

Katkatha Puppet Arts Trust, India
&
Take A Part, UK

Jugaad

India's First
Socially Engaged Arts Directory

Insights from the Directory and the Mentorship sessions

Report by Debosmita Dam

The Directory

80+ Organisations and Individuals

10+ States Pan India

10+ Sectors of work

3+ Decades of work

10+ Art forms

15 + Hours of Mentorship sessions

The Directory

15.3 thousand views on
mentorship sessions call

234 signups for
mentorship sessions

130+ participants in
sessions

The Directory

TIMELINE

**NOV
2025**



INDIA TEAM PLANS

Anurupa, Preet and Debosmita plan outreach, communication, logistics and tech requirements for an online convening, along with strategies for sharing the directory form.

**DEC
2025**



SEMINAR 1

A two day seminar where 14 socially engaged artists and collectives from across the country presented their work.

**JAN
2026**



TWO MENTORING SESSIONS

Attended by nearly 50 participants.

**FEB
2026**



FOUR MENTORING SESSIONS

Attended by nearly 65 participants.

**MAR
2026**



TWO MENTORING SESSIONS

Attended by nearly 30 participants.

**APR
2026**



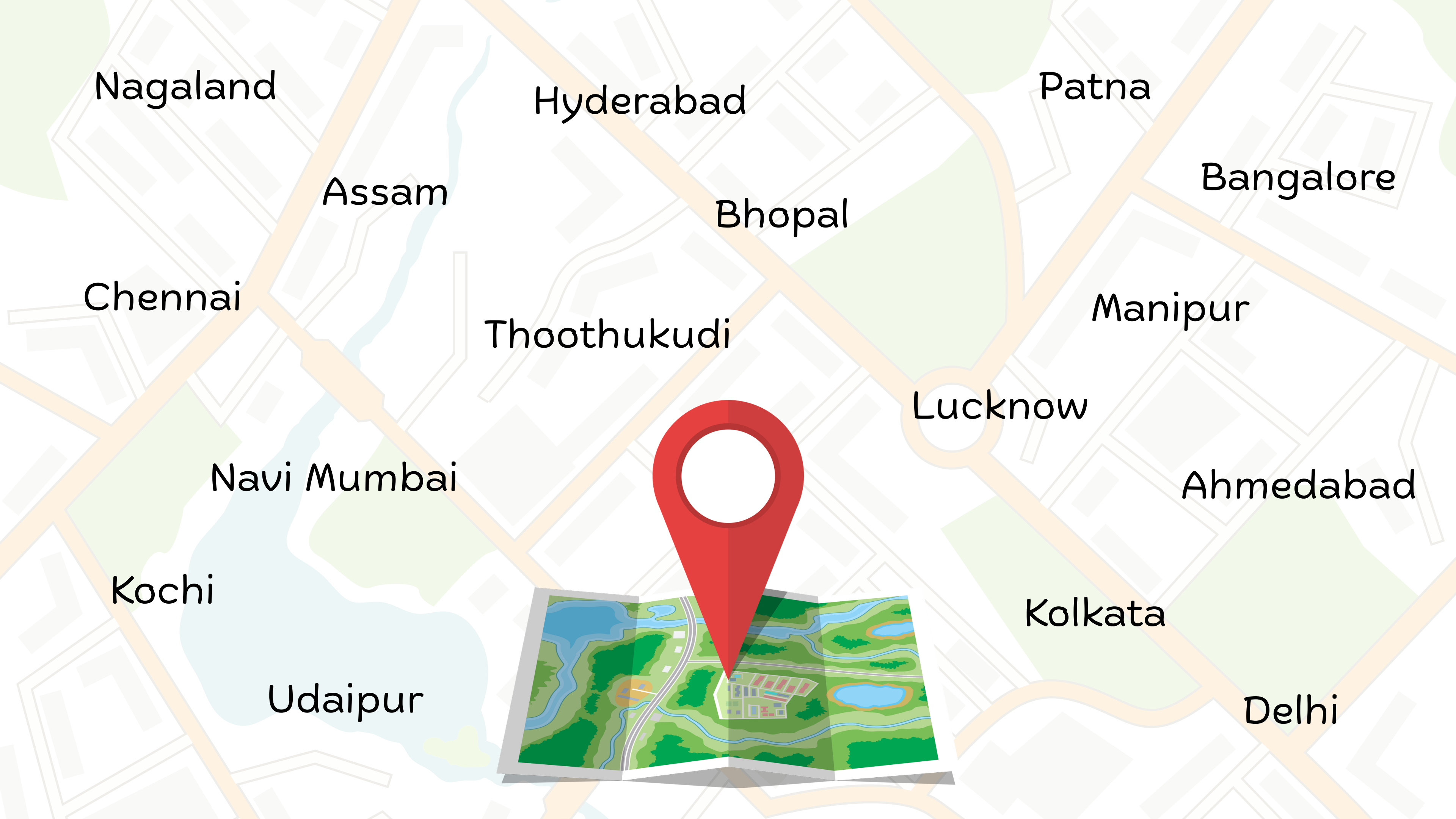
ANALYTICAL SYNTHESIS & DIRECTORY DESIGN

Examining qualitative and quantitative data and insights from the mentoring sessions, and from participant feedback.

