

**RESTLESS
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THE YOUTH-LED DEVELOPMENT AWC

India's focus on its youth

Are we doing enough?

An analysis of India's Union
Budget from youth perspective

May 2020



About the Study

This study was commissioned by Restless Development, a not-for-profit organisation that works with young people to build their capacity for solving challenges that the world faces today. Whether that means supporting communities to end child marriage or prevent HIV, Restless Development's team works with young people to change their lives and the lives of people in their communities. Restless Development is currently run out of hubs in ten countries across Africa, Asia and in the UK and USA, with a wider network of partners across the world.

This study has been authored by Abhinav Saikia and Anubhav Khanna, under the guidance of Rohit Kumar. The authors are a team of researchers from The Quantum Hub (TQH), a public policy research and communications consultancy based out of New Delhi. They have been ably assisted by Radhika Nagu, who interned with TQH during the preparation of this report.

With the aim of strengthening the voices of the youth, Restless Development and TQH came together to closely examine India's youth development efforts to understand, if and how, they address the challenge of preparing our youth for the future. This study is a first step in that direction.



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Introduction

A country's ability and potential for growth is often determined by its youth. The young people of a country are a valuable human resource for fostering economic, cultural and political development. Their potential, if utilised properly, can usher in significant positive change in the society. It is the youth who are most often the creative innovators in their communities and who participate as active citizens, eager to positively contribute to development. Therefore, special attention needs to be paid to this segment of the population so as to harness, motivate, skill and streamline their integration as productive members of society.

India has a relative advantage over other countries in terms of the size of its youth population. While a majority of the countries around the world face the possibility of a workforce that is ageing rapidly, India's demographic profile looks promising. According to the United Nations Population Division, India has the world's highest number of 10 to 24 year olds, despite having a smaller population than China.¹ The working population of India is expected to increase to 592 million by 2020, next only to China (776 million).² This suggests that India's youth will play a key role in shaping its development agenda in the coming years.

In light of this, there is a need to closely examine India's youth development efforts to understand, if and how, they address the challenge of helping prepare our youth for the future.

Who are the youth?

There is no one single definition of 'youth', given how it is understood as a period of transition from childhood to adulthood, thereby rendering its age-related approximation a lot more fluid compared to other fixed age groups. The United Nations defines 'youth' as persons between 15 and 24 years of age.³ WHO also describes those in the 15–24 years age group as 'youth' though it also, ambiguously, refers to everyone in the 10–24 age group as 'young people'.⁴

Similar ambiguity exists in the Indian policy narrative as well. The 1988 National Youth Policy (NYP) defined 'youth' as the age group of 15 to 35 years⁵, while the National

¹ World Population Prospects, United Nations, 2015,

https://population.un.org/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2015_DataBooklet.pdf

² National Statistics institutes; BCG Analysis

³ Youth, United Nations, <https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/youth-0/index.html>

⁴ Adolescent health in the South-East Asia Region, <https://www.who.int/southeastasia/health-topics/adolescent-health>;

⁵ National Youth Policy, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, 2003, <https://pib.gov.in/newsite/erecontent.aspx?relid=519>;

Youth Policy of 2003 identified ‘youth’ as people between 13 and 35 years of age. In the 2014 version of the same policy, the ‘youth’ age-group has been defined in a more conservative way, as being between the ages of 15 and 29 years.⁶ The National Programme for Youth & Adolescent Development (NPYAD) 2014–15, which seems to draw inspiration from the 2014 NYP, follows the same definition.⁷ However, in a 2017 report by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI), titled “Youth in India”, a different bracket (15–34 years) has been chosen as the age group for youth.⁸

For the purposes of this study, we propose to use the age group of 10–34 years to refer to youth. A conscious decision has been made to keep this bracket broad so as to cover both adolescents (10–19 years) as well as other young adults while looking at policies meant for the development of the younger generation. This is important also because an adolescent’s life experiences can significantly shape the trajectory of their path as a young adult. That being said, it must be acknowledged that the 10–34 year age bracket remains a broad one, and the needs of people in this age group can vary dramatically.

State of the youth in India

All throughout the history of India, youth have been instrumental in bringing about meaningful change in the country. Be it in the field of technological innovation or making strides in the field of art, music and culture, or leading from the front in social reform. India has the world’s second largest start-up ecosystem and the median age of its founders is only 31 years old.⁹ These young stalwarts are setting up innovative enterprises working on aspects ranging from cutting-edge technologies and services to coming up with novel solutions to issues in areas of financial inclusion, sanitation and education – matters that affect the most marginalized in the country. Many reform movements in the recent past, such as the campaigns for clean and corruption-free governance and women’s safety have also been championed by the youth.

Both the government at the central level and in the states as well several non-governmental organisations have been investing significantly in the development of the

⁶ National Youth Policy, 2014, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, http://www.rgniyd.gov.in/sites/default/files/pdfs/scheme/nyp_2014.pdf

⁷ National Programme for Youth and Adolescent Development, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, <https://nyks.nic.in/schemes/NPYAD-Guidelines.pdf>;

⁸ Youth in India, Central Statistics Office, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, 2017, http://mospi.nic.in/sites/default/files/publication_reports/Youth_in_India-2017.pdf

⁹ India has world’s second largest startup ecosystem, believe youth delegate at ECOSOC Youth Forum, Economic Times, 10/04/2019, <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/small-biz/startups/newsbuzz/india-has-worlds-second-largest-startup-ecosystem-believe-youth-delegate-at-ecosoc-youth-forum/articleshow/68811213.cms>

youth in India by investing in education, skill development, healthcare, sports etc. Yet, challenges remain. Some of these are discussed below:

Education and employment:

In India, enrolment in primary education has surpassed 90% and the government is making steady progress in improving the quality of education delivery.¹⁰ However, primary education, in a vast majority of schools in the country, still remains inadequate. With a weak foundation to stand on, the learning gaps developed during this phase of education continue to widen in higher grades. According to the Annual Status of Education Report released in 2017, approximately 25% of the children surveyed between the ages of 14–18 were unable to read basic text fluently in their own language.¹¹ Schools are also witnessing high dropout rates at this level, to the tune of 17.06% as per government statistics.¹²

A study published in 2019 reveals that a considerable number of teacher positions have remained vacant for quite some time. Across schools, around 21.6% of sanctioned high school teaching positions were vacant for classes 9th and 10th and 26.5% for classes 11th and 12th.¹³ Lack of proper infrastructure and unavailability of life skills training in curriculums are also some of the issues plaguing the education system in India.¹⁴

Countrywide, graduates still face a 17% unemployment rate.¹⁵ According to an estimate, around 5 million people who graduate from Indian colleges every year, more often than not, lack a strong academic base or any specialized skillset.¹⁶ The Periodic Labour Force Survey of 2017–18 shows that nationally only 1.8% of the total population reported receiving some formal vocational education or technical training, and another 5.6% reported receiving informal vocational training such as self-learning.¹⁷ This meant that 93% of the population received no training whatsoever, from either formal or informal sources.

¹⁰ Delivering quality primary education in India: What works?, Prachi Windlass, Michael and Susan Dell Foundation, 17/10/2019, <https://www.msdf.org/blog/2019/10/quality-primary-education-india/>

¹¹ 12th Annual Status of Education Report, 2017, <http://img.asercentre.org/docs/Publications/ASER%20Reports/ASER%202017/aser2017pressreleasenationalenglishfinalrevisedjan23.pdf>

¹² Educational Statistics at a Glance, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, 2018, https://mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/statistics-new/ESAG-2018.pdf

¹³ Even as Parl Passes Teachers' Quota Bill, Too Many Vacancies Continue to Plague Secondary & Higher Education, Eram Agha, News18, 3/07/2019, <https://www.news18.com/news/india/even-as-parl-passes-teachers-quota-bill-too-many-vacancies-continue-to-plague-secondary-higher-education-2215787.html>

¹⁴ Calling all organisations: Finding solutions to the secondary education challenge in India, Prachi Windlass, 02/12/2019, <https://www.msdf.org/blog/2019/12/secondary-education-challenge-in-india/>

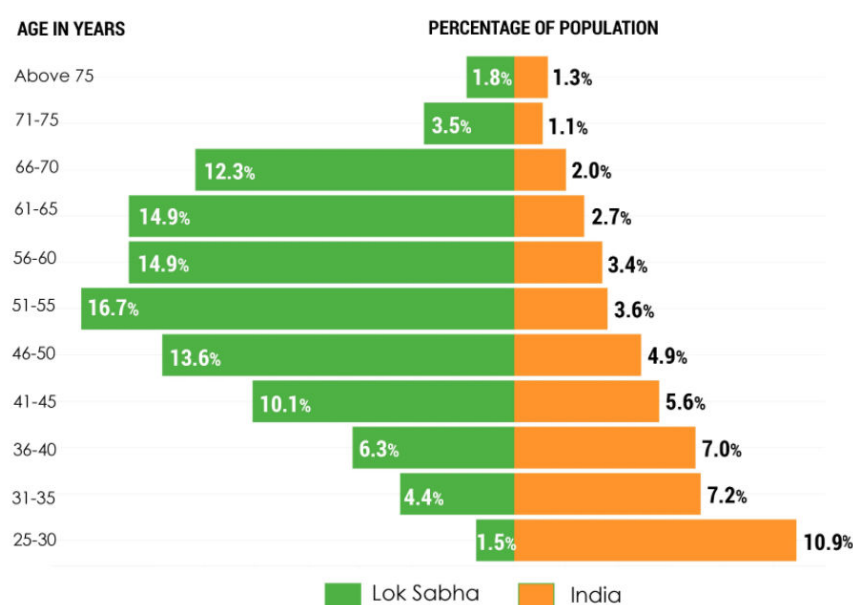
¹⁵ Budget 2020: India's Youth Want Jobs, Not Another Speech, Mitali Mukherjee, The Wire, 8/01/2020, <https://thewire.in/economy/budget-2020-youth-jobs>

¹⁶ Budget 2020: India's Youth Want Jobs, Not Another Speech, Mitali Mukherjee, The Wire, 8/01/2020, <https://thewire.in/economy/budget-2020-youth-jobs>

¹⁷ Annual Report, Periodic Labour Force Survey, 2017–18, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, http://www.mospi.gov.in/sites/default/files/publication_reports/Annual%20Report%2C%20PLFS%202017-18_31052019.pdf

The lack of avenues for effective participation has also been an underlying theme that has affected the Indian labour force, though it has disproportionately impacted young women.¹⁸ The Periodic Labour Force Survey of 2017–18 shows that the participation of women in the paid workforce is only 16.5%.¹⁹

Leadership and representation: Another concern is the low level of youth involvement and representation in the official policymaking process in the country. According to an analysis of the composition of Lok Sabha since 1999, conducted by India Today's Data Intelligence Unit (DIU), the average age of Lok Sabha MPs has always been above 50.²⁰ In fact, the Lok Sabha seems to be getting older every election since Independence.²¹ Even more worrying is the fact that most young people in the Indian Parliament are dynasts, with little to no prior experience in politics or governance (study by historian Patrick French).²²



Source: India Today²⁰

Despite a growing focus on youth participation at lower levels of governance, there is little coordinated action to engage the youth in politics and governance. In rural areas,

¹⁸ India is failing its young women in terms of work, CP Chandrasekhar, Jayati Ghosh, The Hindu Business Line, 31/12/2019, <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/columns/c-p-chandrasekhar/india-is-failing-its-young-women-in-terms-of-work/article30435400.ece>

¹⁹ Annual Report, Periodic Labour Force Survey, 2017–18, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, http://www.mospi.gov.in/sites/default/files/publication_reports/Annual%20Report%2C%20PLFS%202017-18_31052019.pdf

²⁰ India is young, its leaders aren't, Nikhil Rampal, India Today, 30/05/2019, <https://www.indiatoday.in/diu/story/india-young-voters-old-mps-lok-sabha-1538175-2019-05-30>

²¹ Why Lok Sabha needs more young faces, Economic Times, 02/04/2019, <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/elections/lok-sabha/india/why-lok-sabha-needs-more-young-faces/articleshow/68597530.cms>

²² Youth in India: Prospects and Challenges, Bhanu Joshi and Eesha Kunduri, Centre for Policy Research, 01/07/2017, <https://www.cprindia.org/research/reports/youth-india-prospects-and-challenges>

Panchayati Raj Institutions have continually seen low participation from the youth.²³ Existing programs run by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, including the Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGSPA), focus more on building the capacity of young people who have already been elected leaders, rather than on increasing the engagement of youth with the political system.²⁴ For progress at the grassroots, it is important that the youth are informed and have the capacity to voice their opinions and participate in decisions that affect their lives. This affirms the need for better representation of the youth in all tiers of governance to bring greater focus to their concerns.

