



**YOUTH FOR
UNITY
AND VOLUNTARY
ACTION**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2014-15**

W: www.yuvaindia.org
E: info@yuvaindia.org
Twitter: [@officialyuva](https://twitter.com/officialyuva)
Instagram: [@officialyuva](https://www.instagram.com/officialyuva)
Facebook: [yuvaindia84](https://www.facebook.com/yuvaindia84)
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Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA)
YUVA Centre, Sector 7, Plot 23, Kharghar, Navi
Mumbai – 410210 (India)
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Designed by:
Sayli Matkar

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VISION

We believe that development is a continuous struggle to create a humane society, which sustains all human beings, as well as nature, where women, men and children enjoy universal human rights. A humane society based on the values of equality, distributive justice and secularism is liberated from oppression on the basis of caste, class, creed, gender, age, ethnicity, language; is free from all forms of exploitation and violence; and demonstrates integrity and respect for democratic polity and processes.

MISSION

YUVA will empower the oppressed and the marginalised by facilitating their organisations and institutions towards building equal partnerships in the development process, ensuring the fulfilment of the human right to live in security, dignity and peace.

YUVA will also engage in critical partnership with the government and forge alliances with other actors of civil society such as people's movements, trade unions, women's groups, academic institutions and the private sector to enable and strengthen the people's empowerment processes.

CORE VALUES

YUVA has a set of five core values that it considers to be non-negotiable and it is through these core values that YUVA adheres to its commitment towards the fundamental principles of development. All of YUVA's involvement is based on these values.

- 1. Social Justice**
- 2. Gender Equality**
- 3. Environment Sustainability**
- 4. Honesty and Integrity**
- 5. Secularism and Democracy**

CORE PURPOSE

Democratisation of society, polity and economy for all women, men, youth and children.

THE STORY OF YUVA

Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA) formally came into existence in 1984. The idea of forming such a voluntary development organisation to support and empower the oppressed and marginalised has its roots in a youth placement project that began in 1978 at Bombay's Nirmala Niketan College of Social Work. The vision of the project was to harness the potential of underprivileged youth so that they were enabled to be a part of the problem solving process as they were seen as a huge productive force.

YUVA began its work with youth and youth groups from the slums of Jogeshwari in Mumbai. The organisation had clearly decided that its response would be to issues concerning the most marginalised sections of society and that it would not restrict its activities to specific programmes and services, but develop a structure that would accommodate multilevel action.

Till 1991, YUVA mainly concentrated on rights. It was post 1991 and the introduction of the New Economic Policy that YUVA felt the need to start focusing not only on rights but also assets. YUVA realised that it had to protect existing rights, expand existing rights and create new rights. Similarly, it had to protect existing assets, enhance existing assets, and add value to existing assets so that they become more valuable.

YUVA started expanding its operations to look at various constituency groups including the marginalised and oppressed men, women, youth and children in the urban as well as the rural areas; and the seeds of the various units of YUVA were sown. From 1999, YUVA's Founder Minar Pimple had been planning his exit from his role as Executive Director in a phased manner, so that YUVA could develop an identity independent of its founder and grow many folds. Thus, four formal entities came into being – YUVA Urban, YUVA Rural, YUVA Centre and YUVA Consulting. Although the YUVA Consulting unit has been on hold due to lack of human resources, the other three units are striving hard to bring about a positive change in the lives of their target constituencies. YUVA started and till date is working with the human rights paradigm forming the underlying philosophy of the organisation that focuses on three different areas – Poverty, Environment and Governance.

- **Poverty is seen as a violation of human rights and is multidimensional caused by a number of interlinked factors and hence must be addressed in a holistic and integrated manner.**
- **The concept of environment includes both the natural environment and human/social environment. This theme focuses on issues of quality, equity and sustainability in relation to the development and management of natural resources and the quality of human life.**
- **Work on governance centres around facilitation of the democratisation of power and decentralised access to and management of public resources.**

STATUS OF THE ORGANISATION

- **Registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (836 GBBSD 1984/26 December 1984)**
- **Registered under the Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950 (F10304/20 April 1985)**
- **Registered under section 12A of the Income Tax Act (INS/24339/7 May 1985)**
- **Registered under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) (No. 83850025)**
- **Recognised under section 80G of the Income Tax Act**
- **Accredited as an NGO with general consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**

YUVA'S UNITS

YUVA's work has been organised mainly under three units based on the intervention areas –thematic, geographical, and constituency groups. All of these units have different functions, programmes and interventions, staff, management and governance bodies.

