



# Bringing Youth Into Development



## Public Engagement and Networking Event

11 March, 2014 ♦ Ottawa, Canada

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# **Program Agenda**

**Date:** 11 March 2014

**Time:** 4:00 – 7:30 pm

**Venue:** The Westin Ottawa, 11 Colonel By Dr, Ottawa K1N 9H4

<b>Welcoming address by Dr. Shanthi Johnson,</b> President, Shastri Indo Canadian Institute	4:00 pm
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<b>Address by Mr. Tsewang Namgyal,</b> Deputy High Commissioner, Indian High Commission, Ottawa	4:10 pm
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<b>Address by Honourable Asha Seth,</b> Senator	4:20 pm
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<b>Group Presentations by BYID Interns</b>	4:30 pm
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<b>Speed Networking session</b> BYID interns and Guests	5:00 pm
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<b>Dinner</b>	6:30 pm
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## **Event Summary**

The Bringing Youth Into Development (BYID) Public Engagement and Networking event was organized by the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI) and held on at the Westin Hotel in Ottawa on March 11<sup>th</sup> 2014. Delegates from the Governments of India and Canada, the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, International Community Development Organizations, University Professors and Researchers, and Business organizations were present. The event was attended by 60 delegates, including 14 interns who had just returned from India.



The event began with a welcome address from the current President of SICI, Dr. Shanthi Johnson. This was followed by an inspirational talk by Senator Asha Seth. Through her talk, Senator Seth emphasized the importance of initiatives such as BYID that provide support to young Canadian graduates working in the field of development in India. Her speech was followed by a short but equally motivating address by Mr. Tsewang Namgyal, the Deputy High Commissioner of India in Canada. Following this, the BYID interns gave wonderful presentations of their projects in India (Bangalore, Chandigarh, Delhi and Chennai). It was amazing to see all that the interns accomplished in the short period of six months.



The high point of the event was the “speed networking” sessions, during which the delegates were divided into four groups: Education and Business, International Community Development, Government of India and Canada, and Research. For about 15 minutes, three to four interns interacted with delegates seated at each table, after which they moved to the next table. It was a quick way to exchange information regarding what was done in India and what is being currently done in the field of international development. Although the time period was very short, there was ample knowledge exchange and useful networking. This was followed by vote of thanks by Dr. Doris Jakobsh and the event was wrapped up with a lavish Indian dinner! The networking continued at the dinner table as well.

Overall, it was an engaging and valuable event for all involved—the interns were given the opportunity to meet their peers and share their experiences, and to network and learn from the delegates in the field of international development. The event also provided the chance to showcase the work done by the interns in India to the Canadian public.



## Intern Presentations

### ***Strategic Action Plan to Involve Youth in Agriculture for Ensuring Food & Livelihood Security***

(Mitalie M. Makhani, Dawn Cordeiro, and Gonee Saini)


# Strategic Action Plan To Involve Youth In Agriculture For Ensuring Food & Livelihood Security

By: Mitalie M. Makhani, Dawn Cordeiro, and Gonee Saini


Food Security Interns  
M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF)

Support provided by Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute  
Funding provided by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)


Presented at the Bringing Youth Into Development (BYID) Public Engagement and Networking Event  
Ottawa, ON  
March 11, 2014



Canadian International Development Agency  
Agence canadienne de développement international



L'INSTITUT SHASTRI INDO-CANADIAN



MSSRF

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## M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation





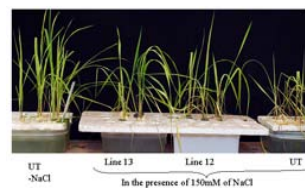
## MSSRF Research & Development



**Coastal Systems Research**



**Biodiversity**



**Biotechnology**



**Ecotechnology**



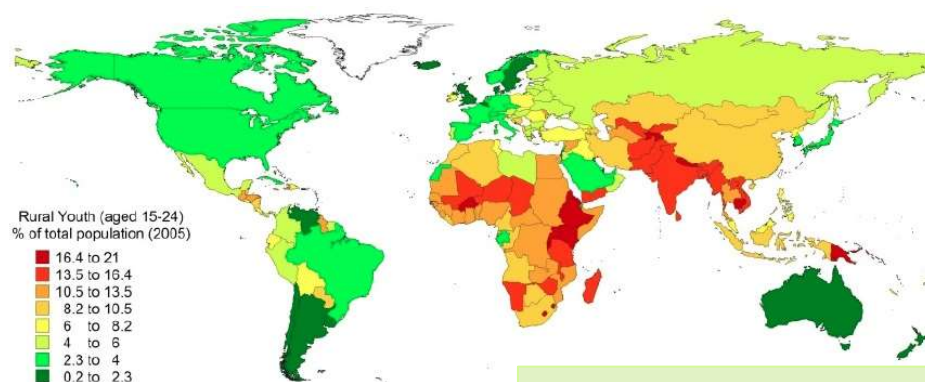
**Food Security**



**Information, Education,  
& Communication**

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## A Changing Rural Demographic



**Figure 2. Extent of youths share of the population across the globe. Taken from: Van der Geest, Rural Youth Employment in Developing Countries: a global view (FAO, 2010)**

### Box 2. Global trend

Migration of youth away from agriculture in rural areas to urban areas is a common trend seen across the globe. Reasons for such migrations may be attributed to the lack of access to land, better employment and education opportunities.

## Field Site – Kolli Hills, Tamil Nadu



- Located along the Eastern Ghats in the state of Tamil Nadu
- MSSRF commenced initial pilot studies in 1994
- Biodiversity hotspot

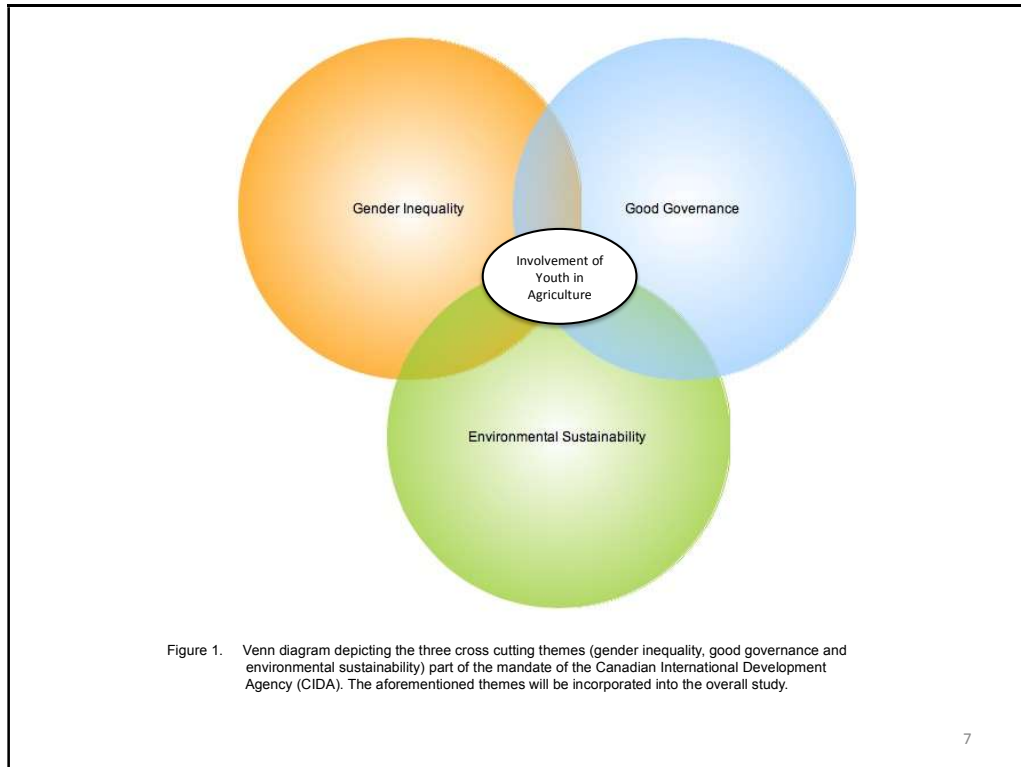
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## Study Objectives

