth. Across geographic locales, genders, and ages, youth indicate enjoying their time spent in musical pursuits. This is evidenced by the success of church programs around praise and worship, singing competitions, and the increasing number of young people that go to discos.

Young people continue to enjoy spending time with their peers; however, for a significant number of youth, this means attending all-night parties, engaging in illicit relationships with the opposite sex, and deviant behavior, like experimenting with drugs and alcohol.

In spite of the intense academic pressure on young people or perhaps because of it, a small but significant number of student focus group participants, indicated educational programs, like seminars and special courses, as their preferred holiday entertainment.

What are the emerging behaviors of youth and what is the impact of this on Andhra Pradesh and India?

The change in young people from earlier generations is perceived across groups (with the exception of student groups) as primarily negative. While parents still maintain a degree of control in their children’s lives, as more parents are outside the home for longer periods of time, young people have a greater degree of freedom in

their selection of free time activities. Pastors, teachers, and mission organizations report that young people are more Westernized (in culture, fashion, and behavior), abuse drugs, alcohol, and tobacco, and are more disobedient towards their elders (e.g. parents). Additionally, more youth desire or are actively a part of romantic relationships, behavior that diverges from traditional Indian culture.

Pastors and denominational leadership indicate that these behaviors are not just present in the non-Christian youth population; instead, many Christian youth behave similarly. Christian youth are marrying outside their faith and do not view such actions as problematic.

AIDS is an increasing threat as more young people engage in premarital sex. Mission workers cite the rising number of teenage pregnancies and abortions as an indication that youth lack the moral foundation that earlier generations were taught by their parents. Additionally, in slum areas, the number of young girls involved in sex work, is concerning.

As disposable income rises in the average family in Andhra Pradesh, more youth have bank accounts and spending money. As such, youth are able to make lifestyle purchases without adult interference.

On a positive front, teachers indicate that students today are more creative. This is demonstrated in the number of young people that desire to pursue careers in the arts. Children and youth are also viewed as far more knowledgeable than earlier generations due to their exposure to the internet and other media outlets. However, participants in both missions and NGO focus groups state that this greater knowledge is a likely reason why young people believe their parents to be ignorant of many things.

Across groups, there is agreement that the relationship between parents and children is an unfriendly one. Across groups, this was identified as a primary cause of negative youth behaviors. It may be that this distance with their primary caretakers may be the reason many children desire greater freedom in their decision making and control over their lives. In addition to parental neglect, the media is also considered to be the primary influence on the emerging behaviors of young people.

What are the state's character education needs?

Across groups, the deterioration of the child-parent relationships is of increasing concern. More parents are working longer hours outside the home. While they are able to provide their children with more luxury items (e.g. cellular phones), they fail to meet their emotional needs. Loneliness, a lack of outward respect for parents and elders, and increased deviant behavior (e.g. drug and alcohol abuse, lying to parents to attend all-night parties) are all becoming commonplace in youth culture. As such, counseling programs to assist children in adapting to changes within the family and family counseling that raises awareness among parents on the needs of their children are a necessity.

Academically, there is a void in communication between the following groups: the government, teachers, parents and students. While the government is aware of the vast syllabus that places pressure on teachers to complete all instruction in too short a time period and pressure for students as in many cases, they are forced to learn new material just prior to an exam, no changes have yet occurred to correct this deficiency within the curriculum. While the government would like teachers to focus on ensuring students' comprehension of the material, teachers express an inability to do so as material included in the syllabus must be completed within an academic year. Parents, while absent from most homes for the majority of the day still pressure their children, and even teachers, for high marks. Teachers express an increased frustration at this, particularly in the case of students whose intellectual capabilities limit them in their ability to receive a top ranking in the class.

Both teachers and students express deterioration in the student-teacher relationship. While teachers overall feel that most students are good, an increasing number are disrespectful, belligerent or defiant in class. Teachers find that more students lack a proper moral foundation and as such, educating young people is becoming more challenging. Likewise, students, particularly government students, feel that more teachers are unjust or cruel in their punishments and sometimes inappropriate in the classroom. Students report teachers smoking or drinking in class. One student said that it is not uncommon for teachers to send students to buy tobacco products for them. Additionally, problems of caste and economic disparity often times play out in the classroom with teachers favoring students with more privileged backgrounds. Continuing education programs for teachers on how to adjust to the changing nature of students and guidelines (that are enforced)

for acceptable classroom behavior (both on the part of teachers and students) is needed to repair the teacher-student relationship.

Young from poor areas, particularly girls, are forced to curtail their education to enter the workforce. While efforts are underway by government, ministry, and non-profit organizations to eradicate child labor, in many cases parents are the biggest opponents to removing a child from the labor force.

More youth are engaging in morally questionable behavior. The number of teenage pregnancy and abortions within the state is on the rise. There are reports of youth spending their free time watching pornography. Pre-marital sex, drug and alcohol abuse is also on the rise within the state. As such, moral development education is a necessity.

What are the changing family dynamics in the state?

In some ways, the changing family dynamics of Andhra Pradesh mirrors that of families throughout India.

Historically, in the typical middle class Indian home, the male head was the sole wage-earner, the female spouse oversaw household responsibilities, and served as primary care-giver for any children in the household. While the assistance of hired workers is common in most households, parents, particularly the mother, took active responsibility in child-rearing.

Across groups (particularly pastors and teachers), participants believe that the Indian family is deteriorating. As India shifts from a traditional agricultural society to an egalitarian industrial society, more women are entering the workforce. Most middle-class families, particularly in urban areas, are dual income households with both the male and female adult working longer hours outside the home. While some households do not require two incomes, many, to maintain a particular lifestyle, require two wage-earners. In cases where children are present in the household, many are left under the supervision of household help or grandparents and spend significantly less time with parents than previous generations. Additionally, children have been sent to residential schools or left alone in their homes because of parents' work schedules.

In Andhra Pradesh, families in major cities are following this model. With the increased income in many households, children have access to luxury items than earlier generations. It is common to see children and young people with cellular phones, home computers, televisions, and enough disposable income to attend cinemas. As children and young people spend less time with their parents, they are spending more time in these other pursuits which has changing the way many youth think, act and engage with others.

Within the family, the lack of time spent with parents has left many children deprived of love, affection, and parental attention and interest. The prevalence of rebellious, rude, or hostile children who do not respect their elders has also grown. The divide between young people and their elders, particularly those who have some authority in young people's lives, is perceived to be widening. Many focus groups participants attribute this to the lack of time children spend with their parents. According to teachers and students, many parents when they do take an interest in their child's life are interested in their child's school performance. Teachers express frustration at the unhealthy pressure some parents place on their children to get high exam scores even when it is outside of a student's ability to perform at that level. Students are frustrated that their parents never seem satisfied with what they do or actively fear their parents. Within Christian homes, pastors argue that the lack of time parents are available in the home has resulted in a lack of family and individual prayer. Across groups, participants express a need for parents to spend more time with their children and make a conscious attempt to understand the psychological development and needs of their children.

Pastors argue that in earlier generations, children had great respect and deference for their parents. Young people today, however, are far more relational with their parents. Parents are not viewed as unquestionable authority figures but rather fallible figures that can and do make mistakes. As a result of this, more children call their parents by their given names, view parents on their own level, and question and rebel against the authority of their parents. Christian ministry leaders propose that parents are unaware of the things lacking in their children's lives. Parents, because they provide for the physical needs of their child are under the impression that they have provided well for their children. They are unaware of the emotional and psychological needs of their children

Parents do continue to play a primary role in choosing their child's life partner. Pastors, while they favor a return to traditional Indian values, do find that, in cases where the child (many times female) has converted to

Christianity but the parents have not, the family will force the child to marry a non-Christian of their caste, making it difficult for the child to mature in their spiritual development.. In earlier generations, people did not marry outside their caste or religion. Today, across the state, a growing number of young people select their own life partners, even persons outside their religion.

Children, particularly females, are asked to provide household help across geographic locales. In slum areas, a growing concern is the number of men who do not work but instead depend on their wives or children to provide for the needs of the house. In rural areas, it is not uncommon for parents to ask their children to work in the fields. This, however, is not significantly different than the behaviors of earlier generations.

In spite of the prevailing belief that the Indian family is in danger, students do think that parents, to some level, share traditional values with them; however, other groups, particularly pastors disagree with this. It is their belief that young people are increasingly eschewing Indian traditional values to emulate the behaviors and morals of the characters and people they see in the media. Teachers concur, adding that parents no longer teach morals at home, giving rise to the increasing immoral behavior many students engage in during their leisure time. Some children do consider their parents to be their role models, but children are also conscious of the problems in their parents' lives and deliberately making different life choices to avoid making these mistakes.

What is the capacity to fund and develop new projects and programs that merit resources?

Pastors, NGOs, mission organizations, and government agencies indicate that a paucity of resources, particularly financial, make it difficult to meet all the needs of children and young people. While a multitude of areas have been identified as necessitating resource allocation, in particular counseling for children and parents, and training programs for youth workers and young people to evangelize to peers, a lack of resources has stymied efforts by local agencies.

Government resources to assist young people are most often allocated for student educational assistance, improvements in the state education system, job assistance programs, literary programs, or projects that elevate the status of women. While the government is aware that far more must be done, corruption within the system and a lack of funds hinder such efforts. As such, while state officials remain unaware of specific collaborations between the state of Andhra Pradesh and international aid organizations, they welcome the inputs of such firms.

NGOs and missions group participants are also hindered in their work by a lack of resources. Across groups, participants were able to identify effective programs and areas of need for young people but admit that funding is not available to meet all these needs. Many participants, particularly NGO workers, indicate that international organizations have access to resources that they do not; however, most participants felt that these organizations are unwilling to work with small grassroots agencies.

Pastors and youth workers also share that they are in need of resource assistance. Many churches, interested in developing their children's and youth ministry, would like to train and develop youth workers, implement youth discipleship and evangelism programs, and develop services for their young people (i.e. offer tuitions), but are unable to do so. Unfortunately, due to the level of distrust between denominations, churches do not pool resources together to develop such programs. Instead, such programs, if developed, are done so locally by churches or within denominations.

What are the new and exciting programs churches and ministries are doing for children and youth?

Both churches and ministries are aware of the need to reach children and young people with the Word of God. As young people today, overall, are better informed and more exposed to changes in technology, outreach to this population must incorporate their love of electronics and trends in music and the cinema. Additionally, as this generation is characterized as more creative than earlier generations, programs that are visually attractive and simulating are the most likely to succeed.

Churches and pastors report success with young people utilizing traditional means of ministry like Sunday school, VBS, youth meetings and children's camps. In addition to this, programs like music concerns, talent competitions, puppet shows, sports camps, and fashion shows are all heralded by churches as effective ministry programs.

For older youth that are victims of academic or familial pressures, prayer cells and group Bible studies on school campuses has been beneficial. Events held on public holidays, like picnics or outdoor competitions or games is reported by students and pastors as effective ministry programs with both Christian and non-Christian youth. In rural areas, medical camps, and health and hygiene programs are also much-needed and welcomed by both young people and the adult community. Youth Alive and youth camps are popular among Christian youth while youth carnivals that provide information on employment and training as well as a gospel message are created to reach a wide spectrum of young people.

Given the nature of India's educational system, it is unsurprising that students also report enjoying events that are competitive in nature. As such, Bible quizzes singing or talent competitions are also a favored trend in church activities.

As churches recognize the need to have skilled youth workers, one denomination conducts an annual leadership training program, Yuva Sena (Youth Army), for talented teenagers throughout its churches in Andhra Pradesh. Approximately 150 young people attended this seminar in 2008. While such a program is beneficial to the church in developing new leaders, young people also express an interest and appreciation for programs that will assist them in reaching their friends with the word of God.

For sex workers, admittedly a small percentage of the overall state youth population, job relocation and assistance programs though difficult to conduct, are seeing a measure of success.

What are the interests (i.e. events, activities, places) of non-Christian youth and how will it assist in ministry?

Multiple participants across groups indicate that with the growing influence of the West has saturated the youth culture of India. Perhaps surprisingly, many pastors, and youth and mission workers indicate that Christian children are increasingly difficult to distinguish from their non-Christian peers in dress, attitude, or beliefs.

Academic pressure on students is still great, yet more students indicate that they spend less time studying and more time surfing the internet, playing games or chatting online. Music, yoga, cricket and other sports are favorite activities for young people across ages. Boys indicate an interest in riding motorcycles while girls are more content to spend time speaking with friends (although boys too stated enjoying this). Events tied to national events are of interest to non-Christian youth and according to several focus group participants, nationalism and activities and events tied to the state (in some cases unhealthily) are on the rise among young people. While some Hindu students indicate enjoying religious festivals, most students indicated a degree of boredom with religious activities and rituals.

Due to a lack of parental supervision more young people, particularly males, watch pornographic movies, sometimes with peers and in the home. Other movies, Bollywood, Telugu, and English, as well as television serials are popular with teens and children. Young people frequent discos clubs and attend all-night parties, sometimes by lying to their parents.

Overall, the activities that are of most interest to young people are those that involve their friends. While Christian youth indicate a lack of success in evangelizing to peers, opportunities for youth to invite non-Christian friends to ministry events that incorporate, when appropriate, the interests of young people (as stated above) may prove the best avenue to reaching this population.

What is the level of collaboration between ministries and how willing are they to collaborate on programs/events?

While one interviewee (a church denomination leader) pointed to fellowships, like the Twin Cities Pastors Fellowship and the Pentecostal Pastors Fellowship (both prayer fellowships), as indicators that church collaboration in Andhra Pradesh is going well, most participants queried on this matter, disagreed. The leader of a church union admitted that while relationships between denominations are improving, his experience in working in Andhra Pradesh is that interdenominational gatherings are infrequent and churches are only willing to work with churches of similar economic strata. In accordance with this latter opinion, pastors' state that the paucity of interdenominational gatherings, particularly joint evangelistic programs, is due to pastors' fear

that such collaborations will result in members leaving their church for another. Within Hyderabad, pastors argue, there is a complete lack of unity.

