



India

Research Site: Manipur State, India

Partner Organization:

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IN SPITE of all the problems, I still have the ability to smile. When I go for my fieldwork and see so many unfortunate women, I feel that their problems are not lesser than mine.

—Indian girl

Context and Risk Factors:

MANIPUR is a small northeastern state in India with a population of 2,166,788. Literacy rates in Manipur state are higher than the national average. Manipur, its population largely rural (76%), is a non-industrialized state with an agrarian economy insufficient to meet the needs of the populace. The per-capita income is Rs. 12,198, which is much lower than the India's national figure of Rs. 21,120. Twenty-nine percent of the population lives below the poverty line. Opportunities for sustainable livelihood are few, due to a number of unofficial taxes imposed on all professional activities. Success often attracts unpleasant consequences including intimidation, ex-



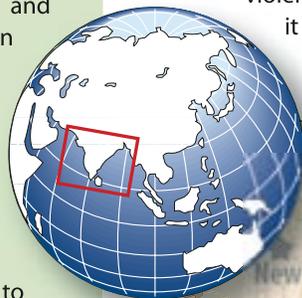
tortion, and even kidnapping. Manipur has been plagued by insurgency for five decades and has been in violation of human rights across all spheres of industry and government. School children and college students routinely join, or are ironically forced to join, joint action committees protesting violations of human rights. Youth have come to accept violence as a part of their lives, and it is standard procedure to demand compensation money from the government for

lives lost. As a result, youth are vulnerable to high-risk behaviors as drug users or as non-state actors in revolutionary movement(s).¹

Participants: Of the 60 Indian youth that participated in the study, 47% (28) were female and 53% (32) were male. The average age of the participants was 15 years, with an average education level of grade 10. Ages of the participants ranged from 11 to 20, and grade levels ranged from 6 to university. The communities of the participants saw the youth as coping well, based on culturally appropriate norms for behavior.

WHAT is the International Resilience Project (IRP)?:

The IRP is a mixed-methods, culturally sensitive approach to understanding how youth around the world effectively cope with the diverse challenges they face. The IRP now has partnerships with researchers and community-based organizations on six continents in over 25 communities. The IRP is currently bringing to a close the first three-year phase of research, in which data was collected with over 1500 children in 14 communities worldwide. In Manipur, India, youth spoke with us about how they were able to achieve good outcomes despite significant adversities.



What does resilience mean in Manipur?: In each site, qualitative interviews, consisting of nine 'catalyst' questions, were conducted with youth considered by the community to be 'coping well with adversity.' In India, 1 girl, 1 boy, and 2 adults (1 male, 1 female) spoke to us about the meaning of resilience in their context. Despite living in an environment of violence and disorder, youth in Manipur displayed resilience in ways often unrecognized by society. A dichotomy of youth resilience was discovered however, in that some young people also resorted to routine extortions, killings, and crime in order to survive. Youth in India told us for example:

"I am not a pessimist and have hopes of having a better life, but I am realistic enough to realize that it will depend on how much effort I make in this respect." (Indian boy)

"In spite of all the problems, I still have the ability to smile. When I go for my fieldwork and see so many unfortunate women, I feel that their problems are not lesser than mine. This is how I go on with my life." (Indian girl)

For further information:

For a full discussion of the *International Resilience Project*, please see the accompanying Project Report contained with this package or visit us at our website www.resilienceproject.org

For copies of this report, please contact:

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Studying Resilience:

An international team of researchers created the content for the **Child and Youth Resilience Measure (CYRM)**, a 58-item instrument administered across all 14 research-sites. Local research teams also added 15 contextually and culturally specific questions to the CYRM during its administration in their communities. Questions were scored from 1 (do not at all agree) to 5 (agree a lot) by the youth themselves.

Sample of India CYRM Mean Scores

(Highest, lowest, and largest variance when compared to overall CYRM mean)

Order	CYRM Question listed by Mean Score	Site mean	Global mean	Variance	Color codes
1	Is getting an education important to you? (CYRM 10)	4.9	4.4	0.5	■
2	Do you feel safe when you are with your family? (CYRM 48)	4.7	4.1	0.6	■ ■
3	Do you think each individual is responsible to make the world a better place? (CYRM 13)	4.7	3.8	0.9	■ ■
4	Do you think non-prescription drugs and/or alcohol will help you when you have to deal with lots of problems? (CYRM 33) Reverse scored	R4.7	3.9	0.8	■
5	Do you think it is important to serve your community? (CYRM 47)	4.3	3.5	0.8	■
6	Does your culture teach you to become a better person? (CYRM 17)	4.1	3.5	0.6	■
7	Are you able to avoid violent situations at home, school, or in your community? (CYRM 41)	3.1	3.6	-0.5	■
8	Do you have a vision of how the future should be? (CYRM 26)	3	3.6	-0.6	■
9	Do you know where your parent(s) and/or grandparents were born? (CYRM 2)	2.9	3.7	-0.8	■
10	Does the older generation understand and tolerate the ideas and strong beliefs of people your age? (CYRM 5)	2.8	2.9	-0.1	■
11	Do you think having fun and laughing can help solve problems in life? (CYRM 1)	2.7	3.2	-0.5	■ ■
12	Are you comfortable asking for help? (CYRM 36)	2.7	3.1	-0.4	■
13	Are members of your family or community who do unacceptable things accepted afterwards? (CYRM 39)	2.7	3.1	-0.4	■