1. Document the current role of youth in agriculture based livelihoods, food and nutritional security
2. Map the driving factors that influence youth to either be retained or drift away from agriculture and affiliated activities
3. Develop strategies to involve youth in agriculture



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## Field Research

### 1. Role of adolescent girls in agriculture





## Field Research

### 2. Youth and the future of family farming



## Field Research

### 3. Role of youth in community biodiversity management (CBM) practices

According to the World Bank (2001) three dimensions of poverty were classified as:

1. Powerlessness
2. Vulnerability
3. Lack of assets



## Field Research

### 3. Role of youth in community biodiversity management (CBM) practices

According to the World Bank (2001) three dimensions of poverty were classified as:

1. Powerlessness

**Empowerment**

2. Vulnerability

**Resilience**

3. Lack of assets



**Why is CBM important?**

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**Kitchen Garden**



**Seed Bank & Millet Pulverizing Mill**



**Vermicomposting**



**Sacred Forest**



## Well Connected Settlements

### 1. Asakkadu

- Total household #: 125
- Market access: accessible
- Transportation access: accessible

### 2. Periokovelu

- Total household #: 66
- Market access: accessible
- Transportation access: accessible



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## Less Connected Settlements

### 1. Thirupuli-Oorpuram

- Total household #: 62
- Market access: not easily accessible
- Transportation access: limited

### 2. Puliampatti

- Total household #: 83
- Market access: not easily accessible
- Transportation access: very limited



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## Field Research

Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) tools which are a set of tools to understand the complexity of village ecosystems:

- Time clock analysis, activity matrix, access-control-benefit analysis, linkage diagram, resource and social mapping
- Focus group discussions
- Key informant interviews



## Well Connected Settlements

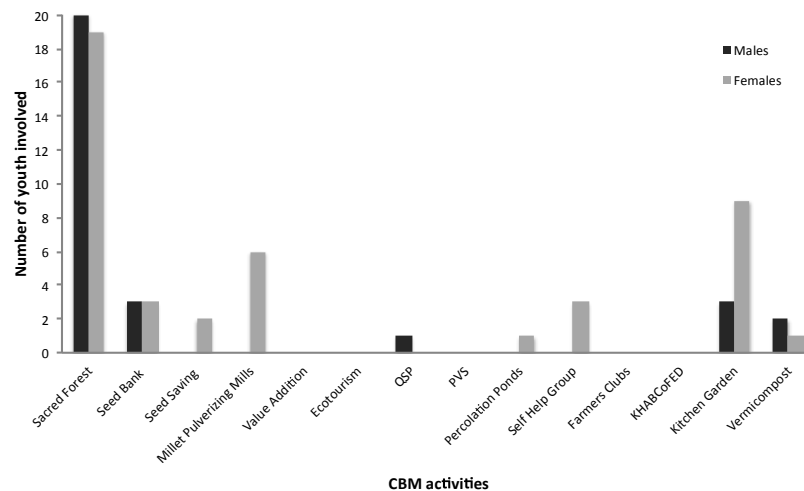


Figure 1. Pooled data for well connected settlements (Assakadu and Periokovelu), depicting male and female youth involvement across various CBM activities in Kolli Hills, Tamil Nadu ( $n = 40$ ). Youth have been classified based on age range between 13 and 26 years of age.



## Less Connected Settlements

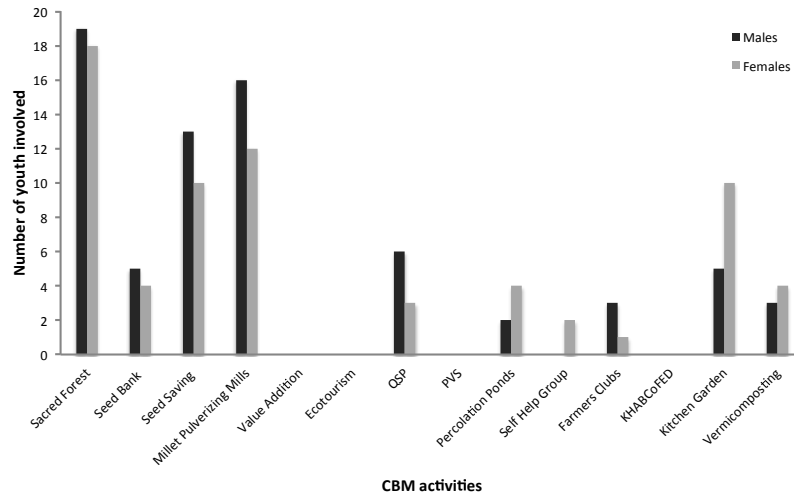


Figure 2. Pooled data for less connected settlements (Thirupulli-Oorpuram and Puliampatti), depicting male and female youth involvement across various CBM activities in Kolli Hills, Tamil Nadu ( $n = 40$ ). Youth have been classified based on age range between 13 and 26 years of age.

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## Conclusion

- Youth **have stated** that they want more support from NGO's and the government for their involvement in agriculture
- There must be significant investments in agriculture to make the profession of farming economically viable and financially secure
- Focus should also be placed on engaging adolescent girls in agriculture
- Adapting CBM practices to address agricultural/livelihood related problems (e.g. water scarcity) that exist, as stated by the youth and their communities

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The future of OUR planet lies in OUR hands.



## Acknowledgements

We thank CIDA for funding this project as well as the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute for providing logistical support. Furthermore, we also want to acknowledge Dr. Raman and Dr. E.D. Oliver King for their guidance and support along with the following research members of this team who have contributed their time and expertise; N. Kumar, M.N. Sivakumar, K. Mathesh, J. Jayakumar, R. Gnanaprakasan, Balusamy, Gnanamani and K. Madheshwaran. Last but not least, we want to thank Professor Swaminathan for providing us with his insights and thoughts on the future of food security in India. Thank you. Nandri.