**MAY
2026**



SEMINAR 2 DIRECTORY LAUNCH



Nagaland

Hyderabad

Patna

Assam

Bhopal

Bangalore

Chennai

Thoothukudi

Manipur

Lucknow

Navi Mumbai

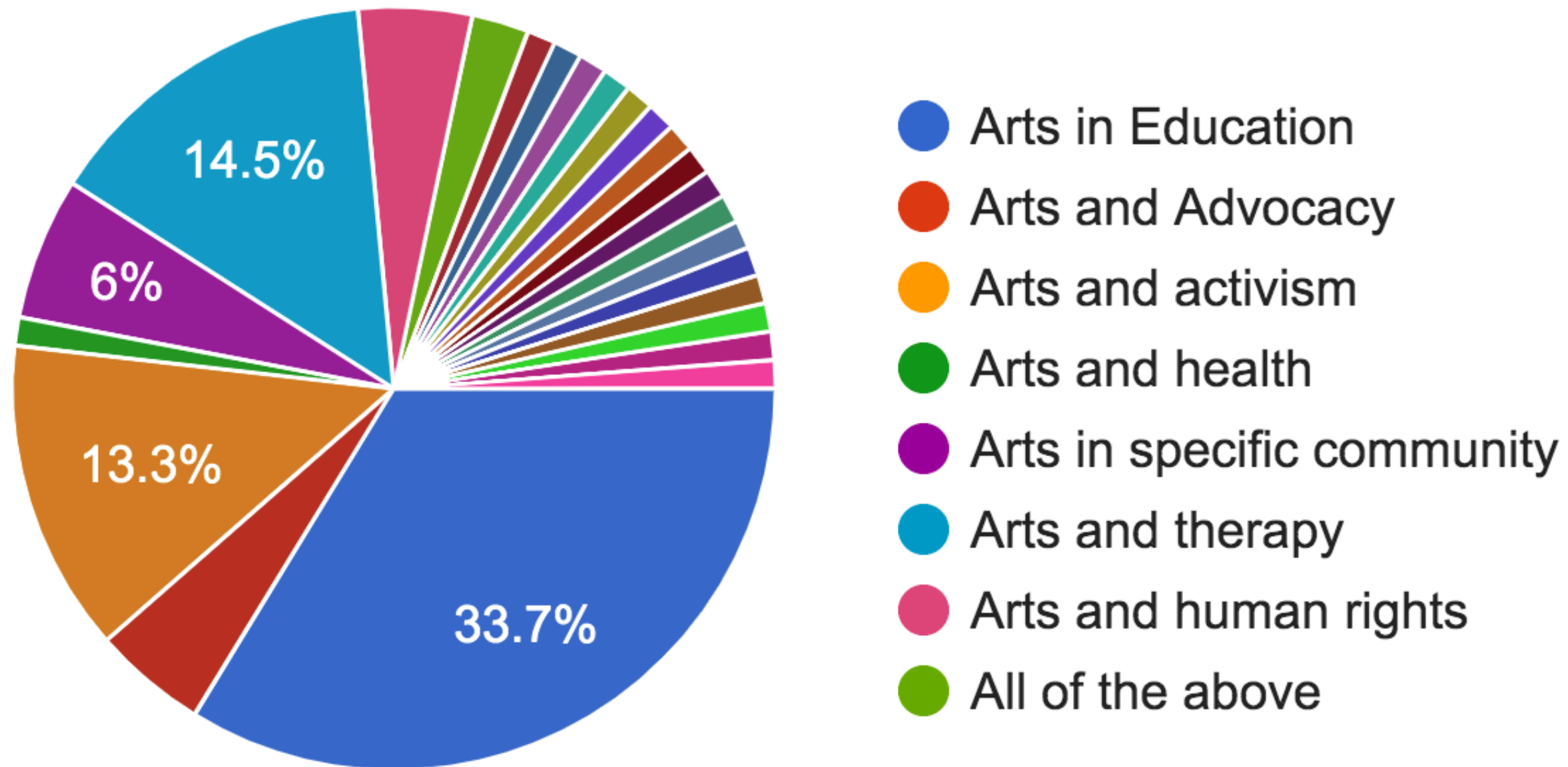
Ahmedabad

Kochi

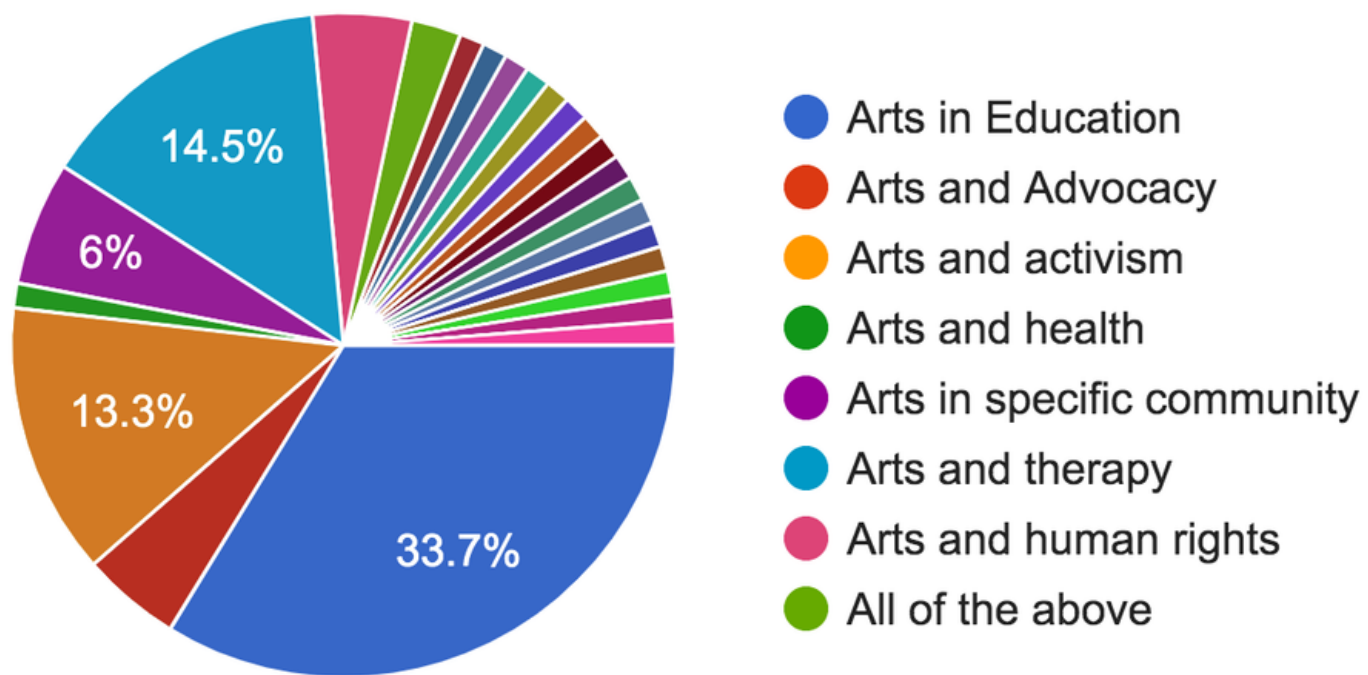
Kolkata

Udaipur

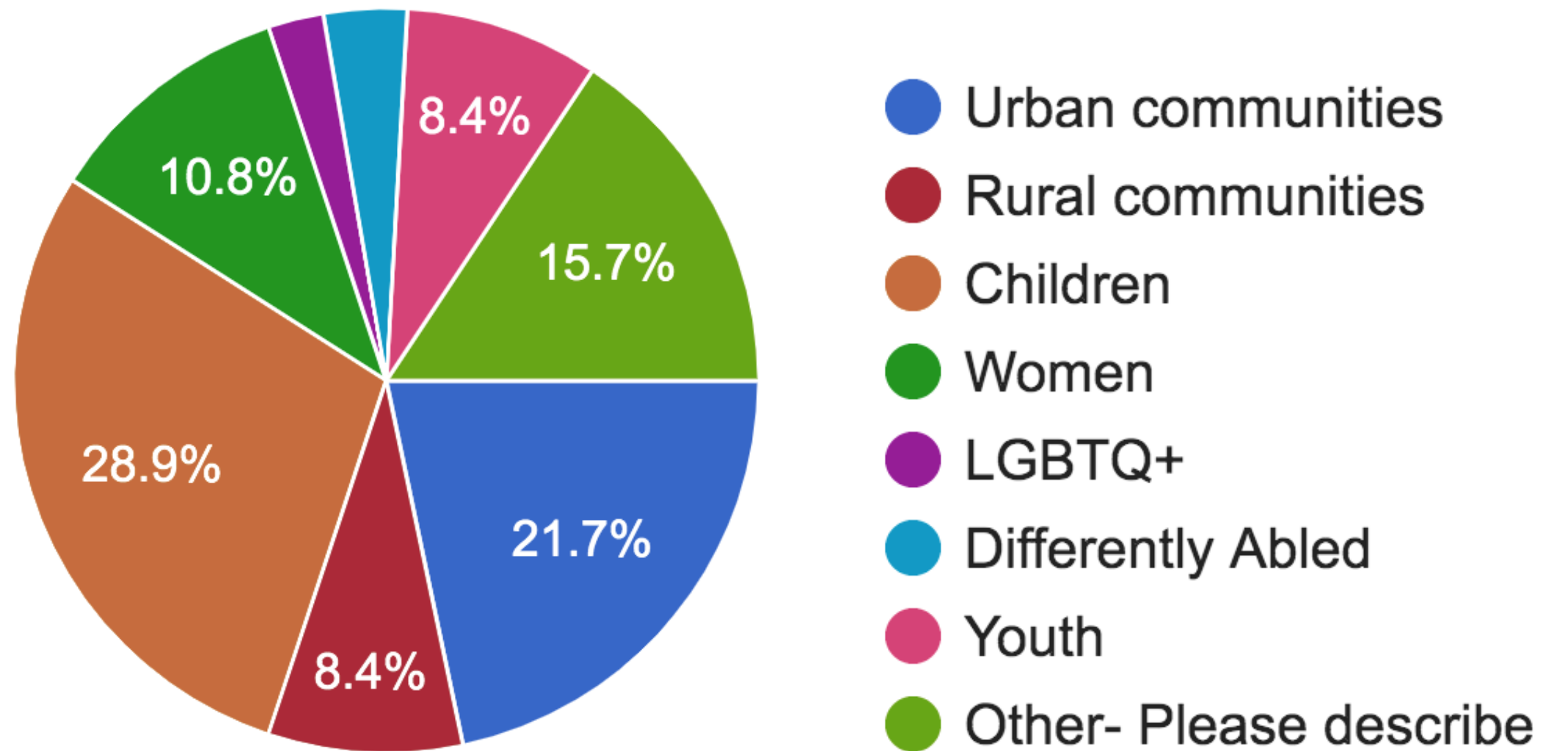
Delhi



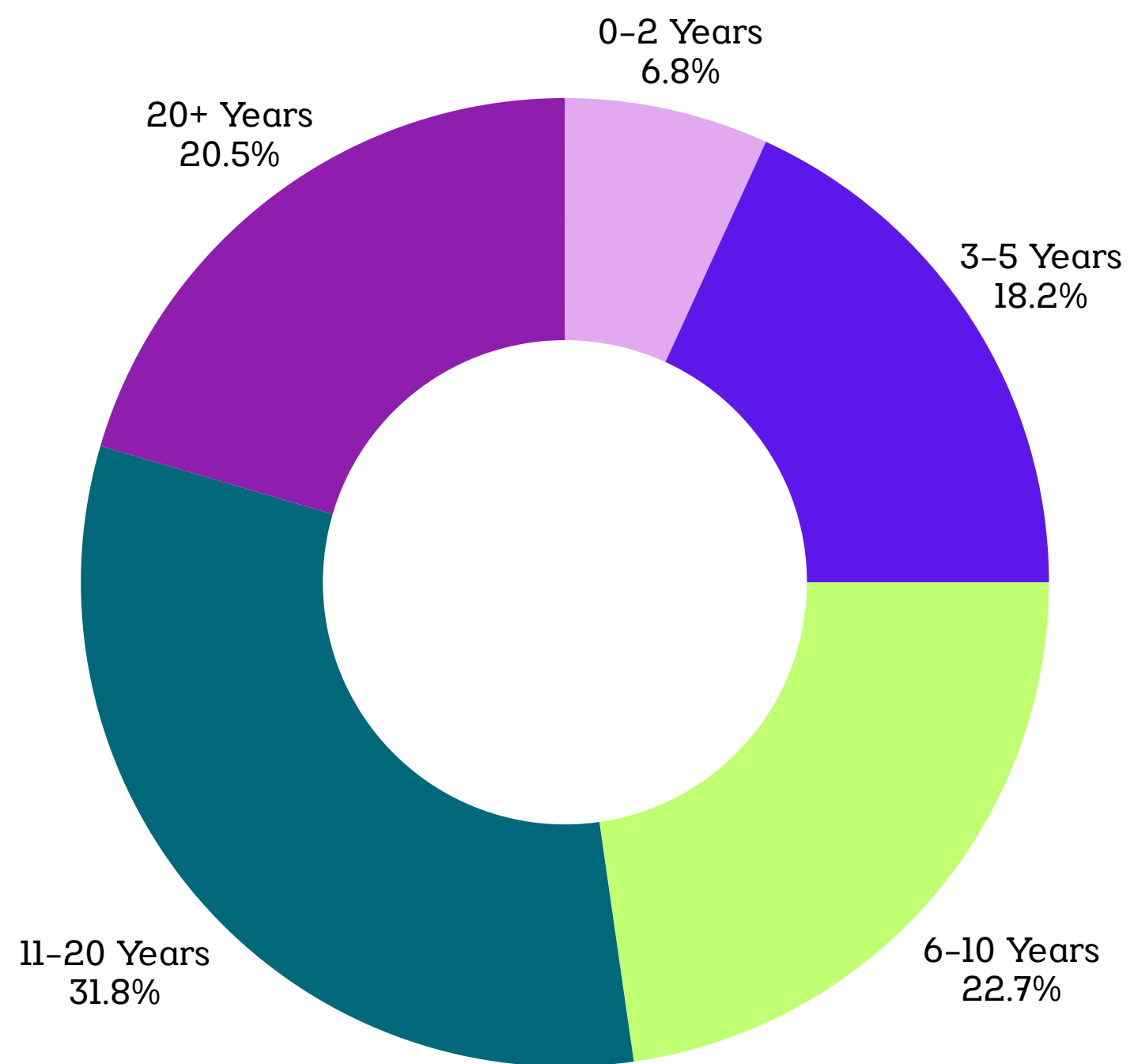
Areas of work



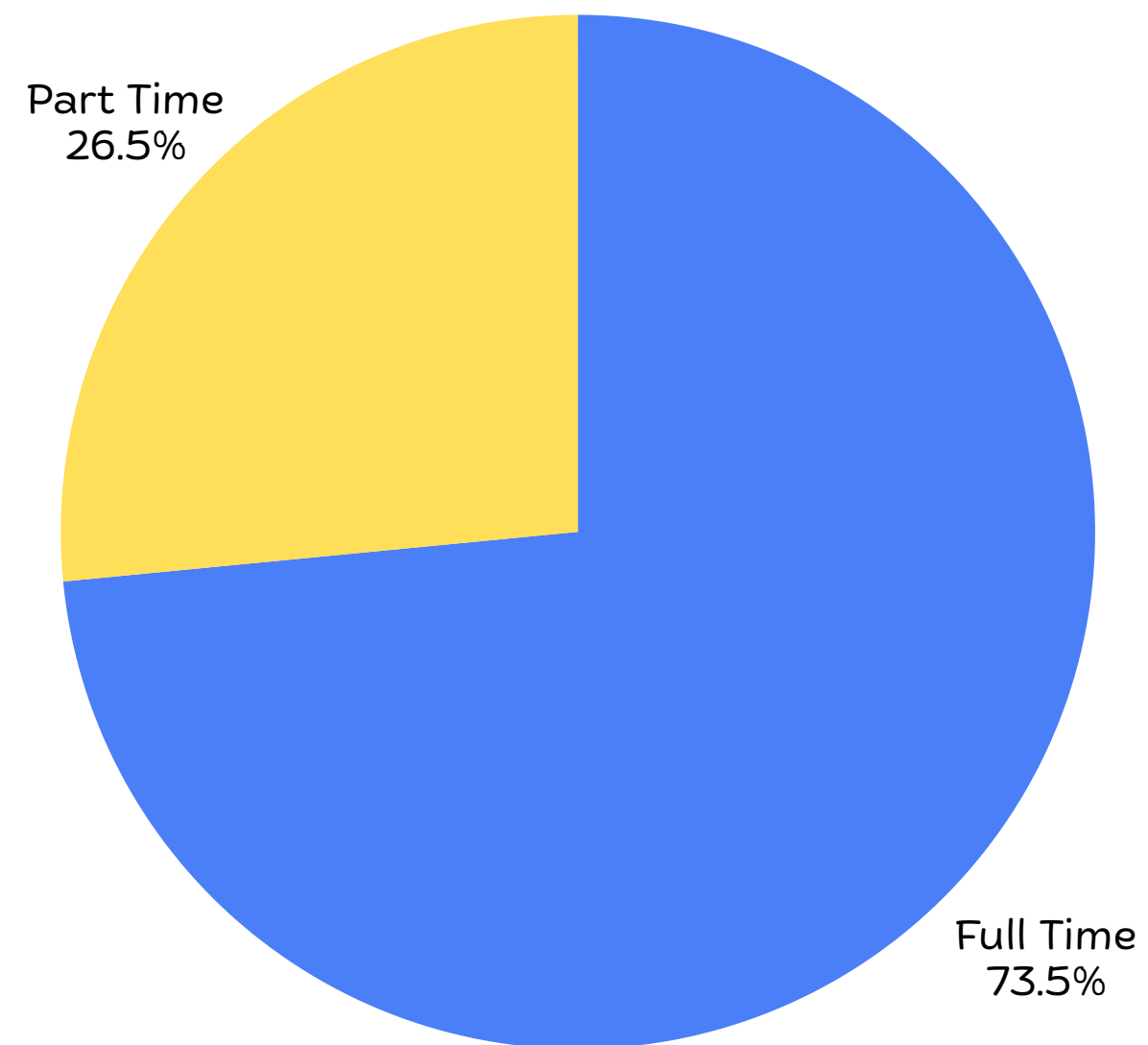