Pastors across groups agree that churches will support programs affiliated with well-known international evangelists or organizations. However, this is because such ministries (i.e. Joyce Myers, Campus Crusades) are viewed as non-threatening and do not affiliate themselves with a particular denomination. As such their support of such efforts is not done out of a sense of Christian solidarity, but, as some pastors argue because members will attend such meetings without their approval.

For mission workers, while collaboration would be welcome, most international ministries seek to work with established Indian organizations, leaving grassroots ministry organizations bereft of resource rich partners. Additionally, they believe that successful collaborations between ministries are most often between ministries that share a vision and are of a similar size and resource level.

Christian ministry in India, particularly within churches, is marked to some level by competition and distrust. As such, most churches are most likely to partner with unaffiliated missions organizations, such as Campus Crusade, Youth for Christ, Scripture Union, or Jesus Calls, that do not threaten the membership or stability of the local church.

What is the possibility of targeting specific sub-populations of youth (e.g. those with leadership potential)?

Several ministries in India and churches have targeted their outreach efforts for particular child and youth populations (e.g. dalit children, child laborers, sex workers, or slum and street children). While all focus group participants engaged in specialized work indicated some difficulties in doing outreach, including opposition, sometimes violent, from parents and community leaders, a lack of resources, and even reticence on the part of young people to accept assistance, most expressed willingness to partner (on some level) with organizations with a shared vision.

Churches across denominations are increasingly identifying young people within their congregations with abilities to assist in worship or outreach to young people. Some denominations have even gone so far as to create special leadership events for these youth to equip them to serve in the ministry of the church.

Participants in the teachers' focus group, seeing a need within their students, would like to see an NGO conduct seminars for young people that develops their leadership potential while providing needed education on the emerging social issues of the state. Similarly, pastors indicate a desire for training programs for talented congregants (including youth) to develop leadership abilities, evangelize to peers, and effectively minister to youth within the church. For youth that do not live Christian teachings outside the walls of their churches, programs and events on living out one's faith that are presented within the context of the youth culture would also assist in reaching this sub-population.

What is the current state of children's and youth ministry in Andhra Pradesh?

According to a denominational leader, 60% of India's population is below the age of twenty-five. Within the state of Andhra Pradesh, there are outreach and ministry programs to address the physical and spiritual needs of this population. Ministries, regional, national, and international, actively seek to eradicate child labor within the state, provide sex workers with training and alternate life choices, and elevate conditions of children and young people within slum communities. Most churches have traditional programs, like Sunday school and youth groups, for their children and young people.

Across the state, there is a growing awareness of the need for children's and youth ministry and churches have taken steps, beyond traditional programming to meet this need. This effort is hindered in some churches by traditional practices that alienate young people. The caste system remains a presence within the church and oftentimes, divides members from each other. One pastor reports that while a young person may demonstrate talent in a particular area, prior to utilizing that child to assist in church activities, church leaders will ensure his background is deemed appropriate to lead in the church. In some churches, pastors fail to understand young people and the bridge between generations prevents a youth ministry from flourishing. Pastors also report that many of their fellow ministers are so concerned with young people leaving the church that they do not encourage their youth to attend Christian youth events that are outside the denomination. Additionally, while pastors or youth workers may have a passion to reach young people, missions organizations report that it can be difficult to find partners for this work.

Churches strive to incorporate the interests of youth into their outreach programs. As music is a popular interest of many young people, churches are changing to include youth leaders in their praise and worship and even hold singing competitions as a means of engaging both Christian and non-Christian youth. Programs utilizing drama and choreographies are also effective ministry tools that entertain while serving as a church-friendly activity for youth that are drawn to Bollywood movies and enjoy dance. Churches are also utilizing their young people in their evangelism efforts to those outside the church. Programs like the Freedom Program, a ministry program that celebrates Indian Independence Day while providing an opportunity to share the message of salvation, medical camps for poor areas and health awareness camps.

Organizations like Youth for Christ, Scripture Union, and Campus Crusade are making inroads in reaching young people; however, the need is still great. Across focus groups, participants indicate that children and young people are in need of emotional and psychological comfort. With increasing academic pressure, alienation from their parents, a lack of an adult support network, morally questionable material being projected at them from the media, along with all the traditional concerns (i.e. peer pressure, bullying, etc.) many young people experience, children are dealing with a level of stress and pressure that they are not equipped to handle. Across groups, while participants identified the need for counseling programs, it would seem that active ministry counseling programs are minimal within the state.

In Andhra Pradesh, most churches and pastors are aware that they need to reach children and young people. Many churches and ministry organizations are in the process of addressing this need. Across groups of those in ministry, the prevailing belief is that, while efforts are underway there remains much to be done.

What is the skill level of youth workers and what are the training needs?

Pastors and Christian ministry leaders agree that creative talent, kindness, humbleness, courage in the face of opposition, maturity, patience, flexibility, the ability to mentor young people, experience in teaching, obedience to church teachings, and accountability in work are needed characteristics in youth ministry worker. Such people should also have knowledge of youth culture and the secular world, and remain aware of new projects or programs developing for young people in their region. Most important, given the tension, discord, and distance that characterizes many parent-child relationships in Andhra Pradesh, youth workers that can counsel both parents and young people are particularly valuable.

Within the state, training programs for youth workers is available. Oftentimes, these programs are expensive and beyond the means of many churches. In some areas, pastors conduct trainings for other pastoral staff on how to successfully launch children's ministry programs, like gospel or Bible clubs. While these trainings have seen the successful launching of children's outreach in many churches; most often, these trainings are structured around a particular program or curriculum.

In one church denomination, to provide churches with qualified youth workers, once a year, young people from churches across the state come to Hyderabad for a week-long training. Upon conclusion of the training, these young people return to their churches to assist or start children's and youth ministry programs. This training program; however, is done to meet the needs of this particular denomination and does not include young people from other denominations.

Pastors desire training in children's and youth ministry and welcome any organizations that can provide this information at an affordable rate.

What is the potential for children and youth to conduct peer evangelism?

Across regions, age groups, and genders, youth appear more service oriented. While only Christian youth expressed a desire to enter the mission field, multiple youth, across religions, indicated desiring future careers that serve the underprivileged of India. Clearly, young people desire to use their skills and talents to serve others.

Christian youth express a desire to share the gospel with their friends and classmates. Yet the majority of those queried on peer evangelism indicate great difficulty in engaging their peers on the subject is Jesus and state that non-Christian peers are not open to the idea of attending church (due in part to concerns that parents will object). Youth express hurt and discouragement when attempts to share the gospel are met with claims from their friends that Jesus is but one of many gods. Additionally, no youth indicated a successful evangelistic encounter.

While Christian youth were not queried on training for evangelism, it is clear that there are young people who would like to share the gospel but require instruction in this work. According to a denominational leader, once young people are trained on evangelizing, they are even more eager to share their faith. Training programs that provide practical experience and knowledge on how to share the gospel in a relational context as well as those that address evangelizing to friends who are concerned about parental negativity to conversion would be beneficial.

Regardless of what track a training program follows, youth are convinced that a testimony above reproach is essential. Young people, those raised in Christian and non-Christian households across student focus groups, indicate that young people are turned off by churches and Christians that preach one message but practice another. The ability to counsel peers is also viewed as a valuable tool in conducting peer-to-peer evangelism.

Across pastors' groups, participants indicate that utilizing young people in the ministry of a church is effective in not only serving their congregations but keeps young people from leaving the church. Unfortunately, pastors also indicate that while youth may behave accordingly in church, outside this environment, a number of Christian youth are behaving just like their non-Christian peers. Given this, care must be taken in identifying and developing youth to conduct peer evangelism.

Is the priority set on evangelism or discipleship of children and youth in churches in Andhra Pradesh?

A leader of a denominational fellowship was the only study participant that indicated a strong opinion favoring discipleship over evangelism. The role of the church, in his opinion, is not to teach young people to share faith with others but rather, to assist young people in developing a personal relationship with Christ. Given this, it is his opinion that discipleship must be the priority for churches in their work with young believers.

Among pastors, a clear consensus did not emerge as to whether church programs prioritize evangelism or discipleship. While some participants expressed a belief that discipleship receives the most attention from churches and Christian ministry organizations, others indicated evangelism is the main priority in youth ministry. Regardless of which view they supported, pastors indicate that there is a need for both discipleship and evangelism programs for young people in Andhra Pradesh.

In some churches, pastors train young people to be disciples for God. These youth will in turn help with church activities and evangelistic efforts, potentially growing the number of Christian youth and those that can evangelize to others. A number of churches indicate having similar programs, although not all these programs are youth-targeted.

What programs and materials are needed by local churches to transform the lives of children?

As more and more youth are exposed to a variety of social ills, churches need to provide sound biblical teachings that address the social issues common to young people in Andhra Pradesh. As such materials that address decision-making, biblical principles relating to marriage (to assist youth in identifying life partners), effective strategies for resisting temptations (particularly as it relates to peer pressure, romantic relationships, the influence of the media), and social issues, like sex, drugs and religion, would be particularly valuable to local churches. Given young people's exposure to and preference for the media, materials and seminars addressing these needs would have to stylistically emulate those things which are most attractive to youth (i.e. television shows, movies, etc.). If materials and programs are able to successfully incorporate youth culture, the opportunities to use these to reach non-Christian youth increases.

Across groups, the need for counseling around academics, peer pressure, family problems (e.g. the divide in child-parent relationships, the lack of affection parents' display towards their children, marital counseling) and relationships with the opposite sex is an increasing need. Specifically for children, pastors desire materials that have high entertainment value, such as puppets, games, and other visually stimulating tools.

In impoverished rural areas, programs that meet health needs (i.e. medical camps) or provide free tuitions would also benefit unreached communities while opening doors for evangelism purposes.

Churches express a desire to conduct ministry for young people but find training programs for youth workers are more often than not outside their budgetary constraints. As such, training programs provided at an affordable cost would be welcomed. Additionally, young people and pastors desire programs that will equip

them to be effective evangelists with their peers as well as leaders in the church. As most youth across ages, geographic regions, gender and economic strata indicate time with friends as a favored leisure time activity, training young people to share the gospel with their friends has the potential to be most efficacious.

Traditional means of sharing the gospel (e.g. pulpit sermons or track distribution) is not the way to reach the state's children and youth. While literature that is available in local dialects would benefit churches in rural areas conducting youth ministry (as these youth are less exposed to the electronic media), outreach to children in urban areas, particularly among middle and upper class youth should incorporate their love and usage of the internet, SMS, television and movies.

What is the need for new print and electronic media materials that will reach and appeal to children and youth?

While one participant indicated that children and youth prefer printed materials, most others stated youth culture is moving away from the printed work to electronic methods of communication. Overwhelmingly, young people communicate with each other through the internet and SMS. Youth indicated television and movies as preferred leisure time activities over more traditional activities, like reading. As such, electronic evangelistic materials will be most applicable to young people. Young people express a desire for new materials that are not, in content, like current popular programming. Movies that are morally sound or educational in nature were specifically requested by a few student participants in various groups.

As peer-to-peer evangelism is often stymied by young people's assertion that Jesus is but one god of many, outreach materials that address the multi-deity practices of many Indian faiths and the uniqueness of Jesus as the true God may prove valuable in this type of ministry. In addition, pastors identified several areas of need in conducting children's and youth ministry. As the academic pressures children face increases and more children are exposed to it at a young age, churches need to offer young people relaxing fun opportunities to spend time together while sharing the world of God. To this end, pastors would like to access the following materials in doing children's ministry: games, puppets, movies. Across groups, the division in the home is of concern. As such, tools aimed at not just youth, but the family, are of interest to those working in youth ministry. Materials that address decision making, resisting temptation, choosing life partners, love, sex, and the consequences of high-risk behaviors (i.e. drug abuse, pre-marital sex) are also area need for children's and youth ministry

Any materials created or developed for either children's or youth ministry, they must be consistent with the quality (both in development and creativity) of current media offerings that have become the staples of youth culture to have the greatest chance of success in appealing to children and youth people.

In rural or impoverished areas, where students leave school at an earlier age and the literacy rates are lower, pastors feel a need for printed materials that are both culturally and linguistically appropriate.

What organizations are developing new materials and how are these materials tested for effectiveness?

The following organizations were identified as leaders in the development of materials that evangelize and disciple children and youth: Seva Bharat, Children's Bible Club, the Christian Education Department of the Evangelical Fellowship of India (CEFI), and Vacation Bible School Ministries (VBS). In addition, some churches produce their own materials for local ministry needs.

While pastors are interested in obtaining new materials for their work, oftentimes, they cannot afford it. CEEFI materials were praised not only because it includes a 12 month syllabus, their products are available at a low cost. On the other hand, while international materials are most often high in quality, these offerings are not as utilized by churches because they are too expensive.

Participants were unable to provide information on product or program efficacy testing. As several organizations have been identified as leaders in material development, interview or focus groups among these agencies may yield information on product-testing practices in Andhra Pradesh.

Section III: Synopsis of Data and Findings

Synopsis of Government Leaders Focus Group

The government of Andhra Pradesh runs a number of programs to meet the needs of young people. In the last fiscal year, approximately 110,000,000 rupees were spent on scholarships for young people from economically challenged backgrounds who desire to pursue higher education or vocational training. Youth that are considered to be of a special caste, tribe, or minority group can also access government funds specifically set aside for their financial needs. Lastly, the government will assist young people in obtaining international scholarships to pursue a higher education degree.

Along with scholarships, the government provides meals for many school children. Currently, midday meal programs are provided to students up to the 7th standard but efforts are underway to expand this program to class 10. In rural areas, in particular, this is needed as this may be the only nutritious meal many young people receive during the course of a day. In conjunction with this, the state will also provide microfinance and welfare assistance to families and communities deemed needy. Corruption however is a big problem in the disbursement of funds for these types of programs.

