

Documentaries & Factual - Human/Social Interest



Shifting Horizons

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Asia's demographic shifts are poised to redefine the world order, with India, China, and Indonesia at the epicenter. The next generation, young people under the age of 30, will play a crucial role in determining whether these three giants will realize the promise of 'The Asian Century'.

But what challenges are these youth facing today, and how will these pressing issues influence the developmental trajectories of these three nations over the coming decades?

Seasoned journalist Sruthi Gottipati travels across India, China, and Indonesia to explore problems like the unprecedented youth unemployment, a learning crisis in education, declining fertility rates and heightened climate risks. She speaks to people on the ground to find out what's at stake, and also uncover the solutions that can keep this generation on track.

Information correct at time of printing

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Episode 1: The Hustle

With nearly 700 million youth facing unprecedented levels of unemployment, the youth unemployment crisis in India, China, and Indonesia threatens not only individual futures, but the region's economic growth.

Seasoned journalist Sruthi Gottipati travels across these three countries to understand the scale of this crisis and find out what's being done to resolve the problems. From India's youth entrepreneurship programme to China's rural revitalisation projects and Indonesia's informal labour force, Sruthi uncovers how systemic challenges, education mismatches, and economic stagnation are colliding with the ambitions of Asia's youth.

But as Asia's three most populous nations grapple with this generational challenge, bold reforms and grassroots initiatives are emerging to bridge the gap amid rising inequality and shifting regional dynamics. Will the next generation be able to fulfil their potential and realize the Asian century?

Episode 2: Education Forward

Education is a crucial building block for Asia's youth and part of the solution for the current unemployment crisis. But what happens when students are not learning enough, or at all? Seasoned journalist Sruthi Gottipati travels across India, China, and Indonesia to understand the systemic challenges that exist.

From issues with teacher quality in Indonesia, to unequal learning levels amongst students in India, to China's hidden crisis of rural dropouts, Sruthi learns about the current gaps in Asia's schools.

Through visits to these schools and interviews with experts, educators and the youth, she discovers how technology and Artificial Intelligence are offering new solutions to transform teaching methods and improve knowledge retention.

Episode 3: Generation Next

China's decades-long plummeting fertility rate has led to projections that its 1.4 billion population will shrink by more than half in just 75 years' time. Meanwhile, in India, fertility rates in certain areas have dropped to below the ideal replacement level, and Indonesia threatens to follow suit.

Journalist Sruthi Gottipati travels across Asia's three most populous countries to understand the implications of these demographic trends on these countries' futures.

From attending a traditional Javanese baby shower in Indonesia, to joining some sari shoppers in India, to learning what the 'DINK' lifestyle means in China, Sruthi hears from young people themselves on the factors that are shaping their decisions on whether to have children. Through conversations with demographers and economists, Sruthi uncovers the hard data behind these considerations, as well as the economic implications to nations if their fertility rates continue to decline.

Episode 4: Sustainable Futures

1.65 billion young people under the age of 30 in Asia's three most populous countries now face alarming climate and environmental risks. Journalist Sruthi Gottipati travels across India, China and Indonesia to understand the plight faced by young victims, as well as uncover youth-led solutions being undertaken to turn their futures around.

From India's hazardous air and waste landfills poisoning its young populations, to China's heatwaves affecting urban gig workers, and climate change in Indonesia impacting crop harvests and future prospects, Sruthi learns about the severity of these problems, as well as how the youth in each of these three countries are disproportionately affected.

But her journey is also one of hope – Sruthi finds out how young innovators are emerging as problem-solvers on a local and international level, working with local governments to tackle these pressing issues through creative and scalable sustainability-driven solutions.

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