

Annex 4

Marginality Mapping

Marginality Mapping is an exercise that appeared in the Commonwealth document *Co-Creating Youth Spaces – A Practice-Based Guide for Youth Facilitators*.¹ It is adapted from an exercise called Poverty Mapping derived from Dhruva, the consultancy wing of Concerned for Working Children (CWC), a rights-based organisation working on children and governance, located at Bangalore, India.

Why Marginality Mapping?

In order to ensure meaningful representation in youth participation, it is important to identify who is marginalised and why they are marginalised. Social groups and individuals are marginalised because of several factors such as economic, social, cultural, political and geographic status. For example, a young person belonging to a certain religious group (cultural) may be marginalised because of his or her religious identity, or a young person could be marginalised for simply having a view on a subject that is different from the majority view (political) etc. Marginality is an ever-changing process, and a group's level of marginality can change over time and place. For this reason, it is possible to work with stakeholders and young people not only to analyse marginality, but also to discuss how marginalisation can be challenged and minimised.

Each sector may have to re-adapt this tool to study particular forms of marginality in their specific contexts – e.g. the health sector would need to assess who is most marginalised in terms of accessing and benefiting from health services in a specific context.

The tool

This mapping tool covers five areas of potential marginality for young people:

- **Social marginalisation:** Includes aspects highlighted in the Equality Matrix for Youth (Table 3.1) under

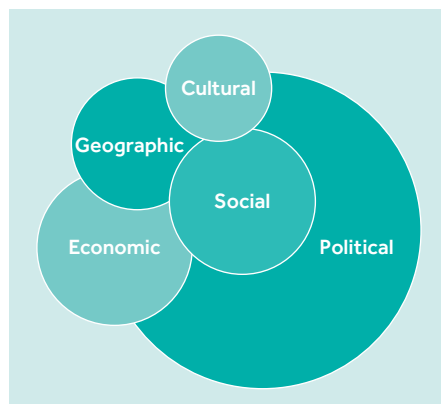
social equality – i.e. marginality pertaining to education, literacy, housing, equal status for those with disability, women, minorities etc.

- **Cultural marginalisation:** Includes marginalisation pertaining to creative expression, religion etc.
- **Economic marginalisation:** Includes marginalisation due to unemployment, low income, inequitable income for commensurate work, lack of voice in the work place etc.
- **Political marginalisation:** Includes lack of ability to express opinions on, and influence decisions that affect, young people and society – including in party-political spaces, in global, national and local governance, in the family, and all other personal and public spaces young people are associated with such as communities, schools, universities, work places etc.
- **Geographic marginalisation:** Includes remoteness and influence on quality of life because of environmental effects, either human-made or natural environmental crises such as global warming, landslides, infertile soil, drought etc.

Figure A4.1 shows:

- how different forms of marginality can often intersect, through the levels of overlap; and
- the gravity of each form of marginality, through the size of the circle.

Figure A4.1 Marginality mapping Venn diagram



Young people and stakeholders can change the size and placement of the circles in ways they see as applying to their contexts.

This tool not only serves the identification of forms of marginality and their intersections, but also helps dialogue and discussion among young people and adult stakeholders on the issue.

A detailed tool pertaining to this is available in *Co-creating Youth Spaces*, pp 135–6 for you to adapt.

Note

- 1 Commonwealth Youth Programme et al. 2014.

Reference

Commonwealth Youth Programme, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and Pravah (2014), *Co-creating Youth Spaces: A Practice-Based Guide for Youth Facilitators*, Commonwealth Secretariat, London, available at: http://thecommonwealth.org/sites/default/files/inline/Co-Creating_Youth_Spaces_web.pdf