Sexual and reproductive rights: A substantial proportion of the youth population in India also faces the burden of reproductive and sexual ill-health, primarily due to erroneous or incomplete sex education. According to a 2019 report by the Family Planning Association (FPA), only 15 % of young men and women between the ages of 15–24 have received sex education. The absence of a comprehensive sex education curriculum in schools leads to many issues such as unplanned pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, sexual and physical violence etc.²⁵ One in four HIV transmissions in India is among young individuals, caused due to unsafe sex practices. Lack of information has been cited as a major factor that increases the vulnerability of adolescents to unsafe sex practices.²⁶ In a study conducted by NHRC, it was found that 54% of adolescent girls surveyed in Maharashtra were unaware of the modes of transmission of HIV, due to the lack of sex education in schools.²⁷

The absence of adequate reproductive well-being is also a cause of concern, in particular for women and girls, whose opportunities are restricted due to reproductive and menstrual ill-health. These problems are compounded by a general lack of awareness, social stigma, low availability of menstrual hygiene products, inadequate access to contraceptives, and substandard systems for water supply and waste disposal.²⁸ India therefore needs strong policy backing to address these issues in the immediate term.

²³ Youth and Panchayat: A synergy to promote participation, Participatory Research in Asia, March 2007, https://www.pria.org/knowledge_resource/1547725635_Youth%20and%20panchayat.pdf

²⁴ National Youth Policy, 2014, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, <https://yas.nic.in/sites/default/files/National-Youth-Policy-Document.pdf>

²⁵ Sexual health largely neglected, reproductive health not a priority in policy discourse, Kalpana Apte, YourStory, 27/06/2019, <https://yourstory.com/socialstory/2019/06/sexual-health-reproductive-health-policy-discourse>

²⁶ Sexual Health and Reproductive Health Rights in India, National Human Rights Commission, April 2018, https://nhrc.nic.in/sites/default/files/sexual_health_reproductive_health_rights_SAMA_PLD_2018_01012019_1.pdf

²⁷ Khubchandani, Jagdish, Raman Kumar, and Jeffrey Clark. 2014. "Beyond Controversies: Sexuality Education for Adolescents in India". Journal Of Family Medicine And Primary Care 3 (3): 175.

²⁸ Improvement in Knowledge and Practices of Adolescent Girls, National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development, 2014, <https://www.nipccd.nic.in/file/reports/eaghealth.pdf>

Opportunities in sports: Sports can be a great way to channelize the energy of the youth, to promote mental and physical well-being, in addition to building leadership and team spirit. However, the lack of access to quality sports infrastructure (especially for the poor), the concentration of stadiums and other sporting avenues in cities, and the lack of encouragement to girls to participate in sports have impaired the development of a positive sports culture in the country.²⁹ Moreover, as highlighted by a UNICEF study on *Adolescents, Diets and Nutrition*, Indian adolescents score low on physical activity and undertake much less activity than is desirable for their age group. Absence of appropriate infrastructure, socio-cultural disparities, and problematic lifestyles has resulted in both boys and girls being unable to meet the 60 minutes per day recommended outdoor sports and exercise time.³⁰

Nutritional status: Adolescence is a critical phase for the physical and psychological development of the human body, with the body demanding substantial amounts of nutrients and energy. Lack of access to nutrition in this age can lead to conditions such as anaemia. According to a UNICEF study, almost all adolescents in India have unhealthy or poor diets, leading to one or the other form of nutritional deficiencies.³¹ The study finds that over 80% of adolescents in India are deficient in some nutrients such as iron, folate, zinc, vitamin A, vitamin B12 and vitamin D. Around 50% of adolescents also suffer from physical defects and are either short, thin, overweight or obese. Adolescent girls, especially, suffer multiple deprivations in this group; compared to their male peers, a number of girls were shown to be suffering from stunted growth and data indicates that over 40% of adolescent girls suffer from anaemia in comparison to 18% of the boys.³² The study's findings also suggest that nearly a quarter of the adolescent population in India did not receive any of the school-based nutrition services such as the mid-day meal, biannual health check-ups, biannual deworming and weekly folic acid supplementation.³³

The above are only some of the challenges faced by the youth in India. Young people in India are also affected by many other concerns such as unequal access to

²⁹ Why is India so bad at sport?, Nyshka Chandran, CNBC, 20/08/2016, <https://www.cnbc.com/2016/08/19/lack-of-sporting-culture-institutional-support-and-inequality-blamed-for-indias-poor-olympic-record.html>

³⁰ Almost all adolescents in India are malnourished: UNICEF, Neetu Chandra Sharma, Livemint, 31/10/2019, <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/almost-all-adolescents-in-india-are-malnourished-unicef-11572524523471.html>

³¹ Almost all adolescents in India are malnourished: UNICEF, Neetu Chandra Sharma, Livemint, 31/10/2019, <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/almost-all-adolescents-in-india-are-malnourished-unicef-11572524523471.html>

³² Almost all adolescents in India are malnourished: UNICEF, Neetu Chandra Sharma, Livemint, 31/10/2019, <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/almost-all-adolescents-in-india-are-malnourished-unicef-11572524523471.html>

³³ Almost all adolescents in India are malnourished: UNICEF, Neetu Chandra Sharma, Livemint, 31/10/2019, <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/almost-all-adolescents-in-india-are-malnourished-unicef-11572524523471.html>

opportunities for marginalized/disadvantaged communities, prevalence of crimes by and against them, and rising incidence of mental health concerns. The growing proportion of young people in India is actually manifesting itself as an opportunity gap that must be bridged by early investment in their learning and overall development. A focussed approach towards youth development and empowerment involving all stakeholders is the need of the hour. This would result in the development of an educated and healthy young population, who are not only economically productive, but are also socially responsible and contribute positively towards the growth of the society.

Objective of this study & key takeaways from previous exercises

One of the key challenges in advocating for a greater focus on the youth is that there has been no systematic review of the universe of youth-specific policies. While assessments have been done, most of the work has been done in silos with focus on specific issues such as reproductive rights or employment, separately.

To support advocacy for the concerns of the youth, in this note, we will specifically focus on analysing the Union Budget of India from a “youth development” lens. This exercise will be along the lines of other budgetary exercises such as *gender budgeting* that looks at the budget from the perspective of gender. The purpose of a gender budgeting exercise is that it makes it possible to visualize how budgetary expenditures impact the socioeconomic status and opportunities of women, and men, as well as the aspects of equality between men and women. Similarly, analysing the budget from a youth policy lens will provide a better idea of the government’s priorities and the impact of its allocations on the development of youth. The outcomes of this exercise can be used to make a determination of the effort required to ensure youth mainstreaming across sectors and policy areas.

Before we delve into our framework, it is important to understand the processes currently followed in the gender budgeting exercise undertaken in India and the limitations of this exercise. Acknowledging the criticism of this exercise and drawing learnings from it will enable us to adopt a more nuanced approach while looking at the budget from a youth lens.

Although the gender budgeting exercise has been an integral part of the budgeting process in India for over 15 years, a performance assessment conducted by the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) suggests that outcomes have been less than satisfactory. One of the primary challenges in the gender budgeting exercise is the identification of the schemes that impact women. While it is relatively

easy to identify specifically targeted programs, the real challenge is the identification of non-targeted schemes and analysing their allocations from a gender lens.³⁴

There are also other issues that plague the gender budgeting exercise. For instance, all these years the focus in gender budgeting has continued to be on expenditures rather than outcomes. Not enough attention has been given to the entire budget cycle that includes preparation, allocation, prioritisation, execution, monitoring, and evaluation.³⁵ Lastly, not enough analysis has been carried out before launching a scheme (ex ante) and after implementation (ex post) to understand its true impact on women.³⁶

Similar challenges are bound to affect any other exercise that attempts to look at the budget from the point of view of a particular community, such as the youth budgetary analysis carried out in this study. And while we would have liked to undertake a tighter evaluation that considers actual outcomes while quantifying budgetary priorities, given the limited scope and timeline of this particular exercise, we would be focusing on expenditures alone. We understand the limitations of such an approach; however, we would like to put forward this piece of work as a first step in a more comprehensive youth-budgeting exercise.

Methodology

In this note, we will attempt to carry out the foundational step essential for youth budgeting i.e. an identification of schemes that are directly targeted at youth as well as those that impact the youth indirectly. We will use the following framework to bucket schemes and carry out our analysis:

1. Focus on priority areas as identified in the National Youth Policy, 2014 i.e. education, employment and skill development, entrepreneurship, health and healthy lifestyle, sports, promotion of social values, community engagement, participation in politics and governance, youth engagement, inclusion and social justice, and use these as key buckets for categorization of schemes.
2. Map the above focus areas to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as Restless Development's three key thematic areas (1) living and livelihood; (2)

³⁴ A case study of gender responsive budgeting in India, Lekha Chakraborty, The Commonwealth, https://consultations.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/consultation-template/update-world-bank-group-gender-strategy-consultations/submissions/grb_papers_india_updf_final.pdf

³⁵ Fifteen years of gender budgeting in India: A Retrospective, Ashok Lahiri, Ideas for India, 29/10/2019, <https://www.ideasforindia.in/topics/social-identity/fifteen-years-of-gender-budgeting-in-india-a-retrospective.html>

³⁶ Fifteen years of gender budgeting in India: A Retrospective, Ashok Lahiri, Ideas for India, 29/10/2019, <https://www.ideasforindia.in/topics/social-identity/fifteen-years-of-gender-budgeting-in-india-a-retrospective.html>

sexual rights, and (3) voice of the youth.³⁷ The framework basis which the schemes will be mapped is illustrated below.

National Youth Policy indicators	Parameters/ Priority Areas (NYP 2014)	Restless Development's thematic areas	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
Create a productive workforce that can make a sustainable contribution to India's economic development	1. Education 2. Employment and skill development 3. Entrepreneurship	1. Living and livelihood 2. Voice (Leadership and political representation)	1. SDG 4 – Quality Education 2. SDG 8 – Decent work and economic growth
Develop a strong and healthy generation equipped to take on future challenges	1. Health and Healthy Lifestyle 2. Sports	1. Living and livelihood 2. Sexual rights	SDG 3 – Good health and well-being
Instil social values and promote community service to build national ownership	1. Promotion of social values 2. Community Engagement	1. Living and livelihood 2. Voice (Leadership and political representation)	
Facilitate participation and civic engagement at all levels of governance	1. Participation in politics and governance 2. Youth engagement	1. Living and livelihood 2. Voice (Leadership and political representation)	
Support youth at risk and create equitable opportunity for all disadvantaged & marginalised youth	1. Inclusion 2. Social Justice	1. Living and livelihood 2. Sexual rights 3. Voice (Leadership and political representation)	1. SDG 5 – Gender Equality 2. SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities

3. Identify government policies/ schemes under each bucket and analyse budgetary allocations for the identified interventions in the last 5 years.