## Contact Information

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*Thank You! Merci! Nandri!*



Canadian International  
Development Agency  
Agence canadienne de  
développement international



***Udayan Care***

(Alison Jonk and Alia Januwalla)

# Udayan Care

Alison Jonk & Alia Januwalla

- ❖ Introductions
- ❖ Udayan Care's programmes and mission
- ❖ Alison Jonk's Contribution to UC
- ❖ Alia Januwalla's Contribution to UC
- ❖ Mina Saboor's Contribution to UC
- ❖ Outcomes of the internship



- ❖ Our involvement with Udayan Care and our purpose as BYID interns



- ❖ UC advocates for child rights, women and youth empowerment, and the practice of “passing it forward”
- ❖ UC Programmes:
  - Udayan Ghars (Foster home network)
  - Shalini Fellowship Program
  - Big Friend Little Friend Program
  - Vocational Training

- ❖ Ghar Supervisor and Care Giver Workshops
- ❖ Ghar Manual Auditing and Auditor's Report
- ❖ Aftercare Program Manual
- ❖ 'Institutionalised Children: Explorations and Beyond' (ICEB) Journal and Intern Aid

- ❖ Mentor Manual
- ❖ Workshop formulation
  - Communication
  - Giving Back to the community
- ❖ Tutoring Sessions
- ❖ Special Needs Proposal
- ❖ Winter Wonderland Event

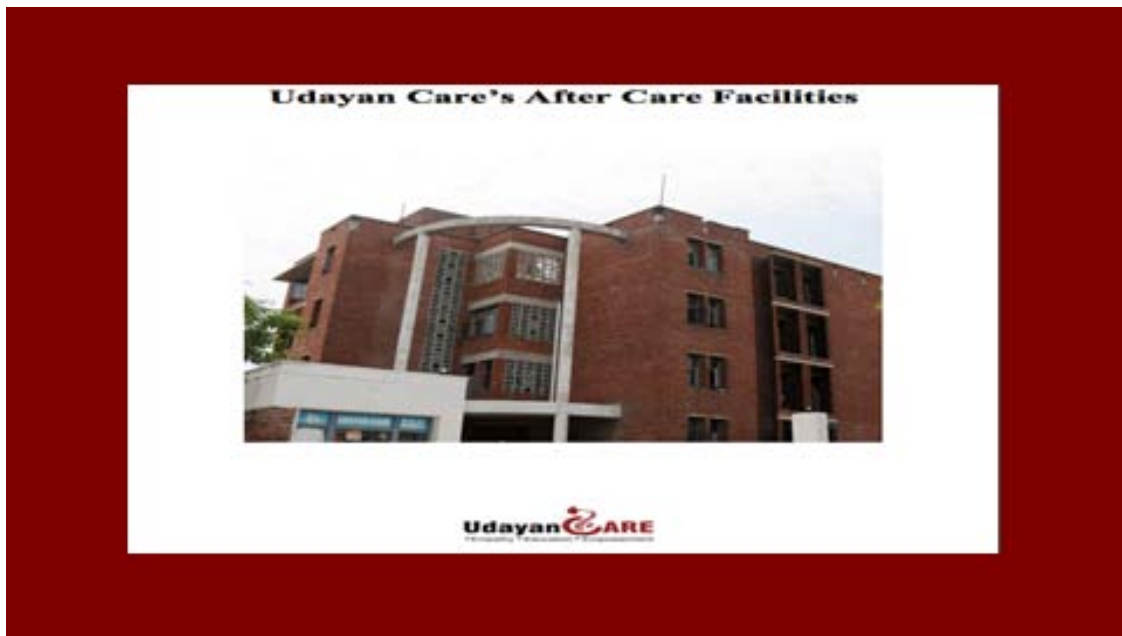
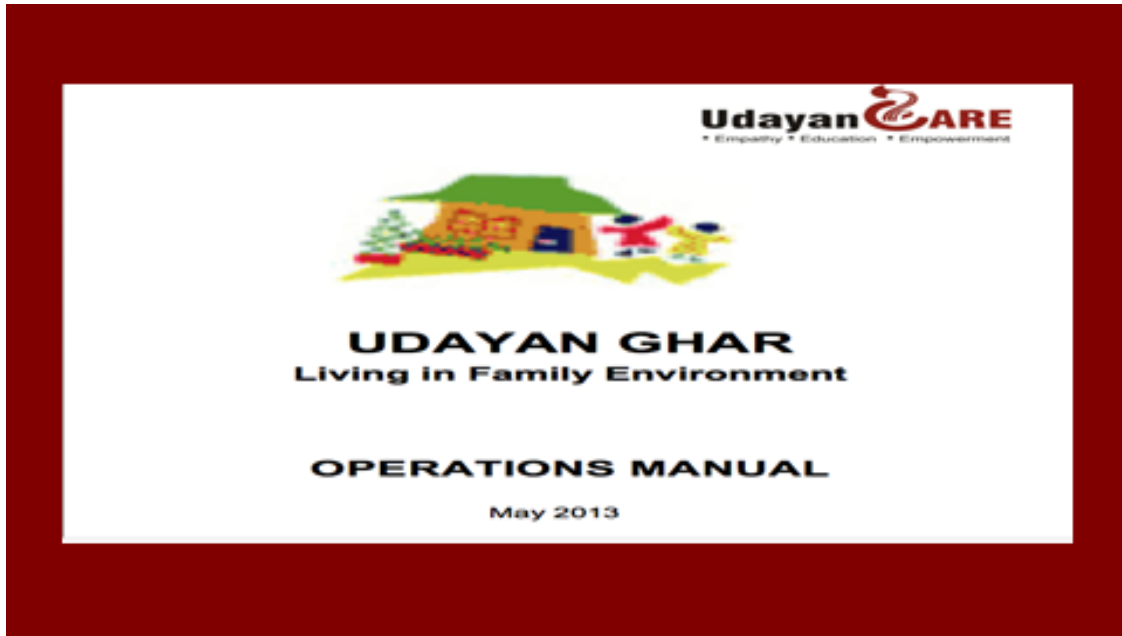
- ❖ Mentor Manual
- ❖ Mentor Training Orientation
- ❖ Workshop Formulation
  - Stress Management
  - Communication
  - Mentor Didi Training Workshops
- ❖ Big Friend Little Friend
- ❖ Tutoring
- ❖ Winter Wonderland Event

### Workshop Objectives

- Discussing Time-Savers in General Terms
- Acknowledging the unique duties of Caregivers at the Udayan Ghar's
- Discussing tips for Effective Time Management and Time-Savers Specific to Duties
- Question and Answer Period - Concerns or Ideas?

Assertiveness allows for the message to be delivered  
without offending, insulting, or accusing.