• YUVA URBAN

YUVA Urban works in the cities and with various population groups in the urban areas to promote the rights of the urban poor to housing, basic services, education, livelihood, social security, and public participation. The three main thematic areas of YUVA Urban are:

Human Settlements, Social Security and Livelihood, Governance, Gender and Social Inclusion (cross-cutting theme).

As of now, YUVA Urban has direct operations in Mumbai and Nagpur in Maharashtra and in Delhi.

• YUVA RURAL

YUVA Rural emerged to address the issues of the poor and marginalised in the rural areas, which has a direct link to the poverty issues in urban areas. YUVA Rural's focus is on the development of self-sustainable rural societies and therefore it undertakes interventions that work towards holistic development of the rural areas. At present, YUVA Rural is intervening in the thematic area of Natural Resource Management and Livelihoods. As of now, the work of YUVA Rural is concentrated in the rural areas of Akola and Wardha districts in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra.

• YUVA CENTRAL

YUVA Central was envisaged as a human rights centre that would facilitate collective learning both within and outside the organisation and enable capacity building and empowerment of the various stakeholders. YUVA Central has its office and training centre at Kharghar, Navi Mumbai. The mandate of this unit is :

- Ideology and value building within YUVA**
- Vision building**
- Strategising for YUVA as a whole**
- Synergy building across YUVA units by setting up of common financial, human resources, organisational development and programme systems across all units**

INTERVENTIONS & ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2014-15

• YUVA URBAN

OBJECTIVE:

Advocating for the right to shelter, tenure rights and basic services for the urban poor; Facilitating the provision of entitlements by the state, and facilitate and monitor the provision of basic services (right to water, sanitation, food, health, education, etc.)

In order to achieve the above objective, YUVA Urban undertook a number of interventions through its various projects and programmes. The thematic focus areas of this unit are:

The HUMAN SETTLEMENTS theme of YUVA Urban, which focuses on physical aspects as well as the social aspects of habitation of the urban poor and slum dwellers to ensure just and equitable human settlements. This theme concentrates on facilitating the provision of basic services by the State, promoting participatory governance, and ensuring dignity for people especially children, youth and women.

The SOCIAL SECURITY & LIVELIHOOD theme of YUVA Urban, which focuses on the rights, promotion and protection of informal sector workers including men, women, and children. The work done by this sector is equally, if not more, important for the growth and development of the economy as a whole and hence it is imperative that this sector be entitled to the same rights as bestowed upon the formal economy.

The GOVERNANCE, GENDER & SOCIAL INCLUSION theme, which is a cross-cutting theme and an integral part of all programmes and interventions.

YUVA Urban has been undertaking a number of projects and interventions under these thematic areas to support and empower its target population.

Sr. No.	Name of the Project	Project Partner	Project Period
1.	Re-Defining 'Inclusiveness in Governance' from Urban Poor Context – Part V	Oxfam India	April 2014–March 2015
2.	Youth Force	SAATH Charitable Trust	December 2014–November 2015
3.	Re-development of Mumbai Port Land: Report	ActionAid India	2014–2015
4.	Empowerment of Migrant Workers through Facilitation of Support Services and Advocacy for Legal Entitlements	Jamshedji Tata Trust (JTT)	April 2014–March 2015
5.	Child Protection—M East Ward, Mumbai: Promoting Safe Communities and Strengthening Child Protection Systems and Services in M East Ward of Mumbai Suburban District	UNICEF	July 2014–Feb 2015
6.	Establishing and Securing Informal Workers' Rights for Just, Equitable and Sustainable Cities	Misereor	April 2014–March 2015
7.	Improvement of Education Opportunities for Children and Youth in Slum Areas of Mumbai and Bhopal	Terres de Hommes, Germany	April 2014–March 2015

1. EMPOWERMENT OF AND ADVOCACY WITH THE URBAN POOR

YUVA has gradually been building identity and citizenship proofs for the urban poor that have helped them in securing and improving their living conditions while at the same time collectivisation and advocacy has ensured a more sustained struggle towards staking a claim over the city as its rightful citizens.

TOTAL OUTREACH
18 pavements
3,840 people from pavement communities
8 homeless communities
450 homeless people
4 informal settlements
803 People received basic service

Through the Basic Service Facilitation Centre (BSFC) YUVA is addressing the needs of the urban poor in an organised manner to ensure that they are able to stake their claim and Right to the City through entitlement creation. The centre acts as an anchor for organising the community, educating them about their rights (fundamental rights and laws, policies and schemes) and allowing the households and communities to access basic services. In this year, we were able to reach more than 1,500 people through meetings in the community, via community based organisations (CBOs) and self-help groups (SHGs). Direct facilitation was for 803 people for PAN Cards, Aadhaar Cards, toilet passes and other social entitlements for the homeless, pavement dwellers and people staying in informal settlements.