For all students, the government is concerned about the syllabus employed in most schools as they feel it is too vast. Along with a shortened syllabus, the government would like to see the education system changed to be more career-oriented and interesting for students. Additionally, they would like teachers to focus, not on completing the syllabus but ensuring that students understand the material.

Government officials acknowledge the disparity in Indian culture between males and females. In the state, this deferential treatment for male children over females, particularly in Muslim households, is considered somewhat responsible for the disparity in male-female literacy rates. Another contributor to the state illiteracy is the high fees private educational institutions charge for admission. To combat this, free education programs are available for girls through the 10th standard. Additionally, the government has started an all girls' school to encourage parents to keep their female children in school. Government programs, like Akshara Jyoti and Pudikupotam ("go to school"), are state initiatives to ensure all people can at least read the alphabet and to encourage children to attend school regularly.

While programs and schools may be available for minorities and impoverished areas, oftentimes, these schools are understaffed because the government is only able to provide 1 teacher per every 150 students. This lack of resources, compiled with the shortage in qualified teachers is responsible for the shutdown of many government schools.

Given the number of people living in Andhra Pradesh, the state is also active in working against joblessness and provides job-related training and employment to young people in a variety of areas, including construction. Additionally, with the increasing presence of multinational companies in Andhra Pradesh's leading cities, the state has initiated programs to target young people for employment opportunities. In spite of these efforts, many young people remain unemployed and turn to terrorist and naxalite⁹ political organization for purpose.

Overall, state officials were unable to provide information on the work of international agencies as most of most of these partnerships are with the national, not state, government. Government officials, however, welcome such partnerships, particularly for reaching communities of high need.

Government officials are well aware that much work must be done to bring many rural families above the poverty line and open doors for young people from these communities to have the opportunity to rise above their poverty. The needs of young people- career guidance, counseling for the intense pressure many young people face, and raising the literacy rate, to name but a few- are all areas in which the government would see change; however, problems like the practice of caste in government operations and corruption within the government and partner agencies are all seen as hindrances in this effort.

⁹ Naxalism is the informal name given to radical, most often violent, revolutionary communist groups. The epicenter for this movement is West Bengal but has in recent year, spread to less developed areas of rural central and eastern India, such as Chattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh.

Synopsis of Denomination Leadership Interviews

A distinct youth culture is on the rise in Andhra Pradesh. As one of India's IT capitol states, young people from across the nation flock to Andhra Pradesh for job opportunities unavailable in their home states. This, along with the influence of the media, a rise in the amount of disposable income young people can access, a growing divide in the child-parent relationship, and a lack of parental supervision (particularly in cities with many dual-income households) has resulted in generation of young people that eschews the traditions and values of India for the fashions, behaviors, mentality, attitudes, and leisure time activities associated with Western culture. As a group, young people are perceived by denominational leadership as lacking in obedience and respect for their parents and elders and requiring a solid moral foundation. The use of drug and alcohol, exposure to pornography, and occurrences of pre-marital sex are a concern with this generation. Unfortunately, the common belief is that Christian youth, in most cases, are no different than their non-Christian friends in these behaviors.

The immorality found in the world is seeping into the Church. Problems, such as the caste system, persist in the churches of Andhra Pradesh. As a result, some young people are turned off by seemingly duplicitous nature of churches that preach one message but live another. In spite of this, there is a growing awareness in churches of the need to reach young people.

In the last several years, the church has made some progress in reaching young people. Youth camps and retreats, sports camps, vacation Bible school (VBS), singing competitions, and Youth Alive, are hailed as programs that are successful in empowering Christian youth and reaching nonbelievers. Training programs for youth to develop leadership skills, such as and Yuva Sena¹⁰ and denomination training programs are seen as particularly efficacious in growing a church's youth members. The success of these programs is seen in part to be a result of the improving level of collaboration between denominations. While some problems persist (i.e. difficulty in finding areas of commonality, churches refusing to work with churches that are not at their level of economic viability), fellowships between churches, such as the Twin Cities Pastors Fellowship and the Pentecostal Pastors Fellowship, are becoming increasingly popular and churches continue to work together when an international evangelist/pastor comes for a nondenominational event.

Seva Bharat, Children's Bible Club, The Christian Education Department of the Evangelical Fellowship of India (CEEFI), VBS Ministries, as well as some churches all produce materials for children's and youth ministry. Yet the need for more materials and resources is present. Electronic media tools are perceived to be the most effective in reaching young people and, as such new and creative ventures in this area would be welcomed by churches actively engaged in the work of children's and youth ministry. Churches also desire to access new print materials, in local dialects for rural areas and English for urban settings. Programs and training programs for young people on conducting peer-to-peer evangelism is also a necessity that many churches cannot meet. Lastly, trained personnel to staff youth programs is also a necessity for many youth programs.

Above all, pastors and youth workers must understand the ideology of young people and their culture to bring them to a saving knowledge of Christ and to build solid Christian moral foundations in their children and youth. Programs to build leaders, empower young Christian converts on how they can live as Christians (even when facing opposition in their homes), and new electronic and print materials are in particular demand by the church for their youth ministries. Churches welcome the opportunity to collaborate with organizations that can assist in meeting these needs, particularly when it can be done at a low cost.

Synopsis of NGO & Christian Ministry Leadership Focus Groups & NGO Interviews

There is an overwhelming belief that national and regional organizations are more efficacious in addressing the local needs of a community than international organizations. International agencies, while better equipped financially, are not as able to adapt to local cultures, attitudes, or perceptions and should thus, work in partnership with regional agencies. Some, particularly NGO workers, indicated that financial assistance was the only collaboration they desired with international agencies. While mission workers were more open to the idea of other avenues of collaboration with international agencies, these participants felt that such organizations need greater accountability regarding quality in the work they undertake. There is a sense of disquiet among NGOs that both international agencies and government offices only partner with large

¹⁰ English translation, Youth Army

regional organizations, leaving smaller agencies, that are more active on the grassroots level, overlooked and lacking in financial resources. While agencies with similar visions and scope will work together (particularly in times of need), across groups, there is a belief that something must be done to address the growing divide between large and small organizations and the sense of competitiveness between agencies working towards a common purpose. By creating a collaborative environment in the social outreach community, organizations will not target the same areas or children but will be better positioned to assist the unreached people of Andhra Pradesh.

In both urban and rural areas, HIV/AIDS, child labor, and drug and alcohol use are areas of growing concern with young people, particularly in slum areas. While nearly every participant indicated enjoying their work; all agreed that there are many challenges in doing outreach to children and youth in Andhra Pradesh. Across groups, participants indicate that it can be difficult to find partners for children's outreach. Multiple participants indicated a lack of trust parents and community leaders and, in some cases, opposition in conducting children's outreach programs, like summer camps. Some families are also antagonistic when outreach workers seek to stop child labor as this threatens to diminish overall household incomes. Parents and community leaders are sometimes fearful that ministry outreach efforts are done for conversion purposes under the guise of providing needed resources (i.e. play time for kids, meals, or assistance with school supplies). In some cases, communities will out act out violently to stop perceived conversion programs. Young people themselves are reluctant to be helped. Youth, attracted to lifestyles portrayed in the media, are less inclined to accept moral and behavior instruction. Young sex workers are reluctant to leave the sex industry as their income will decrease in jobs that outreach workers are able to provide. In addition, the prevalence of corrupt practices that prevent resources allocated to children's outreach from reaching the target audience is also a continuing area of concern.

The current generation of young people in Andhra Pradesh, with their access to the internet, computers, and the media, is perceived to be far more knowledgeable than earlier generations. Increasingly, youth are adopting Western behaviors, styles of dress and attitudes. While earlier generations were characterized as deferring to their elders, today's youth desire independence from their families to make their own life decisions.

In part this is believed to be related to a lack of parental involvement in children's daily lives. In spite of their absence from the home, parents continue to place an inordinate amount of pressure on their children to succeed academically. This, coupled with a lack of parental affection in many homes and the critical disparaging manner with which some parents treat their children, has resulted in a generation of young people that, across economic classes, are engaging in more deviant behaviors (drugs, alcohol, and premarital sex) than previous generations

While programs that provide Christian teachings (i.e. Sunday school, VBS, children's camps) and life principles training (i.e. medical camps, job assistance for sex workers, counseling) are hailed as effective, most participants feel there is much work remaining. Family counseling, parenting skills education, and morality and behavior education for young people were all identified as areas of need for Andhra Pradesh. It is recommended that agencies develop new media materials and programs that are consistent with the tastes and preferences of young people to need these areas of need. Along with media tools, youth workers who exhibit patience, an ability to comprehend the social and mental reality of young people, and are skilled in counseling both children and adults should be identified and encouraged to join this work.

Synopsis of Pastors' Focus Groups

In Andhra Pradesh, there is a lack of interdenominational fellowship between churches and most pastors prefer this, as such programs are viewed as opportunities for congregants to leave their churches. As such, pastors in Andhra Pradesh do not encourage and, in many cases, actively discourage congregants from taking part in the activities of other churches. While interdenominational activities are minimal, most churches welcome partnerships with para-church organizations like Campus Crusade, Youth for Christ, Scripture Union, Jesus Calls, Joyce Meyers Ministry, or Benny Hinn Ministries as these groups are perceived as independent of any denominational affiliation.

While participants indicated an interest in youth ministry, a number of factors were identified as problematic in conducting youth work. Youth are attracted to a Western culture and all its accoutrements (iPods, the

internet, etc.). Some youth are being drawn into religious or nationally fanatic groups. Youth, even those who appear respectable in church, experiment with drugs or alcohol, have illicit romantic relationships and behave in ways that are not deemed Christian. Youth desire more independence in their thoughts and decisions and no longer treat elders with the deferential respect displayed by earlier generations. Additionally, young people are so focused on their academic pursuits, they have difficulty finding time for church and faith-based activities. Parents do not encourage church activities for their children and in extreme cases, encourage deviant behavior in their children by providing them with alcohol. Within the church, pastors are not well-versed in youth culture and do not preach messages that will reach young people.

As a result of all these factors, the development of Christian youth is stymied. To change this, pastors recommend that churches need to be more welcoming of young people regardless of their outward appearance. As some young people leave or refuse to go to church because of perceived hypocrisy, it is essential that church and youth ministry leaders actively work to keep their personal testimonies above reproach. Churches need to allow young people to have a voice in church decisions and have an active place in church functions (i.e. lead worship, etc.). It is also recommended that churches incorporate activities favored by youth (i.e. music, dramas, games and special events on holidays) into their ministry. Participants indicate that group Bible studies, youth retreats prayer cells, films on Christ, family events, health-related camps, and games and sports events are all successful at reaching young people. In addition, counseling programs specifically geared at reaching children burdened by academic and family pressures is a needed service for young people as is financial assistance for students that are financially needy.

There was no clear consensus across groups as to whether discipleship or evangelism should be the greater priority for churches with young people. Instead, participants identify that there is a need for both types of programs in Andhra Pradesh. Regardless of what type of program is created for youth, youth workers must have the appropriate training, mature, patient, skilled in teaching, and creatively inclined (music & dramas).

Pastors desire to reach young people and welcome partnerships with non-denominational organizations that can provide training in youth ministry at little or no cost.

Synopsis of Teachers' Focus Groups

Teachers express frustration at the lack of cooperation they receive from parents, community leaders, students and in some cases, other educators in fulfilling their job functions. Dissatisfied with low salaries, a lack of benefits (i.e. medical, transportation reimbursement, etc.), poor school facilities, and a lack of educational resources, some teachers express a lack of motivation to strive for excellence in the performance of their job or to assist students beyond the classroom.

The relationship with students is becoming increasingly hostile. The deference and respect given to teachers in earlier generations is deteriorating rapidly. A growing number of students are combative in the classroom, question the authority of instructors, belittle teachers, and react violently if a teacher punishes them for inappropriate classroom behavior (more so in urban areas). Students are less interested in learning and it is not uncommon for students to chat with each other during class, ask lewd questions, or fail to complete assigned work. Teachers identify a variety of factors for this change in students. Young people's access to media tools, such as the internet, has made them more knowledgeable than their instructors. In poor rural areas, illiterate parents do not encourage their children to prioritize their school work and teachers are unable to motivate these students to care about their educations. Corruption within the school system is also cited as a cause of students' disrespect for teachers and the education system. While guidelines are set that students must attend a certain number of classes in order to sit for exams, many students bypass this by having their parents bribe an official (college level). With this growing divide between teachers and students, bullying and peer pressure are also areas of concern.

The character of families has also changed in Andhra Pradesh. Poor families in which illiteracy is high are less able to cope with the burdens of a syllabus that incorporates too much material; they are unable to assist their children with their work or provide necessary tuitions. Additionally, many of the students from these families must also work, leaving less time for personal study. In these areas, schools and families are ill-equipped to provide for all the needs of students (notebooks, transportation) restricting many students from attending or participating in school regularly. More economically stable and prosperous families are able to meet the needs of their students as well as provide the necessary coaching for advancement; however, these

parents will buy their child's cooperation with expensive gifts, thus, giving their children the wrong attitude regarding study and working hard. Financially sound parents are also cited by teachers as unfairly comparing their children to other students resulting in low self-esteem and a move on the part of young people to alienate themselves from their parents.

Students still enjoy spending time with their friends, playing sports, and listening to or making music like earlier generations. Cricket is a favorite pastime for many students and the stars of this sport, in particular, are identified by teachers as having an influence on children's lives. Young people today, however, also spend time on-line, pursue Western practices (clothes, music, leisure time activities, etc.), and are involved in romantic relationships with members of the opposite sex. Teachers believe that these behaviors is directly linked to the rise of teenage pregnancies and abortions, the number of students who spend their evenings at parties, and the increasing cases of student who abuse drugs and alcohol.

In some schools, teachers teach religion and are distressed by the opposition they receive from parents around this. To teachers, there are merely instructing students on a subject matter. Parents, however, perceive this as an attempt to convert their child to an alternate faith. In some cases, teachers report children, seeing how their parents react to the teachings of other faiths, behave with hostility and animosity to children of other faiths. Additionally, teachers notice that students of different economic backgrounds do not blend or spend free time together. As such, teachers believe the divide between student groups is also growing.