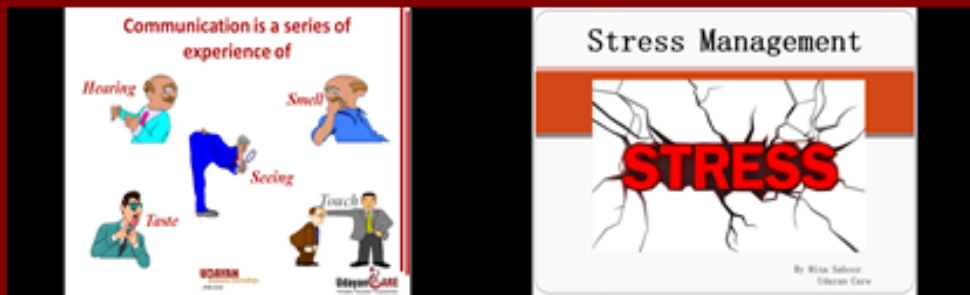








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- ❖ Cultural and professional adaptation
- ❖ First hand look into the obstacles faced by NGOs at a local level
- ❖ Enhanced interest and knowledge in global issues

Thank You!



## ***Integrated Child Development Services in India – An Appraisal***

(Jonathan Gangbar and Pavithra Rajan)



### **Integrated Child Development Services in India – An Appraisal**

JONATHAN GANGBAR & PAVITHRA RAJAN

#### Project Details



- Location: Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, India
- Supervisor: Dr. K. Gayithri, Head of Department
- Project: ICDS in India – An Appraisal
- Project Goals:
  1. Output: Produce 3 papers for publication
  2. Outcome: Policy impact

## ***CHILD AND MATERNAL HEALTH AND NUTRITION IN SOUTH ASIA- LESSONS FOR INDIA***

Gangbar-Rajan

### Child and Maternal Health and Nutrition in South Asia – Lessons for India



Gangbar-Rajan

## ***INTEGRATED CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES IN INDIA – A SUB-NATIONAL REVIEW***

Gangbar-Rajan

### ICDS in India – A Sub-National Review

- The policy - Integrated Child Development Services
- Policy Implementation Gap
- Universalization of ICDS
- Findings
- Next Steps

Gangbar-Rajan

## ***INTEGRATED CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES IN KARNATAKA***

Gangbar-Rajan

### ICDS in Karnataka



Gangbar-Rajan

- Objective
- 6 year time frame
- Data source:  
Ministry of  
Women and Child  
Development,  
Bangalore,  
Karnataka
- Status of paper

## Acknowledgements

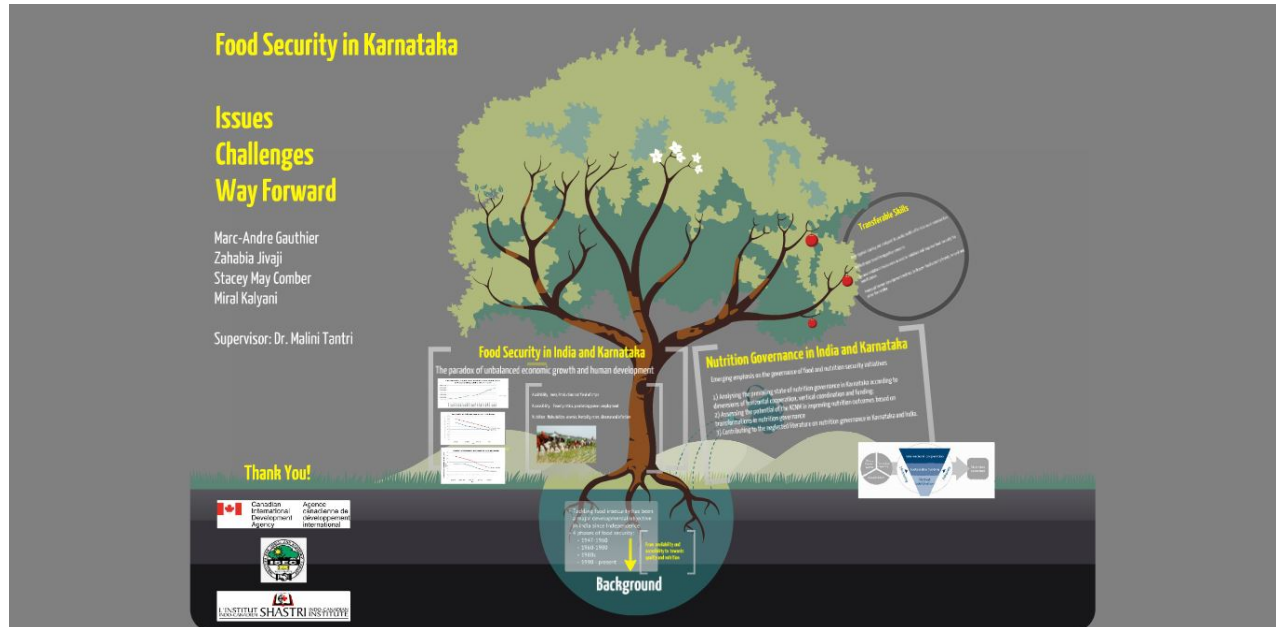


- Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, Canada
- Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, Calgary, Canada
- Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, India



## Food Security in Karnataka

(Marc Andre Gauthier, Zahabia Jivaji, Stacey May Comber, and Miral Kalyani)



# Food Security in Karnataka

**Issues**  
**Challenges**  
**Way Forward**



- Tackling food insecurity has been a major developmental objective in India since Independence
- 4 phases of food security:
  - 1947-1960
  - 1960-1980
  - 1980s
  - 1990 - present

From availability and accessibility to towards quality and nutrition

# Background

## Food Security in India and Karnataka

The paradox of unbalanced economic growth and human development



**Gross State Domestic Product- Constant Price at Series 2004-2005 Price Level**

Year	GDP
1980-01	~100,000,000
1981-01	~110,000,000
1982-01	~120,000,000
1983-01	~130,000,000
1984-01	~140,000,000
1985-01	~150,000,000
1986-01	~160,000,000
1987-01	~170,000,000
1988-01	~180,000,000
1989-01	~190,000,000
1990-01	~200,000,000
1991-01	~210,000,000
1992-01	~220,000,000
1993-01	~230,000,000
1994-01	~240,000,000
1995-01	~250,000,000
1996-01	~260,000,000
1997-01	~270,000,000
1998-01	~280,000,000
1999-01	~290,000,000
2000-01	~300,000,000
2001-01	~310,000,000
2002-01	~320,000,000
2003-01	~330,000,000
2004-01	~340,000,000
2005-01	~350,000,000
2006-01	~360,000,000
2007-01	~370,000,000
2008-01	~380,000,000
2009-01	~390,000,000
2010-01	~400,000,000
2011-01	~410,000,000
2012-01	~420,000,000
2013-01	~430,000,000