4. To keep the exercise manageable, follow a few rules/ guidelines:

³⁷ Note: Voice pertains to leadership qualities of the youth and their representation in policymaking and governance

- a. Set the threshold at a minimum outlay of 100 crores INR for a scheme to be included in the mapping. This will allow us to avoid noise in the analysis by dropping a large number of schemes that otherwise carry minor outlays.
- b. For allocations made towards research institutions, consider only those research institutions whose research work focuses on youth specific issues. For institutions of higher learning, map allocations to the youth budget regardless of the subject matter.

"This is the budget to boost their [the people's] incomes and enhance their purchasing power. **Only through higher growth we can achieve that and have our youth gainfully and meaningfully employed..... For today's youth born at the turn of the century**, for every member of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who seeks a better life, for every woman wishing to stand up and get counted, for every individual from the minority sections of our society – **this Budget aims to have your aspirations and hopes addressed.**"

How has the government been focusing on the youth?

The measures announced by the Finance Minister in the 2020 Union budget primarily focus on access to education, upskilling for better jobs, and healthcare. In terms of the first two, the budget proposes a total outlay of Rs. 99,300 crore for the Ministry of Human Resource Development (for education) and Rs. 3,000 crore for the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.³⁸ The Finance Minister also announced that a new education policy will be put out soon. For the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, an allocation of Rs. 67,784 crore has been made.³⁹ These amounts cover administrative expenses of running the Ministry, and in the case of healthcare, are meant to serve a wider section of the population, and not just the youth.

In addition to the budgeted spending catalogued above, various other ministries have also earmarked spending on youth focused schemes and institutions. For instance, the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) has set aside money for schemes for adolescent girls. Some of these schemes aim to improve the health and nutrition status of young girls, while others are meant to tackle gaps in areas of counselling, life skill education, access to public services etc.

³⁸ Budget 2020: 9 key announcements for India's youth, Business Today, 01/02/2020, <https://www.businesstoday.in/union-budget-2020/news/budget-2020-9-key-announcements-for-india-youth-fm-sitharaman-budget-speech-budget-for-education-sector-jobs-employment/story/395251.html>

³⁹ Healthcare allocation in Budget 2020 5.7% lower than last budget, PB Jayakumar, 01/02/2020, <https://www.businesstoday.in/union-budget-2020/decoding-the-budget/healthcare-allocation-budget-2020-5-7%-lower-last-budget/story/395265.html>

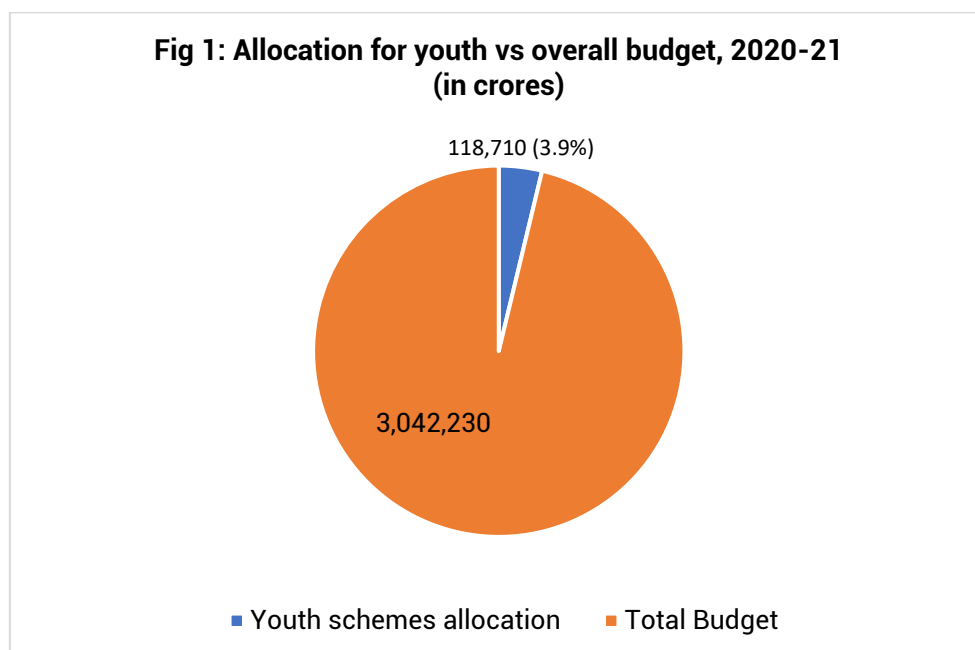
Ministries such as the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Ministry of Minority Affairs have planned interventions to focus on the needs of the youth from disadvantaged sections of the society. Examples include investments in infrastructure of educational and skill development facilities for minorities and people from tribal areas, scholarships and hostel facilities for students, and support for the differently-abled in the form of financial assistance and provision of a barrier-free environment. Other Ministries such as the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises have budgeted for interventions to support research and entrepreneurship. While these interventions are not exclusively availed by the youth, they do offer opportunities for the youth to progress.

So, how has the Government's focus on youth evolved over the last five years? How does the actual expenditure compare with budget estimates? Which areas of development have received more attention in comparison to others? We will attempt to answer these questions in the sections that follow.

Overall trends in budgetary allocations

%age of the Budget focusing on the youth

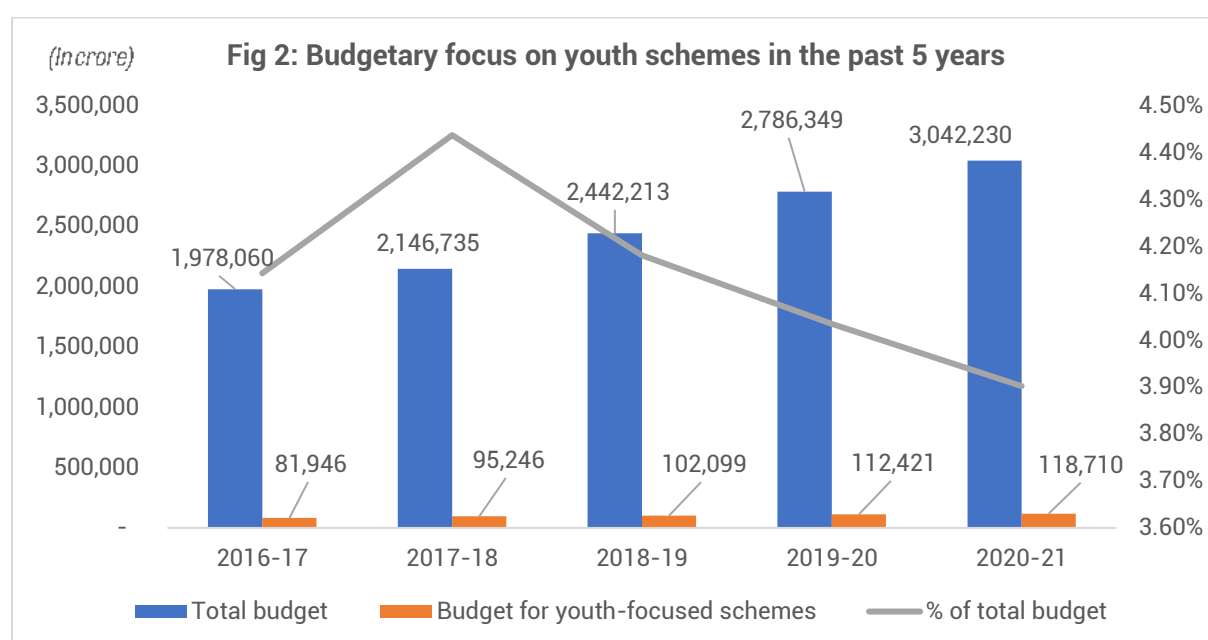
We analysed the amount of funding allocated to youth-focused schemes and compared it with the overall budget estimate set out for the year 2020.



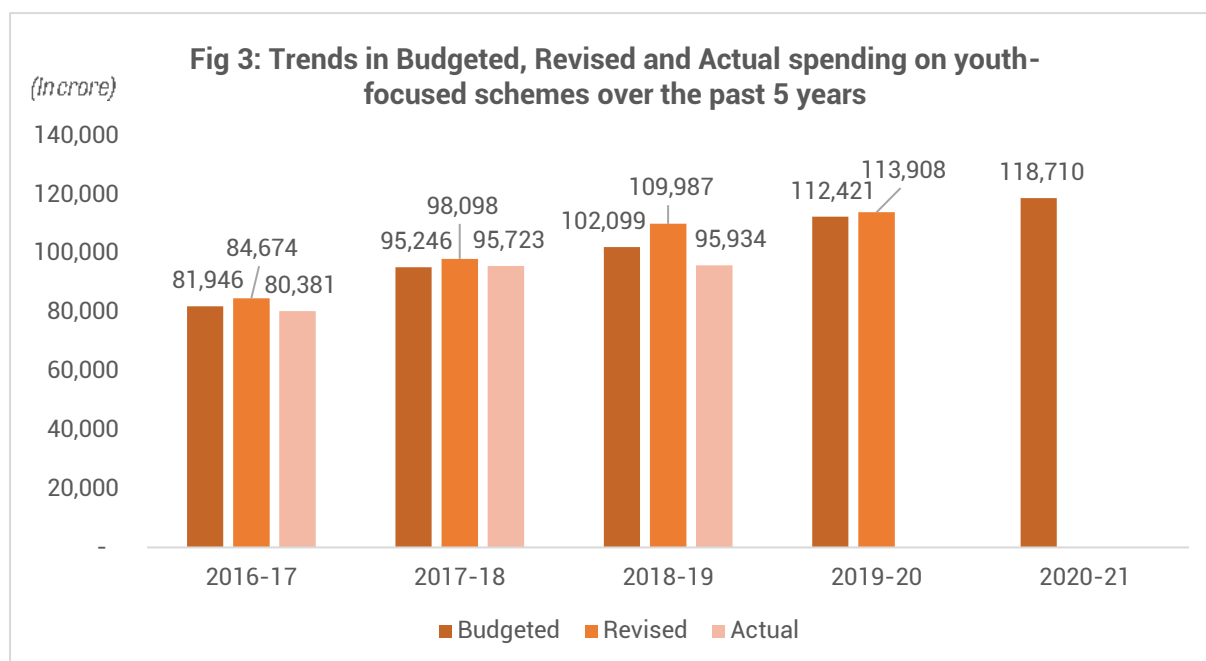
In this year's budget, out of the total Rs. 3,042,230 crores that the government proposes to spend, Rs. 1,18,710 crores (~3.90% of the total allocation) has been set aside for youth-focused schemes. This allocation is divided across schemes in priority

areas identified under the National Youth Policy 2014, namely education, employment and skill development, sports, health and healthy lifestyle, social justice/inclusion, community engagement and political representation. A detailed list of these schemes is provided in the annexure and the trends in *youth-focused allocations* in the Union Budget over the last five years are presented in the next figure.⁴⁰

It is important to highlight here that the *youth-focused allocations* identified here do not include schemes that are also available to other members of the community. For instance, while the Ayushman Bharat scheme launched by the government to improve access to healthcare is available to the youth, it is not targeted at the youth only and can be accessed by everyone in the community. As such, it is difficult to delineate the spending on youth and therefore, such non-targeted schemes have not been included in our analysis.