Overall, teachers do believe that the students they instruct are good and are concerned about their school performance and futures. Students are just misdirected and manipulated (by the media, etc.). There is a need for moral education teaching, particularly in communities where children do not spend enough time with their parents. Additionally, parents need to understand the pressure they place on students regarding academics, otherwise, the number of student suicides will only continue to rise.

Synopsis of Students' Focus Groups

Students expressed a range of feelings and beliefs about their futures. While many are interested in becoming financially prosperous, achieving fame, or gaining social prominence, a significant number of youth indicated a desire to assist the underprivileged or serve the nation upon completing their schooling. Some students desire to live abroad, particularly in the United States, as they feel their career opportunities will be stymied in India. Unsurprisingly, given India's position as one of the world's rising computer technology nations and Andhra Pradesh's status as one of the top five information technology (IT) exporting states in India¹¹, many students believe that most of the state's young people desire degrees in technology and computer-related careers. In spite of the dominance of career choices in the medical, technology, science fields, a few students also expressed a desire to pursue more creative professional paths in fashion or design.

While younger students (13-15 years old) were more vocal and expressive in providing specific accounts of academic concerns than older youth (18-22), across focus groups and ages, academic pressures and difficulties in relationships with others due to their studies were identified as leading areas of pressure and stress. Across settings (urban & rural), ages, and economic status, students report unease with the lack of relaxing activities (no games/leisure periods) during the school day and the amount of pressure they receive from parents and teachers to do well on exams. Both teachers and parents compare students to each other and seem to favor students who perform well academically which has given rise to an unhealthy competitiveness between students. In some cases, this has given rise to increased bullying at school (particularly with boys teasing girls). Government school students report concern over inappropriate behaviors on the part of their teachers, from instructors smoking or drinking alcohol in class to teachers beating students unnecessarily. Economic disparity between students is problematic for some students. Across focus groups (although expressed more frequently with rural students), some participants expressed unhappiness that rich students are favored in the classroom and that their poverty restricts them in their academic and professional careers because their families are unable to afford high school fees.

¹¹ National Geographic magazine named Andhra Pradesh a "high-tech capital of the sub-continent" ("Emerging Global Cities of the World," November 2002).

Along with academic pressures hindering their relationships with parents, students report a growing divide in their families. Students feel that parents are never satisfied with anything they do and more children have an unhealthy fear of their parents. Young people admit that youth culture has become more Western than Indian, and that this may be a cause of the growing divide with the older generation; in spite of this, young people seem to feel that it is parents and elders who must change to bridge the generational divide.

Sports, music, spending time with friends, watching television, sending short message services (SMSing), and the internet are all activities that youth across groups, ages, and geographic local report are favorite pastimes. While the prevalence of the media and technological devices has played a large part in their choice of leisure time programs, youth are aware that the prevalence of the media has had a negative impact on youth culture as well. It is not uncommon for young people to watch pornographic movies, or to experiment with drugs and alcohol. Young people are also mimicking relationships popularized by the media and seek romantic relationships with members of the opposite sex in spite of parental or societal objections. Christian youth, in regard to their preferred free-time activities of choice, did indicate some interest in church activities (i.e. youth group) but overall, discouraged by church politics, most Christian youth did not cite church-based programs as how they spend their leisure time.

There is a high degree of disparity in young people's views on religion and God. While some expressed confusion over the validity of God and a need to learn more about religion, most students expressed definitive beliefs on their perception of religion. This ranged from students who expressed Biblically-sound views on God and need for faith in decision-making to those who believe all religions are valid (including youth who identified themselves as Christian) to those who feel that religion is not useful or needed. A fair proportion of students indicated an unwavering belief in the omniscient nature of God and the authenticity of the Bible, while others express that God alone cannot help young people. Across faiths, some students expressed taking part in religious activities out of familial obligation, not personal interest.

The prevailing belief among Christian youth is that their peers, whether because of their own beliefs or fear of what their parents will think about a potential religious conversion, are resistant to hearing about Jesus. In spite of this and discouragement from past attempts to share the gospel with friends, Christian youth are willing and desire to share the Word of God with people in their lives.

Overall, the students of Andhra Pradesh, across focus groups, are career-minded in that many are aware of what is needed to achieve their future goals and select role models and leisure time activities accordingly. While students express discomfort with the amount of academic pressure they receive, they are aware that it is part of the path to the socially prominent careers they desire in their futures. A significant portion of students expressed a high degree of social consciousness in their expressed intentions to serve others and their community, choice of role models, selection of future careers, preferred leisure time activities, and hope to share the message of salvation with their peers.

Section IV: Raw Data from Focus Groups and Interviews

Government Leaders

- Government projects for children and youths in Andhra Pradesh
 - Scholarships for young people wanting to pursue higher education and vocational training in information technology.
 - IT can be done in places like N.I.I.T. (National Institute of Information Technology).
 - During the last fiscal year approximately Rs.11, 00, 00,000/- (rupees eleven crores) was disbursed in the form of scholarships.
 - Special financial assistance is given to those from the Schedule Caste, Schedule Tribe and minorities from the Minority Welfare Association.
 - There are some international scholarships that the government helps the students to obtain.
 - Mid-day meals are provided for students till class 7 of government and government aided schools.
 - The proposal is to increase the mid-day meals program to class 10.
 - In the rural areas this mid-day meal is the only nutritious meal that the children would eat.
 - The success rate of such programs (mid-day meals) is high and the targets that have been set are reached each year.
 - The literacy rate among females is lower than that of males.
 - The government has started Kasturi Bhai School which is run exclusively for female students.
 - Free education for a girl child till class 10.
 - One of the causes of illiteracy is the high fees charged by private institutions.
 - Due to illiteracy they are unable to raise their voice against government policies.
 - Minority run schools are plenty, but the government only provides 2 teachers for a group of around 300 students.
 - 50-60 % of government schools have been closed down because of the shortage of teachers.
 - Instead of opening schools and educational institutions they are giving permission for liquor stores to be opened
 - The government talks about the Empowerment of the Backward Classes; but has less allocation for education purposes. (He cited Korea as an example in contrast, where 80% of its budget is spent on education.)
 - After 60 years of Independence the government has started a scheme called Akshara Jyoti – where one must learn at least the alphabets
 - Another scheme Pudikupotam – "go to school" was started to encourage children to go to school.
 - The government has a program wherein they provide employment to 50000 jobless young people.
 - Where the jobless young people are put to work is determined by the Employment Department.
 - The government works in close collaboration with some multi-national companies to provide employment for the young people.
 - Housing Development Program: Young people are given different types of work during the construction of these houses, which would include plumbing, laborers etc. Those who come in the category of skilled and semi- skilled stand to benefit much.
 - Self Help groups are formed in the villages which are of financial assistance to the families.
 - 15% of the designated amount for these self-help groups (SHG) is taken by those responsible to disburse it.
 - A lady benefiting from the SHG was able to educate her two sons. One of them completed his M. Tech (Masters in Technology) and the other was pursuing his C.A. (Chartered Accountancy).
 - Many of these self-help groups are financed by banks.
 - Another benefit of these self-help groups is that it prevents people migrating from the rural to the urban areas.
 - Unemployed people in the villages are given identity cards and the government provides a maximum of 100 days employment @ Rs.80/- per day per family.
 - There are 300,000 vacancies in the government but the government will not fill these posts because they want to privatize many things.

- Raj Yuva Shakthi is a program for unemployed youth, wherein they provide training, which is followed by a job.
- Financial aid for unemployed youth. Training is also paid for to do computer courses (e.g.) "Tally", after which they are employed as accountants in government offices.
- China has 4% of people below the poverty line (B.P.L.) after 58 years of Independence, whereas India has a B.P.L. of 60%
- Upper caste political leaders want to suppress the people from the weaker sections.
- 15 % of the Indian population belongs to the upper caste but they rule 85 % of the people who are from the lower caste.
- Challenges faced by young people and the trend for the future.
 - Young people need career guidance.
 - Due to the stiff nature of competition and everybody's desire to succeed the
 - Young people face severe pressure to do well.
 - The literacy rate in Andhra Pradesh is very low and the percentage of people who speak English is 0.05%
 - There are no youth development programs which may help the less fortunate to come up in life.
 - Because of the strategic location of Hyderabad, (it is surrounded by 5 districts) many people come in search of jobs.
 - Young people (especially girls) from the Muslim community are not encouraged to pursue higher education.
 - In Muslim communities, they believe if girls can only read and right in Urdu, they feel that is adequate.
 - They even get their children to work and these results in the discontinuation of their education.
 - Caste system was a major problem. The lower caste remained illiterate.\
 - The Muslim community loses out on many government reservations because of their claim to be literate.
 - Even though the government had allotted Rs.1000,00,000/- (rupees one thousand crores) for the development of women from the Muslim community but unfortunately less than 10% of funds have been utilized the first quarter of the current fiscal year.
 - The government is oblivious to the real needs. Local committees should be formed who in turn can apprise the government of the ground realities.
 - Women are exploited in the garment industry.
 - Women are paid a maximum of Rs.50/- for completing the work on a sari, while the owner benefits around Rs.400/-
 - Due to unemployment young people are turning to terrorism or naxalism and have the support of the local politicians who use their power to bail them from prison if they ever get arrested.
 - Alcoholism among the young people has been on the decrease.
 - Teaching method need to be simplified and syllabus shortened for education to become interesting and desirable
 - The need of "concept schools" was suggested. From class 5 onward the student should choose the subjects he/she is interested in and should not need to study all the subjects, which ultimately do not benefit the child.
 - It was suggested that the method of education should be more general and career oriented.
 - A lot of stress is laid on memorization and teachers are more interested to complete their syllabus whether the student understood what was being taught or not.
- The implementation and benefit of international programs for children.
 - There were international programs for children and youth.
 - Most of these programs had been organized in collaboration with the Union Government and not with the State Government.
 - They would welcome assistance from international agencies at the state level
 - Organizations like the World Bank did sponsor programs for the children.
 - Specific information could not be given on such programs
- Commonalities and characteristics of emerging leaders.
 - It was suggested that the Constitution of India be amended. Any and everybody could start a political party. This was leading to a fractured electoral and hung parliament.

- Coalition government is the norm of the day but each partner is working for the benefit of their own party and don not keep the interest of the common man.
- Huge sums of money are spent during the elections in the hope that they would be elected to the State Legislature or to the Union Government.
- Once people are elected, then in no time the money they had spent on their campaign would be recovered through unfair means.
- One individual felt that money was the deciding factor in who gets elected, but another disagreed saying that the caste system played a vital role.
- Equality for everybody was proposed but another disagreed saying that proportionate rights for everybody.
- Political leaders and the government are seizing prime properties that belong to the Christian institutions and to the WAQF Board.

NGOs & Missionaries

- The values/benefit of international organizations and the need for contextualization in outreach
 - International organizations do not have much value or benefit (all participants in the urban NGO group)
 - To address the needs of an area, local people and organizations should be involved
 - International organizations, seeking to assist, should financial support to local organizations involved in such activities. This should be their sole role.
 - Local organizations know the actual needs of the local community/people
 - Local organizations should take the initiative to take all the responsibility and ownership in doing ministry
 - Culture and the way of viewing things is very different
 - International organizations are beneficial and help people (mission group)
 - A few agree that international organizations need to give emphasis to the quality of the work they do and improve (mission group)
 - If the ideas and vision of an international organization is the same, then there should not be problems
- The national and/or regional functions of organizations
 - National/regional organizations work in a variety of fields
 - These organizations address and do outreach for HIV/AIDS, the empowerment of women, child labor, child abuse, people impacted by calamities, etc.
 - Almost all organizations that are similar (vision, size, etc.) work in coordination with each other
 - Ideas and visions are same regardless if an organization is regional or international
 - Big organizations take all the available government benefits
 - Big wealthy organizations get government projects easily because of their political connections and money
 - Big organizations do not encourage smaller organizations
 - Organizations that actually do work at the grassroots level do not get a chance to get these government projects
 - Small organizations that do the work are not benefiting or getting recognition from the government
 - The gap between small organizations and the government needs to be bridged
 - Small organizations are sometimes considered to be backwards and are discriminated against
 - Both national and regional organizations are task and vision oriented
 - These organizations need to give more emphasis to practical things.
 - In collaborating with national organizations, there are misunderstandings, confusion, disappointment, and discouragement.
 - They are happy to do their work
 - Regional organizations should work effectively and serve as the channel for national organizations (coordination)
 - There is no bridge between the national and regional organization
 - Organizations compete against each other
 - In times of need, agencies come together