Areas of work



Communities engaged with

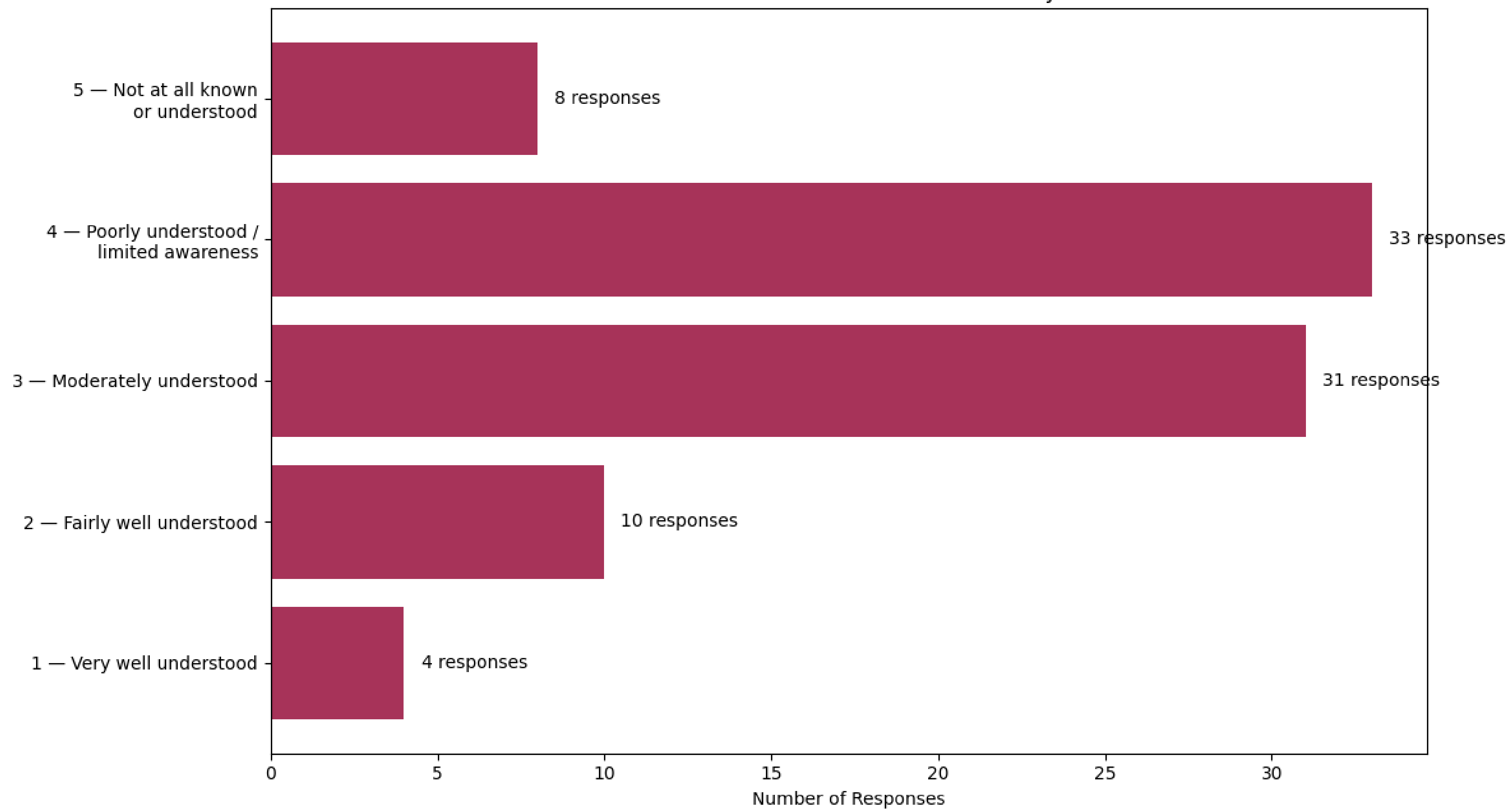


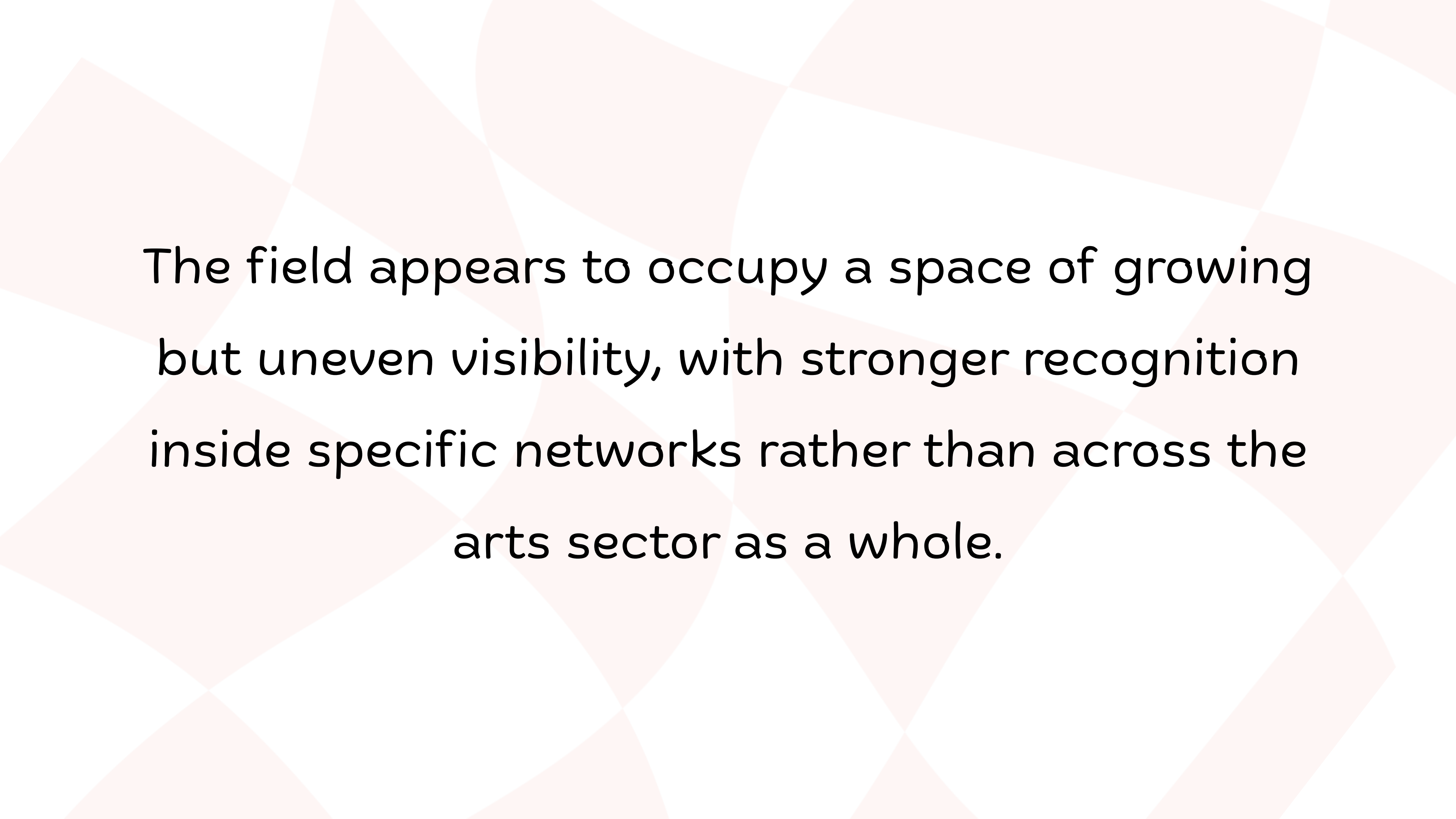
Years of practice



Engagement

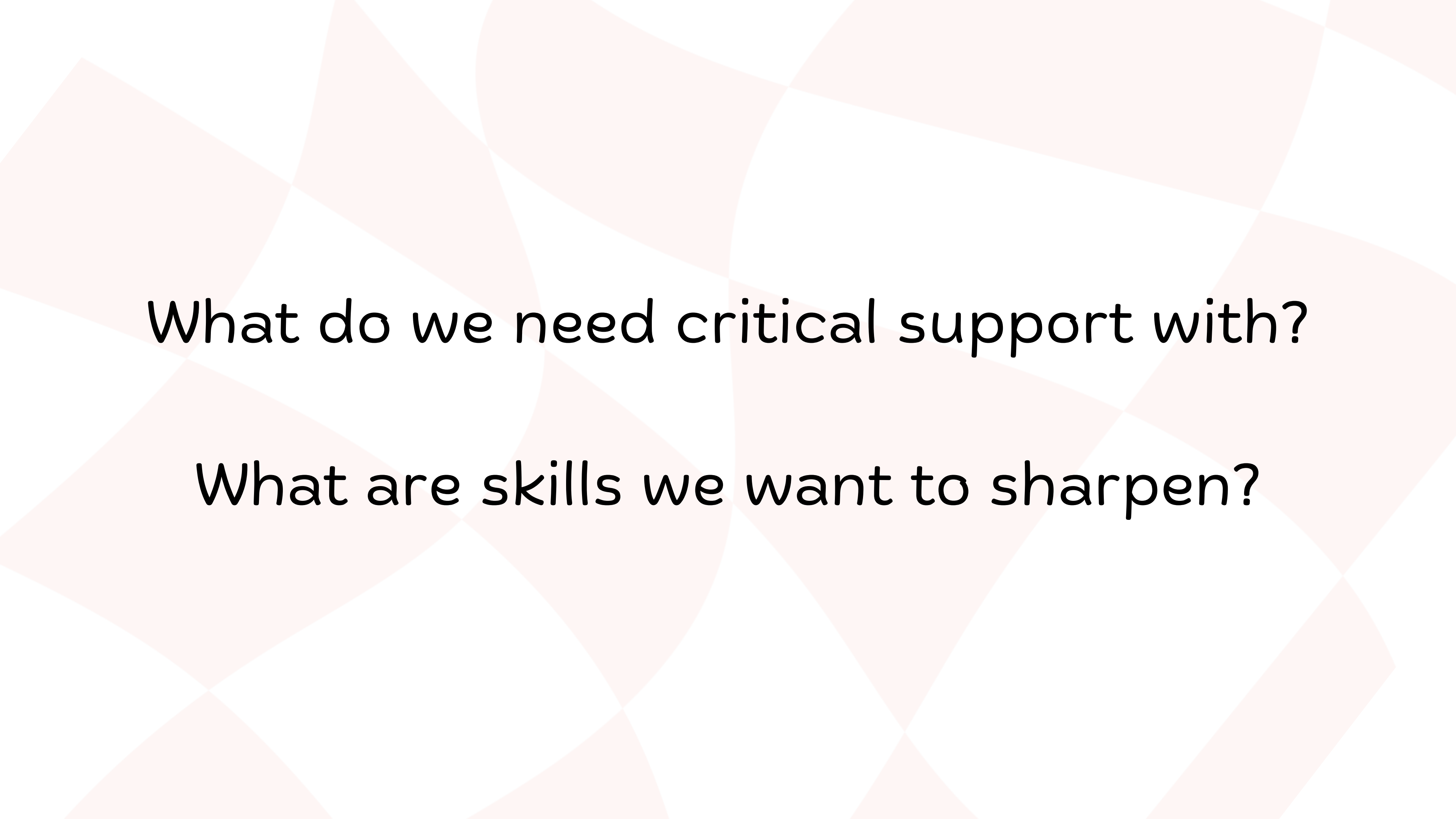
How Well-Known or Understood is Socially Engaged Arts
Within the Wider Indian Arts Community?





The field appears to occupy a space of growing but uneven visibility, with stronger recognition inside specific networks rather than across the arts sector as a whole.

