



Work and Family Lives in Andhra Pradesh:

Preliminary Findings from the 2023–24 Young Lives Round 7 Survey

Introduction

For more than 20 years, Young Lives has followed two cohorts, born seven years apart, from infancy into early adulthood in Ethiopia, India, Peru and Vietnam.¹ This factsheet presents preliminary findings from Round 7 of the Young Lives survey carried out in India in the State of Andhra Pradesh in 2023–24, when the Younger Cohort was 22 years old and the Older Cohort was 29. It provides an overview of the key labour market, marital and fertility indicators underlining changes over time by comparing the Younger Cohort at age 22 with the Older Cohort at the same age but seven years earlier, in 2016, and documenting the Younger and Older Cohort's progression from age 15 to 22 in terms of work and educational status. The factsheet also reflects on the implications of the findings for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Headlines

- The transition from education to labour market is occurring later for the Younger Cohort than for the Older Cohort born seven years earlier.
- Most young people at 29 years are engaged in poor-quality jobs, without a written contract and working long hours.
- A smaller proportion of women compared to men are employed, but the burden of unpaid care work disproportionately affects women, limiting their labour market participation.
- Early marriage and early parenthood remain a concern, with 11% of Younger Cohort women being married before the legal age of 18 and 16% having a child by age 19.
- Early-life inequalities are reflected in rates of child marriage and early motherhood.

¹ Round 7 took place in the Young Lives study sites in Ethiopia, India and Peru. On this occasion, data was not collected in Vietnam due to a change in government procedures on the international transfer of personal data.

Key findings

- **The transition from education to the labour market is occurring later for the Younger Cohort than for the Older Cohort born seven years earlier.** Fewer 22-year-olds were working full-time in 2023 compared to 29-year-olds in 2016, and more continued studying only (18% vs. 11%).
- **Comparing Younger Cohort and Older Cohort at age 22, we find half of both cohorts in employment (in the past week)** with gender gap in favour of men increasing from 32 percentage points in 2016 to 35 percentage points in 2023.
- **Four out of every five (74%) young people at age 29 were working**, with a gender gap in favour of men (93% men vis-à-vis 57% women) but majority were engaged in poor-quality jobs, measured as jobs without a written contract and jobs demanding long working hours. One out of ten of the Older Cohort had a written contract and 45% worked more than 48 hours per week in their main activity.
- **There is a clear gender difference in the distribution of work.** At age 22, Younger Cohort men spend 2.8 hours more per day on paid work than women, while women spend 3.6 hours more per day on unpaid care work, compared to men.
- **Cross cohort comparison related to age of marriage and motherhood shows a positive trend.** Comparing the two cohorts, 11% of Younger Cohort women were found to be married before the legal age of 18 compared to 21% Older Cohort being married before legal age and 16% of the Younger Cohort women having a child by age 19 compared to 26% of the Older Cohort women becoming mothers by 19.
- **Early life inequalities are reflected in rates of child marriage and early motherhood.** Participants whose mothers had less formal education and those born in socially disadvantaged groups as well as the poorest households are more likely to be married before legal age and have a child by 19.



The policy context of work and family lives in Andhra Pradesh

According to the latest Economic Survey 2024-25, the State of Andhra Pradesh is the “leading performer” among all States in India, with a Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 8.80% in the agriculture and allied sectors, excluding forestry and logging (Government of India, 2025). The State has sustained good economic growth over the years, with the recent Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) growth rate at 12.94%, driven by a balanced performance in agriculture, industry, and services (Planning Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh, 2024). It has made progress in reducing its unemployment rate from pre-pandemic levels (4.7% in 2019-20 vs 4.1% in 2022-23) (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, 2024). However, youth unemployment (ages 15-29) stands at 17.5%, the highest among all age groups, with the female unemployment rate being higher (19.7%) compared to men (16.4%). Moreover, more than half of the rural employment and nearly half of urban employment belong to the informal sector, reflecting lack of quality employment and widespread socioeconomic inequalities in Andhra Pradesh (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, 2024).