We organised capacity building sessions for leaders from homeless and pavement communities on the latest schemes, legal entitlements and citizenship rights. These were undertaken so that the pavement dwellers could take an informed approach as well as gain confidence to independently negotiate with the government to secure their rights. The pavement community organization successfully negotiated for a low cost toilet pass for their community. Consistent advocacy was carried out under the Mahatma Gandhi Pathakranti Yojana (MGPY), through meetings and letters to the Secretary under the MGPY asking for extension of benefits as per the

extended cut-off date that is 1/1/2000. Pavement communities launched a postcard campaign, conducted regular meetings with relevant authorities, and submitted right to information (RTI) applications on budget utilisation of allocated funds.

The homeless communities presented their issues during the Development Plan ward consultations, and gave inputs to the ongoing public interest litigation (PIL) in the Maharashtra High Court. These efforts resulted in the mention of night shelters allocation in the Proposed Land Use maps of the Development Plan draft 2014–2034. Further, the Maharashtra state government is reviewing the Housing policy



and YUVA is participating in these discussions and trying to incorporate stakes of the urban poor. We have worked towards identifying locations of homeless populations, building rapport with the people, encouraging people to take leadership roles, conducting capacity building workshops for leaders as well as responding in situations of evictions in various sites.

Pavement and homeless communities are empowered to seek their entitlements and this is a critical achievement of YUVA's interventions.

YUVA also published a report on the 'Status of Implementation of Rajiv Awas Yojana' and a series titled 'Parliamentary Watch for Housing and Land Rights'. These are important documents for use in advocacy by YUVA and our partners across the country.

2. EMPOWERMENT OF AND ADVOCACY WITH INFORMAL SECTOR WORKERS

For the last three years, YUVA Urban has been working with the seasonal and semi-permanent migrants in the Navi Mumbai area. Through the Migration Resource Centre (MRC), YUVA Urban has been providing basic services like health camps for migrant workers, conducting different awareness programmes at construction sites (such as street plays and poster exhibitions), facilitating provision of identity cards from the centre, registration of labourers in schemes beneficial for them such as the Building and Other Construction Workers (BOCW) Welfare Board or Government Insurance schemes, facilitating labour collectives and conducting meetings with them, helping informal labour open bank accounts, providing counselling, legal aid and so on. YUVA facilitated the submission of nearly 2,000 forms, of which 1,000 have already received entitlement services.

A Helpline is operational for supporting wage recovery and addressing other violations of the labourers. Mapping of resources like list of hospitals, schools, lawyers, counsellors, ration shops, police stations and so on has been done to support the Labour Helpline.

126 cases of wage theft were registered and compensation of Rs. 8.81 lakhs facilitated

Along with a larger network, MRC regularly advocates to fight against migrant worker issues, specifically regarding the certification needed from the employers or contractors after completing 90 days of employment for registration with the BOCW Welfare Board. The employers and contractors do not easily provide the necessary certificate and YUVA's advocacy efforts influenced the Labour Minister to release a notification for issuing this certificate by any ward level officers at urban local bodies (ULBs) and by gramsevaks at rural areas. This is a major achievement in the advocacy for migrant's rights.

We linked domestic workers to the Domestic Workers' Welfare Board through Kashtakari Gharkamgar Sanghtana. 804 domestic workers received their registration cards for availing services of the Board. Along with lines to the welfare board, we conducted training on topics such as women rights and laws, women's rights movements, organisation reconstruction, future aspects of the movement and others . Regular meetings are being held with the domestic workers in their communities for dissemination of information on the welfare board, the public distribution system, Rajiv Gandhi Swasthya Bima Yojana and other government social security schemes. YUVA mobilised several workers for a large public meeting to demand for a district-wise constitution of welfare boards, applicability of pension schemes and weekly holidays where as many as 500 women domestic workers were mobilised.

YUVA continued to advocate for the implementation of the Street Vendors Act in several states, particularly Jharkhand, West Bengal, Bihar, Chattisgarh, Maharashtra and Odisha. A review study on the status of implementation of the Act in these states was conducted, providing an evidence base for local advocacy efforts. Organisation building of street vendors was initiated in Raipur who are now asking for another survey as the earlier one proved to be completely inadequate. The Jharkhand High Court passed the order to the Municipal Corporation for immediate implementation of the Street Vendors Act 2014.

