

RIGHTS AROUND THE WORLD

Girls leading learning in India



This month we are in...



Assam, India

Traveller's guide

There are 1.4 billion people living in India. India is the country with the largest population in the world.

India gained its independence from British colonial rule in 1947.

The Taj Mahal in India is one of the Seven wonders of the modern world.



The national animal of India is the tiger, and the national bird is the peacock.



India has six weather seasons: Spring, Summer, Monsoon (Rainy Season), Autumn, Pre-winter, and Winter.



Assam, India

Assam state produces more tea than any other state in India.

121 languages are spoken in India.

Picking tea in Assam

- Most parts of India are hot and have lots of rain. This weather is ideal for growing tea.
- Assam is a place in India where a lot of tea is grown.
- Tea is mostly grown on large plantations called estates. The leaves are picked by hand, it is hard work.
- Many estates are very large, so families often live nearby so they can walk to work easily.



Women picking tea leaves in a tea estate in Assam, India.

Ankita's Story



- Ankita lives in with her family on a tea estate in Assam, India.
- Her parents both work in the tea estate.
- Ankita wanted to learn about computers but her parents didn't have enough money to pay for the computer class.



Ankita, with her parents, brother and grandmother.

Ankita's Story



- Ankita joined a youth group aimed at supporting girls.
- The group helped her learn that to get money for school you need something called an 'identity card' and a 'bank account'
- With help from the group, Ankita opened a bank account. This helped her get money called a 'scholarship' to pay for computer classes.



Ankita and friends at the youth group

Ankita's Story



- With the scholarship, Ankita joined a computer class.
- She also helped one of her friends to find out about scholarships so that she could join the class.
- Ankita used the rest of the scholarship money to buy books and save up for college.



Ankita at the computer centre.

Ankita's Story



- Ankita is now a leader at the youth group. She helps other girls open bank accounts and get scholarships too.

Ankita said:

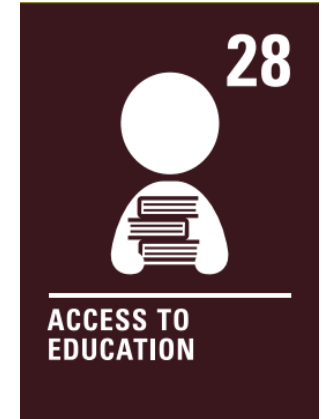
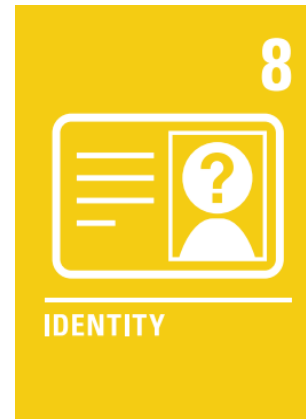
“Many girls are too shy to come out, ask questions and talk to people. We bring them to the youth group, so we can learn together.”



Ankita and friends at the youth girls Group.

The rights link...

Look at the summary of the **CRC** with a partner – which articles do you think are particularly relevant to this case study? (Click to reveal some examples)



▶ Why do you think we've highlighted this selection?

▶ Did you identify others?

...and what about the Global Goals?



▶ Why do you think we've highlighted this selection?

▶ Did you identify others?

Reflection

Think back to what you have learnt about India, Assam, Ankita and the work of UNICEF and the Ethical Tea Partnership.

- Is there anything that surprised you or you thought was particularly interesting?
- Is there anything you would like to learn more about?





PART
2

Activities

Build your understanding



What do you know about India? Why not read a book, such as *India, Incredible India* by Jasbinder Bilam, to learn more. Or watch some more videos from [UNICEF India](#) and discuss what rights are being protected. What can you find out about children's lives in India?

Ask an adult to show you some of the boxes of tea from the staffroom or from home or visit your local supermarket. Does the tea box say whether the tea producer is part of the Ethical Tea Partnership or can you see a Fairtrade or Rainforest Alliance logo? Why is it important to make sure the people who grow the tea are treated fairly?