**Trend in Infant Mortality Rates, Karnataka vs. All India Average**

Year	All India Average	Karnataka
1982-01	~75	~65
1983-01	~70	~60
1984-01	~65	~55
1985-01	~60	~50
1986-01	~55	~45
1987-01	~50	~40
1988-01	~45	~35
1989-01	~40	~30
1990-01	~35	~25
1991-01	~30	~20
1992-01	~25	~15
1993-01	~20	~10
1994-01	~15	~5
1995-01	~10	~0
1996-01	~5	~-5
1997-01	~0	~-10
1998-01	~-5	~-15
1999-01	~-10	~-20
2000-01	~-15	~-25
2001-01	~-20	~-30
2002-01	~-25	~-35
2003-01	~-30	~-40
2004-01	~-35	~-45
2005-01	~-40	~-50
2006-01	~-45	~-55
2007-01	~-50	~-60
2008-01	~-55	~-65
2009-01	~-60	~-70
2010-01	~-65	~-75
2011-01	~-70	~-80
2012-01	~-75	~-85
2013-01	~-80	~-90

**Trend in Maternal Mortality Rates, Karnataka vs. All India Average**

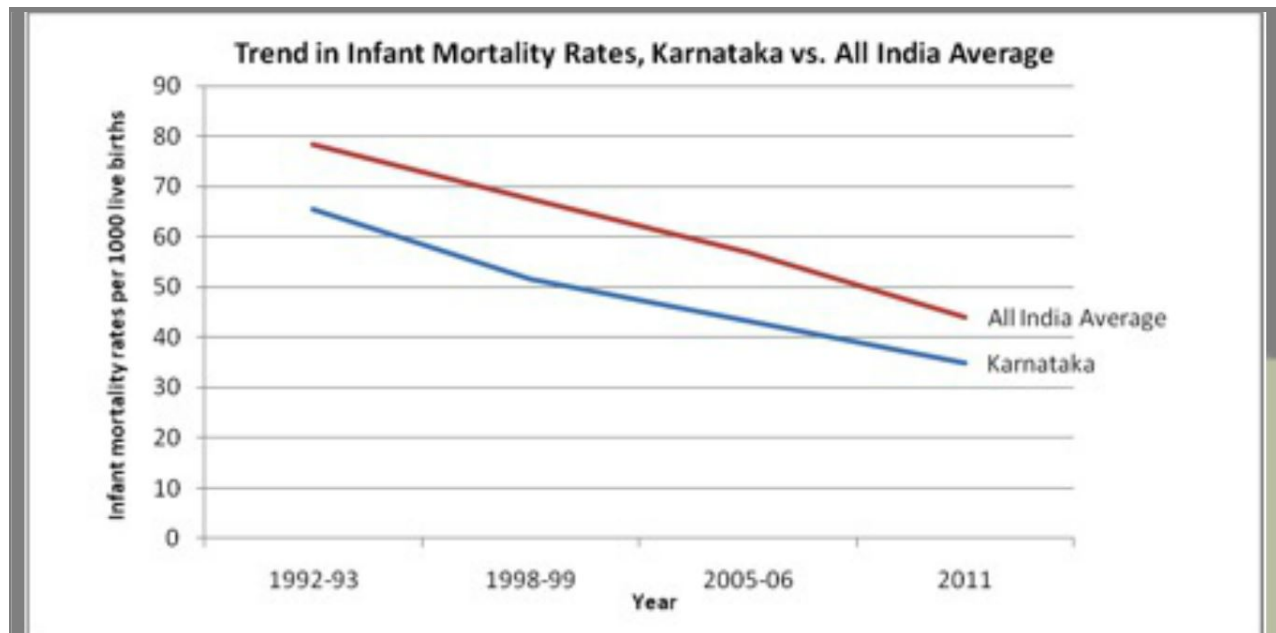
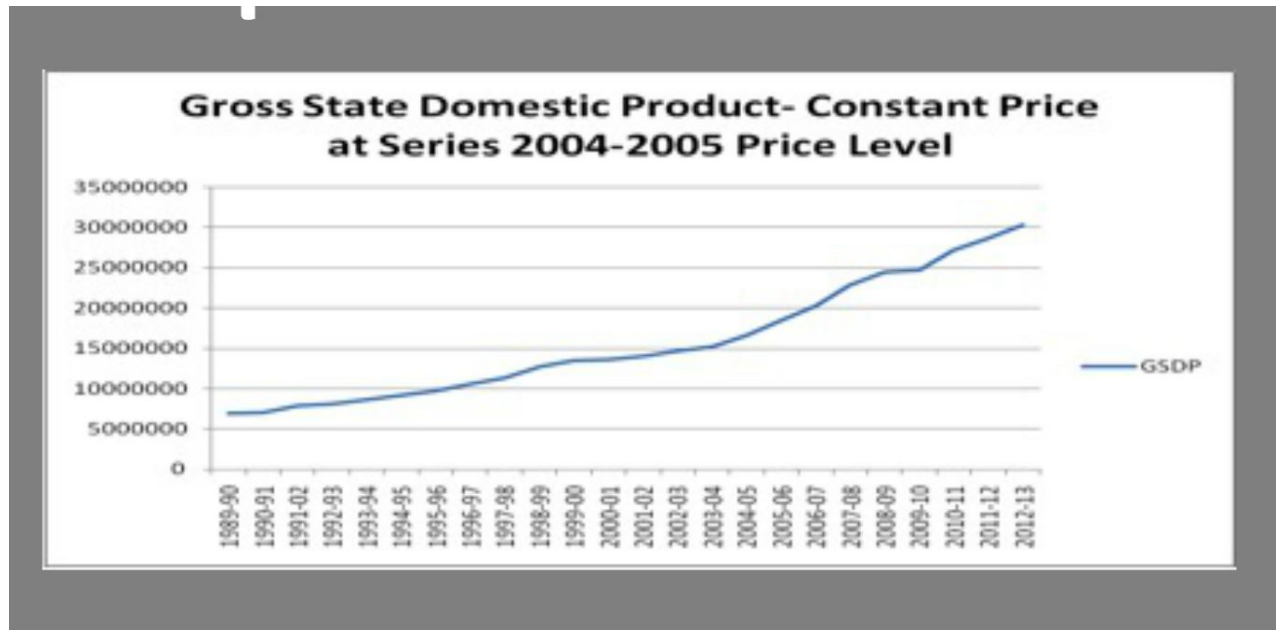
Year	All India Average	Karnataka
1982-01	~35	~25
1983-01	~30	~20
1984-01	~25	~15
1985-01	~20	~10
1986-01	~15	~5
1987-01	~10	~0
1988-01	~5	~-5
1989-01	~0	~-10
1990-01	~-5	~-15
1991-01	~-10	~-20
1992-01	~-15	~-25
1993-01	~-20	~-30
1994-01	~-25	~-35
1995-01	~-30	~-40
1996-01	~-35	~-45
1997-01	~-40	~-50
1998-01	~-45	~-55
1999-01	~-50	~-60
2000-01	~-55	~-65
2001-01	~-60	~-70
2002-01	~-65	~-75
2003-01	~-70	~-80
2004-01	~-75	~-85
2005-01	~-80	~-90
2006-01	~-85	~-95
2007-01	~-90	~-100
2008-01	~-95	~-105
2009-01	~-100	~-110
2010-01	~-105	~-115
2011-01	~-110	~-120
2012-01	~-115	~-125
2013-01	~-120	~-130