Training workshops were conducted for street vendors in different cities to support their resistance to evictions and other violations of their basic entitlements. Successful rehabilitation of evicted street vendors in three locations of Kolkata was carried out. YUVA facilitated the formation of Maharashtra Hawkers Federation affiliated to National Hawkers federation. The Federation is also working on developing draft rules for implementation of the Act in Maharashtra.

YUVA is an active part of several networks at the national and state level and shares its learnings from models and community interventions at these platforms. This engagement revealed the need for a holistic and comprehensive advocacy campaign at the city level to understand urbanisation, while also contributing to strengthening local activism in smaller towns and cities. Hence YUVA anchored the launch of a Right to the City campaign, with 20 partners to pursue a comprehensive rights focus on addressing issues of urban poverty, inequality and exclusion.

The Campaign has been taken to many cities where various stakeholders are coming together to influence policies and schemes of the governments. The partners have also taken forward the National Campaign in their cities and organised activities in alignment with the objective of the Campaign.

The Right to the City Campaign works to create tangible changes in urban poverty, inequality and exclusion.

This year several research studies were also conducted, such as studying socio-economic profile of the migrants workers in Navi Mumbai, studying migratory patterns of brick kiln workers in Khalapur, and a study to gather information about the status of the urban food security among migrant workers.

3. DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROCESS

As part of our collective vision to create a city that encompasses the needs and aspirations of the working class, YUVA has been deeply involved in the Mumbai Development Plan revision process since 2011. We have brought to the forefront issues of the most marginalised in the city with the aim of securing their rights via the Development Plan, a spatial and legal document that will be valid for the next two decades. Through our work we have been able to reach out to diverse, marginalised, hitherto invisible groups and expanded our vision and scope of work. This year a detailed local area plan was developed for the informal settlements of Malvani. Alongside mobilisation and awareness building, the interventions were supported by continuous advocacy at various levels.

The campaign that started with only urban poor communities in the beginning, is today a vibrant collective of community based organisations (CBOs), non-governmental organisations (NGOs), research institutions, academic institutions, people's movements and citizen activists. The campaign has negotiated crucial spaces for marginalised groups in the city to articulate their needs. As a result of our interventions and engagement with communities there is now a renewed interest on the issues of urban planning in Mumbai.

We have attempted and succeeded to alter the discourse on planning vis-à-vis governance and participation in the city. Many of the marginalised sections in the society like people staying in informal settlements (slums), the homeless people, informal workers, etc. that were invisible in the preceding planning exercises have now created a footing for themselves.

The campaign also has been instrumental in opening up of the DP planning exercise, which was always considered a bureaucratic process, to become a more inclusive one. Mumbai became the first city in India to host ward and city-level consultations before the preparation of a Development Plan; thereby setting a precedent for inclusive and people-centric planning in our increasingly unequal cities.

The Mumbai Development Plan (DP) (2014–2034) has received much media attention since the draft was published in February this year. Currently the DP is being reviewed once again, before the draft is re-published and our advocacy efforts in this area are ongoing.

4. REDEVELOPMENT OF MUMBAI PORT-LAND



Photo credits: Prabir Talukdar

YUVA strengthens the capacities of communities to understand and respond effectively to local development issues. With regards to proposed redevelopment of the Mumbai Port, YUVA along with other partners developed a report with the objective of building socially inclusive models of port re-development. Through the course of the report key factors were identified, as they must be taken into account to result in comprehensive development. These include, learning from the city's past with regards to opening up large land parcels; developing an inclusive, participatory planning model that takes into consideration stakeholder concerns, a change in current planning practices in the city and prioritisation of social goals, especially with regards to housing and social amenities.

Emphasis was laid on differences in cause, procedure, results and planning tradition to be taken into account. The report identifies key stakeholders to the redevelopment process. These include port workers, informal workers, slum settlements, fishing villages and the city itself. Planning for the redevelopment of the port without the participation of these groups would be meaningless. Each group has its concerns that can be factored in, through a bottom-up, participatory planning approach to develop a viable development plan.

The report advocates for prioritising people's concerns, a synchronisation between city planning and planning for the port, and a paradigm shift in planning methods and goals in order to achieve spatial justice in the city.

The interventions undertaken aimed to promote people's participation in the development planning process.

