

# Youth NEET in South Asia

Tuesday 20 June 2023 (1:30 – 2:45 pm New Delhi time / 3:00 pm Bangkok time) via Zoom

## Sub-Regional Online Webinar: Youth NEET in South Asia

Concept Note and Programme

Tuesday 20 June 2023

1:30 – 2:45 pm (New Delhi time)/ 3:00 – 4:15 pm (Bangkok time)

### Background

In many countries across Asia and the Pacific region, youth are in a vulnerable labour market situation. This is reflected in the high rates of youth not in employment, education or training (youth NEET) in South Asia which are among the highest of all regions. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, one in every four young persons aged between 15-24, a total of 155 million youths in the region in 2019 were NEET and almost three quarters of youth are comprised primarily of young women.<sup>1</sup> The youth NEET situation is significantly different across subregions. Between 2010-2019, South Asia consistently recorded the highest youth NEET rate among the sub-regions at 29.2 per cent.

As a consequence of the COVID-19 crisis which devastated mobility and labour market access, fewer young people were determined to look for work, thus reinforcing the shift of youth away from unemployment and into inactivity. The continuing financial crisis together with the tightening of the labour market further limit the labour market recovery for youth. As a result, youth are at risk of social exclusion and are limited in contributing to the economies and societies.

The Asia and the Pacific region have responded to this crisis with comprehensive economic and labour market measures.<sup>2</sup> However, in spite of government's huge investment, the social and economic impacts of the pandemic on young people will continue to persist.

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<sup>1</sup> ILO. (2022) Youth not in employment, education or training in Asia and the Pacific: Trends and policy considerations. Retrieved from [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/--asia/--ro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms\\_860568.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/--asia/--ro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms_860568.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> ILO. (2022) Youth Employment in times of COVID: A Global Review of COVID-19 Policy Responses to Tackle (Un) employment and Disadvantage amount young people. Retrieved from [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/--ed\\_emp/documents/publication/wcms\\_823751.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/--ed_emp/documents/publication/wcms_823751.pdf)

Consequently, in addition to the economic support, governments and numerous stakeholders will need to work together in devising and implementing youth-targeted policies to ensure a human-centred recovery.

To further explore these issues, ILO carried out an econometric analysis on youth NEET in five South Asian countries: Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

For more information about the topic, please see [ILO \(2022\) Youth not in employment, education or training in Asia and the Pacific: Trends and policy considerations](#) and [How NEET are developing and emerging economies? \(Chapter 3 in ILO \(2023\) Global Employment Policy Review 2023.](#)

## Webinar Objectives

Jointly organized by ILO, UNICEF and UNESCO Bangkok, within the framework of the Asia and the Pacific Adolescent and Youth Learning and Skills Development Working Group, the **Sub-Regional webinar on ‘Youth NEET in South Asia’**, aims to:

- Share and foster discussions on the youth NEET trends in South Asia to better understand the experiences of young people and help inform future policymaking and programming;
- Examine the preliminary findings of the analysis, “NEET isn’t working? Determinants and time-use of young people not in employment, education or training in South Asia” and reflect on forms of labour that shape NEET experience;
- Highlight country-level insights from South Asia

## Date and Format

The 75-minute Webinar will include a presentation and a moderated panel discussion by discussants consisting of academia, policy maker and youth representative. A moderator will facilitate the discussion between the discussants. A reflection and Q&A session will follow the discussion.

The webinar will be held in English and conducted through the Zoom webinar platform. The link to the webinar will be provided upon registration. The session will be recorded and be made available afterwards at the following website: <https://apa.sdg4education2030.org/webinar-youth-not-employment-education-or-training-neet-south-asia>.

## Registration

Registration is free and we kindly request you to register in advance for the webinar. To register:

Click the following link: [https://unesco-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_UVTJo9WjQgOYvhI8WTmTBw](https://unesco-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_UVTJo9WjQgOYvhI8WTmTBw)  
or scan the QR code:



Once you register, you will receive a confirmation email containing information and a unique join URL to join the webinar.

### For more information

Please contact the Secretariat of the Asia and the Pacific Adolescent and Youth Learning and Skills Development Working Group

Email: [secretariat.ayeswg@unesco.org](mailto:secretariat.ayeswg@unesco.org)

Discussants



Dr. Radhicka Kapoor is a Visiting Professor at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER). Prior to joining ICRIER, she worked at the Planning Commission and at the International Labour Organization. Over the last few years, she has worked extensively on the various facets of India's labour market, in particular, in the areas of the informal economy, the impact of technological changes on the world of work, the measurement of employment and unemployment, the role of labour regulations and industrial performance. She has authored several research papers, reports and articles in leading newspapers on these subjects and co-edited a book "*Towards a Just, Dignified and Secure Future of Work: Lessons from India*" (SEWA, 2019). She holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the London School of Economics, a Masters degree from Cambridge University and a Bachelors degree from St. Stephens College, University of Delhi.



Samanjar Chowdhury is an active member of global Young People's Action Team (YPAT) at [Generation Unlimited](#) of UNICEF. With a strong focus on social and economic empowerment, Samanjar works directly with adolescents and young people in Bangladesh and Africa. She is deeply involved with many youth-led organizations and initiatives both locally and internationally, striving to bring about positive transformations within communities through meaningful youth engagement and participation. Samanjar firmly believes in the power of including adolescents and young people in decision-making processes at all levels, empowering them to shape their own futures. Throughout her journey, she has emerged as a remarkable young leader, leading successful initiatives that mobilize youth on matters of active citizenship, community leadership, mobilization, and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) issues.

## Provisional Programme

Tuesday 20 June 2023, 1:30 – 2:45 pm (New Delhi time)	
1:30 – 1:35 pm	<p><b>Welcome</b>  <i>By Margarete Sachs-Israel, UNESCO Multisectoral Regional Office in Bangkok</i>  <i>And Felix Weidenkaff, ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific</i></p>
1:35 – 2:00 pm	<p><b>Presentation on “NEET isn’t working? Determinants and time-use of young people not in employment, education or training in South Asia”</b>  <i>By Niall O’Higgins and Kate Brockie, ILO Employment Policy Department</i></p>
2:00 – 2:20 pm	<p><b>Moderated discussion on supporting Youth NEET in South Asia</b>  <i>By Chizuru Iwata, UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia</i></p> <p><b>Discussants:</b>  <i>Dr Radhicka Kapoor, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)</i></p> <p><i>Dr. Fahmida Khatun, PhD, Executive Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)</i></p> <p><i>Samanjar Chowdhury, Young People’s Action Team member of Generation Unlimited</i></p>
2:20 – 2:40 pm	<p><b>Reflections and questions</b></p>
2:40 – 2:45 pm	<p><b>Closing</b>  <i>By Margarete Sachs-Israel, UNESCO Multisectoral Regional Office in Bangkok</i></p>