More than one-third of adult women (35.8%) are engaged in labour market activities in Andhra Pradesh and gender inequality in labour force participation is a concern. Government of Andhra Pradesh has set “Swarna Andhra Vision Goals by 2047”, aligned to SDG targets 5 and 8, which aim to reduce unemployment rate to below 2% and increase women’s workforce participation above 80% by 2047 (Planning Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh, 2024).

Methods

This factsheet uses preliminary data from the Young Lives Round 7 survey in India, which was collected between August 2023 and January 2024. A total of 1,725 interviews were completed (1,185 with the Younger Cohort and 540 with the Older Cohort) in the State of Andhra Pradesh, which represents 87.9% of the original sample in Round 1 (Younger Cohort: 90.7%; Older Cohort: 82.3%). Participants from previous rounds who were not interviewed in Round 7 were excluded from the analysis. The total sample for this factsheet pertains to those who were living in Andhra Pradesh in Round 1 and not those who live in Andhra Pradesh in Round 7. Participants are classified by gender, area of residence (urban or rural) at the time of data collection, household wealth (top, middle or bottom wealth tercile in 2002) (Briones 2017), caste, and mother’s level of education.

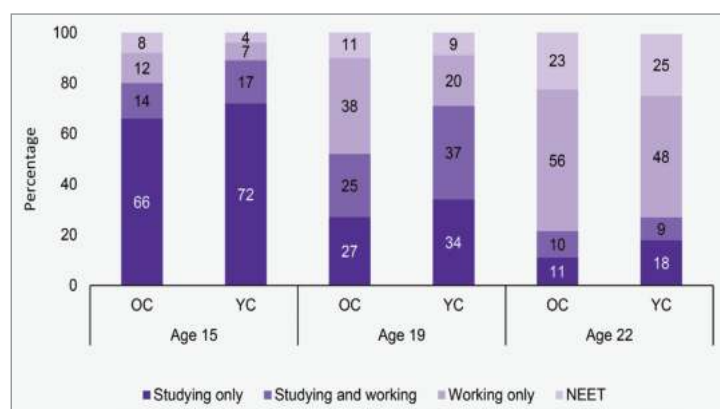
Activities of Young Lives participants

A trend analysis of activities undertaken by Younger Cohort (YC) and Older Cohort (OC) between the ages of 15 and 22 years (Figure 1) indicate that across all ages, a higher proportion of Younger Cohort were engaged in education. At age 19 amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, a larger proportion of the Younger Cohort were studying (34%) and studying and working (37%). However, at the same age in 2013, fewer Older Cohort were studying (27%) and studying and working (25%).

While a majority of the 22-year-old Younger Cohort in 2023 were working, cross-cohort comparison shows that the shift from education to employment is happening later in life. In 2023, 48% of the Younger Cohort were working only, 9% were working and studying, 18% were studying only, and 25% were ‘Not in Employment, Education, or Training’ (NEET) for 12 months prior to the survey (Figure 1). The Older Cohort at the same age in 2016 had higher rates of working only (56%), lower rate of studying (11%) and studying and working (10%), with close to a quarter in NEET (23%).

41% of the 22-year-olds in 2023 who were not in employment, education or training were women, compared to only 10% of men (Annex 1). This is largely because unpaid care and domestic work are primarily undertaken by women. The most common reason for 73% of ‘not working’ among the Younger Cohort women in NEET category, was being engaged in domestic and childcare responsibilities, while 25% men reported that they were taking coaching or preparing for competitive exams.

Figure 1. Working and studying status by age and cohort (%)



Note: Working status is defined based on at least one hour of work in labour market activities in the last 12 months; studying status is defined based on enrolment in the ongoing academic year (for studying) prior to the interview; NEET refers to those who have not worked, are not in training and are not enrolled in education.