- Organizations should not go to the same places, schools, areas but instead they should sit down and come up with a better plan to reach the unreached peoples and area.
- If a new organization is starting up, it will have less experience compared to older organizations and can lead to feelings of insecurity and inferiority
- There is no mutual respect between small and large organizations. They each need to have respect for each other.
- Regional difficulties working with children and youth
 - When they work against child labor, these face difficulties from families and employers. The employer is resistant as he is losing an employee that he can pay less than adult workers. Families are oppositional because they will lose the child's income
 - To earn money, adolescents and youth (infected with AIDS) are involved in prostitution (sex workers). They don't generally leave these jobs because they earn a lot of money. It is difficult to get them to go to good jobs.
 - There are programs that address the needs of young children but due to corruption, the resources never actually reach the children
 - Do not like children's ministry
 - It is difficult to find partners when you do children ministry.
 - There are financial problems and this can be discouraging and shuts down outreach sometimes (2)
 - Happy working in children's ministry
 - They are happy when they see children growing spiritually
 - There are sometimes confusion and misunderstandings when working in children's ministry
 - Discouragement and disappointment
- Cultural concerns internationally and trans-regionally
 - There are a lot of differences between international and regional organizations
 - International organizations work superficially and are not able to understand the basic needs of local people because of the difference in culture and attitude between the organizations and the people they are trying to reach
 - When international agencies work with regional organizations, they seek to work with big reputable regional organizations
 - Due to a lack of finances, small regional organizations are not able to gain recognition in the media and so international agencies overlook them
 - News reporters won't publish reports by small organizations without a bribe
 - Almost all people in the slum population are badly affected by HIV/AIDS
 - Many slum people are addicted to drugs and/or alcohol
- Trends in youth perceptions of culture, language, family, etc.
 - Youth these days follow western culture and dress code.
 - Youth today do not respect their elders
 - Youth prefer and desire a life of full freedom
 - Youth take drugs and alcohol
 - Youth think smoking is fashionable
 - 70% of slum/street youth become cheaters and thieves for their livelihood
 - Most adolescent and teenage girls are involved in sex work.
 - A few adolescent and teenage girls work in homes as domestic maids
 - Youth from different families and cultures differ (almost all in mission group agreed)
 - Youth from interior village/rural areas and/or from a tribal background have difficulty with English which is used for higher studies everywhere.
 - There is a generation gap because parents are reluctant to accept change or move with the prevailing culture and/or cultural shifts (almost everyone in mission group agreed)
 - Children do not listen to their parents and believe parents to be ignorant of things.
 - Children are more informed on a variety of issues because of computers, the internet
 - Children are very observant and watch their relatives keenly
- Emerging issues for children and youth that needs attention
 - AIDS is a threat among children and youths
 - Child labor needs attention as it needs to be eradicated

- Children and youth are taking drugs and other harmful things
- Need to get alternate jobs for sex workers so they can leave that dirty environment
- Sometimes, men don't work anymore and are completely dependent on their wives and/or children
- Children's role models needs to be addressed as this is the context in which young people shape their lives (2)
- Youth and children need to be spoken to about their freedoms.
- Children need to be accepted as they are
- Families and society needs to recognize their children
- Parents should not punish their children even when children act wrong; instead, parents should try to understand the psychology of why children behave as they do and speak good to them (2).
- Parents should care for the needs of their children
- Parents should respect their children
- Parents should spend enough time at home (2)
- Children six or younger do not have the ability to analyze things so when they make mistakes, parents should not mind so much. When a child is older than this, when they are scolded, they will feel bad and this will stay with them and certainly affect their mind.
- Youth should have freedom in having friends of the opposite sex, fashion decisions, etc. (missions group)
- Children are disobedient to their parents and elders around fashion, friendships with the opposite sex
- Urban youth are more western than rural youth
- If there is no enjoyment, there is no openness
- Developing effective media tools that can cater to young people and shape their minds (2)
- Young people need to resist bad unethical media that is harmful to society
- People should take the initiative and stop the things that are misleading young people to bad and unethical things
- The relationship between children and parents is not friendly.
- Children do not feel free with their parents because they are so strict.
- Programs that are effective in reaching young people
 - There are programs for sex workers to place settle them in society. Many become police home guards.
 - There are programs to train sex workers in tailoring, technical fields, etc.
 - Spending quality time with children and youth is really helpful
 - Programs should be made according to the taste and preference of youth.
 - Programs that give life principles
 - There is a need for programs, rules and guidelines that disciple young people
 - For families in trouble, it is good to give examples of other families facing similar problems and to talk to them about the consequences.
 - Counseling parents and children
- Skill set of people that work in youth programs
 - They will need patience as many situations/troubles will arise (2)
 - Should do everything with love and care and try to understand the needs of young people
 - Should be good counselors (2) and provide services to children and families
 - They should be aware of developments and new projects that occur in their regions

Pastors and Clergy

- Effectiveness of church programs and interdenominational collaborations for youth
 - Church members are asked to pray for 15 unsaved people, out of which three are chosen with whom they should establish personal relationship to evangelize them.
 - People are not involved in church activities because of the workplaces, careers, family, and other pressures
 - Like to get ministry materials for free
 - Youth in my church expect good sermons.
 - My church youth are very good when I am with them. But when I am not, they go astray.

- In my church, young people are considered very important. They are the hard working and help me with church programs.
- Some youth do small jobs even while during their studies.
- Interdenominational programming:
 - Interdenominational programs will not be successful as each church has only the growth of their church in mind
 - Interdenominational church programs are not effective due to the lack of cooperation between churches. They fear losing congregants to other churches
 - There is no cooperation between churches because no one wants their members to go to another church (2)
 - There is no unity between churches in Hyderabad (2)
 - Some pastors will not welcome people from churches outside their denomination to speak and minister in their churches
 - Pastors fail to see how interdenominational collaborations can help their churches grow/ They are more interested in making sure their congregants do not go to events of other churches or leave the church altogether
 - If a mainline church holds a big event, they will not get a lot of participation because other churches will not cooperate or advertise these programs and may even discourage their church members from going (2)
 - Pastors of churches that do not have a lot of resources (i.e. developed praise and worship sessions with instruments, etc.) do not like to send their youth to other churches because they fear youth will leave their church and take others with them
- Para-church organizations like Campus Crusade, Youth for Christ, Scripture Union, Jesus Calls, Joyce Meyers Ministry, or Benny Hinn are welcome as they are not affiliated with a particular church and work with all churches regardless of denomination. Their events are not seen as an attack on any particular church.
- When prominent and famous evangelists like Benny Hinn, Joyce Meyers, or the late Dr. Dhinakaran hold programs, congregants will attend regardless of what their pastors say
- Youth for Christ conducts good programs for young people.
- Needed education/outreach:
 - Churches need to provide sound biblical teaching on issues like choices, resisting temptation, choosing a life partner/marriage, love, sex, consequences of promiscuous behavior etc.,
 - Pre-marital counseling is needed as the rate of divorce is rising
 - Special programs for counseling children and youth on their problems
 - Assistance with studies and financially
- Some believers are attracted to and marry non-believers from their workplaces because they are unable to find a suitable match in the church (I.e. someone of equal education or position)
- Some mainline churches allow believers to marry non-believers under church sanction if they pay for it
- In our church, we give importance to worship.
- Hardly anyone attends prayer and fasting.
- Youth are not supposed to conduct any programs; the church committee will decide and look after the programs. Youth just attend the church and go.
- Problems in the church:
 - Some pastors have a superiority complex. If they are a pastor of a big church, they do not want to work with a pastor from a smaller church
 - Pastors are preaching on irrelevant topics.
 - Pastors are ignorant about world affairs unlike young people.
 - Some pastors put too much emphasis on a prosperity doctrine while others are too traditional in their messages.
 - Youth pastors and senior pastors are not always in accordance with each other.
 - Church programs are not attractive to young people
 - Some pastors, satisfied with their current membership, do not want to reach out to others
 - As there is no delegation in the church, growth is stilled.

- In some churches, pastors will get transferred after three years so strong relationships between pastors and believers do not exist. The pastor leaves just when he is getting to know the congregation.
 - Suggestions for Improvements/programs that work:
 - Need good sound systems (microphone system, drums, guitar, keyboards, etc.) as youth like this and respond to it. Youth would come to church if we had this (everyone in 1 rural focus group)
 - Need materials to conduct games for children and youth
 - Need resources like puppets, movies, etc. for children's ministry
 - Youth meetings should be conducted in a general way
 - Meetings/activities should be based on the interests of youth
 - Need to have good role models for youth people
 - Outreach and churches need to be friendly
 - Church programs should have attractive themes so non-Christians will participate.
 - Personal mentoring (2)
 - Secular activities, like tuitions
 - Modern music should be incorporated into the worship (3)
 - When I use the Word of God to warn young people of their immoral behaviors, they repent and stay with the church.
 - Hold secular events, like picnics, and use these to evangelize.
 - Teaching God's word to parents will be useful to youth.
 - Sunday service is effective for youth.
 - Youth seminars conducted by local pastors
 - Home fellowship
 - Pastors should visit and pray with the youth in their homes
 - There must be some control over the media
- Discipleship vs. Evangelism
 - An urban focus group was split as some believe discipleship receives the most attention while others said evangelism
 - There is a need for both evangelism and discipleship programs
 - Discipleship is stressed (all participants in one rural focus group)
 - If they are able to make one person a disciple, s/he will help with church activities and evangelistic efforts (and thus, bring more people to the church)
 - Pastors are very interested in starting youth ministry (rural)
- Skills needed and present in youth workers
 - Training for youth workers is available but it is expensive (approximately 3,000 rupees)
 - If an organization provided youth worker training at an affordable rate, many churches would be interested to go for it.
 - They need to be talented and to be effective
 - A great deal of maturity is needed to work with children and youth
 - Need people who can be patient and mentor young people (2)
 - Equipped in teaching
 - Need to be obedient to the church.
 - Persons who can be accountable for their assigned work
 - They need to have a good understanding of the secular world
 - Some pastors train other pastors on how to do children's ministry (children's gospel club, Bible club, etc.) so many church pastors have started children's ministry.
 - Playing drums
 - Singing songs
 - Doing skits
- Church activities for youth and their involvement in the church
 - Youth meetings and other competitions like singing, quizzes are very helpful for youth
 - Programs like dramas, choreographies, and music attract new members (3)
 - Take young people to gospel meetings

- Personal evangelism (members are told to bring one person each) grows youth groups. One youth group started with just two young people and grew to 20 in three months
- Youth help in church activities like Sunday school, orchestra, singing, and operating the sound system (5)
- I encourage them to spend time in prayer (2)
- Young people organize choir
- Allowing youth to preach in the church
- Youth help clean the church.
- One church organized a fashion show for their youth
- Getting them involved in evangelism (2)
- Pastors should hold seminars for children
- Leading church worship
- Teaching how the word of God helps to choose the right ways to build careers
- Young people who lead in the church need encouragement and supervision
- Home fellowships
- Opposition to the development of Christian youth
 - Young people are tempted by Satan (3)
 - Many young people battle loneliness
 - There is a lot of misunderstanding in the family (parents fight with each other, especially on the weekends when the entire family is at home)
 - Caste problems
 - Even if a boy or girl are baptized, they are under parental pressure to marry someone from their own caste even though they are non-believers (2)
 - In our church some young widows and youth are not able to go to church publicly because of pressure from their Hindu friends and relatives (2)
 - Watching TV, especially programs like WWF¹², draws youth away from the church (7)
 - Lack of pastoral care
 - There is no quality teaching in churches because of pastors' crowded schedules. Pastors cannot give quality teaching to youth.
 - Some pastors are more interested in purchasing equipment than focusing on the growth of the church
 - Many pastors do not practice what they preach; they are just living a nominal life.
 - Lack of family prayer time
 - There is a lack of parental care in regard to a child's spiritual development
 - Christian parents do not allow children to participate in church activities because they want their children to focus on studies and help in the home (3)
 - Parents send children for coaching, to learn music, or to learn handicrafts etc.
 - Parents send youth to work for money
 - Physical illnesses in the family
 - Young people need to be accepted irrespective of their clothes or hairstyles.
 - There should not be any dress code in the church. Young people may leave the church if they are forced to wear certain types of clothes or have a certain hairstyle.
 - More emphasis is given to academics, rather than spiritual progress
 - Some teachers in the church are bored
 - Role models fail morally
 - Young people see hypocrites in the church and do not want to come to Christ
 - Most churches today use young people as instruments to grow the church. After the church is grown, they have no use for the young people
 - Youth only come to church on Sundays
 - Youth (as young as 10) work in shops and/or the fields, sometimes up to 12 hrs/day. Sometimes they won't even get a holiday and so they don't come to church. Youth could be interested but they don't have the time to come. (2 rural)

¹² The World Wrestling Federation (WWF) combines professional wrestling with performing art. It is currently the largest professional wrestling federation in the world.

- Some young people are not willing to give up bad habits
- Youth are more interested in singing than prayer
- Christian youth are back-sliding and not coming to the Lord
- Some young people say they will only come to the Lord when good things start happening in their lives
- Belief that young people can work in the church but can't be spiritual leaders
- In the villages, they have their own religious programs and they are influenced by them. Adults in the family force young people follow their own ancient traditions
- Programs that are producing good results in young people's lives
 - Music programs
 - Choir
 - Church praise and worship services (2)
 - Group bible studies
 - Youth retreats(2)
 - Personal evangelism is effective in reaching young people. Have 10 teenagers reach five and then those five reach three, continuing the cycle until a community is saturated. (3)
 - Prayer cells at colleges can be done with the assistance of Christian students
 - Teaching new songs as young people like to present their talents to the congregation (4)
 - Biblical games make them well versed in the Bible
 - Bringing out their talents is effective
 - Special program on public and national holidays (The Freedom program on Indian Independence Day) are good. These programs involve professional dramas and music that have Christian themes. Church youth programs can also be introduced at these events.
 - Tract distribution can be done to evangelize
 - Children enjoy puppet shows (2)
 - Personal counseling is very much needed as a lot of young people cannot share all the issues in their lives with their parents (across focus groups)
 - Social activities, like health awareness & medical camps
 - We conduct cultural activities but the prayer cells are dry
 - Tuition
 - Games and sports (2)
 - Bible quiz
 - Picnics
 - Jesus movies, instead of preaching (2)
 - Sharing the word of God through skits and dramas
 - Giving gifts to children
 - Conducting meetings in public places
 - Providing snacks at youth meetings is good
 - Bible classes
 - Build good relationships with youth and give them good suggestion for their future (2)
 - Involving every young one in ministry
 - Sunday school is a key factor in molding young people.(3)
- Pressures and challenges for young people
 - Sexual temptation & love affairs (2)
 - Some young people do not think it is wrong to engage in sexual activity if their partner is willing
 - Pressure to acclimate and behave like everyone around them (2)
 - Familial pressure to excel in academics
 - Parents want children to fulfill the ambitions they lay out for children
 - Some parents keep children from attending church if they are poor. Instead, children are asked to earn money to provide for the family
 - Parents sometimes force their children to marry non-believers that are part of their caste or their relative.(2)
 - The breakdown of families
 - Some parents spoil their children by giving them large amounts of money