⁴⁰ Budgeted estimates (BE) are budget allocations announced at the beginning of each financial year basis the announcements made by the Finance Minister and passed by Parliament. Revised Estimates (RE) are mid-year estimates of the projected expenditure until the end of the financial year. Actual Estimates (AE) are audited accounts for expenditure incurred in the year. While BE are available right after the budget, RE and AE become available at later periods. In cases where AE or RE are lesser than BE, it indicates that the government was unable to spend the approved budget on the scheme in question.



Note: The Revised Estimates for 2020-21 and the Actuals for 2019-20 haven't been formulated yet

From figure 2 above, it can be seen that the proportion of funding allocated to youth focused schemes has declined in recent years; in fact, it is at its lowest in the 2020-21 budget. Having said that, actual spending has largely been in line with budgeted estimates, which means that the government has managed to fulfil spending commitments announced in the budget.

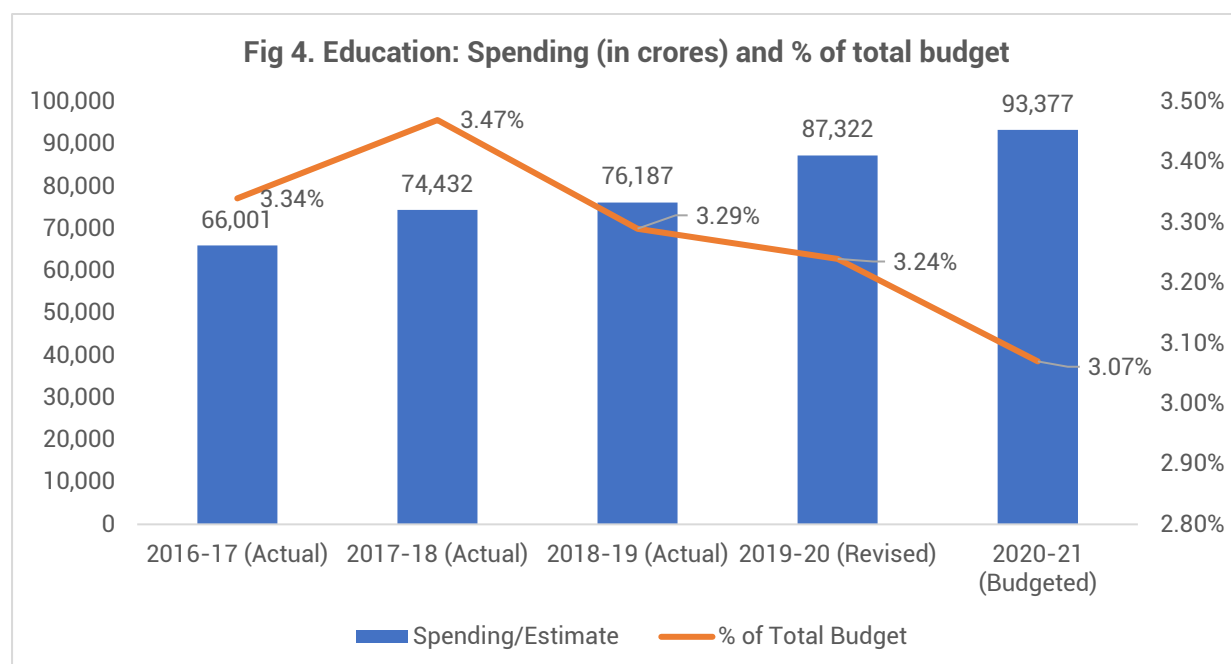
Theme-wise trends in budgetary allocations

To get a better understanding of the budgetary priorities of the government, we now deep-dive into each of the main themes listed under the National Youth Policy 2014. It is important to highlight here that some schemes cut across themes. For instance, scholarships for tribal students are both a part of education, as well as social justice and inclusion. As such, they have included under both categories.

Education

Bulk of the targeted expenditure on youth over the last few years has been on education by way of various ministries such as the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MoHRD), Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Minority Affairs, and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The schemes under the purview of these ministries specifically focus on promoting inclusive education, building capacity of technical and higher education, improving the standards of basic education and establishing a body of

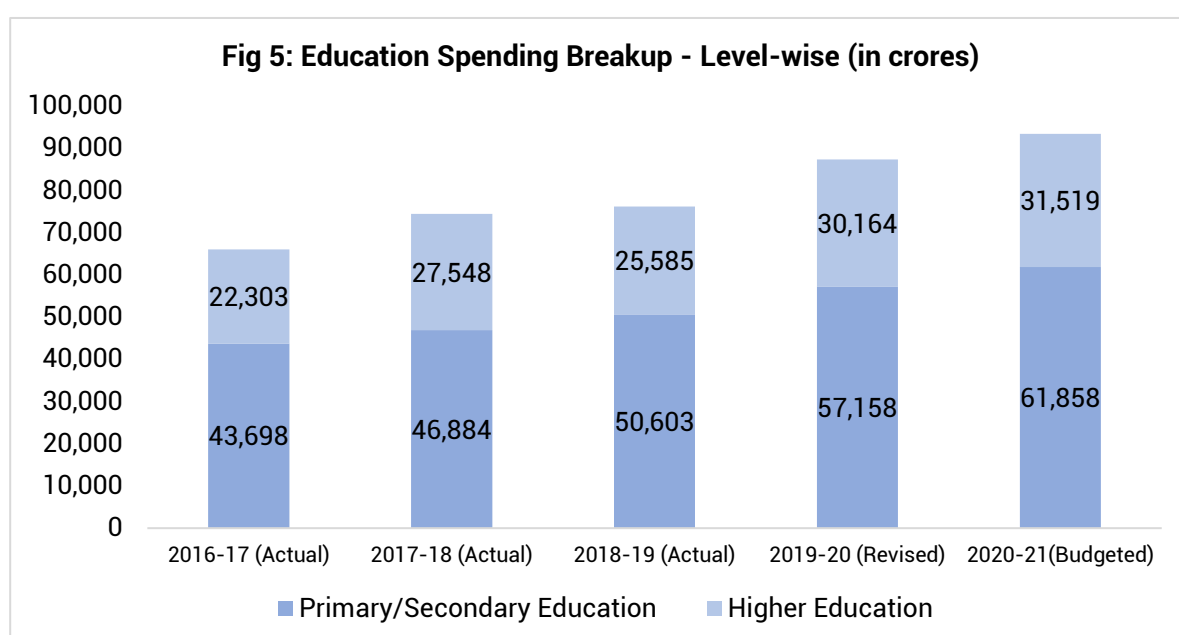
skilled teachers. The graph below provides a picture of the spending on educational schemes for the youth over the last five years.



Key Insights

1. **Large share of funding for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Samagra Shiksha Abhiyaan:** Between 2016 and 2019, a significant portion of the education funding went into the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). With devolutions in the range of 22,000 – 25,000 crores, the SSA focused on universalisation of primary education for children between the ages of 6 to 14.

Since 2019, this scheme has been subsumed under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, an overarching intervention for the school education sector (from pre-



Note: Schemes under the Ministry of Human Resource Development have been bucketed according to the department they fall under (i.e. higher education, or school education and literacy). For other Ministries, schemes have been bucketed basis the targeted beneficiaries, except in cases where schemes can be availed by beneficiaries across education levels. In such cases, we have categorized the scheme basis the predominant area of spending.

school to class 12), with the broader goal of providing equal opportunities for schooling and equitable learning outcomes. It subsumes the three schemes of SSA, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE). The government spent Rs. 36,274 crores on the scheme in 2019 (RE) and allocated Rs. 38,750 crores to it in this year's budget.

2. **Similar growth in allocations across education levels:** Allocations to both school education (primary and secondary) and higher education have increased at a similar rate, ~9% CAGR over the past five years. As a result, the share of primary and secondary education in the total spending on education has also remained largely similar, around 65%.
3. **EQUIP and Mid-day meal schemes are other major interventions:** The Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme (EQUIP) is a comprehensive program for students enrolled in higher education programmes. This initiative aims to improve access, promote inclusion, quality, excellence, and enhance employability in higher education by implementing strategic interventions in the sector over a five-year period (2019–24). EQUIP witnessed a major increase in allocated funds, from 0.01 crores in 2019–2020 to 1,413 crores in this budget.

The Mid-Day Meal scheme in schools is the other program that has been receiving consistently high funding from the government since 2016. The spending on this scheme has remained in the range of Rs. 9,000–11,000 crores over the past few years.

4. **Majority of the higher education funding goes towards autonomous institutes:** Autonomous institutions that target students attending undergraduate and graduate programs, such as the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs), Indian Institute of Science etc. have been consistently receiving high allocations. The cumulative devolution to these institutes amounts to Rs. 23,492 crores in this year's budget. This is equivalent to 74.53% of the spending on higher education identified above.
5. **Steep fall in allocations to RUSA:** The allocation towards the Rashtriya Uchhatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), conceptualized to provide strategic funding to eligible state higher educational institutions, has seen a steep decline, from Rs. 1,380 crores (2019–20 RE) to Rs. 300 crores (2020–21 BE).

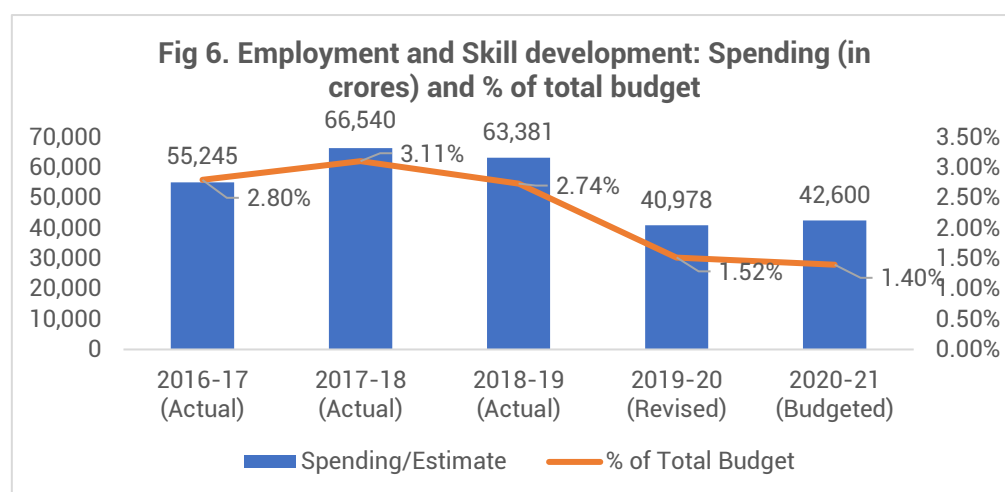
6. **A considerable chunk of the funding goes to schemes for youth from the marginalized communities:** Programs for the education of young students from the disadvantaged sections of the society have also been receiving considerable funding from the government. Tribal education programs under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and educational empowerment schemes under the Ministry of Minority Affairs and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment are the big programs under this category.

Employment and skill development

Youth must be appropriately skilled to ensure employability and to prevent demand-supply mismatches in the labour market. In order to promote employment of youth, Gol has taken a two-pronged approach, namely, (i) enabling skill development⁴¹ by way of schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) and the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDUGKY), and (ii) implementing direct employment/ social security programs for lower skilled individuals by running initiatives such as the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan. While a large percentage of the beneficiaries of these schemes are youth, it is important to note that, in terms of eligibility, most skilling or employment schemes are not restricted to the youth only.

Schemes for specific disadvantaged groups are also similarly structured. For instance, although the Scheme for Implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (SIPDA) comprises of components such as training of disabled children, teacher training programs and skill development modules, it aims to provide equal opportunities and protection of rights for people with disabilities across all age groups.⁴²

The chart below shows the year-wise spending on skilling and employability programs.