Employment and types of jobs

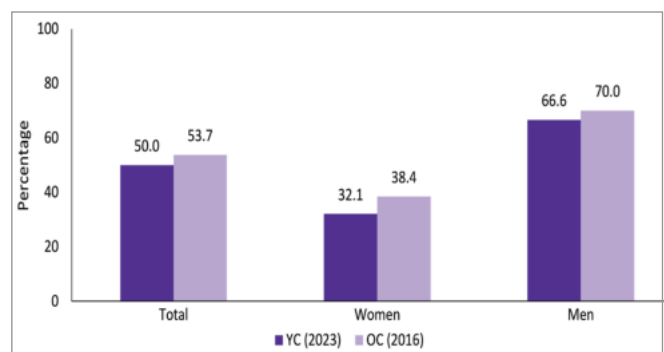
In 2023, the proportion of young people employed in the week prior to the interview was 50% and 74% for the Younger Cohort (age 22) and Older Cohort (age 29), respectively (Annex 1). Approximately, three-fourth of the Older Cohort were working in the past week irrespective of wealth status. Among those in employment amongst the Older Cohort, 96% located in urban areas and 74% in rural areas are engaged in non-agricultural jobs. We find that agriculture remains an important source of employment for women, with 30% of employed women engaged in this sector, compared to only 16% of men amongst the Older Cohort.

Overall, most of the young people are working in poor quality jobs, measured as being without a written contract and demanding long working hours, with substantial variation by socio-economic factors. On an average, only 11% of the employed 29-year-olds have a written contract. They spent an average of 48 hours per week in their main employment activity, with 45% working long hours (more than 48 hours per week). In addition, 47% reported that they were not satisfied with their jobs. Employment with a written contract amongst Older Cohort was least prevalent among rural residents, those from the poorest households, Scheduled Tribes and whose mother had no formal education.

Gender distribution of work

There has been a persistent gender gap in employment among both the Younger and Older Cohort, consistently favouring men (Figure 2). A comparison at age 22 shows that, the gender gap in employment is wider among the Younger Cohort than the Older Cohort (35% for YC vs 32% for OC). There is a noticeable increase in the employment rate amongst the Older Cohort at age 29 (93% men and 57% women). However, the gender gap has increased to 36 percentage points compared to age 22. Notably, employment among Older Cohort women

Figure 2. Cross cohort comparison in employment by gender (at age 22)



Note: The proportion of participants employed refers to a recall period of the last week. The proportion employed here do not include those not working in the recall period but who have a job.

has improved over time, increasing by 19 percentage points between 2016 and 2023 (38% in 2016 vs 57% in 2023) but gender gap remains persistent (Annex 1).