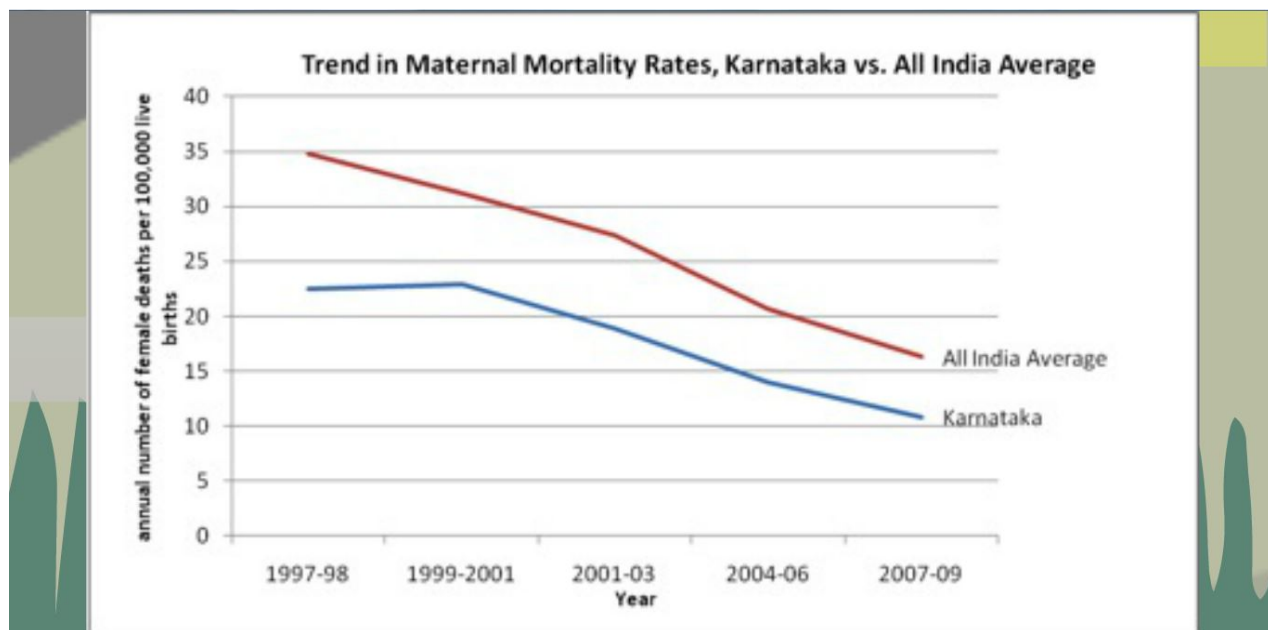
Availability Area, Production and Yield of crops

Accessibility Poverty ratios, purchasing power, employment

Nutrition Malnutrition, Anemia, Mortality rates, disease and infection







Availability Area, Production and Yield of crops

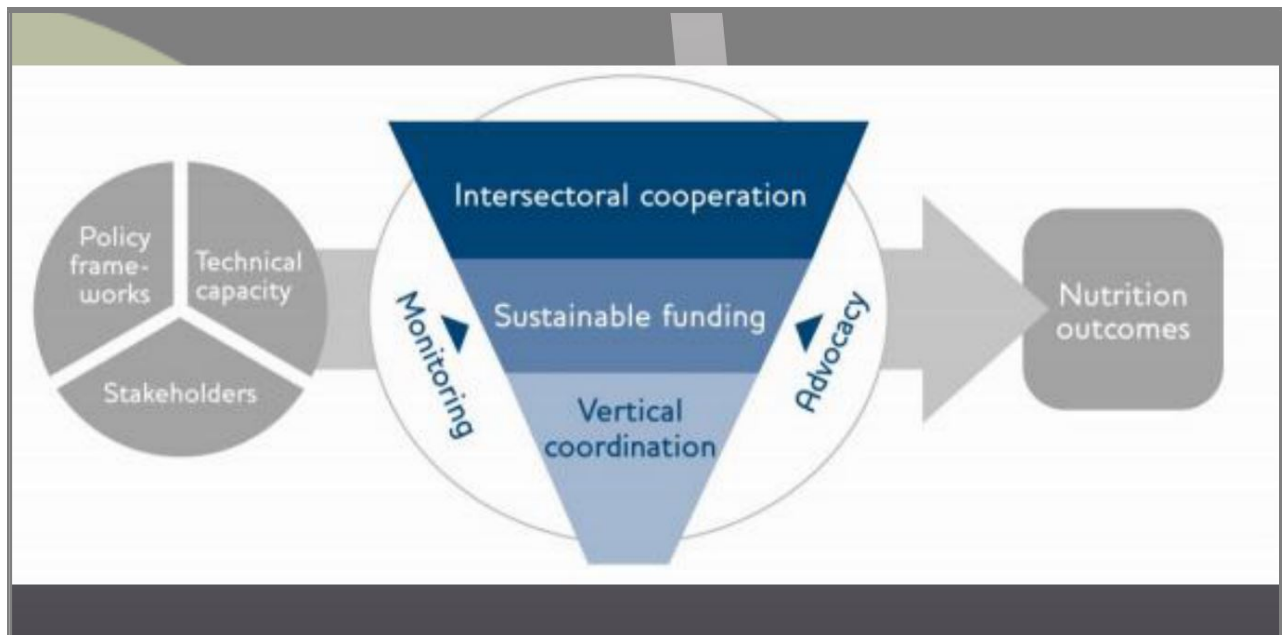
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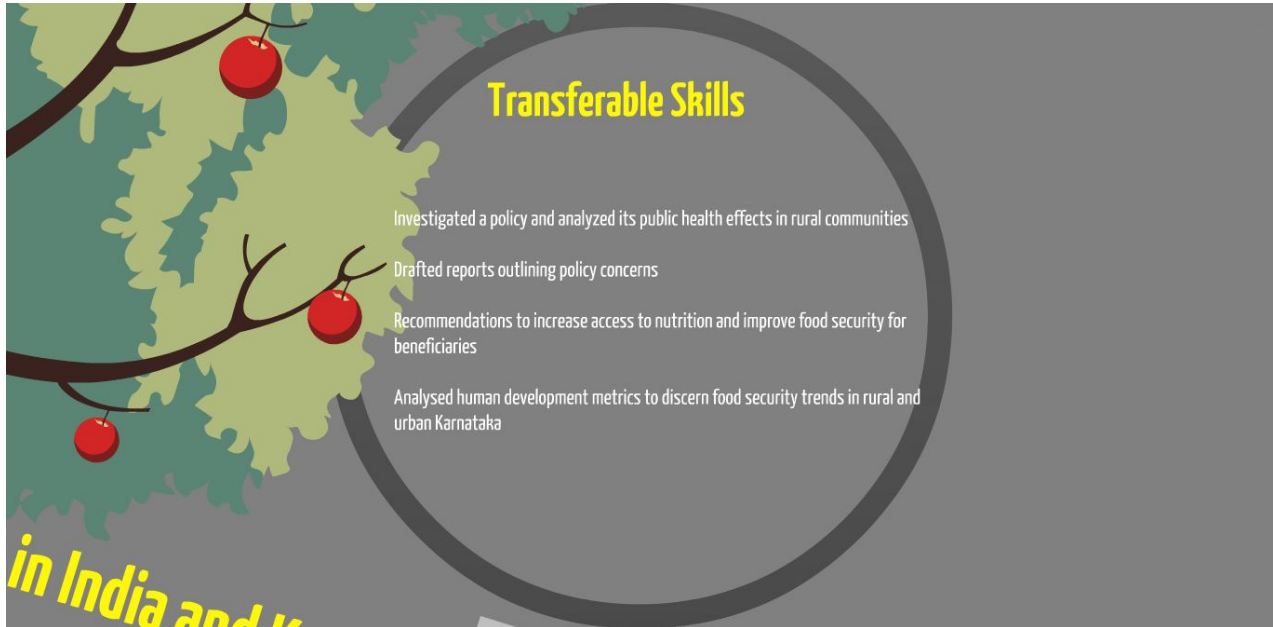
## Nutrition Governance in India and Karnataka