Given the interdisciplinary nature of the work and the varied contexts of practice, the lack of recognition/organisation can lead to barriers such as in upskilling specifically for the field, obtaining funding, and working in isolation.



What do we need critical support with?

What are skills we want to sharpen?

**Fundraising / Grants /
Financial Sustainability (19)**

**Scaling Projects /
Organisational Sustainability (17)**

Proposal Writing (6)

**Leadership
Development (6)**

**Facilitation /
Training /
Pedagogy (15)**

**Research / Writing /
Documentation /
Archiving (12)**

**Mental Health / Therapeutic /
Trauma-informed Practice (9)**

**Community Building /
Ecosystem Building (6)**

**Art Therapy /
Expressive Arts (4)**

**Storytelling /
Story Building (5)**

**Creative Writing /
Literature (4)**

**Advocacy
& Policy (5)**

**Production / Touring /
Logistics (4)**

**Audiences /
Reaching Communities (5)**

**Child Psychology /
SEL (4)**

**Curatorial Practice /
Programming (4)**

**Audio / Sound /
Technical Skills (3)**

Networking (33) Collaboration (33)

**Theatre / Puppetry /
Performance Skills (28)**

**Impact Measurement
& Evaluation (6)**

**Strategic Planning
& Growth (6)**

**Mentorship /
Guidance (6)**

**Outreach / Marketing /
Visibility (10)**

**Digital Media / Filmmaking /
Social Media Skills (6)**

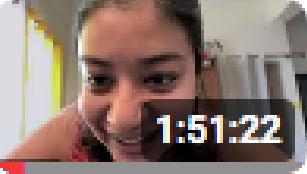
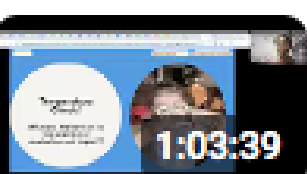
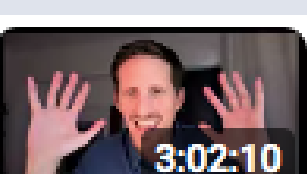
(Numbers in brackets indicate approximate number of respondents who mentioned each theme)

Mentor Sessions for JUGAAD- Social...