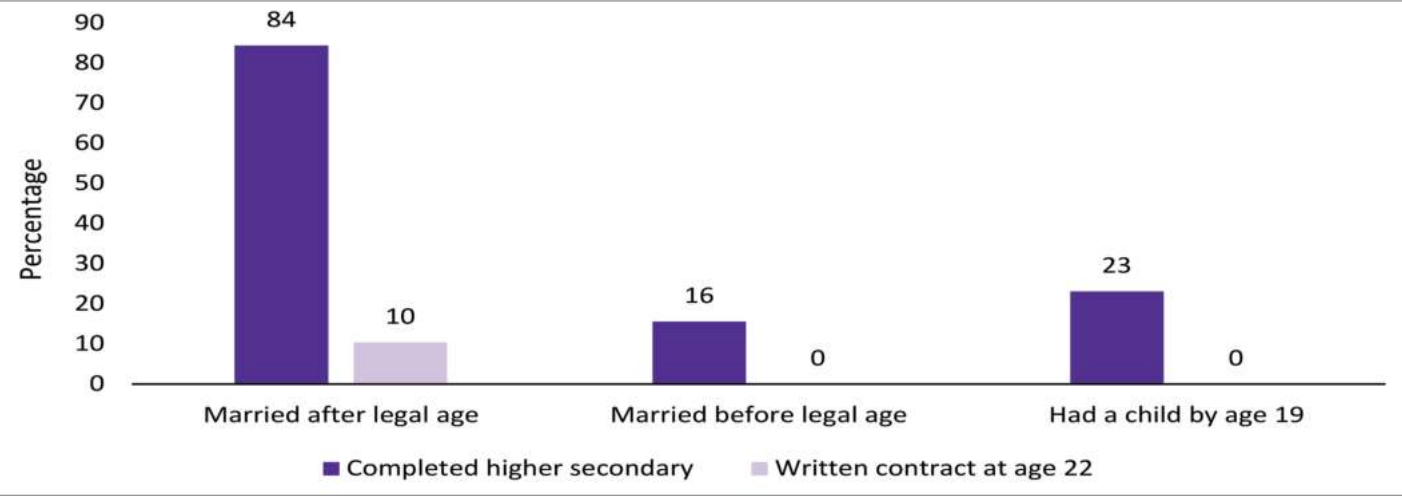
The gender gap is even more pronounced for unpaid care work, which includes direct care for the elderly, people with illness and disabilities, children, as well as indirect care or domestic responsibilities. The challenge is that this work is not counted as economic activity despite its valuable contribution. By age 15, girls already spent half an hour more per day on unpaid care work, and by age 22, this had increased to 3.6 hours more per day compared to men. A significant time-use gap exists even among employed men and women, with employed women spending 2.4 more hours per day on unpaid care work. In comparison to Younger Cohort in 2023, the gender gap in time spent on unpaid care work per day was even larger for the Older Cohort in 2016 (4.1 hours). This is because Older Cohort men spent less time on unpaid care work than Younger Cohort men at age 22 (1.4 hours for the Older Cohort and 2 hours for the Younger Cohort), whereas women in both cohorts spent almost equal amount of time at age 22 (5.6 hours for the Younger Cohort, 5.4 hours for the Older Cohort). At age 22, men in the Younger Cohort spend 2.8 more hours per day on paid work than women, compared to 3.2 hours more per day for the Older Cohort men at the same age. Taken together, this evidence suggests that gender norms and social expectations play an important role in how work is divided both within and outside the household.

Family formation

Young women are far more likely than men to have experienced marriage and parenthood by age 22. In 2023, at age 22, 44% of Younger Cohort women were married or had a child. In contrast, at the same age, only 6% of the Younger Cohort men were married or has a child. A positive shift in child marriage and teenage pregnancy of girls (by age 19) was observed, as fewer Younger Cohort women were married before legal age of 18 (11%) compared to Older Cohort women (21%) and fewer had a child by 19 years of age (16% vs 26%). A majority of those who got married before the legal age (18 for women and 21 for men) and had a child early (by age 19) were women. About 11% of the Younger Cohort women got married before legal age compared to 4% men, while 16% of women had a child by 19 compared to 1% men.

Child marriage and early motherhood are linked to worse education and labour market outcomes, but their prevalence is declining over time. As shown in Figure 3, women who married before the legal age and had a child by age 19 have lower secondary school completion rates, while none had a written employment contract at age 22 compared to those married after the legal age.

Figure 3. *Employment and education of Younger Cohort women who experienced child marriage and early parenthood (%)*



Early-life disadvantages are linked to higher rates of child marriage and parenthood. Lower maternal formal education, household wealth at birth and being from disadvantaged castes are strong predictors of child marriage and early parenthood.



Conclusions and way forward

Young people are transitioning from education to labour market at later age compared to their older counterparts at the same age. However, the continuing number of young people not in employment, education and training (NEET), especially among women remains a concern. Although majority of young people at age 29 are engaged in labour market, they lack access to better quality jobs. They often take up jobs without formal contract, face long working hours, and express dissatisfaction with their jobs. Meanwhile, both men and women have shifted to non-agricultural work across urban and rural areas. Gender disparities in employment persist and are prominent for both Younger and Older Cohort suggesting that women are largely confined to households bearing the responsibility of unpaid care work.