5. CHILD RIGHTS AND CHILDREN'S EMPOWERMENT

YUVA for many years has been working with children and youth in informal areas of Mumbai and Navi Mumbai.

Navi Mumbai

Child Resource Centres (CRCs) were established for children of migrant brick kiln workers in five locations in Navi Mumbai. These aim to provide basic education and function as balwadis in places where children had no access to formal/government education. Teachers are sensitised and trained to handle the unique learning needs of the children. Through YUVA's advocacy, two CRCs were successfully linked to the mid-day meal programme of the government.

P/N Ward

Balwadis were set up in six locations in Malad, Mumbai, to meet the unmet demand for early childhood care and education. The balwadis service around 300 children a day and provide access to nutritious food, growth monitoring and a wide range of activities, games, music and learning processes. Through consistent advocacy with the ICDS Department, YUVA is aiming to have these balwadis taken over by them in order to ensure sustainability.

For children between 6–14 years, the focus has been on enrolment in schools through a childfriendly campaign 'Chalo Chalo School Chalo', as well as rapport building and motivation with the children in the community. Nearly 90 children have been enrolled and YUVA is continuously following up with them to ensure retention. YUVA has also facilitated the formation of School Monitoring Committees with representation from parents and children. We have conducted trainings with the members on different issues like nutrition, health and education.

Two Child Resource Centres have been set up and the focus is on providing a safe space for children to enjoy themselves and support their learning. The CRC conducts recreational programmes, has a multi-lingual library, play material and various types of documentaries for children. Sessions on good habits, bad habits, personal hygiene, awareness on environment, substance abuse, anger management, communications skills, nutrition and child rights have been conducted for children. Parents are also actively engaged in the CRC through awareness sessions on children's issues as well as practical discussions on event planning and management. Monitoring of the children who have enrolled in school is done through the CRC.

M/E Ward

YUVA has built rapport with the children on streets and in informal settlement in M/E Ward. We manage a CRC in Mankhurd as a space to facilitate protection, participation and comprehensive development of children. Regular activities are carried out through the CRC, like sports, rights training sessions, film viewings, academic support, counselling and so on. The children also operate a savings mechanism called 'Boond Bank' to support themselves. The Centre was conceived with an aim to promote its management by the children from the community and the CRC management committee consists of members of the children's organisation facilitated by YUVA, Bal Adhikar Sangharsh Sanghathan (BASS). YUVA has prepared a training module in Marathi on the POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act, 2012 focusing on the police functionaries.

The children's confidence has grown exponentially to take ownership of their spaces and issues in their communities. They discuss challenges in their communities and seek the support of YUVA and other players to address them.

A detailed mapping exercise was carried out in a rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R) site, Lallubhai Compound, in M/E Ward to understand the situation of children, cases of child rights violations and the systems currently in place. Outreach targeted the local housing societies, Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) officials, police, ward officers, ICDS representatives, adults and children. An exploratory night survey was carried out to identify unsafe places for children in the community.

The detailed mapping revealed several gaps in basic services and other entitlements in this community. Due to challenging resettlement processes, many residents do not have all the basic documents and this creates problems for claiming entitlements for themselves and their children. This includes irregular and insufficient water supply though they are paying for water services. Waste management is a major issue in the community, and the schools too display a poor regard for cleanliness and acceptable conditions for study.

Unsafe spaces for children in community is a great challenge, and the area has many empty buildings, empty housing units on some floors, railway tracks and dark spaces in certain buildings. Lack of recreational space for children is also a big issue faced by the children staying here. All these factors contribute to unsafe spaces for children and increase the potential for criminal activities.

Simultaneously, the community is being mobilised, specifically the women and anganwadi workers in order to build a partnership for the creation of a safe space for children. The focus in the next phase of this intervention is to strengthen the local protection mechanism and use the data from the mapping process to initiate a child-friendly and safe community model in the area.

Policy Advocacy

During the past year, two critical legislations regarding children, the Juvenile Justice Act and the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act were being amended. Several of the proposed amendments were regressive and against the rights of children. YUVA played an active role in child rights networks that critiqued both these amendments and carried out Parliamentary advocacy on the issue. The developments were also shared with the children and awareness was created and their inputs were reflected in the official submissions to the relevant Ministers.

5. WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

With women, meetings in informal settlements of Ambujwadi, P/N Ward have been initiated in various housing societies. In these meetings, issues related to health, hygiene and nutrition have been discussed. The women have been sensitised on the objectives, services, beneficiaries, roles and responsibilities of ICDS centres. Nearly 70 women have been organised into four groups and various discussions on domestic violence, abuse and so on are regularly held with them. Simultaneously, the process of identifying women leaders has been initiated, and the process is ongoing.