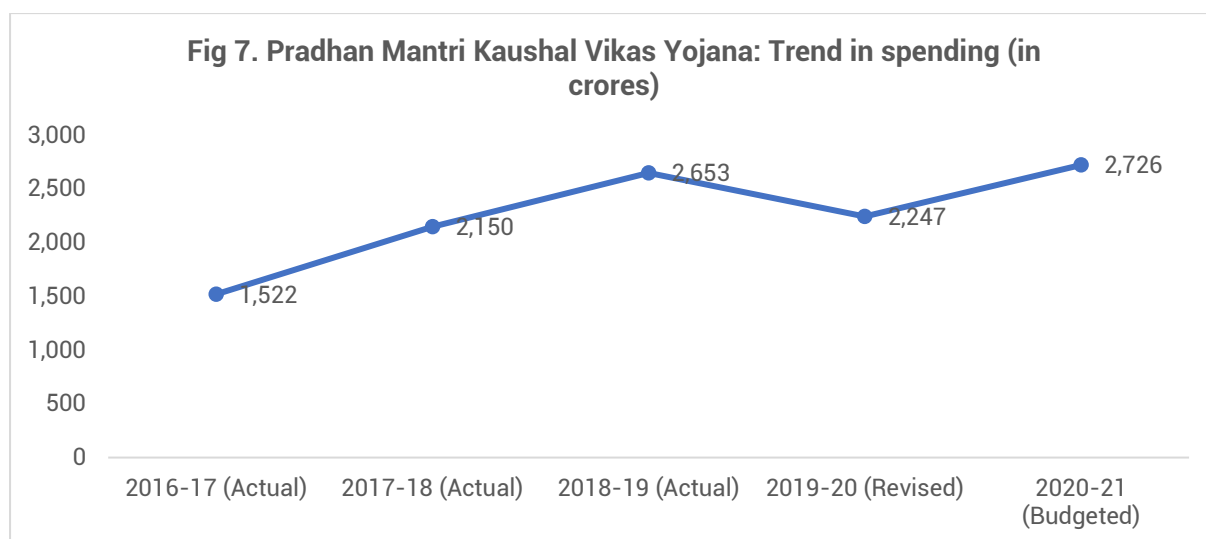


⁴¹ We have kept employment and skill development as a separate head, and not bucketed skilling with education, mainly to align our framework with the premise of the NYP, 2014.

⁴² Scheme for Implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (SIPDA), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, <http://disabilityaffairs.gov.in/content/page/sipda.php>

Key Insights

1. **Allocations for skill development schemes have shown steady increase:** One of the flagship schemes for skilling is the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), the implementation of which is overseen by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). The scheme was designed to provide soft skills training to 10 million youth over four years, from 2016 to 2020. PMKVY has received an allocation of 2,726 crores in this year's budget, a steady increase over the previous years.



Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) under the National Rural Livelihood Mission, is another flagship skilling scheme. However, this is much smaller than PMKVY and has not been included in our analysis as a targeted scheme, mainly because it figures in the budget under the overarching National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) and the spending on this scheme has been below 100 crore over the past few years.⁴³

2. **Continued focus on innovation and entrepreneurship:** The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) under the Ministry of Planning, is a government endeavour to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship among school going children and the youth. After witnessing a significant increase in spending (from Rs. 139 crores in 2017-18 to Rs. 314 crores in 2018-19) the budget for this mission has largely remained stable.
3. **Emphasis on social security for workers in the unorganized sector:** The Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) Scheme by the Ministry of Labour and Employment targets workers in the unorganised sector who are in

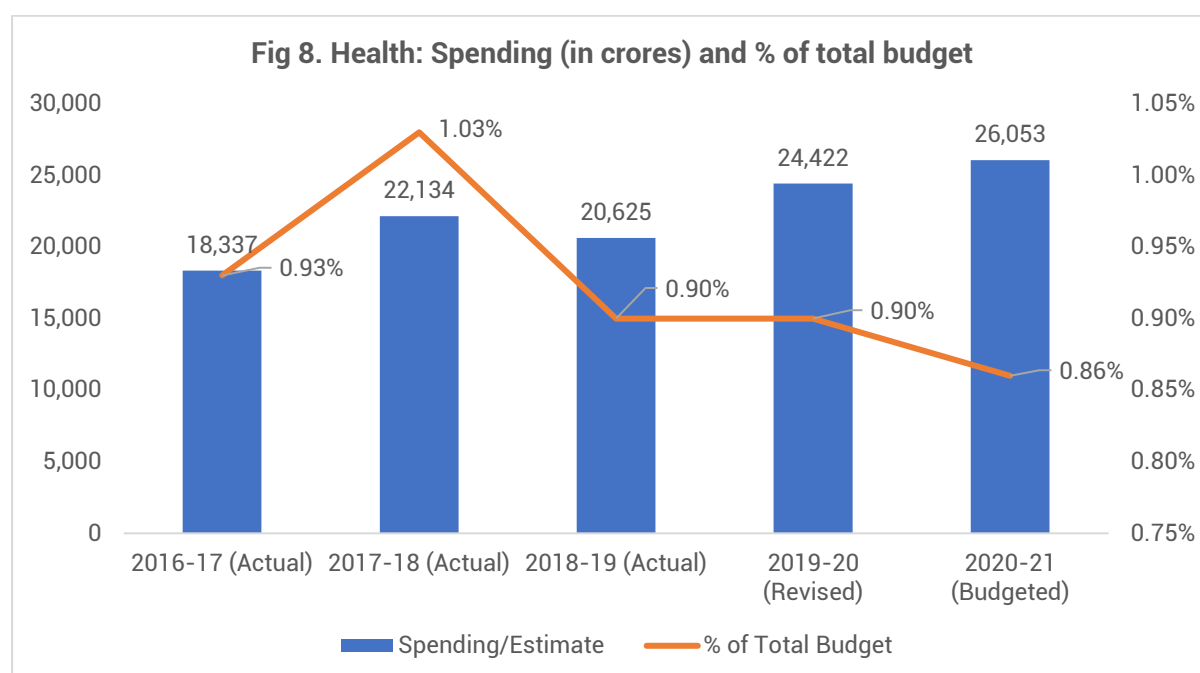
⁴³ Utilisation of funds allocated and unspent balances under Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Ministry of Rural Development, <https://rural.nic.in/sites/default/files/Consolidated.pdf>

the 18–40 age bracket and creates a pension fund for workers who earn less than Rs. 15,000/- a month. The scheme was launched in the year 2019 and hence is relatively new. The allocated amount announced for this year is Rs. 500 crores.

Health and Healthy Lifestyle

In addition to providing a broad array of healthcare services, there are a few issues such as sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), nutrient deprivation, mental health concerns etc. that require a targeted approach. In this context, various initiatives have been taken by the government, in particular by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD).

Overall, there are a large number of healthcare interventions run by the government, including big-ticket ones such as Ayushman Bharat. However, very few are specifically targeted at the youth.



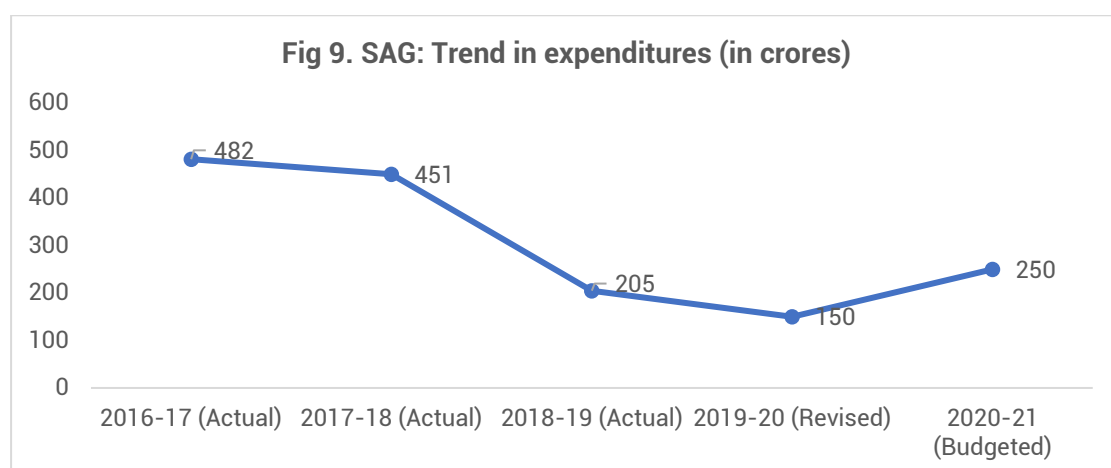
Key insights

- Schemes under MoWCD have shown varying trends in expenditure:** The Ministry of Women and Child Development handles the implementation of three schemes that target the youth, especially women: (1) Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, (2) Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG), and the (3) National Nutrition Mission (POSHAN Abhiyaan).

The Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana is a maternity benefits program for eligible pregnant women and lactating mothers for the first live birth. Over the

past five years, there have been wide fluctuations in expenditure under the scheme. The BE for this year is 2,500. However, only Rs. 1,055 crores were spent in the year 2018-19 and only Rs. 75.46 crores in 2016-17.

The “Scheme for adolescent girls” (SAG), earlier called the ‘Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls – SABLA’, is a centrally sponsored scheme that was introduced in the year 2010-11. SAG aims at all-rounded development of adolescent girls of 11-18 years of age, with a special focus on out-of-school girls. One of the main components of the scheme is addressing nutrition deficiency through Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) supplementation, health check-ups & referral services. Expenditures under the scheme have been decreasing over the past few years, as is evident through the chart below.



The National Nutrition Mission or the POSHAN Abhiyaan is Gol’s flagship program that was set up with the aim of improving nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers. Although the services under this scheme cover women from all age-groups, the scheme plays a major role in improving the health needs of adolescent girls and young women. The government’s spending on this scheme has increased significantly over the past 5 years. In the year 2016-17, the actual spending on this scheme was Rs. 199 crores; in this year’s budget, the scheme has been allocated Rs. 3,700 crores.

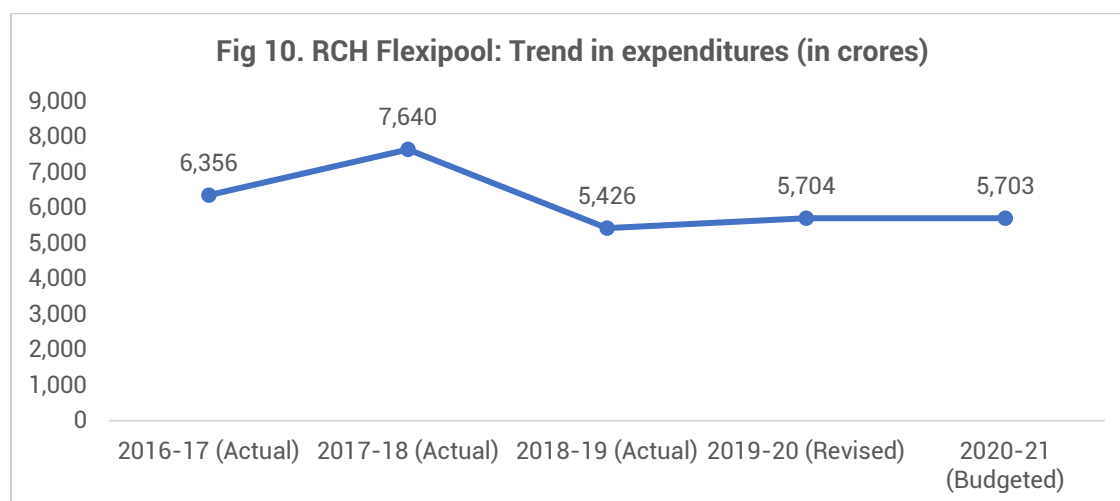
2. **The budget for the National AIDS and STD Control Programme has steadily increased:** The National AIDS and STD Control Programme was launched in 1992 with the twin objectives of (1) reducing the spread of HIV infection in India, and (2) increasing India’s capacity to respond to HIV/AIDS on a long-term basis. While the scheme is not exclusively meant for the youth, young people form a

major beneficiary pool as they are at greater risk due to high sexual activity and in some cases, lack of adequate awareness.⁴⁴

The budgeted amount for the scheme has increased steadily from Rs. 1,700 crore in 2016–17 to Rs. 2,900 crore in 2020–21.