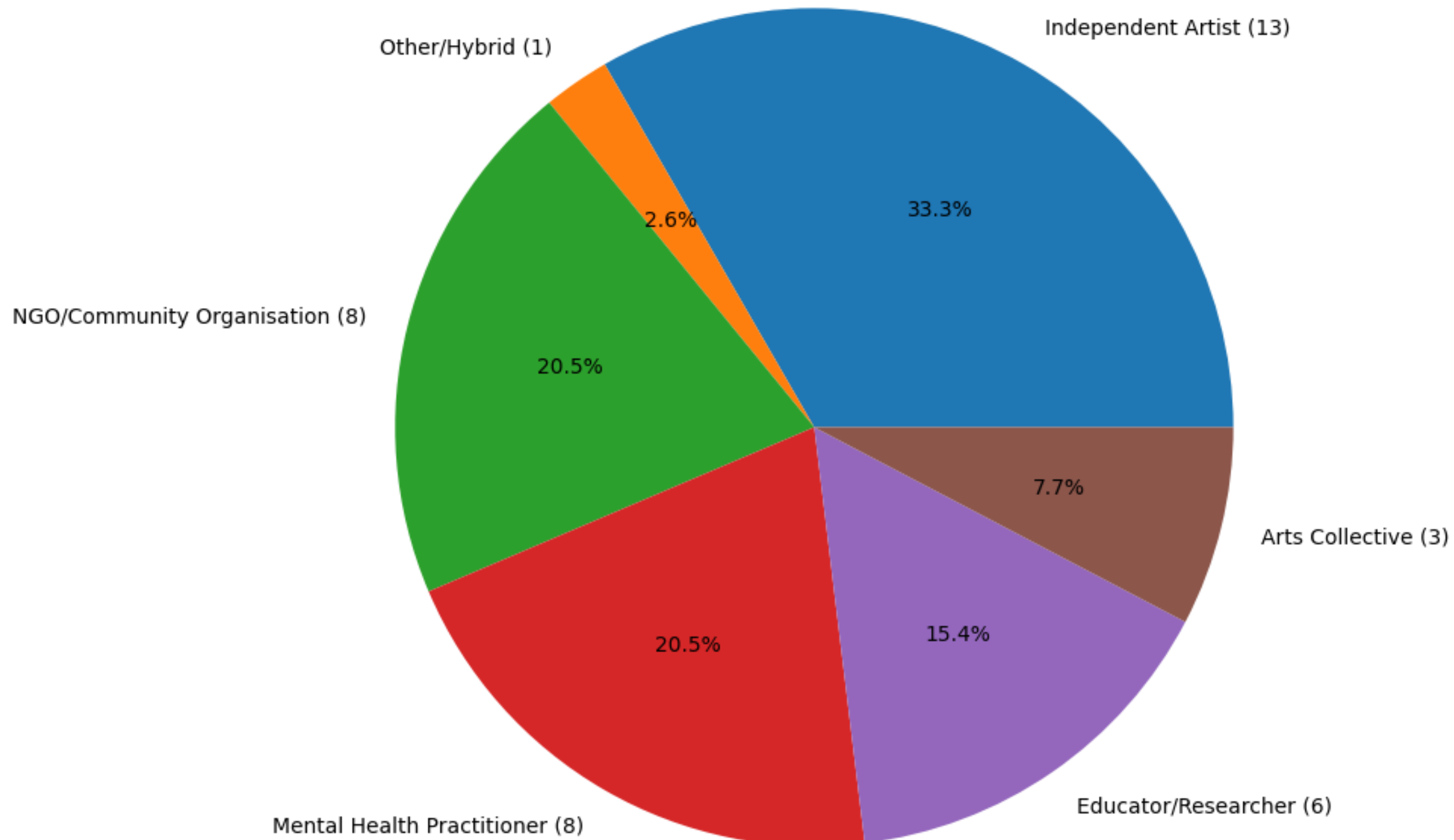
KatkathaPuppetry | Katkatha Puppet Arts Trust - 7 / 8



- 1  **1:51:22** **Connecting, Sharing, and Sustaining our work by Shoini...**
KatkathaPuppetry | Katkatha Pu...
- 2  **2:41:16** **The Art of Asking by Arundhati Ghosh**
KatkathaPuppetry | Katkatha Pu...
- 3  **2:29:45** **Puppet Skills with Special Emphasis on Paper and...**
KatkathaPuppetry | Katkatha Pu...
- 4  **1:18:53** **The Fundamentals of SEA Practice and Asset Based...**
KatkathaPuppetry | Katkatha Pu...
- 5  **1:03:39** **The Fundamentals of Evaluation and Impact by Kim...**
KatkathaPuppetry | Katkatha Pu...
- 6  **2:47:03** **Basic PH and Six Piece Storytelling Device by...**
KatkathaPuppetry | Katkatha Pu...
- 7  **1:01:05** **Exploring Fundraising Strategies by Shiva Pathak**
KatkathaPuppetry | Katkatha Pu...
- 8  **3:02:10** **Relational Arts: Creative Group Facilitation by Evan Hastings**
KatkathaPuppetry | Katkatha Pu...

8 Mentorship sessions

15 + Hours of sessions available





What do we identify as the
most pressing
issues / opportunities and
challenges that we can
explore as a sector?

1. Recognition, Visibility & Legitimacy

- Communicating impact to funders, policymakers, and institutions.
- Limited archival, documentation, and research cultures.
- SEA remains concentrated within small networks instead of broader public discourse.

2. Funding, Sustainability & Livelihoods

- Difficulty accessing stable funding and long-term sustainability.
- Short-term project funding discourages slow, long-term community engagement.
- Younger practitioners have fewer mentorship and training pathways.
- The absence of stronger networks slows collective movement-building for the sector.

3. Access, Inclusion & Representation

- Community-based and grassroots practices are often excluded from dominant arts narratives.
- Rural, varied linguistic identities, and marginalised community practices remain underrepresented.
- Lack of policy recognition affects integration into education, healthcare, and social sectors.

4. Practice and Care

- Burnout and emotional exhaustion increase when care work is undervalued.
- SEA practitioners often hold emotionally intensive and relational labour.
- The sector lacks enough reflective, supervisory, and practitioner-care structures.

5. Advocacy and Policy

- Lack of policy recognition affects effective integration into education, healthcare, and social sectors.
- Limited recognition can reduce SEA's influence in larger social and cultural policy conversation.
- SEA potential as a tool for dialogue, participation, healing, and civic engagement is still under-recognised.



Let's hear from
onground practioners.