- Parents are not exemplary
- There is no prayer in many Christian families.
- Religious fanaticism – Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh(RSS)¹³ & the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP)¹⁴
- Politicians use young people in wrong ways
- Bad company and friendships
- Academic competitions cause jealousy and envy among students
- Socioeconomic conditions (i.e. lack of money)
- Young people want to follow modern fashions
- The dress code is bad
- Sometimes, youth are attracted to worldly pleasures (2)
- The Illegal trafficking of drugs are a threat to both Christian and non-Christian young people
- Youth are good in church but when they are alone, they are different
- There should be a brotherly relationship between boys and girls.
- Some children face bigger problems than elders. They need pastoral counseling
- Change in children and young people
 - Most young people adopt western culture today but earlier it was more traditional
 - Today, children and youth want to be more independent; earlier children and youth were more dependent on their parents (2)
 - Compared to five years ago, children and youth are more creative today
 - Earlier, children had great respect for parents. These days, children are more relational toward their parents (they think of their parents on their level)
 - Some children today call their parents by their names
 - These days young people are becoming very rebellious to their parents
 - Calling elders by their name is not common. The common term would be brother. People only call others by their first name if they grew up with that person.
 - As many young people work in the corporate world and call everyone, including their superiors, by their names, this is slowly being done in the church as well
 - Today's children and youth have more knowledge than earlier generations because of the media, internet, computers etc. and are aware of what is happening (world events, etc.) (3)
 - The greater knowledge that children and young people have has changed their behavior
 - Because this generation has more knowledge than earlier generations, they are boastful about it
 - Pride is an issue.
 - Young people are very aggressive in their attitude.
 - They are well behaved with their families and in their homes but outside the home, they are very explorative and try various things (smoking, drinking)
 - Today, young people drinking beer with their fathers is not a big issue as it is not considered to be an alcoholic drink
 - They only learn for their livelihoods
 - Priorities are changing around marriage & families. They want to choose their own partners
 - Youth are becoming pious in their outward religious activities
 - Youth take things for granted
 - During independence, young people were greatly involved in politics (i.e. rallies) but now most young people will be somewhat involved but not as much as before.
 - Some saved young people are very good and strong in the Lord
 - Skepticism is very prevalent in teenagers today

Teachers

- Administrative challenges in meeting the educational needs of students

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ The ABVP (i.e. All-India Students Council) is a youth political organization which draws its inspiration from the RSS. Founded in 1948, this organization has been suspected of utilizing violence in their political statements.

- The facilities of the schools need to be improved (E.g.: school furniture, building)
- There is no cooperation from parents or community leaders. (across focus groups)
- There is no cooperation between colleagues and teaching staff. (3)
- There is no motivation for teachers to take risks
- Financial problems like small salaries and lack of job benefits (transportation monies, medical assistance) for teaching staff
- These days' students are not taking seriously even when we punish them.
- Government laws/rules restrict teachers in how they may punish a student when students make mistakes
- A student will lodge a complaint against a teacher for disciplinary actions the teacher takes against the student during the class. Most of the time, the student will complain to the head of the school but sometimes, it will go to a helpline or to the city police (2).
- Sometimes, teachers are physical assaulted by their students when they take disciplinary actions against students
- Teachers find it difficult to punish students from high class backgrounds (because of the student's background)
- Parents' expect teachers to make their children succeed academically
- Parents will confront a teacher if the child's grades are very different from previously or if they are getting bad marks
- Parents need to cooperate with teachers as teachers spend a lot of time with their children
- The syllabus is too vast and puts pressures on teachers and students (across 1 focus group)
- The syllabus puts too much pressure on students because there is too much information included
- The emphasis and pressure is to complete the syllabus
- Sometimes, because there is so much material, students don't understand what is being taught
- More emphasis is placed on teaching than on learning. (across 1 focus group)
- This is very speed generation; they know many things than we know.
- Student misbehavior is a common problem
- Student rudeness
- Students talk back to teachers
- In the government schools students are reckless.
- Before 10 years students was respecting me most. Now they are not standing or saying good morning when I enter into class rooms.(2)
- Even if teachers counsel students, they might listen initially but then go back to doing what they did before
- In colleges, students go to the movies instead of attending class
- Students chat during class
- Students ask filthy questions during class
- Many students are irresponsible towards their future.
- Students do not pay attention to what teachers say/counsel
- Students do not do their assignments and homework
- The children of the educated parents develop in their studies at homes.(urban)
- Some students do homework and develop them selves.
- Rural parents are illiterate; don't pay attention to studies, so students never do any home work.
- Literacy among the parents should be focused.
- Low performance of the students in the exams.
- Students are slow to learn things
- There is no personal relationship between students and teachers at the college level.
- Students have to attend a certain percent of classes to be able to sit for exams. Sometimes, parents will give bribes so that their child can sit for the exam even if he has not met the attendance requirement of the school/college administration
- In poorer areas (rural), they will offer special programs, like free education or free tuitions, but their programs are not implemented correctly and are sometimes, only on paper
- Study materials that are given to rural students do not always arrive by the proper time. Many times, they get there after the course has started

- The government will provide textbook, notebooks, and other needed school items but not everything that is needed. So students can still be lacking some things that they need.
- There should be compulsory education
- Social challenges in addressing the needs of students
 - Parents do not have the financial or physical resources to take care of their children
 - Financial matters also cause for poor education and education became business.
 - many students because of poverty even when they are studying they work for money after school hours – in hotels , fast foods centers etc.,
 - Students have health problems
 - Rural students do not have proper clothing
 - Rural students do not have stationary or other necessary things due to financial problems (2)
 - Need good hospitals and medical facilities as many die because of a lack of these facilities
 - Need of buses to provide transportations to/from schools and colleges.
 - It is extremely difficult to get admission into a good school/college because there is a high cut-off mark for admission
 - If a child gets admission to a less reputable school/college, this is damaging to the parents' ego
 - Parents do not spend enough time with their children and so students do whatever they want. One hour of concentrated time with their child would make a world of difference.
 - When both the parents are working, do not attend to children, therefore children are careless.
 - Some students feel very insecure – some children think if they don't have the things which their friends have they feel inferior, so they are habituated to stealing the belongings of their friends.(2)
 - There are some students spoiling other students.
 - These days most of the girls are wearing uncommon dress.
- Challenges faced by students in and out of the classroom
 - Students do not have comprehensive knowledge in a particular subject
 - Students feel inferior when they are unable to answer questions asked by the teacher or when they have to ask a question
 - Students are afraid to face their teachers
 - There is no teacher-student relationship (i.e. a personal relationship) outside the classroom
 - They take revenge for the offenses done in the class rooms/schools.
 - Some are becoming very cruel, loving nature has come down.
 - Students are attracted to the opposite sex.
 - Even little children are exchanging love letters each other. Even though they are not well versed.
 - The physical change in children's bodies
 - Ragging is destroying some students.
 - When I promise gifts to students, if they get good marks in exams, many students gets involved in malpractice or copying to get good marks to own the gift offered by me and to show their friends their (false) achievement.
 - Most are friends with people of their own socioeconomic class (3)
 - Some students are very intelligent they know how to behave with the outsiders well.
 - Competition spirit has increased in corporate school students.
 - Students are pressured to be like other students
 - If a child doesn't do something that others want him to do, he will called names
 - Children do not want to be friends with people of a different socioeconomic class because they want everyone to be able to spend the same amount of money
 - Students feel bad when they are unable to do what they are told to do
 - In schools, children are taught about many religions regardless of what a child's faith may be. Parents do not like this and so restrict their children from studying this part of their work. This attitude from their parents leads to animosity and hatred between students
 - There should be more moral education every day
 - Some children are leaving bad habits by my moral teaching
 - Teachers teach religion lessons as information. They are not encouraging students to change religions
 - Teachers have good friendly relationship with their students
 - Students see homework as a problem

- Students like to play.
- Some students prefer games or working in the fields to school
- Students say they study because their parents force them to
- Some work hard to get good marks.
- A few students do not attend school regularly as they have to work to earn money to help their families
- Some students pay more attention to earning than studying.
- A few students have to stay at home many times to look after younger siblings. Some of these like to study and go to school but cannot for this reason
- They have no freedom to make choices
- Issues of student behavior
 - Overall, students behave well in school
 - Teachers will complain to the administration about problem students but even after repeated warnings, they continue to behave badly. This usually involves the guardian as well.
 - Especially in rural areas, students will respect their teachers. This is because in Hinduism, children are taught to hold their mother first, then their father, then the guru and God forth.
 - Children respect their elders
 - Students are given lot of money by their parents so they have latest mobile phones and other gadgets
 - In my schools I noticed that some students collect plastic bags (milk, water packets etc..) from the road side and sell them, money they get are watching movies, smoking with out the knowledge of their parents.
 - Students experiment and use drugs and alcohol
 - Some children indulge in abusive or dirty language because they are not in our control.(2)
 - Students have sex
 - Relationships and attraction to the opposite sex is very common
 - When there are holidays and if both the parents are away from home for job or some other reasons, boys and girls living in apartments are involving in bad behavior.
 - Teenage pregnancy and abortion has risen. These abortions are done in remote clinics
 - Teenage girls will use boys for their own interests and advantage
 - They decide what to do and not to do based on the media
 - Some parents are negligent with their children, so they return home late after school.
 - Parents need to work with teachers to shape the lives of their children
 - NGOs should hold seminars to address the issues that students face
- Influences on students' values and behaviors
 - They decide what to do and not to do based on the media (across focus groups)
 - Friendships (2)
 - Religion (2)
 - Students spend most of their time watching television or surfing the internet(2)
 - Many children are wasting time with video games. Parents are not warning their children from that.
 - Today the creativity in the children has come down due to media, internet calculators and etc.
 - Present generation knowing even unnecessary things by the influence of media.
 - The behavior of student is influenced by what they see and hear.
 - Student behavior is influenced by the movies and film actors(2)
 - Student behavior is influenced by sports, like cricket and other games.
 - Sport stars like Yuvaraj, Dhoni, Sachin¹⁵ influence young people (2)
 - A lack of parenting/caring influences a student's behavior.
 - Parents fail to teach their children strong values or right behavior
 - Every citizen must have reasonability on every child
 - It is entirely different situation in homes, we teach good things in school, some homes are not giving importance for moral life, therefore naturally children grow immoral.
 - Children's values are shaped by what they see and hear
 - We all agree that they are helping each other.

¹⁵ Yuvraj Singh, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, and Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar are well-known Indian crickets

- Students study well and work hard when they are influenced by people in their neighborhood with high profile jobs
- Activities of interest and how/why they appeal
 - Students spend less time studying and more time on the internet.(2)
 - Chatting with friends and online friends (sometimes strangers).
 - The number of online friends one has determines how popular he is
 - 70% of students like to play games; 30% students like to study
 - Karate
 - Music
 - Yoga
 - Swimming
 - They like to wear jeans, t-shirts, caps, bracelets and rings
 - Riding motorcycles and bicycles
 - Young people lie to their parents to go to all-night parties at friend's houses and have drugs, alcohol, and sex
 - Students often watch pornography movies when parents are not home or at their friend's houses
 - Going for movies
 - Some students are not attending school during afternoon to watch T.V serials. Teachers and parents are not aware of this.(2)
 - Discos
 - Having relationships with the opposite sex. (across focus groups)
 - Students do not mind having relationships (i.e. romantic) with a person of a different religion
 - Inter-religion marriage is not a problem for youth people
- Family pressures and relationships
 - Parents pressure children to study
 - Parents encourage children to study by giving them things the child will ask for or want, like the latest mobiles, bikes, or iPods. Because of this, students will study hard to get the top rank
 - If students are in very strict environments, they may take steps like suicide
 - If a child fails to meet their parent's expectations, they may try to commit suicide
 - Parents want their children to become doctors and engineers
 - Parents compare their children with good students. (across focus groups)
 - Parents will talk to each other (and brag) about how their children's performance. If a child doesn't do well, this will dent their parents' ego in front of other parents
 - Parents need to be counseling on the ability of their children and not to put undue pressure on their children
 - Parents sometimes want/pressurize their children to become what they (parents) wanted to be in their time but could not become (across focus groups (3))
 - Parents are too busy with their own work to parent their children (5; across groups)
 - The relationship between parents and children is not friendly or intimate (across focus groups)
 - Sometimes, parents are unaware of what their child is doing
 - Some parents put children in residential schools or leave them under the care of grandparents/servants.
- Changes in children and young people
 - Children spend less time reading and long hours on the internet
 - The media has a great impact in the lives of children and young people
 - Students are in competition to get the highest rank
 - Students are concerned with their future
 - Students need proper guidance
 - Students have become more independent.
 - The creativity of students has increased
 - There are more facilities (i.e. resources) now then before
 - Affairs (i.e. relationships with members of the opposite sex) have increased

Young People/Students

- Post-school plans
 - Do not know
 - Become part Indian Police Service (IPS) officer (3)
 - Attend the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) field
 - Teacher
 - Film star
 - Serve as a scientist (2)
 - Doctor (5)
 - Engineer (7)
 - software engineer (5)
 - aeronautical engineer
 - Pilot (2)
 - Navy Officer
 - Management
 - Rock band
 - A big lawyer. Four people in my family are lawyers.
 - Designer
 - Teach tailoring skills to many students
 - Great tailor and fashion new models
 - Wants to become a structural designer because she likes to design
 - A professional charter accountant (CA)
 - These days, most students want technology and computer-related careers (18-22 year old urban group)
 - Want to settle abroad as India does not have opportunities to excel in their fields of interest
 - Would like to go to the US/abroad and spend a good life there (4)
 - Be a rich person
 - Be famous
 - Want a good name (for myself)
 - Want to bring good name to my parents
 - Want to serve the nation (2)
 - Want to be involved in national politics
 - Nurse to help many sick people
 - Serve poor people or help people (3)
 - Construct a big orphanage
 - Serve the Lord by helping the poor and needy. (urban female)
 - Christian Missionary (2)
- Typical day and pressures
 - Do not have any pressures in life (some participants in 1 group)
 - Academic
 - Am teased when I go to school by people in my village
 - Students tease and mock each other in the classroom.
 - Ragging (2)
 - Sometime students are forced to commit suicide because of the insults of other students
 - Homework related:
 - Homework is a big pressure. They ask us to copy from the textbook and then ask us to rewrite everything in another notebook. It is not too bad and one sister said it helps us study
 - Homework is very useful and we cannot say it is a pressure for us (3 disagreed with when this comment was made)
 - Teachers do not allow them to enjoy their holidays because they give too much homework
 - Sometimes the homework is a waste of time (3)
 - Teacher-related:

- Teachers do not complete the portion before exams so they call for extra classes before the exams (2)
- Teachers are bad in giving marks. They give marks like 2 or 3 out of 5 which is not fair.
- There are a few teachers who will help in some subjects when students don't understand.
- Sometimes teachers will beat and scold students when they have doubts. (all agreed)
- Teachers are not friendly with them. (across the focus groups)
- Teachers insult few students
- Teachers pressure them to get good ranks
- Teachers are comparing some students with other students which is very bad
- Teachers are giving more importance to the student who are from rich family background
- Teachers are showing too much of partialities
- Teachers pay special attention to the girl students and often call them and give them personal guidance.
- Students are injured by teachers
- Teachers should understand the feelings of their students
- Teachers are forcing them to study to get good marks and ranks so that their school will become prominent. (across the focus groups)
- Teachers favor the brilliant students
- Some teachers beat students unnecessarily (across the focus groups)
- Teachers put pressure on students to pay school fee.
- Some students believe teachers are friendly and encourage them in their studies. (Across the focus groups).
- Government school teachers tell students to get pan/cigarette during class and then have it while they teach
- Government school teachers even drink and teach students
- Teachers even tell their students to clean the class rooms with water
- Stress/Pressure:
 - Today, teenagers have a lot of pressures (across the focus groups)
 - The pressure of studies
 - Exams are a big point of stress and pressure (most participants across groups)
 - They feel the pressure in their studies to get the highest percentage.
 - A school captain feels she has more pressure from teachers and the principal of the school because of this., She feels that, most of the time, teachers do not cooperative with her. She is responsible for the school's cleanliness and it is a very tough responsibility.
 - When students complete their studies, there is pressure to get a good job.
 - Pressure to get a good job is more competitive now
 - Pressure from her sister
 - Even parents cannot help them with school pressures. If the parents come to school and speak to the teachers, the teachers will convince them that they are trying to help build their children's futures.
 - In school, if they are in the 9th standard, they are asked to study the 10th standard syllabus as well. Doing both is hard (1 disagreed with this)
- Classroom:
 - In the classroom, only brilliant students get to answer. Others do not get a chance
 - Some students disturb others when others are studying
 - Boys take mobile phones into the classroom and takes pictures of girl classmates
 - They go for coaching to achieve the careers they want (doctors, engineers)
 - Studying
 - Students are competitive with each other to see who will get the first or second rank (2)
 - Parents do not want them to watch movies or play games and instead pressure and force them to study.
 - Few said that their parents tell them to study, but they do not force them to do that.

- Getting marks like 2 out of 5 is good because we will not give up and try our level best to get good marks
- The amount of books is a problem (2)
- All of them said that they don't have any games or leisure period at school.
- Sports are not encouraged in the school/college. (Across the focus groups).
- College politics
- Face many problems, in and out of school, because of poverty. I belong to a poor family.
- Today, education is a business. Poor students cannot afford the high fee (rural group)
- Social pressures
 - Phone calls from different people
 - All the boys gather in front of the girls' school and teasing the girls
 - Girls cannot go to public places like bus stands or railway station because boys tease them
 - Old people misunderstand the younger generation. If a boy and a girl go together they misunderstand the relationship
 - The media misguides young people
 - Films released nowadays are total rubbish. No movies teach good lessons. All movies are based on love and affection between boys and girls so we don't watch any movies.
 - Father does not believe in Jesus and this is her most important pressure (1)
 - Sharing the gospel with friends also makes them feel pressured (3)
 - He does not like to meet new people as he does not make friendships easily.
 - Students go to college after school but feel uncomfortable there as they are new
 - Some students take drugs because their parents take drugs
 - Some students watch blue films¹⁶ in the theatre or on television
 - Urban students get better facilities than us (rural group)
 - There are no high schools in many villages. The government has to take the initiative
 - Government has to develop adult literacy programs
 - Urban students get good jobs because they get a good education in the corporate schools (rural group)
- Family pressures
 - It is not good for parents to compare siblings to each other when one is intelligent or to compare their child with other children
 - Some good things are taught by our parents
 - Parents are never satisfied with whatever their children do.
 - Few children have a fear of their parents. Fear creates a gap in the relationship between children and parents.
 - Parents ask children to work in the home and in the fields.
 - The Father drinks, creates domestic violence, and spends most of his income on drinking
 - Children cannot pursue coaching because of the poor financial condition of the family
 - Girls from poor families do not have their needs met. It would be good to have part-time jobs for them on school premises
 - Some students threaten to and even do commit suicide if their parents do not like their teenage love affairs.
- Cultural pressures
 - There is no culture in India
 - Our culture has become more westernized and follow western culture and fashions (2)
 - The way of dressing has changed. All want to wear jeans. This is not appropriate in our culture or climate. Half saris (South Indian traditional costume) are better than miniskirts but people are don't want to wear them.
 - Celebrating Valentine's Day is bad but celebrating days like mother's day is good.
 - Celebrating Valentine's Day is not bad
 - There are no cultural pressures
- Some work in the field (cotton/chili) on a daily basis to earn a little money during vacation

¹⁶ Blue films are films associated with the amateur underground pornography industry in India.

- Activities that are of interest
 - Interested in motorcycles (but don't have them) but ride bicycles
 - All kinds of sports (many participants across groups)
 - Swimming (said in multiple focus groups)
 - Swim coaching
 - Playing volleyball (2)
 - Yoga as it helps with concentration for studies and improves health
 - Listening to music (across groups)
 - Learning to play music
 - Singing
 - Dancing (2)
 - Painting
 - Collecting old coins
 - Story writing
 - Watching movies (across groups)
 - Watching cartoons
 - We want to see good movies like Mother Teresa & Freedom fighters
 - Help with household work (2 females)
 - Girls they also like chatting with their friends, watching TV, and sending Short Message Services (SMS) to friends
 - Girls usually like spending time and going for walks with friends
 - For males, the following activities are popular: online chatting with friends, playing computer games, playing chess, sending SMSs to friends, watching TV, listening to music (film songs), playing cricket with friends, spending time with friends. (across focus groups)
 - Games (2)
 - Chess
 - Computer games (multiple said)
 - Spending time with friends and family
 - Likes to take special courses during the holidays that will be beneficial and fruitful for his future/personal and career development (3)
 - Developing my talents and skills
 - School national integrity programs in my school as they help us learn respect towards the country
 - Science Squares
 - Likes to guide and counsel younger people
 - Do social outreach work, like visiting orphanages to encourage the children there
 - Young people like to wear casual clothes, like jeans, t-shirts, bracelets, rings and head caps
 - Making my hair look nice
 - Taking part in quiz competitions (2)
 - Teasing boys (said by rural females)
 - Educational tours¹⁷
 - Youth meetings
 - Cultural activities
- Relevance of church/religion and hopes for personal religious development
 - One said that religion does not help develop us (5)
 - Religions is a waste of time
 - Religion is not important in his life (1 male urban).
 - There is no progress with religion
 - Does not believe in God/the presence of God (7)
 - If there was a God, there wouldn't be so many religions
 - I am confused with so many religions and gods
 - We need to search more to find out who is the real God
 - All religions are one

¹⁷ School field trips

- All religions are equal (few including Christians)
- We should have faith in God but it will never help us develop
- We need God (3)
- God is everything for me
- One cannot survive or do anything without God
- We ask God to meet our needs and He alone can solve my problems.
- There is a use for religion
- I observe my religion
- Some people are not mindful about God
- Religion is relevant after you reach a certain age (i.e. after 40)
- Religious texts/teachings are relevant (i.e. the teachings of the Gita¹⁸)
- Do not find any relevance in their religion (2 Hindus)
- Following different religions plays a major role in shaping lives and religious development
- Faith in God alone cannot develop us. We should work hard
- We have to hard work for our development and God will take care of the rest
- God will help with studies, health, family and other issues
- God helps us all the ways
- God is something supernatural (2)
- Believe in God and that He created the universe (many in 1 group)
- Religion plays a major role in shaping people
- Believe what is written in the Bible
- All that is in the Bible will come true
- Prayer is the most important tool (across 1 group)
- daily Bible reading and praying leads them to be pious.
- Festivals like Dashara and Sankranthi lead them to be pious.
- Nobody follows exactly what is in Hindu, Muslim, or Christians scriptures
- Not interested and do not like religious rituals (3)
- Feel they have to do rituals and so they do (2 Hindu urban)
- Gets peace of mind and heart when I've done the rituals (1 Hindu male)
- Do not like religious customs and duties
- Young people enjoy the pomp and show of festivals
- Takes part in church activities and enjoys them
- Go to church but are not interested in going (2 urban males)
- The church has a lot of politics nowadays and there are not many spiritual activities (3)
- There is no communal feeling because everyone believes in a different god.
- Don't like religion because it is divisive in friendships (a few in one focus group said this)
- Ideas about religion are broad so as not to cause disunity with their peers
- Role Models and influences that shape youth values
 - In Andhra Pradesh, almost 60% of students are studying to become doctors or engineers so they look up to them
 - I have no role model yet
 - Students feel that role models help them to shape their lives
 - People are selected as role models because they emulate how to live a good life through their actions (many said)
 - The role of the family is important in shaping young people
 - My parents are my role models and/or influence me (4)
 - My mother is my role model
 - A few freedom fighters are my role models
 - Jesus is my role model as he was so truthful, humble, had a heart for the poor and needy, and for other reasons as well (4 urban students)
 - My mother's friend is my role model as she encourages me and gives me guidance for my life
 - Obama¹⁹ is my role model

¹⁸ The Bhagavad Gita is a Hindu religious text. Comprised of 700 verses, it is believed to be a conversation between the Hindu gods Krishna and Arjuna.

- Maradona²⁰ is a role model because he has skillful consistency and both a spirit and passion for the game
- A student that likes mathematics said that Ramanujan²¹ is his role model as he is an inspiration
- Two great scientists and that is why he wants to become a scientist
- A student that wants to become a fashion designer said Manish Malhotra²² is his role model as his work is inspirational
- My role model is a film actor, Chiranjeevi²³, because he helps poor and needy people (2)
- Mother Teresa is my role model because she was so humble, kind, and committed to the poor and oppressed. She left her own country to come to India. She gave her whole life to the people of this country (4)
 - One who admired Mother Teresa also stated that he wants to live in the US to earn money which he would use to help the poor
- Gandhi is a role model. Gandhi was a social servant and fought for the rights of the common name (2)
- Sanjay Dutt²⁴ is my role model because I like his physique and I want to become like him
- He is influenced by Dr. Ambedkar²⁵ as people as one can learn many good things from his life, like humbleness, serving others, and helping the poor and needy
- Influenced by parents and/or family (2)
- Influenced by old age homes and orphanages (1 urban female)
- Influenced by messages taught in church
- Professors
- Cricket and movies influence me
- Television and movies (3)
- Movie actors (4)
- Fashion
- The media influences
- Politics influence youngsters
- Yuvaraj, Dhoni and Sachin (2)
- Love relationships influence teenagers. They want someone to love them even before marriage. They do not care what parents think.
- Friends do not pressure each other but encourage each other and also help each other financially.
- Many young people are attracted to worldly desires and are not thinking of their future
- My mother is not educated and faced many problems. I don't want to be like her so I want to study well.
- Evangelizing to Peers
 - It is very difficult to share the gospel with friends as they do not want to listen when the talk is about Jesus (5)
 - When they try to share Jesus with their friends, their friends respond that Jesus is not special but like every other god.
 - I am hurt when they say Jesus is also one among the many gods.
 - Two said that they have been sharing Jesus with their peers but the response is lukewarm
 - Fellow classmates are not open to the idea of attending a church because they do not want their parents to know

¹⁹ Barack Obama is a junior United States (US) senator from Illinois. He is currently running for the Democratic nomination for the 2008 United States presidential election.

²⁰ Diego Armando Maradona is a former Argentine football player. He played in four World Cups and is considered to be one of the best players of the 20th century.

²¹ Srinivasa Ramanujan Iyengar was an Indian mathematician. With almost no formal training, he made substantial contributions in the area of analysis, number theory, infinite series, and continued fractions.

²² Manish Malhotra is one of India's leading fashion designers. He has designed for a number of Bollywood actresses and is best known for creating a "look" for his clients. He has also designed costumes for Bollywood films

²³ Chiranjeevi is an award winning star in the Telugu film industry. He is also referred to as Mega-Star

²⁴ Sanjay Dutt is a Bollywood film actor who was sentenced to jail in July 2002 for the illegal possession of firearms that he allegedly acquired from terrorist acquaintances (believed to be responsible for the 1993 Bombay bomb blasts) He was granted interim bail in August 2007.

²⁵ Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar was a political leader and Buddhist revivalist. He is considered to be the chief architect of the Indian Constitution. He was born into the poor Untouchable community and spent his life fighting against the caste system. He is credited with having sparked the Dalit Buddhist movement and received India's highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna.