3. **Budgetary spending on Reproductive and Child Health under the National Health Mission has decreased over the last few years:** The Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) programme is a comprehensive sector wide flagship programme, under the umbrella of the National Health Mission (NHM). Six key components of the RCH programme are Maternal Health, Child Health, Nutrition, Family Planning, Adolescent Health (AH) and Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT). Most of these components benefit adolescents and other youth, especially young parents. One important intervention under RCH is the Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) which expands the scope of adolescent health programming from being limited to sexual and reproductive health, to including in its ambit nutrition, injuries and violence (including gender based violence), non-communicable diseases, mental health and substance misuse.⁴⁵

Investments in this programme have decreased since 2017–18, as is evident from the chart below:



⁴⁴ National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS and STI 2017 – 2024, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, 01/12/2017

<http://naco.gov.in/sites/default/files/Paving%20the%20Way%20for%20an%20AIDS%2015122017.pdf>

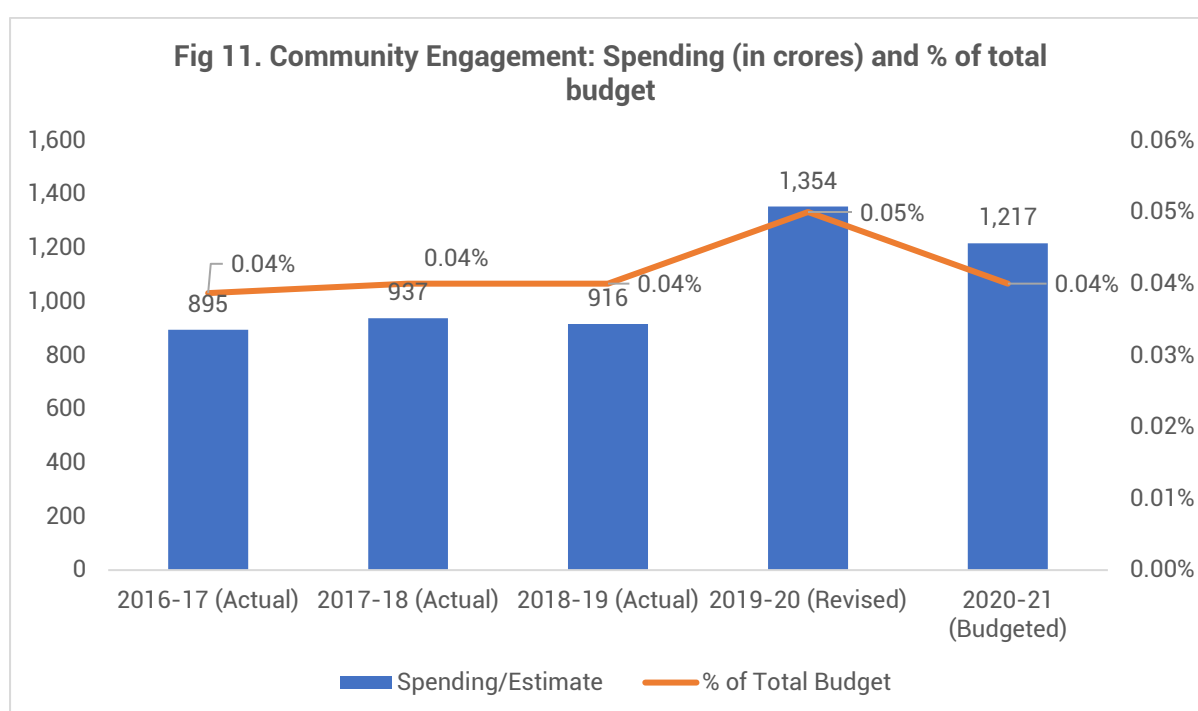
⁴⁵ Reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health programme, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, <https://main.mohfw.gov.in/sites/default/files/5665895455663325.pdf>

Community Engagement

Community engagement programs provide an opportunity to the youth to meaningfully contribute to grassroots development efforts and help make a difference. These programs are also a great way to help the youth build on necessary skills, such as effective communication, leadership etc.

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS) currently runs several schemes in the realm of community engagement. One prominent scheme under its umbrella is the National Service Scheme (NSS). Another area of intervention is investment in capacity building autonomous bodies such as the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan. The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) also runs programs that allow volunteers to get involved in rural development projects and to generate awareness among the rural people. Most of these schemes, however, are not targeted at the youth only.

The trend in expenditure on youth-specific schemes for community engagement is illustrated below.



Key Insights

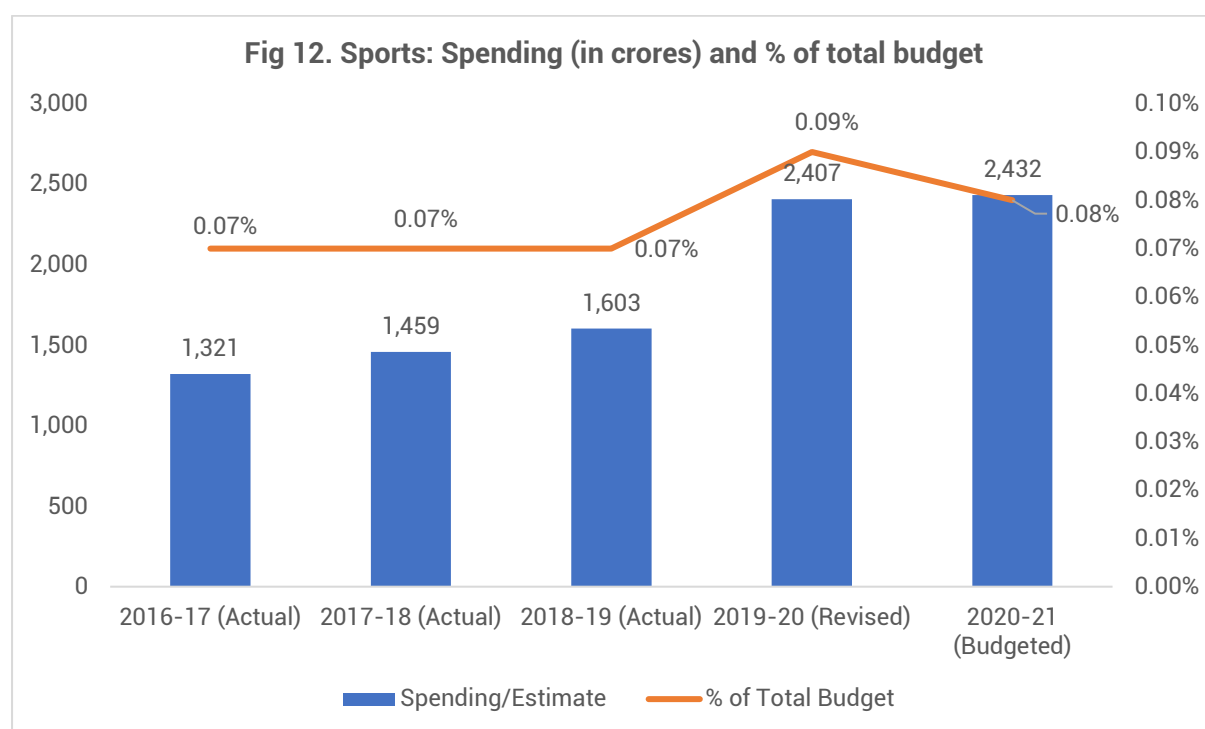
- Allocations have remained uniform over the years:** The NSS targets students in schools and colleges and mobilizes them to take part in various government-led community service activities and programs. The 2020-21 BE for this scheme is Rs. 172 crores. The spending on NSS has remained fairly constant over the past few years.

The spending on autonomous institutions such as the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD) is another significant investment in community engagement initiatives. The NYKS, a grassroots-level youth organisation, provides rural youth with avenues to work towards nation-building. RGNIYD is involved in extension and outreach initiatives and also engages in research for youth development. The amount allocated towards these institutions in this year's budget is Rs. 1,045 crores; the budget in earlier years has been similar.

Sports

Sports and recreational activities form an essential component for the growth and development of young adults. These activities are instrumental in physical, mental and emotional growth. Participation in sports can also inculcate a spirit of striving for excellence and teamwork, both of which help in the holistic development of the youth.

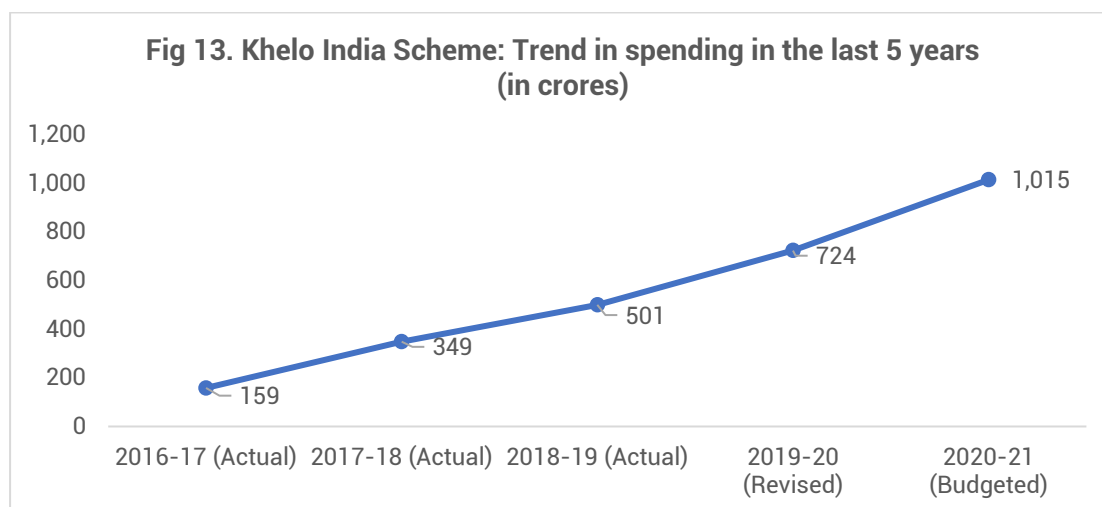
The expenditure on sports as a percentage of the union budget is highlighted below.