6. YOUTH RIGHTS AND EMPOWERMENT

YUVA started out as a youth organisation with the belief in the potential of youth to define and engage in the developmental agenda of the city at the national and global level. YUVA's interventions with youth are based on the understanding of their potential to affect change. The Youth Rights programme of YUVA Urban aims at channeling the potential of youth for their own development as well as preparing youth as social transformation agents towards the creation of a just, humane society.

YUVA has a livelihoods thematic that was implemented in partnership with Saath, an NGO based in Ahmedabad. The programme functions through two centres and during the year the focus was on imparting training on different aspects of livelihood. This includes beautician skills, tailoring skills, computer skills, hospitality, alongside soft skills. The young people are also exposed to financial literacy training, micro entrepreneurship and an introduction to youth transformation processes. About 500 youth, mainly young women, have been trained this year. Four job fairs were held in different areas and 540 youth were placed in 24 companies across various sectors such as marketing, telecalling, hotels, food processing, data entry, security, technical fields, retail, hospitality, customer care, etc. Micro entrepreneurship training was also conducted with 60 young women to help them develop a business approach to their livelihoods.

Our work continues on developing youth as individuals and leading them to being agents of social change. Over 500 youth have come together in 17 youth groups from across the city. They regularly discuss their issues, entitlements and possibilities for change. Many of them have been trained for performing street plays on violence against women and girls. They also came up with a play based on the theme of drug prevention in youth.



A quarterly newsletter ‘Yuvatarang’ was launched as a platform for young people to express their views. Youth have written articles on issues of women’s safety and the role of youth. They also launched a Hinsa Mukta Mumbai Campaign to build awareness among youth and community people on the issues of violence and to develop youth understanding on their role as responsible citizens.

7. WADA NA TODO ABHIYAN

Wada Na Todo Abhiyan (WNTA) is a national campaign of more than 4,000 civil society organisations (CSOs) spread across the country. YUVA plays the role of an anchor of the campaign. Some key initiatives of the campaign during the reporting year were:

- **Comparative Analysis of People’s Manifesto vis-a-vis Political Parties’ manifesto**
- **Engagement on post-2015 development agenda**
- **Action 2015 Campaign**
- **Engagement with NITI Aayog**
- **100 Days Review of the NDA Government. (1st September 2014)**
- **Governance Review in Rajasthan, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Telengana**
- **Nine is Mine Process Campaign Involvement on Child Rights**
- **Engagement with the Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India, for Inclusive Budgeting**

Wada Na Todo Abhiyan initiated a nationwide process to prepare a **People’s Manifesto** in the last financial year to influence the political parties’ manifesto on the eve of the general elections last year. Through direct and indirect involvement, WNTA in its own network reached 205 constituencies in 24 states and with the involvement of the national platform on People’s Manifesto, the campaign was facilitated with direct and indirect involvement of about 16 lakh people in 250 parliamentary constituencies in 24 states.

WNTA was active in the international Sustainable Development Goal processes. WNTA representatives attended all the major events, especially the Open Working Group meetings and events and made in-depth submissions. WNTA was invited by the President of the Sixty-eighth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations to speak at the High-level Event on the Contributions of Human Rights and the Rule of Law in the Post-2015 Development Agenda (9-10 June 2014) in New York. Our representative put forth '7 priorities asks' and emphasized that the issues of human rights and rule of law should remain fundamental for the new development agenda to be successful. She also stressed on 'justice-based' governance as a tool to enable better institutionalisation of rule of law and other practices to foster peaceful societies. WNTA formally launched a report titled 'India Civil Society Analysis of the Post-2015 UN Processes' in an Open House meeting organised by Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) in New York in September.

WNTA collaborated with Centre for Legislative Research and Advocacy (CLRA), an independent, non-profit initiative, to initiate a discussion among the members of Parliament (MPs) on what are the 'must-haves' for the new development agenda that they would advocate for and how will they engage with the government and push for a more inclusive and just framework globally. CLRA anchored a state level consultation in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, to set in motion the discussion around the post-2015 agenda setting process among MPs, MLAs.

WNTA was actively involved in Action 2015 Asia campaign, which is aligned with GCAP's Global Moves for Justice as well as the global 2015 campaign, which will amplify the voices and aspirations of Asians to influence governments, business, institutions as well as the post-2015 sustainable development agenda and international climate negotiations. WNTA's focus was to influence the global process from a southern perspective. Large numbers of consultations with people started from the ground in India with several CSO partners leading in different states and shaping the final aspirations to be fed into the global goal making.