Emerging emphasis on the governance of food and nutrition security initiatives

- 1) Analysing the prevailing state of nutrition governance in Karnataka according to dimensions of horizontal cooperation, vertical coordination and funding;
- 2) Assessing the potential of the KCNM in improving nutrition outcomes based on transformations in nutrition governance
- 3) Contributing to the neglected literature on nutrition governance in Karnataka and India.







**Transferable Skills**

- Investigated a policy and analyzed its public health effects in rural communities
- Drafted reports outlining policy concerns
- Recommendations to increase access to nutrition and improve food security for beneficiaries
- Analysed human development metrics to discern food security trends in rural and urban Karnataka

in India and K



**Thank You!**

 Canadian International Development Agency

 Agence canadienne de développement international

 ISEC

 L'INSTITUT INDO-CANADIEN SHASTRI INDO-CANADIAN INSTITUTE

## **Speed Networking Sessions**



### **Education and Business**



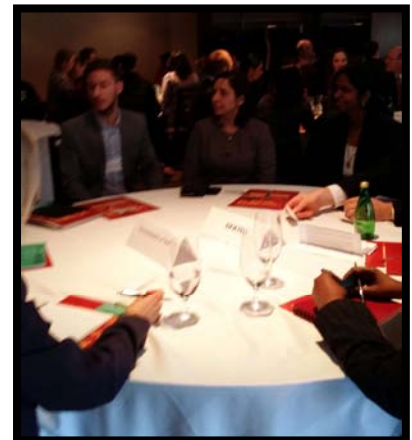
### **International and Community Development**



**Research**



**Government of India  
and Canada**





# **Event Participants**

## **AUCC**

1. Philip Landon (Director of Partnership and Programs, Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada)

## **ACCC**

2. Paul Brennan (VP International Partnerships, Association of Canadian Community Colleges)

## **Research Institutions**

3. Ann Weston (Director of Special Initiatives Division, International Development Research Centre)
4. Tavinder Nijhawan (Program Management Officer, International Development Research Centre)
5. Dr Sharmila Mhatre (Program Leader, Governance for Equity in Health Systems Program, International Development Research Centre)
6. Dr Jaswinder Kaur (Manager, Canada-India Centre)
7. Aniket Bhushan (Leader, Canadian International Development Platform; Senior Researcher, North-South Institute)
8. Ranjan Banerjee (Senior Associate, Policy Research International)

## **International & Community Development**

9. Chantal Havard (Government Relations and Communications Officer, Canadian Council for International Cooperation)
10. Santiago Alba-Corral (Director of Policy, Innovation & Partnerships, CARE Canada)
11. Bala T. Gingras (President, Society of Partners in Development)
12. Laurent Viot (Director of International Programs, USC)
13. Faris Ahmed (Director of Policy, USC Canada)
14. Andrew Jones (Business Development Specialist, MITACS)
15. Jack Hui Litster (Fundraising Program Manager, Inter Pares)

## **Corporate Business**

16. Karunakar Reddy Papala (Vice Chair and Project Manager, Indo-Canada Ottawa Business Chamber)
17. Chandrakanth Arya (Past Chair, Indo-Canada Ottawa Business Chamber; Director, Invest Ottawa)
18. Akbar Manoussi (Director, National Capital Branch of Canadian International Council)
19. Bitu Manoussi (Managing Director, Joenette Canada Inc.)

## **Government of Canada**

20. Hon. Asha Seth (Senator)
21. Kimberly O'Neil (International Education Policy Advisor, DFATD)
22. Dr Idil Salah (International Development Projects Advisor, Food Security Partnership Directorate, CIDA/DFATD)
23. Frank Schneider (Manager of Partnership Directorate, Manager of Environmental Sustainability Section, CIDA/DFATD)
24. Michalina Lipa (Student Researcher, CIDA/DFATD)
25. Francois Lafreniere (Manager of Strategic Planning, Performance & Reporting, CIDA/DFATD)
26. Dr S. Sajjad Rahman (Former Director General for Asia and the Pacific, CIDA/DFATD; forthcoming Senior Fellow, University of Ottawa)

## **Government of India**

27. Tsewang Namgyal (Deputy High Commissioner, High Commission of India)
28. Vineeta Sharma (Counsellor, Pol and Consular, High Commission of India)

## **Academic**

29. Dr Rajesh-Kumar Tyagi (Professor, Logistics and Operations Management, HEC Montreal)
30. Dr Doris Jakobsh (Professor, Religious Studies, University of Waterloo)
31. Dr Shanthi Johnson (Professor, Kinesiology and Health Studies, University of Regina)
32. Dr Nipa Banerjee (Visiting Professor, International Development and Global Studies, University of Ottawa)
33. Dr Philippe Régnier (Professor, School of International Development and Global Studies, University of Ottawa)
34. Dr Ajoy Basak (Adjunct Professor, Interdisciplinary School of Health Science, University of Ottawa)
35. Dr Yiagadeesen Samy (Associate Professor and Associate Director of MA Program, Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, Carleton University)
36. Dr Kanta Marwah (Professor Emeritus, Carleton University)

## **Students**

37. Katerina Yelle Labre (University of Ottawa)
38. Azfar Khan (University of Ottawa)
39. Denise Bhargava (University of Ottawa)



## **Interns**

40. Amar Nijhawan (Political Science and International Development, McGill University)
41. Kathleen Hjertaas (International Development, University of Waterloo)
42. Logan Ansell (Public Health, Simon Fraser University)
43. Pavithra Rajan (Kinesiology, University of Manitoba)
44. Jonathan Gangbar (Management, Wilfrid Laurier University????)
45. Zahabia Jivaji (Nutrition, University of Western Ontario)
46. Marc-André Gauthier (Political Science, University of Montreal)
47. Miral Kalyani (Anthropology, University of Toronto)
48. Stacey May Comber (International Relations, Carleton University)
49. Alison Jonk (Global Political Economy, University of Manitoba)
50. Alia Januwalla (International Development and Anatomy, McGill University)
51. Mina Saboor (Political Science, York University)
52. Remy Bargout (Agriculture Development, University of Guelph)
53. Dawn Cordeiro (International Development, University of Guelph)
54. Mitalie Makhani (Environmental Science, University of Toronto)

## **Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute**

55. Mahmuda Aldeen (Program and Member Relations Officer, SICI)

## **BYID Intern Bios**

**Ms. Alia Januwalla** is a recent undergraduate from McGill University, double majoring in Anatomy and International Development Studies. Having gained experience with a few NGOs, both at home and abroad, she hopes to pursue a career in Global Health, advocating for international health equity and justice. Contact details: [aliajan13@gmail.com](mailto:aliajan13@gmail.com) (+1) 905 616-7864.