Key Insights

1. While there has been an increase in the sports budget over the years, the allocated amount is still a very small fraction of the overall budget: The Khelo India Scheme is a flagship umbrella scheme under the MoYAS. This scheme aims to achieve the twin objectives of broad basing of sports and achieving excellence. The sub-interventions under this scheme focus on different aspects, including enhancement of sports facilities and organising

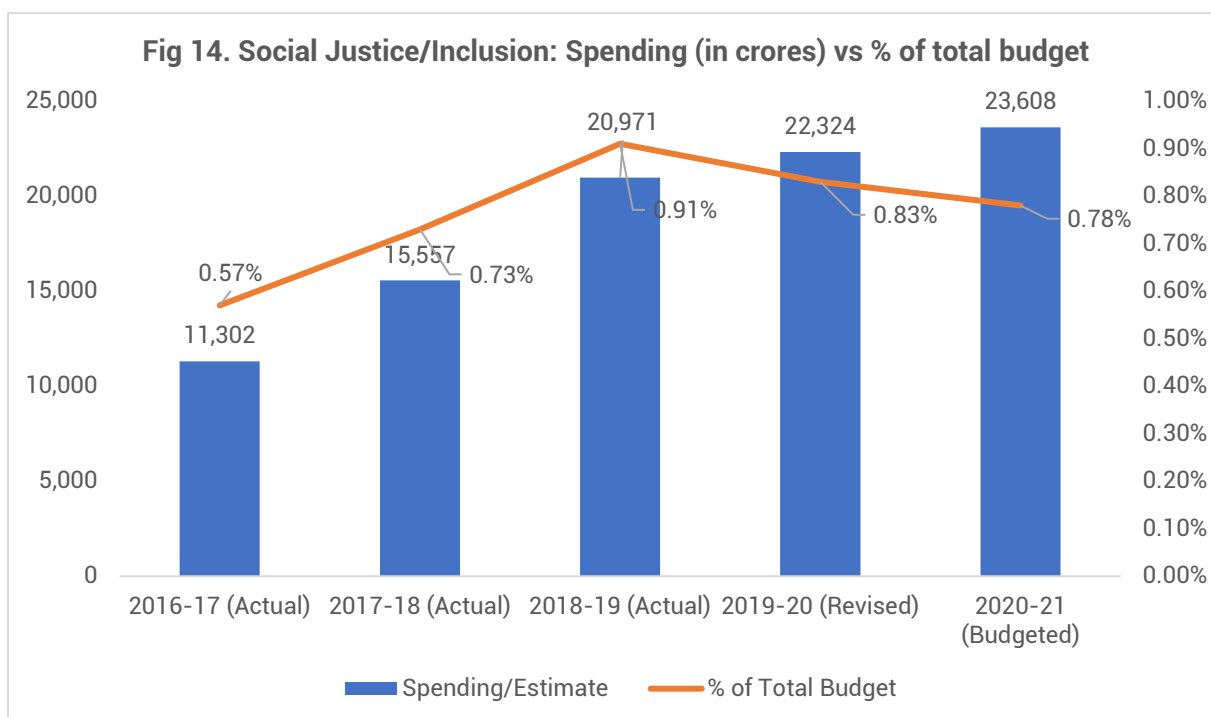
sports festivals. The government has been steadily increasing the spending on this scheme over the last five years



2. **Decrease in funding for encouragement and awards to sportspersons:**
The MoYAS also allocates a significant portion of the sports budget towards encouragement and provision of awards to young sportspersons. The budget also includes financial assistance to sports federations, development of human resource cadre in the field as well as a provision of scholarships at national, state and college level. The BE for this intervention in 2020-21 stands at 372 crores, a significant decrease from last year's revised spending of 496 crores.

Social Justice and Inclusion

There are a number of young people in the country who can be categorized as at-risk or considered marginalised or disadvantaged. Many Ministries are working on addressing the challenges of these youth. For example, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) runs several programs to provide livelihood security and access to education for tribals. A large number of policies are targeted at SC/ST/OBC youth and women with the aim of fostering an inclusive and equitable environment for development. Most of these policies focus on providing education scholarships and hostels, and facilitating credit for supporting self-employment and entrepreneurship. Given the nature of interventions under this head, most schemes in this bucket have also been captured under the education, skill development and employment categories.



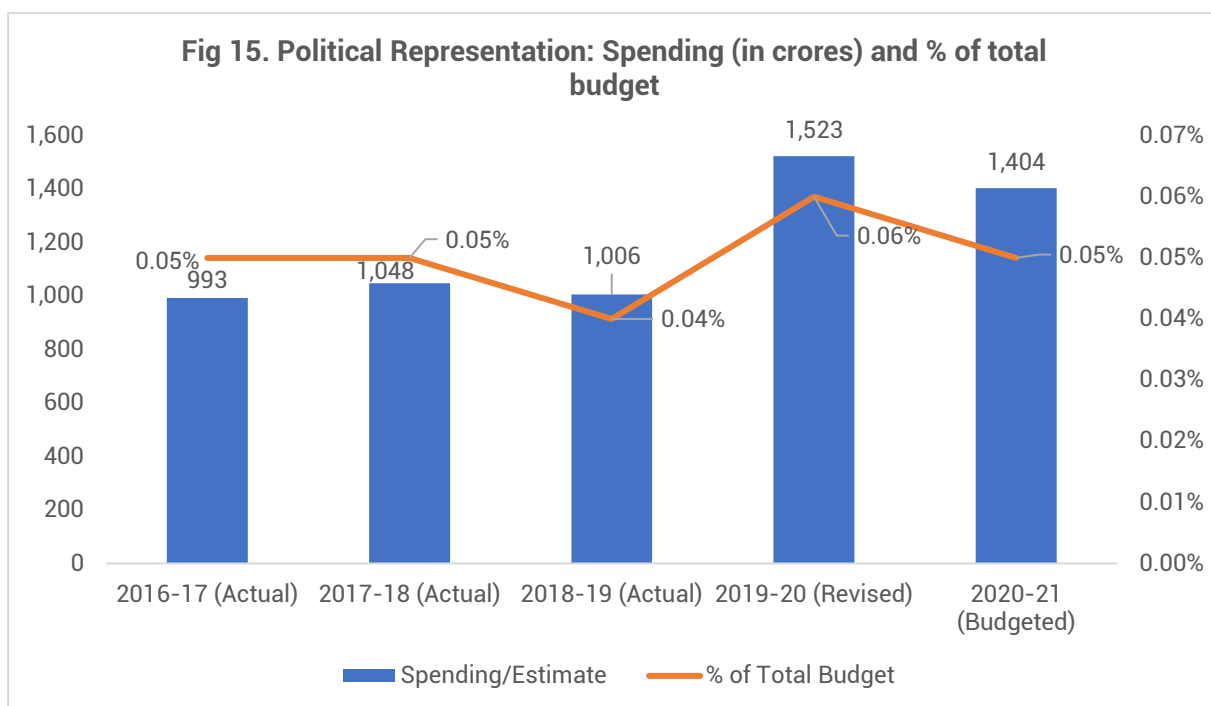
Key Insights

1. **Spending on minority-related schemes has remained largely constant, except a recent jump:** One of the schemes run by the Ministry of Human Resource Development is the Education Scheme for Madrasas and Minorities. This scheme is targeted towards young students enrolled in Madrasas to enable them to attain standards of the National Education System. The spending on this scheme has remained in the range of Rs. 100–120 crores over the last couple of years, with a sudden spike in allocation seen this year with a BE of 220 crores.

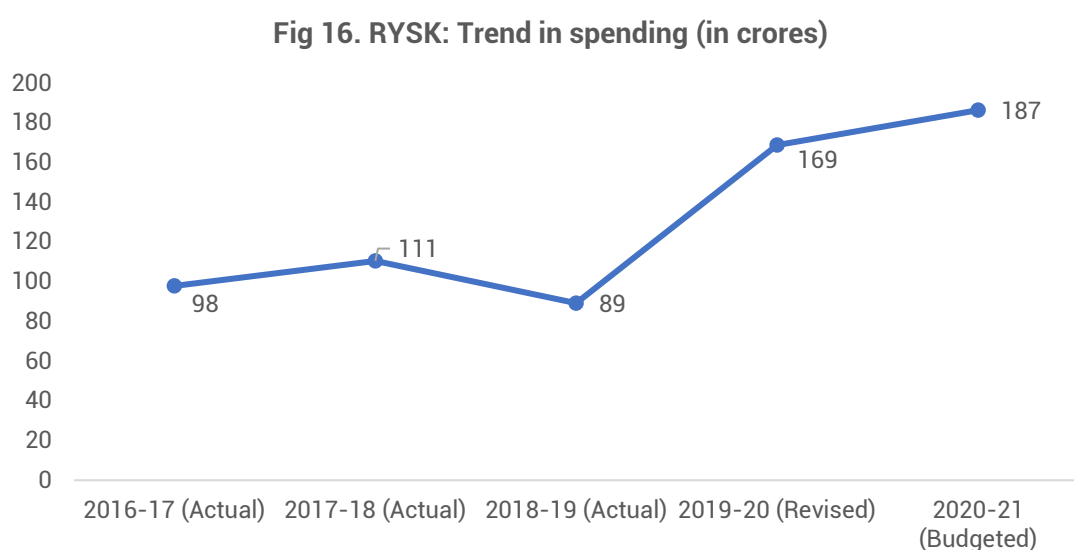
Seekho aur Kamao, a placement-linked skill development program for minorities, run by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, ceased to receive separate allocations after 2018. This change is probably linked with the consolidation of skilling schemes under PMKVY.

Participation in politics and governance

Youth participation and engagement on issues related to politics, democracy, and governance is important for creating the next generation of leaders as well as citizens who can hold their government accountable. A few schemes such as the Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram (RYSK) are especially designed to achieve this aim.



The Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram Scheme, by way of various sub-schemes aims to develop the personality and leadership skills of young people and to engage them in nation building activities. The trend in expenditure on this scheme is highlighted below. **Overall, while there has been some increase in budgetary allocations for participation in politics and governance, the magnitude of change is not substantial**

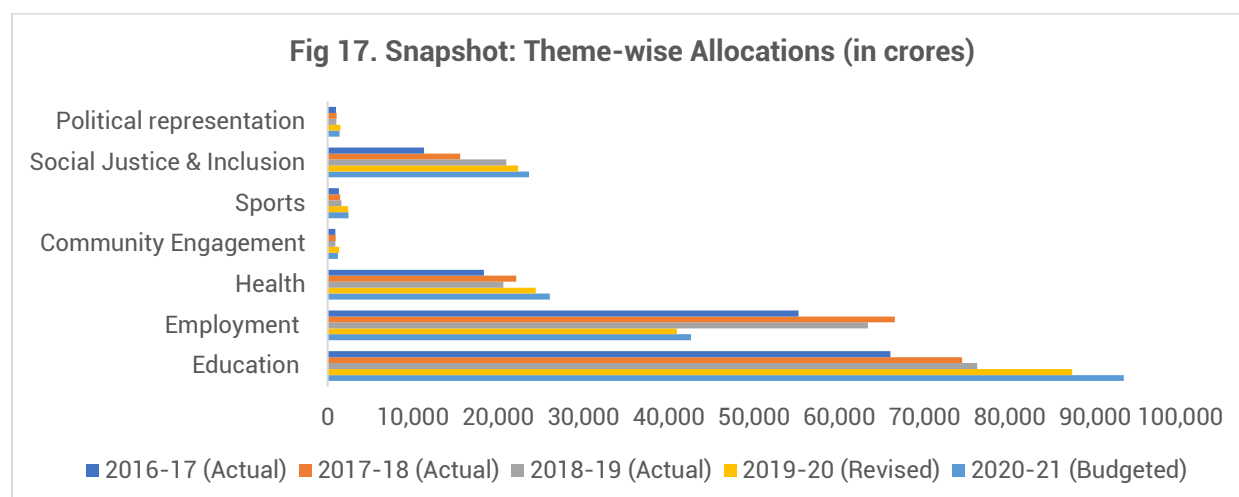


Key takeaways

From the analysis above, it is evident that the government is putting in efforts, by way of different schemes and programs, to help the youth tap their potential. These initiatives cut across development indicators and Restless Development's main thematic areas i.e. i) Living and Livelihoods, ii) Sexual rights and iii) Leadership and Political representation. However, a closer look at the data suggests that the government is focusing on a few aspects more strongly than others.



