

# Weekly Livelihoods Update

08 May 2018

✚ **Anger of the Jobless Youth:** Idle mind has the possibility of becoming devil's workshop where religion, politics, crime, poverty may combine to form toxic brews and demographic dividend can become double edged sword and even a burden. Some of the observations on present scenario of youth in India and across the world are:

- According to OECD and India's Economic Survey, over 30% of India's youth is neither employed nor in school and is not in any kind of apprenticeship
- Outdated and financially strained education system, an economic system skewed in favour of rich and disruptive technologies are some challenges faced
- Agriculture which employs 38% of India's youth is in grave crisis
- Out of nearly 1 million engineers that graduate every year in India, as few as 7 to 12% are fit to be employed.
- Youth Development Index finds that odds of a young women not having a job or education are twice that of a young man
- ILO observes that prolonged joblessness renders the young cynical and angrier and warns of a scarred generation

All these concerns emphasize the importance of effective utilisation of demographic dividend. (For detailed analysis, read Down To Earth, 1-15 May, 2018 issue)

✚ **Feeding Hungry Children:** In the wake of a proposal towards centralised, packaged production and distribution of supplementary nutrition under ICDS, alternate narrative is:

- Ensuring supplementary nutrition through local foods would:
  - Retain diversity in food
  - Create demand for local crops
  - Ensure greater acceptability among mothers and families
  - Do away with the contractors and leakages
- NITI Aayog recommends involving mothers in the preparation of meals
- Other modes can be delivering supplementary nutrition through SHGs
- Local supply, production and distribution would ensure community monitoring and control.

(Visit [http://www.epw.in/system/files/pdf/2018\\_53/18/ED\\_LIII\\_18\\_050518\\_Feeding\\_Hungry\\_Children.pdf](http://www.epw.in/system/files/pdf/2018_53/18/ED_LIII_18_050518_Feeding_Hungry_Children.pdf) for detailed analysis)

✚ **Privacy and interlinked world:** Our hyperlinked world endangers our privacy and dignity as a few know everything the rest are doing. This creates imbalance in the positions of different human beings and encourage exploitation. As data becomes new currency and fuel for next wave of growth, it can be manipulated, used unfairly and much more.

(Read on <https://www.outlookindia.com/magazine/story/rule-of-the-know-alls/300111> for further understanding)

✚ **Healthcare- Private Hospitals-Capping Profits:** An expert panel recommended capping profit margins of Delhi private hospitals on drugs and devices. Delhi government is likely to come up with a policy on this issue.

- At present, Clinical Establishments Regulation and Registration Act exist since 2010 to regulate profiteering by private hospitals. Close to 7 states adopted this act and the implementation is not on expected lines.
- Uniform regulation has been difficult as health is a state subject.
- Other ideas to make healthcare affordable can be cross subsidisation and Standard services at standard costs, transparency (e.g.: e-platform where all prices are listed to compare) about diagnostic rates to enable informed choice by consumer.

(Watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vhPjUSTWBBC> for detailed debate)

✚ **Life on the Fringes-Village life near a Protected Area:**

Some of the observations are:

- Complex livelihood portfolio involving collection of minor forest produce as well as agricultural activities
- Conflict with forest laws and forest officials
- Human Animal Conflict (Read about one such village Dangamala on the fringe of Bhitarkanika in Odisha on [http://www.epw.in/system/files/pdf/2018\\_53/18/PE\\_LIII\\_18\\_050518\\_Subhashree\\_Banerjee.pdf](http://www.epw.in/system/files/pdf/2018_53/18/PE_LIII_18_050518_Subhashree_Banerjee.pdf) and see how it is impacted)

✚ **Education Policy-NITI Aayog:** A review of NITI Ayog's three year action agenda's says on education in India and lacunae in it followed by some course corrections are discussed in this article.

(Read [http://www.epw.in/system/files/pdf/2018\\_53/18/CM\\_LIII\\_18\\_050518\\_Protiva\\_Kundu.pdf](http://www.epw.in/system/files/pdf/2018_53/18/CM_LIII_18_050518_Protiva_Kundu.pdf) for detailed commentary)