WNTA in association with its partners and larger civil society facilitated the review of the NDA government's performance in the 100 days. WNTA had prepared a brief report card which spoke about the situation and analysis, based on facts and figures presented by the wider CSOs and networks. WNTA and Oxfam India organized a one day National consultation on NITI Aayog. The objective of the consultation was to review the role and functions of NITI Aayog from the lens of social justice and inclusion. It also aimed to brainstorm how the CSOs move forward in their engagement with NITI Aayog to ensure the rights of the marginalised.

• YUVA CENTRAL

YUVA Central was developed as an 'outward' looking entity that would service the outside world, while providing the required support to the YUVA family as a whole. YUVA Central has three programmatic aspects: YUVA Training Centre, Information Resource Centre and Project Facilitation.

1. TRAINING AND FACILITIES

The YUVA Training Centre is a professional, capacity development, research and resource centre committed to social development and transformation. Set up in 2001, the Centre was developed to facilitate learning, information sharing and knowledge dissemination amongst the various stakeholders. The overall aim of the Centre is to promote social change.

YUVA Centre is well equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure and resources to undertake meetings, workshops and training programmes. This past year, the Centre was utilised by the units of YUVA, partners, NGOs, government and corporate entities to facilitate and organise their programmes and events, both residential and non-residential.

In the last year, 225 training programmes, meetings and workshops were conducted in the Centre by 33 NGOs, 2 CBOs, 1 corporate organisation, 10 institutions, 3 funding organizations and 40 government agencies. Moreover, there were 71 individual bookings for accommodation facilities.

YUVA Centre also organised several forums for the local Kharghar residents. Many residents belonging to different age groups and different backgrounds were invited to share how they would want to use the space and support from YUVA for their social endeavours. They formed three groups that addressed different needs for women, children and senior citizens. YUVA supported their coming together and celebrated Women's Day on 12th March and also held a cancer awareness programme for women through which a relationship with Tata Cancer Hospital was formed. An interactive session on parenting was also held.

YUVA Centre also conducted training sessions on stress management and other activities with Zilla Parishad officials, Chetna Foundation, and David Sassoon School. The Centre also housed many volunteers from different colleges throughout the year for introduction and orientation programmes for YUVA.

2. PROJECT FACILITATION

During the year, YUVA Central has facilitated and coordinated three projects

Sr. No.	Name of the Project	Project Partner	Geographical area	Project Period
1.	Anubhav Shiksha Kendra (ASK)	Katholische Zentralstelle Fur Entwicklungshilfe E.V	27 districts of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh	2011-2014
2.	South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People (SANDRP)	SSNC: Swedish Society for Nature conservation	Pan India	2013-2015
3.	Civil Society Advocacy Campaign to Influence Post-2015 Development Agenda (Phase II)	Wada Na Toda Abhiyan, Oxfam India, Save the Children, CIVICUS	Pan India	2013-2014

• YUVA RURAL

Anubhav Shiksha Kendra: Youth Development and Youth for Development

This programme works on youth empowerment towards providing them with a platform for development and for becoming agents of social change. This programme operates in 27 districts of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh with the help of partner organisations and centres.

Regional Anubhav Centres	Geographical Area
Abhivyakti Anubhav: Abhivyakti Media for Development	Maharashtra: Nashik, Ahmadnagar, Nandurbar, Jalgaon and Dhule
Anubhav Bharti: Dr. Ambedkar Sheti Vikas Va Sanshodhan Sanstha	Maharashtra: Pune, Solapur, Satara, Sangli and Kolhapur
Anubhav Mumbai: Nirmala Niketan Institute, College of Social Work	Maharashtra: Mumbai Suburban
Apna Anubhav: YUVA (Urban)	Maharashtra: Mumbai
Samarthan Anubhav: Samarthan, Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh: Sihor and Guna
Vikas Anubhav: Vikas Sahyog Pratishthan	Maharashtra: Thane, Raigad, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg
Yuva Anubhav Akola: YUVA (Rural) Association	Maharashtra: Akola, Amravati, Washim, Yavatmal, Buldhana
Yuva Anubhav Nagpur: YUVA (Rural) Association	Maharashtra: Nagpur, Wardha, Gondhia, Gadchiroli, Chandrapur