1. **Of the total budget allocated to youth-focused initiatives, the largest proportion seems to have been earmarked for education, followed by skilling and employment** (see figure 17 below). Within education, there is clearly a strong focus on primary and secondary levels, with approximately 65% of the total education outlay for youth, allocated to these aspects. Considered together with the emphasis on skilling and employment, it is evident that government's strategy for India's youth focuses on building a foundation – through education and gainful employment – to allow the youth to lead a productive and economically independent life.
2. **A significant part of this effort on education, skilling and employment is channelized to disadvantaged or marginalized communities to level the playing field in terms of access to opportunities by running special programs for youth.** The relatively large allocation seen under the Social Justice and Inclusion category in the figure below is a manifestation of this.
3. **Health features as another important area, with large allocations to adolescent nutrition and reproductive and child rights.**



However, despite a wide variety of schemes and initiatives in the government's policy arsenal, a few important concerns still stand out:

1. **The quantum of resources allocated to youth pales in comparison with the size of their demographic:** According to estimates put out by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI), 34.1% of India's population is estimated to be in the age bracket 15–34 by 2021.⁴⁶ The percentage of people in the age bracket 10–34 (the bracket used in this study) will be even higher. Yet, as is evident from the analysis presented in this document, the budgetary allocation on youth-focused interventions is only 3.9% of the total budgetary outlay in 2020–21. This is not meant to suggest that the youth do not benefit from the other, more broadly available, schemes run by the government. Of course, they do. However, the fact that youth-focused schemes constitute only 3.9% of the overall budget suggests that a dedicated focus towards this large demographic is lacking.
2. **All issues concerning the youth are also not adequately dealt with.** In the challenges section, for instance, we had identified that mental health concerns continue to affect young adults in India. Yet, there is no large-scale focused program to address this problem. The only outlay towards mental health is in the form of disbursements to autonomous institutes such as the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuroscience, Bangalore. In fact, the total outlay towards such autonomous institutes in the 2020–21 budget is only Rs. 488 crores. This too, and understandably so, is not focused on the youth.
3. **Similar is the case with government's efforts towards improving the participation of young people in the political process.** Although, schemes such as RYSK aim to develop the leadership qualities of the youth, whether the outcomes of these interventions have translated into youth participation in governance remains doubtful.

⁴⁶ Youth in India, 2017, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, http://mospi.nic.in/sites/default/files/publication_reports/Youth_in_India-2017.pdf

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India is one of the youngest countries in the world and if we wish to leverage our demographic dividend, there needs to a strong and concerted effort towards youth development. This requires a review of existing government programs to understand their scale of influence and their efficacy in helping the youth overcome challenges.

As a first step, the government can derive lessons from its gender-budgeting experience and establish a similar framework to map (and measure) its efforts for youth development. It will also help to collect and report age-disaggregated data for all its programs and interventions. If undertaken, such an initiative can help clearly identify the schemes that impact the youth, and measure the distributional impacts of public expenditure across the population more clearly.



Appendix – List of youth-focused schemes

Ministry	Scheme/Intervention/ Head	Targeting details	Description
Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education)	Rashtriya Uchhatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) National Education Mission (NEM)	Targets students enrolled in graduate, post graduate and PhD programs	RUSA focuses on higher education institutions. It aims to improve institutional capacity, enrolment rates and equitable access to regionally deprived and socio-economically backward classes in the society.
Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education)	Projects in Higher Education	Targets students enrolled in higher education programs	This package includes devolutions towards building educational institutes including a finance agency and a girls hostel.
Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education)	Autonomous Bodies	Targets students attending programs in universities	This is the cumulative devolution to institutes like the IIT, IIIT, NIT, IISc, IIM and others institutes of higher education.
Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education)	Student Financial Aid	College and university students are primary beneficiaries for funds devolved as scholarships under this component	This is a package of scholarships given out to college and university students.
Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education)	Digital India e-learning platform	Focuses on improving educational outcomes for students enrolled in higher ed. programs	Digital India e-learning aims to leverage the potential of ICT, in teaching and learning process for the benefit of all the learners in Higher Education Institutions.

Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education)	Programme for Apprenticeship Training	Targets young budding professionals who are about to enter the job market after completion of higher education	This program provides opportunities for practical training to graduate engineers, diploma holders and 12th vocational pass outs in industrial establishments.
Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education)	Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme (EQUIP)	Targets students enrolled in higher education programs	EQUIP aims to enhance access, inclusion, quality, excellence, and employability in higher education.
Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of School Education and Literacy)	Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan National Education Mission (NEM)	Targets adolescents in the age group of 6–14 years	Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan aims to give free education to all children in the age group of 6–14.
Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of School Education and Literacy)	Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan National Education Mission (NEM)	Targets students enrolled in secondary education	Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan has a similar mandate as the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. It was launched to cater to the increased demand for access to Secondary Education.
Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of School Education and Literacy)	Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan		This scheme was launched in 2019 as an overarching scheme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class 12, with the broader goal of providing equal opportunities for schooling and equitable learning outcomes. It subsumes the three schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE).
Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of School Education and Literacy)	National Programme of Mid-Day Meal in Schools	Young adolescents enrolled in schools from I–VIII grades.	To enhance enrolment, retention and attendance, and simultaneously improve nutritional standards among children enrolled in schools.

Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of School Education and Literacy)	Education Scheme for Madrasas and Minorities	Young students enrolled in Madrasas	This scheme seeks to improve education in Madrasas to enable Muslim children to attain standards of the National Education System.
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health and Family Welfare)	National AIDS and STD Control Programme	Although this is not restricted to youth, statistics suggest that a significantly higher proportion of the youth suffer from STDs, and hence are likely to be major beneficiaries	Grants are provided to the State/UT/Municipal AIDS Control Societies for implementing strategies of the National AIDS and STD Control Programme.
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health and Family Welfare)	RCH Flexible Pool including Routine Immunization Programme, Pulse Polio Immunization Programme, National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme etc.	Although the scheme does not explicitly focus on youth, targeted beneficiaries include adolescents and youth entering the workforce	This includes schemes like the Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) which aims to improve health outcomes for adolescents. The package also has components aimed at improving health through immunisation and vaccine programs.
Ministry of Minority Affairs	Seekho aur Kamao – Skill Development Initiatives	Targets youth from minority communities	Seekho aur Kamao is a placement linked skill development scheme for minorities which aims to upgrade the skills of minority youth in various modern/traditional skills and help them find suitable employment. It ceased to receive separate allocations after 2018.

Ministry of Minority Affairs	Skill Development and Livelihoods	Targets minorities. Although not restricted to youth per se, young people are the major beneficiaries of skill development initiatives	Includes Nai Manzil – the Integrated Educational and Livelihood Initiative, Upgrading Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development (USTTAD), Scheme for Leadership Development of Minority Women etc.
Ministry of Minority Affairs	Umbrella Programme for Development of Minorities	Minority students and youth are significant beneficiaries	This Umbrella Scheme includes interventions mostly focused on infrastructure development for education and employment facilities.
Ministry of Minority Affairs	Education Empowerment	Targets students who are minorities	Provision of pre and post-metric scholarships, and Merit-cum-Means Scholarships for professional and technical courses for minority students, as well as other fellowships, educational loans and interest subsidies for students.
Ministry of MSME	Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and Other Credit Support Schemes	Youth are significant beneficiaries	PMEGP aims to provide support to traditional artisans/ rural and urban unemployed youth and give them self-employment opportunities.
Ministry of MSME	Entrepreneurship and Skill Development	Although not restricted to youth per se, young people are the major beneficiaries of skill development initiatives	This package includes devolutions for schemes like the Rajiv Gandhi Udyami Mitra Yojana (RGUMY) and institutes like the Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Rural Industrialization that cater to the goals of improving access to finance for first time entrepreneurs and industrialization in the rural economy.

Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports	National Service Scheme	The NSS targets students enrolled in the 11 th and 12 th grades and also university students	The National Service Scheme provides an opportunity to students to take part in various government led community service activities & programs.
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports	Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakaram	Targets all youth	The Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram Scheme aims to develop the personality and leadership qualities of the youth to engage them in nation building activities.
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports	Encouragement and Awards to Sportspersons	Young sports persons who achieve excellence in their category of sports	This package includes devolutions towards achieving excellence in sports, and covers expenditure towards financial assistance given to recognized National Sports Federations for sending their teams abroad.
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports	Khelo India – National Programme for Development of Sports	Targets young sportspersons.	Khelo India is an Umbrella scheme which aims to achieve the twin objective of broad basing of sports and achieving excellence, and promoting the culture of sports in India.
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports	Expenditure on Autonomous Bodies	Targets young sportspersons through training and capacity building for sports	Covers devolutions towards institutions such as the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development and the Sports Authority of India etc.
Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship	Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana	Targets unemployed youth, college / school dropouts	PMKVY is a flagship scheme for skill training, to be implemented by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship through the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). The scheme aims to cover 10 million youth during the period 2016 –2020.

Ministry of Women and Child Development	Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana	Targets pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers of 19 years of age or above for the first live birth	PMMVY is a maternity benefit program for eligible pregnant women and lactating mothers for the first live birth.
Ministry of Women and Child Development	Scheme for Adolescent Girls	Targets adolescent girls with special focus on out-of-school girls in the age group of 11-14 years	The 'Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG) - 'Sabla'', aims at all-round development of adolescent girls. The scheme has two major components. While the nutrition component aims at improving the health & nutrition status of adolescent girls, the non-nutrition component addresses developmental needs including IFA supplementation, health check-ups & referral services, guidance on accessing public services etc.
Ministry of Women and Child Development	Mahila Police Volunteers	Targets women who are minimum 21 years of age and possess at least 12th pass certificate	The Ministry of Women and Child Development in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs has started the engagement of Mahila Police Volunteers in States/UTs to act as a link between the police and the community to help women in distress.
Ministry of Women and Child Development	National Nutrition Mission (POSHAN Abhiyaan)	Although the scheme caters to the health needs of the women, adolescent girls and children are a major beneficiary group	The program strives to reduce the level of stunting, under nutrition, anemia and low birth weight in children and also focuses on adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers, thus holistically addressing malnutrition.

Ministry of Labour and Employment	Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan	Targets workers in the unorganised sector in the 18-40 age bracket who earn less than 15,000 INR per month	The scheme covers the government contribution to a pension fund for assured pension of Rs.3,000/- per month for those unorganised sector workers whose monthly income is Rs. 15,000/- or below.
Ministry of Tribal Affairs	Central Scholarships	Targets ST students who aim to pursue higher studies in India i.e. for M.Phil and PhD, and selected ST students to pursue Post Graduation, PhD & Post- Doctorate abroad	As a Central Sector Scheme, it includes National Fellowships and Scholarships for Higher Education and Studying Abroad for Tribal students.
Ministry of Tribal Affairs	Tribal Education	Targets ST students in Pre-matric and Post-matric	Includes Scholarships for Pre-metric and Post-metric education and hostel facilities for both girls and boys.
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment	Central Scholarships	Targets students belonging to the SC, OBC and EBC category	Under this scheme, M.Phil/Ph.D, higher education, free coaching and National Overseas Scholarships are provided for SC and OBC students.
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment	Educational Empowerment	Targets students belonging to the SC category	Under this scheme, pre-matric scholarships, post-metric scholarships, and boys and girls hostels are provided free of cost.
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment	Schemes for Backward Classes	Targets, inter alia, adolescents and the youth	While a substantial fraction of the funding goes towards other welfare provisions for tribal population, we have included the numbers just for scholarship schemes and the funds towards hostels, that are more focused towards youth.

Ministry of Planning	Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) including Self Employment and Talent Utilization (SETU)	Targets school going children and the youth	Government of India's endeavour to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship among school going children and the youth.
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