Child marriage and early parenthood are showing a declining trend amongst women; however, the phenomenon continues to be associated with poorer educational and labour market outcomes. Women from socioeconomically disadvantaged groups are specially at higher risk. Although, the labour force participation in Andhra Pradesh for women (between 15-29 age-group) remains higher (29.9%) than the national average (28.8%) (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, 2024), the gender gap in employment persists and the results suggest that early life disparities and social norms continue to form barriers for women. This underscores the need for Andhra Pradesh to review its SDG 5 and 8 targets, which are linked to achieving other SDGs (United Nations, 2015).

Annex 1. Work and family lives outcomes, Younger Cohort and Older Cohort, Andhra Pradesh

	Not in employment, education or training (NEET) (%)			Employment in the last week prior to the survey (%)			Employment with a written contract (in the last week) (%)		Hours per day in paid work		Hours per day in unpaid care work	
	YC (age 22)	OC (age 22)	OC (age 29)	YC (age 22)	OC (age 22)	OC (age 29)	YC (age 22)	OC (age 29)	OC (age 22)	YC (age 22)	YC (age 22)	OC (age 22)
Average of full sample	24.7	23.1	20.7	50	53.6	74.1	7.3	11.0	3.4	3.2	3.7	3.5
Gender												
Women	40.6	36.4	36.8	32.1	38.4	57.0	8.7	11.1	1.9	1.7	5.6	5.4
Men	10.1	8.3	3.1	66.6	70.3	93.0	6.6	10.9	5.1	4.5	2	1.4
Difference (t-test)	30.50***	28.10***	33.70***	-34.5***	-31.9***	-36.0***	2.1	0.2	-3.2***	-2.8***	3.6***	4.0***
Area of residence (Round 1)												
Urban	28.4	33.0	24.5	47.2	45.6	72.6	16.1	11.7	3.3	3.1	3.5	3.1
Rural	23.7	20.7	19.8	50.7	55.8	74.4	5.1	10.8	3.5	3.5	3.8	3.6
Difference (t-test)	4.7	12.3**	4.7	-3.5	-10.2**	-1.8	11.0***	0.9	-0.2	-0.4	-0.3	-0.5
Wealth index (Round 1)												
Bottom tercile	21.8	11.9	17.8	54.7	63.6	74.7	3	8.3	4.5	4.2	4.1	3.7
Middle tercile	25.4	19.9	21.1	49.1	57.3	74.9	5.5	11	3.6	2.9	4	3.1
Top tercile	25.4	31.1	21.7	46.8	40.4	72.5	14.2	13.7	2.7	3	3.1	3.1
Difference (Pearson chi2)	1.24	16.50***	0.66	4.87*	21.69***	0.32	18.79***	1.86	40.37*	40.71*	59.16**	35.63
Caste												
Scheduled Castes	25.6	13.5	17.9	46.3	63	77.4	3.2	11	4.5	3.7	4.3	3.7
Scheduled Tribes	15.1	15.6	26.0	55.4	54.3	68.8	5.8	7.6	4.5	4	3.1	3.1
Backward Classes	29.1	27.1	19.5	46.9	55.4	76.3	6.4	12.8	3.1	2.6	4	3.7
Others	22.0	28.3	22.3	55.2	42	70.3	12.6	9.4	2.3	3.3	3.2	3.2
Difference (Pearson chi2)	15.86**	11.89**	2.20	8.10**	11.27***	3.21	8.96**	1.45	65.53**	71.54**	78.14**	47.7
Maternal education												
None	24.0	19.1	19.8	56.1	61.0	76.8	4.0	9.0	4.1	3.6	4.2	3.8
1 to 5 years	24.9	32.3	19.0	48.5	40.0	70.7	5.1	12.1	1.9	3.0	3.7	3.5
6 to 10 years	26.8	30.8	24.2	40.5	44.7	73.1	11.3	17.7	2.6	2.5	3.3	2.8
More than 10 years	20.0	5.9	29.4	49.3	31.3	68.4	17.7	9.6	1.9	3.1	3.0	3.1
Difference (Pearson chi2)	1.52	13.58**	1.76	19.07***	23.10***	2.92	19.39***	4.14	55.09*	80.32**	61.20**	36.63
Number of participants	1185	537	540	1185	537	540	1185	540	537	1185	1185	537