To orient and motivate the youth, more than 90 orientation programmes were held. More than 60 social awareness programmes were conducted on subjects such as agriculture, natural farming, gender sensitisation, violence against women, HIV/AIDS, etc. Youth festivals, fairs and film screenings were held on various subjects to motivate and encourage the youth to be a part of the development process and become responsible for their growth and development. Trainings and workshops were conducted on various subjects of group bonding, gender and sexuality, development issues in rural areas and leadership in villages, documentary film production, video editing, and so on. Exposure visits were organised to give the youth first hand and practical experience and insight into issues of livelihoods, gender and inequality, social processes and change, etc. and also to develop unity and bonding amongst the youth. Youth participated in several campaigns to raise awareness to curb issues such as copying, campaign against genetically modified organisms, women safety and security, livelihoods and so on. The collective outreach was 6,236 youth, with 44 per cent women.

In addition to the earlier modules under the Youth Leadership Building Course (YLBC), two more modules were developed and conducted for the youth. These modules have proven to be instrumental in the youth leadership building process. Youth are able to voice their opinions and views through the bi-monthly newsletters 'Maitree' that is developed and distributed to the youth members.

To enable youth forum building, the Maharashtra Yuva Parishad (MYP) organised the state level youth convention which saw the participation of many youth leaders to discuss social and economic issues and realities of the society with referenceto the youth. Three new branches of the MYP were inaugurated in Nashik. During the convention, the complete youth manifesto was discussed and published with the hope of providing a roadmap for elected representatives and government officials to address the issues of youth.

The ASK – Central Facilitating Unit (CFU) i.e., YUVA Central, has played a vital role in the entire facilitation and coordination of this programme. The unit has organised a number of learning and planning meetings, forum meetings to ensure that the programme is undertaken smoothly and efficiently and to ensure proper monitoring and coordination.

SOUTH ASIAN NETWORK ON DAMS, RIVERS AND PEOPLE (SANDRP)

YUVA Central, through the SANDRP project, has been working since 1998 on issues related to transparent and participatory governance surrounding water and environment, monitoring India's water sector and trying to act like a bridge between civil society, research organisations, communities and the administration. This consistent work has yielded a number of positive results.

Publications: Six issues of the magazine Dams, Rivers & People, and a report on River Fisheries and three publications as part of India Rivers Week.

No. of blog articles published on SANDRP blog: 150

No. of articles published in media: 39 articles

Website updates: 10

A major achievement was when the first ever 'India Rivers Week' in Delhi was organised as a collaboration between Peace Institute, INTACH, WWF-India, Toxics Link and SANDRP. One of the key objectives of this event was to achieve better understanding of rivers as ecological and social entity in water resources policy, plans and decisions. This was a major event in which over 150 people from all over India (and internationally) participated. It was inaugurated by Jairam Ramesh, former Union Minister and the valedictory address was given by Ms Uma Bharti, India's Union Minister of Water Resources, Ganga Rejuvenation and River Development. Awards were given for exemplary work, and they were given away by a Supreme Court Judge. The Delhi Declaration on Rivers was a key outcome of the event.

During the year the impact of the project was visible on the functioning and decisions of the government and other arms of the democracy (media, civil society, judiciary, politicians) in different ways. The Expert Appraisal Committee (of Ministry of Environment and Forests) on River Valley Projects acknowledged submissions for a number of projects in official minutes of the meetings. In some cases, they have taken action on such submissions, ranging from changing terms of reference of EIA, asking for additional measures or studies, asking for point wise response from developer, asking for changing certain parameters or getting clearance from additional authorities to rejecting the applications.

In the aftermath of the Kashmir floods in September 2014, the impact of our submission in media was seen, in particular in the context of the failure of the Central Water Commission (CWC) in forecasting Kashmir floods. It was later learnt that the CWC had to prepare an action plan for all the mountain areas that were excluded from its flood forecasting list. This was most likely the impact of our advocacy efforts.

The Maharashtra drought, earlier in the summer of 2015, the hailstorm in the summer of 2014 and unseasonal rains in early 2015 created major hardships and we raised the issues affecting people, including the context of climate change and lack of climate action plans.

ABOUT YUVA

Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA) is a non-profit development organisation committed to enabling vulnerable groups to access their rights and address human rights violations. YUVA supports the formation of people's collectives that engage in the discourse on development, thereby ensuring self-determined and sustained collective action in communities. This work is complemented with advocacy and policy recommendations on issues.

YUVA (Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action)

YUVA Centre, Sector 7, Plot 23, Kharghar,
Navi Mumbai – 410210 (INDIA)