Ankita is part of a girls' group in her tea estate. In many parts of the world, girls and boys are still given different opportunities. Can you think of ways boys and girls are sometimes treated differently? Why is it important to make sure all children are treated fairly?

Ankita wanted to do a computer class to develop her skills. Do you do any clubs in the evenings or at the weekends? What amazing skills do you have? You could create a display of all of the different activities your class or group do and your fabulous skills.

Build your understanding



Ankita faced barriers to accessing her right to education. Think about the different barriers she faced and how she overcame these barriers to achieve her goal. You could plot this out on a piece of paper and make links to CRC articles.

Ankita was part of a girls' group and also wanted to take part in computer lessons. What clubs or activities can you join at school? Does your school have pupils running or supporting the activities? Think about how you could be more involved or suggest a club that you would like to have in school. Create a proposal for a new club.

Ankita is part of a girl's group in her tea estate. In many parts of the world, girls still face discrimination and need extra support to achieve their goals (equity). Find out about some amazing women that have overcome challenges to achieve fantastic things. Discuss some ideas to mark International Women's Day on 8th March.

Antika had to have an identity document (ID) to get a bank account. Talk about identity documents, what they are e.g. passports, birth certificates, and why they are important. Create your own ID document by drawing a self-portrait and adding things that are important to you such as family/carers/friends, special items and places.

Build your understanding



Find out more about the [Ethical Tea Partnership](#). What does it aim to do and how does this support children's rights? How is this different to Fair Trade or the Rainforest Alliance? You could create a table to compare and contrast the different schemes and then think about how to encourage people to be aware of them when they buy tea.

Ankita was part of a girl's club in her tea estate, linked to Article 15. Survey your friends to see if there is a club that they would like to see in school. Come up with a proposal for a club, including any relevant details on potential barriers to overcome, funding, venues, staffing, accessibility, equity etc. Pitch your idea to your duty bearers and see if you can get your club up and running.

Why do you think there is a girl's club in the Tea Estates? Read about [UNICEF's work on gender equality](#) and then discuss why this is particularly important during the teen years. Think about Article 2 and discuss or write about how we can support all children and young people to achieve their potential.

Article 28 says that primary education should be **free and compulsory**, but that secondary education should be **available and accessible** to every child, with financial assistance available in case of need. UNICEF and ETP's programme supported Ankita to access education through a scholarship fund. Find out more about how many children across the world [access secondary education](#) and think about how you could campaign for access to be increased.

Take your learning into the world



Take action

Set up an Article 2 group and decide on a campaign that focuses on one aspect of the protected characteristics. You might want to focus on gender equality as March 8th is International Women's Day.



Get creative

Draw a teacup or mug and decorate this to show what you have learned about Ankita and UNICEF's work with Ethical Tea Partnership. Add this to your Rights Around the World display.



Add to your passport

Create a page on Assam in your Rights Around the World passport. Include a fact file on the situation in the case study and any actions you took as a result of your learning.

Glossary

- Ethical: What is morally right. Acting in a way that treats people and the environment well.
- Tea garden: A place where tea plants are grown and people work picking the leaves.
- Tea estate: The tea gardens and surrounding areas where the people who work in the tea gardens live their lives.
- Equity: When things are fair, and all people have the same opportunities as others.
- Financial literacy: Understanding money - how to earn, spend, save, and manage it wisely so you can make good decisions in life.
- Scholarship: Money or support given to help someone go to school, college, or learn new skills, especially if they wouldn't be able to afford it otherwise.

The next Rights Around the World Resource will be shared on April 16th 2026.

If you have enjoyed using this resource, you may also enjoy using UNICEF UK's OutRight resources. OutRight's latest focus is on International Aid. Children and young people will develop their understanding of their rights, international aid and why it is an important part of being a global citizen. We'll learn about the impact that international aid can have on both climate change and education globally.

You can use OutRight as evidence in your RRSA accreditation journey, and you'll receive support and additional resources along the way.

<https://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/resources/teaching-resources/outright/>