Overall Mean across 58 CYRM questions 3.5 3.4 0.1

- Highest Site Scores on CYRM
- Largest Variance Below Global Mean (-)
- Lowest Site Scores on CYRM
- Largest Variance Above Global Mean (+)

India CYRM Results:

- Across all 58 measures of the CYRM, India's mean (3.5 out of a possible 5) was slightly higher than the global sample mean across all sites (3.4). Within the Indian sample however, youth placed particular importance (or scored themselves highest) on CYRM statements: 10 'Is getting an education important to you?'; 48 'Do you feel safe when you are with your family?'; 13 'Do you think each individual is responsible to make the world a better place?'; and 33 'Do you think non-prescription drugs and/or alcohol will help you when you have to deal with lots of problems?' It is important to note that CYRM Question 33 is reverse scored. A high score indicates that youth **do not** think non-prescription drugs and/or alcohol will help when they have to deal with lots of problems.
- The CYRM questions scored lowest by Indian youth included statements: 5 'Does the older generation understand and tolerate the ideas and strong beliefs of people your age?'; 1 'Do you think having fun and laughing can help solve problems in life?'; 36 'Are you comfortable asking for help?'; and 39 'Are members of your family or community who do unacceptable things accepted afterwards?'
- When compared to the global sample, Indian youth showed the most **positive variance** (scoring higher than the overall mean for youth globally) on statements: 48 'Do you feel safe when you are with your family?'; 13 'Do you think each individual is responsible to make the world a better place?'; 47 'Do you think it is important to serve your community?'; and 17 'Does your culture teach you to become a better person?'
- Indian youth showed the largest **negative variance** (scoring lower than the overall mean for youth globally) on questions: 41 'Are you able to avoid violent situations at home, school, or in your community?'; 26 'Do you have a vision of how the future should be?'; 2 'Do you know where your parent(s) and/or grandparents were born?'; and 1 'Do you think having fun and laughing can help solve problems in life?'

India Site Specific Questions Mean Scores

Site Specific Questions	Mean/5
SSQ 10: Do you feel your parents and elders understand your needs and take adequate care?	4.4
SSQ 4: Are religious beliefs, the numerous festivals, pujas, and temple visits a source of strength?	4.4
SSQ 6: Are the strict restrictions on the mixing of boys and girls, except at Yaoshang, helpful to you?	4.3
SSQ 7: Do the reservations that your community has about other communities hinder your interactions with young people from other communities?	4.2
SSQ 13: Do you feel free and comfortable to talk to your teachers about your problems?	3.9
SSQ 11: Can you openly express yourself against your parents and elders in the family when you differ from them?	3.8
SSQ 15: Do you think drugs and/or alcohol will help you when we have lots of tension/problems?	3.6
SSQ 2: Do you promote or encourage men to do works women always do?	3.6
SSQ 1: Do you have problems in your family if you advocate/subscribe to different ideologies or beliefs?	3.5
SSQ 12: Do your parents trust you and encourage you to do what you like in life?	3.3
SSQ 5: Is the involvement of women, as individuals and as groups in social and economic sectors of the society, a matter of pride?	2.7
SSQ 14: Have you set a goal for your life?	2.7
SSQ 3: Is our way of living together in a large, extended family a source of strength?	2.4
SSQ 9: Do you feel that the fact that yours is a small community, hemmed in by other communities, makes you feel that you have to fight for your survival?	2.4
SSQ 8: Does the fact that yours is a small community, hemmed in by other communities, make you less secure?	1.4

The Indian mean on the 15 site-specific questions was 2.4 out of a possible 5, which was much lower than their overall mean on the 58 globally administered CYRM questions (3.5/5).

Understanding the Results "Ecologically":

The IRP team reached a consensus that the 58 global CYRM questions could be separated into four unique and important aspects of resilience: *individual traits and characteristics, relationship factors, community contexts, and social and political aspects of culture*. Of the 58 CYRM questions, 23 related to individual traits and characteristics, 7 related to relationship factors, 15 to community contexts, and 12 related to aspects of culture. Focus on these four areas of resilience shows which aspects are most relevant to children's success in difficult contexts. One can see from the chart below which aspects of resilience are more or less important to Indian youth when compared to youth across all 14 research-sites.

Four-part Ecological Model:

Gender Comparison of Indian Site Means with Overall Sample Means (All Sites)

Ecological Model (Aspects of Resilience)	Site	Global	Girls		Boys	
			India	Global	India	Global
Individual Aspects	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.4
Relationship Aspects	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.3
Community Aspects	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.5
Culture Aspects	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.3

Endnotes

1 All context information, risk factors and statistics provided by IRP site partners Don Bosco and Dr. Irene Salam-Singh, Department of History, Manipur University, India