- The people they try to evangelize to are too wrapped up in their own things and do not consider religion important
- Across focus groups, students feel the most effective tool while sharing the gospel to a non-Christian is using true testimonies (including personal experiences) and providing good counseling.
- Like to share the gospel with their non-Christian friends.
- One urban male shared that after he accepted Christ in his life, he was changed. Everyone around him could easily see the change, including his friends. He told his friends that it was because of Jesus but his friends do not want to accept that Jesus is the sole reason for his change.
- Do share Jesus with peers but not regularly (2)
- My friends do not have a devotion to God

Interview Notes

INTERVIEW WITH CHRISTIAN MINISTRY LEADERS

- What, if any, value is there in international organizations doing ministry in India?
 - International organizations are not very effective in doing grassroots work, particularly in field areas.
 - These organizations have very little knowledge of the Indian culture
 - They are often times a determinant
 - The motives of these agencies may be good. They may want to help but because of the cultural difference, they may not be that effective in solving the problems or helping the people in need
 - Financially, these organizations are strong.
 - In spite of their financial strength, they still fail to do work more effectively in the local areas
 - They need to first understand the people before they can begin doing the work.
 - National and regional organizations should take the full responsibility of the local needs
 - There are a lot of cultural differences between international and trans-regional organizations
- What are the regional difficulties in working with children and youth?
 - Sometimes parents of the child will be oppositional when these people approach them to help
 - Parents think that they are trying to convert their child to their religion
 - Many times, they attract them by giving some financial help
 - If they give financial help, people will come but if they don't give anything, people will not come
 - The most important difficulty we face is a lack of finances
 - Fund raising in ministry is difficult
 - When working with teenage sex workers, it is very difficult to make them understand why it is bad and to bring them back to society
- Your experience doing outreach to children
 - Even to bring children to camps, we need to assure parents that the child will be safe and that they will get food to eat
 - When working with child laborers who were school dropouts, it was very difficult to convince the parents to let the child leave work and go to school.
 - Even employers oppose us because they will lose a worker. Also, the employers can pay less to a child worker
 - Even when we can convince parents that the child will get everything he needs when he goes to school- that the child will be feed- it is still difficult
 - When we work with children's clubs, sometimes, we even face a threat from local politicians. These people will threaten our lives
- What are some trends in youth's culture?
 - Today, youth blindly follow the western culture
 - They like to wear western dress and have western food
 - They want more freedom in their decision-making with studies, family decisions, etc.
 - They don't just want their parents to tell them what to do and what not to do every time.
 - They feel that Indian culture and traditions are outdated and old fashioned.
 - A few young people respect our culture, language and their families
- What are some issues that are emerging with children and youth that needs to be addressed?
 - Children and youth with HIV/AIDS are in an alarming situation in slums
 - Girls and young ladies are involved in sex work in the slums
 - Even young girls from the slum go for abortions many times
 - There is more child exploitation and child labor in the slums
 - Out of their innocence, even little adolescent girls will cooperate and have sex with others. Such girls says that they do this because these people give them chocolates and ice-creams. There is no one else to give them such things
 - Little children, tortured by their stepparents, commit crimes
 - One little boy smashed his stepmother's head with a big stone and killed her killed her. He ran away from home and came to Hyderabad. He stayed on the streets. He happened to meet this lady who ministers to children. He attended a children's camps and his life was changed. This lady and the

ministry helped him to study by paying his educational expenses. He studied well and is now in Bible college. He has completely given his life to serve the Lord.

- There was this little twelve year old girl from the slums whose mother ran away with another man. Her father remarried and her stepmother treated her very bad. One day she happened to meet this lady who invited her to a camp. During the camp, the little girl was counseled. They discovered that she had already had three abortions. When asked why she had done these things with others, she said that there was no one to buy her ice cream and nail polish. But the people who would wanted sexual favors from her. So that is how she became pregnant so many times.
- The use of drugs and alcohol is very common in slums.
- Youth are engaged in cheating and theft to make their living
- Even children going to schools with good reputations are involved in taking/using drugs
- What are the issues in families?
 - Children are scared of their parents
 - There is a gap in the child-parent relationship
 - School going children have a lot of pressure to study because parents want them to get the top rank
 - Parents generally compare their children with other good children and that is very bad.
 - Parents don't treat their children as human beings instead they treat them as things (i.e. possessions)
 - Children in middle class and higher class society face a lack of love and care. Their parents are busy with work and have no time to spend with their children.
 - The parents feel that they are providing good food. They are also providing a good home to live in and give their children good things to play with. All this should keep their children happy. But they never realize that what children want is love, care, and attention from their parents.
 - All this affects the psychology of the child. Children tend to go more stubborn because this is how they show their frustration
 - In slums, the male head of the family is generally unemployed. They depend on the ladies to earn.
- What are some programs that are effective in reaching young people?
 - Children's camps. Children should feel at home and learn many good things about life. They should get to know who Jesus is and how he loves everyone
 - VBS programs are good for children and teenagers
 - Medical camps are good because they get to know many things about various diseases like AIDS
 - Children's clubs are good because the children can enjoy their time
- What is needed in people that work in children's and youth programs?
 - They should be humble and kind
 - They should have patience to work with children and youngsters
 - They should be courageous
 - They should be able to work in any situation and willing to lead a life of hardship
 - They should be a good counselor

INTERVIEW WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT OF A PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

- What entertainment appeals to children and youth? And why does it appeal?
 - Young people spend their free time watching movies.
 - Playing games like volleyball, kabaddi, cricket (preferred in cities).
 - Going to discos.
 - Listening to music on the ipod's.
 - This appeals to young people simply because most of their peers are involved in the same things.
- What are the emerging behaviors of youth and what is the impact of this on Andhra Pradesh and India?
 - Change in their Lifestyle: Nowadays young people have their own bank accounts and don't depend on their parents.
 - They have money to purchase whatever they feel like because they earn good salaries.
 - With the emergence of the I.T. industry and young people from different states coming to Andhra Pradesh, there has been a noticeable change in the behavior of the young people.
 - Dressing: Even the dressing has changed over the years. Young people of today are more fashionable and are great imitators of the Western culture.
 - Moral Character: Today's, youth is far from obedient and lack in their morals.

- Respect for parents and elders are indeed a thing of the past.
- They are uninterested to listen and will simply not obey.
- There is no difference between the young people of the Church and other young people. Infact, the practices and behavior of the world are creeping in to the Church.
- This has affected Church growth because the non believer does not see any difference in the behavior of those who profess to be Christian.
- The older people do not agree to the behavior of the young people, but simply accept it, because they are left with no other option.
- What are the new and exciting programs Churches and ministries are doing for children and youth?
 - The youth program in the State is called Youth Alive. Youth Camps as well as retreats are conducted.
 - Potential young people from A.G. Churches across the State are brought for a week's training to Hyderabad and then they go back and are effectively involved in the youth ministry in their local Church. This training is called Yuva Sena (Youth Army). 150 young people attended the training this year.
 - A sports camp for the young people was conducted and prominent sports personalities did sessions.
 - Not much light was thrown on the youth programs.
 - The district had appointed a Youth Coordinator to look after the programs for young people in the State.
- What are the changing family dynamics in the state? How is it different in A.P. from other states?
 - Family dynamics in the major cities like Hyderabad, Kakinada, Vizag, Vijaywada etc. have undergone change. This is due to the fact that both parents have to work to make ends meet in the home. Because of the absence of the parents from the home, the children are deprived of love, affection and motherly care.
 - More and more young people are spending time watching T.V., surfing the internet, playing video games and some even indulge in pornography. There is no adult in the home to control them.
 - Andhra Pradesh is not different from others States, because this seems to be the trend all across India. Both parents have to work.
- What is the level of collaboration between denominations and how willing are they to collaborate on programs/events?
 - There is good collaboration between the different denominations in the City.
 - There are two fellowships in the city namely Twin Cities Pastors Fellowship and Pentecostal Pastors Fellowship. These groups meet once a month for prayer and fellowship.
 - Whenever, any well know international evangelist/pastor is invited to the City, all denominations work together to ensure its success. Responses from these efforts are distributed to participating Churches area wise. Events such as these can see all denominations were in collaboration with each other. In any given year between 10-15 such inter-denominational meetings are conducted. During these special gospel meetings/crusades Pastors Seminars are conducted during the day.
- What is the current state of children's and youth ministry in Andhra Pradesh?
 - There is a growing awareness for children and youth ministry in Churches today, before they never felt this way.
 - Realizing that 60 % of the Indian population is made up of young people below the age of 25, Churches have woken up to this reality and are implementing effective youth programs.
- What is the skill level of youth workers and what are the training needs? What training programs are available for youth ministry workers in your denomination? Outside your denomination?
 - There was a need for training of youth workers within the Assemblies of God and it was mentioned that once a year potential young people from most A.G. Churches are brought to Hyderabad and given week long training, after which they are involved in youth work in their local Church.
 - The local Pastors have acknowledged the success of such trainings and have seen sizeable growth in their youth groups.
 - As a result of this short term training at least 2-3 young people come to Bible College to prepare themselves for fulltime ministry.
 - No knowledge of specific training programs in other denominations but was certain that they too had something to train sharpen the skills of their youth workers.
- What is the potential for children and youth to conduct peer evangelism?

- Young people do share their faith with their peers. It was highlighted that once the young people received training, they were more eager to share their faith. This was due to the fact that they were taught how to share their faith effectively.
- What are some programs being done by churches that are effective with children & youth? How do you know that it is effective?
 - No specific programs were mentioned but New Life Assembly of God Church was cited as an example, where the weekly youth service brings together 500-700 young people.
 - The effectiveness of youth program can be seen by the fact that in most Churches, nearly 50% of the congregation consists of young people.
 - Besides, the success of programs, Church growth was also the result of a hunger in the lives of young people to find the truth and in their search they come to know Jesus Christ, who is THE TRUTH.
 - One well known youth event is the youth carnival,
 - At the youth carnival, many stalls were set up giving information about employment, training etc. However, every evening there was an open air gospel meeting that was very well attended and the response very encouraging.
- What are the programs and materials needed by local churches to transform the lives of children?
 - There was a need for printed material in Telugu for the villages, while printed material in English was required for the cities.
 - Programs for the young people need to be very creative.
 - The use of the electronic media could be used as an effective tool.
- What is the need for new print and electronic media materials that will reach and appeal to children and youth?
 - The electronic media was more effective and appealing to reach the young people.
 - It was pointed out that the youth of today are spending very little time reading books and more and more time on the internet. He even said that the newspapers were available on the net.
 - It was further stated that the print media would be effective in rural areas as they do not have much access to the internet.
- What organizations are developing new materials and how are these materials tested for effectiveness?
 - Organizations like Seva Bharat, Children's Bible Club, C.E.E.F.I. (The Christian Education Department of the Evangelical Fellowship of India), Vacation Bible School Ministries (V.B.S. Ministries) are involved in developing new materials. Some Churches also produce their own materials.
 - A lot of Churches are using material produced by C.E.E.F.I. because they have a year-long syllabus and are cheap. He did mention that some materials from foreign countries were available but were unaffordable.
- What are the common things shared by all denominations?
 - Most denominations have realized the need to reach children and youth and are laying great emphasis on the same.
- Do denominations collaborate with international organizations? If so, on what? If not, why?
 - Denominations do collaborate with international organizations. When any well known international speaker is coming to the city, all denominations extend their whole-hearted support. City-wide crusades, Pastor's seminars etc. are events when all denominations collaborate with each other.
- How would you describe the youth of Andhra Pradesh?
 - The youth of Andhra Pradesh could be described as independent, talented, creative, goal oriented and plan for their future.
 - The greatest need of the youth in Hyderabad is the need for satisfaction. All have a desire to grow and get as much as they can.
 - Feelings such as this are not limited to the non-believers but are also common among Christians.

INTERVIEW WITH THE LEADER OF A CHURCH UNION

- What are the emerging behaviors of youth and what is the impact of this on Andhra Pradesh and India?
 - There is a very noticeable change in the behavior of the young people of Andhra Pradesh. With the invasion of the electronic media young people are becoming more knowledgeable and are least bothered about anybody.

- Due to parental negligence and loneliness young people are turning to drugs, alcohol and sex as a substitute.
- Can you please tell me about some of the new and exciting programs that churches and ministries are doing for children and youth?
 - Singing Competition
 - Excursions
 - Big Celebration at the end of the VBS
 - Every 6 months the youth of several Churches will combine and have a spiritual retreat. Emphasis is given on prayer and meditation. Approximately 100 young people will be present. Such retreats are conducted by the District Chairman
- What are the changing family dynamics in the state? How is it different in AP from other states?
 - Family dynamics in the state of Hyderabad have changed.
 - Parents are not giving quality time to their children because both parents feel the need to work in order to run the home.
 - Children are under no direct supervision of the parents, so they have the liberty to indulge in all sorts of things.
 - The changing family dynamics were not only unique to Andhra Pradesh, but across all major cities and towns in India.
 - He also felt that family values were on the decline.
- What is the level of collaboration between denominations and how willing are they to collaborate on programs/events?
 - Things are improving with regards to collaboration between denominations.
 - Many denominational representatives would be physically present of some events, but inwardly they would not be present.
 - There are no areas of commonality between the various denominations.
 - The Churches which had more money would not want to get involved with others who had less than them. The fear of the identity.
- What is the current state of children's and youth ministry in Andhra Pradesh?
 - The caste system is still practiced in the Church, Oftentimes, If there was a talented young person in the Church, his/ her background would be looked in to.
 - Young people in the Church have tremendous potential but there is a generation gap between them and the pastor.
- Do you have anything additional to add?
 - Drinking was a problem that many young people were struggling with. Young people were spending a lot of time watching movies. Friendship between the opposite sex was becoming common. Many of the Christian young people are being dragged into the above because of peer pressure.
 - Christian institutions were not granting admission to the Christians, unless they huge fees/donations. Christians were being neglected by their own institutions
 - The Church does not teach her young people how to share his/her faith. The Church is responsible for assisting the young people to develop a personal relationship with God. People should receive the power of God in the Church.
 - Young people from other faiths face opposition from their parents when they become believers. He narrated the incident of a young girl being beaten up by her family members.
 - The most effective way to reach the non Christian is through Inter Faith Dialogue
 - The Church needs to understand the ideology of today's young people and be affective in her teachings.
 - The printed media is still an effective tool for reaching the young people of Andhra Pradesh.