Notes: Differences are significant at ***1%, **5% and *10%. Differences are percentage points. Information on maternal education was taken from 2006 (Round 2). Area of residence refers to the household location in 2002 (Round 1) as well as 2023 (Round 7). Household wealth terciles were calculated separately for each cohort using the household wealth index of 2002 (Round 1). Caste uses information from 2002 (Round 1). Here, we use the term Backward Classes, which is equivalent to Other Backwards Castes.

Annex 1. (Continued) Work and family lives outcomes, Younger Cohort and Older Cohort, Andhra Pradesh

	Married or has a child (%)			Married before legal age (%)		Had a child by 19 years old (%)	
	YC (age 22)	OC (age 22)	OC (age 29)	YC (age 22)	OC (age 29)	YC (age 22)	OC (age 29)
Average of full sample	24.2	33.7	73.0	7.1	13.9	8.1	14.4
Gender							
Women	44.1	56.3	90.1	10.9	21.1	15.9	26.1
Men	5.8	8.3	53.9	3.6	5.86	0.8	1.6
Difference (t-test)	38.4***	48.0***	36.2***	7.3***	15.2***	15.1***	24.5***
Area of residence (Round 1)							
Urban	16.4	25.5	67.9	5.2	4.7	4.4	8.5
Rural	26.3	35.7	74.2	7.6	16.1	9.1	15.9
Difference (t-test)	-9.9**	-10.2*	-6.3	-2.4	-11.4**	-4.7**	-7.4*
Wealth index (Round 1)							
Bottom tercile	30.1	36.7	72.8	9.7	16.67	10.2	18.5
Middle tercile	28.7	36.6	77.3	7.2	17.39	10.0	15.9
Top tercile	13.3	27.5	67.8	4.5	7.02	4.0	8.8
Pearson chi2	36.17***	4.34	4.25	7.41**	9.92**	12.71**	7.00**
Caste							
Scheduled Castes	32.0	29.8	69.8	9.85	13.2	9.9	17.0
Scheduled Tribes	18.3	32.5	66.2	8.06	16.9	8.1	19.5
Backward Classes	27.8	37.7	75.0	6.89	15.3	8.6	13.1
Others	15.1	30.0	76.0	4.63	9.9	5.8	11.6
Pearson chi2	25.79***	3.19	3.38	5.03	2.58	2.85	3.27
Maternal education							
None	32.4	38.3	77.8	10.08	18.0	11.8	19.0
1 to 5 years	19.6	32.1	67.1	5.39	14.6	6.4	14.6
6 to 10 years	18.0	22.6	61.3	4.25	5.4	4.3	7.5
More than 10 years	13.0	8.3	70.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pearson chi2	37.85***	14.92**	11.96**	18.85***	13.39**	24.70***	11.88**
Number of participants	1185	537	540	1185	540	1185	540

Notes: Differences are significant at ***1%, **5% and *10%. Differences are percentage points. Information on maternal education was taken from 2006 (Round 2). Area of residence refers to the household location in 2002 (Round 1) as well as 2023 (Round 7). Household wealth terciles were calculated separately for each cohort using the household wealth index of 2002 (Round 1). Caste uses information from 2002 (Round 1). Here, we use the term Backward Classes, which is equivalent to Other Backwards Castes.

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Young Lives is a longitudinal study of poverty and inequality following the lives of 12000 children into adulthood in four countries (Ethiopia, India, Peru and Vietnam)

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