**Ms. Alison Jonk** is a recent graduate of the Global Political Economy Bachelor of Arts program from the University of Manitoba. Her interest in development spans international adoption, foster care and other types of child welfare services. She will be pursuing a Masters of Social Work in September 2014, and plan on obtaining employment within the Canadian adoption sphere. Contact details: [alison\\_jonk@hotmail.com](mailto:alison_jonk@hotmail.com) (+1) 204 526-7446

**Ms. Amar Nijhawan** is an International Development Studies and Political Science graduate from McGill University. Her research interests focus around issues of gender equity, justice and mainstreaming in a social policy and development context. Contact details: [amar.nijhawan@mail.mcgill.ca](mailto:amar.nijhawan@mail.mcgill.ca) (+1) 613 805-1529



**Mr. Jonathan Gangbar** is a professional with 3 years of experience working in both international development and the private sector. His roles have been largely rooted in strategy, research and project management. He is looking to leverage his experiences from both international development and the private sector and enter the realm of corporate sustainability. Contact details: [jgangbar@gmail.com](mailto:jgangbar@gmail.com) (+1) 416 717-7159

**Ms. Kathleen Hjertaas** has a Bachelor's of Environmental Studies in International Development from the University of Waterloo. Her areas of focus include food sovereignty and food justice, sustainable agriculture, and ecological sanitation. She has two years of experience in project development and implementation in India and southern Africa. Kathleen currently resides on her farm in Saskatchewan with her cows, sheep, pigs and cat. Contact details: [k.hjertaas@outlook.com](mailto:k.hjertaas@outlook.com) (+1) 519 635-5393



**Mr. Logan Ansell** holds a Master's degree in Public Health, specializing in sub-national inequities in global health. He has roughly 3 years of international experience, primarily in Asia, as well as the Caribbean. His current research work is focused on pharmaceutical opioid-related fatalities in British Columbia. In the future, Logan's aim is to pursue a more practice-oriented employment path, working towards equitable health policy in low-income settings. Contact details: [logan.ansell@gmail.com](mailto:logan.ansell@gmail.com) (+1) 604 499-7998

**Mr. Marc-André Gauthier** is a versatile researcher and proficient writer with expertise on governance, development and security challenges in South Asia. He has 6 years of work experience – including 1 year in India – in research, development and management of content for the public, private and non-profit sectors. He is now seriously determined to pursue work and research in South Asia. He holds an MSc in

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**Ms. Mina Saboor** received her Bachelors with Honours in Political Science and French Studies from York University, Toronto. Her areas of specialization include but are not limited to international relations, human rights advocacy, international political economy, and international development. She aspires to pursue a career in social policy development and human rights advocacy. Her fluency in multiple languages is one of her biggest fortes as it enables her to communicate and work efficiently with people from various backgrounds. Furthermore, she recognizes Toronto's growing diversity and the importance of open communication for the development of all communities. Contact details: [minasab@yorku.ca](mailto:minasab@yorku.ca) home: (+1) 905 791-9423; cell: (+1) 647 866-4049

**Ms. Miral Kalyani** is a highly motivated individual working towards creating meaningful change in the field of global health through action oriented research and evidence based solutions for health challenges. She holds a BA in International Development Studies and a MA in Anthropology from the University of Toronto. She also has substantial experience in health research, policy analysis, and



program implementation and management in India and Canada. She is currently seeking opportunities in the health research sector where she can use the skills she has developed through her academic and professional experience. Contact details: [miralkalyani@gmail.com](mailto:miralkalyani@gmail.com) (+1) 905 471-6207

**Ms. Mitalie Makhani** is a driven, dedicated and ambitious Master of Environmental Science graduate from the University of Toronto. Her interests include food security & sovereignty in developing countries, sustainable agriculture, evaluating the effects of climate change on agroecosystems, and understanding human-environment interactions. She aspires to become a professor, fostering a positive learning environment and developing an active research platform. Her research over the past four years has been integrative and innovative, leading to publications in prominent journals of her field. Her international work emanates her reverence for cultural exploration and contributing to the understanding of environmental issues at a local and global scale. Contact details: [mitalie.makhani@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:mitalie.makhani@mail.utoronto.ca) (+1) 416 724-1400

**Ms. Pavithra Rajan** is a physiotherapist from India and a graduate in Kinesiology from Canada. She has 7 years of clinical and research experience in the field of community based rehabilitation in India and Canada. She has been the recipient of the United Nations Online Volunteering Award in 2012 and 2013. She is a well published author in renowned international journals. Her interests lie in the field of community health, rehabilitation and working with underprivileged communities in developing countries. Contact details: [docpatsy21@gmail.com](mailto:docpatsy21@gmail.com)

**Mr. Remy Bargout** studied Rural Agricultural Development at the University of Guelph. He is currently researching water scarcity in the Middle East and pursuing a Master's degree in Soil Science. Contact details: [rbargout@uoguelph.ca](mailto:rbargout@uoguelph.ca) (+1) 647 464-9467



**Ms. Stacey-May Comber** attended Carleton University for a BA Honors in Mass Communication and Newcastle University, UK for a MA in International Studies. Her research focus are PPP developmental strategies, bilateral trade agreements, environmental sustainability, and food systems. She has interned at the Newcastle City Council, Central Policy Unit, on a Green Economy and UK Environmental Policy Research Project's. She then concluded her year in Bangalore, India with ISEC as a Research Associate on Food Security and Policy Evaluation. Contact details: [staceycomber22@gmail.com](mailto:staceycomber22@gmail.com)

**Ms. Zahabia Jivaji** has completed a BSc specializing in Nutrition and Dietetics from Western University. Her future goals involve working with at risk populations to improve quality of life. Her interest in public health and nutrition has been reinforced by her academic degree, an outreach program she conducted in the Philippines and her research work in India. She is interested in multi-dimensional healthcare on a larger systemic scale. Having worked in various global health settings, she believes working in public health and international development with a holistic focus on behaviour, food, research, policy and social contexts will equip her with transferable skills globally. Contact details: [zahabiajivaji@hotmail.com](mailto:zahabiajivaji@hotmail.com)  
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